

# Senegal, Tunisia Push Idea for French-Speaking Area

By ROBERT LEE

RABAT, Morocco—Over a glass of tonic water in an American-style bar, a Moroccan talked about the proposal of Presidents Leopold Senghor of Senegal and Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia for a French-speaking community of nations that they call the "francophonie."

"What would we want with the francophonie?" asked the Moroccan. "Ours is an Arabic, not a French, culture. We have the oldest Arabic university in the world, the Qaraouiyine, in Fez (founded in the 9th century). We have a language with a fantastically rich literature."

A SPOKESMAN for the Moroccan government made essentially the same point as an emissary of the Common Organization of African and Malgasy (OCAM) states, which endorsed the Senghor-Bourguiba proposal last month, arrived in Morocco to explain the idea to King Hassan II.

"I suppose some of these countries (the former French colonies that are members of OCAM) may be grateful to France for their existence as nations said the Moroccan. "Many are undoubtedly grateful to Gen. de Gaulle for their independence.

"There are no such feelings here. Morocco existed as a country 1,000 years before the French and regained her independence before the Gaullist era."

A 44-year French protectorate over Morocco ended in 1955, three years before De Gaulle was recalled to power.

IT SHOULD be noted that the Algerians, although they hold De Gaulle in high esteem for ending their eight-year war, rejected the francophonie idea as quickly as the Moroccans.

In Algeria, as in Morocco, French is officially a second language. Each of the OCAM states employs French as an official language to resolve the problem of a multiplicity of mother tongues, most of which are unwritten.

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Hassan Bourguiba  
Their proposal draws fire

out passing judgment on who had the leader of the Moroccan left kidnaped in Paris, Moroccans deeply resent De Gaulle's call for the resignation and arrest of their minister of the interior, Gen. Oufkir. This represented a reversion to protectorate

thinking on the part of the French, say the Moroccans.

IT IS GENERALLY assumed that the francophonie proposal flatters De Gaulle, since it would solidify the very kind of French cultural empire that his third-world policies are aimed at preserving.

French diplomats say planting such an idea would be all too obvious. They hint that French diplomacy is more subtle than that.

According to our Moroccan friend with the tonic water, it is. He finds it strange that the French have reacted so coolly to the francophonie proposal.

"If they really had no hand

in it," he said, "the most natural thing in the world would have been for them to embrace it right away."

ROBERT LEE is a Minneapolis Tribune staff writer on leave under a William P. Gray foreign correspondent fellowship.

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“You mean he has wine to sell.”

**EXACTLY.** He has some 2 million hectoliters (50 million gallons) stored a little of everywhere around the country.”

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Moroccans are less eager to go shake De Gaulle's hand right now in the wake of the Mehdi Ben Barka affair.

U.S. Expert 8-28-66

# Aids Morocco Poultry Plan

By ROBERT LEE

MEKNES, Morocco — A chicken's best friend in Morocco is a jolly giant of an American known to colleagues as Chicken Davis.

Calling him Chicken (his Christian name is Charles) does not ruffle Davis' feathers. He takes it as it is meant: a compliment on his success with poultry programs, first in Nigeria, where he picked up the name, and now in Morocco.

During 4½ years as a poultry adviser for the United States Agency for International Development (AID) in Nigeria, Davis succeeded in establishing an important poultry center in the Eastern Region of the country.

The Nigerian government was so grateful it pressed upon him a title that U.S. regulations would not permit him to accept: Commander of the Order of the Niger. He was able to accept a meritorious service award.

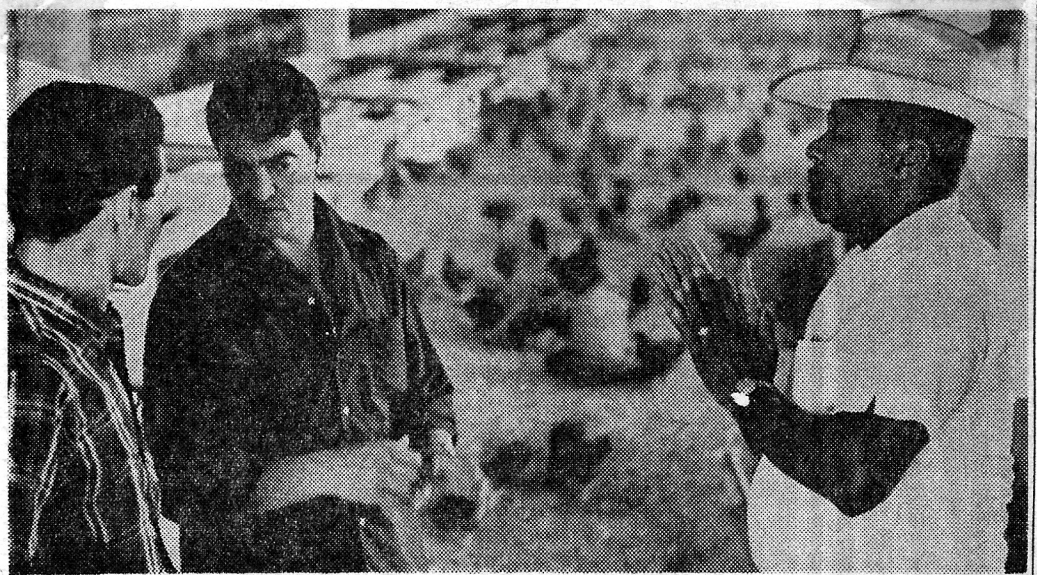
FOR MORE than a year he has been in Morocco trying to hatch a similar program.

Chickens and eggs are important sources of protein in the Moroccan diet. Chicken is often used in Moroccan stews, called tagines, and in couscous, a mixture of meat and vegetables over a granular wheat base. Nearly every restaurant displays chickens turning slowly on a rotisserie.

According to Davis, Morocco's 12 million inhabitants consumed 45,000 tons of poultry last year, or 7.7 pounds per person. Two million broilers were imported from France.

Moreover, people living in Moroccan cities ate an average of 80 eggs during the year, while the rural population consumed about 30 a person.

DAVIS IS concentrating his efforts on improving egg production. The Moroccan flock has deteriorated to the point where a hen lays only about 60 eggs a year. In the United States, a good bird



'CHICKEN' DAVIS AND LARBI CHELLAOUI, MOROCCAN ASSISTANT  
With Ministry of Agriculture employe, back to camera

## Davis

Continued From Page Five

hundred day-old Rhode Island Red chicks were flown here in June as a part of the U.S. program of economic assistance to Morocco. They are being raised at an experimental poultry station in Meknes, one of three equipped by AID at a cost of \$26,000.

Davis estimates that in the 12 months beginning in January these chickens will reproduce a total of 188,160 high quality chicks.

MANY OF these birds will be distributed directly to Moroccan farmers as day-old chicks. Others will be raised by an agricultural agency of the Moroccan government for distribution when they reach a month of age.

The emphasis will be on furnishing families with 50 pullets at a reasonable price.

If the hens eventually achieve 50 per cent production, this will give the family 25 eggs a day to eat or sell.

Four thousand more day-old chicks will be shipped from the United States in September to stock a poultry center at Oujda, near the Algerian border, and 2,440 turkeys will be sent to El Jadida on the coast, in January. These should reproduce 87,264 young turkeys in the first year.

Some 1,500 farmers have attended lectures on the proper handling of poultry given by Davis and his staff.

THERE ARE some problems with the poultry program. One is that the experimental centers were built, often badly, by the French during their 40-year protectorate over Morocco.

"I had the advantage in Nigeria of starting from the ground up," Davis says. Remodeling is frequently difficult.

Another problem is regulations and red tape of the Moroccan government. But Davis calls the co-operation he has received "fine" and says "it is going to get even better."

"The Moroccans have come to understand me and I have come to understand them," he says, breaking into one of these great, earthshaking laughs that leave one with little doubt that all will go well, if personal relationships are allowed to play their role.

Davis holds a master's degree in agriculture from Tuskegee Institute and taught in several American universities before joining AID in 1959. His home is in Greenville, Miss.

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# Morocco Offers the Delights of 3 Worlds as Tourist Bait

By ROBERT LEE

CASABLANCA, Morocco — The kingdom of Morocco hopes the lure of three worlds will bring a million tourists into the country in 1970.

In three years of concentrated effort at developing tourism, it is already half-way toward its goal. Some 452,000 tourists, including 36,000 Americans, visited Morocco in 1965, and this year's figure should be 20 per cent higher, a high official in the Moroccan Office of Tourism estimates.

The map shows Morocco as a cornerstone for the continent of Africa. But the people think of themselves as a part of the Arab world.

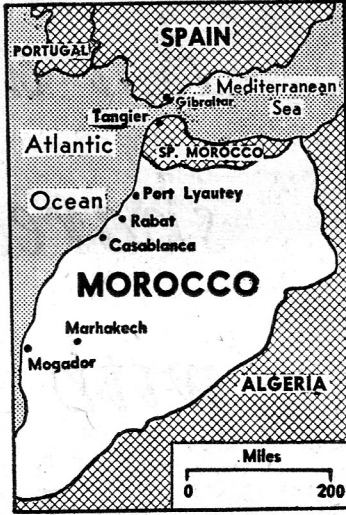
Tourism officials wish to convince potential visitors that they can see Arab culture in Africa, without knowing, from the standpoint of comfort, that they have left Europe. As an American diplomat put it: "Morocco is an easy way to take Africa."

**MOROCCANS** see no reason why they should not be able to entice more of the 15 million tourists who visit Spain every year to step across the Strait of Gibraltar. The chief obstacle, after the water, is the lack of hotel space, tourism officials say.

The Moroccan three-year plan for 1965-1967 calls for construction of 10,000 hotel rooms to bring the country's total to 23,000. The construction program started slowly but is now approximately on schedule.

Surprisingly, it is the African Morocco that is currently most difficult for tourists to discover. One must go south across the Atlas mountains and glimpse the Sahara to be certain which continent he is standing on. But summer temperatures frequently reach 115 degrees in this area.

Moroccans intend to remedy the problem by expanding and air-conditioning hotels at Erfoud, Zagora, Tinerhir and Ouarzazate. Swimming pools also are being added.



plement regular bus service to the south with special air-conditioned carriers for tourists. Continental Trailways, the American bus company, has been asked to study such a project.

The great imperial cities of Moroccan history and Arabic culture—Fez, Meknes, Rabat and Marrakech—already are served by comfortable trains and buses. Hotel accommodations in these cities range in price from \$4 or \$5 for double room with bath in a small hotel to two or three times that much for luxury quarters.

A 242-room Hilton Hotel is scheduled to open about the first of the year in Rabat, becoming the city's second American-managed hotel. Ramada International manages the Hotel de la Tour Hassan, a 200-room establishment decorated in traditional Moroccan style.

**ONE HOTEL**, the Hotel du Casino, recently has been completed and two others are planned in Marrakech. The three will provide the city with 370 more rooms. Marrakech is a favorite stop for tourists for its Berber actors, acrobats, singers and dancers, who fill the Place Jemaa el Fna every evening.

In Fez, a 135-room hotel with swimming pool is under construction on a hillside that overlooks the undulating old medina. It will be called the Hotel des Merinides after the dynasty that ruled Fez from the 13th to the 15th centuries.

is being expanded by 104 rooms.

Five miles from Fez, the ancient spring of Sidi Harazem is being transformed into a modern spa. The installations will include a hotel of 65 rooms, 70 apartments, public baths and a round swimming pool.

**DESPITE THESE** efforts to improve accommodations in the typically Arab and African sections of Morocco, tourism has been making its greatest strides in the most Europeanized area: the coast, stretching from Al Hoceima on the Mediterranean to Agadir far to the south on the Atlantic.

Gleaming new vacation complexes have been built at Al Hoceima and Restinga-Smir, between the Spanish enclave of Ceuta and Tetouan on the Mediterranean side. These centers, like the cities of Agadir and Tangiers, have been jammed with tourists in recent weeks.

Ramada International plans to build Motor Hotels in Tangiers, Agadir, Casablanca and five other Moroccan cities, and the Hotel Corporation of America has undertaken a feasibility study for a 300-room hotel in Casablanca.

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# Drought Deals Blow to Morocco

By ROBERT LEE

RABAT, Morocco — Drought is expected in Morocco every five years or so, but it always arrives unexpectedly. This year was a particularly awkward time.

Not that there is ever an appropriate moment for disaster. Farmers are never pleased to see their harvests fall off 40 per cent in a single year, as is the case in Morocco this year.

But the drought has occurred in a difficult period for the country's 37-year-old king, Hassan II. A year ago June he suspended the constitution to assume personal direction of the government. He has staked his personal prestige and that of the monarchy on economic expansion.

**THE EFFECTS** of the drought undoubtedly will be felt in every sector of the economy, which has been growing less rapidly than Morocco's population anyway.

Morocco's agricultural production has been static in the last few years while its population climbs at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In the region south and east of Marrakech, some farmers harvested no barley at all this year. Since they

**THEY MUST** sell. But with everyone selling at the same time, the price for sheep has fallen to a third of its normal level in that region.

The extreme northeastern area, in the vicinity of Taza and Oujda, also was hurt severely by lack of water. Some farmers there have only 5 per cent of a normal crop.

For the country as a whole, barley production is down about 60 per cent from last year and wheat output is off 35 to 40 per cent.

The resulting reduction in farmers' incomes will certainly cause them to cut back their consumption of manufactured goods. Industrial production is likely to taper off.

**IN THE LAST** year the King has carefully rebuilt the country's foreign exchange reserves from almost nothing — \$15 million — to more than \$80 million, which is still equivalent to the country's import needs for only seven or eight weeks. But these reserves certainly would have to be drawn down again if Morocco were forced to pay hard currency for all the grain it will need to import.

Foreign assistance is needed. The king has appealed to

deficit estimated at 1.4 million metric tons.

The appeal comes at an awkward time for the United States. American wheat stocks are the lowest since 1961.

**THE MAGHREB** drought has affected Algeria and Tunisia as well as Morocco. All three countries are, or probably will be, asking for increased U.S. assistance.

All already are receiving surplus food. Shipments to Morocco during the fiscal year that ended July 1 are valued at \$20 million, about half of which is repayable in hard or soft currency.

The U.S. ambassador to

Morocco, Henry Tasca, indicates that this amount will be increased but how much has not been determined.

"We will aid them," says Tasca, "but will tie our assistance into a constructive, broad, effective plan for modernizing the traditional sector of Moroccan agriculture.

"Our experts tell us this country could raise 300,000 or 400,000 more tons of grain a year, using modern methods, and I think this is conservative."

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# An Iowan Visits Africa

## Scattered Support for Francophonie

By ROBERT D. LEE



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"What would we want with the francophonie?" asked the Moroccan. "Ours is an Arabic, not a French, culture. We have the oldest Arabic university in the world, the Qaraouiyine, in Fez (founded in the ninth century). We have a language with a fantastically rich literature."

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"I am for learning languages," he continued in French. "I would learn Chinese if that seemed advantageous. But that doesn't change the fact that Morocco is an Arabic-speaking country."

A spokesman for the Moroccan government made essentially the same point as an emissary of the Common Organization of African and Malgasy (OCAM) states, which endorsed the Senghor-Bourguiba proposal last month, arrived in Morocco to explain the idea to King Hassan II.

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It should be noted that the Algerians, although they hold De Gaulle in high esteem for ending their eight-year war, rejected the francophonie idea as quickly as the Moroccans. This is one of the new issues on which Moroccans and Algerians agree at the moment.

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One might be tempted to make a rule if there were not the case of Tunisia, whose first language is Arabic but whose president is leading the fight for the francophonie.

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It is generally assumed that the francophonie proposal flatters De Gaulle, since it would solidify the very kind of French cultural empire that his third-world policies are aimed at preserving. In fact, the francophonie idea, which would include cultural and perhaps economic exchange among all French-speaking nations, fits so well into the Gaullist scheme of things that it is difficult to see how another mind could have conceived it.

At this point French diplo-