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أصدقاء المغرب

FRIENDS of MOROCCO

A Newsletter

August 1989

IJTIMAA '89 / CHICAGO

Did you know that Chicago and Casablanca are official Sister Cities? With that in mind, the Board of Directors of Friends of Morocco cordially invite all FOM members and interested others to attend our second annual reunion, *Ijtimaa '89*. The gathering will be held this year in Chicago all day Saturday, 11 November, at the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, right downtown.

Last year's premier *Ijtimaa* in Washington, DC, was a great success and attracted more than 100 attendees. To

better reach FOM's widely-scattered membership, and to fight the stereotype that many Friends-of RPCV groups hang out exclusively in our nation's capitol, the Board decided to move the annual reunion around the country each year, beginning with 1989 in the Midwest.

Conference coordinator Valerie Staats says that the agenda this year will be a good mix of work and fun, all relevant to our shared experiences living in Morocco. Plans for the day range from a keynote address by Dr. Ghuylam Aasi of the American Islamic College in

Chicago to the screening of a custom-made videomontage, *Made in the Maghreb*, with clips from Hollywood feature films produced in Morocco.

Short workshops, planned to be concrete working sessions in which you can actively participate, will be part of the day. Four workshops tentatively scheduled, based on input from members, are: *The International Sister City Relationships*; *Cross-Cultural Marriages (Bringing the World Back Home?)*; *Women in Development in Morocco*; and, *The Morocco File*.



Ijtimaa '89...

Collecting Resources for Sharing What You Know.

Friends of Morocco will also present its annual *Special Friend of Morocco Award* (your nominations are solicited), and hold a brief general business meeting for members to bring questions, ideas, and concerns to the fore. The 1989-90 Board of Directors of FOM will also be elected at this meeting. We want membership to be involved in programs and goal-setting as much as possible, so come and be heard.

Keynote speaker Dr. Ghulam Haider Aasi, a native of Pakistan, is Chair of Islamics and History of Religions at the American Islamic College in Chicago. He earned a PhD in the same field at Temple University. Dr. Aasi also serves as Director of the Islamic Foundation in Illinois, and as co-chair of the Conference for Improved Muslim-Christian Relations. He will speak on how FOM members might help raise awareness and mutual understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim communities, and Dr. Aasi will have plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Ijtimaa '89 will include the requisite *hefla kbira* on Saturday night (details still being worked out).

Suggestions no longer on the drawing



board have included a chartered, private ride on the Ravenswood "el" à la the film *Risky Business* (too expensive) and a group dining experience in a revolving, sky-high restaurant (Chicago doesn't have one). Likely finalists include ethnic food and music, heavy on the dancing. Keep Saturday night open!

FOM Board President Peter Laugharn reports that several members (probably DC residents) have grumbled about the date of the reunion, given its Chicago location and presumed chilly weather in November. First, November is *balmy* in the Windy City (compared to January-March), and second, we know you have experienced and *enjoyed* souk bus rides over snowy Tifeltout in the High Atlas on the road from Marrakech to Ouarzazate, or chilly nights in Ifrane, Morocco's answer to Switzerland. Finally, both the National Dairy and Food Industry and the Radiological Society of North America will have their annual reunions in Chicago that weekend. So if they can do it, you can do it!

Seriously, we hope you will attend *Ijtimaa '89*. The November weekend includes a federal holiday (Friday the 10th) and--based on last year's *Ijtimaa* evaluations--we've planned the weekend to

allow you plenty of time to explore and enjoy the city. Let's have a strong Midwest showing--Morocco RPCV contingents from Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois, you can carpool!--and a good turn-out topping last year's 100. Details about registering is being sent to you by a separate mailing and can also be found throughout this edition of the *Friends of Morocco Newsletter*. See you soon.

FOM Board of Directors



How To Register

You have already received or soon will receive a registration packet for *Ijtimaa '89*; if you want to register right this minute (and we welcome all comers), send a check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 (non-refundable), payable to *Friends of Morocco/Ijtimaa '89*, to:

Valerie Staats
2161 West Giddings
Chicago IL 60625

If you have any questions, please call Valerie in Chicago at 312/878-0235; there is an answering machine, and all calls will be returned.

About the Windy City

A complete registration packet with important details has been mailed to all Friends of Morocco members, separately from this newsletter. When you register, you will receive a confirmation kit with maps, etc...; in the meantime, here is a summary of your options:

ARRIVING: You can travel to Chicago in your car, or by air, train, or bus. Two airports, Midway and O'Hare, serve the city; you can get downtown from O'Hare for a \$1.00 CTA train ride which leaves from right inside the airport. From Midway, you must get downtown by taxi or via one of the several vans or busses to downtown hotels such as the Palmer House. Amtrak train service will deposit you at Union Station, just west of downtown, and Greyhound bus service takes you to the main terminal right downtown, just three blocks from the Cultural Center, site of *Ijtimaa '89*.

STAYING: Friends of Morocco has arranged for fifteen double rooms at each of two downtown hotels, both on Michigan Avenue and within pleasant walking distance of the Cultural Center and other Chicago amenities. (Several major conferences



Chicago Afternoon After Dark & After Ijtimaa '89

ENJOYING: Where can we start in describing things to do in Chicago on a weekend? For returned Peace Corps volunteers, the city will be a joy because of its amazing, growing international community, so easy to penetrate. You can speak your Peace Corps language here, even *dareja deal Maghreb!* You can eat el Salvadoran *pupusas*, stroll the streets of Pilsen and look at Mexican murals, or try one of over 45 Thai restaurants, to name a few.

Chicago is also famous for its music, especially jazz and blues, and clubs abound, from the Green Mill with its all-night jazz in the Uptown neighborhood, to the Checkerboard Lounge in Muddy Waters' Chicago-blues turf on the city's south side. Big league sports fans will be disappointed since the Bears play at Pittsburgh the weekend of *Ijtimaa '89*; museum hounds will be crazed with choices to make. Here are some of the more detailed descriptions of some of the things that will be going on the weekend of *Ijtimaa '89*.

"Traveling the Pacific" FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

On November 11th, Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History will launch "Traveling the Pacific," an extraordinary permanent exhibit on the exotic, vast region of the Pacific islands. It will be the most comprehensive exhibit on Pacific history and cultures ever developed by a museum. Visitors to "Traveling the Pacific" will learn about the environments and peoples of the Pacific Islands through outstanding artifacts from Field Museum's world-class oceanic collections and the dramatic re-created island locales of Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, Papua & New Guinea, and Tahiti.

The Pacific islands exhibit will introduce visitors to the powerful geologic and environmental forces of the Pacific regions--forces that led to the creation of exotically beautiful island environments. The exhibit traces the journeys of plants, animals, and humans as they traveled across the ocean to populate, then survive in these far-flung ocean lands.

"Traveling the Pacific" focuses on six subjects: orientation to the Pacific, volcanism and island formation, natural setting, navigation and shipbuilding, village life, and economy and the marketplace. Visitors will learn about these topics as they "travel" to re-created islands and encounter, for example, the extremely rare *spirit canoe*, a walk-through New Guinea village, and a modern-day Tahitian market.

The Field Museum of Natural History, one Chicago's finest cultural landmarks, is an easy walk, bus ride, or taxi trip from downtown Chicago, located on Lake Shore Drive near Soldier Field and Shedd Aquarium. Admission to "Traveling the Pacific" is free with regular admission to the Museum: \$3 for adults, \$2 for children and seniors. The Field Museum is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; call 312/922-9410 for more information.

Unique in the Western Hemisphere AMERICAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE

Dr. Ghulum Aasi, keynote speaker for *Ijtimaa '89*, is a faculty member of the American Islamic College (AIC) in Chicago. AIC is a private, four-year college granting bachelor of arts degrees in Islamic Studies or Arabic Studies. Students can major or minor in either subject and may also minor in median studies. It is located on Chicago's north side in the Wrigleyville neighborhood, at 640 West Irving Park Road.

American Islamic College is the only Islamic institution in the Western Hemisphere which brings together the religious spirit of Islam with scholarly training in the humanities, science, and the social sciences. Their mission is "to build bridges of mutual understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims through education."

In the early 1970s, a number of Muslim professionals and organizations conducted a study on the feasibility of an Islamic college, and eventually their efforts resulted in the founding of AIC in 1981; the first students were admitted in 1983. Six faculty currently teach 35 students, two-thirds of whom are U.S. citizens and one third of whom are foreign students, mainly from Africa and the Middle East. For more information, call or write the American Islamic College at 640 West Irving Park Road, Chicago IL 60613; telephone 312/281-4700.

Windy City...

in the city the same weekend have filled the largest hotels). You must make your own reservations, and each hotel has a cut-off date after which they will not hold the rooms for Friends of Morocco.

The Blackstone Hotel, at 636 South Michigan Avenue, offers double rooms at \$77.55 per night, all taxes included; the rate also includes a continental breakfast and a free cocktail. The Blackstone is a vintage hotel, across from Grant Park, and home to one of Chicago's best-known jazz clubs, Joe Segal's Jazz Showcase. To make reservations, call 312/427-4300 and mention Friends of Morocco; reservations must be made by October 20th.

The Allerton Hotel, at 701 North Michigan Avenue, has double rooms for \$73.95, all taxes included. Also a vintage hotel, the Allerton has one of Chicago's finest (and most high-priced!) French restaurants, L'Escargot; it is also within easy walking distance of the Peace Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Terra Museum of American Art, to name a few. To make reservations, call toll-free 800/621-8311 (outside Illinois), or 800/572-7839 (inside Illinois); rooms will be held for Friends of Morocco until October 10th.



After Dark...

Saint-Saens' "Samson et Dalila"
LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO

The famous Lyric Opera of Chicago, together with the San Francisco Opera Association, will stage French composer Camille Saint-Saens' *Samson et Dalila* during the month of November, with a 2:00 matinee performance scheduled for Sunday, November 12th. The production, in French with projected English subtitles, will star Plácido Domingo as the religious Samson and Agnes Balta as the role of the seductive Dalila.

With sensuous music, the frenzied Philistine's bacchanal, and incredible stagecraft of the destruction scene, this opera production will be spectacular. Some performances are already sold out; for ticket information, please call or write the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Box 70199, Chicago IL 60673; telephone 312/332-2244.

Saved by the First Mayor Daley's Wife
CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY CULTURAL CENTER

Ijtima '89 will take place in the fourth floor meeting rooms of the lovely, restored Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, located on Michigan Avenue at Washington Street, right across from Grant Park. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Cultural Center was slated for demolition in the 1970s and was rescued by efforts begun by Mrs. Richard J. Daley and the Friends of the Chicago Public Library.

Originally the central branch of the Chicago Public Library, the building was rededicated in 1977 as the Cultural Center, and now houses excellent collections of literature, fine arts, musical scores and recordings, and foreign language books and periodicals, with materials in nearly 100 languages. The fourth floor houses an exhibit hall, and the Cultural Center also includes a theater, performance hall, and periodic art and photography exhibits on the ground floor.

The main art exhibit, running from September 30th through November 11th, the date of *Ijtima '89*, will be "Present at the Creation," a major show of six Chicago sculptors and their work from the 1970s and 1980s.

Architecturally speaking, the Cultural Center is a showpiece. With a magnificent Tiffany Dome, mosaic scrolls made of colored stones, mother-of-pearl, and Favrite glass, and Islamic-style arches adorning the south stairways, the building itself is stunning. There are bronze doorways inlaid with marble, stained glass windows, and literary inscriptions in ten languages carved into stone. Completed in 1897, the Cultural Center is a limestone-and-granite anomaly in downtown Chicago; yet, its stairways were lately used to film one of the chase scenes in the 1987 feature film, *The Untouchables*.

Ijtima '89 meetings will be held on the southwest side of the fourth floor of the Cultural Center; you'll enter the building from Washington Street, on the building's south side and walk up the beautiful tiled and marble stairs. Participants will have ample time to explore the building and its collections. The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center is located at 78 East Washington Street, Chicago IL 60602.

Another First of its Kind
THE PEACE MUSEUM

Chicago is home to a vital monument to peace and peacemaking, The Peace Museum, also the first and only of its kind in the nation. Founded in the early 1980s, the Peace Museum is housed in a typical River North area brick and timber building, located an easy walk west of Chicago's north Loop.

The mission of The Peace Museum is to provide peace education through the arts and the humanities, presenting exhibitions and special programs related to war and peace. From October 8, 1989, through January 8, 1990, the major show will be "Everyone Has a Right To," an exhibit of works by Midwest artists on the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The show includes works by Maureen Seeba, known for her portraits of hostage Terry Anderson.

Membership in the museum costs \$25 per year (\$10 for students and seniors). The Peace Museum contains a wonderful gift shop of peace-related posters, cards, and artifacts; hours are 12 noon - 5:00 pm daily. Admission: \$3.50 adults and \$2 children. For more information, write the museum at 430 West Erie, Chicago IL 60610, or telephone 312/440-1860.

There will also be a few spaces in the homes of Chicago FOM members; you can indicate your need for this on the registration form.



English Reading Materials Needed

Have you ever wished that some of the things you no longer need here could be in use in Morocco? If so, read on.

Regional Resource Centers (RRCs) have been set up in several parts of Morocco by PCVs and Moroccan English teachers. Their main function is to supply English materials to local teachers. PCVL Tom O'Brien has overseen their operation from Rabat on the PC side; he is being replaced by Natasha Hagnnes in August.

Rather than sending off materials wholesale, FOM has asked RRCs to contact us with specific needs. Below are excerpts from letters we've received to date, and mailing instructions follow.

"...English teachers and their students find it really difficult to create an authentic learning atmosphere, because they are restricted to the few books they own...And to make matters worse, no English books, magazines or newspapers are available in this remote area called Oued Eddahab Province that won independence only 13 years ago...We need all kinds of magazines and newspapers in English, and books including: reference books, encyclopedias, philosophy, religion, social science (sociology, education, etc), language (English teach-

ing, dictionaries), pure science (math, physics), technology and health, and literature (any, in English)." *From: Aziz Karimi, RRC Coordinator and English Teacher, PO Box 156, Dakhla, Oued-Eddahab*

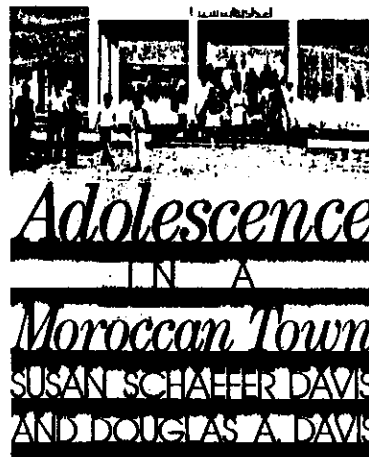
(4/24/89).

"...the aim of our Centre is to develop and expand

urgently-needed professional support for English teachers in Moroccan secondary schools and help students improve their learning of English...The acute lack of professional support has created a sense of despair among teachers of English, especially our Moroccan colleagues who don't have

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Adolescence..... A New Book



For all you former TEFLers (and others) who have wondered what Moroccan teens do outside school, *Adolescence in a Moroccan Town* may be of interest. Written by anthropologist Susan Schaefer Davis (PCV 1965-67) and psychologist Douglas A. Davis. The book describes adolescent life, including relations with family, friends, and the opposite sex, and includes information on physiological development, education, and aspirations (for example, about 40% of boys and girls hope to be teachers).

Published by Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, N.J., 1989, \$42.00, hardcover with dust jacket. (If you find it a bit steep, perhaps you could have your library order a copy.) Peace Corps Rabat now has a copy.

PCP Zoo Project Needs Camera

The Peace Corps Partnership Program, as some of you will remember, is a small grants program linking Americans through schools, churches, civic organizations, foundations and corporations and individuals in development projects overseas. These community initiated, planned and directed projects are facilitated by a resident Peace Corps volunteer who disburses the funds and coordinates the reporting of accomplishments.

In Morocco at the National Zoological Park located at Temara between Rabat and Casablanca, zoo staff, with the encouragement of environmental education volunteers Ramona Muller and Michael Simonik, have requested funds or a contribution of photographic equipment for the production of educational products such as slide shows, brochures, posters, and educational displays.

The zoo receives an average of 400,000 visitors (70,000 of which are school groups) annually.

Friends of Morocco would like to identify someone able to make a tax-deductible contribution of surplus workable photographic equipment to support these efforts. Needed are a 35mm camera, a 70-210mm zoom lens, a flash, tripod, and double/coupler. A full proposal can be shared with individuals interested in contributing. Write FOM or call Tim Resch at 703/660-9292.

For general information on the Peace Corps Partnership program, write Peace Corps at 1990 K Street, NW, Washington DC 20526, or call 800/424-8580, ext. 227 or 277. Two current films on 16mm and VHS are available; one for primary schools and one for junior high and older, which describe the program and provide case examples.

FOM Grant Guidelines

The FOM Board, planning to begin raising money to donate to development projects in Morocco, recently adopted the following project funding guidelines:

- 1/ Each project proposed to FOM for funding must address a demonstrated need.
- 2/ Each project should involve the active planning and participation of a Moroccan beneficiary or beneficiaries, with some form of self-help contribution.
- 3/ Funding is a one-time-only expenditure with no further obligation. Reapplication for further funding is permitted.
- 4/ Each proposal should include a plan for reporting to FOM on project progress.
- 5/ Funds will be awarded at the discretion of the FOM Board.

FOM Grant Applications

The FOM Board has set aside \$500 to fund Peace Corps Volunteer projects in Morocco. Any Volunteers with a good use for some or all of this money should send proposals following the recently established FOM funding

guidelines to: *Friends of Morocco, Attn: Project Fund, PO Box 21773, Washington DC 20009.* The deadline is 1 November 1989. Doing its part to fight red tape, FOM promises to have selected PCV's check in the mail by 30 November 1989. *Yallah.*

RADIO

For radio listeners: RDF Marocaine, Rabat, broadcasts daily in Arabic and/or French via short wave from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm EST.

The broadcasts can be received on the 25 meter band at 11.735 MHz. It usually is clearer on cloudy days.



Animal Wifery Update

Last year the Friends of Morocco contributed \$200 to an animal wifery program in Ouarzazate, designed by Alison Geist and Gary Gregg, former Peace Corps Volunteers.

The project distributes pregnant dairy goats to the women of poor families, alleviating some of the problems of malnutrition created in part by eight continuous years of drought. The goats will allow the increase in consumption of milk (an excellent source of calcium

and vitamins) among children and the teaching of hygiene by analogy (as pregnant dairy goats need hygienic care similar to that of pregnant and nursing mothers).

Alison has written that the FOM gift, along with funds from the Kruger Fund, have helped to speed this extremely worthwhile project along.

Alison and Gary have since left Morocco, but report that the project is on-going and has been

left under the directorship of Dr. Mark Fiordan, a veterinarian and a former PCV who served in Ouarzazate.

The project could still use financial help so that the program can be expanded to other families.

For more information, contact Alison at the Near East Foundation, 29 Broadway, Suite 1125, New York NY 10006-3259, or Mark at NEF/Service de l'Elevage, ORMVA de Ouarzazate, Morocco.

English Reading Materials...

the generous support services that PCVs are accustomed to. The following is a list of our center's needs that we are trying to fill: reference grammars, works on TEFL methodology, professional journals, graded readers for students, dictionaries, visual aids (maps, posters, charts, newspapers, magazines), recorded cassettes of spoken English (songs, plays, news broadcasts), portable English typewriter." *From: L. Ahmam, Coordinator, Ouarzazate RRC, Lycee P. H. S. Med., Room 35, Ouarzazate, Morocco. (4/10/89).*

"In our first year of existence, the Midelt Resource Center has become a vital

part of the English program here in Midelt.

Both teachers and students have benefited from the programs and resources available at the center. We need your help to continue growing. We are looking for books, magazines, and other materials to stock our center." *From: Abdellah Yousfi and Patty Ryan, Midelt English Resource Center, Lycee Hassan II, Midelt, Morocco. (6/5/89).*

The best way to ship materials is directly to the RRCs, at the addresses above. Tom O'Brien said that if they arrive in *small* packages (about breadbox size), there should be no problem with

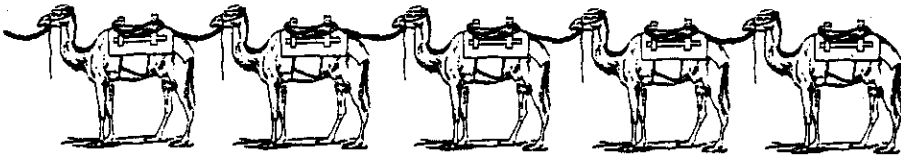
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customs, while there often are with larger shipments. We suggest you send what you have individually (rather than FOM gathering things), with a separate letter stating what you've sent, to the addresses above. A copy of the letter would be appreciated by FOM in Washington, so we have an overview of what's been sent, and can list what's still needed in upcoming newsletters.

So - next time you're cleaning or moving, send off those old TEFL materials, Louis L'Amour books, or Time magazines to be enjoyed by Moroccan high schoolers and teachers!

Some Travel Tips:

- Embassy of Morocco: 1601 21st Street NW, Washington DC 20009.
- Moroccan Consulate: 437 5th Avenue, 39th Floor, New York NY 10016, 212/758-2625.
- Moroccan Tourism Offices: 20 East 46th Street, No. 503, New York NY 10017, 212/557-2520; 421 N. Rodeo Drive, No. 7 Rodeo Terrace, Beverly Hills CA 90210; PO Box 22663, Lake Buena Vista FL 32830 (near Disney World).
- Royal Air Maroc: 680 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10103, 800/344-6726.
- Embassy of the United States in Morocco: 2 Charia Marrakech, Rabat, tel: 622-65/512-70.
- General Travel Information: A visa is not required for American citizens. Other nationalities must contact the Consulate or Embassy; No vaccination certificate is required; The Dirham (DH) is currently valued at approximately 8.37 to \$1 US; Standard Time in Morocco is GMT+1.



Fulbright to Algeria

A ten-month lecturing award is available at the University of Algiers, beginning in September 1990, in the Field of American Literature or Civilization. Scholar will teach undergraduate and graduate courses, 6-9 hours per week. Instruction is in English; a working knowledge of Arabic or French is needed.

American citizens with PhD and five years of teaching experience are eligible to apply. Award benefits include a monthly stipend of \$3,600, plus initial al-

lowance of nearly \$11,000 to cover travel, baggage, and settling in. In addition, housing is provided by the University and tuition reimbursement is available for accompanying K-12 children.

For information about this Fulbright award and others in the Middle East and North Africa, contact Renee Taft, 202/686-4010, Chris Neuman, 202/686-4012, or Gary Garrison, 202/686-4019, all at the Council for International Exchange of Scholars in Washington DC.

PC by Numbers

The GAO released *PEACE CORPS, A Statistical Profile* (GAO/NSIAD-89-174FS) outlining all of the statistics (and then some) that you would want to know

(budgets, volunteer info, etc... The Smithsonian has also released a publication, *Proceedings: Peace Corps In Arab Countries Symposium*, giving an overview about Peace Corps in Arab countries.



Excursion to Enchanting Morocco

The trip to Morocco planned for September is gaining steam and waiting for you to sign on soon.

To better plan for the trip and to take advantage of the cooler weather, the trip is being scheduled from 26 September to 10 October 1989.

The trip is being directed by John "Jaques" van der Water (Art Education/Rabat & Fez, 64-66) who is putting together a trek to the Valley of the Dades for those who would like to tag along. Otherwise, after a quick briefing of PC activities at PC Rabat and some optional site visits to current PC projects, you will have nearly two weeks of travel on your own.

Round-trip airfare, JFK-Casa-JFK, will cost about \$619. If you are interested in adding your name to the list, send your name, address, and phone number to:

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

If you want, give John a call at 916/448-6535, and he will give you all of the latest information.



FOM's Very Special Guests

Friends of Morocco and several Washington DC area MRPCVs had a chance to return some of that wonderful Moroccan hospitality recently during the *Very Special Arts International Festival* held in DC. Very Special Arts, an organization dedicated to encouraging and supporting art among the mentally and physically disabled, hosted a week long conference and festival at the Kennedy Center in June. The International Festival is celebrated every five years and is host to delegates from each state and 50 countries.

Several Moroccan Very Special Artists were invited to the Festival in June and FOM members offered their time and homes during their stay. The participants included: Abdelfatah Douk, a classical guitarist who teaches at the Temara school for the blind and is blind himself (he teaches English); Mohammed Nidam, a handicapped dancer from Casablanca; Kantour Tibari, a deaf printmaker from the Casablanca area; Tawfiq Bouzouba, a painter from Fes; and Hakim Illi, a keyboard player who plays his own compositions. (Many of you may remember Hakim from the Cheshire Foyer in Marrakech, or as the receptionist at the Peace Corps office at Rabat). Also attending the Festival were

Madame Hassar, President of the Moroccan League for the Protection of Intellectuals and special delegate appointed by Princess Lalla Amina; Doctor Idriss Alaoui, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine in Rabat; and Said Tamsamani an English teacher in Tangier and a disability activist. During the week-

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Thank You FOM

To The Friends of Morocco,

Dear Friends,

Sallam O'Allicom. This is a very difficult letter to write because I just do not know where to begin. So much kindness and hospitality was extended to me, I...well, am just overwhelmed. But, let me try!

From the very beginning when I was selected to be a member of the Moroccan delegation to the International Very Special Arts Festival, the Friends of Morocco (FOM) have reached out to help me.

First of all I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all those FOM that reside in the Kingdom. They assisted me in countless ways during my trip preparation. From the first moment I first stepped upon American soil FOM was there. I was somewhat anxious about arriving in the USA without a clue of what to do, but FOM was there to assure I experienced the best that America had to offer.

The electric wheelchair that FOM provided me during my stay allowed me the freedom of movement to experience the USA. I was pleasantly surprised to find how accessible the USA was to me through the chair. The chair enabled me to visit several handicap organizations to investigate the organizational structure of handicapped people in the United States. This information will be put to use in Morocco, *Inehallah*, to aid in the organization of Moroccan handicapped people. Our goal is to integrate the handicapped into the mainstream of Moroccan society in a similar way.

During this trip I had the opportunity to visit many of my friends I had not seen in a long time. In a strange sort of way this was my *bled* stay in America. The only picture of the states I had in my mind was the one painted by my interaction with FOM. Many invited me to visit them, stay with their families, and generally experience America in a similar way so many of you experienced Morocco.

In response to the many questions on my impressions of life in America, the following three points are what struck me the most:

1. I was very impressed with the nature of the States. The forests, lakes and generally the *bled dealcom* was so beautiful and peaceful; I thought such places only existed in pictures.
2. On the subject of food, what impressed me the most was the availability of so many different cuisines from all over the world. To have the opportunity to try national dishes from so many cultures was a treat.
3. My stay in Washington was very educational. I was able to visit many of your national monuments and develop a deeper understanding of the history of the United States of America.

In closing, let me express my most heartfelt thanks to FOM for their making my trip to the States one I will never forget. The kindness, generosity and hospitality bestowed upon me has touched me deeply and will live forever in my heart. There truly are "Friends of Morocco" living on both sides of the Atlantic and I thank them all.

Sincerely yours,

Illl, Hakim

أصدقاء المغرب
Friends of Morocco

RPCV Conference Review

Over 1000 former Peace Corps Volunteers gathered on 21-23 July, at Kent (Ohio) State University, for the annual RPCV Conference.

Peace Corps' recently announced invitation to work in Hungary, its delayed entry into China, legislation promoting volunteerism, American foreign policy, and 13 workshops covering everything from the homeless here and overseas, human rights, and the world's diminishing rain forests were among the highlights of the 10th Annual National Conference of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers. The theme was *Inventing Peace: At Home and Overseas*.

Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell convened a *Town Meeting* on Friday evening; Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste spoke on political activism; and U.S. Rep. Constance Morella (R-Md) discussed legislation she has introduced that provides college scholarships for those who agree to three years of Peace Corps service.

Mitch Snyder of the Community for Creative Non-Violence spoke on homelessness in America, as well as leading a workshop on the subject; and



Jonathan Kwitny, Saturday's keynoter, critiqued American foreign policy. Other speakers represented the UN High Commission on Refugees, USAID, diplomats, academics, and business organizations.

Besides speeches, open forums, and workshops, the conference had a career fair, an arts festival, an international fair, reunions of many RPCV groups, a 10-K Run for Peace, and a memorial march for PCVs who died in service.

The Conference was co-sponsored by the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and the Northeast Ohio Returned Volunteer Association, along with Kent State and other RPCV groups in the Ohio Valley. The Cleveland and George Gund foundations helped to underwrite the conference.

Next year's conference will be at Eugene, Oregon.

Morocco PCVs who were remembered at the Memorial March are:

Raymond J. Kruger
Robert Owens
William A. Stout, Jr.
Louise A. Wolf
Polly Zimmerman



special guests...

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honor at the home of Ambassador Benjelloun, the Moroccan ambassador to the U.S.

Several of the participants stayed at Georgetown University, but FOM members Polly Scoville and Susan Farrall hosted Tawfiq and Hakim. Thanks to Susan, Hakim was able to meet with many disability rights activists, including former Press Secretary James Brady! Friends of Morocco provided a rented electric-powered wheelchair for Hakim so that he could enjoy some of the accessibility for which DC and its Metro system are famous.

The Festival served as a starting point for Very Special Arts in Morocco. VSA plans to establish a non-profit organization there which would organize activities for disabled artist including training seminars and art exhibits.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Farrall, Polly Scoville, and Alex Mattson (our Very Special Arts contact person and a true Friend of Morocco) for all their hard work and generous hospitality. They really came through in a time of need and their help was greatly appreciated.

Letters, Comments, Etc.....

To FOM,

I was very pleased to receive your letter and copies of *Friends of Morocco* for which I thank you.

I would like to congratulate you on your objectives to maintain contact between the Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Morocco, and, at the same time, inform your fellow Americans about the culture and people of Morocco. I believe that this is a worthwhile task and, along with my sincere encouragements, I convey to you and your colleagues all my best wishes for success.

Ali Bengelloun,
Ambassador (Morocco)

Dear FOM,

...It certainly appears that Friends of Morocco is a very active group. In reading over your newsletters, I was impressed with both the quality and substance...as well as the depth of FOM activities...

Groups like FOM...have a special opportunity and responsibility to serve as a link between the developing world and the American public. That's why I was particularly excited to read in FOM's June newsletter about "Pen Pals"...

Keep up the good work.

Paul D. Coverdell,
Director (Peace Corps)

Dear FOM,

I've enjoyed very much the first couple of issues of FOM's newsletter...I was an active participant in the Peaceworks publication while in Morocco, and this is a nice stateside equivalent.

Gregory Acker (85-87)
Louisville KY

Send letters to: *Friends of Morocco, Newsletter*, PO Box 21773, Washington DC 20009

Homeless

Mother Teresa's fiftieth home for the poor in Africa will be opened in Morocco in the fall of 1989.

Morocco Update:

Jeune Afrique (2 Aug. 89) reports that the 5 Arab Maghreb Union countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania) have decided to establish a shared airline (similar to SAS of Scandinavia). It will be called "Air Maghreb", beginning service in September 1990.

Two new books on Morocco and Women: *Women of Marrakech: record of a secret sharer, 1930-1970*, translated from the Finnish, Chapel Hill: Duke University Press, 1988, 215pp; and *Doing Daily*

Battle, Interviews with Moroccan Women, by Fatima Mernissi (translated from the French by Mary Jo Lakeland), New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1989, 224pp.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, no developing country voted in agreement with the U.S. (in the UN General Assembly) more than 20% of the time in 1988. Morocco agreed with the U.S. less than 8% of the votes, with divergences most often relating to resolutions

on the Middle East, apartheid, and anti-colonialism.

The *American Legation Museum* directorship in Tangiers has changed. Dr. Robert Smith Shea is retiring after 10 years. The new director will be Elena Coon Prentiss, an artist who has exhibited in Paris, New York, and Morocco. She spent much of her early life in Tangiers.



FOM Board Elections

All nine seats on the Friends of Morocco Board of Directors will be up for election at *Ijtimaa '89* in Chicago. FOM members wishing to run for the 1989-90 Board should submit a 50-word nominating statement before October 1; voting will take place at the Annual General Meeting. If you cannot attend *Ijtimaa '89* but wish to vote, you may request and return an absentee ballot by November 1. You need not be present to run for a Board position.

Please send all nominating statements and ballot requests to FOM Board Nominations, c/o Valerie Staats, 2161 W. Giddings, Chicago IL 60625.



أصدقاء المغرب Friends of Morocco Newsletter



Friends of Morocco Newsletter 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 PCVs 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 annually. FOM is governed by a nine-member national board. Mailing address: Friends of Morocco, PO Box 21773, Washington DC 20009. For further information, contact 1989 president Peter Laugharn at 203/454-1067.

Hospitality

Hospitality is an important function of FOM. If you're interested in hosting a Moroccan student or visitor (for dinner, overnight, or just for tea!), please contact Peter Laugharn at 203/454-1067. Remember all the afternoons of tea and the gracious hospitality that Moroccans offered us?

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Friends of Morocco



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