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# Moroccan Patriot

## Abdallah Ibrahim

**L**AST December, King Mohamed V of Morocco summoned a 40-year-old intellectual who had been the leader of the Left-wing opposition to become his Premier.

It seemed a shaky arrangement that could not last long in a newly independent country subject to many strains

Man  
In the  
News

in foreign and domestic policy. But after nearly a year, Abdallah Ibrahim is still the head of

the Royal Government, and on his first visit to the United States is not only taking up questions affecting his country but also working for a United Nations measure that could help pave the way for peace in neighboring Algeria.

The monarch and the Leftist Premier share a common devotion to the cause of Moroccan nationalism and independence. More than that King Mohamed has high respect for Mr. Ibrahim for being straightforward even when their views differed.

"Abdallah Ibrahim is like crystal water," a member of the court circle observed recently.

The Premier insists that he is "not a professional politician." He would be happier, he says, as a professor of social history or even in returning to his first love, Arabic poetry.

### First Verses Published at 17

Mr. Ibrahim, born in 1918, grew up in modest circumstances in the ancient red-walled city of Marrakesh, the southern metropolis of Morocco. He studied at its Arabic university, taking an advanced degree in Arabic literature. His first published writings, at the age of 17, were intricate Arabic verses.

Though he was vigorously opposed to the French protectorate in Morocco, he felt uncomfortable in the nationalist movement of his youth, which flourished in the well-to-do intellectual drawing-room circles of the northern city of Fez.

"Too much mint tea and talk and too many telegrams," he said.

Young Abdallah Ibrahim took the ideas out of the drawing-rooms and into the streets of Marrakesh. He organized associations of leather workers, weavers and other craftsmen. They turned out for mass meetings at which independence and social reform were demanded.

Mr. Ibrahim was not a showy figure. Slightly stooped, he is still shy with strangers. But his easy-going simplicity of manner and ready smile won a new and broader following for the nationalist cause.

The French condemned the mass meetings and the young nationalist agitator frequently found himself behind bars.



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*Frequently found himself behind bars.*

But in Paris, after World War II, Mr. Ibrahim continued his search for a social doctrine for Morocco. From 1945 to 1950 he devoted himself to social and economic studies at the Sorbonne, reading deeply in Nietzsche, Bertrand Russell, Marx and Engels.

Returning to Morocco, Mr. Ibrahim became a main link between the most important political group, the Istiqlal (Independence) party, and the two mass movements—organized labor in the cities and the guerrilla resistance fighters in the countryside.

In 1955 the French permitted the deposed King Mohamed to return and in 1956, the protectorate ended, independent Morocco was admitted to the United Nations. Mr. Ibrahim served as Minister of Information and Minister of Labor in the initial coalition Governments,

### Non-Party Regime Formed

A non party Government headed by Mr. Ibrahim was formed last Dec. 23. His presence in office had a calming effect on rebellious Riff tribesmen. After taking the Premiership, he discontinued his demand for immediate evacuation of the five United States military bases in Morocco.

He has moved slowly toward his goal of economic as well as political independence from France, but is reported recently to have gained the King's approval for a broad economic reform program. This involves breaking away from the French monetary zone as well as carrying out a plan of "austerity and national discipline."

Mr. Ibrahim and his wife, Fatima, have a daughter, Laila, aged 4, and a son, Tarrik, 2 months old. The Premier's only hobbies are reading and listening to Western classical music.