

Morocco

King Hassan Hosts Knesset Members

Moroccan King Hassan sponsored a conference for Moroccan Jews on May 13-14 in which Zionist delegations from Europe, Canada, the US and 'Israel' participated. Forty Israelis arrived in Morocco including 11 Knesset members from the ruling Likud coalition, the Labor Alignment, and the Tami party. Israeli journalists and university professors also attended. Some members of the Israeli delegation were not Moroccan Jews.

What lies behind King Hassan's sponsorship of the conference has dangerous implications. Ostensibly, the conference was held to commemorate the Jewish philosopher Moses Ben Maimoneid. But statements made at the conference by Likud and Labor Knesset members and the character of the coverage given by the Israeli press indicate the over-riding political nature of the conference. The meeting coincided with the Israeli election campaign and is connected to the inclination of Arab reaction to pursue a capitulationist settlement of the Arabic-Israeli conflict at the expense of the Palestinian people. King Hassan's motivations in this have been very clear from the beginning. He has a long history of treacherous political stands and practices towards the national cause of the Arab people and in particular towards the people of Palestine.

At first sight, one might think Moroccan sponsorship of a Jewish conference with Israeli participation is normal and a step towards stemming Jewish-Arab hostility. Morocco itself has an indigenous Jewish community and sponsoring the conference might be seen as an attempt to organize the internal affairs of Moroccan Jews. Had this been the purpose of the conference, the whole undertaking would have been legitimate. But participation of the official Israeli delegation raises serious questions not the least of which is the histori-

cal problem of Zionists casting a shadow over the national loyalty of Moroccan Jews. Israeli participation in the conference made it appear that Moroccan Jews have more loyalty to 'Israel' than to their own country.

Although meetings between King Hassan and Zionist leaders are not new, this is the first time that he has officially and publicly received an Israeli delegation. In 1970, King Hassan met with Nahum Goldman, president of the World Jewish Congress. In 1969, he met with the current Israeli President, Chaim Herzog, who was then an army general sent on a secret mission to Morocco. In 1976, former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was indulged with a special Moroccan flight from Paris to meet with King Hassan.

King Hassan, the godfather of Camp David

King Hassan played an important role in the Camp David capitulation. In May 1977, Sadat met with King Hassan in Rabat after King Hassan had first conferred with Shimon Peres who was expected to win the upcoming Israeli elections. Peres lost the elections and instead Begin became prime minister. But Begin also did not hesitate in using King Hassan as an intermediary with Sadat. Upon coming to power, Begin sent information to Sadat through Has-

san alleging a Libyan conspiracy against Egypt. Sadat dispatched the head of the Egyptian military intelligence to Rabat to meet with the head of the Mossad. The result was Egyptian military attacks against Libya.

King Hassan received former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in September 1977 to prepare for Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem and the eventual signing of the Camp David capitulation. In Morocco, Dayan held direct negotiations with Sadat's special envoy, Hassan al-Tihani.

As a leader of Arab reaction and an agent of the CIA, King Hassan seeks to implement the policies of US imperialism and Zionism in the Arab region. Besides betraying Palestinian national rights, the Moroccan regime is involved in reactionary attacks against the Polisario National Front in the Western Sahara. There have been joint US-Moroccan military maneuvers on Moroccan soil. Hassan has attempted to join the forces of Zionism and Arab reaction under US hegemony. He advocates a policy of intermarriage between what he calls the Zionist «super-mind» and Arab money. Despite the aggressive and racist nature of Zionism, King Hassan would like to see the establishment of normal relations with 'Israel' at the expense of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. King Hassan's brand of mediation and indeed the Camp David accords themselves led to a new form of domination over the Egyptian people. Much the same results can be expected if this kind of 'mediation' succeeds in dragging some Palestinian elements into the swamp of negotiations with 'Israel'.

Behind the Moroccan Jewish conference is a larger aim. It is part of the preparations by Arab reaction to pursue the path of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict in line with US plans in the region. With elections this year in both Israel and the US, 1984 has been designated as a period for shuffling the cards and