

# TIMES OF OMAN

Chief Editor RANA N. PARVEZE

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## OMAN PRESENTS UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF OVERALL DEVELOPMENT

Geneva:

(By our Special Correspondent)

Armodi Publishers of Switzerland recently spent two weeks in Oman, as guests of the government, collecting informations for the special Oman edition of their publication Armo, a magazine aiming to bridge the gap between the Western world and the Arabian countries. The magazine covers culture, economics, education, religion, art, indeed everything with the strict exception of politics.

Armo editors Hans Lopfe, the son of former member of the Swiss parliament, Ernst Lopfe-Ben, and his wife Ursula travelled extensively in Oman, being shown the agricultural projects at Rumais in the Batinah, and Salalah new hospital, numerous schools, and various other projects which go to make up the remarkable development of Oman today. They were able to assemble a great deal of constructive informations and reports, assisted by the relevant Ministries and technical experts. They said they were deeply impressed at what Oman has achieved in the space of six years only, to become a reasonably advanced nation virtually out of nothing.

Their overriding impression of the Omanis was one of friendliness and hospitality. Everywhere they were met by an eagerness to help. The Omanis, they found, are adapting and finding their place happily in their rapidly developing country.

Mrs. Lopfe was struck by the beauty of the Omanis. "The fine features of the handsome Omanis" she said "are sure to strike a chord of sympathy among Western readers."

Indeed Oman, a land of contrasts and ambition, offers an example to the world of what can be accomplished in so short a period. Admittedly, the financial resources are there to allow for the employment of foreign technical know-how in a land so young that it had no chance to achieve the standard of education possible in countries as, for example, Germany or Britain. But progress is planned, education of Omani youth is zealously being undertaken, and care is being taken that the drawbacks possible with such rapid development do not occur. And yet there is little sign that such drawbacks have crept in, and as Oman continues her develop-

ment plan in the present vein, her future looks hopeful indeed.

Following their visit, the editors wished Oman every success for the future, and extended grateful thanks to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, to the Ministry of Information and particularly to Mr. Abdul Aziz Rowwas, Under Secretary for Information, for his assistance.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

- Several Middle East leaders have been invited to the United States later this year, to discuss moves toward a peace settlement.
- President Carter has supported the human rights campaigners in the Soviet Union. A spokesman said that differences between Washington and Moscow did not mean that these countries could not work together to solve common problems.
- The UN Secretary General Dr. Waldheim has expressed regrets at the death of the Archbishop of Uganda and two cabinet ministers. He said he hoped the circumstances would be clarified.

### Oman supports proposal for Gulf University

The Minister of Education Mr. Ahmed Abdulla Ghazali has returned to Muscat at the conclusion of his four-day official visit to the UAE. Talking to newsmen soon after his arrival he said that he exchanged views with UAE officials on educational matters. He said the talks were constructive and the two countries agreed to look into the feasibility of adopting a uniform academic curriculum.

Asked about the proposal for opening a Gulf University Mr. Ghazali said that Oman supports the idea.

About United Arab Emirates University Mr. Ahmed Ghazali said that students from Oman would have their proportionate share in it.

### Oman to attend Communications Council

Muscat: (By our Staff Reporter)

The Acting Director General of Civil Aviation Mr. Mohammed Burhan Tahir left here for Cairo to lead the Sultanate delegation at the Arab Communications Council meetings. The meetings began on Saturday and will continue until February 21.

### Indian President laid to rest Qais Zawawi attends funeral

Muscat: (By our Staff Reporter)

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos has sent a message to the Acting Indian President Mr. B.D. Jatti condoling the sad demise of President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

H.M. The Sultan expressed his profound grief and shock on his behalf as well as on behalf of people of the Sultanate. H.M. The Sultan also expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed was laid to rest Sunday last in Jamia Mosque, Delhi with full state honours.

An Omani delegation led by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Qais Abdul Munim Zawawi represented His Majesty Sultan Qaboos at the funeral. The Omani delegation also included Mr. Nasser Al-Kusaibi of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Selim Rajab of the Protocol Department.

### Arafat's appeal to US

Jeddah: (UPI)

The PLO Chairman Mr. Yasar Arafat has asked the United States to press Israel for a lasting Middle East solution. In an interview with the Middle East News Agency he said that Israel's continued intransigence is based on unlimited US support for her.

Mr. Yasar Arafat who left here on Thursday night after a brief visit held talks with Saudi leaders on the Palestine issue and Middle East situation in general.



▶ A well attended fashion show by the world-famed fashion designer Mr. Yuki and Miss Jean was held at Gulf Hotel on February 17.

## FABULOUS ★ FEMALE ★ FASHIONS

It was a glittering affair and over 300 persons saw a parade of lovely ladies displaying various fashions in variety of materials.

The fashion show was held in the morning and because of its immense popularity it was again held at 10-30 p.m. Mr. Yuki said: "It is a pleasure to hold a fashion show to such an appreciative audience."

## ROYAL DECREES

**High level ministerial changes ordered**

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos issued four edicts this week creating two new posts of Under Secretaries in the Ministry of Communications and two Under Secretaries in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Natural Resources.

Announcing the high level ministerial changes the royal edict said that the decrees have been issued after examining rules and regulations of the state administration system Law No. 26/75 and after reviewing various amendments thereof.

The first decree No. 6 enacted the creation of two new posts of Under Secretaries at the Ministry of Communications. Decree No. 7 confirmed the appointment of Mr. Selim Nasser al Busaidi as Under Secretary for Civil Aviation Affairs. Ambassador Salim Ahmed Khalfan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been transferred and redesignated as Under Secretary Administrative and Financial Affairs in the Ministry of Communications.

Third decree No. 8 refers to the transfer of Ambassador Abdulla Ali Qutbi from Beirut, and appointing him as Under Secretary for Roads and Ports at the Ministry of Communications.

Fourth decree No. 9 effects the promotion of Mr. Hasan Abdulla Mirza to the post of Under Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Natural Resources. The decree also confirms the promotion of Director General Fisheries Mr. Selim Shaban to the post of Under Secretary for Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Natural Resources.

**Alawi receives Saudi ambassador**

The Under Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Yousuf Alawi Abdulla had a meeting with Saudi Arabian ambassador Mr. Abdulla Mutlaq. Bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest were discussed at the meeting.

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**Oman attends Arab Communications Ministers conference**

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

The Under Secretary Communications Mr. Selim Nasser al Busaidi left here on Monday to attend the Arab Communications Ministers conference which began at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo on Tuesday. The Omani delegation also included the General Manager of Omantel Mr. Noor Mohammed and the Administrative Expert of Civil Aviation Directorate Mr. Al Harthy.

It may be recalled that Oman attended the last Arab Communications conference held in April last which decided the setting up of an Arab organisation for space telecommunications. The Sultanate is now a full-fledged member of the organisation.

**Oman can attract tourists**

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

Oman is a very beautiful country, rich in traditions and culture. It has a vast and alluring countryside with mountain cliffs touching sea-bed and sandy beaches which can attract a large number of tourists from all over the world.

This was stated by the visiting Commercial Consular of Switzerland based in Abu Dhabi Mr. Willy Friez who was on a 12-day fact-finding mission to the Sultanate from February 6 to 17.

Talking to the Times of Oman on Wednesday Mr. Friez said that Oman has great potential for developing into a first-class tourist resort. Switzerland which is very much advanced in tourism, can do a lot to assist Oman develop its tourist industry. He was all praise for the very friendly and hospitable Omanis.

During his visit to the Sultanate Mr. Willy Friez met ministers and senior government officials and discussed with them ways and means of increasing trade relations and economic cooperation between Oman and Switzerland.

He also held discussions with leading Omani businessmen and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and explored the possibilities of setting up joint ventures.

**Kuwaiti official visits Oman**

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

The Director of Islamic Affairs of Kuwait Sheikh Abdul Moiz Abdul Sattar arrived here on Tuesday.

During the course of his stay Sheikh Abdul Moiz held discussions with the officials of the Ministry of Aqaf and Islamic Affairs on matters of mutual interest.

**Sayyid Thuwaini inaugurates modern dairy plant**

Muscat :

(By our Correspondent)

A modern dairy plant was inaugurated in Ghubra on Wednesday. The plant set up by the Oman National Dairy Products Company was opened by Personal Advisor to His Majesty and Governor of the Capital Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab. The ceremony was attended by members of the royal family, members of the diplomatic corps, leading businessmen and elite of the town. The Vice President of the National Dairy Products Co. Sheikh Hamoud al Harthy presented the address of welcome to the chief guest. After cutting the tape Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab went round the plant and witnessed the production of milk and yoghurt.

**Health conference**

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The Second Gulf Health Ministers conference which ended in Abu Dhabi on Thursday has set up a permanent committee for the import of medicines, to expedite the establishment of pharmaceutical industries in the region, and to adopt a uniform curriculum.

This was disclosed by the Health Minister Dr. Mubarak Khadouri on his return here after leading Omani delegation at the conference. He said there was complete identity of views to improve the standard of medical services in the region. Dr. Mubarak Khadouri thanked the UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan for hosting the conference.

**AHLI CLUB****Prize distribution ceremony**

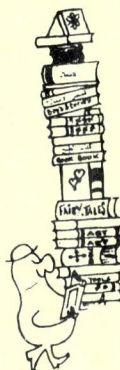
Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The prize distribution ceremony for the community development exhibition arranged last month was held at Ahli Club. Personal Advisor to His Majesty and Governor of the Capital Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab presided over the function. The Education Minister Mr. Ahmed Abdulla Ghazali also attended the ceremony. Addressing the students he stressed the importance of creating a better society.

Later, Sayyid Thuwaini bin Shihab gave away prizes to the students of participating schools.

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# TIMES OF OMAN

VOL. 2, NO: 50 MUSCAT, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20 1977

*Editorial*

## THE ISLAMIC COMMISSION

The Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs established at the second Islamic Summit held its inaugural session in Karachi recently. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the four-day moot, attended by member countries, considered a number of proposals for economic and cultural cooperation among Muslim countries. The Commission also expressed itself in favour of all efforts to strengthen the unity and solidarity of all developing countries and agreed to present the proposal for the consideration of member states.

As the recommendations of the commission are to be considered by the eighth Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers, it has approved a draft agreement for economic, technical and commercial cooperation between members of the Islamic Conference. By virtue of this agreement the member states will provide guarantees and incentives to encourage transfer of capital and investments amongst themselves, assist joint ventures and exchange technical know-how and expertise. It also envisages to provide for the establishment of an Islamic organization for science and technology which, among other things, will undertake advanced scientific and technological researches that would serve the progress and development of the member states.

It was in this spirit of Muslim solidarity that the Commission responded to the plight of those amongst its members which are disadvantaged. Member states have re-affirmed their conviction that the economic problems which face the land-locked Muslim countries can be overcome through cooperation and mutual consent.

The Commission's recommendations to institutionalise the exchange of information regarding the requirements and availability of labour and technical personnel among Muslim countries and the conclusion of agreements to regulate manpower exchanges would ensure the optimum utilisation of our human resources for mutual benefit.

The Commission as such, has served its mandate of contributing to the objective espoused by the Heads of State and Government at the Lahore Summit. The results of the recent session have also confirmed the sagacity of the decision taken in Istanbul to transform the Committee of Representatives and Experts into a full-fledged Commission of the Islamic Conference.

It is also gratifying to note that the Commission has responded in concrete terms to the desire of member states to reinforce their spiritual and cultural bonds. The recommendations relating to the establishment of the Islamic Cultural Centres, the celebration of the 15th century of the Hijra era, the coordination of the Islamic news agency and the broadcasting corporation all bear testimony to this fact.

The recommendations for the teaching of the Arabic language and measures to facilitate the performance of the holy pilgrimage would also strengthen our links with the origins and essential character of our unique faith.

In a long term perspective, therefore, the recommendations of the Islamic Commission will be a signal contribution to our unity and solidarity.

## ARAB-EEC TIES STRENGTHENED

The nine-nation European Economic Community, the world's powerful economic grouping, has further extended its trade and aid links with other countries.

Egypt, Syria and Jordan have now signed comprehensive trade, aid and co-operation agreements with the EEC at its headquarters in the Belgian capital. These treaties go a long way towards realising the Community's aim of establishing ties with all countries of the Mediterranean basin.

Similar arrangements were concluded with Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia last April, while the completion of negotiations with Lebanon has been delayed because of the recent, 18-month civil war there.

The latest agreements are being seen in Brussels in two contexts — that of the continuing Euro-Arab dialogue and the EEC's long-standing commitment to create a new pattern of relationship between the developing countries. In this latter respect the Lome Convention, linking the Community with about 50 developing nations, has been hailed as a 'blueprint' for more just and balanced relations between the world's 'rich' and 'poor'.

From July 1 next, many exports from Egypt, Syria and Jordan will enter the EEC either duty-free or with a substantial reduction in duties. Some goods will be subject to import ceilings until 1980, while products covered by the Community's common agricultural policy are excluded from these provisions. In return, imports from the EEC will be accorded preferential treatment.

The three Arab countries will also qualify for financial aid from the European Development Fund, which provides outright grants, and the European Investment Bank, a source of 'soft' loans. Between now and 1981, Egypt will be eligible for up to about \$170 million, Syria, \$60 million, and Jordan, \$40 million.

In addition, the agreements

cover economic co-operation in the industrial, commercial, scientific and technological fields.

More than 70 countries and about 20 dependent territories have now established links of varying degrees with the EEC, which generates at least 20 per cent of world trade and is by far the most important export market for the Third World of the developing nations.

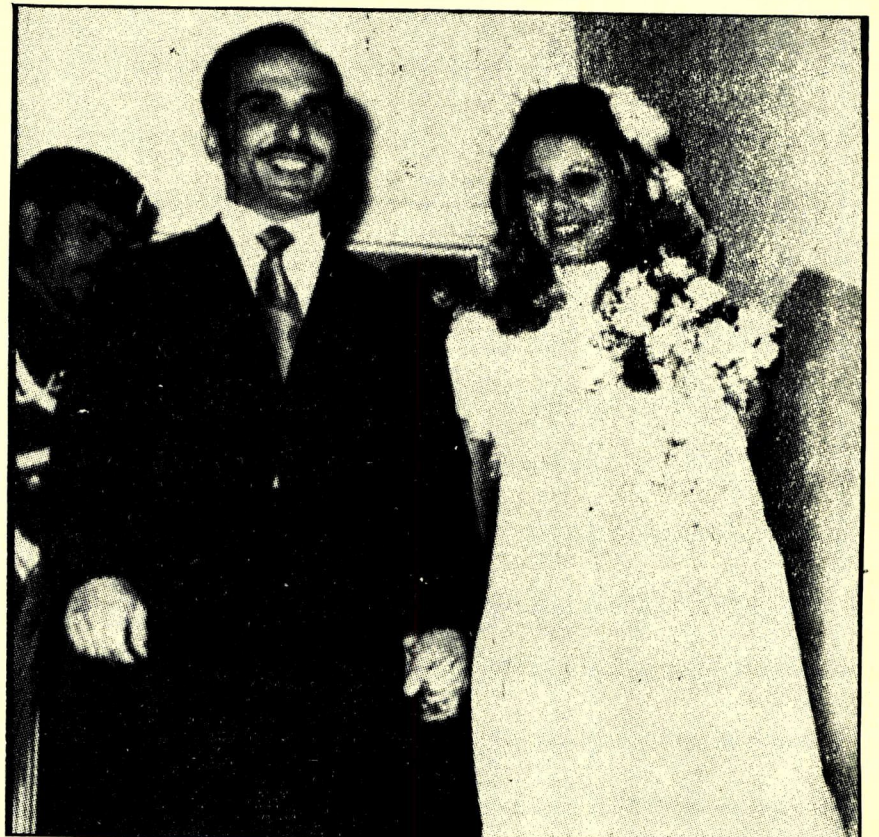
Of these arrangements, the most far-reaching is the Lome treaty—signed in February, 1975—governing relations with the Community's African, Caribbean and Pacific partners. The ACPs, as they are known, include 18 of the world's least developed countries.

Under the convention, 99.2 per cent of the ACPs' exports enter the EEC duty-free, with the remainder being allowed preferential access. Thus tariff barriers have been lifted on about 55 per cent of the ACPs' exports—and the partner-States were not asked for reciprocal concessions for imports from the Community.

The treaty also created a precedent in economic relations by setting up a fund to protect the ACPs against fluctuations in their export earnings. This 'insurance' is of particular importance to those poorer countries whose economies may be crucially dependent on a single export earner.

Twelve commodities or their derivatives are currently covered by the STABEX scheme. If an ACP partner's income from this source falls below the average of the previous four years it will be entitled to compensation from the fund. For the 34 least developed ACPs, a mere 2.5 per cent drop in earnings will 'trigger-off' this aid mechanism.

The Lome agreement embraces financial assistance, general economic co-operation and gives the relationship an added dimension with the provision calling for the setting up of a Parliamentary Assembly of member-States.



King Hussein with late Queen Aalia in 1972.

## Iran for moderation

**Tehran :** (By our Correspondent)

In a recent interview with the French Television, The Shah-an Shah said Iran has always adhered to a moderate line within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

His Imperial Majesty, who had received Jean Marie Cavada and Edward Lorn at Niavaran Palace, stressed Iran never asked for more than 15 per cent increase in the oil price, although her purchasing power dropped by 40 per cent.

In reply to a question as to what would Iran do with her large scale industrialisation projects, if her oil revenue dropped he said: "We will cut military spending."

## Plane hijacking attempt foiled

**Ankara :** (UPI)

A police cadet was arrested here on Monday after he shot and wounded the pilot and stewardess in a mid-air attempt to hijack a Turkish airliner which was on a domestic flight from Istanbul to Izmir.

According to reports the youth wanted to hijack a DC-9 airliner with the motive of seeking political asylum in Yugoslavia.

## Egypt's economy

**Cairo :** (By our Correspondent)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed to loan Egypt 140 million US dollars to help boost the country's ailing economy, the semi-official "Al-Ahram" news paper reported.

Last month there were two days of savage riots over a government decision to increase the price of fuel and staple foods in a bid to reduce the estimated 1977 budget deficit of 1.3 billion Egyptian pounds (about same sterling).

Although the increases were believed to be part of a deal with the IMF to bolster the economy, the government later rescinded its decision.

"Al-Ahram" reported that Egyptian officials were now working with the IMF on a long-term programme to reform the country's economic and financial situation.

## Sudanese Vice President visits Kuwait & Saudi Arabia

**Khartoum** (By our Correspondent)

The Sudanese Vice President Mr Tahir Rashid al Bakar paid a four-day visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during the week.

He discussed with Kuwaiti and Saudi leaders bilateral relations, economic cooperation and the latest Middle East situation.

## Doctors for Saudi teaching hospital

**London :** (By our Correspondent)

The Medical School at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is one of five British Medical Schools who are providing senior doctors and professors to advise the Saudi Arabian authorities on the setting up of a huge teaching hospital and medical school at Jeddah. The complex will form part of the King Abdul Aziz University.

Technicians and medical teachers have already been recruited from Britain, Egypt, Canada and the United States, and more will follow.

## Sweden to host OPEC meeting

**Stockholm :** (AFP)

Sweden has tentatively agreed to host a meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on July 12, the Swedish Foreign Ministry said.

The meeting would consider new increases to world oil prices. It said the OPEC had asked the Swedish Government whether it could hold such a conference in Stockholm, and that the Government had agreed after considering the meeting facilities and security questions.

## Arab students in Wales

**Wales :** (LPS)

Chemist Mahmoud Monshi, from Mecca, Saudi-Arabia, is in Wales doing research he hopes will help further the oil industry in his country.

Mr. Monshi, 28, is working in the Department of Inorganic Chemistry at University College, Cardiff. He is trying to find a series of chemical short cuts which will speed up the process of experimentation.

A 23-year-old girl from Kuwait is also in Wales to see if she can discover new kinds of acids.

Nabilla too is working in the Department of Inorganic Chemistry at University College, Cardiff. She is studying the nature of protonic acids, those which depend on a hydrogen atom in each molecule, such as hydrochloric acid and sulphuric acid.

Nabilla says: "If we can discover the nature of the bond between the hydrogen atom and the others to which it clings, such as sulphur and chlorine, then it might be possible to suggest new acids."

Acids are used in a wide variety of industrial processes. Using a cheaper hydrogen-bonding element than sulphur would have obvious advantages.



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## GHANA HAS HER OWN PHILANTHROPIST

Ghana has now a philanthropic organisation set up by one of her own citizens. The benefactor is Mr. J.H. Frimpong-Ansah, a banker and industrialist already well-known for his interest in social welfare and religion.

The Akotex Foundation will promote medical and economic research and textile technology as well as supporting humanitarian and religious causes. Initially, it will be financed by its founder's annual income as chairman of two textile enterprises.

Ghana's Head of State, General Acheampong, has applauded Mr. Frimpong-Ansah's gesture, describing it as another sign of his regard for his fellow-men.

Although the resources at the disposal of charitable institutions have expanded greatly over the last century or so, philanthropy is certainly not a modern phenomenon. An ancient Egyptian notable who lived in the 23rd century BC took the precaution of having his charitable donations recorded on his tomb so "that it might be well with me in the great god's presence."

Many and varied motives have been ascribed to the fact that an individual or family, having amassed a vast fortune, can then proceed to give it away by setting up charitable foundations.

Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish-born American iron and steel magnate who dispersed more than \$350 million in his lifetime, said: "He who dies rich, dies disgraced." The millionaire US publisher, George Delacorte, explained in his mid-seventies that he had decided to devote his remaining time to dying poor. "A man should spend as many years of his life as he can in accumulating money, and then I think he is a jackass if he does not spend the rest of it giving it away."

Although the use of foundations has spread steadily throughout the developed, non-Communist world, more than 90 per cent of those 300 or so with assets exceeding \$10 million are based in the U.S.

Many were founded with the huge fortunes made over the past century, a period which has seen an enormous expansion of that country's industrial and commercial base.

John D. Rockefeller I, whose wealth came from oil, holds the record for having given away more money than anyone else in his lifetime — at least \$530 million. His nearest rival was his son who dispersed more than \$470 million.

Although the giant charitable institutions have their critics, it cannot be denied, for example, that the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations largely fuelled the so-called Green Revolution. For many years they provided grants for the research which led to the development of the high-yielding strains of the world's basic food crops.

With capital estimated to exceed \$3,000 million, which is greater than the Gross National

Product of many countries, the Ford Foundation is now the richest of these institutions.

The Federal German Republic is one of the countries in which philanthropic organisations are playing a growing role, including the channelling of aid to the developing world. They include the Volkswagenwerk Stiftung, founded in 1959 with the proceeds of the sale to private share-holders of the State-owned enterprise.

Down the centuries charitable bequests, especially the smaller ones, have reflected human eccentricity as much as altruism. In the US, for instance, there is a fund devoted to providing shoes for one-legged people, and another to ensure a Christmas dinner for horses. Latin America has one, the expressed aim of which is the deportation of foreign bull-fighters,

## Guides' design jubilee

London :

(By our Correspondent)

The Girl Guides' Association has produced a special collectors' envelope to mark its sixtieth anniversary — its diamond jubilee. The celebrations have been planned to coincide with the royal silver jubilee.

The envelope, known to philatelists as a special cover, will stay on sale until 29 October when there is a thanksgiving service for guides in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, and the association hopes it will sell so many that it will get into the Guinness Book of Records.

The design of the envelope shows girl guides in 1922 and 1977, and the association is offering a Post Office hand-stamp service.

while in London a dinner is held annually to hear an oration about a non-existent poet. The founder's intention was to mystify American scholars.

## TriStars only aircraft allowed to land at fogbound airports

Atlanta : (TX)

On a recent foggy morning, Lockheed L-1011 TriStars were the only aircraft cleared to land here when adverse weather conditions put Atlanta International Airport below FAA Category II visibility limits.

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## WHY COFFEE NOW LEAVES A 'BITTER' TASTE

Coffee, for so long one of the world's favourite beverages, has recently acquired a particularly 'bitter' taste—as far as consumers are concerned. After centuries of growing popularity — Bach even composed an aria in its praise in which coffee is described as being "sweeter than honey, better than a thousand kisses" — there have now been calls for a boycott of the commodity in North America and Europe.

From Spain it is reported that in one city groups of youths calling themselves anti-coffee commandos were touring bars and restaurants, urging customers to drink other beverages.

Coffee's suddenly changed image follows dramatic upsurge in prices which recently reached more than \$5,000 per tonne, over three times the levels of a year ago. This is due to the fact the global demand currently exceeds supply by an estimated 200,000 tonnes, and the imbalance has been ascribed to a combination of natural disasters and political factors in a number of important producer-countries.

These began with a bout of exceptionally cold weather in Brazil, the world's leading producer. Two nights of frost in July, 1975, are said to have destroyed about 75 per cent of the crop, and this alone would have robbed the world market of 35 per cent of its supplies.

Then the crop in Colombia, the second-ranking producer, was hit by a drought followed by floods, which reduced production by 40 per cent, while another Latin American producer, Guatemala, lost an estimated 70 per cent of her crop as a result of the earthquake disaster there. Mexico's output was also affected by floods.

In Africa, too, there have been production setbacks. The Ivory Coast suffered a drought, while in both Ethiopia and Uganda output has fallen because of internal political reasons.

Most intriguing, perhaps, is the situation regarding Angola which, before her strife-torn emergence into independence, was one of the world's five leading producers. The civil war there is said not

only to have caused an 80 per cent drop in production, but also paralysed exports.

However, the suspicion persists in coffee market circles that as a result of their intervention in the former Portuguese colony, the USSR and Cuba may have found themselves in a position to distort the global supply and demand situation still further.

This follows reports that Angola's reserve stocks, said to total at least 180,000 tonnes, had been loaded on to Cuban ships and taken to an unspecified destination, and that Cuban advisers may have announced a deliberate under-estimation of the current Angolan crop.

According to expert observers, these two factors could together exercise a considerable influence on the world market—and reap a handsome profit for the manipulators.

Although Brazil, with substantial reserves, has been accused of allowing the price spiral to develop by default, she has now joined Colombia in calling for an emergency session of the International Coffee Council to consider ways of stabilising world prices. Many producers are reported to share the view that the current boom could be damaging to their longer-term interests.

But for consumers there is little immediate cheer. Expert opinion is that even in ideal conditions world production is not expected to recover until 1980, and that in the meantime price levels will be largely governed by consumption—in other words, the degree of consumer resistance.

It all seems a far cry from Kaldi, the ninth century goatherd in what is now Ethiopia who is credited with having discovered the potential of the shrub *Coffea rubiaceae*. He noted that his animals became much livelier after eating the berries of the wild, evergreen bush, sampled some himself—and found that he was similarly exhilarated.

Before long a local monastery had discovered that on being roasted, the berries could be used

to produce a wonderfully stimulating infusion. (The stimulating effect of coffee is due to the presence of the drug caffeine, a nerve and heart stimulant.)

Steadily, the popularity of the beverage spread throughout the Muslim world and it reached Europe in the 17th century. This came about when the Turks who had been besieging Vienna returned, leaving their coffee supplies behind. One enterprising citizen of the Austrian capital found a use for this booty by opening a coffee house, and soon similar establishments had sprung up in other countries.

To meet demand for the commodity, the then European colonial Powers introduced the plant into

## PLO Chief discusses Lebanese situation

Cairo: (UPI)

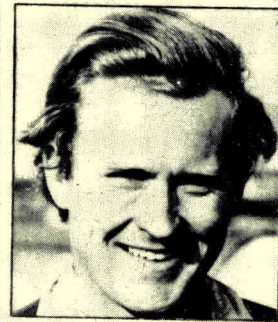
The Palestine Liberation Organization Chief Mr. Yassar Arafat held consultations with Egyptian leaders here on Monday on the Lebanese situation.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister Mr. Ismail Fahmy said after the meeting that the PLO leader would return to Cairo later this week to continue discussions on the Lebanon situation and the prospects of reconvening the Geneva peace conference.

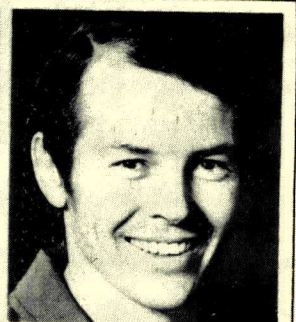
many of their overseas possessions. Thus coffee is now grown in America, Africa and Asia.

### ROTHMANS AEROBATIC TEAM 1977

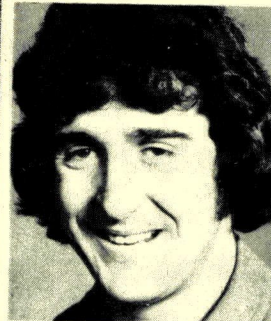
Arriving Muscat  
March 17.



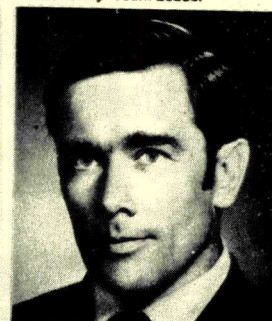
Mike Findlay Team Leader



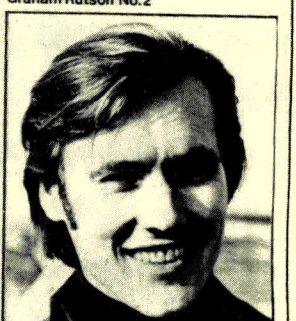
Graham Rutson No.2



David Perrin No.3



Neil Williams No.4



Brendan O'Brien commentator

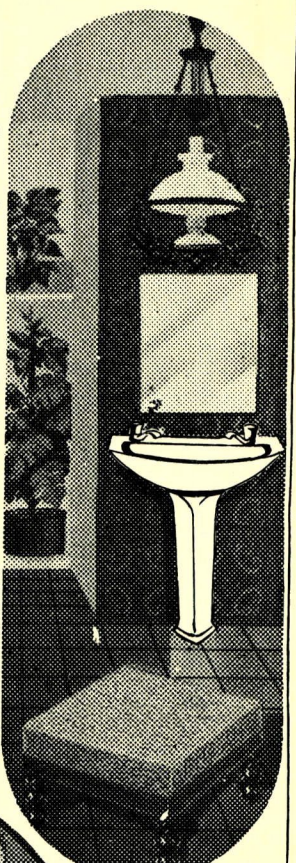
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## CUBA TELLS OF 'DIRTY WAR' IN ANGOLA

In March Southern Africa is due to receive its first visit from a member of the Soviet leadership. Seventy-three year-old President Podgorny is scheduled to tour Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique — but not Angola.

The fact that Angola, bound to the USSR by a Friendship Treaty, is not included in the itinerary is only one aspect which has attracted comment. Another is the timing of the visit in view of the potentially explosive situation in the region.

Some observers and commentators have even claimed that the visit has an 'imperialistic' flavour because the Soviet Union had shown its determination to fill the vacuum left by the Portuguese when they abandoned their African empire by securing the installation of friendly regimes in Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau.

Meanwhile, the first detailed, officially-approved Cuban account of how this was achieved in Angola has now emerged, and in many African capitals it will revive memories of the 1975 crisis, including the Organisation of African Unity's attempts to produce a government of national unity for an independent Angola.

Havana's version of how it came to be involved in the still continuing Angola civil war comes in a lengthy article written by a Colombian Communist author who is a friend of the Cuban Premier, Fidel Castro. Inevitably, the motives behind this belated publicity campaign have aroused speculation.

Is it a sign that the Cuban regime wishes to extricate itself from a Vietnam-type situation which is becoming a drain on its resources, both militarily and economically? Or is it a signal that with the assurance of sufficient Soviet backing, Cuba is willing to embark on other similar adventures in Southern Africa?

The Cuban account, said by the official news agency, Prensa Latina to contain "sensational revelations," appears most anxious to persuade world public opinion that Cuba did not despatch troops to Angola until November, 1975, whereas all available evidence indicates that the intervention began at least two months earlier.

This is an attempt to substantiate the claim that the Cubans reacted to South African involvement and not the other way around. Havana also wishes to convince the international community that it acted on its own volition rather than at the USSR's behest. Thus the article insists: "Contrary to what has been said so often, it was an independent and sovereign act of Cuba—and it was after, not before the decision was taken, that notice was given to the Soviet Union."

According to most observers, this highly idealised version of the Angolan adventure seems so determined to justify the Cuban action that in the process African sensibilities have either been forgotten or ignored.

For instance, it claims that one of the "greatest obstacles" facing the Cuban troops was the "miserable conditions and cultural backwardness" of the Angolan people. It was "dirty war, in which one had to watch out as much for snakes as for mercenaries, as much for cannibals as for cannonballs," and repeatedly Cubans "felt betrayed by the primitive telegraph of the talking drums."

Moreover, superstitious Angolans were convinced that bullets would not penetrate White skins, and refused to go into trenches "because tombs were only for the dead." And once, in the height of battle, a Cuban commander fell into an elephant trap.

Other accounts, dealing with the current situation in Angola, cast an entirely different light on the Cuban involvement. For example, an article in the influential Swiss newspaper, Neue Zurcher Zeitung, says there are indications that the adventure may be getting out of Havana's control as it became more and more deeply involved in a "hopeless entanglement in the Angolan bush."

Indeed, there were increasing parallels between the Cuban intervention in Africa and the history of the Vietnam conflict.

### Arc monitor improves safety in switchgear operation

An arc monitor for use in indoor low and medium voltage switchgear to protect personnel and equipment by instantaneously disconnecting the feeding voltage in the case of arc faults has been developed by ASEA, the Swedish electrical engineering group.

The simple operating principle is based on the light impulse emitted by the arc, ASEA says. A detector consisting of a phototransistor encapsulated in a plastic rod with lens senses the arc. The signal passes via an amplifier to the shunt release of the main circuit-breaker.

Tests have shown that with the monitor arc time will be less than 30 milliseconds and arc energy consequently restricted. This will substantially improve personnel safety and operational reliability, ASEA says.

### Immediate Requirement

Female experienced English language typist required, short hand knowledge an advantage but not necessary, to work for an Insurance Company. Experience in ledger keeping and office records will be an assistance.

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Mr. Saxena for interview

## INSTANT WORDS FOR THE DEAF

A way of giving deaf people an immediate and continuous transcript of what is being said has been developed at Southampton University, in the south of England. First to use it will be Member of Parliament Jack Ashley, who is trying out a prototype system already installed in the Chamber of the House of Commerce.

Developed under the supervision of Dr. Alan Newell of the university's electronics department, the system carries electronic data-processing and display techniques to the Palantype machine—a device familiar for the past 30 years or so in courts of law and other places where a verbatim record has to be kept.

When using a Palantype machine, the operator depresses "chords" of several keys simultaneously to produce an encoded representation of each spoken syllable. This appears on a roll of paper similar to that in an adding machine, but the print out is so heavily encoded that it needs a trained operator to read it. To get round this and provide deaf people with something simpler, the keys are made to operate switches controlling inputs to a data processing unit which recognises the sound the operator is attempting to record and selects, from information already stored, a set of data most closely corresponding to it.

The data is then fed to a display screen which measures about 23 centimetres wide by ten deep. It consists of a matrix of elements

on which the words appear as a phonetic script eight lines deep. The script lags behind the speaker by about two words. When it reaches the bottom line it resumes again at the top, the display being automatically wiped out for about two lines in advance.

Built by the Wolfson Industrial Unit of the University's electronics department, the prototype for the House of Commons was paid for by the Department of Health and Social Security. The Palantype operator sits in the press gallery with the encoding equipment, which is connected by cable to a display unit resembling an executive brief-case with the screen in its lid.

Dr. Newell, whose research has been supported by the UK Science Research Council, expects to refine the system when Mr. Ashley has had six months' experience with it. He sees eventual applications for it in education, at public lectures, in sub-titling television programmes and for deaf people who attend business meetings.

Mr. Ashley, Labour Member of Parliament since 1966, became deaf nine years ago as a result of a virus infection after an ear operation.

He is best known in Britain as the parliamentary leader of the British campaign for compensation for children born with disabilities caused by the drug thalidomide and is at present active in a campaign for compensation for vaccine-damaged children.

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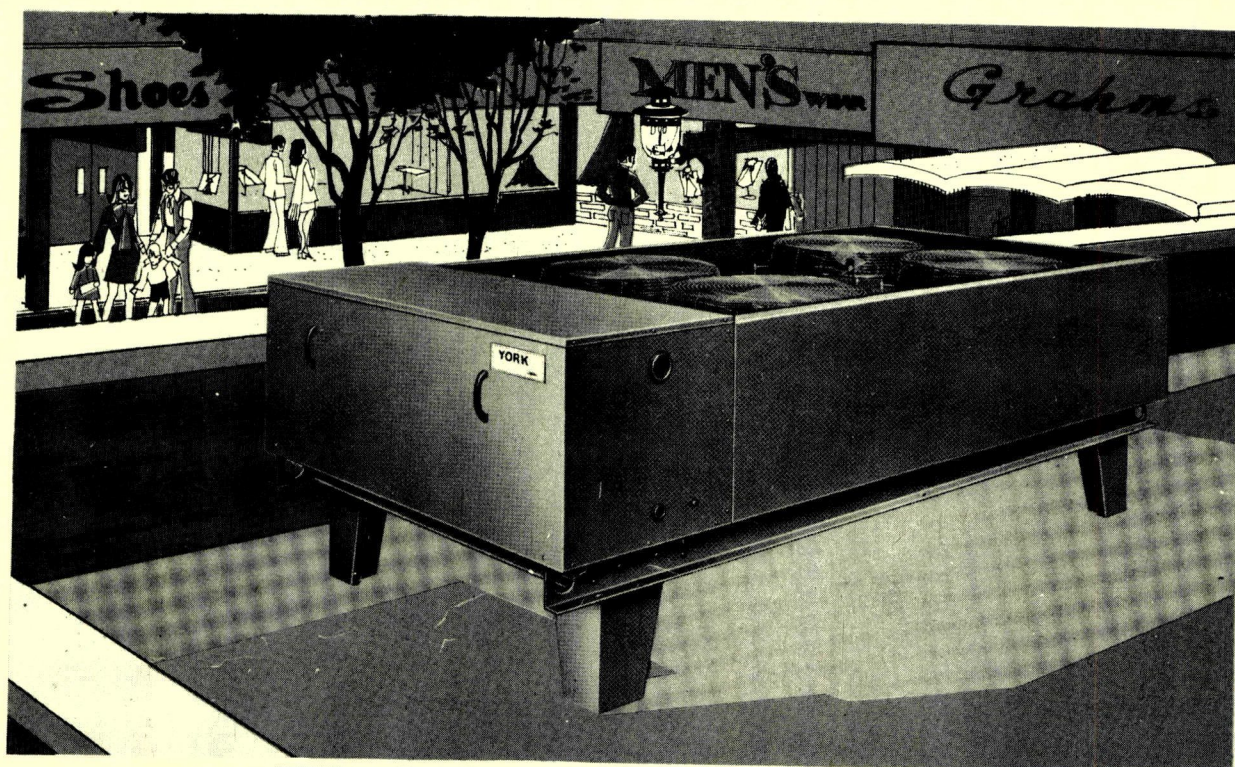
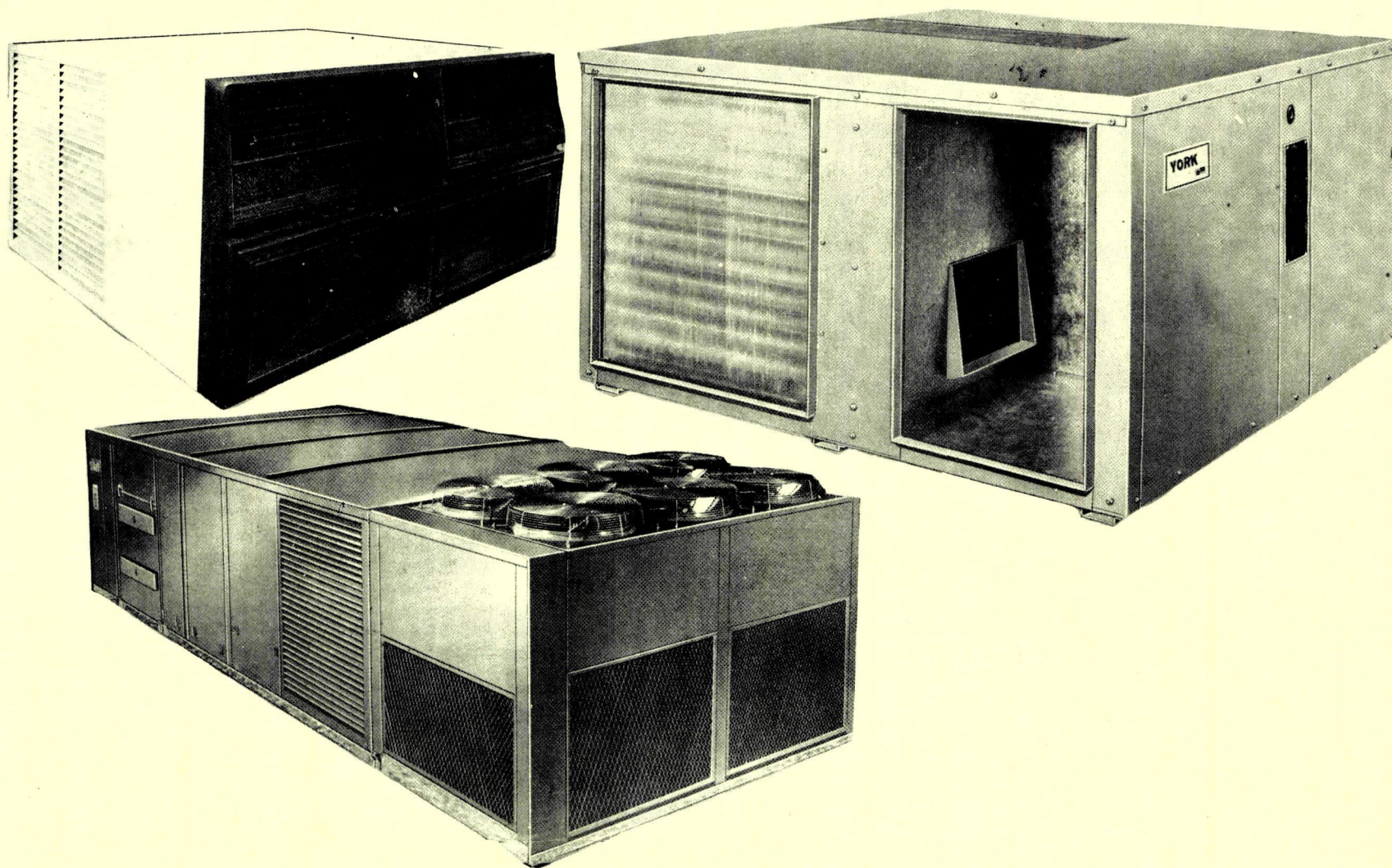
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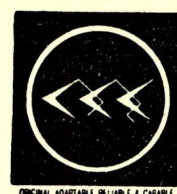
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# LOVE YOUR CHILDREN— KNOW THEIR AILMENTS

— Dr. Nazima Rashid

The four-year old child was feeling listless, weak and had no appetite at all. He was feeling wretched and cried for no apparent reason. His appetite fluctuated and when the mother prepared what he had fancied, he did not even look at it and could only show his frustration at something he could not explain. The parents were educated. The mother working in a Government office was convinced that the child had got terrified due to his entrance in a nursery school. The parents reprimanded the child and put all sorts of fears into his mind and even punished him for not behaving well.

When I examined the child I found that he was suffering from hepatitis. All the symptoms given by the parents were part and parcel of this disease and it was no use getting angry with the child. On examination, it was found that the child suffered from a little fever, his urine was yellow and his eyes also showed a yellow colouration.

What is hepatitis? The parents asked me. I explained that hepatitis or inflammation of the liver is caused by viruses commonly present in dirty water or exposed food stuffs. It is a very common ailment and takes on epidemic proportions from time to time especially when something goes wrong with water supply of a city. Hepatitis causes jaundice which makes the eyes become yellow. Many people confuse jaundice with hepatitis. Jaundice can also be caused by other diseases.

The disease is usually milder in children as compared to adults. It may last from a few days to a few weeks with the liver taking a couple of weeks to become normal. The appetite usually improves within a week or so. When I asked the worried parents what they were giving to their child to eat, they reassured me that they were not giving any "hot food to him." This concept of not giving the so-called hot food is wrong and misleading. When the appetite is very poor, one should encourage fluids, juices and beverages. But once the appetite improves, there need not be any restriction on the diet. One can take normal amounts of pulses, meat, eggs, vegetables and fruits. However, excessive use of fats and proteins should be avoided. Most of the cases would recover. The child is infective during the pre-jaundice stage and about a week after the infection starts. He should take rest in the acute stages of the disease.

## SHOCKING IGNORANCE

I was quite surprised to find that even the most educated parents know very little about some of the most common ailments of their children. I thought it proper to write something about those diseases which are suffered by most of our children in our homes. First of all let me take measles. It is often mis-diagnosed. Any rash with cold, cough and fever is attributed to measles. This is not so. This virus disease

is accompanied by cold, cough, watering of the eyes and high fever which makes one pretty sick for three to four days.

This is followed by a rash which is like insect bite, reddish, with no watery heads on it. One day after the rash, the fever generally subsides. There are many other types of viruses which give rise to similar symptoms and rashes. A doctor should immediately be consulted and he may suggest giving aspirin and cough syrup to relieve the fever and discomfort. A child suffering from measles should generally avoid looking at a bright light because his eyes will hurt. This has given rise to false notions that the child should be kept absolutely in dark with no ventilation.

Medically what causes concern is not the measles itself but the complications it could lead to. Most of the parents do not understand this important fact. Pneumonia, throat and ear infections are quite common and can effect the brain as well. Some children suffer mild to severe brain damage due to this complication. If for nothing else, at least for this reason alone, it is imperative to control measles. A couple of years back, when there was no measles vaccine, one would have agreed that it was better to have measles when young rather than in later years.

## MEASLES MENACE

It is true that measles give rise to more complications in adults than it does in young children. Now that measles vaccine is available all over the world, it is far better to immunise the child against it. This vaccination gives life long immunity to a child. The infective period of measles starts with cold and cough before the rash appears and stays for one or two days after the rash has appeared. If one of the children gets measles, the question is what to do about other children who have been exposed to it in the family or in the neighbourhood while playing with the child. Children in the family can be helped by the use of gamma globulin injections. If given in time, this can prevent the disease and give immunity or resistance for the next three months. But better still is to give smaller doses of gamma globulin so that if measles appear, the attack is mild, with minimum complications. This way most of the side-effects of the disease can be avoided and a permanent immunity from further attacks can be achieved.

## POLIO PROBLEMS

Poliomyelitis or Polio is a dreadful disease which results in the paralysis of one or more limbs or a part of the body. This virus infection is transmitted through the secretions of the patient or a carrier. Its incubation period is usually seven to fourteen days. It generally starts with a high fever, pain in the leg and a headache. After three or four days one may find that the child cannot lift his leg or arm or some other part of

## Rothmans aerobatic team M.E. tour 1977

Muscat:

(By our Staff Reporter)

The world famous Rothmans aerobatic team is shortly to embark on a 7-week tour of the Middle East to promote the sales of Britain's most-exported cigarette, Rothmans King Size Filter. The Team's itinerary will bring them to Muscat (17-20 March); and then Dubai (21-26 March); Ras Al Khaima (26 March); Abu Dhabi (27-30 March); Qatar (31 March to 1 April); Bahrain (2-6 April); Kuwait (7-10 April) and Cairo (13-20 April).

Last year a single aircraft, piloted by Manx Kelly, the team's founder, made a feasibility tour of Oman and other Gulf states. Because of the difficulties of flying such small aircraft as the Pitts S2A biplanes over the distances involved, Rothmans are chartering

a Tradewinds CL44 this time, which will take all five aircraft to Dubai during the first week in March where they will be reassembled and tested prior to commencing the tour.

The pilots who comprise the team are among the most experienced aerobatic pilots in the world, and their 4-aircraft display includes formation outside loops (where the pilots hang upside down in their straps).

The Rothmans aerobatic team have always been in great demand for airshows in the UK and repeated performances at the Farnborough and Paris airshows have made them a popular draw on the continent as well. In the past two years they have flown tours of France, Scandinavia and Belgium and by the start of this season will have given 1,000 solo and formation displays at some 600 airshows in the UK, Europe and the Middle East.

the body. If it is of a severe variety it can affect muscles that control breathing and cause death. It is rarely diagnosed before the paralysis had occurred. Unfortunately, like most other diseases, there is no treatment for it once it has started. The oral polio vaccine is an effective way of preventing the disease. It is easily available and should be given to every child before he attains one year of age. During epidemics, one should not eat exposed food or take bath in public tanks. Once the paralysis has occurred, the patient should

have physio-therapy or messages and exercises for the affected limbs to strengthen them. In due course, the limb starts functioning normally and if the disease is mild it may not even be apparent that the child had once polio. Time should not be wasted with quacks and multitude of doctors. Stick to one doctor or an institution which caters to this type of problem. In many cases, surgery can be done later to give more strength to the limb. But I stress the point that the disease which can be prevented should be prevented.

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## TASKS BEFORE AFRO-ASIAN LEGAL COMMITTEE

Preparations have been made to hold the Eighteenth Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee at Baghdad from 19th to 26th February, 1977. It is likely to be attended by high powered delegations from the thirty-five members as also about forty observers representing governments from all over the world. The Committee, which has its headquarters at New Delhi, is the main forum for the Asian-African region to deal with matters of International Law and Trade Law. It was originally founded in 1956 with seven member governments.

One of the major items on the agenda of the Conference will be the Law of the Sea. An attempt is likely to be made during this session to find areas for a compromise solution on the question of exploitation of the international sea-bed area—a problem which needs early solution if a Convention on the Law of the Sea is to emerge.

The other topics emanating from the Law of the Sea which are likely to be discussed at Baghdad would include the question of accommodation of interests of land-locked and geographically disadvantaged States, the status of the Exclusive Economic Zone, passage of warships through straits used for international navigation and settlement of disputes.

One subject of considerable interest to developing countries of Asia and Africa which has been set down for preliminary discussion is reciprocal assistance in regard to investigation of economic offences. The purpose of the discussion would be to identify the various types of economic offences which are detrimental to the interests of States and particularly the developing countries; to indicate the difficulties experienced by Governments in the investigation of such offences and prosecution of offenders; and also to suggest possible areas of international cooperation in the field. It may be stated that economic offences embrace a very broad field and in a sense may be said to include all offences against the laws and regulations of a State or States which have as their objectives the economic well-being of the community.

Another subject which is also set down for preliminary discussion is Environmental Law. It is intended that the Baghdad session will finalise a questionnaire to be issued to all Asian-African States to elicit information concerning the environmental problems encountered in various countries and the source of pollution, laws and regulations in force as also any proposed legislations to combat environmental pollution in various fields, etc.

The Trade Law Sub-Committee, which would sit during the Baghdad session, will further consider the question of establishment, location and functioning of regional centres for commercial arbitration which had earlier been accepted in principle. It will also consider the Draft Convention or Carriage of Goods by Sea which had been

prepared by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. In addition, the session will also consider the Report of the Special Meeting on Model/Standard Contracts and the International Shipping Legislation.

## SHIPPING NEWS

Vessels position at Mina Qaboos.

### DOCKED

VESSELS	CARGO
Euryalus	Cement
Pegaso	General
Khadijaan	Timber
Ibn Khaldoon	General
Strathappin	General
Hohenfels	General
Kavo Frigelos	Cement
Samoa Maru	Cement

### FORWARD ARRIVALS

Aegis Island	General	20-2
Vall Comet	General	20-2
Atlantic Forest	Barges	20-2
Floria	Cement	20-2
River Esk	General	21-2
Green Island	General	21-2
Sternenfels	General	21-2
Pepsea	General	21-2
Freudenfels	General	22-2
Crostafels	General	22-2
Osmena	General	23-2
Nortbeth	General	23-2
Chastine Maersk	General	23-2
Nancowry	Passenger	25-2
Tyr	General	25-2
Activity	General	25-2
City of Canterbury	General	25-2
Romona	General	26-2
United Trust	General	26-2
Al Sabahiah	General	27-2

### DEMURRAGE DATES

Vessels	Completed Discharge	Demurrage due on
Jalaganga	15-2	26-2
Kybfels	10-2	21-2
Argenfels	13-2	24-2
Sloboda	14-2	25-2
Eastern Highway	12-2	23-2
Stratheviot	16-2	27-2
Wallenfels	15-2	26-2
Wissekerk	16-2	27-2
Basto V	13-2	24-2
Kapelle	14-2	25-2

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## LEARN ARABIC

### LESSON XXXI

English	Arabic
At the week end.	: Fi Nihayat al osbouh, al otlat al osbou'iat.
It is Saturday to-day, isn't it?	: Al yaum Assabt, alaisa kathalek?
Yes, it is.	: Na'am, Assabt.
At what time do you finish your work?	: Fi ai'at sa'at tonhi amalak?
At 1.30 p.m.	: Fi assa'at al wahidat wa nisf baad el thohr.
Are you ready to go with me?	: Mosta'id an tath'ab ma'i?
I don't think so.	: La a'ataqid thalek.
What do you mean?	: Math ta'ni?
I am busy.	: Ana mashghoul.
What makes you busy?	: Matha yoshghilok?
Don't ask me.	: La tasalni.
You are wrong.	: Anta ghaltan.
How?	: Keif?
You must have time for fun.	: Lazim yakon indak waqt lilmarah.
Where shall we go?	: Ein sanath'hab?
Either to the mountain.	: Imma ila aljabal.
Or to the sea.	: Au ila albahr.
I think the sea is better.	: Ataqid anna albahr afthal.
Do you know how to swim?	: Ata'rif tasbah?
Yes, and you?	: Na'am, wa anta?
Not well.	: Laisa hassanan.
But the sea is rough.	: Walakin albahr haij.
Swimming is dangerous to day.	: Assibaha khatira elyoom.
It is enough to take a sun-bath.	: Yakfi an na'koth hammaman shamsian.
Let us go to the restaurant first.	: Linath'hab ila almat'am awaalan.
Well, let us go.	: Hassanan, haya bina.

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## A MILLION APPLE TREES FROM SINGLE BUD

A process by which the root stock for a million apple trees can be produced in one year from a single tip shoot only a centimetre long has been perfected by the East Malling Research station in Britain.

It is a development which could have far-reaching effect in all apple-producing countries over the next few years and could lead to an important revolution in the fruit-growing industry as a whole.

The East Malling research is a development in micropropagation by which tissue culture of hardwooded plants — a technique used commercially for several years in propagation of soft-wooded plants — is made possible for the first time.

The research station has also had encouraging results with the process in propagating plums and cherries and the research is expected to apply equally to citrus.

Importance of the development is the speed by which new root stocks can be introduced commercially. Delay in multiplying stocks to the normal figure of something like 10,000 plants before introduction commercially could be reduced from approximately ten years to less than two years.

Breeders throughout the world are at work all the time attempting to find the ideal qualities of size control, heavy bearing, earliness of crop and disease resistance in root stock. The East Malling work will enable breeders to shorten their proving and production schedules while at the same time considerably reduce the cost of producing tree stocks.

The East Malling breakthrough has come with the discovery of the right chemical combination for tissue cultivation of woody plants. The new chemical introduced is phloroglucinol a growth regulator derived from the apple itself, which is added to culture mediums of the type used for other plants.

In the test-tube culture four to five shoots appear in the first month, 25 to 30 in the second, then at a five-fold multiplication rate each month.

Details of the process are to be made commercially available to the fruit-growing industry later this year. It could be carried out on factory scale where sterile conditions could be combined with growth rooms and greenhouse facilities to bring the plant from a test-tube size culture to a healthy outdoor plant.

In the longer term the research could lead to production of apple trees on their own roots. Because of the natural apple's disadvantage of a weak root system and uncontrolled growth size this is at present not a commercial proposition.

The advantage of growing apple trees on their own root stock would be in cutting the costly and time-consuming grafting process and earlier bearing.

### Skanska enters semi-final

**Muscat :**  
(By our Staff Reporter)

Skanska Green entered in semi-finals after defeating Seeb Cricket Club by seven wickets in a Skanska Cup Tournament match played on February 18, at the PDO ground.

Seeb Cricket Club played first and scored 92 runs. J. Fonseka scored 34, B. Nott 28. Suleman and Afzal bowled well capturing 5 and 4 wickets respectively.

In reply Skanska Green Cricket Club scored 94 runs for the loss of 3 wickets. Best scorers were Rafiq Awan 36 (not out), Arslan Butt 25 and Riaz Chaudhry 15 (not out).

In the second match NBO Cricket team defeated Ruwi Cricket Club by nine wickets.

Playing first Ruwi Club scored 89 runs in all with Tatari 26, Talat 24 and Rashid 21.

In return, NBO scored 94 runs for the loss of one wicket only. Mairaj 52 runs was the top scorer. S. Dara of NBO played havoc to rival team and captured 6 wickets for 29 runs.

The empires were Morris Robello, E.F.C. Hissey, C.P. Raj and Arvind. Further in the matches played on February 11. Gulf Contractors team beat Skanska Yellow and Tellichery defeated PDO Cricket Club.

On Friday Oman Club beat Seeb 4-2. Bedia defeated Al Maiwal 6-2 while Sedab beat Masana. 3-1.

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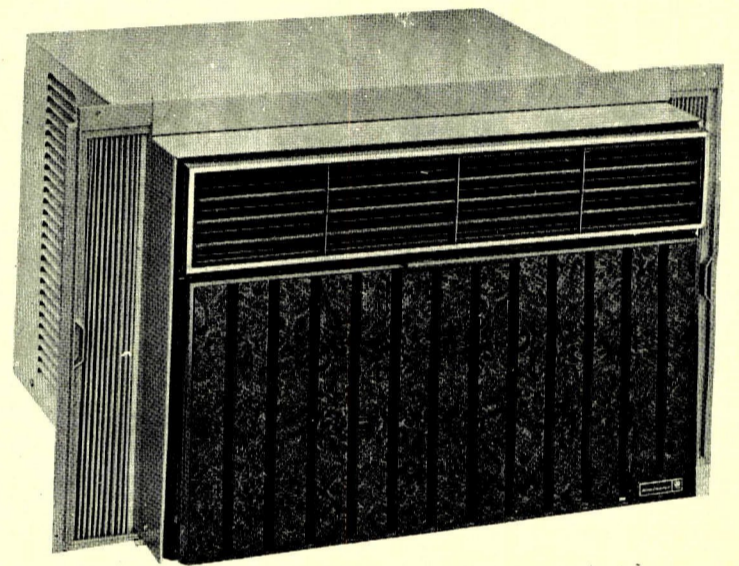
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### Greece-Cyprus talks

Nicosia : (Reuter)

After almost a year of dead-lock over Cyprus there are hopes of a break-through, and the UN Secretary General Dr. Waldheim who arranged the resumption of talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities told a news conference that he found a new spirit at his meeting with President Makarios and the Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Denktash. He was confident that a satisfactory solution was possible.

At separate news conference the both Archbishop Makarios and Mr. Denktash spoke of a positive step, as both leaders said they agreed on a statement of principles to serve with guidelines for the negotiators when the talks resume in Vienna next month. As read by Mr. Denktash the statement said they were seeking an independent non-aligned bi-communal federal republic, but Archbishop Makarios added the word 'unitary'. Asked about this Mr. Denktash said that a unitary state could not be federal state.

### Non-aligned group condemn Israel

Geneva : (UPI)

The non-aligned group at the United Nations has called upon the UN committee on human rights to condemn Israel for her continued repressive policies in the occupied Arab territories.

The call came in a draft resolution submitted by the group at the committee meeting, denouncing Israel for her inhuman policies.

### UNDP 1977-81 plans approved

Washington : (our Correspondent)

Plans for regional and global development activities costing nearly \$400 million during the 1977-1981 period were approved by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The approved plans include schemes to devote some \$308.6 million for inter-country activities in Africa, Asia and Pacific, Europe and Middle East.

### Concorde's Scottish "socks"

London : (By our Correspondent)

The multi-million pound supersonic aircraft, Concorde, relies on "socks" made by a small Scottish knitwear company for navigation.

For the firm, Queen of Scots Knitwear, of Irvine, Ayrshire, make hand knitted stockings which form the aircraft's familiar beak-shaped nose.

When an order comes in, three of the female workers take several balls of glass fibre and begin their supersonic knitting, laboriously counting their way through 3236 rows that make up the 11-foot long cone-shaped stocking.

The British Aircraft Corporation then stretch the stocking over a mould and another mould is placed on top. After liquid resin has been injected into it the mould is ready to take Concorde through the sound barrier.

### Bushfire in Australia

Canberra : (RR)

The Australian state of Victoria has been struck by its worst bushfire for eighty years. Four people died and around a hundred farms and homes were destroyed when the flames sent by winds of upto fifty miles an hour swept through thousands of acres of farmland. More than half a million sheep and cattle were destroyed. Many small townships were severely damaged with schools and other public buildings burnt down.

### Pak trade team to tour ECM countries

Karachi:

(By our Correspondent)

A seven member trade team of Pakistan is expected to leave for a two-week visit to ECM countries by the middle of April.

During its visit the team would visit Brussels, Rome, Paris and London and would explore possibilities of expanding export of ready-made garments, sports goods and some other items.

### No more US bombs for Israel

Washington : (UPI)

The new US administration has suspended the supply of aerosole bombs to Israel promised by the Ford government. This was disclosed here by Congress sources following testimony by the Secretary of State Mr. Cyrus Vance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It may be recalled that the aerosole bombs were used in Vietnam war.



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MUSCAT	0115	0700	—	0815	—	0710	—	2355	0815	0710	—	0700	—
DUBAI	0255	—	0825	—	0850	0900	—	Fri 0135	—	—	0910	0850	—
ABU DHABI	—	0855	0855	0820	—	—	0855	—	—	0905	—	—	0855
DOHA	—	0950	0835	0950	—	—	0835	—	0950	—	0950	—	0950
BAHRAIN	—	—	1000	—	1000	—	1000	Fri 0230	—	—	—	—	1000
Arr. LONDON	0645	1415	1415	1415	1415	1255	1415	Fri 0645	1415	1255	1415	1415	1415

KARACHI								BOMBAY							
Departures from	TUE	WED	THUR	SAT	SUN	Departures from	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN		
BAHRAIN	0820	Tue 2130	—	1540	2345	0820	1430	—	—	2030*	—	2120	2020*		
DOHA	0810*	—	—	1655	—	0810*	1530*	—	—	2110*	2040*	—	—		
ABU DHABI	1115	—	—	—	—	1115	—	—	—	2345	—	—	—		
DUBAI	—	0010	—	—	—	Fri 0245	—	—	—	Thur 0020	—	—	Sun 0020		
MUSCAT	—	0155	0830	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Sat 0010	—		
Arr. KARACHI	1405	0430	1105	2100	Fri 0535	1405	2100	0835	1240	Tue 0355	Wed 0400	0635	Thur 0425		

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## Indian industrial expert visits Oman

Muscat :

(By our Staff Reporter)

Proprietor of a well known Indian Shipchandler specialised in setting up turn-key projects in food industry, Mr. Saleh Mohsin is currently on a visit to the Sultanate.

Mr. Saleh Mohsin met the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and discussed with them the possibilities of setting up automatic date - packaging unit and the manufacture of packaging material for the Nizwa date factory.



Mr. Saleh Mohsin told Times of Oman that he was very much impressed by the modern date factory which has all the potential of further developing this important industry of the Sultanate.

The proprietor of the Hyderabad based Shipchandler company which has already installed two turn-key projects for biscuits and confectionery in Nepal also met officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and discussed with them the possibilities of setting up coconut and banana complex at Salalah. He said Salalah could become the nucleus for developing coconut and banana industry as also rope and fibre by-products.

Later Mr. Saleh met leading businessmen and discussed with them the possibilities of setting up small scale industries in food processing, plastics and footwear.

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## President Tito thanks His Majesty

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos received a telegram from the Yugoslav President Tito in reply to the message sent to condole the death of Yugoslav Prime Minister and his wife in an air crash.

President Tito has thanked His Majesty The Sultan for his sincere condolences and sympathies.

## Religious programme to be expanded

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The Ministry of Auqaf and Islamic Affairs is to invite nine renowned religious scholars from Egypt to expand its programme of 'Call and Guide to Islam.'

This was disclosed by the Public Relations Officer Mr. Said al Hatmi while talking to Times of Oman. He said that a delegation of the Ministry led by the Director General Mr. Ali Ibrahim Shenoan will visit Cairo next week for requisitioning the services of scholars.

Mr. Said al Hatmi said that at present the 'Call and Guide to Islam' programme has 14 preachers who are stationed at various places for imparting religious education to the people and guiding their lives according to the teachings of Quran and Sunnah.

Nine out of them are engaged in religious teaching at Salalah while the rest are posted in Muscat, Sohar, Nizwa, Sur and other places in the Interior.

In reply to a question Mr. Hatmi said that the basic aim of the 'Call and Guide to Islam' programme is to impart religious education to the youth in order to save them from the poisonous effects of extraneous cultures and civilizations.

Mr. Said al Hatmi said that the Ministry of Islamic Affairs is also considering to acquire the services of a renowned Indian religious scholar Sheikh Abul Hasan Nadwi.

## Davis Cup player joins Air India

Muscat : (By our Special Correspondent)

Mr. Sashi Menon the well known Indian Davis Cup player has joined Air India commercial department.

Mr. Menon, 24, has had an illustrious career in tennis. At the age of 17 he represented India in the Davis Cup tennis matches played in Bombay. He participated in various tournaments in the United States and played against famous American players Alexo Olmedo, Bob Lutz, Arthur Ashe and others. A professional since 1974, Mr. Menon completed a course in business management.

## Craven A football tournament

Muscat : (By our Sports Reporter)

'Craven A' Football Championship began here at Muttrah Club on February 15. From all parts of the country 29 football teams are participating in the tournament which will continue till the end of next month. The teams have been categorized as A, B and C. Six matches were decided, on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In category 'A' matches between Ahli Club and Ruwi Club resulted in 1-1 draw while Algesh team defeated Sidab by one goal.

In category 'B' Sumail Club beat PDO by 3-1 while Khaboura Club defeated Bausher by 4 goal.

In category 'C' the Seeb Club beat Fanja by two goals and the visiting French warships team was defeated by Birka with a solitary lead.

## Egyptian scholars

Nine religious scholars from Egypt arrived here last week to work for the Islamic Research Centre. The Centre headed by Sheikh Jabir al Madkhali is a voluntary organisation.

## Rabi Al Awwal celebrations

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The Ministry of Auqaf and Islamic Affairs has chalked out an elaborate programme to celebrate in a befitting manner the 12th of Rabi al Awwal, the auspicious occasion of the birth of Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him).

The Ministry is now engaged in sending invitations to renowned Muslim scholars all over the world to participate in the celebrations. The highlights of the programme include a solemn gathering at the Al Khor mosque in Muscat on the night of 12th of Rabi al Awwal at which prominent Sheikhs and religious scholars will deliver lectures on the life and achievements of the Holy Prophet.

## Obituary

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

Mr. Ibrahim Shenoan Ali, father of Mr. Ali Ibrahim Shenoan, Director General Ministry of Auqaf and Islamic Affairs died on February 5. He was 75.

A large number of senior government officials and friends called at the residence of Mr. Ali Ibrahim.



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Scheduled to arrive Port Qaboos 19 March

MV "TRAINON" Sailing	Oslo	22 Mar.
V/47A	Antwerp	26 Feb.
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	Marseilles	9 April

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## CINEMA

TUESDAY 22nd February

8.00 p.m.

"ASSAULT"

(adventure)

Suzy Kendall-Frank Finley

FRIDAY 25th February

8.00 p.m.

"THE ROVER"

(drama)

Anthony Quinn-R. Schiaffino

## Oman attends Gulf Agriculture conference

Dubai :  
(By our Correspondent)

The second conference of the Gulf and Arab Peninsula Agriculture Ministers began here on February 19.

Oman's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Minerals Mr. Said Ahmed Said Shanfari is leading Sultanate delegation at the conference.

Mr. Said Ahmed Said Shanfari on his arrival here on Friday said that the conference will discuss matters relating to cooperation in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and water resources among the member states. The conference will also discuss the working paper submitted by the general secretariat of the conference. The paper contains recommendations made by the technical committee set up at the last conference.

## Kuwaiti Foreign Minister visits Egypt

Kuwait :  
(By our Correspondent)

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al Ahmed Jabir paid a day's visit to Cairo and delivered a letter to President Sadat from the Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Jabir al Ahmed.

Earlier the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister also paid a visit to Riyadh and delivered a similar letter to Saudi Crown Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz.

## President Asad visits Rumania

Damascus :  
(By our Correspondent)

President Asad paid a two-day official visit to Rumania on Wednesday and Thursday. During his visit he held discussions with Rumanian President on international issues including the Middle East situation.

## INDIA

### Mrs Pandit to work for democracy

New Delhi : (BM)

Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit broke her retirement on Monday to assist those working for democracy. She told a news conference, "I cannot live at peace with myself if, by my silence, I seem to agree with the destruction of all I have been taught to hold dear. I speak now with a full sense of responsibility for what I am doing because my first duty and loyalty is, and must always be, to my country."

Replying to a query, Mrs. Pandit was categorical that there was "no reason whatsoever for imposing the emergency." "For a long time," she said, "I was distressed over the developments of the past 19 months and there comes a time when every individual has to act according to the dictates of his or her conscience."

Mrs. Pandit, now 76 years old, is the sister of late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru.

## British firm's electrical project in Oman

London : (LPS)

A British firm is to supply and instal a 33/11 kv electric substation worth £½ million at Ruwi in the Sultanate of Oman. The sub-station is to be used as a switching point to control transmission lines which run from Riyam power station to Seeb, and will have two 13 MVA transformers to feed local supplies.

The contract has been awarded to Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering of Leicestershire, by the Ministry of Communications of the Sultanate of Oman, and is due for completion this year. The contract includes the supply, transportation and installations of all equipment and civil works, including testing and commissioning of the plant.

Hawker Siddeley Group companies supplying equipment include South Wales Switchgear of Blackwood, Gwent, Wales, who will provide 33 kv and 11 kv switchgear; Brush Power Equipment, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, who will provide 33,000 V isolators; and Brush Transformers of Loughborough, from whom will come two 13 MVA transformers.

## UAE Charge d'Affaires calls at Foreign Office

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

Abdul Aali Hamidan, Charge d'Affaires of the UAE Embassy called on Mr. Yousuf Alawi, Under Secretary Foreign Affairs on February 16 and discussed bilateral relations and matters of common interest.

## Atrocities on Palestinians

Karachi :  
(By our Correspondent)

Israeli authorities in occupied Palestine have intensified their atrocities against Palestinian freedom fighters, who are on hunger strike in Israeli jails.

Shaikh Mohammad Ali Harkan, Secretary-General, Rabita al-Alam al-Islami stated here that the Palestinians had been on a hunger strike in Israeli jails for the past three weeks. He said that protest meetings are being held all over occupied Palestine in their support. The Israeli authorities, he said, instead of repenting, are tightening their stranglehold by detaining the hunger-strikers in solitary confinement.

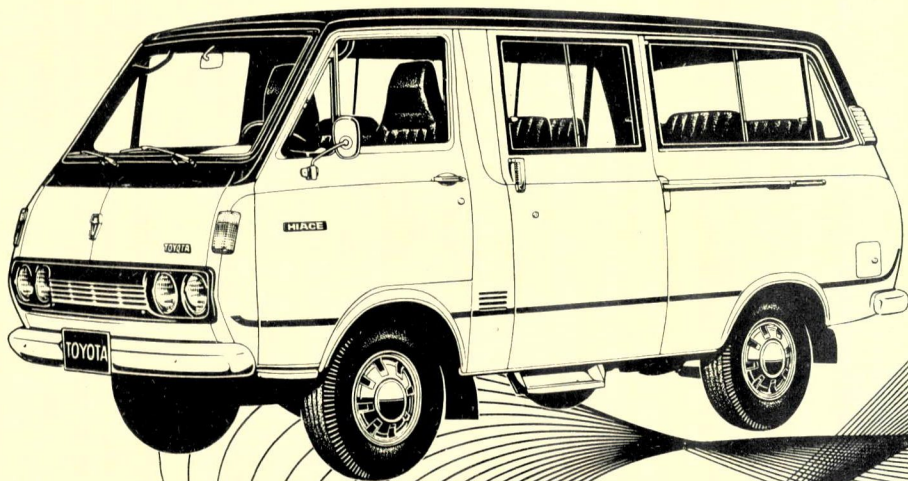
## Foreign Ministers conference to precede Afro-Arab summit

Cairo : (By our Correspondent)

The Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League Dr. Nofal has said that all the Arab and African Heads of State will participate in the first Afro-Arab summit to be held here on March 7.

He said that the summit will be preceded by a meeting of the foreign ministers of the participating countries which is to be held from March 3 to 5 for the approval of the agenda. The representatives of the economic bodies of the Organisation of the African Unity and the Arab League will also attend the summit.

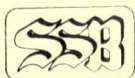
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