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Bahrain
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OFFICIAL STATEMENT

BY

H.H. THE RULER OF BAHRAIN

Since Bahrain became a co-signatory to the Dubai agreement on the proposed Arab Emirates Union over three years ago, Bahrain Government spared no effort to bring about a Union built on solid foundations and principles embodied in a constitution guaranteeing proper representation, and civil and political rights to all its citizens.

Yet, our efforts towards this goal met with no success and the much appreciated good offices and joint efforts of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait towards helping such a Union stand on its feet met with no success either, although Bahrain accepted the revised joint proposals which were way below the minimum of our expectations.

As a result of this deadlock, Bahrain had to take an alternative course that could safeguard the entity and independence of Bahrain and realise the expectations of its people in accordance with Security Council resolution of 11th May, 1970 which clearly indicated the wish of our people for independence in a sovereign state.

However, following close consultations with neighbouring and sister states in the Gulf Area, we have decided that our Government should take the following steps:

1. Termination of all political and military treaties and agreements which govern the special relations of alliance between Bahrain Government and the Government of Her Britannic Majesty. Accordingly, British military withdrawal from Bahrain territory is underway.
2. Bahrain, as an independent Arab State, has now absolute sovereignty over its territories; and its Government has the absolute right of running its foreign affairs and regulating its international relations.
3. An immediate application for membership of the State of Bahrain in the Arab League and the United Nations Organisation.

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4. A formal request to Arab, Islamic and friendly countries to recognise the status of Bahrain as an independent and sovereign Arab State. The State of Bahrain, in taking the afore mentioned steps, was only spurred by the will of its people, their interests and their hope of contributing to the advancement and development of this land and this part of the Arab World whose history and civilisation date back to time immemorial.

On the strength of this statement, Bahrain undertakes to adopt the following policies in its relations with Arab States, other countries and International Organisation:

1. Adherence to all its Arab and International undertakings and agreements which are not detrimental to its independence and sovereignty and within the framework of international law and agreements.
2. Adherence to the Arab League and United Nations Charters.
3. Build Bahrain's relations with the neighbouring States and Emirates of the Gulf on a policy of brotherhood, peaceful co-existence, cooperation, understanding and non-interference in the internal affairs of these States.
4. Work towards keeping peace, security, stability and progress of the Gulf area, in cooperation with its friendly and sister states concerned with peace and stability in this vital part of the world.
5. Work towards coordination and organisation of economic, commercial and technical cooperation among states of the area that could lead to the industrialisation and economic development of the area.
6. Absolute recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to regain their usurped country and to live peacefully in their home land. Also Bahrain backs the Arab confrontation states in their efforts to get back their occupied territories.

The State of Bahrain is part of the Arab nation and home land and will always endeavour to foster any serious and sincere idea that could lead to the realisation of the Arabs hopes in freedom, unity, peace and participation in the progress of humanity.

Out of conviction in this principle, the Government and people of Bahrain will always welcome and foster the idea of any new Union of the Emirates as soon as it stands on its feet. However, Bahrain Government's declaration of complete independence as per

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this statement will never affect its readiness to join the Arab Emirates Union or the more recent united Arab Emirates as soon as invited to do so in the future and as soon as the government of such a union was established on sound constitutional foundations and principles acceptable to the people of this Arab area.

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