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NATIONAL JEWISH



COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

443 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016 • 684-6950

*Memo*

July 24, 1986

TO: CRC Executives

FROM: Charney V. Bromberg, Associate Director  
Kenneth Bandler, Israel Task Force Consultant

RE: "Preliminary Thoughts on the Peres-Hassan Meeting"  
by Phil Baum and Raphael Danziger

Although it is too early to fully know, much less assess, what transpired between King Hassan and Shimon Peres in their just-concluded discussions, we believe the accompanying essay by Phil Baum, Associate Executive Director, and Raphael Danziger, Policy Analyst, of the American Jewish Congress is a thoughtful and useful analysis of the contextual meaning of the meeting.

You are urged to share this with Jewish and general community leadership, and, of course, with the media.

We are now in the process of arranging a briefing for the NJCRAC Israel Task Force Strategy Committee to develop appropriate community relations follow-up. Please share with us as quickly as possible op-ed and editorial reactions.

Note: July 25, 1986.

We just received by messenger some additional material from Phil Baum and Raphael Danziger which compliments their analytical piece. Of particular interest is the Kol Yisrael Political Correspondent's interview with Prime Minister Peres which is, we think, a necessary antidote to the negative cast given the meeting by King Hassan and the Moroccans, at least as reported in today's New York Times.

It would appear, already, that one hasbara problem we will have to address is the readiness of the media to repeat, if not to credit, the Moroccan interpretation that the demand for Israeli recognition of the PLO and withdrawal from the territories is completely reasonable and that Prime Minister Peres' refusal to accept these conditions was a demonstration of Israeli intransigence, deflating the expectations created by the meeting.

In the end, the fact of the meetings and the expectation that there will be a continuation in additional meetings is the key --and, quite obviously positive-- conclusion to draw at this time.

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# perspectives

## COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

American Jewish Congress 15 East 84th Street New York, N.Y. 10028 TRafalgar 9-4500

July 22, 1986

### PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE PERES-HASSAN MEETING

Although it is far too early to assess the full significance of the meeting today in Morocco between Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Morocco's King Hassan, after consultation with leading authorities we are prepared to venture the following comments:

1. The most striking aspect of this initiative, thus far, is the absence of vehement, concerted Arab denunciation or threat of reprisal. President Mubarak of Egypt has warmly praised Hassan, King Hussein of Jordan and other conservative Arab rulers remain non-committal, and except for Syria's breakoff of diplomatic ties with Morocco, the radical Arab states have thus far contented themselves with pro-forma denunciations despite Syria's call to follow its example.

It seems clear, especially since he is the presiding chairman of the Arab League, that King Hassan would not have undertaken this dramatic move without first obtaining at least tacit approval from key Arab leaders in other states. For one thing, he could not risk the loss of Arab support for Morocco's annexation of Western Sahara which has been the centerpiece of his policy since the mid-1970s and which is critically important to the domestic stability of his regime.

If, as now seems possible, Hassan gets away with this move without major Arab retribution, this fact, added to Hussein's recent unchallenged expulsion and repudiation of the PLO and the surprising willingness of such noted Palestinian figures as Gaza's former mayor A-Shawwa publicly to endorse Hussein's move, encourages the hope that significant Arab and Palestinian elements are becoming increasingly emboldened. It may be that the most important inference to be drawn from this whole Moroccan episode is that the time is approaching when these Arab factors will be able to free themselves from the constraints and discipline imposed by the PLO. It would be wrong to make too much of these slender indications; on the other hand, they should not be summarily dismissed.

(over)

Memorandum from ...

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS  
15 East 84th St., New York, N. Y. 10028 • TR 9-4500

July 24, 1986

Memo To: Members of the Governing Council  
Members of the Commission on International Affairs  
Regional Directors

From: Phil Baum  
Raphael Danziger  
Commission on International Affairs

FOLLOW-UP TO OUR ANALYSIS OF THE PERES-HASSAN MEETING

We are enclosing materials to complement our analysis of the ~~Peres~~ Peres-Hassan meeting sent to you yesterday. These include: the text of the joint communique issued following the meeting; our translation of the text of Peres' statement at Ben-Gurion airport after his return from ~~to~~ Morocco; and our translation of his press conference on the same occasion.

We believe these materials tend to confirm the essential points of our analysis.

(over)



July 23, 1986

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE MEETINGS BETWEEN  
KING HASSAN II OF MOROCCO AND PRIME MINISTER SHIMON PERES OF ISRAEL

His Majesty King Hassan II, on July 22 and 23, 1986, received at his Palace in Ifran, Mr. Shimon Peres, Prime Minister of Israel. During the talks, marked by frankness and devoted essentially to the study of the Fez Plan, the Moroccan sovereign and the Israeli prime minister analyzed, in depth, the situation in the Middle East and the conditions, in form and in substance, likely to contribute effectively to the establishment of peace in this region.

His Majesty King Hassan II gave a presentation of the Fez Plan, explaining his views concerning the merit of each of its elements and suggesting that this Plan has the double merit of, on the one hand, constituting the sole document which is objectively valid as to serve as a basis for a just and durable peace and, on the other hand, being the object of an Arab consensus, in contrast with any other plan or peace proposal.

In his turn, Mr. Shimon Peres clarified his view of the Fez Plan, setting forth propositions pertaining to conditions he deems necessary for the attainment of peace.

As the meeting was of a purely exploratory nature, aiming at no time at engaging in negotiations, His Majesty Hassan II will inform the Arab leaders, and Prime Minister Mr. Shimon Peres his Government, of the points of view developed during the talks.

PERES' STATEMENT AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT, 7/24/86

During the two days we spent in Morocco we had three conversations with the King of Morocco. The talks were comprehensive, frank, and very friendly. I would say at the outset that I found that there is more difficulty in the formulation of the positions than in their contents. The discussion itself had more the character of a dialogue than of negotiations and that had been the intention in advance. It must be remembered that the King of Morocco does not demand anything concrete of us; he is seeking peace and in this respect the contact with him is different from that with President Sadat. Perhaps important in itself is that both of us agreed that this contact will have a continuation in additional meetings and in other ways. I see this as an important step of the highest order. I wish to express my gratitude to the King for the hospitality. I wish to express my appreciation for his courage. I believe that he is indeed a man seriously, profoundly, and honestly seeking peace, and therefore this visit should be seen not only as a bilateral matter between Morocco and Israel but perhaps an additional move to those of the past in the direction of peace. I know that peace cannot be achieved in one visit or in one deed, but this visit and this deed prove that on the other hand one should not despair of peace itself. I am therefore very pleased with this visit and express my hope that it will have a continuation.

PERES' STATEMENT TO ODED BEN-AMI, KOL YISRAEL'S POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT,  
DURING FLIGHT FROM MOROCCO TO ISRAEL

**Q:** What is the message that you bring to the people of Israel?

**A:** That one mustn't despair of peace and that it need not be based on one country and that one shouldn't rely on one step. This trip enriched Israel's peace efforts with an important tier which will have a continuation and it shows that when a way for a dialogue is sought it may sometimes be achieved. Certainly it is our duty for the sake of our country, of the young generation, to continue these important efforts until the termination of the terrible dangers threatening all the region's inhabitants--Jews and Arabs alike.

(over)

PERES' PRESS CONFERENCE AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT, 7/24/86

Q: Mr. Prime Minister, it's hard to avoid a sense of disappointment with regard to the things King Hassan said last night in an address to the nation. An impression has been created that King Hassan had expected new Israeli ideas and here the talks in effect ended as they had started.

A: First of all they ended with a continuation. I don't think anybody had expected that in one meeting with us we'd reach agreement about all the issues. The talks ended with two things that are different from what you are saying. One--agreement that they will have a continuation, and two--a joint communique. Although in the joint communique there are separate positions, it is a fact that we even found common language to sum up the visit, and one must remember that this step by King Hassan also caused fairly angry reactions in part of the Arab world.

Q: Do you mean to say that the talks will have a continuation in that Israeli and Moroccan representatives will try to put together a position that would be acceptable to both sides?

A: There will be a continuation also in meetings at different levels. We did not determine at precisely what level and what form. We only determined the principle that this would have a continuation. We will certainly seek a common formulation and not only a common approach.

Q: Do you think that your meeting in Morocco can sooner or later bring about the convening of an international conference under UN auspices or under other international auspices?

A: We agreed to international accompaniment. There is nothing new in this. What is new here is that after Sadat's visit this is the first Arab leader--a first-rate Arab leader both religiously and in general Arab terms--who has overcome what may be termed "the message of shame". He agreed to meet face-to-face and in broad daylight at his palace, to touch all the sensitive issues. I presume that nobody is surprised that there are still many disagreements between us.

Q: At your concluding session with King Hassan, did he express satisfaction at the meeting itself?

A: Yes, I think that he expressed satisfaction although we parted with the feeling that there is still much ground to cover and that there are disagreements between us--but that's not surprising. In my judgment, neither the King nor myself had expected that in one meeting we would overcome all the disagreements existing between us.

Q: Was the King of Jordan in the picture?

A: No. King Hassan told me he wanted this meeting to be a Moroccan initiative. Not Soviet, not American, not European, and not of any other Arab state. It was his initiative. He did not want it to be described as if there was in it a response or a subordination to the initiative of another country, and therefore, also, neither King Hassan nor myself had informed any other state in the Middle East of the convening of the meeting at this time.

Q: Was there discussion of the possibility of establishing relations with Morocco?

A: No, we didn't talk about that. We had other issues to talk about, but of course it is significant that Israel's Prime Minister was formally invited to Morocco and that I was received in this position of mine.

Q: What was the reaction of Morocco's King Hassan to the Arab reactions that were heard during the course of your visit--particularly the extreme reaction of Syria and the perhaps less extreme one of the PLO?

A: I wouldn't want to talk in his name, but if I guess correctly, it is possible there was an expectation that there would be a sharp Syrian reaction, although it is doubtful that the cutoff of relations had been taken into account in advance. Among the reactions there were also pleasant surprises, for instance, the reaction of Mubarak who used unambiguous language, or for instance the paucity of reactions in other Arab countries--which is also surprising; let alone the enthusiastic reactions in Europe, in America, and also in Israel. It made a big impression.

Q: You had already met with Hassan in less public circumstances. Can you talk of a change that had taken place in the man from the viewpoint of his willingness to get up and do something?

A: I think that what he did is an extremely daring act from his viewpoint since one can't say that he had expected gains for his country alone or for himself personally. He saw in this a contribution to the peace process and an attempt to arouse this process from its slumber. Certainly this was an extraordinary move.

Q: Would you term the visit a historic visit?

A: I would term it a historic visit in the Middle East peace process since it in no way resembles other visits that had taken place in Israel or by Israel or in other places or previous contacts with King Hassan. We know that former Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin was there, as was the late Moshe Dayan; but the fact that he gave it a public dimension is in effect a call on the Arab world to rise: Gentlemen, the time has come to meet and to talk in broad daylight, to talk about the issue that interests all of us and endangers all of us.

Q: And you, Sir, would you say this morning unambiguously that Israel is closer to peace today than it was 48 hours ago, to breaking the deadlock in the political process?

A: You're looking for a pleasant headline. I will forego answering this question. I think that a step and a dimension have been added to the peace process.

Q: Six or seven months ago King Hassan said he would readily meet with you if Israel submitted new ideas for promoting the peace process. Has King Hassan received such ideas during the past six months?

A: Not beyond what is known in public about Israel's positions. But I definitely think that King Hassa received in this meeting a more precise detailing of Israel's positions.



Q: Positions that have not changed?

A: Positions that are known.

Kol Yisrael correspondent who accompanied the Prime Minister says that Peres was not surprised at the positions presented by Hassan and emphasized that he brought to his host Israel's well-known ideas about the ways to peace: negotiations without preconditions with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Q: How, in your opinion, will the visit influence King Hussein's willingness to negotiate with Israel?

A: It's better to ask the King.

Q: Will you report directly to Egypt's President?

A: The talks will be made public and the President will be informed. I think that this visit will definitely contribute to the acceleration of the peace process in the area and also between us and Egypt.

The Prime Minister summed up: I made an effort to speak in the name of the positions of the entire national unity government.



drug abuse counselor in every one of our (parochial) high schools, and maybe in our grade schools."

The Rev. William O. Gullete, pastor of Mount Sinai Baptist Church in the Bronx, admitted that the all-night vigil near his church won't stop the problem.

"They're all around, and I'm afraid the dealers will be right back," he said. "I got religious people in my church afraid to attend the congregation because of them."

07-23-86

3738

## St. Vincent de Paul group in Arizona plans \$2.3 million complex

By Henry F. Unger  
Religious News Service Correspondent

PHOENIX (RNS) — The St. Vincent de Paul Society here has announced it will begin construction of a \$2.3 million service complex to help the homeless and poor throughout Maricopa County.

The new 53,000-square-foot structure will be twice as large as the present facility, which is no longer adequate to meet the requests from the community's growing homeless and poor population.

Besides housing and feeding people, the complex will include a training center where volunteers and employees will receive on-the-job training, as well as several workshops where furniture will be cleaned, repaired and built for distribution to the poor.

"We've learned from 40 years' experience in employing the less fortunate, homeless and street persons that we must not only instruct our people on how to make a living, but how to become a good citizen in the community," said Gary L. Brown, executive director of the society, a Roman Catholic organization dedicated to helping the poor.

A small park near the complex will be filled with 38 orange trees, 11 lemon trees, 19 tangerine trees, 19 grapefruit trees and a community vegetable garden.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

07-23-86

3754

## Moroccan Jews play key role in Israel's dealings with Hassan

By Steve Rodan  
Religious News Service Correspondent

JERUSALEM (RNS) — Morocco's King Hassan's historic July 22 meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres underlines the role played by Moroccan Jews as mediators between the Jewish state and their Arab homeland.

Most Moroccan Jews have emigrated to Israel, but they still have closer ties to their homeland than most Jewish emigrants from other Arab countries.

The head of Morocco's Jewish community, David Amar, has been cited as a frequent mediator between King Hassan and several Israeli governments. And Knesset member Rafael Edri of the Labor Party, a Moroccan Jew, accompanied Prime Minister Peres to the meeting with King Hassan.

The king, who currently heads the 22-member Arab League, was the first Arab leader to meet with an Israeli head of state since the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem in 1977. The Hassan-Peres meeting led Syria to break diplomatic relations with Morocco, but was praised by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Morocco is the only Arab country that, while in a state of war with Israel, encourages its former Jewish residents to visit and retain ties with their birthplace. Every year, Moroccan Jews go on a pilgrimage to their homeland to the shrine of their Jewish leaders near Casablanca.

At first, the pilgrimages, called "Heloula," were attended only by pious Moroccan Jews. But in recent years, more and more Israeli politicians of Moroccan origin joined the pilgrimages. They held talks with Moroccan officials and many of the sessions were quite open.

Israelis in recent years have been allowed to enter Morocco with Israeli passports, despite Rabat's refusal to officially recognize the Jewish state.

In 1984, Morocco granted an official welcome to 38 Moroccan Jews from Israel at an international conference of world Jewry.

Religious tolerance is a key feature of King Hassan's policies, according to Moroccans in Israel and Morocco. Moroccan Jews have the right to emigrate to Israel. In the early years of the state, this right was used extensively. Persecution of Jews by local anti-Semites was rampant in the early and mid-1950s. So from a community of 240,000, the number of Morocco's Jews dwindled to about 23,000 today. About 150,000 Jews emigrated to Israel, the remainder to France and Canada.

Moroccan Jews attribute their safety to King Hassan, who has steered his country to the West and stressed its European roots. Morocco contains Arab, French and Berber-speaking communities, each rivaling with the others for more control of the country's jobs and resources.

Moroccan Jews have a rich ritual and place heavy emphasis on intensive prayer and visits to the tombs of their sages. In Israel observant Moroccan Jews have moved more toward the customs of Jews of Eastern European origins. Many of these observant Moroccans wear hasidic dress of black coats and hats.

07-23-86

3748

## New Army leader says Church of England should ordain women

By Herbert Williams

Religious News Service Correspondent

LONDON (RNS) — General Eva Burrows, the new world leader of the Salvation Army, has given her backing to the ordination of women in the Church of England.

General Burrows, who is only the second woman to hold the post of world leader for the Salvation Army, told a London press conference July 10 that she felt the Church of England's General Synod had gotten "bogged down" on an issue that had grown out of perspective.

"It is very sad that the church has become so intensely concerned about such an issue," she said. "I believe women should have the opportunity to minister in the church."

General Burrows said that being a woman had never prevented her from rising through the ranks.

"I lead as a woman. You can be a woman leader and a feminine leader and be just as strong." One of her main tasks, she said, would be to consolidate the Salvation Army as an "international family."

General Burrows was born in Australia, one of nine children, and spent much of her childhood helping her parents, both Salvation Army officers, in their work among the poor of Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. She was elected world leader in May by the Army's High Council, succeeding General Jarl Wahlstrom.

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JUL 24 1986

Confidential - not for distribution, except

Memo for Personal File - July 23, 1986

for Gordie  
Farrington  
Yarnon

Subj: Peres-Hassan talks

1. The first thing I did this morning was put in a call for the Moroccan Ambassador -- to express our appreciation for the Hassan talks. He was not present, but did call me back early afternoon. I told him how gratified and hopeful we are about the King's courageous actions, that we appreciate there are risks involved, etc. He responded with expressions of deep appreciation, and expressed the hope that they would indeed lead to something useful. He then invited me to come by in the days ahead and chat about the situation. I said I would call.
2. By co-incidence, today is the 34th Anniversary of the Egyptian revolution, and I have just returned from a reception at the Egyptian embassy. I had decided, of course, that I would express appreciation to Ambassador ElReedy for Mbarak's warm reactions to the Hassan-Peres talks. When I entered the embassy, I spotted the Ambassador in serious conversation with Jesse Jackson. I approached them, and both gave me very warm, even effusive, welcome. In a voice loud enough to be sure that Jackson heard me, I said to the Ambassador, "I'm particularly pleased to be here today so that I can tell you how gratified we are at the reaction and comments of your President to the Hassan-Peres talks. It is a very courageous and heartening act, and we are most appreciative." The ambassador thanked me and added some words about his own hopes. Ida and I then posed for some pictures with ElReedy and with Jackson (who practically drooled over Ida, kissing her several times, though he had never seen her before; she did look particularly stunning today) and we withdrew to the other rooms.

About 45 minutes into the reception, Jesse stopped to talk to me, and after a while, Marc Pearl of AJCongress joined us. We had a good talk about Soviet Jewry after Jackson said he was planning a trip this Fall to the Soviet Union... I told him there had been expressions of approval last year when he raised the subject with Gorbachev... Then I turned to him and said: "Did you hear my comments to ElReedy about the Hassan-Peres talks? Don't you think that's a good development." He responded positively, and said he will be congratulating ElReedy on it, at which point I said, "You should go public on your feelings. Find some way of making a statement about it." He just nodded, and then said he had to leave.

Literally 2 or 3 minutes after this, imagine my surprise when I hear ElReedy asking for attention of the crowd, and seeing Jackson standing next to him. Could it be that the Ambassador is going to introduce only Jackson on this occasion? Then I hear ElReedy saying, "Thank you all for coming to celebrate with us the 34th anniversary of our revolution. Our good friend Jesse Jackson has asked for an opportunity to say a few words. So I'm pleased to introduce Reverend Jesse Jackson." JJ then says: "This 34th anniversary comes at an important moment in history, when important talks are under way between Morocco and Israel. This is the way to get a breakthrough for peace, and we commend them for their courage the way Sadat did some years ago--- and words to that effect. There was fairly heavy applause, and that was that! (I later learned that when new guests arrived, including Eli Rubenstein and Steve Rosenfeld, that ElReedy greeted them with "Did you hear what Jesse Jackson said?"

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Draft of letter to Abdel Raouf el-Reedy, Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S.

Whenever the cause of peace is advanced, there is cause for rejoicing. The meeting this week between King Hassan II of Morocco and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is a significant act in itself, and it will take on even more significance should it pave the way toward further discussion of peace in the Middle East. That is the hope that our peoples share. The peace-loving nature of the Egyptian people is well known.

We applaud President Hosni Mubarak's courageous public endorsement of the Hassan-Peres meeting. We expect that Egypt will continue to be the vanguard among the Arab states in the pursuit of peace and justice in the region. Without the bold initiative of your late President Anwar Sadat and the steadfast adherence of your present Government to the cause of peace, this week's meeting in Morocco may not have ever taken place. We hope and pray that other Arab capitals will soon follow suit.



July 24, 1986

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## PERES-HASSAN SUMMIT IN MOROCCO: INITIAL ASSESSMENT

A series of talks in Ifran, Morocco, on 22-23 July 1986, between King Hassan II of Morocco and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel culminated in the simultaneous publication, in Rabat and Jerusalem on 24 July, of a joint communique summing up the talks. The initial assessment of this summit conference must be made on two different levels:

- (1) What may be expected by way of an early outcome;
- (2) The significance of the summit as such.

On the first level, caution is the order of the day. Israeli and Arab positions are still far apart on such sensitive and controversial issues as the location of Israel's eastern border and Arab demands for the establishment of a new Palestinian state west of the Jordan River and for the convening of an international peace conference that would include representatives of the PLO.

King Hassan's efforts, at this summit, concentrated apparently on seeking Prime Minister Peres' agreement to the 1982 Fez Plan, which includes a demand for the relinquishment by Israel of all the territories that came under its control in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and for participation of the PLO in peace negotiations; it does not call for negotiations with Israel with a view to reaching an Arab-Israeli peace agreement. The Fez Plan, therefore, could not be accepted by Prime Minister Peres.

It could hardly be expected that the two leaders would reach agreement on the points at issue in barely two days of talk; nor, it appears, was that the purpose of these talks. The fact remains that, despite the gap between the positions, the two leaders agreed to issue a joint communique, and that there would be further contacts in the future.

In the long run, the summit is likely to loom large. It marks the second time, in recent years, that a major Arab leader has conferred openly with an Israeli leader - following the Egyptian president's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977, launching a process that resulted in the signing of a treaty of peace between Egypt and Israel in 1979. The Peres-Hassan talks represent another step, therefore, in the gradual thaw of the long-frozen Arab-Israeli relationship - and thus another step on the road to a peace settlement that, one day, will embrace Israel and all the Arab states.





CONSULATE GENERAL  
OF ISRAEL IN NEW YORK  
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

July 23, 1986

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE MEETINGS BETWEEN KING HASSAN II OF MOROCCO AND PRIME MINISTER SHIMON PERES OF ISRAEL

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In his turn, Mr. Shimon Peres clarified his view of the Fez Plan, setting forth propositions pertaining to conditions he deems necessary for the attainment of peace.

As the meeting was of a purely exploratory nature, aiming at no time at engaging in negotiations, His Majesty Hassan II will inform the Arab leaders, and Prime Minister Mr. Shimon Peres his Government, of the points of view developed during the talks.

Journal of Peace Science  
Peace Herald 2/23

# Israel and Morocco

**P**EACE IS more difficult than war. To destroy doesn't take as much effort as to construct. This explains why there are so many soldiers in a world where peace seekers are so hard to find.

It explains as well the significance of the unexpected summit meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Morocco's King Hassan II. For the first time in nine years, an Israeli and an Arab leader have breached the dividing wall of antagonism and hostility between them to seek a new road to peace.

Mr. Peres and King Hassan have shown a high dose of courage in resuming a direct dialogue between the two worlds. Their historic move deserves the praise and support given nearly a decade ago to Egypt, the only Arab nation formally at peace with Israel.

The peace process in the Mideast is no comfortable task. It involves conflicts that have proven insurmountable. Territorial problems, economic decline, centuries-old animosities between Arab and Jew, and savage intra-Arab rivalries have moderate regimes from even discussing accord with Israel.

These issues — especially those

concerning Israel's right to exist and the Palestinian refugees' quest for a land of their own — will not be easily solved through a session of conversations. But procrastinating has never had a place in statecraft, and the best time to reopen a peace initiative will always be now.

Opposition will abound, of course. Syria already has cried "treason" and severed all diplomatic ties with Morocco. Libya's Col. Moammar Gadhafi has condemned the meeting. Others may join the hostile group.

Yet this diplomatic breakthrough could enhance Jordan's King Hussein's economic plans in the West Bank, where he wants to re-establish his political base. He needs accord with Israel all the more now, after breaking his ties with the PLO's Yasser Arafat and closing all Al Fatah offices in the area.

Opportunity and momentum can become significant allies in the cause for peace. King Hassan, currently head of the 21-nation Arab League, and Mr. Peres, who has but three more months in office, have managed to combine these elements in their timely summit meeting.

Besides, as King Hassan has said, "There's no shame in discussing things with one's enemy." No, just hope.

Dr. Lawrence Green, Jr. Green, b.le

### The Peres-Hassan Meeting: A POSSIBLE STEP TOWARD PEACE

By David Landau and Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres' surprise two-day visit to Morocco which ended early Thursday morning apparently amounted to little more than a frank exchange of views on the Middle East between the Israeli leader and his host, King Hassan II.

But that in itself was regarded by many observers as an accomplishment, as was the joint communique published simultaneously in Jerusalem and Rabat Thursday which made clear, politely, that the two leaders could reach no agreement. But the possibility was held out for further contacts in the future.

"I don't think anyone expected that in one meeting we would reach agreement on all subjects," Peres told reporters after his pre-dawn arrival at Ben Gurion Airport Thursday. He added, "It certainly contributes to speeding up the peace process."

The joint communique described the meeting as "of a purely exploratory nature, aiming at no moment at engaging in negotiations." It outlined in general terms the positions of Hassan and Peres.

The Moroccan ruler, who is chairman of the Arab League, urged Middle East peace on the basis of the resolutions adopted at the Arab League summit conference of September 1982 at Fez, Morocco, which called for Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the creation of a Palestinian state.

Peres informed the monarch that those terms are unacceptable to Israel. According to the communique, "Peres clarified his observations on the Fez plan, putting forth propositions pertaining to conditions he deems necessary for the installation of peace." The communique did not elaborate.

#### Hassan Is Determined To Move Ahead

Moroccan officials said Hassan is determined to go ahead with his search for better Israeli-Arab understanding. In a televised address Wednesday night, Hassan said Peres had refused to accept what he termed the "path to peace." He said he had explained the meaning of the Fez statement and Peres replied that Israel could not withdraw from the territories and could not hold discussions with the PLO.

Peres, who said he hadn't heard Hassan's television address, told reporters at the airport, "I wasn't surprised by the position the King took. I just remembered that when (Egyptian) President Anwar Sadat came to Jerusalem, in the Knesset itself, he delivered practically the same positions."

He said he responded to Hassan's presentation of the Fez plan by offering Israel's plan for a Middle East settlement which is basically direct talks without prior conditions, where every party can suggest its own plan of approach, and when direct talks take place between the Arab side and our side, I wouldn't be surprised that the Arabs propose their position which is different from our own."

He added, "It is because we don't have an agreement that we have to look for an agreement." Peres noted further that "The King was very careful to speak on behalf of himself, so the positions he has represented are the positions, as he describes it, of the 22 Arab countries. He says that the Fez plan represents the widest possible Arab consensus."

#### More Than A Common Denominator

Peres acknowledged that "the gap is still wide and demanding." But he said he believed "The King and myself found there is much more than a common denominator, if not for anything else at least for the mere fact that we could have met face-to-face and tried to look where there are opportunities and not only where do the problems reside."

Peres stressed that "The talks ended with two things — an agreement that there would be a continuation, and secondly, with a joint statement, despite the fact that in the joint statement there are separate points of view."

He observed that "One must also remember that he (Hassan) is formally the head of the Arab League, and for this reason he naturally did not speak only for Morocco, but for what he assesses to be a consensus of the Arab states." In that connection Peres said, "I want to express my appreciation for his courage. I believe that he is indeed a man who is seriously, honestly and deeply looking for peace."

Hassan, in his television address, chastized other Arab states for remaining "passive" throughout the long Arab-Israeli conflict. He called the Arab countries "lazy." The King had obviously taken a risk in talking to Peres. He was blasted by Syria and Libya for "treason." Syria broke off diplomatic relations with Morocco on Tuesday.

Egyptian reaction to the Peres-Hassan meeting was strongly positive. President Hosni Mubarak welcomed it as a "good initiative" that must be supported by all who favor peace in the region. The Egyptian Charge d' Affaires in Tel Aviv, Mohammed Bassiouny, speaking at a reception Wednesday night, said Egypt supported the Peres-Hassan meeting. He described it as a positive step toward direct talks between Israel and moderate Arab leaders and a movement toward peace in the Middle East.

#### Peres: 'An Historic Visit'

Peres said he considered his trip to Morocco "an historic visit" in the context of the Middle East peace process because it is in no way comparable to other visits in Israel or by Israelis in other places, and also not comparable to the contacts that were held previously with King Hassan.

"We know that former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was there (in Morocco), the late Moshe Dayan was there, but the fact that he (Hassan) gave it public status — this is essentially another call to the Arab world" as if to say, "Sirs, the time has come to meet and talk in daylight, to speak about the topic which interests us all, and endangers us all."

Nevertheless, Peres would not call his talks a breakthrough. He said he preferred to think that another step and status was added to the peace process. "It certainly contributed to speeding up the peace process," he said, referring in that context to Israel's relationship with Egypt which he hoped would be improved once the Taba border dispute is on the way to resolution.

Peres said that King Hussein of Jordan had not been in the picture. "King Hassan told me that he wanted this meeting to be a Moroccan initiative -- not a Russian, American or European one, or that of any other Arab state. This was his initiative. He did not want it described as a response to, or being carried out under an initiative by another country, and for this reason King Hassan and myself did not inform any other nation in the Middle East about the existence of the meeting."

Peres said the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Morocco was not discussed. "We had enough other topics to discuss," he said.

#### News Coverage Was Scant

Peres flew to Morocco Monday night in an Israel Air Force executive jet accompanied by a small entourage of advisers and Israeli radio and television reporters. He was Hassan's guest at his summer palace at Efrana, about 160 miles southeast of the capital, Rabat. He had a total of 10 hours' discussion with the King and with the King's top advisers and ministers. These were interspersed with tours of the countryside and banquets.

News coverage of the meeting was scant during the two days, but all accounts agreed that Peres and his party were treated with warmth and friendship and the hospitality accorded them was lavish. On Wednesday Moroccan sources said Peres had delayed his departure an extra day for further talks with Hassan. But, as it turned out, his plans to return home late Wednesday were not changed.

Israelis were taken by surprise when news of the visit broke Tuesday morning. It was the first and only public face-to-face contact between an Israeli Premier and an Arab chief of state other than Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who went to Jerusalem in November, 1977. It was widely noted here that Hassan played a major role in arranging the Sadat visit.

Laborites in general were elated by the visit. Likud circles were dubious. There was some negative reaction on the left wing of the political spectrum which saw the meeting as an attempt to circumvent direct negotiations with the Palestinians. Peres' trip was fiercely denounced by the far right.

The immediate reaction from the U.S. was strongly positive, though Washington stressed it had no hand in bringing about the Peres-Hassan meeting which it knew of in advance. The State Department said Tuesday that the talks were "an historic opportunity" and urged "all governments" to support the new dialogue. It hailed "the courageous initiative by these two leaders."

Asked at the airport if he had been in any way constrained in his talks with Hassan by political factors in Israel, Peres replied, "I tried to speak within the framework of the agreed-upon policy of the national unity government."

#### GRENADE INJURES 13 ISRAELIS IN JERICHO

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA) -- Thirteen Israelis from a settlement in northern Israel on a day sightseeing visit to Jericho were injured Thursday afternoon when a grenade was tossed at them as they were passing through the West Bank town.

Three persons were reported in serious condition while three others were reported to have sustained moderate wounds. Seven others were slightly hurt from the grenade. George Habash's terrorist organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, claimed responsibility for the attack.

The 13 sightseers had stopped in the center of Jericho to return bicycles they had rented for a trip around the town and environs when a grenade was tossed at them from a nearby rooftop. The injured were rushed to a hospital in Jerusalem while the Israel Defense Force imposed a curfew in the center of the ancient town and carried out searches.

The vacationers had been on a trip organized by the Nature Preservation Society, which frequently rents bicycles in Jericho for tours around the Dead Sea area.

#### U.S.-ISRAEL TOURISM ACCORD MAY BE THWARTED BY ISRAEL'S STIFF TRAVEL TAX

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA) -- Israel's stiff travel tax, a subject of heated debate among Israelis, may thwart a U.S.-Israel tourism agreement expected to be signed when Vice President George Bush visits here next week.

Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir confirmed in an interview Wednesday that Washington is pressing Israel to repeal the tax on grounds that it undermined the reciprocity inherent in the agreement. Sharir has called the tax "idiotic" and counter-productive. But Finance Minister Moshe Nissim says he would be prepared to raise it if the Knesset Finance Committee called for an increase.

The travel tax, a feature of the austerity economic program, was instituted more than a year ago to raise revenue and help preserve Israel's dwindling foreign currency reserves. At present it amounts to \$120 per capita for Israelis travelling abroad, plus a 20 percent surcharge on their airline tickets.

Last summer, the tax was set at \$300 in the peak travel months and an estimated 250,000 Israelis were deterred from vacationing abroad. Sharir denounced the tax, maintaining that the revenue raised was more than offset by the reduction of tourism to Israel. That was because airlines, which "want their planes full in both directions," cut service to Israel, he explained.

The Finance Ministry, on the other hand, thinks the tax should be increased because many Israeli travelers avoid paying the 20 percent surcharge. They do so by having their airline tickets purchased for them abroad. The Ministry believes the surcharge should be abolished and the tax, which is unavoidable, raised.

Sharir stressed the importance of a tourism accord with the U.S. and wants nothing to stand in its way. He cited the 40 percent drop in American tourism to Israel so far this year because of the terrorist scare. He said there are signs of a possible improvement later in the year.

Another agreement that Bush hopes will be wrapped up during his visit concerns the Israeli-Egyptian border dispute over Taba.



MOROCCAN OFFICIALS SEE HASSAN-PERES MEETING AS 'HISTORIC TURNING POINT'

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA) — The two-day meeting last week between Premier Shimon Peres and King Hassan of Morocco was a "long-term success" and an "historic turning point" in the Arab-Israeli dispute, according to Moroccan officials quoted in media reports here.

Two senior Moroccan Cabinet officials, Foreign Minister Abdel Atif Sillali and Minister of State Mulla Ahmed Allawi, stressed Israeli-Moroccan "brotherhood" and the "chemistry" between Hassan and Peres in an interview with reporter Victor Malka in Morocco, published Sunday in The Jerusalem Post and Davar.

Both officials did not rule out the possibility of future summit meetings between Hassan and Peres. The meeting at Hassan's summer palace at Efrana, about 160 miles southeast of the capital of Rabat, was the first and only public face-to-face contact between an Israeli Premier and Arab chief of state other than Egyptian President Anwar Sadat who went to Jerusalem in November 1977.

Peres had some 10 hours of talks with Hassan and his senior officials. The talks have been viewed by some observers as little more than a frank exchange of views on the Middle East between the two heads of state. But that in itself was regarded as an accomplishment, as was the joint communique published simultaneously in Jerusalem and Rabat which made clear that the two leaders could reach no agreement.

The joint communique described the meeting as of "a purely exploratory nature, aimed at no moment at engaging in negotiations." It outlined in general terms the positions of Hassan and Peres. Hassan urged Middle East peace on the terms of resolutions adopted at the Arab League summit in Fez.

The Fez resolutions, adopted in September, 1982, call for Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied territories, negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the creation of a Palestinian state.

Peres informed Hassan that those terms were unacceptable to Israel. According to the communique, "Peres clarified his observations on the Fez plan, putting forth propositions pertaining to conditions he deems necessary for the installation of peace." The communique did not elaborate.

Outrage In Mideast Capitals

Despite the inability of Hassan and Peres to agree on a Mideast formula, the talks brought outrage in some Mideast capitals. Syria severed diplomatic relations with Morocco, calling the talks an act of "treason." Jordan disassociated itself from the talks.

But in the most violent reaction to the talks, the Moroccan Embassy in Beirut was ransacked Friday by demonstrators. They smashed a portrait of Hassan, tore down the Moroccan flag and replaced it with that of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Moslem Hezbollah. The Embassy had been virtually desert-

ed for about a year, only guarded by a handful of Lebanese security personnel. Meanwhile, Arab League secretary general Cheldi Klibi urged the 21 member-nations and the PLO to hold an urgent summit as a result of the Peres-Hassan talks. Though he did not directly criticize Hassan, Klibi said in a statement issued from Tunis that the meeting of Hassan and Peres had "shown Israel's true face ... and revealed spectacularly his (Peres) rejection of any peaceful solution" to the Arab-Israel dispute.

"The first concrete action (of the Arabs) should be an urgent summit of Arab leaders, the elimination of everything liable to compromise the solidarity of our states and the reinforcement of a joint Arab action," the statement said.

Hassan Resigns As Arab Summit Chairman

Hassan's reaction to Klibi's call for an Arab League meeting was to announce Sunday that he was resigning his post as Arab League summit chairman. This action was announced in a letter to Klibi published in the official Moroccan news agency, MAP.

According to Hassan, he was stepping down from the summit chairman position because of the "upheavals" caused in some Arab states by his meeting with Peres, and so Morocco would not stand in the way of an Arab summit. The last full Arab summit was held in 1982 in Fez. All attempts to have a full Arab summit meeting since then have resulted in cancellation.

Hassan did host a summit in Casablanca last August but it was boycotted by five Arab states—Lebanon, Syria, Algeria, South Yemen and Libya. Hassan also sought to arrange an Arab summit meeting in Morocco after the U.S. air strikes on Libya last April. His efforts failed, as Arab League members failed to agree on a venue or agenda for the meeting.

Despite internal Arab dissention on the meeting, Moroccan officials attempted to interpret the Hassan-Peres meeting as purely "preparatory," called to give both sides an opportunity to present their views. Future meetings, according to Foreign Minister Sillali, would depend on whether Peres presents "positive suggestions" to Morocco.

He maintained in the interview published Sunday that if Israel wants to achieve peace, it should be "less intransigent," adding that "no peace is possible if all sides stick to their opening positions."

Moroccan Minister of State Allawi was more upbeat about the two days of talks, referring to it as an historic turning point. He spoke of the "warmth radiating from the meeting" and that he felt "a kind of electric current flowing between the King and Mr. Peres."

He also stressed that "Peres cannot return to Morocco if he does so only to tell us the same thing." But he did see as an immediate result of the meeting "a substantive and psychological change in relations between Israel and the Arab states."

CABINET GRATIFIED WITH MOROCCO TALKS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA)— The Cabinet expressed its "gratification" Sunday over Premier Shimon Peres' visit to Morocco last week for two days of talks with King Hassan, according to an official communique issued here.

The Cabinet statement said Peres had reported at length on the talks, stressing that he believed Hassan genuinely sought peace and that peace benefited from his mission to Efrane, the site of Hassan's summer palace some 160 miles from the Moroccan capital of Rabat.

Peres expressed hope that the dialogue with Hassan would have a "favorable impact" on Israel's relations with Egypt and on Israel's ability to engage in discussion with the Arab world.

Peres' Working Paper

Informed sources here have disclosed, meanwhile, that Peres, in a working paper he presented to Hassan for distribution to other Arab leaders, undertook to meet with "authentic representatives of the Palestinian people" in the near future in order to explore with them possible avenues of progress. The Camp David accords spoke of elected representatives.

In the working paper, Peres said Israel would negotiate with such authentic representatives who eschewed violence. He also pledged that Israel would not impose its sovereignty upon the occupied territories pending the conclusion of negotiations, and that sovereignty would be resolved in the course of such negotiations.

Other points said to be outlined in the working paper include a call for a "year of peace negotiations," the renunciation of violence by parties to the talks, and a general development plan for the region. It also called for an international framework for direct Arab-Israeli talks.

Earlier, Vice Premier and Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir said publicly that Peres had stayed within the policy guidelines of the unity government during his talks with Hassan. Shamir made the comment after a briefing on the talks from Peres last Friday.

**BUSH IN ISRAEL PLEDGES THAT THE U.S. WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO HELP 'BRING TRUE PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST'**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA) -- Vice President George Bush began his three nation tour of the Middle East Sunday affirming the Reagan Administration's commitment to pursue an end to the Arab-Israel conflict.

Referring to last week's meeting between King Hassan of Morocco and Premier Shimon Peres, Bush said, "I can't think of any better time to come here .... We in America will do all we can to help bring true peace to the Middle East."

Bush's comments were made in a colorful welcoming ceremony at the Rose Garden near the Knesset and the government's office complex in Jerusalem. Bush had flown into Israel Sunday morning.

Israel Defense Force soldiers fired a salute as Peres and other Israeli leaders, both political and spiritual, shook hands with the visiting American guest while dozens of cameras recorded the event.

Israeli media reports have noted that Bush's political action committee, the Fund for America's Future, sent a film crew with Bush to record the visit here for possible use during his expected Presidential campaign.

Bush then proceeded to visit Yad Vashem, Israel's museum to the victims and martyrs of the Holocaust, and later to the Western Wall, guided by Minister for Religious Affairs, Yosef Burg.

Bush met briefly Sunday evening with Peres and later, in a separate meeting, with Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir, who will in October take over the Premiership from Peres under terms of the power-sharing agreement reached at the outset of the formation of the unity government.

Working Sessions Scheduled For Wednesday

Officials here said the meetings with Peres and Shamir were courtesy calls and that full working sessions were scheduled for Wednesday. Bush is to visit Egypt and Jordan, and possibly Morocco during his Mideast tour.

Israeli sources said Sunday night that the negotiations over Taba with Egypt had suddenly undergone a dramatic acceleration, and they held out the prospect of a ceremony marking an agreement on the compromise or arbitration document during Bush's visit to the region. There was also the possibility raised of a summit meeting between Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Peres is understood to have sent a message to Mubarak this weekend concerning his trip to Morocco, and he was expected to meet with Egyptian journalists and Presidential confidant Anis Mansour Monday to receive a message from the Egyptian leader.

After the meeting with Peres, at the Premier's residence, Bush and Peres, accompanied by their wives, rode together to the Knesset where Peres and Knesset speaker Shlomo Hillel and his wife gave a dinner in honor of Bush.

Greeting By Peres

At the arrival ceremony in Jerusalem, Bush noted the especially felicitous timing of his visit -- just after Peres' visit to Morocco. Peres, welcoming Bush, said, in part:

"The people of Israel welcome you with open arms, deep feelings and sincere friendship. We welcome you as an outstanding leader of your nation. We welcome you as a representative of a nation whose friendship we cherish and for whom our friendship is unqualified.

"We welcome you as the senior emissary of the Reagan Administration, that has gone a long way in enabling us to defend ourselves and in lending a firm, supportive hand to the search for peace -- recognizing that the two efforts complement each other.

"We welcome you, Mr. Vice President, as a true friend -- a friend of our people who has played a critical role in bringing home sons from afar, in the struggle against international terrorism, in strengthening U.S.-Israel relations, and in the search for peace. Thus, your coming is very timely."

Response By Bush

Bush, in response, said: "... there is so much that underpins the friendship between Israel and the United States: we are both committed to democracy. We are both committed to advancing the rights of all mankind, we are both peace-loving people. And we both find our ethics in the common body of teaching derived from the scriptures. And, so, because of these many intangible, and in a sense spiritual, ties, a multitude of wordly bonds have developed between us.

"Particularly in the last five years there has been a blossoming of the relationship between our countries. In commerce, we've recently signed a free trade agreement. In defense, we have for three years engaged in strategic cooperation and will be joining together in strategic defense research. And our countries and our peoples have cooperated in education, in medicine and in almost every area of human endeavor ....

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE  
165 E. 56th St., New York, N. Y. 10022

DATE: July 29

FROM: RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

TO: Harvey Milkman

Please circulate to:

- AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES
- For approval
  - For your information
  - Please handle
  - Read and return
  - Returned as requested
  - Please telephone me
  - Your comments, please

Remarks: I spoke to Mort,  
who agreed with me  
that his sending this  
out would only duplicate  
what JTA has already  
done.

*[Signature]*

Jul 29 1986  
**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE**

**date** July 28, 1986  
**to** Marc  
**from** Mort  
**subject**

**memorandum**

Any point in sending this out to Anglo-Jewish press as a backgrounder -- either as is or updated?





## KING HASSAN II OF MOROCCO AND HIS AMBIGUOUS TIES WITH ISRAEL

An International Relations Department Background Report

By Harry Milkman  
Middle East Research Analyst, American Jewish Committee

King Hassan II of Morocco ascended the throne on March 3, 1961 at the age of 32, following the death of his father during routine surgery. He had been educated in France, received a law degree in Bordeaux, and is considered thoroughly Westernized, although, like his fellow Moroccans, he desires to assert an authentic Arab identity.

Like his predecessors of the Alawi dynasty, he has always accorded his nation's Jewish minority the fullest measure of tolerance and equality. In 1985, Jo Ohanna, a Jew from the predominantly Muslim city of Meknes, was elected to the Moroccan parliament. Shimon Levy of Casablanca has been repeatedly reelected as a member of the city council. And David Amar, president of the Moroccan Jewish community since 1956, is a close confidant of the King.

Upon assuming power, Hassan II legalized the emigration of Moroccan Jews to Israel. The organizational requirements of Jewish emigration gave rise to a framework of contacts between Moroccan and Israeli authorities, as well as a climate of trust conducive to cooperation in other fields of central importance to Morocco. The King has periodically called for a fusion of "Jewish genius and Arab might" in order to accelerate the development of North Africa. In addition, since 1975 Morocco has received unpublicized Israeli aid in fighting the Algerian-supported Polisario guerrillas in the western Sahara.

Libyan-backed terrorists attempted to assassinate King Hassan in July 1971 and again in August 1972. In the summer of 1977, Israeli intelligence services discovered a Libyan plot to assassinate Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. King Hassan arranged a meeting in Casablanca between the Israeli and Egyptian intelligence chiefs in which Qaddafi's plot was revealed. Sadat's reaction was twofold: he launched a retaliatory strike against Libya, and he agreed to send his Deputy Prime Minister, Hassan al-Tohami, to Rabat to meet secretly with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. The Tohami-Dayan talks became the first step on the road that led to Camp David and Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979.

In Breakthrough: A Personal Account of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Negotiations, Moshe Dayan recounted that King Hassan told him in 1977



that he believed the Palestinian problem to be basically an Arab problem, which should therefore be considered and solved by the Arab countries, not by Israel or the United States. He believed that "the Arab states should assume collective responsibility over the Palestinians, maintain supervision over them, and devise security measures which would satisfy Israel." (According to Hassan, a Jordanian-Palestinian federation would constitute a threat to Jordan.)

In his discussions with Dayan, the King acknowledged that the territories occupied by Israel were its ultimate guarantee of security, and that relinquishing this guarantee would necessitate its replacement by mutual security agreements between Israel and the Arab states. He believed that even Syrian President Hafez al-Assad would ultimately be persuaded to join in the pursuit of peace in exchange for his lost territories. (This belief had also provided the justification for Hassan's deployment of a Moroccan brigade to fight alongside the Syrians on the Golan Heights in 1973.)

Moroccan-Israeli relations have been characterized by veteran Israeli diplomat Gideon Raphael as "a mixed bag of discreet assistance and public hostility, of open participation in the war against Israel and undercover support of its peace efforts." By geographic necessity -- it extends farther west than all of Europe -- Morocco is less directly involved in Middle East affairs than the eastern Arab states. Although it belongs to the Arab League -- King Hassan, in fact, is its chairman -- Morocco's foreign policy is primarily influenced by regional (North African) considerations rather than by Arab nationalist ideology.

King Hassan interprets the 1982 Fez Arab summit resolutions as an implicit recognition of Israel. He reluctantly accepted the chairmanship of the Jerusalem Committee of the Islamic Conference on the grounds that he is a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed and de jure head of Islam in Morocco rather than out of any compelling personal conviction.

King Hassan is obviously more concerned with Algerian- and Libyan-sponsored insurgence against Morocco and Tunisia than he is with the lack of a formal peace treaty between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Nevertheless, the King genuinely desires peace between the Arab states and Israel, and is apparently willing, as Sadat was, to risk his stature in the Arab world for what he considers to be a greater good.

# Conference of Presidents Of Major American Jewish Organizations

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JULIUS BERMAN  
Chairman

March 7, 1984

## Report on Meeting With Prime Minister Karim Lamrani of Morocco March 2, 1984

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The Presidents' Conference was contacted last week by the Moroccan Ambassador to the United Nations with a request for a meeting with his Prime Minister, who was in the United States for a few days. The meeting was held in the Ambassador's residence, at 3 o'clock on Friday.

The Prime Minister commenced the meeting by stating that King Hassan had directed him to meet with the American Jewish leadership during his visit. He then proceeded to report on his recent meetings with the American Administration, including Secretary of State Shultz and President Reagan. He seemed quite pleased with the results of these meetings.

Our discussion essentially revolved around two statements made by King Hassan in the past weeks. The first was a statement made to reporters to the effect the President Mubarak of Egypt had told King Hassan that once Israel had returned the Sinai to Egypt, together with the oil fields and air fields, the Camp David Treaty and peace process was now dead. The question posed to the Prime Minister was threefold: What, in effect, was the conversation between Hassan and Mubarak; what did King Hassan tell the reporters; and, finally, if the report in the papers was not true, why was there not an immediate denial? In posing this tripartite question, I mentioned that I had recently been in Cairo and had heard Mubarak's version of the conversation with Hassan.

The Prime Minister commenced his response by stating that he had not expected this issue to come up in our conversation. In any event, he then lunged into a lengthy diatribe against all journalists, telling us that it was rather foolish of us to believe everything we read in the papers. He stated that he was not at the meeting between Hassan and Mubarak, nor did he attend the interview of King Hassan by the journalists. Therefore, he did not know exactly what was said in either

meeting, but he added on a personal note that Hassan could not possibly have said what he was quoted to have said. The Prime Minister then explained in detail the major achievement engineered by his King in arranging for the return of Egypt to the Islamic Conference.

Strangely, rather than stopping at this point, the Prime Minister went on to lecture us as to the speech of politicians, namely, that we should not believe everything we hear from them and that quite often they will fabricate for an ultimate good purpose. He seemed to be backtracking on what he had said before about the penchant of journalists to "manufacture facts," and he left us with the implication that Hassan could very well have said to the reporters what he is quoted as having said. (You may recall from my prior report, on the Mubarak meeting in Cairo, that Mubarak informed us that Hassan had acknowledged to him that the reporter had accurately quoted Hassan and that Hassan knew it just wasn't true.)


At this point, the Prime Minister started lacing into Algeria, claiming that that country is the real enemy and that the Polisario rebellion in the Sahara is really a fiction perpetrated by Algeria. He said that this was the one sour note in his meetings in Washington in that the United States evidently does not realize the danger of Algeria's actions and motivations. In the same context, he blasted away at Libya, claiming that they mess into everywhere possible, including the financing of the Polisario guerillas. He said that Qaddafi was a "nut," but that did not stop Morocco from recently signing an agreement with Libya providing for commercial and cultural ties. As he put it, when a nut tries to be reasonable the other side must meet him on those terms. Although these agreements between Libya and Morocco may temporarily alleviate the problems with respect to the Polisario -- since Libya has agreed to stop financing the latter -- Morocco remains very vigilant because Qaddafi is still a "nut."

The conversation then focused upon the recent riots in Morocco, concerning which King Hassan was quoted as condemning "Marxist-Leninists, Khomeinists and Zionists for initiating the riots." We pointed out to him what effect such a phrase, which, uttered by the King of the country, can have on the feeling of insecurity of all the Jews in Morocco and especially upon the overwhelming Moslem population of that country. On this issue, the Prime Minister readily acknowledged that the King had made the statement and then attempted to rationalize it. He said we ought to keep in mind that Hassan had just completed the major task of reenrolling Egypt in the

Islamic Conference after very, very difficult negotiations, and to have riots occur just at that time got him quite upset. The fact is, he pointed out, that the riots were caused by certain intellectuals. To be sure, it was a small group, which included some Jews. (He added that the last name of one of the Jews was "Zion," indicating that this might justify the use of the phrase by the King. Obviously, this did not go over well at all with the group meeting with the Prime Minister.)

We stressed how terribly wrong it was for the King to identify the religion of some of the riot provokers in a broad-based statement attacking the entire group ("Zionists"). As we discussed the issue, the tempers in the room rose somewhat, and I believe it would be fair to say that the Prime Minister and his advisers noted how strongly we felt on this issue and that his attempted rationalization only compounded the felony.

At that point, noting the time and that it was Friday afternoon, we left.

  
Julius Berman

JB/ka