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May 8, 1968

Subject: Consultative Group for Tunisia

The following announcement was issued today at the World Bank's European Office in Paris:

"The consultative group on development assistance to Tunisia met in Paris on May 7 - 8, 1968, under the chairmanship of the World Bank. The following countries were represented: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Libya, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank were also present. The delegation from Tunisia was headed by Mr. Ahmed Ben Salah, Secretary of State for Planning and National Economy, and also included Mr. Abderrazak Rassaa, Under-Secretary of State for Finance and Development, Mr. Sadok Bahroun, Director General of the Plan, Mr. Bechir Ennagi, Director of Economic Cooperation, and Mr. Hedi Ennifer, Director, Central Bank of Tunisia.

"The group discussed reports on the state of the Tunisian economy and its prospects, prepared by the Government of Tunisia and the World Bank. It was noted with satisfaction that 1968 can be expected to be more favorable than the two preceding years, on account of better harvests, continued development of tourism and a sustained inflow of foreign assistance. The consensus was that Tunisia, by its commendable efforts, thoroughly deserves the assistance of the aid-giving countries and that meetings of the consultative group were useful for the various bilateral and multilateral programs. It was tentatively agreed that the next meeting of the group would focus on the next Four-Year Development Plan of Tunisia (1969-1972) and that the meeting would be held as early as practicable, after publication of the Plan and time to review it."