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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

copy called
ACTION

[REDACTED]

November 30, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: Harold H. Saunders *Hal*

*Ok with Saunders
changes + delete last*

SUBJECT: Presidential Emissary to Discuss U.S. Communications
Facilities in Morocco

You may have seen the telegram at Tab B reporting the King of Morocco's desire to discuss the status of the U.S. communications facility at Kenitra (Morocco) with a Presidential emissary.

As you know, King Hassan has a distressing penchant for emissaries, but in this case he has more reason than usual. The presence of our communications facilities--naval [REDACTED]--is based only on an oral understanding between him and President Kennedy in 1963. When our SAC bases there were closed, these facilities stayed on under the Moroccan flag and training activities for Moroccans are conducted there.

As a result of news stories coming out of the Symington Subcommittee, this has again blown up as a public issue in Morocco. The King's opposition has charged the King with allowing a U.S. "base" on Moroccan soil. Disturbed by this, the King has asked for an emissary (a) to review the implications of the continued existence of these bases and (b) to assure him that they are indeed communications facilities and not operational bases.

The logical course of action would be:

- to complete our own review (underway) of the need for these facilities;
- to discuss our conclusions with the Moroccan technical level;
- to ratify new arrangements at the top.

Ambassador Rockwell proposed this procedure, but the King still feels he would like to see an emissary.

[REDACTED]

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In this case, I would be inclined to go along since there is one possible emissary who would make a lot of sense. Robert Murphy not only has a longstanding association with the King [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] One of the issues here will be what price the U. S. will be prepared to pay Hassan in military assistance (from a depleted African budget) in return for continuation at Kenitra.

The telegram at Tab A, therefore, says we are prepared to send an emissary in two or three weeks, as soon as the latest round of publicity on the issue has died down.

While I would normally try to turn this off, I think we might as well respond promptly and get this issue settled. Otherwise, this problem will still be hanging around to confront the President when Hassan makes his official visit in March (assuming the President approves the proposed visit list).

RECOMMENDATION: That you authorize clearance of the telegram at Tab A.

Approve *RM*

Other _____