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| 001. cable | Re: First Lady Pre-Advance (partial, pp. 1-2 of 4) (2 pages) | 05/14/99 | P6/b(6) |
| 002. letter | To Hillary Clinton from Paul Shatz re: visit (partial) (1 page) | 06/09/99 | P6/b(6) |

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## RESTRICTION CODES

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## I. Background

NEF began its work in Morocco in 1987 with the Ait Imeghrane Dairy Goat and Family Nutrition Project. This project sought to improve standards of nutrition and income among poor rural women and children in Southern Morocco by (1) improving the milk production of a local breed of dairy goat, (2) establishing a mechanism for breeding these goats, (3) distributing these goats on credit to poor rural women, and (4) training participants in proper goat husbandry and family nutrition. An appraisal in 1993 suggested that a more diverse approach was needed to address the numerous problems faced by rural women in Southern Morocco.

Based upon this appraisal, the Appropriate Technology Training Center (ATTC) was created in 1993, as part of a collaborative effort between the Near East Foundation and the Ouarzazate (Morocco) regional agricultural development authority (ORMVAO). This initiative, the Appropriate Technical Assistance for Rural Women project, sought to identify, develop, and promote technical alternatives for local development in Southern Morocco. **By 1997, the ATTC approach had moved far beyond technical assistance, developing into a comprehensive, holistic program to help rural families and communities take control of the process of change in their lives, using appropriate technology as a catalyst for social change.**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the development of the ATTC approach to working with villagers in southern Morocco, to describe the structure of the ATTC program after its first five years, and to describe some of the major accomplishments of the ATTC during its first five years.

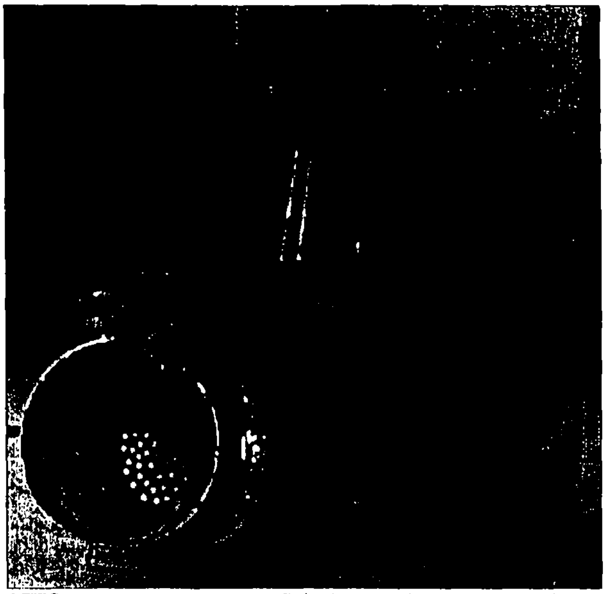
## II. Introduction to the Appropriate Technology Training Center

As it was conceived in 1993, the ATTC initially served as a context for developing and promoting appropriate technical solutions to the problems of poor village women in rural Southern Morocco, particularly in the areas of household energy/natural resource management, sustainable agriculture/food processing, water/health, and income generation. The ATTC sought to assist rural people, women and children in particular, in improving their lives through the introduction of new ideas, practices, and equipment that: reduce workloads; facilitate personal development and group solidarity; promote opportunities to learn new skills or earn small incomes; and improve family health.

**Appropriate technology.** The initial work of the ATTC was technology-centered. During this phase, ATTC staff discussed problems with local partners, researched simple tools and techniques to address the issues surrounding these problems, developed prototypes of appropriate technology tools, and conducted field tests of these prototypes. It soon became apparent that, regardless of the apparent benefits that a specific technology could provide, no technology could promote itself. It was necessary to develop strategies for introducing the tools developed at the ATTC to potential users and for creating mechanisms to deliver them and to continue delivering them. The tasks, therefore, were to: (1) identify local development needs in collaboration with village partners, (2) develop simple, promising technologies and techniques to address priority development problems, and (3) promote these technologies and techniques among local populations as a means of attaining a degree of socioeconomic improvement.


ATTC technicians assemble a treadle irrigation pump. During its first four years, the ATTC experimented with many such tools to address problems in Southern Morocco.

For many of the technologies developed at the ATTC (ceramic cookstoves, beehives, various pumps, etc.) the system envisioned to assure lasting availability to villagers was based upon a simple commercial model. It was necessary to (1) create a "demand" for the item by making it and its benefits know to villagers, (2) create a "supply" by training and monitoring local artisans in the production of the item and (3) establish a private-sector mechanism for delivering the items from producer to consumer, whether by the artisans themselves or by 3rd party retail agents. For other technologies, particularly those involving significant training of potential users (backyard chicken farming, vegetable gardening, literacy, health education, etc.), "delivery" proved to be even more problematic and would necessitate more intimate and prolonged contact than that needed to "inform" an audience about the benefits of a commercially-available tool. The organization of the ATTC at this time (annex 2) reflects its strategy at the time, and separate sections treated both technology development and technology promotion.


ATTC metalworker puts the finishing touches on a portable metallic cookstove

**Emergence of women's groups.** ATTC staff experimented with several techniques for promoting appropriate technology tools, including demonstrations of cookstoves with ATTC-trained potters at weekly markets, trials of solar fruit dryers in neighboring villages, and exhibitions at public events. But an effective method was found in organizing informal gatherings of village women and conducting trials and demonstration sessions with them. These early sessions stimulated the interest of village partners, and the gatherings soon became regular occurrences, with ATTC field agents presenting a new tool or technique on each occasion. It was soon apparent that, while early sessions with these informal women's groups captured the interest and imagination of the village women, in order to assure their continued participation in the gathers (which had become regular, by demand), it would be necessary to structure the content, presentation and progression of the sessions.

The issues of coherency and continuity were addressed in the elaboration of an approach using "animation cycles" and by working through local leadership. While the village groups remained informal, through these cycles the ATTC introduced a systematic, methodic and participative approach for analyzing village development problems, implementing training and technical assistance activities, and maintaining regular and periodic contact with partner communities over a greater period of time. During this time, through what started as an exercise in technology promotion, the ATTC developed a much richer approach to working with groups of village women, providing them with training, technical assistance, and small-project support.


ATTC extensionist demonstrates proper feeding of chickens to a group of village women

**A change in emphasis.** During this phase (1994-96), working in over 80 villages, the ATTC touched many lives: over 2500 women began using fuel-efficient cookstoves; 1000 women started small-scale chicken-raising operations; 500 farmers took up apiculture in an area where modern apiculture was previously unknown; 100 families planted vegetable gardens and over 4000 women were trained in techniques for improving family health, income and social status.

The greatest impact of these projects, however, revealed itself through a gradual growth in personal initiative, self-confidence, and self-determination among ATTC village partners. The staff of the ATTC came to see this dynamic as the key to long-term change in the communities in which it worked. Appropriate technology tools and techniques, therefore, were not so much solutions to the specific socioeconomic problems they were designed to address as they were catalysts for a more fundamental change in the way people thought about their abilities to affect change in their lives. In this context, the work of the ATTC must therefore focus upon helping partner communities to capture this dynamic and channel it in an organized, coherent, and durable manner towards community problem solving.

By focusing on the creation of village development associations and by structuring the progression of training, technical assistance, and organizational support, the ATTC has developed an innovative and replicable strategy for promoting lasting solutions to rural development issues. The ATTC's commitment to building local capacity, both individual and institutional, both complements and reinforces its original focus on appropriate technologies. In 1997, the ATTC initiative resulted in the creation of 32 local development associations, with a combined membership of over 2000 women. These associations are managing small-scale projects in potable water, sanitation, small animal husbandry, apiculture, gardening, agroforestry, irrigation rehabilitation, carpet weaving, and literacy. In collaboration with several Moroccan government agencies and donor organizations, the ATTC has recently launched a campaign to expand activities to 100 more villages over a five-year period.

The NEF-Morocco/ATTC team, March 1998

## III. ATTC Programs, 1997

### 1. Apiculture Sector Support Program.

Member of the Amazr vllage womens's association demonstrates smoking her hive.

The *ATTC Apiculture Sector Support Program* (PASA[1]) has two goals. One is to protect the local race of honeybee, which is disappearing rapidly due largely to the disease and inappropriate (traditional) management techniques. The other is to improve local honey production and income through the introduction of modern beekeeping practices. The PASA has had a particularly high and visible impact because of (1) the high esteem with which honey is held in the project area, (2) the previous total absence of modern beekeeping practices in the project area, and (3) the devastation of the local bee population due largely to the Varroa mite and to poor bee colony management. The PASA coordinator, a beekeeping technician, trains local craftspeople in the fabrication of beekeeping equipment, trains local beekeepers in proper hive management, assists in the establishment of local beekeeping supply enterprises and provides technical assistance to traditional beekeepers in making the transition to modern beekeeping practice. The ATTC also maintains its own apiary for demonstration, bee production, and training.

From 1996 through 1997, the accomplishments of the Apiculture Sector Support Program include having:

- **Provided technical assistance and ad hoc training to over 200 beekeepers in the Dadès Basin, before the commencement of formal beekeeping workshops;**
- **Trained 80 beekeepers during 4 IFAD-funded ATTC workshops;**
- **Trained 70 women beekeepers during 2 UNICEF-funded workshops;**
- **Trained 145 beekeepers during 5 UNDP-funded workshops in Imgoun (Ouarzazate);**
- **Trained 200 women beekeepers during 9 UNICEF-funded workshops in the context of the PAGV;**
- **Trained 8 carpenters in bee hive fabrication;**
- **Trained 1 metalworker in the fabrication of honey extractors.**

Amazr woman sits beside the bee hive she purchased after completing an ATTC apiculture workshop.

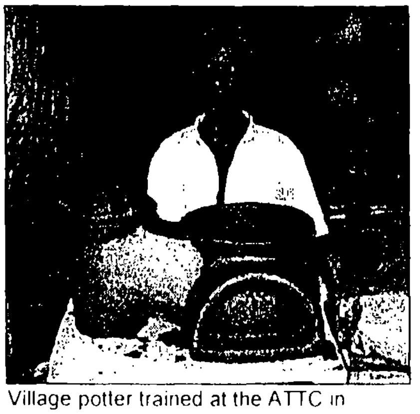
Local carpenters learn how to construct movable frame bee hives at an ATTC training workshop.

Bee hives purchased with funding from UNICEF await subsidized distribution to participants in ATTC apiculture workshops.

[1] Acronym for the French, "Programme d'appui au secteur apicole"

## 2. Domestic Energy Program

The ATTC *Domestic Energy Program* (PED[2]) seeks to reduce the amount of scarce wood fuel used in food preparation through the promotion of fuel-efficient cooking technologies (improved cookstoves and bread ovens). Currently, the most successful of the ATTC cookstoves is the two-pot ceramic stove, which is capable of reducing total household fuel consumption by 38%. Produced by local potters at a cost of 4 US$ each, these stoves can reduce fuel collection time by 2.25 months (375 hours) per woman and fuel consumption by over 1000 kilograms per household annually. The ATTC also works to promote ceramic fuel-efficient bread ovens. The combination of a fuel-efficient ceramic cookstove and bread oven can reduce total household fuel consumption by over 50%.


Village potter trained at the ATTC in ceramic cookstove fabrication

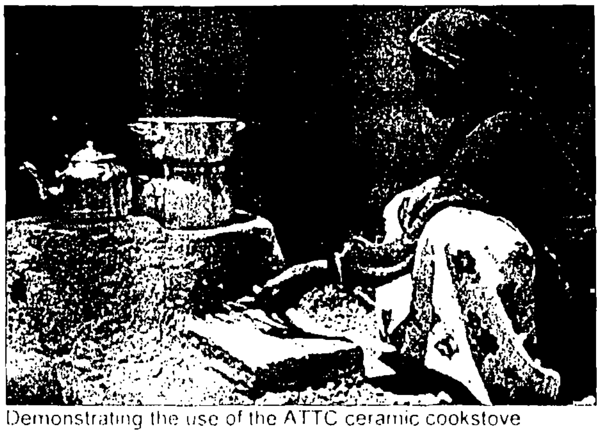

Demonstrating the use of the ATTC fuel-efficient ceramic bread oven

In developing and promoting fuel-efficient cooking technologies, the ATTC stove team (one coordinator and one pottery trainer), supported by ATTC field agents, undertake three types of activities: (1) training traditional potters in stove fabrication and commercialization, (2) introducing stoves to village women through demonstration sessions, and (3) establishing private-sector, village-level stove retailers.


An ATTC-trained potter producing fuel-efficient ceramic cookstoves

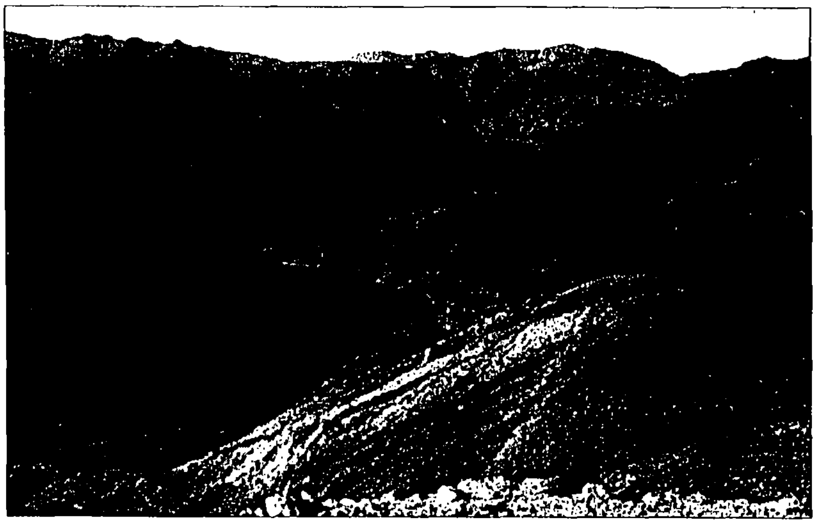
Over the past several years, the accomplishments of the Domestic Energy Program include having:

- **Disseminated, via the private sector on a commercial basis, over 5000 fuel-efficient ceramic cookstoves;**
- **Disseminated, via the private sector on a commercial basis, over 400 fuel-efficient ceramic bread ovens;**
- **Trained 37 potters in the fabrication and commercialization of fuel-efficient cooking technologies;**
- **Organized 2 annual stove summits – reunions of potters trained at the ATTC to discuss experiences from the previous year;**
- **Facilitated the creation of an informal cooperative of stove producers, who work together to satisfy local demand for cookstoves and ovens;**
- **Created a network of 24 village stove retailers.**


Demonstrating the use of the ATTC ceramic cookstove (shown here installed)

[2] Acronym for the French, "Programme d'énergie domestique"

### 3. Rope and Washer Pump Program.



This view of irrigated parcels along the Mgoun River in the High Atlas Mountains illustrates the scarcity of arable land in Southern Morocco. The average family in this area survives on less than 1/2 hectare.

The rope and washer pump is a very simple device capable of lifting water from depths of up to 20 meters for as little as 20 US$. The ATTC promotes rope and washer pumps in two contexts. The first is to support homesteaders in the cultivation of small market gardens. As pressure increases on land served by community irrigation systems, more and more farmers are forced to look elsewhere to grow enough food to earn agricultural incomes and feed their families. Where groundwater conditions are favorable, farmers will often sink a well to water a small garden. Those who are wealthy enough can usually install a diesel pump, but the majority of these farmers water their gardens using a rope and bucket. Because they greatly facilitate water lifting, rope and washer pumps have enabled market gardeners in these circumstances to increase the area that they cultivate by up to five times. The second context in which rope and washer pumps are promoted is to assist in the irrigation of kitchen gardens. Training in vegetable gardening techniques is commonly a component of the village associations support program.

ATTC and ORMVAO agents inspect an early prototype of the rope and washer pump promoted by the ATTC.

Although the technology itself has met with enthusiasm from local farmers, the ***Rope and Washer Pump Program*** (PPC[1]) is the least developed of the ATTC programs. Future plans include training workshops in improved market gardening and water conservation techniques.

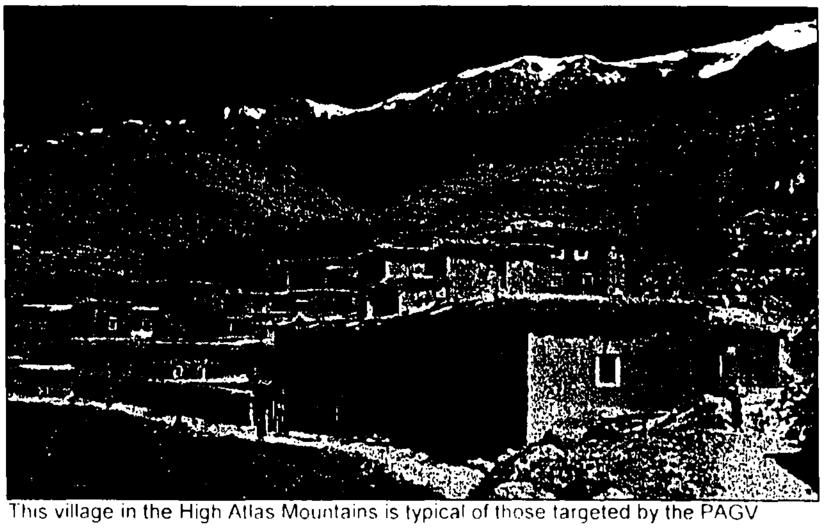
Since 1996, the accomplishments of the Rope and Washer Pump Program include having:

- **Trained 6 metalworkers in the fabrication and commercialization of rope and washer pumps;**
- **Disseminated, via private sector producers, over 150 rope and washer pumps.**

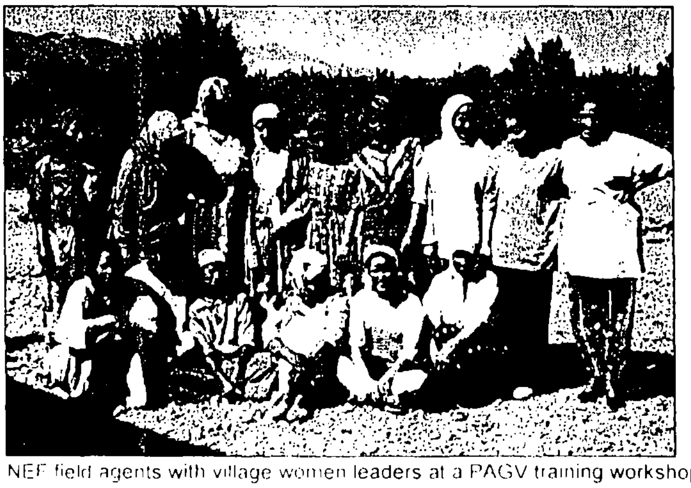
[1] Acronym for the French, "Programme pompe à corde"

**4. Village Association Support Program.**

The *Village Association Support Program* (PAGV[1]) is an integrated program which seeks to improve rural livelihoods in rural southern Morocco (Provinces of Ouarzazate and Zagora) while building the capacity among village populations, particularly rural women, to initiate and manage change in their lives. The PAGV is a broad NEF/Morocco effort to promote the organized participation of rural women in civil society, with a particular emphasis on the improvement of socioeconomic conditions, through community organization, training, and technical assistance.



This village in the High Atlas Mountains is typical of those targeted by the PAGV



NEF field agents with village women leaders at a PAGV training workshop

Drawing upon its experience with the promotion of appropriate technologies, the ATTC has developed an effective and successful methodology for working with communities of rural women. Based upon training modules, this approach addresses local need in a participatory manner through training, technical assistance, and organizational support while creating institutional and personal abilities to assure the long-term viability of the development process.

Using this modular system in each community over a two year period, the ATTC:

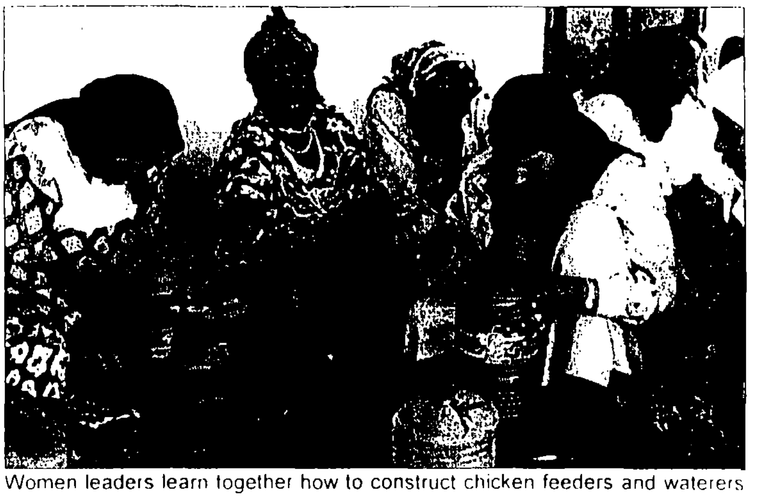
- **Facilitates the creation of legally constituted women's development associations and trains the members of these associations in the process of village development. (Community Organization)**
- **Assists the members of women's development associations to improve their basic living conditions, with particular emphasis on food production, health, and education, through training, technical and material assistance. (Amelioration of Subsistence Activities)**
- **Promotes the creation of micro-economic activity among women at the village level through (1) advanced technical training in food production, (2) training in basic management techniques and (3) the creation of community credit funds to support micro-economic activities. (Income Generating Activities)**
- **Fosters group solidarity and action through the design and implementation of women's community projects. (Community Action)**

[1] Acronym for the French, "Programme d'appui aux groupements villageois"

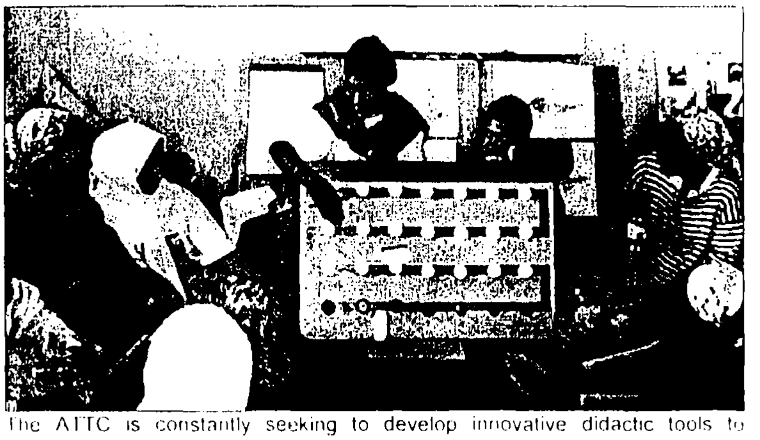
When the basic structures of the village association have been established, the community selects its "*women leaders*" (2 per village) to be trained by NEF in (a) appropriate technical interventions to improve food production, health, and income and (b) techniques of community mobilization and training. These women, who are the traditional leaders of women's communities in partner villages, are then able to return to their villages and train women, using their newly acquired skills. NEF field agents and extensionists work in close partnership with women leaders in conducting village-based training and extension workshops, and project monitoring has indicated that a dynamic, motivated and skillful woman leader is the most important element in a village's success.

The final outcome of the first phase of the PAGV is a ***village development program***, developed by the village association in partnership with NEF field staff, using participatory techniques of problem analysis, resource allocation, and planning. The village development program, although often modified and refined, serves as the master plan for village development activities and defines the community's priorities and responsibilities.

Women leaders learn through experience at PAGV workshops. Here, a trainee shows the chickens for which she will care during her training.



Women leaders learn together how to construct chicken feeders and waterers from common household items. They will subsequently train other women in their villages.



The ATTC is constantly seeking to develop innovative didactic tools to facilitate experiential learning. In this photograph, a woman leader practices her delivery of a family planning lesson to her colleagues at a PAGV workshop.

The use of song is an effective method of reinforcing the acquisition of and ability to transfer new information.

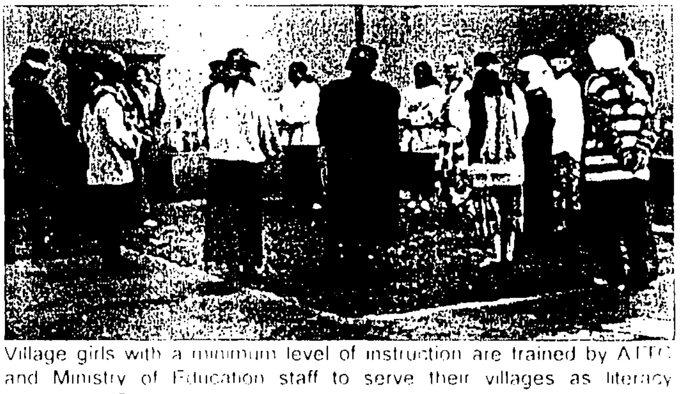
**Improvement of basic conditions**. During the second phase of contact with partner communities, ATTC field and technical support staff work with village associations and the women's leaders to implement village development programs, while building the capacity of the associations to manage development in their communities. Each ATTC extensionist, all of whom are local women, is responsible for 2 to 5 villages, visiting each village at least once a week. During these visits, the extensionists: **(1)** provide managerial training (problem-solving, project implementation, bookkeeping, etc.) to village associations, **(2)** conduct training sessions in improved agricultural techniques (particularly gardening and small animal husbandry), **(3)** conduct health, hygiene and nutrition education sessions, **(4)** assist women leaders in the implementation of community micro-projects, and **(5)** monitor the impact of PAGV projects. Activities have included small-scale chicken raising, beekeeping, household vegetable gardening, agroforestry, women's literacy, and carpet weaving.

During this phase, all participants contribute financially to micro-projects by paying the equivalent of 1/3 of the project cost to their village associations. In this manner, village associations begin to acquire capital with which to finance village development, gain ongoing experience in financial management, and assume responsibility for resource mobilization. In addition to realizing basic improvements in their standards of living, women participants experience a profound growth in confidence and sense of self-worth as they begin making decisions and learning new skills.

A woman leader leads the members of her village development association in a nutrition education activity. Women leaders play a critical role in motivating and training villagers and in shaping the path of village development

Women and girls crowd into a community literacy classroom in the High Atlas Mountains (Iminoulaoun). Less than 1% of the female population in this area have had the opportunity to learn to read and write

Household vegetable gardening can help families improve the nutritional quality of their diets. In 1997, over 600 families planted vegetable gardens with the assistance of the ATTC



Village girls with a minimum level of instruction are trained by ATTC and Ministry of Education staff to serve their villages as literacy teachers. Girls are trained in leadership skills as well as teaching methods.

Small-scale chicken raising can help women earn income through the sale of eggs and meat. The ATTC assisted 570 women start operations similar to the one pictured in this photograph.

Long-term accompaniment of village associations, participatory learning activities and the use of appropriate technologies form the basis of the ATTC/PAGV approach. The development of training tools that encourage experiential learning and facilitate self-initiative is a major preoccupation of ATTC field agents.

An ATTC field agent and village women inspect a chicken coop built by a member of the village development association.

**Income Generating Activities.** The third phase of the PAGV builds upon the technical skills gained during the second phase to promote micro-economic activities for individuals. Actions include **(1)** advanced technical training for increase scale of income-generating activities, **(2)** training in the management of micro-economic activities and **(3)** the creation of community micro-credit funds to finance micro economic activity.

**Community Action.** The accompaniment of local associations culminates in training and guided experience in the conception, planning, implementation and monitoring of community projects. These projects, while addressing specific development issues, are intended to provide the village development associations with experience in taking action for common good. These projects have ranged from modest ones financed entirely by the village associations (e.g. the building of a classroom for women's literacy classes, the creation of a social fund to assist in medical expenses of poor village women, the implementation of a village waste collection system, etc.) to more elaborate ones financed partially financed by NEF (e.g., the rehabilitation of irrigation canals to increase productive land, the construction of a public bath, the creation of a pump irrigation station to revitalize local agricultural production, etc.)

**Specific Objectives.** By the end of a two-year period, it is anticipated that a community has taken measures for addressing its priority problems and has created mechanisms both for assuring the sustainability of changes already initiated and for continuing to address community problems in an organized and coherent manner. Because of the nature of the area's subsistence economy, the substance of this process of technical training and capacity building necessarily focuses on improving food production and security. The ATTC has developed short-term training programs and appropriate communication tools for rural women in the areas of household vegetable gardening, small-scale poultry raising, beekeeping, agroforestry, and rabbit husbandry. Based upon past experience, it is possible to establish a general framework without preempting community participation in the planning process.

**Realizations.** In 1997, the ATTC worked in partnership with 25 villages in the context of the PAGV, reaching over 12,000 people among Morocco's poorest. During this time in these villages, the ATTC:

- **Facilitated the creation of 32 village development associations, with a total female membership of over 2000;**
- **Facilitated the creation of 25 community development funds, built through contributions of association members, with a total value of over 30,000 US$ after nine months;**
- **Trained 50 village women leaders in techniques of facilitating community development and building group cohesion;**
- **Facilitated the creation of 570 new small-scale chicken farming operations by training over 700 women farmers and distributing on subsidy over 12,000 chicks;**
- **Trained 200 new women beekeepers and distributed on subsidy 200 beehives;**
- **Facilitated the creation of 600 new household vegetable gardens by training women and distributing seeds and tools;**
- **Encouraged the planting of fruit trees by distributing 4300 almond and apple trees to 490 women in 7 villages, training these women in proper planting techniques, and monitoring the planting process;**
- **Trained 100 women in improved carpet-weaving techniques;**
- **Trained 37 village literacy teachers and established 20 village literacy classrooms with a total attendance of over 1100 women and girls;**
- **Trained an additional 9 potters in fuel-efficient cookstove fabrication and facilitated the creation of a small cooperative of stove-makers to facilitate and coordinate stove commercialization;**
- **Established a network of 24 village stove retailers;**
- **Facilitated the construction of three community irrigation systems, to improve agricultural production for over 2000 people;**
- **Facilitated the construction of a public bath to provide bathing facilities to over 1500 people;**
- **Facilitated the construction of a potable water system, through spring catchment, serving over 500 people.**

## IV. The Future of the ATTC

Over the past five years (1993-97), NEF-Morocco and the ATTC have evolved into a multi-faceted, integrated program that works in collaboration with a large number of national and international partners to address need at a village level in southern Morocco. During the coming five years (1998-2002), the challenges facing a maturing NEF-Morocco/ATTC are of three types: performance/program, financial, and structure.

### 1. Performance/program challenges

- By adding 20 new villages and two new female field agents each year, the program will be active in 120 villages by the end of the 5-year period. At that level of development, NEF/ATTC will address the development needs of over 60,000 of Morocco's poorest people.
- NEF/ATTC will have formalized and documented its structured framework for accompanying village associations by the end of the five year period. Based upon the accumulated experience of working at the village level, the formalization of this approach will take the form of the development and documentation of training modules which are general enough to be applicable in a majority of rural development settings in Morocco yet specific enough to be immediately relevant to NGO field agents. The development of this approach will be complemented by the publication of training and didactic materials.

### 2. Financial challenges

- Funding of the ATTC project depends largely upon significant annual contributions from NEF, annual contributions of a single large donor (UNICEF), and smaller contributions from a number of organizational partners. In order to achieve a degree of financial security for the ATTC, it is a goal of the NEF-Morocco program to seek diversification in funding through the development of long-term relationships with a greater number of donor agencies and organizational partners.

### 3. Structural challenges

- The recent signature of a 10-year country agreement with the government of Morocco has provided NEF-Morocco with a formal and legal presence in the Kingdom of Morocco. Additionally, NEF/Morocco currently works closely with a number of institutional partners (including UNICEF, the Moroccan Ministry of the Interior and OXFAM-Quebec) and numerous village development associations (local NGO's). Although it is not presently possible to establish a timeline, the long-term viability of the ATTC depends upon its becoming a Moroccan NGO, with full Moroccan leadership and under the direction of a local board of directors. This process will depend upon several factors: (1) the eventual recruitment of professional local staff members with a high degree of programmatic and diplomatic sophistication and capable of eventually directing all aspects the ATTC, (2) the training of current and eventual local staff to increase ability and professionalism, and (3) the identification and implication of potential board members. It should be a goal of the NEF/Morocco program, within the next 5 years, to establish a solid foundation for the realization of this goal.

## Annex 1: Development of the ATTC

1993

- Project agreement signed with Ouarzazate regional development authority (ORMVAO).
- Prototype developed and tested for solar oven.
- Extension work initiated in the 3 villages of Sidi Flah (Province of Ouarzazate).
- Two buildings renovated in the village of Sidi Flah Arab to house first ATTC.
- ATTC carpentry workshop established.
- Funding for ATTC project received from Canadian Embassy in Rabat.
- Funding from Japanese Embassy in Rabat received to support health education initiative in Ouarzazate primary schools.
- Local staff (1): 1 field agent

1994

- ATTC hosted World Bank-sponsored national PRA workshop.
- Development and testing of ceramic cookstove, metallic cookstove, treadle irrigation pump, solar dryer and top bar beehive.
- Health education project developed for rural Ouarzazate primary schools.
- Extension work initiated in 10 villages (Souk El Khemis Dadès, Province of Ouarzazate).
- ATTC moved from Sidi Flah to Souk El Khemis Dadès.
- ATTC metal and pottery workshops established.
- Funding for ATTC project received from International Foundation.
- Funding for ATTC project received from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- Local staff (6): 2 field agents, 1 coordinator, 3 technicians

1995

- Project agreement signed with UNICEF.
- Animation cycles initiated in 10 Ouarzazate and 10 Tata villages.
- Training modules developed for chicken raising, gardening, rabbit husbandry and fuel-efficient cookstoves.
- Foum Zguid Technology Transfer Station established in the Province of Tata.
- ATTC apiary established.
- Funding received from the Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation to support NEF technical assistance to the ATTC project.
- Funding received from UNICEF to support women's development in the Province of Tata.
- Local staff (12): 5 field agents, 3 coordinators, 3 technicians, 1 driver

1996

- Convention signed with UNICEF and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Animation cycles initiated in 20 Ouarzazate and 20 Tata villages.
- 1 women's leaders' workshop organized in collaboration with the Moroccan Ministry of the Interior and the United Nations Development Program.
- Prototypes developed and tested for rope and washer pump, ATTC Berber literacy manual and metal/ceramic brazier.
- Larger facilities for ATTC renovated in Souk El Khemis Dadès (Province of Ouarzazate).
- Funding received from UNICEF to support work with women in the Province of Tata.
- Funding for ATTC project received from the International Foundation.
- Funding received from Laubach Literacy International to support development of ATTC literacy program.
- Local staff (13): 5 field agents, 3 coordinators, 3 technicians, 1 administrative staff, 1 driver

**1997**

- Country agreement signed with the Government of Morocco; partnership agreement signed with UNICEF; project agreement signed with Ministries of Interior, Agriculture, Social Affairs, Health, and Education
- Village association support program (PAGV) initiated in 25 villages.
- 5 beekeeping workshops organized in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and UNDP.
- 2 women's leaders' training workshops organized in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and UNDP.
- Field manuals prepared for chicken raising and fuel-efficient cookstoves; PAGV structure and formal training units developed for village association capacity-building.
- 4 NEF-Morocco staff members depart on study-tour of Mali.
- Foum Zguid Technology Transfer Station closed.
- 3 field stations (Iminoulaoun, Ghessate, and Ouisselssate) established.
- Funding received from UNICEF for work with women in the Province of Ouarzazate.
- Funding received from OXFAM-Quebec for work with women in Iminoulaoun (Ouarzazate).
- Local staff (17): 7 field agents, 5 coordinators, 3 administrative staff, 2 technicians

U.S. Department of State
Background Notes: Italy, May 1997
Released by the Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs

## OFFICIAL NAME: REPUBLIC OF ITALY

## PROFILE

### GEOGRAPHY

Area: 301,225 sq. km. (116,303 sq. mi.); about the size of Georgia and Florida combined.
Cities: Capital--Rome (pop. 2.7 million).
Other cities--Milan, Naples, Turin.
Terrain: Mostly rugged and mountainous.
Climate: Generally mild Mediterranean; cold northern winters.

### PEOPLE

Nationality: Noun and adjective--Italian(s).
Population: 57 million.
Annual growth rate: 0.2%.
Ethnic groups: Primarily Italian, but small groups of German-, French-, Slovene-, and Albanian-Italians.
Religion: Roman Catholic (majority).
Language: Italian (official).
Education: Years compulsory--14. Literacy--98%.
Health: Infant mortality rate--8/1,000 live births. Life expectancy--74 yrs.
Work force: 23 million; unemployment 12%. Services--61%. Industry and commerce--32%. Agriculture--7%.

### GOVERNMENT

Type: Republic since June 2, 1946.
Constitution: January 1, 1948.
Branches: Executive--president (chief of state), Council of Ministers (cabinet), headed by the president of the council (prime minister). Legislative--bicameral parliament: 630-member Chamber of Deputies, 325-member Senate. Judicial--independent constitutional court and lower magistracy. Subdivisions: 94 provinces, 20 regions.
Political parties: Forza Italia, Northern League, National Alliance, Democratic Party of the Left, Italian People's Party, Christian Democratic Center, Socialist, La Rete, Communist Renewal, Social Democratic, Republican, Liberal, Greens, Italian Renewal.
Suffrage: Universal over 18.

### ECONOMY

GDP (1996): $1.21 trillion.
Per capita income (1996): $21,190.
GDP growth (1996): 0.7%.
Natural resources: Fish, natural gas. Agriculture: Products--wheat, rice, grapes, olives, citrus fruits.
Industry: Types--automobiles, machinery, chemicals, textiles, shoes.
Trade (1996): Exports--$250 billion; partners--EU 55%, U.S. 7%, OPEC 3%; mechanical products, textiles and apparel, transportation equipment, metal products, chemical products, food and agricultural products.
Imports--$207 billion; partners--EU 61%, OPEC 6%, U.S. 5%; machinery and transport equipment, foodstuffs, ferrous and nonferrous metals, wool, cotton, energy products.

## PEOPLE AND HISTORY

Italy is largely homogeneous linguistically and religiously but is diverse culturally, economically, and politically. Italy has the fifth-highest population density in Europe--about 200 persons per square kilometer (490/sq. mi.). Minority groups are small, the largest being the German-speaking people of Bolzano Province and the Slovenes around Trieste. Other groups comprise small communities of Albanian, Greek, Ladino, and French origin. Although Roman Catholicism is the majority religion--99% of the people are nominally Catholic--all religious faiths are provided equal freedom before the law by the constitution.

Greeks settled in the southern tip of the Italian peninsula in the eighth and seventh centuries B.C.; Etruscans, Romans, and others inhabited the central and northern mainland. The peninsula subsequently was unified under the Roman Republic. The neighboring islands also came under Roman control by the third century B.C.; by the first century A.D., the Roman Empire effectively dominated the Mediterranean world. After the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West in the fifth century A.D., the peninsula and islands were subjected to a series of invasions, and political unity was lost. Italy became an oft-changing succession of small states, principalities, and kingdoms which fought among themselves and were subject to ambitions of foreign powers. Popes of Rome ruled central Italy; rivalries between the popes and the Holy Roman Emperors, who claimed Italy as their domain, often made the peninsula a battleground.

Commercial prosperity of northern and central Italian cities, beginning in the 11th century, and the influence of the Renaissance mitigated somewhat the effects of these medieval political rivalries. Although Italy declined after the 16th century, the Renaissance had strengthened the idea of a single Italian nationality. By the early 19th century, a nationalist movement developed and led to the reunification of Italy--except for Rome--in the 1860s. In 1861, Victor Emmanuel II of the House of Savoy was proclaimed King of Italy. Rome was incorporated in 1870. From 1870 until 1922, Italy was a constitutional monarchy with a parliament elected under limited suffrage.

**Italy's Cultural Contributions**

Europe's Renaissance period began in Italy during the 14th and 15th centuries. Literary achievements--such as the poetry of Petrarch, Tasso, and Ariosto and the prose of Boccaccio, Machiavelli, and Castiglione--exerted a tremendous and lasting influence on the subsequent development of Western civilization, as did the painting, sculpture, and architecture contributed by giants such as da Vinci, Raphael, Botticelli, Fra Angelico, and Michelangelo.

The musical influence of Italian composers Monteverdi, Palestrina, and Vivaldi proved epochal; in the 19th century, Italian romantic opera flourished under composers Gioacchino Rossini, Giuseppe Verdi, and Giacomo Puccini. Contemporary Italian artists, writers, filmmakers, architects, composers, and designers contribute significantly to Western culture.

**20th-Century History**

During World War I, Italy renounced its standing alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary and, in 1915, entered the war on the side of the Allies. Under the postwar settlement, Italy received some former Austrian territory along the northeast frontier. In 1922, Benito Mussolini came to power and, over the next few years, eliminated political parties, curtailed personal liberties, and installed a fascist dictatorship termed the Corporate State. The king, with little or no effective power, remained titular head of state.

Italy allied with Germany and declared war on the United Kingdom and France in 1940. In 1941, Italy--with the other Axis powers, Germany and Japan--declared war on the United States and the Soviet Union. Following the Allied invasion of Sicily in 1943, the King dismissed Mussolini and appointed Marshal Pietro Badoglio as Premier. The Badoglio government declared war on Germany, which quickly occupied most of the country and freed Mussolini, who led a brief-lived regime in the north. An anti-fascist popular resistance movement grew during the last two years of the war, harassing German forces before they were driven out in April 1945. The monarchy was ended by a 1946 plebiscite, and a constituent assembly was elected to draw up plans for the republic.

Under the 1947 peace treaty, minor adjustments were made in Italy's frontier with France, the eastern border area was transferred to Yugoslavia, and the area around the city of Trieste was designated a free territory. In 1954, the free territory, which had remained under the administration of U.S.-U.K. forces (Zone A, including the city of Trieste) and Yugoslav forces (Zone B), was divided between Italy and Yugoslavia, principally along the zonal boundary. This arrangement was made permanent by the Italian-Yugoslav Treaty of Osimo, ratified in 1977 (currently being discussed by Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia). Under the 1947 peace treaty, Italy also gave up its overseas territories and certain Mediterranean islands.

The Roman Catholic Church's status in Italy has been determined, since its temporal powers ended in 1870, by a series of accords with the Italian Government. Under the Lateran Pacts of 1929, which were confirmed by the present constitution, the state of Vatican City is recognized by Italy as an independent, sovereign entity. While preserving that recognition, in 1984, Italy and the Vatican updated several provisions of the 1929 accords. Included was the end of Roman Catholicism as Italy's formal state religion.

## GOVERNMENT

Italy has been a democratic republic since June 2, 1946, when the monarchy was abolished by popular referendum. The constitution was promulgated on January 1, 1948.

The Italian state is highly centralized. The prefect of each of the provinces is appointed by and answerable to the central government. In addition to the provinces, the constitution provides for 20 regions with limited governing powers. Five regions--Sardinia, Sicily, Trentino-Alto Adige, Valle d'Aosta, and Friuli-Venezia Giulia--function with special autonomy statutes. The other 15 regions were established in 1970 and vote for regional councils. The establishment of regional governments throughout Italy has brought some decentralization to the national governmental machinery.

The 1948 constitution established a bicameral parliament (Chamber of Deputies and Senate), a separate judiciary, and an executive branch composed of a Council of Ministers (cabinet) which is headed by the president of the council (prime minister). The president of the republic is elected for seven years by the parliament sitting jointly with a small number of regional delegates. The president nominates the prime minister, who chooses the other ministers. The Council of Ministers--in practice composed mostly of members of parliament--must retain the confidence of both houses.

The houses of parliament are popularly and directly elected by a mixed majoritarian and proportional representation system. Under 1993 legislation, Italy has single-member districts for 75% of the seats in parliament; the remaining 25% of seats are allotted on a proportional basis. The Chamber of Deputies has 630 members. In addition to 315 elected members, the Senate includes former presidents and several other persons appointed for life according to special constitutional provisions. Both houses are elected for a maximum of five years, but either may be dissolved before the expiration of its normal term. Legislative bills may originate in either house and must be passed by a majority in both.

The Italian judicial system is based on Roman law modified by the Napoleonic code and subsequent statutes. There is only partial judicial review of legislation in the American sense. A constitutional court, which passes on the constitutionality of laws, is a post-World War II innovation. Its powers, volume, and frequency of decisions are not as extensive as those of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Principal Government Officials**
President--Oscar Luigi Scalfaro
Prime Minister--Romano Prodi
Foreign Minister-- Lamberto Dini
Ambassador to the United States--Ferdinando Salleo

Italy maintains an embassy in the United States at 1601 Fuller Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 (tel. 202-328-5500).

## POLITICAL CONDITIONS

There have been frequent government turnovers since 1945. The dominance of the Christian Democratic (DC) party during much of the postwar period lent continuity and comparative stability to Italy's political situation.

From 1992 to 1997, Italy faced significant challenges as voters--disenchanted with past political paralysis, massive government debt, extensive corruption, and organized crime's considerable influence--demanded political, economic, and ethical reforms. In 1993 referendums, voters approved substantial changes, including moving from a proportional to a largely majoritarian electoral system and the abolishment of some ministries.

Major political parties, beset by scandal and loss of voter confidence, underwent far-reaching changes. New political forces and new alignments of power emerged in March 1994 national elections--there was a major turnover in the new parliament, with 452 out of 630 deputies and 213 out of 315 senators elected for the first time. The 1994 elections also swept media magnate Silvio Berlusconi--and his Freedom Pole coalition--into office as Prime Minister. However, Berlusconi was forced to step down in January 1995 when one member of his coalition withdrew support. The Berlusconi government was succeeded by a technical government headed by Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, which fell in early 1996.

In April 1996, national elections were again held and led to the victory of a center-left coalition (the Olive Tree) led by Romano Prodi. Prime Minister Prodi's coalition includes the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the Italian People's Party (PPI), and other small, center-left groups. To make up its majority in the chamber of deputies, however, the Prodi government depends on the Communist Renewal Party. In the April 1997 local elections, voters split almost evenly between center-right and center-left coalitions.

### Political Parties

Italy's dramatic self-renewal transformed the political landscape between 1992 and 1997. Scandal investigations touched thousands of politicians, administrators, and businessmen; the shift from a proportional to majoritarian voting system (with the requirement to obtain a minimum of 4% of the national vote to obtain representation) also altered political ground rules.

Party changes were sweeping. The Christian Democratic party dissolved; the Italian People's Party and the Christian Democratic Center emerged. Other major parties, such as the Socialists, saw support plummet. New movements such as Forza Italia, led by former Prime Minister Berlusconi, gained wide support. The National Alliance broke from the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement. A trend toward two large coalitions--one on the center-left and the other on the center-right--emerged from the April 1995 regional elections. For the 1996 national elections, the center-left parties created the Olive Tree coalition while the center right united again under the Freedom Pole. This emerging bi-polarity represents a major break from the fragmented, multi-party political landscape of the postwar era. The recommendations of the bilateral commission on reform and Parliament's subsequent decisions expected by the end of 1997 may strengthen the promise of real bi-polarity.

The largest parties in the Chamber are: Democratic Party of the Left -- moderate successor to the Italian Communist Party -- (21.1%); Forza Italia (20.6%); National Alliance (15.7%); Northern League (10.1%); Communist Renewal (8.6%); and Italian People's Party-Prodi's List (6.8%). The same rankings generally apply in the Senate.

## ECONOMY

The Italian economy has changed dramatically since the end of World War II. From an agriculturally based economy, it has developed into an industrial state ranked as the world's fifth-largest industrial economy. Italy belongs to the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations; it is a member of the European Union and the OECD.

Italy has few natural resources. With much of the land unsuited for farming, it is a net food importer. There are no substantial deposits of iron, coal, or oil. Proven natural gas reserves, mainly in the Po Valley and offshore Adriatic, have grown in recent years and constitute the country's most important mineral resource. Most raw materials needed for manufacturing and more than 80% of the country's energy sources are imported. Italy's economic strength is in the processing and the manufacturing of goods, primarily in small and medium-sized family-owned firms. Its major industries are precision machinery, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, electric goods, and fashion and clothing.

Italy's economy slowed from 2.8% GDP growth in 1995 to 0.7% in 1996, one of the lowest growth rates among the industrialized economies. GDP Growth is not expected to surpass 1.5% in 1997 and could be even less. Most forecasts expect it to rebound to 2% in 1998.

Continuing a positive trend of recent years, Italy's foreign balances improved further in 1996, with weakening export growth more than compensated by falling imports. Italy posted a $60-billion trade surplus (fob/fob) in 1996, up from a $44-billion surplus in 1995. Its current account surplus of $42 billion was also up from 1995's $28-billion surplus. Inflation fell to 3.9% in 1996 after rising to 5.4% in 1995 and is continuing its downward trend in 1997. Through May of 1997, inflation was running at a 1.6% year-on-year rate.

The biggest economic challenge facing Italy remains imbalances in public finances. Since 1992, economic policy in Italy has focused primarily on reducing government budget deficits and reining in the national debt. Successive Italian governments have adopted annual austerity budgets with significant cutbacks in spending, as well as new revenue raising measures. Italy has enjoyed a primary budget surplus, net of interest payments, for the last five years, and will do so again in 1997. The deficit in public administration declined in 1996 to 6.7% of GDP, down from 7% in 1995. According to government calculations, the deficit could fall to 3% of GDP in 1997, in line with the Maastricht Treaty target for European Monetary Union.

The national debt should continue to decline slowly. It stabilized in 1995 at roughly 124% of GDP, declined slightly in 1996, and will continue to shrink in 1997 and beyond. Given the heavy weight of interest payments in government expenditures, public finances remain susceptible to international capital market developments, as well as domestic political developments.

Italy's closest trade ties are with the other countries of the European Union, with whom it conducts about 59% of its total trade. Italy's largest EU trade partners, in order of market share, are Germany (18%), France (13%), and the United Kingdom (7%).

**U.S.-Italy Economic Relations**

The U.S.-Italian bilateral relationship is strong and growing. The U.S. and Italy cooperate closely on major economic issues, including within the G-7. With a large population and a high per capita income, Italy is one of the United States' most important trade partners. In 1996, the United States was the fifth-largest foreign supplier of the Italian market (with a market share of 5%) and the largest supplier outside the EU. Total trade between the United States and Italy exceeded $29 billion in 1996. The U.S. ran more than an $8-billion deficit with Italy.

Significant changes are occurring in the composition of this trade which could narrow the gap. More value-added products such as office machinery and aircraft are becoming the principal U.S. exports to Italy. The change reveals the growing sophistication of the Italian market, and bilateral trade should expand further. During 1996, the United States imported about $18 billion in Italian goods while exporting about $10 billion in U.S. goods to Italy. U.S. foreign direct investment in Italy at the end of 1995 exceeded $9.5 billion; Italian investment in the U.S. was roughly $8.7 billion.

**Labor**

Unemployment remains high (12.4% for 1996). It is especially severe in the south where average unemployment for the year was 21.8%. Women and youth have significantly higher rates of unemployment than men. A rigid labor market serves as a disincentive to job creation. There is a significant underground economy absorbing substantial numbers of people, but they work for low wages and without standard social benefits and protections.

Unions claim to represent 40% of the workforce. Most Italian unions are grouped in three major confederations: the Italian General Confederation of Labor (CGIL), the Italian Confederation of Labor Unions (CISL) and the Union of Italian Labor (UIL). These confederations formerly were associated with important political parties or currents, but they have formally terminated such ties. Nowadays, the three often coordinate their positions before confronting management or lobbying the government. The three major confederations have an important consultative role on national social and economic issues. Among their major agreements are a four-year wage moderation agreement signed in 1993, a reform of the pension system in 1995, and an employment pact, introducing steps for labor market flexibility in economically depressed areas, in 1996. The CGIL, CISL, and UIL are affiliates of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

### Agriculture

Italy's agriculture is typical of the division between the agricultures of the northern and southern countries of the European Union. The northern part of Italy produces primarily grains, sugar beets, soybeans, meat, and dairy products, while the south specializes in producing fruits, vegetables, olive oil, wine, and durum wheat.

Even though much of its mountainous terrain is unsuitable for farming, Italy has a large work force (1.4 million) employed in farming. Most farms are small, with the average farm only seven hectares.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Italy was a founding member of the European Community--now the European Union (EU). Italy was admitted to the United Nations in 1955 and is a member and strong supporter of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization (GATT/WTO); the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Western European Union (WEU); and the Council of Europe. It chaired the CSCE and the G-7 in 1994 and the EU in 1996.

Italy firmly supports the United Nations and its international security activities. Italy actively participated in and deployed troops in support of UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Mozambique, and Cambodia and provides critical support for NATO and UN operations in Bosnia. Italy is currently leading a 6,000-member multi-national protection force seeking to provide emergency and humanitarian assistance in Albania following the collapse of state authority and the economy in that country in early 1997.

The Italian Government seeks to obtain consensus with other European countries on various defense and security issues within the WEU as well as NATO. European integration and the development of common defense and security policies will continue to be of primary interest to Italy.

## DEFENSE

A strong NATO ally, Italy occupies an important strategic position in the Mediterranean, critical to regional security and for enhancing stability in the Balkans, North Africa, and the Middle East. To meet challenges of the post-Cold War era, Italy has proposed a New Defense Model that calls for the creation of more mobile and highly trained units staffed by career professionals. The Italian military is subordinate to civilian authority, which is vested in the Ministry of Defense. Under the authority of the Defense Minister, the armed forces have also been used in Italy for emergency relief and combating organized crime. For 1995, Italy's defense budget will equal 1% to 2% of GDP.

## U.S.-ITALY RELATIONS

The United States enjoys warm and friendly relations with Italy. The two are NATO allies and cooperate in the United Nations, in various regional organizations, and bilaterally for peace, prosperity, and defense. Italy has worked closely with the United States and others on such issues as NATO and UN operation in Bosnia, sanctions against the former Yugoslavia, assistance to Russia and the New Independent States (NIS), Middle East peace process multilateral talks, Somalia and Mozambique peacekeeping, and combating drug trafficking and terrorism.

Under long-standing bilateral agreements flowing from NATO membership, Italy hosts important U.S. military forces at Vincenza and Livorno (Army); Aviano (Air Force); and Sigonella, Gaeta, and Naples--home port for the U.S. Navy Sixth Fleet. The United States has about 17,000 military personnel stationed in Italy. Italy hosts the NATO War College in Rome.

Italy remains a strong and active trans-Atlantic partner which, along with the United States, has sought to foster democratic ideals and international cooperation in areas of strife and civil conflict. Toward this end, the Italian Government has cooperated with the U.S. in the formulation of defense, security, and peacekeeping policies.

**Principal U.S. Officials**
Ambassador--Reginald Bartholomew
Deputy Chief of Mission--James B. Cunningham
Political Affairs--Shaun Byrnes
Economic Affairs--Robert Smolik
Public Affairs--Cynthia Miller
Commercial Affairs-Robert Connan
Agricultural Section--Frank Padovano
Defense Attache--Capt. Vincent P. Mocini, USN

**Consular Posts**
Consul General, Florence-Louis A. McCall
Consul General, Milan--George Griffin
Consul General, Naples--Clarke Ellis

The U.S. embassy in Italy is located at Via Veneto 119, Rome (tel. (39)(6) 46741

## TRAVEL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of State's Consular Information Program provides Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets. Travel Warnings are issued when the State Department recommends that Americans avoid travel to a certain country. Consular Information Sheets exist for all countries and include information on immigration practices, currency regulations, health conditions, areas of instability, crime and security, political disturbances, and the addresses of the U.S. posts in the country. Public Announcements are issued as a means to disseminate information quickly about terrorist threats and other relatively short-term conditions overseas which pose significant risks to the security of American travelers. Free copies of this information are available by calling the Bureau of Consular Affairs at 202-647-5225 or via the fax-on-demand system: 202-647-3000. Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets also are available on the Consular Affairs Internet home page: http://travel.state.gov and the Consular Affairs Bulletin Board (CABB). To access CABB, dial the modem number: (301-946-4400 (it will accommodate up to 33,600 bps), set terminal communications program to N-8-1 (no parity, 8 bits, 1 stop bit); and terminal emulation to VT100. The login is travel and the password is info (Note: Lower case is required). The CABB also carries international security information from the Overseas Security Advisory Council and Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Consular Affairs Trips for Travelers publication series, which contain information on obtaining passports and planning a safe trip abroad, can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954; telephone: 202-512-1800; fax 202-512-2250.

Emergency information concerning Americans traveling abroad may be obtained from the Office of Overseas Citizens Services at (202) 647-5225. For after-hours emergencies, Sundays and holidays, call 202-647-4000.

Passport Services information can be obtained by calling the 24-hour, 7-day a week automated system ($.35 per minute) or live operators 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST) Monday-Friday ($1.05 per minute). The number is 1-900-225-5674 (TDD: 1-900-225-7778). Major credit card users (for a flat rate of $4.95) may call 1-888-362-8668 (TDD: 1-888-498-3648)

Travelers can check the latest health information with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. A hotline at (404) 332-4559 gives the most recent health advisories, immunization recommendations or requirements, and advice on food and drinking water safety for regions and countries. A booklet entitled Health Information for International Travel (HHS publication number CDC-95-8280) is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, tel. (202) 512-1800.

Information on travel conditions, visa requirements, currency and customs regulations, legal holidays, and other items of interest to travelers also may be obtained before your departure from a country's embassy and/or consulates in the U.S. (for this country, see Principal Government Officials listing in this publication).

U.S. citizens who are long-term visitors or traveling in dangerous areas, are encouraged to register at the U.S. embassy upon arrival in a country (see Principal U.S. Embassy Officials listing in this publication). This may help family members contact you in case of an emergency.

**Further Electronic Information:**

Department of State Foreign Affairs Network. Available on the Internet, DOSFAN provides timely, global access to official U.S. foreign policy information. Updated daily, DOSFAN includes Background Notes; Dispatch, the official magazine of U.S. foreign policy; daily press briefings; directories of key officers of foreign service posts; etc. DOSFAN's World Wide Web site is at http://www.state.gov; this site has a link to the DOSFAN Gopher Research Collection, which also is accessible at gopher://gopher.state.gov.

U.S. Foreign Affairs on CD-ROM (USFAC). Published on a semi-annual basis by the U.S. Department of State, USFAC archives information on the Department of State Foreign Affairs Network, and includes an array of official foreign policy information from 1990 to the present. Contact the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. To order, call (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250.

National Trade Data Bank (NTDB). Operated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the NTDB contains a wealth of trade-related information, including Country Commercial Guides. It is available on the Internet (www.stat-usa.gov) and on CD-ROM. Call the NTDB Help-Line at (202) 482-1986 for more information. (###)

# Commercial Airline Times

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| May 17 | **Dulles** | | **Solvinia** |
| | 5:10pm | UNITED (Frankfurt) LUFTHANSA | 11:30am |
| May 19 | **Solvinia** | | **Palerno, Italy** |
| | 8:00am | (Double Connection: Zurich/Milan)<br>ADRIA to Zurich / SWISS AIR to Milan/<br>AIR EUROPE to Palerno | 1:50pm |
| | 2:05pm | (Same Connection *Last Flight) | 9:20pm |
| May 20 | **Palerno, Italy** | | **Tel Aviv** |
| | 8:45am | AIR EUROPE to Milan/<br>ALITALIA from Milan to<br>Tel Aviv | 4:35pm |
| | 2:30pm | (Same Connection * Last Flight) | 9:40pm |
| May 23 | **Tel Aviv** | | **Amman, Jordan** |
| | 6:30am | ROYAL JORDIAN | 6:05am |
| | 10:45am | Same | 10:30am |
| | 7:00pm | Same | 6:45pm |
| Bridge to Jordan<br>May 26 | **Amman, Jordan** | | **Sanaa, Yaemen** |
| | 10:45pm | (only non-stop)<br>YAMEN REPUBLIC | 3:00am 5/27 |
| May 27 | **Sanaa, Yaemen** | | **Riyadh,SaudiArabia** |
| | 11:00am | (only non stop)<br>SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES | 12:40pm |
| May 29 | **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** | | **Dulles** 5/30 |
| | 8:50pm | (Business/ Cairo/JFK)<br>TWA | 8:59am |

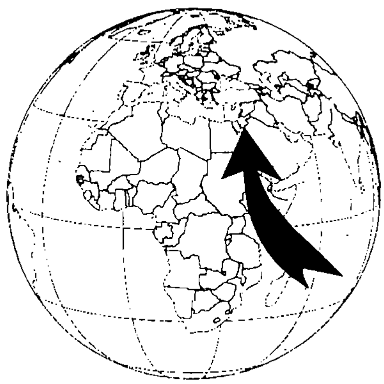
Israel +5
Jordan +7
Yemen +8
Saudi Arabia +8

# background notes

Joyce,
A little out dated
but might be helpful.
Eric

# Jordan

October 1995



## Official Name: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

### PROFILE

#### Geography *

**Area:** 89,544 sq. km. (34,573 sq. mi.).
**Cities:** *Capital*—Amman (pop. 1 million). *Other cities*—Irbid (281,000), Az-Zarqa (421,000).

#### People

**Nationality:** *Noun and adjective*—Jordanian(s).
**Population** (est.): 3.9 million.
**Religions:** Sunni Muslim 95% (est.), Christian 5% (est.).
**Languages:** Arabic (official), English.
**Education:** *Literacy* (1992)—82%.
**Health:** *Infant mortality rate* (1992)—27/1,000. *Life expectancy* (1992)—70 yrs.
**Ethnic groups:** Mostly Arab, but small communities of Circassians, Armenians, and Kurds.
**Work force** (750,000): *Government and services*—47%. *Manufacturing and mining*—25%. *Trade*—16%. *Agriculture*—12%.

#### Government

**Type:** Constitutional monarchy.
**Independence:** May 25, 1946.
**Constitution:** January 8, 1952.
**Branches:** *Executive*—king (chief of state), prime minister (head of government), council of ministers (cabinet). *Legislative*—bicameral National Assembly (appointed Senate, elected Chamber of Deputies). *Judicial*—civil, religious, special courts.
**Political parties:** Wide spectrum of parties legalized in 1992.
**Suffrage:** Universal at 19.
**Administrative subdivisions:** Eight governorates—Irbid, al-Mafraq, al-Zarqa, Amman, al-Balqa, al-Karak, al-Tafilah, and Ma'an.

#### Economy

**GDP** (1994 est.): $6.1 billion.
**Annual growth rate** (1994 est.): 5.5%.
**Per capita GDP** (1994 est.): $1,565.
**Natural resources:** Phosphate, potash.
**Agriculture:** *Products*—fruits, vegetables, wheat, olive oil. *Land*—10% arable.
**Industry** (30% of GDP): *Types*—phosphate mining, manufacturing, and cement and petroleum production.
**Trade** (1993 est.): *Exports*—$1.2 billion: phosphates, fruits, vegetables. *Major markets*—Iraq, Saudi Arabia, U.S. *Imports*—$3.4 billion: machinery, transportation equipment, cereals, petroleum products. *Major suppliers*—U.S., Iraq, Japan, U.K., Syria.
**Official exchange rate** (September 1995): 0.71 Jordanian dinar=U.S. $1. ■

* From 1949 to 1967, Jordan administered that part of former mandate Palestine west of the Jordan River known as the West Bank. Since the 1967 war, when Israel took control of this territory, the United States has considered the West Bank to be territory occupied by Israel. The United States believes that the final status of the West Bank can be determined only through negotiations among the parties concerned on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

United States Department of State
*Bureau of Public Affairs*
Office of Public Communication

## PEOPLE

Jordanians are Arabs, except for a few small communities of Circassians, Armenians, and Kurds which have adapted to Arab culture. The official language is Arabic, but English is used widely in commerce and government. About 70% of Jordan's population is urban; less than 6% of the rural population is nomadic or seminomadic. Most people live where the rainfall supports agriculture. About 1.5 million Palestinian Arabs—including more than 950,000 registered refugees and displaced persons—reside in Jordan, many as citizens.

## HISTORY

The land that became Jordan is part of the richly historical Fertile Crescent region. Its history began around 2000 B.C., when Semitic Amorites settled around the Jordan River in the area called Canaan. Subsequent invaders and settlers included Hittites, Egyptians, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arab Muslims, Christian Crusaders, Mameluks, Ottoman Turks, and, finally, the British.

At the end of World War I, the territory now comprising Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem was awarded to the United Kingdom by the League of Nations as the mandate for Palestine and Transjordan. In 1922, the British divided the mandate by establishing the semiautonomous Emirate of Transjordan, ruled by the Hashemite Prince Abdullah, while continuing the administration of Palestine under a British High Commissioner.

The mandate over Transjordan ended on May 22, 1946; on May 25, the country became the independent Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan. It continued to have a special defense treaty relationship with the United Kingdom until 1957, when the treaty was dissolved by mutual consent.

The British mandate over Palestine ended on May 14, 1948, and the State of Israel was proclaimed. Neighboring Arab states, including Transjordan, moved to assist Palestinian nationalists opposed to this development, resulting in open warfare between the Arab states and the newly founded State of Israel. The armistice agreements of April 3, 1949, established armistice demarcation lines between Jordan and Israel, leaving Jordan in control of the West Bank. The agreements expressly provided that the armistice demarcation lines were without prejudice to future territorial settlements or boundary lines.

In 1950, the country was renamed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to include those portions of Palestine annexed by King Abdullah. Jordan established three governorates on the West Bank: Nablus, al-Quds (Jerusalem), and al-Khalil. While recognizing Jordanian administration over the West Bank, the United States maintained the position that ultimate sovereignty was subject to future agreement.

Jordan signed a mutual defense pact in May 1967 with Egypt, and it participated in the June 1967 war between Israel and the Arab states of Syria, Egypt, and Iraq. After repelling the Arab attack, Israel extended its control to the Jordan River, including Jordanian-controlled eastern Jerusalem. In 1988, Jordan renounced all claims to the West Bank but retained an administrative role pending a final settlement on the West Bank. The U.S. Government considers the West Bank to be territory occupied by Israel and believes that its final status should be determined through direct negotiations among the parties concerned on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The 1967 war led to a dramatic increase in the number of Palestinians living in Jordan. Its Palestinian refugee population—700,000 in 1966—grew by another 300,000 from the West Bank. The period following the 1967 war saw an upsurge in the power and importance of Palestinian resistance elements (*fedayeen*) in Jordan. Differing with the Jordanian Government's policies, the heavily armed fedayeen constituted a growing threat to the sovereignty and security of the Hashemite state. Tensions between the government and the fedayeen increased until open fighting erupted in June 1970.

Other Arab governments attempted to work out a peaceful solution, but by September, continuing fedayeen actions in Jordan—including the destruction of three international airliners hijacked and held in the desert east of Amman—prompted the government to take action to regain control over its territory and population. In the ensuing heavy fighting, a Syrian tank force (camouflaged as a Palestinian force) initially took up positions in northern Jordan to support the fedayeen. By September 22, Arab foreign ministers meeting at Cairo had arranged a cease-fire beginning the following day. Sporadic violence continued, however, until Jordanian forces won a decisive victory over the fedayeen in July 1971, expelling them from the country. Since then, the fedayeen have not presented a threat to the Jordanian Government.

No fighting occurred along the 1967 Jordan River cease-fire line during the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, but Jordan sent a brigade to Syria to fight Israeli units on Syrian territory. Jordan did not participate in the Gulf war of 1990-91. Except for a period of border tension with Syria in 1980, it has been at de facto peace with all its neighbors. In 1991, Jordan agreed, along with Syria, Lebanon, and Palestinian representatives, to participate in direct peace negotiations with Israel sponsored by the U.S. and Russia.

## GOVERNMENT

Jordan is a constitutional monarchy based on the constitution promulgated on January 8, 1952. Executive authority is vested in the king and his council of ministers. The king signs and executes all laws. His veto power may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the National Assembly. He appoints and may dismiss all judges by decree, approves amendments to the constitution, declares war, and commands the armed forces. Cabinet decisions, court judgments, and the national currency are issued in his name.

The council of ministers, led by a prime minister, is appointed by the king, who may dismiss other cabinet members at the prime minister's request. The cabinet is responsible to the Chamber of Deputies on matters of general policy and can be forced to resign by a two-thirds vote of "no confidence" by that body.

Legislative power rests in the bicameral National Assembly. The 80-member Chamber of Deputies, elected by universal suffrage to a four-year term, is subject to dissolution by the king. Of the 80 seats, 71 must go to Muslims and nine to Christians. The 40-member Senate is appointed by the king for an eight-year term.

The constitution provides for three categories of courts—civil, religious, and special. Administratively, Jordan is divided into eight governorates, each headed by a governor appointed by the king. They are the sole authorities for all government departments and development projects in their respective areas.

### Principal Government Officials

Chief of State—King Hussein I
Prime Minister, Minister of Defense—
Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir
Foreign Minister—
Abdul Karim Kabariti
Ambassador to the U.S.—
Fayez Tarawneh
Ambassador to the UN—
Adnan Abu Odeh

Jordan maintains an embassy in the United States at 3504 International Drive NW, Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 202-966-2664).

## POLITICAL CONDITIONS

King Hussein has ruled Jordan since 1953 and has survived a number of challenges to his rule, drawing on the loyalty of his military and serving as a symbol of unity and stability for both the East Bank and Palestinian communities in Jordan. In 1989 and 1993, Jordan held free and fair parliamentary elections. Islamists are represented in but do not dominate the parliament. King Hussein has shown a commitment to democratization, most importantly by ending martial law in 1991 and legalizing political parties in 1992.

Jordan's continuing structural economic difficulties, burgeoning population, and more open political environment have led to the emergence of a variety of political parties. Moving toward greater independence, parliament has investigated corruption charges against several regime figures and has become the major forum in which differing political views, including those of political Islamists, are expressed. While King Hussein remains the ultimate authority in Jordan, the parliament plays an important role.

Although Jordan in 1988 disengaged from the West Bank and ceased efforts to restore the country's 1948-67 position, it retains considerable influence in the West Bank—for example, regulating the operations of Jordanian banks and issuing limited-validity Jordanian passports to West Bankers.

## ECONOMY

Jordan is a small country with limited natural resources. Just over 10% of its land is arable, and even that is subject to the vagaries of a limited water supply. Rainfall is low and highly variable, and much of Jordan's available ground water is not renewable. Jordan's economic resource base traditionally has centered on phosphates, potash, and their fertilizer derivatives; overseas remittances; and foreign aid. These are its principal sources of hard currency earnings. Lacking forests, coal reserves, hydroelectric power, or commercially viable oil deposits, Jordan relies on natural gas for 10% of its domestic energy needs. For the other 90%, Jordan depends entirely on its oil-producing neighbors.

Although the population is highly educated, its high growth rate (3.4%) and relative youth (more than 50% of Jordanians are under 16) will make it difficult for the economy to generate jobs and sustain living standards. Jordan's distance from other markets makes its exports less competitive outside the region, and political disputes among its traditional trading partners (Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf states) frequently restrict regional trade and development.

Since 1987, Jordan has struggled with a substantial debt burden, lower per capita income, and rising unemployment. From 1988-90, the official cost of living index rose 56%, while the dinar lost 51% of its value against the dollar. In 1989, Jordan concluded an 18-month standby arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and achieved agreement with Paris Club creditors to reschedule $573 million of debt. At the same time, to increase revenues, the government raised prices of certain commodities and utilities, triggering riots in the south. The mood of political discontent that swept the country in the wake of the riots helped set the stage for Jordan's moves toward democratization.

The SBA was derailed by economic consequences of the 1990-91 Gulf war. While tourist trade plummeted, the Gulf states' decision to limit economic ties with Jordan deprived it of worker remittances, traditional export markets, a secure supply of oil, and substantial foreign aid revenues. UN sanctions against Iraq— Jordan's largest pre-war trading partner—caused further hardships, including higher shipping costs due to inspections of cargo shipments entering the Gulf of Aqaba. Finally, absorbing up to 300,000 returnees from the Gulf countries exacerbated unemployment and strained the government's ability to provide essential services.

In February 1992, Jordan renewed its commitment to pursuing long-term economic growth and entered into another 18-month standby arrangement with the IMF, followed by another Paris Club rescheduling of $771 million. Success in implementing its economic reform program will depend upon how effectively the government can stimulate private enterprise and encourage trade and investment in productive enterprises. In 1992, economic performance was solid: With all IMF targets met by wide margins, Jordan's $4.7-billion economy grew an impressive 11%. Inflation was held to 6.8%, but unemployment persisted at high levels (20%-25%). Although much of the 1992 growth resulted from non-recurring factors—a construction boom and customs receipts generated by Gulf war returnees—Jordan experienced growth of about 6% in 1993.

Further economic reform efforts are likely to be tempered by concerns about effects on low-income voters. With parliament playing a more active role in the formulation of economic policy, it may be difficult to impose further belt-tightening measures. In the near term, Jordan will continue to depend on foreign grants and concessional loans to further its development efforts. While in the past the largest aid flows have come from the Arab states, the United States and other Western countries also have been important sources of development funds.

During the first half of 1994, Jordan's economy dipped into recession. Its prospects for growth in the second half improved following Jordan's additional rescheduling of debt with Paris Club creditors, decisions by the U.S. and U.K. to forgive its official debt, and growing confidence as a result of progress in the Middle East peace process.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Jordan has consistently followed a pro-Western foreign policy and traditionally has had close relations with the United States and the United Kingdom. These relations were damaged by support in Jordan for Iraq during the Gulf war. Although the Government of Jordan stated its opposition to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, popular support for Iraq was driven by Jordan's Palestinian community, which favored Saddam as a champion against Western supporters of Israel.

Since the end of the war, Jordan has largely restored its relations with Western countries through its participation in the Middle East peace process and enforcement of UN sanctions against Iraq. Relations between Jordan and the Gulf countries have improved only slightly since the Gulf crisis.

Jordan signed a non-belligerency agreement with Israel (the Washington Declaration) in Washington, DC, on July 25, 1994. Jordan and Israel signed a historic peace treaty on October 26, 1994, witnessed by President Clinton, accompanied by Secretary Christopher.

The U.S. has participated with Jordan and Israel in trilateral development discussions in which key issues have been water-sharing and security; cooperation on Jordan Rift Valley development; infrastructure projects; and trade, finance, and banking issues. Jordan also participates in the multilateral peace talks.

Jordan belongs to the UN and several of its specialized and related agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and World Health Organization (WHO). Jordan also is a member of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), INTELSAT, Non-aligned Movement, and Arab League.

## U.S.-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

Relations between the U.S. and Jordan have been close for four decades. A primary objective of U.S. policy, particularly since the end of the Gulf war, has been the achievement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East. Jordan's constructive participation in the Madrid peace process is key in achieving peace.

U.S. policy seeks to reinforce Jordan's commitment to democratization, stability, and moderation. The peace process and Jordan's opposition to terrorism parallel and indirectly assist wider U.S. interests. Accordingly, through economic and military assistance and through close political cooperation, the United States has helped Jordan maintain its stability and move forward with democratization. Recently, though, a declining U.S. foreign assistance budget has limited its ability to assist Jordan.

Since 1952, the United States has provided Jordan with economic assistance totaling more than $1.5 billion, including funds for development projects, health care, support for macroeconomic policy shifts toward a more completely free-market system, and both grant and loan acquisition of U.S. agricultural commodities. These programs have been overwhelmingly successful and have contributed to Jordanian stability while strengthening the bilateral relationship. U.S. military assistance—provision of materiel and training—is designed to meet Jordan's legitimate defense needs, including preservation of border integrity and regional stability.

### Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Wesley W. Egan
Deputy Chief of Mission—
Robert Beecroft

The U.S. embassy in Jordan is located in Abdoun, Amman (tel. 820-101) and is closed on all U.S. federal holidays and some Jordanian holidays. ■

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker
## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE | DATE | RESTRICTION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 001. cable | Re: First Lady Pre-Advance (partial, pp. 1-2 of 4) (2 pages) | 05/14/99 | P6/b(6) |

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Eric Massey (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 17216

**FOLDER TITLE:**

Middle East [2]

2012-1036-S
ry1279

**RESTRICTION CODES**

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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|---|---|
| APPR: ECB | ... |
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| CLR 1: ECB | ... |

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A/TSS:EBROWN:ECB
05/14/99 647-7531
A/TSS:ECB

A/TSS:ECB

PRIORITY LJUBLJANA, MILAN PRIORITY, PALERMO PRIORITY,
AMMAN PRIORITY, TEL AVIV PRIORITY, JERUSALEM PRIORITY+
PRIORITY NAPLES, ROME PRIORITY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OVIP{CLINTON, HILLARY}

SUBJECT: FIRST LADY PRE-ADVANCE

1. OVERALL PLANS FOR THE FIRST LADY'S PRE-ADVANCE TEAM VISIT HAVE BEEN APPROVED. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS NAMES AND TITLES OF THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM, AND OTHER GUIDANCE. PLEASE MEET AND ASSIST, MAKE THE NECESSARY PRE-REGISTERED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, AND BEGIN SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS AND SITE VISITS FOR PRE-ADVANCE TEAM. PLEASE FAX TO ERIC BROWN, A/TSS, THE HOTEL INFO FOR THE PRE-ADVANCE: NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND RATES ASAP, FAX: 202-647-9454.

FOR MOST ACTIVITIES DURING THE PRE-ADVANCE, THE ENTIRE GROUP WILL TRAVEL TOGETHER. BUT WE SHOULD ASSESS THE SITUATION ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. THE TRAVELING PARTY IS AS FOLLOWS:

ALL STOPS:

EVAN RYAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SCHEDULING
800904497, 10/01/00, P6/(b)(6), DC [001]

ERIC BROWN, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A/TSS

900179757, 12/23/03, P6/(b)(6), KS

RICHARD WALTON, WHITE HOUSE MEDICAL UNIT
900200249, 10/20/02, P6/(b)(6), KY

P6/(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)
900311420, 5/2/01, P6/(b)(6), MO

GERALD DYSON, WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
800960919, 6/30/01, P6/(b)(6), MN

WHITNEY WILLIAMS, TRIP DIRECTOR
801101434, 1/31/00, P6/(b)(6), DC

LJUBLJANA, PALERMO, MILAN, AND AMMAN ONLY:

JULIE MASON, DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY TO THE FIRST LADY
800885778, 10/29/00, P6/(b)(6), UNITED KINGDOM

ISRAEL AND SANAA ONLY:

TOBY GRAFF, DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY TO THE FIRST LADY
801181496, 1/31/01, P6/(b)(6), NJ

JAYCEE PRIBULSKY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ADVANCE
900280564, 1/31/01, P6/(b)(6), PA

2. ITINERARY FOR THE FOLLOWING TEAM MEMBERS IS AS FOLLOWS:

ERIC BROWN
WHITNEY WILLIAMS
JULIE MASON (DROPS IN AMMAN ON 5/23)
RICK WALTON
P6/(b)(6), (b)(7)(c)
GERRY DYSON
EVAN RYAN

ARRIVE LJUBLJANA TUESDAY MAY 18 VIA ADRIA 1617 AT 11:30AM LOCAL
DEPART LJUBLJANA WEDNESDAY MAY 19 VIA ADRIA 1662 AT 8:00AM LOCAL.

ARRIVE PALERMO WEDNESDAY MAY 19 VIA AIR EUROPE AT 1:50PM LOCAL.
DEPART PALERMO WEDNESDAY MAY 19 VIA ALITALIA 1772 AT 8:10PM LOCAL.
ARRIVE MILAN WEDNESDAY MAY 19 VIA ALITALIA 1772 AT 9:45PM LOCAL.
DEPART MILAN THURSDAY MAY 20 VIA AIR FRANCE 1115 AT 10:45AM LOCAL.

ARRIVE AMMAN THURSDAY MAY 20 VIA AIR FRANCE 672 AT 6:10PM LOCAL.
DEPART JORDAN SUNDAY MAY 23 VIA GROUND TRANSPORTATION AT TIME TBD.

ARRIVE ISRAEL SUNDAY MAY 23 VIA GROUND TRANSPORTATION AT TIME TBD.
DEPART TEL AVIV WEDNESDAY MAY 26 VIA GROUND TRANPORTAION EN ROUTE AMMAN
DEPART AMMAN WEDNESDAY MAY 26 VIA ROYAL JORDANIAN 708 AT 10:45PM LOCAL.

ARRIVE SANAA THURSDAY MAY 27 VIA ROYAL JORDANIAN 708 AT 3:00AM LOCAL.
DEPART SANAA FRIDAY MAY 28 VIA UNITED 3953 AT 12:10AM LOCAL.

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING TEAM MEMBERS WILL ARRIVE IN TEL AVIV SUNDAY MAY 23 VIA LUFTHANSA 692 AT 2:15PM LOCAL:

TOBY GRAFF
JAYCEE PRIBULSKY

THEY WILL CONTINUE THE TRIP USING THE ITINERARY ABOVE.

3. TRANSPORTATION - EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MEET AND ASSIST TRAVELING PARTY WITH VEHICLES FOR PASSENGERS/BAGGAGE. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND HAVE BAGGAGE TAKEN TO INDIVIDUAL ROOMS WHERE POSSIBLE.

IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE MOVEMENTS, THE ENTIRE PARTY CAN UTILIZE VANS OR SMALL BUSES.

NOTE: TWO TO THREE ADDITIONAL VEHICLES SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS NEEDING TO MAKE INDEPENDENT SITE SURVEYS.

4. THE WHITE HOUSE MEDICAL OFFICER TRAVELING WITH THE TEAM WILL NEED TO SURVEY LOCAL HOSPITALS AT ALL LOCATIONS. AN EMBASSY/MISSION EMPLOYEE WITH LOCAL LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY WILL NEED TO ACCOMPANY THE OFFICER ON ALL SITE VISITS. (NOT NECESSARY IN MILAN)

5. THE WHITE HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER WILL NEED TO MEET WITH THE IMO AT EACH POST. (NOT NECESSARY IN MILAN)

6. ACCOMMODATIONS - PARTY'S ROOMS, IF POSSIBLE, SHOULD BE LOCATED ON THE SAME FLOOR AND PRE-REGISTERED.

7. BILLING INSTRUCTIONS - PERSONS ARRIVING ON THE PRE-ADVANCE WILL BE TRAVELING ON GOVERNMENT ORDERS AND WILL HAVE RECEIVED PER DIEM. HOTEL SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE TWO SEPARATE BILLS FOR THESE PERSONNEL AS FOLLOWS:

    A. BASIC ROOM COST AND TAX TO BE PAID BY POST.

    B. PERSONAL EXPENSES, TELEPHONE CALLS, MEALS, ROOM SERVICE, LAUNDRY, ETC. WHICH IS TO BE PAID BY THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE PARTY BEFORE DEPARTURE.

    C. COPIES OF TRAVEL ORDERS AND FISCAL DATA TO COVER THE COST OF THE ROOMS WILL BE PROVIDED.

    D. EMBASSY SHOULD INSTRUCT HOTEL TO TAKE CREDIT CARD IMPRINTS AS APPLICABLE AT THE TIME OF CHECK-IN TO COVER INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

ALL CABLE TRAFFIC REGARDING THE VISIT SHOULD BE TAGGED OVIP (CLINTON, HILLARY) AND SLUGGED FOR FIRST LADY'S OFFICE PATTY SOLIS-DOYLE, AND STATE A/TSS ERIC BROWN.

YY

SANAA PRIORITY Y

# Israel

March 1995

## Official Name: State of Israel

### PROFILE

#### Geography

**Area:** 20,325 sq. km.[1] (7,850 sq. mi); about the size of New Jersey.
**Cities:** *Capital*—Jerusalem.[2] *Other cities*—Tel Aviv, Haifa.
**Terrain:** Plains, mountains, desert, and coast.
**Climate:** Temperate, except in desert areas.

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[1] Including Jerusalem
[2] Israel proclaimed Jerusalem as its capital in 1950. The United States, like nearly all other countries, maintains its embassy in Tel Aviv.

#### People

**Population** (1994): 5.5 million.
**Annual growth rate:** 2.5%.
**Ethnic groups:** Jewish 4.5 million; non-Jewish 1 million.
**Religions:** Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Druze.
**Languages:** Hebrew, Arabic, English.
**Education:** *Years compulsory*—12; *Literacy*—Jewish 95%, Arab 87%.
**Health:** *Infant mortality rate* (1992)—8.9/1000. *Life expectancy*—76 years.
**Work force:** 1.9 million: *Public and community services*—30%. *Industry*—22%. *Commerce, restaurants, hotels*—14%. *Finance and business*—10%. *Personal and other services*—7%. *Transport, storage and communications*—6%. *Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries*—3.5%. *Construction*—6%. *Electricity and water*—1%.

#### Government

**Type:** Parliamentary democracy.
**Independence:** May 14, 1948.
**Constitution:** None.
**Branches:** Executive—president (chief of state); prime minister (head of government). *Legislative*—unicameral, Knesset. *Judicial*—Supreme Court.
**Political parties:** Labor Party, Meretz Block (left-wing coalition of Ratz, Mapam and Shinui), Likud (Herut-Liberal alliance), and various other religious, right-wing and predominantly Arab political movements. A total of 11 parties represented in current Knesset.
**Suffrage:** Universal at 18.

#### Economy (1994)

**GDP:** $78 billion.
**Annual growth rate:** 7.2%.
**Per capita GDP:** $14,000.
**Natural resources:** Copper, phosphate, bromide, potash, clay sand, sulphur, bitumen, manganese.
**Agriculture:** *Products*—citrus and other fruits, vegetables, beef, dairy, poultry products.
**Industry:** *Types*—food processing, diamond cutting and polishing, textiles and clothing, chemicals, metal products, transport equipment, electrical equipment, high technology electronics.
**Trade:** *Exports*—$15.9 billion: polished diamonds, citrus and other fruits, chemical and oil products, electrical and electronic products, textiles and clothing, processed foods. Tourism is also an important foreign exchange earner. *Imports*—$23.4 billion: military equipment, rough diamonds, oil, chemicals, machinery, iron and steel, textiles, vehicles, ships and aircraft. *Major partners*—U.S., F.R.G., U.K., France, Belgium, Luxembourg.
**Official exchange rate:** 3 New Israeli Shekels=U.S. $1. ■

United States Department of State
*Bureau of Public Affairs*
Office of Public Communication

## PEOPLE

Of the approximately 5.5 million Israelis in 1994, about 4.5 million were Jewish. While the non-Jewish minority grows at an average rate of 4% per year, the Jewish population has increased by 10% over the last three years as a result of massive immigration to Israel, primarily from the republics of the former Soviet Union. Since 1990, nearly 525,000 such immigrants have arrived in Israel, making this the largest wave of immigration since independence. In addition, almost 20,000 members of the Ethiopian Jewish community have immigrated to Israel, 14,000 of them during the dramatic May 1991 Operation Solomon airlift.

The three broad Jewish groupings are: the Ashkenazim, or Jews who came to Israel mainly from Europe, North and South America, South Africa, and Australia; the Sephardim, who trace their origin to Spain, Portugal, and North Africa; and Eastern or Oriental Jews, who descend from ancient communities in Islamic lands. Of the non-Jewish population, about 77% are Muslims, 13% are Christian, and about 10% are Druze and others.

Education between ages five and 16 is free and compulsory. The school system is organized into kindergartens, six-year primary schools, three-year junior secondary schools, and three-year senior secondary schools, after which a comprehensive examination is offered for university admissions. There are seven university-level institutions in Israel.

With a population drawn from more than 100 countries on five continents, Israeli society is rich in cultural diversity and artistic creativity. The arts are actively encouraged and supported by the government. The Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra performs throughout the country and frequently tours abroad. The Jerusalem Symphony, the orchestra of the Israeli Broadcasting Authority, also tours frequently as do other musical ensembles. Almost every municipality has a chamber orchestra or ensemble, many boasting the talents of gifted performers recently arrived from the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Folk dancing, which draws upon the cultural heritage of many immigrant groups, is very popular. Israel also has several professional ballet and modern dance companies. There is great public interest in the theater; the repertoire covers the entire range of classical and contemporary drama in translation, as well as plays by Israeli authors. Of the three major repertory companies, the most famous, Habimah, was founded in 1917.

Active artist colonies thrive in Safed, Jaffa, and Ein Hod, and Israeli painters and sculptors exhibit and sell their works worldwide. Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem have excellent art museums, and many towns and kibbutzim have smaller high-quality museums. The Israel Museum in Jerusalem houses the Dead Sea Scrolls along with an extensive collection of Jewish religious and folk art. The Museum of the Diaspora is located on the campus of Tel Aviv University. Israelis are avid newspaper readers. Israeli papers have an average daily circulation of 600,000 copies. Major daily papers are in Hebrew; others are in Arabic, English, French, Polish, Yiddish, Russian, Hungarian, and German.

## HISTORY

The creation of the State of Israel in 1948 was preceded by more than 50 years of efforts by Zionist leaders to establish a sovereign nation as a homeland for Jews. The desire of Jews to return to what they consider their rightful homeland was first expressed during the Babylonian exile and became a universal Jewish theme after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. and the dispersal that followed.

It was not until the founding of the Zionist movement by Theodore Herzl at the end of the 19th century that practical steps were taken toward securing international sanction for large-scale Jewish settlement in Palestine—then a part of the Ottoman Empire.

The Balfour declaration in 1917 asserted the British Government's support for the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This declaration was supported by a number of other countries, including the United States, and became more important following World War I, when the United Kingdom was assigned the Palestine mandate by the League of Nations.

Jewish immigration grew slowly in the 1920s; it increased substantially in the 1930s, due to political turmoil in Europe and Nazi persecution, until restrictions were imposed by the United Kingdom in 1939. After the end of World War II, and the near-extermination of European Jewry by the Nazis, international support for Jews seeking to settle in Palestine overcame British efforts to restrict immigration.

International support for establishing a Jewish state led to the adoption in November 1947 of the UN partition plan, which called for dividing the Mandate of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state and for establishing Jerusalem separately as an international city under UN administration.

Violence between Arab and Jewish communities erupted almost immediately. Toward the end of the British mandate, the Jews planned to declare a separate state, a development the Arabs were determined to prevent. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was proclaimed. The following day, armies from neighboring Arab nations entered the former Mandate of Palestine to engage Israeli military forces.

In 1949, under UN auspices, four armistice agreements were negotiated and signed at Rhodes, Greece, between Israel and its neighbors Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. The 1948-49 war of independence resulted in a 50% increase in Israeli territory, including western Jerusalem. No general peace settlement was achieved at Rhodes, however, and violence along the borders continued for many years.

In October 1956, Israel invaded the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula at the same time that operations by French and British forces against Egypt were taking place in the Suez Canal area. Israeli forces withdrew in March 1957, after the United Nations established the UN Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Gaza Strip and Sinai. In 1966-67, terrorist incidents and retaliatory acts across the armistice demarcation lines increased.

In May 1967, after tension had developed between Syria and Israel, Egyptian President Nasser moved armaments and about 80,000 troops into the Sinai and ordered a withdrawal of UNEF troops from the armistice line and Sharm El Sheikh. Nasser then closed the Strait of Tiran to Israeli ships, blockading the Israeli port of Eilat at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba. On May 30, Jordan and Egypt signed a mutual defense treaty.

In response to these events, Israeli forces struck targets in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria on June 5. After six days of fighting, by the time all parties had accepted the cease-fire called for by UN Security

Council Resolutions 235 and 236, Israel controlled the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and the formerly Jordanian-controlled West Bank of the Jordan River, including East Jerusalem. On November 22, 1967, the Security Council adopted Resolution 242, the "land for peace" formula, which called for the establishment of a just and lasting peace based on Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967 in return for the end of all states of belligerency, respect for the sovereignty of all states in the area, and the right to live in peace within secure, recognized boundaries.

In the 1969-70 war of attrition, Israeli planes made deep strikes into Egypt in retaliation for repeated Egyptian shelling of Israeli positions along the Suez Canal. In early 1969, fighting broke out between Egypt and Israel along the Suez Canal. The United States helped end these hostilities in August 1970, but subsequent U.S. efforts to negotiate an interim agreement to open the Suez Canal and achieve disengagement of forces were unsuccessful.

On October 6, 1973—Yom Kippur (the Jewish Day of Atonement)—Syrian and Egyptian forces attacked Israeli positions in Golan and along the Suez Canal. Initially, Syria and Egypt made significant advances against Israeli forces. However, Israel recovered on both fronts, pushed the Syrians back beyond the 1967 cease-fire lines, and recrossed the Suez Canal to take a salient on its west bank, isolating Egyptian troops, who eventually surrendered.

The United States and the Soviet Union helped bring about a cease-fire between the combatants. In the UN Security Council, the United States supported Resolution 338, which reaffirmed Resolution 242 as the framework for peace and called for peace negotiations between the parties.

The cease-fire did not end the sporadic clashes along the cease-fire lines nor did it dissipate military tensions. The United States tried to help the parties reach agreement on cease-fire stabilization and military disengagement. On March 5, 1974, Israeli forces withdrew from the canal, and Egypt assumed control. Syria and Israel signed a disengagement agreement on May 31, 1974, and the UN Disengagement and Observer Force (UNDOF) was established as a peacekeeping force in the Golan.

Further U.S. efforts resulted in an interim agreement between Egypt and Israel in September 1975, which provided for another Israeli withdrawal in the Sinai, a limitation of forces, and three observation stations staffed by U.S. civilians in a UN-maintained buffer zone between Egyptian and Israeli forces.

In November 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat broke 30 years of hostility with Israel by visiting Jerusalem at the invitation of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. During a two-day visit, which included a speech before the Knesset, the Egyptian leader created a new psychological climate in the Middle East in which peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors seemed a realistic possibility. Sadat recognized Israel's right to exist and established the basis for direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

In September 1978, U.S. President Jimmy Carter invited President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin to meet with him at Camp David, where they agreed on a framework for peace between Israel and Egypt and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. It set out broad principles to guide negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. It also established guidelines for a West Bank-Gaza transitional regime of full autonomy for the Palestinians residing in the occupied territories and for a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The treaty was signed on March 26, 1979, by Begin and Sadat, with President Carter signing as witness. Under the treaty, Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt in April 1982. In 1989, the Governments of Israel and Egypt concluded an agreement that resolved the status of Taba, a resort area on the Gulf of Aqaba.

In the years following the 1948 war, Israel's border with Lebanon was quiet, compared to its borders with other neighbors. After the expulsion of the Palestinian *fedayeen* (fighters) from Jordan in 1970—and their influx into southern Lebanon, however, hostilities on Israel's northern border increased.
In March 1978, after a series of clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian guerillas in Lebanon, Israeli forces crossed into Lebanon. After passage of Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israeli withdrawal and the creation of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon peace-keeping force (UNIFIL), Israel withdrew its troops.

In July 1981, after additional fighting between Israel and the Palestinians in Lebanon, President Reagan's special envoy, Philip C. Habib, helped secure a cease-fire between the parties. However, in June 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon to fight the forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

In August 1982, the PLO withdrew its forces from Lebanon. With U.S. assistance, Israel and Lebanon reached an accord in May 1983 that set the stage to withdraw Israeli forces from Lebanon. The instruments of ratification were never exchanged, however, and in March 1984, under pressure from Syria, Lebanon canceled the agreement. In June 1985, Israel withdrew most of its troops from Lebanon, leaving a small residual Israeli force and an Israeli-supported militia in southern Lebanon in a "security zone," which Israel considers a necessary buffer against attacks on its northern territory.

By the late 1980s, the spread of nonconventional weaponry—including missile technology—in the Middle East began to pose security problems for Israel from further afield. This was evident during the Gulf crisis that began with Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

When allied coalition forces moved to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait in January 1991, Iraq launched a series of missile attacks against Israel. Despite the provocation, Israel refrained from entering the Gulf war directly, accepting U.S. assistance to deflect continued Iraqi missile attacks.

The coalition's victory in the Gulf war opened new possibilities for regional peace, and in October 1991, the Presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union jointly convened an historic meeting in Madrid of Israeli, Lebanese, Jordanian, Syrian, and Palestinian leaders which became the foundation for ongoing bilateral and multilateral negotiations designed to bring lasting peace and economic development to the region.

On September 13, 1993, Israel and the PLO signed a Declaration of Principles on the South Lawn of the White House. The declaration was a major conceptual breakthrough achieved under the Madrid framework. It established an ambitious set of objectives relating to a transfer of authority from Israel to an interim Palestinian authority. Final status talks are to begin by the third year of the interim regime. Implementation is contingent upon the details of the declaration. These negotiations are continuing.

Israel signed a non-belligerency agreement with Jordan (the Washington Declaration) in Washington, DC, on July 25, 1994. Jordan and Israel signed a historic peace treaty at a border post between the two countries on October 26, 1994, witnessed by President Clinton, accompanied by Secretary Christopher.

## GOVERNMENT

Israel is a parliamentary democracy. Its governmental system is based on several basic laws enacted by its unicameral parliament, the Knesset. The president (chief of state) is elected by the Knesset for a five-year term.

The prime minister (head of government) exercises executive power and has in the past been selected by the president as the party leader most able to form a government. The prime minister and other members of the cabinet must be approved by the Knesset, to which they are responsible. Recent legislation calls for the direct election of the prime minister as of the next elections (currently scheduled for 1996).

The Knesset's 120 members are elected by secret ballot to four-year terms, although the prime minister may decide to call for new elections before the end of its term. Voting is for party lists rather than for individual candidates, and the total number of seats assigned each party reflects that party's percentage of the vote. Successful Knesset candidates are drawn from the lists in order of party-assigned rank. Under the present electoral system, all members of the Knesset are elected at large.

The independent judicial system includes secular and religious courts. The courts' right of judicial review of the Knesset's legislation is limited. Judicial interpretation is restricted to problems of execution of laws and validity of subsidiary legislation. The highest court in Israel is the Supreme Court, whose judges are approved by the president.

Israel is divided into six districts, administration of which is coordinated by the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry of Defense is responsible for the administration of the occupied territories.

### Principal Government Officials

President—Ezer Weizman
Prime Minister—Yitzhak Rabin, Labor
Foreign Minister—Shimon Peres, Labor
Ambassador to the United States—
Dr. Itamar Rabinovich
Ambassador to the United Nations—
Gad Yaacobi

Israel maintains an embassy in the United States at 3514 International Drive NW, Washington DC, 20008 (tel. 202-364-5500). There are also consulates general in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.

## POLITICAL CONDITIONS

From the founding of Israel in 1948 until the election of May 1977, Israel was ruled by successive coalition governments led by the Labor alignment or its constituent parties. From 1967-70, the coalition government included all of Israel's parties except the communist party. After the 1977 election, the Likud bloc, then composed of Herut, the Liberals, and the smaller La'am Party, came to power, forming a coalition with the National Religious Party, Agudat Israel, and others.

As head of Likud, Menachem Begin became Prime Minister. The Likud retained power in the succeeding election in June 1981, and Begin remained Prime Minister. In the summer of 1983, Begin resigned and was succeeded by his Foreign Minister, Yitzhak Shamir. After losing a Knesset vote of confidence early in 1984, Shamir was forced to call for new elections, held in July of that year.

The vote was split among numerous parties and provided no clear winner leaving both Labor and Likud considerably short of a Knesset majority. Neither Labor nor Likud was able to gain enough support from the small parties to form even a narrow coalition. After several weeks of difficult negotiations, they agreed on a broadly based government of national unity. The agreement provided for the rotation of the office of prime minister and the combined office of vice prime minister and foreign minister midway through the government's 50-month term.

During the first 25 months of unity government rule, Labor's Shimon Peres served as prime minister, while Likud's Yitzhak Shamir held the posts of vice prime minister and foreign minister. Peres and Shamir switched positions in October 1986. The November 1988 elections resulted in a similar coalition government. Likud edged Labor out by one seat but was unable to form a coalition with the religious and right-wing parties. Likud and Labor formed another national unity government in January 1989 without providing for rotation. Yitzhak Shamir became Prime Minister, and Shimon Peres became Vice Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

The national unity government fell in March 1990, in a vote of no-confidence precipitated by disagreement over the government's response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's initiative in the peace process.

Labor Party leader Peres was unable to attract sufficient support among the religious parties to form a government. Yitzhak Shamir then formed a Likud-led coalition government including members from religious and right-wing parties.

This government took office in June 1990, and held power for two years. In the June 1992 national elections, the Labor Party reversed its electoral fortunes, taking 44 seats. Labor Party leader Yitzhak Rabin formed a coalition with Meretz (a group of three leftist parties) and Shas (an ultra-Orthodox religious party); the coalition included the support of two Arab-majority parties. Rabin became Prime Minister in July 1992. Shas has since left the coalition, leaving Rabin with a minority government. In the 1996 general elections, the next prime minister will be elected by direct popular vote.

## ECONOMY

Israel has a mixed economy with substantial government participation. It depends on imports of oil, food, grain, raw material, and military equipment. It is poor in natural resources but well endowed with skilled labor.

Israel's strong commitment to economic development and its talented work force led to economic growth rates during the nation's first two decades that frequently exceeded 10% annually. This growth transformed the Israeli economy into a modern industrial and service economy with a per-capita income roughly comparable to that of Ireland, Spain, and Greece.

In 1994, GDP was an estimated $78 billion. The major industrial sectors are metal products, electronic equipment, food processing, chemical and oil products, transport equipment, and rubber and plastic products. Israel's growth rate began to slow in the mid-1970s, primarily due to high inflation that peaked in the first half of the 1980s.

In July 1985, the government began a comprehensive economic stabilization program to attack inflation and the balance-of-payments deficit. The United States helped finance the program by providing $1.5 billion in emergency economic aid. This program reduced inflation to about 20% in 1986; in 1992, inflation fell to 9.6%, a single-digit figure for the first time in 23 years.

The Government of Israel has been relatively successful in stabilizing the economy in the face of a large inflow of immigrants, which has increased the population by more than 12% since the end of 1989. The country is in the midst of a four-year economic expansion. Annual GDP growth rate was a strong 7.2% in 1994, with growth balanced among various economic sectors in contrast to the high growth rate in the construction sector that had characterized the last few years.

Unemployment has dropped to 7.3%, reflecting a positive trend of immigrant absorption. However, inflation in 1994 topped 14%, far above projected targets. Although the government has removed many restrictions on capital, labor, and, currency markets in recent years, heavy government involvement continues to characterize the Israeli economy.

Many economic policy makers recognize that structural reform is needed, but the implementation of reforms has been slow. Prime Minister Rabin continues to stress that economic reform will be a priority of his administration. Israel's balance-of-payments problems have been offset by capital inflows.

Israel's trade deficit increased 22% during the first nine months of 1994; for 1994, exports totaled $15.9 billion, and imports reached $23.4 billion. The current account deficit grew from $1.4 billion in 1993 to $2.5 billion in 1994. The United States remains Israel's principal trading partner, although trade with European Union countries is larger. U.S. bilateral trade with Israel exceeded $9.8 billion in 1994, with Israel accruing a $200-million trade surplus.

U.S. exports totaled $4.8 billion in 1994, up from $4.4 billion in 1992. Israel continues to be an attractive market for U.S. products. The U.S.-Israel free-trade-area agreement has eliminated duties on American manufactured items, and, beginning in 1991, the Israeli Government embarked on a program to dismantle non-tariff barriers. Israel also has industrial free-trade-area agreements with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association. Effective January 1986, Israel established the city of Eilat as a duty-free zone.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

In addition to seeking an end to hostilities with Arab forces, against which it has fought five wars in its 45-year history, Israel has given high priority to gaining wide acceptance as a sovereign state with an important international role. Before 1967, it had established diplomatic relations with a majority of the world's nations, except for the Arab states and most other Muslim countries.

While the Soviet Union and the communist states of Eastern Europe (except Romania) broke diplomatic relations with Israel in the 1967 war, those relations had been restored by 1991. Israel has also successfully established relations with most of the republics of the former Soviet Union except Turkmenistan. Currently, 125 countries—nearly 70% of all UN members—have established formal diplomatic relations with Israel. Since 1987, 42 countries have formalized ties with Israel—31 of these since the beginning of 1991. Both China and India established relations with Israel in early 1992.

## DEFENSE

Israel's ground, air, and naval forces, known as the Israel Defense Force (IDF), fall under the command of a single general staff. Conscription is universal for Jewish men and women over the age of 18, although exemptions may be made on religious grounds. Druze, members of a small Islamic sect living in Israel's mountains, also serve in the IDF. Arab-Israelis, with very few exceptions, do not serve. During 1950-66, Israel spent an average of 9% of GDP on defense. Real defense expenditures increased dramatically after both the 1967 and 1973 wars. In 1992, the military budget reached 9.9% of GDP and represented about 16% of the total 1992 budget.

### Travel Notes

**Clothing:** Clothing needs are about the same as for the American southwest. Low-heeled, thick-soled walking shoes are best suited for most tourist sites. Dress at most religious sites should be appropriately modest. Most of Israel is quite warm and humid, except for December through March. Rainfall occurs regularly during winter months; occasionally it snows in Jerusalem and in the mountains.

**Health:** Israel requires that at least one pharmacy in a neighborhood be open or on call at all times; a list is published at least weekly in the English-language Jerusalem *Post*. Israel and U.S. public health standards are about equal. Adequate medical and dental care is available, and tapwater is potable.

**Telecommunications:** Telephone and telegraph services, domestic and international, are efficient. Rates are higher than in the U.S. Israel is seven standard time zones ahead of eastern standard time. ❑

In 1983, the United States and Israel established the Joint Political Military Group, which includes joint military planning and combined exercises. The United States and Israel have collaborated on military research and weapons development and have signed an agreement allowing Israel to participate in Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research.

## U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

Commitment to Israel's security and well-being has been a cornerstone of U.S. policy in the Middle East since Israel's creation in 1948, in which the United States played a key supporting role. Israel and the United States are bound closely by historic and cultural ties as well as by mutual interests. Continuing U.S. economic and security assistance to Israel acknowledges these ties and signals U.S. commitment. The broad issues of Arab-Israeli peace have been a major focus in the U.S.-Israeli relationship. U.S. efforts to reach a Middle East peace settlement are based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

These resolutions provided the basis for cease-fire and disengagement agreements concerning the Sinai and the Golan Heights between Israel, Egypt, and Syria and in promoting the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty. They were also the foundation for President Reagan's September 1982 peace initiative and Secretary Shultz's January 1988 initiative that aimed at stimulating conditions to bring Jordan and representative Palestinians into the Middle East peace process.

The October 1991 Madrid conference also recognized the importance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in resolving regional disputes and launched a series of direct bilateral and multilateral negotiations between Israel and the neighboring Arab countries. These talks were designed to finally resolve outstanding security, border, and other issues between the nations of the region while providing a basis for mutual cooperation on issues of general concern, including the status of refugees, disarmament and security, water and environmental concerns, and economic development.

On a bilateral level, relations between the United States and Israel have been strengthened in recent years by the establishment of cooperative institutions in many fields. Bilateral foundations in the fields of science and technology include the Binational Science Foundation and the Binational Agricultural Research and Development Foundation. The U.S.-Israeli Education Foundation sponsors educational and cultural programs.

In addition, the Joint Economic Development Group maintains a high-level dialogue on economic issues. In early 1993, the United States and Israel agreed to establish a joint Science and Technology Commission. In 1983, the United States and Israel established the Joint Political Military Group, which includes joint military planning and combined exercises.

The United States and Israel have collaborated on military research and weapons development and have signed an agreement allowing Israel to participate in Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) research.

## Principal U.S. Officials

*U.S. Embassy*

Charge d'affaires ad interim—James A. Larocco
Deputy Chief of Mission (Acting)—Robert Manzanares
Political Affairs—Bruce Burton
Economic Affairs—Alan Parker
Administration—Robert Manzanares
Consular Affairs—Robert E. Tynes
Public Affairs (USIS)—David P. Good
Commercial Affairs—Barry Friedman
Science Attache—David W. Mulenex
Defense Attache—Col. John V. Siebert

The U.S. embassy in Israel is located at 71 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv (tel. 03-517-4338).

*U.S. Consulate General*

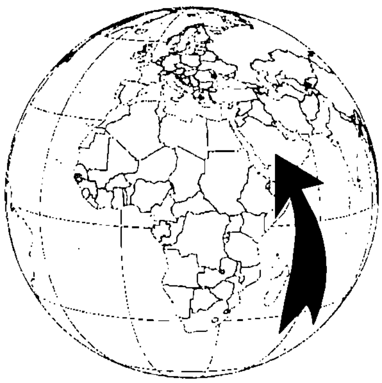
Consul General—Edward G. Abington, Jr.
Deputy Principal Officer—John H. Bargeron, Jr.
Chief, Consular Section—Kathleen Riley

The Consulate General in Jerusalem has offices at 18 Agron Road (tel. 02-253288) and on Nablus Road (tel. 02-282-231). ■

**background notes**

# Saudi Arabia

**March 1995**



## Official Name: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### PROFILE

#### Geography

**Area:** 1,960,582 sq. km. (1,176,349 mi.), about one-fourth the size of the continental United States.
**Cities:** *Capital*—Riyadh (pop. 2.5 million). *Other cities*—Jeddah (1.6 million), Makkah, (1.5 million), Dammam/ Khobar/Dhahran, (1 million).
**Terrain:** Primarily desert with rugged mountains in the southwest.
**Climate:** Arid, with great extremes of temperature in the interior; humidity and temperature are both high along the coast.

#### People

**Nationality:** *Noun*—Saudi(s). *Adjective*—Saudi Arabian or Saudi.
**Population** (1992 est.): 16.9 million (12.3 million Saudis, 4.6 million foreign nationals).
**Annual growth rate:** 3.8%.
**Ethnic groups:** Arab (90% of native pop.), Afro-Asian (10% of native pop.).
**Religion:** Muslim.
**Language:** Arabic (official).
**Education:** *Literacy*—male 73%, female 48%.
**Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—38/1,000. *Life expectancy*—male 65 years, female 68 years.
**Work force:** 5 million (60%-75% foreign workers). *Government*—34%. *Industry*—28%. *Service and commerce*—22%. *Agriculture*—16%.

#### Government

**Type:** Monarchy with Council of Ministers and Consultative Council.
**Unification:** September 23, 1932.
**Constitution:** None.
**Branches:** *Executive*—king (chief of state and head of government). *Legislative*—none; a Consultative Council with advisory powers was formed September 1993. *Judicial*—Islamic Courts of First Instance and Appeals.
**Administrative divisions:** 13 provinces.
**Political parties:** None.
**Flag:** Green and white, bears the Muslim creed in Arabic script: "There is no God but God; Muhammad is the Messenger of God." Under the script is a horizontal white sword.

#### Economy

**GDP** (1992): $121 billion.
**Annual growth rate** (1992): 5% overall; non-oil share 5%.
**Per capita GDP:** $7,200.
**Natural resources:** Hydrocarbons, gold, uranium, bauxite, coal, iron, phosphate, tungsten, zinc, silver, copper.
**Agriculture** (est. 9% of GDP): *Products*—dates, grains, livestock, vegetables. *Cultivated land*—1%.
**Industry** (est. oil, 38% of GDP; non-oil, 62%): petroleum, petrochemicals, cement, fertilizer, light industry.
**Trade** (1992): *Exports*—$47 billion: $43 billion, petroleum and petroleum products; $4 billion, non-oil exports. *Imports*—$30 billion: manufactured goods, transportation equipment, construction materials, processed food products. *Major trading partners*—U.S., Japan, Western Europe.
**Official exchange rate:** 3.75 Saudi riyals (SR)=U.S. $1. ■

United States Department of State
*Bureau of Public Affairs*
Office of Public Communication

## PEOPLE

Saudi Arabia's 1992 population is estimated to be about 16.9 million, including about 4.6 million resident foreigners. Until the 1960s, most of the population was nomadic or semi-nomadic; due to rapid economic and urban growth, more than 95% of the population now is settled. Some cities and oases have densities of more than 1,000 people per square kilometer (2,600 per sq. mile).

Saudi Arabia is known as the birthplace of Islam, which in the century following Muhammad's death in 632 spread to much of the Mediterranean world. Islam obliges all Muslims to make the *Hajj*, or pilgrimage to Makkah, at least once during their lifetime if they are able to do so. The cultural environment in Saudi Arabia is highly conservative; the country adheres to a strict interpretation of Islamic religious law (*Shari'a*). Cultural presentations must conform to narrowly defined standards of ethics. Men and women are not permitted to attend public events together and are segregated in the work place.

Most Saudis are ethnically Arab. Some are of mixed ethnic origin and are descended from Turks, Iranians, Indonesians, Indians, and Africans, most of whom immigrated as pilgrims and reside in the Hijaz region along the Red Sea coast. Many Arabs from nearby countries are employed in the kingdom. There also are significant numbers of expatriate workers from North America, South Asia, Europe, and East Asia.

## HISTORY

Except for a few major cities and oases, the harsh climate historically prevented much settlement of the Arabian Peninsula. People of various cultures have lived there over a span of more than 5,000 years. The Dilmun culture, along the Gulf coast, was contemporaneous with the Sumerians and ancient Egyptians, and most of the empires of the ancient world traded with the states of the peninsula.

The Saudi state began in central Arabia in about 1750. A local ruler, Muhammad bin Saud, joined forces with an Islamic reformer, Muhammad Abd Al-Wahhab, to create a new political entity. Over the next 150 years, the fortunes of the Saud family rose and fell several times as Saudi rulers contended with Egypt, the Ottoman Turks, and other Arabian families for control on the peninsula. The modern Saudi state was founded by the late King Abd Al-Aziz Al-Saud (known internationally as Ibn Saud). In 1902, Abd Al-Aziz recaptured Riyadh, the Al-Saud dynasty's ancestral capital, from the rival Al-Rashid family. Continuing his conquests, Abd Al-Aziz subdued Al-Hasa, the rest of Nejd, and the Hijaz between 1913 and 1926. In 1932, these regions were unified as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Boundaries with Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait were established by a series of treaties negotiated in the 1920s, with two "neutral zones"—one with Iraq and the other with Kuwait—created. The Saudi-Kuwaiti neutral zone was administratively partitioned in 1971, with each state continuing to share the petroleum resources of the former zone equally. Tentative agreement on the partition of the Saudi-Iraqi neutral zone was reached in 1981, and partition was finalized by 1983. The country's southern boundary with Yemen was partially defined by the 1934 Treaty of Taif, which ended a brief border war between the two states. It remains undefined in many areas. The border between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates was agreed upon in 1974. Boundary differences with Qatar remained unresolved.

King Abd Al-Aziz died in 1953 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Saud, who reigned for 11 years. In 1964, Saud abdicated in favor of his half-brother, Faisal, who had served as Foreign Minister. Because of fiscal difficulties, King Saud had been persuaded in 1958 to delegate direct conduct of Saudi Government affairs to Faisal as Prime Minister; Saud briefly regained control of the government in 1960-62. In October 1962, Faisal outlined a broad reform program, stressing economic development. Proclaimed King in 1964 by senior royal family members and religious leaders, Faisal also continued to serve as Prime Minister. This practice has been followed by subsequent kings.

The mid-1960s saw external pressures generated by Saudi-Egyptian differences over Yemen. When civil war broke out in 1962 between Yemeni royalists and republicans, Egyptian forces entered Yemen to support the new republican government, while Saudi Arabia backed the royalists. Tensions subsided only after 1967, when Egypt withdrew its troops from Yemen.

Saudi forces did not participate in the Six-Day (Arab-Israeli) war of June 1967, but the government later provided annual subsidies to Egypt, Jordan, and Syria to support their economies. During the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Saudi Arabia participated in the Arab oil boycott of the United States and Netherlands. A member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Saudi Arabia had joined other member countries in moderate oil price increases beginning in 1971. After the 1973 war, the price of oil rose substantially, dramatically increasing Saudi wealth and political influence.

In 1975, King Faisal was assassinated by a nephew, who was executed after an extensive investigation concluded that he acted alone. Faisal was succeeded by his half-brother Khalid as King and Prime Minister; their half-brother Prince Fahd was named Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister. King Khalid empowered Crown Prince Fahd to oversee many aspects of the government's international and domestic affairs. Economic development continued rapidly under King Khalid, and the kingdom assumed a more influential role in regional politics and international economic and financial matters.

In June 1982, King Khalid died, and Fahd became King and Prime Minister in a smooth transition. Another half-brother, Prince Abdullah, Commander of the Saudi National Guard, was named Crown Prince and First Deputy Prime Minister. King Fahd's brother, Prince Sultan, the Minister of Defense and Aviation, became Second Deputy Prime Minister.

Under King Fahd, the Saudi economy adjusted to sharply lower oil revenues resulting from declining global oil prices. Saudi Arabia supported neutral shipping in the Gulf during periods of the Iran-Iraq war and aided Iraq's war-strained economy. King Fahd played a major part in bringing about the August 1988 cease-fire and in organizing and strengthening the Gulf Cooperation Council

(GCC), a group of six Arabian Gulf states dedicated to fostering regional economic cooperation and peaceful development.

In 1990-91, King Fahd played a key role before and during the Gulf war. It was his early, formal request to President Bush for military assistance on August 6, 1990, that allowed U.S. troops to deploy in time to avert possible moves by Iraq's Saddam Hussein into Saudi Arabia. King Fahd's action also consolidated the coalition of forces against Iraq and helped define the tone of the operation as a multilateral effort to reestablish the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kuwait. Acting as a rallying point and personal spokesman for the coalition, King Fahd helped bring together his nation's GCC allies, Western allies, and Arab allies, as well as non-aligned nations from Africa and the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. He used his influence as Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to persuade other Arab and Islamic nations to join the coalition.

## GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

The central institution of Saudi Arabian Government is the monarchy. No formal constitution exists; there are no political parties or national elections. The authority of the monarchy is based on Islamic law (*Shari'a*). The king's powers are limited because he must observe the Shari'a and other Saudi traditions. He also must retain a consensus of the Saudi royal family, religious leaders (*ulema*), and other important elements in Saudi society. The leading members of the royal family choose the king from among themselves with the subsequent approval of the ulema.

Saudi kings gradually have developed a central government. Since 1953, the Council of Ministers, appointed by and responsible to the king, has advised on the formulation of general policy and directed the activities of the growing bureaucracy. This council consists of a prime minister, the first and second deputy prime ministers, 20 ministers (of whom the minister of defense is also the second deputy prime minister), two ministers of state, and a small number of advisers and heads of major autonomous organizations.

Legislation is by resolution of the Council of Ministers, ratified by royal decree, and must be compatible with the Shari'a. Justice is administered according to the Shari'a by a system of religious courts whose judges are appointed by the king on the recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council, composed of 12 senior jurists. The independence of the judiciary is protected by law. The king acts as the highest court of appeal and has the power to pardon. Access to high officials (usually at a *majlis*, or public audience) and the right to petition them directly are well-established traditions.

The kingdom is divided into 13 provinces governed by princes or close relatives of the royal family. All governors are appointed by the king.

In March 1992, King Fahd issued several decrees outlining the basic statutes of government and codifying for the first time procedures concerning the royal succession. The King's political reform program also provided for the establishment of a national Consultative Council, with appointed members having advisory powers to review and give advice on issues of public interest. It also outlined a framework for councils at the provincial or emirate level.

In September 1993, King Fahd issued additional reform decrees, appointing the members of the national Consultative Council and spelling out procedures for the new council's operations. He announced reforms regarding the Council of Ministers, including term limitations of four years and regulations to prohibit conflict of interest for ministers and other high-level officials. The members of 13 provincial councils and the councils' operating regulations also were announced in September 1993.

### Principal Government Officials

King, Prime Minister, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques—King Fahd bin Abd Al-Aziz Al-Saud

Minister of Foreign Affairs—Prince Saud Al Faysal bin Abd Al-Aziz Al-Saud

Ambassador to the U.S.—Prince Bandar bin Sultan

The Saudi Arabia embassy is at 601 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037; tel. 202-342-3800.

## ECONOMY

Oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia by American geologists in the 1930s, although large-scale production did not begin until after World War II. Oil wealth has made possible rapid economic development, which began in earnest in the 1960s and accelerated spectacularly in the 1970s, transforming the kingdom.

Saudi oil reserves are the largest in the world, and Saudi Arabia is the world's leading oil producer and exporter. Oil accounts for more than 90% of the country's exports and nearly 75% of government revenues. Proven reserves are estimated at more than 260 billion barrels—about one-quarter of world oil reserves.

More than 95% of all Saudi oil is produced on behalf of the Saudi Government by the parastatal giant, Saudi ARAMCO. In June 1993, Saudi ARAMCO absorbed the state marketing and refining company (SAMAREC), becoming the world's largest fully integrated oil company. Operating in the former neutral zone, the Japanese-owned Arabian Oil Company (AOC) and the Saudi subsidiary of Texaco, Saudi Arabian Texaco, provide the rest of Saudi crude oil production. Most Saudi oil exports move by tanker from terminals at Ras Tanura and Ju'Aymah. The remaining oil exports are transported via the east-west pipeline across the kingdom to the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

Due to a sharp rise in petroleum revenues in 1974 following the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Saudi Arabia became one of the fastest-growing nations in the world. It enjoyed a substantial surplus in its overall trade with other countries; imports increased rapidly; and ample government revenues were available for development, defense, and aid to other Arab and Islamic countries.

But higher oil prices led to development of more oil fields around the world and reduced global consumption. The result, beginning in the mid-1980s, was a worldwide oil glut, which introduced an element of planning uncertainty for the first time in a decade. Saudi oil production, which had increased to almost 10 million barrels per day (b/d) during 1980-81, dropped to about 2 million b/d in 1985. Budgetary deficits developed, and the government drew down its foreign assets. Responding to financial pressures, Saudi Arabia gave up its role as the "swing producer" within OPEC in the summer of 1985 and accepted a production quota. Since then, Saudi oil policy has been guided by a desire to maintain market and quota shares.

Through five-year development plans, the government has sought to allocate its petroleum income to transform its relatively undeveloped, oil-based economy into that of a modern industrial state while maintaining the kingdom's traditional Islamic values and customs. Although economic planners have not achieved all their goals, the economy has progressed rapidly, and the standard of living of most Saudis has improved significantly. Dependence on petroleum revenue continues, but industry and agriculture now account for a larger share of economic activity. A shortage of skilled Saudi workers at all levels remains the principal obstacle to economic diversification and development; about 3.5 million non-Saudis are employed in the economy.

Saudi Arabia's first two development plans, covering the 1970s, emphasized infrastructure. The results were impressive: The total length of paved highways tripled; power generation increased by a multiple of 28; and the capacity of the seaports grew tenfold. For the third plan (1980-85), the emphasis changed. Spending on infrastructure declined, but it rose markedly on education, health, and social services. The share for diversifying and expanding productive sectors of the economy (primarily industry) did not rise as planned; but the two industrial cities of Jubail and Yanbu—built around the use of the country's oil and gas to produce steel, petrochemicals, fertilizer, and refined oil products—were largely completed.

In the fourth plan (1985-90), the country's basic infrastructure was viewed as largely complete, but education and training remained areas of concern. Private enterprise was encouraged, and foreign investment in the form of joint ventures with Saudi public and private companies was welcomed. The private sector became more important, rising to 70% of non-oil GDP by 1987. While still concentrated in trade and commerce, private investment increased in industry, agriculture, banking, and construction companies. These private investments were supported by generous government financing and incentive programs. The objective was for the private sector to have 70%-80% ownership in most joint venture enterprises.

The fifth plan (1990-95) emphasizes consolidation of the country's defenses; improved and more efficient government social services; regional development; and, most importantly, creating greater private-sector employment opportunities for Saudis by reducing the number of foreign workers.

The sixth five-year plan will focus on lowering the cost of government services without cutting them and will seek to expand educational training programs. The plan calls for reducing the kingdom's dependence on the petroleum sector by diversifying economic activity, particularly in the private sector, with special emphasis on industry and agriculture.

## FOREIGN RELATIONS

Saudi foreign policy objectives are to maintain its security and its paramount position on the Arabian Peninsula, defend general Arab interests, promote solidarity among Islamic governments, and maintain cooperative relations with other oil-producing and major oil-consuming countries. Saudi Arabia joined in the Islamic world's condemnation of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Saudi trade and diplomatic relations with the countries of Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and the People's Republic of China are growing at a cautious rate.

Saudi Arabia signed the UN Charter in 1945. The country plays a prominent and constructive role in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and Arab and Islamic financial and development assistance institutions. It is one of the largest aid donors in the world and gives aid to numerous Arab, African, and Asian countries. Jeddah is the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its subsidiary organization, the Islamic Development Bank, founded in 1969.

Membership in the 13-member OPEC and in the technically and economically oriented Arab producer group—the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries—facilitates coordination of Saudi oil policies with other oil-exporting governments. As the world's leading exporter of petroleum, Saudi Arabia has a special interest in preserving a stable and long-term market for its vast oil resources by allying itself with healthy Western economies which can protect the value of Saudi financial assets. It generally has acted to stabilize the world oil market and tried to moderate sharp price movements.

The Saudis frequently help mediate regional crises and actively support the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. A charter member of the Arab League, Saudi Arabia supports the Arab position that Israel must withdraw from the territories which it occupied in June 1967, including East Jerusalem. Saudi Arabia supports a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict but rejected the Camp David accords, claiming that they would be unable to achieve a comprehensive political solution that would ensure Palestinian rights and adequately address the status of Jerusalem. Although Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with and suspended aid to Egypt in the wake of Camp David, the two countries renewed formal ties in 1987.

In 1990-91, King Fahd and Saudi Arabia played an important role in the Gulf war, developing new allies and improving existing relationships between Saudi Arabia and some other countries. However, there also were diplomatic and financial costs. Relations between Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, Algeria, and Libya deteriorated. Each country had remained silent following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but called for an end to violence once the deployment of coalition troops began. Relations between these countries and Saudi Arabia are slowly returning to pre-war status.

Saudi Arabia's relations with those countries which expressed support for Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait—Yemen, Jordan, and Sudan—were severely strained during and immediately after the war. For example, several hundred thousand Yemenis were expelled from Saudi Arabia after the Government of Yemen announced its position, thus exacerbating an existing border dispute. Saudi-Yemeni relations, especially in the wake of the 1994 Yemen civil war, remain fragile and of significant concern to the Saudi Government. The Palestine Liberation Organization's support for Saddam cost it financial aid as well as good relations with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. Recently, though, there have been the beginnings of a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and the Palestinians, with the Saudi Government providing assistance for Palestinian Authority start-up costs.

During and after the Gulf war, the Government of Saudi Arabia provided water, food, shelter, and fuel for coalition forces in the region. There also were monetary payments to some coalition partners. Saudi Arabia's combined costs in payments, forgone revenues, and donated supplies were $55 billion. More than $15 billion went toward reimbursing the United States alone.

## Travel Notes

**Customs:** Saudi Arabia forbids the importation, sale, or use of alcohol or illicit drugs. The government has and will continue to apply the death penalty to anyone convicted of possession of drugs with intent to distribute. In this conservative Muslim society, visitors must not import into Saudi Arabia any non-Muslim religious materials, pork products, or any material that may be construed as pornographic by Saudi censors. Cholera shots are required for entry for travelers arriving from areas where cholera is epidemic. All visa applicants must have a letter of invitation from an employer or Saudi sponsor.

**Climate and clothing:** Lightweight clothing is essential for the hot (38°C-54°C) climate. However, during the winter months in the interior regions (such as in Riyadh), the weather can be quite cool, so warmer clothing is recommended. Riyadh is dry, while Jeddah and Dhahran are humid most of the year. Western men and women should dress very conservatively. For women, skirts should be mid-calf length, sleeves elbow length, and necklines very modest; pants and pantsuits may attract unwanted attention.

**Health:** First-class hotels are available in all the major cities. Eat and drink cautiously outside major hotels and restaurants. Hospital and emergency care and services in major cities approach U.S. standards.

**Telecommunications:** Telephone and telegraph service is expanding rapidly, and direct domestic and overseas dialing is available at most locations within the country. Riyadh is eight time zones ahead of eastern standard time. There are several daily English-language newspapers, as well as an English-language television station.

**Transportation:** Many domestic and international flights are scheduled daily; taxis and rental cars are available in all major cities. Saudi Arabia has an impressive and rapidly expanding network of paved roads, including super-highways, connecting the country's regions and major cities. Women are forbidden to drive, and women traveling alone normally are unable to rent a hotel room. ❑

## U.S.- SAUDI ARABIAN RELATIONS

Saudi Arabia's unique role in the Arab and Islamic worlds and its strategic location make its friendship important to the United States. Diplomatic relations were established in 1933; the U.S. embassy opened in Jeddah in 1944 and moved to Riyadh in 1984.

The United States and Saudi Arabia share a common concern about regional security, oil exports and imports, and sustainable development. Close consultations between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have developed on international, economic, and development issues such as the Middle East peace process and shared interests in the Gulf. The continued availability of reliable sources of oil, particularly from Saudi Arabia, remains important to the prosperity of the United States as well as to Europe and Japan. Saudi Arabia is the leading source of imported oil for the United States, providing more than 20% of total U.S. crude imports and 10% of U.S. consumption.

Since 1933, the Saudi Arabian Government has relied on the U.S. Government and private organizations for technical expertise and assistance in developing its human and mineral resources. The two countries established a Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation in June 1974. Under commission auspices, cooperation between the two countries has grown in technical training and education, agriculture, science and technology, transportation, government administration, industrialization, and solar energy research.

In addition to economic ties, a long-standing security relationship continues to be important in U.S.-Saudi relations. A U.S. military training mission established at Dhahran in 1953 provides training and support in the use of weapons and other security-related services to the Saudi armed forces. Recently, the United States has sold Saudi Arabia military aircraft (F-15s, AWACS, F-16s, and UH-60 Blackhawks), air defense weaponry (Patriot and Hawk missiles), armored vehicles (M1A2 Abrams and M-2 Bradleys), and other equipment. The compatibility of equipment has helped U.S. operations in the Gulf. The U.S. Corps of Engineers has had a long-term role in military and civilian construction activities in the kingdom.

The Gulf war demonstrated U.S.-Saudi relations, with instances of direct cooperation during the conflict in the areas of cultural accommodation, command structure, and combat. For example, the United States respected Saudi Arabia's Islamic culture by issuing general orders prohibiting the consumption of alcohol and setting guidelines for off-duty behavior and attire. Saudi Arabia accommodated U.S. culture and its military procedures by allowing U.S. servicewomen to serve in their varied roles throughout the kingdom—a large step for a patriarchal society.

### Human Rights

Despite close cooperation on security issues, the United States remains concerned about human rights conditions in Saudi Arabia. Principal human rights problems include abuse of prisoners and incommunicado detention; prohibitions or severe restrictions on the freedoms of speech and press, peaceful assembly and association, and religion; denial of the right of citizens to change their government; systematic discrimination against women and ethnic and religious minorities; and suppression of workers' rights.

**Principal U.S. Officials**

Ambassador—Raymond E. Mabus
Deputy Chief of Mission—
C. David Welch
Counselor for Consular Affairs—
Gretchen G. Welch
Counselor for Economic Affairs—
Frank S. Parker
Counselor for Political Affairs—
Kenneth R. McKune
Counselor for Political-Military
Affairs—Richard A. Smith, Jr.
Counselor for Public Affairs—
C. Edward Bernier
Consul General, Dhahran—David Winn
Consul General, Jeddah—
Charles L. Daris

The U.S. embassy in Saudi Arabia is located in the Diplomatic Quarter of Riyadh (tel. 966-1-488-3800). The Consulate General in Jeddah is located on Palestine Road, Ruwais, Jeddah (tel. 966-2-667-0080); and the Consulate General in Dhahran is located between ARAMCO Headquarters and the Dhahran International Airport (tel. 966-3-891- 3200). The embassy and consulates are open for business Saturday through Wednesday, in accordance with the official workweek of Saudi Arabia. ■

# Office of First Lady Scheduling

## Scheduling Request

| | |
|---|---|
| Organization: | American Society for Technion-Istael Institute of Technology |
| Requesting Other: | []Speaker [x] Meet/Greet [] Video [] Letter (Greeting) |
| Event: | Visit to oldest school in Israel studying effects of Chernobyl |
| Location: | Haifa, Israel |
| Date | During her trip |
| Contact: | Lawrence Jackier 212.262.6200 |
| Recommended By: | See HRC letter |

## Delivery and Notes

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 Deliver To: ____ From: Date: | 2 Deliver To: ____ From: Date: |
| 3 Deliver To: ____ From: Date: | 4 Deliver To: ____ From: Date: |

Status: ❑ Regret ❑ Pending ❑ Accept ❑ Letter (Greeting) ❑ Video

THE WHITE HOUSE

June 23, 1999

Mr. Lawrence Jackier
Mr. Melvyn H. Bloom
810 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Jackier and Mr. Bloom:

Thank you for your invitation to visit the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa. I didn't go to Israel this month as planned, but will consider visiting the Institute on a future trip.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Cc: Patti Solis Doyle
Paul Shatz
Johanna Neuman

# Withdrawal/Redaction Marker
## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE | DATE | RESTRICTION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 002. letter | To Hillary Clinton from Paul Shatz re: visit (partial) (1 page) | 06/09/99 | P6/b(6) |

**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Eric Massey (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 17216

**FOLDER TITLE:**
Middle East [2]

2012-1036-S
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**RESTRICTION CODES**

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P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

**Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]**

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

# PAUL M. SHATZ

[redacted] P6/(b)(6)

[002]

June 9,1999

Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Hillary:

It was a very special honor to be one of your dinner companions at the White Oak conference. I specially enjoyed talking about your daughter and your future plans.

I have enclosed some information on the Technion Institute of Technology as well as a personnal invation to visit the Institute while you are in Hafia.

The local contact for the University to arrange the timing of your visit is Mrs Johanna Neumann, Chapter Director of the Washington D.C. chapter. Phone number 301 654 4773.

The news has been good since our White Oak confernence and lets hope it continues.

Deane and I will be in France with three of our daughters for the next nine days. I hope you and Chelsea have a wonderful trip.

Cordially,

Paul

Paul Shatz

Johanna Neumann
American Society for Technion
Suite 705E
7315 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

# American Society for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology



June 8, 1999

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

. Israel is home to some 200,000 immigrants who survived the century's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl and came to one of the world's most advanced scientific communities. The effects of radiation on the population exposed to this nuclear disaster -- especially on breast cancer, genetic defects and reproductive problems -- are being intensively studied at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, the country's only comprehensive science and technology university.

This work is being underwritten in large part by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Initiated in Congress by Representative Nita M. Lowey of New York, the project operates under the auspices of the Samuel Neaman Institute for Advanced Studies in Science and Technology, the Middle East's leading think tank headed by Prof. Zehev Tadmor, who retired as Technion President last year.

Israel's oldest university -- now celebrating its 75th anniversary -- the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology is the engine driving the country's extraordinary economic achievements. It educates nearly all the women and men who have launched and are managing Israel's 2,000 high-tech companies, from Uzia Galil, the "grandfather" of high tech to his daughter Ruth Alon, CEO of Netvision, the country's leading Internet service provider. The impact of the Technion's breakthrough reseach is felt around the world -- from improved treatments for heart disease to novel technologies for water recycling. And its 13,000 students and 700 faculty members include native born Israelis and immigrants from 40 nations, with a growing number of guest students from around the world.

The New York-based American Technion Society (ATS) is the leading American organization supporting higher education in Israel. Our 20,000 supporters around the country have contributed $713 million to the Technion since 1940, more than half of that during the last seven years.

As president and executive vice president of the American Technion Society we invite you to visit the Technion and view a landmark project vital to the world's understanding of radiation's health effects and, if time permits, see a little more of how the Technion reflects the best in Israeli society.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Jackier
President

Melvyn H. Bloom
Executive Vice President

# Clinton Presidential Records
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# خريطة الطرق

# المغرب

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