



أصدقاء المغرب

FRIENDS OF MOROCCO

JUNE 1989

MOROCCO UPDATE

Leaders of five North African nations -- Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania -- officially declared the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) on February 17 in Marrakech. Though some observers are skeptical because of the failure of a number of Arab unions in the past, many consider the new Moroccan-Algerian rapprochement to be a solid foundation for this initiative (see "Morocco File" inside). Ratification of the treaty is expected within six months, but it may be much longer before the impact of the Marrakech agreement can be assessed.

The UMA will have been led by a consensual Presidential Council, composed of the heads of state of the five nations, which will meet every six months. King Hassan II will be the first head of the Presidential Council. The UMA will also have a Council of Foreign Ministers, a General Secretariat, a Court with two justices from each member country, and a consultative body composed of ten representatives from each national legislature.

The treaty envisages economic, commercial, and social development through joint projects. In the cultural arena, the Marrakech treaty aims at cooperation to upgrade education, to preserve spiritual and moral values, and to safeguard Arab identity.

The UMA was formed at the very moment that another regional entity was being established: the Arab Cooperation Council, consisting of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and North Yemen. Both new bodies are to

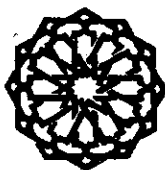
some extent modeled on the successful eight-year-old Gulf Cooperation Council. Members of the UMA have expressed interest in organizational cooperation with other regional groupings, particularly in the Arab World and Africa.

Analysts have likened the agreement to a "North African Common Market," noting the complementarity of the economies of the nations. Indeed, many compare the recent rapprochement between Morocco and Algeria to that between de Gaulle's France and Adenauer's Germany, which in the 1950's paved the way for the European Economic Community. Moreover, it was in part the EEC's plans for a unified European market after 1992 that motivated the North Africans to come together, since more than two thirds of Maghreb exports are currently directed toward EEC members.

When asked whether the heads of the member states had reached any precise formula at the summit to deal with the Sahara issue, King Hassan replied that the idea of creating the Arab Maghreb Union is not new, and that "ephemeral events" do not have any impact on the Maghreb.

NEW MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR

Friends of Morocco extends its welcome to the new Moroccan Ambassador to the United States, Ali Benjelloun, who recently replaced the departing M'hamed Bargach. Mr. Benjelloun is no newcomer to the Washington diplomatic scene, though, as he has twice before been Ambassador, from 1962 to 1965 and 1977 to 1984. He thus presided over the entry of Peace Corps into Morocco. Mr. Benjelloun was welcomed with his French-born wife, Jackie, to his new assignment by President Bush on March 6.



PLAN NOW TO ATTEND IJTIMAA '89!

Mark the second weekend of November on your calendar! Friends of Morocco annual membership meeting this year will be held in wild and windy Chicago, on November 11. Friday is a legal holiday, so make a weekend of it! We want to bring together all the Midwestern MRPCVs with those from both coasts and in between, as well as to connect with the Moroccan and Muslim communities in Chicago, which is, after all, Sister City to Casablanca.

We'll be inviting Moroccan residents of Chicago as well as several leaders from Chicago's Muslim organizations. We'll gather for most of a day to meet in the city's elegant and central Cultural Center, to talk, hear several speakers, and socialize. You'll be on your own to explore the city and to organize impromptu heflas. Chicago area Morocco RPCVs can offer some free housing in their homes (first come, first serve), and two hotels in the Loop - the Allerton and the Blackstone -- are handy, reasonable, and ready to welcome FOM members. We'll present our annual Special Friend of Morocco award at the meeting, too -- your nominations are encouraged.

IJTIMAA 89 will take place on Saturday, November 11, at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, at 78 East Washington Street (at Michigan Avenue, across from Grant Park). The agenda includes meetings of the Board and the general membership, as well as speakers on the theme of American/Islamic Community Relations. There will be plenty of refreshments and drink, Moroccan style. A small registration fee will cover costs of food, paper, room rental, etc. Registration materials will appear in the August newsletter.

Valerie Staats, Dar l'Baida 83-85
Ijtima 89 Coordinator

REUNIONS AND GATHERINGS

Interested in arranging a reunion of your stage or an MRPCV get-together in your area? FOM can help -- write our DC post office box or call at 203/454-1067.

FOM in Washington, D.C. hosted a spring social April 15 for RPCVs of the Arab World which was attended by about 60 persons. RPCVs, in addition to Morocco RPCVs, from Tunisia, Mauritania, Yemen, Oman and Iran attended. The potluck contributions were terrific.



RETURN TO MOROCCO

John "Jacques" van der Water (Art education/Rabat & Fez, 64-66), whose efforts have kept the first six Morocco Peace Corps training groups in touch over the years, has agreed to put together FOM's 1989 trip to Morocco. John's enthusiasm and flair are sure to make this a memorable return.

In order to plan well for the trip, and to enjoy the cooler fall weather, we have decided to make the trip approximately September 26 - October 10, rather than May or August as we'd suggested. This should facilitate the PC/Rabat briefing we're arranging, as well as site visits to current Peace Corps projects. More than a week will be left free for you to go off on your own, or to accompany John on the trip to the Valley of the Dades that he's putting together.

Round trip airfare, JFK-Casa-JFK, will cost around \$619. We will have further details on Rabat accommodations and trip itinerary in the next newsletter. In the meantime, please fill out the form below and sign up! If you have questions, John can be reached at 916/448-6535.

Mail this form to:

John van der Water, Morocco Trip,
2229 "O" Street, Sacramento CA 95816

Jacques! Please send me information on the FOM Charter Trip to Morocco(9/26-10/10/89)

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home phone: () _____

Work phone: () _____

Number in your party: _____

NCRPCV CONFERENCE AT KENT STATE

All are welcome to join the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (NCRPCV) at its Tenth Annual Conference at Kent State University in Ohio on July 21, 22, and 23. Events will include workshops and panel discussions, an international fair and a career fair, an RPCV art show, and speakers of international and national prominence, including Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste, a former Peace Corps Director. FOM plans to have its July Board meeting at the conference, and we're looking into setting up an event for MRPCVs on Friday, July 21. FOM is now an affiliated RPCV group with the National Council and, of course, among the most active. We look forward to flying our flag.

Daycare, inexpensive dorm housing, and special air and car rental rates are all available (travel arrangements are being coordinated by MRPCV Gaye Laurrell at Fisher Travel, 1-800/541-8031). Registration is \$75. For further information, contact Fiji RPCV Steve Frye at 216/991-3798 or PO Box 1184, Cleveland, OH 44120. Last year's event at Boulder was a blast...yallah, ajil!

LORET RUPPE MESSAGE TO FOM

Outgoing Peace Corps Director, Loret Ruppe, in a letter to RPCV groups said the following to FOM et al. As I leave the Peace Corps, and what I have always said is the "best job in Washington" -- that of the Peace Corps Director -- I wanted to write to all of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer organizations who have been so helpful to me in recent years. Your work and your support has been essential in building public awareness and support, in helping attract skilled and dedicated volunteers, and working ever more effectively toward meeting the third goal of the Peace Corps, that of global education at home.

She goes on to introduce the new Peace Corps Director, Paul Coverdell and points out the President and Mrs. Bush have had the opportunity to have personally visit with Peace Corps Volunteers in more than twenty countries. Coverdell is a Georgia State Senator, President of an insurance firm, Coverdell and Company, and was Chairman of the Southern Steering Committee for George Bush for President. He has recently been confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

For further details, call Peace Corps Public Affairs at 1-800/424-8580.

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ASH KHABARNA?

Representative Connie Morella of Maryland has asked RPCVs to support her "Peace Corps Volunteer Education Demonstration Program Act" (H.R.985) by writing to their Congressional representatives. The bill would provide \$5 million for the first year of a five-year program modeled on ROTC (which has a \$500 million annual budget). The federal government would pay the education costs for qualified undergrad Peace Corps candidates during their last two years in school. The students would study the language, culture, and history of the nation in which they would serve, as well as subjects like agriculture and economic development. After graduating, they would serve three years in the Peace Corps. For further details, please call Rep. Morella's office at 202/235-5341.

A Nepal RPCV, Will Newman, wrote to FOM urging RPCVs to take note of an Administration proposal to cut the US contribution to UNICEF by 45%. Members of Congress and UNICEF officials vowed to fight the move; in a report issued in December, UNICEF warned that its programs cannot keep up with worsening economic conditions in the Third World which it said resulted in the deaths of 500,000 children last year.

Jerry Bookin-Weiner (71-73, TEFL/Rabat-Sale) has been awarded a Fulbright grant to conduct research in Morocco. He will be revising his dissertation, on the 17th century corsairs, for publication. Jerry has also received a Department of Education grant to take Boston area college and university faculty to Morocco for six weeks in the summer of 1990.

MRPCV Dan Walsh wrote to FOM about his concerns about the high levels of lead in Moroccan pottery, noting that glazing compounds can pose a serious public health hazard. He suggests that FOM or Peace Corps test pieces for "leachable lead." How about it, all you '60s LabTech RPCVs -- still ready for a challenge?

The "Ash Khabarna" column is hungry for news and inquiries about Morocco and RPCVs. Write to us at PO Box 21773, Washington DC 2000 9.

LETTERS ETC

Dear Friends:

I am a former Deputy Director of Peace Corps/Morocco (1967), and am currently the Executive Secretary of the Moroccan-American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE), often called the Fulbright Commission. MACECE shares with FOM the goal of promoting better understanding of Morocco and Moroccans on the part of Americans (and vice versa). MACECE would therefore welcome opportunities to "network" with FOM. MACECE administers exchange programs of students, teachers, and academic researchers between the two countries. Some of the American scholars who come to Morocco are former PCVs. Moroccan scholars going to the US might welcome contact with FOM members, and this would give MRPCVs a chance to polish rusty language skills and catch up on Moroccan events.

MACECE puts out an occasional newsletter and would like to include items related to scholarly exchange, books and articles about Morocco, etc. Anyone wanting to get on the mailing list or propose something for publication should write to the Commission at 3, rue Tiddas, Rabat (212-7-64109). Even apart from the newsletter, MACECE would be glad to hear from FOM members.

With best wishes,
Edward H. Thomas

Dear FOM:

I really appreciate the time, energy, and work invested to create FOM and its first Conference; for that you deserve great credit. The goals of the first conference seemed to be a reasonable attempt to pull together, summarize, and move forward the goals of the organization.

In general, though, since the Conference emphasized the wonderful side of Morocco (the hospitality, the meals, the friendship), troubling issues -- such as anti-Arab bias in the media and the US political system -- were left aside. I think an effective contribution which would help all Arabs as well as Moroccans would be for FOM members to get American audiences involved in the US political system to counteract bias and pressure against Arabs and "pro-Arab views."

This kind of pressure and bias does more to destroy friendly relations between Americans and Arabs than not knowing where Morocco is or what it is like as a country. Maybe some first steps would be a column in the newsletter about troubling incidents we have encountered, a reading list on the issue, and suggestions on ways we might respond as individuals.

Kinza Schuyler
Chapel Hill, NC

{Ed. note: Kinza has raised an important point. One organization active in this field is the Arab Anti-discrimination council, 4201 Conn. Ave. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009. Telephone number is 202 244 2990.}

Messieurs:

C'est par l'intermediaire d'un ami Americain que j'ai eu vent de votre association. Aujourd'hui en apprenant votre existence, je vo udrais que vous m'aidez a renouveler le contact avec d'un tres bon ami Americain, M. Mark Bonham. Ce serait pour moi un grand jour de retrouver ce grand ami, et si je peux etre utile a l'association FRIENDS OF MOROCCO, je serais a votre entiere disposition.

El Wouihrani Salah
BP 17 El-Attaouia
El Kelaa des Sraghna, MOROCCO

[Ed. note: FOM has no info on the whereabouts of Mark, except that he was a Volunteer in the late 60s and once lived in Oregon. Perhaps one of you could help him and Salah get back in touch.]

OTHER NEWSLETTERS OF INTEREST

Interested MRPCVs can get a free subscription to the Moroccan Embassy's "Morocco News Summary" by sending their name and address to Press and Information Section, Embassy of Morocco, 1601 21st Street NW, Washington DC 20009.

The Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) of Georgetown University, Washington DC 20057, also offers a newsletter, called CCAS News. Write or call 202/687-5793 to get on their mailing list.



RPCV SCHOLARSHIP

In recognition of the continuing efforts of RPCVs in the public and non-profit sectors, New York University's Grad School of Public Administration is making RPCV scholarships available for part and full time study. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have successfully completed 2 years of PC service, and their COS date should be no more than 3 years prior to application date. Along with the standard NYU-GSPA application form, submit a brief statement indicating how the PCV experience has influenced your career objectives. Deadlines are June 1 for Fall and October 1 for Spring. For further information and an application contact Joan Chipkin (RPCV/Philippines), NYU-GPA, 40 W. 4th Street, New York NY 10003 (212/998-7454).

MOROCCO FILE

(To get a copy of any of the following articles, please send a SASE with sufficient postage to Morocco File, Friends of Morocco, Box 21773, Washington, D.C. 20009.)

Barnford, David, "The Maghreb: the dream comes true?" Middle East International, March 3, 1989, pp14-15. Maghreb union discussed.

Buchet, Jean-Louis, "Sahara: le fond et la forme," Jeune Afrique, 1463: January 18, 1989, pp30-31. Speculation on the fate of the Sahara conflict.

Bekkhar, Fatima, "Morocco's Koranic Schools," ICRC Reports, January 1988, p11.
Cowell, Alan, "Jews in an Arab land: Morocco's rare amity," New York Times, February 19, 1989.

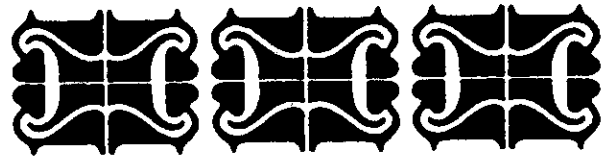
Dahmani, Abdelaziz, "Festival: La resurrection d'Asilah," Jeune Afrique, 1448: October 5, 1988. Cultural festival's rise.

Darwish, Adel, and Pat Lancaster, "The new Arab woman: fact or fantasy?" Middle East Magazine, February 1989, pp5-10.

Duran, Khalid, "Auf wiedersehen, habibi," Middle East Magazine, April 1989, 49-50. Successful integration of Moroccans in Germany.

George, Alan, "There's no business like show business," Middle East Magazine, February 89, p19. 12/89 Franco-African summit in Casa

Ghiles, Frances, "The Maghreb tugs at Western Europe's sleeve," Financial Times, February 14, 1989. North Africa and the EEC.



Hanley, Mary Lynn, "Ancient enemy, new threat," Cooperation South, January 1989, pp5-9. UNDP report on the locust crisis.

Heinrich, Lothar, "Edging slowly towards peace," Middle East Magazine, April 1989, p21. Breakthrough in Sahara conflict?

Kerdellant, Christine, "Maroc '2M' démarre le 4 mars," Jeune Afrique, 1467: February 15, 1989, pp33-34. Morocco's plans to have the first African or Arab private TV station.

Marks, Jon, "New era for North Africa," Middle East Economic Digest, February 3, 1989, pp2-4. Prospects for Maghreb economic unity.

Mernissi, Fatima, "Benazir n'est pas la premiere," Jeune Afrique, 1467: February 15, 1989, p57. Women leaders in Islam's past.

Moffett, George, "Morocco winning hearts and minds," Christian Science Monitor, April 12, p3. Liberal spending in the Sahara.

"A new chance to put couscous on the table," The Economist, December 10, 1988, pp15-18. An overview of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia at the outset of 1989.

Parmelee, Jennifer, "New North Africa pact seen as step to stability," Washington Post, February 25, 1989. Describes declaration of Arab Maghreb Union, a "North African Common Market."

Smith, Maureen, "Minnesota in Morocco," University of Minnesota Update, August 1988, pp1-3. Interesting article about an 18-year-old partnership between UM and Moroccan agriculture schools.

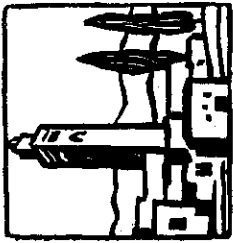
Soudan, Francois, "Sahara: est-ce la fin du Polisario?" Jeune Afrique, 1445: September 14, 1988, pp22-25.

Soudan, Francois, "Peut-on oublier le Sahara?" Jeune Afrique, 1468: February 22, 1989, 28-31. Normalization of Moroccan-Algerian relations.

Soudan, Francois, "Grand Maghreb: une etape decisive," Jeune Afrique, 1467: February 15, 1989, pp13-14. Rabat/Algiers entente could cement Maghreb unity.

أصدقاء المغرب

FRIENDS OF MOROCCO
Box 21773
Washington DC 20009



PLEASE NOTE: Before filling out this form yourself, consider xeroxing a few copies to pass on to others. Though most of our members are former Peace Corps Volunteers, our aim is to reach out to all persons with an interest in the people, culture, and development of Morocco.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #s: Home: () _____ Work: () _____
Current Occupation: _____
Employer/School: _____

WORK EXPERIENCE IN MOROCCO (PCVs: list Peace Corps job; Academics: list field & research topics; Moroccans: list profession/study, etc):

Yrs in Morocco: 19__ to 19__ Site/Hometown: _____

AREAS OF INTEREST: Please check those potential FOM activities which you would be most interested in:

- Newsletter ReUnions/Gatherings
- Trips to Morocco Development Education
- Hospitality Speakers' Bureau
- Fundraising Putting RPCVs/Moroccans back in touch
- Local FOM chapter Career & Readjustment Services
- Recruiting PCVs Other: _____

For Returned Peace Corps Volunteers: Would you consent to our passing your name on the National Council of RPCVs so that they can update their data on all RPCVs? If so, please check YES. Note that this does not obligate you to join NCRPCV.

YES ___ NO ___ Not an RPCV ___

Membership dues are \$15 annually, covering the period October 1 - September 30 (dues paid in July, August, or September cover the following dues year). All members will receive FOM's quarterly newsletter and our nationwide directory of members and RPCVs who served in Morocco. Make checks payable to "Friends of Morocco." Additional donations to help the cause are gratefully accepted.

Amount enclosed: _____ Date: _____

1) Briefly, what have you done since leaving Peace Corps?

2) What projects or programs, in Morocco or in the United States, would you like to see Friends of Morocco get involved in?

3) What sorts of news and features would you like from the Friends of Morocco newsletter?

4) List any RPCVs or staff you would like to get back in touch with. Any information you can remember would be helpful, including their training date, dates of service, sites, and the last address you have for them.

The information collected on this form will be used by FOM and will be made available only to those organizations whose purposes are consistent with the aims of FOM. It will not be sold or traded for commercial purposes. It will be used in the FOM directory unless you state otherwise.

1989-91 PCVS' PROFILE

The twenty-seventh year of Peace Corps in Morocco will get underway with the 1989 summer stage, to be directed by FOM's former newsletter editor, Melanie Wilhelm. In the education and social services sectors, 52 trainees will arrive in Morocco on June 24: 33 in TEFL (10 of whom are destined for lycees, 8 for universities, and 15 teachers of "English for special purposes," or ESP), 5 trainees in blind mobility, 10 in health/sanitation extension, and 4 lab tech trainees. An additional 27 ag and social services trainees will arrive in July, including 10 in special and deaf education, 8 in rural water, and 9 in crop extension and farm mechanics.

Sixty-one Volunteers will be leaving Morocco this summer. Most are in their mid-twenties, but eight are over forty, including two married couples. Some of the COSing Volunteers will be bringing back Moroccan spouses. FOM extends them a hearty welcome to RPCV-dom, and urges them to get in touch!

Financial Overview

With an expected year end total on member numbers of 380, FOM is operating on a budget this year of about \$5300.00. The 1989 budget allocations are as follows:

Newsletter	\$1600.00
Directory	1500.00
Scholarship Fund	1000.00
Local Chapter Expenses	400.00
Itjmaa 89	400.00
Administrative Expenses	400.00
	\$5300.00

Four issues of the newsletter will be produced, 400 copies of the directory will also be produced. Local chapters can be reimbursed for expenses up to \$2.00 per member. The annual meeting Itjmaa 89 is expected to be break-even with the \$400.00 start up cost reimbursed at the end.

FOM on April 1, 1989 has a net balance of \$4,823.87. Since we opened our account in May, 1988 our total income has been \$10,169 with \$5,265 from dues, \$2,545 from Itjmaa, \$1,330 from T-shirt and poster sales, and \$1,029 from donations. Expenses totaling \$5,345.13 have included \$2,384.04 for Itjmaa, \$1,428.63 for the Newsletter, \$1,011.32 for T-shirt and poster purchase, \$200.00 for the Ray Kruger Memorial Donation, and \$321.41 for administrative expenses. Full financial statements are available upon request.

PEN PALS

MRPCV teachers take note: a number of current PCVs have written to FOM asking us to help them find pen pals for their students. While it may be too late to get started for the current year, it's not too early to plan for next year.

If you are a teacher or know one who would be interested in working a pen pal program into the 1989-90 lesson plans, please write to Morocco's PCVs care of Education APCD Kerry McCollum (US Embassy/Peace Corps, APO New York NY 09284). Describe how old your students are, what their interests are, and how you'd like to work the correspondence into your teaching, etc.

Remember that most Moroccan students who know enough English to write good letters will be in their late teens or older. One alternate idea that has been suggested is that American teachers of French should have their students correspond with Moroccan students of English, each writing in their native language. This gives each side an opportunity to express itself clearly and well, and also a good slice of life in a foreign language.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

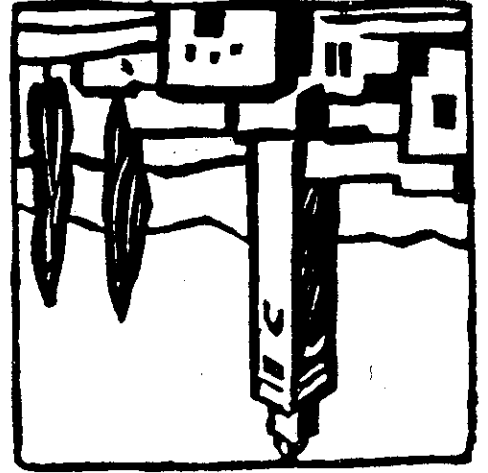
Contributions beyond Membership Fees
As of 4/15/89

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Bob Brown	John Paulas
David Burgess	Paul Pedersen
John Clapp	Maggie Seikaly
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Friends of Morocco Newsletter

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Peter Laugharn
Julie Dargis
Tim Resch
Valerie Staats
Polly Scoville

FRIENDS OF MOROCCO



Friends of Morocco is published quarterly by the Friends of Morocco and circulated to their members and other interested parties. The organization was formed in 1988 to reunite Peace Corps Volunteers who have served in Morocco, to inform members about current events and conditions in Morocco, to promote a better understanding of Morocco and Moroccans on the part of Americans, and to fund or otherwise support development activities in Morocco. Membership dues are \$15, covering the period October 1-September 30 (dues paid in July, August, and September cover the following dues year). It is governed by a nine-member national board. Mailing address: Friends of Morocco, PO Box 21773, Washington DC 20009. For further information, FOM's 1989 President, Peter Laugham, can be reached at 203/454-1067.

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