June 6, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President:

We applaud the support of your Administration for the adoption of Resolution 1754 by the United Nations Security Council on April 30, 2007, which incorporates the historic initiative by Morocco to end the conflict in the Western Sahara through direct negotiations. This new direction for solving the crisis is in large part the result of your efforts and encouragement.

As the first country to officially recognize the United States in 1777, Morocco has been an historic and reliable ally to our great nation, and we encourage you to continue this cooperation in the challenging months ahead as the negotiations are inaugurated.

Recent terrorist attacks in Morocco and Algeria show that we cannot afford to continue to ignore the problems of this region. Failure to resolve this conflict jeopardizes international stability, our fight against terrorism, and economic integration efforts in the region.

By giving the people of the Western Sahara a true voice in their future through the full benefits of autonomy as presented by Morocco, a credible political solution can be achieved. Morocco’s commitment merits the support of the international community and we must ensure that its neighbors assume their responsibility for contributing to the success of these negotiations, as called for in UNSC Resolution 1754.

Mr. President, we know that with your encouragement and support Morocco has courageously shown its leadership with this initiative. Your commitment can make possible a solution to this lingering issue and reaffirm our bipartisan support to a realistic and lasting peace in North Africa.

Sincerely,

Madeleine K. Albright
Former United States Secretary of State
Thomas Nassif
Former United States Ambassador to Morocco and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs

Mickey Kantor
Former United States Secretary of Commerce and Former United States Trade Representative

Hazel R. O'Leary
Former United States Secretary of Energy

Wesley Clark
Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander

Ben Gilman
Former Member, United States House of Representatives and Chairman, House Committee on International Relations

Martin Indyk
Former Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and Former United States Ambassador to Israel

Thomas R. Pickering
Former United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria, and Jordan

Edward S. Walker Jr.
Former Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and Former United States Ambassador to Israel, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates

Michael Ussery
Former United States Ambassador to Morocco and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs

Dov Zakheim
Former Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Defense

Leon Fuerth
Former National Security Advisor to Vice President Albert A. Gore Jr.

Frederick Vreeland
Former United States Ambassador to Morocco and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs

Peter W. Rodman
Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs

Thomas R. Pickering
Former United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and Former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Russia, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria, and Jordan

Edward S. Walker Jr.
Former Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and Former United States Ambassador to Israel, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates

Michael Ussery
Former United States Ambassador to Morocco and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs

Dov Zakheim
Former Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) and Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Defense

Leon Fuerth
Former National Security Advisor to Vice President Albert A. Gore Jr.

Frederick Vreeland
Former United States Ambassador to Morocco and Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and South and Central Asian Affairs

Peter W. Rodman
Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs