

NSC BRIEFING

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CURRENT SITUATION FRENCH MOROCCO

I. Worsening Indo-China situation affects

North Africa:

A. Most serious in French Morocco.

Nationalists will exert greater efforts obtain independence; French more determined than ever maintain hold.

II. Anti-US sentiment increasing:

A. Growing tendency nationalists to link US to French colonial policy, but

B. Terrorist attacks, though shifted to French, not yet directed US airbases or Americans.

III. Anti-French Terrorism:

A. No let-up eight months despite vigorous French counter action.

1. Assassination, bombings, arson, railroad and communications sabotage.

2. Average one attack daily.

B. Recent shift attacks:

1. From pro-French Moroccans to French

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2. From urban to rural areas.

C. French relying strong police action.

D. Reinforced by new passive resistance  
movement:

1. Began April as show of nationalist  
strength, but has economic overtones.

2. Aimed French monopolies; bans on  
tobacco, bread; expected extend milk  
and sugar. Women required wear garb  
lesser yardage.

3. Ban Moroccans use of modern machinery  
on penalty crops burned.

4. Response immediate in Casablanca;  
spread Rabat, Tangier.

IV. Basis anti-French resistance:

A. Incompatibility nationalist desire  
independence with French determination  
maintain perhaps expand control.

B. Erupted Aug 1953 with deposition of  
popular pro-nationalist sultan.

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C. French "reforms", opposed by ex-sultan  
approved by successor.

1. Strip sultanate remaining power.
2. Extend French control.

V. Prospects not good:

A. French lost contact friendly elements.

Formerly pro-French Moroccans are now  
critical of French policy.

B. Positions hardened both sides. Mutual  
distrust. Nationalists sceptical any  
concessions by French.

C. Nationalists probably not settle short  
public promise independence with definite  
timetable and immediate steps autonomy.  
Change of sultans alone not enough.

D. French probably unable make real  
concessions: Prestige factors; strategic  
values, including source manpower.  
Strong opposition any concessions from  
small but influential local French  
community.

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