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FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ
VISIT TO CANADA OF M'HAMED BOUCETTA,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO

At the invitation of the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. M'Hamed Boucetta, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, paid a visit to Canada from October 12 to 16, 1981.

In the course of this visit, Mr. Boucetta was received by Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada and had talks with several other members of the Canadian government, including the Honourable Marc Lalonde, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Honourable Herb Gray, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Honourable Pierre De Bané, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. The Minister also met with the Honourable Jean Marchand and Jeanne Sauvé, Speaker of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Commons, respectively, and with Mr. Marcel Massé, President of the Canadian International Development Agency.

Mr. Boucetta and his Canadian counterpart signed a memorandum of understanding for the creating of a bilateral commission to develop and enhance Canada-Moroccan cooperation in all fields. A general cooperation agreement was also signed to assist in carrying out future cooperation projects. The Ministers together launched a "food strategy" programme, under which Canadian specialists would be sent to Morocco to work with Moroccan experts on a plan to augment that country's farm production.

The Ministers examined other projects, one of which concerned the improvement of sanitary facilities in the city of Fez. The Canadian side again expressed its interest in seeing the project completed, and informed the Moroccans of its decision to initiate as soon as possible the procedures required for final approval.

Most of the emphasis was on new directions for cooperation between the two countries in the coming years. This will be centred mainly on industrial cooperation projects designed to set up joint Canada-Moroccan enterprises, on the extension of preferential credit to sustain high-development projects, and on a technical cooperation programme suited to Moroccan priorities. Both parties showed a particular interest in reinforcing educational exchanges and stepping up cultural cooperation, which is soon to receive fresh impetus in the executive training area.

The Moroccan side stressed the importance of participation by Canadian companies in the Moroccan development effort enshrined in the new Five-Year Plan. The Canadian side expressed its interest in the prospects held forth by the Plan and indicated its desire to contribute toward the fulfillment of its objectives.

The two Ministers agreed to hold the first meeting of the "Bilateral Commission" in Rabat, at the ministerial level, toward mid-December 1981.

The Ministers went on to discuss international political problems at large, and the Middle East question in particular. They examined the prospects for peace in the region and reaffirmed their desire for a global settlement that would be just and equitable. They felt that no settlement could be possible in the absence of a solution to the Palestinian problem. Both sides referred to the Jerusalem question and the important role played by His Majesty Hassan II as chairman of the Al Qods (Jerusalem) committee.

Reviewing the situation in Africa, the Ministers emphasized the need for a stronger effort to achieve a settlement in Namibia, based on the application of Security Council resolution 435.

The situation in the Western Sahara was the subject of a particularly extensive discussion. Dr. MacGuigan was pleased with the extremely positive and courageous initiative taken by His Majesty Hassan II in Nairobi at the latest Summit of the Organization for African Unity, and with the OAU's recommendations for an equitable settlement of the conflict.

Another subject of discussion was multilateral relations between wholly or partly French-speaking countries. Mr. Boucetta took this opportunity to inform the Canadian side of Morocco's willingness to form closer relations with the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique, using the next general conference, scheduled for December in Gabon, as an occasion to do so.

Mr. Boucetta paid tribute to the active role played by Prime Minister Trudeau in the effort to stimulate North-South dialogue.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs said that he was pleased with Morocco's recent initiative of establishing a Consulate-General in Montreal, which would serve to promote and to strengthen relations between the two countries.

During his visit to Montreal, the Moroccan Minister welcomed the publication, under the auspices of the Canadian International Development Agency, of a guide of Canadian investments in Morocco.

Mr. Boucetta expressed his thanks to the Secretary of State for External Affairs for the warm welcome he and the Moroccan delegation had received. He invited his Canadian counterpart to pay an official visit to Morocco. This invitation was accepted with pleasure, and Dr. MacGuigan said that he would pay a return visit sometime during the first half of 1982.