



[REDACTED] -- 2

--Murphy was hopeful the King would be more specific as to his wants -- he went only so far as to say he would send an emissary to Washington and, of course, discuss the matter with the President himself -- and the King was equally disappointed that Murphy had nothing substantial to say on the matter of "counterpart."

--Murphy also came away with the impression that the hasty American departure from Wheelus came as somewhat of a surprise to the Moroccans.

There is nothing you need to do about this at the moment. Here is what is in train:

1. I have told State to get this settled before King Hassan comes on his visit in March. We probably cannot prevent his raising the subject with the President because he remembers bargaining personally with President Kennedy for more aid in return for allowing us to stay at Kenitra when our SAC bases closed in 1963. Nevertheless, I have told State I did not think President Nixon would want to get into that and thought he would prefer this issue to be settled.
2. The military [REDACTED] have just finished their study of how badly they want to retain these facilities. Their study will be the subject of IG study very shortly. At that point, I shall discuss with you what the options look like and how you might wish to involve yourself.

[REDACTED]