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Authority *5012958*NARA Date *4/10/78*MEMOIR BY TRANSCRIPT OF CONVERSATIONTOP SECRET/NODIS

Place: Yellow Oval Room - The White House
Date: March 31, 1969

Present: The President
Henry A. Kissinger
Harold Saunders
Maj. Gen. Vernon Walters

1969-3-31, Hassan, Nixon, Belfragej
Minister Balafrej of Morocco

Minister Balafrej opened by recalling the President's previous trips to Morocco and by saying that he had been charged by the King with extending a very warm invitation to the President to visit Morocco. The President said he well recalled meeting the King who was Crown Prince at the time of his visit in 1967 and he hoped some time he might make such a visit.

Minister Balafrej said Morocco was situated at the very entrance of the Mediterranean and had many of the same concerns of the United States. He recalled that he and the President had talked about Soviet penetration into Algeria.

The President then asked whether Soviet penetration in Algeria was increasing and Minister Balafrej replied that it was constant rather than increasing. The President then inquired whether the Soviets were also attempting to penetrate Morocco. Minister Balafrej said that they were through exchanges, economic relations but that the form of government in Morocco and the policy of the government would prevent undue Soviet penetration. Minister Balafrej said many people wanted to put political development of the country but not ahead of economic development as it would not be lasting.

The President then referred to the Middle East problem and said that we would always be happy to hear the views of the Moroccans on this. He said that this was a new administration which appreciated and remembered its friends and Morocco had been a good friend. Minister Balafrej said that when the right time came, Morocco would have a word to say on this subject. He then repeated to the President the King's warm greetings and hopes that he would have an opportunity

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to discuss problems of common interest with the President at some time in the future and again repeated the King's invitation to the President to visit Morocco. The President said that he too looked forward to making such a visit at some time in the future.