

THE LINK

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UNITY OUT OF DIVERSITY

The United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is a union of seven Emirates which were formerly known as the Trucial States. They are Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras al-Khaimah, Ajman, Umm al-Qaiwain and Fujairah. The Emirates were all coastal settlements, while some have inland enclaves surrounded by one or more of the other Emirates. The total area of the U.A.E. is about 33,000 sq. miles and the total population is now estimated at 342,000. At the last census in 1968 the total population was 180,000 and since that date the population has grown not only by natural increase but by immigration mainly from Oman, Pakistan, India and other Arab countries. The country falls geographically into four areas: the mountain zone, the gravel plains west of the mountains, the coastal strip and the desert interior.



Fujairah

Ruler: H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed al-Sharqi
Population: an estimated 28,000.

Ajman

Ruler: H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid al-Nuaimi
Population: an estimated 24,000.

Umm al-Qaiwan

Ruler: H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid al-Mulla
Population: an estimated 18,000.

Ras al-Khaimah

Ruler: H.H. Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed al-Qasimi
Population: an estimated 45,000.

The Seven States of U.A.E.

Abu Dhabi

Ruler: H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan
Population: an estimated 250,000.

Dubai

Ruler: H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al-Maktoum
Population: an estimated 215,000.

Sharjah

Ruler: H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi
Population: an estimated 62,000.

The Purpose of Unity

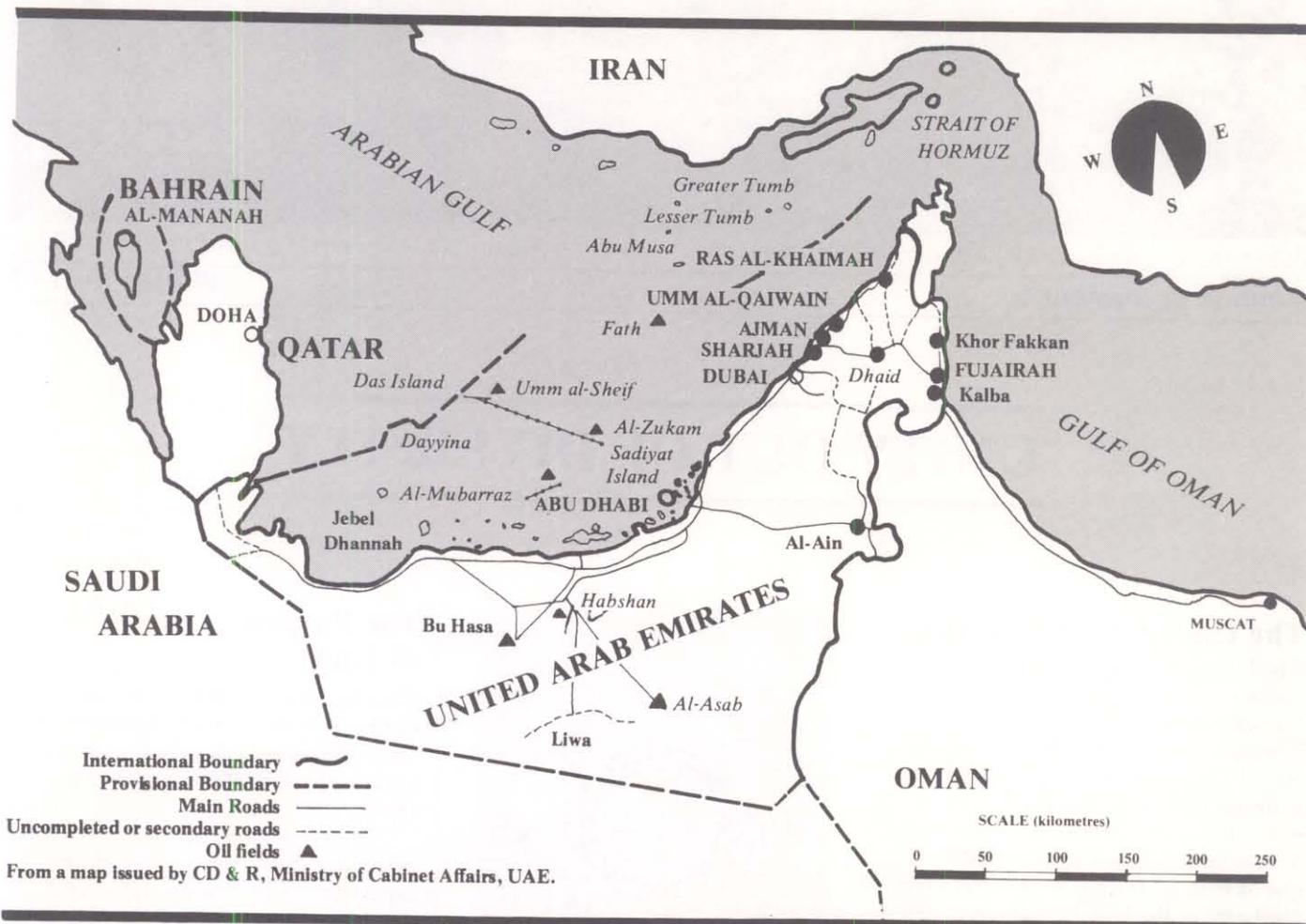
The idea of unity between an assorted group of sheikhdoms is something completely new, a developing concept. Sheikh Zayed, explaining the past, says:

"The people were all under separate rulers or Emirs. None of us had any experience of Federation. Of course, we were close together and there was a natural family relationship between such near neighbours. But none of us had ever enjoyed the advantage of a plan of co-ordination or, indeed, the help of any co-ordinators. To all critics I have said: 'Give us time till both the people and the rulers discover the advantage of federation, after years of separation. When they discover the advantages for themselves things will from that time on become easier for all. It is useless to have endless discussions about problems. What we need is for everyone to realise the advantages from personal experience.'"

It is the tactic of the wiser Bedouin not to resist but to go with the tide of the times — steering with the current rather than against it — that has created the unity of the United Arab Emirates.

As individuals change their attitudes from year to year and understand the purpose of unity, a new climate comes into a nation's life.

The U.A.E. on its fifth anniversary lays emphasis more than ever before on this new climate.



Democracy Takes Roots

Division is so often the mark of the present age. Division in the home, division in the tribe or group. Division both within the country and between countries. The task of the U.A.E. as seen by Sheikh Zayed is the human task of educating and motivating people towards unity. It has always been his philosophy that it would be fatal if leaders emerged who tried to preserve any official authority by hiding weaknesses instead of being honest about them.

During the past few months, because of issues to be settled regarding the border demarcation between some of the Emirates, there has again been considerable discussion, much of it misinformed, in the western press regarding the U.A.E. (Differences as to the way to go, questions about individual rights to be satisfied, are common in all countries.)

The important and significant point about the U.A.E. is that here is a diversified union of Emirates who continue to settle differences by discussion, agreement and consensus.

The Supreme Council of Rulers of the U.A.E. have again unanimously elected H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan as President of the Emirates for a second five-year term and H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al-Maktoum, ruler of Dubai, as Vice President.

A new and fledgling democracy has taken its first steps in recent years in the United Arab Emirates.

Where no forum for political debate previously existed, a forum has been created.

Towards unity

The work towards unity among separate states with a very diversified background has continued.

Today there is a Federal National Council. This consists of the seven rulers of the seven separate states together with a Federal Cabinet consisting of a Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minis-

ter and 25 other ministers. In terms of representation Abu Dhabi provides nine ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister.

The state of Dubai has four ministers and also provides the Prime Minister.

Ras Al-Khaimah has four ministers. Sharjah has three ministers. Ajman and Umm Al-Qaiwain have two ministers each.

Fujairah has one minister.

National Assembly

The legislature itself has a national assembly totalling 40 members, eight of these represent Abu Dhabi. Eight represent Dubai. Six represent Sharjah. Six represent Ras al-Khaimah. Four each represent the other Emirates.

The aim is Justice

"Our object is to achieve justice and balance and to see to it that the strong do not oppress the weak. We are attempting to get as broad a base of people as possible in decision-making posts." — Sheikh Zayed.

Islamic-Christian Conference in U.A.E.

Abu Dhabi has been selected as a possible venue for next year's international conference of Christians and Moslems now being discussed by Vatican and Islamic conference officials. At the beginning of this year the Islamic Christian dialogue was held in Tripoli, Libya.

Visited

Sheikh Zayed's cultural adviser, Dr. Izzedin Ibrahim, has already visited the Vatican to discuss arrangements for a dialogue with Pope Paul VI. Dr. Izzedin is the current Secretary-General of the Islamic conference.

In the past, the Vatican has pioneered Christian thinking in seeking closer

relations with the Moslem faith. There have been frequent visits by Papal envoys to the Arab world and the Vatican has repeatedly urged a Middle East settlement based on the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Meeting

The meeting between Pope Paul and Dr. Izzedin Ibrahim is reported to have centred upon a medium for dialogue and understanding between the Christian and Moslem worlds "in affirmation of their intent to uphold common values and belief in one God."

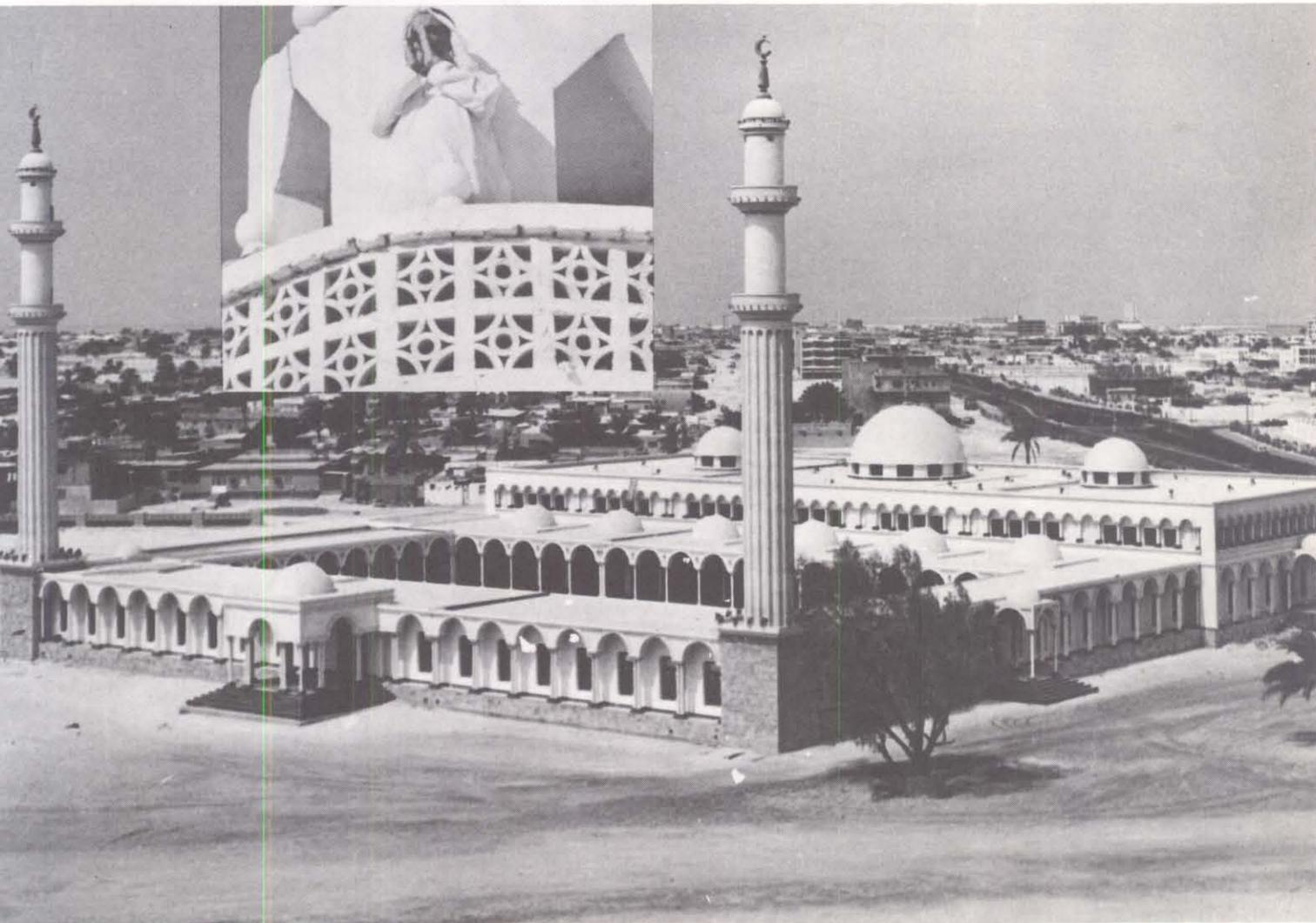
In his opening address to this year's Islamic-Christian dialogue, Cardinal Sergio Pignedoli said, "Christian and Moslem communities were united in a common value which imposes on us the precise task of being men of charity and service."

Reminder

Underlining Cardinal Pignedoli's statement, Dr. Ahmed Al-Sharif, who headed the Moslem delegations to the Tripoli Dialogue, reminded the conference of the exaltations of the Christians contained in the Koran. Moslems look upon Christians as "the people of the Book" and as "brothers in the faith of one God."

Sheikh Zayed, President of the U.A.E., says: "Islam calls for the closing of the ranks — the unity and drawing together of all the people. This closing of the ranks of the Arab nation is achieved by Islam and in no other way. Islam in its true essence provides guidance. This does not mean that it quarrels with other religions. In fact, by its own stand, it puts other faiths in equally high respect. Because, you see, Islam believes we are all servants of God. We are all equal. We have all of us been created by God in his wisdom."

Abu Dhabi is now being considered by Moslems and Christians as the possible location of a 1977 international conference. Pictured here is one of Abu Dhabi's principle mosques.



GOOD NEIGHBOUR TO THE

The United Arab Emirates on its fifth anniversary can look back on a remarkable record of good neighbourliness towards other countries. Its aid programme has been unequalled. During the present year, 1976, the Abu Dhabi Fund has finalised agreements on projects in Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Burundi, Mali and the Maldives Islands.

Today 30 per cent of the gross national product of Abu Dhabi goes in aid. This is the highest percentage of any country in the world.

H.H. Sheikh Zayed, President of the Emirates, expressed the philosophy of the country in his own words: "To help our brethren and our friends is our duty. It is the duty of the wealthy to assist first its brothers, then its friends. First, therefore, we help our brother countries. Then we help all friendly countries."

Generosity

"Some people in this life seek self-interest only. Others turn to the path of self-interest, plus generosity. We, in the Emirates, prefer the latter course," he says.

In the Arab World it is the Abu Dhabi Fund that has been extremely active in assisting neighbouring Arab countries. It has helped a transportation project in Tunisia. Two large construction projects in Jordan have been started. There has been a large agricultural project in the Yemen Arab Republic. There have been four projects in the electricity and water sector in Bahrain, Syria and Egypt.

This is to mention only a few of the projects both completed and in hand.

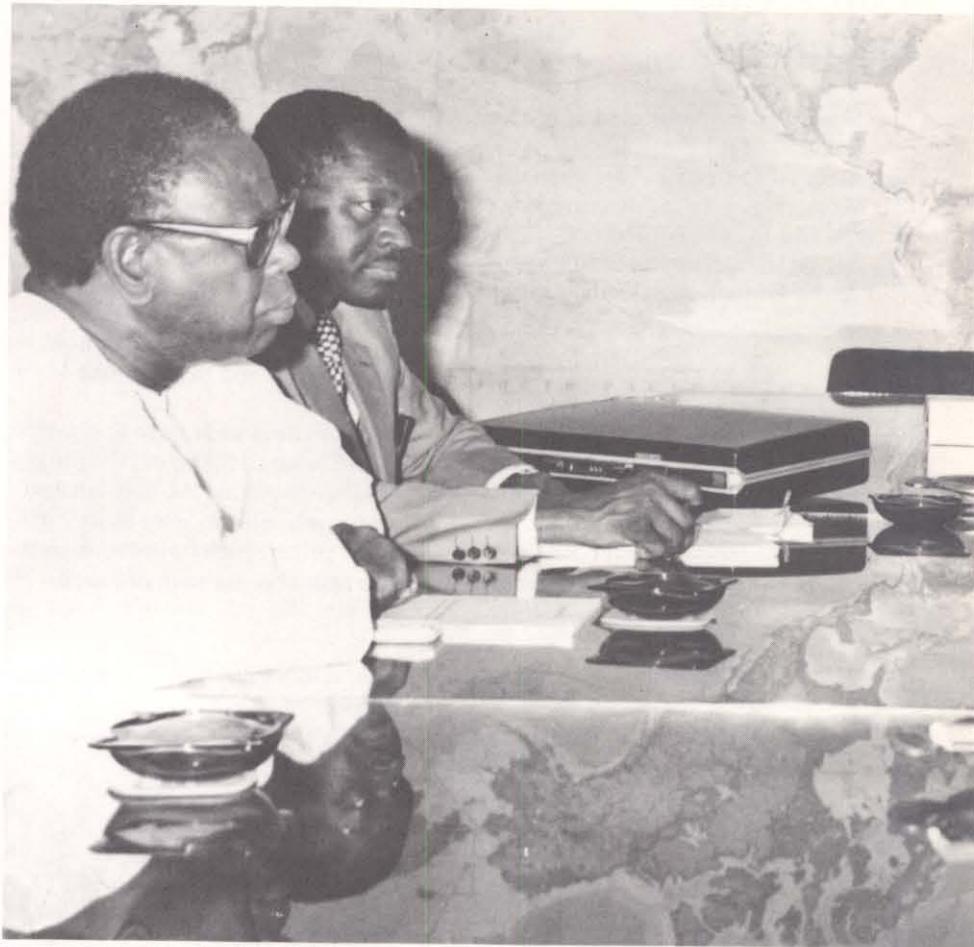
Yet loans are based on firm principles.

The first principle is non-discrimination of the various countries requesting a loan. No country is discriminated against as regards terms or as regards politics.

Economic

The second principle is achievement of the best standard of economic development. This means no prejudice in the treatment of one project or one sector of development over another.

The third principle where loans are concerned is easy interest rates and liberal repayment periods, plus a reasonable grace period for any loan repayment.



Members of the Gambian Fund Delegation meet with Emirates representatives to consider the matter of U.A.E. aid.

Trading

The fourth principle, believing that trade between countries is the healthiest way for the world community, is that the U.A.E. should invest or participate in projects which offer suitable trade benefit to all parties concerned.

Participation

The fifth principle is participation in relatively large-scale projects in order that sufficient attention can be paid to guarantee the project's success.

The scope of the U.A.E. aid programme is now evident for all to see. It proceeds into another year without any desire for the exploitation of individual benefits.

Over 30% of income goes on foreign aid

Over 30 per cent of the United Arab Emirates' gross income in 1975 was spent on foreign aid and the figure is

not expected to alter for 1976.

This percentage must be one of the highest in the world. Loans extended by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADFAED) were distributed to several developing countries and not only Arab countries as the name suggests.

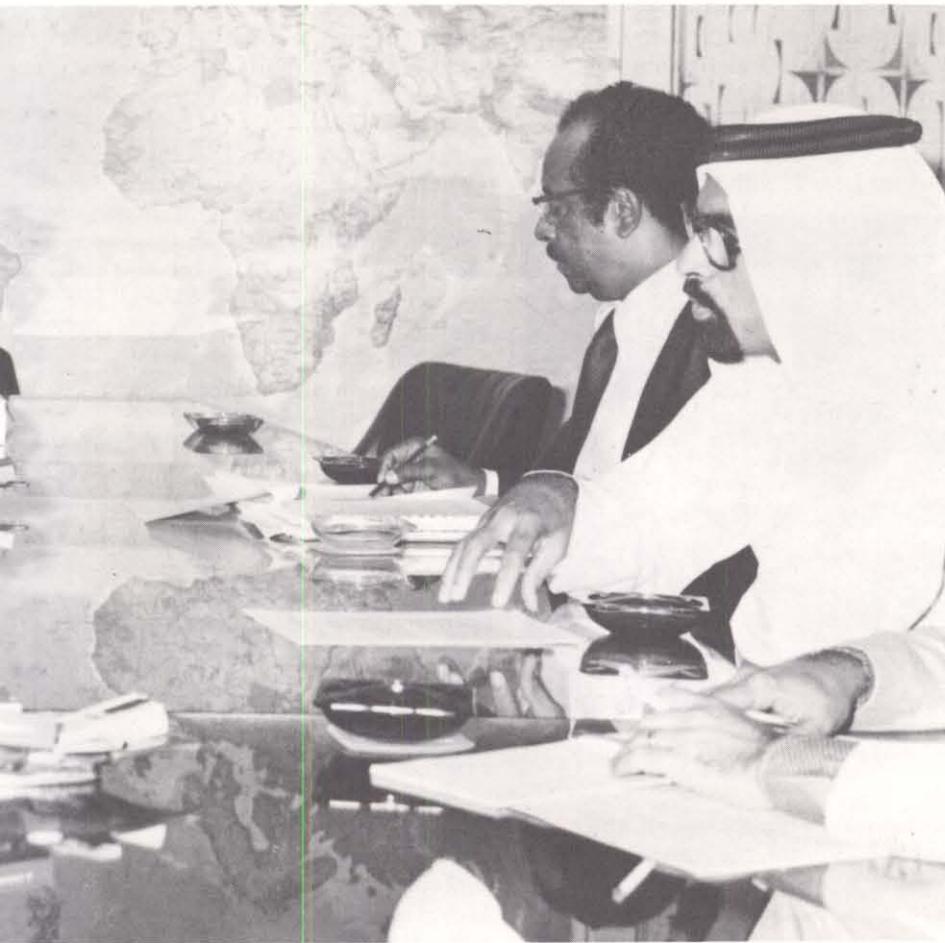
Long-Term

ADFAED was created in 1971 with a capital of 500 million dirhams (about £62 million) with the specific aim of offering long-term loans at low rates to other Arab countries. By the end of 1974, its first year of substantive aid negotiations, the fund had lent as much as 200 million dirhams.

In the second half of that year, the fund's capital was quadrupled to 2,000 million dirhams and its articles rewritten extending its sphere of activity to all Arab, African, Asian and Islamic countries and making technical aid available as well as financial aid.

The fund finances revenue-produc-

THIRD WORLD AND AFRICA



ing products or service industry projects only, as opposed to simple budget deficits. The maximum contribution which ADAED can make to any single project is 50 per cent. The balance must be provided by the government concerned, a commercial bank or company, another development fund or an international financing organisation.

Interest rates vary between two per cent for service industry development and about five per cent for commercial schemes. Repayment periods vary from between ten and twenty years. ADAED's loans are paid out in stages during the project against evidence of completion.

Politics

In theory, ADAED has no interest in the political direction of the country to which it lends and according to a recent article on the U.A.E.'s aid schemes in the Times "is not supposed to be an instrument of foreign policy."

One of the fund's important domestic roles is to train economists. Several are in Britain, Europe and some Arab countries training at banks and financial institutions. Meanwhile, the pressure on the existing staff of 60 administrators is great.

The U.A.E. has tended to join with other oil exporters for specific projects in recent years as well as single grants for disaster relief to such countries as Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Funds

Apart from its own aid-dispensing organisations, the U.A.E. belongs to two major funds. One is that set up by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting countries (OPEC) for Africa and the developing Islamic countries and the other is the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait.

It is virtually impossible to calculate a total figure for U.A.E.'s aid. However, the official estimate for state

aid in 1975 was 3,500 million dirhams which amounts to the same as the internal development allocation in Abu Dhabi's own budget from a total estimated revenue of 13,000 million dirhams.

The mission of OPEC in a developing world

"OPEC must now be recognised as a positive force in the world oil industry, over and above its traditional role as protector and champion of its members' interests," says Mana Saeed Al-Otaiba, U.A.E. Petroleum Minister, in his recent book on OPEC and the Petroleum industry.

Talking of OPEC's role he emphasises the need for unity.

"The OPEC states can only strengthen the Organisation and its effectiveness if differences among them on political and other issues, as well as traditional inter-state rivalries, are kept out of the Organisation and if attempts to sow discord between members are fiercely resisted. Provided OPEC remains united, it will undoubtedly continue to act effectively in the best interest, not only of its members, but also of world stability and prosperity," he states.

Burden

Mr. Al-Otaiba writes: "OPEC member-states have recognised the additional financial burden which higher oil prices are imposing on the economies of oil-consuming states in the developing world. They have, therefore, granted price discounts to these countries as well as aid in the form of long-term development financing on easy terms.

Helping

"A development fund has been created by OPEC to help the developing states, while two other separate funds have been set up by the Arab states, one to lend money on easy terms to developing states in Asia and Africa with the specific purpose of financing oil purchases, and the other to provide general development aid.

"This is in addition to the development funds created separately by some OPEC members such as Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, through which an increasing amount of bilateral development aid is being channelled to the poorer countries of Africa and Asia."

Eleven-Point Foreign Policy

resolutions adopted, which reaffirm the right of the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination, to return to their land, and to exercise their national sovereignty. These are resolutions which condemn Israel for its inhuman practices against the Palestinian people, which stress the imperative need for Israel's withdrawal from all

reservations on some of the recommendations notwithstanding, that the recommendations are positive on the whole, as an initial step towards the achievements of the principles and purposes of the Charter, inasmuch as these latter relate to the Palestinian people.

We therefore expect that the General Assembly takes effective measures during the present session, in a bid to implement those recommendations.

Racism

Recent incidents concerning the existence of overall collaboration and co-ordination between the governments of Israel and South Africa on various political, military and economic phases, have upheld our case that Zionism is the basis of existence for racist Israel.

The unholy alliance and the co-operation between South Africa and Israel emanate from the very tenets on which their respective regimes forbid rights to the original citizen to his own country, while endowing those rights to a foreign colonialist.

Rhodesia

The continuation of the white minority regime in Rhodesia and South Africa, has been conducive to the detonation of a bloody war that may engulf the whole of Africa, a continent which most urgently needs peace and stability, in order to rebuild itself and its economy after long bleak decades of poverty and backwardness.

South Africa

Since joining the United Nations, our government has manifested its extreme concern at the seriousness of the continued white minority regimes in those African territories.

We have strongly condemned the policy of apartheid practised by the South African government, because this policy constitutes a challenge of the most fundamental human ideals and rights and is a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter.

We notice with satisfaction the increasing isolation imposed by the international community on the two racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia, and the growing activities of the African liberation movements, in struggling to regain the dignity of their peoples and sovereignty over their national soil.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saif bin Ghobash (center) chats with Ambassador Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka (on his right) and Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations.

Speaking to the United Nations recently, Saif bin Ghobash, U.A.E. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, outlined the foreign policy of the Emirates under twelve main headings.

Palestine

While we nurture feelings of joy and pride at the fact that the world community has recently been addressing itself, progressively and persistently, to the realisation of the right of self-determination for those peoples of the world who live in Southern Africa we find ourselves overwhelmed with other feelings of dismay and disappointment at the denial to the people of Palestine from joining with this great historical march.

In this respect, we are fully aware of the decisions taken by the United Nations, in inscribing the question of Palestine as a separate item in the agenda of the General Assembly, and in inviting the Palestine Liberation Organisation to participate as observer in the sessions and work of the General Assembly.

We also recognise the continued consideration by the U.N. of the Palestine question in substance.

We further express our thanks and gratitude to the United Nations for

occupied Arab territories and which condemn Zionism, the cornerstone of the Israel's entity, as a racist movement.

The value inherent in any resolution adopted by the international organisation is not confined to its human and moral implications, but rather goes further to the steps that may be taken for its implementation.

Proceeding from this fact, it is our view that the resolution adopted by the General Assembly at its last session to form a committee on the exercise by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights, and the recommendation of that committee which we support and uphold, could not lead to any desired good unless such a resolution is followed with positive and effective measures for the implementation of those recommendations.

In this connection, we cannot but express our regret at the attitude adopted by some states towards those recommendations, when they were brought up for consideration of the Security Council. We further condemn Israel for its refusal to comply with those recommendations.

We have previously stated at the Security Council that we consider our

Freedom Fighters

We hope that all endeavours aimed at the attainment of a peaceful settlement of the grave situation, which poses a threat to Africa's security and integrity and could consequently endanger international peace and security, will be crowned with success.

However, we can but, in the absence of such settlement, extend moral and material aid to the African liberation movements, to enable them to achieve their noble target of liberation and independence.

Cyprus

The United Nations has exerted serious efforts to find a solution to the question of Cyprus, with special appreciation to Dr. Kurt Waldheim for his personal efforts in this respect.

We appreciate those efforts and request our Secretary-General not to halt his endeavours. The bitter fact, nevertheless, is that Cyprus still should wait for a just solution to its problem. A solution that takes into consideration the interests of the Turkish and Greek communities, and maintains the independence and territorial integrity of this island.

Indian Ocean

The United Arab Emirates has supported, since its inception, the United Nations resolution declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

We further support all measures and steps designed to give effect and respect to this declaration.

Gulf Unity

We sincerely work for the consolidation of co-operation among the Gulf states, and we spare no effort for the realisation of security and stability in our region.

We have continuously called for the solution of differences among states in our region, if any, peacefully and without any foreign intervention.

In this respect, we proceed from our faith in the need to keep the Gulf region far removed from the super powers' rivalries.

Law of the Sea

The delegation of the United Arab Emirates has noticed with regret that the fifth session of the Third United Nations Conference of the Law of Sea has failed to make any substantial progress.

In spite of the fact that there is an agreement on certain significant points in the Law of the Sea, such as definition of the 12-miles territorial water limit, the sovereignty of the coastal state on its resources, the definition of the 200 nautical miles of economic zone, the freedom of navigation through the straits connecting two high seas, the rules to prevent marine pollution, the very important matter of exploitation of the sea beds outside the territorial waters as the common heritage of mankind, is still subject to sharp differences, and no concrete progress has been scored thereon.

The United Arab Emirates attaches great significance to this matter, and earnestly hopes that the conference will succeed at its next session in working out the just authority and regime for the exploitation of the resources of the sea beds for the sake of mankind as a whole.

We honestly believe that the attainment of a solution to this problem would be one of the greatest achievements accomplished by our organisation since its establishment.

UNCTAD

We regret the failure of the Fourth UNCTAD to realise the ambitions of developing countries which were voiced in the Manila Declaration and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in its sixth and seventh special sessions.

We welcome the declaration and the programme of action on economic co-operation, approved by the fifth conference of heads of non-aligned states or governments and we hold that recognition of the principles contained in the documents of that conference provide a sound programme on the global level, and constitute a worthy contribution to the efforts being exerted to realise justice in the new international economic relations.

It is our view that the initiative of the developing countries which produce raw materials and commodities in undertaking fresh initiatives based on the principles approved by the Lima Conference in 1975, in the implementation of the programme of mutual assistance and solidarity, should receive encouragement.

Here reference should be made to the relevance of the Manila Declaration to the definition of the economic philosophy of the developing countries, which we further believe should serve

as the foundation for the new international economic order that requires the removal of exploitative methods from the fields of trade, industry, finance and technology.

In addition, we hold the view that economic co-operation among developing countries, the Mexico conference having examined the various necessary methods and alternative measures to realise the principle of self-reliance, which stems from self-confidence on the part of developing countries, could ensure the establishment of the new international economic order.

The Third World

My country, a small developing and newly independent nation, believes in the principles of non-alignment and peaceful co-operation among states.

It has directed its special attention to foreign aid, and has generously contributed in order to alleviate the stress of economic difficulties which afflicted developing countries as a direct consequence of the severe imbalance in the international economic structure and financial inflation which has been exported to those countries by the industrialised developed countries.

We will continue offering our assistance within our limited possibilities as a developing nation to other Third World countries.

As much as we may feel proud of the achievements made in the field of political liberation, we still feel concerned for the lack of parallel progress in the economic domain.

The Third World continues to suffer from poverty and deprivation, and the gap between developed industrialised countries and developing countries continues to grow.

We are deeply concerned that there still exists strong resistance on the part of developed countries to the implementation of the declaration and programme of action, as well as other resolutions, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in its sixth and special session, on the establishment of the new international economic order and to the resolution adopted by the General Assembly in its seventh session on the charter of rights and duties of states.

We are aware, more significant progress has been made at the Paris conference on economic co-operation.

THE SEVEN EMIRATES

H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, The President of The United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi



Abu Dhabi is the largest of the Emirates, with an area of approximately 26,000 sq. miles and a population now estimated at 130,000. Water was discovered on Abu Dhabi and around 1760 by the then Bedouin Beni Yas tribe, who settled around the township. Most of the arid desert and salt flats have been cultivated areas around the Liwa oases, which, with the main population, discovered oil and gas in 1962 and the oil was first produced in 1966, development has since then taken place. Abu Dhabi town has a population of 80,000 and the city of Ajman has 5,000. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, also known as the Father of the Nation, ruled Abu Dhabi from 1966 until his death in 2004. He was the first President of the United Arab Emirates, elected in December 1971. He was succeeded by his son, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, who is the current ruler of Abu Dhabi. He was the first Vice-President of the United Arab Emirates, serving from 1971 to 1996. He was also the Ruler of the Emirate of Ajman from 1928 to 1971. He was the first President of the United Arab Emirates, elected in December 1971. He was succeeded by his son, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, who is the current ruler of Abu Dhabi. He was the first Vice-President of the United Arab Emirates, serving from 1971 to 1996. He was also the Ruler of the Emirate of Ajman from 1928 to 1971.

which has ruled in Abu Dhabi for over two centuries.

During his early years Sheikh Zayed was given a thorough grounding in the teachings of the Koran and learnt to read and write in the traditional manner and to appreciate Arabic literature. Schools which have now become commonplace throughout the Emirates did not then exist and Sheikh Zayed had to complete his education through his own initiative and thirst for knowledge and by listening to his elders at the daily Majlis, or audience, where any member of the public can come and present his problems or requests to the Ruler. He had already travelled extensively in Asia, Europe and America before he became Ruler.

Appointed in 1946 Governor of the Eastern Province of Abu Dhabi, which includes the Al-Ain and surrounding oases, Sheikh Zayed devoted himself to improving the area. He was particularly interested in agricultural development and the possibilities of "making the desert bloom" through the scientific use of available water supplies. In the early days Sheikh Zayed studied the falaj or underground water canal system used in ancient times and was responsible for having them cleared out and repaired throughout the Al-Ain area. He started the first experimental farm just outside Al-Ain and later the first horse breeding stables. From the experiences of these early days the new tradition of planting trees and bushes throughout the Emirates has grown. The oil revenues have provided the means of increasing the water supply, first throughout Abu Dhabi and later throughout the Emirates, by the digging of new wells, piped distribution of water and desalination plants. As Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed played a leading role in the creation of the United Arab Emirates, and since its foundation he has keenly promoted and supervised the economic development of the whole country, in raising the living standards of the people and establishing the voice of the U.A.E. in Arab and world affairs.

He has seen to it that the wealth of Abu Dhabi has spread widely throughout the land and that all the people of all the Emirates share equally in the rise of living standards and the distribution of state welfare benefits. The latest and most dramatic step taken in this direction was the decision of Sheikh Zayed to allocate as much as 50 per cent of the national income of Abu

Dhabi for the Union budget. President Zayed has also obtained by his statesmanship a high degree of influence for the U.A.E in Arab and international circles.

H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al-Maktoum, The Vice-President of The United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai



Dubai, lying to the north-east of Abu Dhabi, covers 1,500 sq. miles and has a population of 110,000 nearly all living in Dubai town and port. Its main feature is the creek which extends eight miles inland and in former times was often taken for a river.

H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al-Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, is the head of the Al bu Falasah branch of the Bani Yas tribe which moved from Abu Dhabi to Dubai in 1833. Sheikh Rashid became Ruler in 1958 on the death of his father, Sheikh Saeed bin Maktoum, at the age of 80. Sheikh Rashid had already been conducting the business of the state on behalf of his father for the previous 17 years.

The rule of Sheikh Rashid has been marked by rapid economic expansion stemming from his consistent support of private initiative and enterprise. Dubai was already an important commercial centre for the Lower Gulf before Sheikh Rashid became Ruler, but during the past two decades there has been accelerated progress with oil revenues flowing into Dubai.

Sheikh Rashid has travelled widely. He has sought to bring to Dubai and to the Emirates the benefits of modern technology and industrial know-how which he has seen for himself overseas. Among the imaginative ventures which he has sponsored are the construction of the modern Port Rashid, the largest in the area, the dry dock now being built which will eventually be able to accommodate a million-ton tanker and two half-million ton tankers simultaneously, and a new Trade and Exhibition Centre.

**H.H. Sheikh Sultan,
Ruler of Sharjah**



Sharjah town is built on a creek and its territory stretches inland to the foot of the Hajar mountain range which sweeps down into Oman. Apart from two inland enclaves, Sharjah has three territories on the Gulf of Oman — Khor Fakkan, Kalba and Dibba. The total area is about 1,000 sq. miles and total population 50,000. Sharjah remains a trading centre, although it gave up its earlier leading place in the area to Dubai when the Sharjah creek silted up after great storms in the fifties. Now that oil has recently been discovered in commercial quantities, the Ruler is intending to enlarge the harbour facilities and introduce further economic development in the Emirate. The Ruler has stated that he intends that a large part of the oil revenues should directly benefit the population in improved education and social services.

**H.H. Sheikh Saqr,
Ruler of Ras al-Khaimah**



Ras al-Khaimah town is also built on a fine creek and is the fourth largest of the Emirates covering an area of 650 sq. miles with a population of 30,000. Ras al-Khaimah is the main farming area of the Emirates with a favourable climate and fertile plains, the Hajar mountains to the east descending into surprisingly green and almost lush vegetation. Agriculture is the main occupation, and the Agricultural Trials Station was set up in 1955 at Digdaga in the foothills of the mountain range.

A sizeable area of the Emirate is cultivated, and dates, tobacco, fruit and vegetables are exported to the other Emirates. Oil concessions have been granted and drilling is already in progress.

**H.H. Sheikh Hamad,
Ruler of Fujairah**



Fujairah lies entirely on the Batinah Coast of the Gulf of Oman, covers 450 sq. miles and has a population of 12,000. Agriculture is the most important industry, followed by fishing and boat-building. The Emirate is partly mountainous, but the Batinah coastal plain is largely fertile. Fujairah has been cut off from the other Emirates in the past, but a new metalled road has been built connecting Fujairah with the other Emirates, and the development of this part of the UAE is expected to proceed rapidly. With a most attractive seaboard, Fujairah has always had some of the loveliest scenery in the country.

**H.H. Sheikh Rashid,
Ruler of Ajman**



Ajman is the smallest member of the U.A.E., occupying about 100 sq. miles, and is completely surrounded by Sharjah. The main town, Ajman, lies near the coast, and there are two remote and completely landlocked enclaves. Here, too, was once a prosperous pearling community, but Ajman now depends on fishing and boatbuilding and has a local fleet of dhows which operates all over the Gulf. The population is about 4,400. The Ruler has hopes for oil exploration.

**H.H. Sheikh Ahmad,
Ruler of Umm al-Qaiwan**



Like the other coastal towns, Umm al-Qaiwan is built on a creek and occupies a wedge-shaped area of 300 sq. miles between Sharjah and Ras al-Khaimah. The land is largely desert with one small oasis inland. In the old days Umm al-Qaiwan flourished, along with Dubai and Sharjah, from the pearling trade, but is now dependent on fishing, animal herding and some cultivation at the oasis. There is a population of 5,700. Oil concessions have been granted.

The Supreme Council

H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi

H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al-Maktoum, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai

H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah

H.H. Sheikh Saqr bin Mohammed al-Qasimi, Ruler of Ras al-Khaimah

H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid al-Mulla, Ruler of Umm al-Qaiwan

H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed al-Sharqi, Ruler of Fujairah

H.H. Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid al-Nuaimi, Ruler of Ajman

Rapid Change and Social Progress

Feudalism to 1976 in a few short steps

The United Arab Emirates like other Arab Oil States has been to the forefront in utilising oil wealth in the field of medicine.

The tremendous transformation in the health scene is illustrated by the fact that less than ten years ago malnourished babies lay in their desert cradles in conditions unchanged since 2000 B.C., covered from flies and festering disease by their black "melmel" cloth.

Babies were fed with milk from seashells. The odds on death from infection in babyhood were a thousand per cent more in Abu Dhabi in the early 1960's than was the case in any Western country.

Circumcision stones with simple goat skin coverings were used to circumcise the boys before the age of seven with a crude three inch "razor"

Instead of penicillin, the people in those days still used animal herbs for applying to holes punctured in the skin. Horse manure was used as a treatment for fever or as a purgative.

A man suffering from a knife wound might have the wound prized open, a cup of boiling hot molasses applied to it for sterilisation, and the wound then tightly bound up. A Bedouin suffering from various suspected diseases of the blood would have to endure a blood letting, where his skin was pricked with a knife blackened in flame, and a cow's horn applied to the surface of the flesh to suck out blood. A person suspected to be beyond known help could be put aside in a tent alone, with food for a few weeks, perhaps half a mile from an encampment.

Such were the incredible conditions still prevailing up to these very recent years.

A Health Service to Meet Today's Needs

Abu Dhabi Government Hospital is in many ways a symbol of that country's aim to lead the medical field in the Middle East.

The hospital was established nine years ago with a mere 50 beds. The capacity is now 600. Even so, some wards are extremely full.

Administration of this rapidly growing hospital is in the hands of two distinguished U.A.E. nationals. Dr. Abdur Rahmin Jaffer, head of curative medicine who trained in the United States and qualified as a consultant surgeon there, and Dr. Abdul Wahab, head of preventive medicine who took his Ph.D in the United Kingdom.

Under the direction of these two men, Abu Dhabi is forming a medical service of which it can be proud.

The Ministry of Health has a good understanding of the aims and standards which hospital staff want to achieve.

New operating theatres are under construction as well as a new radiology department equipped with an X-ray machine for a population of 250,000.

The Best

Abu Dhabi can afford to pay for well qualified staff and many of the medical and surgical staff have first class post-graduate qualifications.

There is an unusual predominance of senior staff. For example, in the anaesthesia department, there are two anaesthetic consultants and eight registrars who contribute to as many as 400 operations a month.

Nurses are recruited from many countries and although only those with recognised training diplomas are accepted, there is still considerable difficulty in getting nurses of varying backgrounds and experience to work smoothly as a team. As soon as U.A.E. girls can be trained in sufficient numbers, this problem will of course be overcome.

In Abu Dhabi the first priority is for a completely new hospital building for at least 1,000 beds. Ras al-Khaimah has a new school of nursing although the training for local girls to become nurses will be scant until the new hospital is a reality.

An artificial limb complex is also being built and this will be capable of serving the entire Arabian Gulf.

Workforce

More than 1,500 people are employed in the Abu Dhabi hospital and that figure excludes the large number occupied on the premises in catering, cleaning and other services.

Treatment at the hospital is free to all government employees, the unemployed, wives and children. The service offered by the highly qualified staff under the direction of consultants of international standing is of the very best.

Facts and Figures

Health has been given a high priority by the U.A.E. Government and allocations in the budget have risen from 56 million dirhams in 1973 to 267 million in 1975.

Rashid Hospital in Dubai offers in-patient and out-patient treatment in medicine, surgery, obstetrics, orthopaedics and intensive care.

There are also hospitals in Abu Dhabi, Al-Ain, Sharjah, Ras al-Khaimah, Umm al-Qaiwan.

One of the projects in Abu Dhabi, known as "a grand hospital complex," will have 500 beds and is due for completion in 1979.

Winter wheat thrives in the hot desert soil

Winter wheat is thriving at Al-Ain on 160 hectares of government land. Agriculture expert Abdel Mawla and his team at the Al-Ain agricultural department are proving that grain can succeed in the semi-arid climate of the Emirates.

Using hybrid seed, the department showed last season that yields of 300 to 350 kg. were possible in 1,000 square metre plots compared to the 120 to 180 kg. yielded by local seed.

The impressive yield is having far-reaching effects. The news of last season's successes has created a new desire to get back to the land.

Mr. Mawla pointed out that "over the past 100 years the Bedouin living at Al-Ain and Burami have done their best to grow grain, but the practice had almost died out."

Mr. Mawla went on: "Our work is causing a lot of interest in farming. This year they have come to us for the seed to plant 100 or 200 square metre plots."

The wheat which was planted out in early October was already looking healthy three weeks later. It germinates after three or four days. The flooding irrigation is done at predetermined intervals.

Pipes

This year the irrigation is by P.V.C. pipeline instead of the sand canals

which Mr. Mawla estimates wasted 35 to 40 per cent of the water.

Seeding is by hand and a combine harvester is on order from Britain.

Apart from developing new hybrid seed, an important part of the centre's work is to spread the message about farming and convince the locals that it is worthwhile.

As Mr. Mawla said: "The proof of that is in the ground."

The Gulf Mirror published on last season's crops which indicated the scale with which the farm is dealing. There was, for example, a profit of one million dirhams per hectare on cucumbers and DH 250,000 per hectare on tomatoes grown under greenhouses using drip irrigation.

Growing a cash crop in the UAE means producing boxes of tomatoes and cucumbers for the urban markets

which shield the crops from the brightest sunshine and even allow for two sowings a year instead of one.

Out of season, the sun shelters helped to produce 91 tonnes of tomatoes a hectare bringing in an income of 229,000 dirhams. This was compared to a larger crop sown in the open ground in season which grossed DH 121,000.

In greenhouses the yield is even more impressive. 200 tonnes of tomatoes are produced a hectare and in the same area, 400 tonnes of cucumbers. Here the crops are controlled by pad coolers which balance humidity and coolness by water sprinkled against pads of straw with fans at the other end of the unit.

By all accounts, the experimental farm has proved that agriculture in the United Arab Emirates can be made to pay and that the challenges of the desert are not insurmountable.

Solving the Shortage of Houses

Despite the arrival of several new apartment blocks on the Abu Dhabi market, housing remains in short supply. The capital also has enormous difficulties in maintaining the high standard of living in the face of the growth of demand for services by the local population.

In addition, it is still exceedingly difficult to find a hotel room. The Hilton is currently being extended by 250 rooms and the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental is scheduled for completion in 1978, after which a second Intercontinental is to be built in the oasis resort of Al-Ain. A number of smaller hotels and motels are also planned so the situation, it is hoped, will only improve.

Certain facilities have shown very definite improvement. Waiting time at the port is now only two or three days and there is no congestion surcharge. Airport facilities, however, are stretched but a new mainland airport is being built and the existing one is undergoing extensions. To improve telecommunications an earth satellite station is to be built to link with the other two in the U.A.E. which in turn link with the Indian Ocean Intelstat 4.

Currently, large scale industrial ventures are predominantly confined to the state sector but the Government is greatly concerned with encouraging the private sector. Big incentives are



Health care has received high priority throughout the Emirates.

Bringing in the water

A three-inch black valve which drips life-giving water has put a French experimental farm at Al-Ain in Abu Dhabi's Eastern region to the forefront of "mankind's battle to roll back the desert."

According to M. Camille Debbane: "Dripping technology has been known for 10 years, but we at Al-Ain are the first in the world to develop it on a big scale in arid zones."

of Abu Dhabi and Al-Ain and as M. Debbane pointed out, these are the vegetables most liked. This is where the farm's all-the-year-round greenhouses score, because tomatoes and cucumbers can only be grown in open ground for four months of the year. After that the sun parches the ground.

In addition to the drip irrigation, the French Experimental Agriculture Centre has also pioneered another revolution aimed at greening the desert. These are movable shutters

necessary to attract capital away from property which is currently enjoying a boom in Abu Dhabi. But as long as it is possible to pay £12,500 a year for a new villa, the local investor will find little attraction in switching to unfamiliar manufacturing or industrial enterprises.

One indication of the authorities' concern is the comprehensive three-year socio-economic plan which comes into effect next month. All of the plan's 13 drafting committees (which cover energy, transport, manufacturing, agricultural development and finance)

include a representative of the private sector.

In a recent article, the Times commented that "the economic balance and even to some degree the social stability of Abu Dhabi depend to a large extent on whether or not prices, and the property boom in particular, are controlled, if at all, from above because market pressures are not going to ease this decade."

It is awkward for the Government to act, because the majority of the really big landlords play prominent roles in public life. However, act, the

authorities must, because if nothing is done, industry will not attract the large capital and rents will inevitably erode the living standards of a hefty proportion of Abu Dhabi's population.

Providing homes for everyone

Five-thousand new low-cost homes are to be built in Abu Dhabi as part of a scheme authorised by the Ministry of Public Works. The total cost of the construction is estimated at 474 million dirhams and building work will be completed within 20 months.

In addition schools, clinics and mosques will be constructed for the residents and it is hoped that this new housing project will resolve the housing shortage.

The schools of the U.A.E. are its hope for tomorrow — no expense is spared.

The U.A.E. spends more on education than on any other single item.

Little more than twenty years ago there was not a single school in the territory.

A law of 1971, the year of the U.A.E.'s formation, made primary education compulsory for all children over the age of six.

Boarding schools have been built to provide for children living in remote areas.

For adults there is a programme to combat illiteracy, and in 1974-75 there were more than 30,000 males and 22,000 females in the various stages of the educational process.

Economic Expansion Visible Throughout U.A.E.

DUBAI National Cement Factory, which will be the biggest of its kind in the Gulf, is currently being built by Costain International for the Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Rashid Bin Saeed al-Maktoum.

The contract is to design, construct, equip and commission a cement plant with a rated output of 1,500 tonnes per 24 hours. Total cost will be over £37 million. Work began on site in May 1975 and the plant should be finished and in operation by April 1978.

The position of the cement factory is 14km south-west of Dubai and was chosen for its proximity to naturally occurring raw materials of suitable chemical composition for the

President Zayed studies models of government built houses for low-income citizens.



production of cement. Being only 5km from the coast there is ready access to the lime rich coastal dunes between the fishing villages of Jumeira and Umm As Saqaym, and the inland dunes east of Jumeira which are rich in silica.

Gypsum, another of the necessary raw materials, is quarried at Jebal Al Ali, some 15km south-west of the works. Iron ore and bauxite constituents will be imported.

Three giant dock gates for installation in the world's largest dry docking system are now under construction in Dubai. A £4.7 million contract for the manufacture and erection of the new-style propped flat gates was awarded last year to a British consortium.

The complex is scheduled for completion in 1979 and will have facilities for maintenance and repair work on several huge ships simultaneously, including three in dry dock.

Four thousand workers are expected to be employed at the docks when they go into operation, and later as many as 10,000 could be required to ensure full capacity working.

British interests are also involved in the expansion of Dubai's Port Rashid. Twenty-two berths are being added to the 15-berth port which was completed only four years ago.

It is even possible that further expansions will be required in the future, and the project has been adapted with this in mind. The outer breakwater is being lengthened to allow for a finger pier with space for a further 20 berths which can be added later, bringing the total to 57.

The 22 new berths now under construction will be 18 metres long and will handle roll-on, roll-off container ships.

In addition to all this expansion, Sheikh Rashid has announced a new 74-berth port at Jebel Ali which is expected to cost \$765 million.

Abu Dhabi

Port Zayed's recently completed expansion includes the addition of 12 deep water berths bringing the total to 18. The new facilities were planned with the intention of meeting demand for a decade ahead. Eight new cranes, with a capacity ranging from between 10 and 20 tons were installed earlier this year.

A £2.6 million floating dock was placed on order by the Abu Dhabi authorities during June. The dock will

have a capacity of 1,700 tons.

In August Abu Dhabi's Infrastructure Committee recommended that performance at the port should be raised to a higher standard. The Committee's report called for "improvements which would permit the port to receive more vessels and overcome delays which would have adverse effects on the emirate's commercial activities."

Sharjah

The U.A.E.'s third major port is situated in Sharjah and tenders have already been invited for expansion of this natural deep water port. However, in addition to this a new 100 million dirham port complex at Khor Fakkan is under way to serve the needs of Ras al-Khaimah. The construction of a container port at Khor Fakkan would make the complex the biggest in the Middle East.

The huge developments taking place throughout the Gulf region have led to improved co-operation between the various Arab states. Earlier this year representatives from the U.A.E., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Iraq attended the Second Gulf Ports Seminar.

Six Gulf states, including the U.A.E., are jointly involved in a \$1,700 million shipping venture established earlier in the year. The United Arab Shipping Company, based in Kuwait, began operations in July and U.A.E. Minister of Transport, Mohammed Said Al-Mualla, was elected the company's first chairman.

Ras al-Khaimah

In the past year, Ras al-Khaimah has been the scene of enormous progress. Earlier this year, its international airport built by Mothercat with Sir William Halcrow and Partners as consultants was opened. It can take all the wide bodied jets, as well as Concorde, and tourists and businessmen can now fly direct to Ras al-Khaimah with a number of leading airlines in the Middle East.

Mothercat forms half of the Archicat consortium (with Archirodon of Greece) which is building the 360m dirhams (£45 million) deep water harbour. The first of its eight berths is due to open in the middle of next year.

In addition to the much improved transport facilities, the earth satellite station currently being built in the Emirate is one of the largest in the

Middle East. As a matter of policy, it will eventually be turned into a public company and its shares made available to local citizens.

The gulf's general construction boom has been particularly valuable to Ras al-Khaimah. The most profitable ramification is that the sulphur free rock which characterises the mountain range is much in demand. Earlier this year, for example, a six year contract was placed with the Ras al Khaymah Rock Company by the contractors building Saudi Arabia's giant Jubail harbour as well as a number of Bahraini contractors.

Exports of 6,000 ft a month of pipe rolled at the plant at Ras al-Khaimah belonging to MacDermott are exported to a number of Middle East countries including Egypt and Saudi Arabia. In addition, a recently opened steel re-casting factory producing steel reinforcing rods supplies the construction sector.

Complementing the construction-orientated industries, a fishmeal and fish-oil processing plant built by Fideco of Norway began production in August with its own fishing fleet.

In the background of Ras al-Khaimah's impressive modernisation lies the prospect of significant oil production. In a recent article, the Times anticipates that "by next year's progress report, Ras al-Khaimah will probably be the U.A.E.'s fourth oil exporter."

This northernmost of the seven emirates has also seen many new people arriving in the past year and understandably, the effort in producing services both for the new developments and the extra people is a mammoth one.

Large numbers of low-cost housing units have been distributed and Saqr Hospital is under construction. Electricity supplies will be supplemented by the turbine power station being built in the industrial area near the port with another two units to be commissioned in 1979. By the middle of next year, cargoes will be brought direct to the deep water port and soon after, the satellite communications will be in operation.

Once the infrastructure is developed, accessibility, industrialisation with private sector involvement as well as the prospect of oil revenues will give Ras al-Khaimah an economical future as well as the visual attractions awaiting the hoped-for tourists.



The U.A.E. spends more on education than on any other item, has made primary education compulsory for all children over the age of six, and is actively combating adult illiteracy.

The Three Smaller Emirates

The three smaller emirates of Ajman, Fujairah and Umm al-Qaiwain have witnessed an enormous change in the past few years. The life styles of the farmers and fishermen who, even today, form most of the population have been transformed by federal spending on schools, roads, clinics and agriculture.

The expenditure has also provided employment in the Civil Service, attracting back those who in the past left for neighbouring Arab countries in the quest for better opportunities.

Until recent months, Ajman's population was almost entirely dependent upon fishing. Administration and factories now offer alternative sources of employment.

One of the largest fish meal plants in the emirates is being established in Ajman. Improvement of the creek is being coordinated with improvement of Ajman's dry dock which when complete will build and repair boats of up to 8,000 tons which at present have to go to Bandar Abbas on the Iranian

side for maintenance.

Ajman can now boast its own bank, the Ajman Arab Bank which is publicly quoted and supported by the government. Several other banks have opened branches in this smaller emirate and they finance such projects as a small insulating company and a plastic pipes factory. On a larger scale, two companies are exploiting Ajman's vast resources of high-grade marble although there are virtually mountains of untapped marble inland.

Ajman's most impressive agricultural project is the Gogoba tree scheme. This was developed by the University of Arizona's Arid Lands Research centre. The shrub has a lifespan of 300 years during which time the leaves provide valuable animal nutrition while the seeds bear a type of vegetable oil especially suitable for use in the production of lubricants, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Seeds are being planted in an experimental station in Ajman.

Meanwhile, in another small emirate, Umm al-Qaiwain, oil is rapidly changing the lives of local fishermen. At the beginning of 1976 United Refin-

ing started drilling in the offshore field. Onshore, Houston Oil has been granted a concession.

Umm al-Qaiwain's creek is being dredged by the same consultants, Halcrow Middle East and contractors, Six Construct, as in Ajman. Once dredging is complete, a small cargo port will be built and a 300-tons-a-day fish oil factory built.

Up until very recently, Fujairah was a virtually unknown emirate. Fishing and agriculture still occupy its previously isolated community, but the east coast is attracting tourists, and with an eye to exploiting this tourism potential, a small airport and seaport will soon be built. Last year a Tarmac road was opened, linking the main body of the emirates to Fujairah. It immediately became one of the most heavily used stretches of road in the country.

According to The Times of London: "Its completion was probably one of the main events in the history of Fujairah." Certainly, it can be regarded as a symbol of linking this small and at one time unheard of emirate with the Western world.

A Diplomat's Impression of the U.A.E.

The United States Ambassador to the Emirates talks of U.S.-U.A.E. links and tells of his own impressions of the U.A.E.

Mr. Francois M. Dickman, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, in this interview with Edmund Ghareeb gives his views on the growing strength of relationships between the U.A.E. and U.S.A.

Q. Can you assess the relationship between the U.A.E. and the U.S.?

A. I think we have seen a growth in the nexus of the relationship between the U.A.E. and the U.S. The U.A.E. is a new country and our relationship really began with the establishment of diplomatic relations immediately following your announcement of independence in December, 1971, the opening of our embassy in May, 1972 and the assignment of our first resident Ambassador in June, 1974. I will be the second resident Ambassador.

The nexus of our relationship has grown considerably in the last four years in my estimation. It's true much of it has been in the economic and commercial fields. As I indicated in my confirmation, the U.A.E. is becoming a major market for U.S. goods and services. I estimate almost one-half billion dollars for this year which puts the Emirates very high on our list as a trading nation.

Our purchases of petroleum will probably be about 1.36 billion dollars which means the Emirates will be almost at the same level as Iran in terms of purchases of hydro-carbon products.

This is in and of itself a reflection of the growth in our commercial and economic relationships.

As a matter of fact, after Saudi Arabia, the Emirates is by far the largest supplier of petroleum products from the Arabian Peninsula. As you know, if you add Saudi Arabia and

what the Emirates supply it's over one-quarter of our oil imports.

Q. Do you have any figures on U.A.E.-U.S. trade?

A. I have a table here which is indicative of the growth in trade, excluding services. I am speaking only of commodities; U.S. exports in 1974 to the Emirates totalled 229.7 million dollars; in 1975 they reached 372 million dollars. During the first seven months of 1976 this figure was 252 million dollars. Project that out and the total will be more than 400 million dollars by the end of this year. If you add services, which I estimate to be approximately 70 to 80 million dollars, I think a one-half-billion-dollar estimate is really quite conservative.

Now your purchases, I should explain that what we sell to the Emirates is just about everything. A lot of it is consumer goods but there are also various capital goods, particularly those relating to hydro-carbon activities, but our exports to the Emirates cover a wide range of products.

Our imports from the Emirates has almost entirely consisted of crude oil. These are interesting figures. In 1974 our imports from the Emirates totalled almost 422 million dollars; in 1975, 781 million dollars and in the first 7 months of 1976, 772 million dollars. Project that out and I think a 1.3 billion dollar import figure is again a conservative estimate.

We anticipate that it will be this high. But, as our oil imports are continuing to rise, it may be even higher. As you see, I have an interest in trying to do as much as I can to narrow that gap a bit. I think that this can best be done by looking at every possibility to widen our relations. And that's what I am trying to do.

Q. What is U.S. policy toward the Union?

A. Well, I think that U.S. policy is very clear. We support and encourage the continued getting together of all of the Emirates. We see that the strength and security of this region can best be achieved by this unification process

continuing. As you know, at one time, there was an effort to create a wider federation which we would have welcomed. But, we are pleased, very pleased that in 1971 and early 1972 at least seven of the former Trucial States decided to tie themselves together to form the United Arab Emirates.

We recognise the problems there are in building a Union. This is something the United States had to deal with. In fact, the United States in its early infancy went through a very difficult period but eventually the founding fathers found the way to do it. And, I certainly hope that this will also be the case for the U.A.E. as it works to strengthen its federal bonds.

Q. How do you see the role of the Emirates vis-a-vis the region?

A. I think the Emirates have an important role in terms of support of regional co-operation. After all, the Emirates is itself a federation of seven Sheikdoms.

It already symbolises co-operation.

The growing financial power of the Emirates and its very important position as an aid donor allows it to play a very important role in encouraging continued co-operation for the security and stability of this region generally, and of the developing countries, particularly those of the Arab World and Africa, which are of special interest to you.

Q. How do you evaluate the importance of the U.A.E. among the oil producers?

A. The U.A.E. is competing for fourth place among the oil exporters. It's almost equal with Iraq and it's about equal with Libya and almost equal with Venezuela and Nigeria. The Emirates is a very important country in the oil picture, especially since your country has not restricted oil production except on a technical basis and since oil exploration has continued. I'm not speaking only of oil exploration but LNG production. In other words, rapid expansion in hydro-carbon production. I'd anticipate that the Emirates would be an even more important country in the next few years.

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All correspondence should be addressed to Room 771, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York, 10027.



Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc.
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