

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

461.71/3-160

FROM : Ambassador RABAT

384
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 1, 1960
DATE

REF : CERP, Morocco, Section D, Item 1A-6

35 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	COM-12 3-10	REP-1 IRC-8 ICA-11 AF-5 EUR5 CIA-15 TR-3 OSD-2 TAR-2 FRB-3 NAVY-3 IN-7 ARMY-6 AG-5 AIR-6

SUBJECT: Moroccan Trade with the Soviet Union

The Embassy encloses a translation of a notice which appeared in the January issue of the Bulletin Mensuel d'Information of the Moroccan Office of Control and of Export. This notice is directed to those who are interested in exporting to the Soviet Union and summarizes the current trade agreement and the required procedures. It also gives a list of the Russian agencies concerned with specific types of imports.

In the last section there is a brief summary of trade relations between Morocco and the Soviet Union for the years 1957 and 1958 which are reportedly based on statistics published by the Soviet Union. It is curious that in publishing these figures no reference was made to the fact that they do not correspond to the official Moroccan statistics, which are as follows:

	(in 1,000's of Moroccan francs)		
	1957	1958	Difference
Imports	490,450	518,897	+ 5.8%
Exports	833,259	637,748	- 23.5%
	1,323,709	1,156,648	- 12.7%

According to the Russian figures, there was a drop in the total value of trade from 24.5 million rubles in 1957 to 19.2 million in 1958, which would mean a decrease of 21 per cent. The Moroccan figures, on the other hand, account for a decrease in total trade of only 12.7 per cent. The Russian import figures show a decrease from 21.9 million rubles in 1957 to 6.7 million in 1958, a drop of 70 per cent, while the Moroccan figures show a drop of only 23.5 per cent. The Russian export figures show an increase from 3.4 million rubles in 1957 to 4.5 million in 1958, an increase of 32 per cent, but the Moroccan statistics show merely a 5.8 per cent increase. Figures given on tonnages for specific items are equally at variance, making it impossible to reach any conclusions as to the reasons for these discrepancies between Moroccan and Russian trade statistics for the two years.

For the Ambassador:

Enclosure: As stated
cc: Casablanca, Tangier

David G. Nes
Counselor of Embassy

For: Fescott:st

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LWS

Notice for Exporters to the Soviet Union

(Translation from French text which was published in the January 1960 issue of the monthly bulletin of the Office Cherifien de Controle et d'Exportation)

I - Trade Agreement

Foreign trade between Morocco and the Soviet Union is subject to a direct trade agreement, signed in Rabat on November 13, 1959, for the period November 1, 1959-October 31, 1960. This agreement stipulates that import and export permits shall be issued by the qualified agencies of both governments for the items, quantities and values mentioned in the lists A and B enclosed in the agreement.

The total value of foreign trade which is anticipated to take place between both countries amounts to three billion Moroccan francs each way.

Under this agreement, Morocco will export to the U.S.S.R. particularly citrus fruit, cork, wool, wine, canned sardines, olive oil, almonds, and handicrafts. The U.S.S.R. will sell to Morocco hydrocarbons, mining timber, packing wood, cotton and artificial fabrics, machinery and chemical products.

The payments agreement is of the usual type, except that it provides that payments are to be made by the National State Banks of both the U.S.S.R. and Morocco, where Soviet and Moroccan accounts are opened and credited according to the requirements of the trade agreement and its eventual modifications, as well as to further financial accords which may take place between both governments.

II - Official organizations for Soviet foreign trade

The Soviet State has the monopoly of all commercial operations and transactions carried out with foreign countries. These operations are directed by the Ministry of Foreign Trade, which signs trade agreements between the U.S.S.R. and other governments.

The commercial transactions themselves are negotiated either by the U.S.S.R. trade representatives abroad or by the foreign trade central agencies. Each import-export central agency is legally and financially autonomous, but its autonomy is actually limited by the field of action fixed by the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

There is also the U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce, created in 1932, which is particularly responsible for public relations between the various U.S.S.R. foreign trade agencies and commercial firms abroad; moreover, it is responsible for all fairs in the Soviet Union and for Soviet exhibits in foreign fairs.

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III - List of Soviet Import-Export Central Agencies

In the Soviet Union, there may be only one buyer or seller for a determined kind of goods: it is the Import-Export Central Agency. Therefore, the foreign firm concerned has to look carefully into the list of items for which each agency is responsible, in order to determine the particular agency to be contacted. There are listed below the agencies responsible for importing into the U.S.S.R. the chief Moroccan products or those which are included in the present trade agreement.

V/O EXPORTLJON, Smolenskaya-Sennaya, 32/34, Moscow. Imports: woollen fabrics, wool, etc.

V/O EXPORTRHLEB, Smolenskaya-Sennaya 32/34, Moscow. Imports: rice, oil-seeds, seedlings and seeds.

V/O PRODINTORG, Smolenskaya-Sennaya 32/34, Moscow. Imports: fruit, wine, canned fish and other canned foods, spices.

V/O RAZNOEXPORT, Rue Kalaievskaya 5, Moscow. Imports: raw materials of animal origin (bristles, guts), leather (raw hides and skins), leather wares, Morocco-leather goods, handicrafts, hosiery, readymade clothes and underwear.

V/O RAZNOIMPORT, Smolenskaya 32/34, Moscow. Imports: raw cork and cork commodities.

V/O SOYOUZ-CHIMEXPORT, Smolenskaya-Sennaya 32/34, Moscow. Imports: medicinal herbs, essential oils.

IV - Licences, Duties, and Taxes

As all commercial transactions are made through the purchasing organizations mentioned in paragraph III, there is no particular restriction: it is only necessary to comply in each case with the instructions given by the agency concerned.

Customs tariffs have but a minor importance since the Soviet import organizations generally stipulate in their contract that they will pay any duties, taxes, etc., which may be collected upon the entry of the goods into the U.S.S.R.

V - Rate of Exchange, EFAC Accounts

100 rubles equals 10,762 Moroccan francs.

Moroccan exporters to the U.S.S.R. are entitled to keep in an EFAC account 8 per cent of the proceeds of their exports.

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VI - Picture of Moroccan Foreign Trade with U.S.S.R. Statistics

According to the official statistics published by the U.S.S.R. on its foreign trade for the years 1957 and 1958, Moroccan trade with the U.S.S.R. has decreased by more than half between 1957 (24.5 million rubles) and 1958 (19.2 million rubles). But in 1957 Morocco was chiefly exporter (18,300 tons of oranges and 24 tons of wool); it had imported from the Soviet Union 10,000 tons of Diesel oil, 21,300 tons of fuel oil, 20,000 cubic meters of sawed pine timber, 47,000 tins of canned crab, 46,000 meters of cotton fabrics, and crockery and chinaware valued at 80,000 rubles.

In 1958, the value of Moroccan imports into the U.S.S.R. (695 tons of wool, 64,000 tanned hides, 4,300 tons of oranges) has fallen from 21.9 million rubles to 6.7 million rubles, while the value of Moroccan purchases from the U.S.S.R. (30,000 tons of crude petroleum, 15,200 cubic meters of timber, 7,000 tins of canned crab, 251,000 meters of cotton fabrics, and chinaware or earthenware valued at 54,000 rubles) has increased from 3.4 to 4.5 million rubles.

For the first 11 months of 1959, Moroccan customs statistics show that Morocco has exported to the U.S.S.R. 5,562 tons of miscellaneous goods valued at 516 million francs, and imported 86,650 tons for a value of 981.2 million francs.

Moroccan exports include 1,498 tons of oranges for 69 million francs, 3,160 tons of cork, both raw and processed, for 198 million, 345 tons of wool for 168 million, 128 tons of sheep skins for 59 million, 145 tons of palmetto fiber for about 4 million, etc.

Russian exports to Morocco include chiefly hydrocarbons, timber, and cotton fabrics.

Useful Addresses

U.S.S.R. Chamber of Commerce, Ul Kuibysheva 6, Moscow

Soviet Trade Agency, 6 Boulevard Moulay Youssef, Casablanca

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Central File: Decimal File 461.71, International Trade And Commerce. Trade Relations, Treaties, Agreements. Customs Administration., Trade Between Union Of Soviet Socialist Republics And Morocco. (Use Smaller Number First If General Trade)., March 1, 1960. 1 Mar. 1960. MS Commercial and Trade Relations Between Tsarist Russia, the Soviet Union and the U.S., 1910-1963: RG 59, State Department, Central Files, Commercial Relations (411.61 and 461.11), United States-Soviet Union, 1950-1963. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5106469314/GDSC?u=camb55135&sid=bookmark-GDSC&pg=1. Accessed 1 May 2024.