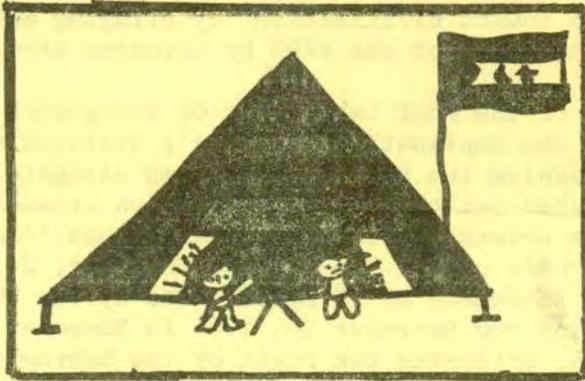


SPSC

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1985

LETTER



CARITAS SENDS TWENTY-FOUR TONS OF MILK TO SAHRAWI CHILDREN? ASKS FOR MORE ASSISTANCE

Funds for milk for Sahrawi refugee children given by readers of the SPSC LETTER have all gone for ONACO (milk), according to reports from Caritas in Algeria. As checks sent by the SPSC Letter have been honored by Algerian banks, Caritas has also sent photocopies of the transactions along with information on the milk project. As the hundreds of children in the refugee camps increases, so does the need for milk, the primary source of protein for the children. (Meat is served about once a month.)

According to YvesBaderou, the Caritas official in charge of projects for the Sahrawi refugees, six tons of milk have been delivered each trimester to the refugee camps and he envisions having to raise that amount in the coming year because of the increased number of children in the camps.

The good news, of course, is that more of the Sahrawi children are surviving. The real news is that nutritional needs are increasing, not decreasing, despite all the self-help measures taken by the refugees.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SEND SOME MILK TO THE SAHRAWI CHILDREN. Whether your holiday is an Aïd or Channukah or Christmas is unimportant. YOUR ASSISTANCE WILL HELP A SAHRAWI

CHILD DEVELOP PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY. Checks should be made to SPSC LETTER and marked "milk project." Readers of the SPSC LETTER have not sent huge sums of money to aid the Sahrawi children, but they have demonstrated that there are Americans concerned for the welfare of those children. Let us continue to show that concern.

Dear SPSC LETTER,

Enclosed is my check for milk for the Sahrawi children. \$ _____.

I understand that all the money I give will be sent to purchase ONACO (milk) for the children.

Sincerely,

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____



INTERNATIONAL PEACE MEETING CALLS ON NATIONS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES TO CEASE ENTERING INTO CONTRACTS WITH MOROCCO THAT INFRINGE ON SAHRAWI TERRITORIAL RIGHTS. NEW EFFORTS AT PEACE URGED!

Over 300 delegates from about 40 nations took part in the two-day conference, Peace for the Sahrawi People: A European Concern, held at the French National Assembly in Paris November 23-24, 1985. The meeting, in planning for a year under the direction of the European Coordinating Committee of Support Groups for the Sahrawi people, brought together for the first time a number of major European and Third World personalities in an effort to focus European efforts on the ten-year struggle of the Sahrawi people to exercise their right to self-determination. Polisario and SADR dignitaries attending the conference included Hakim Ibrahim, SADR Foreign Minister; Omar Hadrani, member of the Political Bureau, M. Boukhary, Director of Polisario representation in Europe, Madame Guejmula Ebbi Mohamed, Secretary General of the Union of Sahrawi Women, Madame Keltoum, member of the External Affairs Bureau of the SADR and a number of other Sahrawi representatives to the European bureaus of the Polisario Front.

European dignitaries giving papers at the conference were Angelo Cresco, Italian deputy; Nijac Dizdarevic, Yugoslavia; Jean Ziegler, Switzerland; Michel Vincineau, Belgium; Claude Bontems and Maurice Barbier, France; European parliamentarian Barbara Simmons, West Germany; Wim Albers, the Netherlands; Berthier Perregaux, Switzerland and Teresa K. Smith, U.S.A. Presiding at the conference were some of the coordinators including Pierre Galand, Francis Jacob, Elizabeth Ordemann and Anne Charrière along with selected honorary sponsors, among these, Petra Kelly, Leo Matarossa, Sean McBride, Natalia Correia, Wim Albers. Dignitaries from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Angola, Nigeria, Mali, Namibia (SWAPO), Japan, Viet Nam, Colombia, China, Cuba, India, Philippines, Panama, Mexico, Venezuela, Madagascar, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Chad, Guadalupe and representatives of the Pan-African Youth Movement and the Pan-African Women's Movement gave brief messages.

The thrust of the meeting was clear: that the SADR is a state entity, that peace for the Sahrawis should come about through a negotiated settlement between the Polisario Front and Morocco, that it is time for concrete action on the part of Europe to end the conflict. An Indian delegate urged participants in the conference to take "a step toward civilization" by bringing about recognition of the SADR by European states.

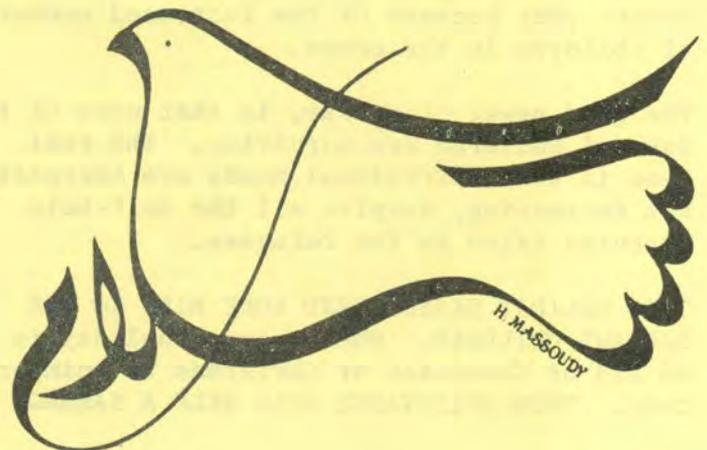
One of the most impressive of the papers was the explanation of India's decision to recognize the SADR. The Indian delegate pointed out that this recognition stemmed from several factors: 1. India's position as chair of the Non-Aligned Movement; 2. the consensus of 17 resolutions by the UN, dating from December 20, 1966 to December 5, 1984, affirming the right of the Sahrawis to self-determination; 3. the intransigence of Morocco in refusing to seek a resolution of the conflict as provided for by OAU and UN resolutions. Delegates learned that prior to India's recognition of the SADR, that nation had informed Morocco of its intention to recognize the SADR if Morocco made no movement to implement the resolutions of the OAU and the UN by September 30, 1985. September 30 having come and gone with no change in Morocco's posture, India recognized the SADR on October 1, 1985.

Messages were received from a number of world figures unable to attend the conference. These included messages from Bishop Tutu, Luis Echeverria, Romulo Betancurth, Mayor Andrew Young, Senator Paul Simon and Representative George Crockett.

Two resolutions were issued at the close of the conference. The first, a resolution by members of the European Parliament in attendance at the conference, was a com-

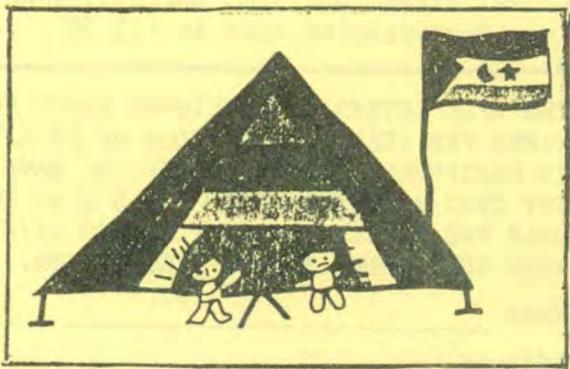
PAIX

pour le peuple sahraoui



mitment to work toward implementation of AGH 104, the resolution of the OAU adopted by that body on June 11, 1983, to bring about a settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara through direct negotiations between the Polisario Front and Morocco. The resolution of the European parliamentarians was also a pledge to work toward recognition of the SADR by individual governments of the European Community and through bodies of the European Community. The second resolution, voted by all conference participants, called for all states, and, in particular European states, to uphold the peace plan of the OAU and the UN by voting for those UN resolutions confirming it. It called on all states to abstain from delivering arms and other financial assistance to Morocco which encourage that nation from undertaking negotiations to resolve the conflict. It further called on all states and private enterprises to abstain from all investment with Morocco in the Western Sahara until peace is established, called on the King of Morocco to begin negotiations with the Polisario Front, the sole representative of the Saharawi people, and asked that governments, economic associations and trade associations and all other governmental associations intensify their material and humanitarian assistance to the Sahrawi people who are victims of the consequences of the war in Western Sahara.

Conference delegates were particularly insistent in their addresses to the conference that concrete and practical assistance to the Saharawis be an outgrowth of the conference. Underlying this concern was the expulsion of the Polisario bureau in Spain, the Spanish government's hesitation to give asylum to 27 young Sahrawis who had fled Moroccan prisons, the plan of Club Med to establish two sites in Western Sahara, the agreement of Columbia Pictures to film part of a film in Western Sahara, and the continuing series of fishing treaties between Morocco and other nations which include fishing rights in SADR waters.



U.S. FILM COMPANY IN WESTERN SAHARA: WE DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A CONFLICT.....

Columbia Pictures in October/November 1985 was reported by Reuters and other agencies to be filming in El Aiun, the capitol of the SADR. Parties on location in the SADR for the filming were Elaine May, the director; Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman.

A letter/visit campaign was instituted by Western Sahara Campaign, USA at the end of October to alert Columbia to the reality of the conflict in Western Sahara and to call on that film company to cease its filming in that territory. Letters were sent from Western Sahara Campaign, New York, MidWest, West Coast and elsewhere.

In early November a reply was sent to the SPSC Letter from Ronald N. Jacobi, Senior Vice President, Studio Legal Affairs, stating that Columbia was studying the letter and issues raised by the SPSC Letter and Midwest Chapter, Western Sahara Campaign and would reply shortly.

According to some reports to Western Sahara Campaign, filming in El Aiun would end at the close of November.

On November 25 Mr. Jacobi noted in a follow-up letter that "Columbia Pictures...was unaware that there was a dispute in the Western Sahara or that El Ayoun lay in territory claimed by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic." He further stated that "We do not consider that the making of a motion picture is a political act and did not intend to make any political statement by filming in El Ayoun." He noted that "Prior to the receipt of your letter, sets had been constructed and filming started so that it was impossible at that stage to relocate our production facilities. However, we have ceased filming in El Ayoun...."

What the neophyte in film making may inquire is whether or not the judicious timing of the second letter might not have had something to do with the film schedule in El Aiun and previous plans to film much of the film in Morocco? One can only wonder at what sorts of contacts and responses were made between State Department personnel and Columbia. It is inconceivable that there was no briefing prior to Columbia's arrival in El Aiun. If there was none, then both Columbia and the State Department/the U.S. Embassy in Rabat should be held accountable for gross irresponsibility toward U.S. citizens involved in the filming.

CLUB MEDITERRANEE MOVES TO WESTERN SAHARA:
VACATION IN A WAR ZONE TO BE NEW THRILL???????

The following is a translation of an article appearing last summer in a Swiss newspaper:

Moroccan authorities just signed a ten year lease placing the Club Med in the two hotels of El Aiun, capital of the Sahara, in order to promote tourism in the region. (Tr. note: The hotels were constructed to provide space for the King's guests in the much publicized trip to El Aiun and "tea drinking" ceremony of King Hassan to prove his control over the territory. Following the event, there was little if any use for the hotels. To recoup expenses in part, such an undertaking was seen to be necessary.)

The agreement was finalized in Casablanca between the Moroccan Minister of the Interior, M. Briss Basri, and the Head of Club Méditerranée, M. Gilbert Trigano. Starting next November (last month, Tr. note), this French hotel group will direct the only two hotels worthy of the name in this Saharan capital, the El Marsira (The Green March) and Le Parador, as well as twelve apartments, six villas and a sports area.

....

The Saharan operation of Club Méditerranée will undoubtedly be a great success; Mr. Trigano hopes to attract ten thousand tourists a year to the region. As for the Moroccans, they are ecstatic! Minister Ahmed Aloui, who was present for the signing of the agreement, insisted on the political significance and the tourist potential of the region.

....

In France the agreement provoked waves among informed groups. The Quai d'Orsay responded to the media that it was a purely private affair and that the French government was in no way involved.

In fact, from an international law point of view, the juridical void is total. French commercial activity, even of a private enterprise, is governed by the conventions signed between the government (French) and the nations concerned. Until the present time France has not recognized Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara. That means that the commercial agreements made with Morocco by France are not applicable to the former Spanish Sahara. If the Club Méditerranée encountered some difficulties in the Western Sahara, it could not appeal to franco-moroccan legal provisions.

(Translator's aside: It is not without note that Columbia Pictures was in El Aiun in Nov.)

WESTERN SAHARA: WAR AND REFUGEES, CONFERENCE
TO BE HELD IN OXFORD, ENGLAND, 21-22 MARCH

A conference on the Western Sahara, War and Refugees, will be held at the Refugee Studies Programme, Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St. Giles, Oxford, England, March 21-22, 1986. According to organizers of the conference, the conference "will explore the causes, regional implications and possible solutions of this neglected conflict and refugee crisis. The conference aims to increase understanding of a serious problem which has so far received too little attention. Academics, students, government officials, aid agency staff and members of the media are invited to attend."

The program will begin on Friday, March 21, 1986 at 3:00 P.M. Speakers at the Conference will include "Theory and Practice of Decolonisation: The Western Sahara Case," Professor Thomas Franck, Centre for International Studies, New York University Law School; "Western Sahara and International Law," George Joffe, University of London; "The Sahrawi Refugees: Lessons and Prospects," James Firebrace, War on Want; "Women in the Western Sahara," Biancamaria Scarcia, The Lelio Basso Foundation for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples; "Morocco at War," David Seddon, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia; "The Role of the World Powers," Warner Ruf, University of Kassel, West Germany; "Western Sahara: Conflict Point in the Maghreb," Hugh Roberts, School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia

In addition to the speakers the program will include recent films on the Western Sahara, cultural and photographic exhibits and a collection of publications. Accommodation and meals will be provided by St. Johns College.

Persons wishing to attend the conference should contact the organizers at 21 St. Giles, Oxford OX1 3LA, England, immediately. Registration cost is £12.50.

THE SPSC LETTER IS PUBLISHED ABOUT FOUR TIMES PER YEAR. A DONATION OF \$5 A YEAR IS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SENT A DONATION AND WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE NEWSLETTER CONTINUE TO EXIST, SEND YOUR CHECK TODAY: SPSC LETTER.

Name _____

Address _____

UPDATE ON PUBLICATIONS..UPDATE ON PUBLICATIONS
UPDATE ON PUBLICATIONS.UPDATE ON PUBLICATIONS.

1. La République Arabe Sahraouie Démocratique: Passé et Présent, SADR Ministry of Information and Culture, 1985.

Publication of 76 pages with photographs (some color) dealing with the geography and resources of the SADR, the history of the struggle for independence, the development of institutions within the SADR, the problem of the occupied territory, the organization of the SADR, the liberation army. Also includes the anthem of the SADR, the escutcheon and flag of that nation. In printing for some time, the map showing nations that recognize the SADR does not include Colombia, Liberia and India.

2. Front Polisario, Dix ans de lutte contre le colonialisme et l'expansionnisme. SADR Ministry of Information & Culture, 1983.

Publication of 165 pages dealing with the struggle for independence. Contains brief biographies of five of those who have died in the military. Talks about the Five Popular Congresses (a sixth is in planning) of the Sahrawis. Includes useful data on the congresses and plans.

3. Memorandum on The Women in the SADR, the National Union of the Sahrawi Women, Polisario Front, Sweden, 1985.

Twenty page booklet describing Sahrawi women's activities since the outset of the war with Morocco. Useful document, some pictures. Another book describing the work of the National Meeting of the Union of Sahrawi Women has also been published. More details on this in the next Letter.

4. To be printed. Results of Maurice Barbier's two-year study of historical texts dealing with pre-colonial ties of Western Sahara with Morocco. The outlines of this volume were given in a brief presentation by Barbier at the Conference for Peace in Paris November 23-24, 1985. More information will be available in the next Letter.

5. Dossier: La RASD Aujourd'hui, Un peuple en marche vers son indépendance, Paris, Amis de la RASD, Supplément à Sahara-Info, no. 72, January-March 1985. 15F

An excellent over-view of progress. Articles by Maurice Barbier, Théodore Monod, Tony Hodges, Amadou Seck, Claude Bontems, Bianca-maria Amoretti, Régine Villemont, Frank Piquet, Paul Balta, Oliver Weber, Thomas Jallaud.

6. "Polisario Befreiung Auch Für Frauen," INTERNATIONAL, No. 2, Vienna, 1985, pp. 48-51, by Eva Hager. Interesting discussion of the role of Sahrawi women.

SIXTH CONGRESS MEETS. DELEGATES MAKE CHANGES AND UPDATE GOVERNMENT, EFFORTS IN STRUGGLE

As the SPSC LETTER goes to press reports from the Sixth Popular Congress of the SADR are beginning to appear. At this juncture of the struggle for independence, following meetings of the Youth, Workers' and Women's organizations held earlier in 1985, it appears that concerted efforts will be made to continue the struggle for all the territory and to involve the population in the refugee camps as well as in the occupied territory in the overall plans for the SADR.

A number of rumored changes in administration will be verified and published in the next Letter. Certainly the newly elected heads of the Youth, Workers' and Women's Unions will now sit in the Political Bureau. Other changes in posts are scheduled to be announced, most of which entails a shifting of positions and posts.

Also to be published in the next Letter will be the new program of action as enunciated in the December 1985 Popular Congress. Watch for the information.

HANDICAPPED SAHRAWI CHILDREN IN CLASSES

In a visit last summer to the refugee camps around Tindouf, representatives from Rencontre et Développement, the Council of Churches of All Africa and Caritas Algeria noted the establishment of a section for handicapped children age 6 to 15 years of age in the School of June 9. The visitors noted that fifty handicapped young Sahrawis are following the same academic program as the other children at the school. Therapists come periodically to assist the children, some of whom have been provided with artificial limbs in Algeria. The visitors noted that there are not enough wheel chairs. The School of June 9 honors the memory of Polisario leader Mustapha Sayed El Ouali who died on that date in 1977 during a battle at Nouakchott.

PAIX



POLISARIO FRONT BUREAU IN MADRID CLOSED BY SPANISH GOVERNMENT: POLISARIO REPS EXPELLED

Following the October release of the Spanish fishermen taken by Polisario forces from the territorial waters of the SADR, Spanish authorities expelled Polisario representatives in Spain and closed the Bureau of the Polisario Front in Madrid in October. In late September Polisario forces had sunk the Spanish trawler, the Junquito, which was flying the Moroccan flag. (According to sources, all boats fishing in those waters are required by Morocco to carry the Moroccan flag.) One crewman was killed and six prisoners were taken. Polisario forces also attacked a Spanish naval patrol boat, Tagomazo, that went to the assistance of the trawler, killing a naval petty officer and wounding two others.

In commenting on the incident, Polisario spokesmen noted that it is difficult to distinguish Spanish boats from the Spanish-made patrol boats supplied to Morocco by Spain. According to reports an additional three boats of the type, Tagomazo, are to be delivered by Spain to Morocco shortly.

Many commentators note a movement backward on the part of Spain with regard to the Western Sahara and interpret this backward movement as a reflection of Spain's desire to maintain Ceutu and Melilla (Spanish enclaves in North Africa) as Spanish provinces. They further comment that that is why Spain is assisting Morocco with a sixth "wall" in the area of the attack. Commentators also note that there is continued Spanish interest in maintaining the favorable fishing agreements it holds with Morocco and in continuing its fishing exploitation of SADR waters.

What is notable is that Spain along with some Western private companies is involved in agreements that involve exploitation of SADR riches. The legal question that arises is that even if Spain recognizes the Madrid Accords (and there seems to be a new interest in Spain to do so), whether monies arising from these agreements between private companies and states with Morocco involving the Western Sahara are actually going to the Sahrawi residents (not the new Moroccan colonists) or whether these moneys are being diverted to the Moroccan treasury. Some observers believe the latter is the case, with the funds going to continue the unlawful occupation of the SADR.

At some point the chickens may come home to roost and those states and private companies that flaunt international law will finally pay.

WOMENS CONFERENCE ELECTS NEW HEAD: NEW PRO-JECTS FOR SAHRAWI WOMEN IN COMING YEAR.....

At the March 23-25 historic congress of the National Union of Sahrawi Women, delegates elected Madame Guejmoula Ebbi as Secretary-General of the group, replacing Madame Fatimatou Allali, who had headed the group since 1974. Madame Guejmoula Ebbi immediately started a tour of Europe, following her election in company with Madame Keltoum Khayat, who has long been a Polisario Representative to women's groups throughout the world.

The importance of the Congress was noted by the fact that the President of the SADR, Mohammed Abdelaziz himself opened the meeting. Eighty delegates from Africa, the Middle East, Europe, the USSR, the USA, and even from Morocco attended.

According to Guejmoula Ebbi, in a conversation at the Paris Peace Conference, a very important activity was participation by the Sahrawi women at the UN conference on the End of the Women's Decade in Nairobi last July. Ten members of the National Union of Sahrawi Women took part in the Non-governmental Forum and five members took part in the official UN meeting. These small numbers were in contrast to the large representation of Moroccan women. An important result of the Nairobi meetings was a heightening of awareness of women throughout the world to the situation of the Sahrawi women. Undoubtedly Petra Kelly's presence at the Paris Peace Conference was owed in part to her contacts with the Sahrawi women in Nairobi.

Sahrawi women were full participants in the UN non-governmental meeting and had observer status (like the Polisario Front) at the official UN meeting. Algerian women spoke at the UN meeting about the plight of the Sahrawis and the SADR.

Both Guejmoula Ebbi and Keltoum Khayat were present for the Paris Conference. Following the meeting, Madame Guejmoula Ebbi noted that she would be very much involved in preparations for the Sixth Popular Congress of the SADR held in December 1985.

السلام من أجل الشعب الصحراوي

الرهان الأوروني

MOROCCANS CONTINUE TO CONSTRUCT WALLS AS ALPS FORCES CONTINUE TO BREACH THEM.....

In its effort to annex the Western Sahara, the Kingdom of Morocco continues to devote major resources for the construction of walls of sand, outposts, barbed wire, mines and radar equipment. These constructions according to some Moroccan analysts, will keep Polisario forces from incursions into the major areas of the Western Sahara and prove to the world that Morocco has control of the territory. Having generally lost the diplomatic battle (the OAU includes the SADR as a member and made the president of the SADR a Vice President; the Non-Aligned Movement and the UN both support the efforts of the OAU to resolve the conflict and recognize the Polisario Front as the sole representative of the Sahrawi people; 63 nations of the world now recognize the SADR as a state), Morocco's tactics are now two-fold: Try to wall off the territory and thus assure the Western world of their control and act as if the SADR is Moroccan by entering into as many agreements as possible with states and private companies that include exploitation of SADR resources. The result has been to alienate Morocco more and more from its long-time allies (the OAU, the Non-Aligned Movement, the UN) and push it to seek new alignments (including a call by King Hassan for admission to the European Economic Community).

The policy of "wall construction" has led to difficulties with two Northwest African nations, Algeria and Mauritania, because of the proximity of these walls with surveillance equipment to the borders of these two states. A further result has been the over-stretching of Moroccan forces and defenses. Despite the walls, Polisario forces continue to strike in the walled-off areas, at Bu Craa, some 400 kilometers from the main Sahrawi refugee camps, at Ouarkziz, Mahbès, Amgala, Lefkah, etc.

Support from Sahrawis living inside the occupied territory has helped the ALPS forces to continue to stage major attacks. The plan to construct a sixth wall around the El Aiun area is proof again of the failure of the previous walls. Even with 150,000 to 200,000 Moroccans involved in protecting the walls and the sophisticated radar and counter-insurgency equipment, there is no way the Moroccans can prevent attacks in the Western Sahara. Time is on the side of the Sahrawis who can wait out the wasting resources of the Moroccans and who continue to attack the walls when and where they choose.

SPAIN RELEASES TWENTY-ONE OF TWENTY-SEVEN SAHRAWI YOUTHS REQUESTING ASYLUM IN CEUTA AND MELILLA IN ORDER TO REJOIN LIBERATED WS

Khalid Sid Mohammed, member of the Political Bureau and wali of El Aiun, received the twenty-one Sahrawi youths released by Spain from their refuge in Melilla and Ceuta in a meeting of the Provincial Council and in a popular meeting of the wilaya on October 18, 1985. The twenty-one youths did not neglect to mention the six who were still detained by the Spanish government. Reasons given for their departure from the Western Sahara included their obligation to defend and liberate their nation (the SADR) and the fact that the Sahrawi people in the occupied territory remain the object of repression and extortion by the Moroccan government.

The young Sahrawis who fled are Messoud Ould Taleb Ould Laroussi, Sid Ahmed Ould Salek, Mohamed Marouf Ould Ahmed Mahmoud, Abdallahi Ould Ahmed Ould Laroussi, Abderrahmane Ould Abdel Moula, Mohamed Ould Mahmoud Ould Hadda, Mohamed Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Laroussi, Limame Ould Oumar Ould Daha, M'Rabih Ould El Ghailani Ould El Mokhtar, Abdallahi Ould M'Barek Ould Khadir, El Mahjoub Ould Elemine Ould El Hafedh Ould Lemrabott, Mohamed Saleh Ould Mohamed Yahdih Ould Hamoudi, R'Gueibi Ould Becher Ould Haidat, Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Ahmed, Mohamed Ould Abdellahi Ould Maatallal, Ali Beiba Ould Abidine, Mohamed Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Sidi Laroussi, Doueh Ould Mohamed Ould Naoucha, Brahim Ould Mouloud Ould Haymedaha, Abdallahi Ould Sidi Mohamed Ould Mohamed Zeini, Hasni Ould Mouloud Ould Ahmed Baba.

In violation of international law, the Polisario Front pointed out in commenting on the arrival of the Sahrawi youths to liberated territory, the Spanish government had permitted the questioning of the Sahrawis by Moroccan officials during their incarceration in Ceuta. The twenty-one youths freed along with the six still in detention in Ceuta were held by the Spanish for over a month before their release. (To date the other six Sahrawis have not been released.)

During a visit by the freed youths to the School of February 27, Fatimatou Allali, member of the Political Bureau and Director of the School, welcomed the group and noted the admiration of the Sahrawis for the efforts they had made to join the SADR.

UPDATE ON THE SADR AND ITS ACTIVITIES..1985..

1. The Polisario Youth Organization is a member of the International Union of Students of the U.N., of the Executive Committee of the PanAfrican Movement of Youth, of the International Union of Students, of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, among other groups.
2. The fourth wilaya of the SADR, Aousserd, was announced November 14, 1985, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the "odious" tripartite agreement of Madrid. Aousserd joins the three other wilaya, El Aiun, Smara and Dakhla. The formation of the fourth wilaya is a result of increased population in the refugee camps and has been set up so as to better meet the needs of the refugee population.
3. The 40th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations again reaffirmed the action by the 39th Session calling for a solution to the conflict in Western Sahara based on the OAU peace plan, Resolution 104 AHG (XIX) of the Organization of African Unity. Ninety-two nations voted for the resolution, six against, and 42 abstained. Countries voting against were the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guatemala, Morocco and Zaire. The U.S. abstained. European nations voting for the resolution included: Spain, Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, Sweden, the Soviet Union, Finland, Greece, Hungary, East Germany and the Ukraine. Of these nations only Yugoslavia recognizes officially the SADR.
4. India is the 63rd nation to officially recognize the SADR, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. Official date of recognition is October 1, 1985. Liberia, the 62nd nation to recognize the SADR did so on July 31, 1985.
5. The first Congress of the National Union of Sahrawi Women met in late March 1985 and was attended by 700 women delegates. The program voted by the Congress included: building a unified, harmonious and coherent society, constructing centers for professional development & diversifying the specializations, developing women's cadres to respond to the needs of the nation, giving special interest to women writers, poets and musicians & artists, emphasis of physical education, guaranteeing the continuity of mobilisation (armed forces) to defend the homeland. One point that Sahrawi women make is that the advances of these women will not decline with independence. They point to the real involvement of Sahrawi women in the Political Bureau and in the administration of the camps and to the fact that they have learned from other struggles.

SAHRAWI MARTYRS FOR INDEPENDENCE: BACHIR LEHLAOUI, FIRST MARTYR OF THE STRUGGLE

Bachir Lehlaoui, first martyr of the Sahrawi war for independence, was born in 1944 in the Western Sahara. He was forced to leave his country at the time of the French/Spanish coalition to subdue the territory. In 1962-63, when war broke out along the Algerian-Moroccan frontier between those two nations, he returned to the Western Sahara. Again, circumstances forced him to leave the territory in 1967 (the Bassiri struggle). When the Polisario Front began the armed struggle in 1973, Bachir Lehlaoui was among the second group of militants to join the Army of Liberation of the Sahrawi Peoples. He was killed in action on March 8, 1974.

SECOND CONGRESS OF SAHRAWI YOUTH HELD; SERIES OF RESOLUTIONS MAKE UP PROGRAM OF ACTION.....

Over six hundred Sahrawi youths served as delegates to the second Congress of Sahrawi Youth, June 23-30, 1985. The delegates elected 111 members to the national secretariat of the Union of Polisario Youth and 25 members to the executive bureau of the group as well as a new secretary general. The program of action envisaged by congress delegates included mobilization and preparation of the young to take part in the struggle for independence, promoting the formation of Sahrawi youth for the two chief priorities that exist at present, national defense and the economic and social development of the SADR. Other goals enunciated were enlarging the participation of women in national tasks as well as development of the popular campaigns of Sahrawi youth in agricultural and craft development. The congress also declared its support of maintaining national culture and encouragement of youth in its own creative development of this culture.

About 100 observers from 65 humanitarian and youth organizations also participated in the meeting. Youth groups from Spain, Belgium, Greece, Italy, West Germany, as well as representatives of the International Union of Socialist Youth and PanAfrican Youth Movement were in attendance. Also present for the congress were representatives from a variety of liberation movements including SWAPO, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the liberation party of New Caledonia.

On May 21, 1984, the Organization of the Youth of the Polisario Front (May 1973) joined with the Student Union to become the Youth Union of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro.