

Deterioration of Relations between Morocco and Algeria - Withdrawal of Spanish Presence - Proclamation of Saharan Arab Democratic Republic - Formation of Government - Severance of Relations with Algeria by Morocco and Mauritania -Delimitation of Moroccan and Mauritanian Sectors of Territory

The Spanish presence in Western (formerly Spanish) Sahara came to an end on Feb. 26, two days before the date laid down in the Madrid agreement signed on Nov. 14, 1975, by Spain, Morocco and Mauritania [see page 2757], the last Spanish troops having departed on Jan. 12 [see page 27579] and Moroccan and Mauritanian forces having occupied much of the territory. Although this agreement provided for the transfer of power to the Moroccan and Mauritanian Governments, however, the (Algerian-backed) Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario) proclaimed a Saharan Arab Democratic Republic in the territory on Feb. 27–28 and shortly afterwards formed a government.

The period prior to the Spanish withdrawal had been marked by a continued deterioration in Moroccan-Algerian relations, and after Algeria on March 6 announced its recognition of the new Republic, both Morocco and Mauritania on the following day broke off diplomatic relations with Algeria.

In the military field, Polisario's reliance on light vehicles as a swift means of transport across the desert, and its lack of fixed military bases, gave it a tactical advantage over Morocco's forces, which were hampered by the necessity to travel in heavy convoys; consequently, although at the time of the Spanish departure the Moroccan Army held most of Western Sahara's main towns and villages, it did not in practice have full control of the territory.

In the first open hostilities between Morocco and Algeria on Moroccan-controlled Western Saharan territory, troops from the two countries as well as Polisario guerrillas engaged in heavy fighting on Jan. 27–29 around the Amgala oasis (about 120 miles south-east of El Aaiun—the capital—and some 190 miles from the nearest point on the frontier with Algeria), after Moroccan forces had on Jan. 27 attacked Algerian troops apparently carrying supplies to refugees. Although a government statement from Rabat on Jan. 27 described the attack as a "normal police and security operation to dislodge armed bands", the official Algerian news agency APS said that the situation in Western Sahara had reached "a degree of extreme gravity".

On the third day of fighting (Jan.29) Morocco announced that it had captured over 100 Algerian soldiers and had ended the operation successfully with the disengagement of its troops, while Algeria admitted on the same day that its Army had retreated. Morocco moreover claimed on Feb. 1 that 200 Algerians and members of Polisario had died in the fighting, Algeria putting the number of Moroccans killed at 400.

Earlier, a communique from the Moroccan Information Ministry on Jan. 25 stated that a Moroccan F-5 jet fighter had been shot down in Mauritanian airspace on Jan. 21 by a Soviet SAM-6 missile, and that this incident "confirms the intervention in events taking place in the region of elements other than the so-called Polisario".

The statement continued: "The incident proves equally how well-founded are the apprehensions expressed many a time by Mauritania and Morocco about interference and foreign intervention in the Sahara affair... The gravity of the incident... lies in the fact that the Moroccan aircraft was attacked in Mauritanian airspace by forces which are thus intervening directly against Moroccan sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Mauritania."

It had also been confirmed on Jan. 24 by Mauritania that Ain ben Tili, a Mauritanian post east of Tifariti (in the north-east of the territory), had been taken by Polisario after a three-day battle.

According to APS, 152 Mauritanian troops were killed in the clash (although Mauritania claimed that its losses were "considerably lower") and 37 taken prisoner.

The hostilities between Algeria and Morocco gave rise to intense diplomatic activity on the part of Egypt and other Arab states anxious to avoid a worsening of the conflict. Following telephone conversations on Jan. 27 between President Sadat of Egypt and, respectively, President Boumedienne of Algeria and King Hassan of Morocco, the Egyptian Vice-President, Lieut.-General Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, visited Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania from Jan. 29 to Feb. 5 for talks with their heads of state.

Lieut.-General Mubarak stated on Feb. 5 on his return to Cairo that Morocco and Algeria had agreed in principle to hold direct talks on the Western Sahara conflict; the Moroccan, Algerian and Mauritanian leaders, he said, had shown "a great deal of flexibility and wisdom, and had agreed with the Egyptian view that there should be no shedding of Arab blood except in the field of battle against Arab enemies".

The Algerian Foreign Minister, Mr Abdel Aziz Bouteflika, said in a message on Jan. 29 to the UN decolonization committee (the "Committee of 24"—see 24558 A; page 19367 and the UN Secretary-General, Dr Kurt Waldheim, that Algeria would spare no effort to reduce the causes of tension in Western Sahara, and urged immediate action to assure the indigenous Sahrawi people of their right to self-determination and to bring about the evacuation of "occupation forces" from the territory. On the previous day Mr Bouteflika had summoned the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (the United States, the USSR, Britain, France and China), as well as Arab diplomats, to the Foreign Ministry for consultations.

The Libyan Prime Minister, Major Abdul Salam Jallud, held talks in Algiers from Jan. 29–31 with President Boumedienne and members of the Algerian armed forces.

In the meantime, King Hassan on Jan. 28 spoke on the telephone with President Bourguiba of Tunisia, the Emir of Kuwait and President Assad of Syria. On the following day he received the Iraqi Information Minister, Mr Tareq Aziz who also held talks with President Boumedienne on Jan. 30, and on Feb. 1 received the Tunisian Minister of the Interior, Mr Tahar Belkhodja. Prince Saud al Faisal the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, conferred with King Hassan, President Boumedienne and President Mokhtar Ould Daddah of Mauritania on Feb. 2–3, while the Algerian and Moroccan leaders also received envoys from South Yemen, Kuwait and Qatar.

The Syrian Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, General Hikmat Shehabi, and the Syrian Deputy Premier responsible for Economic Affairs, Mr Mohammed Haidar, visited the Algerian President on Jan. 28 and King Hassan on Jan. 29; meanwhile the Vice-President of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, Mr Saddam Hussein Takriti, received Moroccan and Algerian envoys on Jan. 28.

The (Egyptian) Middle East News Agency reported on Feb. 2 that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had

proposed the formation of a joint mediation committee with the Arab League, and that the Secretary-General of the League, Mr Mahmoud Riad, had declared himself in favour of the proposal and had passed it on to the three countries concerned. It was subsequently reported from Rabat on Feb. 8 that Morocco was prepared to submit the conflict to the Arab League, the OAU or the United Nations.

Mr Riad on Feb. 19 left Cairo on a mission of mediation to the countries concerned in the Sahara conflict.

Dr Waldheim on Jan. 31 announced the appointment of Hr Olof Rydbeck, the Swedish permanent representative at the United Nations, as special UN mediator in the Western Sahara dispute who would make arrangements for an "act of self-determination" by the Sahrawis. Hr Rydbeck on Feb. 5 embarked on an information mission to Western Sahara, first holding talks in Madrid on Feb. 5 with the Spanish Foreign Minister, Sr José Maria de Areilza, and the Under-Secretary of the Presidency, Sr Alfonso Osonó García, before going on to El Aaiun on Feb. 7 for talks with Moroccan, Mauritanian and Spanish officials.

During his visit to Western Sahara (which ended on Feb. 12) Hr Rydbeck also spoke with members of the *Yemaa* (the Spanish Sahara General Assembly), representatives of the two other liberation movements in the territory—the Liberation and Unity Front (FLU) and the Sahrawi National Union Party (PUNS)—and with workers at the valuable phosphate mines at Bu Craa.

Reporting to the press on his mission in mid-February, Hr Rydbeck declared that "the military situation as it stands makes a meaningful consultation of the Sahrawis very difficult if not impossible".

Following an emergency meeting on Feb. 11 of the Algerian Cabinet and Revolutionary Council, a government statement issued the next day said that efforts to mediate in the Western Sahara dispute had broken down and that a "new and generalized confrontation" might erupt over control of the territory the situation was becoming "more explosive every day", and peace in the territory would not be assured unless the rights of the Sahrawis were recognized.

The statement came as Colonel Ahmed Dlimi, the commander of the Moroccan armed forces in Western Sahara, announced that Morocco had gained control of Mahabes (near the Algerian border) from Polisario, apparently interrupting a main supply route along which Polisario had been receiving aid from Algeria.

Moroccan forces in Western Sahara had on Feb. 6 occupied the Tifariti oasis and on Feb. 8 the Bir Lehlu oasis (north-east of Tifariti), on both occasions without resistance, while on Feb. 13 they claimed to have taken Guelta Zemmour, the seat of the Algerian-backed National Provisional Council of the Sahara [see page 27578].

President Boumedienne on Feb. 12 arrived in Tripoli to confer with Colonel Kadhafi the Libyan leader, accompanied by Mr Bouteflika, Mr Belaid Abdesselam (Minister of Industry and Power) and Mr Rabah Bitat (Minister of State for Transport). A joint communique issued on Feb. 13 on President Boumedienne's departure mentioned the possibility of a political union between Libya and Algeria (the two countries having already on Dec. 29 concluded an agreement to the effect that any attack on one would be considered by the other as an attack on itself—see page 27579).

After forces from Algeria on Feb. 15 attacked and recaptured the Amgala oasis, using heavy Soviet-made equipment (including MiG fighters) and causing considerable Moroccan casualties, King Hassan demanded in a message to President Boumedienne that Algeria should either declare war openly on Morocco or accept the Madrid agreement.

He accused the Algerian leader of breaking a promise made to him the previous year that Algeria would not intervene militarily in Western Sahara "whatever the results of the dispute with Spain", and in a reference to the 1963 conflict between the two countries he called on President Boumedienne to "avoid another drama". In reply, the Algerian Government on Feb. 16 asserted that there were no Algerian troops in Western Sahara.

A Polisario communique issued in mid-February, in which it called itself the Saharan People's Liberation Army, claimed that in the latest Amgala incidents 148 Moroccan soldiers had been killed and 86 taken prisoner. It also gave casualty figures for the second half of January as 286 Moroccan and Mauritanian troops killed and 194 injured, as well as three aircraft and three helicopters shot down.

The Spanish permanent representative at the United Nations, Sr Jaime de Pinie's, announced to the UN on Feb. 25 that the Spanish presence in Western Sahara would terminate as from Feb. 26—two days earlier than the final date laid down in the Madrid agreement. The Spanish decision was interpreted as an implicit refusal to cooperate with Moroccan attempts to gain international approval of Western Sahara's status at an extraordinary session of the *Yemaá* which had been convened for Feb. 26 [see below], and to which Dr Ahmed Laraki, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, had invited Dr Waldheim to send a UN observer to "take note of" its decision.

In reply to the Moroccan request, Dr. Waldheim told a press conference on Feb. 26 that "neither Spain nor the interim tripartite administration have taken the necessary measures to assure the exercise of the right to self-determination" of the Sahrawis, and that "under these conditions the presence of an observer would not satisfy the demands of the General Assembly". He also drew attention to the two rival resolutions (3458 A and B) adopted on Dec. 10 by the General Assembly [see page 27578], both of which agreed on the necessity to organize a referendum under UN supervision.

A Spanish Foreign Ministry statement of Feb. 26 confirmed officially that the Madrid Government had "definitely terminated its presence" in Western Sahara, stressing that Spain considered itself free of all responsibility relating to the administration of the territory now that its participation in the interim administration had ceased, but adding that "the decolonization of Western Sahara will [only] be completed when the Saharan population has expressed its opinion in a valid manner

The *Yemaá*, meeting at El Aaiun on Feb. 26 with only about two-thirds of its full contingent (the remainder having taken refuge in Algeria or joined Polisario), unanimously voted to ratify the Madrid agreement (which the *Yemaá* had reportedly approved on Dec. 22—see page 27578). The official Moroccan press agency reported the president of the *Yemaá*, Sheikh Hadi Khatri Ould Said Ould Jumani (who had defected to Morocco on Nov. 3 [see page 27578], as saying that the meeting constituted a "memorable event because it concerned the total and effective liberation of the Sahara and its reattachment to the mother country under the leadership of King Hassan II".

The formal termination of Spain's presence in Western Sahara was declared on Feb. 26 by Lieut.-Colonel Rafael Valdés Iglesias, the Spanish assistant governor in the interim administration, in a speech before the *Yemaá*. Subsequently, on Feb. 28, the Spanish flag was lowered by Lieut.-Colonel Valdés and the Moroccan flag raised.

A Polisario spokesman described the meeting of the *Yemaá* as "a masquerade by a handful of traitors".

In early February the Polisario Front had issued a joint communique with the Democratic Junta of Spain (an opposition grouping formed in July 1974—see 26766 A; page 27467) condemning "the Madrid Government's

surrender to annexationist pressures from the Governments of Morocco and Mauritania"; Spain, It said, had broken its word to the Sahrawi people and had "affronted the dignity of the Spanish people and the honour of its Army".

Whereas the Madrid agreement provided for the transfer of power to the Moroccan and Mauritanian Governments (for delimitation of areas of control, see below), the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic was proclaimed in the name of Polisario at midnight on Feb. 27–28 near the Bir Lehlu oasis in Western Sahara by Mr Mohamed Ould Siou, president of the National Provisional Council of the Sahara. A communique published by the Council announced the "birth of a free, independent, sovereign state ruled by an Arab national democratic system of progressive unionist orientation and of Islamic religion", which would be non-aligned and which affirmed its respect for the charters of the United Nations, the Arab League and the OAU.

Morocco responded on Feb. 28 that the proclamation would "not change at all the situation in the Sahara, which has been recovered by Morocco ", and that" if Polisario wants to change its name, that concerns only its protectors". King Hassan also warned that he would use "all possible means" to ensure the unity and safety of his country following the Polisario move.

In a speech marking the 15th anniversary of his accession to the throne, King Hassan on March 3 said that Western Sahara had been irrevocably integrated into Moroccan national territory and that Morocco was prepared to go to war to defend it if necessary against any foreign aggressor. He described Algeria's attitude towards "our Sahara" as "illegitimate, unfounded and unpardonable, repudiating values, principles and undertakings and creating a most dangerous precedent in international relations".

At a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the OAU which was in progress in Addis Ababa at the time of the National Provisional Council's proclamation of independence (and which lasted from Feb. 28 to March 1), 17 of its 47 members had expressed support for recognition of Polisario by the organization, although Morocco and Mauritania threatened on Feb. 27 to leave the OAU if it took such a step. The meeting subsequently, on March 1, passed an' informal compromise resolution to the effect that each individual member-state should take its own decision on whether to recognize the Republic as declared by Polisario.

Those countries in favour of recognizing Polisario were Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cape Verde Islands, Chad, Comoros Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Malagasy Republic, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Principe, Somalia and Tanzania.

Fourteen countries positively opposed to recognition were Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tunisia, Zaire and Zambia.

The Democratic Republic on March 5 announced that a Government had been established on " the national soil", consisting of a Prime Minister, three ministers and four permanent secretaries, as follows:

Mr Mohamed Lamine Ould Ahmed	Prime Minister
Mr Mahfoud Ali Beida	Interior and Justice
Mr Hakim Brahim	Foreign Affairs
Mr Brahim Ghali Ould Moustafa	Defence

Permanent Secretaries

Mr Omar Mohamed All	Finance, Commerce and Supplies
Mr Balla Ould Ahmed Zein	Education, Health and Social Affairs
Mr Mohamed Salem Ould Sallak	Information
Mr Mansour Ould Omar	Energy and Telecommunications.

Mr Lamine Ould Ahmed was previously responsible for external relations on behalf of Polisario; **Mr Brahim** was a former Mauritanian diplomat of Saharan descent; **Mr Ghali Ould Moustafa** was secretary-general of Polisario from May 1973 to August 1974.

A Polisario spokesman, Mr Baba Miske, who announced the composition of the Government in Algiers, said that its formation would oblige the United Nations, the OAU and other international bodies to "take adequate measures to halt foreign aggression" in Western Sahara. He disclosed that a President would shortly be designated, a Council of the Revolution established and a provisional constitution prepared.

The Algerian Government on March 6 announced that it had recognized the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, and 24 hours later, on March 7, both Morocco and Mauritania severed relations with Algeria for "attacking Morocco's national unity and territorial integrity". (The Algerian ambassador had been recalled from Rabat on Dec. 30, 1975, while the Moroccan ambassador had been absent from Algiers for some time since being appointed to the Moroccan delegation at the United Nations—see page 27579.)

Mr Sayid el Ouali, Polisario's secretary-general, on March 11 sent a message to King Hassan requesting Morocco to recognize "our sovereign and neutral state" and assuring the King that Western Sahara would cooperate closely with Morocco, especially in the field of phosphates.

Countries which recognized the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic shortly after its proclamation included Angola, Benin, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, North Korea, the Malagasy Republic, Mozambique and Togo.

Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, visited Algiers from March 12 to 14 on a "friendship and working" visit to President Boumedienne. During his visit he also met with a Polisario delegation and pronounced himself in favour of self-determination for the Sahrawis.

On March 28 Hr Rydbeck began a second information mission to countries involved in the Western Sahara dispute. In Madrid on March 29 he held talks with Sr de Areilza, the Foreign Minister, on March 31-April 1 he met the Algerian Foreign Minister, Mr Bouteflika, and Polisario leaders in Algiers, and subsequently he visited Sahrawi refugees in camps in south-western Algeria. However, he was prevented from continuing his tour by the refusal of the Moroccan and Mauritanian Governments to receive him on the grounds that he had violated his mandate by meeting Polisario representatives.

According to a communique released by Dr Waldheim on March 25, Hr Rydbeck was undertaking an "exploratory mission" in conformity with General Assembly Resolutions 3458 A and B "relating to the question of Spanish Sahara", and he would visit Spain, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania "to be informed of the view," of these countries' Governments "concerning the application of the afore-mentioned resolutions". Following Hr Rydbeck's meeting with Polisario Dr Laraki on April 2 asked Dr Waldheim in a telegram what decision he had

taken in view of the "violation of the mandate entrusted to Rydbeck", to which Dr Waldheim replied: "At the express wish of the Algerian Government, Hr Rydbeck went to Tindouf for talks with Sahrawi representatives."

Dr Laraki on April 4 thereupon informed Dr Waldheim that Hr Rydbeck was "no longer qualified" to continue his mission to Rabat, and on the same day the Mauritanian Government expressed the view that it was "inopportune" for Hr Rydbeck at present to visit Nouakchott (the Mauritanian capital).

Among those members of Polisario whom Hr Rydbeck met at Tindouf were Mr Sayid el Ouali, Mr Miske and Mr Lamine Ould Ahmed (in his capacity as a member of the Polisario politburo), who together with five members of the new Government of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic—Mr Brahim, Mr All Beida, Mr Ghali Ould Moustafa, Mr Sallak and Mr Ahmed Zein—were the object of international arrest warrants issued on March 26 in Rabat in connexion with the disappearance of French citizens in southern Morocco.

At the beginning of January 1976 five French citizens and one Moroccan, including the son and daughter of the political counsellor at the French embassy in Rabat, disappeared near the southern Moroccan border, after two other Frenchmen had been abducted in the same area several days earlier and had apparently been taken to Algeria. A Polisario communique issued on Jan. 19 in Paris announced that the two abducted Frenchmen would shortly be brought before a "revolutionary military tribunal" as prisoners of war captured in a Moroccan convoy. Algerian sources indicated on Feb. 14 that Polisario had killed the other five French nationals in error.

Polisario claimed on March 22 to have killed 166 Moroccan troops and wounded 354 during the first fortnight of March, while President Mokhtar Ould Daddah said on March 28 that "about 100" Mauritanian soldiers had been killed since December in the course of operations against Polisario.

Meanwhile, Polisario was engaged in trying to evacuate some 25,000 Sahrawis across the desert to Algerian refugee camps (where there were already about 50,000-70,000 displaced persons), using Saharan Red Crescent vehicles. This operation would effectively complete the displacement of the indigenous population of Western Sahara, which according to a Spanish census of 1974 numbered about 73,500 (although Polisario claimed that Spain had "found it convenient to undercount" in its investigations).

At a press conference in London on March 22, a Polisario spokesman alleged that Morocco had carried out air attacks on the inhabitants of the Um Dreiga area (causing at least 400 deaths), Bir Lehlu, El Galta and Tifariti, using napalm, phosphorus and gas-bombs, and that Spain had poisoned and destroyed wells in the desert.

The Algerian news agency APS had on Jan. 21 charged Morocco with carrying out "genocidal" attacks on civilians in Western Sahara and of bombing refugee camps on Jan. 17-18.

Under a convention signed on April 14 in Rabat by the Moroccan and Mauritanian Foreign Ministers in the presence of King Hassan and President Mokhtar Ould Daddah, the two countries agreed on the delimitation of their border in Western Sahara. This was to run eastwards from a point on the Atlantic coast north of Dakhla (formerly Villa Cisneros, which had in mid-January been occupied by both Moroccan and Mauritanian troops—see page 27579), leaving Bir Enzaran in the Moroccan sector as a border post, and then south-east in the direction of Zouerate (Mauritania) [for maps of Western Sahara, see pages 27418; 27575].

Although Mauritania received less than one-third of the territory, and the Bu Craa phosphate mines remained in the Moroccan sector, the two countries agreed to share the exploitation of the mineral deposits as well as of territorial waters, the extent of Mauritanian participation to be determined in a later agreement.

Earlier, Bojador (formerly Cap Bojador) had been designated as the chief town of a third administrative province in the Moroccan sector, in addition to the provinces of El Aaiun and Smara. Governors were officially appointed on April 12 as follows Mr Bouchaib Zegourri (Bojador), Mr Said Ouassou (El Aaiun) and Mr Silmane Haddad (Smara).

Under a decree of March 15, Mauritania had announced the creation of two provinces in its sector, Tiris el Gharbia and Güera.

King Hassan in April despatched a number of government and opposition politicians—including Me. Abderrahim Bouabid (general secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, USFP), Mr Mohammed Boucetta (general secretary of the executive committee of Istiqlal) and Mr Ould Sidi Baba (Minister for *Habous* and Islamic Affairs)—on a world mission to explain the Moroccan viewpoint in the Western Sahara dispute. The Mauritanian Government also announced in March that it would send six ministers to 23 African countries similarly to explain its own attitude.

President Boumedienne, Colonel Kadhafi and President Kountché of Niger met on April 8 at Ouargla (Algeria) on the initiative of the Niger Government. A joint communique issued after the talks declared that the three heads of state had decided to "inaugurate a new era of close and fruitful co-operation between Niger, Libya and Algeria, who will form a nucleus of co-operation open to extension at regional level".

Expressing the hope that Mali and other "anti-imperialist" states in the region would strengthen their ties, the three countries "reiterated their support for the free and sincere exercise of the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination without external pressure or intervention, whatever its nature and from wherever it comes".

Following the commencement in late 1975 of negotiations between the Spanish National Institute for Industry (INI) and the Office cherifien des phosphates (OCP) [see page 2757], it was confirmed in Madrid on Feb. 7 that Spain had sold a 65 per cent share in Fosbucraa (the Sahara phosphate company) to Morocco, retaining the other 35 per cent.

Mining operations at the Bu Craa mine resumed on Feb. 9 after being halted since Dec. 13 for reorganization; however, repairs were still taking place on the 60-mile conveyor belt to the coast [see map on page 27575], which had been damaged on several occasions by Polisario guerrillas. Spanish sources said that 40 per cent (i.e. about 700) of the Spanish workers at Bu Craa had decided to continue working at the mine.

Morocco had during 1975 accumulated an unsold surplus of 7,000,000 tonnes of phosphates, and early in 1976 announced that it had dropped its phosphate price from \$68 to \$18.50 per tonne, back-dated to Jan. 1. (The Moroccan phosphate price had been increased by 8 per cent—to \$68 per tonne—in March 1975, having risen from the \$42 level set in January 1974—see 26714 A—to \$63 per tonne in the latter part of 1974.) (Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian - Le Monde - La Van-guardia, Barcelona - New York Times - Neue Zürcher Zeitung - International Herald Tribune - Financial Times - BBC Summary of World Broadcasts) (*Prev. rep. 27575 A; 27413 A*)