

OMANI MISSION TO LEBANON

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ممثلية عُمان

في بيروت

تلفون : ٢٤٧٦٩٢



No. _____ الرقم
Date _____ التاريخ

Feb. 19, 1969

OMAN IMAMATE STATE

GEOGRAPHIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEATURES

OMAN is situated in the South Eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula, bound in the North by Qatar and in the West by Saudi Arabia. It is separated from the latter by the "Empty Quarter" (El Rubc El Khaly). In the South lies the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, while in the East lies the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian (Persian) Gulf.

OMAN has three coastal regions. The Northern coast is a wide stretch of land with many hills. It is arid on the main, except for few agricultural areas. The Northern coast lies on the Arabian (Persian) Gulf.

The Eastern coast lies on the Gulf of Oman, while the Southern coast lies on the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The Southern coast has a plateau that extends from the North to the South in a line parallel to the coast of El Batana that has a total length of 150 miles and lies between the North, the Plateau and the Sea.

There are high mountain ranges in Oman that cover two thirds of the coast. The most important is the Green Mountain. It reaches a height of 3600 meters and its climate is cold.

The OMAN territory is divided into three regions :

1. The Eastern coast region known as MUSCAT.
2. The North Western coast region, which prior to 1820 was known as the Pirates Coast and later as the Coast of the Naval Place Treaty. This region was partitioned by Great Britain in seven small Imarets (states) and given the name of the "Trucial States".
3. The Central region still known as the IMAMATE OF OMAN.

These three regions formed one single united state initially known as the OMAN IMAMATE STATE, but at the present stage this name is applied to the Central region or Interior Oman which constitutes 75% of the total area of the territory.

ELECTION OF THE IMAMS

The IMAMATE (tradition of the Imams and Khalifet of Islam) is known as a democratic electoral government. The tribes elect their representatives. The people's representatives elect the IMAM and pay allegiance to him. This proves the democratic system of election. The Government is purely democratic. It is based on free election and is not hereditary. More than 60 Imams governed OMAN successively, belonging to different families and tribes.

OMAN THROUGH HISTORY

Following the destruction of the Maarib Dam in 500 B.C., thousands of the Al-Azd tribes migrated to Oman, led by Malek Ben Fahm. They worshipped idols, but later adopted Islam. They believed in Islam and became zealous supporters of the Prophet. They are still very loving and loyal to Islam.

In the last centuries OMAN was invaded by the Portuguese, Dutch, Ottomans and the British. In 1625 the Portuguese ruled India and occupied the coastal part of OMAN including the town of SAHAR, which was at that time the capital of OMAN. Today the capital is NIZWA.

Later, the Portuguese invaded and occupied all the territory of Oman. The leaders and the people revolted against the invader. In the year 1650, when Imam NASSER BEN MERSHED EL YAAARUBY was elected Imam, he united the Omanees, strengthened the country militarily and economically and drove out the Portuguese of Oman.

In the year 1711, Imam Seif Ben Sultan was elected Imam. He continued the war against the Portuguese. He expelled them from their colonies in the African coast and compelled them to withdraw to Portugal. The Portuguese historian Manuel Jude Nhu described the retreat as such: "The Omanees were not satisfied to expel us from their country, but forced us to retreat from all our colonies back to our country".

To protect this expansion, Oman had to take defensive measures against any eventual attack from the Dutch, French and British colonizers. The Oman fleet was built and counted some 1001 warships, each equipped with 9 heavy guns. Oman's sphere of influence spread to India and included a large part of India and East Africa (Zanzibar). The Ottomans failed in their ambition to add all OMAN to their empire.

British colonization was at its height. It was the worst that Oman had to face. In 1862 the British fleet attacked Oman and completely annihilated its fleet. This defeat weakened the country. Britain occupied Oman and divided it in small fictitious states.

The Sultan of Muscat tried to separate from the mothercountry. He solicited the help of the British invaders. This interference gave England an excuse to acquire influence in Muscat and all along the OMAN coasts.

In 1891, England imposed on the Sultan a treaty depriving him of his rights to levy taxes or prevent the importation of British commodities. British citizens obtained special privileges so far denied to Omanees citizens.

Several other treaties followed, enforced upon the Sultan. One of these treaties stipulated that:

- "The Sultan of Muscat guarantees, himself and his successors"
- "after him, not to give away any part of the country, rent it"
- "or allow its occupation by any foreign power with the exception of Great Britain".

The British promised in return to protect the Sultan from any attack perpetrated against him. Consequently Muscat became a British protectorate. The Omanees rejected such a shameful treaty and declared war upon the invaders. They fought to reunite their territory, but failed.

In 1912 Major Nax, British Consul in Muscat - when Feisal was the Sultan of Muscat - addressed an ultimatum to the Imam of Oman SALEM BEN RASHED AL KHAROUSSY who was leading the rebellion, warning him that Britain would occupy the whole territory of Oman. He signed the ultimatum in his capacity of "representative of the British Empire in Muscat".

The IMAM answered:

"The destiny of Oman is in the hands of its religious leaders since ancient times and whoever "disobeys is considered an outsider and a defiant and should be separated from the Pro-"
"phet Islamic State. Faysal is accused of being a separatist. He should resign and all Moslems"
"deny him the power and the throne. As for you Britishers, you should not interfere in the"
"affairs of the Moslems and you must not attack us. Allah (God) will help us against those"
"who fight against us".

Signed: The Imam of Moslems

SALEM BEN RASHED AL KHAROUSSY

OMAN continued its attempts to regain Muscat. However in the year 1920 the treaty of SEEB was signed between OMAN on one side and Britain and Muscat on the other (the latter being under British influence had no international legal recognition). According to this treaty, Oman agreed to grant internal freedom to Muscat and Britain recognized the rights of the Imam on Oman and refrained its interference in Oman's internal affairs.

This treaty did not give Britain what it expected although it was enforced on the Imam of Oman. The latter was very cautious and shrewd. Britain tried on several occasions to revoke the treaty of SEEB without avail. Secret plans were prepared against Oman. Other means of conspiracy were used, without success.

The occupation of Oman became an imminent problem for Britain for several reasons:

1. The nationalization of Petroleum companies in Iran.
2. The discovery of Petroleum in the Arab Gulf.
3. The withdrawal of Great Britain from strategic military areas in the Middle East and its desire to secure new positions.
4. The growth of liberation movements in the world.
5. Arab Nationalism and its expansion in the Arab world.
6. The friendly relationship developing between Oman and the Arab countries.
7. The strategic position of Oman, the oilfields of Muscat and Oman and the occupation of El Buraimi.

All these factors, combined with the violent hatred Britain felt for Oman, were sufficient to explode in 1955 the barrel of gun. Britain declared a treacherous war upon OMAN, using its land and air forces and the British navy and occupied Oman.

Britain reckoned that if OMAN would join the Arab League, it would be impossible to occupy it. The people of OMAN rose in rebellion against occupation, colonization and conquest. This war brought desolation and destitution to the people of OMAN.

Here are some extracts collected from the British Press and the British Broadcasting Corporation describing the Omanees' national resistance :

B. B. C. — 20/6/57 : - "The British Forces are engaged in military combat with the help of the forces already present in Muscat". The National Resistance has gained a certain measure of success in its early stage."

B. B. C. — 25/6/57 : - "The Omani rebellion forces are in control of the main strategic roads that connect Muscat and Buraimy Oasis from one side and the Trucial States on the other".

REUTER — 24/7/57 : - "The British jet planes started their wide military action against the Omanese to release the siege which is imposed on Muscat".

DAILY MAIL : — "The British Air Forces took part in the military action against the Omanese and more help is in the way to Oman".

UNITED PRESS : — "The British Authorities in Oman continue its barbarous attacks on the population of Oman. The British jet planes are raiding brutally the hide-abouts of the rebellions.

WORLD'S OPINION

In its 1627th plenary meeting of December 12, 1967, the United Nations Plenary Assembly expressed a deep concern at the serious and critical situation arising from the colonial policies pursued by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North Ireland in the territory of Oman and urged the said government to implement the declaration on the granting of INDEPENDENCE to colonial countries and peoples relating to the said territory. It also reapproved the right of the people of the territory as a whole to self determination and independence and recognized the legitimacy of their struggle to obtain the rights proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations.

It also called upon the Government of the United Kingdom to give immediate effects in the territory to the following measures :

1. The removal of British troops and military basis.
2. The cessation of all repressive action against the people.
3. The release of political prisoners and political detainees and the return of political exiles to the territory.

WE APPEAL TO YOU, FELLOW READER, to give all assistance to the People of OMAN in their struggle to obtain freedom and independence.

Our cause is one of justice, honour and liberty !

We love to live in peace and security.

REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATE

of OMAN MISSION to LEBANON