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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198650

SUBJ: MOROCCAN INQUIRY ON PRESS REPORTS OF US ATTITUDE  
TOWARD MOROCCO

1. MOROCCAN CHARGE ZAILAICHI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM SEPT 29 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF US NEWS STORIES REPORTED SEPTEL.
2. CONCERNING PRESS REPORTS, MR NEWSOM QUOTED STATEMENT BY WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN THAT THESE STORIES ARE "TOTALLY SPECULATIVE AND WITHOUT FOUNDATION." MR NEWSOM ALSO QUOTED CONVERSATION OF WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN WITH REPORTER FROM COUNTRY OTHER THAN MOROCCO REPORTED SEPTEL.
3. MR NEWSOM SAID HOWEVER IN MAKING THIS COMMENT HE WISHED TO CONVEY ON BEHALF OF STATE DEPARTMENT THAT WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT MOROCCO HAS SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND WHILE WE HAVE HAD A LONG ASSOCIATION OF COMMON BENEFIT, WE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT ON A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT AND THIS GOVT, A NUMBER OF

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OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS FOUND THEY WERE UNABLE TO SUPPORT US.

4. MR NEWSOM SAID WE WERE WORRIED BEFORE THAT AN ADVERSE VOTE WOULD HAVE AN AFTERMATH THAT WOULD BE FELT IN THE CONGRESS AND IN US, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS THE UN AND INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. IT HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT THESE FEARS WERE NOT WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

5. MR NEWSOM SAID WE MADE A SPECIAL EFFORT WITH MOROCCO BECAUSE OF OUR SPECIAL INTEREST THERE. WE SAID WE REALIZE THAT MOROCCO CHANGED ITS VOTE ON IQ FROM NEGATIVE TO AN ABSTENTION. WE ALSO REALIZE THAT THE GOM HAD KEPT US INFORMED OF SHIFTS IN ITS POSITION AND RESPONSE FOR IT. HOWEVER, MR NEWSOM SAID HE WISHED TO CONVEY UNAMBIGUOUSLY THAT WE ARE VERY MUCH DISAPPOINTED.

6. MR NEWSOM SAID WE HAVE NOT OFTEN ASKED COUNTRIES WHO ARE MAJOR RECIPIENTS OF USAID FOR SPECIFIC POLITICAL SUPPORT. ON ONE OCCASION WE HAVE NOW DONE SO AND ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT SO MANY KEY COUNTRIES FOUND THEY COULD NOT SUPPORT US.

7. MR NEWSOM SAID THERE IS A TENDANCY ON THE PART OF SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO FEEL THE VOTE DOES NOT MATTER AND THAT THE US WILL GO ON DOING WHAT IT DOES REGARDLESS OF THEIR ACTION IN A MATTER OF THIS KIND. HE SAID OTHER COUNTRIES OFTEN TEND TO LOOK SERIOUSLY ON THE REQUESTS FROM NATIONS OTHER THAN OURS BUT BELIEVE THAT US REQUESTS CAN BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY. MR NEWSOM SAID THAT RECENT EVENTS COULD BRING CHANGES IN US ATTITUDES.

8. MR NEWSOM SAID THAT BY SAYING THIS HE DID NOT WISH TO INDICATE THERE WILL BE ANY RETALIATION OR ANYTHING OF THE KIND BUT THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE UN LAST WEEKEND WILL NOT GO WITHOUT IST EFFECTS.

9. MR ZAILAICHI ASKED WHETHER THESE EFFECTS WOULD BE IN REGARD TO THE UN OR OTHER COUNTRIES. MR NEWSOM RESPONDED IN REGARD TO BOTH AND THAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN SOME ADVERSE REACTION IN THE US TOWARDS THE UN.

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QPM MR NEWSOM SAID THAT OUTSIDERS OFTEN BELIEVE SENATE MAY VOTE IN A WAY THAT SUGGESTS EVENTS SUCH AS THIS DO NOT HAVE MUCH IMPACT. THE ROLE OF COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS LESS CONSPICUOUS BUT IN SOME WAYS MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE THE MONEY. IT IS IN THIS GROUP THAT THE EFFECTS OF OUR INABILITY TO PRESERVE A SEAT FOR TAIWAN AND THE MANNER IN WHICH MANY COUNTRIES REACTED WILL BE FELT. HE SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR OUR FRIENDS TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE MOOD IN THE COUNTRY.

11. MR ZAILAICHI REFERRED TO PRESS REPORTS THAT WE WERE UNHAPPY WITH SOME COUNTRIES WHO HAD MADE PROMISES AND THEN GONE BACK ON THEM. MR NEWSOM SAID WE DO NOT PUT MOROCCO IN THIS CATEGORY ALTHOUGH UNFORTUNATELY WE DO PUT SOME COUNTRIES IN THIS CATEGORY.

12. MR ZAILAICHI SAID THAT AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE SENOUSI WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE PRESENT ATMOSPHERE AND HOPED IT WOULD NOT AFFECT THE BEGINNING OF HIS MISSION HERE. MR NEWSOM DID NOT RESPOND.

13. MR ZAILAICHI WAS GIVEN THE TEXT OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS STATEMENTS REPEATED SEPTEL. ROGERS

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