

## Africa Report by Douglas DeGroot and Mary Lalevée

### King Hassan's visit

*With a tradition of nationhood that is rare for North Africa, Morocco should be aided, not set up, by the U.S.*

**K**ing Hassan II of Morocco, along with several of his ministers, arrived in the U.S. May 18 for a week-long visit. If the kind of aid the Kissinger-shaped State Department has given to other U.S. allies is any harbinger, the aid and advice offered by the Kissinger/Haig combination could well lead to Hassan's political demise.

President Roosevelt made his famous denunciation of colonialism while in Morocco for a summit during World War II, putting forward the American system of industrial development as an alternative. It was also during World War II that the Moroccan independence movement was formally organized, leading to independence in 1956. In addition to being one of the United States's longest-standing allies in Africa, the kingdom of Morocco is more of a nation than the rest of the North African countries, because of its long history predating its takeover by French and Spanish colonial powers, as well as institutions such as the 1,000-year-old university at Fez.

Even in the eyes of the opposition parties in Morocco, the institution of the monarchy is considered vital to ensure the integrity of the state. One Moroccan source insisted to me, even though he doesn't see eye to eye with Hassan on many policy questions, that "without the monarchy in Morocco, you would have permanent destabilization. The monarchy keeps the nation to-

gether."

And all the political parties in Morocco are in favor of getting nuclear power generating capacity, an indication that all the political currents in the country have put the development of the nation above the immediate interests of their political group.

For these reasons the monarchy of King Hassan II represents the biggest obstacle in northern Africa to the State Department's plans of controlled economic disintegration and dismantling nation-states.

The fact Kissinger-Haig networks push for a military buildup in Morocco indicates that they are trying to lock Hassan into the "right" side of a right-versus-left conflict like those Haig has organized in Central America.

The political problem confronting Hassan is the conflict over the Western Sahara, which is pitting Morocco against Algeria, Libya, and the Polisario liberation group, which is backed by the latter two countries. Polisario is demanding independence of the territory for the 70,000 or so nomads who wander in and out of the area.

A coup within the Organization of African Unity in February led to the OAU suddenly admitting the Polisario, and wrecking a referendum that Hassan II had agreed on to resolve the crisis. A referendum has historically been the way to resolve such conflicts in the OAU.

In April the Polisario began

threatening to get arms from the Soviets if Hassan refuses to negotiate independence with them, thus providing the "left" side of the scenario. In addition to the Socialist International, France (Morocco's traditional ally) is also lending a very sympathetic ear to the rebels, and has swung to the Algerian side of the spectrum, further pushing Hassan into the Haig-Kissinger orbit.

Haig is demanding that Morocco grant Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) bases as a precondition for military support, a move that will only isolate Hassan in the OAU and hasten the Iranization of Morocco.

On the day of Hassan's arrival in the United States, Angier Biddle Duke, a former U.S. ambassador to Morocco and leading advocate of Third World population reduction, said that he is working to establish Morocco as a staging area for the RDF. Duke is arranging meetings for Hassan in New York when the King arrives to speak before the Council on Foreign Relations along with Henry Kissinger.

The U.S. ambassador to Morocco, Joseph Verner Reed, is promising increased U.S. military aid if Hassan plays ball with Haig. Reed is a close associate of David Rockefeller, who is the Kissinger piggy bank; it was Rockefeller's intercession with Reagan that got Reed the job. The State Department has proposed a 200 percent increase in military aid to Morocco.

Ironically, proponents of the RDF in Washington are saying privately that Morocco is not all that crucial for the RDF, since Portugal and Spain also both lie right across the route to the Middle East, making Morocco only one of three possibilities.