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Land: Marokko.  
Onderwerp: Instability in Morocco.

Referenties:

Datum van waarneming: Medio december 1958.

Bron: Van bevriende zijde.

Opmerkingen:

Verzonden aan: de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

Aan Zijne Excellentie Prof. Dr. L.J.M. BEEL  
Minister-President

Plein 1813 no. 4

's-GRAVENHAGE.

Morocco

INSTABILITY IN MOROCCO

The reluctance of King MOHAMED V to assert strong leadership in the present governmental crisis in Morocco is likely to diminish his prestige throughout the country. His desire to remain aloof from party politics and his simultaneous encouragement of forces to counterbalance the dominant Istiqlal party have also indirectly strengthened the Istiqlal's left wing and contributed to growing anti-Istiqlal dissidence among the Berber tribes.

Since the resignation of the BALAFREJ cabinet last month, a succession of potential premiers has sought to create a government with more representation of the Istiqlal's left wing. They failed when party moderates, notably BALAFREJ, refused to cooperate. The latest aspirant, Istiqlal left-wing extremist Abdullah IBRAHIM, a former minister who was not in the outgoing cabinet, has been instructed to form a broad-based cabinet of limited duration, with a primary mission of organizing early municipal and communal elections.

Prolongation of the governmental crisis which has existed virtually since early summer will intensify internal instability and the growth of tribal dissidence. This dissidence now seems concentrated in the poverty-stricken Rif region of northern Morocco among the tribesmen of exiled warrior ABD-EL-KRIM, who revolted against Spanish rule in the 1920s. Moroccan security forces also are trying to prevent other restless tribes from contacting the Riffians.

An American news correspondent who recently visited the area reports the formation of a "Riffian Front of Liberation and Purification" demanding the return of ABD-EL-KRIM. He was impressed with the ability of the front's leaders, one of whom is a

former official of the Moroccan Foreign Affairs Ministry, but considered their following a "motley assortment of local tribesmen". This correspondent believes the Riffians are encouraged by the Algerians - possibly to enlarge North African involvement in the Algerian rebellion - and Egyptians.

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