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Governor's Office
State of Oregon

TRADE WITH EGYPT

Channel 2 KATU-TV 4/10/84 5:29

Dan Christopher

We'll talk now about the middle-east. Egypt, its a poor country, struggling to achieve economic stability.

It is a country that receives a good deal of aide from the United States and depends heavily on trade from the United States.

Egypt was the second stop for the Oregon trade delegation to the middle east and tonight Lisa Stark is here to tell us about part of that trip.

Lisa Stark

Dan, Egypt is one of Oregon's largest trading partners.

The state does over \$100 million in business there every year and much of that comes from the sale of Northwest Wheat.

But the trade delegation found that there are other opportunities to be had as well.

Most people think of Egypt of the land of pyramids. Three of them sit just outside of Cairo, a beautiful testament to the Egypt of old.

But the modern Cairo is a busy noisy city of over 12 million.

It sits right on the Nile River, Egypt's life blood. Egypt is a poor country, the average per capita income is just \$400 a year. People survive because of government subsidies which hold down the cost of gasoline to 60 cents a gallon and the price of bread to less than 1 penny a loaf.

These artificially low prices are so critical that there were riots when the government tried to raise the price of bread by just one cent.

The subsidies have led to a big government deficit. Which Egyptian President Hoosni Mobarek is trying to eliminate.

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Lisa Stark
(cont.)

Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh wished Mobarek well on the nearly impossible task of revitalizing Egypt's economy.

Atiyeh later spoke with the Egyptian press.

Gov. Atiyeh

I must tell you that I am so far, very impressed with the vitality of the middle east countries and what they are doing with their wealth and those that like Egypt, are struggling trying to do the best you can.

I have to admire it. Very much.

Lisa Stark

Right now this country relies heavily on U.S. aide, especially the food for peace program.

Which provides about \$250 million worth of food a year including Northwest wheat.

At a briefing in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Oregon trade delegation members learned that Egypt is trying to attract foreign investment.

American companies have already set up plans here to manufacture toothpaste, razor blades, and even Johnson wax.

The United States is Egypt's largest trading partner and mission members were told the best trading possibilities are electrical supplies, medical equipment and agricultural machinery.

Also construction equipment is needed to ease the country's acute housing shortage.

Many of these products are on display at the Cairo International Fair, here companies from all over the world buy for Egypt's business. Even Israel is represented.

Egypt is one of the few Arab countries which does not discriminate against companies doing business with Israel.

Here at the Cairo Trade Fair, over 83 U.S. Firms are displaying their products. This is considered an excellent way to introduce products to Egypt.

(more)

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Lisa Stark
(cont.)

The trade delegation toured the new U.S. Pavillion, in addition to all the company displays, three states are represented.

However, not one Northwest firm is showing its products here.

Governor Atiyeh said that he may try to change that.

One commodity that Egypt can always sell is a camel ride. Tourism is a big money maker for Egypt and Governor Atiyeh did his part by riding on the desert.

Providing one small boost for the Egyptian economy.

By the way, the Governor did very well at handling his camel. Just like an old pro.

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