

Brazilian Vice-President Receives Moroccan Minister

Contributed by Carolina Pimentel
Saturday, 21 January 2006

Brazil's Vice-President and Minister of Defense, José Alencar, received the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco, Mohamed Benaissa, Thursday, January 19, in Brasília.

According to a note issued by the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Brazil and Morocco enjoy a "good political understanding."

Morocco was in favor of holding the South America-Arab Countries Summit in Brasília, in March, 2005, and, according to the note, is interested in hosting the second meeting, in 2008.

Bilateral trade between the two countries amounted to US\$ 725.4 million last year. The balance favored Brazil by US\$ 102.7 million.

Brazil exported US\$ 414 million to Morocco, 76% more than in 2002, while Brazilian imports from Morocco rose from US\$ 146.4 million in 2002 to US\$ 311.3 million in 2005.

The Brazilian minister of Foreign Relations, Celso Amorim, also met with Benaissa to discuss matters of bilateral interest. After their meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a luncheon was offered by the Brazilian chancellor to honor his Moroccan counterpart.

Benaissa, who accompanied King Mohamed VI on his visit to Brazil in 2004, brought a letter addressed by the king of Morocco to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

ABr