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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rabat, Morocco

July 31, 1974

Honorable Gerald Ford
Vice President of the United States
The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Vice President:

A Cairo newspaper has published a story, which was reprinted in Morocco, that you are contemplating a visit to the Middle East later this fall. I know enough about Middle Eastern newspapers not to take this report for fact but should you indeed contemplate such a journey I hope very much that you will also consider a stop here in Morocco.

As you know from our recent visit and subsequent correspondence the relations between Morocco and the United States are as old as the history of our Republic and the Moroccans have remained friendly to us, at no small political risk to them, while other Arab countries went in a different direction.

Moreover, we are far from finished with our delicate negotiations in the Middle East and should therefore cultivate, as much as possible, those countries which have stood by us in difficult days.

There is a further reason on which Secretary Kissinger and the Department of State can give you the proper background. A state visit by King Hassan II of Morocco had been fixed for the end of May and then postponed in part because of the President's contemplated stop in Morocco. Unfortunately, the Syrian-Israeli disengagement negotiations lasted too long and the President came into time pressure in view of his later trip to Moscow. Hence the North African portion of the President's trip had to be cancelled.

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DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines
By W.H.M., NARA, Date 10/2/80

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In view of this history of both the Presidential and the Royal near visits, I know that a visit by you, if it were possible, would be particularly appreciated and would greatly enhance the already good relations existing between the United States and Morocco.

With every best wish, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,



Robert G. Neumann
Ambassador

Cc: NEA:Alfred L. Atherton, Jr.

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Classified by Robert G. Neumann
Subject to General Declassification
Schedule of Executive Order 11652
Automatically downgraded at two-year
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