Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary General of the Polisario Front and Head of State of the S.A.D.R., opened the Fifth Popular Congress of the Front October 12, 1982, at Chahid El-Heddah in liberated territory. The four-day meeting which was held under the "patronage" of Martyr Bachir Saleh had as its motto: "The Entire Nation Or Martyrdom." Six hundred Saharawi delegates attended the meeting and deliberated a program of action for the next three years. Also attending the meeting were representatives from a number of African governments including Algeria (Boualem Baki, Algerian Minister of Justice and member of the Algerian Political Bureau) and Mauritania (Hasni Ould Bidi, Minister of Education).

Objectives for the next three years were established in the following areas: political organization, administration, education, justice, health, economy, military efforts, diplomacy, information.

Of note in the proceedings were the links the Saharawi speakers made to other liberation struggles: SWAPO in Namibia, ANC in South Africa, the Palestinian people.

The Saharawis also made note of those countries which, according to the Saharawis, are aiding Morocco and the Moroccan government in its war to seize the Western Sahara, notably the United States and France. Abdelaziz criticized those two nations for increasing the number of their military advisers to Morocco. He noted the establishment of the protective wall (built with U.S. assistance, according to Abdelaziz) around certain cities in the S.A.D.R. territory and the increased sales and supply of weaponry.

Among weapons that the U.S. delivered to Morocco in November-December 1981 are 100 cluster bombs (CBU-58s) costing about $2,000 each. The U.S. has agreed to sell Morocco an additional $2,471,396 worth of CBU-58s and CBU-71 bombs. As Martha Wenger noted in a recent article, "Cluster bombs...kill by inundating a large area with deadly shrapnel fragments, expelled outward at extremely high velocities." These weapons, used by the U.S. in Indochina, are apparently particularly adaptable to the kind of war Morocco is waging against the Polisario Front in the wide spaces of the Saharawi desert. There has been a call in several international forums to outlaw these bombs.

Abdelaziz called on those nations of the world devoted to liberty and freedom to uphold the just cause of the Saharawi people.

Among items decided by those delegates attending the meeting was an amendment to the Saharawi constitution which provides that the Secretary General of the Polisario Front be Head of State. Congress delegates also elected an Executive Committee of seven members (formerly nine members) and enlarged the Political Bureau to twenty-five members. Delegates also decided that the Popular Congress would be held every three years in place of four.

The Fourth Popular Congress was held at Oued En Nasr, in liberated territory, in September, 1978.
NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED FOLLOWING CONGRESS
NEW MINISTERS NAMED TO POSTS IN GOVERNMENT

Following a meeting of the Executive Council of the Revolution at Haouza in November a new Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic government was formed. Prime Minister is Mahfoud Ali Beida, former Minister of the Interior. Under his direction are six ministers and two secretaries of state. Mohamed Lamine, former Prime Minister, is Minister of Education. Ibrahim Ghali remains in his post as Minister of Defense while Ibrahim Hakim continues as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Mohamed Sidati, formerly Minister-Counselor to the Presidency of the Council is Secretary General of the Presidency.

Mahfoud Ali Beida has the Ministries of Information and Culture as part of his portfolio. Abdelkader Taleb Omar was named Minister of the Interior replacing Mahfoud Ali Beida. Mohamed Ould Ziou retains his post as Minister of Justice.

Kenti Ould Jouba, former President of the National Saharawi Council (the S.A.D.R. Parliament) was named to the post of Secretary of State of the Ministry of Commerce. Nema Ould Joumani was appointed Secretary of State for the Ministry of Health. Hamouti Ould Ahmed Baba became President of the National Saharawi Council. Mohamed Salem Ould Salek heads the External Relations Committee of the Polisario Front.

The Executive Council of the S.A.D.R. was convened by Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary General of the Polisario Front and Head of State.

POPULAR CONGRESS DELEGATES VOTE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AT OCTOBER MEETING

At the Popular Congress the following changes to the S.A.D.R. Constitution were approved:

1. A new Article 13 was approved. It reads: "The Secretary General of the Polisario Front is the Head of State."

2. Article 14 was changed to read: "The Executive Council of the Revolution appoints the government composed of ministers and secretaries of state."

   Formerly read: "The Executive Council of the Revolution appoints a Council of Ministers composed of a president, ministers, and secretaries of state of ministries."

3. Article 15 was changed to read: "The Executive Council of the Revolution declares war, concludes international agreements and treaties which are signed by the Head of State."

   Formerly read: "The Executive Council of the Revolution declares war, signs treaties, names political representatives and accredits foreign political representatives."

4. Article 16 was added: "The Head of State names political representatives and Ambassadors and accredits foreign political representatives and Ambassadors."

5. Article 17 is the former Article 16.

6. Article 18 was changed to read: "The government sees to the execution of the programs set forth by the yearly popular Congresses and the popular committees under the supervision of the Head of State."

   Formerly read: "It (the Council of Ministers) assures all executive business under the directives set out by the Executive Council of the Revolution."

7. Article 19 was changed to read: "It (the government) votes the general budget."

   Formerly read: "The general budget is promulgated by law."

8. Article 21 was changed by deleting the number of persons forming the National Saharawi Council. Formerly it called for 41 members. The recent action to increase the number of members in the Political Bureau made that article out of date.

9. Article 23 was added: "It (the National Saharawi Council) decides upon its own by-laws."

10. Article 24 was added: "The members of the Executive Committee and of the government may attend sessions of the National Council but without voting rights."

11. Article 25 was added: "It (National Saharawi Council) holds periodic meetings."

12. Article 26 was added: "It (National Saharawi Council) holds extraordinary meetings upon the request of the Head of State or by request of two thirds of its members."

13. Article 27 was revised from former Article 23: "Justice is based upon the principle of separation of powers. The judge is responsible for rendering justice. Judgments are rendered and executed in the name of the people."

   Formerly read: "Justice is independent. The judge is responsible for rendering jus-
tice. Judgments are rendered and executed in the name of the people."

14. Articles 28-31 are essentially the same as former articles 24-27. The change lies in Article 31 where the Council of Ministers (old) is replaced by the Government (new).

15. Articles 32-35 are renumbered former articles 28-31.

NINETEENTH SUMMIT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY FAILS TO MEET IN TRIPOLI

The nineteenth meeting of the Organization of African Unity failed to meet for the first time in its almost twenty-year history. An aborted meeting in August and a second aborted meeting in November demonstrated the lengths to which some persons and nations are apparently committed to reduce the power of that body.

Although the presence of S.A.D.R. representatives was alleged as a stumbling block for some African leaders (the S.A.D.R. was admitted to the O.A.U. in February 1982), the actions of the Polisario Front and the efforts by a solid majority of African nations to keep the organization together undermine the credibility of that assertion. S.A.D.R. representatives delayed their arrival in Tripoli in August until the question could be resolved and only took part in discussions after the meeting had been postponed to later. In November the S.A.D.R. representatives agreed not to attend the meeting in order to end the stalemate and to make possible a meeting of the O.A.U.

With the S.A.D.R. no longer an issue for November meeting a new pretext was sought. That issue became Chad’s representation at the meeting. Reporters who attended the O.A.U. meeting in November reported that although a compromise had been worked out over representation of Hissène Habré’s government or the GUNT of Goukouni Oueddei, a compromise approved by 44 states, 14 states decided to leave the meeting: Senegal, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Gambia, Niger, Zaire, Togo, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic, Djibouti, the Comoros Islands, Guinea (Chad). Except for Morocco the other delegations did not leave Tripoli.

Many African states believe that the visits in Africa of American statesmen caused pressure to be placed on several African states to withdraw from the meeting. Others blame both Chad and Libya for intransigency in the case of Chad representation at the O.A.U. meeting.

THREE MORE NATIONS RECOGNIZE THE S.A.D.R.

Three more nations now recognize the S.A.D.R., Venezuela, Surinam and the Island of Mauritius. This brings to 55 the number of nations recognizing that government. Twenty-seven African nations formally recognize the S.A.D.R. Admission to the O.A.U. makes unnecessary further recognition in that body. Surinam and Venezuela bring the total of Latin American nations recognizing the S.A.D.R. to 12.

POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE POLISARIO FRONT ELECTED AT THE FIFTH POPULAR CONGRESS 1982

I. Members of the Executive Committee:
   1. Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary General
   2. Bachir Mustapha Sayed
   3. Mohamed Lamine Ahamed
   4. Mahfoud Ali Beiba
   5. Ibrahim Ghal
   6. Ayoub Lehbib
   7. Mohamed Lamine Bouhali

II. Members of the Political Bureau:
   1. Mohamed Ali Ould El-Ouali
   2. Sid Ahmed Batal
   3. El Kenti Jewda
   4. Ibrahim Hakim
   5. Mohamed Ould-El Ouali
   6. Nih Lehbib
   7. Benne Ebubaha
   8. Abdelkader Taleb Omar
   9. Sid Ahmed Ahmed Mahamoud
   10. El Khali Ahmed
   11. Mansour Omar
   12. Abeida Cheikh
   13. Fatimettou Ailali
   14. Moustapha Bouh
   15. Maleinine Saddik
   16. Boukhari Ahmed
   17. M’Hamed Khadad
   18. Moulay Abbass
   19. Senneya Ahmed Merhba
   20. Brahim Ahmed Mahmoud
   21. Mohamed Lamine Baali
   22. Hammoudi Ahmed Baba
   23. El Mahjoub Brahim
   24. Leheitan Lehe Chen
   25. Mohamed Salem Ould Salek

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ORGANIZATION OF THE POLISARIO FRONT & S.A.D.R.

POLISARIO FRONT

National Level

Executive Committee = Executive Committee of the Revolution
(7 members)

Political Bureau
(25 members; 3 walis & 3 Sec.Gen. of orgs.)

National Saharawi Council
(25 members of Polit. Bureau & 20 members elected-
daira pres. of 20 Popular Councils.

General Popular Congress
Delegates elected by Pop. Congress (Base). First met every 2 years, then
4 years, now 3 years.

Wilaya Level

Orientation Department
Presided over by wali & wilaya polit. direct.
Includes pres. of daira pop. councils and daira political directors.
(42 persons)

Popular Council
Presided over by wali who is named by minister of Interior.
Includes presidents of pop. councils of dairas & directors of depart-
ments: health, education, crafts, supplies, justice.

Daira Level

Orientation Department
Includes political director of daira (named) heads of cells.

Popular Council
Includes a president & the five heads of popular committees.

Cells
Person in charge is elected; also has
10 members (2 from each com-
mittee)

Popular Committees
Have priority tasks: education, health,
justice, crafts, supplies.

Popular Congress (BASE)
Meets every year

S.A.D.R. & ADMINISTRATION

Government

Wila ~
Orientation Department Popular Council
Presided over by wali & wilaya polit. direct.
Includes pres. of daira pop. councils and daira political directors.
(42 persons)

Daira Level

Orientation Department
Includes political director of daira (named) heads of cells.

Popular Congress (BASE)
Meets every year

FRONT POLISARIO