



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

October 21, 1981

I-14385/81

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with French Defense Aide

On 20 October, I met with Mr. Heisborg, aide to Defense Minister Hernu. He had two interesting things to say:

1. Habre should be cut off from all external aid because he was "complicating" the French plan to have Goukouni force the Libyans to leave Chad. He was vague in terms of the leverage which would enable Goukouni to do this. He was definite in opposition to Habre.

2. He said Mitterand had decided on a policy of "even-handedness" between Algeria and Morocco. He therefore would not comment on the Polisario issue or the recent Polisario attack, except to say his intelligence reports were that SA-7s, not SA-6s, shot down the Moroccan planes. Our intelligence is firm in identifying the SA-6. He said France would not respond to any Moroccan request for arms because Morocco was two years in arrears in payments for equipment.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Francis J. West, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Francis J. West, Jr.

cc: Deputy Secretary of Defense
Under Secretary of Defense (Policy)
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Director, DIA

Not referred to OSD. On-file release instructions apply.

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