

MOROCCO

Date of Elections: August 21 and 28, 1970

Reason for Elections

The elections were held to choose the members of the Chamber of Representatives, instituted by the new Constitution which was adopted by referendum in July 1970 *. This event marked the restoration of representative institutions in Morocco after 5 years of emergency rule.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Moroccan Parliament, the Chamber of Representatives, is composed of 240 members, all of whom are elected for 6 years but by different polling methods:

- 90 Representatives are elected by the people by direct ballot;
- 90 are elected in urban and rural constituencies by an electoral college composed of local councillors;
- 60 are elected by 4 social-professional electoral colleges as follows: the Chambers of Agriculture (24 Representatives), the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (16 Representatives), the Chambers of Artisans (10 Representatives) and the representatives of the Wage-Earners (10 Representatives).

Electoral System

Electoral requisites:

- To designate the Representatives elected by direct ballot, electors must be Moroccan citizens of either sex, not less than 21 years of age and registered on the electoral rolls which are permanent but revised every year.
- To designate the Representatives elected by indirect ballot, electors must belong to one of the elected bodies which make up the colleges mentioned above.

Requisites for Candidates:

- Electors of either sex, not less than 25 years of age on the date of the polls, may be candidates to one of the seats filled by direct ballot.

* See *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 5.

— Members of the respective electoral colleges, also no less than 25 years of age on the date of the poll, may be candidates to any of the seats filled by indirect ballot.

Moroccan citizens by naturalization, persons restricted by judicial order, magistrates, members of the authorities (governors, chiefs, Pachas, etc.), heads of military areas, heads of the regional divisions of the Department of National Security and police commissioners may not be elected to Parliament.

Moreover, the parliamentary mandate is incompatible with any other national, local or public office.

The 90 Representatives designated by direct ballot are elected in single member constituencies by simple plurality of vote .

Representatives designated by indirect ballot are elected by majority list simple plurality system without a preferential vote or vote-splitting; the election is by simple plurality of vote in a case where the respective electoral college has only one seat to fill.

In case of a vacancy in the course of a legislature, a by-election is held in the 6-month period following the date on which the vacancy notice is given to the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

The legislative elections held in August 1970 were the culmination of the process of restoration of constitutional order in Morocco which had been subjected for 5 years to the emergency rule declared on June 7, 1965, and implying the cessation of the Constitution of December 7, 1962.

Local councillors were elected in October 1969. A revised Constitution was then drafted and proposed to the people on July 31, 1970, and ratified by them.

The electoral campaign began on the day after the referendum and the list of 293 candidates — none of whom were women — to the 90 seats in the new Parliament filled by direct ballot, was published on August 18, 1970.

The great majority of candidates was termed "neutral" and reflected the pro-Hassan II tendency, as did the candidates of the *Mouvement Populaire*. Nine members of the Government also sought to canvass the votes of the electorate; all were elected on August 21.

It should be noted that the parties of the opposition, Istiqlal and National Union of the Forces of the People, had decided to boycott the elections. However, a number of representatives of these parties were candidates on an individual basis.

For the elections held by indirect ballot on August 28, 1970, the names of candidates appeared on a single list with the exception of the electoral college of Artisans who proposed two lists for 10 vacant seats.

The elections were peaceful, both on August 21 and 28, and strong participation revealed that the opposition's boycott order was not being obeyed to any extent.

Statistics

1. Result of the Elections and Distribution of Seats in Chamber of Representatives

	Direct Ballot	Indirect Ballot
Number of registered voters	4,874,598	15,347
Voters	4,160,016 (85.03 %)	14,075 (91.7%)
Blank or void ballot papers	54,001	299
Valid votes	4,106,015	13,776

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Number of Seats in the Chamber of Representatives
Independent Party.	128	159
<i>Mouvement Populaire</i>	81	60
Istiqlal Party.	26*	8
Constitutional Democratic Party	7	2
National Union of the Forces of the People.	6*	1
Social Progress Party (Wage-Earners)	10	10
		240

* Indicates candidates seeking election under party ticket but without any party endorsement.

2. *Distribution of Representatives According to Professional Category*

Farmers.	77
Traders and industrialists.	54
Civil servants.	43
Teachers.	30
Lawyers.	13
Doctors.	7
Others (workers, etc.).	16
	240

3. *Distribution of Representatives According to Sex*

Men.	240
Women.	—
	240

4. *Distribution of Representatives According to Age Group*

25-40.	97
40-60.	131
over 60.	12
	240