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## KING HASSAN CELEBRATES HIS SILVER JUBILEE WITH ORIENTAL POMP

By Stephen Hughes

MARRAKESH, Morocco, March 3, Reuter - King Hassan of Morocco celebrated his silver jubilee today with oriental pomp among government dignitaries and foreign delegations in his ornate Moorish palace in this imperial city.

Dressed in white robes, flanked by his two sons, Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, 22, and Prince Moulay Rachid, 16, Hassan was greeted by foreign envoys including U.S. officials.

Hassan, who ascended the throne 25 years ago on the death of his father King Mohammed V, decorated William Casey, director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) with the insignia of the Ouissam al-Arch (Order of the Throne).

Casey was the only one decorated by Hassan, and no reason was given for the award.

At the center of the marble-paved palace courtyard, where the ceremony took place, stood a 10-foot-high anniversary cake.

Among the American delegation were former U.S. Secretary of the Interior William Clark, Gen. Vernon Walters, Washington's Ambassador to the United Nations, and Charles Wick, Director of the U.S. Information Agency.

Hundreds of white-robed palace and government officials tried to kiss the king's hands as a symbol of allegiance when Hassan walked round the courtyard.

Diplomats said the presence of the American officials appeared to contradict the fact that the traditionally warm relations between Washington and Rabat have been cool for 18 months after Hassan signed a treaty of friendship with Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, accused by Reagan of backing international terrorism.

Morocco is at the same time celebrating the 10th anniversary of ``reunification'' with the Western Sahara where the Algerian-backed Polisario have been fighting the kingdom since Spain ended its colonial rule there in 1976.

Guests here today also included several celebrities, among them movie and television stars Michael York, Robert Stack and Barbara Eden.

Former Foreign Minister Michel Jobert represented France, whose protectorate over Morocco ended 30 years ago.

Hassan, 57, who claims descent from prophet Mohamed and is also spiritual leader as ``commander of the faithful'', is a member of the Alawite dynasty founded in the 17th century.

The silver jubilee is being celebrated lavishly throughout the country.

Employees have been given a five-day holiday ending tomorrow. City buildings have been repainted, flags and lights hung out, triumphal arches erected and dozens of social and economic projects inaugurated.

At the Marrakesh ceremony, Hassan also promoted several armed forces officers including Col.-Maj. Abdenbi Britel, commander of the Royal Academy, who was elevated to the rank of general. He has also pardoned more than 300 prisoners but an official communique did not say whether those amnestied included political prisoners.