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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1985

SYSTEM II
90400

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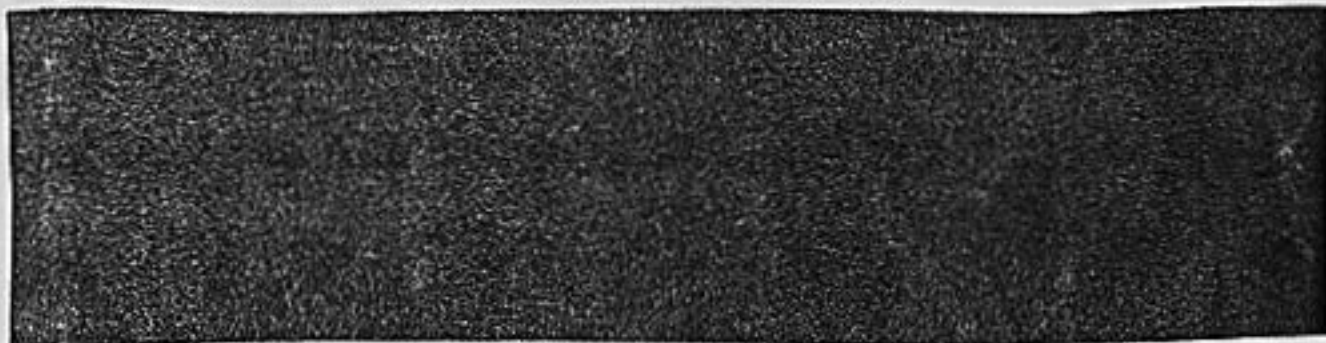
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National Security
Decision Directive 168

U.S. POLICY TOWARDS NORTH AFRICA (S)

Assessment

The evolving situation in North Africa poses opportunities and risks for American interests. The fundamental challenges to regional stability stem from an array of political-military and socio-economic factors, which reflect internal and external developments. In light of the region's geo-strategic position opposite NATO's southern flank, the potential for increased Soviet regional influence and the dangers of Libyan adventurism, the United States must pay special attention to recent developments in the Maghreb and devise appropriate policies to protect and promote American interests. ~~DA~~



Over the past several years, the Government of Algeria has demonstrated a growing eagerness to strengthen our bilateral relationship. In part as a result of the changed regional balance, as well as a degree of Algerian dissatisfaction with the Soviet Union, we shall seek to improve our position in Algiers. Nonetheless, we do not anticipate that the Algerian government will abandon its relations with Moscow, at least for the foreseeable future, nor will it act in a manner that diminishes its non-aligned international standing. ~~DA~~

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Partially Declassified/Released on
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by S. Tiley, National Security Council

7/25/92

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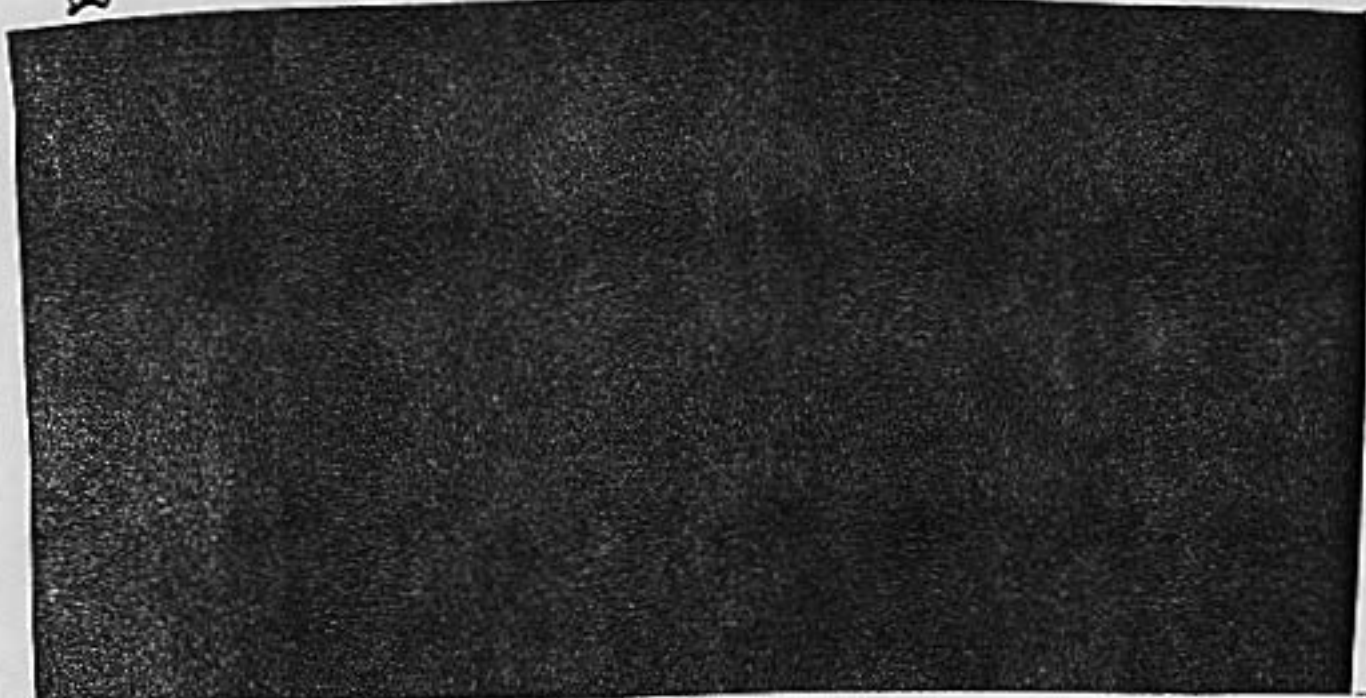
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The war in the Western Sahara represents the most important factor contributing to the changing balance of power and Moroccan-Algerian tensions. A political solution remains elusive.



The U.S. shall continue to work with Morocco, Algeria and other interested parties to encourage a negotiated settlement of the Sahara war.

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-- To foster political stability and economic and social development through preservation and strengthening of moderate regimes.

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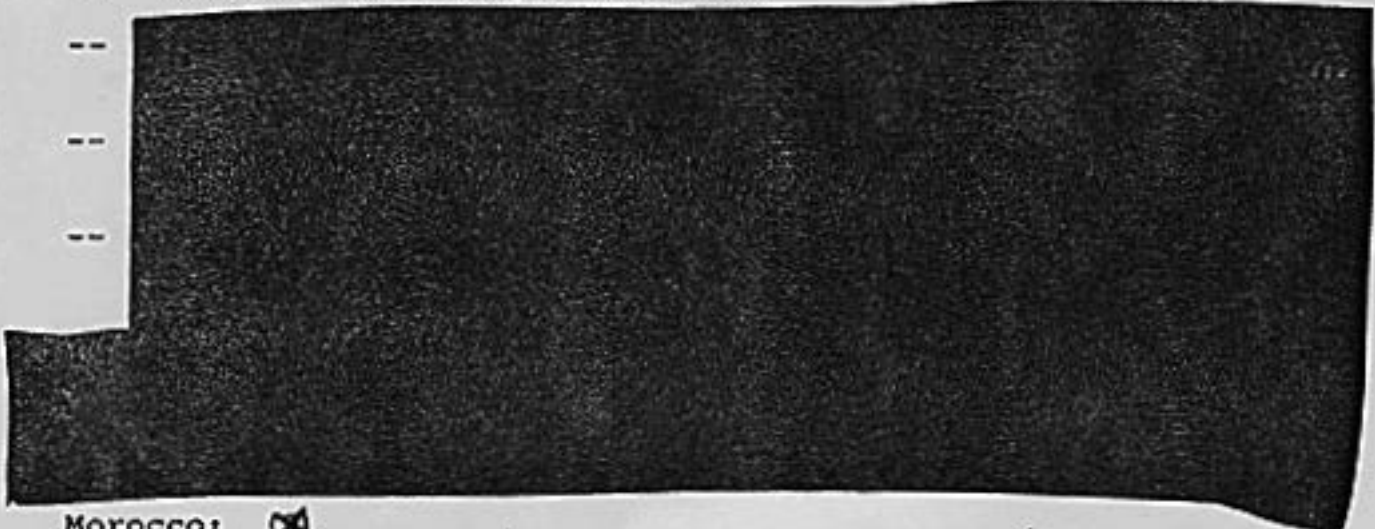
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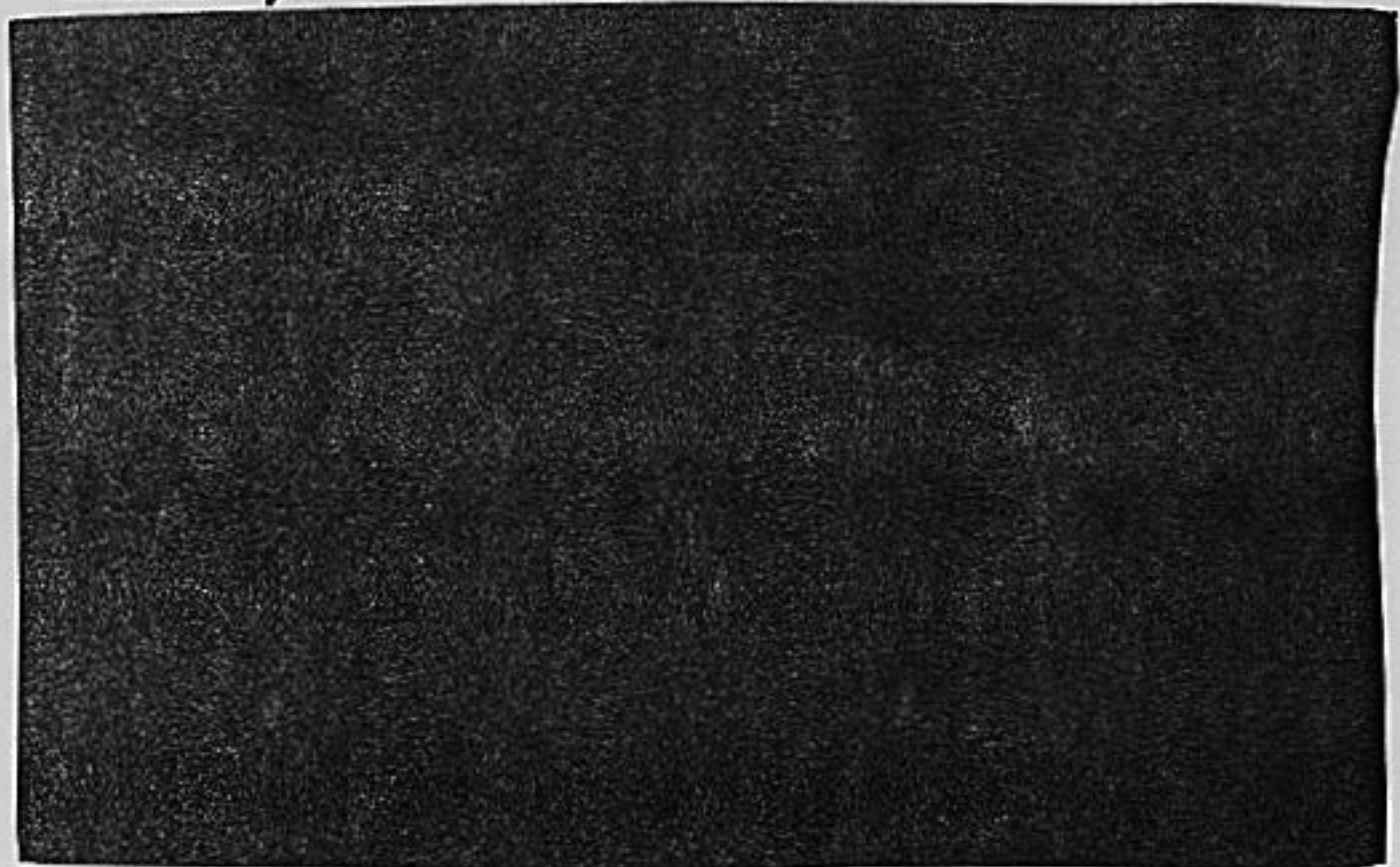
-- To reduce Algerian-Moroccan tensions and prospects for conflict.

-- To limit regional polarization.

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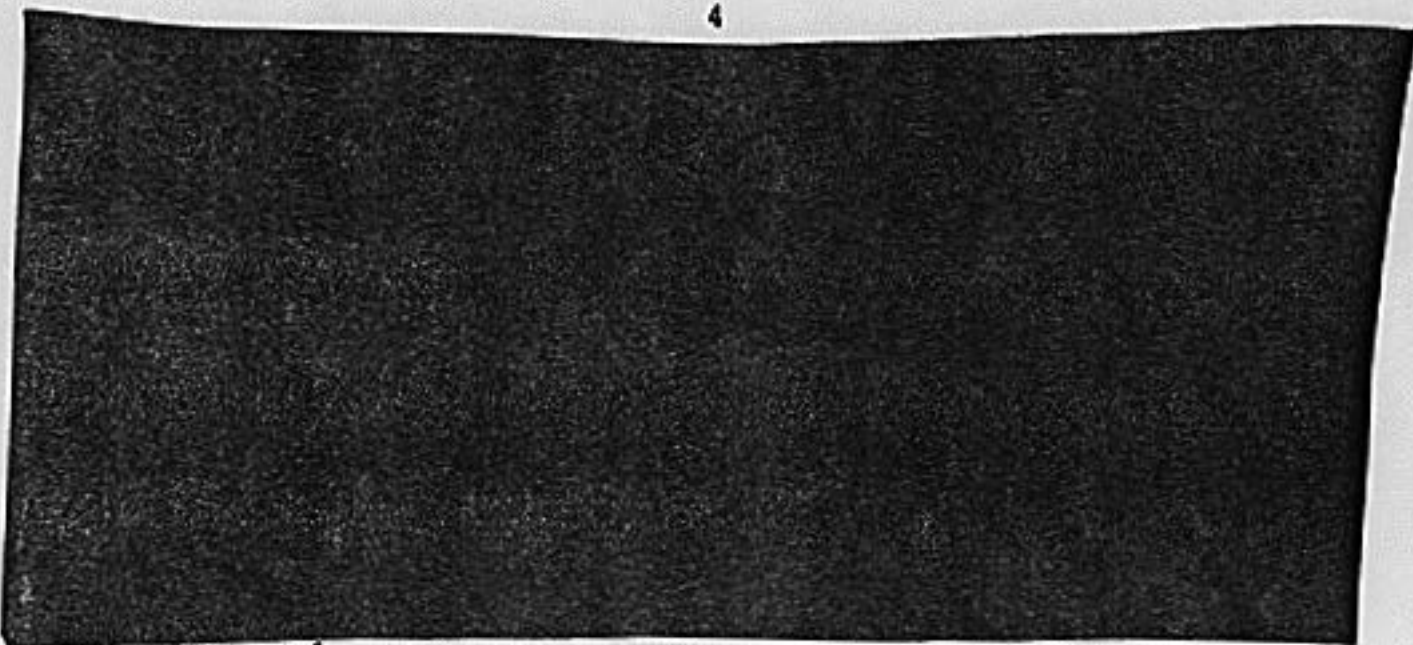
Morocco: ~~X~~



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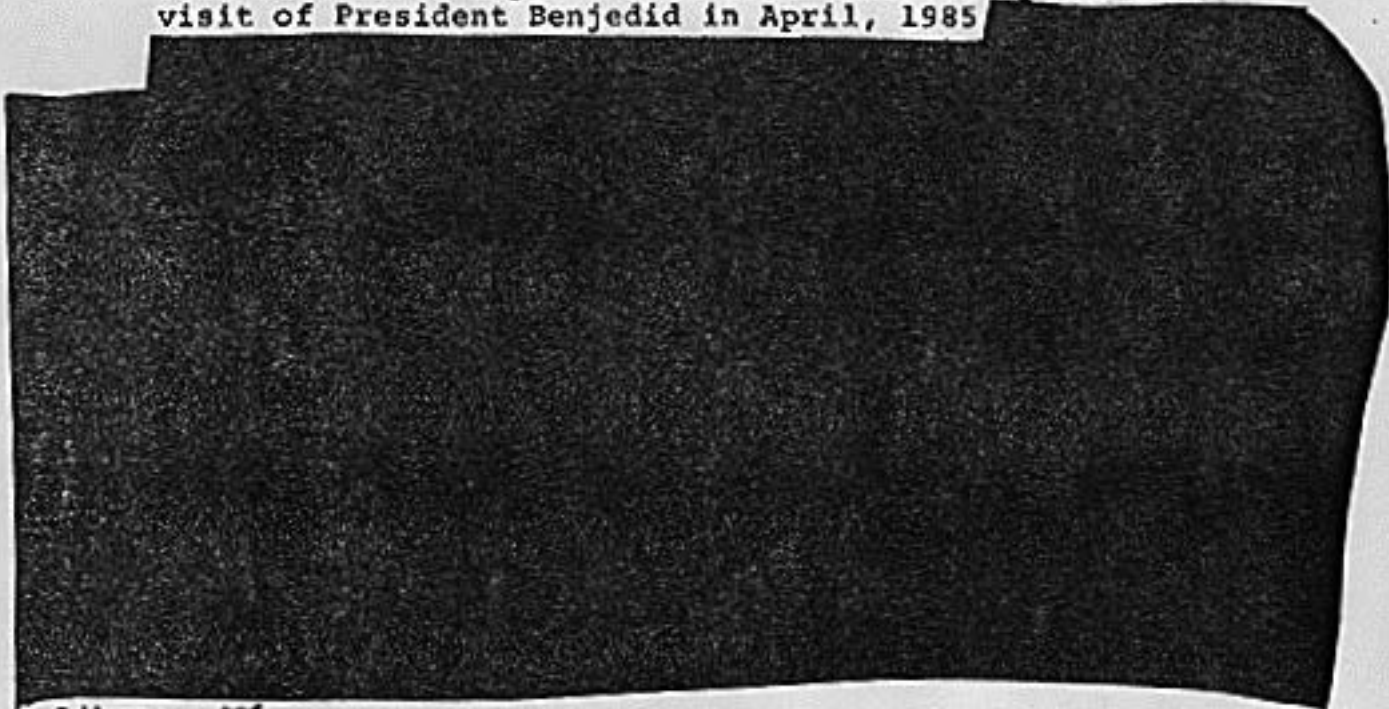
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Algeria: ~~SECRET~~

-- Seek further to improve relations enhanced by the State
visit of President Benjedid in April, 1985



Libya: ~~SECRET~~

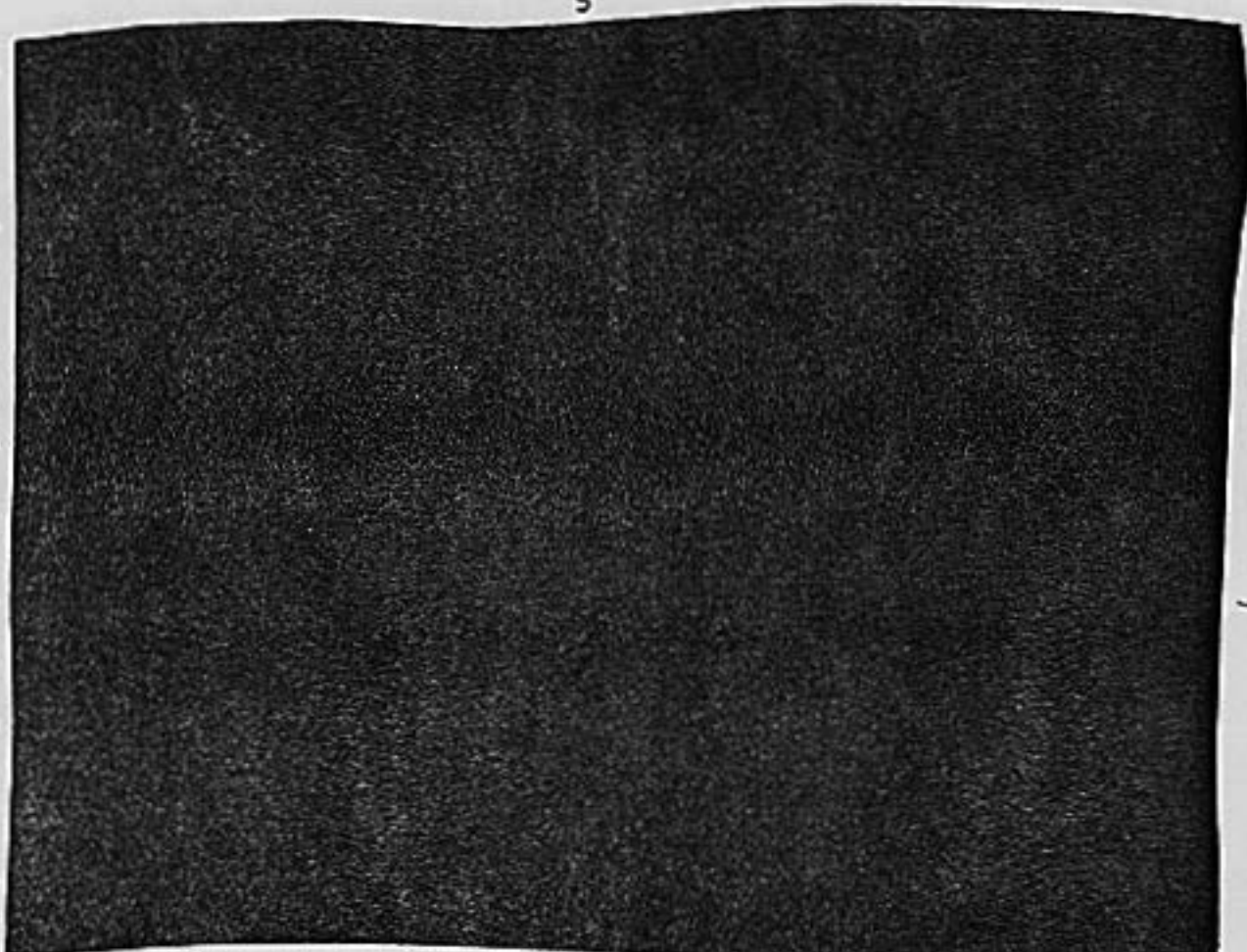


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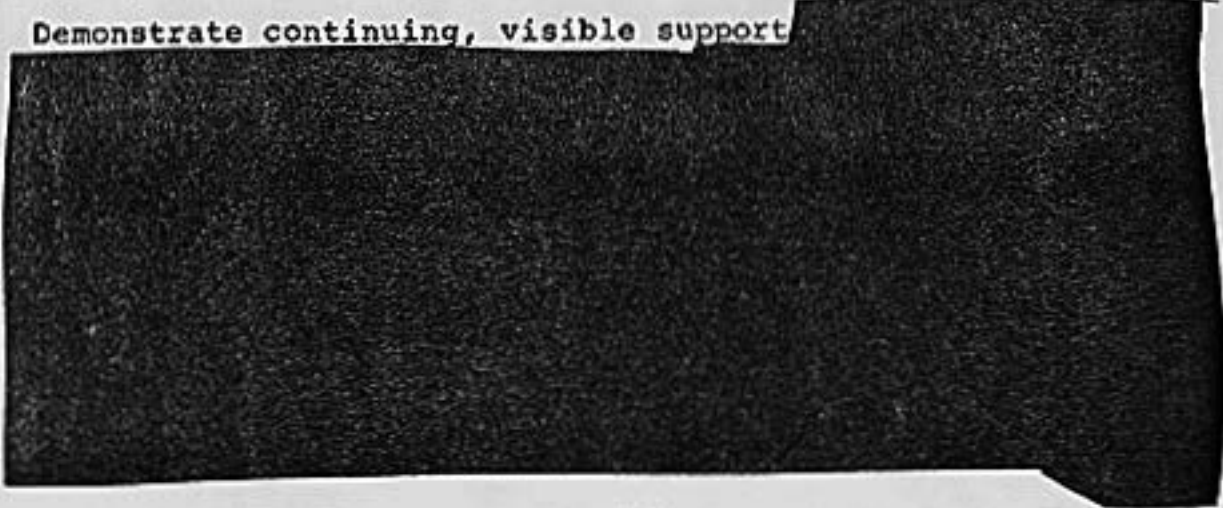
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Tunisia: ~~for~~

-- Demonstrate continuing, visible support



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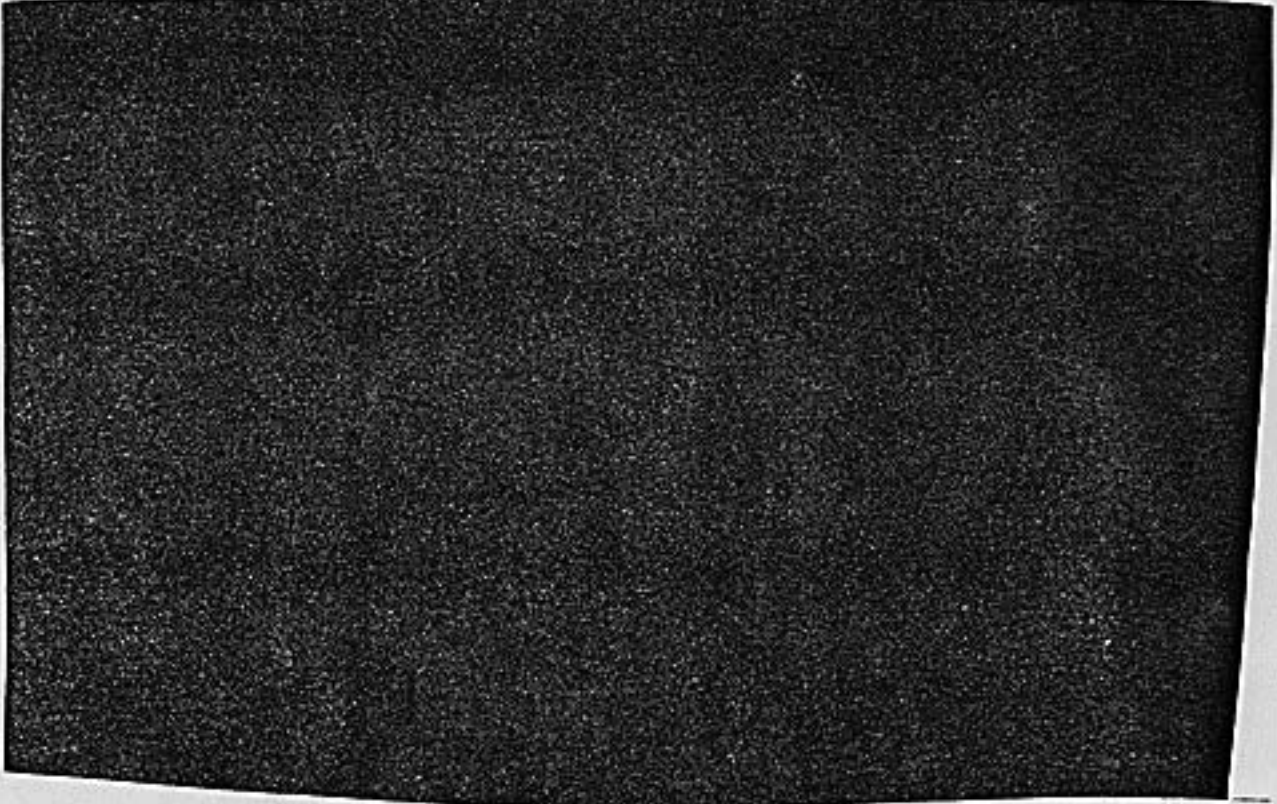
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Regional: *SA*



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