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Is now 'back home'

Atiyeh arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Oregon Gov. Vic Atiyeh arrived here Monday after completing a 10-day trade mission in Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The 61-year-old Republican gov-

ernor, born in Portland to a Syrian father and a Lebanese mother, last visited here as a child in 1929.

He was accompanied on his trip to Damascus by four Oregon businessmen, who participated in the trade

mission, including Sam I. Kahl, Atiyeh's cousin. Kahl, a Syrian-born carpet-company owner acted as interpreter.

Atiyeh plans to see several top Syrian officials during his stay, including Vice President Abdul Hafeez Khaddam. On Tuesday, Atiyeh plans to tour the city of Qunaitra near the Golan Heights.

The city was destroyed in fighting between Israel and Syria in 1973.

Atiyeh said he hopes to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad to discuss the the Middle East. Although no such meeting has been set, Atiyeh said he is hopeful one will take place.

The governor also plans to visit his father's village of Amar in Syria.

Atiyeh was greeted by two Syrian foreign ministry officials when he stepped out of a Cyprus Airlines Jet in Damascus Monday. A larger welcome didn't come about as the result of confusion over the governor's travel plans, Syrian officials said.