

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

People to People  
file

19 December 1958

Dear Pete:

I am sending over the enclosed People to People report for your information and also because of its possible interest to the President. I know he has a vital interest in the program itself. This is a small illustration of how it works.

It is a strange thing, but the Moroccans seem to like the Navy and our people think they want us to stay there. All kinds of informal comments repeat this and come back here to me. This seems to be contrary to what is said publicly and what the political position is. We have even had some conversations lately about the development of a deep water port at Lyautey, which seems strange in view of the published clamor for our departure.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Gates

Captain E. P. Aurand, USN  
Naval Aide to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.



Enclosure

# A SALUTE TO FRIENDSHIP AT WORK

President Eisenhower's people-to-people program is getting a big play at the multi-million dollar Naval Installation at Port Lyautey, Morocco. Morocco is the western window in the Arab world. What is seen and believed of the Americans there personifies the United States of America. Language is no barrier to visible expression of good will. Here is what they see:



Abdel Hamid el Alaoui, Pasha of Kenitra

Admiral James L. Holloway, Commander in Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, and

Capt. J. L. Counihan, Commander, U. S. Naval Activities, Port Lyautey, Kenitra, Morocco.

A good neighbor helps the needy, and visits the sick; supports local charities; socializes with his neighbors, and teaches his neighbors' children to play golf.

American children help, too, as this American youngster walks away with top scholastic honors at Kenitra's Lycee Abdelmalek as Saadi.

A Red Cross Gray Lady, Mrs. David Silvey, fits a Moroccan student with a sweater, as Ahmed bel Hadj, director of the Takkadoum school in Kenitra, shows her a box of Junior Red Cross school supplies collected by students at the dependents' school here. Clothing drives such as this one are a part of the massive community support given by the base at Port Lyautey/Kenitra.

Chaplain David Casazza (lower left) presents a check for half a million francs to Kenitra's Pasha (mayor) for the Entr'aide Nationale, Morocco's National Welfare Organization. This money was raised by voluntary contribution at station church services.

Nurse Van Adams (below) visits the understaffed local hospital to give technical aid.

In the sports field, at right, Moroccan high school children learn golf from Stanley Grant, the station pro.

The departure of Shore Patrol Investigator T.Sgt. Charles Moroukian, USMC, was the occasion for this buffet dinner (right, center) with his working contemporaries of the Moroccan Police Department.

An American Dependent who is studying at Lycee Abdelmalek as Saadi, young Chris Blair, does credit to his age group as he takes 3 first prizes and 2 seconds at the year-end awards ceremony held (right) by the Pasha of Kenitra, as Capt. H.K. Bragg Chief Staff Officer to the COMNAVACTS P/L, looks on.





DEDICATION

This report of our People-to-People program is dedicated to the Honorable Thomas S. Gates, Secretary of the Navy, whose own example of dedication to duty, support of the Naval Air Reserve overseas program, and practical People-to-People work in the Navy has inspired us to make this program an important effort here.

U. S. Naval Activities  
Kenitra, Morocco

*Blouin*  
*Ltj USN*  
*Commander US Naval Activities*





## Our Job--Making Friends for America

The most important job any American overseas has today is that of making friends for America--to know and be a friend to the millions of people who have neither our heritage of freedom nor our economic opportunities.

Probably one of the best and most important end results of the forward positioning of U. S. Forces in the many lands and areas throughout the world is not the military action which may or may not come on our watch, but the influencing of the people of that area to our side in the basic struggle between freedom and tyranny.

Each of us may be the means by which the uncommitted millions, who daily struggle for existence and who hope for a better future, learn about us and aspire to our way of life.

One learns quickly overseas that these people look to us--the representatives of the great power of the West--to show them by our Christian example of the good neighbor, by our tolerance and respect for their religion and way of life, by our help and assistance in broadening their horizons and opportunities, to make real their perceived image of all Americans.

Similarly, by our selfishness, bad example and intolerance, we drive from us the very people we were sent to influence to our side.

Here in Morocco--in Africa--in the Moslem world--we have a rare opportunity to carry out our work of making friends for America. Probably in no other place can so few influence so many for so little and with such promising results.

Their attitude toward America and the West could well be influenced by the personal conduct and the personal example of each of us here on duty. In no other area is the People-to-People program so important to our success and tenure in the long pull ahead.

To be a man among men, to show in oneself the proper example of zeal, sobriety and discipline, to be sympathetic to the needs and problems of the host country, to respect their laws and customs as we expect them to respect ours, to learn their language, to communicate our interest in their problems, these are the ways of making friends for America.

No citizen of the Great Republic has any more important job to do--nor any more important duty here.

J. L. COUNIHAN

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Yes, the People-to-People program gets a big play at Port Lyautey, Seven thousand Americans reside here--military personnel and their dependents.

A generation of Moroccans has grown up knowing and liking them, for the Navy has been here constantly since the Allied landings in November, 1942.

Ever since Morocco emerged early in 1956 as an independent sovereign state, there has been the inevitable cry of "Foreigners, go home" from one end of the political spectrum. The psychological appeal of such a rallying cry is hard to combat.

And we combat it in the only way we know how.

By showing them what we are, and how we think, work and act. By showing them the tangible impact of our contribution to the local economy, and the intangible advantages of what they have learned and may still learn from us while we remain here.

The future of the African continent may well depend upon us. Never have our opportunities and our responsibilities been greater.





Again and again, the Navy has demonstrated that its rescue facilities are doing the job that would normally be done by the Moroccan Coast Guard, if such an organization were in existence.

Here, helicopter crewman Frank C. Osborne, AD1, USN, is being congratulated upon his return from a rescue mission to the Moroccan trawler "Al Widad", by Capt. J. L. Counihan, USN, Commander, U.S. Naval Activities, Port Lyautey, Kenitra, Morocco.

Osborne and the pilot, LCDR Giuseppe Bello, USN took four crewmen off the ship, which had foundered on the rocks at Point Oukacha near Casablanca on Jan. 27, 1958, and brought them safely to shore.

