

# Tunisian Ambassador Praises Quality of A&M Education

Tunisian students at Texas A&M returned to classes this week with the assurance of the African country's ambassador to the United States that their education here will contribute to the progress of the world.

"Your practical education at A&M will be useful for the progress of our people," Ambassador Rachid Driss declared. "We are full of confidence in the face of a huge task. We hope that with the cooperation of Texas A&M and other friends over the world that we can build a progressive nation."

Driss returned to Washington after two days on the A&M campus. He joined the students in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the independence of Tunisia.

"Tunisia has entrusted its bright, young minds to us," A&M President Earl Rudder said Saturday at a luncheon honoring Driss. "This is one of the greatest compliments which your people can pay a university."

Rudder predicted A&M graduates will return to Tunisia and "become leaders of your nation."

"We want you, Mr. Ambassador, and other leaders of Tunisia to tell us how we can help your people," he continued.

Driss met Friday with Dr. Jack Gray, director of International Programs through which Chott Maria Agricultural College has been established in Tunisia by A&M educators.

"The Tunisian students have been inspired by the Ambassador's visit," Gray observed.

Driss talked with A&M's 49 Tunisian students at a reception Friday night.

Saturday morning the ambassador toured the university's nuclear reactor with Robert L. Melcher, A&M's foreign student advisor, as his host. The President's luncheon was held at noon with key officials in the programs for the Tunisians joining Driss and Rudder.

Dr. and Mrs. Randall Stelly honored the ambassador at a tea in their College Station home Saturday afternoon. Dr. Stelly, associate professor of agricultural economics and sociology, is a student advisor.

The Tunisian Students Club climaxed Driss' visit with the second annual Tunisian Independence Banquet Saturday night in the St. Mary's Student Center. More than 150 Tunisians and their guests heard the envoy review the progress of Tunisia in a decade of independence. Films showed agricultural, industrial and other growth of Tunisia during the 10 years.

Tunisian students at A&M are preparing themselves for teaching and research jobs with the Agricultural College in Sousse, Tunisia. They are working toward bachelor of science degrees in 16 areas. A few may begin graduate work this summer.

Four of the Tunisians are enrolled in 9-month courses in poultry, dairy management, field crops and horticulture. They will complete their work in November. Another quartet is due here in June to prepare for positions as laboratory assistants at Chott Maria.

Texas A&M recently signed a \$378,680 extension contract with the Agency for International Development to continue the program through 1968. The first similar contract was signed in October, 1962.

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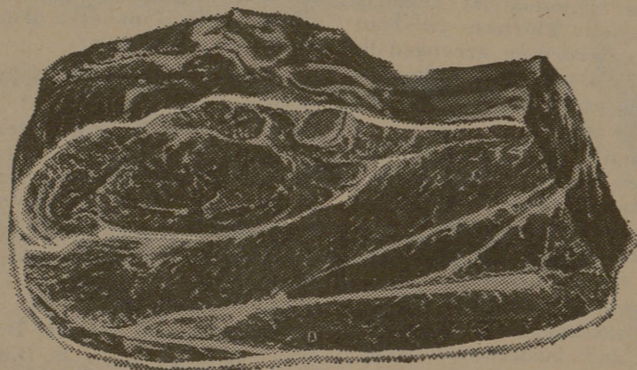
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