NITED ARAB EMIRATES
OF INFORMATION & CULTURE
INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

AN OUTLINE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES' FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1975

INFORMATION STUDIES NO. 19

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INTRODUCTION

The foreign policy of the UAE symbolises the main features of the new resurgent Emirates which function as a well co-ordinated body designed to ensure the region's security and progress.

Reflecting the noble traits of the constituent Emirates' ancient heritage and the current progress followed by oil wealth, the policy is illustrative of the UAE's internal potentialities. The strong ties uniting the UAE have paved way for lasting relations with all other states, especially the sister-Arab states.

Being a firm believer in the Arab nationalist unity, which is a cementing force embracing all Arab Countries, the UAE is proud of the historical ties binding the sister-states.

The UAE is a peace-loving state with no aggressive designs against any country. It stands for mutual co-operation and understanding to promote goodwill and friendly relations with all peace-loving nations. It believes in peaceful solutions guarenteeing the rights of all concerned.

ARAB NATIONALIST TIES

A distinct feature of the policy is firm adherence to its stand of full support, both moral and material to the Palestinian people in their struggle to restore their homeland to assert their right of self-determination.

The UAE promptly declared its support to the decision of the Arab Summit Conference held in Rabbat in 1974 which called for the recognition of the Palestinian liberation organisation (P.L.O.), as the sole legisimate of the Palestinians The UAE's support to the struggle of the Palestinians and its concern with the objectives of the Arab unity play a significant role in its foreign diplomacy. The policy is inspired by the basic principles of human rights, the U.N. Charter and the noble principles of human justice. With these ideals forming the basis, the foreign policy aims at Arab unity that would result in the victory of the struggle of the Arab states against the expansionist Zionist conquest and lead to the safety and security of the states against any external danger.

Keeping this objective in view, the UAE has always strived for closer co-operation with all its sister-states. The

strong basis for closer co-operation stems out of the feeling that all the Arab States have nationalist aims and a common destiny. In this direction, many bilateral agreements have been signed with all Arab countries, covering economic, development, information and cultural fields. The UAE has also promoted, in collaboration with many of its sister-countries, common industries, banks and investments that would surely be of mutual benefit and profit.

CO-OPERATION IN THE GULF AREA

Since the UAE is an important and vital part of the Gulf area, it pays a great deal of attention to the promotion of cordial relations with its neighbours. The UAE has successfully removed all its differences and obstacles hampering its relations with Saudi Arabia, which has now turned out to be a great supporter of the UAE. The relations have ushered in an era of full co-operation in the fields of politics and economics. The visit of His Excellency Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, Heir Apparent and First Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, to the UAE was a clear evidence of the improved relations. Since then, both the countries exchanged a number of visits by top dignitaries.

Side by side, the UAE maintains close co-operation

with the Gulf states in economic, cultural and informational fields. Many agreements have been signed, including those concerning co-operation in the fields of petroleum, finance and currency. The country discusses with its neighbours the issues of petroleum in order that a common oil policy could be followed. A number of banks have been established with shared capitals from these countries. Of late, a move is afoot to adopt a common currency for the entire Gulf region. The UAE stresses the need for full understanding of the common issues in the Gulf, while believing that each state should enjoy its independence.

ROLE IN THE ARAB LEAGUE

The UAE is an active member of the Arab league, fully co-operating with all League members. While refraining from any interference in the internal political conflicts of other states, the UAE brings closer Arab points of view, making the best use of its esteemed status.

The UAE headed the meeting of the Arab League in 1975, fulfilled all its duties deligently and helped formulate fruitful decisions. It played a significant role in the extraordinary meetings held to discuss the dimensions of the Civil War in Lebanon.

The UAE is also an active member of the different specialised agencies of the Arab League playing constructive roles in political economic and cultural fields. Exchange of experience in development projects is well established.

LINKS WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The UAE has relations with the Islamic world in the East and the West. It pays due attention to its relationship with the Islamic countries in Asia and Africa. The UAE shares its points of view with the Islamic World through the General Secretariate of the Islamic Conference, of which it is an active member.

The UAE has diplomatic relations with almost all Islamic countries with the aim of strengthening religious and historical ties. The bonds of co-operation with these countries would be further strengthened with the visit of UAE diplomatic missions in the near future. The UAE helps implement a number of projects in the Islamic World. It helps the Islamic Unity Fund, the Broadcasting Union for Islamic Countries and the Islamic News Agency. Through such projects, the UAE has translated several of its plans into reality.

RELATIONS WITH THE NON-ALIGNED STATES

The UAE pays keen attention to its relations with the developing and non-aligned countries as the UAE is a developing state. It abides by the majority lines of policy laid down by the non-aligned bloc.

The UAE is member of the Non-Aligned States' Movement like all other Arab countries. The state follows a clear, definite policy. It is a peace-loving state which abhores aggression and military alliances. The UAE's membership in the Movement is indicative of the country's balanced policy, which essentially concures with the Third World policy.

ROLE AT THE U.N.

The UAE maintains contacts with almost all the countries of the world through the U,N and its differnet agencies. On the international level, it abides by the U.N. Charter and believes that the universal organisation is an effective factor in bringing together the different nations of the world. The state considers the U.N. as the best forum to ensure social justice in the world and to remove causes of conflicts.

Soon after its formation, the UAE joined the U.N.

and let the world hear its voice. The country expressed its clear policy concerning world politics and helped solve international issues.

The UAE mission at the U.N. plays an active role by explaining the country's policy through its constant participation in the discussions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It takes an active part in discussions concerning international issues, especially the Palestine problem, the Middle East crisis the people's right of self-determination and struggles against imperialism and racism. The UAE's denounciation of imperialism and racism is rooted in its strong belief in human rights and the U.N. Charter.

The UAE attended the U. N.-sponsored international conferences like the Third International Conference for the Sea Laws held in Geneva in March 1975 and the U.N. Conference for Combating Crimes during the Seventh U.N. extraordinary session where His Excellency the State Minister for Foreign Affairs gave a full account of the UAE policy on economic aspects, improvement of world monetary system and economic co-operation between developing and industrial countries.

The UAE also maintains contacts with different specialised U.N. agencies. The UNICEF and WHO, from whom it gets consultant services, have representatives stationed in the state.

ECONOMIC ROLE

The economy of the UAE, boosted by its oil wealth, plays an important role in the foreign policy and its national and international objectives. The country is seriously concerned with the proper use of the oil wealth as its welfare and foreign aid programme depend totally on it. Since oil, the sole source of the UAE's revenue, is likely to be exhausted after a certain period, the country plans to diversify its industries making the best use of the wealth currently being derived from oil in order to ensure its economic stability and continued progress. Foreign oil companies used to control the production, prices and marketing of oil in the UAE. As the country could not afford this to continue, the government held lengthy negotiations with the foreign oil companies to check the practice. The end result is that the government now holds the majority of the shares in the oil industry. Of late, the UAE oil policy is shifting towards industrialisation, especially in the petrochemical field with a view to reduce its total dependence on oil. The state assigns top priority to the distribution of resources for the benefit of its people by providing them with all social services necessary to combat disease and poverty. The aim is to ensure a dignified and prosperous life for the citizens. The next step is the country's obligations towards its sister-Arab states and the developing countries. It spares no effort in fulfilling its duties towards them.

On the international level, the UAE believes that redistribution of wealth emanating from economic transactions on the basis of justice would result in a more cordial atmosphere, avoiding disputes. If an international system, protecting the flow of commercial transactions in accordance with the interests of the less developed countries, is established, the economic bonds and international detente can be further strengthened.

The oil producing, developing countries offered significant economic aid to other developing countries. The UAE gave donations and aid amounting to 25 per cent of its Gross National Product (GNP) in 1974. It is worth mentioning that the country's contribution exceeds in absolute figures the aid extended by the industrially advanced nations to the developing countries. Comparing the UAE aid with the country's GNP, one finds that its aid is many times more than what advanced nations gave as aids and donations to the developing countries at any period. This gesture from the part of the UAE should be viewed in the light of the fact that its oil reserves may not continue to be a permanent source of income and that the current flow of wealth should be used mainly for building up economic and social assets.

In the Arab Summit Conference held in Algiers

after the October war, the UAE adopted a plan to support and help friendly African countries in exploiting their resources in a way that would be economically and politically beneficial to the African and Arab masses.

As for Europe and Japan, which have imported of the UAE oil, the country attempts to emphasize the mutual interests between the oil-producing, the oil-consuming and the major industrial countries.

These attempts are necessitated by the fact that the industrial countries endeavour to increase their growth, while the oil-producing countries look for selling their products and getting in return the technical know-how and whatever equipment, goods and services necessary for their development.

The UAE co-operates with international institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund through which the state gives to the world as much aid as possible to help solve certain monetary problems. Such a policy is based on the country's belief that the entire world should have new economic relations characterised by justice and co-operation. The surplus oil would thus be devoted to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich for peace, aiming at the advancement and prosperity of humanity as a whole.

VISITING DELEGATIONS

Many formal delegations paid visits to the UAE during the year 1975. These visits reflect the degree of attention the world pays to the U.A.E. The delegations had extensive talks and negotiations with top officials of the state concentrating on international, political and economic issues, the Middle East question and other aspects of great importance to the Gulf area.

The visitors were: King Hussein of Jordan; President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in the Yemen Arab Republic; Mr. Yaser Arafat, Chairman of P L O; Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait; Prince Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, Heir Apparent and First Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia.

Visitors from foreign countries included Arch Bishop Makarios, President of Cyprus; President Musa Trawni of Mali Republic; President Idi Amin of Uganda; President Leopold Singor of Sinegal Republic.

These visits had fruitful results in bringing closer cooperation in all fields between the UAE and other concerned countries.

From the UAE side, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the State, paid a formal visit to India on January 1, 1975, and had talks with the Indian Prime Minister. In March 1975, President Sheikh Zayed met the Algerian President and attended the Oil Producing Countries' Summit Conference. In July 1975, the President of the State visited France where he had important talks with the French President. The talks centered around co-operation between the UAE and France, Middle East question, economic aspects, investments of capital in development projects like setting up a company with shared capital to explore natural gas, petrochemical industries, production of fertilizers and desalination of sea water.

In October 1975, His Highness Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Vice President of the UAE, paid an official visit to Iran, where he met His Majesty the Shah and had talks with the Iranian Prime Minister to promote and strengthen bilateral relations.

On the international level, the UAE welcomed a number of official delegations. Among them were: Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the UN Secretary General (14.2.1975) and Mr. Mahmound Riad, Secretary General of the Arab League (10.3.75).

Arab ministers who visited the UAE during the year

1975 were: Abdul Haleem Khaddam, Syrian Foreign Minister (paid several visits); Sa'doun Hamadi, Iraqi Foreign Minister (12.1.75); Mohamad Saleh Muti, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Yemen (paid several visits, the first being on 15.2.75); Mauritanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Hamdi Wild Miknas (15.3.75); Bahraini Interior Minister, Sheikh Mohammad bin Khalifa Al Khalifa (3.4.75); Foreign Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic (25.4.75); Tunisian Foreign Minister (8.5.75); Somalian Foreign Minister Mr. Umar Arta (1.9.75); Egyptian Finance Minister, Mr. Ahmad Ismail (14.10.75); Major Ma'moun Abu Zeid, Adviser to the Sudanese President (26.10.75); Mr. Kais Al-Zawawi, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Sultanate of Oman (29.10.75) and the Tunisian Prime Minister 30.10.75).

The important delegations from foreign countries were headed by: Mr. David Anels, British Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Don Mintoff, Prime Minister of Malta, (6.1.75); Senator Percy from the United States of America (8.1.75); Mr. Tun Abdul Razak, late Prime Minister of Malaysia (25.1.75); Cambodian Foreign Minister (17.2.75); Foreign Minister of Donmark (8.5.75); Rumanian Oil Minister (15.5.75); Minister of Planning and Finance in Zambia (13.6.75); Minister of Finance in Ireland (22.6.75); South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister (1.7.75); North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister (9.8.75); Tanzanian Fin-

ance Minister (18.10.75), Bangladesh Foreign Minister (28.10.75) and the Indian Foreign Minister (5.11.75).

EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS

The United Arab Emirates has strengthened its international relations with almost all countries of the world. the UAE has established diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with a number of Arab and foreign countries.

The UAE has 23 embassies and 3 consulates abroad, the latest being the one in Zaire—the first embassy of the country in Africa. The opening of the embassy strengthens the cultural relations between the state and African countries. During the last four years, the state gave huge financial aid to the African countries to help implement their development projects.

The number of Arab and foreign representation in the state is increasing steadily. So far, the UAE has 24 embassies, 5 consulates and 12 Charge d' Affaires. In addition, 14 foreign embassies are being set up. In the UAE there are three international organizations: P.L.O., UNICEF and WHO. Besides, steps have been taken for the setting up of an office in Abu Dhabi for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

CONFERENCE IN WHICH THE STATE PARTICIPATED

A) On the International Level

The meeting of Oil and Foreign Ministers of OAPEC held in Algeria on 24.1.1975. The UAE delegation to the conference was led by Sayed Ahmed Khalifa Al Suweidi, and included Sayed Mana Saeed Al Oteiba, the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

The Conference of Developing Countries held in Daccar from 3—8 February, 1975. The UAE delegation to the conference was led by the Director of Economic Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation included a representative of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development. The conference discussed issues concerning raw-materials and the means by which such materials could be exploited for the benefit of the developing countries.

The second Ministerial meeting of the 77-Group held in Algeria (15-18 February 1975). The UAE

delegation to the meeting was headed by the Minister of State for Financial Affairs, and included a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Third U.N. Conference on the Sea Laws held in Geneva from 17th March to 10th of May, 1975. The UAE delegation was led by its Representative at the U.N. Members of the delegation included the UAE Ambassador in Algeria, Representatives of the Legal Department and Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Conference was one of the most important U.N. conferences, and was a continuation of the Karakas Conference (1974), in which Sea Laws were discussed. The UAE attached great significance to this conference since the state has a long belt of shores.

The Petroleum International Conference held in Tokyo (11-16 May, 1975). Experts from the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources represented the UAE at the conference.

The First Session of the International Tourism Organization held in Madrid on 12.5.1975. A delegation from the Ministry of Information and Culture represented the state at the conference. During this session, the International Agencies of Tourism Or-

ganizations and the International Tourism Organisation were merged into a single body.

The 28th Session of WHO Conference held in Geneva on 13.5.75. The UAE delegation to the conference was headed by the Health Minister. The delegates included a representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Islamic Foreign Minister' Conference in Jedda on 12.7.75. UAE Foreign Minister led the delegation which included representatives from the Ministries of Islamic Affairs and Foreign Affairs. The UAE played a constructive role in bringing together all Islamic States.

Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Non-aligned countries held in Lima (Peru) from 25th to 30th August, 1975. A delegation from the state, headed by the Foreign Minister, participated in this conference. UAE's participation in this conference highlights the fact that the state is an active member in the Non-Aligned States' Movement.

The United Nations' Fifth Conference on combating crimes and treatment of criminals held in Geneva (1-12 Sept. 1975). A delegation from the state composed of representatives from the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Social Affairs and Foreign Affairs,

attended the conference. It was led by the Minister of Youth and Sports.

The Seventh Extra-ordinary Session of the UN General Assembly held in New York from 1—12 September, 1975. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs led the UAE delegation to the conference. This session centered on global economic crisis. This session, which accomplished positive results, was viewed as a continuation of the UN General Assembly's Sixth Extra-ordinary Session held in 1974, which was called by Algeria to discuss issues pertaining to raw materials and international economic system.

The 13th U.N. General Assembly Session held in New York starting from 16.9.1975. The UAE participated in the meeting with a delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

B) On the Arab Level

The Common Arab Defence Council held in Cairo on 5.2.1975. The Minister of Defence headed the UAE delegation to the meeting. The delegation included representatives of the ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs. Significant decisions were taken dur-

ing this meeting including those concerning the establishment of the Arab Arms Industry and a High Arab Board for weapon industrialisation. The UAE shared with the participant Arab States in the capital of the Board.

The Arab Health Ministers' Fourth Conference held in Baghdad from 22/2/75. The Minister of Health headed the UAE delegation to the conference.

The 4th Session of the Arab Labour Organization held in Tripoli (Libya) from 4—14th March, 1975.

The UAE delegation included representatives of the Government, employers and employees.

63rd Session of the Arab League held in Cairo on 24.3.1975. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs headed the UAE delegation to the meeting.

The Second conference of Arab Social Affairs Ministers held in Khartoum from 25-27th March, 1975.

The UAE delegation to the conference was led by the Minister of Social Affairs.

The Arab Conference on Population held in Cairo on 5.4.1975. The Planning Minister headed the UAE delegation to the conference. The conference dealt

with issues of planning in Arab States as a first step to participate in the International Conference on Population to be held in Canada in 1976.

The OAPEC Ministerial Board meeting held in Kuwait on 3.5.1975. The UAE delegation was headed by the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

The First conference of Arab Ministers of Industry held in Cairo on 26th August, 1975. The Minister of Finance and Industry led the UAE delegation to the meeting.

The 64 Session of the Arab League Council held in Cairo on 2.9.1975. It was a normal session which started before the U.N. Annual General Assembly meeting to enable the Arab States to co-ordinate their stand at the UN General Assembly. This session was chaired by the UAE.

The Conference of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction held in Dubai from 27—29th October.

The conference was hosted by the UAE Ministry of of Housing.

INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

A) International Agreements :

Agreement for avoidance of dual tax system.
Social Security Agreement.
The Arab Agreement on reciprocal social security system.

The UAE also concluded agreements to establish the following:-

Arab Company for Construction and Repairs of Ships (Dry Dock).
Arab Oil Tankers Company.
Arab Company for Development of Animal Wealth.
Arab Company for Exploration of Minerals.
Arab Institute for Forests.
Islamic Development Bank.
Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.
Arab Company for Investments.
Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Other agreements include :-

Capital Investment Agreement.
Arab Industrialization Agreement.
Arab Economic Unity Board Agreement
Exchange of Labour Power Agreement.
International Agreement to ban trade in Animals and Plants threatened by extinction.

Arab Centre for Research of Barren Lands Agreement.

Agreement to ban production of Bio-chemical Weapons.

International Agreement to combat and punish Apartheid crimes.

Agreement for participation in OAPEC.

Agreement for participation in the Universal Royal Academy.

Agreement for participation in the Universal Agency for Atomic Energy.

B) Bilateral Agreements:

Co-operation in archaeological fields (UAE and Iraq).

Establishment of Islamic Centres in Africa (UAE

Economic and Trade co-operation (UAE and the Republic of Somalia).

Cultural and Informational Cooperation (Between UAE and Sudan).

Economic Co-operation (The UAE and Tunisia).

Co-operation in Building and Construction (UAE and Tunisia).

Cultural Cooperation (UAE and Tunisia).

Judicial co-operation and exchange of criminals (UAE and Tunisia).

Industrial co-operation (UAE and Morocco.
Cultural co-operation (UAE and Morocco).
Islamic Co-operation (UAE and Morocco.
Industrial co-operation (UAE and Morocco).
Cultural co-operation (UAE and Morocco).
Islamic Coperation (UAE and Morocco).
Economic and Cultural Co-operation (UAE and Morocco).
Scientific Co-operation (UAE and Malaysia).
Cultural and Informational Co-operation (UAE and France).
Economic and Cultural Co-operation (UAE and Federal Republic of Germany).

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