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ADDRESS GIVEN BY H. M. SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID
RADIO OMAN, MUSCAT # 23rd APRIL, 1971.

our dear people,

We would like to talk to you before our departure about what our government has achieved and about what it will, by the grace of God, achieve in the future.

Before 23rd July 1970 there were only three primary schools, Saidiyah School Muscat, Saidiyah School Muttrah, and Saidiyah School Dhofar. The total number of pupils in these three schools was 900. Today the Ministry of Education of our Government has opened seven primary boys schools in various places and one primary schools for girls in Muscat. Our Ministry of Education took over the supervision of the Muhammadiyah school in Bukla. The number of boys and girls in the schools is now about 7,000. We have great hopes that the number of boys and girls will increase in future, Inshallah, when the number of schools in the country increases. The Ministry of Education of our Government has plans to establish and open preparatory and secondary schools, when there are enough primary school leavers, in most parts of the country except in the capital and Sur, where necessity requires the opening of a preparatory and a secondary school in each of the two towns. The intention is to open a preparatory and secondary school for Omani girls, and to establish a number of primary preparatory, secondary and Trade Schools to enable the coming generation to take its place in a world in which there is only room for the educated Worker. We have also decided to open a religious institute at Wataya for religious studies, hoping that scholars in Sharia Law will graduate to take their places in the Sharia Courts of the country.

Our Government's Ministry of Health is giving attention to improve the standards of health in the country. It has a project in hand to expand three hospitals in Ruwi, Tanaim, and Salalah. Some improvement has been made at Muscat Hospital, which formerly had only one doctor. Modern medical equipment, drugs and furniture have been ordered for these hospitals when construction is complete. Selection of doctors, male and female, nurses and technicians have been made in order to employ them in the various places in Oman we have ordered to be established. This is in addition to those who formerly worked in the field of health. As it is known, the American Mission hospitals at Muttrah and Muscat are now under the administration and supervision of the Ministry of Health of our Government. The Ministry is supplying these two hospitals with means of treatment. We have ordered the Ministry of Health of our Government to establish a clinic larger than the existing one at Nizwa to be ready after four months. Medical treatment will begin there soon after and the present clinic will be a part of it. There is a project to establish six hospitals in the near future in some towns of Oman, including Nizwa, Inshallah.

Our armed forces are being continually developed. In the southern part of the country the insurgents cannot move in an area in a large part of the mountains without becoming a target for our forces. A number of them defected to our armed forces and are taking part in the uprooting of rebellion from that vital part of the country. We hope that the number of defectors will increase when they realize that rebellion against their Government is harmful both to themselves and to their country. In the northern part of the country, our armed forces are concentrating on training and carrying out plans for their development and cooperating with the civil authorities of our Government. As an example of that, they enabled the Ministry of Health recently to restrict cholera to a small place. By that they saved thousands from that lethal disease. They also provided medical treatment in Musandam. A unit of Engineers will be set up to drill water wells, to repair roads, and to undertake other work which will benefit not only the armed forces but will affect us all. Our armed forces have new helicopters and transport planes to make air travel within the country easy. We have added to our armed forces the nucleus of a third force - the Navy. A new ship the 'Al Said', has arrived and will be followed by others next year, Inshallah. These ships will guard our coasts and our sea frontiers to make them safe and peaceful. Therefore, in brief, some of the tasks undertaken by our armed forces to serve and safeguard our homeland.

As you know, there is no homeland, no security, no stability and no prestige without the army. The country that has no army, or a weak army, is a target for attacks from outside. Who would like to be insecure in his homeland, in his house, in himself and his family, and in his honour? Therefore, it is necessary to have a strong national army to protect our country and our independence, and to protect us from the consequences of evil in our country and from beyond the borders. The national army is to be composed of young Omanis of good health and physical efficiency. Why are our young people avoiding the honour of joining the military? Why are the fathers of the youths, and their relations not paying attention to the army? Why are they not encouraging their sons to serve the army of their homeland? We regret that we notice this avoidance. Does anyone wish to see that the army of his homeland is made up of non-Omanis? We urge young Omanis to come forward and serve the army of their homeland in this service

he will get many benefits, salary, food, medical care, and physical training that will make the soldier and the airman a healthy person. The recruit will learn reading and writing of Arabic plus the usual military training. Many of the soldiers will learn skills that will help them in their future careers, and society will benefit from this. The aim of our armed forces is to keep peace and security to enable us all to work for the benefit of the people. There is no service that the young can give to the Sultan and his country that is higher than service in the army of his homeland.

The Ministry of Commerce, Economy, Industry and Agriculture of our Government is making studies to protect the exports of the country particularly that of dates, and to protect consumers of food and other necessities from higher prices. It has been reported that prices, particularly those of foodstuffs, are as they were when customs duties were 15%, when it was expected that prices would be less after we ordered a decrease of customs duties to 7%, including 2% Municipality tax. This Ministry has a plan to establish factories, using raw materials available in the country. We have high hopes that some factories will come into being gradually, Inshallah.

Agriculture has at present three experimental farms, Sohar, Nizwa and Salalah, in which agricultural experiments are being made in a scientific way in order to improve agriculture and to spread the results of these improvements throughout the country. Work is in hand to establish two other experimental farms, one at Mudhaibi, and one at Sib. Young people will be trained as agricultural workers, and when they have finished their training they can teach others what they learned at the Government experimental farms. We appreciate the necessity of paying attention to agriculture and of providing the means of irrigation and protection of trees and farms from diseases, to enable the country to produce for local consumption, after which the country can do away with importing those commodities from abroad.

We are pleased with what we have found in the reports of the Ministry of Justice and Endowments concerning improvement of the farms belonging to the Treasury in some towns of the country. This is due to the repairing of those falajes that were repairable.

The Zakat has been reduced from 10% to 5% in Shumailiyah. We gave up the Zakat on commerce, formerly taken, and we kept the Zakat on jewellery and precious metal.

At the end of last year we decided to build a road 232 Kms. long, 7 m. wide, from Muttrah to Sohar. The work will be completed in April 1973. The part between Sib and Muttrah will be completed by the end of the current year, Inshallah.

The survey of the main road between Sohar and Khatmat Milaha will be completed in six weeks time. At the same time, survey work will start on the road from Sohar to Buraimi through Wadi Jizzi. The survey of the main road to Mizwa will be completed in two months, Inshallah.

Since we assumed authority, we have lifted the restriction imposed on celebrations of 'Ids and marriages as we appreciate the freedom of the individual to express his feelings on those occasions. But we do not wish this freedom to be abused by causing harm or nuisance to others.

Since the telephone has become a necessary communication in our time, we have ordered a scheme of making telephones available in all parts of the country. This will be carried out if God permits.

The work goes on for the construction of Port Qaboos in the deep waters of Muttrah. It will be ready to accommodate small ships in September 1971, and if the work is completed by early 1973 it will be a deep harbour for six vessels in addition to the mooring facilities for smaller ships. The work of filling the sea in the bay of Muttrah to make a road leading to Port Qaboos is almost completed. This will facilitate transportation of goods from the Interior of the country to the new port. It will be a link between Muscat and Muttrah by a new land route to be built between the port area and Ruwi. There are other projects in mind which will have priority, such as the establishment of a road network in Oman to join together all parts and to make remote places nearer and travel without difficulty or wasting time.

Our Government has received tenders to build an airport in the Azaiba area. This will be 10,000 ft. long. It is meant to receive large aircraft. Construction of the necessary buildings for the airport will be put out to tender in two months time. It is expected that the new airport will be ready to receive the first plane at the end of May 1972.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has projects for improving the standard of radio programmes and encouraging the renaissance of Omani literature and history. At present it is studying social conditions and the requirements of Oman. It is also working on a law to protect the labourer in his work and to give him the rights he is entitled to in his work. On this occasion we would like to talk about a subject that affects the core of the country's economy. We mean by this, strikes. It seems that the "strike disease" is appearing. A strike is a two-edged sword. It affects the striker's income, his living conditions, and his future. It also affects the country in its source of income if production stops or is reduced. The principle of the

reasonable strike is an expression of the dissatisfaction of the labourer with the wages or salaries he receives, or with any of his other entitlements. This dissatisfaction is settled by a just settlement that will not allow harm to either party concerned. But the strike of a labourer who is extravagant in his demands and who does not listen to reason, advice, or accept a just settlement, offers a challenge which we cannot accept and do not permit. If the labourers are dissatisfied with their employer, then they should demand the removal of the cause of that dissatisfaction by peaceful means and should not be extravagant in their demands. We again say that we do not permit strikes that do not respond to a just settlement or which will result in harm to the labourer, and result in a stoppage of work and a decrease in production.

We pray to God to lead us all into the way of goodness.
Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessing.
