



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

22 SEP 1976

22 SEP 1976

1-23528/76

OSD REVIEWED 17-May-2011: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE  
UNDER SECRETARY  
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

SEP 27 1976

Honorable Philip C. Habib  
Under Secretary of State  
for Political Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Phil:

(S) As you know, the Navy has been planning for sometime to phase out its communications sites in Morocco. On 10 September, Deputy Secretary Clements approved a comprehensive plan under which the Navy will close its Communications Station in Morocco by 1 January 1978 and disestablish the Moroccan-US Naval Training Command by 30 September 1978 (Enclosure 1).

(S) Navy briefed Ambassador Anderson on its intentions before he went to Rabat. He also was aware of King Hassan's repeated offers to US officials of virtually unlimited use of military facilities in Morocco. Consequently, he asked DoD to identify any future stationing requirements in Morocco so that he might broach these needs with King Hassan when he informs the King of the Kenitra closure.

(C) Accordingly, the JCS examined future US military requirements for Morocco; OSD has reviewed and approved the JCS recommendations. I believe it would be appropriate for Ambassador Anderson to discuss these requirements with King Hassan when he informs the King of Navy's impending withdrawal. Asking now will enhance our prospect for securing these arrangements and reassure the King that closure of the Navy installations does not signal any diminution of US interest in and support for Morocco. Specifically, DoD seeks:

a. Agreement in Principle for Increased Use of Moroccan Port and Air Facilities. Although the GOM has been forthcoming in this regard, we believe this is an opportune time to seek an increase in visits. The US is not limited in the number of visits, but we believe King Hassan would interpret this request as evidence of our continued support.

Classified by Director, Africa Region, OASD/ISA  
SUBJECT TO CENTRAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 12-31-84



SECRET

SECRET

2

b. Use of Moroccan Coast for SIXTH FLEET Amphibious Exercises. Initially we should seek agreement for small scale exercises, emphasizing the mutual benefit for both of our countries and with the proviso that any use of the option would be preceded by a joint politico-military review.

c. Installation of an Air Force Ground-Based Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance (GEODSS) site. GEODSS would employ about five US military, 45 US civilians, and initially, only a handful (5-10) Moroccan personnel. Final site selection would be made after a complete US Air Force survey and evaluation (Enclosure 2). Funds for equipment and construction have been included in the Air Force's FY 1977/8 budgets and must be committed by mid-December 1976 to avoid slippage in the program.

d. Installation of a US Air Force Weapons Tactics Training Center. The US needs an adequate facility to conduct air combat training in the European area. This need will increase when the F-15, an air superiority fighter, is deployed to Europe in the near future. At present the Air Force has in Spain an air-to-ground range at Bardenas-Reales and a very limited air-to-air range at Zaragoza. These ranges would continue to operate in addition to the proposed facility in Morocco, and the latter would have little effect upon the overall US-Spanish connection. Despite the uncertainties and political risks involved for both sides, the proposed air training center in Morocco would be a substantial asset to both the US and Moroccan defense postures.

A training center in Morocco would also constitute a show of support for that country and provide Morocco access to training which would be of great value to their small Air Force. The base itself could be placed under Moroccan command, operated by the US Air Force, and used by both parties. If the King agrees, the Department of Defense is immediately prepared to conduct a preliminary site survey and feasibility study. At this time our first priority is the former SAC base at Sidi-Slimane, where we could utilize the base facilities and family housing at Kenitra, now occupied by the Naval Training Command (Enclosure 3).

e. Location of a SAC Forward Operating Facility. This facility would provide increased flexibility in responding to military contingencies in Europe. US Air Force does not plan by this action to close any part of the SAC facilities at Torrejon in Spain; the proposed facility in Morocco would be complementary. Under present contingency plans, US aircraft could operate out of a Moroccan base with a significant increase in effectiveness, and with no change in the plan for B-52s to operate from Torrejon. A SAC facility in Morocco would also increase effectiveness of air refueling operations (Enclosure 3).

SECRET

f. Location of a MAC Staging Area. This facility would be a small staging-refueling area located on an operational base and designed primarily for emergency humanitarian missions in Africa. It would employ 10-20 US military personnel and require a small repair parts storage area. If we are to maintain a presence at Kenitra that base could easily accommodate the MAC facility.

(S) Obviously, a great deal of discussion and work will be needed on most of these proposals after they are initially broached with the King. Defense is ready to assist in any way in formulating our negotiating positions and discussing these matters with the Moroccans. In the meantime, I shall be happy to provide any additional information on any of these programs that you may require.

Sincerely,



Eugene V. McAuliffe  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
International Security Affairs

Enclosures -  
a/s

cc: Hon. Alfred L. Atherton  
Hon. George S. Vest

SECRET