

THE SUMMIT OF HIS MAJESTY KING HASSAN II AND
PRIME MINISTER SHIMON PERES IN MORROCO *

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Released simultaneously in Jerusalem and Rabat, 24 July 1986
(Unofficial English translation of the original French)

His Majesty King Hassan II on 22 and 23 July 1986, received, at his Palace in Ifrane, Mr Shimon Peres, Prime Minister of Israel. During the talks, marked by frankness and devoted essentially to the study of the Fez Plan, the Moroccan Sovereign and the Israeli Prime Minister analyzed, in depth, the situation in the Middle East and the conditions, in form and in substance, likely to contribute effectively to the establishment of peace in this region.

His Majesty King Hassan II gave a presentation of the Fez Plan, explaining his views concerning the merit of each of its elements and suggesting that this plan has the double merit of, on the one hand, constituting the sole document which is objectively valid as to serve as a basis for a just and durable peace and, on the other hand, being the object of an Arab consensus, in contrast with any other plan or peace proposal.

In his turn, Mr Shimon Peres clarified his view of the Fez Plan, setting forth propositions pertaining to conditions he deems necessary for the attainment of peace.

As the meeting was of a purely exploratory nature, aiming at no time at engaging in negotiations, His Majesty King Hassan II will inform the Arab leaders, and Prime Minister Mr Shimon Peres his Government, of the points of view developed during the talks

*[This is the text of Press Release of 9/86 of 25 July 1986 provided by the Israeli Embassy, Canberra].

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INITIAL ASSESSMENT

A series of talks in Ifrane, Morocco, on 22-23 July 1986, between King Hassan II of Morocco and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel culminated in the simultaneous publication, in Rabat and Jerusalem on 24 July, of a Joint Communique summing up the talks. The initial assessment of this Summit Conference must be made on two different levels:

- 1) What may be expected by way of an early outcome.
- 2) The significance of the Summit as such.

On the first level, caution is the order of the day. Israeli and Arab positions are still far apart on such sensitive and controversial issues as the location of Israel's eastern border and Arab demands for the establishment of a new Palestinian State west of the Jordan River and for the convening of an international peace conference that would include representatives of the PLO.

King Hassan's efforts, at this Summit, concentrated apparently on seeking Prime Minister Peres' agreement to the 1982 Fez Plan, which includes a demand for the relinquishment by Israel of all the territories that came under its control in 1967, including East Jerusalem, and for participation of the PLO in peace negotiations. It does not call for negotiations with Israel with a view to reaching an Arab-Israeli peace agreement. The Fez Plan, therefore, could not be accepted by Prime Minister Peres.

It could hardly be expected that the two leaders would reach agreement on the points at issue in barely two days of talks. Nor, it appears, was that the purpose of these talks. The fact remains that, despite the gap between the positions, the two leaders agreed to issue a Joint Communique, and that there would be further contacts in the future.

In the long run, the Summit is likely to loom large. It marks the second time, in recent years, that a major Arab leader has conferred

openly with an Israeli leader - following the Egyptian President's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977 - launching a process that resulted in the signing of a Treaty of Peace between Egypt and Israel in 1979. The Peres-Hassan talks represent another step, therefore, in the gradual thaw of the long-frozen Arab-Israeli relationship - and thus another step on the road to a peace settlement that, on day, will embrace Israel and all Arab States.