

The Royal Speeches

of His Majesty

SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID



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Foreword

The Ministry of Information is honoured to present this book of speeches by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said in the wake of the Sultanate's 40th National Day festivities, as the country celebrates its achievements since 23rd July 1970 under His Majesty's leadership.

His Majesty Sultan's speeches over the past forty five years of Oman's Renaissance have been compiled to enable present and future generations of Omanis to draw inspiration from the vision and insight of a leader who has fulfilled his promise to make the Oman of today a bastion of security and an oasis of prosperity and progress.

Ministry of Information



Speech of His Majesty



to his people on the day of his accession

*Yesterday it was complete darkness and with the
help of God, tomorrow will be a new dawn on Muscat,
Oman and its people.*



23rd July
1970





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

I PROMISE you to proceed forthwith in the process of creating a modern government. My first act will be the immediate abolition of all the unnecessary restrictions on your lives and activities.

My people,

I will proceed as quickly as possible to transform your life into a prosperous one with a bright future. Every one of you must play his part towards this goal. Our country in the past was famous and strong. If we work in unity and co-operation, we will regenerate that glorious past and we will take a respectable place in the world.

I call upon you to continue living as usual. I will be arriving in Muscat in the coming few days and then I will let you know of my future plans.

My people,

I and my new government will work to achieve our general objective.

My people, my brothers,

Yesterday it was complete darkness and with the help of God, tomorrow will be a new dawn on Muscat, Oman and its people.

God bless us all, and may He grant our efforts success.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of his first arrival in muscat
after assuming the reins of power

*The Government and the people are as one body. If
one of its limbs fails to do its duty, the other parts of
the body will suffer.*



31rd July
1970





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

WE thank you for the warm reception you have given us in the name of the family and the Omani people.



We hope that this day will mark the beginning of a new age and a great future for us all. We promise you that we shall do our duty towards the people of our dear country. We also hope that every one of you will do his duty in helping us to build the thriving and happy future that we seek for this country, because, as you know, unless there is co-operation between the government and the people we will not be able to build our country with the speed required to free her from the backwardness she has endured for so long.

The Government and the people are as one body. If one of its limbs fails to do its duty, the other parts of the body will suffer. We hope that you will think well of us and at the same time we hope that we shall think well of you.

We ask Allah to grant us success in that which is good. Peace be with you.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 1st national day

*As far as domestic policy is concerned, our plan is to
build our country and provide all its people with a
prosperous life.*



23rd July
1971





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to Allah Who has bestowed blessings upon us, Who has shown us the straight path, Who has revealed to us the way of true guidance and commanded us to follow it, and Who has exposed the abysses of corruption and urged us to shun them. And may blessings and peace be upon the Prophet of Guidance - Muhammed, may Allah bless him and grant him salvation.



Dear people of Oman,

TODAY we are happy to join you in celebrating the completion of the first year of the new era, which the entire Omani people received with delight and to which they gave their unconditional support. Wherever we have been in our dear country our people have welcomed us with expressions of allegiance and loyalty. It therefore behoves us to thank them and press steadfastly on with our efforts to raise their living standards and improve all the utilities and services they require. In this task we strive for guidance from the Light of the Shari,ah and humbly beseech the Almighty to bless our endeavours so that all can enjoy their fruits.

The community must be aware of the achievements and gains that have been made on behalf of this people and this ancient land during the first year of our new era. These took place as a result of sincere, combined efforts inspired by good intentions, chief among which was the desire to bring progress to this country and enable it to occupy the exalted position that is its due.

We do not wish to give a detailed exposition of these achievements and gains, because it is our belief that hard work is the only way to reach our objectives. If we abstain from the propaganda approach and avoid boasting of our success and making extravagant promises, this is because here in Oman our supreme characteristic is still modesty, as taught by our Islamic religion. Nevertheless, we must explain to you the basic principles of our domestic and foreign policies.

As far as domestic policy is concerned, our plan is to build our country and provide all its people with a prosperous life. That will be achieved only when the people share the burden of responsibility and help with the task of building. We have opened up opportunities for our citizens to achieve this end, and we shall strive hard to establish just, democratic rule in our country within the framework of our Omani Arab reality, the customs and traditions of our community, and the teachings of Islam - which always light our path.



There is no doubt that the building process is an exacting one, and that much hard work and sacrifice is needed to overcome the obstacles and difficulties before us. However, we shall bear these burdens with patience and continue our work with steadfastness and determination.

At this point we should touch on a subject which is a source of continuous pain and vexation to us and to every loyal, patriotic Omani. I refer to the subject of the Southern Region, Dhofar. It is most distressing to us that at this moment, while we are all celebrating this glorious day here, we have brothers and sons there who are being subjected to coercion, terrorism and danger - a result of being dominated by alien elements; that is to say, by opportunists, mercenaries and atheists.

We clearly affirm that Dhofar is an integral part of the Sultanate of Oman, to precisely the same extent that Muscat is part of this dear Omani land. Everyone should know that we will pay a high price and that we will sacrifice lives in order to restore security and peace to that beloved area of our country, and provide our people there with the same decent life enjoyed by all Omanis throughout the Sultanate. Everyone should know that that day is coming and that - with Allah's assistance - it will come soon.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 2nd national day

Our aim is to see that Oman has restored its past civilization and has occupied its great position among its Arab brothers in the second half of the 20th Century, and to see the Omani citizen living in happiness and dignity in his land.



18th November
1972





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



OUR principal aim is to restore the past glories of our country. Our aim is to see that Oman has restored its past civilization and has occupied its great position among its Arab brothers in the second half of the 20th Century, and to see the Omani citizen living in happiness and dignity in his land. We are proud of what we have achieved in our country during the past two years. These achievements were not an easy thing and necessitated thinking, planning and implementing. We had to start from the foundation and this foundation is the people of Oman and we have followed the most difficult road to bring her out of her isolation and lead her to the path of honour and dignity.

We share with you the feelings of pride that our Armed Forces have taken long steps forward since we assumed their command; I do not approve of entering into details of military secrets; but I leave it to them to show their effectiveness in defending the whole of the nation, as events have proved - and I am proud of them.



Education was my great concern, and I saw that it was necessary to direct efforts to spread education. We have given the Ministry of Education the opportunity and supplied it with our capabilities to break the chains of ignorance. Schools have been opened regardless; the important thing is that there should be education, even under the shadow of trees.

In 1970 there were three schools in the country comprising 900 students. In 1971 there were 16 schools, and 7000 students and in 1972 there were 45 schools and 15,000 students. This figure will be doubled in accordance with the ministerial plans prepared for the coming school year.

In the field of health, the Ministry of Health has made every endeavour to bring medical services to the citizens in every place.



In 1970 we had ten dispensaries and nine health centres. In 1971 we had 15 dispensaries, and 15 health centres and six hospitals. In this year the number of dispensaries has increased to 25, and three health centres were replaced by three hospitals bringing the number of hospitals to 12. The number of doctors rose from 12 in 1970 to 54 this year.

God willing the number of dispensaries shall increase to 32 and the number of doctors to 85 and a nursing training school will be constructed.

In the economic field the Ministry of Economy and its various departments has made substantial progress. We have formed a Council for Economy and Development under our Chairmanship. The Council has laid a plan for the construction of a road from Sohar to Khatmat Malalah next year. This is in addition to the Bahla-Ibri-Buraimi road. A cement factory will start operating next year in which Omanis will have shares. We have also a project for the construction of Qaboos Town at Al-Khuwair and an agreement has been reached with one of the construction companies for the construction of a Diplomatic City at Qurum.



The Ministry of Communications' most important achievement has been Qaboos Port and Seeb Airport. The Port is now receiving vessels of 800 tons deadweight.

Seeb Airport, which was opened three months ago, is receiving 28 flights per week. Last month 195 civil aircraft landed at the airport, and there are plans to expand the airport services when all its sections are completed. Bilateral agreements for air transportation have been signed between the Sultanate and the United Kingdom, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan.

The Sultanate of Oman shall become a member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation next month.

In the Southern Province (Dhofar) plans have been laid for the construction of Governmental Centres in Najd and in several mountainous areas.

The Ministry of Land Affairs has distributed 760 residential plots, 411 individual plots and 35 commercial plots within the Greater Muttrah area. 606 plots were distributed in various districts in addition to agricultural plots. 383 plots have been distributed in Wadi Adai, 260 in Hamriyah.



A Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has been established to provide care and assistance to the poor and needy, and the Ministry has embarked on a plan for the construction of 280 low-income houses. The Ministry has sent 70 young Omani men on vocational training courses and has created a special department for Youth Services and for organising Sports, Social, Cultural and Technical activities. It has also sent a number of young men and women on missions abroad for training in Social Service.

The Directorate-General of Information and Tourism has provided services within its capabilities and we can say that the Omani Radio Stations in Muscat and Salalah were able, despite their small transmission circuit, to carry out their duties within its capabilities.

Oman has joined the Arab League and the United Nations Organisation and our relations with Arab and foreign countries have expanded. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has organised its administrative cadre and the political department comprises the Arab countries, the Arab League Section, a Section for Asian and African Affairs and a Section for Europe and North and Latin America.



This year the Foreign Ministry opened seven diplomatic missions in Kuwait, Tunisia, Cairo, London, New York, Iran and India, and the following countries have opened Embassies in Muscat: United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, USA, Egypt and Saudi Arabia; and diplomatic representation has been announced between Oman and Italy, Japan and West Germany.

Oman has become a full member of the following Arab and International organisations:

- a) The Arab Cultural and Scientific Organisation
- b) The Arab Postal Union
- c) The Arab Telecommunications Union
- d) The Islamic Conference
- e) UNESCO
- f) World Health Organisation
- g) FAO
- h) International Postal Union
- i) UNICEF



We should remember that our country is vast, and providing services to all its parts requires great efforts and patience. And if our income from oil is modest in relation to our requirements and the circumstances of our country, we are rich in other resources and strong in our belief in God and in work.



While we are waging a battle for building our country in various fields of development we are also waging a sacred and armed battle against the enemy of Islam and the country, supported by Marxist Aden.

There is no doubt that the Arab States are aware of the real conditions in Aden and that active international Communism is working there to achieve its ambition in the Arab Peninsula to transform it into a huge Communist camp. It is clear from the statements and declarations of the so-called Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf that Oman is not a target in itself but is the door or outlet to the rest of the countries of the region, to sink them in a sea of blood, subversion, chaos, poverty, atheism and looting, as the Popular Front

has done to the people of South Yemen.

Your brothers in the Southern Province have suffered bitterly from the crimes of the criminal Communist gang, and they joined their brothers, men of our Armed Forces, to fight for the sake of their faith, country and dignity.

I wish you a happy year, I thank you all, may Allah grant you success, and may Allah's peace and blessings be upon you.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 3rd national day

*Your strong determination and genuine drive for the
advancement of your country is the incentive of our
blessed march.*



18th November
1973



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Dear Countrymen

WE brothers are a nation which emerged three years ago, and which has, during this period, achieved gains which have a worthy place in Oman's history, signs which illuminate the future road towards our aims, and we are responsible for maintaining these gains so that our country will reach the peak of glory and dignity.

Your strong determination and genuine drive for the advancement of your country is the incentive of our blessed march.



Countrymen, strange winds are blowing in our region and strange, alien concepts which influence those who advocate these factions and parties which separate brothers and the father from his son. Those who advocated these alien concepts under misleading slogans have committed the most horrid crimes. They have sold themselves to the devil and they were deceived by delusions.

On this glorious day, our National Day, we express our thanks and gratitude to those heroes, men of our armed services and wish them a happy year. We also salute the men of our national firqats which were formed to fight on the side of our heroic forces against the terrorism of the communist gangs in the mountains of Dhofar. The struggle we are waging against

atheism is a sacred duty which our religion imposes upon us.

Our attitude in relation to the so-called Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arabian Gulf is the same attitude in which we began our new era. We said at the time «let bygones be forgotten ... return to your country and resume building and construction, for the darkness of the past shall be transformed to light and we all shall face an historical responsibility before this Country.» Those who are loyal to this country have responded, and they have hastened to us from every place, to participate in our efforts and to bear the responsibility to have the honour of contributing in serving their country and, until this day, we are still receiving individuals and groups, who have been misled to begin their life under the shadow of their Government; but those who insist on subversion and insurgency or try to threaten security, we shall hit them strongly and they shall bear the consequences of their actions.



We stand strongly in the face of subversive operations and Communist thoughts to safeguard the honour of our country and do away with all obstacles and challenges.

In the field of Education, we have this year more than 100 schools and 1,300 teachers of both sexes and about 38,000 students. We have ordered the construction of a boarding school to teach the children of those who came to Salalah from the mountains of Dhofar and those who saved themselves and their children from terrorism and Communist teachings.

In the field of health, large hospitals, clinics and health centres are being built in various parts of the Sultanate to provide health services to the citizens. In addition to the sixteen hospitals, there are 55 clinics staffed by 67 doctors and ten specialists.

In order to facilitate communications, roads are being constructed. Following the completion of the Muscat-Sohar road, work has begun on constructing the Sohar-Khatmat-Malaha road and the Nizwa-Seeb road. At the same time, the road which links the Southern province with the North is being improved and an agreement has been concluded on the Muscat-Muttrah marine road to facilitate movement between the two towns and it is hoped that this project will be completed in 1975.

The last stage of the construction of Qaboos Port is nearing completion, and work has actively begun on Raysut harbour and on the improvement of Sur harbour.

Seeb International Airport is on a par with other large international airports in receiving aircraft and provides the necessary services to the passengers day and night.

This week the Central Laboratory for the General Committee for Development will be opened and the foundation stone for the Qaboos town complex will be laid. An agreement has also been reached for the construction of a cement factory which will produce one million tons of cement per year.

On our foreign policy, we have announced the lines of this policy on various occasions. We are part of the Arab nation and are linked to the unity of its aim and destiny. Our attitude on Arab issues is frank and clear. We have declared our solidarity with our Arab brothers, and the people of Oman have showed a genuine spirit in standing against Zionist aggression and in supporting the Arab fight in restoring all Arab territories which the enemy has occupied by force, treachery and terrorism. We shall always support the Arab fight with blood and money and back it with all our powers.

Oman continues in its efforts and heroic activities in the world community and contributes its share in resolving international problems and issues to prove its presence as a member of the United Nations and to expand its strong desire for maintaining peace and stability between the various countries of the world and the establishment of friendly and mutual relations with every country which extends a hand of friendship to us on the basis of mutual respect.

We have paid several visits to our brothers in the Arab countries to strengthen brotherly ties and exchange viewpoints with them on the issues which interest us all. We also attended the conference which was held in Algeria last September, and have participated in its debates and recommendations. We drew the guidelines of our country's policy which is represented in non-interference in the affairs of others and in the rejection of any interference in the affairs of our country, the setting up of relations based on friendship and co-operation with all peace-loving countries, and supporting the struggle of our peoples in their endeavours to obtain freedom and independence.

I wish you a happy year and may Allah grant you success, and may Allah's peace and blessings be upon you.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 4th national day

Our people have achieved successful results in all fields of life, under hard and abnormal circumstances. It was by the help of the Almighty God and His belief in the People that such achievements were possible.



18th November

1974





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Thanks be to God, and praise be to the Prophet, His Messenger.



My brother Citizens, The Sons of Our Dear Oman,

IT is a source of pleasure to be amongst you on this great historic occasion, so as to speak to you on this significant event, and glorious historic anniversary of 18th November - our fourth National Anniversary. To begin with, I would say many happy returns on this occasion to all of us.

The commemoration of National Days is a tradition of all peoples to landmark glorious events in their history. For events are not counted by the time factor itself, but on the basis of the scope they reveal, the ideas they inspire and the aspiration they aim at so as to take a place among the vanguard of the marching nation onwards to Progress, Peace and Prosperity.

On this immortal landmark day, four years ago, a new sun shone in our beloved land to light the flame of the national spirit and zeal of our citizens, who plunged into building this renaissance and to regain the glories of the ancient past by asserting that it is not the time factor that counts, but the achievements themselves on the path of civilised progress, the all-out development of the country, the extent of the role it can play in international affairs, and the effect of such events on the course of its progress.

Our people have achieved successful results in all fields of life, under hard and abnormal circumstances. It was by the help of Almighty God and His belief in the People that such

achievements were possible.

My brother Citizens,

The power for change, and the stimulus for progress, were inherent in our people, and were just waiting for the time to unleash. The enthusiasm was so strong among our people to put things in their right order. They have, therefore, spontaneously responded, supported and exerted their utmost so as to make possible this fourth and dear anniversary which we celebrate today.

By the Grace of God and your strong and indomitable will many achievements have been realised on the soil of our land. In spite of the fact that this country has undergone such hardship as was never experienced by any people before, we have faced many challenges, but by the Grace of God and His help we have achieved glorious triumphs against all these challenges.

From every battle we emerge stronger, to recontinue our march with greater will and stronger belief.



My Brethren,

Our people participated in the battle of the Arab nation in its struggle against the common Zionist enemy. They did this by the sheer belief in the oneness of the Arab nation to whom we also belong and share its destiny and battles and also in the solution of its problems and causes. This was unequivocally demonstrated in the war of 6th October (10th Ramadhan) when our Arab forces humbled the arrogance of the Zionist enemy, and the Arab forces crossed the barriers into Victory. Such participation has since materialised into real common action epitomising Arab unity in its real sense. This caused immense disappointments to sceptics. Victory has been obtained - «If you support God, He will support you and strengthen your position».

Citizens,

At the time when we were participating in the Arab battle, we were engaged in a more ferocious battle against the enemies of God - the enemy on this front is the same enemy in the other, but our enemy is more savage. Here we challenge and face communist infiltration - a

more subversive and dangerous international movement which works to undermine our religion, our wealth and our national prestige.

On the southern borders of this land there is a mobilized community of subversive groups, with secret organizations scattered in countries of this area working in league with international communism. This fact asserts itself, and is undeniable. In spite of this, we stand firm and have succeeded in breaking their backbone, as a result of which our brethren in the mountains now enjoy protection and security from their terrorism. The terrorists have, however, begun to lose faith in their masters, who drove them into launching their terrorism against the innocent people. «They resemble fire which burns itself when there is nothing to burn».

In these days, new slogans are raised and new names are mentioned. Some look with indifference at such tactics. I have warned that the safety of the region is indivisible. Its stability is the responsibility of all states and people of the area. Communism has no faith. It recognises no other doctrine. Should it retreat on one front for one or the other reason, it does so just for its interest. It is one of their principles to withdraw one step backwards so as to advance two steps forward. I frankly declare that any negligence in defending the faith of God will lead to a disastrous result. There is no two opinions that communism is dedicated to crush all religions.

We are, however, resolved to confront this armed and subversive danger and ill that it stands for which is in contravention to our Holy Islamic religion, our belief, and the freedom of dignity of our Nation.



Citizens,

I, for myself, and in your name, - salute our armed forces symbol of sacrifice, heroism and loyalty to our cause. They fight to defend the banner of right, the banner of Islam. They stand alert and heroically in the face of the enemy of God and the people.

Our heroes, I share life with you - I strive to make out of you a strong army, loyal to the soil of this dear land. A striking force among the armies of our Arab nation, so as to defend the cause of truth against the forces of evil. I also salute the young pioneers of the national contingent now engaged in the fighting against subversive communist terrorists side by side with our heroic regular armed forces. Because «God is the truth, and all that they stand for is evil and false, God is Great».

My Brethren,

The second challenge which is no less important, is the challenge of reconstruction and development. We have drawn an ambitious plan - the target of which is the Omani citizen. The main criterion of the plan is the human individual. It is man who performs development and its objective is to ensure happiness for the individual and his reformation so as to give the best of his talent and production.

We made a start in this way by providing medical treatment, housing and food for the Omani citizen - the main capital of our various battles to enhance the cause of our country and its ascension to the highest rank among the progressive nations of the world. Thanks to Almighty God, we passed through the critical stage successfully. Co-operation between the individuals and the Government has led our country to attain a degree of social progress, thus enabling us to assimilate and create with the result that we were able to make a positive contribution in the building work of our society.



Citizens,

Let us make a pause here, and revert to the beginning of July 1970 to find out where we were and where we stand today.

In the field of education:

In 1970, we started from scratch. All of you know and we can say for sure that we have succeeded in this field. The educational plan, both in quality and quantity has succeeded in all the primary stages.

We have now moved to a higher as well as vocational education. Our object in providing both the vocational and higher education is to enable our children to receive their education in its various stages in their mother country. We would however, wish to draw the attention of our students studying abroad, to beware of being seduced by foreign ideas. We should make it clear that these elements are jealous of our achievements and progress, and they plan to retard the pace of our progress.

Oh my sons, you witness the vast progress which education in our country has achieved, and the expansion of the numbers of schools, students, teachers and scholarships. It is enough to declare that the education sanctions for this year amount to RO9,458,368 compared to RO1,031,879 for the year 1970/71. This in itself is proof of the extent of our interest in the advancement of the people of our country and our insistence to make as rapid a progress as possible.

We give all our energy and potential to the welfare of our students abroad. For this reason we have decided to form a Permanent Committee to look after them and fulfil their needs. This Committee will make periodical visits to the countries where they study to examine their problems and make solutions for them. We pray to God for their success.

In the health sector:

The Government gives priority to the health care of our citizens and does all that lies in its power to provide medical services for them. Many hospitals have been built, the number of which has now risen to 79 hospitals and health units with 1,200 beds as compared with 12 beds in the year 1970.

In the communications and public services sector:

A considerable number of large projects have been established in order to meet the ever-increasing demand for such projects. A contract has been concluded to extend telephone services and connect all villages with the cities with telephone lines. With regard to foreign communications, we have the satellite communication programme and the first satellite station will be installed in the Sultanate, using the most modern technological methods in wireless communications. With the erection of this station, our communication with the outside world will rise to the level of the 20th Century.

In the road sector, the Government is doing its utmost in opening new roads. Some of the newly-launched projects in this field are the Bidbid-Sur road, Musanah-Rostaq road, and Sohar-Al Buraimi road. Electricity is being expanded rapidly and it is expected to extend it to 36 towns in the Sultanate in the near future. It is recognised that electricity not only provides light, but it includes many other services.

This is in addition to the water generator required to face the huge development projects, and the population growth. The biggest project so far accomplished in the communication and public services sector is Qaboos Port which is being declared open during these days of our national celebrations. It is a pioneer project. We have also decided to reduce customs duties on consumer commodities in order to meet the rising cost of living in the world as a result of international changes.

We have previously decided to form a committee to make studies of this problem, and as a result of this, we decided to abolish customs duties on consumer commodities, the difference in the price being borne by the Government. We have taken this decision at a time when other governments have been imposing new taxes and new burdens on their peoples.

We are trying our level best to raise the standard of living of the Omani citizen, who is equal to other Omani citizens in rights and obligations. He must take as much as he gives of his efforts, sweat, sincerity and loyalty to his dear land. Oman loves her sons equally and the Omanis all are sons of their merciful Motherland. She expects them to be loyal and obedient to her cause, but the love of country differs from one citizen to another, but Oman loves all her sons, and the principle we have declared is to forget the past. We shall adhere to this code. Omanis are a nation bound together by the Islamic fundamental ideology, by the friendly social ties and loyalty to the country. We are mobilising all our resources in order to raise the standard of the individual and to develop his resources and his conscience economically. Towards this end, we are taking into consideration the exploration of all economic resources of our country in the future stage of the development plans. We have laid down a very ambitious, balanced, and studied plan based on utilizing the various resources of society in order to reach the target of the economic development in the light of the society. Also, a thorough study of the mineral and human resources, the making of statistical studies on the various economic and social activities of the population, agricultural activities, and the cost of living are being made, so as not to leave social and economic progress at the mercy of improvised conditions. In order to fulfil this plan of economic growth, to raise the living standard of the individual, we have decided to form a higher council of economic development under our presidentship, and the membership of the concerned ministries such as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries, Oil and Minerals, which were recently formed on our orders, so as to play their roles in fulfilling this plan with the coordination of other Ministries.



Brother citizens,

The most debated subject of the hour is oil, the main source of energy in the entire world. As far as we are concerned oil is the main source of our wealth, with the revenues from which we have been able to develop our country, and fulfil our achievements. As the consumer seeks to buy oil, so do we need to install our local oil industry and to sell our oil in the international markets so that we may be able to fulfil our development plans.

It is therefore necessary to follow a sound oil policy in conjunction with a united Arab oil

policy with strong consciousness which realizes the importance of oil and makes the best use of it, so this national wealth can play its role as a source of energy and as an important economic source.

It is our hope that consumer countries will realize the real wishes of the producing states and that the world may understand that we are not merely seeking profits but that we work for peace and the welfare of humanity.

Information:

Information is the mirror of reality. Its duty is to reflect the various fields of activities which our country is witnessing in its modern age.

In the information sector Oman has launched many successful projects, and has made long strides in developing its information organs. On the hilly site of Qurum, the Information City stands as a landmark in the achievements fulfilled. It houses the newly expanded broadcasting station from which the voice of Oman carries over long distances; and the colour television which was inaugurated as a prominent achievement which reflects our keen interest in the truthful word, free opinion, true information.

Our press is also playing its role in serving the cause of the nation. The Omani Museum, also, in which the citizen will see the heritage of his forefathers, and the civilization they achieved.

Our beloved Oman lives today in the dawn of a great and comprehensive renaissance. In our foreword march, we have inaugurated the police sports ground, and held our fourth National Day celebrations there. For the present stage, this ground will serve our purpose until the Sports City is constructed which will be provided with the most modern sports equipment and playgrounds.

These are but a few examples of our achievements in the internal sector. However, details of these achievements are the responsibilities of the Ministries concerned.

Insofar as our foreign policy is concerned, we have often made clear in various international assemblages, that we are part and parcel of the Arab nation. Our policy emanates from our higher interests. The picture is very clear before us. Through the last four years of our progress we have known where we stand, and we are directing our energies from the point of our own national interest. Our attitude towards every country is decided on the basis of the attitude of such a country towards our national causes, and its respect of our sovereignty. We shall not let any country interfere in our affairs, or exercise any influence on our policies, irrespective of the source of such interference.

We are exercising our role in international society, and in its various aspects as positively as

we can in solving the just causes. As an Islamic nation, we take full views of our noble and sublime ideals of Islam and adhere to the precepts of our sacred religion, in full realization of our role insofar as our region is concerned in particular and the Arab world in general. On this basis, we have participated so far in all international activities such as the non-alignment conference in Lahore and the Arab Summit held last month in Rabat where I took part with my brother Arab Kings and Presidents in discussing and reviewing Arab and international problems.



Citizens,

All that has so far been achieved in our beloved land is higher and more powerful than any talk; we shall continue our march for the sake of our great people, for the sake of dear Oman and by the grace of God we will achieve more and more progress. We are continuing our steps in the light of the teaching of our Prophet.

We fully realise that our work is bound by the targets we aim at. The success we see today in the sectors of both our local and international policies, is the true reflection of the efforts of our people, the sacredness of our soil and the respect and understanding of the world towards us and our aims.

The values of our society, our relations with the outside world. All these are but one part of our progress.

Thus our view of history is sound and continuous. Our present historical attitude is yielding the finest results and raises to the highest peak of success.

I wish you a happy year and may Allah's Peace and Blessings be with you.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 5th national day

We promise to double our efforts and continue the hard work for a new tomorrow which shines with every morning in each day of the sixth year in our glorious march towards a happy future



18th November

1975





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God Almighty, Who directs us to the right path. Who said in His Holy Book: «This is My right path, ye follow it and do not follow other paths that will divert you from it.» This is His advice for you to heed and follow. Prayers and Peace be on His Prophet.



Countrymen,

I WISH you a Happy Year and many happy returns. Every year our dear country continues its progress with unfailing confidence and its prosperity with zest, determination and hope, represented in your joint efforts, the great achievements, your goodwill and solidarity in standing in our rank like a solid edifice in the face of all challenges and difficulties.

Brothers,

On this dear occasion in which we celebrate our 5th National Day, the anniversary of a new era on our good land to which we are bound, this dear country on whose surface we all have seen the light.

Brothers,

Our glorification of our National Days which we honour emerges from a true expression of our gratitude to our dear country and its heroic people. As we have always been, still are, and shall always remain working for it; we watch over the interests of our country and struggle for its glory and die for its sake. We struggle for our faith and Arabism to always remain true Arab Moslems.

Countrymen,

We are today celebrating the 5th Anniversary of our National Day amid the joys and splendours the Eid has carried to us. It has carried to us Eids made by our heroic Armed Forces and National Firqats.



Brothers,

We also celebrate constant victories achieved by our heroic Armed Forces and National Firqats supported by friendly forces which have achieved real victories for our beloved Oman in the history of their battles and recorded with honour and pride true heroism and sacrifice. They are the protectors of our noble Islamic faith in which we strongly believe and have the honour to defend. We appreciate the results of our will and determination to continue to defend this true and tolerant faith.



Countrymen,

You are all aware of the strike which our heroic soldiers have directed against the agents of Communism, that strike which made them realise that for every aggression and aggressor there is a deterrent.

We declare to the whole world that we shall never desist from defending the security of this dear country against any aggression with all possible means. We put before the whole world a truth which accepts no argument. We are continuing our policy against this hateful and subversive principle in gratification of our faith, motivated by our patriotism to preserve the sanctity of our soil and protect the gains of our people and our eagerness to maintain the independence of our decision and our adherence to Arabism and Islam. Our people do not accept that virtue be replaced by evil and righteousness by falsehood.

We are not prepared to put our hand in the hand of a treacherous ally and time has shown the

deterioration of the situation in the countries where the Communist element exists.

Those who entered into an alliance with this evil principle have paid the cost dearly in terms of the security of their people and the stability of the situation in their country. They have lost control over their resources and could not exploit them according to the conditions of their people. Their decisions did not emanate from the supreme interest of their country but from complete subordination to this subversive principle.

Communism knows no religion and we do not know those who are unbelievers and we shall not adopt a negative attitude towards them. We fight the enemies of God because they deny the existence of God and do not recognise His teachings which call for brotherhood, love and peace.



Countrymen,

The members of our heroic Armed Forces and National Firqats, supported by friendly forces are able to protect the faith because they are protected by its light which illuminates the road in front of them and achieve in their battles against the enemies of God, victory, because God promised to help those who believe in Him.

The downfall of communist elements and their empty slogans in the many communities which fell into their trap is an indication of the failure of their plots. Events show that the star of their subversive movement has faded in those parts of our Arab and Moslem community which fell under its influence.

The crimes which the communists have committed in the Arab and Moslem area on the internal and external levels recently are liable to increase the enmity of the Arab and Moslem nation towards them.

Has not our Arab area seen troubles and disorders in the last years, unprecedented in its modern history because of communist presence and subversion of nationalist elements?

Has not our area itself seen troubles and disorders this year, which we have warned against on such an occasion last year?

The Communists spread hardship among their citizens. They open prisons and detention camps while we build schools and hospitals. They lay obstacles, sow thorns and choke the freedom of the people, while we remove obstacles and make the hardships of life easy, and we encourage public freedom provided that they do not impair the security of the State because the security of the State means, at the same time, the security of the citizen.

Their information media is used to launch attacks and fabricate false accusations while our information media is used to serve the citizen, educate and entertain him, relying on the true word and genuine report.

That is their policy and they are free to do whatever they wish within.

The people of the southern district today are enjoying colour television as a sign of development, growth and stability and a natural result of the efforts of our people who were the supporters of these young potentials in their blessed movement and prosperous era. They are continuing their march carrying the torch of knowledge and liberty, the foundations of which they had laid. They appreciate the value of their gains and know how to safeguard them, and by doing so they reap the fruit of hard work and taste the sweetness of tomorrow and see its brightness. There is nothing greater to man than achieving a bright future.

Our bright future has descended with the Grace of God on every location and appeared on every face. A hope which disperses the clouds of darkness to illuminate with its light the road of civilisation, progress and prosperity, which we see today on the land of our beloved Oman.

Welcome to the Eid. We promise to double our efforts and continue the hard work for a new tomorrow which shines with every morning in each day of the sixth year in our glorious march towards a happy future.

May God grant you success and bless your steps towards a better future.

Concluding, it interests me to say: Beware the hypocrites who are in the bottom of hell, whom God had described in His Holy Book. «When they met those who believe, they say, <We do believe>, but when they retire privately to their devils they say, <We really hold with you and only mock at those people».

I wish you a Happy Year and may God's Grace and blessings be with you.



Speech of His Majesty



to the people

Meanwhile, as we continue to march forward, building with one hand and carrying our weapons in the other, we still hold out our hands to all those whose intentions are honourable.



26th November
1975





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, the Lord of the Worlds Whose aid we seek. And may blessings and peace be upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers.



Brothers, Citizens,

GREETINGS and good wishes to you on your blessed celebration. May we meet every year in love and brotherhood, and may we be driven forward by a renewed determination to build our beloved country.

Today I am happy to be addressing you on Oman colour TV, on this occasion which is so precious to us all. As we celebrate our fifth National Day, we can now take a look at what we have been able to achieve, with God,s assistance, for our country and our people.

At this point, let us praise Almighty God, Who has enabled us to record many major achievements. They are clear for all to see and demonstrate the fruits of our perseverance and resolve. From the moment they began their journey in July 1970, our people have been in a race against time in which they have wholeheartedly embraced whatever challenges such a race might pose. Thanks to our determination, we have been able to overcome those challenges and lead our country forward, so that it has now joined the ranks of the modern states. We thank and praise God for the success He has granted us.

Brothers,

I should like to begin by speaking of the men of our Armed Forces - the soldiers of Oman, the shield of the nation and the defenders of its sacred soil. No country can enjoy peace and stability, nor can it reap the benefits to be had from its rich resources or achievements,



unless it is protected by a strong army capable of repelling its enemies and safeguarding its gains. That was why we set about developing a large army and spent substantial sums of money on equipping it with modern weapons. Consequently, today we can say that within a short space of time our Armed Forces - on land, at sea and in the air - have become among the region's more modern military assets, and we thank God that the citizen,s security and welfare are now provided for.

On this note, I should now like to turn to the southern region of Oman, where the army fought the evil, terrorist gangs and pursued them over the mountains and through the wadis, sacrificing life and limb to clean the land from the filth and abomination they represented.

It was a hard and bitter struggle, and the task of pursuing the gangs was quite different from the military operations that normally take place between opposing armies. Nevertheless, in the fight between Good and Evil Good emerged victorious and devastation and ruin were replaced by development projects.

If we look at the situation in many villages in the mountains of Dhofar today, we will find that over ten schools have been opened and that these villages now enjoy security and welfare, including health and other essential services. Looking back to July 1970, we will recall that there was only one school in the whole of Dhofar; yet today - or rather, by the end of this year - there will be 32 schools in its towns and villages. Where health is concerned, the number of the beds in Dhofar Hospital is constantly on the increase and a department has been opened for diseases of the chest. The crowning achievement in this field will come with the opening of the new hospital which is currently under construction and will have a capacity for up to 300 beds.

In the communications field, the 83-kilometre-long Salalah-Thumrait road over the mountains has been asphalted and has become a vital artery of the region's social and economic life, playing a major role in promoting trade, particularly during the rainy season.

In addition to this the 26-kilometre-long Taqah-al Ma'amourah road has been paved, as well as 25 kilometres of urban roads in the city of Salalah. The road network has not only been extended to provide links between the towns. Minor roads have also been constructed in the mountains to link the villages and populated areas, like the 60-kilometre-long Qairoon Hairiti-Jibjat road, the 10-kilometre Madinat al Haqq road, the 10-kilometre Ain Razat-Shin-haib road, the 24-kilometre Taqah-Tawi Atayr road, the 20-kilometre Taqah-Madinat al Haqq road, the 20-kilometre Halouf road and the 5-kilometre Qairoon Hairiti-Jahaif road.

Furthermore, forty wells have been sunk in the Nejd, the Jabal and the Salalah plain to provide water for citizens and their animals, so that the people of the mountains and the plains

alike can enjoy the benefits of security and stability.

All these things and more have been achieved in the southern region, thanks to God's assistance and the committed co-operation between our Armed Forces, the National Firqat forces and the loyal citizens to suppress terrorism and subversion and promote security among the people so that they can enjoy decent lives.

As for those deluded infiltrators from beyond our borders, their voices are bigger than they are. Meanwhile, as we continue to march forward, building with one hand and carrying our weapons in the other, we still hold out our hands to all those whose intentions are honourable. At the same time, those who seek evil will receive nothing but evil.



Brothers, Citizens,

As time goes by we are making progress in every area of life. In the educational sphere, some 65 new schools have been opened in the Sultanate, increasing the number of classes by 485 and the number of teachers and administrators by 920. This means that we now have 176 schools with around 50,000 pupils - boys and girls - studying in them. In addition to this, educational opportunities are also available for adults who missed out on the chance to study when they were young; a total of 182 evening centres with 1,584 students have been opened for men and six centres with 575 students have been opened for women.

We also send young Omanis abroad to gain expertise. At present 59 students have completed English language courses in Britain and are studying in universities in the United States; a further 91 students are candidates for courses in America, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Syria during the 1975-76 academic year.

We aim to extend education throughout the Sultanate so that everyone may have the chance to study according to his abilities. We are also working on a plan to eradicate illiteracy and we are focusing our attention particularly on vocational and higher education so that we can meet the country's needs for trained Omani manpower. We are taking steps to «Omanise» the school syllabi and expand educational services at the different levels, particularly primary, and provide preparatory and secondary schools at the main centres of population in the educational regions.



There are plans to establish an Omani teachers, training college to provide pre-service and in-service training for primary school teachers, as well as an agricultural secondary school in Nizwa, three technical secondary schools commercial, agricultural and industrial - four preparatory - secondary schools and two teacher training institutes for male and female teachers. Work will also continue on the construction of primary schools in those regions which do not yet have them.

A number of secondary school graduates will be sent on scholarships to universities and higher institutes in Arab and friendly states.

Recognizing that a healthy body and a healthy mind is the right of every citizen, since July 1970 we have given a high priority to improving the Omani people's health. Up to last year a total of 13 hospitals, 11 health centres and 3,400 clinics were opened in the Sultanate; all of them have been provided with the up-to-date equipment and specialist expertise. So medical services are now available in many parts of the country.

Further expansion this year Includes polyclinics In Salalah and Saham and a mother and child care unit in the capital. Health units have also been set up in Khasab, the Jabal al Akhdhar, Sur, Quriyat and Khabourah.

The World Health Organisation has opened an office in the Sultanate.

Since prevention is better than cure, importance has also been attached to preventive medicine and immunisation against infectious diseases, particularly immunisation carried out on a regular basis; this has helped reduce the incidence of infectious diseases and has improved the health of the country's schoolchildren, whose health is constantly under supervision.

Furthermore, twelve new clinics have been set up this year to provide preventive services and treatment in al Habi, Madha, Shinas, Yanqul, Quriyat, al Khawf, Hail al Ghaf, Mahdhah, Buraimi, Awabi, Ma'amourah and Wadi Bani Rawaha.

Projects currently under construction include extension work on Al Nahdha Hospital, and also the large hospital in Salalah which we referred to earlier and a clinic in Ibri. To improve the professional standards of the personnel employed in the health sector 228 young Omanis have been trained at health centres at home and abroad to work in preventive medicine, combat disease and provide first aid.

New specialist services introduced in the Sultanate's hospitals this year include psychiatry, dermatology and otology. From time to time the Sultanate brings in specialists to treat certain diseases that are hard to cure. All the regions are covered by these services; alternatively, pa

tients are sent abroad for treatment. There are also agreements for specialists in neurosurgery and chest and cosmetic surgery to visit the Sultanate so that the country can benefit from their expertise.



Brothers,

Oman today is not the Oman of yesterday. Its lack-lustre face has changed. It has shaken off the dust of isolation and stagnation, opened its doors and windows to the light and declared to the world that it is ready to communicate directly with it, interact with the changes taking place in it and allow itself to be affected and influenced by them.

Hence the priority we have given to communications. Communications play a major role in promoting human progress and over the past four years there have been numerous significant achievements in the communications sector. Today we are in the satellite age, the space age; at the beginning of this year a satellite station went into operation at Watteyah and to mark the fifth National Day another, larger, station will be opened in Wadi Adai to facilitate communications between the Sultanate and the outside world. This station will also transmit radio and television programmes to and from the Sultanate.

Other National Day events include the opening of the Central Post Office in Ruwi and the Ruwial Bustan road. The Cable and Wireless communications building at Bait al Falaj was opened three months ago and work has been completed on the 149-kilometre-long Seeb-Nizwa road.

In addition to this, the runway at Seeb International Airport has been extended. And at the beginning of last year we ordered the construction of a seawater desalination plant and power station to be built at Ghubrah to help meet the growing demand for electricity and water in the capital and surrounding areas. Next year this major new project will supply 27 megawatts of power, rising to 77 megawatts in 1977. At the same time, it will also produce 6 million gallons a day of fresh water. The station is now ready to go into operation.

The new road between Muscat and Mutrah is now under construction, as well as the dual carriageway between Ruwi and Seeb, the Musanah-Rustaq road, the Bidbid road, the Salalah-Thumrait road, the Mutrah-Quriyat road and the Qurm road. The village electrification project is also in progress, together with the Greater Mutrah development project, the development of the Musandam region, street lighting for the Muscat-Mutrah road, the electricity and water pipeline

projects in Qurm, and Salalah Airport. Work is also proceeding on the Batinah coast automatic telephone system and the urban road, well excavation and granary projects.



Brothers, Citizens,

I am happy to be speaking to you, and I am even happier to be speaking about Oman and what we have done for it in recognition of its just claims upon us. Its soil is sacred, its land is bounteous and its noble people are driven by a desire to work for their country's glory, honour, progress and prosperity.



Citizens,

Societies can only progress if they provide social welfare based on practical studies, technical research and applied experiments. The considerable attention we have given to this question is reflected in the law defining the areas of competence of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour - areas which do not only cover social welfare itself, but also include responsibility for regulating relations between employers and employees. At the same time, this Ministry is responsible for the welfare of Omani youth, including the sporting and cultural activities associated with that sector, and for drawing up the youth clubs, rules and regulations. Our Omani youth are the vanguard of today, the hope of the nation and the promise of its future.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour also provides assistance for those in need, based on appropriate social studies. Sometimes this assistance takes the form of fixed – i.e. monthly ? social security. When necessary there is also emergency assistance as well as relief for victims of natural disasters. This year a total of 8,799 cases have benefited from these different forms of assistance.

It is vital that citizens should be provided with suitable housing and the Social Affairs Department has agreed to build 500 houses over the next five years - i.e. on a Five-Year Plan - in Muscat and Mutrah, as well as 500 houses in Nizwa, Sohar and Sur and 500 houses in Salalah and Buraimi. Those on limited incomes will be provided with large housing units - 100 units per

wilayat in the wilayats of Sur, Buraimi, Khasab and Bukha - and 400 units in the capital area. God willing, they will be handed over next year.

Thousands of plots of land have been demarcated and distributed to citizens in the capital area and the wilayats. Building work is continuing to expand and there are plans for land distribution to continue. It is essential that the plans should be carefully studied and prepared and that a distinction is made between houses, factories, schools and souqs. This will ensure «the right building for the right site» and facilitate the provision of those services that modern housing needs.

Land is distributed to citizens via six main departments - the Land Distribution Department, the Property Register Department, the Survey Department, the Town Planning Department, the Judicial Committee and the Technical Committee. Each of these departments has specific responsibilities and each of them is designed to regulate distribution, protect the citizen>s legal title and define the boundaries of his property, thereby acting as deterrents against any problems that might arise.



Brothers, Citizens,

From the beginning of our reign we saw trade operating through individual initiatives within a traditional market context and without any regulatory laws, controls or guidance. The situation with industry was no better than it was with trade, being limited to some primitive manual crafts.

It is well-known that the mainstay of the state is its economy and that the economy is the main factor determining a country>s power and progress. It is for this reason that we have responded to the huge growth in trade that has occurred over the past four years by setting up the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Between 1970 and the end of 1974 the volume of trade increased from eight million Omani Rials to thirty-six thousand million Omani Rials. In the wake of this massive expansion, the Directorate-General of Commerce has organised its departments is follows:

- I The Internal Trade Department
- I The Companies> Affairs Department
- I The Commercial Register Department
- I The Oil Products Affairs Department
- I The Commercial Relations Department

I The Israel Boycott Office

The Directorate-General of Industry has the following departments:

I The Specifications and Quality Control Department.

I The Industrial Projects Administration Department.

I The Industrial Projects Research Department

I The Craft Industries Department

So it is no longer a matter of improvisation or individual initiatives as it was in the past, when the market was sluggish and operated on a barter basis and the only crafts were traditional ones. Today we are living in the modern world and it is the modern world that determines the road we take.



Citizens,

Oman is rich in resources and its resources belong to its people. Though oil is our main source of income at present, we know that we have abundant other resources which we need to exploit in order to promote the rapid progress and development we wish for this country. Accordingly, last year we set up the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Petroleum and Minerals. Their responsibilities include research into agriculture, water, animal husbandry, the soil, pest control and plant and livestock disease control for the benefit of Oman's farmers, in order to help them operate more efficiently and strengthen their ties to their land. On the fisheries side the aim is to provide facilities for increasing the supply of fish available for home consumption at reasonable prices, so as to help cut the cost of living for the country's citizens, and at the same time to catch fish for export, thereby helping to boost the Sultanate's income.

With regard to oil, currently our main source of income, we have taken steps to expand the prospecting and exploration operations for oil reserves in our dear land, and contracts have been signed to that end with a number of foreign companies. In addition, the government now owns 60% of Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) and the Ministry is represented on the company's board.

Although the gas associated with the oil extraction operations was not exploited in the past, we are eager to exploit it now and use it in the manufacture of chemical fertilisers. In addition to

this, some encouraging research has been carried out which points to the likelihood of several other minerals being present in Oman. God willing, work will begin soon on copper processing, then on processing other minerals which may be present here.

With God's assistance, our next Five-Year Plan will demonstrate a commitment to constructive work for the sake of prosperity and progress.



Brothers,

We are a Muslim people and take pride in our Islam and our faith. Therefore we put the teachings of our religion above all other considerations and the «message of the mosque» provides the inspiration which guides us through life and illuminates our path. We are resolved to ensure that Islam's radiance fills our minds and souls and casts its light over every part of our land. This is demonstrated by the importance we attach to religion and religious teachings in our educational system - whether in the schools, the barracks or the larger community. This commitment of ours is a religious duty; that is all there is to be said on the matter.

You all know how the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has carried out the commands of the True Religion and its teachings.

God, help us in our religion and our worldly affairs and grant us success in that which pleases You.



Brothers,

We are constantly taking steps to ensure that our internal administrative structure keeps pace with the country's progress and serves our citizens in every part of the country. In this connection the Interior Ministry now has a new building which has been designed to create a suitable working atmosphere and enable its staff to carry out their duties properly. There is also a second new

building for receiving walis, tribal sheikhs and other citizens from Oman's regions who come to the capital on official business and we are also building new premises for the walis. At the same time, however, the renovation work we are carrying out on our historic forts and castles shows that we are just as keen to hold on to our traditions and our heritage.

First and foremost, it is the Omani citizen who is our goal and we have set up a training programme for 20 walis and deputy walis to teach them the value of modern administrative concepts and improve the level of local administration in the Sultanate. They will be followed by another batch of walis and deputy walis.

The ministry has established a new Home Affairs Department building to help facilitate the process of liaising with the municipality departments. The ministry currently oversees 12 municipalities in the Sultanate - Nizwa, Sohar, Sur, Sumail, Rustaq, Ibri, Buraimi, Masirah, Khasab, Ibra, Fanja and Bidbid - as well as the Dhofar Region Municipality and the Capital Area Municipality.

Hygiene units have been set up in many wilayats to keep the wilayats clean. God willing, they will form the nuclei of the permanent municipalities of the future. Several modern souqs have been built and municipal councils have been established in a number of wilayats.



Citizens,

Since our religion teaches us that all people are equal, that there is no difference between one citizen and another in the question of rights and duties and that «the noblest of you in the sight of God is the most God-fearing,» we are absolutely determined to establish social justice in accordance with the teachings of our Islamic religion and Shariah. Consequently the Ministry of Justice has set up departments for deed registration, litigation and rulings. When necessary, the Court of Appeal meets in the wilayats from time to time to issue final rulings on matters and areas under dispute. As the legislative authority has been separated from the executive authority, the Ministry of Justice is now responsible for building the courts and judges, residences in the wilayats; residential accommodation has been built for judges in Bidbid, Buraimi, Shinas and Diba and provided with mains electricity and water connections in line with the demands of the modern age. Under currently expansion plans, other offices of the ministry will be housed in a separate building. In addition, a building is currently being constructed in Muscat for the use of judges on official business.

It is always important to us that every citizen without exception should enjoy justice.

Brothers,

I am happy to be speaking to you tonight on this precious occasion - the occasion of our fifth National Day celebrations, the anniversary of the time when we emerged from our past and entered a new historical era. I should now like to talk to you about our Foreign Ministry's achievements, in order to give you an idea about our foreign policy and our international relations.

We all know what we were like before 1970, and we all know where we are today in November 1975, as we celebrate the fact that it is now five years later and review the great historical transformation that has taken place in this ancient land. We have already summarised for you what has been achieved at home.

With regard to international relations, I am delighted to say that Oman today belongs to most international organisations and takes part in most international conferences, whether they are under the auspices of the United Nations or its specialised agencies, or under the auspices of Arab, Islamic or other international organisations. I personally have visited Arab and friendly states and the conferences I have attended in the name of Oman have demonstrated that we are an effective presence in this part of the world.

We belong to the family of nations and our policy is very clear; to devote one hand to developing the country and the other hand to playing an active and positive part in world affairs.



Citizens,

Truth and honesty are essential both at home and abroad. It is essential to convey a true and positive picture of what is taking place on the soil of our beloved Oman, in a way that reflects the tremendous enterprises undertaken by our people, as well as their great hopes for the future. True, objective, unexaggerated and honest reports find their way not only into our houses, but also into the houses of people elsewhere. We want to know ourselves and we want the world to know us. We also consider it very important that the Omani citizen himself should know the main features of the triumphant progress he has achieved through his determination, his will and

his co-operation with his government; after all, he is himself first and foremost a living media instrument whose source material is the great achievements which he sees with his own eyes in his dear land.

Brothers,

The Ministry of Information and Culture is the mirror that reflects our achievements and progress. I am happy to say that today Oman TV has also begun transmitting in the southern region, thereby covering a new area of this dear country and working alongside the TV station in the capital to bring happiness and culture to the citizen and convey a true picture of his new life and hopes for the future.

We are on the road to progress and our plans for the future are constructive and ambitious. Your media has developed and matured and is well able to convey to you - wherever you may be - the story of a people who believe in their country; the story of a people who understand and work towards the realisation of its destiny and who will accept no other life than a life of dignity and honour.



Citizens,

In our review of the machinery of government we finally come to the Ministry of Public Works and its departments.

This Ministry is responsible for implementing all the other ministries, projects. The implementation of any project carried out by any ministry is overseen by the Ministry of Public Works. Even the Ministry of our Royal Diwan Affairs, which covers the budget deficits suffered by some ministries in order to ensure the satisfactory completion of the development plan and keep the wheels of progress turning, assigns some of its projects to the Ministry of Public Works. When we order the Ministry of our Diwan to proceed with bridging the financial gaps, we are working on the premise that what is good for Oman is good and that everything is designed to serve Oman.

Brothers,

The achievements I am talking to you about are merely broad outlines and major landmarks on the road of our country's renaissance. The details and figures will be dealt with by the competent

officials from the different ministries when they speak to you about them in detail on television.

However much some may try to sow doubt about our financial capacity or the competence of our government apparatus, we say to our friends: «Don't worry. We are fine. Our budget is now twelve times as big as it was in 1970, as everyone knows.» And as for the enemies who are displeased with the progress we are making, we say to them: «Perish in your rage. God knoweth well all the secrets of your hearts.»

Festive greetings to you. And may God be with us: «And God suffices as a Helper. «

May God grant you success, and may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



at the police stadium

*Our Victory, therefore, is the first to be achieved
by an Arab country over world communism in the
battlefield in a war which lasted long years, and the
second victory by an international state.*



11th December
1975





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Countrymen,

I GREET your ardent gathering here today and congratulate you with pride and dignity on the defeat of the agents of Communism who were driven away from the oil of our dear country. It is God's wish that this victory be the crowning achievement of our National Day celebrations, during which we have, with the grace of God, launched several development projects. It was also the will of God that our victory be a happy start for celebrating two glorious Eids. The Eid of Victory and the Eid al Adha (Feast of Immolation). I, therefore, offer you my greetings and best wishes on these two occasions.



Countrymen,

A blessed greeting which heralds peace and tranquillity on the Eid al Adha accompanied by a felicitation crowned with pride and dignity on our glorious victory.

Countrymen,

The Eid al Adha is the commemoration of our father Abraham, peace be on him, when he decided to sacrifice Ismail his son in obedience to his Lord, but God redeemed him.

The Eid of Victory is the result of the sacrifices of our soldiers and National Firqats (irregular troops) and every one of the friends who have helped and contributed in achieving this victory. They sacrificed their lives in order to save their country and protect their Islam, and redeem peace and security from the evils of Communism, the propagator of terror and cor-

ruption in the land. We thank God for accepting the sacrifice and for granting us victory and driving away the evil aggressors.

O Heroic Sons of Oman, while I hail your celebrations today and bless your victory over the evil gang in a part of our dear country, I bless this victory not only because you have driven away the aggressors from our country but also because you have defeated the plots of world communism and bowed the heads of those atheists who thought that they would never be defeated.

Our Victory, therefore, is the first to be achieved by an Arab country over world communism in the battlefield in a war which lasted long years, and the second victory by an international state.

It is for our own good and welfare that our country be purged from communist corruption and is probably for the good and welfare of our neighbours also. For we made them perceive the truth and liberated them from their delusions in supporting evil people who commit acts of terror, killings and destruction in a part of a peaceful country. They kill their brothers, plunder their properties and destroy their homes for nothing but simply in order to terrorise, plunder and destroy.

I wish our neighbours to realise that what we have said is the truth and that we are always true in what we say. It is for the good of our neighbours to sacrifice their follies and wrong beliefs, their disturbed thoughts and imported ideologies. Perhaps God will accept their sacrifice and compensate them with peace in their country, blessing on their crops and good health so that their people will no longer suffer from vagrancy, hunger, disease and total ignorance.



Countrymen,

The chasing away of communist gangs and their remnants from the mountains of Dhofar does not only mean a victory over a few evil gangs, but it is also a clear revelation of an established truth that our dear Oman is a pure land that rejects the seeds of the communist movement. Our victory is an indication of the failure of the world communist movement in Oman and that is a favour from God, whom we thank.

O Sons of Oman. Although we have achieved a great victory which has great value and effect in political circles, this does not mean that we should rest and lay down our arms. No! We now have to be more careful because world communism, whose pride has been hit will regard Oman as the axe which shattered the rock of communism and the spear which stabbed it in the heart, and will harbour feelings hatred and hostility and will invent new methods and concoct new plots for exploiting people who are weak-minded and sick in their hearts, people if you see them you like their bodies and when they speak, listen to them as if they were blocks of wood.

Those are the cancer of the nations. God save us from them. So beware of them.



Countrymen,

While I bear the great responsibility, I urge every citizen, whether he be a soldier, farmer, or worker, student or teacher to keep his eyes open and be always vigilant. I warn in particular the responsible officials in the Government, clerks, directors, advisers and Ministers. Each one of these has a responsibility to bear and a duty to perform.

O Sons of Oman, while I am confident of God,s support, I pray God Almighty to guard and protect Oman. But we should not ignore God,s orders which call for resoluteness and determination. I thank God I am certain of your sincere devotion and proud of your alertness.

Keep on marching with God>s blessing and be diligent and industrious in order to lead this country on the road towards progress and prosperity.

My hearty greetings to our heroic soldiers and irregular troops and my deep thanks and appreciation to our noble friends and everyone who contributed in achieving this great victory.

I pray God to lend us his help and support. On God I rely for my success and I resign myself to His will.

A Happy Year to you all and peace and the grace and blessings of God be with you.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 6th national day

*.....our hearts are filled with pride and humility -
pride in the victories our Omani people have achieved,
and humility in the knowledge that it is God's blessing
and protection which has made these victories possible.*



18th November
1976





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Beloved Countrymen,

WE speak to you on the occasion of the anniversary of that day six years ago when it became our destiny to assume, under God's guidance, responsibility for the welfare of our dear country and its people. In reviewing the six years that have passed, our hearts are filled with pride and humility - pride in the victories our Omani people have achieved, and humility in the knowledge that it is God's blessing and protection which has made these victories possible.

Six years ago, when we set out together on the path of progress we had chosen, we knew our journey would not be easy; we faced obstacles which at times seemed insuperable; and we faced dangers together - dangers which threatened the existence of our holy faith and the very lives and freedom of our people. These obstacles and dangers might well have daunted the stoutest hearts. In those early days it was sometimes hard to conceive that any other country and people had faced challenges of such magnitude. For we not only had to struggle with the gigantic tasks of bringing our beloved country forward from the darkness of stagnation into the sunlight of progress, we had also to grapple with and destroy the menaces of communist terrorism which threatened all we held dear.

But today, dear brothers and sisters, we can pause for a moment in our labours to draw renewed faith and confidence from the glory of our achievements. After ten years of bitter struggle, the valour and determination of all our people - the armed services, the National Firqats, the ordinary men and women - has completely cleansed our land of the communist resistance. On the international scene our country has earned respect and friendship; in our relations with our sister Arab states we have continued our wholehearted support for

Arab aspirations and our loyal co-operation with the Arab League. Giant strides have been made in the development of our dear country. Our people now have hospitals, schools, roads and other modern amenities. Our people enjoy full employment, no one who wishes to work need be without a job. As we promised in our New Year speech, priority is being given to the needs of our young people. This summer many of our students are working in our Ministries and other Public Departments during their summer holidays so that they may learn to accept responsibility and fit themselves for future service to their country. We take particular interest in this scheme since we have faith that our young people will be worthy inheritors of our national achievements. We intend that they shall have every opportunity to develop their talents in the service of Oman.



Our recent instruction that a ministry should be created with special responsibility for youth affairs is testimony of our faith and pride in our young people and our determination that they shall be brought forward to play their full part.

We know that, with our increasing population, individuals' problems will inevitably tend also to multiply. We have instructed our ministers to pay the greatest attention to the problems of our people and to serve the people to their fullest ability in helping to solve them.

And now what does the future hold for our beloved country? We believe that, provided we remain steadfast in our determination to strive together for the freedom and progress of Oman, the future is bright with promise. Today, we renew to you all our pledge to dedicate our life to the service of our dear people and country.

I wish you a happy year and may God's grace and blessings be with you.



Speech of His Majesty



at the 4th session of the arab gulf states'
foreign ministers' conference in muscat

*The Sultanate of Oman clearly recognizes that it is
important there should be mutual understanding so
that agreement can be reached on a formula for co-
operation between the states of our region.*



25th November
1976





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



My Brothers, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, the Ministers,

WE are happy to welcome you to this brotherly gathering in your country, Oman, and we should like to thank you for accepting the invitation to attend this meeting, which we hope will be successful.

This meeting, the fourth in your series of meetings, aims to establish the best possible way of further developing the already close relations and co-operation between our governments and peoples in order to safeguard the security of our region.

The truth is that we do not need to define the global significance of our region,s role and the importance of stability and security for the region itself and the world as a whole. Everybody is aware of these things.

Our region seriously needs to establish firm, solid foundations that all the parties concerned will accept as a basis for co-operation in every sphere in the interests of stability, so that we can ensure maximum development for the sake of our peoples, prosperity. Our states enjoy strong, brotherly relations which over the past two years have progressed from strength to strength as a result of the mutual understanding and wise, balanced policies followed by the enlightened leaderships in our respective countries. These relations have enabled us to dissolve differences between our states and replace them with mutual trust, co-operation and co-ordination for the benefit of the entire region.

The Sultanate of Oman clearly recognizes that it is important there should be mutual un-



derstanding so that agreement can be reached on a formula for co-operation between the states of our region. The Sultanate of Oman - both government and people - wishes to see our region enjoy stability and security so that it can lay the foundations for development and progress. For a number of years the Sultanate of Oman spent the greater part of its resources on resisting subversive attacks launched by a foreign power from one of its satellite states - attacks which were aimed at the region as a whole. The Sultanate of Oman, like the enemy, is aware of the fact that it is the region's first line of defence because of its strategic location, and that it is the main enforcer of that defence. If it were to fall, then the rest of the region with its vast resources would be threatened with subversive attack, or domination, by that foreign power. Either eventuality would be extremely damaging and must be prevented. Hence the Sultanate of Oman stood firm against this aggression and achieved victory over it. In doing so, it bore all the burdens and hardships demanded of it for the sake of its security and the security and stability of the region as a whole. The assistance and support the Sultanate received from its sister states in the region played a major part in this victory and provided a practical demonstration of regional co-operation against foreign aggression.

It is against this background that we are meeting here today to reaffirm and reinforce this co-operation and expand it into other fields. We should like to stress that the Sultanate of Oman is not against any state, whatever its political system, provided that its system is in accordance with the wishes of its people. We believe in peaceful co-existence with every state, provided that it does not interfere in our internal affairs.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank all your governments, particularly the government of the State of Kuwait, for the work they have done in preparing for this historic meeting, which is designed to serve our common interests. Once again, we warmly welcome you to your country amongst your nearest and dearest in the Sultanate of Oman. We hope you will have a pleasant stay here and that you will succeed in achieving your meeting's objective of establishing firm foundations for fruitful co-operation between our states for our common benefit, thereby improving our peoples' economic, social and cultural standards so that security, stability and prosperity can prevail. We place our trust in God.

And say: <Do, and God will see your deeds, and His Prophet and the Believers.>

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.

Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of 7th national day

Oman has continued to play a full part on the international scene in co-operation with all like-minded countries, in the defence of the freedom and dignity of mankind.



18th November

1977





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



My Dear Countrymen,

IT gives us great pleasure to speak to you in Salalah, the capital of our southern province, and personally to share the happiness of this day with our loyal Dhofari people. Throughout our beloved country our people are celebrating this National anniversary as one united family. From the far north to the far south, in the interior and on the coastal plains, in the towns and in the rural areas, our Omani people are proudly conscious on this day of the great victories we have won together and are facing the future with confidence and determination.

It is especially appropriate that our first words today should be addressed to our armed forces - to our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and loyal Firqat - close to the battlefields where you fought for the freedom of our people with such noble self-sacrifice and devotion until final victory was won.

Your deeds have indeed shone far beyond the borders of Oman. While your example has given courage and new hope to those in other lands whose freedom is threatened in these dark times, you have also demonstrated that the armed forces of a free and united people have a vital role to play in peace as well as in war. Your magnificent work in bringing help to our people when our country was struck by a violent hurricane earlier this year, and the valuable services you daily render in promoting the well-being and development of our dear country have earned you a special place in the hearts of all Omanis.

In times of stability and security which, thanks be to God, our country now enjoys, it is all too easy for the efficiency and keenness of military forces to decline when the stimulus of active service is no longer there to inspire them. During the past year we have watched with pride the way in which you have maintained and indeed excelled your high standards of

discipline and professional skill. We have only to look about us at the world scene to see how vital it is that you should do so. Those who seek the enslavement of the free world have shown time and time again that they will use armed forces in flagrant and contemptuous disregard of international law to achieve their aims. In Africa, the freedom of millions of its people has been extinguished by the merciless employment of this force. And, even as we speak to you now, our Arab brothers there are fighting for their independence against forces directed and supplied by external powers intent upon obtaining strategic control of the area. In these days, when the lives and freedom of humanity everywhere are threatened by the ambitions of these ruthless and powerful forces, we must remain constantly on our guard, never for one moment relaxing our vigilance, and ever ready to defend our country.

We are confident that this sacred duty with which you have been entrusted - the defence of our holy religion, the preservation of the freedom of our beloved Oman, and the protection of our people - is safe in your hands.



My Dear Countrymen,

It would be fatally wrong to suppose that the threat to the free world manifests itself solely in the form of armed force. The enemies of freedom utilise every avenue of human activity to achieve their aims. Often under the guise of so-called liberalism and a concern for the rights of men, these sinister forces have set themselves to undermine and ultimately destroy the whole fabric of civilised society. Claiming to speak in the name of freedom and as champions of the underprivileged, they are intent on the destruction of the rule of law and of decent human standards everywhere. They attack by every means in their power the values and morality which mankind has learned through centuries of experience to regard as the essential code by which to live. Their cleverly contrived propaganda is designed to appeal to the gullible, to those who are genuine idealists, as well as to those who see in it an invitation to unleash their basic instincts. In the name of so-called freedom of expression and the equality of man, they deny the existence of God and hold the law in contempt and seek to persuade the people - and especially the young - that there are no rights except those of the individual to do as he pleases regardless of any obligation to the community.

It may well be asked, what can be the object of this desire to reduce mankind to a state of anarchy and total lawlessness? We do not have to look far to find it. The object is to bring the countries of the free world to a state of moral and material disintegration - a condition of total

impotence - ripe to be taken over by forces which seek nothing less than world domination. And if, which God forbid, the free world should allow this to happen, it will find itself subjected to a tyranny almost beyond the comprehension of those who have never suffered it. The lives of men would be ruled by the fear of the concentration camp, of the secret police, under regimes where no man may trust another and where even the children are taught by the state to inform on their parents.

Oman has continued to play a full part on the international scene in co-operation with all like-minded countries, in the defence of the freedom and dignity of mankind. We have continued, too, to work in the closest co-operation and brotherly accord with the Arab league for the advancement of the Arab cause. This will ever remain a cornerstone of our national policy. In our own region - the Gulf area - we are certain that it is vital that we and the states in the region should recognise that we must assume responsibility for our own security.

We are happy to tell you that the loyal and unselfish mutual co-operation which marks our relations with our brother states in the area has contributed significantly to the progress of our peoples. And here we wish particularly to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance which has been received from those states which have provided it. In view of the close ties which bind our community in the area and our identity of interests, it is all the more regrettable to have to record that the Sultanate's relations with South Yemen have shown no improvement during the past year. The untiring efforts of the Arab League and our brother countries to bring this about - with which Oman has loyally co-operated - have all ended in failure. It is to be hoped that the time will come when the leaders of South Yemen will realise that their responsibilities to the Arab and Islamic family, to which they belong, transcend their commitment to serve the interests of the ambitions of this family's enemy.



My Dear Countrymen,

If we are to play our full part in the world in the cause of peace and freedom, we must never relax our efforts to build the strength of our country and to fit our coming generations for the tasks that lie ahead. On this anniversary, we are happy to tell you that sound - and, in some cases, very notable - advances have been made this year towards the fulfilment of these aims.

Education - upon which the future of our country must so largely depend has made highly significant progress. 54 new permanent schools have been constructed and are now in full operation: more than 1,000 additional teachers have been engaged since the 1975-76 school



year. These measures have enabled nearly 10,000 more of our children to commence formal education this year. The ultimate aim is that every boy and girl in the Sultanate shall receive a minimum of 9 years' education. We have directed that no effort is to be spared to achieve this aim as soon as possible.

We informed you last year that we were determined that our young people should not only be educated but should receive an <Omani Education> - in addition to being taught academic subjects they should be instructed in our Omani culture and learn to value and cherish our great historical heritage. The stage has now been reached where, after careful study, a curriculum for our schools has been prepared which not only conforms to international academic standards, but also includes these essential Omani subjects. But education must not only be a matter of academic and cultural instruction - it must also be concerned with the formation of character. Now that Oman is playing - and will increasingly play - an important role in world affairs, the growing impact of the 20th Century on every aspect of the life of our country is evident to every one of us. Many of these new influences are good, and are bringing the blessings of good health and a better life to our people. But it would be unrealistic to ignore the fact that there are other influences and pressures associated with modern life which can be morally and physically damaging to those who are exposed to them. These factors place a particularly heavy responsibility upon parents and upon those whose duty is to watch over and guide the upbringing of our children to ensure that the standards and values bequeathed to us by our Holy Religion and our Arab traditions are maintained.

Those who are to be the future religious leaders of our country will be vitally concerned in this. Their training must enable them to understand the pressures and problems of modern life in order that they may exercise their leadership in a constructive and effective manner. We have therefore ordered that a review of the work of the Islamic Centre at Wattayah be carried out in order that its graduates shall be fitted for the tasks that face them. Improvements are to be made in the curricula, notably the inclusion of secular subjects, which will produce mature teachers of Islam, familiar with the ways of modern society and well qualified to provide our people - and especially our young people - with the moral and spiritual guidance they must have.

Equally as important as the maintenance of the moral and spiritual well-being of our people is the essential protection of their physical health. We are pleased to say that considerable progress has been made this year in extending and improving the Sultanate's health service. Here, in the Southern Region, the health service has now taken over full responsibility for the medical care of our people. A group of fully mobile health teams - each of which includes a qualified doctor - is now operating in that area. These teams are equipped to travel quickly to those in need by land, sea or air. In the north, similar teams are also actively engaged in

the service of our people. A nation-wide programme of immunisation against major diseases is in progress. The watchword of our medical services must be the prevention of disease, not just its cure.

Medical facilities have been substantially developed during the past year in the key areas of our country. A 24-bed hospital has opened on Masirah island to care of our people there; in the Capital area, the Al-Nahda Hospital has been extended to provide modern accommodation for the specialist departments and for additional patients. The extension of the Khoula Hospital and the three district hospitals at Nizwa, Sur and Sohar is now in progress. The construction of health centres and clinics in the interior is envisaged as part of a carefully planned programme designed to provide medical cover for the whole of the Sultanate.

Our Ministry of Youth Affairs has been actively developing its services to our young people. We have approved proposals to draft plans for the construction of a sports stadium of international standards where our sportsmen and women can compete with visiting teams from other countries. Our youth are also to be encouraged to cherish our great Maritime traditions. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Information and Culture, and other ministries concerned, groups of young people from Europe and the Far East are to visit the Sultanate during the coming months as the first step in a service which will eventually develop into a continuing programme of exchanges.

We regard these contacts between young people as of great importance: they will provide our visitors from foreign lands with an insight into our Omani way of life and with a knowledge of our country and people. And, at the same time, they will enable our boys and girls to gain an understanding of other countries and their customs. We are convinced that such initiatives can produce a powerful impulse towards international understanding and world peace.

All these projects and plans - the expansion and improvement of education, the advancement of our medical services, the provision of healthy recreational facilities for our young people, and the many other important tasks which are being undertaken by our ministries in the development of our country - are dependent on the strength of our national economy.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that our national economy has made sound progress in the past year. In addition to our oil resources, which are still in course of development, the development of the Sultanate's rich copper deposits has now reached the stage where we shall be producing 20,000 tons of high-grade copper a year by 1980. Ten million tons of chrome will also come into production by 1980. Our resources of natural gas are sufficient to provide the Sultanate with a sound power base for the development of industry. And, this year, our fishing industry will commence exporting in increasing quantities; and our developing agriculture is also playing an important part in our economy. These are valuable assets which will be

exploited to our fullest ability in the drive to diversify our national economy. Encouragement is to be given to private investors to participate as our national enterprises continue to develop and expand

My Dear Countrymen,

You have followed day-by-day the activities of our ministries through our information services. On this anniversary, every Omani has reason to be proud of these achievements. Through God's mercy, our country has been blessed with valuable natural resources which are making it possible for us to build our national strength and which are providing the nation with the means to make the life of the people more prosperous; in maintaining its prosperity we have to commit ourselves to serve Oman and its people and to serve our Arab family and all mankind. But we must never forget that, to be deserving of these gifts, we must continue to devote ourselves with complete dedication to the service of Oman, our Arab family and mankind, conscious always of the humble duty we owe to God, our holy religion and society.

On this Glorious occasion, I must express my deep thanks to my brother, His Majesty King Hussein, for his participation in our National Day Anniversary celebrations. His participation has demonstrated the strong brotherly relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Jordan. I would like also to express the appreciation of us all for Jordan's assistance during our holy struggle against Oman's enemy and the enemies of the Arab Islamic nation.

On this happy day, then, let us greet the coming year with confidence and ope, and pledge ourselves anew to the great tasks which lie ahead.

I wish you all a happy year and may Allah's peace and blessings be upon you.







Speech of His Majesty



to senior state officials

We will accept no excuse from anyone who is remiss in carrying out the duties he is required to perform in the service of this country and its citizens, and he will be punished for his failings in whatever manner we see fit.



15th May
1978





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

And may blessings and peace be upon the Prophet of Mercy - Muhammed the Faithful - who united the ranks and made all speak with a single voice, and upon all his Family and Companions.



Ministers and Officials of our government gathered here,

WE are happy to be with you today, more than seven years since we embarked on the process of establishing a modern government in our beloved Oman just as we promised our people in our first speech to them after assuming the reins of power. Since we became responsible for their affairs our people have placed all their trust in us. And by placing their trust in us they have also placed their trust in those we have chosen - and those whom we choose - to take responsibility for looking after their general interests. Therefore we, and you, have an obligation to safeguard that trust and not to abuse it. The creation of a modern state in tune with present-day needs is no easy task, even for a nation with a long history during which it raised the banner of Islam, enlightenment and progress and recorded a string of glorious victories. However, praise be to God, we overcame most of the obstacles and created a modern government, together with a whole range of modern government institutions, in order to meet the demand for rapid progress in the national interest.

We have brought you ministers, under-secretaries and directors here today to give you advice and guidance on what you need to do to carry out your missions of serving this dear country in a way pleasing to God, His Messenger, us and the citizens who have placed their trust in us. The policy we have chosen, and in which we believe, will always be one of

establishing closer relations and mutual understanding between ruler and subject, between the leader and the people he leads, with the aim of reinforcing national unity and promoting a spirit of universal co-operation - whether between senior government officials and their assistants and deputies, or with the rest of the citizens of this country.



All senior officials in our government must always remember that they are first and foremost the servants of the people of this dear country. This is very important. They must also remember that they have a duty to serve faithfully and selflessly, and to put the interests of the nations before any personal interests. We will accept no excuse from anyone who is remiss in carrying out the duties he is required to perform in the service of this country and its citizens, and he will be punished for his failings in whatever manner we see fit.

From time to time Royal Decrees have been issued promulgating laws for this state so that its people's interests can be protected. You must all study those laws thoroughly where they apply to your own areas of competence and you must ensure that you do not contravene any stipulations laid down in those laws during the course of your work. You must abide by them and follow them faithfully. An official position is a duty and a responsibility rather than a means of acquiring power and influence. All of you must set good examples for others to follow - good examples of loyalty to country, commitment and punctuality at work, behaviour inside and outside the workplace, job performance and competence. Justice must be your guide at all times, so observe it and deal with others justly. I shall be watching closely to make sure that all of you observe these principles and abide by them. There is no place in our society for anyone who steps out of line or fails to perform his duties in the manner required of him. At the same time, all those who work hard and faithfully will receive their fair share of rewards, respect and appreciation.



Finally, we should like to note that some people may try to curry favour with their superiors by offering to do jobs for them or perform other services that do not benefit the state in any way whatsoever. Such people should be rewarded privately and not at the state's expense

in the form of promotion or laxity in enforcing punctuality or attendance. Officials must put the interests of the state above all other interests and always choose the best person for the job, not the persons who are closest to them. Personal and family relationships must never enter into things where officials are concerned. All Oman is are brothers and sons, and we do not like to hear of cases in which jobs have been given, favours granted or discrimination practised on any basis other than competence, fitness and diligence. You must all make the interests of Oman and its people your top priority at all times.



The state consists of three branches: the civil branch, which is the administrative branch, the security branch, which is responsible for maintaining the state's internal security, and the military branch, which defends the nation against any external dangers. These three branches need to work closely together and liaise at all times and forget the formal distinctions which exist between civil and military. They also need to remember what we said earlier, when we pointed out that this state and all the branches of this state exist to serve this dear nation and its loyal citizens. As Almighty God said in His Noble Book: «And co-operate for the sake of righteousness and piety, and do not co-operate for the sake of sin and enmity.»

As I conclude my words to you I ask Almighty God to guide us all to the way of security and happiness and pave our road to progress and prosperity.

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of 8th national day

We should be proud of our Omani heritage and the spirit which strengthened our determination and enabled us to achieve victory through long years of struggle.



18th November
1978





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



My Dear Countrymen,

TODAY, on the occasion of the celebration of our National Anniversary, it gives us heartfelt pleasure to be with you and to share with you our pride and happiness in the achievements of our beloved country. For on this special day each year the sacred and insoluble ties which bind all Oman is together in the love and devotion we bear to our dear country are foremost in our minds as we remember the glorious victories of our past and view together the road that lies before us.

We, on this occasion, wish to praise the members of our armed forces who struggled gallantly for the sake of defending our sacred soil.



My Dear Countrymen,

At no time has such unity of purpose and steadfast loyalty to a great cause been as vital

as it is in these difficult days - not only for we Oman is - but for our whole Arab community of nations. Never, in the long history of this nation has the need for unity been greater. The grave issues which now confront us on the international scene demand the utmost efforts on the part of every one of us for the preservation of the freedom of our peoples and the defence of our holy religion.



As with any nation, it is natural that there are, and there always will be, differing opinions and points of view between members of our Arab nation, and it is right that they should be freely expressed whenever they arise, but this must take place in a spirit of brotherhood, free from malice and unhealthy rivalry, and in a true and common determination to achieve the hopes to which we all aspire. The leaders of the Arab world must recognise that the Arab peoples cannot any longer afford to descend to the mutual recrimination and petty disputes which for far too long have been the cause of worsening relations between their states. How often in the past has the victory, when almost within our grasp, been dashed from our hands and has fallen to our enemies because of these attitudes and behaviours? The question now is: who gains by this discord between brother and brother? One has only to look around to find the answer. It is those who have made our Arab World the political and military battleground for their super-power ambitions, those whose clear intention it is to possess the mastery of the world.



While the Arab leaders bicker and quarrel, this new colonialism continues to expand. Those who direct it no longer even trouble to try to cloak or justify their expansionist ambitions. Where once they would cynically claim that they were taking over whole countries and peoples for their own good, or in the cause of democracy, or to preserve their liberty against the designs of another super-power, now they maintain a contemptuous silence as their troops and those of their jackals march in to crush and subjugate their victims, opposed only by the

valour and self-sacrifice of patriotic men and women.

The truth is that these colonialist ambitions are now so openly pursued, the opinion of the free world and the statutes of the United Nations so flagrantly flouted that no one other than their dupes would believe their excuses. For they could have no answer to the question as to why thousands of regular troops are brought from the far side of the world to invade and destroy countries with which their government has no quarrel; they could have no answer to the question as to why aggressive military bases are established in countries where we are positively sure that their peoples desire to live in peace and harmony with their neighbours. They pursue these courses, driven by the greed of conquest, expansion and exploitation of the wealth of others - they use their strength and tighten their grip because they fear the resistance of those who are faithful to their country.



And they will succeed if we do not awaken to the danger that surrounds our Arab world. We must realise that we are the prime target of these expansionist ambitions, and yet the free world has not taken any effective action except the issuing of weak admonitions which find no echo. This then is the peril to which the leaders of our Arab world must direct their eyes, away from their barren and divisive disputes.



My Dear Countrymen,

It is right that we should ask ourselves: What is our attitude towards the problems which confront the world and the action we should take to ward off these dangers? The answer is that we have demonstrated to the world that we support and will continue our true support for all initiatives that aim at securing a lasting and just peace in the Middle East. We believe that the Arab League must be made into an effective forum for the constructive discussion of our Arab issues and an instrument of positive and united action on the world scene, and we pledge our full support to this end.

We affirm that we are ready to extend the hand of friendship to all who will grasp that hand in a similar spirit of friendship and goodwill. We have made it abundantly clear that we shall stand resolutely by the side of all countries who are determined to preserve their freedom and who oppose interference in the affairs of others, and by close co-operation with the countries of our region. These are our policies which we have followed and which we shall maintain.



If we are to play our part effectively we must dedicate ourselves whole heartedly to this role, and must work faithfully to make our country strong and self-reliant. We should be proud of our Omani heritage and the spirit which strengthened our determination and enabled us to achieve victory through long years of struggle. Only thus can our dear country be kept safe for our future generations, our friends look to us with confidence, and those who declare themselves to be our enemies be made to continue to hold us in respect.



The work of our Ministries in the service of our people is of vital importance in achieving these aims. For the tasks of providing for the welfare of our people, for the training of our young to be worthy of the great heritage which will one day be theirs, for the development of the economic resources of our country, and for our representation in the councils of the world, are the very foundation of our strength. Much has certainly been achieved, but there must be no relaxation in our efforts, and we must not fail in carrying out our obligations towards our beloved Oman. We, being Omanis, should be proud of our citizenship and have a responsibility in our duty towards our holy religion, and the responsibility of paving the way for our coming generation to be worthy of the blessings which God has bestowed upon us.

My Dear Countrymen,

Finally, let us humbly offer our thanks to Almighty God and pray that He will continue to extend His protection to our beloved Oman and Omani people, and let us pray that He will give strength to carry out our duties in the service of our country and of humanity.

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon you all





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of 9th national day

Oman will co-operate to the full to ensure the preservation of the peace and freedom of the states and peoples of the area and to help them resist the forces of oppression.



18th November
1979





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



My Dear Countrymen,

IT is with warm and heartfelt feelings of affection that we greet you on this celebration of our National Anniversary. Each year, on this day which we Omanis share together in the love and pride we bear for our dear country, when our minds are full of the consciousness of our great history and achievements, we are also humbly conscious of the gratitude we owe to God for the many blessings He has given to our beloved Oman.

We give our thanks to our Armed Forces, the Firqat and the Royal Oman Police, for their services to the Sultanate in preserving the security of our country and building the new Oman.

At home, the year that has passed has been one of continued progress for our country. The victories we have gained in so many fields have been consolidated, broadened, and carried to new heights. Our economy has maintained its sound and steady growth within the framework of our National Five-Year Plan, enabling us to make further advances in the improvement of the quality of life of all our people.

On the international scene, the Sultanate has actively played its part in the quest for world peace and in the championship of human rights. Both at the United Nations and through bilateral exchanges with other countries, we have sought to foster co-operation and understanding between the peoples of the world. In our own region, we and those brother states who are motivated by the same feelings of respect and friendship have further cemented the strong ties that bind us. And here we would like particularly to record our warm appreciation and thanks for the brotherly stand on the part of Saudi Arabia, and our brothers in the Gulf.

My Dear Countrymen,

While we must indeed be thankful for the peace and prosperity that our country enjoys and in the friendships that sustain and encourage us, we must regard our good fortune realistically and without complacency. For the year has not only brought no lessening of the threat to world stability and peace, no solution to the grave problems that confront the free world; it has also brought our country into a prominence in world affairs that places heavy responsibilities upon us all. Responsibilities that we must meet with resolution and unfailing vigilance.

The unbridled pursuit by the Soviet Union of policies of expansionism policies reminiscent of the worst periods of colonialism in the past - continues to pose a most serious threat to world peace, and particularly to the peace of this region. Closely allied to this threat - and indeed contributing to it - is the continued disunity of the Arab nations and the world's inability to achieve a settlement of the Middle East problems.

To be sure, the year has been a first, hopeful, step along the road to peace in the Middle East. But this cannot be regarded as more than a first step. It cannot be regarded as enough. It is not only peace that is at stake: it is the complete redress of the wrongs and suffering that has been inflicted on the Palestinian people. The world must recognise this and the world must act to bring about a settlement that will restore their full rights and dignity. Neither the intransigence of Israel - in defiance of the expressed will of the United Nations - nor the mischievous activities of those whose interest it is to perpetuate this situation can be allowed to prevent the achievement of this aim. Oman categorically declares that it will warmly support any constructive initiative by any Arab or other leader which may promise to lead to this end.



My Dear Countrymen,

No doubt you have heard a lot about the Strait of Hormuz, which as you know is part of our national waters and one of the most important sea lanes of the world through which passes a huge proportion of the world's oil supplies. Should the present instability in the Middle East result in an interruption of this flow, the results would be disastrous; not only would immense hardship be caused to millions of people, but the economies of many countries - countries whose own strength and stability is indispensable to the defence of freedom - would be gravely damaged. Oman is pledged to defend the right of all peaceful shipping to pass through this Strait. This is not only our duty under international law, it is also our duty to humanity and to our friends in the free world.

Should the Strait be exposed to danger, Oman will not hesitate to act in defence of our national sovereignty and the safety of international navigation. We believe it is the responsibility of all countries that are beneficiaries of this traffic-oil producers and consumers alike - to contribute to the protection of this vital waterway against the dangers of terrorism or other forms of aggression, and urge them to do so. Oman does not call for the intervention of foreign forces for this purpose; given the means, the Sultanate is fully capable of undertaking necessary measures; but the means must be provided.

The co-operation of our brother states in the area is also essential to the security of these waters. It is for this reason that the irresponsible attitude of certain states, long noted for their mischievous and disruptive activities, is particularly to be deplored. Indulgence in such manifestations of political immaturity cannot be permitted to endanger world peace and stability and the lives of millions. The vital geo-political importance of the Gulf as an area, underlines the absolute necessity for the fullest co-operation between our states. Much has been said in the past in favour of this. But very little has been done. Certainly, there have been consultations and joint action in limited spheres, but consultation in the political and security fields has now become of the highest importance to the stability of the region and its continued immunity from foreign interference.

As with the Strait of Hormuz, so we believe that the Indian Ocean must not only be internationally recognised as a zone of peace which it is the responsibility of all nations to maintain, but that energetic measures must be taken to ensure it. We strongly oppose the establishment of any foreign bases in the area or the intervention of powers seeking to extend their influence and dominion. The nearby example of South Yemen, whose national identity has been virtually obliterated by the massive presence there of Soviet and Cuban satellite forces, and who has consequently suffered from being used as a military base by those forces against two brother Arab countries, is a salutary example of what can happen to the independence of a people if such bases are allowed to dominate them. In the Horn of Africa, the intrusion of these same forces to foment and inflame local disputes with the object of furthering Soviet expansionist aims, has caused widespread suffering and, wherever they have succeeded in extending their domination, has brought about the extinction of human rights and liberty. Oman will co-operate to the full to ensure the preservation of the peace and freedom of the states and peoples of the area and to help them resist the forces of oppression.

During the past year the world has seen new and tragic examples of the suffering that is inflicted upon humanity by the callous pursuit of political expediency. In South-East Asia, the plight of the many thousands of innocent people who have been forced to flee from their homes as refugees has aroused our deep compassion. Oman has done all that it can, and will continue to do so, to help alleviate the sufferings of these unfortunate people. The distress of refugees is something with which we Omanis are sadly all too familiar. Here, in our own country, the

continual flow of destitute refugees from South Yemen has now required special measures to be taken for their reception and welfare.

We believe that the time has come when the poverty and distress that afflicts so many millions of the people of this world must be the subject of concerted action by all nations. We believe that this suffering will continue until we unite in an insistence on the observance of international law, and until a new world economic order is created, based upon an equitable sharing of resources. Just as it is the duty of individual national leaders to ensure that the resources of their own countries are utilised for the benefit of all their people, so do we believe that this principle must be extended to embrace a world-wide system of economic co-operation for the benefit of all mankind. The enormous technological advances that have been achieved by the developed countries must be combined with world material resources to satisfy these needs.

My Dear Countrymen,

The tasks that face us in the future are great indeed. If we are to be worthy of the role to which our destiny has called us, we must hold firm to the principles that have strengthened us in the trials of the past. Let us go forward together, humbly asking Almighty God's guidance and protection in the work that is before us in the service of our country and mankind.

As you know, the Islamic world is coming to the end of the 14th century. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Islamic world on the occasion of the advent of the 15th century. We hope it will be a century full of peace, blessings and prosperity for the Islamic nation and all humanity.

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon you all.



Speech of His Majesty

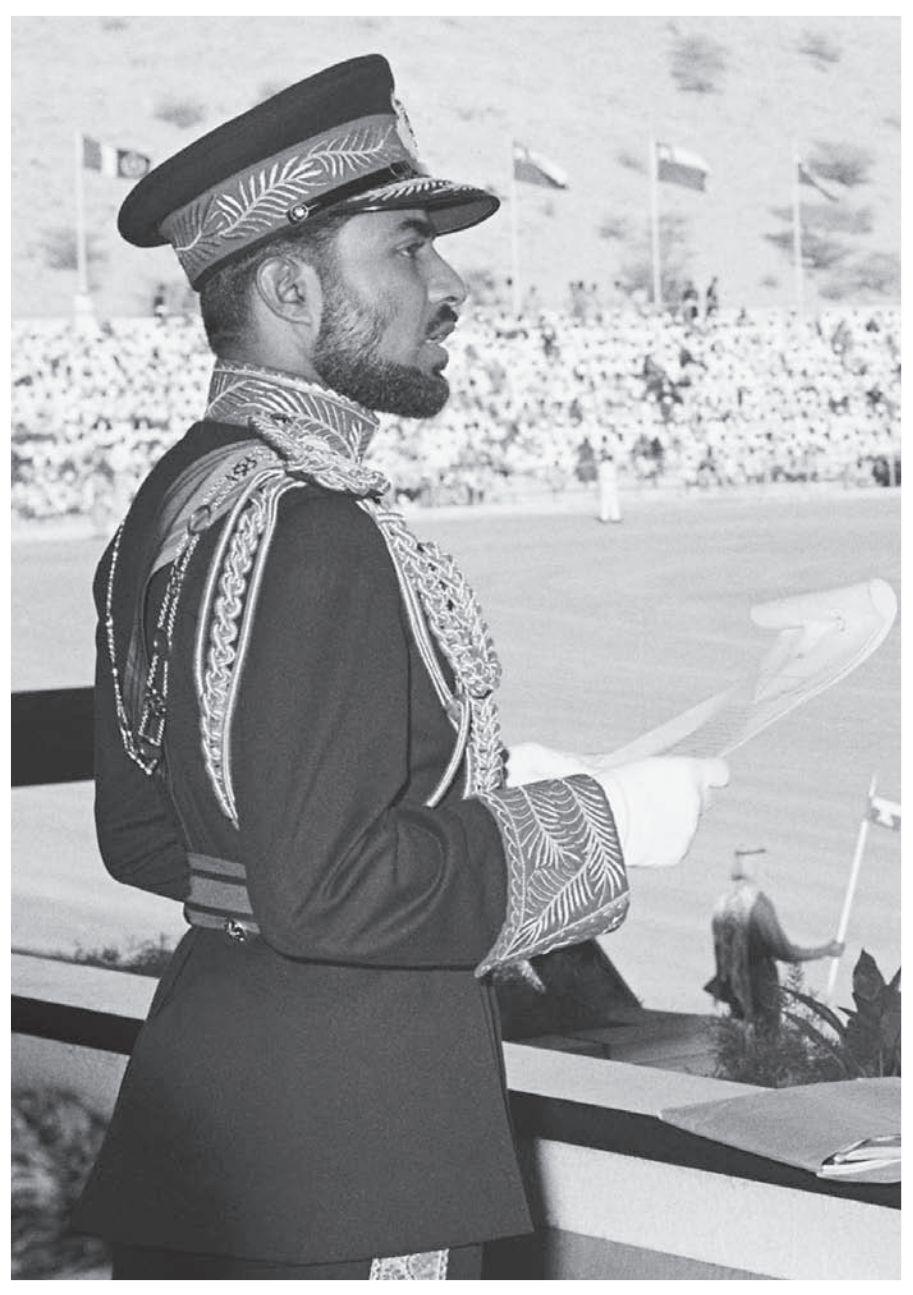


on the occasion of 10th national day

If we had shrunk from the great tasks that faced us, then the future would have been dark indeed. But, my dear countrymen, we did not fail. Our sacrifices were not in vain.



18th November
1980





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



My Noble People,

EACH year it has been our custom to celebrate together on this day to give thanks for the blessings that God has given to our country and to pledge ourselves anew to His service and the service of our beloved Oman. Today, this anniversary is of special and particularly happy significance, for it marks the tenth year since the commencement of our struggle together to bring peace and prosperity to our country, and freedom, dignity and progress to all our people.

Ten years ago, when we set out on that long road together, we had little but our faith in our destiny to sustain us. We were poor in everything except in the strength of our Omani traditions and in our determination to succeed in spite of all obstacles. We had no hospitals to care for our people; we had no schools to prepare our young to take their place in the world; we had no system of welfare to care for the aged and those in need; we had no government structure with which to organise and develop the resources of our country; many of our gifted sons and daughters had left in despair to make a life for themselves in other lands; and we were faced with a war waged against our people with the utmost cruelty by the surrogates of those same evil forces which have reduced so many millions in this world to a life of misery and slavery. All this we pledged to overcome.

In looking back over those years in the light of the achievements we have been able to win, with God's unfailing help, we can now perhaps realise to the full the enormous task that lay before us in those days. There were to be many dark hours to be endured, many setbacks to be overcome, many disappointments to be conquered along that road. The challenge that we

were called upon to take up was nothing less than to fight with all our strength and in every field for our country's survival. If we had failed to meet that challenge, if we had shrunk from the great tasks that faced us, then the future would have been dark indeed. But, my dear countrymen, we did not fail. Our sacrifices were not in vain.

Today, the results are there for us all - and for the whole world to see - by our united effort, with the help of staunch friends who stood by us in our time of trial and, above all, through God's merciful guidance and protection, we have gained for our dear country that peace, freedom and progress.

Today, every Omani can hold up his head with pride at our achievements. The benefits of modern medicine are available to everyone; schools have been built-we now have over 100,000 boys and girls receiving education; the powerful aid of modern science and technology has been harnessed to our needs; and our first Five-Year Plan which is just drawing to a successful close demonstrates that our economy has been placed on a sound and viable footing; at home, our people enjoy the fullest freedom to lead their lives as they wish; and abroad, we have earned ourselves a place in the international community of nations of respect and trust.

But while we thank God for these blessings and humbly rejoice in the success of our efforts, we must not forget those whose self-sacrifice and devotion to duty made this possible. It is to the officers and men of our Armed Forces including our resolute National Firqat to whom we look with particular pride and gratitude on this memorable day. Throughout the long, hard years of our struggle, it was their defiant resolution in the face of the enemy, their willingness to give their lives in the defence of our country that enabled us to build a new Oman. We shall always remember this.



My Dear Countrymen,

We have much indeed to be thankful for. But while it is right that we should draw confidence and strength from our achievements, it is to the future that we must turn our eyes and harden our resolve. We must regard these past ten years as only the first stage of an unending, untiring effort. We must not for one moment relax that effort or allow ourselves to think that our task is done.

Self-reliance is to be the keynote of all our plans for the future. Our first priority must therefore be the consolidation and expansion of our economy. It has long been our intention that our economy should be so diversified that our dependence on the one resource - oil - is reduced. To do this, we must exploit our country's other natural resources and our industrial potential to the full. We shall not waste our efforts and our resources on meaningless prestige projects; everything shall be directed to the continued improvement of the standard of living of all our people and the strengthening of our national infrastructure and the security and stability of our country.

This, then, will be the theme of our second Five-Year Plan that is to come into operation early next year. Over the next five years we shall spend more than RO7,000 million on projects for this purpose. Electric power and water facilities, road-building, and other public utilities, housing, and social welfare will receive special attention; as will agriculture and fisheries, which we are determined shall be developed to the point where our country is self-sufficient. This great programme will be spread throughout the entire Sultanate from the extreme north, the Musandam Peninsula, to the far limits of the Southern Region.

At the same time, steps are to be taken to fit our young people to become the scientists, technicians, doctors, agriculturalists and other specialists which we shall need in increasing numbers as the process of our modern development continues to gain momentum. To this end, Qaboos University is to be built at Nizwa which will provide courses in these subjects up to the highest international standards.

It happens in many places in the world that, as a modern state develops, so also do the complexities of its government multiply and the functions of that government tend to become increasingly impersonal. It can become completely remote from serving the needs of the people. This is something that we are determined shall not occur in Oman. Therefore, in our determination to serve our people we have issued instructions to a specialised body for a study to be carried out which will make recommendations for the broadening of the existing advisory machinery available to our Government, so that the wishes and needs of our people can be taken into the fullest account in our national policy-making.

My Dear Countrymen,

Even as we work and plan for this material and social development of our country, we must bear in mind that our strength does not lie in material prosperity alone. Our strength lies in the great traditions of our glorious Omani culture, and the teachings and laws of our Holy Religion. We must never let an obsession with material things and alien thoughts blind us to this fact. We must cherish and preserve this beautiful land that God has given us and protect

it from wanton destruction. This we are determined to do, but it is a task that is the responsibility of every one of us. We must equally foster and safeguard our traditional industries so that our cultural heritage is handed on intact to generations to come.

These, then, are to be the broad plans and principles that are to provide the impulse for our future work. If we follow them faithfully, if we strive in every way to be worthy of the blessings that God has given us, our continued progress will be assured and our strength be consolidated and increased.



My Dear Countrymen,

Let us be in no doubt as to the importance that these continued efforts to build our strength will have for our country and our people. During these past years, world instability - and certainly the instability of this region - has seriously increased. In recent months, it has developed into a grave threat to world peace. This is partly due to a failure to solve old and intractable problems, partly to dangerously irresponsible actions by some countries, but it is largely due to the unbridled ambitions of the Soviet Union which has deliberately fostered and exploited the situation in its own interests. The result is that, today, the world faces a threat to its existence of such magnitude that unless it takes firm and united measures without delay, everything that it stands for, the freedom for which so many of its peoples have struggled and suffered, will undoubtedly be irretrievably lost.

Oman has given repeated and, we regret to say, largely unheeded warnings about these dangers. We have invited our brothers to join with us and aid us in preserving the stability of the area - not only vital to ourselves but to the whole world - but to no avail. Therefore, threatened as we are; and we still have vivid and bitter memories of the realities and form of that threat - we have had no other choice than to seek the assistance of those who will provide us with the means to defend ourselves. We regard ourselves as a member of the Third World, proud of our membership of our Arab Brotherhood of Nations; we have no desire to involve ourselves in the rivalry of the super-powers and no intention to serve the interests of others. We wish only that we and all countries of the region should be left in peace, and to play our part in working for the peace of the world. But let no one be under any misapprehension: our desire for peace does not stem from weakness. If we should be attacked, we shall defend the sacred inviolability of our country with all our strength and to the end.

My Dear Countrymen,

Ten years ago when we took up the task of leading our beloved country into the years that lay ahead and dedicated our life to this service, we promised you that a new dawn would rise over Oman, a dawn that would give our people a new life and new hope for the future. Under God's protection and with His merciful guidance, we have fulfilled that promise together. We now stand, today, on the threshold of another new era that will challenge us to display all the qualities and determination that have stood us so well in the past. The road that still lies ahead will not be an easy one - we can be sure that the dangers that confront us will not recede overnight, that they may indeed become even more menacing - but if we remain true to our great heritage, if we strive always to walk humbly and resolutely in the steps God has chosen for us, then we shall succeed.

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon you, and I wish you a happy year.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the closing session of the
1st summit conference of the states of the
gulf co-operation council in the UAE

*In this context we stress that we need to devote the
major part of our attention and efforts to maintaining
the security and stability of our region, if we are to
provide a suitable climate for co-operation between
our states.*



26th May
1981





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



After the final communique was issued at the Closing Session of the First Summit Conference of the States of the Gulf Co-operation Council, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said gave a speech on behalf of their Majesties and Highnesses who had taken part in the conference. His speech follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Your Highness, brother Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, My brothers, Your Majesties and Highnesses.

AT this brotherly gathering we all have the right to feel proud that we have decided upon a basis for joint action that will not only help us to achieve our agreed objectives, but will also embody the strong ties that exist between our states.

We have emerged from our meetings with a number of documents. These will form the framework within which we shall work for constructive, fruitful co-operation that will benefit our people, our region, our Arab and Islamic Nation and mankind as a whole.

We have thus taken our first step along the path. There are still many more steps and much hard work ahead of us before we can translate these documents into hard reality - that is, before they are able to bring happiness to our people and satisfy our clear desire for greater co-ordination, integration and association in all fields.

In this context we stress that we need to devote the major part of our attention and efforts to maintaining the security and stability of our region, if we are to provide a suitable climate for co-operation between our states.

As we conclude our meeting today, with firm resolve and high hopes of future co-operation between our states, I should like to express my sincere thanks to Your Highness for the sincere efforts you have made in administering this conference. I should also like to thank all those who had a role in its preparations.

It only remains for me to express to you and to our brothers, their Highnesses the members of the Supreme Council - together with the government and people of the United Arab Emirates - our profound gratitude and appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality which we have received in this brotherly host country.

We ask Allah the Almighty to bless our progress along the path of brotherhood and cooperation, and to crown our efforts with success.

And say «Act!, Allah will behold your actions, and so will His Messenger and the believers».

Peace be with you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the
state consultative council

*We do not take any step without first studying it,
then do so with deep conviction, and then observe
the results guided by the principle of responding to
the logic of evolution and development in our march
forward.*



3rd November
1981





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

IN the name of God the Merciful and with the help of God Almighty we open today the State Consultative Council in fulfilment of our promise and in pursuance of our policy which aims at allowing a larger measure of participation for the citizens in the efforts which are being made by the government to implement its economic and social plans in a manner that leads to projecting and supporting the capabilities of the people of our beloved country, and contributes to realising our desired hopes in all fields of development.



Honourable Members of the Council,

While we entrust your Council with the duty of giving opinion and advice, it should also be the framework for a joint effort between the government and public sectors, for studying the aims and dimensions of our development plans, the priorities fixed for their projects and the obstacles which stand in the way of implementing these plans, and the suitable solutions to them. For this reason, it is our intention that both the government and the public sectors be represented in this Council - a representation in which the public sector will enjoy the majority in the number of the members who represent the various districts in order to bring the Council to the level of the noble aim for which it has been established, and that is taking into consideration the wishes and needs of the citizens in forming our national policy in the economic and social fields, and in order that the Council shall also be a vital field for interaction and integration between the opinions of its members and full co-operation between the government and the citizens, in carrying out the duties and obligations of the current stage of the development.

Honourable Members of the Council,

Since the beginning we have adopted a policy based on close links between the government and the citizens in carrying out our responsibilities and obligations to our beloved country, and we have today taken another step to ensure this close relationship and to achieve our

desire to widen the consultative base, according to the requirements of the development stages which our country is witnessing, and according to the basic principle to which we have always committed ourselves and from which we shall never desist, and that is that all our activities and experience should originate from within the ideals and traditions which prevail in our Islamic community. This is because human experiences have shown and are still showing that the method of abstract imitation is a useless method, and that the method of jumping over practical reality and objective circumstances in any community will always lead to great dangers. For this reason we reject imitation and reject the adoption of the policy of impulsive motion and prefer our factual method of thinking and application. We do not take any step without first studying it, then do so with deep conviction, and then observe the results guided by the principle of responding to the logic of evolution and development in our march forward. And now, after eleven years of constant struggle, during which time our people have shown a high spirit of co-operation and worked with the true determination and heroism, we are all filled with a feeling of pride in what we have all achieved for our beloved country and its stability in various fields, despite the challenges and dangers which faced us. And we have now, with the help of God, reached the stage where we have established our steps firmly on the road and achieved aims which, at one time, appeared to be out of our reach. And we have this year, begun to implement the second Five-Year Plan, with a bigger and more comprehensive drive in all fields of building and development. We have also tried to concentrate our efforts on developing and exploiting our energies and natural resources to the maximum benefit and welfare of the citizens.

All this brings satisfaction to our hearts, but at the same time places more obligations and responsibilities upon us to maintain the security and stability of our country, and to protect our achievements which will enable us to realise our ambitions for a more prosperous future. It is therefore our duty to learn from our experiences, and to work together to the utmost of our ability with self sacrifice for the benefit of this and generations to come, and also to the benefit of our Arab and Islamic nation and mankind as a whole.

Honourable Members of the Council,

As your Council will begin its work immediately in the various fields of development, we hope that you will carry the trust and obligations placed upon you to ensure that the true interests of the citizens are your guidelines when making decisions.

«Peace be with you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.»



Speech of His Majesty



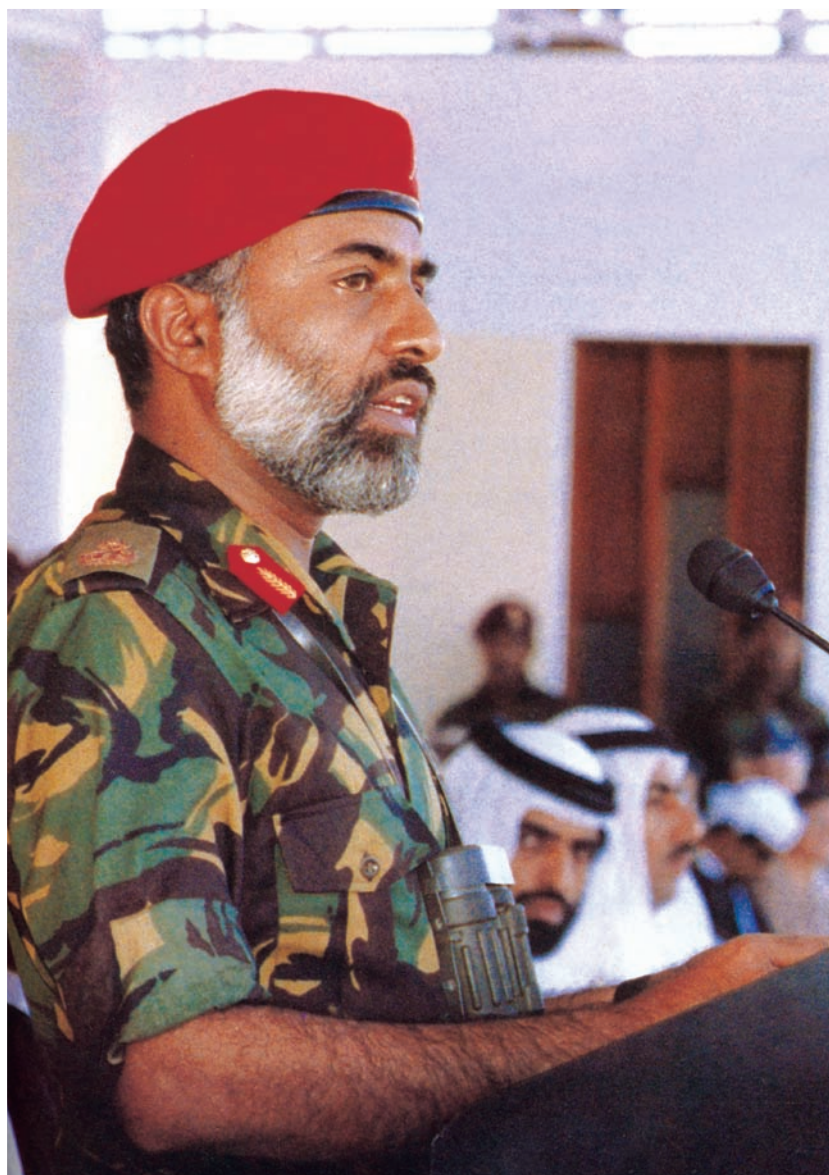
of the 11th national day

*We have established a State Consultative Council
which forms the framework of a joint effort between
our government and citizens in all development fields.*



18th November

1981





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Dear Countrymen,

WE greet you from this dear part of our beloved Oman, in Salalah in the heart of our Southern Province of Dhofar with deep feelings of pride and affection on the occasion of the 11th Anniversary of our National Day. We offer our humble thanks to Almighty God that our beloved people may once again rejoice together on this Anniversary in the peace and prosperity with which our country has continued to be blessed.



My Dear Countrymen,

Indeed, a number of important advances for the benefit of our people have been carried forward during the past year. We have established a State Consultative Council which forms the framework of a joint effort between our government and citizens in all development fields. It will participate in fulfilling the needs and aspirations of our people, and achieve the highest level of social and economic development throughout the country.

We hope that this will succeed in demonstrating possibilities of co-operation between the government and private sectors to achieve our comprehensive development aims. We are also happy to tell you that we have now approved detailed plans for the construction of Qaboos University, and that work is actively proceeding for its establishment. In the field of our national economy excellent progress has been made in this, the first year of our Second Five-Year Plan, with the result that the rise in the living standards of our people has not only been maintained but will certainly continue to improve.

My Dear Countrymen,

The establishment of the Gulf Co-operation Council can be considered a positive achievement of the efforts of its member-states for the prosperity of the region and its people. We are glad to say that the Council has achieved notable progress at its Second Summit which recently took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. We confirm Oman's keenness to participate actively in this joint brotherly effort. The Council is a true reflection of the deep brotherly feelings which have always existed among our peoples. We are certain that this Council has laid a firm and strong foundation for the region's security and prosperity. The results of the Gulf Summit provide convincing evidence that the Arab World today is seeing a new era full of hope and positive co-operation. The Riyadh agreement can contribute to the creation of a better climate for Arab solidarity. We hope this work will be carried forward against all foreign attempts to divide us. We call upon all our brother Arabs to cast aside their differences and to work together, utilising all their resources, to serve the common cause.

On the international scene, there have also been developments which give definite cause for encouragement. The people who, for decades, have been kept in a state of total subjugation by the new imperialism which is abroad in the world, are raising their voices and insisting on the restoration of the rights of which they have been so long deprived. The Moslem people of Afghanistan, through their tenacious opposition to the Soviet invaders of their homeland, are continuing to provide the world with an example which should command the respect and admiration of the whole Islamic people. The President of Chad, supported by his brother African States, has given a decisive rebuff to those who have interfered in and attempted to dominate his country's internal affairs by forthrightly demanding the restoration of his country's independence - a courageous act which we believe will rally Africa to an effective resistance to foreign expansionism. Indeed, it could well signal a turning-point against the advance of imperialism in the whole of that continent, and have a profound effect on the world at large. We firmly trust that this clear demonstration that the African people intend to be masters in their own house and will not tolerate interference in their affairs by foreign interests will be a forceful theme at next year's meeting of the Organisation of African Unity.



My Dear Countrymen,

The world today is witnessing complicated events and changes which place an added responsibility upon us. We must all - each one of us - play our part in this, with the same

devotion with which we have played our part in fighting and working for the progress and prosperity that our dear country now enjoys.

People of Oman,

Here, we wish to say a special word to the men of our valiant Armed Forces whose alertness and soldierly bearing on parade here today admirably testifies to their high morale and excellent discipline. You have as vital a role to perform now as at any time in our history; not only in defence of our Oman, but in being ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers should the need arise. You must continue to make every effort to fit yourselves for this sacred task with which your country has entrusted you. We have no aggressive designs against anyone. We reject the friendship of no one. We believe with deep conviction that the future of this world that God has given us all must lie in the peaceful and constructive cooperation of all mankind. We shall never cease to work for this. But our work for peace can only go forward if our country is strong, and seen to be determined and able to defend itself. History has proved time and again that this is the only argument that those whose ambitions lead them to endanger world peace respect. Should the day come - which God forbid - when we must again rise to the defence of our country and the principles by which we live, then let those who might contemplate aggression against us know that they would be met by a nation in arms.





Speech of His Majesty



of the 12th national day

In order to prepare our Youth to undertake their responsibilities towards their country, and to signify our pride in them, it will be our pleasure to lay the foundation stone of Qaboos University



18th November

1982





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Dear Countrymen,

It pleases us to gather here today to celebrate our National Day and the achievements we have accomplished together with the help of God over the past twelve years - during which we have laid the foundations of our present prosperity. We look to the future with hope and determination to achieve yet further progress and prosperity for our dear country.

As we witness the advent of a new year in our victorious march, we may view with pride our achievements during the past year - achievements which have been secured through the hard work and true co-operation of all Omanis for the honour and glory of our country.



Countrymen,

We have stressed on many occasions the necessity to diversify and broaden our national economic base so as to reduce our dependence on oil revenues by exploiting the rich variety of resources with which God has blessed our country. Already these plans are beginning to bear fruit. But our economic policies - right as they have been proved - can only continue to prosper if they are energetically and imaginatively pursued. We must ensure that we achieve the greatest possible self-sufficiency in those staple products which are vital to the life of our country, through the active encouragement of local industries, through selective projects, and by developing and utilising to the full the talents and skills of our people within the framework of our social and economic development. And here, we are pleased to tell you, the advice to the Government of our State Consultative Council is already making a valuable contribution.

The progress of the nations, and the achievement of prosperity for their peoples, depends to a large degree on the economic strength these countries enjoy. From here, we have always endeavoured to adopt an economic policy which aims at achieving a constant and suitable economic growth, and which gives our country the strength to contend with the negative consequences of a worldwide economic recession, which has increased in recent years in a manner that is unparalleled in its serious and far-reaching effects, a recession that has had strong effects on the developing countries in particular. Therefore, we have given ample flexibility to our economic plans to enable us to handle matters in a practical way, under the current world economic conditions, and at the same time enable us to implement the necessary basic and vital plans to achieve progress for our country and prosperity for our people. Within this framework, we are moving forward in implementing our Second Five-Year Plan according to priorities which will take these factors into consideration.



Countrymen,

In order to prepare our Youth to undertake their responsibilities towards their country, and to signify our pride in them, it will be our pleasure to lay the foundation stone of Qaboos University during these celebrations. During the coming year, by God's will, the construction will begin of a complete Sports City, and we have also ordered the establishment of a Supreme Youth Council under our chairmanship. We intend proclaiming 1983 as Omani Youth Year and that our next National Day shall be consecrated to our Youth. All this, with the aim of focussing the role of our Youth and giving them every opportunity to play their part positively in all fields.

Countrymen,

We share with our sister Gulf States the keenness to develop our existing co-operation in all spheres. We shall spare no effort in strengthening and supporting our joint efforts for the benefit of our peoples.

The agreement to begin the implementation of the economic accord reached by the Gulf Co-operation Council States is an important step. The decisions which have been adopted in this respect will serve the interests of Oman and those of all the countries of the Council

in creating a suitable atmosphere for joint development. We have, in the past, called for the adoption of a rational policy in the Arab World, and called upon the leaders of the region to understand the real meaning of the balances between international political and economic forces, and to deal with them in a wise and balanced way which will achieve the vital interests of the peoples of our Arab Nation. The events of this year in the Middle East have justified this call.

These events have clearly revealed the true nature of those who have always claimed that they are a strong support to their friends in our Arab region, but they quickly deserted them and gave them no support. These people and their friends in our Arab World and abroad have done nothing to solve the problems of the region. If these people had adopted positive attitudes to support the initiatives that have been submitted to bring about a just and honourable peace in the Middle East, instead of hampering those initiatives, they would have helped to avoid much suffering, and our Arab cause would have achieved an effective political victory.

In the light of these events, we the Arabs should consolidate our efforts to serve our true Arab interests - and we should be careful of those who seek to harm the vital interests of our peoples by their empty slogans and their false claims that they are sole friends and allies of the Arab peoples. We should also beware of those who distort the teachings of our Muslim religion to serve their own political purposes. We appealed to all our Arab brothers on this same day last year to put aside their differences and to work with us, using all their capabilities in the service of our common cause - and we today renew our appeal to our brothers, and emphasise the great importance of uniting the Arab ranks in this sensitive stage of the life of our Arab Nation.

The world, this year, has witnessed serious events that have clearly shown the instability of the world situation. These events have also demonstrated the lack of respect of some countries and powers for international law and human principles by committing acts of violence and barbaric massacres, and by using outlawed chemical weapons against those fighting for the freedom of their countries from foreign domination. All these acts have constituted a serious challenge to the United Nations. Its mission, its charter, and its resolutions have been repeatedly ignored until it has now become clear that the organisation is in danger of being reduced to a state of impotence where it has no power to enforce respect for those principles and ideals for which it was established. The time has now come when every State should bear its responsibility within the international community, in order to revive the role of the United Nations, assert it, and grant it the power of positive effect in the interests of world peace and security. We call upon the world community to bear its share in this respect, and we reaffirm our commitment to bear our responsibility towards the United Nations. We shall co-operate with all peace-loving countries, and we look forward to the day when we shall

see the international organisation become an effective instrument for the good and welfare of mankind.

Our duty in the present world situation demands that we increase our determination and intensify our efforts to carry out our responsibilities towards our country, and towards our brothers in the Arab family and our friends in the international community.



Dear Countrymen,

It pleases us on this day to greet, with pride, all units of our heroic Armed Forces and to praise their glorious efforts. We praise their great contribution to the stability and prosperity of our country, and we pledge our determination to encourage their efforts for the development of their capability and to equip them with the latest weapons to enable them to carry out their noble mission in protecting our national soil and ensuring the march of our country on the road to progress and prosperity.

Finally, we pray to God Almighty to bestow on our beloved country the blessings of peace and prosperity, for which we thank Him, and to crown our efforts with success and continuous progress. I wish you all a happy year.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the beginning of the
second term of the state consultative council

While we entrust you with the responsibility of giving advice in various matters connected with our development, we hope that you will co-operate in discharging your duty with unquestionable honesty and sincerity and that you will make a tangible contribution which will enrich the development of our good land.



16th November
1983





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



My Dear Countrymen,

IT gives us great pleasure to meet you today on the occasion of the beginning of the second term of the State Consultative Council. It is also our pleasure to begin our address to you by confirming our belief in the important role of the Council in our efforts to build and develop our country for the welfare and the prosperity we are striving to achieve for our people.



In the course of two years since its inception, the Council has made a noticeable contribution in various economic and social fields, and has manifested a keen desire to arrive at useful and workable recommendations which can contribute to and support existing development projects in these areas; and in our appreciation of these efforts, and because of the importance of co-operation between the public and the private sectors, we gave instructions to the Ministers concerned with the role of the Council to address the Council during its sessions, outlining the activities of their development programme, in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas through objective discussions. The aim of this was to serve the public interest and assist in making proposals for the effective solution of any problems, and the removal of any obstacles which impede the implementation of our work in the various areas of development. From all this and on the basis of studies carried out in some areas

the Council was enabled to arrive at proposals which contained positive recommendations which, after meeting with our approval, were referred to the government with our directives to those Ministries concerned to study the best way of implementing the recommendations.



Honourable Members of the Council,

The fact that we feel satisfied with the positive direction taken by the experimental stage of the Council during the last two years, and the fact that we have taken steps to appoint a larger number of members of the Council who represent the private sector than in the previous term and to appoint new members; this, and the fact that we have taken steps to open more channels of co-ordination between the Council and the government, is a clear indication of our desire to provide more and wider opportunities for the participation of the citizens in the affairs of the Council and in involving them in the opinions and the advice given by the Council.

The steps we have taken also indicate our concern to develop further and to strengthen the existing co-operation between the Council and the government to enable them together to realise their responsibilities in a way that will strengthen our ability to achieve the desired objectives of our development programme.



In view of all this, we hope that your Council in its present term will strive even more to deal effectively with various economic and social problems by studying them in a practical way, and by establishing priorities, retaining a good balance between our aspirations and our capabilities and paying attention to the necessary needs of the citizens regarding the provision of services for them as well as developing their productive capacity or solving their problems in their everyday life.

Your Council is capable in this respect, and in all the areas we have referred to, to be of great assistance to the government by submitting proposals and recommendations which are based on complete and objective studies, proposals and recommendations which are

in keeping with the practical situation we are in and which contribute to the fulfilment of the approved objectives of our development policy.



Honourable Members,

At this time while we are endeavouring to strengthen our economy in the face of the existing world economic situation, we give thanks to God the Almighty for the blessing of stability. He has bestowed upon our country and also for His gift of the natural resources which He has graciously given to our land. These blessings have made possible the continued realisation of the main objectives of the second FiveYear Plan, in accordance with a practical economic policy which has proved its practicality in implementing the necessary projects. Inspite of the fact that this is a source of increased satisfaction to us and that it strengthens our determination, nevertheless, it imposes upon us all greater responsibility which requires more co-operation and greater effort to march forward with renewed effort in order to achieve a better standard of living for our people.

While we entrust you with the responsibility of giving advice in various matters connected with our development, we hope that you will co-operate in discharging your duty with unquestionable honesty and sincerity and that you will make a tangible contribution which will enrich the development of our good land.

We also hope that you will be guided in all your work by the tenets of our Islamic religion, and the values and traditions which have been passed on by generations in this country, generations which have set good examples of self-sacrifice and dedication for the uplifting of their well-being.

We pray to God the Almighty, to guide our steps and to bless our efforts with success in everything that is for our good.

Peace be with you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 13th national day

When one is young, one must think and plan with ambition for the future. It is a time for imagination, expectation and hope, but, also, young people must waste no time in getting down to the practical work of carrying out their national obligations.



18th November
1983





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

IT gives us pleasure today to congratulate our people on this happy occasion, which is honoured and appreciated in all our hearts. It is the occasion of our National Anniversary, which we dedicate this year to our Omani youth, in our work to bring up our young people and provide them with the inherent strength of knowledge that we care for them, and so that our people of Oman as a whole will give our youth the attention, education and the encouragement they deserve to prepare them for the future - each, in his chosen field of speciality and responsibility, so that they are fully prepared and worthy of bearing their responsibilities, according to their capacity and ability.



Dear Countrymen,

We are pleased to specially welcome the many youth delegations which have come to Oman from friendly and brotherly countries to participate in these celebrations. We hope that you will enjoy your stay in our country and will carry home with you, with God's protection, good impressions about our country and its development, and all the Omani people whom you have met.

The youth of the Free World have an important role to play in restoring human dignity, in encouraging peace and strengthening understanding between peoples. We hope that your presence among us will be a constructive contribution, and an effective impulse for this peace and understanding.

Dear Countrymen,

Now we wish to address in particular all the young people of Oman, both boys and girls,

whether they are present here today or at home among their families, whether in our towns and villages, or abroad working or studying. To all of them we say: many of you probably witnessed the years of the continuous struggle against the danger our country has faced, and have played your role in achieving the success with which God has blessed us. Others of you, who are too young to remember those days, have undoubtedly heard about them from your fathers and teachers; by word of mouth or by reading. All of you young people will be conscious of the great sacrifices and devoted efforts our people have made for the welfare and in the interests of our dear country. Your role now, is to prepare yourselves in the educational and cultural fields, and to set an example in shouldering the responsibilities of the future. This will not be easy, since it is your obligation, before anything else, to safeguard the achievements and gains which have been attained by your fathers in the past. You must work to increase, in every way you can, the welfare and development of our country in the public interest, bearing in mind that welfare, progress and tranquility cannot be achieved without hard work and dedication.

When one is young, one must think and plan with ambition for the future. It is a time for imagination, expectation and hope, but, also, young people must waste no time in getting down to the practical work of carrying out their national obligations. With this in mind, we are determined to take special care of our Omani youth in order that they shall be qualified for the duties that will be entrusted to them in maintaining the dignity and independence of their country, our Moslem principles, and our historic Omani customs and traditions, which have been inherited from our forefathers.



Young People,

The world you are inheriting is one in which fanaticism, intolerance, and disregard and disrespect for the rule of law have become a byword, where we see violence and oppression on all sides, and we see man sometimes in despair of the future of humanity. But we believe that the day must come when these evils are defeated. This is the aim which every one of us, of every nationality, must seek to work for and achieve.

May God Almighty bless our steps and lead us all on the path towards prosperity for our good and that of all mankind.

Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 14th national day

We must remember that in striving for our progress and the creation of our modern state, we must retain the teachings of our Holy Religion and consult the glorious traditions of which we are so proud.



18th November
1984





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Dear Countrymen,

IT is with heartfelt pleasure that we greet you on this happy occasion of our National Anniversary, which today not only marks the end of a year which, in spite of the many difficulties which beset our world, has seen our country continue to thrive, but has also a special significance since it brings us to the threshold of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the re-birth of our beloved Oman.

We must give thanks to Almighty God for the protection and guidance which has enabled us to continue the great work of consolidating the progress we have achieved. But we must actively demonstrate our gratitude by increasing our efforts to deserve these blessings, by preserving and defending the values and traditions that our Holy Religion has taught us to cherish, and by striving to make our country strong and self-reliant.

Indeed, we can only hope to succeed in all our efforts if we realise that they can be achieved only through strength - strength to defend ourselves; strength in the face of adversity; strength to oppose the evils that exist around; and strength through drawing upon that indomitable National will which is so much a part of our great Omani heritage.

Dear People,

For we must face the realities of this world. We must not allow the peace, stability and progress which we enjoy in our country to blind us to the facts of life outside. We are sad to witness the instability which afflicts the world in this age of scientific progress and technology.

We call upon all leaders of all nations - especially the Great Powers - to work seriously, and sincerely to lessen international tensions and to speed the solution of the problems from which humanity is suffering. Thus we can enable the international community to avoid the disasters of war and destruction. Peaceful coexistence can then reign in an atmosphere of mutual respect and non-interference in other countries' affairs. We deplore the tragic and unnecessary war which continues between Iraq and Iran, and which has destroyed the lives of so many brother Muslims and is now endangering innocent non-combatants. We call on Iraq and Iran to accept the call of wisdom.

We shall continue to give our fullest support for all measures designed to ensure respect for international law and to give assistance to under-developed countries. We shall continue to work in the closest accord with our brothers of the Gulf Co-operation Council whose constructive efforts are providing an example to the world. We are confident that our Fifth Summit, which will take place in Kuwait, will be a success. Our Fifteenth Anniversary of our blessed revival will coincide with the Sixth GCC Summit, to be held in our country. We and our people welcome this brotherly gathering in Oman next year. We shall do all we can to ensure its success.

In the field of brotherly Arab solidarity we welcome and support the wise statesmanship of His Majesty King Hussain of Jordan which he displayed by restoring his country's ties with Egypt - an act of the greatest significance to our collective aims. We continue to urge our brother Arab leaders to take this path. It has been proved throughout history that Egypt is a cornerstone of the Arab structure, which has never failed in its defence of the Arab and Islamic cause. We call on all Arab leaders to throw their differences aside. We look forward to a new path which will bring glory and unity to the Arab nation.



Countrymen,

With these thoughts in mind, we now wish particularly to address our brave Armed Forces. During the past year, your devotion to duty and the efficiency with which you have carried out those duties - often in arduous and dangerous circumstances - have been deserving of the highest praise. We have witnessed with pride the many proofs you have given of your resourcefulness, discipline and dedication. The responsibilities that lie upon you are heavy

- and they will continue to be so - calling for the utmost efforts on the part of every one of you. For you must remember that, although certainly we have friends, in the defence of our country, as in all other things, we must first and foremost rely upon ourselves. To do otherwise would be the grossest folly. We are confident that you will continue to maintain the very high standards you have set in the service of our country. It is our firm intention that you shall be provided with the most modern means to do so.

Countrymen,

We commend the efforts of our Civil Service in its contribution to the revival of our country. We urge you to remember the confidence we place in you in the service of our glorious people. We expect you to continue your untiring efforts to fulfil these goals.

We must remember that in striving for our progress and the creation of our modern state, we must retain the teachings of our Holy Religion and consult the glorious traditions of which we are so proud.



Dear Countrymen,

We are pleased with the steady progress that has continued to be achieved in our National economy, in spite of the pressures of world recession and other factors. We shall continue to develop our sources of income and work towards the achievement of balanced growth in agriculture and industry in our Third Five-Year Plan.

Dear People,

Today, then, we can look forward to the future with confidence and hope; that under God's guidance our beloved Oman will remain secure and prosperous. Let us ensure by our efforts that the coming year will be a worthy prelude to the glorious Fifteenth Anniversary of the renaissance of our country.





Speech of His Majesty



at the closing session of the gcc summit
meeting in kuwait

*While we are truly convinced of the importance and
advantage of taking additional steps to develop and
extend the scope of co-operation between our countries
in all fields, for the stability and welfare of our
peoples.*



29th November
1984





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Dear Countrymen,

AT these moments which are filled with feelings of true brotherly affection, and at the conclusion of the work of the fifth session of our Council, it gives us pleasure to express our deep appreciation for the sincere efforts which have been made during this meeting and which contributed towards reaching good results which reflect our awareness of the necessity and importance of developing co-operation between our countries to a level that will serve their objectives and common interests.

Our brotherly march over the past few years has accomplished important steps which manifested positive concepts for our joint action and opened horizons for interaction and integration between the experiences of the member countries and laid down clear foundations for co-ordination and co-operation in various fields And today, as our peoples look at our meetings with hope, and expect with each of these meetings a new gain for our march (advancement), our meeting today is, praise be to God, another step on the road which gives the existing co-operation new dimensions and a new meaning, whether in the positive resolutions which have been adopted to develop and promote co-operation in the economic and defence fields or in controlling the course of our joint action in several other fields

While we are truly convinced of the importance and advantage of taking additional steps to develop and extend the scope of co-operation between our countries in all fields, for the stability and welfare of our peoples, our collective responsibility towards ensuring constant progress and the success of our march necessitates that we at all times choose these fields and their priorities carefully taking into consideration the nature of each stage and the ability of the member countries to comprehend the steps of co-operation so that our joint efforts will be always concentrated on accomplishing our duties and responsibilities in a manner that

will serve the basic interests of all our countries. And if we think today that the substantial results which have been achieved up to now in many fields seem to be modest in relation to our ambitions, then they must at the same time be considered to be a significant gain which enables us to look towards the future with optimism and confidence in the ability of our march and our combined efforts to achieve the aims we have all agreed upon. To fulfil our ambitions in strengthening co-operation and in cementing the relations between our countries in all fields and by every means that serves to guarantee their present and future.



And on the level of the current developments in the area, we emphasise the importance of the great efforts that are being made by the countries of the Council and their participation in the efforts which aim at finding a solution which will put an end to the Iraqi-Iranian war and achieve the peace and stability we all cherish for our area and all its countries and its peoples.

The world around us is now witnessing a situation which is dominated by bitter events and conflicts which bring out new challenges every day. While we commend in this respect the solidarity shown by our countries for the sake of maintaining their stability, we wish to emphasise the special importance of pursuing our joint endeavour towards developing the co-ordination which exists between our efforts and capabilities, to enable us to spare our countries and peoples the dangers that confront us, and to enable them to overcome these challenges and difficulties. Also to enable them to direct their energies and resources towards continuing to achieve the aims of construction and development, At the time we must ensure that our countries continue their work and effective participation for the good of our area and our Arab Islamic nation and the entire international community.



Your Highness, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah,

It gives my brothers their Majesties and their Highnesses, and myself, pleasure to express to Your Highness our deep thanks and appreciation for the true efforts you have made in administering the work of this session and for the great assistance you have provided to

make it successful. It is also our pleasure to express to Your Highness and to the Government and brotherly people of the State of Kuwait, our appreciation for the kind welcome and hospitality accorded to us in your noble and hospitable country. We also must express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Council, his assistants and all members of the General Secretariat for their work in making the necessary preparations for our meetings.



My Brothers, Your Majesties, Your Highnesses,

While we conclude this meeting in the hope of meeting again, God willing, on the road to progress and co-operation, it gives us pleasure to express to you the deepest feelings of welcome to Oman, your second country, where the next session of our Council will be held. This brotherly meeting will bring us together and give our country and people the opportunity to welcome you and express to you and your countries and peoples the sincere brotherly feelings they harbour towards you in their hearts, and the desire for positive participation in achieving the noble aims of our joint march. We hope we shall succeed in making your stay in Oman enjoyable and successful, so that it will contribute towards achieving the welfare and prosperity we seek for our countries and peoples.

We pray to God Almighty to bestow His care on all our meetings and efforts and to crown our endeavours with success.





Speech of His Majesty



at the opening session of the 6th summit of
the co-operation council of the arab gulf
states in muscat

*We meet today under crucial regional and
international circumstances which requires us to
restate the role of our Council as a stabilising factor
in the region.*



3rd November
1985





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Dear Countrymen,

ON this glorious day we are meeting on Omani soil and are pleased to welcome you as true brothers and to express our sincere and cordial appreciation. We are also voicing the welcome of the Omani people and expressing their pleasure on this auspicious occasion and their appreciation of the strong ties which gather our peoples on the path of welfare and solidarity.

Our meeting today gives a renewed assurance for our collective determination to march forward towards achieving the goals that our peoples had hoped for when we first took our historic step in forming the Co-operation Council of the Arab Gulf States. We thank God for enabling us in this short period to bring about these positive achievements which have consolidated the pillars of this edifice, and we continue to enlarge the scope of co-operation to cover all fields. Our Council with God's blessings and our sincere brotherly efforts has been able to perform a positive role as an instrument to consolidate the ties amongst our States and for the benefit of our peoples.

We feel completely satisfied with the existing co-operation within the framework of our Council at all levels as far as the fields of politics, economics and security are concerned. Today we set out on this solid foundation to express our increasing awareness to afford maximum importance to those vital issues according to their contribution to the basic interests of our peoples. In this regard we are pleased to commend the brotherly understanding which exists amongst us so as to adopt a practical method as a forum through which we

tackle all issues with wisdom and prudence. We are conscious of the importance of the interaction of positive aspects of the experiences gained by our States to improve their cooperation in a manner which takes into account the interests of all, which in turn cements the ambitions of our peoples, of which future generations of our Gulf family can be proud.



Your Majesties and Highnesses

We meet today under crucial regional and international circumstances which requires us to restate the role of our Council as a stabilising factor in the region. We are, all of us, hopeful of raising the standard of co-ordination in both defence and security in order to contribute to the strengthening of the ties between our countries so that they can perform their joint responsibilities more effectively. We also note the keenness of the member States in co-ordinating their action to protect the region against symptoms of violence, terrorism and any other action which would detract from this security. We reaffirm that it is extremely important to translate this action in a firm solidarity which safeguards the stability of our peoples and defends their gains and achievements against any challenges and dangers.

Our Council has given great importance to bringing an end to the Iraq-Iran war and has shown its sincere desire to bring the two sides closer in every possible way. And while emphasising the importance of the continuous efforts of regional and international mediators we call upon the leaders of the two countries to show flexibility so as to open the way for these noble efforts. And we urge the international community to show more interest in helping to put an end to this war which has lasted long enough and which, by its continued escalation threatens the interest of the peoples of this region, and exposes international peace to danger. We look forward to the day when reconciliation and good neighbourliness between Iraq and Iran will prevail, so that security may encompass all areas of the region and the people can enjoy stability and are able to direct their resources and attention towards their progress and prosperity.

As for the current developments on the Arab scene we are preoccupied with clearing the air of marginal differences to create an atmosphere of unity of purpose in order to give priority to the supreme interests of our Arab nation. The Arab nation must be able to face all challenges at this juncture with a spirit of solidarity which is indispensable as a starting point for our positive and effective actions for the benefits of our basic issues, and primarily the

Cause of the Palestinian People.

We note with content that our Council has been able to reflect our collective keenness to contribute sincerely and constructively on both the Arab and Islamic scenes and to express clearly our continued readiness to co-operate with all international groups which reciprocate the same desire on the basis of mutual interest. So as to illustrate an exemplary joint effort which works towards the welfare of our peoples and the family of nations.



Your Majesties and Highnesses

We begin, with God's blessings, the workings of the Sixth Summit of our Council and we are confident that our brotherly efforts will grow during this meeting as has always been the case. We must translate our preoccupations at this juncture and aim to enrich our collective experience for the benefit of present and future generations of our peoples in order to achieve results which will be a step forward and which will add to those we have realised in previous meetings.

In conclusion we must repeat our welcome to you - Your Majesties, Highnesses and members of the Delegations. We wish you an enjoyable stay amongst your family in the Sultanate of Oman. We affirm our keen desire to do everything possible to ensure that all our resources contribute towards making this Summit a success. We would like to thank the Ministerial Council, the Permanent Committees of this Council, the Secretary-General and his assistants, and the Secretariat-General for their preparations for the path of brotherhood and co-operation and to bless our efforts with his care and support.

Peace be with you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



at the closing session of the 6th summit of
the co-operation council of the arab gulf
states in muscat

*Our work during this meeting has resulted in further
gains which reflect our strong desire to develop our
joint venture in a manner compatible with each stage
of its implementation.*



6th November
1985





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Your Majesty and Highnesses,

AS we conclude the business of the Sixth Session of our Council we should like to express our strong sense of pride that we have all been able to meet in Oman under the aegis of the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf. We should also like to express our appreciation of the spirit of brotherhood that has dominated our meetings and spurred us on to strive for even greater co-operation between our states and even closer ties between our peoples. These steps will ensure our security and stability and will help us to achieve our aims of progress and prosperity. While praising Allah the Almighty Who has conferred success upon our meeting, we also express our deepest gratitude and appreciation to you for your sincere endeavours which have enabled our Council to reach positive decisions and results. If Allah wills, these will have beneficial consequences and make a significant contribution to the achievement of our noble objectives.



Your Majesty and Highnesses,

The important deliberations we have held on military and security co-ordination between our states, and on the prevention of terrorism, have helped bring us another step forward, and this will have a positive effect on the maintenance of security and stability in our region.

Our work during this meeting has resulted in further gains which reflect our strong desire to develop our joint venture in a manner compatible with each stage of its implementation. It

will then serve the vital interests of our states and peoples and reinforce our solidarity in the face of challenges.

Thanks to the assistance of Almighty Allah and our combined brotherly efforts, our Council's achievements at its meetings leave no doubt that if we continue our march forward with the same determination and wisdom, we shall - with Allah's permission - have a very bright future. Today, as we conclude the Sixth Session of our Council with a sense of real satisfaction with its success, we look forward to our next meeting in the United Arab Emirates as guests of His Highness brother Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan and his people. We hope that - if Allah wills - our meetings will continue to produce successful results for the well-being of our peoples.



Your Majesties and Highnesses,

We salute you and reiterate our sincere gratitude and appreciation to you for this blessed, brotherly gathering. We also express our profuse thanks to their Highnesses and Excellencies the members of the delegations, to His Excellency the Secretary-General, his assistants and all the staff of the Secretariat-General who have worked so hard to make our meetings a success.

We thank and praise Allah the Almighty, and we ask Him to bless our endeavours and grant them success.

<Allah suffers not the reward of one whose work is goodly to be lost.>

Peace be with you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 15th national day

*It is a duty which must be undertaken by each citizen,
to guarantee the protection of our natural resources
and public health against any harmful effects, and
protect the beautiful and distinguished nature which
God Almighty granted to our beloved Oman.*



18th November
1985





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Dear Citizens,

IT gives us great pleasure to be with you to celebrate our 15th National Day, and to Praise God Almighty and thank him for his benevolence to our country. We beseech Him to continue to assist and guide us to achieve our goals for the future prosperity for our beloved country, Oman.

We take pleasure in greeting our people throughout our country, in appreciation of the profound example they have given in their work and struggle, and we congratulate them on our achievements together during the past fifteen years. Under the guidance of God Almighty, our country has pursued the right path in its renaissance in all fields, regaining its traditional role in positive interaction with the international community.

It also gives us great pleasure to have the participation of Their Majesties, Their Excellencies the Presidents, Their Highnesses and Excellencies from brother Arab countries and other friendly states. We and our people warmly welcome all our dear guests, and we express our utmost gratitude for their participation which we regard as a symbol of the strong brotherly and friendly relations which unite our peoples.



Dear Citizens,

In our high esteem for our friendship with the international family, we also reaffirm our firm intentions to continue to perform our full role on the international scene, according to the principles we have always adopted. We shall strive faithfully for friendship and co-operation, and support all just causes of the peoples of the world. We shall act in the cause of peace and stability on all international levels.

We shall continue to work with our brothers, the leaders of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Coun-



cil, within the framework of our brotherly accord, which provides a striking example of positive co-operation by us all. We take pleasure in commending the achievements of the past few years, and in the results reached at our Sixth Summit, convened in Muscat earlier this month, in the fields of economy, defence and security. This has reflected our ardent desire to develop our joint experience on a firm basis, and to cement the ties between our peoples for the preservation of stability and for the realisation of our aspirations of our welfare and prosperity.

As a result of our ardent concern for the stability of our region, and as a duty dictated by our obligations to our neighbours, we are continuing our strong support for all mediation efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, which threatens the security and safety of navigation in the region, and which poses a dangerous threat to international peace. We deplore the loss of life and resources on both sides. We call once more on the leaders of both countries to stop this destructive war and to respond to the international attempts to bring about this end. Preparations must take place to negotiate in an Islamic spirit, to reach a permanent settlement guaranteeing the rights of both parties, and open a new era of friendly relations.

We have always adopted an objective and positive stand towards all Arab and international initiatives towards reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem. We believe in dialogue as a means to realise peace in the region, based on international legality in conformity with mutual commitment to the United Nations resolutions, its Charter's principles and international laws.

It is vital to overcome the present stagnant situation, which is conducive to Israeli attempts to perpetuate the present situation. We support the Jordanian-Palestinian endeavours as all Arab and international endeavours to seek a permanent and honourable peace. We call on all international forces, friendly to Israel, to accept their responsibilities and exert their full influence to put an end to Israeli intransigence, so as to provide an opportunity for positive progress towards reaching a solution which will restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and guarantee justice and peace for all.

We have repeatedly warned against the danger of Arab differences which threaten the real interests of our nation, and call for unity of purpose and the substitution of harmony for dissension. In order to deal with these basic issues we today reaffirm once more that there is no way for this nation to confront the dangers which face us except through a Pan-Arab solidarity which would restore its prestige and enable us to deal with international realities. We reaffirm our support for the positive work of the committees tasked by the Casablanca Conference, as well as for all serious efforts to clarify and eliminate differences. We are looking forward to the day when Arab solidarity will be strongly and comprehensively restored, with the will of God Almighty. We also aspire to strengthen the Islamic solidarity in

order to reinforce the effectiveness of the efforts exerted to that end, so as to support the common causes, settle disputes and solve the problems from which the Islamic nation is suffering. As the role of the non-aligned community becomes stronger and more effective in a world torn by struggle, we praise the efforts made to strengthen this role, and urge positive response to these basic principles of the non-aligned movement. We also subscribe to unity of the member countries in defending their interests on the international level, and in their determination to avoid embroilment in the superpower struggle.

At a time when world economic problems are becoming ever more complex, and particularly affecting the developing countries, we join in supporting the appeal to establish a new international economic system on a more equitable basis, to create a balance between the needs of the developing countries and those of the industrially advanced countries, who, we believe, should now bear their responsibilities to assist in rectifying the economic imbalance caused by the wide gap between them and the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. We also believe that urgent attention should be given to the serious problems of drought and refugees which are increasing in many parts of the world.

During this year, the world has witnessed dangerous events and developments in various regions which emphasise the instability of the world situation, due to the increase of tension and conflict, and the escalation of violence and terrorism. We renew our appeal to the leaders of the world to work for the realisation of human aspirations towards an era of peace and co-operation. We once again demand that effective measures be taken to eliminate terrorism in all its forms. We also strongly adhere to the necessity for a sincere commitment to work wholeheartedly towards solving world problems, and eradicating tension and struggle by peaceful means.

The role played by the United Nations in solving political and economic problems is of profound importance, in a world of increasing struggle and challenges to the United Nations, Charter and its relevant resolutions. We call upon all the world nations to undertake their responsibilities in strengthening the role of the international organisation to render it more effective. We must do so in order to serve peace and stability and consolidate the cooperative relations between members of the international family for the benefit of the whole world's nations.

We emphasise the special responsibility of the two super powers for international peace and security. We hope that the forthcoming summit talks which will start tomorrow between the two leaders, Ronald Reagan and Mikhael Gorbachev, will commence an effective detente towards establishing just solutions to international issues which will alleviate the present intense international tension and call a halt to the arms race and remove the spectre of nuclear war.



Dear Citizens,

This fifteenth year has been full of devoted work in all fields. We thank God Almighty for all the achievements we have realized towards the consolidation of our renaissance and progress. We have been able, with the help of God, and the co-operation of our people, to execute our Second Five-Year Plan, and to implement other new projects which are additional to the Plan, despite the pressures of the world economic recession.

Today, as we introduce a new stage of our march forward, we face heavy responsibilities which must be confronted in order to reach our national goals. With this in mind, we have addressed our Third Five-Year Plan, in order to achieve an equal development in all regions of our country. This will comprise all aspects of infrastructure of the education, health service, telecommunications and roads, with special care and concern devoted to all productive sectors of agriculture, fisheries and other industries to satisfy our country's needs. We must diversify our revenue sources, intensify the capacity of our national economy so as to enable us to cope with world economic changes.

It pleases us to express our satisfaction with the Oman experiment of «consultation», which provides for an effective public participation in the development and study of future plans, through the State Consultative Council, whose positive proposals and recommendations assist the government in achieving the goals of economic and social development.

As a result of our great concern for the protection of the natural environment, and our achievements in this respect, Oman has gained a respectable position among nations concerned with environmental protection; yet we still have to exert more effort and consider the special conditions relevant to this issue, when we come to plan and implement development projects. We must proceed to develop contacts with regional and international organisations concerned. It is a duty which must be undertaken by each citizen, to guarantee the protection of our natural resources and public health against any harmful effects, and protect the beautiful and distinguished nature which God Almighty granted to our beloved Oman. As we pursue our priority of rehabilitating and training our human resources to conform with our development plans and satisfy the demands of our national requirements, we shall, with God's will, also pursue our care for our Omani youth. We firmly believe in the role of youth in making the present and the future, and it is our concern to develop their capacities, provide their basic needs, and prepare them soundly to undertake their duty to serve their country.

In addition, we must pay constant concern to strengthening our ability in all respects to enable us to surmount difficulties, overcome challenges and implement our national tasks for the benefit of Oman and its people.

It gives us great pleasure, while we celebrate our Fifteenth National Day, to extend a special greeting to our courageous Armed Forces and to express our deep appreciation for their distinguished contribution to the stability, progress and prosperity of our country. We express our deep satisfaction and pride in their high quality and readiness. We call upon you to maintain the standards you have always shown for which you so amply deserve our appreciation. We shall continue, with God's help, to provide you with all you need to perform your glorious role.

Dear Citizens,

As we look to the future, we may do so with great optimism and a strong determination to achieve more of our ambitions, we ought to know that this requires primarily the preservation of the blessing of stability, as well as all other blessings which God Almighty has given us. We must intensify our efforts to the utmost of our ability and build the future of Oman. We must also draw upon our religion, our great heritage and our Omani values to light the road ahead and to strengthen us to perform our duty to our country, our nation and to humanity at large.

We greet you, dear citizens, and congratulate you on the occasion of our National Day, and we express in your name, all feelings of welcome and appreciation to our dear guests for their honoured participation in the celebration of our National Day.

We pray to God Almighty, to protect us and lead us to goodness and piety. We ask God Almighty, to render the coming year a prosperous year for Oman, full of peace and prosperity to the whole world.

Happy returns of the day, and God's blessings upon you.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the beginning of the third
term of the state consultative council

*We are following with great interest the Council's
activities which take into account our deep-rooted
Omani traditions and which call for sincere work
and co-operation in the interest of the country and
the people.*



4th January
1986





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Dear Citizens,

IT gives me pleasure to welcome you to the third term of the State Consultative Council and to express my appreciation of the Council's efforts during its second term. Those efforts have helped in encouraging the development process and in taking appropriate action to set up the development projects which are required in certain areas in the Sultanate. Moreover, the Council has given due attention to drawing up a long-term programme to develop productive sectors and to improving the standards of performance of service-related outlets.



This has been possible through the serious and objective studies which have been conducted by the Council, which have in turn enabled it to make constructive proposals and recommendations. We have given those proposals and recommendations our careful consideration and approved their implementation, with a view to enabling the Council, not only to contribute, through opinion and advice, to the accomplishment of the already endorsed plans, but also to have a role in planning new programmes to satisfy vital needs and expand the scope of development to all parts of the country.

We are following with great interest the Council's activities which take into account our deep-rooted Omani traditions and which call for sincere work and co-operation in the interest of the country and the people. We commend the positive dialogue taking place between the Council members and the Ministers and other officials in charge of development sectors. We regard such dialogue as a healthy sign, reflecting the progress the Council has made, as well as its determination to co-operate with the government in tackling our key issues.

Such an attitude deserves encouragement and we have thus always been concerned to nurture such co-operation in order to secure increasing harmony in addressing our national tasks and achieving progress and prosperity for our country and our people.



Members of the State Consultative Council,

Our achievements in the past year have marked the successful completion of our Second Five-Year Plan and crowned a major phase in the course of national action. We thank God for the success we have had and the achievements we have won over the past fifteen years in laying down the basis for a modern State and realising many of the ambitions which in the past seemed to be unattainable.

Our celebration of the 15th National Day Anniversary reflected the strong national sentiments of our people, and their pride in their work and in the comprehensive development which has restored Oman to its proper place among the nations of the world. The participation of leaders and prominent figures from brotherly and friendly countries in the National Day celebrations have reflected the existing ties between our people and those of other countries. It was also a symbol of the friendship and co-operation which has helped in strengthening our relations with them at all levels.

While celebrating the National Day in November last year, our country had the pleasure of hosting the sixth GCC Summit. This provided an excellent opportunity for us and our people to express our appreciation to our brothers, the leaders of the GCC States, as well as to show our devotion to the ties of fraternity which bind our peoples and unify our efforts within the framework of the GCC.

We regard the outcome of the Summit as a major gain towards furthering our brotherly co-operation.

With regard to our foreign policy, we renew our determination to carry out our duty in full to serve the principles of peace, stability and co-operation within the context of our Gulf grouping, our Arab and Islamic nation and the international community at large.

Honourable Members,

As we begin a new stage on the road towards further prosperity and growth, we must intensify our efforts to stimulate our progress and develop our achievements. We must also intensify our efforts to promote our own capabilities as part of future plans. In these plans, we intend to stress the development of our economic resources so as to lessen dependence on oil, survive fluctuations in the world oil market, and the negative effects of the world economic recession. This will enable our national economy to accomplish new projects for the progress and prosperity of our people.

At the same time, we must set priorities for future steps to develop areas of the Sultanate and satisfy their substantial needs in the fields of education, health, social services and other vital projects. This should be coupled with programmes and plans for preparing and training our national manpower to meet our requirements.

It is the duty of your Council during its third term to play a larger role in contributing to all the areas to which we have referred.

Such a role will help the Government in drawing up and implementing its plans and development programmes, and to arriving at realistic solutions to the problems that may arise.

It is also the Council's duty to propose appropriate means to encourage development efforts in order to achieve the best possible degree of economic and social progress and satisfy the basic needs of the citizens in all areas of the country.

Members of the State Consultative Council,

As you commence the sessions of the third term to carry out the duties to which you were assigned, to provide your opinions and advice to our country and our people, on issues of importance - we place our full confidence in you to do that sincerely and seriously.

Peace be with you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.





Speech of His Majesty

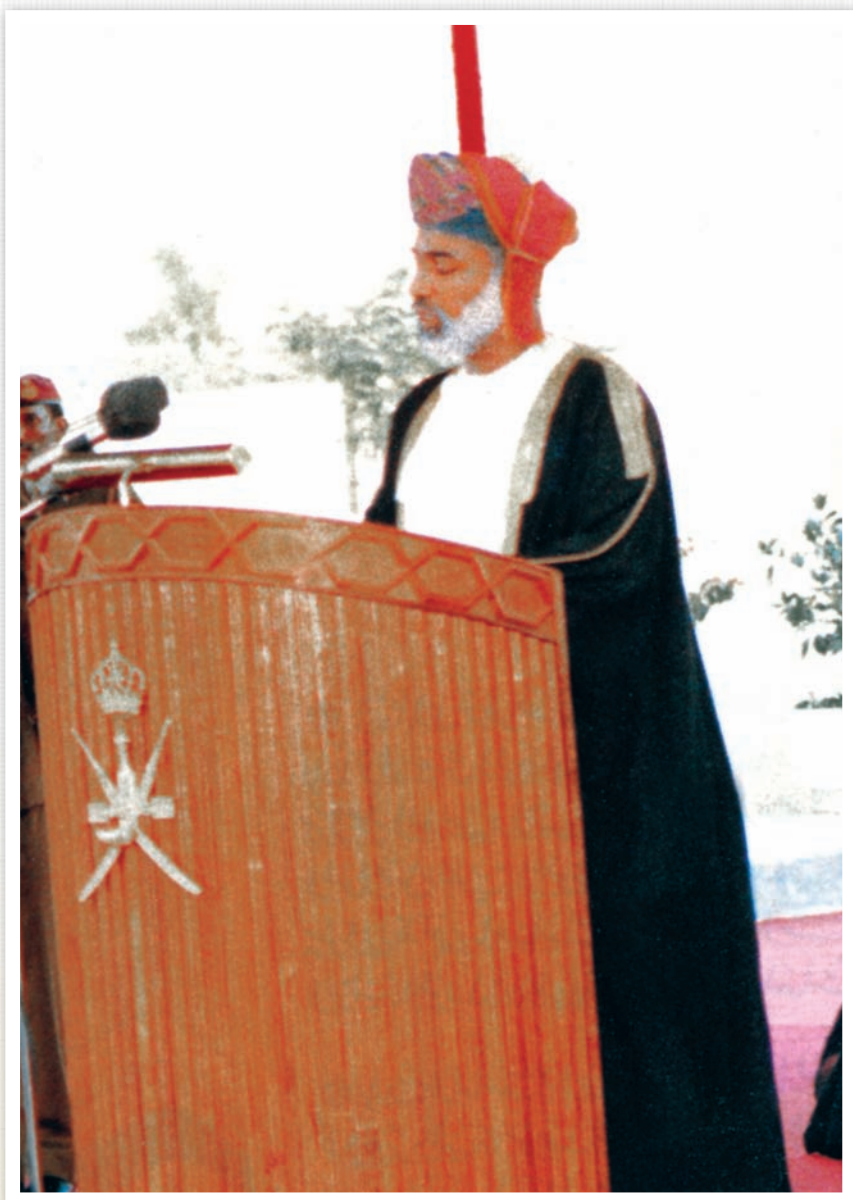


at the opening ceremony of the
sultan qaboos university

*We live in an age of science and education.
Education and work are our only means of progress
and development within the context of our Islamic
civilisation.*



9th November
1986





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Ladies and Gentlemen, my daughters and sons, the students,

IN the name of Almighty God and by His grace, we declare open the Sultan Qaboos University in accordance with our promise to the youth of Oman and in recognition of the importance of learning in our path to progress and prosperity.

It gives me particular pleasure that this opening ceremony heralds the commencement of our 16th National Day celebrations. We look to the future with hope, confidence and determination to achieve further prosperity for our dear land.



My daughters and sons,

Thanks to God, the opening of Sultan Qaboos University is a result of the fruitful efforts which have been made over a number of years which recognise the important need for such a University in the sphere of education in our country.

In planning this foundation we have followed a realistic policy to choose the positive aspects of contemporary academic systems that suit our Omani way of life and the national characteristics of our people. We have not imitated other universities in this. We have supplied this seat of learning with everything that will enable it to offer a high standard of education in medicine, engineering, science, agriculture, education and Islamic studies. Provision has also been made for expansion to meet the needs of the future.

In order to strengthen the role of the University, we have commanded a College of Arts to be opened in the near future. It will offer our students the opportunity to specialise in the humanities and cultural science. We will do this as an expression of our sincere desire to equip Omani youth with the necessary knowledge in order that they may participate positively, in the years to come, in the making of modern Oman.

We are also deeply concerned with other levels of education and training with a view to pursuing a balanced policy which will meet the needs of our country in a number

of specialised spheres.

We have specially issued instructions for the development and diversification Of technical education, so that our Omani youth may be offered the fullest opportunity to play an effective role in our comprehensive development plans aimed at achieving prosperity for all Omanis.

The University has the particular responsibility to preserve Omani values and traditions and to preserve the valiant and exemplary Omani heritage as an incentive to our young people to serve their country by carrying forward what has been achieved in the past. We look forward to seeing the theoretical and applied research of the University in the service of Oman and in developing solutions to our social and economic concerns.

We would like to reiterate the importance we attach to the relationship of our University with that of the GCC universities and the universities of sister and friendly states. Such relations will bring about positive results in the enrichment of knowledge and in a better understanding between our nations.



My daughters and sons,

We live in an age of science and education. Education and work are our only means of progress and development within the context of our Islamic civilisation. It is your duty to bear this in mind and to work whole-heartedly for your graduation so that you may serve Oman well, your motherland.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to extend my thanks to all those who have made this institution a reality.

We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the visiting delegation from sister and friendly countries who are participating in this opening ceremony.

We pray to Almighty God to bless our students and make their studies successful. We ask Him to bless our dear University.

Thank you and God bless you all.



Speech of His Majesty



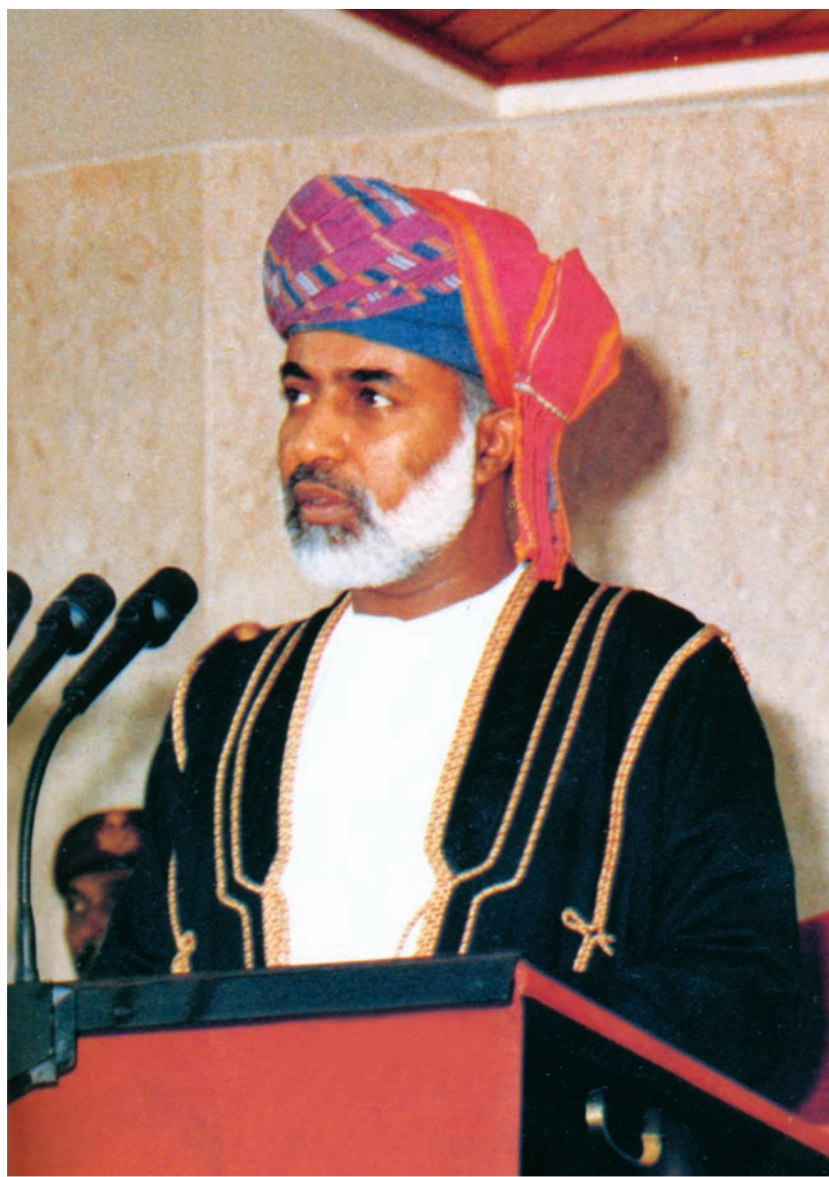
on the occasion of the 16th national day

We believe in the role of Omani youth in building the country, We call upon them to set a good example in adopting a responsible sense of duty and in seeking perfection in their work .



18th November

1986





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We offer our gratitude to God. Peace be upon His blessed Messenger, the Prophet Mohammed, and upon His Family and followers.



Dear Countrymen,

Peace be with you and the mercy of Allah and His blessings.

IT gives us great happiness to be here with you at this great festival on the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of our National Day. We greet you with pleasure and all the dear citizens of our country. We are most grateful and thankful to God for providing us with His guidance and care. We ask Him to continue to give us His help so that we may serve our country well and achieve progress and prosperity for it.



Dear Citizens,

Our celebrations this year take the form of folk-festivals which reflect the role of our national working force and other sectors of our Omani society.

They express our pride in the progress we have achieved during the past 16 years, in all walks of life.

We thank God, with whose help, and through our combined and coordinated efforts, we have completed the social and economic infrastructure of our country.

Today, we all face additional duties and responsibility. You must continue to strive for our country's further progress and prosperity. To do that, we must equip ourselves with the teachings of our religion and true Omani values, and learn from our previous experience. We must work together with sincerity and self-denial, remembering always God's word: fulfil your commitments, for which you will have to account.



Dear Citizens,

For some years past the world around us has witnessed many economic changes that pose a new challenge to the developing countries.

Now, the existing international oil market reflects adversely on the economies of the oil-producing countries and on the world economy.

Thus, we have now, more than at any other time, to depend on selfreliance, not only to face this situation and the changes it has brought, but to adapt ourselves to them. We must also be prepared to make the sacrifices that are demanded of us in order to surmount these difficulties and build a prosperous and benevolent society.

We attach great importance to the diversification of the exploitation of our national resources, with particular emphasis on the agricultural, fisheries and industrial sectors.

We must also energetically apply ourselves to our work and encourage honest competition, so that exemplary performance becomes our standard in building our country. As the Prophet says, peace be upon Him: "Almighty God loves those who carry out their work with all their skill".

At the same time, we shall continue to maintain policies of providing the essential necessities for our dear people, in spite of the present situation and the economic changes that have taken place. We have already directed the responsible people in our government to take special care of this in our development plans.

It is important to emphasise that every citizen must take up his responsibility to his country without delay and without dependence on others. Everyone must participate sincerely and honestly in achieving our national goals. We must recognise that work is noble and it makes

life positive and useful. Moreover, it is a sacred duty on the citizen towards the motherland. These values are also called upon by our Islamic religion and in the words of God, Who said: "Each will be assessed according to his work".



Dear Citizens,

We are proud of our heritage. We call upon you not to desert the traditional professions upon which our old society stood, especially the professions of agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, and the other handicrafts which all play an important role in developing our motherland. We must not ignore our valuable God-given resources. With the blessing of God, we are planning to concentrate our efforts on the development of these sectors. Societies never develop unless they respect the professions of their ancestors. The development of all nations is measured, not by superficial achievements, but by their origins and the legacy of their past.

We believe in the role of Omani youth in building the country, we call upon them to set a good example in adopting a responsible sense of duty and in seeking perfection in their work. They must be prepared positively to participate in all sectors. They must not accept a future of merely obtaining certificates of qualification - they must be prepared to work in all fields regardless of the type of that work. Thus will they perform nobly for our country and people. Moreover, we shall never be able to reduce our dependence on foreign labour in most of the unskilled professions unless our people show their interest and capability to take over. God said: "Man will receive the fruits of his work which are seen. He will be rewarded in full".



At the same time, we call upon every citizen to participate in this drive for comprehensive development. More than ever before, it is essential that the private sector should take serious and progressive steps to make as much as possible of the qualified Omani working

force. Naturally, this will greatly help in developing the capabilities of our national skills. We praise all that has been achieved so far by our craftsmen and technicians in every field. Now it is indeed time for each Omani to realise and accept that countries are built and become prosperous through the sincere work and struggle of their own citizens.



Our dear People,

In our economic and social development plans, we shall continue to ensure that first priority is given to the needs of our people of the different regions. We will continue to develop the quality of the work of the Civil Service to meet the tasks that lie ahead.

Oman is well set on the path of sound progress; our land is rich in resources that can meet the increasing expectations of our people in the years ahead. We must work hard to achieve these expectations. We must be inspired by the words of our Prophet Mohamed, peace be upon Him: "You must be brothers in the service of God, and help each other in doing good".



Dear Citizens,

On this occasion we greet our gallant Armed Forces and praise their high standard of efficiency and alertness in safeguarding Oman's security and stability. We confirm our continued care for them, and our determination to provide them with their needs in their sacred task. We praise the sincere work of all those who preserve the security of our land and people. We wish to extend a special greeting to the Omani Scouts. They have positively participated in our path of progress to prosperity and selfreliance.

We extend our greetings to all, and especially to you - the participants of this festival: you, the farmers, the fishermen, the craftsmen, Omani youth and all sectors of Omani society for your fruitful efforts. We wish to express to you all, our pride in the vital role you are playing in the achievement of our country's development and prosperity.

We extend our gratitude to the members of the delegations from sister and friendly coun-

tries. Now, with the blessing of God, we shall commence a new year on the path of renaissance of our country. We call upon you, our dear citizens, to look to the future with faith, optimism and firm determination. Work hard towards progress.

May God bless us all and bless our country.

May God bring peace to the whole world, so that mankind will enjoy prosperity and security and settle their differences by peaceful means instead of by wars and destruction.

God bless you all.





Speech of His Majesty

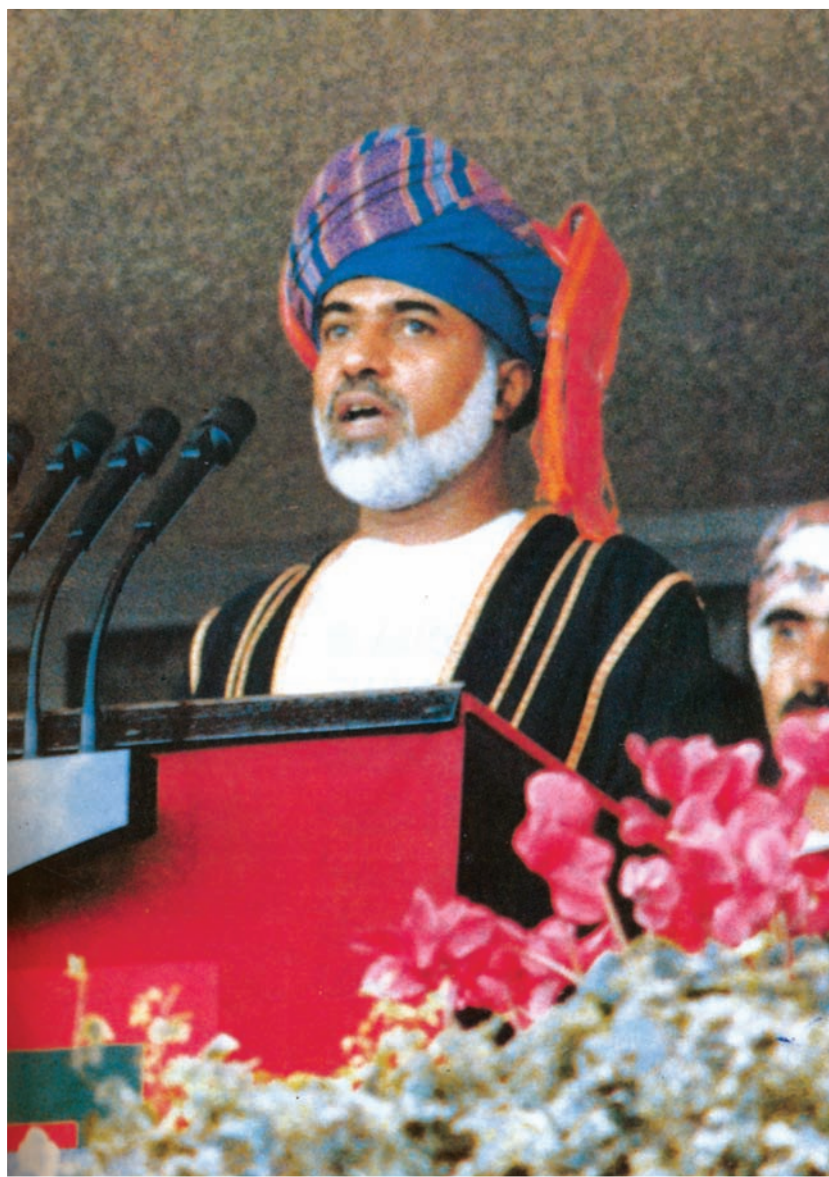


on the occasion of the 17th national day

*As an encouragement to agriculture, as a vital factor
in our national economy, we intend to declare next
year as the «Year of Agriculture»*



18th November
1987





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Countrymen,

WE are delighted to welcome this new year of our Renaissance. This occasion is dear to all Omanis throughout our country. I am pleased to congratulate you all on our glorious National Day, to celebrate this crowning of seventeen years of hard work and prosperous achievement. We are grateful and thankful to God for the prosperity and stability with which He has blessed our beloved Oman, and for the progress we have achieved. We pray to God to bless our new year and to guide us to even greater achievements.



My Dear Countrymen,

We called upon you on the same day a year ago, on the occasion of the celebrations of our sixteenth National Day, for self-reliance in all fields of work. We continue to stress in this connection the necessity of following the profession of our fathers and grandfathers, due to the great importance of preserving the traditions of our Omani society.

This is why we wish to mark the celebration of our National Day this year by honouring our citizens who are involved in the Omani handicraft professions, to show our faith in their ability to perform fruitful and serious work. These constructive and distinguished efforts in the different productive fields provide an example for our youth to take pride in the historic traditions of our people in work and inventiveness.

Thus by honouring our citizens, working in these traditional activities throughout Oman, we express our country's appreciation for the devoted work performed by Omani hands, in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, handicrafts and all other types of work in which our citizens are engaged, to achieve the continuous progress we desire in all fields.

We cannot but express our appreciation for the united efforts made by all in the government and private sectors this year, which has helped so significantly to reach this stage of our development, and enabled our national march to continue its progress towards the achievement of our goals.



My Countrymen,

Furthermore, we wish to stress our concern for the continued development of all our national resources. We are working to promote our efforts in this field, progressively to increase our national income and to provide more opportunities for our citizens, to enable them to take part in productive projects which serve all sectors of our society.

We are pleased to announce today further measures for the development of our national industries: we have issued orders for the formation of the Oman Fishing Company which will greatly increase the output of our fishing industry to meet the needs of our local markets and to open up new opportunities for the industry, and stimulate exports abroad. All this is in fulfilment of our promise to our people made during our Tours this year. This sector will be given all necessary support to enable it to become an important national economic project, with the widest possible opportunities for participation by all Omanis. A new field will thus be opened up for our people to display their individual and collective abilities. From the beginning, we have been determined that the traditional occupations of our fishermen shall be preserved and nourished, and their interests protected.

In the field of agriculture, our efforts in the past years are enabling us to place it among the foremost of our priorities in the current international economic situation, which impels all countries - especially developing states - to work for self-reliance in food resources.

As an encouragement to agriculture, as a vital factor in our national economy, we intend to declare next year as the «Year of Agriculture». This signifies the importance we attach to all efforts in this field, by both government and the private sector. In this we include the essen-

tial factor of marketing, which will also provide support for our farmers.

We intend to take additional steps in the future to develop the productive capacity of our national economy, to ensure a noble standard of living for all our people.

My Dear People,

Care is continually being given to the improvement of the basic services throughout the country, in accordance with the priorities of our development programme, in order to meet the needs of all our provinces.

The new Royal Hospital, which we shall be opening soon, and the Teaching Hospital of the Sultan Qaboos University which is nearing completion, are in earnest of our deep interest in the health services. These two projects will play a significant role in ensuring a highly-advanced standard of medical care for our people, and in meeting their increasing needs. Equally, attention is being paid to improving the standards of our hospital and medical services throughout the country.

Conscious of the problems our people are inevitably facing in the present world economic situation, we have instructed our government to thoroughly assess ways of alleviating them. These measures are to cover the whole spectrum of the Sultanate's life.

We wish to commend the work of our State Consultative Council in its sustained efforts to reflect the needs of our citizens throughout the country. This is materially assisting our government to define the priorities of our development plans and projects.



My Countrymen,

As part of the world, we must respond to events around us positively and clearly. We must exert all our efforts to actively and objectively promote peace and co-operation regionally and internationally.

We express our sorrow at the continuance of the Iraq-Iran war, which is causing such grave suffering, and posing a threat to regional security and international peace. We give our full support to the United Nations and the Security Council Resolution calling for an end to this

conflict, so that peace and prosperity may once again be established between the Muslim peoples of the two countries and in the region. Our policy is - and always has been - to encourage opportunities for dialogue to settle the differences between the two parties. We call upon the international community to support these goals.

We are determined to share with our brother leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council the consolidation of our joint march. We look forward to our increased co-operation together at the eighth Gulf Co-operation Council Summit which will be held in Riyadh and be hosted by our brother King Fahad bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. We pray to God to guide us in the interests of all our peoples.



My Countrymen,

The challenges and responsibilities which face us in the coming year call for the devoted efforts of each one of us to achieve our constructive aims. We must go forward in faith and confidence to build a prosperous and worthy society.

We greet you, our citizens, and on this, our National Day we salute all our gallant Armed Forces. We express our pride in their high standards and readiness to perform their sacred duty faithfully and efficiently. We commend our security forces in the performance of their national duty to ensure the stability and tranquility of our beloved country.

We thank all the gifted craftsmen from all walks of life who have participated in this celebration.

We pray to God to keep us in His care and to guide us for the glory and prosperity of our dear countrymen.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the 4th
term of the state consultative council

Omanis should take the initiative and play a substantial role in all fields, no one should shun the jobs of his father and forefathers, or hesitate to make use of the job opportunities available in the private sector on the pretext that he holds an academic degree and that he should have a Government job.



9th January
1988





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Countrymen,

IT gives us pleasure to welcome you to the opening of the fourth term of the State Consultative Council, to express our satisfaction at its progress, and to reaffirm our interest in consolidating it on the basis of our Islamic values and deep-rooted Omani traditions.

We should also like to express our satisfaction at the Council's positive and effective contributions to development over the last two years by being responsive to requirements during that time and through its comprehensive studies of issues of key importance to the nation and to the people. The notable efforts made by the Council's committees visiting various areas to identify their needs has had a positive impact since they have enabled the Council to arrive at appropriate recommendations. These recommendations in turn assist the Government efforts to develop all areas and to provide a good standard of living for the citizens throughout the Sultanate.



Members of the State Consultative Council,

The world is now passing through a stage of major challenges - challenges facing the world community at large, due to the unstable international economic conditions and the resulting pressures on various countries.

This makes it necessary for all of us always to have the highest degree of understanding of the nature of those challenges and to deal with them in a flexible manner in order to curb their negative repercussions and to maintain the momentum required for continuing our development progress.



While thanking God Almighty for the help we have received and the success we have met throughout our development and in our establishment of our infrastructure, we must also make greater efforts to develop our natural resources and our capabilities in order to continue to achieve steady progress in all sectors.

Within this context, and at this beginning of your Council's fourth term, we should like to address you on our interests in the sectors of agriculture and fisheries, traditional industries, handicrafts and the employment of national manpower. These sectors should always be given special consideration and priority and should be regarded as key foundations for social and economic development.

We have decided to name this year the «Year of Agriculture» since we believe that further efforts should be made to develop that sector, scientifically and realistically, with special attention being given to traditional crops, as well as other forms of cultivation. These efforts should be geared to achieving the highest possible degree of self-sufficiency in food products. Moreover, steps should be taken whenever possible to expand cultivatable areas, and the present system of marketing agricultural produce should be reconsidered with a view to maintaining the interests of both the farmers and the consumers.

The Government will continue to motivate the public to increase production and improve the quality of products. In all circumstances, special attention will be given to the exploitation of water resources in the best possible way, as well as to the preservation of those resources, and the rationalisation of water use.

Throughout history, agriculture has always been the backbone of the economic activities of the majority of the Omani people who have thus gained wide experience in that field. We must be proud of that and pass that experience on to the younger generations. We must also be self-reliant and go forward with enthusiasm and determination in undertaking agricultural activities and trades.

This should be viewed as a substantial duty for the development of our national economy and a contribution towards the progress and prosperity of our society.

Proceeding from our realisation of the importance of combining efforts to make use of fisheries as a natural economic wealth, we established the Oman Fisheries Company according to a system whereby individuals are to have the largest share. The Government will offer the Company considerable support, including a long-term soft loan and the right to make use of all utilities set up by the Government over the past years to serve the fisheries sector.

We hope that the establishment of this Company marks the beginning of intensive action for the development of this sector by all possible means. Within this context, we stress the

need for the Company to provide the necessary facilities for the fishermen as well as outlets, which will enable them to market their catch, as part of our continuing interest in expanding the role they play and in encouraging others to take up that trade which has been a profitable activity practised by Omanis for centuries.

We are planning to encourage the private sector to increase investments in the industrial projects, especially those using locally available raw materials to satisfy the basic needs of the Omani market, and create new job opportunities. At the same time, we regard it as highly important to stimulate the traditional industries and handicrafts and preserve them, not only because they are part of the cultural heritage of our Omani society, but also because of their economic significance and in securing a good income for individuals working in those fields.



Honourable Members of the Council,

In addition to the need for intensifying efforts in all these areas, we are giving special attention to the establishment of new rules for regulating the employment of national manpower in the private and Government sectors. These rules should secure the gradual replacement of expatriates by Omanis. Furthermore, education, manpower training and civil service policies should be developed, and restrictions should be imposed on the hiring of expatriates unless there is a pressing necessity. This will help in meeting the various requirements of the labour market within a system that maintains the appropriate level of performance and provides new and equal opportunities for all citizens.

As we acknowledge the services of those citizens who have distinguished themselves in various fields of work, whether in the Government or in the private sector, we regard it as necessary for our young people to follow that example and perform their duties seriously and with devotion.

Thanks to God, job opportunities in our country exceed local manpower because we are still largely dependent on expatriates in several areas. Omanis should take the initiative and play a substantial role in all fields, no one should shun the jobs of his father and forefathers, or hesitate to make use of the job opportunities available in the private sector on the pretext that he holds an academic degree and that he should have a Government job.

Members of the State Consultative Council,

We are personally interested in following up and consolidating the role being played by the Council, to enable it to perform its tasks effectively. The Council must give its full attention to the major issues we have referred to, and discuss that positive recommendations can be forwarded to the Government for the development of the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, and industry, including traditional industries and handicrafts, in order to make the best possible use of our natural and human resources.

At the same time, your Council must participate through recommendations and advice in setting our present and future priorities, in order to draw up long term programmes for the balanced development of all areas, so as to ensure that a citizen continues to live in his home town and is encouraged to take up traditional professions and crafts.

In the light of all this, it is your duty, Council members, to launch an intensive drive that meets the requirements of the present stage, and to address the various economic and social issues in an objective way so as to consolidate and broaden the scope of co-operation between the public and the Government, in order to promote comprehensive development and resolve problems, so our march may be continued towards further growth and progress.



Speech of His Majesty

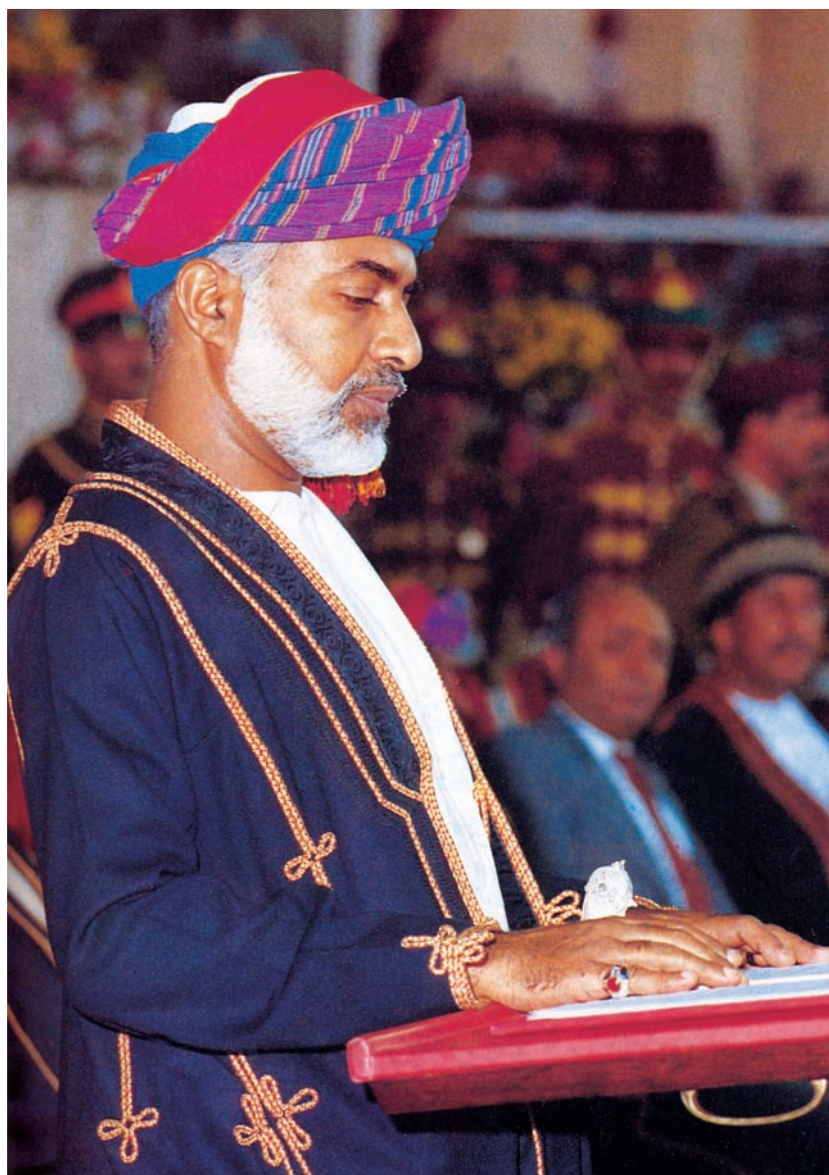


on the occasion of the 18th national day

In addition to the steps already taken towards Omanisation, we must continue to substitute Omani for foreign labour in both the Government and private sectors. But this must not be at the expense of qualification and performance.



18th November
1988





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Countrymen,

WE begin these celebrations of our 18th Anniversary by thanking God for all he has given us for His guidance and blessings. We are pleased to greet you and to express how proud we are of the high national spirit displayed by all of you during the past 18 years and the collective efforts made to further the Renaissance and the progress of our beloved Oman.

My Countrymen,

It was our aim, in announcing this year as the Year of Agriculture, to achieve a broadcasting of our country's development by focusing on the exploitation of our rich land resources and the inherited traditional abilities of our people. This will continue to require intensive work by all. It will also require the maintenance of a serious and responsible spirit towards the task.

This is why we are determined to promote the role of our people in the agricultural, fisheries and the livestock industries. Their effective participation in our development march reflects the traditions and genius of our Omani race. We emphasise the importance of following a policy which will prevent these vital professions from being allowed to decline. We stress our commitment to this. The continued care of these resources will substantially contribute to the future prosperity of coming generations.



My Dear People,

We have followed with appreciation the distinguished work already done by both our Government and citizens during this year in furthering the development of agriculture, but we cannot be satisfied. It must be regarded as the beginning of an intense and sustained effort to develop this field to the maximum.



Hence we declare today the continuance of this campaign of the Year of Agriculture into next year.

We have given our directives to our Government to support the agricultural development programme by the construction of additional dams, maintenance of the aflaj and wells, and promotion of the role of Agricultural Guidance Centres in the service of the farmers. During the past year, we have accomplished many viable projects which provide a strong base for our agricultural development. Special attention is being given to the promotion of traditional Omani crops and to the selection of those which have the greatest potential. Special attention is also being given to the development of appropriate new strains. However, attention must equally be given to the preservation and improvement of grazing lands, and the protection of agricultural areas from exploitation for other purposes both now and in the future.

It is important that these efforts be combined with those for the prudent conservation and development of our water resources. They must be regarded as our national wealth. They must be used economically, and with the utilization of modern irrigation systems, making full use of the comprehensive facilities that are being provided by Government. Thus our national water requirements will be ensured.

In the field of fisheries, the national project which we announced earlier has now been established in all its stages. The Oman Fisheries Company will begin its work shortly and will be contributing to the economic and scientific development of this sector. This industry will be a pillar of our economy. The Company must depend basically on its Omani labour force. It must also provide all facilities to traditional fishermen, who will continue to enjoy our support.

We have commanded our Government to study the feasibility of establishing model villages for fishermen in different areas of the country, which will include provision for fish storage and equipment maintenance, thus strengthening our fishermen's links with the sea, and encouraging them and other Omanis to join this profession. The Government will provide incentives for those who maintain this profession and hand it on to their sons.

Furthermore, in the light of our determination to pursue our development policy we shall task one of the international specialist organisations to translate the completed government studies which have been in process, into long-term national plans. In this way we shall further develop the agriculture, fisheries and livestock industries to add to our sources of national income, achieve our self-sufficiency and provide opportunities for our national

labour force.

This plan will extend over a period of 10 years. We intend to direct our government that these three sectors, together with industry, shall receive the major share of our Fourth Five-Year Plan.



My Countrymen,

Considerable attention has been given to education and vocational training, thus substantially fitting our sons to take part in building and developing their country. It is important to expend greater efforts on further improving our policies to place reliance on our Omani manpower in all fields. These policies must be thoroughly linked to the country's needs and its labour force. In addition to the steps already taken towards Omanisation, we must continue to substitute Omani for foreign labour in both the Government and private sectors. But this must not be at the expense of qualification and performance. The private sector must provide more opportunities for the national labour force in all respects - in factories, hotels and retailing, and in contracting companies and services. We call upon our youth to work hard to acquire the skills and expertness which will enable them to join these professions. They must not disdain any of these professions. They must not relax their efforts. They must be truly devoted to proving their excellence and demonstrate their worthiness in whatever task is assigned to them, no matter what that work is.



My Countrymen,

In concert with our civil development programme, our efforts will continue for the further improvement of our national forces, in whose glorious role we firmly place our trust. We are happy to greet our officers and soldiers of our gallant forces, and to express our pride in them and our appreciation of their high levels of quality and readiness, and of their loyal devotion to their sacred duty to our beloved country.



We greet all our forces and acknowledge their faithful work in the service of their duty and people.

My Countrymen,

We are determined fully to perform our role in the international field, in accordance with our policies which we have adopted from the beginning, positively and clearly. These policies are based foremost on our firm belief in the principles of peaceful coexistence among the nations; good neighbourliness between countries; non-interference in others internal affairs; and mutual respect for national sovereignty.

We extend the hand of friendship and co-operation to all countries who share these principles with us. Within this framework we endeavour to consolidate our relations with all countries of the region, thus demonstrating our belief that this co-operation will serve the interests of our peoples. We shall work with our brothers and friends throughout the world to develop our relations in pursuit of these goals for the prosperity of our people and the world community. At the same time, we shall do all we can to participate in fostering peace and security in both the regional and international spheres.

We welcome the courageous and wise step taken by the leaders of Iraq and Iran to begin their direct negotiations to settle their dispute by peaceful means. We salute the distinguished role of the United Nations in bringing the two sides together. We affirm our strong support for this role. The world has witnessed this year, positive developments and clear progress towards the solutions of problems in several parts of the globe. This is due to the breakthrough that has been achieved in East-West relations and notably between those of the super-powers. It is our hope that these encouraging developments will contribute to the creation of a new international climate which will provide suitable opportunities to resolve outstanding international problems and issues, and particularly the Middle East issue. In this latter respect we call upon the international community and all world forces to give more help and support to efforts to bring about an international peace conference for the Middle East, to pave the way towards the achievement of a just and permanent settlement which will put an end to the long agony of the Palestinian people. We welcome the positive results achieved by the National Palestinian Council during their meeting in Algeria. They will provide new opportunities for a solution that will restore their legitimate rights to this gallant people, and guarantee peace and security for all parties concerned.

At a time when the problems of Lebanon have increased in complexity and in their effect on the Lebanese people, we re-emphasise our decided belief that the solution of this problem must basically come from the will of the Lebanese people. We call upon all Lebanese forces and factions to work without delay to find a way out of the current crisis by agreeing on a

form of dialogue which will restore Lebanon's unity, independence and full sovereignty over its land. We call upon all Arab states to help, through the Arab League, to begin this dialogue to solve this situation free from foreign interference.

I should now like to turn to relations between our brother Arab states. We welcome the steps taken by our brother leaders of the Maghreb Arab states to co-ordinate their regional co-operation. We express our full support for these steps and for all efforts which could contribute to the strengthening of these brotherly ties and foster the solidarity of our Arab Nation for the prosperity of its people now and for the future.

My Countrymen,

The international economic situation has created extra burdens and pressures on the developing countries in a way never before experienced. This confirms the necessity for the international community to speed up a solution of the world economic decline, to produce an equitable redress which will ensure the interests of the developing countries. At the same time, we stress the need for co-operation between the oil-producing countries to re-stabilise the international oil market. We hope that this co-operation will be more effective than it has been in the past. It is important for the world economy and most particularly important for producers and consumers alike.

My Countrymen,

The effective efforts the Government has exerted has produced positive results in our dealing with the effects of the world economic and oil situation, and in ensuring the continuance of basic and essential projects throughout the country. We express our appreciation for these efforts and for the performance of the State Consultative Council and our citizens for their positive response. We call upon you all to work even more closely together and to increase your efforts to raise your standards of performance in all fields - particularly in the field of production. We invite you to greet the new year with faith, confidence and determination to overcome all challenges and to continue the progress we are all determined to achieve for our dear land.

We pray to God to endow us with spiritual purity and to guide us all for our prosperity.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the closure of the
9th gcc summit meeting in behrain

*Our deep belief in the importance of our joint work
has had a positive effect on the continuous progress we
have achieved. In addition, the co-operation between
our countries has also increased.*



22nd December
1988





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Your Highness, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa,

IT gives us great pleasure at the end of this 9th session of our Council, on behalf of our brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Royal Princes, the leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council and in our own name, to express our sincere pleasure at meeting you in your hospitable country.

We extend to your Royal Highness, the Government of Bahrain and to the brotherly people of Bahrain our deep and sincere thanks and gratitude for the great welcome and hospitality extended to us. It has indeed left a deep and excellent impression on us all. It gives us all great pleasure to express our deep appreciation for the great efforts your Royal Highness has made as Chairman of this Session, which have been a vital factor in bringing the deliberations of this session to a successful conclusion.



My Brothers, the Custodians of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Royal Highness,

Our deep belief in the importance of our joint work has had a positive effect on the continuous progress we have achieved. In addition, the co-operation between our countries has also increased. Our progress has not only highlighted the actual strong bond between our peoples, but it has also created new links of interaction to add to the varied experiences in development which contribute to the achievement of our peoples' ambitions as regards progress and prosperity.

The exchanges we have had during this session on the current developments in our region have re-emphasised our joint interest in both the continuation of the role of our Council in reinforcing security and stability, and in the support of the United Nations in its efforts to secure a peaceful settlement to the Iraq-Iran conflict through direct negotiations. Our Council has indeed an important role to play in encouraging dialogue between all the countries of the region. This role helps to secure a climate of peace, and paves the way for a new era of co-operation and good neighbourliness between all peoples.

Our exchanges have a positive effect in reiterating our determination to redouble our sincere efforts in the service of the Arab causes, in the support of the brotherly Palestinian people in their brave struggle for the restoration of their legitimate rights, and in the support of the international efforts which seek to bring about just and fair solutions to regional and international problems, and to save mankind from violence and destruction so that they may live in a world of peace and friendship.



My brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Royal Highnesses,

We warmly welcome you to our 10th Session meeting in Muscat in December 1989. By the will of God we and our people look forward to this great occasion and to meeting and welcoming you in our country, Oman.

I ask Almighty God to make the preparations for the Muscat Session a success, and a reflection of the deep brotherly bonds between all our peoples.

We pray to Almighty God to make our meetings a success and to bless our efforts for the fulfilment of the aspirations of our people, along the path of fruitful co-operation which gives additional strength to our bonds and which brings prosperity to us all.

May God bless you all.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 19th national day

We must stand united against all trends which might damage the fabric of our society upon which the strength and prosperity of our land rests.



18th November
1989





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Thanks to the Lord of the World and God's Prayers and Peace be on His honest Prophet whom He has sent with Guidance and Light and the bright illumination of Truth.



My dear Countrymen,

IT gives me pleasure to congratulate you on our glorious National Day, and on these happy occasions which we celebrate and always receive with thanks to God for his blessings in which we rejoice. We also thank Him for the bounty of our progress on the road to prosperity and welfare. May God continue his blessings to our people and our beloved Oman in this new year.



Our dear People,

Our National Day Celebrations this year are devoted to the commemoration of the great efforts we have made in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and related industries. In expressing our happiness in what has been achieved in the past two years, and in the fruitful results we have obtained through God's guidance, we pledge our determination to continue these efforts as a cornerstone of our national development programme.

We believe that the future of our coming generations resides in their patriotic commitment to our Fatherland, our pride in the sacred work traditions established by our forefathers, and in

energetically utilising our country's natural resources.

We call upon our people to address themselves to the Omani crafts that lie ready to their hand in all fields - an inheritance that we must not lose.

In pursuance of this, we must ensure that we have a comprehensive social and economic framework within which we can demonstrate the high importance of these crafts. We must develop our economy, diversify the exploitation of our resources, and thus continue to improve the standard of living of our people. At the same time, it is the duty of us all continuously to bear in mind that this progress must be built on the foundations of our great inherited traditions and customs in accordance with the circumstances of the times in which we live. Thus will fruit be borne for this generation and those generations still to come.



My Countrymen,

We are living in a time which demands from each one of us the serious performance of our duties in all fields of work, with no exception. We express our appreciation of the efforts by our government departments and areas of the private sector which have notably enhanced the increasing percentage of Omanisation.

Today, we wish to stress the importance of continuing such efforts to gradually replace expatriates with Omanis of the same professional standards, as a national necessity. We must tolerate no obstacles to achieving these objectives. The percentage of expatriates in our country is still high, the majority of whom are in the private sector in the building and construction industries and other companies. Much of this work could be done by Omanis.

Although it is the duty of employers in the private sector to make serious efforts to provide opportunities for our people who are willing to work, to help them gain practical and technical experience, we especially stress the great importance of the people themselves accepting such work, at present performed by expatriates. This must include simple manual employment. Our people must never be ashamed to carry out such honourable and useful duties in the service of their country. It is shameful to permit false pride to provide an excuse that such work is beneath them. It only denies them their role and opportunity, and perpetuates the need for foreign labour. This we cannot accept, as the guardian of our people en-

trusted with their interests.

My dear Countrymen,

We call on every Omani to apply themselves to work seriously, and participate responsibly and sincerely in the building of their country. We desire to stress the importance of maintaining the spirit of brotherhood and love that exists in our society, which reflects the strong ties which bind our people throughout our country. We must stand united against all trends which might damage the fabric of our society upon which the strength and prosperity of our land rests.

It is important that our people be kept aware of all aspects of the progress of our country, so that every section of the community is conscious of its rights and duties. This awareness must take the form of public responsibility. All officials, tribal Sheikhs, religious teachers, and all those concerned with educational, cultural and social activities, must play their part in co-operation with the information services to this end. This will be of the greatest importance in serving to consolidate the awareness of the citizen of his role and responsibility. It will deepen the co-operation and interaction between the people and the government. It will also improve the standards of performance in all fields of production and services. Moreover, it will be conducive to the maintenance of all our achievements.



My dear People,

We express our appreciation of the sincere efforts being made by those in all civil sectors, both government and private. We particularly commend their tireless work and positive response to our country's needs.

It gives us pleasure to salute our gallant Armed Forces. We are deeply conscious of their high standards and sincere devotion to their sacred national duty.

We also salute all those entrusted with the security of our society in the service of our land and people, we praise their efficiency and devotion.

My Countrymen,

We salute the positive role being played by the Arab Gulf States Co-operation Council. We

continue, together with our brother leaders of the Council, to improve the co-operation between our States as a practical framework for the unification of our efforts for the welfare of the people of our region. It gives us pleasure to warmly welcome the Tenth Gulf Summit in Muscat on the 18th of next month, God willing, and to express our pride in meeting our brothers, the leaders of the Council States, in Oman. We pledge ourselves to do all we can to make the Summit a success and to contribute to our joint endeavours for the Council's continued success in the attainment of its noble goals.

We note the achievements gained on both Gulf and Arab levels, and we shall work unremittingly for the consolidation of peace and stability in the region. We pledge our full support to the efforts of the United Nations, represented by its Secretary-General, to revive the negotiations between Iraq and Iran, to reach a peaceful permanent settlement between these two neighbouring Muslim countries.

We must also note the positive efforts made by the Tri-Arab High Committee, which includes our brother leaders of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Algeria, and their notable progress in addressing the Lebanese crisis. We call on our brothers in Lebanon to co-operate with the elected President, to restore peace and harmony in all Lebanon, so a new era of unity and stability may dawn.

We are following closely recent developments in the Palestinian situation and we confirm our full support for the Palestinians, peace initiative and to all efforts which could make a serious contribution towards a permanent and just settlement of this problem; and to put an end to the sufferings and unjust occupation of the Palestinian peoples.

We confirm our full support for the restoration of their national rights of self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

We salute you, our dear Countrymen. We pray to God to guide us all to prosperity and a high destiny for our beloved Oman. We beg Almighty God to grant a new era to all humanity in which co-operation, peace and stability will reign.

Peace be upon you all.



Speech of His Majesty



at the opening session of the 10th summit
of the co-operation council of the arab gulf
states in muscat

*As part of our support for our Arab joint work, we
welcome the positive efforts which have brought a new
spirit of detente and co-operation among the Arab
States.*



18th December
1989





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses, Leaders of the Co-operation Council of the Arab Gulf States, Your Excellencies and Delegates,

IT gives us pleasure to welcome you in Oman at this historic gathering, which provides us and our Omani people with a happy occasion to celebrate, and to extend our warm hospitality and affection to you and your brotherly peoples. It also gives us pleasure that this 10th Summit Meeting is being celebrated by our Gulf Family, thus displaying our joy and optimism in these constructive meetings.



Brothers, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses,

The concerted efforts made at our previous Summit Meetings in this decade have positively demonstrated the important steps we have taken to consolidate our co-operation in all fields, and in achieving such significant progress, for which we thank God. These meetings have enabled our Council to play the distinguished role which has earned the support of our people and the admiration of the international community.

We are gratified to note the brotherly spirit which animates us all on the eve of our 10th Summit Meeting. This spirit has enabled us to take the true path which has led to this strengthening of the joint ties which bind our peoples, and which contributes so profoundly to the constructive understanding which exists between us in addressing the issues which we face; residing as it does in the objective frankness and genuine desire to achieve success for our

enterprise which is shared by us all.

Today, in reviewing the march we have made and in looking forward to new horizons, we are acutely aware of the new era which the world is witnessing at this time, and the momentous political and economic developments which are taking place. Theories and concepts which have influenced world affairs for so long are undergoing fundamental changes. There is no doubt that these developments will have a lasting effect on the international community, which is working to accommodate them.

We are all of us conscious that our Council must have a progressive role and effective presence in this changing world. And this without doubt requires new policies to take these changes into account. We must positively associate ourselves with these changes, in the service of our peoples.



In the past years, we have reached many conclusions regarding the organisation of our collective work. We are all aware of the importance of evaluating the effects of these conclusions in the light of the continuous changes which are taking place, and the needs of our societies. Therefore the necessity is there to give effect to these conclusions, develop them, and amend them if necessary to meet the requirements of the Council States. At the same time, our march must avoid the errors which have been experienced from time to time in the fields of regional co-operation elsewhere. In view of all this, the importance of further activating and developing the machinery of our co-ordination and co-operation, and the modernisation of the Council structure, must prevail.

Thus we shall instil increased flexibility and energy into our joint work, and enhance the solidarity of our joint efforts.

Our Council's continued dialogue with different international groups and economic forces confirms our belief in fruitful co-operation based on our mutual interests. It also opens up opportunities of co-operation with these forces and groups which are influential in the international economic sphere.

My Brothers, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses,

By working together, we consolidate the understanding and harmony among the States of the Region and provide security and stability for its people. Our Council reflects its determination to participate in promoting peace and co-operation at all international levels, and to serve the causes of the Arab Islamic nation as well as the World family, and for their prosperity.

At this time, when we enjoy the peaceful atmosphere which reigns in the Region after the halt to the Iraq-Iran war, we see that the attitude of the two countries towards construction and development confirms their true intention to consolidate the peace, thus providing the United Nations with the opportunity to continue its efforts to re-establish negotiations between the two parties. And here we note the sustained support for these efforts given by our Council; we hope that these two countries will pave the way for these negotiations to achieve a permanent solution, which will ensure for their two peoples a peaceful co-existence based on Islamic brotherhood and good neighbourliness, and which will contribute to the consolidation of peace and stability in the Region.

As part of our support for our Arab joint work, we welcome the positive efforts which have brought a new spirit of detente and co-operation among the Arab States, and which have helped towards the solution of several issues on the basis of pan-Arab interests.



We salute the genuine efforts made by our brother leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Republic of Algeria, the Supreme Tri-Arab Committee, to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis. We note the agreement on the protocol of national reconciliation of the Lebanese parliamentary representatives at their meeting at Taif, under the auspices of my Brother The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, which laid the foundation to restore legitimacy to Lebanon. We call upon all our brothers in Lebanon to work collectively and with one voice to consolidate legitimacy, unity and nationalism, so Lebanon can return to security, peace and prosperity as in the past.

Our faith in our national duty to support the Palestinian cause calls us to work without delay to find a solution that is just and honourable to the Palestinian people, in response to their peace initiative and to their gallant uprising in the occupied territories, which expresses their

resolution to secure their rights, freedom and self-determination. We call upon those international forces friendly to Israel to fully assert their responsibilities to put an end to Israeli intransigence, thus creating a sincere opportunity for a comprehensive peaceful settlement, which will ensure that the Palestinian people are freed at last from the oppression of the occupation and that their legitimate rights, freedom and status as an independent state are returned to them. Thus would peace for all be secured.

Brothers, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses,

Our Council, in beginning its work at this 10th Summit, looks to Almighty God for His support and guidance. We are fully confident that your genuine brotherly efforts and the wisdom of your deliberations will reward our meeting with success.

To conclude, it is our great pleasure to welcome you once more and wish you a pleasant and happy stay in your country, Oman. It also gives us pleasure to thank the Ministerial Council and the Permanent Ministerial Committees, the Secretary-General, his assistants and the Secretariat for all their efforts to prepare for this meeting.

We pray to God to embrace us in His care, and to guide us to prosperity.

God's Blessing and peace be upon you all.



Speech of His Majesty



at the closing session of the 10th summit of
the co-operation council of the arab gulf
states in muscat

*Our consultations have also demonstrated our joint
interest in sincerely contributing to the strengthening
of the ties of Arab and Islamic solidarity, and
in deepening the spirit of understanding and co-
operation at all international levels, in the service of
peace, security and stability.*



21th December
1989





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses, Leaders of the Co-operation Council of the Arab Gulf States, Your Excellencies and Delegates,

IT is my great pleasure and happiness, at the conclusion of our Council's 10th Summit meeting, to convey to you my sincere greetings and deep feelings of pride in you all and my appreciation of this successful brotherly meeting which gathered us all in Oman. We and our Omani people rejoice in your presence here, and in the strong ties that exist between our brotherly peoples. We cannot but thank you with deep appreciation for all the efforts you have exerted, and for your faithful and noble contribution which has crowned our meeting with success, for which we thank God.



My Brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses,

We seize this present moment to salute the brotherly spirit which infused our meetings with such cordiality.

It was, as it has always been, the strong motive which has enabled us to achieve the resolutions and positive results which reflect our belief in the great importance of the positive role which the Council of the Arab Gulf States plays in pioneering the experiment of building this fruitful and unshakable co-operation. We note with satisfaction and content the positive step we took in this meeting to support the constructive advances achieved in our brotherly

march over the past years. This increases our optimism for the future, as it equally increases our strength and determination to unify our efforts to develop our co-operation in all fields. It will serve the joint interests of our peoples and contribute towards achieving their welfare and prosperity.

Our appreciation - on the part of all - of the role of the Gulf citizen making progress and development, and the desire of our Council to recognise this role, has justified the award of Honours to a number of citizens of our Council States, during this Tenth Summit, who have given distinguished services to their country, community and the Gulf family. This institutes a practice of awarding Honours by future Summits, as an expression of our appreciation of our citizens talents and devoted services, and as an encouragement to others in our member States.



My Brothers, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses,

The political consultations we have conducted throughout our meeting have resulted in the positive co-ordination of our stand in working for consolidating the peace and stability of the Region, and in the continued support for the efforts of the United Nations to secure a peaceful and lasting settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict. These consultations have also confirmed our determination to support legitimacy in Lebanon, the efforts to bring about a national reconciliation between the Lebanese factions, and to stand beside the Palestinian people in their just cause and legitimate struggle for freedom and self-determination.

Our consultations have also demonstrated our joint interest in sincerely contributing to the strengthening of the ties of Arab and Islamic solidarity, and in deepening the spirit of understanding and co-operation at all international levels, in the service of peace, security and stability.

My Brothers, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Your Highnesses,

We conclude our meeting with our wishes for the prosperity of you all, and we are pleased that our next meeting will be in the State of Qatar, God willing, under the hospitality of my brother His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamed Al-Thani and his brotherly people.

We look forward to our renewed meetings in our brother States with hope and optimism. With the help of God, these meetings will result in the well-being and prosperity of the peoples of the Region.

We wish to thank His Excellency the Secretary-General and his assistants, and the staff of the Secretariat for their great efforts which enabled the accomplishment of the work of this Summit.

We pray to God to confer further progress and success on our march, and to extend the hand of help and guidance to us all.

God's Blessing and peace be upon you all.





Speech of His Majesty



at the opening ceremony of the state
consulative council at al alam palace in muscat

The role being played by your Council is acquiring growing significance at the present stage and that makes it necessary for the Council, more than at any time before, to participate in shouldering the burdens and responsibilities of the new stage to achieve the progress and growth we cherish for Oman.



23rd January
1990





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Members of the State Consultative Council,

IT gives us pleasure, on opening the State Consultative Council's fifth term, to salute and congratulate you on the beginning of this new term.

We would like also to express our appreciation of the significant and positive role your Council has been playing in the development process, within the context of a pure Omani approach based on active participation between the citizens and the government to build and develop our beloved country.

The serious and sincere efforts exerted by your Council in the past eight years have enabled the Council to perform its duties efficiently, as well as to offer objective opinions which have notably enriched the development efforts.

It gives us pleasure to commend the efforts made by your Council to study and suggest appropriate means to develop the sectors of agriculture, fisheries, animal wealth and industry. We also commend the Council's role in studying necessary steps to preserve traditional industries and handicrafts.

The practical and constructive recommendations forwarded by the Council during its fourth term are now being given due consideration by the government and will be incorporated into its development plans according to the applied criteria for setting priorities.

In appreciation of the Council's role and the experience it has gained through debates on our fundamental concerns, we regarded it as highly important to direct the Council to hold a Seminar on Omanisation last January with the participation of a large number of representatives of both the government and private sector units.

Sponsored by the Council the seminar was able to help in formulating a general concept of Omanisation. The Council's recommendations based on the outcome of the seminar are now being discussed by the government.

In this respect we would like to stress that, as far as Omanisation is concerned, there is still a need for continued efforts by all the state's organs, all other national sectors and, most important, the citizens themselves, in order to raise the percentage of Omanis in all areas to the highest possible level.



Members of the State Consultative Council,

You are beginning a new term of your Council at the inception of a new year which, God willing, will complete two decades of ceaseless work, and major achievements in all fields. We are preparing ourselves, with God's help, for a new decade which requires further co-operation and closely co-ordinated efforts to develop what we have achieved so far, as well as to speed up the pace of progress, in order to build Oman.

While thanking God for the major achievements we have accomplished on the path towards a comprehensive development, we are planning to develop and modernise a state strategy on all aspects of economic and social development, and all other spheres of interest to our country and people. This will be done according to a comprehensive and integrated assessment of the road that lies before us and our determination to continue advancing in well considered steps.

We have given our directives to the government to begin studying that strategy and draw up its general framework, which will serve as a basis for long term plans to improve the level of economic and social development to meet the ambitions of the present generation and with

a view to the future of coming generations.

The state organisations are now studying the fourth Five-Year Plan which is to begin next year. The plan is being studied in the light of our interest in continuing to develop the agricultural, fisheries and animal resources, and to develop the agricultural produce marketing system and basic industries which are of importance to the local market.

We have affirmed our interest in raising growth rates and improving services to appropriate levels in various sectors. We have also ordered a study to be carried out of the substantial requirements which exist in areas badly in need of new service projects in order that they can be included in the plan.

The development of water resources is highly significant for agriculture and to meet demands for various purposes throughout the Sultanate. In spite of all the progress we have achieved, through the construction of re-charge dams as well as the maintenance and development of traditional water resources and setting up of water desalination plants we still have to exert more efforts to identify new resources and develop the existing ones according to a long-term plan.

We have also to motivate the people to participate in efforts aimed at preserving water resources and to rationalise water use.



Members of the State Consultative Council,

The role being played by your Council is acquiring growing significance at the present stage and that makes it necessary for the Council, more than at any time before, to participate in shouldering the burdens and responsibilities of the new stage to achieve the progress and growth we cherish for Oman.

While continuing its efforts in response to the basic interests we have referred to in all economic and social domains, your Council has to help in studying the steps necessary to develop natural resources at present and in future, in order to further stimulate our national economy and accomplish new projects for the prosperity of our country and our people.

The Council is requested to give more attention to proposing appropriate means to train and prepare Omani manpower for employment in all sectors. This is in addition to the Council's contribution in providing solutions to problems affecting the efficiency of performance in all service-related units, and in recommending what it views as necessary to improve the standard of services rendered to the public.

At the same time your vitally important Council must be energetically ready at all times to identify the more important requirements of development in various areas. The Council should also enthusiastically take part in deepening the public's understanding of the objectives and priorities of the development process as well as efforts exerted to achieve development. This will help our people to define the needs and necessary requirements of their areas and hence enhance co-operation between the members of the public and the government in continuing development efforts to broaden the scope of growth in our country.

We hope the Council will, after studying all the issues we have referred to, forward to the government proposals and recommendations that will help in achieving our goals in economic growth and social welfare.

God's blessings and peace be upon you all.



Speech of His Majesty



to the members of the oman chamber of
commerce and industry at al alam palace

*Omanisation is a fundamental and vital prerequisite
without which we cannot secure the cherished honourable
standard of living for the coming generations.*



18th February
1990





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Members of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

IT is a pleasure for me to meet you today as active members of the Chamber representing a section of society with a vitally important role to play in the development process.

I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts being made by the Chamber to further stimulate the development process which we hope, with the help of Almighty God, will continue its progress on the long road towards a brighter future, where further achievements can be accomplished in all areas so as to ensure prosperity and security for our society.

Over the past years, as you know, the Government has been giving a great deal of attention to development in all spheres. Economic development has enjoyed, and still enjoys, the largest share of that attention. New modern roads linking the various parts of the Sultanate have been built, ports and airports have been constructed, and many other facilities and services offered to motivate the private sector to play a more effective role within the framework of the overall development process.

There is no doubt that the private sector has benefited from the positive conditions the state has created to enable that sector to grow and gain more strength as well as to make further achievements in the trade, industrial and investment spheres.

The private sector has been co-operating with the government in building the modern state which we promised to create.

Thanks to God we were able to fulfil that promise in record time in spite of the challenges we encountered.

The development process has gone a long way, but we have to maintain what we have achieved and make greater efforts to build on that.

Furthermore, we have to develop and diversify our economic resources in order to lessen dependence on oil, and to secure for our national economy a solid basis from which to face the unstable international economic conditions and fluctuations in the world oil market.

The private sector should show the highest degree of awareness and sense of patriotism in dealing with all new circumstances. The private sector should join hands with the Government to avoid all negative effects which have resulted or may result from any unfavourable circumstances.



Today, the private sector is required to exert more efforts through its representatives in the State Consultative Council, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and all other establishments and companies to double its national role in order to meet the targets of the policies on which we are constantly placing stress.

During the early stages of the development process it was necessary to depend on expatriate labour to accomplish numerous projects, but now, with growing numbers of qualified Omanis graduating every year, it is necessary to provide a job opportunity for each of them.

As Government organisations have been playing their role in this respect it is now the private sector's turn to take up the bulk of this responsibility in the coming stage.

Omanisation is a fundamental and vital prerequisite without which we cannot secure the cherished honourable standard of living for the coming generations.

The more we succeed in broadening the base of Omanisation - and this should be done as fast as possible - the more shall we reap the fruits of the development process which has entered its 20th year.

Members of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry,

You are requested to give this goal your full consideration and, if necessary, sometimes make sacrifices to materialise it. You are eligible to do that not only for the sake of your country and your fellow countrymen but also in the interest of the sector to grow and develop in a climate of stability, security and mutual co-operation.

Our assessment of the performance of all Government and private sector establishments will mainly rest on how far they succeed in executing programmes of interest to the public.

The Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry can play a substantial role in widening the spectrum of awareness of several matters among merchants and industrialists. This might include the role they have to play in co-operation with the Government in order to carry out development projects in the best possible way and the need to step up their contribution, not only towards economic development, but also towards social progress.



This in addition to their role in eliminating reliance on others which is a characteristic of some and which is contrary to our traditions and customs, as well as the teachings of our religion which call for serious work and self-reliance to overcome hardships.

The private sector's understanding of the international circumstances and their effects on the situation in the region, as well as their constantly varying effects on the development process, is one of the most important aspects that should be given the utmost consideration by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry as part of the Chamber's programme of creating awareness.

Understanding international circumstances and their impact on the Government's plans and programmes would lead to mutual understanding and co-operation in order to overcome all hardships. Our work should not be based on comparison with others, as each society has its own circumstances and special structures which should not be overlooked, in order to adopt certain plans that may, by the lapse of time, prove futile.

The structuring of any society rests on its members determination and sincere wish to

develop that society according to firm bases and limits.

The Government has exerted tremendous efforts over recent years to create a favourable investment climate for the private sector and has spared no effort in offering facilities according to available resources. Within this context, the Council of Ministers has discussed ways and means of invigorating the economy as well as eliminating obstacles which may inhibit the economic activities in the Sultanate.

The Council has taken several decisions towards achieving these targets, some of which have already been implemented; the rest will be implemented in due time. All these decisions are aimed at reinforcing the private sector's capability to grow.

More steps will be taken in future to push forward the development process towards the cherished goals and in order to ensure an honourable standard of living for the people of Oman.

God's blessings and peace be upon you all.



Speech of His Majesty

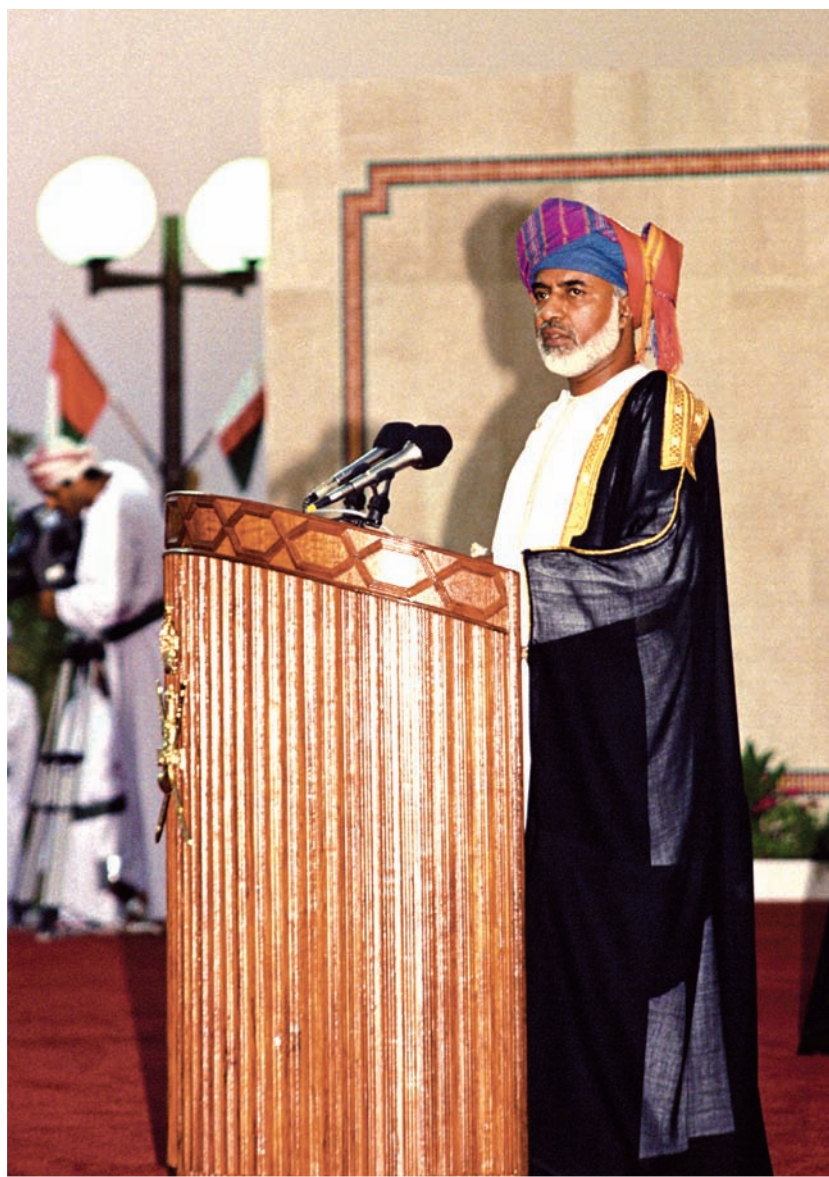


on the occasion of the graduation of the 1st
group from the Sultan Qaboos University

The knowledge and expertise you have acquired will qualify you to play a vital part in building a modern Omani society, preserving the gains of the Blessed Renaissance, and achieving greater progress for the present and coming Omani generations, within the framework of the eternal values we all share.



30th October
1990





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to Allah, Who taught the use of the pen; Who taught man that which he knew not. And may blessings and peace be upon the One whom Allah sent as a Mercy for all creatures and as a light to illuminate the traveller's path, and upon His Family, His Companions and those who followed Them with good deeds, until the Day of Judgement.



Members of the Audience, Students,

Peace be upon you and the Mercy of Allah and His Blessings.

TODAY we have good cause to rejoice, as we gather here on this happy occasion to celebrate the success of the first batch of students to graduate from Sultan Qaboos University. In offering our congratulations to the young men and women graduating on this splendid and auspicious day, we have great expectations of this young university, which - God willing - embodies the link between Oman's ancient past, her flourishing present and her glorious future.

The establishment of this University was the crowning achievement of our unceasing efforts to make education available to all the people of Oman - whether bedouin or settled - wherever they might be in their own land, their own towns, their own villages, their own plains and their own mountains. We have cause to be proud of this achievement, and to thank Allah the Almighty for the fact that the march of education has gone from strength to strength over the course of the last twenty years - the era of the Blessed Renaissance.

From the very start, one of our primary aims was to bring education to every part of the Sultanate, so that every member of the population could acquire the schooling he or she was entitled to. This country was facing a great challenge in its battle to overcome the results of long years of isolation and backwardness. So we began a hard, gruelling struggle, as we set about building our modern state brick by brick. We were helped immeasurably in our task by the legacy of our ancient civilisation, history and glory, by the assistance of Allah, and by the hard work, determination and noble ambitions of our people.

The fine achievements of Oman today are a demonstration of her deep and ancient roots, and an affirmation of her rare and sublime qualities.

When we first set the education process in motion, we appealed for education to take place «even in the shade of the trees». We appealed for the whole population - male and female, young and old - to be given the opportunity to join the march of knowledge without discrimination, because the clear river of knowledge is one from which all should drink, and the channels flowing from it should carry richness, fecundity and growth to every part of Oman's pure and noble land.

Over the years education has increased in quality and quantity. School and pupil numbers have increased many times over and there are several educational levels available. In addition to primary, preparatory, secondary and higher education, several streams and specializations are also available to meet development needs. Students can learn agriculture, industry, commerce and vocational subjects, and there are training colleges for male and female teachers. In addition, there are institutes for Islamic studies and centres for adult education and the eradication of illiteracy.

The opening of the University in 1986 was proof of what could be achieved by determination and motivated effort on the part of our young people.



Students,

Sultan Qaboos University has been set up principally in order to produce young Omanis who are aware of the world around, believe in their religion and their country, and are able to use their creative potential, talents, and scientific and intellectual skills to serve their country, improve their community, and preserve Oman's distinctive character and ancient heritage and civilisation.

To achieve this, everyone - whether at an individual or organisational level - is pooling their efforts. Oman can only continue her development, and enable her community to cope proficiently and keep pace with all the changes taking place around it, if she has young people of this kind - that is, ambitious young people with strong characters and a deep sense of responsibility and patriotism. If the University succeeds in achieving this great goal - and from today, as we celebrate the graduation of its first batch of young people, we should like to feel that it is beginning to do so - then it will have set out along its designated path. When it has done this, it will then be able to achieve its many other objectives and become a beacon of science and scholarship.

We praise Allah that we have provided this citadel of knowledge with highly qualified and experienced staff, advanced equipment and other essential facilities to enable it to perform its functions in the best possible manner. The general development plans for the next phase include provisions for the University to play a prominent role in scholarship and research. As preliminary approval has already been given, the University can now enter this field and step up its efforts to help improve the level of culture and quality of life of the Omani community in particular, and of mankind in general.

From the platform we call upon the University's instructors, scholars, scientists and researchers to roll up their sleeves, make use of the intellectual climate in which they are living, set to work and produce some solid research in technology, economics, science, literature and other disciplines. We appeal to them to apply their experience and expertise to developing the budding talents of the University's male and female students as a first step to producing a generation of Omani scholars, scientists and researchers capable of disciplined, creative work and imbued with the spirit of true scholarship, which may best be described as working for the benefit of one's fellow men.

We also call upon the students - our young men and women - to co-operate closely with their teachers so that they can acquire useful knowledge, technical skill and creative ability. And we appeal to them to be patient and diligent, so that they can realise their fine and noble ambitions.



Graduates,

In saluting your achievement, we are also on the point of celebrating twenty years of our

triumphant march of progress. During this period our dear country has witnessed a number of mighty achievements, but we still have a long, hard road ahead of us which will require much sincere and disinterested effort, determination and self-sacrifice. Our target is not personal reward, but the progress and welfare of our country and the raising of its status among the nations.

The knowledge and expertise you have acquired will qualify you to play a vital part in building a modern Omani society, preserving the gains of the Blessed Renaissance, and achieving greater progress for the present and coming Omani generations, within the framework of the eternal values we all share. These values represent virtue and truth, tolerance and integration, selflessness and sacrifice, and decent conduct in one's dealings with others. These are values inherited from fathers and forefathers, and absorbed by Omani society over the generations. They have become an essential part of it and have been one of its praiseworthy attributes over the ages.

The acquisition of knowledge is not a luxury, but «a commitment and a contribution». It is a commitment to all the decent, enlightened values. At the same time, it constitutes a serious, untiring contribution to the building of this country, and enables us to reinforce its achievements and realise short-term and long-term ambitions. Can you then make the coming days provide the answer to this question? We ourselves have no doubt that the answer will be «Yes. God willing.»



Members of the Audience, Students,

Sultan Qaboos University is a major landmark of Oman's modern Renaissance and its students are the object of our country's hope. It is our wish to see it fully provided with all the facilities and utilities it needs to enable it to play its full part in this society. Our society is eager for knowledge and learning, and keen to join the ranks of the advanced nations in the shortest possible time. Accordingly, and inspired by the prominent historic role Omanis have played in international commerce over the centuries - when Omani traders used to carry their goods to the four corners of the earth and exchange them with peoples of other nationalities, while at the same time spreading their Arab, Islamic religion and culture - we have ordered that a College of Commerce and Economics be set up and ready to receive students in 1993. Between now and then it will become fully staffed and equipped, and all

necessary utilities will be installed.

There is a clear need for such a college. Commerce in Oman has developed and become increasingly complex and sophisticated, and makes a substantial contribution to the national economy. Hence it has become essential to produce trained, proficient nationals capable of working in the different fields involved. In addition to commerce, a number of other aspects of Oman's economy have expanded as a result of successive development plans; hence there is also a need for cadres who are highly-trained in the various economic sciences, capable of administering and developing the Blessed Renaissance's achievements, and able to prepare sound, scientifically-based programmes and plans.

It is no secret that today - as always - the economy is the mainstay of a country's life. It is the yardstick against which progress can be measured, and the solid base on which all aspects of human civilisation are built. Thus any modern society must have an adequate number of nationals with specialized qualifications in this field.

We ask Allah the Almighty to grant us success and bless our footsteps. We ask Him to take our students by the hand and guide them to that which is good for them and their country. We ask Him to make this University a source of useful knowledge, which will enhance human life, elevate human values, and contribute to the building of man's spiritual, material and intellectual civilisation. He has power over what He will.

Peace be upon you and the Mercy of Allah and His Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of 20th national day

Every Omani is required today - more than at any time - to roll up his sleeves and give his devoted efforts to carrying out his duties seriously and consistently.



18th November
1990





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My Countrymen,

THIS is a day full of happiness and bright with hope, glorious with pride and honour. This day, on which we meet to celebrate an eternally historic occasion, to crown 20 years of devoted effort and renewed dedication to our prosperous march.

We thank God, who created us, and who has blessed us with all that we have. To Him we raise our supplications to sustain us with further progress and prosperity.

My dear people,

Twenty years ago we undertook to work together for the renaissance of our beloved Oman, to build a modern state in our land, to elevate the standard of life for all. Those were ambitious aims which absorbed the minds of Omanis for many years. It was clear from the first that we would face a hard task and immense challenges. But we always have our faith in God, and our determination and confidence in our country's inherent strength. For two decades we have renewed life in all parts of our country. Our comprehensive development has expanded year after year. The high morale shown by our people in their co-operation and solidarity has contributed immensely to our conquest of the hardships and difficulties which confronted us and to our continued successful progress.

Today, on the 20th Anniversary of our glorious National Day, we thank God for His guidance and for His magnificent achievement in establishing the strong foundation of our renaissance. We thank Him for enabling our country to take its rightful place in the international community.

These achievements speak for themselves. They are evident to all. They display the extent of what we have done together in pursuit of our aspirations. There is now an immense difference between our present situation and that of 20 years ago.

My Countrymen,

As we embark on a new decade of our march, we advance from this strong foundation to broader and greater ambitions. This requires us all to keep before us the tasks and responsibilities which we must accept in order to maintain our progress, God willing. Not only to consolidate and develop our great past achievements but also to enrich our renaissance with new gains. Thus our country will maintain its place and role in a changing world. In this belief, and in meeting the requirements of this new era, we are preparing a complete strategy for Oman to enter the 21st Century. We have issued our directives to our Government to study the basis and aims of this strategy. It must include all economic, social and military sectors, as well as the development of the Government infrastructure. It must take into account an objective assessment of our experience in the past two decades.

It must realistically and clearly take into account our capabilities and aims, so that it becomes a working strategy for the State and an accepted basis for our development plans and programmes for the future.



My dear Countrymen,

We intend to introduce our Fourth Development Plan next year. We have commanded that priority must be given to the completion and furtherance of our development programmes in their respective areas; especially those in urgent need of new projects and services.

At the same time, we stress the importance of more intensive effort, in this coming era, to develop the economy of our country, through carefully prepared programmes to achieve greater economic growth. We especially stress the necessity to continue the emphasis on the exploitation of our agriculture and fisheries resources, so they can increasingly contribute to our national economy.

Arising from our continuous concern to promote our various productive resources, and in the light of what has been achieved in the two Years of Agriculture, we declare that 1991 shall be the Year of Industry. It is to take into account traditional industries and professions together with their modern counterparts.

Our aim is to display the role of this sector as an important productive one which signifi-

cantly contributes to our national economy. We also intend to draw the attention of the Government and the private sector to the necessity of a planned industrial development. It must give priority to industries which rely on agricultural and fisheries products, as well as those industries - both light and medium which depend on local raw materials, meet the basic needs of the country, and provide employment for our Omani people. Encouragement shall continue to be given to our traditional industries to reach their full potential.



My dear People,

The formation of the State Consultative Council has been a distinguished experience, which sprang from our distinctive Omani traditions. It enabled our citizens to participate more in the Government's economic and social development efforts. It demonstrated the extent to which this participation could positively and effectively contribute to the construction and progress of the country. Thus we were determined to continue to support this experiment and to enable the Council to perform its role in the march of our renaissance. The Council has shown during its existence its ability to carry out its duties effectively, in both providing its advice and in expressing its opinions on the development plans and programmes, and in suggesting means to carry them out. This has clearly shown that the experiment has matured. It has assured the spirit of co-operation between the Government and the people in working fruitfully together.

In appreciation of this success which this Omani experiment has achieved, and in fulfilment of our promise to work for its development, and to provide more opportunities for the Omani citizen's wider participation in the responsibilities and tasks in the construction of the Fatherland, we have decided upon the formation of a Majlis Ash'shura in which all the Wilayats of the Sultanate are to be represented. There will be no Government membership of this Majlis. The membership will be totally composed of representatives of the Wilayats. This is a further step on the road of participation which will serve the aspirations and ambitions of the citizens throughout Oman.

We have tasked the concerned State authorities to make the necessary arrangements so that the Majlis can begin its work, God willing, by our next National Day.

This step is taken in accordance with the principles of our glorious Islamic Law, and in compliance with the Islamic way to which our country is attached. It is also in accordance with our established tradition to work conscientiously and gradually at a pace which suits the life

of our country. We should be open to the experiments of others to enrich the Omani experiment without imitation for the sake of imitation. We pray to God to bless this step so that it will be fruitful for the prosperity of our country now and for the future.



My Countrymen,

Benefit to mankind is the object of all our development programmes. At the same time, man is the effective means to carry them out. This is why, over the past twenty years we have striven to improve the quality of life of all our people, and to prepare them to play their part in the construction of the Fatherland. Our efforts in this respect have been notably successful, for which we thank God.

Furthermore, we have directed our Government to provide all that is necessary to promote the vocational training programmes for our national work force. In addition, full support must be given to young people who are committed to the principle of self-employment, and also to those who provide jobs for Omanis. Government must assist young people by providing feasibility studies for small enterprises.

We now begin a new era in the construction of our country, which requires us to depend on our human resources to a great extent, in all fields.

Every Omani is required today - more than at any time - to roll up his sleeves and give his devoted efforts to carrying out his duties seriously and consistently.

It is our duty - all of us - to concentrate continuously. The great ambitions of nations and peoples are not achieved accidentally or by depending on others. They are only achieved by self-reliance, hard work, creative efforts, wholehearted and responsible participation. This is what we call upon you today to achieve, for our country now and in the future.

My Countrymen,

We consistently give special importance to the modernization of our Armed Forces. We have made great efforts to this effect; so today, they have reached a standard of which every Omani can be proud. Today, we wish to emphasise our determination to raise this standard to the highest degree, by preparing them, equipping them, and fully developing their poten-

tial, so they may perform their second national duty.

We seize the occasion of the Celebrations of our glorious National Day to salute and congratulate all branches of our gallant Armed Forces and to express our pride in them and our appreciation of their distinguished readiness and their alertness to defend our country.

We also salute and congratulate all branches of our Security Services for their devotion in carrying out their noble, national duties in the services of society and in ensuring its tranquility throughout the country.



My Countrymen,

The clear and objective policy we adopted from the beginning in the conduct of our foreign affairs has been effectively successful in establishing positive relations with other states and peoples. We wish sincerely to develop such relations in the service of our joint aims and interests, and to contribute to peace and stability both regionally and internationally.

Today, we re-affirm the continuity of our policy which stands on the belief and principle of peaceful coexistence between all nations and states, mutual respect for national sovereignty, good neighbourliness and non-interference in others' internal affairs.

We will always work according to these principles and extend the hand of friendship and co-operation to all. We are also determined to play a constructive role in the international arena and to call continuously for the solution of all causes and problems between states by peaceful means. Thus we re-affirm the necessity to reach a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, based on the international resolutions and to return the State of Kuwait to its legal authority.

As we continue our efforts and consultations on the current developments with the leaders of brotherly and friendly states, we wish to express our appreciation for the positive role carried out by our brother, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz in this respect. We look forward to the day when all these efforts will bring about a peaceful settlement of the crisis, so the peoples of the region may once again direct their resources to construction and development in a climate of brotherliness, harmony and mutual confi-

dence. Thus returning security and stability to the region and avoiding the danger of war and destruction.

My Countrymen,

We wish to commend the serious and fruitful efforts of the Council of Ministers and those who are responsible for its activities in translating our policies and directives for the progress and advancement of our country.

We also commend the other organs of the State for their positive contribution to the constructive march. We wish to express our satisfaction to the Oman Information Services for reflecting our country's policies towards all issues, regional and international. We note in particular the integrity with which they project events truthfully and objectively, without exaggeration or distortion.

At a time when the importance of the role of Information is being increasingly left by society and peoples it is necessary to support our Information Services in order that they may perform their mission.

My dear Countrymen,

We call upon you to look to the future with faith and confidence, and with increasing efforts in a spirit of co-operation and solidarity, so our beloved Oman may achieve its progress and advancement.

O God, we depend on Thee, and to Thee we will come. Guide us to further progress and advancement.

Continue to give us Your blessing and provide us with Your victorious support which You promised to the faithful, truthful, and those who work for their nations and lands.

Peace be upon you all.



Speech of His Majesty

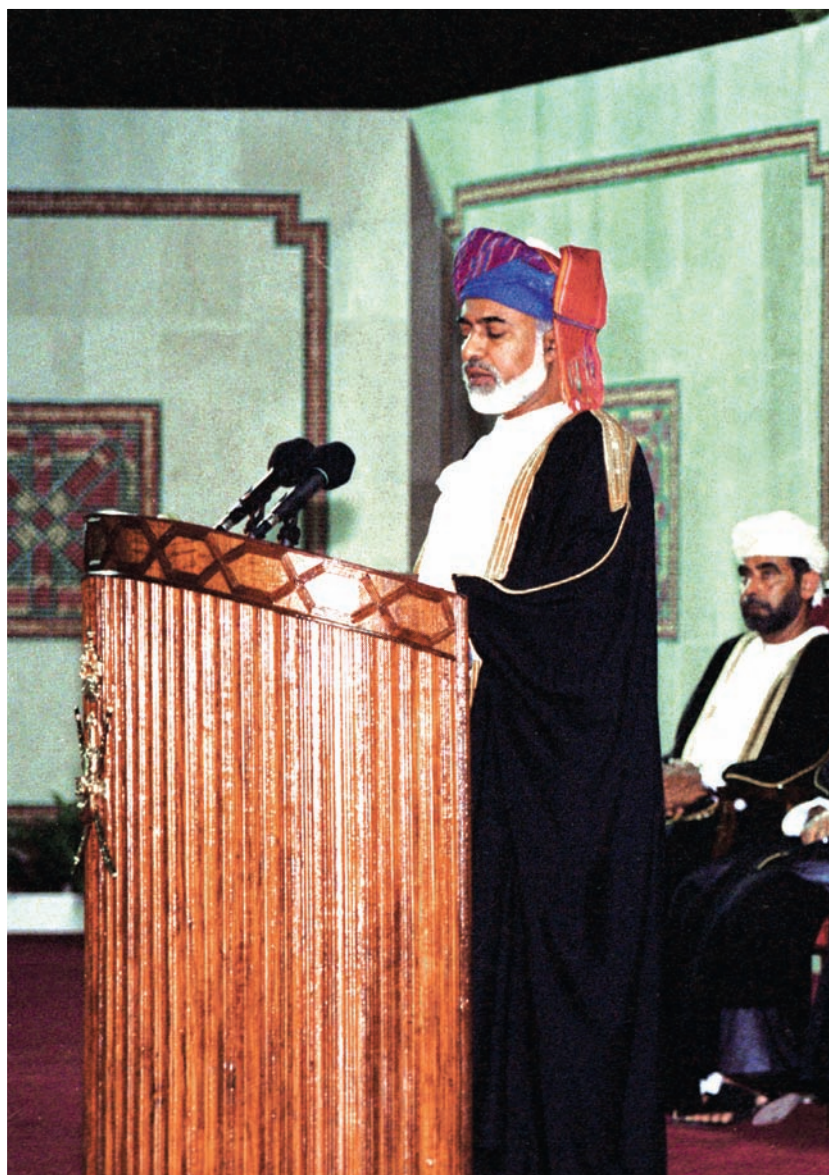


on the occasion of the graduation of the
2nd group of students from the
sultan qaboos university

*The march of knowledge is advancing year by year,
on a road enlightened by your sincere determination
to elevate Oman to the highest level of genuine
knowledge.*



30th October
1991





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God who honoured scholars and made them the successors to the Prophets, and may God's blessing and peace be upon the Prophet Mohamed and His honourable family and companions.



Honourable gathering, Dear students, May God's peace, mercy and blessing be upon you.

WE meet again today in this young University to celebrate the graduation of the second batch of students from Sultan Qaboos University.

The march of knowledge is advancing year by year, on a road enlightened by your sincere determination to elevate Oman to the highest level of genuine knowledge. Thus, she will be able to build upon our existing culture the benefits of scientific progress while, at the same time, preserving her ancient, cherished cultural heritage.

Forming and training man is a laborious process. Yet, it is a necessary process. We shall, for our part, spare no effort to provide opportunities for the training of Omanis at all levels of education, particularly higher education.

In our instructions to government and non-government institutions whom we require to assist our graduates in forwarding their careers, we emphasise that they must prepare practical plans and programmes to help them assimilate as soon as possible the requirements of their future positions

We call upon Omani youth to take advantage of every available opportunity in order to be able to face up to any tasks assigned to them, since work is both an honour and an obligation, and is, moreover, enjoined upon us by Almighty God.

Dear Students,

We attentively follow the efforts that are being made by the University to improve and diversify the studies it provides in order to meet the needs of our country and people. We are well content with the quality of its courses.

We have instructed the Council of the University to commence post graduate teaching as a high priority, yet appropriately to each college's curriculum. We hope that a new generation of Omani specialists will emerge in all fields of science, arts and literature.

In conclusion, we congratulate our young men and women graduates, and wish them more success and progress in their future life. We also thank the Council of the University, the Administration and the teaching staff for the efforts they are making.

It is our hope that this highly respected academic institution will, God willing, be a permanent centre of high intellectual attainment for our country and indeed all mankind.

May God grant us His mercy and guide us on the right path.

May God help you to achieve success, and may His peace, mercy and blessing be upon you all.



Speech of His Majesty

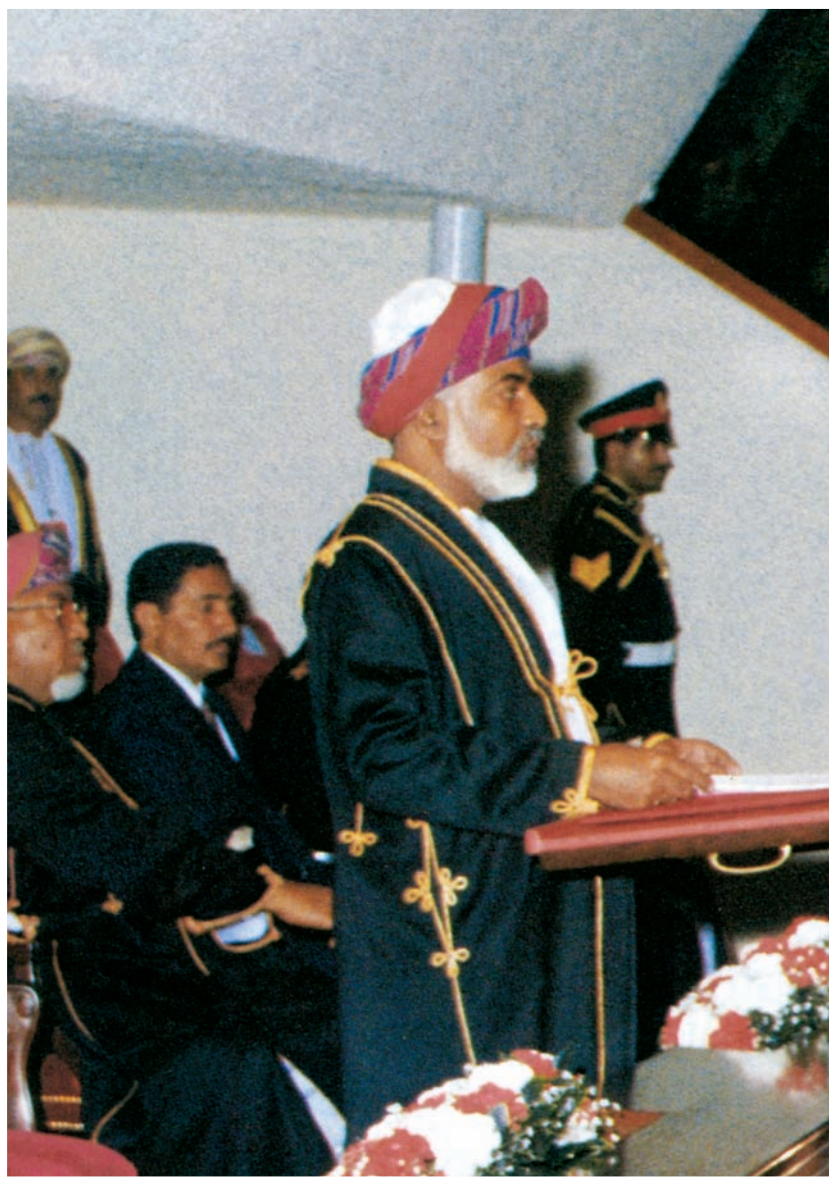


on the occasion of 21st national day

Our aim is to achieve an industrial basis which will confer on our country self-reliance wherever possible, through a cost - effective competitive effort in both quality and quantity.



18th November
1991





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My dear Countrymen,

ON this blessed day, when we celebrate this, our 21st Anniversary of Oman's Renaissance, we are happy to congratulate you on this joyful and precious occasion. We thank Almighty God for His guidance and help through which we have been enabled to realise such great achievements. And we beseech Him to continue the gift of His blessings to our beloved Country.



My Countrymen,

We shall unswervingly maintain our goal of achieving the complete development of our country to which we are dedicated. It is only through hard work, perseverance, continuous effort and resolute national spirit, that nations can be built and attain their highest aspirations.

Industry is the corner-stone of such development, if pursued on a scientific technical basis, so it may contribute constructively to the growth of our national economy. This has been the experience of many states. Since we are profoundly aware of the vital importance of this sector, we have dedicated this Year of Industry to the development of the resources of our country in this field, conscious of the experience of others. Our aim is to achieve an industrial basis which will confer on our country self-reliance wherever possible, through a



cost-effective competitive effort in both quality and quantity.

The rise of a strong industry capable of performing its national role in social progress and prosperity, while at the same time maintaining the purity and cleanliness of the environment at the highest possible level, will always be our strategic role. We call upon all officials and others involved in industry to achieve this aim. The preservation and maintenance of the environment against the damage of pollution does not prevent the development of clean industrial practices using new technology.

The role of industry in the construction of the national economy will not be made abundantly clear unless it successfully exploits the skills and qualifications of the national human abilities and natural resources.

Development is not merely an aim in itself, it is the achievement of the well-being of mankind. Thus our understanding of this need should not be confined to the narrow pursuit of wealth alone but the progress and active involvement of the people. Only then can the structure of our country be unshakeably built, proof against any storms.

Industrialists' initiatives must focus on the exploitation of the national resources with which God has blessed us. These must be utilised domestically in support of our national economy, and consequently the stimulation of the search for more resources.

In time, this will provide broader employment opportunities for our people throughout the country.

We will spare no effort in supporting the industry sector and in offering incentives for its continued fruitful growth. It is therefore essential for all those involved to increase their efforts to improve the quality of their products by sustaining the highest professional standards. This will require our national industries to devote the maximum resources to research and scientific and technical studies.

We have followed with care and appreciation the successful efforts made this year, by our people and Government in co-operating in the improvement of the quality and quantity of the output of our industries. We call for this effort and this co-operation to continue in the future. In expressing our wish for this continuity of effort we declare that the Year of Industry shall be extended throughout 1992, therefore ensuring that the experience of our national enterprises will be further increased in the coming year. This decision emphasises our deep commitment to the diversification of the sources of our national income through the development of our country's economy.

My dear People,

Water is a national wealth that must be cherished and husbanded. Every effort must continue to be made to develop this resource. If extravagance is forbidden by Islam, it is even more applicable to water. Indeed, Islam emphasises in its teaching that it is our duty to conserve it. We cannot stress too strongly the need to observe the conservation measures laid down by Government in this respect. The use of this vital resource throughout the world can have a great impact on future development strategies, and indeed could become a decisive factor in political tension and thus, world security.

Our Government has plans to increase our country's water resources to meet our national requirements without arduously affecting the demands of conservation. These conservation demands will continue to indicate the degree of our people's ability to abide by these measures. Here, we urge you all to co-operate with the Government in implementing these plans and measures. We are confident that you will respond positively to this call.



My Countrymen,

The formation of the State Consultative Council was a pioneering work in the life of Omani society - a fruitful experiment which achieved its goals. We have said on a number of previous occasions how pleased we were at the way in which this Council has performed. The Council's work over the past decade has particularly strengthened the development and improvement of our productive sectors and services throughout Oman. We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Council for the constructive role it has played.

Now, today, we face a new experiment. This is another step in the evolution of the Omani people. It provides a further opportunity for service to our country. Measures have been taken for the formation of the Majlis Ash shura in confirmation of the decision we announced last year, on our 20th National Day, the basis and principles of which were explained during our tour of the wilayats earlier this year. We wish to express our appreciation of the way in which the wilayats chose their candidates, which demonstrated the awareness of the Omani citizen. This response has confirmed our people's grasp of history and civilisation, and is evidence of our commitment to our country's march towards comprehensive development. This experiment of choosing the membership of the Majlis Ash-shura representing the wilay-

ats has provided us with a new dimension from which we can benefit in the future life of the Majlis, in particular, the assessment of the proportion of members necessary for striking the required nationwide representational balance.

We congratulate the Omani citizens on this new Majlis and we pray to Almighty God to grant it His guidance and to give it success.



My Countrymen,

We have always conducted an objective policy in our external relations. We extend the hand of friendship and co-operation to all states which meet with us on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence between countries and nations, and mutual respect for the rights of national sovereignty. We stress these principles, and we work with them in the pursuit of peace and stability, to ensure positive relations among the states of the world.

We shall continue our efforts with our brother states of the Co-operation Council towards the stability of our region and in the service of the basic interests of its peoples.

We wish to record the notable solidarity and co-operation of our states in overcoming all crises, and in our continued aim to ensure the observance of international law, and in the consolidation of the principles of legitimacy without which nations cannot enjoy security and peace. Only thus can nations build a sure foundation of understanding and mutual confidence.

We wish to refer to the task which the States of the Council have requested the Sultanate to undertake in providing a strategic security plan for the region. The Sultanate has performed its duties in this respect. The States of the region must now define the framework which suits their means.

Here, on this glorious national occasion, we are pleased to repeat our sincere congratulations to the leadership and people of the brotherly state of Kuwait on the resumption of normal life. We pray to God that He will extend His help to them and provide them with guidance and success, so they may fully resume their notable role in the regional and international fields.

My Countrymen,

This year, the world has witnessed great developments and efforts in the resolution of ageold issues and difficult problems. In the past these concerns have exposed the world's peace and security to danger. We support these efforts and call for their increase, so an end may be put to the suffering of many nations who hope for a new dawn.

We have continued to call for a settlement of the Middle East problem which will bring a comprehensive and just peace for all parties. We therefore welcome the Madrid Peace Conference as an important step towards security and stability in this troubled region, which may lead to a better life for all its peoples, and especially for our brotherly Palestinian people who have suffered from occupation for almost half a century. We hope that the Conference will be able to achieve its goals and establish a permanent and just peace for all the States of the region, with the restoration of the legitimate rights of the struggling Palestinian people. Thus they will be able to devote their resources towards building a better life on their land.

We take this occasion to commend the role of the United States of America and the Soviet Union in their continual efforts to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion. We also commend the role of the European Community in their support for such efforts.

Today, the world is witnessing a period of fundamental change. This confirms that this decade will see the rise of a new world order in which we hope there will be no place for struggle and confrontation, but co-operation, understanding and peace.

We repeat our congratulations to you and our appreciation for all the productive efforts made for the benefit of our beloved land. We pray to God to lead our steps towards prosperity and to grant us guidance and success in our work.

We pray He will make our pure land a place for His continued blessing.

Thank you and peace be upon you all.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening session
of the majlis ashura

*Today is the beginning of a new era in the history of
this country, which never ceases to aspire to higher
and greater things.*



21st December
1991





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, Who has made consultation a way to achieve the good of the nation. And may blessings and peace be upon the One whom God sent with guidance and True Religion, and upon His Family and rightly-guided Companions, and upon those who follow in Their footsteps until the Last Day.

In Your Name, O God of Majesty, Bounty and Honour,

We open the Majlis Ashura with Your help and support, inspired by the principles of Your Noble Law, which we affirm and follow. Lord, guide our footsteps and grant success to our endeavours. Make this Majlis the beginning of a new stage in the development of our country, so that through co-operation between the government and people we can achieve greater progress, growth, stability and prosperity.



Members of the Majlis,

THE establishment of your Majlis marks the end of a period in which the public took a share of the responsibility for building and developing the country - a period in which the government and non-government sectors worked together within the framework of the State Consultative Council. This proved to be a successful experiment, in that it gave the citizen the opportunity to offer advice on a number of different areas of development, thereby enhancing the government's efforts and provided a better picture of the people's needs in the regions. Today is the beginning of a new era in the history of this country, which never



ceases to aspire to higher and greater things. That is the law of life, where there is no place for stagnation. Life is constantly moving forward and we believe that we need to keep up with it if we are to reach the goal we all seek and realise the hopes that simmer in the hearts of our people - the people of a country that is capable of creating history.

Yes. The new era that is beginning is witness to a new experiment, the establishment of the Majlis Ashura. Its members have not been appointed directly by the government, but have been chosen from among the candidates put forward by the wilayats without the intervention of any administrative authority. They share an ability to make a substantial contribution, not only on behalf of their own local communities, but also on behalf of Oman and the Omani people everywhere, even in the remotest towns, villages and wilayats.

This is a tremendous responsibility and you are the first to undertake it. The great task with which you have been entrusted must be properly understood and carried out, so that the way can be prepared for greater progress in the future. This pioneering experiment differs in numerous ways from the State Consultative Council, since the Decree establishing your Majlis has granted it wide prerogatives, including legislative powers appropriate to the new situations created by the fast pace of development now taking place in the country. These powers are of great importance and require that those who exercise them have a genuine grasp of the social and economic demands of life in the last decade of the 20th century.

Since the Majlis has a role to play in preparing and following up the implementation of the country's development plans, it must endeavour to ensure that the public understand the aims, tasks and priorities of development, and the efforts being made to ensure a prosperous and decent life for the people of this country.

Since we give a high priority to the conservation of the environment and its protection from pollution, your positive contributions in this field will have a definite impact and be particularly appreciated. Environmental conservation is a vital matter and should receive the attention it deserves.

The Decree establishing the Majlis stipulates a number of ways of reinforcing co-ordination between the Majlis Ashura and the government in a manner that serves Omani society's general goals. We therefore call upon the government and Majlis to step up their efforts toward true co-ordination and increase the level of co-operation between their subsidiary bodies. In doing so, we express our hope that this will lead to an improvement in the services they provide to the public.

Members of the Majlis,

Over the past few years much has been achieved in this country, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry and services. In this respect, public co-operation has had a significant effect. Your first duty is to hold on to these gains by endeavouring to release the Omani citizen's creative energies, bring out his latent potential, develop his talents and skills and enable him to make a greater contribution. In doing so, he will be inspired by his glorious history and his legacy, which regards work as having a high value in human terms and recognizes that it should always be accorded the respect and status due to it.

Each and every one of you is required to work for the national interest and carry out his patriotic duties with wholehearted devotion. In addition to this, one of the main tasks of every member is to give particular attention to the welfare and development of his local community. To this end, he must seek to familiarise himself with the needs of its people and consider them in a realistic context, so that his objectives can be met within the limits of available economic and social resources, plans and programmes. We are confident that your Majlis can make a constructive contribution to ensuring that this country continues to make steady and consistent progress. We are confident that the opinions and ideas you put forward will be pertinent and perceptive, and that your solutions will be well thought out and based on a proper understanding of the realities of the situation. We should therefore like to affirm that we are determined to support your Majlis in any way that can help it to perform its functions in the best possible manner. In this connection, we should also like to stress the absolute necessity for every member to prove his personal competence through the manner in which he strives to serve Oman, in the light of the guidance provided by the True Faith and Oman's historic values and traditions. Over the ages these have been the light that has illuminated our path and guided our footsteps on to glory, pride and honour.

We congratulate you on your membership of the Majlis Ashura and ask Almighty God to grant your Majlis success. We ask Him for His help and support. And we pray that He will bless us, protect us and grant us success as we go forward along our path.

May God give you success in that which is good.

And may peace be upon you and the mercy of God and His blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the united nations
conference on environment and development
in brazil

*The conservation of the environment is the
responsibility of all of us, a responsibility that knows
no political boundaries.*



2nd June
1992





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



ON the occasion of the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development it gives us pleasure to address the world community at large, especially the conferees, recalling their previous meeting in Stockholm, that historic gathering, which is regarded as the first sound step for establishing a correct relationship between man and the environment.

Since that meeting was held twenty years ago the world has witnessed numerous environmental catastrophes as a result of conflicts and other man-made pollutants before it has again realised the gravity of the present situation.

We in the Sultanate of Oman and in the Arab world as a whole would like to pay tribute to the U.N. General Secretariat's decision, as well as to its role in organising the Conference. We would also like to thank the friendly government of Brazil for the efforts it has exerted to make such excellent arrangements for the Conference.

As human beings co-existing on this planet we have gravely neglected the vital necessity of conserving the environment and natural resources due to the lack of collective co-ordination. Indeed, we have taken a potentially fatal opposing course of luxury and industrial progress, regardless of the resulting imbalance between development and the environment, and without taking into account the dire consequences of the effects upon the atmosphere and the ozone layer, river and sea water, the extermination of certain species, the destruction of forests, and the contamination of once fertile soil. Should this continue, humanity will court collective suicide.

The conservation of the environment is the responsibility of all of us, a responsibility that knows no political boundaries. Therefore, man, wherever he lives, must contribute to this conservation and must order his life accordingly. This must be done in a planned, rational way and taking into consideration the numerous causes of pollution, whether natural, biological, industrial, chemical or physical.

We must set a limit to haphazard methods and protect what is left of our grazing lands and water resources against desertification and drought.

We also call upon the industrialised nations to temper that heedless technological rivalry, which directly contributes to this dangerous situation, and to strive to narrow the wide disparity which exists between their own and the developing countries, in order to redress the balance between development and the maintenance of a clean environment.

We are sure that the Conference will give the utmost importance to the issues related to that subject.

We, in the Sultanate of Oman, through our deep personal interest and the directives we have given to our Government to act in concert with neighbouring countries, are making energetic efforts to protect our environment and territorial waters from pollution and other causes.

Recently the Gulf region and the Middle East witnessed regrettable and painful environmental disasters as a result of regional conflicts. Unless those regional problems are properly settled, the efforts exerted to conserve the environment and to continue the development process will be disastrously jeopardised.

We hope that world detente and the positive trend being pursued in settling serious problems will permit us to work together, regardless of ideologies and selfish national interests, to address the environmental and development-related issues which face us in a spirit of reconciliation, amity and peace so as to secure a healthy life for ourselves and the generations to come.



Speech of His Majesty

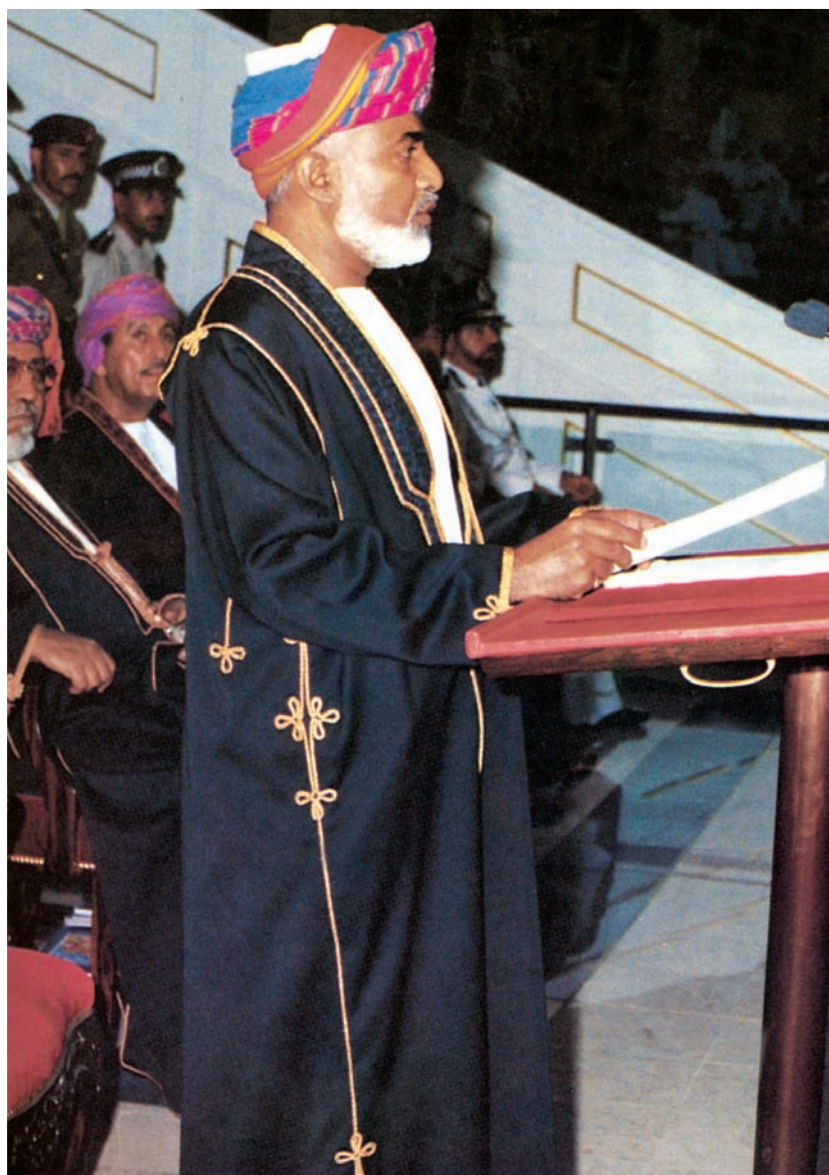


on the occasion of 22nd national day

Your country calls upon you to perform your duty with faith and discipline, to sharpen your skills, to increase your resources and experience and tirelessly develop them.



18th November
1992





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



My Honourable Countrymen,

IT is the cause of joy and pleasure to celebrate our 22nd National Day in this historic city, the city of Sohar - a city which is redolent of the glories of our past, the splendid achievements of our present, and expresses the great vision of our future. We look with an assured hope to the day on which all our Omani cities will also have completed their renewal so that they may equally display their past glories enriched by their proud present.

On this happy occasion we are pleased to congratulate you all. We pray to God to endow our precious country with His Blessing and Mercy. We ask Him to guide us to more achievements on the road to prosperity and development.

And when My servants question thee concerning Me, then surely I am nigh. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he cries unto Me. So let them hear My call and let them trust in Me, in order that they may be led aright.

My dear Countrymen,

The progress of this beloved land, its renaissance and development, its advancement and strength, and its prosperity is the ultimate great aim for every Omani whose heart is possessed of faith and sincerity for this land.



This noble target cannot be achieved in reality except with effort, hard work, and enlightened thought, so that the challenges of the future can be overcome.

It is the national duty of every citizen to fit our youth to take their rightful places in all walk of life. It is a matter of great importance to us all. Without training and qualifying, and acquiring experience, education alone cannot answer our basic needs. The industries which we are working to establish and develop, all demand these qualified skills. Agriculture, fisheries, commerce, public services all require these indispensable needs. Unless the efforts of both government and private sectors are combined to achieve these goals, with scientific planning and practical programmes, so that they are thoroughly reached as a national duty, our need for expatriate assistance will continue, even at the most basic levels. Indeed, it may increase and thousands of working opportunities may be lost.

We have issued our orders to the concerned Government authorities to review the Educational and Vocational Training policies so that they can remain fully in accord with our national development.

We have stressed the importance of this issue on many occasions. As a result of this the Government has taken a number of encouraging steps in this direction. Thus the private sector must employ to the maximum the varied financial support which is available to them, for the benefit of our people and our country. They must bring forward initiatives to play their part with Government in achieving our goals, as soon as possible.

At the end, the private sector will be the main beneficiaries of the Omanisation that can thus be implemented. The private sector must energetically fully participate with Government in preparing Omanis for their role as a productive force in the national interest. The Omani youth must demonstrate a serious desire to work, to make use of the many opportunities which are open to them in the private sector, and not waste their time waiting for vacancies in Government employment different from those in which they have been trained. The country is in serious need of their efforts in innumerable fields. Their skills and energies are wasted if they do not apply themselves to this demand.

Your country calls upon you to perform your duty with faith and discipline, to sharpen your skills, to increase your resources and experience and tirelessly develop them. We are a society that is used to hard work and it is not our style to be lazy or negligent, but to responsibly and honestly carry out our obligations. This is the only way we can achieve progress and utilise the modern technology available to us.

Work has a great value in the religious and social heritage of this nation; especially in the pursuit of handicrafts which some wrongly regard as beneath them. The Prophet, peace be

upon Him, says <No one has eaten better food than that which he has prepared himself, and God's Prophet David ate what he himself had prepared.> The Prophet also said <God has honoured those of you who take a rope and go to the mountains to collect firewood on their shoulders, and bring it back and sell it, and God saves his face. It is better for him to do this than to ask others - whether they give to him or not.>

This is a clear call for discipline and work, on the part of the individual, who should not depend on others, no matter how close. The true Muslim must be a productive force in the service of society. Almighty God has said in the Holy Koran: <And when the prayer is ended, then disperse in the land and seek of God's bounty.> There are endless sayings from the Holy verses of the Koran and sacred utterances of the Prophet which elevate the value of work and of workers.

These are the values called for by our Holy Religion and by our great heritage. This being so it is the duty of the several establishments of society to carry out a lively, continuous and influential role to plant in the young the love of work, especially that of handicrafts and technical pursuits. This should be regarded as a religious and civilised set of values which cannot be dismissed. It must be firmly appreciated and accepted with pride by the individual and by all. Thus we can join the caravan of progress and worthily follow the example of our forefathers who contributed to the progress of humanity.



My Countrymen,

There has been a great effort to develop our country's resources. Our development plans have brought successful results on our road to progress. Our two Years of Agriculture and two Years of Industry have clearly signified our serious intentions.

These two vital factors can be considered as the fundamental pillars of our development strategy, which aims for the diversification of the sources of our national income and the provision of enhanced working opportunities for our people.

The two Years of Industry have demonstrated the role of this sector to the Government and people alike. We note the response by investors in this field to cater for the country's various needs. In our quest for success in this, we must utilise all our country's natural resources,



while at the same time protecting the environment. Practical and feasible programmes must be introduced to train and qualify Omanis and thus provide the means for an honourable life for every citizen.

In order to assist the development effort, a general census of our population, housing and commercial establishments is to take place next year, which will provide the necessary statistics for this purpose.

We stress the continual importance of agriculture, fisheries and animal husbandry. Our efforts to secure our food requirements cannot succeed if they are dependent on the outside world. The development of productive projects in this vital field and the encouragement of our people to utilise agricultural land effectively without exhausting our water resources, is the only answer. Carefully studied and organised agricultural work can increase this sector of our economy and thus contribute to the provision of the food we need.

At the same time we must stress that water is an invaluable national resource which must not be thoughtlessly squandered. Its conservation is a sacred national duty for every one of us. The co-operation of you all in our Government policies in this connection is vital.

It has come to our notice that there are those who are concerned that our public parks and gardens may be consuming water resources that cannot be spared. The facts are that all irrigation of this type is mainly obtained from recycled water which would not be desirable for other consumption. These parks and gardens are necessary to purify our environment and beautify our cities.

My dear Countrymen,

Economic development and the promotion of its various sectors: industry, commerce, agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, and oil is not merely an aim in itself, but it also bears directly upon the well-being of the individual.

The dedication of the individual to the employment of his talents and energy to serve his society is the true path to make any development a success. The youth of every nation is its hope and promise for the future. The measure of care, welfare, education and guidance of youth should stimulate the spirit of attachment of each of them to their country. Thus their contribution, dedication and devotion will repay all that this country has given them. We declare that the year 1993 shall be the Year of Youth.

The Year of Youth will illustrate their role in the service of their country and people. It will enable them to perform this role effectively. Extra care and support must be given to youth

activities, in the cultural, sporting and scientific spheres, in order to raise the name of Oman high in international regard.



My Countrymen,

We have always adopted in our foreign policy, fundamental and unshakable principles: good neighbourliness, non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, the respect for international law, the support of co-operation among states and encouragement of opportunities of dialogue. This demonstrates our belief that disputes must be solved in a spirit of understanding and civilised conduct for better and lasting results. We spare no effort or resources to serve the cause of peace at all regional and international levels. We commit ourselves to stand with clarity, frankness, objectivity and rational conduct. This policy has helped us to establish positive relations with all the countries and peoples of the globe. These relations help our efforts for the stability of our region and the spread of the spirit of brotherhood, friendship and constructive co-operation among its peoples. We work in this spirit to contain any emergent difficulties which threaten this goal.

We continue, with our brother leaders of the AGCC, to avoid all that could undermine the region's stability and security. At the same time we are working collectively to support our joint march to achieve prosperity and progress for our peoples.

In spite of many positive developments, the international scene these days witnesses tension in different places. This could produce unhappy effects on the economies of the countries of the world. Those internecine and sectarian struggles distance the human conscience and bring into question the credibility of the new world order. It is a cause of sorrow to see the Muslims in some parts of the world are the majority of those who are the victims of these massacres. These instances of inhuman behaviour are being committed without any concern for religious scruples or considerations of conscience. We call upon the states and civilised peoples of the world for their intervention, without delay, to put an end to these sad events, to which the minorities in the world are exposed, day after day.

The lack of positive measures which could restore justice and the rule of law, can open the door for evils which no one can predict. The provision of food alone cannot put an end to the suffering of the old, the children and helpless women. The destruction caused by these wars

can only be stopped by serious and collective efforts.

In addition to all this, there is the suffering of our brotherly Somali people. We hope that the human conscience will rise to this challenge. There is other terrible suffering which has for long defied a final solution: that of the agony of our brotherly Palestinian people. We are awaiting the outcome of the Middle East peace negotiations and we call for the swift alleviation of the plight of the suffering of the Palestinian people.

We call for the provision of more support and assistance for the efforts towards a peaceful, lasting and just solution which will restore their legitimate rights, and ensure the peace, stability and security of the states of the status of the region.

My dear Countrymen,

On this glorious occasion we commend the great effort made by all our citizens and officials in support of our Renaissance and our development goals. We extend to them on this significant day our greetings, congratulations and appreciation. We also express our pride in our gallant Armed Forces in all their services and units, and to all our security establishments. We confirm our strong intention to support them in all fields so they can perform their national duties with ability and with their high standards. Thus they can secure the well-being of our people and their achievements.

We salute you and congratulate you on this glorious day and we pray to God to bless our days and guide our steps on the road of progress. We ask Him to enable us to become faithful workers who spare no effort in the service of our country and people.

Peace be upon you all.







Speech of His Majesty



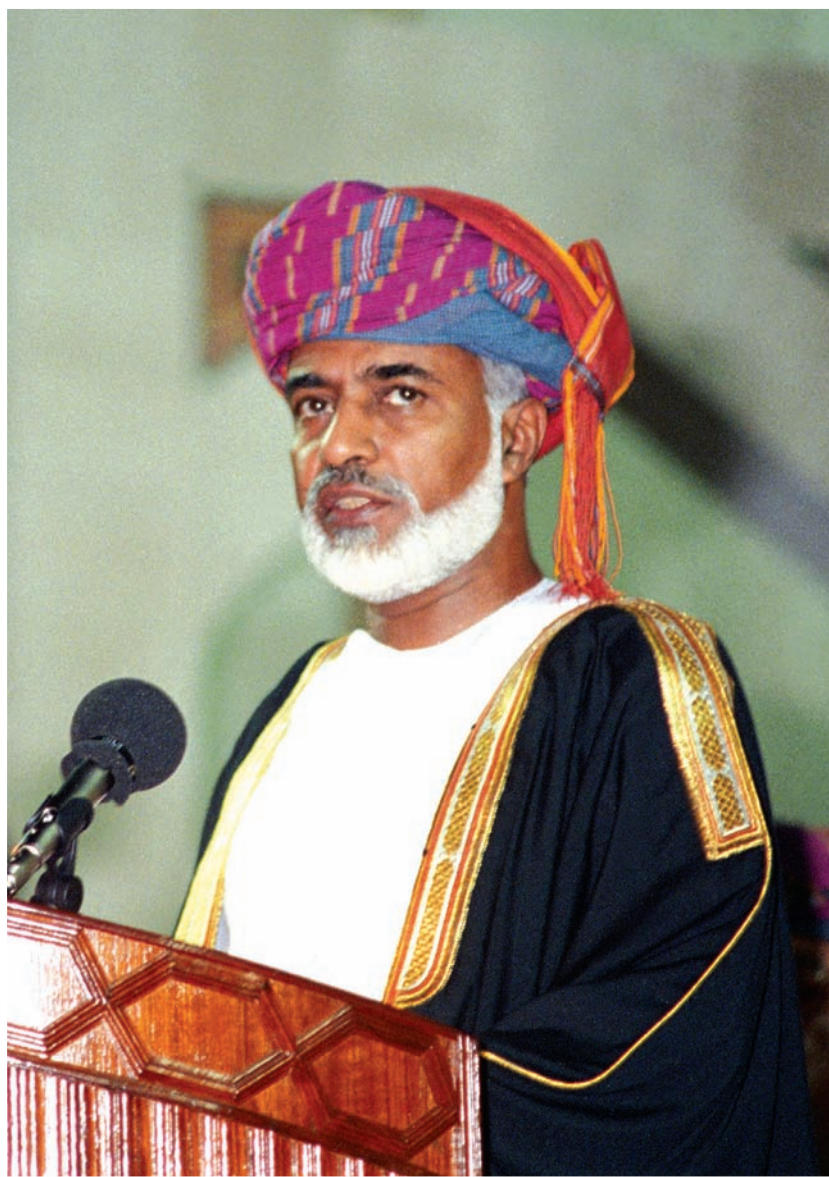
at sultan qaboos university

Oman is a country with a deep-rooted history, a distinguished character, which has its own philosophy in social life, and therefore we should not allow senseless imitation to impede our progress or passively affect our immortal heritage.



16th November

1993





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Honourable Guests,

IT is really a happy occasion to meet together once again in the campus of this young university to celebrate the graduation of such a large number of male and female students in a momentous procession that grows year after year and stands as vivid evidence to the progress of the educational process in our dear country. Our celebration this year of graduates from all the University's colleges, adds to the splendour and brightness of this occasion. This year, the first batch of graduates from the college of Medicine joined the procession, and studies at the college of Commerce and Economy and the college of Arts have begun following the completion of the necessary facilities.

My children, male and female students. The role education plays in shaping man's life, and in the development of society, is a vital and undeniable one, but, in order to achieve its objective in shaping a sound personality, and a stable coherent society, it is necessary to maintain useful social traditions and a correct positive behaviour derived from a distinct cultural identity. Therefore, we must always retain that which suits our society, environment, and life patterns in our country. Oman is a country with a deep-rooted history, a distinguished character, which has its own philosophy in social life, and therefore we should not allow senseless imitation to impede our progress or passively affect our immortal heritage.

Our hopes are pinned on you, the University students, to be the vivid example that materi-

alises harmony between the fruits of the present and the values of the glorious past. No doubt you are aware that this noble objective can only be met through serious work coupled with altruism, sacrifice and love of the homeland.

Honourable guests,

The educational structure in our beloved country is becoming even more firmly established day after day, and we spare no effort to add to it when the need arises, in order to strengthen its foundations. We have given our instructions to those in charge to establish a college for marine sciences in Salalah, in order to broaden the scope of choice for the young people of Oman in the field of higher education.

God willing, we will pursue this policy in future, in light of society's needs and requirements.

Finally, we offer our congratulations to this group of male and female graduates and our thanks and appreciation to the University's Council, administration, professors, and all its other members, and wish them continued success.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of 23rd national day

The building of the Omani nation, the shaping of their character through education and culture, with training and with qualifications, is in the forefront of our noble cause, for which we shall always strive.



18th November
1993





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Thanks be to Almighty God, the All-Powerful, and peace be upon His Prophet and His true followers.

Dear Countrymen,

IT is a cause for rejoicing and happiness for us to gather here today to celebrate the 23rd Anniversary of our National Day. When we recall the memories of the past years, since the dawn of Oman's modern Renaissance, we find that, with God's blessing and support, we have come a long way on the road of progress and civilisation. We thank God for His support and guidance, for the help and care He has given us, and to Him we pray to continue the generosity He has bestowed on us.

My honourable Countrymen,

The building of the Omani nation, the shaping of their character through education and culture, with training and with qualifications, is in the forefront of our noble cause, for which we shall always strive. Thus we can achieve a worthy standard of living for all. Everything that has been done so far has carried us forward along this road, on which we must continue. We can only aspire to this role through co-operation and single-mindedness in building the glory of this country and raising its flag high.

This Year of Youth, and its predecessor (in 1983), provide a clarion call to all responsible members of government and the private sector to pay more attention to the needs of our Omani people. Our people are the makers of progress and the reason for our development.

This attention must be especially given to the hope of our Nation, the Youth. Our care for our people will never change from one year to the next. Our aim this year is to clearly remind all concerned that our Youth will always be at the centre of our thoughts. We must be able to



cater for their needs in the fields of culture, science, technology and sport. Their progress in these fields, and in agriculture, industry, and commerce, will elevate the life of our society and the growth of our national economy.

When we call upon you all to take care of our Youth's aspirations and ambitions, we also call with the same insistence upon our Youth to be aware of their responsibility for building our country. They must roll up their sleeves with the utmost energy to contribute positively towards our comprehensive development. They must be armed with patience and hope, determination and industry, and a spirit of sacrifice and unselfishness. Happiness and prosperity can only be achieved through hard work and the sweat of their brow, thus removing all obstacles to our march.

To provide and develop training programmes and educational curricula, to establish different educational institutions, especially in the technical and vocational fields, and to expand recreational facilities, will always be our noble goal. It is everyone's national and historic responsibility, to be carried out diligently and in a spirit of devotion. Almighty God has praised, in the Holy Koran, His faithful worshippers by saying «they are unselfish and give to others in spite of their own needs».

Consistent with this, we issued our orders that an Institute of Art is to be built to the highest standards in our country, so as to provide increased opportunities for our young people.

My dear Countrymen,

In the past two decades, we worked with determination to plan and promote our Omani economy, and to diversify the sources of our national income in order to gradually lessen our dependence on oil as the main source of income. We have achieved, with God's help, good and positive results. But it must be remembered that development in some fields takes prolonged, hard effort and many years. The firm steps we have taken in the past - and are still taking - will carry us through.

Oman, like any other state in the world, is affected by what happens on the international scene, but measures have been taken to avoid the effect on our national economy of international market changes. Thus, we have been enabled to continue with our fundamental plans for our people.

My honourable Countrymen,

The Sultanate has embarked upon a studied course in its foreign policy, which has borne fruit. This country has achieved its respected status in the world. We work together with our

brothers of the Gulf Co-operation Council to guarantee stability and security in our region. We tirelessly work to contribute to the building of peace, to alleviate the sufferings of nations who fall victim to war, injustice and oppression. This is the reason why we call for the solution of regional problems by peaceful means which restore rights to those to whom they belong.

It is a reason for hope to witness one of the most complicated issues of this century on its way towards solution - the Palestinian-Israeli dispute. We welcome the agreement that has been reached. We look forward to its bringing about a comprehensive and just peace between the Arabs and the Israelis - a peace which secures the rights and interests of all. We call for efforts to be made to bring back security and stability to places of conflict in the world, under the principles of international law and respect for human rights.

My dear Countrymen,

The desire to build a modern state which adopts the methods of science and technology did not force this historic country to neglect its glorious heritage. It has consistently combined this heritage with its modernisation. To this end, it has established its extensive modern infrastructure while, at the same time, it has carefully preserved the precious evidence of its past.

To emphasise this dedicated policy, we declare next year to be the Year of Oman's Heritage.

Thus, through the care with which the dual policy is being pursued, we shall celebrate the 24th Anniversary of our National Day in the historic city of Nizwa, which has played such a notable role in our heritage,

We conclude by extending special greetings to all units of our Armed Forces and Security Organisations for their pioneering achievements in our comprehensive development, and our appreciation of their vital contribution to the protection of our country.

We pray to God to guide our steps, to cover our country with His Blessing, and to grant it security, stability and prosperity. We thank Him for His Guidance. God bless you. Peace be upon you.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the commencement
of the national census

*The progress and prosperity of nations and peoples
cannot be measured in years or the accumulation of
material wealth.*



30th November
1993



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God whose favours are unlimited and can never be counted.

Prayers and peace be upon the Messenger who has been sent as a mercy to all.



Dear Countrymen,

THE progress and prosperity of nations and peoples cannot be measured in years or the accumulation of material wealth. The yardstick we need to apply is enlightened willpower, combined with sincere good intentions and confidence, because it is through these qualities that one can achieve dignity and true prosperity .

Honourable Countrymen,

The comprehensive development that is taking place throughout the length and breadth of our land has been achieved through hard work and honest endeavour and its success has been due to the sound planning and support afforded by the Government.

There is no doubt that planning, and the implementation of such plans, requires full knowledge and a clear vision of today's realities. This will enable us to continue on the path that leads to comprehensive development.

Such a position will enable us to be fully aware of all the circumstances of our country and to achieve all our goals and the proper implementation of our plans.

Through the will and support of Almighty God we are about to start the actual count of the

general population and buildings census. We urge all those who reside in this blessed land to give the exact information requested by the census enumerators and to answer all the questions, which we hope will not be irksome to them. I urge everyone to co-operate and to offer them all the assistance they need to make their mission a success. This in return, will have a positive effect on future development projects.

We appeal to Almighty God to bestow success on all.

May peace and God's blessing be upon you.





Speech of His Majesty



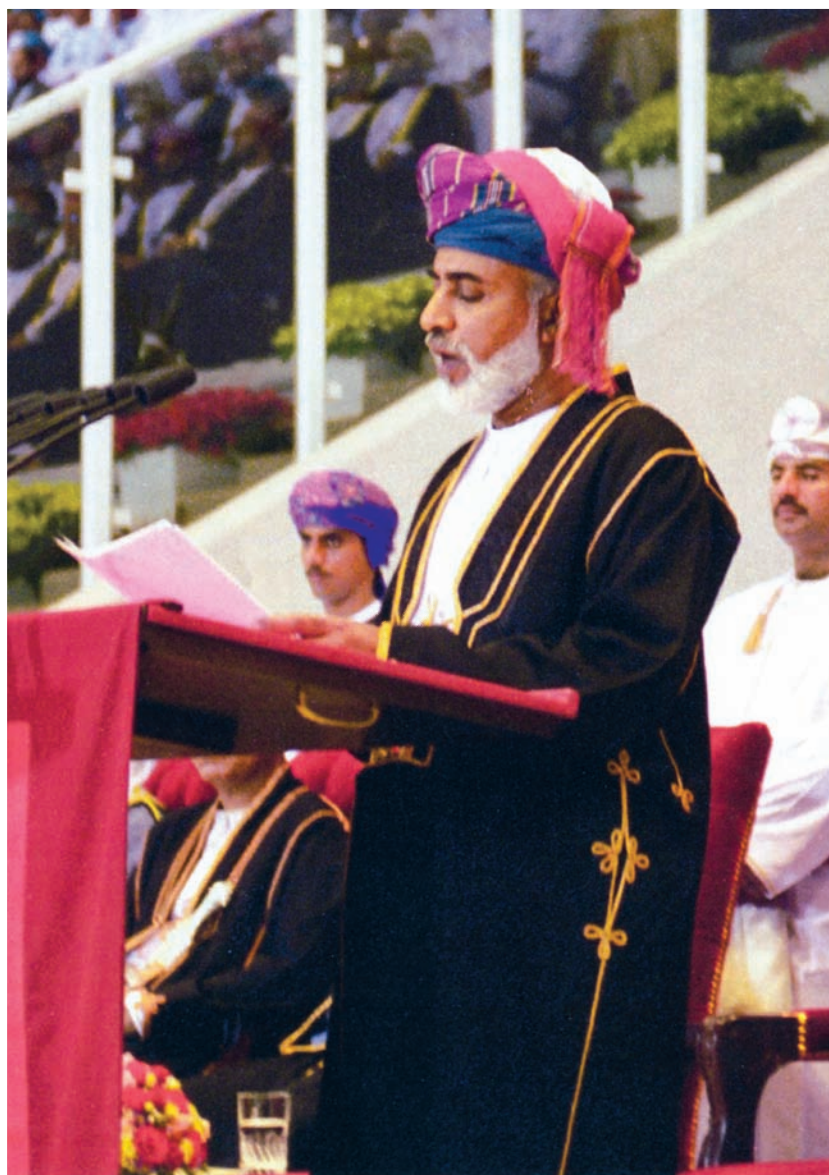
on the occasion of the 24th national day

Oman, throughout its very long history, has contributed to the building of human civilization, a contribution that is universally acknowledged and renowned.



18th November

1994





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

<Praise be to God, Who hath sent to His Servant The Book, and hath allowed therein no deviation. And peace be upon His Prophet and His devoted Followers.



Dear Countrymen,

FULFILLING the promise we made at the same time last year, we consequently meet in the City of history, learning and heritage. In the citadel where the glory of our country originated - the City of Nizwa. The City which has played a distinguished role in the progress of Omani civilisation; the City that still illuminates with its grace and eminence. The City which has been the home of great leaders and the sanctuary of intellectuals, scholars, poets and men of literature. This great City has a special place in the hearts of our Omani people. Notwithstanding the era of stagnation in the past, this great City is now rising to the heights of its ancient splendour through the achievements of recent years. We hope that our decision to celebrate this Year of Heritage on its soil marks a turning point that will put it on the path to another stage in its continuing evolution in various fields of life.

The celebration of the 24th Anniversary of Oman's Renaissance in this historic City commemorates the renewal of its civilizing role in the life of our great and precious country, in its drive to realise, with God's help, the hopes and aspirations of our people.

We commenced the process of development and evolution comparatively recently. Our weapons in the fight against backwardness, and the challenges we have encountered, have

been the stern and wholehearted determination that our people have displayed.

Through this hard work and support to the leadership by all our people the successful development of our country is to be seen everywhere. These achievements justify our faith in a glorious future for our country. We thank God for His generosity and guidance in our efforts. We call upon Him to continue to extend His grace to us.



Countrymen,

Oman, throughout its very long history, has contributed to the building of human civilization, a contribution that is universally acknowledged and renowned.

The strategic location of this country, the lively spirit which took Omanis to all corners of the world - sailing the seas, facing the dangers, exploring new horizons, and reaching out to other peoples with their traditions and cultures - all these factors had a lasting effect on the civilization that was built by our forefathers and succeeding generations. This civilization is now a living heritage embodying and reflecting the saga of our history, and the deep rooted richness of the Omani experience.

If we are, Countrymen, to take pride in the great heritage that we have received from our ancestors, this pride must not be our ultimate aim. We should not live in the past. That is the character of those who have no determined attitude towards the future. And that is certainly not the character of the Omani. He possesses the vibrant energy and active spirit that can carry him forward to the furthest horizons. Nothing can deter him. It is therefore our duty to our forefathers to emulate and surpass their achievements. Those achievements act as the stimulus to attain more development, in harmony with modern life and scientific evolution. Otherwise our destiny would certainly be the shameful backwardness of those who have lost their strength and courage, and are mentally paralysed and apathetic in their attitude to life.

There is no doubt that history has proved that nations do not advance and develop without the continuous renewal of their ideas. This also applies to individuals and peoples. Failure in this respect results in fatal consequences. Therefore, we have determined, from the first day of our Renaissance not to succumb to this disease.

We have maintained and preserved our identity and intellectual inheritance, and we have adopted every means for development and modernization. It has been very clear to us that our heritage is not only represented by forts, castles and ancient buildings, but by spiritual customs and traditions, by science, art and literature, transmitted by one generation to another. The real preservation of heritage will not be accomplished unless we understand this, and cherish it. With God's help we have succeeded in the past years in achieving the greater part of this noble national goal.

Our decision to celebrate this year as the Year of National Heritage is a means to emphasise the value of our inheritance and to preserve the knowledge and the feeling on the part of our people that the present is indissolubly linked with the past, and that their future will be the result of their work both in that past and the present. If everyone contributes to the fullest extent of his knowledge and personal resources to our country, the future stability and prosperity of our country will be safely assured.



There was a high purpose in our efforts to prepare the Omani people in order to dedicate themselves to the service of their country. To do so, it was essential to provide comprehensive education for all, and to link this education with our culture and historic traditions, on the one hand and with all elements of modern life on the other. Therefore, schools and institutes have been established everywhere in Oman, and they are increasing in quantity and quality according to community requirements and the policy designed to meet them. From this base and since the teaching of Islamic studies at university level is currently being conducted by several different Government bodies, with different curricula, which could result in anomalies in graduates levels of educational knowledge and thought, it is our desire to unite the responsibility for this teaching in one establishment in order to improve and enhance this education. We have therefore issued our orders to study the establishment of a new College of Jurisprudence and Law in Muscat that will produce graduates in all branches of these disciplines. This will provide Oman with the qualified persons it needs. In addition, a study is now being pursued for the establishment of a Higher Institution in Nizwa which will provide members of the Judiciary for the courts. The entrants to this Institution will be university graduates in Jurisprudence and Law. On graduation they will be awarded a Higher Diploma as members of the Judiciary.

The challenges of the future are enormous. Enlightened mentality, comprehensive knowledge and high technical skills are the essentials to meet them. Therefore, it is necessary for

the education system to work hard to provide these requirements in good time in order to achieve these goals in the development of the community, so the community may keep pace with those in other fields. This is the task that the education system must shoulder. It is the duty of everyone of us to work for its success.



Dear Countrymen,

Security and stability for all nations comes from God's grace. Under their protection the nations can be free to progress and flourish, and utilise their capabilities to the full. The talents of the individual cannot blossom unless he and his family feel secure. Therefore it is one of the prime duties of the State at all times to guarantee this security. If this security is removed then destruction and anarchy will result. It follows that it is the duty of every citizen to be the guardian of all the nation's achievements that were won by the devotion and sacrifice of our people. It is also their duty not to allow alien ideas, masquerading as beneficial promises, to jeopardise the security and stability of this country. They must be cautious and impress upon others to be so - to reject such approaches. They must hold fast to the principles of Islam that call upon us to have a spirit of tolerance, intimacy and love.

Extremism, under whatever guise, fanaticism of whatever kind, factionalism of whatever persuasion would be hateful poisonous plants in the soil of our country which will not be allowed to flourish.

Almighty God has sent down the Holy Koran with wisdom and clarity. He set out in it the general principles and Laws of Jurisprudence, but He did not express these in details which might differ from place to place and time to time. He did so to enable us to interpret the Law of Islam according to its basic principles and the requirements of life. When Islam spread following the time of the Prophet, new questions arose when Muslims needed to know Islamic answers to these questions. What did they do? They resorted to interpretation in an attempt to find suitable answers. As a result, they proved that Islamic Law was capable of dealing with any situation. Unfortunately, the backwardness of Muslims in recent times rendered them incapable of making use of their inheritance, and they did not even try to renew it, by reference to the original principles and bases, in order to solve the problems that arose in their lives. The least thing we can mention about this stagnation, which the

Muslims themselves accepted, does not accord with the nature of Islam which calls upon us to adopt intellectual development and face the challenges that confront us at any time and in any environment, by drawing correct logic and suitable solutions from Islamic teachings of the past. It is really sad that this stagnation resulted in a weakness of the Muslim nation, which, in recent years, has brought about fanaticism based on a lack of knowledge among the Muslim youth about the correct facts of their religion. This was exploited by some to perpetrate violence and propagate cases of difference that led to discord and hatred. Therefore, in order that Muslims should not remain backward, while others advance, they are required by the Law of Islam to rectify this situation, and renew and revise their thinking, so they can apply the right solutions to modern problems that are facing the Islamic community. Thus they can show the world the reality of Islam, and its principles which are applicable to all times and places.

Obstinacy in religious understanding leads to backwardness in Muslims, prevalence of violence and intolerance. This, as a matter of fact, is far removed from Islam which rejects exaggeration and bigotry, because it is the religion of liberality.



Countrymen,

Our world that we live in has become interlinked, in many of its economic, social and political concerns. On that account, our firm position that we have always adopted will remain the basic principle for our foreign policy and our assessment of our dealings with the countries that pursue the same or a similar principle.

Our observance of the world in the past few years has given us reason for optimism. Countries have become convinced, more than at any time before, that armed conflicts are no longer justifiable, but obstruct development and endanger international peace and security. Human logic and feelings are supporting this tendency as a historic phenomenon the world has never seen before. However, on the other hand, we have seen with regret that the propensity of mankind to violence towards himself has increased, embodied in the aggression of one group against others within communities. It has become clear that all countries must co-operate to put an end to this internal violence which is jeopardising the fabric of com-

munities in the world. The results of this could extend to many places if international efforts are not made to help nations and peoples who are suffering from this phenomenon to find the right solution.



Dear People,

Peace is a principle in which we believe and a goal which we are striving to achieve without ceasing and without excess in accordance with what Almighty God has said: <But if the enemy incline towards peace, Do thou also incline towards peace, and trust in God>.

We have observed all paths of peace processes in the Middle East, and what has been achieved in making important steps on the Palestinian and Jordanian sides has given the world an excellent example that deserves the full support and acclaim of all of us.

Israel is required today, more than at any time before, to take steps on the Syrian and Lebanese side to bring about a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

On this occasion, we hail the role played by Jordan and His Majesty King Hussein, to support the peace process and all positive results from it.



Countrymen,

We take the opportunity on this great occasion to greet you on this anniversary of this Glorious Day. We call upon Almighty and All-Powerful God to grant that we shall meet on the 25th Anniversary, having achieved the goals for which we have striven. We extend a special

greeting to our vigilant Armed Forces and all security organisations for their unceasing work to guarantee stability to our Omani community and protect the achievements of our Blessed Renaissance. While we take pride in their efforts, we re-affirm our continued support for them in increasing their high efficiency and competence, and in facilitating the fulfilment of their noble national duty.

We ask Almighty God to protect our beloved Oman from all evils and enemies. We pray to the Almighty to grant us all the success we need on our long road towards glory, honour and achievement.





Speech of His Majesty



at the closing session of the
15th g.c.c. summit in behrain

*God Almighty has bestowed His copious bounties and
security on our region thus enabling our countries to
achieve great advances in economic and social growth.*



21st December
1994





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Your Highness, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa,

WE are pleased, in this closing session of the 15th Summit of our Council, to express to you with the fullest feelings of friendship and brotherliness, our gratitude for achieving some constructive steps in our brotherly march in the past period of time, and in our joint action to expand the horizon of our co-operation and strengthen the bonds between our countries, for the benefit, welfare, progress and prosperity of our peoples.

We and my brothers, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Their Highnesses the leaders of the G.C.C. countries are also pleased to express our thanks and appreciation to Your Highness for your sincere efforts in conducting the proceedings of this Summit, and to express our gratitude to Your Highness, the Government and the brotherly people of Bahrain for the warm welcome extended to us.

God Almighty has bestowed His copious bounties and security on our region thus enabling our countries to achieve great advances in economic and social growth.

However, the developments and events witnessed by the region recently have cast their shadows on various political, security, economic and social spheres.

Our countries are affected both negatively and positively by the latest developments that have occurred in many of the countries of the world, both within our region and elsewhere.

It is, therefore, imperative on our part that we take every precaution to meet such changes and to contain any of their harmful effects, in order to protect our achievements and security

The brotherly consultations and discussions that have taken place during our meetings have had a valuable effect on the minds of us all. Moreover, they have contributed greatly to our ability to absorb the consequences of developments and enabled us better to deal with them in the service of the common interests of the peoples of our region, who are convinced that there is no way to progress except through security and stability.

The Gulf citizen always looks forward to these meetings, hoping that our decisions and future steps will result in the attainment of his hopes and aspirations, and increase his confidence in our ability to achieve success in the political, security and social spheres.

This places a heavy responsibility on all the officials in our countries to reach that noble goal. But we shall not do so without serious interaction between the citizens and the responsible organs in these countries.

As we conclude our Summit in the hope that we shall meet again within the framework of our continued co-operation, it gives us great pleasure to express our deep feelings of welcome to you to attend the next summit meeting of our Council in your second country, Oman. Thus giving our country and people an opportunity to welcome you and to express our keenness to positively co-operate to achieve the noble goals of our joint march for the progress and prosperity of our peoples.

We express our thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Secretary-General, his assistant and the Secretariat-General for all their contributions towards this Summit.

We pray Allah to bestow His blessings on all our meetings and to make all our efforts successful.







Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the
second term of the majlis ashura

*We call upon Omani women to shoulder this vital role
in the community, and we are confident that they will
respond to this call.*



26th December
1994





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God and blessings and peace be upon His Prophet and His Companions and His Followers.

Honourable Members of the Majlis Ashura,

IN the name of Almighty God we open on this blessed day, with God's help and assistance, the Second Term of the Majlis Ashura which was established three years ago to consolidate the Islamic path that we follow, and to reaffirm the Omani heritage which inspires us, and to support the constructive, fruitful co-operation between the government and the people for a better future, full of light and hope.

With God's blessing, the Majlis has succeeded in enabling our people to participate, potently and fruitfully in the building of our Nation, and in serving their local communities. The Majlis has proved during its past Term that it is well capable of undertaking the tasks for which it is responsible, conscientiously and effectively. This has been demonstrated by the recommendations that have resulted from its deliberations.

We appreciate the efforts that have been made, and the co-ordination that has been achieved, and we reaffirm the necessity to develop this process, which is integrated into Omani society, in order to enrich the path of our blessed Renaissance, and provide a deeper role for our citizens to maintain their achievements. Your principal duty in the coming Term is the achievement of this goal.

In performing this duty you will be demonstrating the excellence of your work and establishing the principle of making people aware of our dear Country's great goals.

Honourable Members of the Majlis,

The Second Term of the Majlis is characterised by three elements:



First, broader representation of the people that has resulted in the increase in the membership to eighty. This will produce, with God's permission, a greater variety of ideas, opinions and deliberations, resulting in the nourishment and enrichment of the Majlis, recommendations.

Second, the combination of experienced Members, who will be sitting for this Second Term, with the new Members who are looking forward to expressing their views to enrich the debates on the subjects to be discussed. We hope that this combination will result in a more developed view, characterised by reality and objectivity, and place under consideration the priorities of the national development in the often unpredictably changing economic circumstances.

Third, a new type of participation and entrance of women for the first time in the Majlis Ashura. It should cause no surprise, since we provided them with full opportunities of education, work and social activities, in accordance with our religious principles and customs that conform with these principles, that we have recognised that it is their right (in this era of our Omani Renaissance) to participate with their thoughts and views in their country's affairs. They now have a great national responsibility to prove, through their constant efforts and sustained work, their capabilities to carry out their duties effectively. We wish them all success, and we declare that the right of women to candidacy to the Majlis Ashura will not be confined in the future to the Muscat Governorate, but will gradually be extended in accordance with circumstances to other Governorates and Wilayats. The bases of women's candidacy will be the same as those for men, which are the trust of the people and the people's choice of their representatives in the Majlis. This will not be an honour confined to women alone, but to the whole community, and will be a correction to some wrong understanding which belittles the status which Islam accords to women. Women and men are companions. The Prophet, praise and peace be upon Him, has instructed us as to the role of women. This role was very significant in the early period of Islam.

On this occasion, we call upon Omani women everywhere, in the villages and the cities, in both urban and Bedu communities, in the hills and mountains, to roll up their sleeves and contribute to the process of economic and social development - everyone, according to their capabilities, experience, skills and their position in life. The country needs every pair of hands for the progress of its development, stability and prosperity. We particularly call upon women to be frugal and to distance themselves from the extravagance which is appearing among developing countries, to depend on themselves in running their family affairs, and to teach their children the habit of saving as a contribution to the national economy.

Women's Associations throughout Oman are requested to intensify their efforts to spread enlightenment among their countrywomen and initiate programmes for literacy, and the care of disabled children, and the development of their local communities and women's tradition-

al crafts and all other fields of social work that are in need of the support of these Associations. We have great faith in the educated young Omani women to work devotedly to assist their sisters in their local communities to develop their skills and abilities, both practically and intellectually, in order to contribute to our Omani Renaissance which demands the utilization of our entire national genius, for the realisation of our country's glory and prosperity.

We call upon Omani women to shoulder this vital role in the community, and we are confident that they will respond to this call.

Honourable Members of the Majlis,

We look to your Majlis as a partner with the Government in the work to build this country and serve the people through the available resources, which must be utilized according to studied priorities in order to meet the increasing needs and requirements at a time that is characterised by evolution and unlimited aspirations. However, the resources are not unlimited, so they cannot entirely satisfy these requirements and aspirations. Therefore it is imperative that we integrate and co-ordinate our efforts to achieve better results for the development plan and its programmes, in order to enhance the life of the community and improve the living standards of our people. This will bring profound benefits to our dear country, so that economic prosperity will increase, social stability will be consolidated and the role of the country in the international political field be further strengthened, with Almighty God's help.

Honourable Members of the Majlis,

The responsibility is great and the road is hard and long, but we are confident in your ability to perform the role to which you have been called. We take this occasion to congratulate you. We call upon Almighty God to make your steps successful and to bless your work and grant Oman continued progress in its contribution to civilization. We believe that Almighty God will hear our prayer.





Speech of His Majesty



to sheikhs and dignitaries of dhofar at the
conclusion of his majesty's meet-the-people
tour of the country

*When it rains, it begins in small drops and then it
pours. It is the same with material benefit. What you
should be doing is to enlighten your children on these
matters so that they can feel responsibility towards
themselves and towards serving their country.*



30th January
1995





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Praise be to God, the Lord of the universe, who gathered us once again in His bountiful embrace on the threshold of the Holy Month of Ramadhan. We pray to Him to make this Holy Month for all of us and for the whole Muslim nation, a month of blessings, and the Eid after it happy and joyous. We also pray to the Almighty to help us to perform our obligations to His full satisfaction.

THERE is little to add to what was said in our speech on the occasion of the 24th National Day. That, and our later speech to the Shura Council, which contained general directives for all, males and females, included all that we wanted to express at that time. But I now wish to touch on some other matters.

I know that, as far as the development process of this country is concerned, some people feel that certain aspects should have been implemented in the remoter regions. The answer to this, as we have previously stated, is that the development is proceeding to plan and in line with the country's potentials and the density of population. This is the way we are following and this is the way followed in every part of the world. Development has indeed reached many remote and distant regions, though we sometimes find that it is not welcomed with the same enthusiasm that had been anticipated. You all know that many remote areas have had their share of development, but your benefit from it may be slow or somewhat delayed. Some may say it has been carried out in the wrong place. The desert, as you are aware, does not have more suitable places than elsewhere, except those areas populated with tribal societies. Since very ancient times, it is water that creates life and attracts people to establish civilisation around it. All human and animal life is dependent on it: it supports pastures and



enables life to flourish. I do not find any justification in the demand for extensive development in the desert areas, as they are indeed thinly populated.

As you are aware, the border areas were fortunate to receive a reasonable share of development. This is a well-known fact.

The second point which I would like to highlight is work. The Government wishes to see its citizens employed and, likewise, it is the citizens wish that they should have employment. But when there is work in several sectors, we hear people say the salary is insufficient. There is nothing called sufficient salary or insufficient salary. But there is the productive human being who works to earn his wages gradually, with the help of his efforts and efficiency.

The citizen should not refuse to accept work, when there are job opportunities in various sectors - particularly in the private sector which is full of job opportunities - and which still depend upon the expatriate workforce. The work is there, but some people do not like to work or use the excuse of the small salary, or that the employer prefers foreign labour as he thinks, unfortunately, it is cheaper and profitable and willing to work for longer hours. Yes, he may work for longer hours but will the proceeds go to the employer? The worker does this for his own benefit and not for his employers. Has the citizen thought of this? Is it better to engage a foreign worker or someone from his own family, people or society and encourage them to work and be satisfied with a small return and wait for better to follow?

When it rains, it begins in small drops and then it pours. It is the same with material benefit. What you should be doing is to enlighten your children on these matters so that they can feel responsibility towards themselves and towards serving their country.

The citizen serves himself first and by doing so, he serves his country. If he is an active, productive member of his society, he benefits himself and his society. And if he is unproductive and unemployed, he harms himself and his society. Moreover, he will become a burden on the community and will depend on others. This is a matter which we reject totally. Any talk of unemployment in this country at the present time, is talk of artificial unemployment and not real unemployment. We can prove this fact from the result of the Population Census, which showed the existence of an estimated half-a-million strong expatriate work force, while the present number of job seekers does not exceed 30,000. Where is the unemployment in a situation where there are half-a-million expatriate workers and 30,000 citizens seeking jobs, if the citizen really wanted to work? But if he makes excuses, then it is a different matter.

Other facts are that, among the half-a-million strong expatriate workforce, less than half have known addresses and work with known companies and establishments and the nature of their jobs are also known. However, the rest are just casual workers without any known

addresses or employers. They work under the sponsorships of individuals. When we look at these figures, what conclusion do we reach?

We hear talk about unemployment and lack of job opportunities. Such talk has no basis at all.

We can say that for the next twenty years, this fact will remain as it is. Therefore, we have to study and think about it and this phenomenon, which is not in the best interests of anyone.

When we talk about these matters, we do not talk about a particular region. but we speak of Oman as a whole.

There are some people who think that the jobs available are not suitable for them and refuse to accept them. Any who think they are above the work, whatever be the nature of such work, will not succeed in strengthening their economic situation. I cite the example of those who once used to work hard and were productive; then when they neglected to work and sought the help of others to work for them, they sank into backwardness and encountered problems, in spite of their being industrial countries of long standing. These countries have now found their way back and regained their independence of spirit.

In Oman, we must purify ourselves. We must not fall sick and then seek treatment; we must apply the doctrine of prevention is better than cure. All that we have already said and say and stress now is solely a part of our keenness on prevention against a situation in which we already find ourselves. We therefore say «if only we had done so, or if only we hadn't done so».

All countries who have fallen into this danger are now saying that they wish they had not done so. I find it my duty to stress a reminder and warning about these facts. This is my responsibility and the rest is left to you.

I would like to speak about the Raysut port and the Salalah airport. No doubt, there is speculation about expanding the port or the airport. Everyone should know that expansion of any port is not a simple matter as long as the present economic feasibility study does not fulfil the expansion conditions. The issue is not the demand for expansion but it is the economic need for such expansion, whether the need is there at present or not.

The issue is not a matter of pride and boasting, but it should be subject to feasibility.

Unfortunately, there are examples in some Arab countries which now suffer from implement-



ing steps which did not meet the economic requirements. There are countries which started with heavy industries and went a long way, only to decline into backwardness and distress.

Therefore, implementation of any industrial project or expansion of a port, unless based on economic feasibility and on taking into consideration local factors and external competition, and its potential viability is undoubtedly debatable.

For example, the Raysut port, when we commenced it, was intended to resolve the problem of anchorage on the coasts. I personally remember, when we wanted to implement this port, some people objected to it on the grounds of its remoteness. One day I was present in the Customs and I could listen to talk of the remoteness of the area and some suggestions for implementing it in a closer location. Other reasons were also cited. However, in spite of all this, we proceeded with our plans and executed the project at our chosen site in order to meet a need, and indeed that need was met and continues to be met.

However, when we speak about a truly major port of international standards, the idea needs to be examined from the point of view of its economic viability. We need to know who will use it, how, where and when. We should not assume that ships with small cargoes for that port would arrive and wait some time before unloading there, and then continue on to other ports to unload their remaining cargoes.

The expansion of Raysut port will be on the assumption that there will be a large shipping activity serving this part of the country and that the expansion is viable. Otherwise it would be premature to talk about the expansion now.

The truth is that the expansion would not be feasible at present. But when the time comes, we will implement it, as we always go for the best. We always try to see that our trade and relations with others develop and improve soundly, God willing.

The same thing applies to Salalah airport. Airport expansion is a major undertaking. The object is to attract airline companies which serve certain destinations. They are governed by specific schedules and routes. We still face this problem in Seeb international airport, when we try to operate direct flights to other parts of the world.

Such matters need to be studied and those concerned should not hurry things. Matters like this are dictated by the time factor and by economic feasibility.

I know there are people who are aware of these matters, but some think everything can be easily achieved by the stroke of a pen

Who possesses should look kindly to the unpossessed and assist him and give him the chance to work and not to envy him.

I would like to touch on another aspect of our policy. This is the importance we attach to the private sector. The private sector in all countries now represents the backbone of their economy. This is so because it is capable of both determination and competition and offers a solid base for the government and the people.

Let us see what happened to some countries where the citizen depended wholly on the State. Those countries collapsed and poverty and instability prevailed there. No country in the world can revoke the role of the individual nor can the individual depend wholly on the State.

This is also against the teachings of our religion, as it recognises and respects private ownerships and urges the individuals to work. When he seeks and works, he gains wealth and gives others a chance to work with him to earn their living. Thus the bounty of God becomes well distributed among individuals and societies and thereby grows among them. He who is capable gives a chance to another who is incapable, and the latter gets the opportunity and the source to feed his family so that all can benefit.

It is also important that no-one should envy another. Who does not possess should not envy he who possesses. Instead, he should pray to God to bestow benefits upon him.

The government has a major role to play in promoting progress in this area. In the past years, the Government has made heroic efforts and has spent so much that some small minds have asked why the Government should spend so much in subsidies on businessmen and company owners and provide them with the facilities. I help the private sector so that it can provide jobs for the citizens, benefit the community and strengthen the national economy. The national economy is not that which is in the State's coffers but that which is available to all.

Another point I would like to make is that, as a nation, we are not savers. What we get we tend to spend. This is not right. We need to teach our youth the meaning of thrift and the meaning of spending according to one's needs. For example, if a person earns two Rials and saves one hundred Baizas, that hundred will eventually become a Rial, then more Rials and so on.

If a citizen has assets, he should put them to work. This is what all Arab countries are seeking. Those countries have adopted an economic concept different from their previous one



and they manage their economic programmes in accordance with the logic followed by the world economic blocs.

However, there is a fact, which you may not be aware of, that is that only six per cent of the capital available in the Arab world is possessed by particular groups and is invested in their countries. Not more than six per cent, and the rest is invested abroad. In the world as a whole, forty per cent is invested in major industrial countries, which generate major earnings. Some of it generates returns and is employed in the country in the interests of that country. But when we look to the Arab world, we find only six per cent is invested, despite the wealth they possess.

This is a difficult matter. We in Oman do not want to be like those who invest only six per cent, we want to invest fifty per cent. These are matters which I consider it my duty to talk about.

There is the question of animal resources which I would like to speak about. When private companies submit economic feasibility studies, the government offers all possible assistance. They can market meat, hides and dairy products.

I have called several times before to establish such companies, but unfortunately people have put forward a number of conditions. Now I think they are conscious of the importance of such things.

For example, if a merchant charges a high price for a commodity, the customer will usually go away and seek the same commodity for a reasonable price. If the first merchant had been satisfied with a reasonable profit, he would then have seen that his commodities sold. But if he raised the price, he would see that people were uninterested and finally he would be forced to reduce his price and sell his goods at a very low price.

We have great concern with the animal resources. We seek self-sufficiency in meat and dairy products, etc and at the same time we intensify our efforts to reduce those animals which deplete grasslands, particularly camels. Efforts have been made to preserve the mountain grass.

You are all aware that, in the past, camels used to feed from the trees and not from the ground. Now, everyone knows that the animals feed from the ground when fodder is provided for them.

The problem is that when camels and goats eat grass, they uproot it and cause desertification. Cattle and sheep do not uproot grass, but they are satisfied, by their nature, to eat from the leaves of the herbs without uprooting them, so much so that in the past we did not need

to have lawn mowers, we depended upon the sheep to graze the grass in gardens and green areas. We have to take notice of these matters and save our grasslands from the animals that graze on them.

People here like camel meat, but there are only a few who eat it, especially the meat of young camels. We tried to market the meat but the price does not match the requirements of the camel owners. Therefore, we must think seriously about setting up companies that will make use of our livestock resources. The Government will provide the same range of facilities it provided to stimulate the industrial sector. However, the project will not be possible unless there are initiatives from the people themselves.

It is important to conserve the environment and avoid overgrazing, because, if grasses do not grow enough to produce seeds, they will perish.

We have seen how well grass grows in fenced-off areas.

Let us benefit from the mountains that God has bestowed on the region and protect their flora. The owners of grazing animals will have less need to use them because there is a plan to move the fodder farms from the plains of Salalah to the other side of the mountains. We shall also stop cultivation of fodder plants in Razat.

At present we are studying the economic viability of fodder cultivation, to determine whether to cultivate or to rely upon the surplus. Then, one should take steps based on the economic viability. Leaping before you look will have undesired consequences.

If we take note of all these matters, we will be alright. But if we do not, a time may come when we will regret our failure to do so.

There is marked awareness that we have to learn from the experience of others. We have to learn from their mistakes and from our mistakes in order to carry out renaissance and development in the right path.

The Government has spent a lot on development in the past years, to the extent that we have spent more than our revenue, resulting in a deficit in the budget, particularly in the light of the instability of the oil market.

By the will of God, we will try to abolish the deficit in the next five years. Thank God, we have achieved a lot in the field of infrastructure development.

We shall endeavour to strike a balance between income and expenditure, so that Oman can

maintain its sound economic reputation. The future role will be for the private sector, which will be capable if it stands together and the huge projects such as the Manah Power Company come into existence. It will have a leading role because it will benefit and, at the same time, reduce the cash liquidity burden. In the past, we were preoccupied with many different matters, but now the economy will be our only concern.

One last point; as you know, we are all keen upon the stability of our country and at the same time no-one will suffer oppression.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of celebrations marking the
50th anniversary of the foundation
of the arab league

*We must, therefore, work together today, more
than ever, with total abrogation and sincerity so
as to achieve Arab solidarity and improve the role,
activities and Charter of the Arab League.*



23th March
1995





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Your Excellency, the Chairman of the current session of the Arab League, Ministerial Council,

Your Excellencies, Heads and Members of Delegations and Your Excellency, Doctor Secretary-General.

IT is with great pleasure that we seize the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Arab League congratulating ourselves, leaders and people across our beautiful Arab land in the Mashreq (East), the Maghreb (West), Asia and Africa for the setting up of this important symbol of Arab solidarity and fruitful co-operation among Arab countries to serve the supreme interests of the Arab nation and to consolidate the principles, ideals and traditions of our noble Arab values and tolerant Islamic religion.

Our land and nation have even been the cradle of the three divine religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism which are spread throughout the world.

Islam, the true religion, is respectful of both Christianity and Judaism. The Holy Koran in one of its verses says: «Proclaim that you believe in God, the Revealed Book, the Books descended to Abraham, Ismael, Isak, Jacob and Asbat; that you believe in what was bestowed upon Moses and Jesus, what was granted to other Prophets by God; we make no difference between them and to the will of God we resign our souls.»



Moreover, the Arab land and the Islamic religion were the fountainhead and the springboard of culture, sciences and the ways and means which ensured a happy and peaceful life both for us, and for neighbouring, as well as distant multi-racial and multi-linguistic countries.

Dear Arabs,

The numerous initiatives made by sincere Arab pioneers who emerged from within the Arab nation from 5th August 1942 until 7th October 1944 yielded the signing of the Alexandria Protocol by the Arab Heads of Government who are the founding fathers of this important national edifice. The initial principles of the Arab League Charter were elaborated by the political sub-commission on 3rd March 1945. This led to the signing of the version of the Charter agreed upon by the founding countries on 22nd March 1945. The first Secretary-General of the Arab League was appointed at the same time. This was the best proof of the definite official willingness of all Arab countries and peoples to have an institution such as the Arab League provided that it serves common Arab interests of solidarity, co-operation and co-ordination. Such a body can then contribute to the prevalence of peace, security and stability in all Arab countries.

We must, therefore, work together today, more than ever, with total abrogation and sincerity so as to achieve Arab solidarity and improve the role, activities and Charter of the Arab League.

In this way, we can take care of all the requirements of our present and future at all levels using all the available means. Moreover, we can overcome all the unjustified obstacles that hinder the crystallization of our great aspirations.

By leaving aside useless actions and words, we can focus on the bases which must underline interests and relations among countries and peoples in our modern world.

Honourable Gathering,

May God Almighty grant success to the League of our Arab countries and to all members involved in its activities so that we can achieve the noble goals comprised in the League's Charter for the best interest of all Arabs at all times and in every place.

We sincerely wish that God Almighty will bestow upon all our countries and peoples security, stability, prosperity and progress.

We also hope that God Almighty will protect our countries against the evil consequences of

all forms of terrorism, extremism and fanaticism which He proscribes. God is the All-Hearing and the Omniscient.

The Sultanate of Oman, since joining the Arab League on 29th September 1971, is acting in accordance with its well-known, frank and plain convictions to support the efforts aimed at achieving a joint Arab action. It also confirms the importance of activating the role played by the various bodies of the Arab League in all fields in order to come up with positive results in the interests of all Arabs. May God grant us success.

As we celebrate with you today this great event at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, we are also celebrating this event in Oman with due pride and respect.

We are very glad to seize this magnificent opportunity to invite all the participants in this meeting to appeal to God Almighty to have mercy upon the late peerless Arab leaders who played a major part in the setting up, the success and continuity of the Arab League in spite of all the circumstances and handicaps. We also call upon God Almighty to have mercy upon the late Kings, Presidents, Emirs, Sheikhs, Ministers, Secretaries-General, Assistant Secretaries-General, Ambassadors and staff from all Arab countries who were involved in the activities of the various institutions of the Arab League during the last five decades.

We also congratulate those who have, Praise be to God, played a guiding role in the continuity of the Arab League in recent years.

We also offer our congratulations to their Highnesses, Excellencies and guests who are attending the current meeting in the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo including, in particular, His Excellency Doctor Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, his assistants and all the Arab League staff. We wish all of them success so that the Arab League can achieve its goals and really be the Home of all Arabs, a home that unites and does not divide.

May God Almighty lead us all on the right path to a better Arab future. Thus we will have abided by God's divine words: «Do work together for the sake of beneficence and God fearingness and do not collaborate for the sake of sin and aggression.»

Peace be upon you.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the conference on
oman's economy - vision 2020

*As we inaugurate a new phase in our blessed march,
we set off on solid principles with wider objectives and
greater and more comprehensive aspirations.*



2nd July
1995



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, Who predetermined and directed and Peace be upon His chosen Prophet and all His relatives and companions.



Dear Countrymen,

IT is with great pleasure that we greet you all in the Conference on Oman's Economy in the future, thanking most gracious God for His help and the assistance with which He provided us in order to realise the achievements in which we can take such pride. We appeal to most gracious God to provide this beloved country with security, stability and prosperity.

Dear People,

The Government has given particular attention, as you know, during recent years, to development in all fields. It has managed through the various and fruitful achievements to lay solid foundations for the comprehensive Renaissance. It has also prepared Oman to occupy its position among nations and to have its rightful place in the international community.

Those are achievements which speak for themselves and highlight the success we have gained together, in spite of the major challenges which stood in the way of our great march.

Dear Countrymen,

As we inaugurate a new phase in our blessed march, we set off on solid principles with wider objectives and greater and more comprehensive aspirations.

Such goals impose on us the necessity to keep in mind the major tasks which this march confronts in its sustained advance, as well as the heavy responsibilities which each one of us must bear, not only in preserving what has been achieved so far but also in enriching our Renaissance with new achievements and our civilisation with valuable contemporary experiences in all fields of life. Thus, we can achieve for our country with the help of God increased development and prosperity. We can also preserve its prominent position and distinguishing role in a rapidly changing and advancing world, a world which differs in its nature and circumstances from the past.

Within this framework, and in order to comply with the requirement of the new phase, we have to develop our economic and natural resources and human capabilities in order to have a diversified, solid and active economy within the world economy. If the Government bodies are determined to play their part in this context, the forthcoming phase requires that the private sector undertakes the greatest role in it by developing its capabilities in utilising its experiences and diversifying its skills, in order to enhance its contribution to both economic and social development. The private sector must, in this regard, be vigilant, selfreliant and able to overcome the difficulties which it may face on its way.

Dear Countrymen,

Development is not a goal in itself. Rather, it exists for building man, who is its means and producer. Therefore, development must not stop at the achievement of a diversified economy. It must go beyond that and contribute to the formation of the citizen who is capable of taking part in the process of progress and comprehensive development. Such goals can be achieved through the improvement of the citizens, artistic and professional ability, the stimulation of their creative and scientific capabilities, and the improvement of their various skills. All this must be directed towards serving the country and achieving the happiness of all citizens.



Dear People,

The Government has made major efforts in recent years to achieve comprehensive development in all fields. Now that it has succeeded, with the help of God, in moving the country from a traditional economy to a modern and developed one, our future plan will be based on the balanced management of income and expenditure and the preservation of that balance so that Oman's present high prestige in the economic sphere, will be preserved. Therefore, the duty of the private sector in playing an active role in the development of the economic process and in the achievement of the national goals by taking appropriate initiatives, as is the case in all developed countries, is of the greatest importance.

We appeal to God to provide our country with prosperity and progress, He Who is the listener and answerer.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the
25th national day silver jubilee

You have all played your part in the making of this new chapter in Oman's history. Everyone has made his own contribution, according to his ability, in building this structure of our future.



18th November
1995





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We give profound thanks to God, and may prayers and peace be upon His Prophet, on His Prophet's Family and Companions and on those who Follow Them in good faith until the day of judgement.



Dear Countrymen,

IN this glorious year in which we celebrate the Jubilee of Oman's Renaissance, the dawn of which broke upon us with such hope twenty-five years ago, we take pleasure in greeting you all. We call upon God, in full submissiveness, to care for our blessed progress and to grant that we may proceed with sure steps towards the glorious vista of our continued achievement.

Dear Countrymen,

During these past years, with God's help, our precious land has witnessed the realisation of many successes in all fields, which have resulted in bringing our Omani people to higher standards of life through their deliverance from the bondage of isolation, ignorance and backwardness. This flame that was thus lit in the spirit of our people enabled them to stand in resolute determination, with heads held high, to build the foundations of the glorious victories that we now behold, and the vision of a promising future of proud progress.

These achievements cannot be ignored or denied. In mentioning them we do so in order only to show our gratitude and appreciation to God for His benevolence to our country. However, we

must always bear in mind that all this could not have been realised without the heartfelt effort, struggle and true determination of the Sons of this country. Therefore it is the duty of every devoted Omani to preserve these achievements and to protect them from harm.



Countrymen,

You have all played your part in the making of this new chapter in Oman's history. Everyone has made his own contribution, according to his ability, in building this structure of our future. We are confident that the coming generations will appreciate all you have done, and with God's permission, will work to consolidate and strengthen it further. You are the pioneers who blazed the trail that ensured that, in days to come, our progress will be faster and unconfined, with our future gains assured.



Honourable Countrymen,

In the past years of the Renaissance we have undergone great experiences of comprehensive development, which have enriched our capabilities and allowed us to adopt effective methods to overcome the difficulties that beset us. Today, we thank God that we possess a great armoury of knowledge, skill and experience which we have acquired through our work and practice. It is natural that we should make use of this armoury and apply it with wisdom and competence, to ensure our future success. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly define our plans for the future. In this context we have reached the conclusion that we must attach great importance to the enhancement of our human resources through improving general and technological education, so that our Omani people can further equip themselves so as to undertake tasks greater than in the past.

The human being, as we have always said, is the power, the instrument and the ultimate aim of national development. Thus we exert every effort to provide him with these essential qualities so that we can all, together, build our nation. You are aware that there are countries in

this world which do not possess rich natural resources, but nevertheless have cared for their people and directed them in the right direction, developed their skills and provided them with technological expertness in order to face their domestic and international evolution.

Therefore, their innate abilities have been released and their inventions have been eagerly sought throughout the world. By this means they have taken their place in the forefront of the developed countries.

In addition to the development of human resources, which is the foundation stone of our policy, it is also necessary to draw up a complete strategy for economic diversification, and to seriously work by all means to utilise the available natural resources and to create a suitable economic atmosphere which will allow individual initiative to flourish. It will enhance the role of the private sector and develop the system that will make Oman an oasis for useful foreign investment; and attract international capital and expertness which will have an effective impact on various fields of life.

Oil is a finite resource and its age is limited. Therefore, it is necessary not to depend on it solely to finance the development. From the beginning, we have stressed this truth, and our efforts have been notably successful. However, oil is still the main resource, and the fluctuation of its prices is of great concern to everyone. Thus there is no other course but to diversify the sources of our national income more widely, in order to make oil revenues only a minor element of this income. This leads us to call upon all citizens to save, invest, pursue business interests, develop industry, tourism, and agriculture and utilise mineral resources, fisheries, livestock and other sources of revenue. It is essential that the Omani private sector be more active, roll up its sleeves and prove its efficiency and ability to compete. The governmental administrative system must react to, and co-operate with, the private sector. It must not allow bureaucracy and routine to hinder its good performance. With this, the process of development can reach its goals.



Dear Countrymen,

We have always, in the past years, maintained our principles in the exercise of our foreign policies, and our firm attitude based on our precise beliefs and assessments on regional and international issues. We have strengthened our brotherly ties to the Arab and Islamic States, and we have confirmed the bonds of friendship with all countries and nations on the basis of mutual respect and mutual interests, non-interference in internal affairs, worked to solve

disputes through peaceful means, and respect for international pacts and law.

With regard to the Middle East problem, we have supported peace, and called for its achievement on all fronts, including the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, on the basis of a whole withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon. We re-affirm our position on these matters, and we demand the full implementation of what has been agreed between the parties concerned, without obstruction, and by taking serious steps to reach a just solution with regard to the remaining matters.

Within the AGCC we contributed with continuous devoted effort to carrying out our obligations within the framework of the treaties between those States.

It is our pleasure to take this opportunity to express our great happiness in hosting the brotherly meeting which will take place with the Leaders of the AGCC States at our 16th Summit next month in Muscat, God willing. They are most welcome in this, their country and among us, their family. We wish them and all members of their delegations a happy stay and a successful Summit in meeting the needs and aspirations of the peoples of the States of the Council.



Dear People,

From the first day of the Renaissance, there was a highly significant role for our valiant Armed Forces and the Security Services in protecting the country and in ensuring its security and stability. The achievements of any country are exposed to destruction if there is no national defence force, therefore we have always worked to ensure its continued development and renewal. On this occasion we are pleased to affirm our determination to continue to provide our Armed Forces with the fullest care and attention in order that their requirements are met. As an expression of our pride and appreciation of the great role they have performed in securing the safety of Oman and in maintaining the gains of the Renaissance, we salute and greet them on this glorious day of dignity and pride.

Countrymen,

Soon, our blessed Renaissance will enter a new phase of its successful process, which has been achieved in the past 25 years through persistence and effort, exemplified by achieve-

ments in which we can take the greatest pride. This phase will be full of the highest expectations, but contain great challenges which will require from you unflagging determination, strong arms and clear minds. This phase will call for intensive work, effort and sacrifice for the country.

O Sons of Sacred Oman everywhere!
O Valiant Soldiers of Oman, wherever you are!

With the blessing of God, be prepared to continue the process with resolution and full hearts. Oman needs your devotion, your hard work and your sacrifice. Therefore, we again call upon you for the sake of Oman's future to further co-operate and strive together with love and brotherhood.

On this basis, let us renew our allegiance and commence, in the name and with the help of God, this new phase of Oman's history. We look to Almighty God to grant us the success that He has given us in the past, and to bestow upon Oman glory until the last of our days.

It is an oath and a pledge:

Anyone who violates His oath does so to the harm of his own soul.

Anyone who fulfills what he has covenanted with God, God will soon grant him a great reward.

O God, we thank You for all that You done for us. You deserve the thanks and appreciation.

We go according to Your guidance, and You are our only resort.

Please lead our steps to success, and give us the help and the victory.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the
16th summit of the arab gulf co-operation
council states - muscat

The facts themselves demonstrate that the proper foundations of security, stability and prosperity can most fruitfully be laid through the pursuit of a policy of moderation in international relations and total credibility in one's dealings with others.



4th December
1995





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, and may blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of God, and upon his Family, Companions and Followers.



My Brothers, Your Highnesses, Leaders of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council States, Your Highnesses and Excellencies, Members of the Delegations,

ON this illustrious day of the annual meeting of the leaders of the Co-operation Council States, we are pleased to welcome you all to Oman. We hope that God will grant us success at this Summit - the Sixteenth Gulf Summit - which unites us, leaders and peoples, on the path of hope and endeavour for the sake of a happier future for us all. We hope that, with God's help, we shall be able to add something more to what we have already achieved, so that we can create prosperity, security and stability for our peoples and our region.

We - your family here in Oman - see in this historic meeting an opportunity to express the goodwill and brotherhood they feel for you, as well as their appreciation and support for moves towards a greater sense of brotherhood, cohesion and co-operation between the peoples of our States, and towards the goals that this Council was set up to achieve.

On this occasion we should like to pay tribute to the great efforts exerted by His Highness Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa and by officials of the brotherly State of Bahrain in managing the Supreme Council's previous session, and to their dedicated and capable endeavours to ensure that the Co-operation Council achieved its goals.

My Brothers, Your Highnesses

The untiring endeavours of the Co-operation Council States can be seen in many areas, as well as their combined, ceaseless efforts to ensure that our region remains at a safe distance from the tensions and conflicts taking place in the international arena, and their determination to protect our region from the damaging consequences of such tensions and conflicts. All these efforts deserve praise and appreciation.

The facts themselves demonstrate that the proper foundations of security, stability and prosperity can most fruitfully be laid through the pursuit of a policy of moderation in international relations and total credibility in one's dealings with others.

It has also been established that total co-operation between the States of the region in defence, security and the economic, social and cultural fields (in a manner consistent with the specific circumstances of each State) is not just a desire, but an absolute necessity and an inescapable duty. Without this co-operation we shall never be able to achieve our goals, and it is up to us to strive steadfastly to overcome any obstacles that threaten to prevent or impede us from achieving them.

Apart from the co-operation which exists between us and which is the cornerstone of the region's future development, recent world political trends require that there should be greater and broader co-operation between international groupings that share common policies and common economic, social and cultural conditions.

The Co-operation Council States have been aware of this from the beginning and have taken steps to coordinate their positions on it. They have held several meetings with international economic groupings, particularly the European Community, with the aim of boosting trade, encouraging investment and developing technological potential and technical and scientific skills in the joint interests of both sides.



My Brothers, Your Highnesses,

This session of your esteemed Council comes at a time when numerous changes and new developments are taking place in the international arena, the most significant of which are

the positive steps that have been achieved in the Middle East peace process. It is no secret that the Co-operation Council States have been actively involved in these developments and have contributed with a realism that has had a positive impact on the efforts being made in this sphere. In expressing our hopes that the peace process will continue and expand on all tracks, we affirm that the peace we seek, the peace which we believe will provide stability and prosperity for the region as well as security and confidence for all its peoples, is a just, comprehensive peace which eradicates the causes of violence and extremism and replaces them with tolerance, peaceful co-existence and civilized dealing between peoples. We appeal to all States to endeavour to achieve this goal and take all the necessary measures to eliminate the difficulties and obstacles that may stand in its way.

Once again we wish you a pleasant stay here in Oman, your country. And we ask Almighty God to grant this session success, thanks to your sincere efforts and sound views. We ask God to guide us to that which is good for our Gulf family and its standing, its glory and its continued prosperity and progress in all fields.

Finally, we should like to thank the Ministerial Council, the permanent Ministerial committees, and His Excellency the Secretary-General, his assistants and staff of the Secretariat-General for their efforts and for the work they have done in helping to prepare for this term.

We ask Almighty God to show us that right is right, in order that we may follow it, and to show us that wrong is wrong, in order that we may avoid it.

It is He who hears and responds to prayer.

Peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the closing of the
16th gtc summit – 6th december 1995

*The brotherly meetings and discussions we have had
during this session have reflected the deep and close
relations between the Council states.*



6th December
1995





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My brothers, Your Highnesses the leaders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states, Your Highnesses and Excellencies, members of the delegations,

As the Supreme Council's Sixteenth Session concludes, it is with great pleasure that we offer you our warmest thanks and appreciation at this meeting that has brought you and us together in the Sultanate of Oman, which has been delighted to receive you.

The brotherly meetings and discussions we have had during this session have reflected the deep and close relations between the Council states. There is no reason to be surprised at this, because our peoples are linked by ties of kinship, goodwill, brotherhood and a common history, and it is only fitting that peoples who enjoy all these ties should work together and cooperate for the sake of a bright future which pulsates with movement, life and hope.

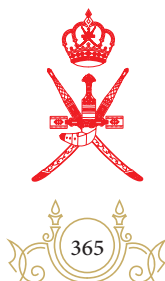
The spirit which has dominated these meetings, as well as the desire to enhance our experience in such a way as to reinforce the Gulf citizen's belief in the need for us to cooperate, reaffirms the need for us to continue along our path, expand it and diversify it, and involve citizens in its responsibilities and consequences. The results will undoubtedly be greater cohesion and cooperation between our peoples and, we hope, new advantages which, with God's help, will bring benefits to us all.

At the conclusion of this Session, we should like to wish you success in your aspirations and a safe and successful return.

Finally, we should like to offer our thanks and appreciation to Their Highnesses and Excellencies, the members of the delegations, and His Excellency the Secretary-General, his assistants and all the staff at the Secretariat-General for their sincere efforts, which have had a clear impact on the successful completion of this Session's business.

We pray that God will always guide us and grant further success to our future cooperation.

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty

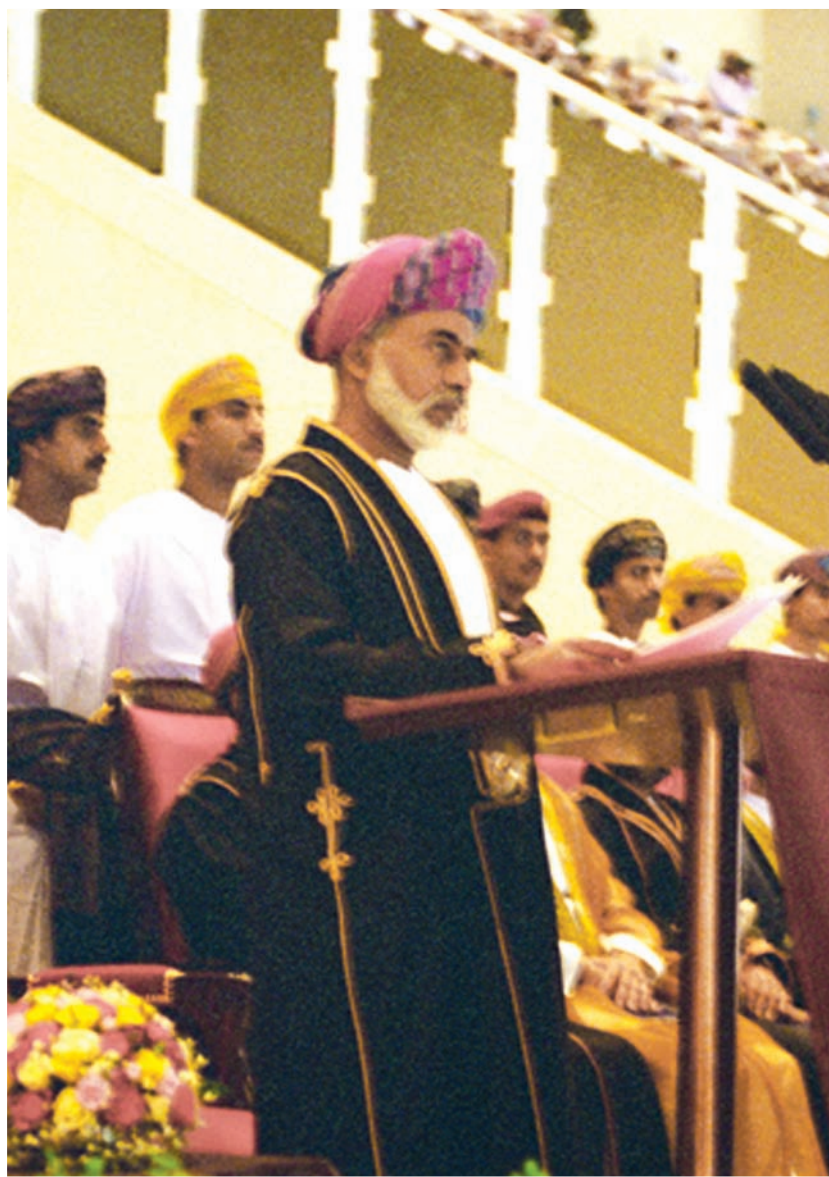


on the occasion of the 26th national day

The Omani youth who look forward to glorious horizons are called upon today to take their ancestors as an example of diligence, hard work, patience, persistence and sustained effort.



18th November
1996





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We thank God for His Great and Generous Blessings, and may Prayers and Peace be upon His Prophet.

Dear Countrymen,

IT is our profound pleasure to be with you today on the soil of this brilliant city, with its great history and splendid heritage - the city of Sur. A city renowned for its glorious seafaring traditions in which all sons of Oman take pride.

Yes, from this historic city the Omani dhows sailed forth over the seas and oceans like white clouds, carrying a message of blessing to all mankind. Those dhows returned from their voyages laden with the produce of many lands in a mutually beneficial exchange. This seaborne intercourse resulted in Oman becoming one of the world's greatest commercial centres over the centuries.

Esteemed Countrymen,

As we celebrate here the twenty-sixth Anniversary of our glorious National Day, in an atmosphere redolent of our ancient maritime past, we express our great pride in Oman's seafaring history, which was written by those great ships that traversed the broad oceans carrying the pride and power of our country and its desire to foster friendly relations with all nations. We wish to remind the new generation of the high purpose of their forefathers who braved the storms of the violent seas in order to provide us with a wholesome standard of living.

The Omani youth who look forward to glorious horizons are called upon today to take their ancestors as an example of diligence, hard work, patience, persistence and sustained effort. They are also called upon to believe, as they believed, that productive work - no matter how

small it is - is a key element in the structure of the nation. The foundation will be strengthened and the pillars will be raised higher. This must be the goal for which all must seek and relentlessly strive with humility.

With productive work, there will be no place in our society for idle hands, which must have no role in the process of our evolution and progress.



Our dear People,

We have referred in our speech on the Jubilee occasion of Oman's Renaissance to the need to define our vision of future development, based on clear policies and goals, utilising all available technical, scientific and other resources.

As you know, we aim, guided by this vision, to prepare ourselves for the 21st Century in enabling the Omani economy to achieve its strategic evolution. Thus our economy will no longer be dependent on Government expenditure, oil resources and foreign workers, but it will enter a better and more comprehensive phase, based on private initiative, nationally-trained workers, and sustained established resources. This will result, with God's permission, and in a definite period, in improving the standard of living of the Omani citizens, in guaranteeing their welfare, wherever they are, based upon this vigorous development in every field. We, from this rostrum on this glorious day, reaffirm our intention to implement this vision and pursue its plans and programmes, employing all available resources and under the best possible conditions, to ensure its success.

It must be borne in mind that the understanding of the Omani citizen of the perspective of this vision, his positive interaction with it, his contribution to the achievement of its goals, and his efforts to exploit the opportunities this offers, are essential to the creation of the necessary atmosphere that will ensure its success. Without this interaction and contribution there will be formidable obstacles, possibly leading to a result which, God forbid, would not meet our hopes and expectations. Therefore, every Omani must contribute to his maximum potential to the creation of a suitable environment and fertile soil that will enable Oman to go forward to its promising future.

The current Five-Year Development Plan is the first step on the road to the realization of

this vision. It is the executive programme that will ensure the achievement of the balanced economy, the continued growth, the development of human and natural resources and the distinguished role of the private sector that will enable that sector to successfully undertake its vital responsibilities and patriotic duty to our country. We must all work wholeheartedly for its Renaissance and glory.

Respected Countrymen,

The current Five-Year Plan has specially financially provided for education and vocational training in order to qualify the Omani workforce to progressively replace foreigners. It is vital that this education and training should continually improve in order to meet the needs of the labour market in both skilled and semi-skilled Omani personnel. It should be remembered that there are numerous training opportunities in both Government educational establishments and in private institutes. Omani youth must take advantage of these opportunities, which open the way for them to a fruitful career.

It is also essential for the whole of our society to be aware of the importance of technological education and to encourage, promote and support it, as has been the case in those societies elsewhere that preceded us.

In addition to our determination to develop our human resources, we are working to utilize our natural wealth in enlarging and diversifying our economic base. Our LNG project comes within this field. It is one of the big steps which aims at finding diversified infinite sources for our income. The implementation of this project will result in substantial economic returns, one of which will be the achievement of additional financial resources for our future development plans, and another the injection of added strength to our national working capital. It will also provide wide support for the people of the city of Sur and neighbouring areas, in the fields of public services, property, tourism, banking, industry, the acquirement of new skills and employment.

In order to exploit the great strategic importance of the Sultanate's geographical location, an agreement was signed last month for the establishment and operation of an international container port at Raysut. This project is recognised as one of the most significant in maritime commerce. It will contribute directly to the powerful stimulation of our national commerce and industry. It is clear that this project will offer many opportunities for our people at all technical and educational levels. It is certain that this agreement is an achievement which secures one of the main objectives of our economic vision.

In accord with the strategic-vision of the Omani economy and in response to the way in which international co-operation is progressing, which is illustrating the growing importance of large economic groupings, the Sultanate has actively participated, during the

past month, in laying down the foundation for the formation of an Economic Bloc of Indian Ocean countries. This Bloc will aim at enlarging commercial exchanges and economic integration in many ways, for example: promotion of tourism, direct investment, human resources and the sharing of technology, without infringing upon existing regional co-operation commitments. The Indian Ocean has always been the main gateway for the Omanis voyages to the countries on its shores, and beyond. We are here today to link our shining present with our historic past, within this new framework which embraces countries with historical commercial ties, and mutual economic interests and goals.



Esteemed Countrymen,

It is very clear that the State is emphasising the great importance of the diversification of the national economy and of providing work and training opportunities for its people. However, this is not all that we are striving for in order to fit our people for their future. In our opinion, this cannot be accomplished solely by giving them materialistic advantages and careers in the Government and private sectors, but by instilling in our people an awareness of the importance of national discipline, and equipping them with education and culture. Therefore the citizen will be fully conscious of his nation's interests, far-sighted, capable of serving his country, and of participating in the making of the right decisions at all levels within the social structure.

In the past year of our Blessed Renaissance we have continued to build our national structure. One of the most important steps in this field has been the progressive introduction, first, by way of the Consultative Council, and then by the establishment of the Majlis Ashura, of the participation of the people in deliberating upon the nation's affairs, and in offering their opinions upon them, thus contributing to the making of national State decisions.

We thank Almighty God, who has given us this successful experiment. Therefore, we have decided to take further steps to enlarge the area of consultation, which was ordained by our religion, with the establishment of a new, additional council, the State Council. This Council, with the Majlis Ashura, will be a positive body enhancing the constructive co-operation between the Government and the people, for the benefit of the public interest. This Council will be composed of Omanis, appointed by us, with the experience and capabilities to enrich the consultation process

Crowning the efforts of a quarter of a century of fruitful work, we have issued, as you will know, our esteemed Countrymen, the Basic Statute of the State, which is the distillation of the experience gained over the past years. This historic document has provided the blueprint for the system of governance, the principles for the direction of policies, public rights and duties, and the responsibilities and authority of the Head of State, the Cabinet and the Judiciary. The document also establishes the formal position of the specialised councils, financial affairs and the Council of Oman. The Basic Statute also applies to Royal Decrees and other enactments to come.

The Basic Statute of the State provides the main base for the continuance of progress and development. We call upon Almighty God to bless it with His care in order that it may reach fruition:

«He has the power to exercise His will.

He is the best to protect, the best to help.»



Dear Countrymen,

Almighty God has blessed our region with affluent resources, but, above all, energy. On account of these resources many of these countries have become close. Thus, these countries support the stability of the region in order to guarantee their interests. In the light of this fact, it is clear that the stability in this vital part of the world and the continuing security and tranquillity in its society are subject to the extent of the ability of the States of the region not to provoke the international community, either by threatening its interests or by interfering in the affairs of others, no matter for what reasons. Therefore it is the duty of all to adhere firmly to the principles of peaceful coexistence between States and to respect international law, in order to avert the causes of instability and enable the region to continue its growth and prosperity. It is nothing new to say that the States of the Gulf Co-operation Council exert every effort in this direction for the maintenance of the great achievements that we have won in the past years. It is certain that the building of trust between the States of the Council, and their desire not to permit differences in their opinions, which might occur from time to time, to distract them from their great goal of stability, economic integration and social prosperity are the major factors in consolidating the pillars of security, tranquil-

lity, and the continuance of development. The interaction of the interests of the region's peoples will strengthen the ties that bind them, and will enhance the cooperation between them which springs from a common religion, blood ties, neighbourliness and mutual interests.

We now move to our whole Arab world. We reconfirm that we have supported the Middle East Peace Process and that we still support it. Notwithstanding the obstacles that arise at one time or another, it has been seen that firm facts have been achieved in the Palestinian land, and that there are more important facts which we are pressing forward to establish.

It is essential to say, esteemed Countrymen, that the Peace Process in itself is an historic work, a noble goal from which it will not be possible to deviate, because of temporary changes in the policies of parties to the problem. It is a continuous process that will never cease, with God's help, until a peace is reached, harmony prevails and all are blessed with security and safety.

Dear People,

It is our pleasure, as we celebrate this great day together, and remember the glories of the past and the achievements of the present, and express our ambitions for the future, to salute and congratulate all of you. We especially salute our valiant Armed Forces, and the Security Services, whose unfailing vigilance ensures the safety of our country and people.

Almighty God has been with us in all our endeavours. We thank Him for all He has given to us. We raise our hands to Him, calling to Him from the depths of our hearts to bestow upon us the blessings of prosperity and glory. We call upon Him to permit us to meet next year in Salalah, the city of tradition and glory.

May God bless you all.



Speech of His Majesty

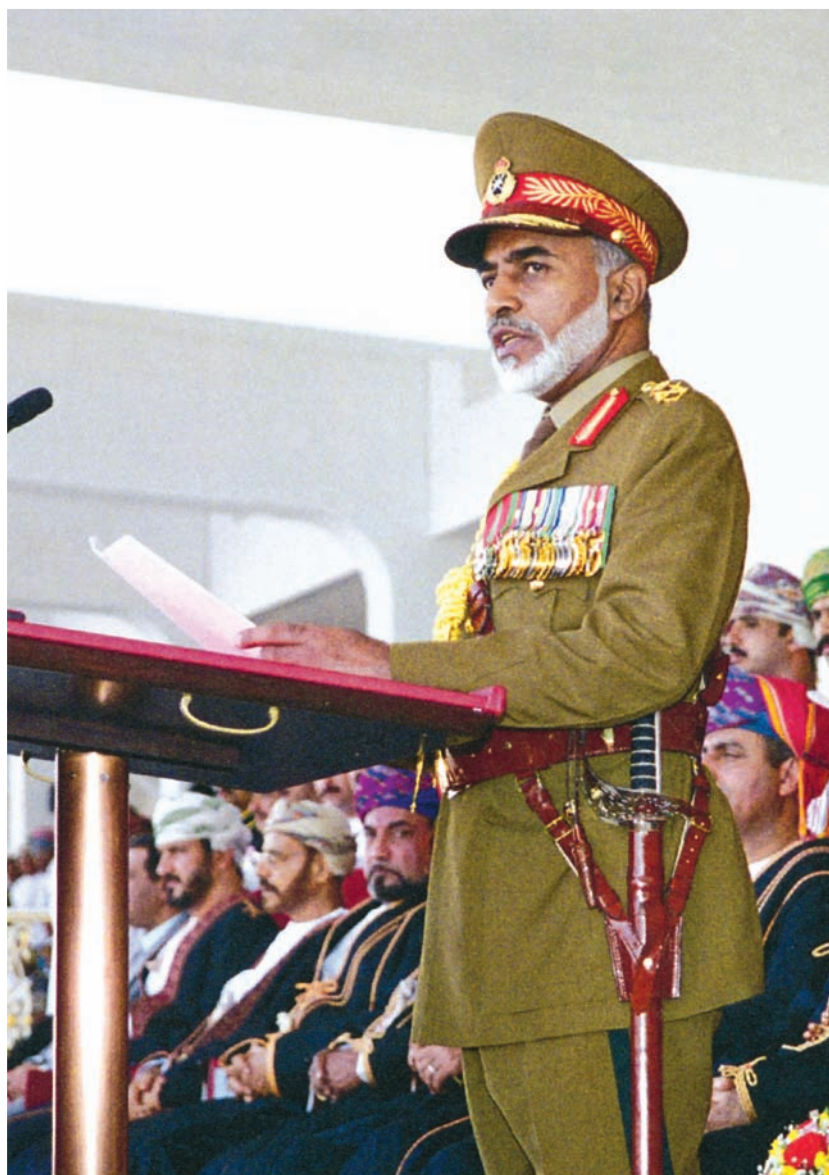


on the occasion of the 27th national day

The road before us is long and difficult. No one can travel it except those who work hard and patiently, those who can face up to the challenges with a strong spirit of determination and right thinking.



18th November
1997





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We thank God, Prayer and Peace be upon His Prophet, His Family and Companions.

Dear Countrymen,

UNDER God's Auspices and His Blessing, we meet in this eternal city of Salalah to celebrate together the 27th Glorious Anniversary of the dawn of Oman's modern Renaissance, the splendour of which has suffused all Oman, illuminating once more the ancient glories of our Country.

This city was the first to embrace the rays of this true dawn that dispersed the darkness, and spread happiness, gave life and eliminated the traces of the years of stagnation which had held back the progress and stultified the resources of our country, so it was unable to keep pace with the passage of time and the advancement of other nations. Yes, from this land the blessed process took its first steps in nation-building and modernisation, full of determination and hope, inspired with the serious intent to work to achieve the ultimate goal of building a modern state, secure, affluent and prosperous.

With God's Blessing, this process is continuing on its planned path with firm, prudent steps and unshaken determination, thanks be to God.

Esteemed Countrymen,

During the past years of our modern Renaissance, thanks be to God, great gains have been won in all fields of life. As you know and see, these gains could not have been realised without sustained efforts, devoted work and ambition to secure a glorious future.

We acclaim all those who strive for the Renaissance of Oman. It is a true call to all who participate now, and in the future, in the building of this Renaissance, to go further to the wide

horizons and higher goals that beckon us forward.

The road before us is long and difficult. No one can travel it except those who work hard and patiently, those who can face up to the challenges with a strong spirit of determination and right thinking. You are those people. Go ahead, with God's Blessing, for your own prosperity!



Dear Countrymen,

During the past era we have worked to build the modern state, which is comprehensive in its systems and in its organisations, adheres to its principles and policies, and is clear in its positions and attitudes. The promulgation of the Basic Law of our Country was the crowning of that era. As we said in our speech on the 26th Anniversary of our National Day, this Law provides the main base for the continuance of progress and development. It provides a true, clear picture of the principles that we shall follow in our domestic and foreign policies, which are designed to build our Omani people, and to develop their capabilities and their scientific and practical experience, because they are the corner-stone of all our goals, plans and achievements. Everyone should be conscious of this era. And everyone in a position of responsibility must work accordingly.

The principles which are directing the policies of the Country in all fields should be regarded as tools to enable us to reach one goal, which is our people's happiness, well-being, development, progress, and security within a Country that is powerful, ever progressing, and respected throughout the world.

We have devoted all our efforts to this end since the dawn of our Renaissance. Thanks be to God, many things we have hoped for have been realised in our foreign relations, economy and development, social welfare, education and culture, security and defence. We are continuing to pursue these goals with determination in order to achieve still better results, with the help of God.

Esteemed Countrymen,

The Basic Statute of the State has stated that the supremacy of the Statute shall be the basis of governance in the State. In compliance with that - although the legal system has witnessed considerable developments along with the comprehensive development of our

country - we confirm our intention to continue to complete this progress.

This especially applies to organising the judiciary on a modern basis, including the courts and their tasks at all levels, and the legal procedures that are to be followed in order to ensure the right of the State to maintain the security and stability of the Country. At the same time, also ensuring the general rights of the people, both individually and collectively. In this, we derive our help and strength from Almighty God who ordained that justice and righteousness should prevail over tyranny and aggression.

The development of this legislation and the provision of more flexibility to its implementation, and the solution of its attendant complexities will greatly help this legislation to play an effective role in the national economy and in encouraging those involved in it to carry on their business freely and without unnecessary bureaucratic complications.

Therefore it is the duty of all concerned government bodies to give the highest priority to this matter in order that there should be an efficient, competitive, private sector making a significant contribution to development.

In recognising the vital role of the private sector in stimulating the national economy since the beginning of our Renaissance, and in encouraging it to play a greater part in the modern process of Oman towards the horizon of progress and prosperity, we announce that next year is to be designated as the Year of the Private Sector. This will enable the private sector to show its capabilities and dynamism in expressing its national spirit and genuine desire to serve the Omani people and to elevate its Country to the level of a developed nation.



Dear Countrymen,

As we always adhere to our values and principles in formulating and implementing our domestic policies, we do not deviate from those which we have followed in our foreign relations. Our standpoints are derived from our sincere convictions that truly express our attitude, clear vision and realism in dealing with all regional and international problems.

If the world appears to be unable to free itself from disputes and problems because of con-

flicting interests, we firmly believe that the answer lies in the building of confidence between peoples, the consolidation of ties of friendship between countries, and joint efforts to achieve their mutual interests, respect for international legitimacy and adherence to treaties and laws. All this would result in constructive co-operation and in security, peace, and prosperity prevailing.

From this rostrum, we express our wishes to the world, its peoples and its countries to live together in harmony, and economic and political stability. We call upon its leaders to make greater efforts to encourage the development of such contacts, to strengthen and consolidate these ties, to create a world of concord, so that all may enjoy justice and peace.



Dear Countrymen,

On this occasion it is our pleasure to congratulate you all. We especially salute and express our admiration of our Armed Forces and Security Services. We express our pride in their great devotion to their protection of the victories of our Renaissance and in their defence of the security, safety and stability of our Country. We reaffirm our intention to give them our care, to ensure that they are always a strong shield, bulwark and fortress.

O God, please make this Country secure and protect us from the perils and dangers of time. Grant us Your continued bounty. You are the Almighty who can do all things.

God bless you all.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the
council of oman

We are fully confident that you are fit to bear the trust placed in you, and we have great hopes that you will carry out your momentous tasks capably and with a spirit of allegiance and loyalty to this dear country.



27th December
1997





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Praise be to God for His many bounties, and may prayers and peace be upon the Prophet, and upon His family and companions, and upon those who remain loyal to Him until the day of reckoning.

Members of the Council of State and the Majlis Ashura,

Dear Citizens everywhere,

IN the name of God and with the success granted by Him, on this blessed, auspicious day we open the Council of Oman, which comprises two Councils: The Majlis Ash>shura - a trail blazing experiment which has proved its success over the past years - and the Council of State, which we hope will be yet another strong building-block in the edifice of Omani society - a building-block that will reinforce Oman's achievements and reaffirm the principles we have laid down. These principles include the establishment of solid foundations for a genuine consultative process based on the nation's heritage, values and Islamic Shariah, which takes pride in its history while adopting the best that the modern world has to offer.

The establishment of the Council of State to work side-by-side with the Majlis Ashura towards achieving the nation's goals is another step forward along the path of co-operation between the government and the citizens, which aims to ensure greater prosperity, progress and development.

A multiplicity of views and ideas which serve the public interest and enrich the development

process is one of the main contributing factors in helping to establish a clear vision and a properly defined goal. This is why all of you - in the Council of State and the Majlis Ashura - are called upon to ensure that your approach to studying the issues that are put before you (or those that you think should be put before you) is objective, painstaking, realistic and you are aware that the conclusions you reach are sound and rational, and moreover, lead to national progress and a better life for all in this country beside the government's efforts, God willing.



Dear Members,

Over the past period the State has taken deliberate measures which have ensured that the nation's resources are directed towards building a dynamic society and a strong economy. It has encouraged industry, trade and agriculture, provided facilities for investment and developed services that have kept abreast with the other areas of the country's development. It has established educational, health and social institutions and enacted laws regulating the process of construction and development.

We should like to thank the members of our government for their tireless efforts in implementing the development plans and programmes, and we should like to express our support for those efforts and our desire to see them continue as we prepare for the 21st Century, because it is our desire that, when we face challenges, we should be armed with wider and deeper experience and backed by firmer and stronger steps. Hence today we re-affirm, as we have always affirmed, that the overall development process cannot be completed unless there is close co-operation and mutual support between government and citizens.

So are you ready to bear the responsibility of carrying on with this great task and pushing the process forward? Are you ready to bear this national responsibility upon which you will be judged before the coming generations? It means that you must be prepared to express your views and put forward your proposals without fear or favour. You must always be prepared to deal realistically with matters affecting the higher interests of the nation and the citizen and, when dealing with them, to look at them from the point of view of the country as a whole, with all its regions and wilayats, with no other purpose than that of the public interest. You are required to focus on major questions and not allow yourselves to be distracted by side

issues that could obstruct progress towards practical solutions to the matters under discussion. You must always steer clear of anything that might divert you from the desired goal.

We are fully confident that you are fit to bear the trust placed in you, and we have great hopes that you will carry out your momentous tasks capably and with a spirit of allegiance and loyalty to this dear country, for the sake of a brighter tomorrow - a tomorrow of prosperity and growth.



Dear Members,

Helping to instil awareness about the goals, functions and priorities of development and of the efforts being made to implement it, and strengthen ties between the government and citizens, is a fundamental duty that is incumbent upon every citizen of this dear country. Citizens have a right to know what efforts the government is making to improve living standards, develop the economy, develop national resources and provide care and welfare services for the community, guarantee its security and stability and uphold its values, heritage and achievements. People have a right to know that every day there are changes and new developments in the international arena which compel the government to reconsider its approach, its plans, its priorities and its programmes so that it can avoid any negative fall-out from those changes. Consequently, it is essential that the citizen should understand the circumstances of each phase and accept them in a positive spirit.

This is why awareness has to be instilled into every segment and sector of society. It is an essential element of national action without which many will not be in a position to appreciate the effect that some world events may have on the development process.

Although we call upon every member of the community to do his or her duty in promoting awareness, our call is directed in particular to the members of the Majlis Ashura. As representatives of the people who enjoy a direct link with them, they will be required in future - both as individuals and through the Majlis and its committees - to take on a more effective role in this respect - a role that will lead them to acquire a clearer vision, examine issues in greater depth and produce better and more comprehensive results.

We renew our call to the Omani Women's Associations and other social organisations, to give a higher priority to instilling awareness in female citizens about the need to adapt to the realities of today. This will enable women everywhere to fulfil their vital role in society - a role for which we have endeavoured to prepare them from the very beginning. We have given them the opportunity to study, work, engage in social service and contribute their opinions through the Majlis Ashura. Today we are honouring them once again by appointing them to the Council of State, so that we can improve their status and provide them with more opportunities to help serve, develop and improve their society alongside their greater role of building the family and implanting a sense of belonging and allegiance in the hearts and minds of the rising generations.

Dear Members,

We thank God that the Shura (consultation) experiment has met with our approval. Its foundations were carefully laid and then built on after they had become firmly rooted, to ensure that when the building was complete it would, God willing, be strong and solid, and that it would accomplish our desired goal and the objective we seek to achieve.

We ask Almighty God to protect Oman and safeguard its progress.

We are happy to take this opportunity to congratulate you and pray that God will grant the Council of Oman success.

May peace be upon you and the mercy of God and His blessings.



Speech of His Majesty

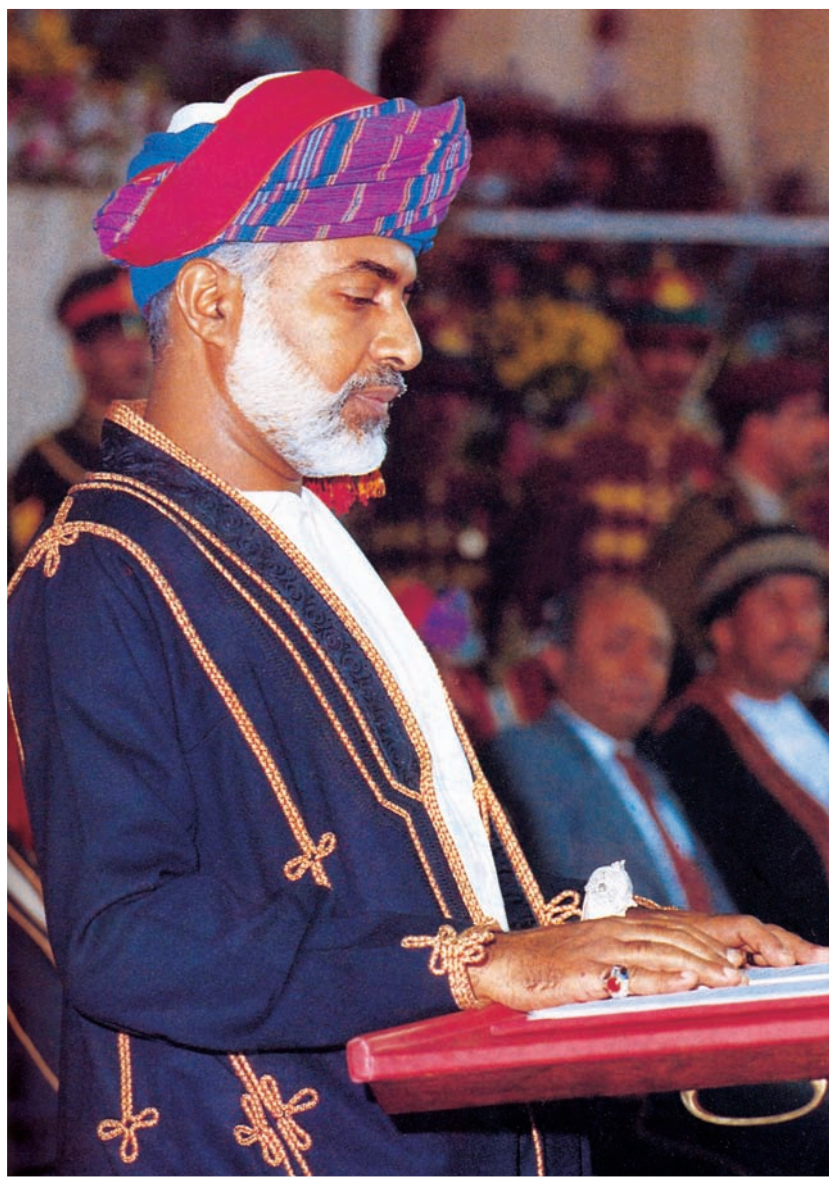


on the occasion of the 28th national day

If things are to be judged by results, we can say that what has been achieved, with the help of God, is a great achievement. History will testify that you, Sons of Oman, patiently faced the challenges, and overcame all problems.



18th November
1998





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We thank God, the One who hears and knows.

Prayer and Peace be upon Him, who has brought us to the Right Path. His Family, His Companions and upon those who have taken this Path.

Dear Citizens,

EVERY year, we meet on this blessed day, to celebrate this anniversary of our glorious National Day. The Omani Renaissance has spread its light over this wonderful land for the past 28 years. This Renaissance has given to our country new life, full of hope, and the prospect of a better tomorrow - a beautiful future.

It was God's gift to us, and to our valuable country that the vision was very clear from the beginning. This vision has helped us to formulate ideas for the building of a new society, an authentic society with its own methods of thought, and economic views based upon diversification in the exploitation of its resources, and the building of a capable and dynamic human society.

This will give the economy strength and solidity, ensuring healthy growth, natural integration and dynamic interaction in order to accomplish comprehensive development in accordance with the contemporary situation and a clear perception of the future.

Yes, it was God's blessing to us that the hope was accompanied by hard work, firm resolution and strong determination. Here we are, today, praise be to God, reaping the harvest of all this: the progress in all fields - politically, economically, socially and culturally and the wide experience gained. This experience has proved to us that our planning has been soundly based, and has protected our progress from the folly of irrational decisions.

If things are to be judged by results, we can say that what has been achieved, with the help of God, is a great achievement. History will testify that you, Sons of Oman, patiently faced the challenges, and overcame all problems. God has blessed your progress and has granted you your success. Thanks be to God for His blessings.

«Such is the Bounty of God, which He bestows on whom He will, and God is the Lord of the highest Bounty.»



Esteemed Citizens,

We all know that the global economy is passing through an unhealthy period, which it is feared may get worse. It is imperative that nations should recognise that their economies and interests are inter-dependent, affecting each other. Due to the economic recession, that is being felt by the energy-consuming countries, the demand for energy from these countries has declined. As we have said, several times, oil, in addition to being a finite resource, is exposed to the fluctuations and instability of the market. It is not wise, nor good policy, to be dependent on oil as a sole resource to finance our development. Today, we are witnessing a retreat and decline in oil prices which certainly has its impact on the State income, because oil is the major source of that income, although it is less so than before. As you know, we have always called in past years, for the diversification of the economy, to protect us from the dangers of being dependent on one product and its fluctuations. We have noted this situation from the beginning and adopted co-ordinated policies in order to establish our development on a strong, firm basis that will ensure that the national economy is fully diversified with balanced growth. On this basis the State has subsidised industry, agriculture, commerce and tourism, and encouraged investment in these fields and stimulated their development, creating an appropriate atmosphere for their progress. This has had an obvious effect on what has been achieved. However, you realise that these sectors in themselves will not immediately provide an income equal to that of oil. More time will be needed, including finance and care, before these sectors become sufficiently fruitful to play their designated role in the national economy. If we see what has been achieved in these sectors is satisfactory, in spite of the prevailing circumstances, we can also see that this diversification is more necessary now than ever before in the light of the global situation. Thus, before us, is the challenge which faces the Private Sector and the Government in pressing on with our national development without pause. The private sector now, more than at any time in the

past, is required to redouble and accelerate its efforts, with confidence, and utilising all opportunities in promisingly productive avenues. This will lead, with God's permission, to positive, tangible effects in the economic and social life in the coming years. Beside that, it is required to be fully aware of the international contemporary circumstances, which are based upon the freedom of trade and investment. This necessitates that our economic enterprises should be on the highest level of efficient administration, productivity and marketing in order to have the strength to compete, especially since we are entering the World Trade Organisation.

The Year of the Private Sector must be the base of a greater role to be played by this Sector in supporting and diversifying the national economy. This should be done in concert and harmony with the efforts exerted by the Government to stimulate domestic and foreign investment. It is to be done by establishing a new infrastructure, continuing to maintain the existing foundations on which we have built, providing a wide range of services, improving the atmosphere of general investments, and instituting a programme of privatisation based on scientific and realistic principles. This programme will help towards the continuation of economic growth, increase the efficiency of productivity and avoid monopolisation. In addition, there should be a continual review of relevant legislation, in order to protect private economic business, ensuring its freedom, and diversifying the ways of supporting and encouraging it. It will apply especially to facilitating and simplifying bureaucratic procedures, and eliminating unnecessary elements of these procedures, as we mentioned in our National Day speech last year. Moreover, policies for education and vocational training plans should be kept under constant review, in order to enable them to produce the technical and vocational skills needed by the private sector, especially in the industrial field. We are determined that the industrial sector shall become the major source of the national income, or at least generate the equivalent of that of oil. Taking into consideration the other sources of the national income, such as commerce, agriculture, tourism and services, this will result in reducing dependence on oil revenues to a reasonable level, thus lessening the vulnerability of the State Budget to the fluctuations of oil prices.

This is the role of the Government in pursuing the policy of diversifying the economy. All Government departments must co-ordinate their efforts in enabling investors to obtain the full and prompt services they need. Legal procedures should be reduced to the minimum necessary to ensure that investors are encouraged to enter the sectors which we aim to develop. These conditions avoid investments being directed to speculative ventures which would result in financial and economic instability.

We want positive investments which will yield attractive returns to the investor while, at the same time, contributing to the development of the country, and enabling the citizens to acquire technical expertise and skills in all fields. These investments must be characterised

by stability; they must not be vulnerable to market sensitivity either domestically or abroad, thus avoiding any possibility of negative conditions arising to affect the financial, economic and social climate through the movements of the market.

This being the role of the Government and of the private sector in facing the economic challenges and countering the adverse conditions that may confront the national economy as a result of the global situation, citizens are required to play their part in this confrontation. They must exercise restraint and responsibility in the management of their financial affairs. Unnecessary and excessive expenditure should be avoided. The habit of saving should be cultivated, and prudent investments be made.

The Youth of Oman, who have the spirit of initiative and the desire to embark upon their own businesses, should make use of the Fund for Youth Projects in financing them once they have assured themselves of their feasibility. They should avail themselves not only of the financial assistance offered but the experienced advice extended to them in marketing, administration, organisation, techniques and in economy. The main aim of this Fund is to encourage the Omani Youth to establish and own small and medium projects that will provide them and other citizens with career opportunities, thus contributing to the creation of a potent sector of these industries - industries which have become major factors in the growth of the global economy.



Dear Citizens,

The human being is the main instrument in the creation of progress, and he is the beneficiary of this progress. As far as this progress can provide an honourable life for the individual and for society, all involved in it can take pride in its good and fruitful results.

This is what we believe in, and is what we have always worked to achieve. We have often referred to this in past years, but we wish to emphasise today, on the occasion of the Year of the Private Sector, that the success of any development and the achievement of its goals must be the combined work of three parties: the Government, the private sector and the Citizen. Each of them must bear their duties in the spirit of responsibility, without which nations cannot realise their aspirations for their progress, and avoid backwardness.

We are not here to dwell upon the Government's past efforts to provide Omani society with

an honourable life, education, training, health and social care. These are obvious to everyone who can see. But we wish to renew our call to the private sector to intensify its support for the Government in the development of human resources, by creating more employment opportunities for Omanis, qualifying them, training them, honing their skills in all fields needed by their Sector. This will provide the national workforce with a stable and honourable life and reduce dependence on expatriates to the minimum possible level. It is obvious that this will bring positive results economically and socially for the country and its Citizens.

In addition, we assert that it is important that Citizens should be aware of their vital role in working for the success of the Government's plan for private sector employment, and for the gradual replacement by Omanis of skilled and unskilled expatriates. There are abundant opportunities for honourable work in this Sector. All Omani Youth should accept this work unhesitatingly and without false pride. They should also devote themselves to the training and qualifying programmes which are organised by the Government and the private sector for the purpose of honing the skills they possess, and acquiring new skills that will enhance their performance. The improvement of the employee's standards of education, vocational and technical abilities, efficiency and discipline will enable him to be successful in his career.

Intense co-operation between the Government, the private sector and the Citizen in the training, qualifying and employment of the national workforce is undoubtedly one of the most important factors in the realisation of the basic goals of our development plans, which aim at building the human being, and improving his capabilities and experience, in order to provide society with prosperity and stability. On this subject, we would like to refer to the fact that the Omanisation policies and programmes have commenced to bear fruit. It is to be hoped that, with everyone's co-operation, this progress will maintain its momentum towards achieving its great goals, God willing.

Esteemed Citizens,

The process of the Gulf Co-operation Council commenced 18 years ago. During this period the region has witnessed colossal, and dangerous events, against which the Council was able firmly to stand against the storms and to go forward with determination, in co-operation and co-ordinated policies in all matters pertaining to the present and future. There is political, military, and security co-ordination, in addition to the economic, social and cultural one. This will help achieve increased contacts and integrated interests, bringing the Gulf peoples closer, and consolidate the progress, stability and security of the Gulf. All this will lead us to the great goal for which the Council was created.

We look forward to the meeting with our brothers, the Leaders of the GCC, next month in the

hospitality of our dear Brother, His Highness Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahyan, at the 19th Summit, which will be held, God willing, in Abu Dhabi. We call upon Almighty God to grant the Co-operation Council and the coming Summit success in achieving new steps on the road of solidarity and co-operation, for a happier and richer life, in a shining future, God willing.



Dear Citizens,

The Basic Statute of the State has stated the principle that directs our policy. Since this Statute encapsulates our experience that Oman has lived, since the dawn of our Blessed Renaissance, it is natural that it defines the principle that we have always adopted in our attitude towards various regional and international issues. This principle confirms our ties of friendship with all countries and peoples on the basis of mutual respect and interests, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and observance of international and regional pacts and treaties, and the norms of international law, which lead to the prevailing of peace and security between countries and peoples.

It is our belief that adherence to these principles by all countries will create stronger cooperation and deepen ties between all nations regardless of their political, economic, intellectual and cultural complexions. This will lessen the chances of international crises and disputes, and limit the possibilities of racial, religious and other conflicts occurring between groups within countries. It will also lead to just solutions of many of the problems that break out in the world which jeopardise civilisations and humanity, destroying their achievements.

In our view, it is one of the utmost duties, as we enter this new century, that all countries should work to fight tyranny and despotism, confront the policies of ethnic cleansing and the humiliation of human dignity. They should work, as well, to oppose the occupation of others' lands and denial of legitimate rights. Also, they should strive to balance the scales of justice so that security, peace and tranquillity shall be established throughout the world.

As we call for this, we ask everyone to stand firmly in support of the rights of the Palestinian people in the creation of an independent state on Palestinian national soil, and with the rights of our brothers in Syria and Lebanon to regain their occupied territories. This is the only way in which security can be assured, good relations of neighbourliness be consoli-

dated, and prosperity and development be achieved for all peoples of the region.

Esteemed Citizens,

Peace is the goal of the State. This is one of the principles that direct our external and internal policies. It is a strategic goal we strive to achieve and maintain for the sake of security, stability, growth and prosperity. The peace in which we believe is not the peace of those who are weak and cannot face aggression, or maintain the independence, sovereignty and the entity of the State. It is the peace of those who are strong, and who are prepared, and well equipped as God ordains. On this understanding, we work to develop our diligent Armed Forces and Security Services and equip them with everything possible to carry out their tasks in protecting the State and the integrity of its land, and in ensuring the security of the citizens and all in our country. As we express our pride in them, and our great appreciation of their services, we confirm the continuation of our care for them. We take the opportunity of this happy occasion to particularly salute and praise them. We ask God's help in serving our ancient country, and we call upon the Almighty on this glorious day to give us success and bless our path. We ask Him to bestow upon us more progress in an atmosphere of brotherhood, co-operation and love.

«He is the best to protect, the best to help».

We congratulate you all on our National Day. We ask God to allow us to meet again next year in the city of Ibri to celebrate the 29th Anniversary of our Renaissance, and achievements throughout Oman.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the 29th national day

It is essential that Omani society - government and citizens - should realise the extent of the need to be prepared to encounter the challenges of globalisation.



18th November
1999





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We thank God, who sent the book to guide the believers. Prayer and peace be upon Him who was mercifully sent to the world, His family and companions, and those who have taken His path until the day of judgement.



Esteemed Countrymen,

WE thank Almighty God that He bade us to meet on this happy day in the auspicious city of Ibri to celebrate the 29th Anniversary of the Omani Renaissance, and renew our determination, with God's continued aid, and the unswerving support of you, the sons of Oman, to carry forward the blessed progress towards more prosperity, stability, and evolution on the broadest front. This will ensure our cherished country's sustained ascent and advancement, God willing.

In the past stage, many of our hopes have materialised, embodying several achievements that enabled Omani society to enter the 20th Century. Thus we are well prepared to face the challenges of the 21st. We are fully confident that this dynamic, youthful society, believing in Almighty God, both individually and collectively, can, through its determination, dedication, knowledge and hard work, keep abreast with the fast progress that this world is witnessing in all fields of life.

Dear Countrymen,

On the same occasion last year, we referred to the unhealthy situation of the world economy and we called for the diversification of our national economy in order to avoid the danger of dependence on one product - oil. Today we reaffirm the fact that we must strive to attain our strategic aim of realising our vision of reaching our clearly defined goal of improving the standard of living of our citizens, ensuring that they benefit from the fruits of our development, preserving and adding to the victories of the Renaissance.

The diversification of the economy, the development of the human skills, the effective exploitation of the available natural resources, and the creation of the suitable conditions to encourage the private sector to perform a greater role in the growth of the national economy - all this will lessen our dependence on oil. We must not forget that oil is a finite resource, with its price at the mercy of external circumstances beyond local control. Therefore, a collapse of oil prices could, if we are solely dependent on this revenue, have the gravest effect on our national budget, balance of payments, economic growth, and on savings and investments. If we have been able, thanks to God, to overcome the difficult period of the past two years, with the least impact on our economy, we should not rely on this recent improvement in oil prices, but we should continue to follow prudent financial and economic policies, the most important of which are reduction of expenditure, and guidance and awareness in order to encourage saving, and resistance to the inclination to indulge in unnecessary consumption, and also to encourage the individual citizen effectively to contribute to the national economy. Financial institutions must be urged to make their resources available to assist the development of the productive sector, and not to facilitate consumerism. They must also adopt policies that will lead to the increase of savings by citizens. Thereby these institutions will not then necessarily depend on external financial resources since, this dependence can entail a negative impact on our economy, which we must avoid.



Dear Countrymen,

Notwithstanding the difficulties faced by the current Five-Year Development Plan due to various internal and external circumstances, the Plan's performance, thanks to God, has a number of positive elements in many fields. For example, the successful control of inflation

to a great extent, the implementation of several projects aiming at economic diversification, the principals of which are: the L.N.G. exploitation which will increase foreign currency earnings and, with God's permission, create wide opportunities for industrialisation, and lead to greater links with the world economy; Salalah Container Port, and the Port of Sohar which is under construction. These latter two projects will help power the wheel of progress and the consolidation of the pillars of the national economy.

Some of the more prominent of the positive achievements of the Five- Year Plan have been the development of human resources in the field of general education and higher and technical education, and vocational training; also in Omanisation, the creation of more job opportunities, and the improvement of health care. All these fields have witnessed a remarkable improvement throughout Oman, thanks to God.

We are today, O citizens, on the threshold of the preparations for the Sixth Five-Year Plan. There have been many lessons that we have learnt from the current Plan, which we shall use as guidelines for better future performance, and to avoid negative occurrences, therefore ensuring that we shall achieve higher rates of growth and more job opportunities for our people. This will maintain economic, financial and fiscal stability. Our experience of the current Five-Year Plan will enable us to improve our savings and investment policies and in laying down a comprehensive strategy for privatisation. This strategy will have the goal of raising productive efficiency, cutting costs and stimulating local and foreign investors notably to contribute to the overall development process, God willing.

The strengthening of the Sultanate's economic relations with the AGCC, other Arab countries and regional groups, and the positive interaction with the international economic system for the interests and benefit of Oman are very important matters. They will enable us to participate in the huge growth of international trade and investment, and make use of the expanding open markets.

It is essential that Omani society - government and citizens - should realise the extent of the need to be prepared to encounter the challenges of globalisation. We shall do so through the improvement of our national capabilities, basing the economy on the firm foundations of international competitiveness and productivity, enhancing the performance of our institutions, and recognising the value of knowledge, technology and research, which are the keys to progress, and creating the climate which will ensure the sustainable growth of the private sector, and its broad contribution to development plans and economic policies, confirm its ability to practise economic activities with efficiency and flexibility and, with God's permission, enable the private sector to deal with the challenges which will come with our membership of the W.T.O.

If it is necessary to say a final word on the economic field, I reaffirm the necessity to give tourism a priority in the future development programme. This sector has great potential for growth and for making an effective contribution to economic diversification, since our dear country possesses such splendid touristic assets such as its historic heritage, natural beauty, perfect environment, folklore and traditional industries. In addition, there is the security, stability and the spirit of tolerance of the Omani citizens, thanks to God. The tourism industry is well qualified to offer career opportunities to Omanis. It is well capable of serving the aims of regional development, since its benefits will cover all regions. On this basis we should prepare a new strategy to develop this sector so it can stand on its own feet in a severely competitive, flexible and diversified international market.



Dear Countrymen,

The AGCC is progressively advancing towards its goals, God willing. Co-ordination between its members exists in all fields. We look forward to the brotherly meeting between its leaders at their 20th Summit in Riyadh at the hospitable invitation of our dear brother, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. We call upon the Almighty to grant success to the leaders in serving their people and to confer upon them continued progress, prosperity and growth.

On this occasion we wish to reaffirm - as we always do - that we believe in peace and work invariably for it. We call for the strengthening of bonds of friendship with all, on the basis of comprehensive justice and mutual respect. On this premise we are determined to stand together with all just causes such as that of the Palestinian people who are striving to obtain their rights and establish an independent State, and also the Golan, South Lebanon and other Arab, Islamic international causes. As we wish for the Middle East Peace Process to reach a just settlement for all, we urge the international community to work wholeheartedly to find solutions to all problems that are distressing the world and endangering peace. These solutions must relieve the oppressed from tyranny, establish security and stability, harmony and co-operation among all nations; God will help us.

Esteemed Countrymen,

Our pride in our armed forces and all security services comes from our appreciation of their great role in protecting the achievements of the blessed Renaissance and in maintaining our country's attainments. As we re-affirm our support for them and our active commitment to their further progress, we say to them from this rostrum on this auspicious day that we salute and thank them for their loyalty and devotion in the performance of their duties.

We ask Almighty God to give all of us success in our efforts to carry out His wishes, to surround us with His care and to help us appreciate His blessings. He who is aware of everything and capable of everything, He is the best to protect, the best to help.

As we congratulate you on this glorious occasion we call upon the Almighty to allow us to meet next year in our living, dynamic city of Muscat to celebrate all together the 30th Anniversary of our Oman's splendid Renaissance.





Speech of His Majesty



to the students of
sultan qaboos university

*Not one of us can perform his duty properly unless
he is armed with knowledge. By this I mean , genuine
knowledge.*



2nd May
2000





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



WE are happy to be with you today at this university which was founded a mere fourteen years ago, and in visiting you, we feel that we are also visiting all those who studied here before you. We are truly proud of what this university has achieved since it was established, and the speeches we have heard and the briefings we have received give us a sense not only of satisfaction but also of immense joy. We are proud of this university, but more than that, we in Oman (and elsewhere) are proud of you.

Since we assumed responsibility for this country, we have assigned a major priority to education - as well as other matters, of course - but education has been our major preoccupation. We pointed this out when we said we would teach our sons even under the shade of the trees.

You, or some of you, may not remember that time when there were schools in tents. When we first set up the Ministry of Education we issued directives that every effort must be made to build schools as quickly as possible using all available facilities. Schools were indeed built with the greatest possible speed - taking into consideration the circumstances of that time - and that marked the start of the development of primary, then preparatory, then secondary education. We aimed to establish an educational system as fast as we could, because we knew that Knowledge is Light and light is the opposite of darkness; we must all remember the words of Almighty God when He said: Are they the same - those that know and those that do not know?



Not one of us can perform his duty properly unless he is armed with knowledge. By this I mean genuine knowledge, not just the outward and visible forms of knowledge; in other words, deep knowledge and a real knowledge about things, matters and affairs.

We acquire our knowledge from those who have gone before us, whose endeavours, thoughts, deductions and concepts led them to gain knowledge about the world around them. Indeed, we have been commanded to do this; we have been commanded to think and cogitate. However, this does not mean that when we reach the level of knowledge that our forebears reached we should stop there. Knowledge is something which needs to be regenerated and rejuvenated, and it is up to us to add new knowledge to the world of knowledge that already exists. At the pre-university or pre-higher education levels we acquire the knowledge that was acquired by those who went before us. However, at the higher end of the education ladder we are expected to add new knowledge to that which already exists, to carry out research, think and reach conclusions.

It is up to us to correct or amend the knowledge of those who have gone before us. Much of it consists of theory and theories tend to be revised and renewed. We can not say that the conclusions reached by people in the past are the ultimate knowledge. No. Knowledge is not absolute. Knowledge is subject to regeneration and renewal. Scholars and scientists of the past, such as astronomers, had a limited view of the sky and the planets and only observed a limited number of bodies, which were given names. However, since that time numerous things have been discovered which were totally unknown in earlier times. So science and knowledge are renewable. Therefore we are eager that our sons and daughters, or our daughters and sons (though if we are going to be truly even handed, we should not put males before females first and then females before males), should have the opportunity to reach a level which will enable them to achieve and add to the knowledge or sciences taught at the earlier stages of the educational process.

In the years before this university was set up all our university students both boys and girls (and girls and boys) - used to go abroad to various universities. While some of these universities had excellent international reputations and imparted real knowledge of genuine worth, I believe that others in some countries - were not of that standard. At the same time, however, the quest for knowledge was - and is - always a legitimate aspiration.

Then the years went by until I found that the time had come to establish the first university in our beloved country.

I will not hide from you the fact that when this proposal was first mooted, some intellectuals in this country did not favour the idea of setting up the university at that particular time,

because they believed that as long as boys and girls (and girls and boys) could be sent to study abroad, then this might be the easiest option and perhaps the cheapest one, too. However, we had a different view. We consult, but if we reach a decision we commit ourselves to it. So we ordered that this university should be established. When it first started, numbers were small, but they grew and expanded as time went by until - may God be praised - they reached the level they have reached today.

It was - as one of the speakers has said - of the utmost importance that we should concentrate on quality. That was because we want this to be a top-class university we can be proud of with graduates we can also be proud of. Therefore - as you know - we made the pass mark for acceptance at this university one of our priorities. We have not made it easy to get into it and some people wonder why the mark is so high. The answer is that we believe this ought to be a university which only accepts those with the proper entry qualifications, who can truly benefit from enrolment on its courses and not merely graduate from it and say I've got a certificate. After all, a certificate is just a piece of paper which neither nourishes nor satisfies. Some people in today's world have many certificates which they just use so that they can show off so that they can say I'm So-and-so. I've got a certificate. We also know that in several countries secondary, institute and university certificates are forged. This is true, not fantasy, and forgery in that field has become a highly professional business.

That is because there are people who say: This person has come from Oman (or some other country) to study here. That means it doesn't matter if he is genuinely knowledgeable or not, because he is here today and will be gone tomorrow. So if he wants to buy this forged paper or that bogus certificate, then let him. What I'm saying is, what does it matter to such people? It doesn't matter to them at all.

Therefore in this country we keep our eyes open so that we can detect that kind of thing, and consequently people have come to realise that we do not accept certain certificates, whether they are university certificates or from other sources, until we have verified that they are genuine. These days even a doctorate is available on the Internet and there are computer programs for it - that is to say, you fill in the information and it prints out the field of specialisation - and certain institutions in some countries of the world have become professionals in this field. We know that the authorities in some states are trying to combat this phenomenon. Therefore let us reiterate: we want people who will acquire genuine learning and genuine knowledge - people who will think, cogitate and contribute to the fields of science and thought, and to all fields.

This leads me to the question of research. As I said just now, research is an ongoing thing. It is something that is going on all the time. Theories come today and change tomorrow and therefore we need to keep abreast of things constantly.



That is why we have decided to make a personal contribution to SQU's scientific research programmes every year, which will be separate from the university's budget allocations. We have spoken with the university authorities on this matter and we shall give our unstinting support to the project. We shall start with something highly appropriate and whenever more is needed we shall increase our contributions and so on. We are also aware of certain other things which may not be available at this university today. When we feel that the time is ripe to make them available we shall do so.

There are also areas for research in the heritage, as well as in historical and other fields.

In this connection I should like to say a word on the subject of history. I make no claim to be particularly well-versed in history, but I am familiar with some aspects of it. I find that the history which was written down centuries ago is sometimes highly embroidered and distorted. Much of what was written is biased, either politically or in other ways.

Although there may be those who claim that something is written in so-and-so's history, remember that such people are human beings who wrote their history down according to the versions they received. Those versions might be corroborated by other sources; alternatively, they might come from a single source in which the author could have been inspired by a particular feeling or emotion either positive or negative - when he wrote them. Sometimes we find people idolised by history; at other times other people are denigrated and consigned to the depths. We often find a lot of contradictions when we read history. There are numerous examples of these, but let us take just one - the case of al Hajjaj bin Yousuf al Thaqafi, whom some describe as such-and-such a character, while others say other things about him.

History needs to be looked at critically, so that when we read history we read it thinkingly and apply our intellects, and take our minds back to the time being described. For example, when historians speak of the huge armies that set out for such-and-such a place from such-and-such a city or country in those distant days - I'm talking here to people who understand what I mean - let us consider how big the world's population was at that time. And let us consider the populations of those countries that were said to have those huge armies which - it was claimed - stretched from here to there over distances of thousands of miles or hundreds of kilometres.

In reality, those huge armies were not really huge at all.

So let us go back and think, and consider what the world's population was at that time and how it was distributed among the different countries. For example, what was the population of the Arabian Peninsula in those days? Any answers?

I am not looking for an immediate answer; what I'm actually asking you to do is to think how

many thousands it was. Or was it millions? I don't think it was millions, though it is possible that could be an underestimate. In any case, when they talked about those huge armies, I do not think they were really huge armies.

Turning to Omani history, when they talk about some aspects of history and say that there were ninety thousand - or a hundred thousand - horsemen, where did they all come from? And what about the horses? Where did they get their food? Should we accept these things at face value? No.

I am just giving you an example to show that you should treat history with caution and examine its claims carefully. I say to students of history: be critical, go back to the past and think about what things were actually like in those days. We must not just accept everything that has been written and repeat it parrot-fashion.

The suppression of ideas, thought and intellectual effort is a major sin. We will never allow anyone to suppress freedom of thought. I do not wish to go into detail about this. However, I know that there are people who call for the suppression of thought.

Ideas cannot be suppressed. Our Religion stands for ideas and the intellect, not the suppression of thought. Never. Our religion is tolerant, ethical and receptive to ideas. Every verse of the Glorious Quran calls for thinking, cogitation, etc. It does not call for narrow-mindedness, mental inertia and blindly going with the flow. No. Never.

Some people use the inappropriate term men of religion. We do not have men of religion we have ulama (scholars) of religion. In the religion of Islam there are ulama of religion, not men of religion. Men of religion exist in other religions which have their own styles and approaches to worship. That is something different and does not apply to us. We do not violate the rights of others and we do not speak of others. Everyone has his or her own approach, way of thinking, religion, etc. However, we do not have men of religion and for us there is no intermediary between us and Almighty God. The earth has been made a place of worship for Me and its soil pure. You can pray in any place and speak to your Lord anywhere. Let there be no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out clear from error.

You must avoid letting anyone take away your freedom of thought in any way, whether on religious or other grounds. People must use their minds and think, and there are situations where the use of the intellect is necessary so that excessive fantasy or fancy can be held in check .

These brief words sum up what I wanted to say on this topic.

We should like to pay tribute once again to this university's performance and its spirit of



enquiry and scholarship. You - like those before you - bear the torch of knowledge in this society. Society is a network of interwoven and interconnecting threads and we need to preserve it. To do this we must hold onto our good customs and scrap those that are outdated.

This gives me the opportunity to say a word about certain extravagant customs like the unreasonably high cost of marriage and the excessive sums spent on wedding celebrations which impose unacceptable burdens on young men and women (and young women and men), their parents and others. This is not a good thing and it is not one of the customs that we wish to retain; not at all. When I say customs, the fact is that some of them are of quite recent origin and were not known in the past. In the past people did not need much in order to be satisfied; that was how they lived. Their standard of living was different - that is for sure compared with today's standard of living.

On this occasion I am directing my words to young men, not young women, because in our society it is the husband who spends the money and sees himself as responsible for the household expenses. He is the one who is burdened with endless debts, cares and economic problems. This never ought to happen. I say that everyone should stand together and say <No> to these kinds of customs.

It is for this reason that we have officially ordered dowries to be fixed at between a minimum of five hundred Omani Rials and a maximum of two thousand Omani Rials, so that He who has plenty may spend from his plenty. I think these limits are reasonable, but what is likely to actually happen? I know it will probably lead to other things. True, people will stick to the rule, but then it will be: Get me this, this, this and that. Get me a car, get me.... I don't know what, but all kinds of unreasonable and unacceptable things. Why should this happen? If everyone just said No, it would stop. Then everyone would manage to do what he has to do within his own means.

That is the first thing a young man needs to do; get himself properly established in life, get himself a decent career, get a house and do all the other things he has to do.

That is why we encouraged some of those things that we ordered to be set up, including the Youth Fund, retraining, etc. All these institutions and practices are designed to form the nucleus of self-reliance. We are eager to promote selfreliance so that people can earn incomes that will help them, develop them and enable them to climb up the ladder step by step.

However, those who are impatient want everything today. It is not possible to do everything in one day. Almighty God created the heavens and the earth in six days, despite that fact that if He wishes something He says to it be and it is. But it is God's Way of Creation that things should happen step by step.

Those days, we do not know how long they were, whether they were billions or millions of years long. However, we can be sure that they were not the same as the 24-hour days that we know. The truth is known to my Lord. For God a day is as a thousand years according to your reckoning. That is one thing, but man needs to scale the ladder step by step.

Your brothers, or some of you, may join the armed forces or the security or other services. Can such a person become a Major-General at once? No. First he becomes a private, then he moves a step up from there, then up again. If he is a cadet, he will start off with one star, then two stars, then three and so on. The same applies to a person going to school. Is he going to finish in six months? No. For example, these years which you are spending in education, some of you longer than others. For example, the College of Medicine. A doctor has to study for seven years, then train under supervision and become qualified; perhaps it will take him around twelve years in all. Things don't just happen, just like that. A person needs to strive: <And your effort will be seen.

These are some of the issues of concern that I have taken the opportunity to talk about here. Other points have been covered by the people who spoke about programmes and the future. One of the speakers said that society was made up of the different world economies, that the world of today comprised a single economy and this was the way to economic strength. Nevertheless, let us not forget that economics has always meant - from the beginning of time - that a person who has nothing to eat will die and a hunter cannot survive long without being able to shoot a deer or a hare; he will die of hunger. Even primitive societies had some kind of economic system. Then there are the economic systems practised by the individual, the family, the clan, the tribe, and then the wider community. So the economy is a cornerstone. Without an economy we would not have been able to educate you or, for that matter, do anything else. There would be no health services or any other kind of services, because economics is the basis of everything.

It is the national income which strengthens the economy. The national income is always more important than government revenues. The national income represents the country's main source of income. We all know that the economies of our countries have been strengthened by the discovery of something called oil, or what some people call black gold.

If these resources are exploited properly, then when they run out we will have reaped the benefits from what they provided for us. If this does not happen, then that means that one returns to the state one was in before. So there must be alternatives. Everyone knows that for years we have been talking about these alternatives in our official public statements and speeches etc. And the alternatives can only be acquired through hard work and effort on the part of the whole community. The government - or the executive branch of the government bears a responsibility. Experts (and some of you will be experts, God willing) bear a responsibility to think about every alternative that can begin providing support in the present day



and continue to provide support into the future, like a stick that a person can lean on when he needs it.

These alternatives We look around us and say What can we do? We should be realists and not fantasists. Projects which belong to the realms of fantasy can never be feasible. In some languages they are called White Elephants or Pink Elephants, or described in some such terms. An Elephant of this kind can be of no use to anybody. We should look at the experiences of people in the past; there are people in some countries - in the past, I mean - who opted for high sounding mega projects, but in the end what happened? They found that they had not taken the market properly into consideration. They had not considered the competition, or anything. The projects were just for show. We never go along with this line of thinking. We look at our situation in a realistic way and see what is possible and what is not possible.

This country's policy was to begin by setting up some light industries and then move on to the medium industry stage. That has already happened. Next we move on to the more advanced industries. Industrial estates have been established on several sites (I think there are three or four such places at present - in Rusayl, Sur, Nizwa, Sohar, Buraimi and Salalah) to enable us to begin setting up real industries. However, these industries can only exist if there are raw materials and not every kind of raw material is available. This is not a serious shortcoming, because you can obtain raw materials.

Japan has very little in the way of raw materials but it has developed an impressive range of industries. We are not in a position to compare ourselves with Japan and countries of that type, but I am citing it as an example. One should start with the basics and then move on steadily from there. Then, as the wheel of progress continues to turn, advances will be achieved in these fields.

I won't hide from you the fact that, before some of these alternatives and industries got started, visitors - that is to say, journalists and others - used to ask me What about the future? That was at a time when one was still searching for the right road to follow... To reply Praise be to God, we have some agriculture, fish and seas, and quite honestly, fish are a real source of wealth would have been unconvincing, but at that time no other answer was possible. However, now we can say that we have begun to open up scope for investment and we have begun to invest. And we are attracting some investment from abroad. We have begun to open up to tourism in a rational, realistic and carefully considered manner.

We certainly do not encourage tourism in its general unrestricted sense. When I was in Spain last year I met the King of Spain - he came to dinner - and he asked me What is the tourist situation in your country ? I told him We have begun to open up the country. He said be careful. Be extremely careful that you do not make the same mistakes that we did.

I replied we have absolutely no intention of making the same mistakes that you did. Tourism has a positive side and a negative side and we are concentrating on the positive side. We thank God that there are many positive aspects and they have started to produce beneficial results which, God willing, will have a positive impact in providing employment for our sons and daughters (and our daughters and sons) in the hotel sector and a wide range of other sectors.

Unfortunately, however, advances in science and technology also bring their problems. Many businesses, companies and factories no longer need intensive manpower. The computer does everything; it has all become a matter of machines and pressing buttons, and this has had negative consequences for employment, but unfortunately that is one of the prices we have to pay for technology and progress in this world.

I know that in India - which has a population of around a thousand million people - there was a major debate some years ago about how far to go in the field of technology and other areas. A hundred per cent ? Fifty per cent? Thirty per cent? The problem was what to do with the manpower. What were they to do, bearing in mind that they were already finding it hard to scrape a living ?

Now we in our countries cannot put the brakes on technological progress, because it is the future and without it there is nothing. Some of us may become the illiterates of the near future because we do not know the language of the computer. But all this comes at a cost and it is a cost we have to bear. I was talking just now about self-reliance. God willing, we shall do everything we can to ensure that these programmes expand and take their rightful place, because one wants technology, one wants modernisation and one wants industrialisation. However, one cannot deny that there is a down side to all this, too, as we well know.

That is why we want an economy built on recognised foundations which include the alternatives we spoke of. It is a major preoccupation of ours and when - God willing - the time comes for those who are qualified in those fields to graduate, we shall rely on their brains to enable us to achieve success.

Oil. To ensure that this commodity remains sustainable (and it will run out if we do not take the appropriate steps), we need to discover new deposits or extract as much as we can from those we have. Some of those present here may have some knowledge of this subject. Those who did not know before should know now that we reinvest sixteen per cent of our income from oil every year in order to extend the life of the oil fields and improve production. This means increasing the level of our stocks. We could extract the maximum quantity possible from our current stocks but this again requires further injections of funds. You pump in a portion of the revenues you have received from this commodity, and you pump more in so as to ensure that it remains sustainable.. You hear that the reserves are hardly going down



at all that is to say, you still hear talk about stocks of five billion plus and you might tend to think that if that is all they amount to they should have finished long ago. However, these incentives and injections of new funding aim to ensure that stocks continue to be sustainable, and also that new discoveries continue to be made.

It is known that our stocks may consist of so-and-so many billion barrels, but the question is: How much can you extract from those stocks? Ten to twenty per cent? Technological progress means that now it is possible to extract more than one could extract in the past.

We have fields with very large stocks which were discovered long ago in the Marmul area. They are big fields by any standards but they contain heavy crude, which so far has not been economic. After you have extracted all you can, there is still a lot left - about 40 billion - but you cannot extract it today. However, with further technological progress it will become economic and feasible to extract it.

I think some people wrongly believe that the oil company is not owned by the government. In fact it does belong to the government, but those people are managing the company and receive 40 per cent of the oil extracted. They have the right to sell it themselves. The good thing about this is that this company and those people give you access to the markets. We need partners and we need to enter into agreements with those international companies so that they can give us access to the markets.

Gas. The gas which is now being exported from Qalhat comes from central Oman and other places. Were it not for the serious understanding between us and these international companies we would not be able to find a market for the gas. It is in their interest to market this gas. If there was no interest involved, what would be the point of all the efforts to market it? There has to be an interest. So we beat some of our competitors, completed it in record time and - may God be praised - found the market for it. Now we have exported the first line, we are exporting the second line and we are studying the question of adding a third line. A line - in their language - is equal to three trillion, while two lines equal six trillion and three lines equal nine trillion.

This is a blessing and we are encouraging those companies to carry out further explorations for this resource. This resource is not measured according to the size of the volume available, but according to the availability of the market that can absorb it. A day's delay in reaching the market - God forbid - could mean it will not find the market it needs for a very long time.

So these are all pretty complex issues.

With regard to agriculture, we always like to think of ourselves as an agricultural country. However, we are not an agricultural country in the modern sense of the term and we have

to recognise this. We are not a country with sufficient water resources to enable us to be a proper agricultural producer, but we are trying to become self-sufficient in some agricultural products that we can grow on our own soil with the water resources we have available after rationalising our water consumption and introducing modern agricultural technology. However, let us not deceive ourselves and claim that we are a front-ranking agricultural country. Our policy now is to focus on other alternatives, though agricultural self-sufficiency and the cultivation of some agricultural produce for export are fine objectives.

Regarding date-palm conservation while maintaining date-palm quality; we have carried out a study of the Batinah Region (which, as we all know, is the region most likely to suffer from depletion of its water stocks, because owing to excessive pumping in the past the water has not reverted to its original levels). There we found that the soil is excellent for certain types of dates. Those dates have a market, some of it in Oman. There is also another strain which arrived in Oman recently. Of the strains which could replace the one which is common in the Batinah at present - i.e. Umm al Sallah (which has not got much of a market and these days tends to be given to animals) - we have found that Khonaizi is quite good in this region, as well as Jabri up to a point. Barhi - the new type of date palm which is known in southern Iran and elsewhere - is resistant and can even live in water that has a salinity level higher than that which is normally acceptable. We encourage the production of these types and are studying the possibility of their replacing some of the current ones.

Drip irrigation. Now it is possible to water date-palms by using drip irrigation rather than flooding. It used to be said that bananas needed to be flooded, but we have found that drip irrigation is feasible. Nevertheless...one wishes it were more widely recognised that agriculture has limited potential in all our countries (though Oman could well be better qualified than others in this region because of its varied climates, terrain etc). Still, agriculture is just one of the alternatives; it is not really a corner-stone.

On the other hand, fishing would become a corner-stone if we could develop it and conserve fish stocks. God willing, this will be the case, though it may not be possible to control the migration of fish and if the stocks are over-exploited in the areas to which the fish migrate, their numbers will fall. During the ministerial meeting of Indian Ocean Rim States - an association we have long worked for and which has been achieved thanks to God's good grace - I spoke personally to the group and told them that the ocean unites us, its waters unite us, the resources it contains belong to us all and that it is up to us to conserve them. A number of joint schemes and programmes are due to be prepared on the best ways of conserving and exploiting these resources.

Thanks to our geographical position we in Oman overlook this ocean... It is a blessing for us that this is the case and that we have access to its fish or possibly in the future - its other resources. We have an economic area extending for 200 nautical miles into the Indian

Ocean and we shall have the right to exploit the riches that lie beneath the earth's surface when that is possible and available, with the agreement of other parties, of course.

I think I have been going on at some length now.

Finally, as I sit in this auditorium, I know - or rather, I am aware of - its limited capacity. Therefore, we have decided that - God willing - we shall fund a large multi-purpose auditorium at the university. And God willing, our next meeting will be in that grand, multipurpose auditorium.»



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of opening of the
2nd term of the council of oman

*Over the past three decades we have endeavoured to
ensure that every step taken by Oman's Renaissance
springs from our deepest reality.*



4th November
2000





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful



Praise be to God who ordained Shura (consultation) as a path of the Noble Shariah.

And may blessings and peace be upon the one whom His Lord chose as the Seal of the Messengers and Prophets, and upon His Family, His Companions and His righteous and faithful followers.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman.

Dear Citizens

In the Name of God, the One Who guides to the Way that is straight, the One Who grants success to those who remain faithful to the principles of His True Law, we open the second term of the Council of Oman. As we submit ourselves humbly to Almighty God we pray that He will grant us assistance and power, that He will be a firm support for Oman, and that He will fore ordain success for the path followed by its Blessed Renaissance.

Over the past three decades we have endeavoured to ensure that every step taken by Oman's Renaissance springs from our deepest reality, that it is inspired by our heritage, religion and values, and that it incorporates those aspects of modern human civilisation that are useful. That has been our aim, whether this means involving citizens in public affairs in which they take part in the national decision making process at the state level by putting forward opinions and proposals to the government, or whether it means improving our economy and raising the living standards of our people so that, with God's grace and mercy, they are able to enjoy better lives.

We have also endeavoured to ensure that every stage of this country's development - in every field - is based on a clear, aware vision of the demands of each phase. We are certain that this approach has succeeded in establishing a firm and solid base, capable - with God's permission - of acting as a springboard for future development in both the intellectual and practical spheres.

The experiment is moving forward as planned, and in a manner which promises success, as it takes further steps to streamline its regulations, procedures and practices, and to ensure that, with God's permission, there is further positive, constructive interaction between government and citizens.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

That was a brief outline of our domestic policy, which aims to ensure the effective participation of our government and our people through your Council. It also aims to reinforce the foundations of our national economy, diversify its sources and improve the quality of our-manpower so that it can respond effectively to the demands of the modern age.

Our foreign policy, as you know, is based on certain fundamental principles which we have not deviated from since the dawn of the Blessed Renaissance. These principles spring from our conviction that one should strive towards the goals which bring benefits and peace for all, that one should support just causes at international gatherings, and that one should strengthen the ties of co-operation with our brothers in the Arab and Islamic states and our friends throughout the world. Here we should like to refer to the special nature of our relations with the Gulf Co-operation Council states.

In the light of these principles, we always work in concert with the international community to reinforce the foundations of world security, stability and peace. We affirm our full support for the Arab peoples right to regain their lands which were occupied in 1967. We also steadfastly support the Palestinian peoples right to selfdetermination and their right to establish their own independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

We look forward to meeting our brother leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council states at the 21st Summit in Manama, where we shall be guests of our dear brother, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa. We shall work together to propel the Council forward towards greater co-ordination, integration, co-operation and mutual support for the benefit of the peoples of the region and all mankind.

We submit ourselves humbly to Almighty God and pray that He will guide us and grant the next Summit success.

As we stand on the threshold of the 30th anniversary of our Renaissance we call upon Almighty God to step up our efforts and strengthen our resolve, because it is through hard work, effort, patience and perseverance that hopes will become realities, and future generations will prosper.

«Our Lord! Bestow on us Mercy from Thyself, and dispose of our affairs for us in the right way.»

I bid you goodbye until we meet again on other happy occasions, God willing.

And may Peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings





Speech of His Majesty

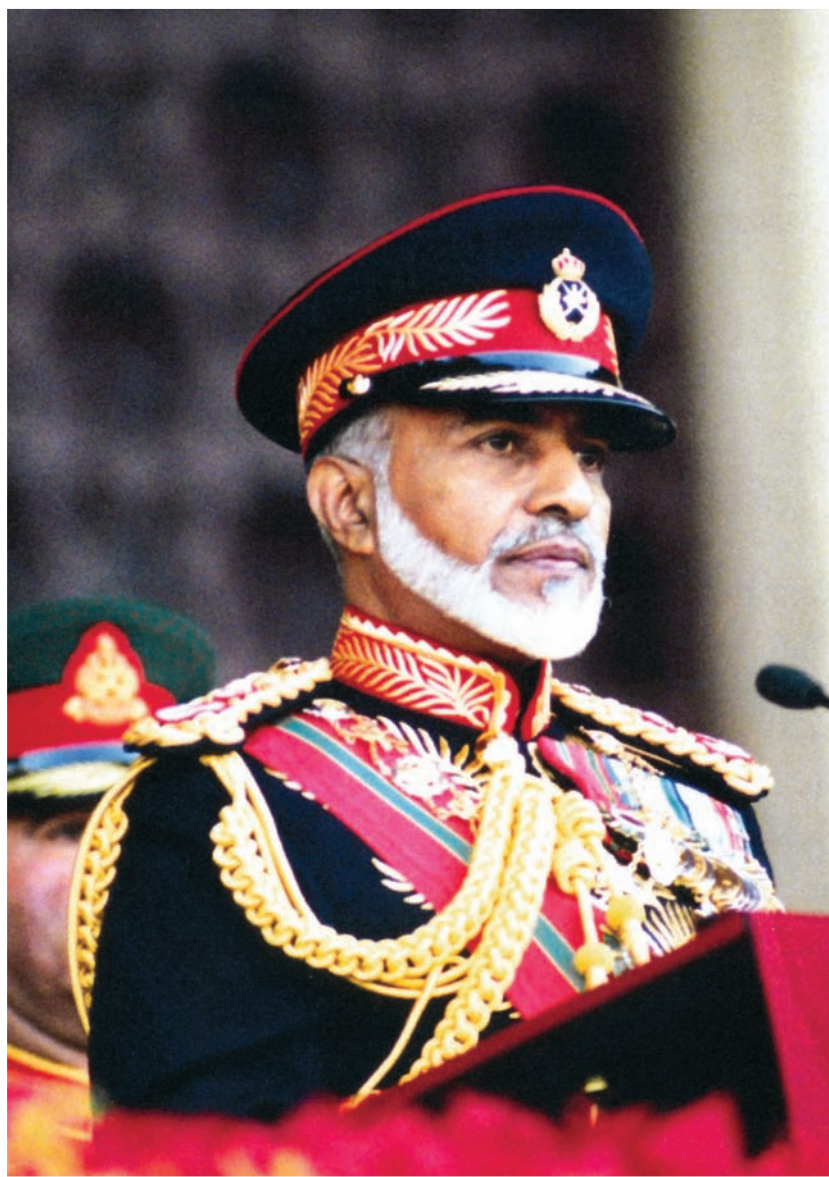


on the occasion of the
30th anniversary of the renaissance

*Greetings to you, valiant soldiers of Oman on this
glorious day. Greetings, praise and honour for your
magnificent role in serving Oman, in the past, in the
present.*



18th November
2000





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God for His bounties and favours. And may blessings and peace be upon the Seal of His Prophets, and upon His Family and His excellent Companions, as night follows day.



Dear Citizens,

ONE of the favours God has bestowed upon us all is that He has ordained we should meet on this auspicious day to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the splendid Omani Renaissance in Muscat. Over the past three decades, the Renaissance has proved that its roots reach deep into the realities of this nation, its human heritage and its noble values. At the same time, it has also proved itself able to stay abreast of the times, keep pace with developments in different fields, use modern scientific achievements to help develop the community, and lay the foundations of a modern state that will enable the Omani people to realise their ambitions in a future full of light and hope and radiant with glory and honour - a future that, God willing, promises greater stability, prosperity and abundance.

Dear Citizens,

All of you are aware of the great part played by our armed forces and all the security services in creating Oman's modern Renaissance, in protecting its numerous achievements and in maintaining stability and security across the land. As we express our appreciation and our pride in all the prodigious tasks and demanding duties they perform, we ask Almighty God to enable us to provide them with further backing and support, so that they can continue

to develop their potential and capabilities.

Greetings to you, valiant soldiers of Oman on this glorious day. Greetings, praise and honour for your magnificent role in serving Oman, in the past, in the present and - God willing - in the future.

Greetings to you, dear citizens, on this happy anniversary. We pray that God will enable us to celebrate it again and again, with ever greater blessings, favours, gains and achievements. He has power when He wills.

Our Lord. Make this country peaceful, and feed its people with fruits. And be its Guide and the One Who helps it to victory.

May God grant you success. And may peace be upon you, and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.



Speech of His Majesty



at the conclusion of the 21st session of the
supreme council of the arab gulf co-operation
council states in bahrain

*The Co-operation Council - may God be praised - is
continuing to move steadily forward towards greater
integration and unity in the interests of the noble
goals.*



31st December
2000





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

My brother, Your Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa,
AT the conclusion of the Supreme Council's 21st session, I and my brothers. Their Highnesses - would like to express our deepest appreciation of Your Highness's management and chairmanship of this session. We should also like to extend our sincere thanks to you, your government and your people for the hospitality we have received from you from the moment we arrived in your country.

The Co-operation Council - may God be praised - is continuing to move steadily forward towards greater integration and unity in the interests of the noble goals to which our peoples aspire for the sake of a better and happier future in which - with the help of Almighty God - they can enjoy the benefits of prosperity, security and stability.

My brothers, Your Highnesses,

We are happy that the next Supreme Council session is to be held in your second country, the Sultanate of Oman, and that, God willing, our people will have the opportunity to welcome you there.

Ahlan wa Sahlan (Welcome).

As we conclude this session all that remains for us to do is to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to His Excellency the Secretary-General, his assistants and the Secretariat-General staff for their efforts, which contributed significantly to the successful outcome of this session. We ask God to grant them success.

«Our Lord, grant us Mercy from Thyself, and dispose of our affair for us in the right way.»

May God grant us success in the pursuit of that which serves the common good.

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the inauguration
of the sultan qaboos grand mosque

It was on this basis that we decided to make this blessed Mosque a centre of culture and thought that, with God's good grace and assistance, would contribute to the revival of the Islamic heritage – God willing – and highlight the civilized values of the Muslim nation while modernising its approach to dealing with Islamic affairs and issues.



4th May
2001





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God. And may blessings and peace be upon the Seal of the Prophets and Messengers and upon his Family and noble Companions.



**Honourable guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We should like to begin our speech by warmly welcoming our guests and voicing our appreciation and happiness at this meeting with them, as well as our pride in their participation in this event. It is indeed a happy occasion that has brought us here to join together in celebrating the opening of this blessed mosque. We pray to God in all humility to ensure that it has been founded upon piety, right guidance and love of God and His Messenger. May praise and thanks be to you, O Lord, for what You have bestowed, and may You be praised night and day in a manner befitting Your Glory and Power.

**Honourable guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mosques are houses of God, in which He has declared that His Name should be raised to honour and proclaimed. It is in them that the Prayer is performed, which is the pillar of the Faith. The verses of the Holy Book are recited there, as are the sayings of the Messenger. Useful knowledge is imparted in them, containing lessons which guide people to the truth and the straight path.

God, Glory be to Him, has called for [mosques] to be built, maintained and frequented for worship. In His Book He said: "God's mosques shall be visited and maintained by such as believe in God and the Last Day, establish regular prayers and practise regular charity."

From the time of the emigration to al Madinah of the Messenger, upon whom be blessings and peace, mosques have played a very important role. The early Companions of the Prophet were taught in them and carried the torches of the Faith and true guidance, leading the people - with their Lord's permission – out of the darkness and into the light. The mosque continued to play a role as a source of learning and thought throughout the Islamic arena during the Golden Age of Islam and had a powerful influence on the life of the community. It was not merely a place of worship, but also a school of major importance which played a leading part in spreading learning and culture.

It was on this basis that we decided to make this blessed mosque a centre of culture and thought that, with God's good grace and assistance, would contribute to the revival of the Islamic heritage – God willing – and highlight the civilized values of the Muslim nation while modernising its approach to dealing with Islamic affairs and issues. In doing so, the aim was to safeguard [the nation's] identity, principles and values while at the same time keeping abreast of the advances taking place in the different spheres of human life. As a first step along this long path that we need to take in order to achieve our goal, several essential items have been provided for this new religious and cultural institution. We believe we have thus put in place a strong building block that will enable it to play its part in the community and – God willing - develop its role over the years in an intellectually aware manner, enhanced by a new understanding.

We ask Almighty God, the Most High, to assist us in turning our hopes into realities by removing all obstacles from our path, and to enable us to perform our actions with determination and diligence. In so doing, we hope that this day in which we are opening this blessed mosque in the name of God, and with His blessing, will be a day that will go down in history as an auspicious new departure for Oman and the whole Islamic nation.

“O my Lord, so order me that I may be grateful for Thy favours, which Thou has bestowed upon me and my parents, and that I may work the righteousness that will please Thee. And admit me, by Thy grace, to the ranks of Thy righteous servants.”

And may praise be to God, Who has guided us to this. Without God's guidance we would not be guided.
blessings.







Speech of His Majesty



before the council of oman

Nations are being built solely by the hands of the citizens: progress and prosperity can only be achieved through learning, experience, training and qualifications.



25th September
2001





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God who ordained Shura (Consultation) to the Faithful and may blessings and peace be upon the noblest of His Prophets and messengers and upon His family, and His Righteous and faithful companions.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

In the name of God. As we meet to fulfill our noble goals With God's blessing, and continue our march forward Along the path of development, progress and success. We humbly beseech the Almighty God to grant us His assistance, protection and support and enable us to drive the Blessed Renaissance on towards new and broader horizons further stability, growth and abundance in every part of Oman. He is the hearer, the knower.

This blessed meeting of ours – which, with God's permission, is an annual event – provides clear proof of a commitment to the path of Shura (consultation) and reflects the fact that Shura is firmly rooted in the life of the Omani community, who are well aware of the important role it has to play in building that future which we all seek to achieve. A common understanding and enlightened thought provide the two corner-stones for Oman's future progress and welfare of the Omani people.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

Nations are being built solely by the hands of the citizens: progress and prosperity can only be achieved through learning, experience, training and qualifications. No doubt, the real wealth of any nation is made up of its human resources. They are the power that achieves development in all walks of life. They are indeed the power behind ever-changing ambitions. This is indeed the way towards glory, dignity and success.

Our call, since the dawn of the Renaissance is to develop our human resources and remove all barriers that impede the development of them. This will contribute effectively and positively in the development of the community and in the development of its learning, practical abilities, technical skills and experience, and will result in better employment opportunities especially in the private sector. We repeat our call to the private sector to take the lead in this respect and to work hard with a high national spirit towards increasing the level of Omanisation in both the large and small enterprises and companies in the private sector.

We call upon this important sector to open its doors to Omanis whether they are qualified or unqualified, trained or untrained. The private sector should employ each in appropriate jobs. We have no doubt that they will respond to this national call and will do their best to ensure an honourable life and suitable work opportunities for Omani job-seekers. There is wide scope for work as some jobs need qualifications and special skills, whilst other jobs need neither qualifications nor special skills, but perhaps a little experience and a short period of training.

Over the last 30 years the state has employed most of the national workforce but it is no longer able to absorb the large numbers seeking jobs. So the burden today lies on the shoulders of the private sector to take on this responsibility. The private sector has a large foreign workforce, and this gives Omani nationals opportunities to work hard and replace foreigners. With a little sacrifice on the part of employers a number of Omani families will be happy when their sons and daughters find jobs that enable those families to carry on with their lives and thereby meet their daily cost of living.

We see that it is the duty of our Government and the honourable members of the Council of Oman to spread awareness among the population in the Regions of the value of work, and the necessity to respect it. The focus should be that work is no longer a personal hobby but it is indeed part and parcel of worship, and therefore it should be performed with sincerity, perfection and honour.

Dear Citizens,

During the earlier phases of our Renaissance our internal policy in the various social, cultural and economic fields has become clear.

On foreign policy, the basic principle is to stand for rights and justice, the strengthening of brotherhood and friendship, and participation in ensuring security and peace at an international level.

We are confident that peace and the maintenance of peace in the world are essential for the benefit of all mankind. Peace can be maintained between all nations of the world only when it is based on a solid basis of justice, cooperation, and understanding.

We are convinced that all forms and types of terrorism, and from whatever source, is an aggression against peace which all mankind cherishes. We are working with all nations to solidify international stability and security, and upon this conviction we condemn and reject terrorism – as we have always done throughout our Blessed Renaissance. We call upon all to counteract terrorism and remedy its causes.

At the end of this speech, I would like to refer to the forthcoming 22nd Gulf Co-operation Council States Summit in Muscat. We welcome our brothers, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council States to their country - Oman.

We submit ourselves humbly to Almighty God and pray that He will support and guide us and make the results of the next Summit a success, and to bless all the people of the Region.

Our Lord, grant us more, not less, give us and do not forbid us, let Oman be prosperous and plentiful.

Our Lord, thou has bestowed your favours upon us, let us be most grateful and thankful to thy Lord. Bestow on us righteousness, wisdom and success.

And may peace be upon you and the mercy of God and His blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of
the 22nd summit in muscat

*We have every reason to celebrate our meeting on this
day – a blessed day, God willing – at the opening of
the Twenty-second Summit in the Sultanate of Oman.*



30th December
2001





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God Who commanded that there should be cooperation in the cause of righteousness and piety, and may blessings and peace be upon Muhammed, the chosen Messenger, and upon his Family, his Companions and those who have been guided to the Right Path.

My brothers, Your Highnesses the leaders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, Your Excellency the Secretary-General, Your Highnesses and Excellencies the members of the delegations.

We have every reason to celebrate our meeting on this day – a blessed day, God willing – at the opening of the Twenty-second Summit in the Sultanate of Oman. The Sultanate, your second country, is delighted to welcome you here and looks forward to further progress along the path of joint action, with God's assistance, for the benefit of our peoples. Welcome to you all.

My brothers, Your Highnesses....

We thank Almighty God Who has enabled us to meet here in Muscat. In doing so, we should also like to pay tribute to our brother, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain, for his efforts during his chairmanship of the previous Session and for his work in following up the implementation of the resolutions and ministerial committees' decisions taken during the period of his chairmanship.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation too, to the Ministerial Council, the committees, His Excellency the Secretary-General and his assistants, and to all the Secretariat-General staff, for their efforts in helping to prepare for this Session.

May God grant you success.

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the closing of
the 22nd summit

*In extending our thanks and appreciation to you, we
ask Almighty God to grant you His protection and we
wish you a safe journey as you return to your homes.
We look forward to meeting you again at the next
Summit,*



31st December
2001





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, through Whose Grace virtue is achieved and good deeds are performed. And may blessings and peace be upon the one through whom the divine messages were finally sealed, and upon all his Family and Companions.

My brothers, Your Highnesses the leaders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, Your Excellency the Secretary-General, Your Highnesses and Excellencies the members of the delegations.

At the conclusion of the Supreme Council's Twenty-second Session we should like to express to you all once again our feelings of happiness and appreciation at this brotherly meeting – a meeting which was dominated by a spirit of constructive action and a desire to satisfy yet more of the Council's citizens' ambitions and aspirations.

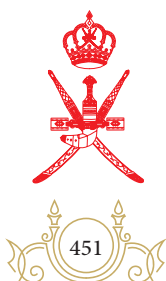
My brothers, Your Highnesses.....

In extending our thanks and appreciation to you, we ask Almighty God to grant you His protection and we wish you a safe journey as you return to your homes. We look forward to meeting you again at the next Summit, God willing, in the State of Qatar, where we shall be the guests of our brother, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, and his hospitable people.

Finally, we should like to thank Their Highnesses and Excellencies the members of the delegations, His Excellency the Secretary-General and his assistants, and all the Secretariat-General staff for their efforts, which have ensured this Session's success.

'Our Lord! Bestow on us Mercy from Thyself, and dispose of our affair for us in the right way!'

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



before the council of oman

The principles of our internal policy are clear and well defined – its objectives have been manifested during the past three decades, and we are marching ahead – with God's will – on the path of comprehensive development to achieve progress and prosperity for our country, society and citizens.



4th November
2002





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God who made A'Shura (consultation) a way of life. Prayer and peace be upon His Messenger, His Family, Companions and Followers.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

It gives us pleasure to meet again to thank God the Sublime and the Mighty for his bounties and favours bestowed upon our country as pious worshippers who truly believe that life is hard work, dedication and persistence in order to reach wider horizons of progress and prosperity.

We have always affirmed, on various occasions, that the human being is the ultimate goal of the development process, and its instrument and means at the same time. The more effective this instrument is, the more capable it becomes of achieving targeted development. Thus we always call for the development of human resources, their scientific capabilities, technical skills and technological expertise in order to meet society's urgent requirements and needs, and to provide opportunities for those resources to fully contribute to the Blessed Renaissance witnessed by Oman in all walks of life.

Last year, through this Council, we called on the private sector to open its doors to sons and daughters of Oman and to provide jobs for them in its establishments and companies, whether big or small for each in his relevant field.

We are pleased to say today that the response from the private sector to that national call

has been good and has reflected the sector's patriotic spirit and feelings towards society.

This has been evident in the co-ordination seen during the past months between government departments concerned and the private sector in preparing and formulating plans, programmes, policies and measures aimed at increasing Omanisation and raising the standard of training. This has resulted in the formation of joint committees in various sectors, and these we wish every success.

As we hail this blessed step, we look forward to more work in this regard until we reach the ultimate objective aspired by Omani society. In this respect we urge our youth to take advantage of the opportunities available to acquire knowledge and skills through studying and training, and to work diligently and with devotion to gain more experience in the various labour and production fields.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

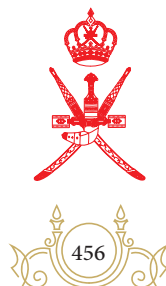
The principles of our internal policy are clear and well defined – its objectives have been manifested during the past three decades, and we are marching ahead – with God's will – on the path of comprehensive development to achieve progress and prosperity for our country, society and citizens.

Our foreign policy is also well-known to all; we always take sides with rightness, justice, friendship and peace, and call for peaceful co-existence among nations, understanding between civilizations and for the eradication of the reasons behind hatred and rancor, harboured by those suffering from tyranny and inequality. In such principles lie all the grace and goodness for mankind.

“Our God, give us mercy from thy presence, and show us right conduct. O God, make this land secure and bestow upon its people fruits, thou art the hearer of our prayers.”

We pray to God for success for all of us in matters of life and religion, thou art the hearer and the responder.

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings.







Speech of His Majesty

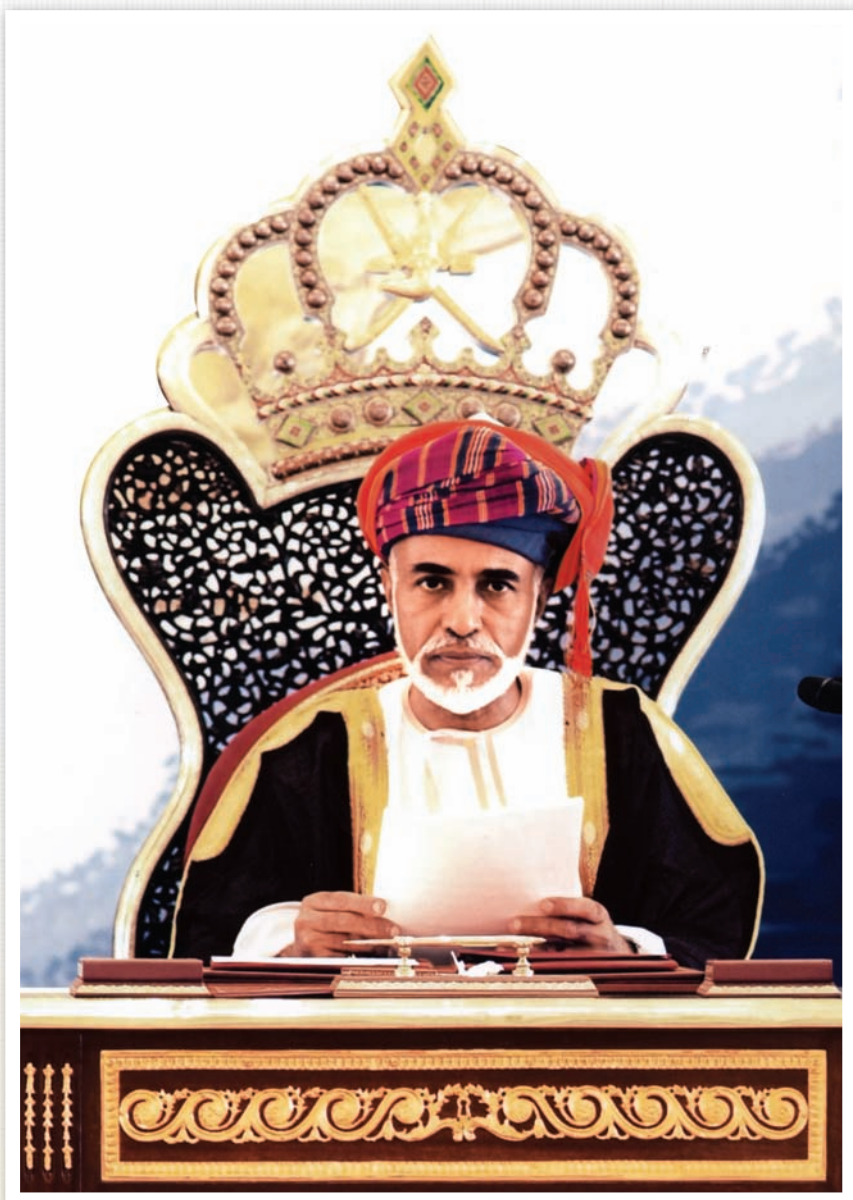


before the third session of
the council of Oman

*Human enterprise can only succeed if there is constant
endeavour, accompanied by determination, a strong
will and a sense of responsibility.*



21st November
2003





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, through whose bounty good works are achieved, and may Blessings and Peace be upon the one who brought Guidance to lead the people out of the darkness, and upon his Family and Companions, as long as the earth and the heavens remain.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

Through the Grace of God we meet again reaffirm our determination to consolidate and develop the Shura (consultation) path in a manner that will serve the interests of the nation and meet the aspirations of its citizens. From the very beginning it was our wish to see Oman embark upon its own enterprise in the field of democratic action in which its citizens play their part in taking national decisions. This enterprise has been built up brick-by-brick on firm foundations based on the realities of Omani life and the conditions of the age in which we live. This is reflected in the step-by-step approach which we adopted in this regard, which culminated in all legally eligible citizens – both men and women – being granted the right to vote.

From our side, we extend our patronage and support to this process, while our government from its side is performing its duty in co-operating with the State Council (Majlis A'Dawla) and the Consultation Council (Majlis A'Shura). However, we must point out here that another important dimension also needs to exist in order to ensure that the process bears fruit: this dimension is the activity in which you, the members of the two Councils, are engaged and the extent to which you yourselves are supporting the enterprise, whether through the recommendations and practical proposals you put forward, or through the way in which you help raise the level of public awareness about relevant issues.

Human enterprise can only succeed if there is constant endeavour, accompanied by determination, a strong will and a sense of responsibility. No nation can achieve its goal unless it unites and works together to build its future and develop its potential.

We are fully confident that all of you – both men and women – will play your part in developing and building up this Omani enterprise and reinforcing its roots through hard work and wise responsible endeavour for the sake of the nation and its citizens.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

We will not go into elaborate detail in describing the past achievements of the Omani Renaissance in various spheres of life. However, we should point out that if by the Grace of God we are enjoying prosperity today, then we also have a duty not to forget that our thoughts and plans should be focused on the future. This is because major targets and many challenges lie ahead of us and the road is long. We are therefore required to arm ourselves with knowledge, a firm will and a readiness for hard work, and to seek success from God.

We have attached major priority to our domestic policy since the beginning of the Blessed Renaissance so that our human resources can be developed in such a way as will enable them to serve the community and work for the good of the nation. We appreciate the efforts being made by the different state authorities in this field, and we also commend the private sector's contributions to the education and training programmes and to developing manpower skills and producing qualified Omani personnel. In particular, we support this sector's moves to establish colleges and universities in different parts of the Sultanate in order to provide the widest possible opportunities for higher education within the country.

We call upon those in charge of these universities to make them easily accessible to young Omanis who wish to enroll in them. We also call upon them to focus on their academic syllabi, ensure that they are constantly developed and updated so that their universities can be assured of their place among the ranks of distinguished institutions, and increase the

numbers of students applying to study in them. Here we should also like to point out that over the past two years we have been observing the private sector's efforts to provide job opportunities for nationals in its companies and establishments.

In urging young Omanis to make use of the available educational, training and job opportunities, we should like everyone to understand that our repeated calls for attention to be given to human resources – to education, training and employment – reflect the importance we attach to this vital issue – an issue which we regard as the corner stone of the future and the main stimulus enabling us to reach our goals.

We should also like to note that in July 2001 we issued a Royal Decree on the General Census of Population, Housing and Establishment which stated that the actual count should begin in December of this year – 2003. In stressing the importance of the Census results for the country's future development plans, we call upon everyone to co-operate fully with those in charge of implementing the project, provide them with accurate information and do everything possible to help ensure success in achieving the desired goals.

With regard to foreign policy, we strongly call for the establishment of a sovereign, viable Palestinian state at the earliest opportunity, for the Arab states to recover their lands and their sovereignty, and for peace, security and stability to prevail in every part of the world. Injustice is darkness, and we are against injustice and darkness and on the side of justice, light and harmony. Mankind will only enjoy happiness and a sense of security if there is justice and respect for all those things which guarantee human beings their legitimate rights. First and foremost of these is their right to honour, dignity and freedom from humiliation, and their right to liberty and independence.

Praise be to God Who has guided us to this state. We would not have been guided were it not for the fact that God has guided us.

May God grant you success in your endeavours.

And may Peace be upon you and God's Mercy and Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



before the opening of the annual session
of the council of oman

*no society can isolate itself without interacting
and communicating with others.*



12th October
2004





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God and may Blessings and Peace be upon the one whom his Lord chose as the Seal of his Messengers and Prophets and upon his Family and Companions.



Dear Citizens,

It gives us pleasure to speak to you today, as we meet on the occasion of the annual session of the Council of Oman, to reaffirm our determination and resolution to work diligently, with full confidence in God's will, towards broadening the horizons of a sustainable comprehensive development. And we must bear in mind that this will only be attainable through means of knowledge, work and being broad-minded in keeping abreast of today's developments and achievements in all walks of life, but at the same time preserving our basic principles and our firm roots. We should be fearless when communicating with different civilizations and cultures around the world, and in exploring the accomplishments and developments in those communities, in order to enhance our position in a world which no-one doubts, thanks to the latest scientific advancements, has become smaller, like a village. Where no society can isolate itself without interacting and communicating with others, that is if that society seeks to achieve prosperity and welfare for its citizens.

This was the case with our Omani ancestors who, throughout the ages, travelled to different parts of the world. They extended the hand of friendship to all and looked forward with optimism to the mutual exchange of interests with other communities without taking sides.

Dear Citizens,

As you know, our goals are the implementation of successive development plans in the Sultanate, to finish the main infrastructure of a modern state, and to raise the living standards in all areas of our dear homeland. This is being accomplished in accordance with specific programmes, which have been studied very carefully, and which are aimed at increasing the ratio of economic development with more emphasis on the diversification of the sources of national income and the development of human resources.

In this respect, the outcome of the policies followed by our government to encourage all non-oil sectors is now visible, thanks be to God. We can already see the projects which have been completed and those which are now on-going, these will all lead to an increase in the national income and will provide more, and larger, opportunities for work and training, and thus we will gain more and new skills for the youth of Oman who are keen to take over different jobs in various fields of employment.

We have a strong belief in the importance of the tourism sector, since it is an emerging industry at international level where it has become one of the main sources of revenue in many developed countries. And because God has bestowed our country with an environment and geographical diversity, as well as other essential elements, that makes it a favourable tourist destination in the region, we took the decision to establish a Ministry of Tourism to administer this vital and important sector. We hope that those who are in charge of its work will take the appropriate steps to expedite the implementation of the carefully studied procedures and steps which are necessary to develop this sector in the near future, God willing. This should be achieved through coordination with the other concerned government departments and private sector.



Dear Citizens,

We wish to underline in this important annual session the attention and emphasis we place on economic development and human resources in our dear motherland. As to our foreign policy - it is based, as you know, on certain fundamental principles which we have not deviated from, that is we always takes sides with rightness, justice, and joint efforts with other peace-loving nations to settle international conflicts through dialogue and negotiations so

that security and stability may prevail and all nations on earth will be able to reap the benefits thereof. And on that basis, we call again for the lifting of the daily suffering endured by the Palestinian people and the need to give them the opportunity to achieve their goals and establish an independent state. We also hope that the Arab states, whose lands are still under occupation, will be able to recover them and that security and stability may prevail in Iraq and prosperity and progress reign in our region and the whole world. We also call for respect for international law and the principles and conventions upon which it is based, and for tolerance between communities and races.

May God make this country secure and the stable, protect it, and bestow on its people abundant fruits. You are the hearer, the responder and able to do all things.

May Peace be upon you, and God's Mercy and Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty

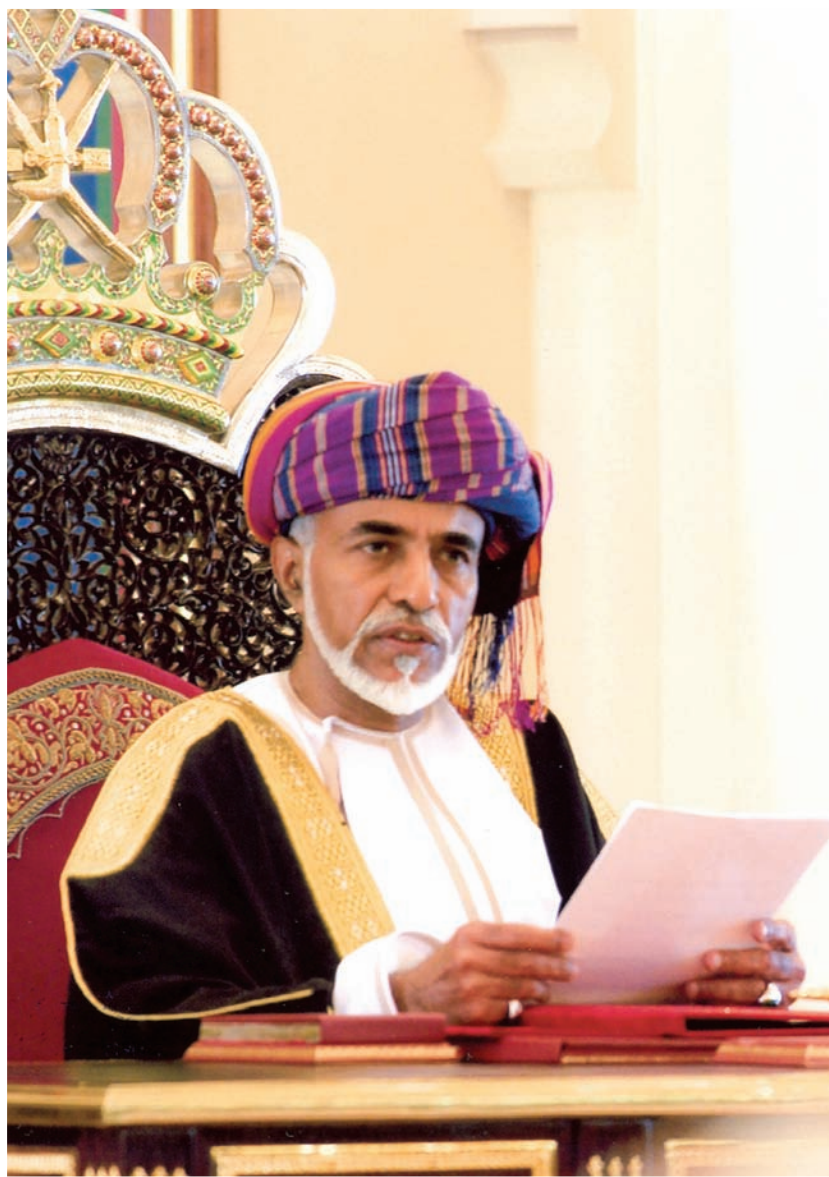


before the opening of the annual session
of the council of Oman

The road is long and the goal is far. However, we are confident that this dear country has the necessary cultural and historical elements, and hopes and aspirations for the future, that will enable it – God willing – to implement its domestic and foreign policies.



1st October
2005





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God who has bestowed His grace and given His bounty.

Praise be to God who has predetermined and guided, and may Blessings and Peace be upon the chosen Prophet.



Dear Citizens,

AS we celebrate the march of our blessed Renaissance, with God's will, we recall the achievements made in various spheres in this blessed land which were aimed at realising one noble goal - the building of the modern Omani who has faith in God, preserves his identity, keeps abreast of upto-date techniques, science, culture and arts, and who takes advantage of the bounty of modern civilisation in order to build his country and to develop his society. At the same time, we reaffirm our resolve to continue to work for more progress in the field of development and construction, prosperity, security and stability; with God's help. The previous period has witnessed, through the implementation of various plans and programmes, the accomplishment of the goals of the blessed Renaissance which we have always set our sights on since the first day it dawned.

They are inspired by four fundamental principles, which are:

- _ The development of human resources
- _ The development of natural resources
- _ The building of the infrastructure
- _ The establishment of the State's institutions

Praise be to God, during the comprehensive development march and with determination, diligence, patience and persistence, many achievements have been possible in each of these areas in which we take pride, particularly in the field of the development of human resources.

We did – and still do – firmly believe that the development of these resources is the cornerstone of the development process in any society because the



human being – as we have always stressed on different occasions – is the ultimate goal and aim of development as well as being its means and its producer.

As long as society succeeds in raising, developing, qualifying, training, enhancing skills and diversifying the experience of its human resources, success is guaranteed in building a modern state with progress in all aspects of life. We thank God the Almighty for granting us success in spreading education at all levels and in all its many branches, accompanied by training programmes which are provided by the government and private educational institutions to which the government sends our sons and daughters to qualify in different specialisations. This has provided them with greater and more opportunities to acquire knowledge and practical training, which in turn has prepared them to enter the labour market and to contribute to the building of society.

In this respect, we would like to point out that the government has made great efforts over the previous period to provide opportunities for the qualification and training of Omani youths, boys and girls. However, we have observed through our continuous follow-up and monitoring of the successive stages of social development that some members of society have not been able to utilise their inner abilities and financial capabilities to improve themselves and develop their skills to avail themselves of suitable job opportunities.

Thus, it has become necessary to assist them to obtain the qualifications and training they need. We therefore instruct our government to set up a suitable mechanism through which assistance can be provided to this sector enabling them to obtain useful occupations. Thereby – God willing – they can benefit from the job opportunities that are available.

We would like to reiterate that in order to realise our hopes and inspirations and for our plans and programmes to succeed, cooperation is imperative between all of our citizens, led by the private sector and the various organs and departments of the government, in order to carry out these plans and future programmes in a spirit of responsibility and awareness. Such co-operation would yield more progress, advancement, growth and prosperity. We are very pleased with the sincere desire demonstrated by the private sector to provide job opportunities for citizens and we call on it to intensify its initiative in this regard.

We also urge Omani youths, both male and female, to take advantage of these opportunities and endeavour to settle and stay in an available job in order to gain experience and skills that will be of mutual benefit, and in the public interest. This will prove that the Omani worker is serious, dedicated, punctual and capable of shouldering responsibilities. Only through this the Omanisation policies and plans will bear fruit, God willing.

Dear Citizens,

The road is long and the goal is far. However, we are confident that this dear country has the necessary cultural and historical elements, and hopes and aspirations for the future, that

will enable it – God willing – to implement its domestic and foreign policies, and the principles of which are now clearly defined, praise be to God.

We believe that non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, respect for charters and conventions, and compliance with international law will – without doubt – lead the world to a more harmonious state which safeguards the interests of all nations.

It is something that we have always called for through dissemination of the culture of tolerance, peace, co-operation and understanding between all nations. We also hope that this will lead to the eradication of the many causes behind violence and instability.

Dear Citizens,

To conclude, we would like to salute and extend our greetings and appreciation to our gallant armed forces and alert security services for their efforts and dedication in carrying out their assigned duties, affirming that we will continue to extend our care and attention to them.

We pray for the Almighty's assistance to make our Renaissance a success.

May God bless you and may peace be upon you, and the Mercy of God and His blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



to the 33rd session of the general conference
of the united nations educational, scientific
and cultural organisation (unesco), coinciding
with the 60th anniversary of its establishment.

*UNESCO plays a vital role in mobilizing the
international community to take measures to limit
negative consequences resulting from natural risks.*



4th October
2005



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Your Excellencies Heads of Delegations, Your Excellency Chairperson of the Executive Board; Your Excellency the Director-General,

It gives us great pleasure to address you on the occasion of the 33rd Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of UNESCO, that is the forum in which diverse cultures interact in order to inculcate crucial human values. We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise our commitment to work with UNESCO in helping to maintain its distinguished position with the United Nations organization, which advocates an ethical message calling for equity, respect for all human beings and providing equal opportunities for all.

In calling for the dissemination of knowledge, regeneration of human heritage, encouragement of innovation and cultural diversification, addressing challenges facing the environment and improving water resources, UNESCO raises issues which are of the greatest concern to humankind.

Human beings are always the target of nations' development programmes and, as such, they enjoy the gains it offers them. Human beings are also, however, the tools of development. It is human beings who make development plans and programmes a tangible reality.

In this respect, we are committed to providing women with opportunities to play a productive role in Oman's society. We have, therefore, endorsed the Sultanate of Oman's membership of the Convention for the Elimination of All Types of Discrimination Against Women.

With reference to UNESCO's pioneering role in enhancing ethical principles to guide scientific and technological development, we would like to emphasise the importance of increasing public awareness in facing the new ethical challenges related to scientific and technological innovations. It is essential that policies we devise to meet these challenges have been

based on careful analysis, consultation and understanding.

The information and communication industries have become a dominant factor in modern life. We are all invited to contribute to the building of an information society; a society that is based on universal solidarity and displays respect for cultural and linguistic diversification.

Your Excellencies,

We devote great care and attention to the development and reform of education in Oman. Our aims include the raising of standards and updating the curriculum to make it richer and more relevant to the needs of an ever changing world.

These efforts recognize the importance the Sultanate assigns to the development of its human resources, to the fostering of scientific and technological understanding and the creation of an educated population who can make a positive contribution to the development process by dealing confidently with change and new developments.

Concern for the different forms of our national heritage, both tangible and intangible, has always been at the centre of our attention. The reason for this is the important role it plays in the enrichment of our intellectual and artistic life and in promoting creativity and innovation in society. We would like, therefore, to express our delight at the inclusion of several Omani cultural and natural sites on the World Heritage List. These sites provide clear evidence of the contribution made by Omanis throughout the ages in building civilizations and in interacting with other cultures.

We look forward to the addition to the World Heritage List of the Sultanate, the Aflaj Irrigation System, at the forthcoming meeting of the Heritage Committee in 2006. The falaj is a unique and important water resource that has made a major contribution to Omani society throughout its history. Not only is it regarded as one of the most important archaeological sites in Oman, but it represents the ability of Omanis to build civilizations in the face of severe challenges and, at the same time, enriching the world's heritage through their intellectual and creative endeavours.

The increasing world population growth rate in recent years and the increasing demand on water resources to meet the population growth, as well as the insufficient attention devoted to the need to balance resources and demand have resulted in serious consequences, especially for the Arab region. Finding suitable solutions requires a concentrated effort from the international community.

In the field of environment, we would like to emphasise the importance of promoting awareness of environmental issues.

UNESCO plays a vital role in mobilizing the international community to take measures to limit negative consequences resulting from natural risks. We are pleased that this organization is sponsoring the award promoted by Oman for preservation of the international environment, which will be granted this year for the eighth time. The award is open to individuals, groups, institutions and organizations throughout the world that have made a significant contribution to environmental preservation.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to all those who have devoted their lives to serving UNESCO, both past and present and to the Secretariat-General.

We would like to specifically mention His Excellency Mr Koichiro Matsuura, the Director-General, for his continuous efforts in assisting the Organisation to carry out its mission and achieve its objectives.

We wish every success to this important Conference and pray to Allah the Almighty that it fulfils its target of achieving progress for mankind.







Speech of His Majesty



before the opening of the annual
session of the council of Oman

*We are also pleased to see that there is a growing
willingness to take jobs in a range of different fields.
We hope this indicates an increasing awareness among
all members of the community of the importance of
work.*



14th November
2006





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

All praise and thanks be to God, and may blessings and peace be upon His faithful Messenger and upon all his Family and Companions.



Dear Citizens,

By the grace of God we meet again today to carry out our regular review of some aspects of the Blessed Renaissance.

In doing so, we should like to underline our resolve to see it achieve its goals of further progress and prosperity within the context of wide-ranging and integrated development – development that will boost our human and natural resources and create an infrastructure leading to sustained economic growth, while reinforcing the basic pillars of our society and – God willing – consolidating the foundations of a modern state.

On this occasion we should point out that in this very month of the year 1981 we inaugurated the State Consultative Council as a first step towards the realisation of our policy of providing greater opportunities for public participation in the government's efforts to implement its economic and social plans. We thank Almighty God that this step was a success and that it was followed by a second successful step with the inauguration of the Consultation Council (Majlis A'Shura) in December 1991.

That Council has proved to be a ground-breaking enterprise and a strong and solid building block in the creation of the institution-based state which we are striving to establish. Along-

side this, in embracing those elements of the modern age that are useful and positive, every effort has been made to ensure that Oman's firm social foundations are not abandoned. As you know, these two steps I have referred to culminated in the creation of the Council of Oman, which comprises both the State Council and the Consultation Council working together to enrich the country's development process by putting forward ideas and views that serve the common good. Its recommendations, to which our government attaches the utmost importance, help promote further progress and a decent life for all our citizens. This is also the case with the open dialogue which takes place between the Council members and government ministers.

In offering our congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Council's inauguration, we ask Almighty God to grant your Council – the Council of Oman – success in carrying out the duties assigned to it in a way that will lead to co-operation and integration between it and the state's other bodies and authorities, thereby enabling members of the public to satisfy their aspirations and realise their hopes and ambitions. He has the power to do what He wills.



Dear Citizens,

Over the years the principles of our domestic policy have been reinforced through a series of plans and programmes designed to develop the country and its people and strengthen security and peace. We have sought to achieve these goals ever since modern Oman first saw the light of dawn, and we have stressed our determination to continue our efforts to attain them. It is through God's grace, and the success He has granted us, and the watchful eye He has kept on our progress, that our path has been made easy. Praise be to God for His abundant generosity and beneficence. He is worthy of all praise and the repository of all hopes.

Dear Citizens,

You are aware of the importance we attach to the development of human resources and to creating more and better education, training and employment opportunities for our sons and daughters. This theme occurs in almost every one of the speeches we address to you, and through you to all the people of Oman. It is not surprising that this should be so, because

human beings are the cornerstone of any civilization and without them no civilization can develop or continue to survive. We should therefore like to re-emphasise this point, which is such an important factor in the development and modernisation of society.

In this connection we are happy to say that we are satisfied with the serious steps taken by the government departments and the private sector over the past few years in Omanisation, training and providing employment for the new generations.

We are also pleased to see that there is a growing willingness to take jobs in a range of different fields. We hope this indicates an increasing awareness among all members of the community of the importance of work, whatever its nature. Here we should also like to note that experience and skills are gained through remaining in the same job and not constantly changing from one job to another.

From this rostrum we salute all those who are working hard, diligently and patiently in any occupation which will benefit the individual and society.

We are also happy, dear Citizens, to say how satisfied we are with the fact that the benefits of higher education are being extended to other parts of the country through the establishment of private universities and colleges that offer a range of science and arts programmes required by the nation. These programmes meet the needs of the labour market, which is the melting-pot where all those passing through the educational institutions end up. So we welcome the establishment of new private universities in other regions which need higher education institutions, provided – that is – that objective studies establish their feasibility, and provided also that the programmes they offer are of a sufficiently high quality to equip their graduates with the qualifications they need for their future careers, and that they guarantee that their certificates are recognised at home and abroad. In addition to being able to absorb the greatest possible number of students wishing to enter higher education – and this is something we strongly encourage – these institutions must also ensure that the education they provide for their students is of good quality, because quantity in itself is of no use unless it is accompanied by high academic standards and practical and applied skills.

Knowledge and work are inseparable; it is not possible to have one without the other. It is through the two together that nations can develop their illustrious qualities and shape their present and future existence. And it is through the two together that human beings can fulfil themselves and achieve their aspirations for a decent, stable life and a future brimming with hope and expectation. We are certain that Omani society is fully aware of this fact.

At this point we should like to announce that we have decided to provide private universities

with appropriate assistance to encourage them to perform their great task of supplying the community with people who are highly qualified both academically and practically. In doing so we aim to help them improve their performance and the performance of their graduates in every field of work demanded by the world of today. And it is God Who grants success.



Dear Citizens,

Over the past decades the line we have followed in our foreign policy has, with God's guidance, proved itself to be both sound and effective. We are committed to this path, which is based on a belief in fairness, justice, peace, security, tolerance and love. It calls for states to co-operate with one another in order to reinforce stability, promote growth and prosperity and deal with the causes of tension in international relations by finding just and permanent solutions to serious problems, thereby fostering peaceful coexistence between nations and generating well-being and prosperity for the whole of humanity.

Our Lord. Bestow upon us Mercy from Thyself, and shape for us right conduct.

May God grant you success.

And may peace be with you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.







Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of honouring a number of
military and civilian personnel after the
sultanate was subjected to exceptionally
violent climatic conditions – bait al barakah

*These extraordinary storms proved – may God be
praised – the strength of this country and the strong
bonds of unity and cohesiveness between its people.*



30th June
2007





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We praise God, Glory be to Him, the Most High, and we offer Him our gratitude; and we ask Him to bestow success upon us and grant us His care and protection.

Dear Citizens,

It was the will of the Almighty that over the past days our dear country experienced exceptionally violent climatic conditions with results that are known to you all.

These extraordinary storms proved – may God be praised – the strength of this country and the strong bonds of unity and cohesiveness between its people. This was clearly demonstrated in numerous examples of solidarity and mutual assistance.

Loyal Citizens,

As we stand here today, we should like to express our appreciation and pride in all the efforts that have been made for the sake of this proud and generous nation, as well as the sacrifices in providing assistance and support to those in need.

In honouring – in the name of Oman and in your names – the military and civilian personnel who performed their duties, and indeed exceeded the call of duty, we should also like to declare to you all that we are proud of you and express our boundless appreciation of your loyal efforts and noble deeds, which deserve the utmost praise and commendation.

We should also like to express our thanks and appreciation to all brothers and friends for extending Oman their noble support.

May God protect Oman and continue to bestow His bounties upon it and upon all the countries of the world.

May He grant us and you success in that which He loves and which pleases Him. He is the One Who hears and responds.

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.





Speech of His Majesty



at the opening of the fourth term
session of the majlis oman

*Oman's eventful years of experience in the practice
of Shura have succeeded in establishing the concepts
of joint action and mutual co-operation between the
country's citizens and the state's administrative
institutions.*



6th November
2007





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God who ordained Shura (consultation) as a path for his worshippers, and may blessings and peace be upon his servant and messenger, Prophet Mohammed, his family, companions and followers.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,



Dear Citizens,

In the name of Almighty, the generous, the giver and guide to the right and straight path, we open on this blessed day and with God's guidance, the 4th Term of the Council of Oman, praising the Almighty for the bounties and favours he has bestowed upon us. We thank God in our hearts and publicly in a way that qualifies us to achieve more progress, prosperity, security and stability, he is the hearer of our prayers.

Oman's eventful years of experience in the practice of Shura have succeeded in establishing the concepts of joint action and mutual co-operation between the country's citizens and the state's administrative institutions. Moreover, the great efforts made by the State Council and the Majlis A'Shura – in preparing economic and social studies, reviewing laws and regulations and putting forward recommendations and proposals on issues of concern to society, with the aim of improving it and providing it with the means to enable every section of it to achieve progress – have had a tangible effect on enriching this national enterprise.

We have followed with great attention this blessed march and carefully monitored its developments and we look with satisfaction at the way this experiment is progressing on the path of rapid growth - a growth that constantly reinforces its foundations and pillars, and which further consolidates the values and principles for the sake of which it was established.

We have great faith in the steady progress achieved by the Sultanate in all fields – praise be to God – and in its ability to keep abreast of the modern age in a well-planned and measured

manner while keeping a constant eye on the future. Accordingly, we expect the Council of Oman in general, and the Majlis A'Shura in particular, to take on more comprehensive responsibilities in the fields of economic and social development. In doing so, we hope that the experience gained will provide an impetus for further beneficial and constructive action in serving this dear nation, which is resolutely engaged in building its present, while looking towards its future, in the light of the ever-increasing demands and established realities of the modern age. Accordingly, we shall urge our government to raise and intensify its contacts with the Council of Oman in order to enable it to carry out its duties and tasks in the best possible manner.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

It gave us pleasure to see the Shura Council's 6th Term election being conducted in a well-organised manner, thereby ensuring that it ran smoothly and easily in an atmosphere of calm and security. It was clear evidence of the citizens' awareness and their commitment to the values and principles of this decent, upright society.

We highly appreciated the huge turn out of all citizens, male and female, to practise their right to choose their representatives in the Shura Council in the way we mentioned, and for that we thank God for granting us success.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

The features of our domestic and foreign policy are clear. We work for construction and development at home, and for friendship and peace, justice and harmony, coexistence and understanding, and positive constructive dialogue abroad. That is how we began, that is how we are today and that, with God's permission, is how we shall continue to be. In so doing, we wish the whole of mankind well-being and prosperity, security and stability, and co-operation in establishing the scales of justice and equity.

"Our lord, upon you we depend and rely, to you we submit and to you we return"

"Our Lord, grant us mercy from Thyself, and dispose of our affair for us in the right way"

May God grant us success in the pursuit of that which serves the common good, and may peace be upon you and the mercy of God and his blessings.



Speech of His Majesty



at the conclusion of the 28th summit of the
supreme council of the gulf cooperation
council in qatar

*The goals of our council are clear, and we will forge
ahead, with God's help, to achieve them to ensure
security, peace and stability for our region and
progress and prosperity for its peoples."*



4th December
2007





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Dear brother Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

As we conclude the 28th session of the GCC Supreme Council Summit, it is my pleasure and that of other GCC leaders to express our appreciation for the great efforts made to manage the proceedings of this Summit. We also thank your government and the people of Qatar for hosting this session and for the warm welcome and good hospitality extended to us since we arrived in this hospitable country.

The goals of our Council are clear, and we will forge ahead, with God's help, to achieve them to ensure security, peace and stability for our region and progress and prosperity for its peoples."

Dear Brothers,

as we in the Sultanate would like to thank the government and people of Qatar for hosting this summit instead of us, we delightedly look forward, God willing, to host the next GCC Supreme Council's Summit in the Sultanate. We would also like to thank the Secretary- General of the GCC, his assistants and the General Secretariat officials for their efforts to make this session successful. We pray to the Almighty to grant us success".





Speech of His Majesty



at the opening of the annual session of
the council of oman

*Good government performance in the different sectors,
serving the country and citizens with honesty and
dedication and putting public interest over all other
considerations are the necessary pillars for any
sustainable development.*



11th November
2008





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God for his great and abundant blessings and peace be upon the seal of his messengers and prophets, and upon his family, companions and followers



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

It is a blessing of God that deserves our many thanks and appreciation that we meet anew year after year in this blessed Council, through which we look forward - with full confidence and hope - to realizing more achievements for a stable and secure Oman, with God's assistance and guidance.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

Giving attention to human resources, including the provision of the various tools required to enhance their performance, incentives to develop their capabilities, diversifying their creative talents and to improving their scientific and practical qualifications, is the basis of real development and the cornerstone in its structure which is based on solid foundations. The human element is the maker of a renaissance and the builder of a civilization.

Therefore, we are sparing no effort and will continue to spare no effort in order to provide our human resources with all the help they will need to develop, hone and train. We will also provide educational opportunities for them in order that they may acquire useful knowledge, the required experience and the necessary technical skills that will be needed in the labour mar-

ket and as are required by the sustainable development programmes in the various fields.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

We have always emphasized the importance of learning and knowledge and we have always been open to the adoption of new developments in this field.

Information technology and communications have now become the main elements that move forward the development process in this third millennium; therefore, we have accorded our attention to finding a national strategy to develop the skills and abilities of citizens in this domain with the aim of further developing e-government services. We are closely following the important steps that we have made in this regard. We call upon on all government institutions to speedily enhance their performance, and to facilitate their services, by applying digital technology in order to usher the Sultanate into the constantly evolving spheres for applying knowledge.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

Good government performance in the different sectors, serving the country and citizens with honesty and dedication and putting public interest over all other considerations are the necessary pillars for any sustainable development.

While we commend the government's performance during the past period, we at the same time wish to stress the need for a constant revision of the State's administrative system. This will ensure that the best and most successful means that lead to the simplification and facilitation of procedures are followed, thus expediting the decision making process in the interests of citizens and residents who are contributing to the service of Oman and assisting in its building.

Here, it is worth noting that the government's performance in laying down the groundwork for sustainable development relies on those carrying out their duties, as well as on their super-

visors. This places a huge responsibility on the shoulders of employees who are entrusted with the work in the different government sectors. If their work is carried out in an honest manner and with a spirit of responsibility, away from personal interests, then they would be happy and so would their country. But if they stray from the right path and consider the job as a means to achieving personal gains, influence and power and they linger in carrying out their duties in complete honesty and dedication, they should be held accountable and legal procedures should be taken against them in accordance with the principles of justice upon which we have laid down the pillars of rule.

In accordance with these pillars, we are required not to allow anyone to be above law and order, or to let anyone unlawfully affect the interests of our people as guaranteed by the State as well as the interests of the community which is protected by legislation and supported by our laws and regulations.

Therefore, we emphasize that the issue of enforcement of justice is imperative and inevitable, and that our monitoring apparatus is alert and dedicated to carrying out their duties and responsibilities in order to safeguard the country's achievements.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

We have followed with concern the economic situation currently being witnessed by the world and the turmoil prevailing in the international arena due to these circumstances. We would like to point out that the policies adopted by our government over recent years have contributed - praise be to God - to averting the effects of this situation affecting our economy.

In this regard we confirm the continuation of the development and building policies in accordance with the endorsed plans. We also affirm the need to diversify sources of income and the need to exert more efforts in this respect. It is also necessary to look into ways of benefiting from alternative energy resources and to seek ways of achieving food security as much as possible. In this regard we have given our orders to the concerned authorities to set up appropriate plans.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,

Dear Citizens,

We currently live in a world of overlapping policies and interests but our international co-operation is in line with the Sultanate's higher interests and in line with our contribution to the establishment of world security and prosperity. Thanks to these policies our country has acquired the respect and appreciation of the international community.

Cooperation and exchange of benefits and interests among nations in an atmosphere of harmony and peace is a vital issue that we should all relentlessly pursue with diligence and dedication for the sake of the welfare of humanity, its security and prosperity. We in the Sultanate constantly put this issue before our eyes.

We have joined various international and regional groupings with a view to positively contributing to all efforts that bring about welfare for all of humanity in an effective manner. On this occasion, we take the opportunity of the convening of the 29th Summit of Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, scheduled to be held in Muscat soon, to welcome our brothers to their second homeland as honourable guests and pray to the Almighty to make this brotherly gathering a success, and to grant the GCC further well-being and progress.

With the name and praise of God we began, and with the same we conclude, may God ordain guidance and wisdom for us in all our deeds and may God fulfill our hopes. You are the hearer and the one who responds to our prayers.

May God grant you success and may God's peace and blessings be upon you.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the
29th gtc summit

*We are determined – with God's assistance and
guidance – to preserve the achievements made by our
states for the benefits of our citizens.*



29th December
2008





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We seek God's assistance and guidance and rely upon Him and pray to the Almighty to embrace us in his care. He is able to do all things. And may blessings and peace be upon His Messenger, his Family, his Companions and upon those who remain guided until the day of reckoning.



My Brothers,

Their Majesties and Highnesses, leaders of the GCC, His Excellency the secretary-general, Their Highnesses and Excellencies members of the delegations.

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you in our homeland, the Sultanate of Oman, as dear guests, on this blessed day that, with God's permission, will witness the opening of the 29th summit. We pray to the Almighty to guide us to achieve more benefits and prosperity for all of us.

We thank God for the achievements made so far during the blessed march of the GCC in various fields, and for the security, stability and welfare of all citizens, semi-integration of economic activities and freedom of the private sector which enables us to take part in the comprehensive development of our states.

We are determined – with God's assistance and guidance – to preserve the achievements made by our states for the benefits of our citizens. And we will work for the implementation of more strategic comprehensive development programmes in their national and collective contexts.

The current world financial situation necessitates joint efforts with other countries to tackle and correct this situation in order to restore the economic and social programmes and guarantee the continuation of international trade and cooperation among nations. This should be based on a balanced economy, stable financial markets and the international banks. This requires finding a basis for the stability of oil prices that will not put a burden on consumers, meet the development requirements of developing countries and at the same time will not harm producing countries by preserving their development plans. We look forward to cooperation from all to realise this vision.

My Brothers, Their Majesties and Highnesses, it gives us pleasure to commend the efforts exerted by our brother His Highness Sheikh Hamed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, in successfully steering the work of the previous session, and following up the implementation of its resolutions and the decisions of the ministerial committees during his chairmanship.

We also extend our thanks and appreciation to the ministerial council, the various committees, His Excellency the secretary-general, his aides and staff of the secretariat-general for their efforts in preparing for this session.

We pray to God to grant us success and to guide us to further progress and prosperity. May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all.







Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the conclusion of the
29th gcc summit in muscat

*convey to you our utmost happiness in welcoming and
meeting you.*



30th December
2008





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We thank the Almighty God for His bounties and for what He has ordained us, and may blessings and peace be upon His Prophet, His Family and His Companions.

My Brothers, Their Majesties and Highnesses, Leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council, His Excellency the Secretary-General, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, members of the delegations.

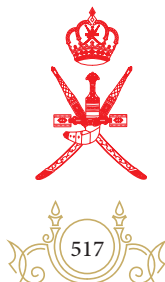
It gives us pleasure at the conclusion of the 29th session of the Supreme Council to convey to you our utmost happiness in welcoming and meeting you. Since it is our common desire to achieve more hope and aspirations for our peoples, we also express our great appreciation for the brotherly spirit that has prevailed during this summit.

My Brothers, Their Majesties and Their Highnesses, Leaders of the GCC, His Excellency the Secretary-General, Their Highnesses and Excellencies, members of the delegations.

We extend our thanks and appreciation, and pray to God to protect you wherever you are, wishing you a blessed and safe return to your homeland. We pray to God that we will meet again at the next summit – with God's assistance – in the state of Kuwait as guests of our brother, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah and his generous people.

We conclude by thanking Their Highnesses and Excellencies, members of delegations, His Excellency the Secretary-General, his aides and staff of the Secretariat-General for their continuous efforts which have contributed to the success – praise be to God – of this session.

We pray to God to grant us all success and guide our steps, and may God's peace and mercy be upon you.





Speech of His Majesty



at the opening of the annual session
of the council of oman

The projects of the comprehensive development are progressing along their planned paths in various areas of the country, particularly in the field of infrastructure, industry and tourism.



16th November
2009





In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God for the Bounties He has bestowed. And may blessings and peace be upon the Messenger who was sent as a Mercy to all peoples.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman

Dear Citizens,

We meet once again, with God's grace and guidance, in this annual gathering where we review with you various aspects of our blessed renaissance which has continued to go steadily ahead towards its goals of comprehensive development in every field. From the moment of its dawning, it has taken determined steps to open the doors to development and progress in the different spheres of modern life while creating equal opportunities for all the citizens of this country without exception, thereby enabling them to achieve their aspirations and ambitions and see their hopes translated into realities. This has been clearly demonstrated by the realities of daily life and the achievements of the past, and further confirmed by the wide range of targets the state has set itself for the future, which are designed to serve the citizens, develop their potential and broaden their expertise and skills, while creating greater job opportunities for them so that they can earn a living for themselves and their families and contribute to their community's development.

As we have pointed out on many occasions, a bright future of progress and growth, happiness and prosperity can only be built through a high level of determination, sustained commitment and patience, diligence and perseverance. We are confident that the sons and daughters of Oman enjoy more than their fair share of those noble qualities. Their past and present performance bears witness to this, and we have no doubt that they are capable of building a happy future, God willing.



**Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,
Dear Citizens,**

The wide-ranging development projects are continuing to progress as planned in various parts of the country, particularly in the fields of infrastructure, industry and tourism. While it is the State that is implementing most of these projects, we invite investors – both national and foreign - to contribute to them for the benefit of all, and they in turn will find themselves provided with all the necessary facilities.



**Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,
Dear Citizens,**

Since the beginning of this era we have given absolute priority to the participation of Omani women in the Blessed Renaissance. We have provided them with education, training and employment opportunities and supported their role and status in society, and we have also stressed the need for them to play their part in the different spheres of development. We have made this possible through regulations and laws that safeguard their rights and set out their duties so that they can develop their inner potential, expertise and skills in order to build their country and raise its status.

We are continuing along this path, God willing, since we are convinced that the country, in its blessed march, needs both men and women. This is because – and there can be no doubt about this - it is like a bird which relies upon both its wings to fly through the sky. How could it manage to do so if one of its wings was broken? Would it be able to fly?

At this juncture it is incumbent upon us to refer to the symposium on Omani women which was held in Seeh Al-Makarim in the wilayat of Sohar last October, and which came up with a number of recommendations that we endorsed and approved; we believe that you have taken note of them. Among them was the designation of 17th October each year as Omani Women's Day; this will highlight their achievements over the previous year and their contributions to serving their community, while raising awareness of their true role and status and boosting their aspirations towards the future.

Here we would like to address a word to Omani women and call upon them to take advantage of all the opportunities that have been granted to them, so that they can prove their worth and show that they are capable of overcoming any obstacles that might stand in their way.



**Honourable Members of the Council of Oman,
Dear Citizens,**

Last December the Sultanate hosted the 29th Cooperation Council Summit, and it has presided over several of the Council's meetings during the course of this year. Nobody can fail to be aware of the fact that we are all working to achieve further joint action based on mutual interests, for the common good of our people and our region.

Everybody is familiar with our foreign policy, which is built on firm, immutable principles and based on the establishment of security, peace and happiness for the whole of humanity.

Our Lord, we place our trust in You, so grant us success in all that we do. And dispose of our affair for us in the right way. For You are the best to protect and the best to help.

Finally, let us conclude by saying: Praise be to God, the Lord and the Worlds. And may you enjoy good fortune this and every year.

Our God in You we place our trust, so foreordain success for us in all our deeds and open the way to right guidance for us. You are the Best of Patrons and the Best of Helpers. And the close of our Prayer will be: Praise be to God, the cherisher and sustainer of the worlds.

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.

May God grant you success and may
God's peace and mercy be upon you.





Speech of His Majesty



at the opening of the annual session of
the council of oman

*Oman has a deep-rooted history and firm principles
established ages ago and, praise be to God, what we
have done is to confirm these principles, and express
them in modern-day language.*



4th October
2010





In the Name of God, the Compassionate and Merciful. Praise be to God who bestowed His grace and blessed our endeavour and crowned it with success, and may blessings and peace be upon Prophet Mohammed and upon His family, companions and those who followed his guidance.

Honourable members of the Council of Oman and dear citizens,

Our gathering in the city of Salalah today as we prepare to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Renaissance has undeniable symbolic significance because it was from the Governorate of Dhofar that Oman's modern Renaissance began and it was there that the first steps were taken towards the achievement of its hopes.

And here we are today, in this splendid land, celebrating the 40th anniversary of its progress, during the course of which its achievements in many fields are plain for all to see and have changed the face of life in Oman, enabling it to assume a position of eminence at both regional and international levels.

It was from here that we gave our first speech, during which we expressed our determination to work towards the creation of a modern state and to take the country forward in many different fields to the best of our ability. Since then we have embraced every means to enable us to achieve what we had promised.

Praise and thanks should be offered to God, the Most Sublime, the Almighty, for the fact that Oman has been able to realise much of what we had aspired towards. Everything that has been achieved within a precise balance between preserving the best elements of our heritage, in which we take pride, and the demands of the present day which require us to adapt to the spirit of the modern age — while at the same time corresponding to its civilization, modern science and technology and benefiting from the latest developments in the various spheres of public and private life.

Although the building of this modern state to which we aspired was achieved with God's assistance, the road to achieving it — as you all know — was not easy and accessible. There were tremendous difficulties and many obstacles. However, thanks to God's blessings, along with the diligent hard work and dedication by all sections of society — men and women — and for their absolute faith in God's assistance and guidance, we overcame all the difficulties and obstacles.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, dear citizens,

A high percentage of modern state building has definitely been achieved in the way we envisaged, thanks to God's grace. This was made through stable, phased and carefully studied steps that have built the present and paved the way to the future.

Oman has a deep-rooted history and firm principles established ages ago and, praise be to God, what we have done is to confirm these principles, and express them in modern-day language.

One of Oman's firm principles is co-operation with all states and nations on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and non-interference in the affairs of others as well as our non-acceptance of interference in our affairs by others.

The attention we have paid to development plans in order to build a community of prosperity, science and knowledge has been considerable and, praise be to God, a percentage of these development programmes, in which we take pride, have been implemented in various parts of the Sultanate.

What is certain is that with the development that has taken place in Omani life, and the positive changes that society has undergone, the legal and judicial systems have had to be upgraded and modernised to keep pace with the latest developments.

Accordingly, the laws and statutes necessary for that purpose were promulgated, culminating in the Basic Law of the State.

Honourable members of the Council of Oman, dear citizens.

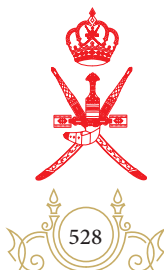
By referring to the above we did not merely intend to remind you of the achievements that have taken place in this our dear country, because they are plain for all to see and no further proof of them is needed. What we have wished to do is to stress the importance of safeguarding and protecting them so that the next generations — sons and daughters of Oman — can continue along the blessed path with the support and guidance of the Almighty God.

Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, dear citizens,

On this dear occasion we salute and express our appreciation to all who have contributed to the building of a modern state in Oman and participated in realising its achievements and remained vigilant and alert to protect it. Here we particularly refer to our Armed Forces, and all the administrative and security services.

"Our Lord upon You we relied and turned in repentance and to You is the return. Our Lord bestow upon us mercy from thyself and facilitate for us our affairs in the right way."

May God grant you success and may peace be upon you.



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the
sultan qaboos university cultural centre

*We have always stressed the importance of science and
knowledge and keeping pace with their developments
with all possible means, with active brain.*



18th December
2010





Praise be to Allah the Almighty who taught us what we did not know and has great favours onto us. Peace and prayers be upon our Prophet (PBUH), his family and companions.

While we are opening the Cultural Centre of the university, it gives us pleasure to meet you again to remember the blessings of Allah with praise, mercy and deep thanks for helping us to achieve what we have pointed out in our previous meeting in 2000. The meeting now is in the Grand Auditorium, which is one of the components of this Centre.



Dear Guests,

We have always stressed the importance of science and knowledge and keeping pace with their developments with all possible means, with active brain, on the bases of thinking and experience to take what is useful and leave what is useless. We seek to invigorate your efforts to make valuable addition to this field. Whatever progress made by hard workers, still it is nothing compared to the vast sea of science.

Our stress on the useful science emanates from our belief that it is the right springboard for acquiring knowledge, expertise and skills that enable the current and future generations to contribute positively to the service of their homeland and society and meet the needs of development in a guided manner. We have accorded education our full care. To this end, we have built the governmental institutions that take care of the different aspects of education and scientific research, opened the door before the private sector, encouraged it and provided it with suitable facilities and financial as well as, spiritual support so that it can actively participate in the provision of the best education levels for our sons and daughters, as per the international quality standards.

We have followed with interest and care the different levels of the march of education for our sons and daughters from the early stages till the post graduate studies stage including the foreign scholarships, as well as their cultural and scientific programmes and activities that enhance their capacities, promote their talents and demonstrate their efficiency.

Few days ago, this University — thanks to Allah — witnessed the graduation of the 21st batch of bachelor holder and the 15th batch of MA holders.

While we praise Allah the Almighty for this, we would like to express our appreciation for all the sincere efforts made by those working at the different scientific institutions especially the teaching staff and our sons and daughters, the students.

We call upon everyone to be persistent and exert more effort to attain the prospective goal — in Allah's will. We have no doubt that you will work hard to be worthy of our trust. I appeal to Allah to support and guide us to the right path.

'Our Lord! Bestow on us Mercy from Thyself, and dispose of our affair for us in the right way!'







Speech of His Majesty



before the council of oman

*Youth are the present and future of the nation, we have
accorded them the attention and care they deserve
throughout the years of the blessed Renaissance*



31st October
2011





In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to the Almighty who has promised those who are grateful further blessings. Prayer and peace be upon the Messenger of Mercy to all nations, and to his family and companions. And to those who have followed their righteous path to the Day of Judgment.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

In the Name of God, the Most High, the Almighty, we inaugurate the 5th Term of the Council of Oman on this blessed day, thanking God for His bounties, His abundant generosity and His divine providence to enable Oman to achieve further development, progress and prosperity, for He is the One Who responds to prayers.

We spoke before, on this same glorious occasion, about Oman's Shura (consultation) experiment and about the gradual path we chose to build it, on firm foundations and stable pillars that will ensure its natural growth, while at the same time meeting the requirements of each phase of national work, and also responding to the community's needs, not only by applying wisdom in its vision and implementation of its procedures, but also to fulfil its aspirations of contributing more effectively to the decision-making process for the higher interest of the country and citizens.

Many notable achievements were made along the path of this blessed experience during the past phase, and, as we express our thanks for the efforts exerted in this regard, we are looking forward to a qualitative shift in national work which will be carried out by the Council of Oman during the upcoming period in light of the expanded powers given to it in the legislative and auditing fields.

There is no doubt that the challenges are enormous, but we are quite confident that all members of the Council will play their effective role and exert their utmost efforts for the sake of leading their beloved country onwards to greater honour, glory, progress and prosperity, security and stability, while setting before their eyes the enormous responsibilities shouldered by their Council as a body which takes part in the decision making process.

The Council members, as citizens seeking their country's prominence, should also work continuously and relentlessly to ensure the success of plans aimed at consolidating the Sultanate's economic, social and scientific potential to serve the common interest, raise the country's regional and international status and help Oman achieve its commitments at both local and foreign levels without slowness or delay.

It is obvious that this requires more co-operation and co-ordination between government departments and the Council of Oman in particular, and between these two parties, the private sector, civil society institutions and corporations, in general. It is worth noting that collaboration and co-operation between all bodies concerned and direct co-ordination and exchange of opinions and consultation among those in charge is the way that leads to the success of national plans and programmes in playing their desired role in comprehensive development and achieving short- and long-term goals in serving present and future generations.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

The building of a modern state, which we pledged to establish since the first moment of the dawn of the blessed Renaissance, required us to exert great efforts in the field founding infrastructure which is the pillar and first cornerstone of comprehensive development. The laying down of this infrastructure — in all parts of the Sultanate — Praise be to God, has offered a big opportunity for construction development in various cities and villages throughout Oman and paved the way for the setting up of many economic, commercial and industrial projects, as well as different educational, cultural, health and social institutions.

Any observer of daily life in Oman will see this quite clearly. And no wonder, for Omanis have been, from ancient times, civilization makers, thanks to their great historical heritage, their openness to other civilizations across the seas and oceans, and their ability to communicate and exchange mutual benefits with others. This is why Omanis are well-qualified

to be a model for others to follow in this age of rapid development and progress, and why Omanis are also capable of coping with the challenges of the modern age—espousing every new enlightened idea, benefiting from sciences and new technology and, at the same time, constantly preserving values and high principles in which they believe and traditions and original customs with which they were brought up. We all know that progress is part of the reality of the universe we live in.

However, many ways and means are required in order to achieve this goal (of change). The first of these means is strong will and determination, and a readiness to face challenges and persist in one's endeavours to overcome difficulties and obstacles. Therefore every nation that desires to live — in the full meaning of the word — needs to roll up its sleeves and work tirelessly and diligently with dedication and love to give generously, to utilise its capacities and skills and to invest in its resources and potential so that it could build a great and illustrious present and prepare for a decent and prosperous future.

By God's grace, the Omani people have been granted many of these qualities, and over the past four decades they were able to realise achievements which still stand as clear evidence that cannot be denied by anyone who has the power of vision and insight.

We offer our thanks to the Almighty for His great bounties and we pray and supplicate humbly to Him to grant this generation of Oman's sons and daughters as well as the upcoming generations the ability to safeguard these achievements against every malicious enemy, scheming traitor or envious hypocrite. These achievements are in the custody of these generations and they will be asked about them before God, history and their homeland.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

We have always affirmed our continual attention to the development of human resources and we said that these resources take top priority in our plans and programmes, for the human being is the cornerstone of every development structure and a pivotal component around which all types of development revolve, since their ultimate goal is to achieve the happiness of individuals, provide them with decent living and guarantee their security and safety.

Because youth are the present and future of the nation, we have accorded them the attention and care they deserve throughout the years of the blessed Renaissance. The government has worked to provide youth with education, training, qualifications and employment opportunities. The forthcoming stage will witness, with God's permission, greater care and attention to provide more opportunities for youth in order to consolidate their gain in knowledge, strengthen their talents in innovation and productivity and increase their participation in the comprehensive development march.

As education is the basic pillar of progress and development, and, in order to produce a responsible generation armed with expertise and skills and aspiring to a higher level of knowledge, it is necessary to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the educational march in order to achieve these aspirations and benefit from the available job opportunities in the public and private sectors.

It is well noted that construction, economic, commercial and industrial projects established during the past stage in various parts of the Sultanate have absorbed many national workers and the private sector has proved its co-operation in shouldering the responsibility as it assumed a tangible role in co-operating with the government and supported sustainable development efforts. We are looking forward to a greater role to be played by the private sector in the future, particularly in the field of the development of human resources.

We are observing, with satisfaction, the efforts made by the government during the recent past in implementing our directives to employ thousands of our sons and daughters in the civil, security and military sectors, and we would also like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the private sector in this important domain.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

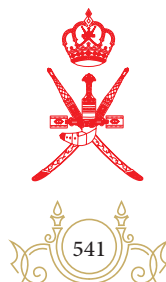
The State's laws and regulations have guaranteed for every Omani the right to express his opinion and participate with his constructive ideas in enhancing the march of progress witnessed by the country in various arenas. We have always believed it is important that there should be a wide range of different ideas and opinions, and that people should not be prohibited from thinking freely, because this is evidence of a community's strength and its ability to benefit from these opinions and ideas to serve its aspirations for a better future and finer, happier life.

However, freedom of expression does not mean that any one party has the right to force its opinions on others or suppress the rights of others to express their ideas freely, since this has nothing to do with democracy or law. Keeping up with the times does not mean imposing one's ideas on other people. This is how our true religion teaches us, as the Almighty God has commended the faithful in His holy book (the Qur'an) by praising those "Who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation".

This is also what the laws of the modern age in which we live call for. Also as the monopolization of opinion and its imposition on others should not be permitted, radicalism and immoderation should also not be tolerated because all that will disturb the required balance upon which wise decisions that consider the interests of all are based. The more thought becomes diverse, open and free of fanaticism, the more it becomes a correct and sound basis for building generations and realizing the progress of nations and societies. Inflexibility, extremism and immoderation are the opposite to all of righteous values. Societies which espouse such negative ideas only carry within themselves the seeds of their eventual destruction. And while we reaffirmed our Omani society's rejection of any claims that do not conform with our moderate and tolerant nature, we remind all concerned that awareness is highly important so that matters will be understood as they really are, and so that no space shall be left for baseless speculation.

The Sultanate's policy is based on achieving balance in life in accordance with what the Almighty God says in the Holy Qur'an, "But seek with the wealth which God has bestowed on thee, the home of the hereafter; do not forget thy portion in this world but do good as was done to thee and seek not mischief in the land" — True are the words of Almighty God. We were born in this country, Praise be to God, with a natural disposition to tolerance, good conduct, rejection of bitterness, warding off sedition and abiding by customs and values based on fraternity, co-operation and love among all.

We affirm the need for these good traits and high values to be instilled in our youth from a young age, at home, in school, mosque, club and other educational and 'nurturing incubators' so these values will act as a fence protecting them from falling into the abyss of alien ideas that call for violence, extremism, hatred, fanaticism, being opinionated and non-acceptance of the others, as well as other extreme ideas and opinions that lead to the tearing up of society, draining its vital powers and leaving it in ruins and utter destruction, God forbids.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

Government work, as is well-known, is a matter of trust and responsibility. It should be carried out with total disregard for personal interests and with complete honesty for the service of the community.

All gaps from which corruption might leak should be sealed off. We hereby affirm that corruption must not be allowed in any shape or form; we instruct our government to take all necessary measures to prevent corruption and we direct all the audit authorities to fulfil their duties resolutely in this regard with the full force of the law, away from mere doubt or uncertainty. Justice must take its course and become our goal and objective. With God's assistance, we are continuing to upgrade the judicial and audit institutions with the aim of reinforcing the state institutions. Our support for the judiciary and its independence is a duty to which we have committed ourselves, and we recognise that it is imperative to respect its decisions without favoritism, as all are equal before the law.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

We are living in a world that has witnessed rapid developments at regional and international levels that have had a different impact and opposing reactions. As the world is characterised by over-lapping interests and policies, we cannot be detached from what is happening around us.

The Sultanate has always been known for adopting a clear policy based on co-operation with all in accordance with the firm principles of mutual respect, encouragement of dialogue and rejection of violence in tackling issues, in order to come up with communities where fraternity and stability prevail, which will enable nations to continue their development march and achieve their objectives of progress and prosperity in an atmosphere of security, free of disturbances—an atmosphere that encourages the implementation of economic and social plans and programmes in accordance with priorities dictated by public interests.

We in the Sultanate, and despite the crises swarming the world and the difficulties in predicting their limits, timescale, and their negative repercussions on the countries' economy, we endeavour to lessen these impacts by adopting balanced economic policies to preserve our

gains and boost our economic plans in various spheres, forging ahead with determination to complete the establishment of the modern state based on solid foundations that guarantee continual development of natural and human resources and the spread of education, culture and knowledge, besides providing security and stability and consolidating the basis of institutional work that leads, with God's assistance, to more progress, prosperity and a decent living for all citizens.

In conclusion, we should like to salute and express our appreciation to all dedicated workers from among our Omani sons and daughters, wherever they are and whatever responsibilities they bear, and to all those who have helped establish a better future for Oman and raise its status and prestige to new heights, while protecting its gains and safeguarding its achievements, security and stability.

In particular, we salute our Armed Forces and security services for their sacrifice and selflessness, and to them we reaffirm that we shall continue to extend our care and support to develop their abilities and potential.

Oh Lord. Make this country peaceful, and feed its people with fruits of good; Be their Guide on the straight path.

May God grant you all success! Peace and mercy be upon you."





Speech of His Majesty



before the council of oman

*Infrastructure gains extreme importance and is
accorded top priority in some of these stages due to
special circumstances and specific considerations
that call for such action*



13th November
2012





In the name of the God, the Compassionate, the Merciful Praise be to the Almighty God Who guided us to the path of righteousness and prayers and peace be upon His Messenger who called for the application of Shura as an authentic system of governance, as well his honourable family and his virtuous companions, day and night



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

It is one of the bounties of the Almighty God that we are meeting you on this occasion and thanks to Him for the riches He has bestowed on us. We pray to the Almighty to bestow more bounties on Oman and to guide its people to the fulfilment of their aspirations and their progress. Thank the Almighty for His endless riches and He shall reward you with more bounties and blessings and protect you with His divine care.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

The experience of Shura in Oman, as we have always stressed, is a successful one and it has been closely in harmony with the stages of the Renaissance and compatible with the values of society and its principles, besides being in line with the concept of grooming enlightened individuals who are well aware of their rights and duties and are capable of expressing their opinions and their ideas in acceptable language, sensible logic and a prudent vision based on proper assessment of matters

Omanis have, throughout the past stage, proved that they command a good sense of awareness, culture, insight and understanding when dealing with various opinions, types of dialogue and discussions, which target the supreme interests of this country and its loyal citizens. We are confident that this awareness will increase and this culture will grow and take strong roots through the role assigned to you, Members of the Council of Oman, through the exchange of views and ideas, stemming from a wise tradition that became evident and shall continue to crystallise as you tackle different issues in a deep, elaborate manner of analysis and investigation.

We hope that this great edifice, which we have opened in the name of God, will witness a constructive discussion of matters and a wise tackling of issues; a discussion through which it becomes clear to anyone who observes this experience, locally and abroad, that Omanis are highly capable of participating with their enlightened opinion and mature thought in making decisions to serve their country and promote it to a prominent place and a noble status. This is no challenge to the people of Oman, a country whose glorious past stands as witness and whose brilliant present serves as an incentive to look forward to wider horizons of progress and prosperity.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

You definitely know that Oman was once in great need of development in all fields and you understand that, in order to achieve the goal of human and social development in all areas of the Sultanate, it has been necessary to establish solid infrastructure on which the development plans and programmes will be based. This is particularly true in the fields of education, health, training and employment. Without infrastructure, human and social development would not have reached the population in cities, towns, villages, plains and mountains, and in the deep valleys and the vast deserts.

The past plans of development, despite the widespread area of Oman and its harsh geographical terrain, have gone a long way, and this has led to the transformation of life in this country and facilitated the implementation of development programmes — both social and human. It has helped extend services of all types to citizens wherever they are. You know that the need for infrastructure will never cease to be a necessity because it is an ongoing process necessitated by urban expansion and social and economic development and

reaffirmed by the people's need for communication and aspirations for a better, happier life.

Therefore, infrastructure development always gains attention in all stages of growth and nation building, and without exception. Infrastructure gains extreme importance and is accorded top priority in some of these stages due to special circumstances and specific considerations that call for such action. Therefore, what some people often deem as more emphasis on infrastructure than human or social development in the past stages of development is not accurate, as such a view ignores the truth, the conditions that prevailed at that time and the priorities made necessary by the situation there and then. That view also ignores the tremendous attention, which was similarly accorded to the areas of education, health, commerce, industry, agriculture, finance and the economy at large.

So the attention accorded to these areas aim at the provision of a dignified life for the citizen, who, as we have always affirmed, is both the target of the comprehensive development and its effective tool.

As we mentioned in our speech last year and, as the necessary basic infrastructure is about to be completed, we have instructed our government to focus, in its future plans, on social development, particularly its aspects related to the daily lives of citizens. This should be achieved by the creation of renewable employment opportunities and training programmes for citizens and promoting production capacity, as well as scientific, cultural and intellectual development. We will closely follow the steps taken in this field. This matter shall also be the focus of attention of the Supreme Council for Planning, which seeks to draft well-studied development plans that take into account the priorities of each stage and the balance between various aspects of development towards attaining the overall goal.

It is pleasing and rewarding to see that Oman is progressing in balanced steps in the direction, which we regard as the right direction. We pray to the Almighty to bless us with more success for the sake of Oman and its loyal citizens.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

The private sector is one of the basic pillars of development, both in the economic concept, which represents commerce, industry, agriculture, tourism, finance and the economy in



general, as well as the social concept, which denotes human resources development, training, the upgrading of scientific and practical skills, the offering of new employment opportunities and incentives to take up jobs in the private sector.

It is not acceptable that some citizens adopt the impression that the private sector relies on what the state offers to it, and that this sector does not contribute efficiently to the service of the society and support of its social institutions and programmes, or that the private sector seeks only to achieve profit or does not try to work more seriously in serving its society, environment and its country.

Such an impression would harm, not only the future of the private sector, but would also have a negative impact, which will extend to the development plans in the country, particularly to the diversification of income. Therefore, the private sector is required to work harder to eliminate this impression and to take well-studied and efficient practical steps, through increasing its contribution to social development and to work in closer partnership with the government in implementing its policies, hand-in-hand with civil society institutions, which offer social and humanitarian services.

Such a positive attitude is capable of enhancing the confidence of citizens and their appreciation of the private sector's role. It will encourage Omani youth to work in this sector and to continue to keep their jobs and instil a spirit of belonging to the sector's institutions. This will in turn reflect positively on the performance of youth, their commitment to the ethics of work and will contribute to productivity. Therefore, the private sector will be an authentic partner in employment and development plans that are prepared by government departments and from which the private sector itself benefits and which will be a strong impetus for the development of the private sector's potential and release its great energy in the fields of local, regional and international competition.

A word, which we wish to address to Omani youth on this occasion: Remember that work, as much as it is a right, it is a duty as well. Everyone who has completed their education or training has to take up any useful profession which fulfils their sense of being and through which they can strive to achieve their ambitions, rather than wait to get a government job. The state, with all its civil, security and military institutions, cannot continue to be the main source of employment, as this calls for a capacity beyond its reach and a mission that the state cannot sustain forever.

The citizens have to understand that the private sector is the real source of employment in the long run. Hence they should not hesitate to join the private sector and must not desert their jobs therein. This, in turn, calls for a revision of the salary system of the private sector, particularly in low and medium-paid jobs.

This has to be considered a national mission, which has to be accomplished in allegiance to this country; it should also be considered a service to citizens who place their confidence, their efforts and their mental ability in serving the sector.



Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

It is well understood that education is the basis of development. In the various stages of education and through its diverse curricula, national manpower, which is necessary for domestic development and for the implementation of its programmes, is prepared. Therefore, it has been necessary, for the success of development plans and the execution of its programmes, to work to secure the quality of output of all types of educational establishments in accordance with the general policies of the state, to help attain the goals that we all aspire to achieve

During the past period, various systems of education and curricula were implemented and different training programmes were executed, but the matter calls for greater attention to be accorded to linking the educational output to the requirements of the labour market.

Hence one of the priorities of the current stage of development and the next stage, which we prepare for is to revise the educational policies, its plans and its programmes, which need to be developed to keep pace with the changes that the country is going through. More attention should be accorded to the requirements imposed by scientific and cultural development towards the evolution of a generation armed with awareness, knowledge and the abilities required for worthwhile work. The establishment of the Education Council seeks to promote this sector.

Therefore, all departments in charge of education at all levels have to co-operate with this Council in total dedication and perseverance. We would also like to call upon the Council of Oman to present its opinion in this respect to the Education Council, and we are confident that joint efforts will lead to the desired results.





Honourable Members of the Council of Oman, Dear Citizens,

Our domestic policy, as you have always known it, is based on constructive work in serving the public interest, keeping pace with the developments of the age while at the same time maintaining our identity, our principles and our values in which we take pride. As for our foreign policy, its essence is the call for peace, harmony and close co-operation with all nations, as well as commitment to the principles of righteousness, justice, fairness and non-interference in the internal affairs of others and the settlement of disputes through peaceful means to help safeguard for all mankind its security, stability, prosperity and progress.

At the conclusion of this speech, we would like to address a word of appreciation and pride to all workers for the sake of Oman, for its growth in all civil, military and security sectors.

May the Almighty grant us mercy and guide us to the right path”.

Speech of His Majesty

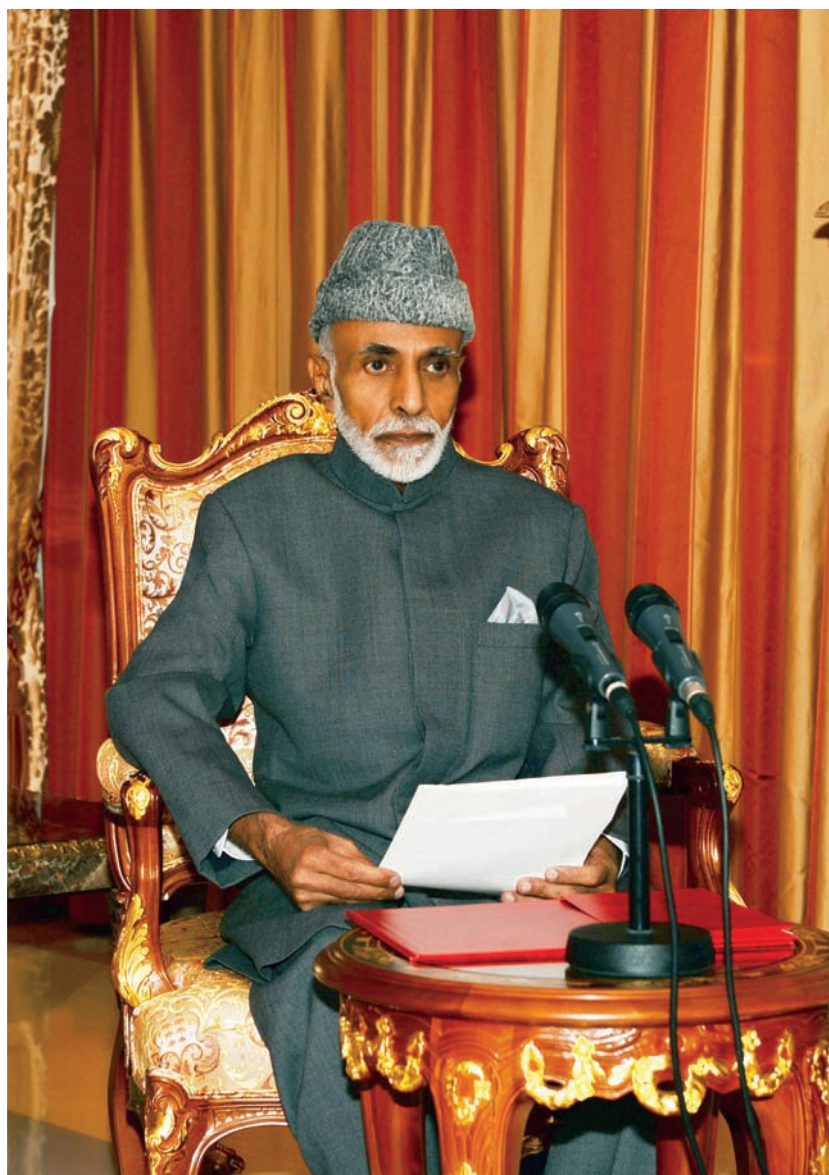


on the occasion of the 44th national day

*We would like to salute our courageous Armed Forces,
with all its formations and in all gorges of the dear
homeland, for their commendable national role which
has always earned our full appreciation.*



5th November
2014





In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Peace be upon the Almighty's Messenger, Prophet Mohammed, and upon his family, companions and those who pursue the righteous path of faith until the Day of Judgment.



Dear Citizens,

It is our pleasure to greet you while our dear homeland is, on these blessed days, about to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of its Triumphant Renaissance which is progressing in accordance with the firm foundations and pillars that we have laid down, right from the first day of the blessed march. We offer thanks and praise to the Almighty Allah for the guidance and virtues with which He has endowed us so that we could take this march forward for the building of a modern, well-founded state, advancing in full determination toward a bright future that is promising of progress and prosperity.

"We are delighted to express our congratulations to you all on this happy occasion, which, this year, it has been the Almighty's divine will that the anniversary coincides with the time when we are abroad—for the reasons you know. Praise be to the Almighty, for He has realized for us good results that require us to proceed with the medical program in the forthcoming period.

"We would like to express our profound delight and extreme thanks to you for the heartfelt prayers and sincere sentiments which you have demonstrated. We pray to the Almighty God to protect all the loyal citizens of Oman and guard you all under His divine care, as noble and as loyal as you have always been.

"We would also like to salute our courageous Armed Forces—with all its formations and in all gorges of the dear homeland—for their commendable national role which has always

earned our full appreciation. We reaffirm our continuous will to provide the Armed Forces with all equipments to enable them to perform their sacred duty of defending the territories of the nation and safeguarding its achievements.

“We pray to Allah, the Almighty, to lend us His assistance and support us with success in all that serves the progress and prosperity of Oman!”



Speech of His Majesty



on the occasion of the opening of the sixth
term of the council of oman

*We appreciate efforts of the Council of Oman over this
period, which have had a tangible effect in helping
to promote wide-ranging progress towards further
growth and development.*



15th November
2015





In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

May Blessings and Peace be upon the Messenger of Mercy to all mankind.



Honourable members of the Council of Oman,

It gives us great pleasure to meet you on this blessed day as we open the Majlis Oman (Council of Oman)'s Sixth Term, and we hope that its endeavours in serving this dear homeland will be crowned with success.

Honourable members of the Council of Oman.

While we can feel justly proud of what Oman has already achieved in various fields, we also aim to continue along the blessed path of the Renaissance with ever greater will and determination. This will only be possible if we all combine our efforts and work together for the benefit of all.

We have been closely following the work of the Council of Oman through its two component bodies – the Majlis al Shura (Consultation Council) and the Majlis al Dawla (State Council). We appreciate its efforts over this period, which have had a tangible effect in helping to promote wide-ranging progress towards further growth and development.

In asking God to grant success to us all in serving our homeland, we pray that He will extend us His assistance. For He it is Who hears and answers our prayers.

Our Lord! In Thee do we trust, and to Thee do we turn in repentance. May our dear homeland and its loyal people live every year in prosperity and happiness.

And may peace be upon you and the Mercy of God and His Blessings.

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