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*Spanish Memorandum on the transfer to the Moroccan authorities of control over the Southern zone of the former Spanish Protectorate in Morocco.—New York, 15th April, 1958.*

As a result of conversations recently held between the Minister of External Affairs of Spain and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Spain has, effective 10th April, 1958, transferred control over the Southern zone of the former Spanish Protectorate in Morocco to the Moroccan authorities.

Spanish armed forces will remain in the zone on the same basis as those stationed in other parts of Morocco, pending the signature of a general agreement in

compliance with the provisions of the Protocol attached to the Declaration of Independence of 7th April, 1956.

The zone is defined in the last paragraph of Article 2 of the Agreement dated 27th November, 1912; it is located between the sea, the river Draa, meridian 11 west of Paris and parallel 27/40 latitude north, and has been administered by Spain as a Protectorate since 1916, the date of its actual occupation. With the transfer of the said region to Morocco, Spain will have complied fully with the commitments under the Madrid Declaration of 7th April, 1956, by which Spain obliged herself 'to respect the territorial unity of the Empire guaranteed by international treaties'.

As is known, the 1956 Declaration of Independence ending the Protectorate status implied the obligation on the part of Spain to restore to the Sultan's authority territories up to then under Spanish Protectorate and comprising two zones defined by the Agreement of 27th November, 1912. The Northern zone was transferred to Moroccan administration during July, 1956. Now the Royal Moroccan forces are in a position to maintain order within the Southern zone of the former Protectorate, the Spanish Government turns over the said territory to the authority of the Rabat Government.

Thus the Spanish Government considers that its mission has been accomplished and makes possible the transfer of powers to the Moroccan authorities of a zone the handing over of which Spain has always been willing to carry out. The process of Moroccan unification, a consequence of its independence, is completed in so far as Spain is concerned.