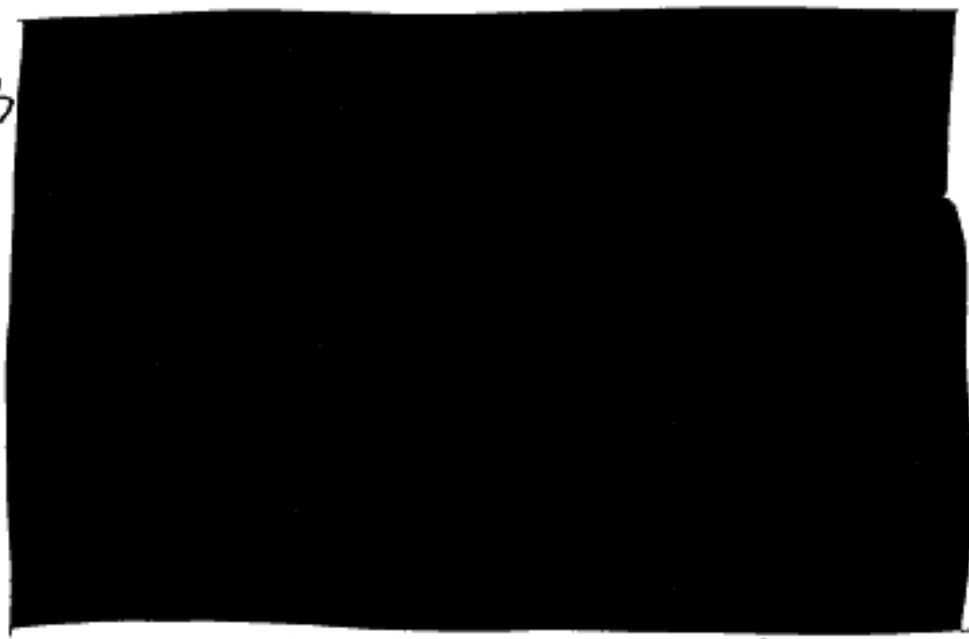


b1
b3



ALGERIA-MOROCCO: Compromise Proposal on Western Sahara

b3

~~_____~~ Algeria has proposed to King Hassan a compromise solution to the Western Sahara conflict. Western Sahara would control its internal affairs while Hassan would be its titular ruler and represent the Saharans in international organizations.

b3

~~_____~~ Morocco has rejected the Algerian proposal because it gives the Saharans the essential attributes of sovereignty—local autonomy, membership in international organizations, and a modified Moroccan flag. ~~_____~~ b3

b3

~~_____~~ The recent talks between Algeria and Morocco have been deadlocked over longstanding differences on the definition of Saharan sovereignty. Strong nationalist feelings among Moroccans about control of the Sahara make Hassan reluctant to compromise. Algiers probably has made its offer in order to demonstrate Moroccan intransigence and to persuade the US and France to urge Hassan to negotiate. Despite Rabat's rejection of the offer, both sides probably will continue discussions to prevent tensions over the Saharan issue from escalating into a major military clash. ~~_____~~ b3