

in Spanish Morocco in implementation of Protocol and Declaration of April 7 in which Spain recognized the independence of Morocco.

Tunisia

The negotiations leading to the transfer of a large degree of local autonomy to Tunisia were described in the December, 1955, issue of *External Affairs*.^{*} Although the Franco-Tunisian Conventions of July 1955 had envisaged a gradual transfer of power over a period of twenty years, throughout which France would remain responsible for Tunisia's defence and external relations, events, in fact, moved very swiftly. Three weeks after the proclamation of Morocco's independence, Tunisia, in turn, became an independent state. In a protocol of agreement signed on March 20, France recognized the independence of Tunisia and the two countries agreed to plan future co-operation, particularly in matters of defence and foreign relations. On June 15, a diplomatic agreement between France and Tunisia providing for the exchange of Ambassadors and consultation on questions of mutual interest was signed in Tunisia. France also promised to support Tunisia's candidacy for membership in international organizations.

The two new states of Morocco and Tunisia have already commenced the exchange of Ambassadors with a number of other countries, established their own armies, and become members of several United Nations Specialized Agencies. The political evolution of the two countries has been greatly assisted by the courageous policy of France and it is encouraging to know that, in spite of all the past difficulties, leaders of both states have re-affirmed their warm attachment for France, which has contributed so much to their political and economic development.

^{*}*External Affairs*, Vol. 7, No. 12.