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ROYAL RECEPTION

Channel 6 KOIN-TV 3/1-/84 5:06

Oregon Governor, Vic Atiyeh and his trade mission to the middle-east are getting a royal reception from their host in Saudi Arabia.

Right now the group is in Riyadh the nation's capitol. Mike Donahue and photographer Dale Burkholtz are covering the trip for Newsroom 6.

Mike reports on Atiyeh's arrival and a welcome normally reserved for heads of state.

Landing first at the Red Sea Port City of Jeddah, the so called Singapore of the Arab world, the Governor's party was taken by limousine to this palatial waiting room. For security reasons, no pictures could be taken of the airport itself.

Staring at the opulent use of crystal, teak, gold leaf and marbel, former carpet dealer, Vic Atiyeh was especially impressed with the antique Persian rugs.

While the rest of the 747's passengers endured the hot ordeal of customs, the Oregonians remained here and were served fruit juices.

A representative of the protocol office expedited the delegations paperwork. It's carry-on luggage was never checked.

A state department official told the Governor his visit is bringing Oregonians out of the Saudi woodwork. Already the demand to see him has scheduled a reception with the American ladies of Jeddah.

If the diplomatic reception there was polite, only one protocol officer, the greeting awaiting the Governor when arrived just a few hours later at the Capitol city of Riyadh was definitely one for a VIP.

Leading the welcoming committee of sheiks and government ministers was Rashied Al Bacour, Director General of Foreign Trade. And like Atiyeh, a University of Oregon Duck.

(more)

Mark Hendricks

Mike Donahue

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ROYAL RECEPTION, Channel 6, KOIN-TV, 3/19/84

Mike Donahue
(cont.)

The UofO and Portland State have educated several Saudi's in high government positions.

Here there were no restrictions on photographing at the new King Khalied International Airport, which the Saudi's brag is the biggest and the best in the world, even if it is 30 miles from Riyadh.

In this energy-rich country, gas powered lamps light the boulevard the entire distance.

Having chased the sun into tomorrow, the mission members will see only a few hours of Friday and since tomorrow is Monday in the Saudi week, the Governor and his party have also lost a weekend.

For them, there will be no St. Patricks Day in the leap year of 1984.

A world away from Ireland and Oregon, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, this is Mike Donahue reporting for Newsroom 6.

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