



Director of  
Central  
Intelligence

~~Top Secret~~

~~NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-  
DISCON~~

b (3)

(M)

# National Intelligence Daily

Tuesday  
17 May 1988

b (3)

~~Top Secret~~

~~17 May 1988~~

b (3)

Approved for Release  
Date JUN 1999

1 2 3 2

293

b (3)

MOROCCO-  
ALGERIA:

Diplomatic Ties Renewed

*The restoration of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria after a 12-year hiatus improves the atmosphere for the Arab summit early next month as well as long-term chances for a negotiated settlement of the Western Sahara dispute.*

b (3)

The announcement yesterday followed the visit of two Moroccan envoys with President Bendjedid in Algiers on Sunday and discussions between a senior Algerian official and King Hassan in Rabat last Thursday. Bilateral contacts have increased since Hassan met Bendjedid a year ago, and fighting between the Algerian-backed Polisario Front-guerrillas and Moroccan troops in Western Sahara has been at a low level this year.

b (3)

b1  
b3

[REDACTED]

b (1) b (3)

in the near term, both sides probably will focus on resolving less contentious bilateral issues, such as the demarcation of their border, an exchange of prisoners, and an expansion of trade.

b (3)

Rabat severed relations in 1976 after Algeria recognized the Polisario government-in-exile. Previous overtures to restore ties have met with demands by Bendjedid that Morocco compromise its unconditional absorption of Western Sahara and grant limited autonomy to the native Sahrawis.

b (3)

b (3)

Bendjedid's more flexible attitude now probably stems from his frustration over the Polisario's inability to achieve a military victory and from a desire to persuade Hassan to attend the special Arab League summit in Algiers on 7 June. Bendjedid may believe diplomatic relations offer the best chance for Moroccan concessions, given the dim outlook for UN mediation and his failure over the past year to create a treaty alliance with Libya, Tunisia, and Mauritania that would exclude Morocco.

b (3)

[REDACTED]

b (1) b (3)

b (3)

1 2 4 0