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Near East/North Africa Report

(FOUO 27/82)

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NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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CONTENTS

ALGERIA

- Development of South Supported
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 18 Jun 82)..... 1

JORDAN

- Prominent Figures Criticize Syrian Role in Lebanon
(AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, 18-24 Jun 82)..... 4

LEBANON

- Bashir Al-Jumayyil Interviewed
(B. al-Jumayyil; LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR, 19-25 Jun 82)..... 8

MOROCCO

- Foreign Trade in 1981 Reveals Growing Deficit
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 25 Jun 82)..... 19
- Labor Union Chief Describes Philosophy, Government
(AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, 18-24 Jun 82)..... 22
- Livestock Raising, Meat, Milk Production in Maghreb Examined
(MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS, 25 Jun 82)..... 25

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ALGERIA

DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH SUPPORTED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1910, 18 Jun 82 p 1553

[Text] It is one case out of every twenty, or rather, every one hundred: an oasis in the southern region of the Algerian High Plateau. Thirty years ago, carts left from that oasis carrying vegetables to the north. Today, that same road is traveled by trucks from the north carrying essential commodities to the south.

The causes are many and their systematic analysis remains to be completed. And yet, any new attempt at development should be based on such a study. In the absence of such a methodical procedure, one must resort to the explanations given by local residents, who do not always even agree.

First of all, the population of the oasis has doubled. The way of life has changed somewhat and needs have grown. But some resources have emerged: money sent from the many native sons who have emigrated; local purchases by newly assigned civil servants, who are paid by the government and who spend their money in the area. However, the traditional means of production seem to have declined: A *foggara*, an underground pipe bringing water from the mountains, has not been maintained and the flow is scanty; distribution canals are partially filled with silt; the average age of rural workers has risen considerably; and too many plots of ground resulting from the division of large landholdings are now in the hands of incompetent or negligent owners.

And yet, "the future of market garden crops is in the south," Minister of Hydraulics Brahimi Brahim told officials from his ministry and hydraulics experts from the governorates of Adrar, Bechar, Laghouat, Ouargia and Tamanrasset on 21 April. Irrigated areas must be expanded and developed, he said, using small water projects, utilizing recycled water and organizing a drinking water supply for populated areas.

Disappointments and Encouraging Projects

At In Ghar, near In Salah, volunteers have cleaned out and reactivated a *foggara*. The minister congratulated them. But is such an effort possible everywhere, for example, where the very long underground pipes are broken down? Right in the center of the governorate of Adrar, the main *foggara* that once enclosed the parks of the chief town has been abandoned since 1976 and

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in the governorates in general, the foggara now supply only 4 cubic meters a second. The people living in the fortified villages believe that the solution lies in increasing the number of wells equipped with small electric pumps.

The fact is that since the unfortunate experiments with the huge irrigated area of Abadia, there is little confidence in large dams. The five villages set up there to use the Djebel Torba reservoir have been able to begin development of only half of the 12,000 hectares planned. First the overloaded dam was "tapped," probably too heavily, as a result of orders from afar. Then the lack of rainfall this winter kept it from being refilled. In addition, it is silting up and since the bank of the basin of the Guir Wadi is in Morocco, there can be no question of trying to reforest it. Only the rainfall in April stopped the exodus of a discouraged population.

In some cases, as in that of the Brezina Oasis south of El Bayadh, one could envisage the "inferoflux" type dam, which makes it possible to supply and raise the level of the phreatic layer downstream. But the experts are hesitating: Northwest of Laghouat, a dam of this type was built in 1948 and it made it possible to irrigate 610 hectares. Today, the water flow seems to have dropped off by nine-tenths and only 160 hectares are being cultivated. The orchards have been abandoned and barley is being planted.

Careful maintenance of existing projects undoubtedly constitutes a priority of greater importance than new construction: for example, on the traditional dams, sufficiently early use of dredging valves. In the long run, however, the solution consists in development of the basin bank to prevent erosion, through the construction of terraces and tree planting.

This long-range work has been undertaken in some valleys, but a great deal remains to be done. Priority has been given to the creation of the green belt, that broad new forest zone that is to halt the advance of the desert. In many places in southern Algeria, one can see the extent of the project undertaken. Work is actively underway. In 1981, a million hectares were treated and over 20 million trees were planted. Despite the caterpillars and risks of fire, the Upper Plateau forest has become a reality.

The local climate will most likely be improved and in the long run, new resources will emerge. But will the expansion of the desert truly be checked? Some experts doubt it. The sand that threatens to submerge the High Plateaux is evidently not, as has previously been believed, from the Sahara and driven by the wind from the south. It is most likely produced locally by erosion of the gritty terrain. The usefulness of the green belt will therefore lie less in its function as a barrier than as a vast wooded area.

Saving Pasture

Moreover, Algerian experts know that the problems of the steppe and the pasture it must provide must be faced again. The error was probably to launch this "third phase" of the agrarian revolution in the governorate of M'Sila, the most mediocre one, the least well equipped, the least likely to succeed in

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such an experiment. More money will have to be spent to resume the third phase. Conditions for the new beginning must be studied more carefully.

The Algerian steppe covers 12 million hectares and some experts believe that from 2 to 3 million can already be considered as lost. Every year, tractor plowing, which must henceforth be effectively prohibited, destroy 200,000 hectares of "volunteer" plant cover. Every family ruins 1 hectare per year for its domestic needs, meaning that 150,000 hectares disappear every year. Finally, when rainfall is abundant, the owners of large herds let them get disproportionately large, meaning overgrazing which becomes disastrous in the dry years that follow.

The Commission on Grazing set up in Djelfa is to take up these problems from the standpoint of the socioeconomic advancement of the people living on the steppe.

Along with the grazing effort and the development of roads, there is more systematic thought about railroads in the south. To date, the south has been served only by "penetrating" lines from the north. The plan would therefore be to build an east-west railway in the High Plateaux. Work would begin on 15 June at Ain Touta in the governorate of Batna. The existence of such a railroad in the south would make it possible to relieve the current line from the north, which is greatly overloaded, and, together with the road system, help stimulate this steppe area heretofore paralyzed by the excessive cost price of transport for heavy goods (iron, cement, machinery, and so on).

The vastness of the Saharan and sub-Sahara regions in Algeria requires an ambitious program systematically adhered to. After local improvisation, with some success, and after meeting the most urgent needs while generally postponing what is essential, the need is now felt for a more methodical approach. However, seen from this angle, the evaluation of needs points to enormous requirements and it will undoubtedly be necessary to wait a long time for investments to pay off.

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JORDAN

PROMINENT FIGURES CRITICIZE SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 279, 18-24 Jun 82 pp 29, 30

[Article: "Jordan Condemns Syrian Collusion: They Have Not Been Fighting, But They Did Confiscate Blood Supplies in Dar'a!"]

[Text] Among Arab arenas, Jordan is the one which has been the most affected and the most agitated by what has been happening to Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. In Amman, there are increasing expressions of condemnation and vindictiveness against the negative Syrian role on the Israeli invasion.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI talked with a number of major personalities in Amman on the situation and developments in it.

The chairman of the National Consultative Assembly, Mr Sulayman 'Arar, former minister of the interior, said, "The position of the political leaders in Syria regarding the cease fire reminds us of the truce and cease fire decrees after every Israeli invasion, from the catastrophe of 1948 to the invasion of Lebanon.

"We had expected that Syria, which had entered Lebanon under the umbrella of the League of Arab States with the objective of preserving Lebanon's unity and territory, would have remained a strong partisan of the resistance and the joint forces and would have played its part in defending the territory of Lebanon and the Palestinian cause, so that the Arabs could forget the massacres of Tall al-Za'tar and Tripoli and other acts. However, what has caught us by surprise was that the duration of the Syrian forces' confrontation of the Zionist forces (if there was any) was less than that of the war in Hamah, which lasted 18 days."

Concerning the cease fire decree, he said "That was not accompanied by a clear decree on withdrawal within a specific period on the part of Israel or America. If the period of negotiation over withdrawal conditions goes on, this decree will result in the establishment of a fait accompli in the areas the Zionist army has occupied, a separation of forces, and the creation of a corresponding situation through which it will be possible to eliminate pockets of resistance. This period will also probably lead to the emergence of disputes on the Lebanese stage, which it will be possible to use in service of the Zionist invasion.

"One of the first practical results of the cease fire was the prohibition of Arab, Jordanian and Palestinian volunteers from entering Syria and passing through it to Lebanon. That proves that that was one of the conditions for failing to consolidate the position of the resistance. We do not know whether there were other conditions

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for failing to consolidate it by arms, if the agreement contained conditions like these.

"Among the important results this decree has underlined has been a ventilation of the spirit that has become widespread in the Arab and Islamic worlds and among all peace-loving peoples against the Israeli invasion, putting the cause in a vicious circle of wondering who will break the cease fire, who will commit himself to it, and what its conditions and practical applications will be, since we will fail to achieve international consensus, condemnation, the demand for an immediate withdrawal, condemnation of the aggression and perhaps the adoption of disciplinary measures against Israel.

He said, "This issue affects Jordan directly. The government of Jordan is maintaining constant coordination with other Arab countries in adopting a position on an Israeli withdrawal and the cessation of the Israeli attack and its effects. The government's position has been clear from the first day, since Jordan was the first Arab country to facilitate enlistment in the emergency force of combatants in Lebanon, and it opened centers for donations and committees in this regard."

Hikmat: No Justification

Mr Tahir Hikmat, chairman of the Legal Committee of the National Consultative Assembly and a former minister, said "The cease fire operation entailed great frustration. It does not only mean giving the Israeli forces a free hand to liquidate the resistance; if we add the restrictions on going into Lebanon, the serious situation arising from this operation appears just as great and clear, and one cannot accept it the way Syria did.

"I do not believe that there are any terms or ideas in the Syrian publicists' lexicon which can justify the Syrian position. One must bear in mind that the Syrian authorities have stopped volunteers' buses for 3 days on the Jordanian-Syrian borders and sent them back to Jordan."

Al-Ruwabidah: A Scenario

Mr 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ruwabidah, member of the National Consultative Assembly and a former minister, said "The fact is that Syria did not declare war on Israel but confined itself to skirmishing upon direct encounters with the invading Zionist forces, and this did not develop into real combat. Therefore one can interpret the cease fire as a lack of desire to get into a battle to protect Lebanese territory and protect the Palestinian resistance on this territory, which is the basic purpose of the Syrian presence on Lebanese soil, and goes beyond participation in the deterrent force."

"As for the issue of Syrian missiles in the Biqa' valley, they were basically just for show, not to deter any air aggression."

We asked, "What can one expect now, as far as you are concerned?"

He said, "I imagine that the scenario that Philip Habib is running, in the indirect negotiations between Syria and Israel, especially after the advent of the Israeli forces, their deployment on Lebanese territory and their attempt to effect a pincers

movement against the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance, will lead to an international quest to restore the legitimacy of Lebanon. It is a demand that no one can reject and one of its bases and exaggerated points will be the fact that there should be no arms or armed persons on Lebanese territory except the Lebanese army, which will result in the reduction in the status of the Palestinian resistance and the loss of the territory it is standing on.

"People have set their hopes on having the Palestinian resistance fail to endorse this scenario by persevering with the struggle and emerging from the framework of cooptation by Syria."

Al-'Ibadi: They Confiscated Blood:

Dr Mamduh al-'Ibadi, a senior member of the Physicians' Union in Jordan, spoke about the way Syrian authorities treated volunteers, including doctors, saying "They threw them out on the public road in Dar'a for 48 hours, exposed to air raids, without water or food. The volunteers were 500 in number. They then brought them back to Jordan, in spite of all their attempts to get permission to go through Syria to Lebanon.

"It got to the point where packages of blood that had been sent to the Palestinian resistance by the Jordanian Physicians' Union were confiscated."

He said, "There is a general spontaneous feeling that the Syrian position has reached the point of conspiracy against Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance."

Emil al-Ghuri: A Conspiracy

Mr Emil al-Ghuri, for a long time a well known person in the context of the Palestinian cause, said, in response to our question on the Syrian position, "The fact is that this question provokes sorrow and sadness, although it is difficult to answer it in these circumstances because of the events and developments which have occurred recently in Lebanon.

"A group of well informed Arabs and Arab politicians believe that it is or was in Syria's power to have a role different from its present one as far as the events in Lebanon and the occupation of southern Lebanon go. However, it has failed to play this role, for numerous reasons, including Arab disputes, ideological disputes and the desire of the regime there to survive and keep going. There is no doubt that it would have been in Syria's power to take a truthful nationalist position, seek to save Lebanon from its ordeal and prevent the occupation of southern Lebanon by the Jews.

"This is bearing in mind that we have grown up with the policy of not interfering in the internal affairs of any Arab country. Palestine and its cause need to have all Arabs reach agreement on supporting them. However, we can only refer to what reliable bodies are saying, to the effect that there is an Arab conspiracy to liquidate the cause of Palestine and the Palestinian resistance. Syria is one of the bodies that are taking part in this conspiracy. The people making the accusation find evidence to justify this belief in the positions and actions Syria has taken

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vis-a-vis Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, the occupation of southern Lebanon and the occupation of Golan. There is no doubt that the desire to keep the existing regime alive and in power was one of the main elements in Syria's accommodating role.

"The Jews have a well known plan, which is to establish a greater Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates. They are on their way to carrying out this project in accordance with their scheme, for which various stages of action have been set forth. After they took over all of Palestine and incorporated Golan, they have now occupied Lebanon (and will not leave it), and Lebanon will not be the last, unless the Arabs strive to rid themselves of their rifts and rivalries and regain the will to fight, confront and oppose."

We asked, "What is your opinion on Egypt's position?"

He replied, "The position of the Egypt of Husni Mubarak gives good tidings of Egypt's imminent return to its distinguished position in the Arab group. However, restrictions have been imposed on Egypt, as a result of the Camp David agreements, which inhibit it from resuming its political role in the Arab world. If the Egypt of Husni Mubarak manages to extricate itself from these restrictions — and it can, if it wants to and is determined to — it will be one of the most nationalistic of Arab countries.

"Syria, in its current situation, like al-Qadhafi's jamahiriya, is as far from Arab nationalism as anyone, and is its most intense enemy and its strongest opponent. If what is said to the effect that Syria and Libya have supplied Iran with arms and material is correct, and it appears that it is, that is proof of the extent to which they are alienated from Arab nationalism. How can they be nationalistic Arabs when they are helping the enemies of the Arabs, Iran, against Iraq, which is defending Arab nationalism?

"The events in Lebanon are to a large degree connected to the Iraq-Iran war.

"In any case, the position of Husni Mubarak's Egypt regarding the Iraq-Iran war is more nationalistic and more Arab than that of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states.

"Finally, the only nationalistic group that can be called a true nationalist group in the war, defending Arab nationalism and trying to promote the status of the Arabs, is the Iraqi-Jordanian group. I am confident in the knowledge that Iraq, in spite of its preoccupation with the Iranian war, is still observing its national responsibilities vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause, and that if Syrian opposition to Iraq ended it would be able, in spite of its war with Iran, to assume a serious responsibility toward the Palestinian cause and the Lebanese crisis."

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LEBANON

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL INTERVIEWED

Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French No 919, 19-25 Jun 82 pp 106-122

[Interview with Bashir al-Jumayyil, leader of Christian camp, by Guy Sitbon: "Lebanon: One People Too Many"]

[Text] He is the leader of the Christian camp, an armed camp whose members succeeded in carving out -- at gunpoint -- the only relatively secure enclave in that besieged country which Lebanon is. A few weeks before the Israeli invasion and the lightning war that have just reshuffled the cards in a way making it impossible to measure the consequences, Bashir al-Jumayyil received Guy Sitbon in Beirut and told him: "There is one people too many: the Palestinians." But he added: "We are not being aided by Israel," and then: "Those who accuse us of wanting partition are insane." That voice, in the bloody imbroglio, now has strange echoes. What did al-Jumayyil know about Israel's intentions? Is he really Begin's man, as some think he is? What is his true relationship with the Syrian occupiers? These are all questions to which this interview with one of the key men in the Arab theater brings singular clarifications.

[Question] The war in Lebanon has entered its eighth year. Will it continue for 10 or 20 more years? Is the end in sight?

[Answer] The final sprint has not yet begun.

[Question] Is there hope for peace?

[Answer] As soon as we lose hope, we shall lose the war. Over the past seven years and at the beginning of this new year, there is new hope every morning; every morning a new leap of hope. That is what has enabled us to hold on so long, to bear our suffering.

[Question] It is often said that this war will not end until the conflicts in the Near East are solved. So that could last....

[Answer] Two thousand years.

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[Question] So you have embarked upon a 2,000-year-long war?

[Answer] I don't think so. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Look at what is now happening in West Beirut, in the so-called Muslim districts, in the north, in Tripoli.

[Question] What is happening?

[Answer] A war has begun between Muslims and Palestinians.

[Question] Why this new war?

[Answer] That is simple: Why have we Christians fought against the Palestinians? There is one people too many in this part of the world, a people that is trying to gain a foothold in Lebanon where it is and that is being rejected. The rejection came first of all from the Christians. Today, it is also a Muslim rejection.

[Page 108 missing]

[Question] [portion of text missing] Three men: your father, Pierre al-Jumayyil, head of the Kataieb (the Falangists), Camille Chamoun and Soleiman Franjie, resolved to get rid of the Palestinians because the Lebanese Government could not do so. That was not completely out of the question, but they did not foresee that they were pushing the country into an endless war.

[Answer] Those accusations, that slander, do not affect us. We are tough-skinned. Don't worry: Go ahead and insult us, call us American agents, the agents of Israel....

[Question] You mean that it is not true, that the Christian parties did not start this war?

[Answer] I do not say they did or did not. I do not respond to slander; I do not even listen to it.

[Question] Then tell me how the war began.

[Answer] We were attacked and we defended ourselves. That's all there is to it. The whole world has called us every name. The insults rained on us from the Palestinians, the Syrians, half of the Lebanese, but also from America, the Vatican and France. Every crime on earth has been attributed to us, but we fought, without even realizing what they were accusing us of. First of all, we had to live, to live and put together an existence that goes back over 6,000 years. I did not want to wander around like the boat people or land in a refugee camp.

[Question] Like the Palestinians.

[Answer] I will never be like the Palestinians, no matter what.

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[Question] How old were you at the beginning of the war?

[Answer] Twenty-eight. I am 35 now.

[Question] When did you first go to war?

[Answer] At 2:00 in the afternoon on 13 April 1975, as soon as I learned what had happened. I was practicing at the stadium, as I did every Sunday, between 10:00 and 1:00. I went home and showered. A little later, I felt that something was wrong. The bodyguards of Shaykh Pierre, my father, with whom I was very close, seemed tense. In the afternoon, we were supposed to go to the christening of a 2-month-old baby, Bechir Abou Assi. His father was the first victim of the war, killed in the Ain el-Romaneh bus incident.

[Question] That was your first battle.

[Answer] A new church had just been consecrated in Ain el-Romaneh, in the presence of Shaykh Pierre. A bus filled with armed Palestinians wanted to drive in front of the church. A police barrier tried to dissuade them so they would not meet up with the group of Kataieb at the church doorway. Already at that time, we were not on good terms with the Palestinians. The bus drove through the barrier. In front of the church, our young people in charge of maintaining order asked the bus to go back and were machine gunned in response. Joseph Abou Assi and Antoine Houssaini were immediately killed. There was a skirmish and the 30 Palestinians in the bus were....

[Question] Were killed.

[Answer] That is how it began.

[Question] You learned about it at 2:00. What did you do?

[Answer] I stood for nothing at the time. I was just a party member, head of the Achrafieh district. I was beginning my career as a lawyer. After the incident, we all met at the headquarters of the Kataieb, in Ain el-Romaneh. I then heard conversations that had a big impact on me. Shaykh Pierre begged the president of the republic, the commander in chief of the army, the head of the Second Bureau, to bring in the army to force the Palestinians to respect the law. The response of those leaders was: "We don't dare; the army will disintegrate." In our own districts, the Palestinians shot at us and our army could do nothing to defend us, for you have to remember what East Beirut was like in 1975. Three Palestinian zones existed: Tell el-Zaatar, Jisr el-Pacha and the Quarantaine.

[Question] They were camps.

[Answer] Not camps. They had rented a bunch of apartments, stores and garages. There was a whole apparently harmless infrastructure: a boutique, a kiosk, a dormitory. We were naive enough not to realize what they were planning. The people living in the region were very happy to have "tenants"

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who paid double and who overnight turned out to be Palestinian marksmen. The army could do nothing to defend us. I immediately understood, as did other young people, that the army could not guarantee our security, any more than it can today.

[Question] What did you do?

[Answer] I asked the partisans present then to leave the political discussions to others and to go out in the field. We had to make up for the military deficiency in the field as soon as possible in order to have a minimal structure. The whole structure that you see 7 years later came out of that little group and its action.

[Question] And the men that were with you then are still?

[Answer] Those that did not fall in battle are still with me.

[Question] Many have died?

[Answer] Thirteen hundred have died from among the elite of the Kataieb youth and there have been 5,000 deaths, 5,000 martyrs among the ranks of the Lebanese resistance.

[Question] Civilians?

[Answer] No, soldiers from the different parties and organizations of the Lebanese forces. Our party alone had 1,300 killed. Nearly 1,100 civilians have been killed. In Damour alone, 5,000 of them fell.

[Question] There was also the Quarantaine, where hundreds of Muslims were massacred. Were you responsible?

[Answer] We are all responsible for what happens. At the time, the battle was waged by the people. We did not have a disciplined army as we do now. For years, Christians had suffered unimaginable things from the Palestinians in the Quarantaine before the beginning of hostilities. On the Quarantaine bridge, 196 of our civilians were murdered. What do you think those whose brothers and mothers were killed on the bridge were going to do when they went into the Quarantaine?

[Question] Were many Palestinians killed that day?

[Answer] About 30. The whole world blames us for them. We lost 5,000 in Damour, but no one accuses the Palestinians.

[Question] Could you have avoided the Quarantaine massacre?

[Answer] I would have tried. When I arrived, it was all over.

[Question] And at Tell al-Zaatar? Some 1,000 Palestinians were murdered after the fall of the camp.

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[Answer] Are you sure that there were 1,000 deaths? The International Red Cross was there, but that it not what it says in its report.

[Question] What was your first battle?

[Answer] I have been in them all.

[Question] After a year and a half of war, you were losing. In Beirut, in the mountains, your lines were crumbling.

[Answer] I see what you are getting at. But to be specific, in Beirut, the front had been stabilized. It was in the mountains that we were in trouble. You naturally want to tell me that we were the ones who called on Syria.

[Question] In the city, you had already retreated quite far.

[Answer] Indeed.

[Question] The adversary: the Palestinians and the progressive Muslims, was more powerful.

[Answer] Better equipped and better trained. The Palestinian cadres had just come from East Europe; others had been trained by the English in Jordan, while ours knew nothing about bearing arms. They did not even know how to use the equipment. The weapons the other side had was much more sophisticated: RPG's, the *douchkas*, it took us six months to understand what they were. We didn't even know their names.

[Question] You have learned. Now you are known as one of the best military leaders in the region. How did you learn?

[Answer] By trial and error.

[Question] In other words, you flipped through the weapons catalogues saying, "Hey! That's not bad!"

[Answer] The catalogues from the weapons merchants came to us from our Palestinian enemies, who were our main suppliers. They stole from their own stock and sold to us at a ridiculous price. Furthermore, that is still going on for some products not available to us on the market.

[Question] Could you cite specific cases?

[Answer] No.

[Question] What do you think of this military career? Do you like it? Do you like war?

[Answer] I hate it. No soldier likes war; you can be sure of it.

[Question] What about the exhilaration of combat?

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[Answer] Do you think it is exhilarating to see your people lose their eyes or their legs? My best friends fell right beside me.

[Question] It is said that every soldier feels like a superman because he has the guts to defy death, while the average man is afraid of it.

[Answer] One pays too dearly to have such sentiments. And you imagine things. I am not the military leader you think I am. I lead the Lebanese forces, where the military man is only performing a duty.

[Question] The fact is that on that mountain, where your people have survived for centuries....

[Answer] Lived, Mr Sitbon, lived completely, as free men.

[Question] In short, you were losing.

[Answer] We were losing territory, not the war.

[Question] You then called on the Syrians.

[Answer] Let us be clear: We called on no one, especially not the Syrians. It was the Syrians who provoked the war. Assad admitted it one day in a speech.

[Question] What was Syria's purpose? To absorb Lebanon?

[Answer] Don't forget that in 1975, the peace process had quietly begun between Egypt and Israel. In my opinion, there was a race between Egypt and Syria to see who would reach a Camp David type peace first. Hafiz al-Assad thought he was in the best position. First, he had to muzzle the Palestinian in order to speak in his behalf. Add to that the state of political dissolution in which Lebanon found itself and the obsessive dream of a Greater Syria. All helped give the final attack on the Lebanese Republic. Kamal Jumblatt then said: "All we need is five Palestinians to throw the Christians into the sea." The Syrians therefore came to hasten the process and gather the fruits. Everyone asked us to legalize the Syrian presence: the Americans, the Vatican, France, the Arab countries. They considered Syria to be the stabilizer of the region. We were thus given to Assad as a payoff.

Then Sadat went to Jerusalem. Assad was immediately reduced to the status of a district leader. Everything took place alongside him. At that time, in order to make a place for himself, Assad tried to kill some Lebanese, starting with the Christians. He bombed us for weeks in 1978 and 1981. We did not yield. Now they are not killing any more Christians: It is the turn of the Sunnites and Shiites. They are also resisting and are beginning to understand the meaning of the fight that we have been waging since 1975 and the position we take.

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[Question] Which is that an understanding can be reached.

[Answer] At first, to do away with any foreign occupation of our country. Then we will see.

[Question] You have remained allied with Syria for how long? Three years?

[Answer] I have never been an ally of Syria. As long as it is in my territory, I will fight it. There was a political-type agreement between Syria and a Lebanese government that since 1943 has led the country to the 1975 catastrophe. Corruption, the mercantile spirit and compromise governed. It was only later that we began to change people's way of thinking and even the people themselves.

[Question] You are the son of Pierre al-Jumayyil, the founder of the Falange, the Lebanese Forces, on the side of the Christians. On the other side is Walid Jumblatt, the son of Kamal Jumblatt, who is the leader of the Muslims. How can one explain that?

[Answer] What surprises you? That people have children?

[Question] And that the children are leaders like their fathers.

[Answer] We are in the East; don't forget that.

[Question] But at the same time, you say you want to break with tradition and change ways of thinking.

[Answer] And we shall continue to break that patriarchal system. If a *bey* or a *zaim* has a stupid child, he is first of all a stupid person. New generations are coming out of the universities, from our people. We need to break once and for all the Ottoman heritage that keeps the Lebanese man as a subject and not as a citizen.

[Question] To arrive at that rejuvenation, you simply eliminated many people from your own camp.

[Answer] For example?

[Question] The son of President Frangie, Tony, was murdered along with many other people in the north. You are blamed for it.

[Answer] History will judge. You know that in the north, *jus primae noctis* still exists? Did you know that in the north, it is forbidden to have a school or hospital outside the control of the *bey*? In 1976, after the Christian population defended itself, the Christian *beys* also tried to take back the weapons they had won? We would have had to go back to *jus primae noctis*. The people refused; they had freed themselves in the war. Neither you nor I nor anyone else can stop the movement. The affair of which you speak is a time in their emancipation fight, not a family quarrel, not a clan struggle, but a social liberation phenomenon.

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[Question] You also eliminated the military force of President Chamoun. Why?

[Answer] In order to cut out a gangrene. Look at West Beirut: It is anarchy, looting, generalized insecurity. On our side, it is the same thing. There had to be a surgical operation to restore order in our camp and unify our armed forces. Today, among us, personal security is guaranteed.

[Question] You have suddenly made a bunch of personal enemies. Many people want to kill you. Did you know that?

[Answer] Only too well. I lost my daughter in an attack aimed at me.

[Question] Can you continue to live normally and go about your business while knowing that so many guns are aimed at you?

[Answer] They have often tried to kill me. That does not bother me, not because I am a superman, but simply, as I was telling you in the beginning, because every morning, there is new reason to hope. Gods gives us courage and I have an easy conscience. We had nothing to do with that affair in the north, the murder of Tony Frangie.

[Question] On your side, was the fight waged on the basis of Christianity?

[Answer] As I often say, we were attacked as Christians and we defended ourselves as Lebanese. We have never tried to set up a Christian state and Christian feelings have never been a political force.

[Question] Crosses on guns....

[Answer] There was a religious thrust, but in a national fight. There were crosses because there comes a time when one has to absorb an overdose of spirituality.

[Question] In this connection, it would appear that drugs are often used in your units during the fighting.

[Answer] That has never been a serious problem.

[Question] Does that help -- the drugs -- when going to the front?

[Answer] They think it does.

[Question] Does one continue to be afraid when one is on the front line?

[Answer] Less so now. We are becoming more professional, better organized, better equipped. Today, an affair like that of the Quarantaine would not happen; our command keeps its troops in line. And we no longer have the private armies. The guy with two guns and 30 men who wages his own little battles, the little local leaders who fight between themselves over a refrigerator: All that is over with.

[Question] There is no more banditry in your region?

[Answer] No, but on the other side, that's the general rule. Not with us any more. The order we have established in our territory is for the purpose at reaching that point: a single army. The PNL [expansion unknown] of Camille Chamoun exists, and other parties also.

[Question] But you have liquidated their military forces.

[Answer] To put an end to the reign of the war lords, to enable people to move about in peace. It was necessary. Between the nightmare of West Beirut and the peace on our side, I would opt for our side. This operation of internal purging cost us 94 victims. It was expensive; it was a very hard decision to make.

[Question] It was you who made it?

[Answer] Yes. Ninety-four victims to obtain order is a great deal, but on the other side, there are 94 every day.

[Question] Very good. Civil order does exist in this part of Lebanon. You are in the midst of an economic boom. The price of ground has never been so high. Isn't that a gigantic illusion?

[Answer] Naturally. This Liechtenstein will not be able to live. Those who accuse us of wanting partition are insane. Our nation would collapse if it were mutilated. This region is a symbol for all Lebanon when it is free. And if anyone wants to back us up into those 50 kilometers of coastline and those 2,000 square kilometers, we will refuse. We will get out. Either the 10,452 square kilometers will be like these 2,000 or Lebanon will not be worth the trouble of fighting for.

[Question] And to get where?

[Answer] To rebuild a new Lebanon in which religious and ethnic communities will be able to coexist. That is what the soul of Lebanon is. Obviously, each community will enjoy complete freedom and complete security. Our traditions, our values, permit us to set our sights high. We no longer want to be a people of merchants and courtiers, but a nation like any other. When the Syrians and Palestinians leave our country, we shall set up the structures of a new state along with the Muslims.

[Question] Will the Muslims not be afraid that the force you have created here will dominate them?

[Answer] Let them choose. Let them choose between my force and that of the Palestinians and the Syrians together. The Muslim cannot continue to eat at every table and believe that he is going to win every time.

[Question] For the time being, you alone against the Syrians are not enough. If they wanted to liquidate you, they would infiltrate you and there would be no more talk of Lebanese Forces.

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[Answer] They have 2,000 tanks; we have 20. They have 3,000 guns; we have 30. They have 300,000 troops; we have 3,000. The ratio of forces is clear. And yet, we have brought off our resistance war and perfectly. The liberation will depend on an upheaval throughout the Near East. France was freed from the Germans by a planetary war. Our core of resistance is 2,000 square kilometers, a mobile armed force, a fast navy, effective information. I believe that that resistance will never be quelled. Could the Syrians invade us? Do you believe they did not try, in 1978, in 1981? I do not want to overestimate us, but against a united population, tanks and artillery cannot do much. They tried to conquer Zahle and to Islamize the whole Bekaa plain, but they failed.

[Question] Why do you have so much prejudice against Islam, against the Arabs? You are Arab yourself. Why do you deny your Arabness? For me, you are an Arab.

[Question] We have never denied or proclaimed our Arabness. We do not know what it is.

[Answer] A language, a culture and membership in a universe. You are what Arabness is.

[Answer] If that is what it is, alright. But most people include religious obedience. That is where we disagree, religiously and philosophically.

[Question] You are aided by Israel.

[Answer] What proof do you have? We are not aided by Israel.

[Question] I don't believe it. I know that the Israelis are helping you.

[Answer] You have your convictions; I have mine.

[Question] If you lean more toward Israel than toward the Arab world, as I believe, isn't that just one more gap between you and the Lebanese Muslims?

[Answer] We lean only toward Lebanon.

[Question] In a word, you are a minority in a Muslim world. Is it not in your natural interest to accept that and to resign yourselves to your status as a minority?

[Answer] There are 7 million Coptic Christians in Egypt, several hundreds of thousand Christians in Syria and Iraq. They eat, drink, work and have children. Their condition comes down to that. Politically speaking, they have no rights. Their security is that of animals, I would say. They are at the mercy of the slightest incident.

[Question] The minister of foreign affairs in Egypt is Christian.

[Answer] What is his name?

[Question] Boutros-Ghali.

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[Answer] And his title?

[Question] Minister of state for foreign affairs.

[Answer] He is not a minister but only a minister of state, which in Egypt corresponds to the rank of undersecretary of state. He is in that post because he is the only one to have dared signed the Camp David Accord with Sadat. And he still did not get a full ministry. That is the fate of the Copts.

[Question] The Copts have existed forever. They number in the millions, with their families, their churches.

[Answer] Have you been to see their churches? Are they still presentable? Do they have the right to repair them? If a bell tower falls down, do they have the right to replace it? Go see them; go ask them. Here it would be the same thing. They are willing to tolerate us, to let us live and work in a state of *dhimitude*. The *dhimi*, do you know what that means in our regions? It is the second-class citizen, the non-Muslim. If we had given in, the problem would have been solved. But when I lose my freedom, I will no longer have any reason to live.

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MOROCCO

FOREIGN TRADE IN 1981 REVEALS GROWING DEFICIT

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1911, 25 Jun 82
pp 1696-1697

[Text] Completing the information supplied within the framework of its provisional balance sheet for 1981 (MARCHES TROPICAUX, 28 May, p 1388), CEDIES [Socio-Economic Research and Information Center], an organ of the CGEM (Moroccan General Economic Federation), now returns with the following study on Morocco's commercial trade last year.

Deficit

Morocco's commercial trade with other countries showed a final deficit of 10.4 billion dirhams (1 dirham = 1.05 francs), with exports (12 billion dirhams) covering 53.4 percent of all imports (22.4 billion dirhams). An analysis of this deficit by groups of noteworthy products shows that it can be attributed to all headings, with the exception of unfinished products, for which Morocco's sales cover its purchases with a percentage of 196.4. It should be noted that while unfinished products constitute only 10.9 percent of Moroccan imports, they make up 40.2 percent of all exports.

Foreign Trade 1981 (in millions of dirhams)

Category	Imports CIF		Exports FOB		Balance	Cover %
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent		
Food, beverages, tobacco	4,613	20.6	3,040	25.3	- 1,573	65.9
Energy, lubricants	6,125	27.3	543	4.5	- 5,582	8.8
Unprocessed products	2,457	10.9	4,825	40.2	+ 2,368	196.4
Semi-finished products	3,890	17.3	2,096	17.5	- 1,794	53.9
Capital goods	3,860	17.2	29	0.2	- 3,831	0.7
Consumer goods	1,510	6.7	1,470	12.3	- 40	97.3
Total	22,455	100	12,003	100	-10,452	53.4

Morocco's purchases mainly involve unfinished products of animal and plant origin (1,596,000,000 dirhams) rather than of mineral origin (861 million dirhams). They essentially include unprocessed vegetable oils (508 million dirhams), wood (470 million dirhams), synthetic fibers (169 million dirhams), artificial fibers (98 million dirhams) and sulfur (589 million dirhams).

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With respect to exports, the mineral substances are preponderant (4,488,000,000 dirhams, including 3,827,000,000 for phosphates), while shipments of unfinished products of animal and plant origin are relatively low (337 million), mainly including paper pulp (125 million) and cotton (57 million). Compared with 1980, an analysis of the structure of Moroccan imports in 1981 shows an increase in the respective shares of energy and food purchases to 27.3 and 20.6 percent compared with 23.6 and 16.8 percent respectively. This shift came about to the detriment of the shares of other purchases, which went from 11.7 to 10.9 percent for unfinished products, from 21.1 to 17.3 percent for semi-finished products, from 18.2 to 17.2 percent for capital goods, and from 7.8 to 6.7 percent for finished consumer products.

Energy and food bills alone absorb nearly 90 percent of all export receipts. The latter essentially come from unfinished products (40.2 percent), food products (25.3 percent), semi-finished products (17.5 percent) and to a lesser extent, from finished consumer goods (12.3 percent). Compared with 1980, the structure of exports has changed somewhat in the direction of a reduction in the shares of the first two to the benefit of the last two.

Geographical Structure of Trade

Most of Morocco's commercial transactions with other countries are with Europe, mainly the EEC. The rest is, in descending order, with Asia, particularly the Middle East, America, Africa and Oceania.

A total of 57.7 percent of all Moroccan imports are from Europe, which also absorbs 76 percent of the exports. The balance shows a deficit for Morocco and amounts to nearly 4 billion dirhams. However, the rate of cover is relatively high (70.5 percent), compared with that of Morocco's trade with Asian and American countries.

Morocco gets 40.7 percent of its imports from the EEC, to which it ships 49.2 percent of its exports. France heads the EEC countries, with 5.55 billion in imports and 2,614,000,000 in exports. Morocco's other top trading partners among "the Ten" are the Federal Republic of Germany, in second place with 858 million dirhams and Morocco's fifth-ranking supplier with 1,078,000,000 dirhams; the Netherlands, with 669 million dirhams in Moroccan exports and 552 million in imports; and Italy, with 596 million dirhams in Moroccan exports and 973 million in imports.

Outside of the EEC, Morocco mainly trades with Spain and the USSR. Spain is in third place among customers with 834 million dirhams and in fourth place among suppliers with 1.54 billion dirhams, following the United States (1,572,000,000 dirhams) and Saudi Arabia (3,384,000,000 dirhams). The Soviet Union is in fourth place among Morocco's customers with 684 million dirhams and in seventh place among suppliers, with 861 million dirhams.

Geographic Distribution of Trade (in millions of dirhams)

<u>Country</u>	<u>Imports</u>		<u>Exports</u>		<u>Balance</u>	<u>Cover %</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>		
Europe	12,932	57.7	9,113	76	- 3,819	70.5
EC	1,131	40.7	5,902	49.2	- 3,229	64.6
EFTA	307		412			
CEMA*	1,388		1,457			
Other countries	1,606		1,342			
Asia	6,465	28.8	1,745	14.6	- 4,720	27
Middle East	4,943		260			
Other countries	1,522		1,485			
America	2,661	11.8	509	4.2	- 2,152	19.1
North America	2,122		200			
Other countries	539		309			
Africa	386	1.7	627	5.2	- 241	162.4
Maghreb	82		326			
Other countries	324		301			
Oceania	11		9		- 2	81.8
Total	22,445	100	12,003	100	-10,442	53.5

* CEMA (or COMECON): German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, the USSR, Cuba and Vietnam

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MOROCCO

LABOR UNION CHIEF DESCRIBES PHILOSOPHY, GOVERNMENT

Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic No 279, 18-24 Jun 82

/Article: "A Moroccan Trade Unionist Makes an Accusation: The Socialism of Repression Has Never Been Consummated"

/Text/ Trade union activity in Morocco goes back many years before independence. The first attempts at union organization were made in 1934, when the late leader Allal El Fassi started to organize a union for taxi owners to defend people's ordinary rights, which, as a union chief in Morocco says, are slightly different from the public rights that politics represents.

After the establishment of the Union of Small Taxi Owners, the rosary was retold and people in the liberal professions within the national movement started demanding the organization of unions which would guarantee them their rights.

After Morocco's independence, trade union activity assumed a more comprehensive structure. The trade union leaders demanded that cultural activity be kept separate from political action and that trade union leadership be kept apart from nationalist leadership, especially following the rifts that had appeared in the ranks of the Istiklal Party in 1958. The unions considered that it was necessary that they acquire political gains and that the union leadership retain an escalating scale that would guarantee them these gains. This brought a new union to prominence, and there then were two federations of labor unions in the Kingdom of Morocco. The first, which had accompanied the national movement since its emergence, was called the General Union of Moroccan Workers; the second is called the Moroccan Labor Federation.

Mohamed Benjelloun Andaloussi, member of the Central Committee of the Istiklal Party, member of the executive committee of the General Union of Moroccan Workers and the secretary general of the Free University of Education, told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, "The rifts that occurred within the Istiklal Party were not the result of ideological disputes, because this would mean a contradiction between one approach and another. The Istiklal Party leadership at that time considered that a political struggle could be integrated only if it was aimed at making the poor prosperous in the first place and at spreading about the notion of justice and conciliation and various means of bringing mutually supportive groups together. That is the goal of trade union activity. Otherwise, ideology will regress and lag behind

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its proper progressive positions, which have the goal first of all of mobilizing the entire national struggle for the attainment of workers' rights."

The Birth of the Union

Benjelloun went on, "After the General Union of Moroccan Workers was established in 1960 in Morocco, in circles in the Free University of Education, where the first of the union's labor union cells was formed, the process of reconsidering the nationalist view of union activity was begun, with the goal of getting the workers to commit themselves to this development, because they, that is, the workers, when they make a union commitment, also commit themselves to political notions that can rid them of wretchedness, distress and all kinds of exploitation. The establishment of the General Union of Workers was planned to thwart the conspiracy that was aimed at reducing the workers' effectiveness, since this union was born of the blood of martyrs, prisoners, exiles and oppressed persons. Abdelaziz Bendiss, one martyr, whom the Istiklal Party considers the martyr of the working class, was the first brick in the edifice of the union. From the first moment of its birth, he proclaimed the Istiklal Party's political commitment, because we consider that the party believes in a struggle based on national values far removed from provocation and aggravation. Provocation means that the union becomes a means for moving the machine, whereas it is the party, any party, that should strive for that. This process of provocation is concentrated in numerous slogans, posters and phrases aimed at depriving people of the meaning of the holy war they must wage with themselves to attain total consciousness.

"We in the union have found, through our commitment with the Istiklal Party, that the provocation process is very simple, since it is easy to tell people that it is through struggle that socialism and equality will be realized, and so forth; however, we believe that for truly active, fighting people, go implanting awareness can be realized only if these people are conscious of the values they represent as persons and the values the struggle represents."

Regarding the socialist notion of labor unions, Benjelloun said "When we say 'socialism,' we must emphasize a specific concept, a nationalist notion and a historic struggle, along with a clear vision of the future, and then we will be able to judge what socialism will do in our country. The socialism that some people are speaking about here and whose books they read has never been realized, especially not in accordance with the contents of these books. Rather, what has happened in more than one place is that there was a historic process and a historic practice which provided the theory and gave a concept and a name; the name did not precede it. This common adaptation which we witness from time to time can only do something; either it fortifies the working class with more sensitive methods or it mobilizes the toiling class by diluting the struggle. Thus a struggle that does not have a specific goal and specific objective and does not rely on a process of stages will become a means of dilution and a means for fragmenting the combative power of the toiling class."

Concerning the ideology of the General Union of Moroccan Workers, he said, "We believe that the working class feels that Islam, as a religion, brings about justice and equality and that it is necessary to apply Islamic principles in order to

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attain the legitimate rights of every individual. Therefore we are working for the sake of the moral enlightenment which Islam has revealed, in addition to the proper nationalist enlightenment. The exploitation of human labor is one of the greatest sins in Islam. When this feeling becomes widespread and there is proper religion in the spirits of people, then a development occurs in the core and essence of human relations.

"Therefore, to us, the equation has been to achieve a revolution of conscience. The concerns that workers experience in their beliefs, ideas and lives are the ones that cause upheavals within them, leading them to become elements in the struggle. Struggles that are concentrated on techniques of provocation and commandoes cannot be continuous and effective; rather, they become millstones grinding down the people who commit the provocation while not benefiting the people who are provoked.

"We wish to bring about workers' participation in factories and peasants' participation in free agricultural organizations through a dialogue with the government and via all the democratic means of pressure. We are also struggling so that the labor courts may become a means for putting pressure on employers who ignore workers' human rights and expel workers for any reason whenever they like. The Ministry of Labor must play a part in this area and the government and employers must not forget that the worker's interests are the plant's interests, that the peasant's interests are the interests of the land, and that oppression by any financial authority must be lifted from the workers and peasants and consequently the working and productive sectors. We are also struggling against the hiring of any persons on a temporary basis, because temporary hire means disguised unemployment human exploitation of workers, and the attempt to impose future poverty and hunger on their families. We are also demanding a national retirement fund and requesting that all workers have some money to enable their families to live on in the event workers are exposed to harm. The union's representatives in the Chamber of Deputies are trying with all their effort to introduce compensations into the basic salary as far as the retirement law goes. We are striving to turn all social reforms in the labor sectors into a means for raising and improving production so that the results will be proper. This reform, and its results, can come about only through a general freedom of union activity, and this takes place through enlightenment of the workers and their institutions and the political agencies in the country, with the objective of bringing about the greatest possible amount of gains both in the context of the workers and factories and in the limited general context of the government, in the shortest possible period of time."

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MOROCCO

LIVESTOCK RAISING, MEAT, MILK PRODUCTION IN MAGHREB EXAMINED

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French No 1911, 25 Jun 82 pp 1633-1635, 1637, 1639

[Text] The dominant climate in the Maghreb is Mediterranean, with autumn and spring rains. However, as soon as one leaves the coastal regions, the aridity of the land permits only extensive livestock raising. Under 400 mm of rainfall, one finds semi-nomadic goat and sheep raising.

In the arid regions (under 200 mm), livestock raising can only be practiced on the move or on a nomadic basis. The extent of the arid or semi-arid regions explains the importance of livestock raising, but with low yields and high mortality rates (epizootic, drought). Many nomadic herders who were once caravaners are now semi-sedentary.

Cattle raising is developing in the more fortunate regions that are richer in pasture land: the plains and mountains of Atlantic Morocco and northern Tunisia.

In Morocco, the western regions and the westward-facing mountain slopes receive the heaviest rainfall (Tangiers: 833 mm), but it gradually decreases as one goes south (Agadir: 225 mm). Differences in temperature are great and it freezes in the mountains.

Agriculture juxtaposes two sectors: one, traditional, with 95 percent of all rural people; the other modern, partially oriented toward exports.

As for the mountains and oases in the south, the farmers raise small animals on the move. On the Atlantic plains, cattle and sheep raising uses fallow land since the crop growing system is based on biennial rotation.

Livestock raising retains its traditional place, with mediocre yields. Smaller livestock (15 million sheep, 8 million goats) is the most common in the interior, while cattle raising is the rule on the Atlantic plains, where there are some 3.6 million head.

Sixty percent of the active population (over 3 million persons) engages in an activity linked to livestock raising, with over one-third being breeders.

Traditional livestock raising (cattle, sheep and goats) occupies over a million breeders, whose herds are either of one type of animal or two or three combined:

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Some 400,000 breeders raise cattle exclusively, while 300,000 have both cattle and sheep, 150,000 have herds of all three, 70,000 raise only sheep, 70,000 raise sheep and goats and another 30,000 have herds of only goats.

The number of livestock breeders thus looks impressive, but such a presentation might give a false idea of the situation. One should specify that these are people who engage in livestock raising activities in general -- along with others -- and that many of them have only a few animals.

The size of the herds provides a clearer picture. For cattle raisers, for example, 760,000 have from 1 to 5 head, while 125,000 have 5 to 10, 27,000 have 10 to 20, and only 200 have over 100 head.

One should add that there are four ranches in Morocco and that their operation is satisfactory.

As far as sheep are concerned, intensive breeding is confined to a few rare industrial breeding and extensive grazing operations, which occupies the interior areas on the plateaux and mountains and employs some 575,000 persons. Of these, 230,000 have 10 head at most, while 270,000 have from 10 to 50, 55,000 have from 50 to 150 and 17,000 have over 150 animals.

Goat raising is essentially found in the southern provinces (Marrakech, Agadir, Ouarzazate). It is also found in the Rif (Tangiers, Tetouan) and part of eastern Morocco (Taza). The average size of the herds is about 20 head.

Moroccan animal production has greatly suffered from the catastrophic drought lasting throughout the final quarter of 1980 and the entire year of 1981.

It is therefore difficult to describe the current livestock situation, as the data remains incomplete.

Official statistics available for Morocco show substantial drops in the size of herds.

The number of cattle, long stable at around 3.6 million head, was only 3.4 million for 1980 and dropped still further in 1981.

Moroccan Livestock (number of head)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>End 1981</u>
Cattle	3,396,000	
Including: Local breeds	1,136,000	919,000
Crossbreeds	146,000	133,000
Imported	72,000	66,000
Sheep	14,840,000	
Including: Ewes	8,692,000	7,400,000

(cont.)

Goats	5,100,000
Including: Females	2,856,000
Draft animals	
Horses	300,000
Mules	350,000
Donkeys	1,400,000

Source: Moroccan statistics

The FAO figures coincide for cattle, but are substantially different for sheep and goats. According to the FAO, the number of sheep, 17.1 million in 1970, fell to 15.6 in 1979 and then rose slightly in 1980 to 16.1 million head.

The number of goats went from 8.5 million in 1970 to about 6 million in 1979 and 1980.

One can see that the order is the same and that the figures give a good idea of the relative size of the herds, whatever the sources.

Morocco has a great livestock raising potential because its livestock production represents over one-third of total agricultural production. However, that production is still inadequate to meet its own needs.

Morocco has two types of livestock raising: livestock raising for milk, essentially cattle; and livestock raising for meat, where one finds sheep, goats and local cattle.

Cattle Raising

Cattle raising is of two types: intensive and extensive. Extensive cattle raising uses grazing land and fallow fields. The breeds are mainly local: Atlas Browns and the Oulmes. The areas where it is practiced are the dry farming zones and the mountains, of mediocre interest, where productivity is low. Efforts are now being made toward genetic improvements and toward providing good feed.

Intensive cattle raising essentially involves improved imported purebreds (Friesians, Holstein). It is practiced on state farms (COMAGRI [Moroccan Farm Management Company], SODEA [Agricultural Development Company], SOGETA [Agricultural Land Management Company], experimental farms) and private farms in irrigated areas. The departments of the Ministry of Agriculture are in charge of organization, particularly with respect to shelters and animal health and preventive medicine.

Productivity is good and the performance of the cows constantly improving, particularly because of efforts made toward genetic improvements.

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Viewed on the whole, cattle raising performances are poor as a result of the extensive and traditional nature of the activity (90 percent local breeds).

Nevertheless, the development of forage crops and the spreading of more modern raising methods have resulted in substantial improvements. Still, there are marked differences because of the breeds.

For example, the age of the first calving of a Pie Noire cow is 28 months, compared with 39 months for a local breed. A local cow will give 450 kilograms of milk a year; a Pie Noire, 4,000.

Sheep

Sheep raising is essentially for the purpose of providing meat and wool. The milk is almost all used by the lambs.

Four main breeds are found:

the Timahdit, of average size (.60 meter high; 40 to 50 kilograms), a dark-headed sheep mainly found on the western slope of the Middle Atlas Mountains, with good resistance to the cold and bad weather thanks to its long, less kinky fleece (weight of fleece: 1.8 to 2 kilograms).

the Sardi, a large sheep (.60 to .80 meter high; 45 to 60 kilograms), with black spots on the head, ears and legs. Lambs grow rapidly. Fleece weighs from 1.5 to 1.8 kilograms. It is found on the Moroccan central plateau.

the Beni-Guil, a small breed (.50 to .60 meter high; 35 to 40 kilograms), with a brown head and brown or spotted legs, very firm fleece and very sought-after meat; a very resistant breed and able to transform cellulose. It is found on the high plateaux of the Algerian-Moroccan territories.

the D'mane, a good breeder and an excellent milk giver. This is a "population" more than a breed. The types are diverse and not specific and are generally of mediocre conformation. The ram has no horns. This is the sheep of the northwest Saharan oases.

Only a few years ago, research advised that the Merino breed be spread to the Moroccan oases and its introduction is still sometimes encouraged in the countries of the Maghreb, to the detriment of some local breeds, particularly the D'mane.

This type is an excellent breeder, with two lambings a year and frequent multiple births. It has swarmed over a rather broad area: the palm plantations of Tafilalet, Draa, Sarro, Todra, Ferkla, Gheris and Guir; the Dades Valley, and also in the Middle Atlas and on the edge of the Atlas Mountains (Marrakech).

It is generally raised in small herds by families of sedentary farmers. In the oases, it is often stabled in buildings that are part of the dwellings.

It is rather small: 40 to 45 kilograms for ewes and 65 to 85 kilograms for rams.

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Its appearance is very distinct: The males have no horns, the animal is long and light in the body, with a fine, aquiline head, long, drooping ears, a long, thin neck, and the fleece is long and coarse. The wool is varied in color, with black and white dominating.

Its qualities are remarkable: a very good breeder (190 days between two lambings); two lambings a year; natural aptitude for having twins (or triplets); new eyes are apt to reproduce in a year and are very fertile; and ewes can suckle three lambs.

For the Sabaran regions, they constitute a major element in development.

The D'mane fits perfectly well into palm agriculture and it would be most unfortunate to lose an animal so well-adapted genetically, even if its short-range advantages may seem less attractive than newly introduced breeds.

Fortunately, the Royal Domains Directorate has made it possible to set up a ranch in Tafilalet, to be used to preserve and improve the breed.

One should also mention the Mediterranean-type found in the mountains, in Morocco as well as Algeria. It is known by different names: the Atlas breed, the Rif sheep, and so on. Small, the ewes weigh from 25 to 35 kilograms. It has long, curly rather than kinky fleece and the wool is white. It is a good milk giver and can stand cold and intemperate weather.

The pastoral tradition of the Maghreb dates from ancient times and North Africa, with some 35 million sheep, is one of the greatest sheep-raising regions in the world.

The Maghrebian breeds are excellent and well-adapted to their milieu. The introduction of foreign breeds is of little interest and emphasis should rather be placed on the best local breeds.

Selection has already obtained excellent results and based on a common herd, one needs but 3 to 5 years to achieve substantial results. However, the application of simple, inexpensive measures would bring about a considerable increase in the production of local flocks. Provided that suitable zootechnic measures are taken and by using mere selective breeding, Moroccan (and Maghrebian) livestock has excellent production potential and should easily meet the Maghreb's needs for mutton.

The basic actions include adequate water, salt within reach, some supplements and proper feed. Research should be aimed at more numerous births, a reduction in pre- and postnatal mortality, larger lambs, increasing resistance to drought and speedier growth.

All of this implies the spreading of techniques and proper training.

Application of basic measures helps the flock rapidly, but also lays the way for the future through the obtention of animals that are stronger and more productive (at an earlier age, fertility, weight).

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Meat Production

Meat production was by and large adequate until 1974, but the combination of the drought and population growth made it inadequate. In the form of meat and offal, it totals an estimated 350,000 tons for 1981, up 6 percent over 1980, but predictions for 1982 show a drop of from 7 to 8 percent: to 326,000 tons. This is because of the drought, but it is still a lesser evil because for red meats alone (cattle, sheep and goats), official statistics show the following figures: 1980, 194,000 tons; 1981, 234,000 tons; and 1982, 146,000 tons (estimates).

It is poultry that will make the difference, with the great boom in industrial poultry raising. Figures for poultry production are as follows: 100,000 tons of meat in 1980; 75,000 tons in 1981; and 153,000 tons in 1982 (estimates).

Beef production, announced by Moroccan statistics at 107,000 tons in 1980 and 132,000 tons in 1981, is expected to total only 90,000 tons in 1982. Production of lamb and mutton: 55,000 tons in 1980 and 65,000 tons in 1981, is also expected to drop substantially in 1982 (35,000 tons).

The damage of the drought is manifest. Cattle provide 56 percent of all red meat production, but one must note that if one is talking about total animal protein (red meats, offal, poultry), they represent only 26 to 27 percent, with the expanding poultry sector accounting for 47 percent by itself.

The carcass yield is low: The average weight of a carcass is 117 kilogram for cattle (average for Africa: 139 kilograms) and 11 kilograms for sheep (average for Africa: 13). However, these are national averages. Near the large cities, supplied by ranches with improved breeds, the carcasses weigh from 170 to 200 kilograms.

Poultry production has developed greatly and contributes more and more to the effort to make up for the meat shortage in Morocco.

The traditional poultry-raising operations represent some 50 percent of all production, according to the most recent estimates available to us. The other half comes from modern poultry farms (nearly all of them privately owned). The modern sector uses very productive strains and is essentially oriented toward production for meat.

Annual production of poultry meat, estimated to total 70,000 tons in 1977 (it had increased over 60 percent since 1970), was 100,000 tons in 1980. But a drop occurred in 1981, when the total was 75,000 tons. Nevertheless, the very great effort underway in the sector points toward a doubling of production for 1982 (estimated 153,000 tons).

Egg production in 1980 was 613 million.

Development of the poultry sector presumes the existence of poultry slaughterhouses and development of a cold storage facility, now not sufficiently in use.

Milk Production

From 420 million liters in 1971, milk production in Morocco went to 530 million liters in 1975 and an estimated 780 million in 1980. This is clearly not enough because in 1980, Morocco imported the equivalent of 630 million liters.

Because of climatic uncertainties, production varies greatly from one year to the next. However, what is even more remarkable, it is very irregular during the year also. There are two distinct periods: heavy milk production (February to August) and low milk production (September to January).

This very specific phenomenon is directly related to the birthing season, which is itself related to the availability of fodder.

In 1975, only 20 percent of all production went to processing plants and 30 percent went for family consumption.

In 1977, the amount of milk produced was 620 million liters and imports of milk products (butter, concentrated and powdered milk, cheeses) totaled the equivalent of some 350 million liters, representing a total consumption of about 1 billion liters, or 55 liters per person (60 percent from national production). Since that time, these levels have progressed substantially due to the great effort made to develop livestock raising: infrastructures, the establishment of collection centers (76 in 1975; 214 in 1980), an intensification of genetic improvement efforts (artificial insemination, breeding stations, importation of dairy stock), subsidies, and so on.

At the same time, emphasis was placed on the related industries, with an increasing number of processing plants in milk producing regions, with efforts tending to regionalize these units so as to permit the development of production by regions and encourage collection under the best possible conditions.

Zootechnic measures (controlled breeding, supervision of lambing, choice of rams, ewes and lambs) and sanitary measures (vaccination, prophylactic care, control of parasites) are an indispensable complement to development.

Goats

Goats are the third element of Moroccan livestock raising. Although the herd has decreased in the past 10 years, it still represents some 11 percent of all animals. Along with sheep, goats are the animals most able to take advantage of the pasture available, especially in mountainous regions (southern Morocco, forests of the Upper Atlas and the Rif). They are generally found in the arid and semi-arid zones. Their hardiness is well-known but their productivity remains low. Meat production is about 5 to 6 kilograms per female kept for breeding per year. In 1971, the official statistics put Moroccan goat milk production at 42,000 tons, 95 percent consumed locally.

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Other Types of Production

Wool

Wool is produced locally by different breeds, especially crossbreeds (40 percent). It is often coarse and uniform. An effort at selection is being made in regions considered as the main origins of the breeds.

The FAO gives production figures of about 5,600 tons, while calculations based on the number of head and the basis of 1.6 kilograms of wool per head per year give a theoretical production of 20,000 to 25,000 tons.

Crosschecking based on the needs of handicrafts and industry lead one to think that Moroccan figures are more accurate. Actually, the need for wool totals an estimated 14,000 tons, met as follows: 15 percent by local production, which yields 20,000 X 15 percent = 3,000 tons; 80 percent by imports, or around 11,000 tons.

For 85 percent of the local production -- a minimum of 15,000 tons -- it would be interesting to learn the final use.

Hides

They often have flaws due to parasites (scabies, tics, warbles), certain viral or bacterial diseases, mechanical causes or accidents or improper skinning.

The amount of production is shown by the following figures:

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u>
Cattle hides	700,000	800,000
Sheep and goat skins	4,160,000	6,500,000

Livestock feed includes: local production,

Local production: grazing, 6.6 billion forage units; fodder production from forage and leguminous crops (687 million forage units); fallow land, straw and stubble, grain, bran, pulp, cakes, and so on (4.12 billion forage units); and imported fodder and livestock feed, whether on a regular basis (corn, oil cakes) or circumstantial basis.

Moroccan Livestock Raising Policy

Moroccan livestock raising policy corresponds to an objective of an annual consumption of 20 grams of animal protein per person by 1985, with self-sufficiency achieved through increased national production and improved quality.

The main guidelines are: an increase in production and productivity; greater income for the livestock breeder and Moroccanization (ownership of farms is reserved for nationals and national companies); professional training of livestock breeders and supervisory personnel; and a balance between production and processing.

Emphasis is clearly placed on cattle and mainly on genetic improvements through crossbreeding with imported animals. In addition, some purebred stock is being imported, especially milk cows. Finally, an effort is being made to select the best local stock.

Introduction of Purebred Stock

The introduction of foreign livestock, especially milk cows, is the short-term answer to immediate needs. Purchases come from the following sources: animals imported outright (27,800 pregnant heifers imported during the 1973-1977 Plan), with an annual general program reviewed every year; COMAGRI "nurseries." COMAGRI turns out a thousand heifers a year and its model ranches serve as a means to spread modern intensive livestock raising methods.

Selection Farms

Six cattle selection farms keep purebred herds of select Moroccan stock. Proceeds are returned to breeders.

Artificial Insemination and Breeding Stations

Artificial insemination for cattle is systematically organized on a national scale with two national centers, one at Ain Djemaa, which oversees the southern provinces, and the other at Kenitra, which oversees the north. The breeding stations now serve only regions where there are not yet any local artificial insemination centers.

Public Supervision

The support organizations for this policy are national, paranational and private (of a cooperative nature). They involve:

1) research, teaching and technical assistance, under the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) in Rabat, the Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinary Institute in Rabat and the National School of Agriculture in Meknes.

The departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform: the Directorate of Livestock Raising and regional departments (regional offices of agricultural development and provincial agricultural directorates).

It is the Ministry of Interior which oversees the municipal slaughterhouses and the administration of collective grazing land.

2) state organizations:

the National Livestock Development Company (SNDE), whose task it is to set up livestock raising units (meat or milk) of the ranch type on national lands;

the Moroccan Farm Management Company (COMAGRI), which manages national land and whose main task is the production of pregnant heifers for return to livestock breeders (Friesians, Holsteins, Tarentaise);

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the Agricultural Land Management Company (SOGETA) and the Agricultural Development Company (SODEA), which manage state land, with very important animal production, and which also produce breeding stock to return to breeders; and

the National Agricultural Credit Bank (CNCA), 50 percent of whose loans involve livestock raising.

3) cooperative organizations:

the National Milk Cooperatives Union (UNCAL);

milk pickup cooperatives (200 collection centers; 10,000 members), centers for the dissemination of information and health and development support;

agrarian reform cooperatives; and

associations of purebred livestock breeders, whose core was set up in Casablanca and whose expansion is planned.

Organization of Market

State sector: production of breeding stock and seed; dissemination of techniques (SNDE, COMAGRI, SOGETA, SODEA); 53 municipal slaughterhouses. The largest handled a total of 56,000 tons of meat in 1980 (Casablanca, 30,000 tons; Rabat, 8,700 tons).

Cooperative sector: the agrarian reform cooperatives, on recovered land; the dairy cooperatives, which include several milk collection centers; and the commercial circuits: livestock markets (souks), wholesale butchers, butchers supplying urban zones; livestock markets with slaughterhouses at markets for rural areas; milk collection centers; and the organization of poultry markets now underway.

Budgets and Projects

Moroccan livestock raising contribute 35 percent of the agricultural GNP and makes up 15 to 25 percent of the GNP.

The portion of the national budget devoted to livestock raising is regularly increasing and is making a real leap in 1982: 1980, 41 million dirhams; 1981, 68 million dirhams; and 1982, 200 million dirhams.

For the 1981-1985 Plan, out of the 10 billion dirhams provided for equipment credits to the Ministry of Agriculture, 1,156,000,000 concern livestock raising.

Along with an intensification of sanitary and health action, the 1981-1985 Plan emphasizes the expansion of forage crops, the improvement of pastureland and genetic improvements and every sector is the target of specific projects.

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34

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