

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with King Hassan of Morocco

PARTICIPANTS: The President
King Hassan

DATE, TIME, PLACE: January 31, 1989; 2:28 - 2:35 p.m. EST
The Oval Office

The President: Your Majesty, how are you?

King Hassan: How are you?

The President: Tres bien. I am delighted to speak with you to thank you for your very nice message and to pay my respects. I look forward to working with you. Please excuse my voice; I have a cold.

King Hassan: You have a cold? Mrs. Bush will be the best doctor for you.

The President: We remember our wonderful visit to your country and your many courtesies to us. We haven't forgotten them.

King Hassan: How is Mrs. Bush? Is she well?

The President: Very well.

King Hassan: I will never forget my dinner and her kind hospitality. It will be remembered in my mind for many years.

The President: I want you to know the way we feel about our personal relationship, and the relationship between the US and Morocco which is also very good. I have a personal interest in maintaining that.

King Hassan: Mr. President, friendship is something sacred. And I can assure you I will put the full weight of our personal friendship and the friendship between our two countries on the scale.

The President: That is good to hear. I also want to mention that an old friend of yours is going to the FRG as our Ambassador -- Vernon Walters.

King Hassan: I am happy to know he will only be a two and a half hour plane ride from Morocco.

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The President: I understand you are meeting with President Mobutu aujourd'hui.

King Hassan: Yes, today he arrived from Kinshasa. He will rest here for four days. If you have a message to transmit to him, I will be happy to do so for you.

The President: I am trying to reach him. He also sent a nice message and is a good friend. I understand I can find him there with you someplace.

King Hassan: I am delighted to convey your message to him.

The President: Thank you. I would like to talk to him on the phone to convey my respects. I will try to reach him by phone. Thank you for your offer.

King Hassan: I will call him and tell him you are waiting to talk to him.

The President: Majesty, how is your wonderful family?

King Hassan: I am impatient to meet with you. I have many things to tell.

The President: Good. I am encouraged by the recent movement to solve the western Sahara problem. Are you optimistic?

King Hassan: In our job, we must be optimistic. If not, you can't make anything happen. Actually, I have many reasons to be optimistic.

The President: Good. Good luck on that. In any case, we will sustain our good relationship. Thank you for taking my call and for your warm message.

King Hassan: Please give Mrs. Bush my and my wife's regards and respect for her hospitality.

The President: She will be pleased you remembered. I look forward to seeing you.

King Hassan: I wish you good wishes and good health.

The President: Au revoir.