

moba media

PO 653
Portland OR
97208
1217 SW 19th
Portland OR
97206
(503) 223-1677

MISSION

Channel 6 KOIN-TV 3/14/84 5:22

Mark Hendricks

Members of the first Oregon trade mission to the middle east left Portland today hoping to find some new Arab buyers for products made in Oregon.

In New York, the delegation will pick up its leader, Governor Vic Atiyeh who will be returning to his ancestral homelands.

Reporters Mike Donahue and Mark Sanchez and photographer Dale Burkhardt will be covering the trip for Newsroom 6. Before he left today, Mike filed this report.

Mike Donahue

These underground electrical conductors built by Western Power Products of Hood River are going to Saudia Arabia where they will power a new suburb in the desert.

Dr. David Grimwood of Lake Oswego is a MD, but he is also president of Meriwether Incorporated, which hopes to sell solar and building materials to the Arabs.

Ben Tyran of Ashland has been travelling to the middle east for 40 years as a petroleum consultant and he will introduce the Oregon delegation to some of his business contacts.

But he is personally more interested Arab exports, specifically students.

Benjamin Tyran

This is one way that we can stimulate our local economies here in Southern Oregon for example. Southern Oregon State College, we could bring in another 50 students, each of whom would be leaving behind \$15,000 a year, say on the average, you can see what it would do to a little community to ours down here.

Mike Donahue

Wheat is Oregon's number 1 export to the middle east and Egypt the principal buyer, \$128 million worth last year, which explains why the Oregon Wheat Growers League is sending a representative.

(more)

MISSION, Channel 6, KOIN-TV, 3/14/84

like Donahue
(cont.)

And Diamond Fruit Growers would like to expand their markets in the Arab world. Hence their investment in the trade mission.

Governor Atiyeh expects that it will be a rewarding business trip but he cautions, do not expect to bring back orders.

ov. Atiyeh

Economic development is really grossly misunderstood. And I say that in terms of my own little retail company that it is on-going. You put ads in the paper, we call institutional ads.

Say how many orders do you get from them? Well you never know how many orders you get from them.

The point is that we are still here 84 years later.

like Donahue

First stop on the tour is Saudi Arabia, Jedda, the commercial seaport, and Riyadh, the capitol. The Saudi's have been trading for centuries, but in this century, they became the Beverly Hillbillies of the world.

Now they are trading the lifeblood of Western Civilization oil, no country in the world exports more of it.

The Saudi's know that someday it will be gone forever so they are diversfying. Buidling the first cities of the 21st century, Jibal and Yambou.

Industrial complexes that need foreign manpower, know how and equipment.

Egypt on the other hand needs imports because of its poverty. It's people are hungry and their housing substandard. A ready made market for Oregon food and lumber products.

The Governor's invitation to visit Syria prompted many in the trade mission to change their plans. Instead of staying behind in Egypt, they will ride his coattails into what they hope to be a businessman's promise land.

Atiyeh himself is expecting a hero's welcome.

(more)

MISSION, Channel 6, KOIN-TV, 3/14/84

Gov. Atiyeh

I know that they are very proud to the fact that a child of an immigrant is the Governor is a state. I know that, they are quite proud of that.

I'm looking forward to the excitement of that and visiting my dad's village. And it truly is, we have been trying to find it on a map.

Mike Donahue

The Governor will probably won't find his last stop on any Arab maps either, Israel. He plans to stay their two weeks.

But we can't talk about that yet because it is not on any of the itineraries, flight or hotel schedules, visas or passports.

If you are aware of the religious politics in the middle east you know why.

So until you hear again from us in the Middle East I'm Mike Donahue reporting for Newsroom 6.

xxx