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TRADE DELEGATION

Channel 2 KATU-TV

3/17/84

6:36

Members of Oregon's trade delegation met today with some Saudi Arabian officials. The delegation is led by Governor Vic Atiyeh is now in Rijyad. Senior political reporter Lisa Stark is travelling with the delegation and is on the phone right now with a report.

The Oregon business delegation met with three of the Saudi ministers today. They managed to meet with the Minister of Commerce also the Minister of Industry and Electricity and the Minister of Planning and apparently this is nearly unprecedented for a trade mission like this to have an audience with three of the Saudi ministers.

It's believed that the mission getting such a good response from the government here because of Governor Atiyeh's Arab background. He is of Syrian descent and really the Saudis have welcomed him with open arms and they have been very cordial. They've done everything they can to amke the Governor and the delegation feel at home and to extend a welcome to them.

What the delegation leanred today is that American business is very welcome in Saudi Arabia but it's going to have to change a bit. The Saudis say that they're done developing their infrastructure and they're done with their major construction projects.

What they want to do now is increase productivity and also work in agriculture and so what they're saying is they need American technical expertise more than ever but they're not sure what kind od products they're going to be needing in the future; so American companies are going to have to adjust accordingly and, of course, Oregon companies are going to have to be doing the same in order to retain a share of the SAudi market and so that's sort of the message these Oregon businessmen are going to be taking home with them when they return to the United States in just a few weeks.

(MORE)

Trade Delegation, Channel 2 KATU-TV, 3/17/84

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And one final note, you wonder why everyone's holding meetings here on Saturday. Well, the weekend here in Saudi Arabia is actually Thursday and Friday; so Saturday is a working day and we were all at work including the delegation and that is the story from here in Rijyad.

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