

CONFIDENTIAL Filing

Visit ~~by~~ MOROCCAN FOREIGN  
MINISTER M. BOUCETTA  
and his successor M. ALAM

MOROCCO

AUGUST 1981

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>26-8-81</del>							
<del>4-9-81</del>							
<del>10-9-81</del>							
<del>2-2-83</del>							
<del>3-2-83</del>							
2-8-85							
PREM 19/2330							
Series closed							



CONFIDENTIAL



FILE  
SAM AAN  
bc: PC

10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

16 September 1988

MOROCCO

M. Alam of the Moroccan Embassy telephoned this afternoon to say that the Moroccan Foreign Minister would be coming to London on Monday and wished to deliver a personal message from the King to the Prime Minister. I said that this was unfortunately impossible: the Prime Minister was simply too heavily engaged and could not see any visitor at such short notice. M. Alam said that the Foreign Minister would require less than five minutes. I said that this was still impossible. Perhaps he would be ready to deliver the message to the Foreign Secretary or a Foreign Office Minister? M. Alam said that the Foreign Minister's instructions were to deliver the message only to the Prime Minister in person. Could I let him know when the Prime Minister would be able to see M. Filali? I said that I would reflect on this question.

I am consulting the Prime Minister in parallel whether she would be prepared to see the Moroccan Foreign Minister very briefly. This letter is just to keep you informed.

CHARLES POWELL

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

08

file

ECU  
bcl



10 DOWNING STREET

2 August 1985

*From the Private Secretary*

Dear Peter,

VISIT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF MOROCCO

Thank you for your letter of 2 August about the visit of the Foreign Minister of Morocco on 4 and 5 November.

I have consulted the Prime Minister who much regrets that she will not be able to see Dr. Filali as this is already an exceptionally busy time for her (and to see him would make it harder to sustain her decision not to see Mr. Tariq Aziz).

Yours sincerely,

(Charles Powell)

P.F. Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

dl



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

The Foreign Secretary  
adduces strong reasons for  
you to see the

Moroccan Foreign Minister.

But there are strong  
reasons against doing  
so. How will you maintain  
your refusal to see the

Iraqis? And how shall we  
benefit from the meeting? The

Moroccans are cosying up  
to Libya.

Agree not to see  
him?

CJP 2/8

*PK*



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

TEMPORARILY  
RETAINED

*J. Gray*

*12/3/2016*

**THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT**

2 August 1985

*Not at this  
time. It is  
very difficult  
for me not*

*Dear Charles,*

Visit by the Foreign Minister of Morocco

The new Foreign Minister of Morocco, Dr Abdellatif Filali, is to visit Britain as a Guest of Government on 4 and 5 November.

The success of this visit, and the effect on our relations with Morocco, is likely to lie to a greater extent even than usual, on whether the Foreign Minister will be able to see the Prime Minister. The Foreign Secretary is very conscious of the need to cut down the number of Foreign Ministers seeing the Prime Minister. But he believes that there are truly exceptional considerations that make it important for the Prime Minister to agree to a brief call in this case.

He is now an established figure of considerable political weight and exercises a broadly positive influence in Arab councils. He has been helpful to us over Gibraltar. He has long looked forward to a return State Visit following The Queen's visit in 1980. There has been a difficult problem of whether to invite King Hassan or his traditional rival President Bendjedid of Algeria first. It has now been decided that President Bendjedid should come in the autumn of 1986 and King Hassan in 1987. This sequence of State Visits will become clear when invitations are issued to the two rulers in the autumn. It will therefore be particularly important not to do anything which might increase the chances of King Hassan's not taking offence.

We believe that King Hassan will attach considerable importance to his Foreign Minister seeing the Prime Minister, particularly to hear her views following her visit to the Middle East in September.

In these circumstances, Sir Geoffrey Howe sees no alternative but to recommend that the Prime Minister should make an exception in this case and agree to see the Foreign Minister briefly on 4 or 5 November.

*Yr ever*

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

*Peter Ricketts*

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

*cc Martin**he 15*

## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

2 February 1983

Call by the Moroccan Foreign Minister

The Foreign Minister of Morocco, accompanied by the Moroccan Ambassador, called on the Prime Minister at 1515 today.

The Prime Minister asked M. Boucetta to convey her warmest wishes to His Majesty, King Hassan. She much looked forward to the pleasure of meeting him when arrangements for his visit to this country could be made. M. Boucetta said that he brought the warm regards and greetings of King Hassan who particularly wished to thank the Prime Minister for the message which she had sent to him.

After further courtesies, M. Boucetta said that King Hassan wished to convey his regrets for not being able to bring the Arab League delegation to London on the agreed dates. Morocco had just suffered a great loss in the unfortunate death in a sudden accident of General Dlimi who had occupied a number of posts in the country. King Hassan was obliged to remain in Morocco in order to decide upon a successor to General Dlimi and to give him instructions as to his functions. He thus had requested a postponement of the visit for two or three weeks. But he was most anxious that it should be reinstated. He believed this was of capital importance for relations between the United Kingdom and the Arab world and between the United Kingdom and Morocco. He was sure that the Prime Minister would understand the imperative reasons for postponement. In the hope that the postponement need not be of long duration, he (M. Boucetta) hoped to discuss with Mr. Pym later in the day a possible new programme.

The Prime Minister asked that her condolences on the death of General Dlimi be conveyed to King Hassan. She fully understood the difficulties which prevented the visit going ahead at the agreed time and she well understood that King Hassan would not have requested postponement except for very good reasons. Unfortunately, Her Majesty The Queen would be abroad in three weeks' time. She would greatly miss seeing the King. For our part, we very much hoped that it would be possible to reinstate the visit. M. Boucetta commented that it was a pity that King Hassan would not be able to meet Her Majesty The Queen. But the visit had a largely political purpose and arrangements could be made for it to go ahead on that basis. The King would hope to meet The Queen on a longer visit later. As regards the dates for the postponed visit, the Moroccan side had two or three proposals which they would discuss with Mr. Pym.

/ The Prime Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

The Prime Minister said that we would make strenuous efforts to meet the Moroccan wishes as to the date and form of the delegation. She would be seeing later in the day President Mubarak of Egypt and, next week, Vice President Bush. Would the Moroccan Government like to convey any message to them through her?

M. Boucetta replied that Morocco wished to see Egypt re-integrated in the Arab world and felt that Egypt's active presence in discussion of Arab affairs was extremely important. He hoped that King Hassan would make contact with President Mubarak soon. He would be grateful if Morocco's interest in relations with Egypt could be conveyed to President Mubarak.

As regards Vice President Bush, he could tell the Prime Minister in confidence that King Hassan had sent messages to President Reagan and King Fahd about the postponement of the visit.

The Prime Minister said that it would be important to handle the announcement of a postponement very carefully. M. Boucetta said that the Moroccans would state publicly what they had already told the rest of the Arab League delegation privately, namely that King Hassan had requested postponement of the visit for domestic reasons. The Prime Minister said that if she was asked about the matter, eg in Parliamentary Questions tomorrow, she would say that she had received a personal message from His Majesty The King to the effect that he wished to postpone the visit for several weeks for domestic reasons; we well understood the reasons for the postponement; and efforts were being made to agree on fresh dates in a few weeks' time. M. Boucetta confirmed that this was entirely acceptable to him.

Concluding the conversation, the Prime Minister said that she much appreciated King Hassan's gesture of sending the Foreign Minister to see her personally. This emphasised the close friendship between our two countries.

The discussion ended at 1545.

ASK

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL



Q10



Compliments to A.  
Various.  
Then p-a.

A.S.C.  $\frac{4}{2}$

*With the compliments of*

**NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
DEPARTMENT**

**FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
LONDON, SW1A 2AH**

4. 2. 83.

RECORD OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH  
SECRETARY AND M MOHAMMED BOUCETTA AT THE FCO AT 4.00 p.m.  
ON 2 FEBRUARY 1983

Present

Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary  
Sir J Leahy  
Mr J Cambridge  
Mr R O Miles  
Mr J E Holmes

M. M Boucetta  
HE Mr Mohamed-Mehdi  
Benabdeljalil  
Chef de Cabinet

1. After a warm exchange of courtesies, Mr Pym summarised the discussion between M. Boucetta, who had brought a personal message to the Prime Minister from King Hassan about the postponement of the visit for domestic reasons, and the Prime Minister. The King was anxious to re-instate the visit soon and understood that The Queen might not be here at the time, in which case he would wish to pay a separate bilateral visit at a later stage. The Prime Minister had made clear how keen we were for the Arab League Delegation to come to London. It had been agreed that he and M. Boucetta should look for fresh dates in the next three or four weeks. It was also important to agree on public presentation of M. Boucetta's visit. This should stress the warmth and friendliness of our contacts with the Moroccans and the importance we both attach to the Delegation's visit.
2. M. Boucetta confirmed that the King could not leave Morocco until the problems raised by General Dlimi's death had been resolved and his successors had settled in. The position in southern Morocco was particularly sensitive because of the Polisario. He was anxious that the postponement should not be misinterpreted and had explained to all members of the Delegation that it was at Morocco's insistence for domestic reasons. King Hassan had also sent messages to President Reagan and King Fahd so that they could reassure the British Government about the reasons for the postponement. King Hassan wanted the visit to take place in the best possible conditions. Britain and Morocco had decided on the guidelines to be followed for the Delegation's visit and we should stick to them. Too much attention should not be paid to what appeared in the press, who wrote all sorts of false stories.
3. Mr Pym said that he very much hoped that the Delegation would be able to come in the next few weeks. The main interest of the press here and in Europe would centre on the composition of the Delegation. No public announcement had yet been made about this. Could something now be said publicly about it? M. Boucetta said that it was agreed that the Palestinian representative in the Delegation would not be from the PLO but a representative of the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories. Britain and Morocco had been able to agree on the name of Milhem.

/The

The Moroccans had told the Palestinians this. The wish (souhait) had been expressed that Britain might be ready to go one step further on contacts with responsible Palestinians. He was therefore requesting that we accept Khalid al Hassan as a member of the Delegation. He wanted to stress that this was not a condition for the Delegation's visit, but it would help Britain's relations with the Arab world and would be a very good step forward. The Moroccans were not asking that we should receive Qaddumi as a member of the Delegation but Khalid al Hassan, who (he claimed) lived in London and had much contact with British officials including Mr Hurd. He added that he had heard that a British representative (it became clear that he meant Mr Hurd) had said that Khalid al Hassan should be accepted.

4. Mr Pym said that he appreciated the Moroccan attitude. But he had to stress that the Delegation was going to meet the Prime Minister and that it would be infinitely preferable if the Palestinian member of the Delegation was Milhem, as had been planned. We were very keen to help the peace process and the Palestinian cause but, for the particular purposes of the Delegation's visit, we wanted to stick to what had previously been agreed with the Moroccans. It might nevertheless be possible for Mr Hurd to see Khalid al Hassan here or, preferably, a little later. Sir J Leahy added that the reports about Khalid al Hassan's contacts and acceptability to which M. Boucetta had referred were not accurate. Mr Hurd had met Qaddumi as part of an Arab League Delegation but had not met Khalid al Hassan.

5. In further discussion of press handling, M. Boucetta made clear that it was for Morocco to make the eventual announcement about the dates and composition of the Delegation. He was not willing for an announcement mentioning Milhem to be made at this stage. Anything the Moroccans said would be cleared with us in advance. However, he was perfectly happy that we should say, if asked, that we and Morocco were agreed on the composition of the Delegation. (A form of words for the press to cover M. Boucetta's visit was subsequently agreed by both sides.) We then offered the following dates for the re-instated visit: 22/23 February (with the Prime Minister's involvement on 22 February) and 28 March. We understood and shared M. Boucetta's desire for an alternative date earlier in March and promised to look urgently for one. M. Boucetta promised in return to give us a reply on the 22/23 February dates as soon as possible).

#### Arab/Israel

6. Mr Pym said that he was becoming increasingly worried about the absence of any progress towards peace. He hoped that a process based on the Reagan plan would get under way very soon. The meeting of the Palestine National Council on 14 February would obviously be very important for this. We regarded the opportunity presented by the Reagan plan as vital. If nothing happened soon it was clear that Arab confidence in President Reagan would slip away. We were trying to influence the Americans to press the Israeli Government to move forward. The Israeli position, that they would not negotiate on the Reagan plan, had to be changed. Time was not on our side. If we lost the present opportunity,

/it

it would be a disaster for the region. Tension and bitterness would rise. As far as withdrawal from Lebanon was concerned, we had long felt that this would be very difficult to achieve. Our fears were being realised. If there was no movement on this front, President Gemayel would be weakened and confidence in the future of Lebanon destroyed. The absence of progress on Lebanon made the present moment even more critically important. Hence our distress that the Arab League Delegation had not so far been able to visit Lebanon.

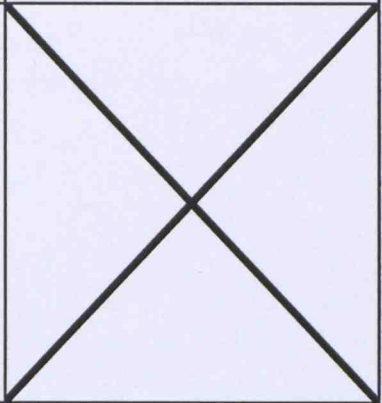
7. M. Boucetta agreed that delay was dangerous. It favoured the extremists in the Arab world rather than the moderates like Morocco. The Moroccans were in constant touch with the Palestinians and were hopeful that in some way the Fez and Reagan approaches could be married up. That was essential. But it should also be realised that no one could negotiate on the Palestinians' behalf. For their part the Palestinians had to be flexible; if they were rigid nothing would happen and they would be the losers. He was not without hope but every effort must be made to keep up the momentum. Britain could have an important role to play. He agreed on the importance of the Arab League visit since without it the Fez Commission could not meet to draw together the threads of their various visits. The American position as expressed to the Delegation had some 'advanced' points in it which had to be considered. This had to be done before the US Presidential election got too close and blocked all possibility of progress. Meanwhile, the situation on the ground was becoming more dangerous, for example with the introduction of SAM 5 missiles in Syria. Pressure had to be put on Israel. The Americans and Israelis had to realise that the Arabs had reached the limit of their flexibility.

8. The meeting ended at 5.00 p.m.

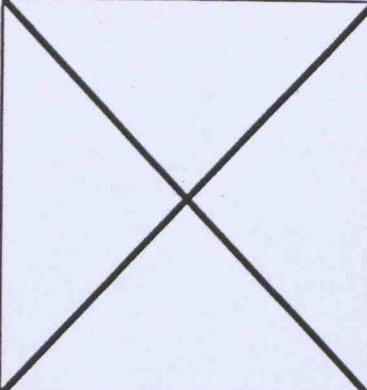
Distribution:

DS/PM	NENAD	
PS	MED	
PS/Mr Hurd	PCD	
PS/PUS	Chanceries:	
Sir J Leahy	Rabat	Cairo
Mr Egerton	Algiers	Khartoum
	Tunis	Washington
	Jeddah	UKMID New York
	Damascus	UKMIS NATO
	Amman	

# The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES ..... <i>PREM 19</i> ..... PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>2330</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details:  <i>Holmes to Coles dated          1 February 1983</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION .....	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>12 March 2006          C. Hayland</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	

# The National Archives

DEPARTMENT/SERIES ..... <i>PRM 19</i> ..... PIECE/ITEM ..... <i>2330</i> ..... (one piece/item number)	Date and sign
Extract details:  <i>Moore to Alexander dated 10 September 1981</i>	
CLOSED UNDER FOI EXEMPTION .....	
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3(4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT 1958	
TEMPORARILY RETAINED	<i>4/4/2016</i> <i>G. Gray</i>
MISSING AT TRANSFER	
NUMBER NOT USED	
MISSING (TNA USE ONLY)	
DOCUMENT PUT IN PLACE (TNA USE ONLY)	



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 September 1981

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS  
RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4)  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

TEMPORARILY  
RETAINED

J. Gray

4/4/2016

THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF MOROCCO

I have covered in a separate letter of today's date to Francis Richards the main points raised by the Foreign Minister of Morocco, Maitre M'Hamed Boucetta, at his meeting yesterday evening with the Prime Minister. You will, however, also wish to be aware that at the end of the discussion Maitre Boucetta referred to the Royal Wedding. He said that King Hassan had not expected an invitation to the Wedding. But in view of the many links between the Moroccan Royal Family and our own, he had been disappointed not to be informed officially of the Wedding. This was a family problem. King Hassan did not wish the matter to go any further, but would be most grateful if the Prime Minister could make his views known to The Queen.

It was explained to Maitre Boucetta that British practice differed from that of the French in that there was usually no formal notification of a wedding, other than that contained in an invitation to be present. There certainly had been no question of any discourtesy being intended.

She would however, of course, pass on to Her Majesty what Maitre Boucetta had said.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

MA



10 DOWNING STREET

SUBJECT.

file SS.  
roweeo

✓. master set.

From the Private Secretary

8 September 1981

Dear Francis,

THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF MOROCCO

The Foreign Minister of Morocco, Maitre M'Hamed Boucetta, called on the Prime Minister yesterday evening. He was accompanied by M. Mohamed Karim Lamraani and by the Moroccan Charge d'Affaires. Mr. Hurd was also present.

After the usual exchange of courtesies, Maitre Boucetta thanked the Prime Minister for the support which the British Government had given to Morocco in the run-up to the OAU meeting at Nairobi. King Hassan was extremely grateful. The proposal to hold a referendum in the Western Sahara had been well received by other African countries and had led to a better understanding of Morocco's position. Despite some preliminary anxiety, a second OAU discussion of the problem at the end of August had gone off satisfactorily. The points which were essential for the Moroccan Government were being safeguarded and there was every reason for confidence about the outcome of the referendum. The Moroccan Government was confident that the population of the Western Sahara was attached to Morocco.

The Prime Minister asked whether there was likely to be intimidation of those participating in the referendum. Had the Moroccan Government made arrangements for international supervision? Maitre Boucetta said there would undoubtedly be some propaganda. However, he hoped that given the important international understanding of the Moroccan Government's position, the propaganda would be in a lower key than might otherwise have been the case and would have less impact. Morocco had accepted the idea of supervision by members of the OAU Committee or by representatives of countries nominated by that Committee. The UN might also be approached for technical assistance. In general, Morocco did not anticipate problems with the modalities of the election, though there might be a difficulty in ensuring that only those entitled to participate in the referendum did so. In response to a question from the Prime Minister about the voting qualification, Maitre Boucetta said that those who were over 18 years of age, had been born in the region and could be "authenticated" could vote. Fortunately the Spanish

/ administration

5



administration had carried out a very thorough census in the year before their departure. It would be important to ensure that the numerous refugees who had come into the area from outside did not participate. The Moroccan Government was confident of the support for it among the natives. Great efforts had been made in the last five years to develop the economy. King Hassan had set up a Council to protect the interests and customs of the local population. This had been a very popular initiative. Maitre Boucetta was confident that, with the help of Morocco's friends, the referendum could be carried out satisfactorily. The problem was not basically territorial: it was rather a question of external, Communist-inspired, efforts to de-stabilise the region.

The Prime Minister asked about the policies of the Libyan Government. Maitre Boucetta agreed with the Prime Minister that the problem with Colonel Ghaddafi was that one never knew what he was going to do next. However, the Libyan Government, conscious perhaps of their isolated position and of Morocco's important position within the Islamic Council as Chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, had made a gesture before the meeting in Nairobi. The Libyans appeared to have reduced the scale of their support for the Polisario. Recent Polisario attacks had been particularly violent but there was evidence that the equipment they used had all been in the region for some considerable time. Conolen Ghaddafi was aware that the next OAU Summit was due to be held in Tripoli: whether or not it took place there would depend to some extent on Libya's behaviour in the next few months.

The Prime Minister asked about Colonel Ghaddafi's policies elsewhere. Maitre Boucetta said that his attitude towards Egypt, the Sudan and the Chad, seemed to be unchanged. He had not so far encountered major difficulties in the Chad but this was only a matter of time. He also faced internal financial and, on a lesser scale, political difficulties.

Turning to economic issues, Maitre Boucetta said that Morocco's relations with the European Community were likely to be complicated by enlargement. Spain and Greece were direct competitors of Morocco in the export of fruit and vegetables. Morocco looked to the UK for support in this area. Mr. Hurd commented that the support had already been forthcoming. He hoped that the Moroccan Government was also looking to others. As regards bilateral, economic relations, Maitre Boucetta said the Moroccan Government was ready for a major expansion. He hoped that the UK would soon once more resume its rightful place among Morocco's trading partners. There were great prospects, particularly in the development of the phosphate and iron industries. The Prime Minister said that she looked to see continuing growth in both political and trading relations between the two countries. She welcomed the Moroccan Government's resistance to the expansion of Communist influence. Maitre Boucetta said that the resistance

of the Moroccan Government to Communism had cost them a great deal. As a result of the position they had taken up, e.g. on external intervention in Zaire and Afghanistan, they had been attacked by Communist governments. There had been little support from European governments to balance those attacks. The Prime Minister repeated that she much appreciated the positions taken by the Moroccan Government.

I am sending a copy of this letter to John Rhodes (Department of Trade).

*Yours ever*

*Richard Alexander*

Francis Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

Morocco



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Dear Willie,

4 September 1981

Thank you for your letter of 26 August, confirming that the Prime Minister will receive the Moroccan Foreign Minister Maître M'hamed Boucetta at 6.00 p.m. on 7 September. Maître Boucetta will be accompanied by M Mohamed Karim Lamraani, a former Prime Minister, now Director General of the Office Chérifien des Phosphates (OCP, State-owned company, Morocco's largest commercial operation and exporter). This is their first appointment and they will come to 10 Downing Street direct from the airport.

Maître Boucetta speaks French, and we have arranged for an interpreter, Mrs Taylor, to be present. Mr J C Moberly, AUS, will be available to attend for the FCO if required.

I attach a brief and a personality note on Maître Boucetta.

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

Willie Rickett Esq  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON  
SW1

COVERING CONFIDENTIAL

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE MOROCCAN  
FOREIGN MINISTER, MAITRE M'HAMED BOUCETTA GCMG  
6 P.M. 7 SEPTEMBER

Line to take

Welcome direct from Heathrow. Glad to note no major problems between us. Appreciate Morocco's pro-Western outlook and cooperation. Pleased by the constructive outcome of OAU at Nairobi and recognise value of King Hassan's acceptance of referendum in Western Sahara.

CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY THE MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER,  
MAÎTRE M'HAMED BOUCETTA GCMG

6 P.M. 7 SEPTEMBER

Background

Anglo-Moroccan relations

Political

1. Our relations with Morocco are going through a difficult patch at the moment. The State Visit last year had its problems and King Hassan was clearly disappointed not to have been invited to the Royal Wedding. Nevertheless, the Moroccans are staunchly pro-Western and have been helpful on Arab and African issues. A prime objective of this visit is therefore to underline the importance we attach to our good political and economic relations and to soothe their feelings. There are no outstanding bilateral issues. Trade with Morocco is important (and in balance at £69m exports and £63m imports <sup>(phosphates, fruit and vegetables)</sup> in first half of 1981) and there are prospects for expansion. Our aid to Morocco is small (£90,000 in 1981/82), devoted to training in UK and English language teaching in Morocco. Earlier this year a grant of £13.5m was made under the Aid and Trade Provision towards a £75m Davy Loewy contract with the Moroccan government for a steel rod mill. We have participated in EC aid to supply food to help overcome shortages resulting from the prolonged drought (higher priority claims on us precluded bilateral food aid).

2. The Moroccan Prime Minister, M Bouabid, was to have visited London in January 1980, but cancelled at the last moment because we could not arrange the sort of programme he wanted. Boucetta may suggest the resuscitation of this visit: we think that Bouabid may be replaced soon and would prefer to invite his successor in due course.

/International Affairs

International AffairsWestern Sahara

3. Fighting has continued between Moroccan forces and the Algerian-backed Polisario up to the end of August, with loss of life on both sides.

4. In June the Prime Minister sent a message to King Hassan (in reply to one from him) expressing her support for all efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution. The Moroccan Chargé d'Affaires has reported that the message 'helped to smooth the way' for the King to accept in Nairobi in June the OAU resolution on a referendum. Boucetta may well speak in these terms. Whilst the agreement to a referendum represented a step forward, the subsequent (Nairobi 24/25 August) Implementation Committee proposal for its form and administration has brought mixed reactions and differing interpretations from the parties concerned. Even at this stage there is much room for disagreement, and King Hassan is taking a brave gamble even in going so far.

'Security in the Mediterranean'

5. Boucetta will probably raise this topic with the Prime Minister, but they have not further defined the subject beyond relating it to the Gulf of Sirte incident. We can only await their interpretation. The Moroccans seem to have mended their fences with the Libyans and are unlikely to repeat the criticisms of them made by M Slauni to the Prime Minister: diplomatic relations have recently been resumed, possibly as a result of a deal by which Morocco and Libya refrain from mutual criticism over Chad and the Western Sahara respectively.

6. The Moroccans have told us that Boucetta will raise the items in paras 3-5 above. He may mention other topics, eg Arab/Israel, Namibia and Afghanistan, which are likely to be covered in his talks with Lord Carrington.

## PERSONALITY NOTE

BOUCETTA, MAÎTRE M'HAMED

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation since 1977 and Secretary-General of the Istiqlal Party since 1974. (In Morocco Minister of State is senior to Minister).

Born Marrakech, 1925. Called to the Bar at Casablanca, 1954. Member of the Istiqlal Party and Director of the French-language weekly, Al Istiqlal, until September 1957. Directeur de Cabinet to Foreign Minister, 1956; Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, May to December 1958; Minister for Public Service and Administration Reform, May 1960; acted as Foreign Minister during 1960; represented Morocco at the 1960 session of the UNGA. Minister of Justice, 1961. Left the government in January 1963. Defeated in the parliamentary elections in May 1963. Secretary-General of the Executive Committee of the Istiqlal Party 1974; Minister of State without portfolio, March 1977, along with three other Party leaders, in preparation for elections. Appointed GCMG 1980.

An experienced, realistic, middleweight operator; personally agreeable and interesting to talk to.

Married; his wife is pleasant and unassuming. 3 children.



HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN THE  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN  
AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Visit of  
Minister of State  
for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
and Madame Boucetta

7 to 9 SEPTEMBER 1981



Monsieur M'hamed Boucetta, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and  
Co-operation of the Kingdom of Morocco and Madame Boucetta  
will be accompanied by:

Monsieur Mohamed Karim Lamrani,  
Director General O.C.P.

Monsieur Omar Belkoura,  
Director of Europe and America Departments

Monsieur Mohamed Benomar,  
Department of Economic Co-operation

Monsieur Mohamed Basguirs,  
Minister's Private Office

Monsieur D. Trachen,  
Commercial Director Europe

Monsieur Abdellatif Kabbaj,  
Press Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*In attendance:*  
Lieutenant Colonel P. Worrall

*The visitors will be staying at:*  
The Hyde Park Hotel,  
Knightsbridge, S.W.1

# Programme

---

## MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER

Arrival details to be announced

Met by Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth  
Affairs,  
The Hon. Douglas Hurd, M.P.

1800 hrs Call on the Prime Minister,  
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
*10 Downing Street*

Leave 10 Downing Street and proceed to Hyde Park Hotel

1920 Leave the hotel

1940 Arrive Prince Edward Theatre  
*Old Compton Street*

2000 Attend a performance of "Evita"  
Host: Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth  
Affairs,  
The Hon. Douglas Hurd, M.P.  
*Dress: Lounge Suit*

Supper afterwards at The Savoy  
*Patience Room*

## TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER

- 1125 hrs Leave the hotel
- 1144 Arrive Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
*Ambassadors' Entrance*
- 1145 Talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,  
The Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington
- 1245 Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government  
for Hosts: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and  
1300 The Lady Carrington  
*1 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1*
- Afternoon to be spent under arrangements made by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco
- 1730 Reception given by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and  
to Co-operation of the Kingdom of Morocco  
1930 *Drawing Room, Hyde Park Hotel*
- 2000 Dinner given by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Kingdom of Morocco,  
Residence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco  
*Kent Holme, 44 The Bishops Avenue, Hampstead, N.2*  
*Dress: Lounge Suit*
- Return to the hotel

## WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER

- 0830 hrs Leave the hotel accompanied by Madame Boucetta
- 0900 Arrive H.M. Tower of London  
*West Gate*
- Drive to Jewel House
- Met by Deputy Governor of H.M. Tower,  
Brigadier K. Mears
- Tour of Jewel House, Oriental Gallery and Queen's House
- 1030 Leave H.M. Tower of London  
(approx)
- 1055 Arrive hotel  
(approx)
- Private luncheon at hotel
- 1240 Leave the hotel
- 1310 Arrive London Heathrow Airport  
*Kingsford Smith Suite, Terminal 2*
- 1330 Board Flight RO 206 departing at 1350 hours
- The Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs,  
Sir John Stow,  
will bid farewell

**DIRECTORY**

<i>Government Hospitality</i> 2 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1	01-214 8674
<i>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</i> Protocol and Conference Department	01-233 7820
Near East and North African Department	01-233 4134/3325
Ambassadors' Entrance	01-233 3160
<i>Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco</i> 49 Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W.7	01-584 8827
<i>Hyde Park Hotel</i> Knightsbridge, S.W.1	01-235 2000
<i>London Heathrow Airport</i> Brabazon Suite, Terminal 2	01-759 4231 ext 5297
Kingsford Smith Suite, Terminal 2	01-759 4231 ext 6369
<i>Prince Edward Theatre</i> Old Compton Street	01-437 2024
<i>1 Carlton Gardens, S.W.1</i>	01-214 6352

**NOTES**

NOTES

VISIT OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF THE  
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AND MRS BOUCETTA : 7-9 SEPTEMBER 1981

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN  
(to be read in conjunction with attached programme)

7 SEPTEMBER

Arrival

When the aircraft doors open a Representative of the British Airports Authority will escort the greeting party to the aircraft. He will accompany Mr M Tamer, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, on board to escort Maftre and Madame Boucetta to the tarmac; there Mr Tamer will present the following (in order):-

The Hon Douglas Hurd MP, Minister of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mrs Tamer

Representative, Government Hospitality Fund

Lt Col P Worrall, Escort Officer, Government Hospitality Fund.

The party will proceed to the VIP Suite where Mr Tamer will present members of his staff.

Transport

Cars are provided for the official suite by Government Hospitality Fund throughout the period of the visit are allocated as follows:-

Car 1	Maftre M Boucetta Madame Boucetta Mr M Tamer } (except when they wish to Mrs Tamer } travel in their own car)
Car 2	Mr M K Lamrani Mr O Belkoura Mr M Benomar
Car 3	Mr M Basguirs Mr D Trachen Mr A Kabbaj Mrs M H Taylor (8 September: Foreign and Commonwealth Office to 1 Carlton Gardens).

A car will be available for Madame Boucetta for her own programme on 8 September.

/Interpreters

Interpreters

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have arranged for Mrs M H Taylor to interpret at the following events:-

7 September

1800 Call on Prime Minister.

8 September

1145 Talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

1245 for Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government.  
1300

2030 Dinner given by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mrs M Penney will interpret for Madame Boucetta and Lady Carrington at the luncheon and dinner on 8 September.

Official suite - participation in events

Theatre/supper party

The following will accompany Maître and Madame Boucetta:-

Mr and Mrs M Tamer  
Mr M K Lamrani  
Mr M Benomar MR O. BELKOURA  
Mr M Basguirs.

8 SEPTEMBER

Talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The following will also be present:-

Morocco

Mr M Tamer  
Mr M K Lamrani  
Mr O Belkoura  
Mr M Benomar

United Kingdom

Private Secretary )  
Mr J C Moberly ) subject to confirmation.  
Mr R O Miles )  
Mr D Roycroft )

Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government.

/9 SEPTEMBER

9 SEPTEMBER

Visit to HM Tower of London

The following are also invited:-

Mr M K Lamrani  
Mr O Belkoura  
Mr M Benomar  
Mr M Basguirs  
Mr D Trachen  
Mr A Kabbaj.

Visits Section  
Protocol and Conference Department

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

3 September 1981



DISTRIBUTION

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO (6)

10 DOWNING STREET

Private Secretary (2)  
Press Office (2)

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Private Secretary (2)  
PS/The Hon Douglas Hurd (2)  
PS/PUS ( )  
Sir John Graham ( )  
Mr J C Moberly ( )  
Mr R O Miles, NENAD  
Mr D L Hardinge, NENAD (6)  
News Department (3)  
Resident Clerk ( )  
Miss D F Lothian ( )  
Protocol and Conference Department (10)

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY FUND (16)

VISIT OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION OF THE  
KINGDOM OF MOROCCO AND MRS BOUCETTA : 7-9 SEPTEMBER 1981

ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN  
(to be read in conjunction with attached programme)

7 SEPTEMBER

Arrival

When the aircraft doors open a Representative of the British Airports Authority will escort the greeting party to the aircraft. He will accompany Mr M Tamer, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, on board to escort Maftre and Madame Boucetta to the tarmac; there Mr Tamer will present the following (in order):-

The Hon Douglas Hurd MP, Minister of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mrs Tamer

Representative, Government Hospitality Fund

Lt Col P Worrall, Escort Officer, Government Hospitality Fund.

The party will proceed to the VIP Suite where Mr Tamer will present members of his staff.

Transport

Cars are provided for the official suite by Government Hospitality Fund throughout the period of the visit are allocated as follows:-

Car 1	Maftre M Boucetta Madame Boucetta Mr M Tamer } (except when they wish to Mrs Tamer } travel in their own car)
Car 2	Mr M K Lamrani Mr O Belkoura Mr M Benomar
Car 3	Mr M Basguirs Mr D Trachen Mr A Kabbaj Mrs M H Taylor (8 September: Foreign and Commonwealth Office to 1 Carlton Gardens).

A car will be available for Madame Boucetta for her own programme on 8 September.

/Interpreters

Interpreters

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have arranged for Mrs M H Taylor to interpret at the following events:-

7 September

1800 Call on Prime Minister.

8 September

1145 Talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

1245 for  
1300 Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government.

2030 Dinner given by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mrs M Penney will interpret for Madame Boucetta and Lady Carrington at the luncheon and dinner on 8 September.

Official suite - participation in events

Theatre/supper party

The following will accompany Maître and Madame Boucetta:-

Mr and Mrs M Tamer  
Mr M K Lamrani  
Mr M Benomar *MR O. BELKOURA*  
Mr M Basguirs.

8 SEPTEMBER

Talks with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The following will also be present:-

Morocco

Mr M Tamer  
Mr M K Lamrani  
Mr O Belkoura  
Mr M Benomar

United Kingdom

Private Secretary )  
Mr J C Moberly ) subject to confirmation.  
Mr R O Miles )  
Mr D Roycroft )

Luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government.

/9 SEPTEMBER

9 SEPTEMBER

Visit to HM Tower of London

The following are also invited:-

Mr M K Lamrani  
Mr O Belkoura  
Mr M Benomar  
Mr M Basguirs  
Mr D Trachen  
Mr A Kabbaj.

Visits Section  
Protocol and Conference Department

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

3 September 1981

DISTRIBUTION

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO (6)

10 DOWNING STREET

Private Secretary (2)  
Press Office (2)

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Private Secretary (2)  
PS/The Hon Douglas Hurd (2)  
PS/PUS ( )  
Sir John Graham ( )  
Mr J C Moberly ( )  
Mr R O Miles, NENAD  
Mr D L Hardinge, NENAD (6)  
News Department (3)  
Resident Clerk ( )  
Miss D F Lothian ( )  
Protocol and Conference Department (10)

GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY FUND (16)

B/F 4/9

26 August 1981

Thank you for your letter of 20 August about the visit of the Moroccan Foreign Minister, M. Boucetta. This is just to confirm that the Prime Minister has agreed to see M. Boucetta at 1800 on Monday 7 September. Could you please provide a brief for this meeting by Friday 4 September.

WR

F.N. Richards, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

010  
CONFIDENTIAL



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister  
It is a terrible few  
days but I could  
manage 18.00 on  
Monday 7th. Agree? etc.

20 August 1981

Yes Mr.

Dear Willie,

Lord Carrington has invited the Moroccan Foreign Minister, M. Boucetta to visit London from 7 to 9 September. The programme for the visit will include talks with Lord Carrington and Mr Hurd followed by a luncheon and meetings with opposition leaders and others on the afternoon of 8 September.

The Moroccans have told us both here and in Rabat that they would very much appreciate it if Mrs Thatcher could spare a few minutes to receive M. Boucetta during his visit.

We have been trying to arrange a visit by a senior Moroccan minister for some time. The Prime Minister, M. Bouabid, who was to have come to London in January 1980 cancelled his visit at the last moment when we were unable to arrange the sort of programme he wanted. The Moroccans have been trying to revive a prime ministerial visit ever since but Lord Carrington thought it best to spare the Prime Minister yet another visit in the second half of this year and invited the Foreign Minister instead.

Our relations with Morocco are going through a difficult patch at the moment. The State Visit last year had its problems and King Hassan was clearly disappointed not to have been invited to the Royal Wedding. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary therefore regards it as important that Boucetta's visit should be a success; for all their faults the Moroccans are staunchly pro-Western (for which the new US administration have been quick to give them credit) and have been helpful on African and Arab issues. King Hassan took the brave step at the OAU Nairobi Summit of announcing his agreement

/to a

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL



to a referendum on the Western Sahara. This followed Mrs Thatcher's message to him urging him to seek a peacefully negotiated solution. The election of President Mitterrand has undermined Hassan's special relationship with France and he is looking round for new friends. Our commercial interests in Morocco are important and there are prospects for expansion. But the Moroccan system is highly personalised and much weight is placed on protocol. The Moroccans would regard it as a signal honour if Mrs Thatcher could spare a few minutes to receive M. Boucetta on either 8 September or the morning of 9 September. Lord Carrington is aware that the number of such visitors places a considerable strain on the Prime Minister's programme but in the particular circumstances of Morocco, recommends that if the Prime Minister can spare the time she should agree to see M. Boucetta on 8 or 9 September.

If the Prime Minister accepts this recommendation, I should be grateful if you could let me know a time that would be convenient.

*Yours ever,*

*Francis Richards*

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

W Rickett Esq  
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL





IT8.7/2-1993

2009:02

Image  
Access

IT-8 Target

Printed on Kodak Professional Paper

Charge: R090212