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file  
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Atiyeh

LONG JOURNEY

Channel 2 KATU-TV

3/13/84

5:22

A long journey began today for Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh. Atiyeh left this morning for a conference on the East Coast. Then later this week, he'll head to the Mid-East on a trade mission.

The Governor and seven Oregon businessmen will attempt to drum up business in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. Senior political reporter Lisa Stark previews the trip.

When we think of the Middle East, we think of war. Seldom has there been so much fighting over so little land but there is another Middle East, the Middle East where people go about their daily lives free from the sounds of guns.

It is a Middle East that has moved rapidly into the Twentieth Century, some countries moderizing with billions of oil dollars others with the help of the United States.

With modernization has come the need for foreign trade. Oregon has filled some of that need providing everything from wheat to Egypt to wood products and even car washes to Saudi Arabia.

Governor Atiyeh hopes additional trade is possible. To find out, he's heading an Oregon trade mission to the Middle East.

If nothing else and I'm sure it will be more than nthing else, we're going to enhance our opporunity to do business over there. This will be the first Middle East trade mission out of Oregon ever and, with a Governor going, I think it's going to attract some attention.

(MORE)

Long Journey, Channel 2, 3/13/84

St.

Atiyeh told us this morning the prospects look good and he said his trip will give Oregon an identity in the Middle East. It's an identity that's sorely lacking, according to international business consultant Ben Tyron of Ashland.

Tyron, a retired oilman who has had dealings with Saudi Arabia for some 40 years, is going along on the trade mission.

Tyron

I want to sort of search the Saudi market, the Saudi Arabia market to see what products of an Oregonian nature that we can, that we can ship to Saudi Arabia. It seems to me that, that our state has been somewhat behind in this that we're rather latecomers but it's better late than never.

Stark

In all, the trade mission will last 2½ weeks. It begins in Rijayd, Saudi Arabia's capital city. There Atiyeh and the Oregon businessmen will meet with government officials.

Then it's on the port city of Jeddah, a trading center, the next stop Cario, Egypt, where the Oregon delegation will speak with the Minister of Housing. From there, the Governor travels to Syria where he hopes to meet with President Hassid Assad, then a perosnal journey for Atiyeh.

He will visit his father's birthplace, the village of Amar. It is unclear whether a trade mission like this will accomplish anything concrete but at the very least it will let Mid-Easterners know that Oregon is open to their business.

In POrtland, Lisa Stark, Channel Two News.

Barry

Lisa as well as Channel Two new photographer Mike Fussi and sound technician Patty King will be travelling with the Governor. They'll report back to us from time to time on the trade mission and after the mission is over, Atiyeh and his wife will remain in the Middle East for a two-week tour of Israel.

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