

Saudi-Chinese businessmen seek to boost trade

By FURQAN AHMED

Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH - A businessmen's meeting was held here Monday to focus on the areas of cooperation and to look into the prospects of enhancing trade relations and economic cities between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China (PROC). The meeting was chaired by Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, and Industry Chairman Sheikh Abdulrahman Al Jeraisy and attended by prominent Saudi and Chinese businessmen. The 16-member Chinese delegation

was led by Jiang Ping, vice chairman, People's Political Consultative Conference of Xiamen Municipality, which arrived here on a two-day visit via UAE. The meeting was coordinated by Economic and Commercial Counsellor Zhang Dimo.

Welcoming the delegation, Al Jeraisy said a Saudi trade delegation will visit China in October to foster bilateral ties and look into other avenues of cooperation.

He stressed the need for Chinese investment in the Kingdom, which followed liberal commercial policy and

provided ample incentives to the foreign investors in various private sectors.

He said relations between the Kingdom and PROC have been constantly improving in all directions. The volume of trade which stood at SR343 million in 1992, rose to SR355 million in 1993. It further went up to SR450.7 million in 1994, Al Jeraisy noted.

He said the existing trade was in favor of Saudi Arabia as its exports to PROC exceeded the imports, which included textiles and garments, figuring at 24 percent, animal products and vegetables amounted to 8.4 percent.

PROC exports of equipment and appliances and electrical goods consisted of 7.5 percent of the total imports from PROC, Al Jeraisy noted.

Thus total imports from PROC amounted to SR1.9 billion in 1994. The volume of trade further increased in 1995 and 1996, he added.

The Chinese side consisted of Xiamen International Trade (Group) Co. Ltd (stock market), Xiamen Engineering Machinery Co. Ltd., Far East (Xiamen) International Trading Co. and Xiamen Commercial Group Co.

Addressing the meeting, Eng. Osama Al Kurdi, assistant secretary general, Council of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the Kingdom's private sector is open for setting up joint ventures and projects of mutual benefit. He encouraged Chinese entrepreneurs to participate in non-oil trading projects with Saudi Arabia.

The head of the Industrial Committee of the Chamber, Saad Al Maajjal, said both countries could further cooperate in setting up joint industrial projects of various consumer items and food processing units.

Prominent businessman, Fahad F. Almoammar, President, National Medical Products Co. Ltd, said his company was interested in exporting medical appliances and other products to China. There was a great scope of cooperation in this area as well, he added.

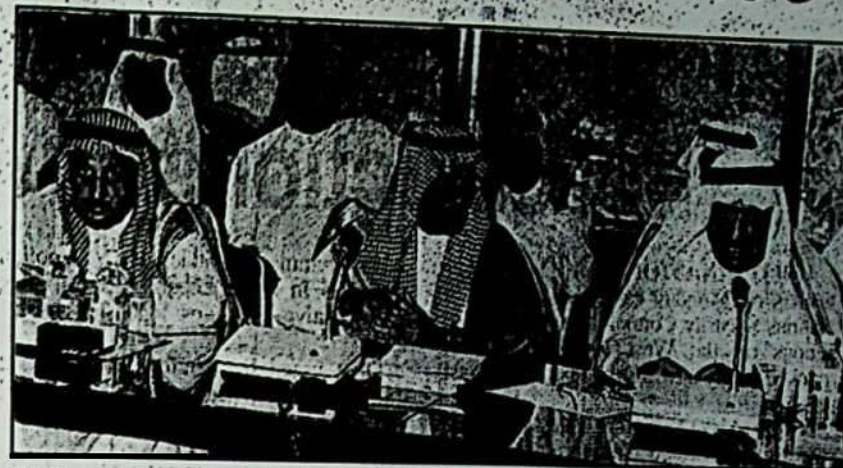
Other Saudi businessmen who participated in the discussion highlighted pleasant trade relationship between the two countries. They, however, emphasized the need for direct negotiations in business.

The PROC companies offered to export excavator, heavy equipment and machinery, agricultural and municipal appliances to the Kingdom.

Shen Danyang, vice director general of Xiamen Municipal Trade Development Committee, introduced the members of his delegations and their products.

On Tuesday morning Commerce Minister Osama J. Faqih received the Chinese delegation and exchanged views of mutual interest.

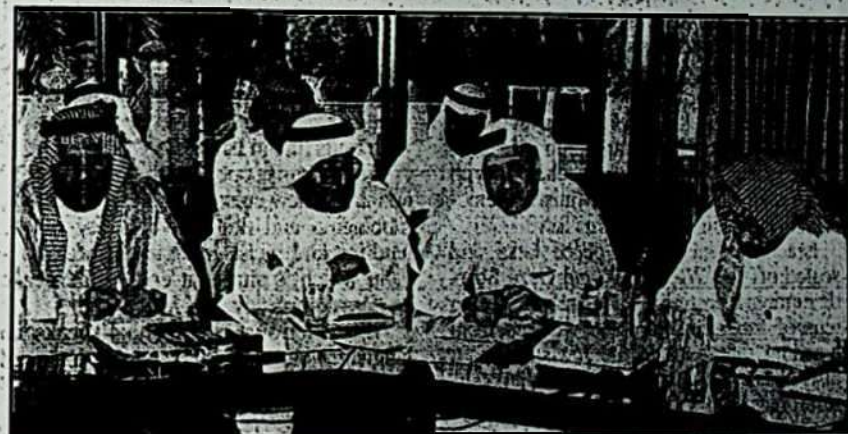
Meanwhile, Director of Sales, Holiday Inn Hotel, Mohammed Dabbas greeted the members of the delegation at a reception held in their honor in the hotel.



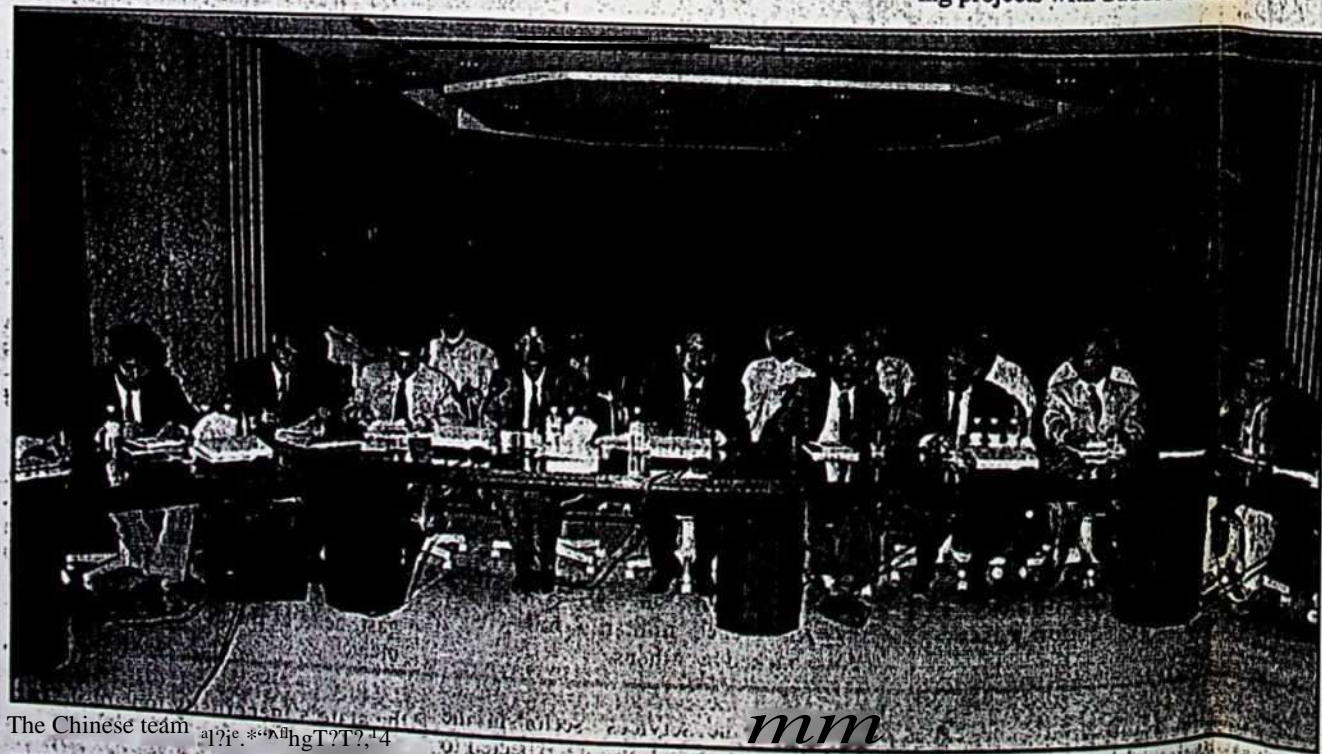
SAUDI-SINO business meeting being chaired by Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Jeraisy, center, at the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Monday. On his left is Saad Al Moajjal, chairman, Industrial Committee of the Chamber.



LEADER of PROC trade the meeting.

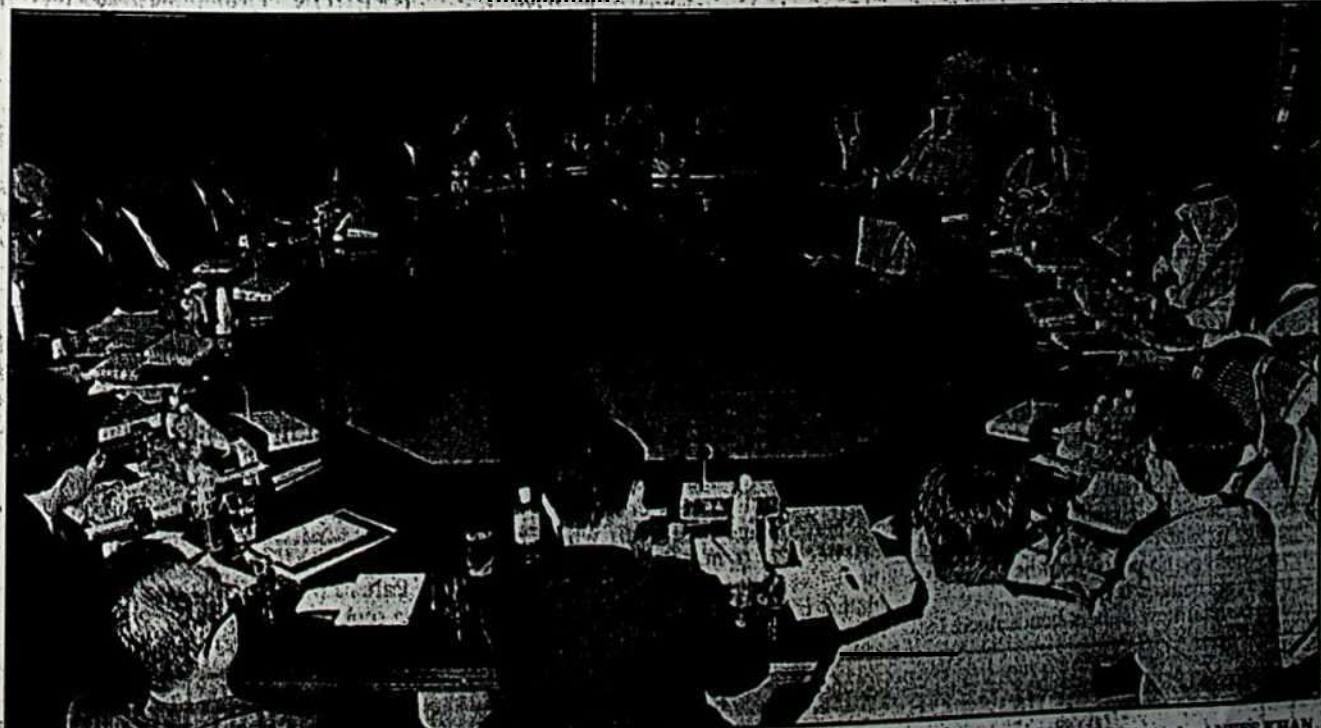


ASSISTANT Secretary General Engineer Osama Al Kurdi speaking at the businessmen's meeting. On his right is Deputy Secretary General Hamad Al-Homeidan and prominent businessman Fahad F. Almoammar.



The Chinese team

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THE meeting in progress

Photos by ANEES KEAN

THURSDAY
12 MARCH 1998

China looks for balance in ties with Israel and trade with Arabs

By Mounir B Abboud

Gazette Correspondent in Beirut

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CHINA IS OFFERING the Arabs moral support, but does not appear to be prepared to get involved in the region's political problems. This became further evident during the recent Mid-east trip that took Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, the Pales-

tinted self-rule territories and Israel. It was in Cairo that the purpose and result of the visit were made clear because Egypt was the last leg of Qian's trip. The Chinese official, did not come to the region with promises or solutions to chronic political problems. He was here to acquaint himself first-hand with the political and economic realities and affirm readiness to extend a helping hand whenever this was possible and convenient to Beijing.

On the table in Qian's talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amir Moussa was the deadlocked Mid-east peace process, the standoff between Iraq and the United States and the Turkish-Israeli military alliance. But nothing new appeared to have emerged from those talks, which were described, as of a "touch-base" nature.

"We spoke of the overall problems in the Mid-east, the recent development in the UN Security Council and bilateral relations," Moussa said. Answering reporters' questions, Qian appeared to be trying to get a basic message across: the Arabs have the sympathy and support of the Chinese, but they should not expect much more.

He assured that Mid-east peacemaking, is going through hard times but added that "of course, China is not and does not want to be, a mediator or coordinator". He reiterated a statement he had made earlier in Damascus that his tour was; not an initiative to salvage the 'foundering peace process.' - - The Chinese diplomat said that it was natural for his country to sell conventional weapons to the Arabs but would not venture beyond that "If China sells conventional weapons to the Arabs, within the framework of their needs, this is only natural, particularly since these sales are registered with the UN," he said. "But we never export weapons of mass destruction."

China was also saddened by the sufferings of the Iraqi people under UN-imposed sanctions. "We do not agree to having sanctions imposed on a country with no end," Qian said. He noted that "so far the UN has a mechanism for imposing sanctions but no mechanism for lifting them". On the issue of expanding the Security Council, Beijing was prepared to declare support for a better representation of developing countries, but Qian did not wish to go into details about scope.

Even when it came to bilateral economic cooperation between Egypt and China, the foreign minister stated that although the two countries were working to promote their ties, it must be made clear that, since neither country, was rich, their expectations for expanding 'the horizons' of economic cooperation were limited.

With Qian as a mediator... "keep-in-touch" meeting. As an official put it, "it was good to review all the issues and to find there is a great deal of similarity in the views of both sides, the talks were smooth". Moussa said Egypt viewed China as a major power that could make significant contributions to world development. And yet, there seemed to be no agenda for future Chinese involvements in regional affairs.



For China to have any serious input in any of the regional issues, this means it will in one way or another, clash with American policies and interests. For example Beijing would certainly harm its economic interests with the Americans if it chose to explicitly take the side of the Iraqis in their standoff with the UN or ignore Washington's concern over the Chinese 'armament' of some Arab states, particularly those viewed by the Americans as out of line. Arab observers think that "China will focus on opening new markets for its products and on striking a balance between its political support for the Arabs and its nuclear cooperation with Israel."

Qian Qichen : cooperation with Israel. For China to have any serious input in any of the regional issues; this means it will in one way or another, clash with American policies and interests. So, Qian's message was: the Arabs have the

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‘Talks to focus on economic ties’

Sharif starts China visit

BEIJING (DPA/NNI)

PAKISTAN'S Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived here on Wednesday on a four-day visit aimed at boosting economic cooperation and strengthening already stable relations.

Sharif said upon his arrival in Beijing that the visit - his fifth to the Chinese Mainland since 1982 - marked a new page in bilateral relations, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"The two countries have shown the world that countries with different social systems, ideologies and administrative methods can strengthen their relations," Xinhua quoted him as saying.

The prime minister was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival in Beijing. At the airport the delegation was received by Chinese Minister for Railways Han Zhubin, who is also Chairman of the Chinese Government Reception Committee, Vice-Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Zhang Chengli.

Formal welcoming ceremony was held in the Great Peoples Hall. Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng received Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on his arrival at the hall. The ceremony included 19-gun salute and presentation of guard of honor. National anthems of both the countries were played and the prime minister inspected the march past.

In his arrival statement the prime minister said he will also discuss with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng bilateral and regional ties and situation in South Asian region.

"I would brief the Chinese leadership on Pakistan's efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and an end to fratricidal conflict in Afghanistan," Sharif said.

Pakistan and China, he said, enjoy long-standing ties of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation. "These ties, which have stood the test of time, are underpinned by mutual trust and confidence", he said, adding: "Both countries have always stood by each other." He said: "In the South Asian region, Pakistan-China relations have been a source of peace and stability."

Sharif is scheduled to open an investment conference on Thursday in Beijing, and will also meet a group of intellectuals and leaders of local think-tanks.

The premier, accompanied by top state and business officials, is due to visit the southern city of Guilin before heading to Hong Kong on February 15 to meet with Chief Executive Tung Chee-Hwa.

China has offered the Pakistan Navy a number of frigates on soft loans, provided Islamabad accepts they are built in Chinese and Pakistani shipyards, the private news agency PPI reported in Islamabad on Sunday. Pakistan navy Chief Admiral, Fasih, Bokhan. iMftidMW? ^isit.^hih^some j~ in Hicrucc p.YnanmntM

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REUTERS

Goodwill tour: Chinese Premier Li Peng (right) gestures to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during a welcoming ceremony in Beijing's Great Hall of the People on Wednesday. Sharif and his 100-member entourage are in China on a week-long goodwill visit to discuss bilateral issues.

visit Mainland naval bases.

PPP leader accompany's Sharif: In an important development, leader of the opposition in the Senate Aitzaz Ahsan, who hails from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has accompanied Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on a week-long visit to China.

Ahsan was included in the prime minister's entourage on the latter's invitation, which was sent to PPP chief Benazir Bhutto to allow him to accompany Sharif to Ghar-Shar. She permitted Ahsan; to go y*ith the prime i<\$ one<.of its. leaders to. accppany. him Qn the, minister; showing her strong support

excellent relations between Pakistan and China. While Ahsan, belonging to the main rival political party of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League, accompanied the prime minister, prominent MQM leader Senator Aftab Sheikh, who was scheduled to go with Sharif, changed his mind at the eleventh hour after he was asked by his leader Altaf Hussain not to accompany Sharif.

The prime minister had given the invitation to the MQM during his recent visit to Karachi and asked-the-party-to nominate-

The denial came from Wei Jianxing, Chairman of China's Communist Party's Disciplinary Commission, during his talks with Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral. The Chinese side denied supplying the M-11 missiles to Pakistan, the external affairs ministry spokesman said. "But they are sensitised to our concerns in this matter," he told reporters after Gujral conveyed India's concerns to Wei. India has said the Chinese missiles could spark off an arms race, while Pakistan has said the production of an array of Indian missiles affected its security.

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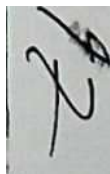
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China denies selling organs

BEIJING, Feb. 27 (R) — China today denied allegations it was selling organs of executed convicts, saying a Chinese man arrested in the United States had no connection with local authorities.

"Any form of trade in human organs is strictly against related Chinese law and is prohibited by the Chinese government," the Xinhua news agency quoted an official from southern Hainan province as saying. The official was reacting to the arrest by U.S. authorities of a former Hainan prosecutor, Wang Chengyong, for allegedly trying to

peddle human organs he said were taken from executed criminals. The unidentified official insisted Wang, former deputy chief of a branch of the Hainan People's Procuratorate, had had no contact with provincial judicial authorities since he left his job in early 1996.

On Wednesday, the U.S. State Department condemned as abhorrent allegations of Chinese citizens trafficking in human organs and called on Beijing to enforce laws to prevent the practice. The State Department's 1997 report on human rights in

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Saudi-Chinese society formed /

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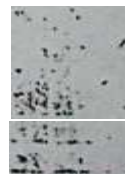
A SAUDI-CHINESE Friendship Society has been set up to bolster ties and economic, cultural, educational and social cooperation between the two countries.

The Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) disclosed that a Royal Decree was given on the formation of the Society.

Abdul Rahman Al-Jeraisy, president of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce, will chair the group which will comprise a number of Saudi businessmen.

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Chinese envoy lauds Kingdom's role in Mid-east, Arab world

By Paul Rivas
Saudi Gazette Staff

RIYADH, hint 26

STABLE Saudi-Sino relations are in the fundamental interest of both countries and their peoples, said Zheng Da Yong, the Chinese ambassador to the Kingdom.

In an exclusive interview with the Gazette on the issue of Hong Kong's handover, Zheng said that the Chinese government is capable of maintaining the prosperity and stability of former British colony.

The ambassador said that Saudi Arabia is a major power in the Gulf and the Mid-east and has always played a high profile role in the Arab world.

In the last 65 years, the Kingdom has achieved remarkable progress in all fields and the future looks bright for Sino-Saudi relations, Zheng added.

"Under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahad, the Kingdom has enjoyed political stability and economic development," he said. "This has won worldwide acknowledgment."

"The Kingdom pursues a peaceful foreign policy and plays an important role in the Mid-east peace process," the ambassador said.

Both China and the Kingdom share the same or similar opinions on international and regional issues.

Great importance is attached to bilateral friendly relations and cooperation between the leaders of the two countries. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1990, the two countries have had fruitful exchanges and cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, culture, science and technology.

"Through many high-level visits, we have furthered mutual understanding and friendship," Zheng pointed out.



Zheng Da Yong

Trade ties between the two countries are growing.

Over seven years, the two-way trade has increased nearly 30 percent annually. The total volume amounted to US\$1,577 billion in 1996, with the Kingdom enjoying a trade surplus of US\$81.2 million, said Zheng.

The Kingdom is the largest trade partner of China in the Mid-east and North Africa.

During the first session of Saudi-Sino Joint Commission held in Beijing in February last year, Ibrahim Al-Assaf, Minister of Finance and National Economy and Wvi Yi, Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade jointly signed the Saudi-Sino Agreement on Encouragement and Protection of Investment, providing legal guarantee for investment and cooperation between the business circles of both countries, Zheng said.

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Kuwaiti team in China to discuss arms

KUWAIT CITY, July 29 (AFP) — A Kuwaiti technical team is in China to discuss a potential artillery contract for which South Africa, Britain and the United States are also bidding, Western industrial sources said today.

The technical team, including members of a special committee assessing the multi-million-dollar deal, left for China last week to seek clarification on several points, including the performance of the Chinese gun, the sources said.

The Chinese are offering their PLZ 45 in competition with the British AS90, South African G6 and M109 A6 Paladin of the United States. All the pieces are self-propelled, 155mm howitzers.

Kuwait is seeking guns for up to three battalions or up to 72 pieces, which could be worth as much as \$600 million if support equipment is included, the sources said.

Parliament's finance and economic committee said Sunday it discussed the artillery deal as part of a review of the Defense

Ministry budget for 1997-1998 and the re-
armament plans. But no further details were

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Saudi-China society to be set up

11 August 1997

Arab News

RIYADH, Aug. 10 (SPA) — The Saudi-Chinese Friendship Society will be established in October this year to boost cultural, educational and social cooperation between the two countries, it was announced here today.

The Saudi side in the society will be represented by Abdul Rahman Al-Jeraisy (president), Muhammad Al-Anqari, Abdul Rahman Al-Oraifi, Abdul Aziz Al-Munjim, Abdul Rauf Abu Zinada, Muhammad Abdullatif Jameel, Walid Al-Juffali, Abdul Aziz Al-Shuwaier, Abdullah Alireza, Abdullah Dahlan, Abdullatif Al-Jabar, Khaled Al-Qahtani, Suleiman Al-Suhaimi and Ahmad Al-Rumaih (members).

China is considered one of the largest 10 exporting countries to the Kingdom. In 1995, Chinese exports reached SR2.5 billion while Saudi exports to China totaled SR450 million.

Meanwhile, a 20-member Chinese trade delegation arrived in Riyadh from Dubai to explore ways of strengthening trade relations between the two countries.

The Chinese delegation, representing Szechuan in the south of the country, will have agreements with a number of Saudi businessmen to open commercial Agencies for Chinese products.

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Saudi Aramco to export crude oil to China

DHAHRAN, June 10 — The Saudi Arabian Oil Company today signed a letter of intent with the China Petro-Chemical Corporation (SINOPEC) to export Saudi crude oil to the Peoples Republic of China and study the possibility of participating in refining and marketing joint ventures in China, according to a press release issued by Saudi Aramco.

The letter of intent was signed by Abdallah S. Jumah, president and chief executive officer of Saudi Aramco, and Sheng Huaren, president of SINOPEC. Also attending the signing were Saud A. Al-Ashgar, Saudi Aramco senior vice president of International Operations, Huang Chune, vice president of SINOPEC, and other senior officials from both companies.

After the signing ceremony, Jumah expressed his happiness with the level of mutual understanding reflected in this letter of intent. "The signing of this letter reflects Saudi Aramco's determination to expand its base as a fully integrated, international oil company," Jumah emphasized.

He also welcomed the new opportunities for constructive cooperation with SINOPEC and lauded the positive spirit of understanding that led to this achievement.

The SINOPEC delegation led by Huaren earlier met in Riyadh with Ali I. Al-Naimi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; Osama J. Faqeeh, minister of commerce; Dr. Ibrahim A. Al-Assaf, minister of finance and national economy; Dr. Hashim A. Yamani, minister of industry and electricity, and Ibrahim A. ibn Salamah, deputy chairman and managing director of Saudi Basic Industries' (SABIC).

In the Eastern Province, the SINOPEC delegation also visited Saudi Aramco facilities in Dhahran and Ras Tanura, and met with officials of SABIC at Jubail Industrial City. Saudi Aramco is the world's largest oil producing and exporting company.

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China signs crucial oil deal with Kazakhstan

By Najam Abbas
Special to Arab News

ALMATY, Kazakhstan, Sept. 25 — China yesterday agreed to extract oil from one of Kazakhstan's vast Caspian Sea oil fields by inking what has been termed as "the contract of the century."

The accord worth \$9.5 billion was signed during a two-day visit by Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and Deputy Premier Li Lanqing.

It gives China's state oil and gas company the right to exploit the Ozen oil field, which is expected to pump some eight million tons of oil a year from 2002, and lay a pipeline.

The deal is expected to boost trade between the two countries, which reached \$460 million last year.

Li Peng and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev signed an accord defining a stretch of the 1,718 km (1,073 mile) border between the two countries, which includes a mountain range.

Last April, the former Soviet republics bordering China — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan, signed an accord in Moscow demilitarizing their common border. Under the accord China and

the former Soviet republics combined, can each deploy 130,000 troops in the border area. Under today's agreement a border post is to be set up at the Khantegri Pass overlooking Lake Balkash, in southern Kazakhstan, and western China's Xinjiang province.

Addressing a press conference after the signing ceremony, Nazarbayev termed it as "the contract of the century."

He declared that work on the pipeline, which will take almost seven years to complete, will start immediately.

Li Peng said the contract underlined the "growing and fruitful" cooperation between China and Kazakhstan in developing oil reserves in the region.

In recent months, there has been a remarkable surge in Kazakh efforts to tap alternate fuel supply routes. Till today, the only way to export Kazakh oil has been through "a small, very old, dilapidated pipeline across Russia."

China was quick to correct this anomaly as it opened its embassy here just three months after Kazakhstan acquired independence in December 1991. Ever since, Beijing has paying great attention to Kazakhstan in order to balance Russian influence in the region.

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Saudi trade delegation heading for China

By Edgar C. Cadano (v)
Saudi Gazette Staff ■

RIYADH
ECONOMIC relations between China and the Kingdom are expected to come closer as an official trade delegation headed by Commerce Minister Osama Ja'afar Fa'ih, will visit the People's Republic of China next month.

The week-long visit to Beijing, Shanghai and the Xincheng Special Economic Zone from June 1 to 7, will include meetings with senior Chinese government officials including Foreign Trade Minister, Shi Kang Shen.

The Saudi trade mission is composed of six other officials and 16 Saudi businessmen.

Chinese Commercial Counselor Yang Han Xin, told *Saudi Gazette* that business contracts are expected to be signed by Chinese and Saudi companies. He however, declined to give further details on the prospective projects.

Yang said that a Chinese trade delegation, scouting for job contracts in the kingdom, is also planning to visit the Kingdom, but are still awaiting their visas.

■ Yang said that China and Saudi Arabia are mutually complementing their economic and trade activities and that it has greater potential for future cooperation.

Two-way trade volume amounted to \$1.68 billion last year, an increase of 6.5 percent compared with the figures recorded in 1996. China, exported to the Kingdom goods worth \$854 million, while the Kingdom exported \$826 million to China.

The Chinese official said that Saudi Arabia is now the largest trading partner of China in the Middle East and the North Africa region.

Recently, a large number of Saudi entrepreneurs went to the Peoples Republic to do business.

Last October, the Saudi government decided to open its labor market for Chinese workers while increasing number of Chinese companies have entered the Kingdom.

China and Saudi Arabia are currently, discussing joint venture cooperation in oil and petrochemical industries.

■

30 Chinese technicians to arrive in Kingdom

By Javid Hassan
Arab News Staff

RIYADH, Nov. 15. — The first batch of 30 Chinese technicians will be arriving in the Kingdom on Tuesday, marking a new chapter in the diversification of Saudi-Chinese trade and economic relations.

This was disclosed by Jin Zuzhao, vice-president, and Ding Yiou, project manager, of China Electric Power Technology Import and Export Corporation, who said the technicians (electricians, fitters, welders, etc.) have been recruited for an industrial project in Jubail.

The scope for cooperation with Chinese manpower, the Kingdom's labor law and national policies were spelled out at a meeting held at the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry last night.

The joint meeting was presided over by

Hussein Al-Athel, secretary-general of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Wang Zuogqi, deputy director-general of the Department of Foreign Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation of the People's Republic of China.

The 23-member Chinese delegation represented a broad spectrum of Chinese firms specializing in different engineering and technical fields, while the Saudi delegation included representatives of the manpower recruitment agencies.

Zeng Chao, deputy director of the foreign economic cooperation department, Yang Han Xin, economic and commercial counselor at the Chinese Embassy, and Walid Al-Sweidan, president of RCCI's manpower recruitment committee, were among those present.

Speaking on the occasion, Al-Athel said

the Chinese delegation was coming at the right time, since the Kingdom is engaged in feasibility studies for the setting up of a railroad network from Riyadh to Jeddah.

The GCC states have also embarked on a similar study for linking the Gulf states via a railroad network at a cost of SR125 billion.

The RCCI secretary-general hoped that Chinese firms would participate in BOT (build, operate and transfer) projects in the Kingdom, where privatization will be the wave of the future.

Later, Wang Zuogqi said the Kingdom, the most important market in the Gulf, presents good opportunities for Chinese skilled manpower in the areas of project management and contracting, construction, electrification, road-building, operation and maintenance, as well as agriculture and other skilled manpower categories.

A-N. 16. 11. 98

Chinese trade delegation visits JCCI

By Saleh Fareed
Saudi Gazette Staff

JEDDAH

A CHINESE trade delegation comprising 14 members concluded its visit Saturday to the headquarter of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) in a step toward renewing trade relations and to seek better investment opportunities with Saudi businessmen.

The delegation, headed by the Chinese Vice Consul General in Jeddah, Hebei Province, People's Government and head of the delegation said, "The main purpose of this visit is to open new channels with Saudi businessmen to invest in Hebei province which is well known for its quality products."

He added that bilateral trade between both the countries was established a long time ago and is still 'on the rise "Other aspects of cooperation which we are studying is the deploying of Chinese workers in the Kingdom" . .

After spending 12 days in the Kingdom the delegation will head to Cairo.

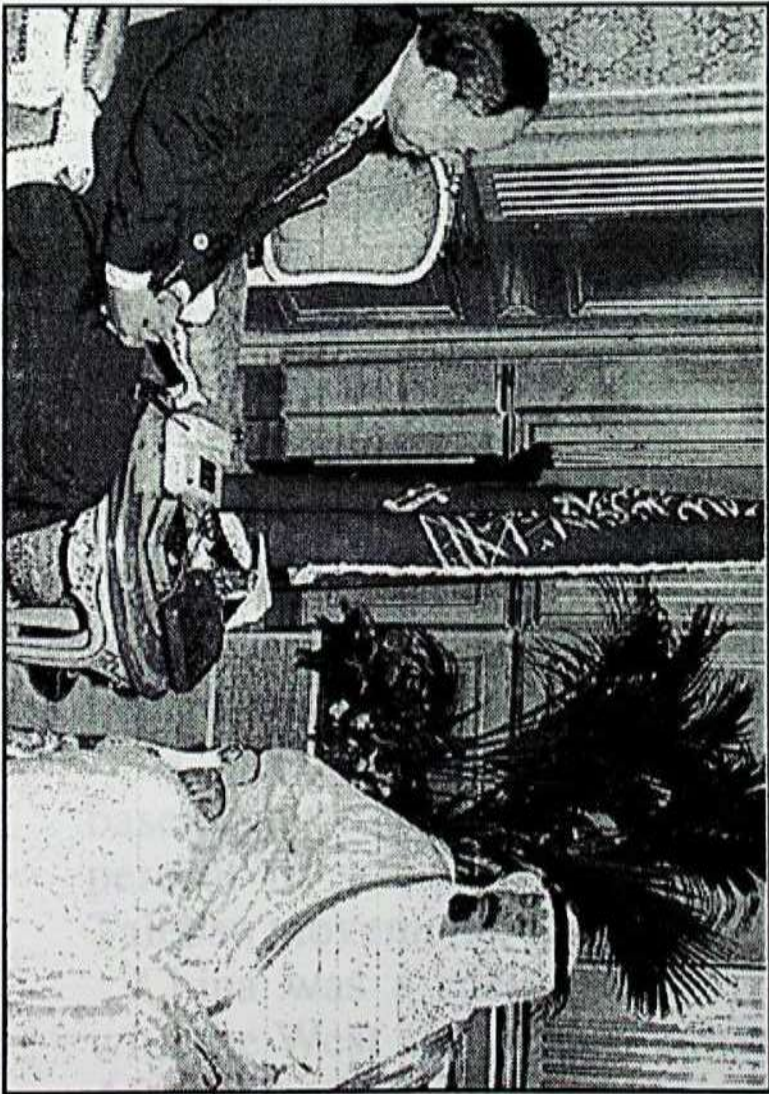
Meanwhile, on the same day, an Italian trade delegation headed by Seijio Marini, President of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visited the JCCI as part of its eight-day visit to the Kingdom.

The member delegation received Dr Majed Al-Asabi, secretary general of JCCI, and discussed promoting further relationship between both countries in various fields. Such as environmental protection, industrial pollution and cultural relations. The 10-day visit, organized by the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, will also cover visits to Riyadh and Jeddah.

Industry, will also cover visits to Riyadh and Jeddah.

Crown prince invited to visit Beijing

Crown prince and commander of the National Guard has been invited to visit Beijing



Abdullah, deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, and Yu Shing Chi at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah

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Chinese delegation in Kabul for talks with Taleban

KABUL (R) - A delegation from China's foreign ministry arrived in Kabul on Sunday for talks with Afghanistan's ruling Taleban on the conflict there, official sources said.

The five-member team is thought to be the highest-level delegation China has sent to the Afghan capital since the Taleban I swept to power more than two years ago.

It was not immediately known who was leading the delegation.

China is a member of the so-called Six Plus Two UN contact group which is seeking a solution to Afghanistan's ethnic, political and factional conflict. The group includes other neighbor states, the United States and Russia.

Its brief is to bring about a broad-based government in Afghanistan, 90 percent of which is controlled by the Taleban movement.

China was a major supporter, along with the West and Arab countries, of the Afghan factions that fought Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

The delegation is expected to visit its embassy compound, which has been closed for nearly eight years because of war.

12-7-92

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Mideas

Arafat heads for Cairo and Beijing after short meeting with

TUNIS, July 12 (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat headed today for Cairo from the Tunisian island of Djerba, from where he had made a detour to meet Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, Palestinian sources said. In his first visit to Libya in four years, Arafat invited Qaddafi to visit occupied Jerusalem and wished him well after the Libyan leader's surgery last week on a fractured hip.

The Palestinian leader was due to make a short stop in Cairo before flying to China for a three-day official visit. Arafat traveled most of the way to Tripoli yesterday by road after the United States blocked a Palestinian request to let him fly to Libya despite a U.N. air embargo. The United Nations had made a rare exception for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to fly there on Thursday. Arafat's relations with Qaddafi, who opposes Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accords, have been rocky and it was his first visit to Libya since 1994. The Palestinian leader, quoted by the official Libyan news agency JANA, said today that Qaddafi had accepted his invitation to go to Jerusalem.

Arafat, meanwhile, is looking to his upcoming visit to China to pressurize Israel to agree to a troop withdrawal from the West Bank and avoid an "explosion" in the Middle East, China's official news agency reported today. "The collapse of the peace accords \$411 return the region to a circle of violence," Arafat said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

"I ring the bells of danger. Though peace is in the interest of all, the explosion will hit



Yasser Arafat

everyone," he added. Palestinian negotiators returned Friday from talks in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright without a breakthrough in the 16-month stalemate in the talks aimed at restarting the Oslo peace process.

Washington is seeking a deal whereby the Israelis agree to a troop withdrawal from the West Bank in return for Palestinian steps to curb anti-Israeli violence.

While Arafat has accepted the deal —

even though it falls short of the Palestinians' territorial aspirations — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has so far rebuffed the U.S. proposal.

"We have accepted the American initiative to activate the peace process, despite the injustice befalling us, because we are seeking peace despite the difficulties caused by Israel's hard-line policy," Arafat said.

"China is a major power that has political, social and economic weight. We hope that we will get more support and assistance for our cause until we build our own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," he added.

Arafat will arrive in Beijing tomorrow and hold talks with President Jiang Zemin later in the day. He will also meet with Premier Zhu Rongji and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan before leaving on Wednesday.

He has already paid 11 visits to China, which is a traditional ally of Arab states. In contrast, Beijing only established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1992 and Netanyahu's visit to Beijing in May was only the second by an Israeli leader, following that of Yitzhak Rabin in 1993.

The disputed withdrawal, which the United States is insisting should encompass no less than 13.1 percent of West Bank territory, is designed to rebuild confidence and launch negotiations on a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement. Arafat has pledged to declare an independent Palestinian state next year if the Israeli government does not implement peace accords, a move fiercely opposed by Israel's right-wing government

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Arafat to meet with Chinese president on Mon.

¹ BEIJING (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit China next week and hold talks with President Jiang Zemin, the Palestinian representative in Beijing said Thursday. The Palestinian president will arrive on Monday and hold talks with Jiang later in the day, Mustapha Sapharini said. Arafat will also meet Premier Zhu Rongji and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan before leaving on Wednesday. The visit comes at a time of rising tension between Israel and the Palestinians over the total breakdown of US-sponsored peace talks.

"The peace process in the Middle East will be the main topic in their discussion," foreign ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang said.

"China is not a coordinator on the Middle East question but China is always concerned about the situation...and the development of the peace process," he said.

In order to unblock the stalemate, Israel and the Palestinians should "implement the relevant UN Security Council resolutions to the letter, adhere to the principle of land for peace and seriously implement the agreements that have already been reached," said Tang.

Sapharini said Arafat would sign a series of trade cooperation accords with Chinese leaders during his visit, including agreements involving Chinese pro-

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ice killed 12 Tigers. vere rushed to the area and terrorists fled and wounded," the ministry said in a state- . Torist transmissions confirm 12 terrorists were number wounded." rid the rebel attack was probably aimed at Tiger" anniversary. rs assassinated a Tamil legislator to mark j) f suicide bombings. E, which is leading a campaign for indents northeast said they marked the 11th 7 suicide bombing campaign by placing front of pictures of 145 bombers, tement sent here from their London office, best show" in the region of Puthukudiyirup- country where students and women Tigers g at a Roman Catholic college grounds.

jects in the self-rule territories controlled by Arafat's administration.

Arafat has pledged to declare an independent Palestinian state next year if the Israeli government does not implement peace accords, a move fiercely opposed by Israel's right-wing government.

Arafat has visited China 11 times since 1964. His last trip was in 1996.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used a ceremony appointing a new chief of the Israeli army on Thursday to warn army officers to stay out of politics, after heated exchanges in recent weeks.

"It is important to separate the political function from the military, in order to preserve the values of the Israel Defense Force, the army of the people and the crucible of Israeli democracy," Netanyahu said.

The ceremony took place after Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai earlier warned generals to limit their involvement in the deadlocked peace process — the focus of recent disagreements — to strictly security issues, the daily *Haaretz* reported.

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Saudi Gazette
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China for settling Kashmir through bilateral talks

determine the future of the state.

On the India-China border dispute, Zhou said the next round of talks would be "held at an appropriate time" and said the talks should be held in Beijing.

India says China still holds 40,000 sq. km of its territory in Kashmir's Aksai Chin, while China lays claim to territory in Arunachal Pradesh. The dispute is left over from a brief war in 1962.

Ties began to improve substantially after that with the holding of more than 10 rounds of Sino-Indian negotiations since 1988. The last round of talks was in 1996.

because of China's evacuation of Aksai Chin since ancient times, the number of Chinese leaders in the region has increased.

Zhou said statements that China was India's third largest trading partner had marred bilateral ties.

"Certain personages in India made accusations against China, slandering that China posed a threat to India's security, which have sabotaged the atmosphere of the Sino-India relations and harmed the developing of bilateral relations."

"The Chinese side hopes that the above-mentioned abnormal situation should be reversed as early as possible. But it is not up to the Chinese side. It is up to the door to undo the knot," he said.

Defense Minister George Fernandes has said that China was India's threat "number one," Zhou added.

The situation worsened when India justified its surprise series of nuclear tests in May with references to "an overt nuclear weapons state" on its border — a clear reference to China.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party Saturday rejected Zhou's claims on Aksai Chin as "unfortunate and regrettable."

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Kazakh-China oil pipeline progressing

ALMATY (AFP) - The president of the state oil concern Kazakhoil said Saturday that work on an oil pipeline to carry Kazakh crude to China is progressing as planned.

Nurlan Kapparov said a feasibility study on the technical and economic aspects of the pipeline is being conducted by KazTransOil, the state oil pipeline company, and the Chinese National Petroleum Company.

The planned 2,822 km oil pipeline would run from Atyrau in western Kazakhstan to Alashenkou, China, near China's western border with the central Asian republic.

The pipeline, which Kapparov estimated will cost nearly three billion dollars, was one of several joint investment projects that Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his Kazakh counterpart, Nursultan Nazarbayev privately discussed Saturday.

Jiang confirmed that building the pipeline carries "exceptional importance for China," Nazarbayev said.

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Iran daily wants Pakistan to go for it:
Pakistan should follow India's nuclear test
with one of its own, a government-owned
daily said in Tehran Wednesday.
"Now that the Indians have done it, it's
time Pakistan followed suit," the *Iran Daily*
said in an editorial.
"The 'Hindu blasts' can be matched
an 'Islamic blast', so as to maintain
military balance in South Asia," the ce
mentary added.

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TUESDAY,
19 MAY, 1998

Pak foreign secretary in Beijing security talks

BEIJING (Ruf) — A PAKISTAN foreign ministry official held talks Monday in China, a key potential ally in Islamabad's efforts to drum up support for tougher punishment to India for its nuclear tests last week.

The Chinese foreign ministry declined to give details of the talks between Pakistani Foreign Ministry Secretary Shamshad Ahmed and ministry officials.

“During the visit, both sides broadly exchanged views on international issues and relevant regional security issues,” a foreign ministry statement said. “This is part of normal regular consultations by the foreign ministries of China and Pakistan,” it said. Pakistani diplomats in Beijing said Ahmed was expected to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan during his three-day meeting that started Sunday. “In China and Pakistan have enjoyed a close military relationship for several decades.”

Foreign defence analysts suspect that China may have transferred military technology to Pakistan, a charge which both countries deny.

China was likely to try to persuade Pakistan not to conduct its own nuclear tests in response to five experimental blasts by In-



US, Britain and Japan

urge: restraint

urge: restraint

THE United States, Britain and Japan all urged Pakistan Monday not to conduct a nuclear test in response to last week's five explosions by its arch-rival India, but received no commitment from Islamabad.

US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair jointly telephoned Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad from London, “urging a continued policy of restraint,” a Pakistan government statement said.

A special envoy of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto met Sharif and Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan and said he had urged Pakistan to show “utmost restraint.”

Pakistan, for its part, voiced its “deep disappointment” at a muted response to India's nuclear tests from the G-8 industrial powers. “Eight (G-8) industrial powers including the United States, Britain and Japan,”

Leaders of G-8, the seven wealthy industrialized states now joined by Russia, met in England at the weekend and condemned India for its tests but did not agree on any sanctions.

The Pakistani statement quoted Sharif as telling Clinton and Blair that “the failure of great powers to condemn India and apply across-the-board sanctions” would send the wrong signals to New Delhi and could even act as an encouragement. “Under these circumstances, for G-8 to ask Pakistan to exercise restraint was misguided as it demonstrated insensitivity to a critical situation that threatened our very existence,” Sharif was quoted as saying. White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters in London after the 30-minute telephone call that Clinton and Blair had “a good conversation” with Sharif in which they “set but the case for not testing a nuclear device.” They said that a decision not to test would be strongly supported by the international community. “Sharif made no commitments/He did not wrestle with the issue,” McCurry said. Blair and Clinton “argued that Pakistan might emerge stronger and with a better security situation if it elected to forego the Pakistani statement said Sharif conveyed Pakistan's outrage at the Indian tests, and told the US and British leaders that “while he would not act in haste, his actions would be in consonance with the best interests of Pakistan's sovereignty and integrity.” The Japanese envoy, Seiichiro Noboru, told a news conference that he delivered a letter from Hashimoto to Sharif and asked the Pakistani leadership “to exercise the utmost restraint in this situation.” Asked if Japan had promised any package to Pakistan if it refrained from nuclear tests, Noboru said restraint could intensify efforts for economic cooperation. The Pakistan foreign ministry said earlier it had summoned heads of missions of G-8 countries to “convey Pakistan's deep disappointment at the very muted response that

Kingdom to strengthen military ties with China

(Continued from Page One)

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leaders of encouraging the latest eruption of Middle East violence. Prince Sultan responded: "The American leadership, officials and even the companies which are working with us — and most of them are represented by Congress — should understand that we'll not tolerate such statements."

Major US firms are among those angling for a stake in Saudi Arabia's upstream gas and downstream oil industry as it opens the sector to foreign companies. "It is bad timing. The economy is opening up more to private foreign investors and it is a very lucrative market," one said, referring to the House of Representatives resolution.

Up to 500 US companies have invested more than \$6 billion in Saudi Arabia, mostly in oil and gas. The value of US exports to Saudi Arabia in the first half of this year stood at \$2.85 billion, about 60 percent down on the same period in 1998. US imports in the same period stood at \$7.15 billion, official US figures show. Addressing a news conference in Kuala Lumpur on Monday, Prince Sultan saluted the stone-throwing Palestinian fighters. "Don't underestimate them. They have generated the concern of the whole world...Arabs have now united in every small and big issues."

"We should not be afraid over the stand of US Congress, and I believe that American interests are not served by the Congress stand... because there are vital American interests in Arab countries," he

said. Asked to comment on the new US proposal to establish peace in the Middle East, Prince Sultan said: "The first comment on this should be made by Palestinians. But I believe that it won't be a positive solution at all until Jerusalem is brought under Palestinian sovereignty."

He confirmed that Crown Prince Abdullah had taken a strong stand on the Palestinian issue during talks with Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Prince Sultan hinted at the Kingdom's plan to strengthen military cooperation with China and revive the Saudi-Chinese Joint Commission. He said Malaysia had expressed its readiness to import more oil from Saudi Arabia.

"There are a lot of investment opportunities in the Kingdom," the prince said, adding that Riyadh preferred investment cooperation with Arab and Islamic states. "This does not mean we change our policy toward Europe or the United States or Russia or China... but our expansion to other regions will strengthen our security in terms of trade and development," he explained. He said Chinese officials had told him that they had no objection to the Kingdom's cooperation with Chinese Muslims estimated at more than 20 million.

He emphasized the significance of Offset Programs and stated that the Chinese, Korean and Malaysian companies winning major Saudi contracts should invest not less than 45 percent in the Kingdom. "All have agreed with this principle," he added. (Agencies)

Chinese Imani passes away

BEIJING (AFP) • v* ;

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A Chinese Islamic leader and former, relig- ious representative has died, the official Xinhua news agency said on Friday., •,

Imam Al-Haj Salah An Shiwei, 79, pres- ' ident of the Islamic Association of China, passed away on Tuesday in Beijing and his funeral was held Friday in accordance with Muslim tradition. .

Li Ruihuan, chairman of the national Committee of the Chinese People's Politi

cal Consultative Conference (CPPCC), and ajriumbSr of) other high-ranking officials offered thei/"condolences' to the family, Xinhua s a i d . ;

1 An Shiwei, born 1919, was an influen- tial figure in religious circles both at home and abroad, Xinhua said.

He started working for the Islamic Association of China in 1956 and had served as a member and standing committee member of the CPPCC national committee since 1978, it said.

Chinese imam dies [

j BEIJING — Imam Al-Haj Salah An j Shiwei, who rose from being die leader of , a Beijing mosque to the head of China's state-backed Islamic Association, has died. ^ He was 79. The imam, who had been ill for ^>0 * several months, died last week in Beijing. . , • He was buried in accordance with Muslim tradition at a funeral on Friday attended by religious' leaders and Communist Party and^L government officials,' the state-run Xinhua

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Saudi-Chinese oil ties reviewed

BEIJING (SPA) — The chairman of the Chinese State Council Li Ping met here Tuesday evening with visiting Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Al Nuaimi to review bilateral cooperation and the establishment of joint oil projects as well as Chinese oil purchases from Saudi Arabia.

Al Nuaimi conveyed the greetings of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Crown Prince to Ping, who asked him to convey his greetings to the Saudi leaders.

In a statement to SPA after the meeting, Al Nuaimi said his visit to China

aims at boosting bilateral cooperation and economic and trade exchange between China and Saudi Arabia.

He stressed that Saudi Arabia is ready and capable of providing China with all its oil needs and pointed out that Ping had confirmed his country's keenness in cooperation with Saudi Arabia in the field of oil.

Ping also said his country's demand for oil will rise in coming years due to China's increasing economic growth.

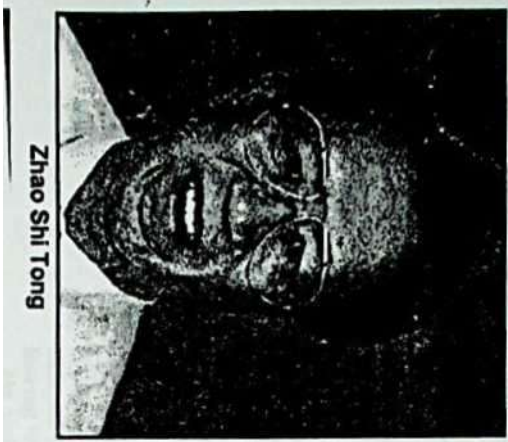
Al Nuaimi said the Chinese State Council chairman welcomed the establishment of joint oil projects such as oil

refineries owned by Saudi Aramco and Chinese companies and supplying such refineries with Saudi oil.

Al Nuaimi expressed optimism over the success of such projects.

Earlier in the day, Al Nuaimi met the chairman of Sunwik Oil Company, Jin Den Chin, to discuss joint oil projects and Saudi Arabian oil supplies to China.

The meeting was attended by Prince Faisal bin Turki bin Abdulaziz, the advisor at the oil ministry, and Saudi Aramco chairman and chief executive officer Abdullah Saleh Jomaa.



Chinese diplomat set to leave

By Habib Shaikh
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Jan. 16 — A diplomat friend of Saudi Arabia is set to leave with a promise to work for the further development of relations between the Kingdom and his country wherever he is.

"I have been in the Middle East for more than 20 years, and consider myself a close friend of the Arab people, and Saudi Arabia," Zhao Shi Tong, the first consul general of the People's Republic of China in Jeddah, told Arab News today. He is about to leave the Kingdom soon at the end of his term of office. He came to Jeddah from

Riyadh when the Chinese Consulate General was opened here nearly three years ago. Zhao, who has been in the foreign service for the last 32 years, said that he spent a very fruitful and prosperous period in the Kingdom and received good cooperation from the government authorities and businessmen.

He said that more than 20 leading Chinese companies will take part in a solo trade exhibition to be held in Jeddah in March. "This is symbolic of the developing ties between the two countries," he added. Meanwhile, Muzaffar Majid has taken over as consul from Bashir Baxi Lin, who also is transferred.

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...inst the previous year," he added that the volume of trade between September this year has ... million. Exports from China ... \$490 million, registered an ... 5.9 percent, and imports from ... which totaled \$340 million, ... increase of 160.6 percent as ... the same period last year. ... in China to Saudi Arabia in ... industrial products, garments, ... handicrafts, foodstuff, elec- ... tical items. Imports from the ... lude mainly oil, chemical fer- ... nematic products. He said that ... a is one of China's largest ... ts in the Arab world, second ... nited Arab Emirates. During ... the Kingdom the delegation ... meet various businessmen.

China may ratify nuclear safety convention

BEIJING, Feb. 29 (R) — Chinese officials, confident that their nuclear power stations meet world safety standards, have recommended parliament ratify an international nuclear safety convention, the Xinhua news agency said today.

“Chinese nuclear power stations have been built and have been operating in accordance with Chinese laws and regulations on nuclear safety and international standards,” senior nuclear safety official Huang Qitao, was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

“The stations have passed safety assessments by the International Atomic Energy Agency,” said Huang, director of the National Nuclear Safety Administration.

The State Council, China's cabinet, authorized Huang's administration to submit to the National People's Congress an IAEA nuclear safety convention for ratification during its annual session beginning on March 5, Xinhua said.

China, one of 62 signatories to the 1994 IAEA convention, had coordinated efforts to bring its energy, nuclear safety, environmental and health authorities to bring regulations in line with international standards in line with international

norms, Huang said. Experts from the Vienna-based IAEA recently conducted a three-week assessment of Chinese nuclear safety and had given the National Nuclear Safety Administration passing grades, Xinhua said.

China, whose fast economic growth has stoked an increasing appetite for electricity, has said it has no choice but to develop nuclear power, despite growing anti-nuclear sentiment in the industrialized world.

In Hong Kong, which lies near China's Daya Bay reactor, activists and the media have repeatedly questioned Chinese nuclear safety standards and criticized plans to build more nuclear plants in neighboring Guangdong province.

Parliamentary approval of the IAEA convention would underscore China's commitment to nuclear safety and international atomic cooperation, Huang asserted.

“Ratification of the convention will also enable China to further improve its nuclear safety,” he said.

Meanwhile, snows are starting to melt in western China but are still hampering aid to tens of thousands of Tibetan herders facing starvation after deaths of the yaks that provide most of the food.

Officials said the next convoy will leave about once every 10 days to take food and fuel to the estimated 60,000 Tibetan herders trapped by snowstorms in remote mountains of Yushu, 3,500 meters (11,000 ft) above sea level, the official said from the provincial capital, Xining. The herders have been pummeled by the severest winter for years on the plateau on the roof of the world.

“We are sending them, grain and flour, but Tibetans need to eat meat so that they can live at these altitudes and in their normal harsh conditions,” the official said.

“But there is virtually no meat since their yaks and sheep died of cold, so the people have less energy and are becoming weak,” he said.

“They have less resistance to survive.” The last convoy of food was sent to the area, 200 km (500 miles) from Xining, before the Chinese lunar new year on Feb. 19, he said.

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Assaf to lead delegation at Saudi-Chinese meeting

RIYADH, Feb. 24 (SPA) — Finance and National Economy Minister Dr. Ibrahim Al-Assaf will leave here on Monday for Beijing to lead the Kingdom's delegation to the first meeting of the Saudi-Chinese Joint Commission.

A mutual agreement on promoting and protecting investments as well as a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KAACST) and the Chinese Corporation for Science and Technology will be signed at the meeting.

The Beijing talks will explore new areas of cooperation between the two countries in Economic, trade, investment and technical fields including ways of boosting trade exchange and joint ventures and exchanging information and expertise in energy, training, roads and transportation.

The two-day meeting is held on the basis of a joint agreement on economic, trade, investment and technical cooperation signed by the two countries in 1993. The Chinese side will be presided over at the meeting by the minister of economic relations and foreign trade.

A seminar on investment opportunities in both countries will be held on the sidelines of the meeting. The Saudi House for Investment Services (SHIS) and a number of businessmen will present papers at the seminar on investment prospects in the Kingdom.

The Saudi delegation will include Dr. Saleh Al-Adl, president of KAACST, Saudi Ambassador to Beijing Yousuf Maghrebi, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs Dr.



Dr. Ibrahim Al-As'saf

Minister of Economic Relations and Foreign Trade, Deputy Minister for Industrial Affairs Mubarak Al-lead.

A number of officials from the ministries of foreign affairs; finance and national economy; education; planning; communications; commerce; information; and petroleum and mineral resources; Presidency of Youth Welfare, Saudi Railways Organization, Saudi Basic Industries Cor-

poration and SHIS as well as more than 35 businessmen representing chambers of commerce and industry in different parts of the Kingdom will also accompany the Saudi minister.

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Meanwhile, Dr. Saleh Al-Ahdal, president of the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KAACST), signed a memorandum of understanding for scientific cooperation between the Kingdom and China. The memorandum provides for cooperation in a number of fields related to environment, oil and planning for science and technology as well as atomic energy.

The signing of the memorandum would strengthen cooperation in a number of vital fields like that of environment which includes the study of the problem of desertification. It would also strengthen cooperation in the field of oil, including development of new types of incentives. It also would boost cooperation in the field of planning for science and technology, as well as in the field of atomic energy which includes protection against radiation, Dr. Al-Ahdal said.

signing the agreement, he said. So also a Chinese delegation will visit KAACST after which implementation of the projects will start straightway, he said.
Also today Chinese President Jian Zemin received Dr. Assaf who heads the Saudi delegation to the meetings of the Saudi Chinese joint Commission. During the meeting, bilateral relations and the ways of boosting them were reviewed and views on the ways of strengthening economic relations between the two countries were exchanged.

On the other hand, the Saudi and Chinese businessmen held an economic and trade seminar in Beijing today. It was attended by Dr. Assaf and Wu. It was held on the fringes of the meetings of the Saudi Chinese Joint Commission currently in session. Joint investment projects and available opportunities were discussed at the seminar, besides the possibility of setting up joint projects and the facilities that the investors in both countries would get.

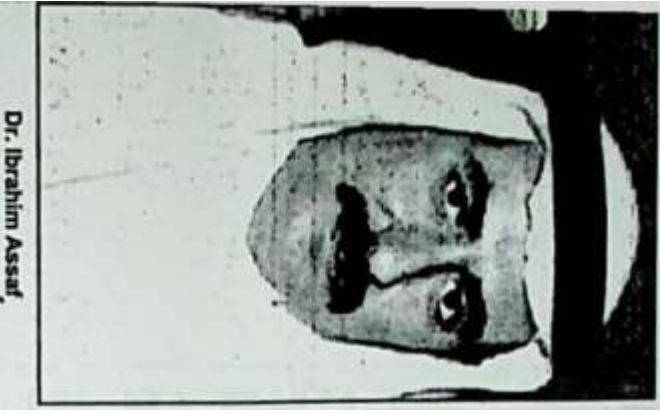
also aims at providing the necessary guarantees for investments and protecting them from confiscation and nationalization or any measure having the same effect, as long as it is not in the public interest. Also such measures should be in accordance with law, without any dis-

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Dr. Ibrahim Assaf



RIYADH, Feb. 28 — In a move to promote bilateral cooperation in the oil and petrochemical sectors, Chinese officials over the past few days have proposed further discussions with Saudi officials over three billion cumulative projects. These projects include of state-owned chemical upgrading of 500,000 ton ethylene.

This information was given by the vice governor of Yang Huixiao, during their delegation to the capital, Huixiao delegation held a meeting with Vice Governor Faqih and Deputy Minister of Commerce and Mineral Resources Dr. Kareem. The Chinese...

up with over 200 joint-venture proposals, which are contained in a booklet entitled "Foreign Economic & Technical Cooperation Projects of Gansu Province." Huixiao also suggested that China may be interested in setting up a plastic fibre belt plant in Saudi Arabia.

He added that a joint venture project to manufacture paints established in the Kingdom as a business proposition. Projects identified by a Chinese & Export Trade Group include opening of a setting up of a subsidiary of Gansu & Export Trade Group in Saudi Arabia.

Referring to his meeting with Chinese Vice Governor Faqih, Huixiao said that the Chinese delegation is currently heading for Gansu province. He said that the Chinese delegation is currently heading for Gansu province.

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Feb. 29, 1996

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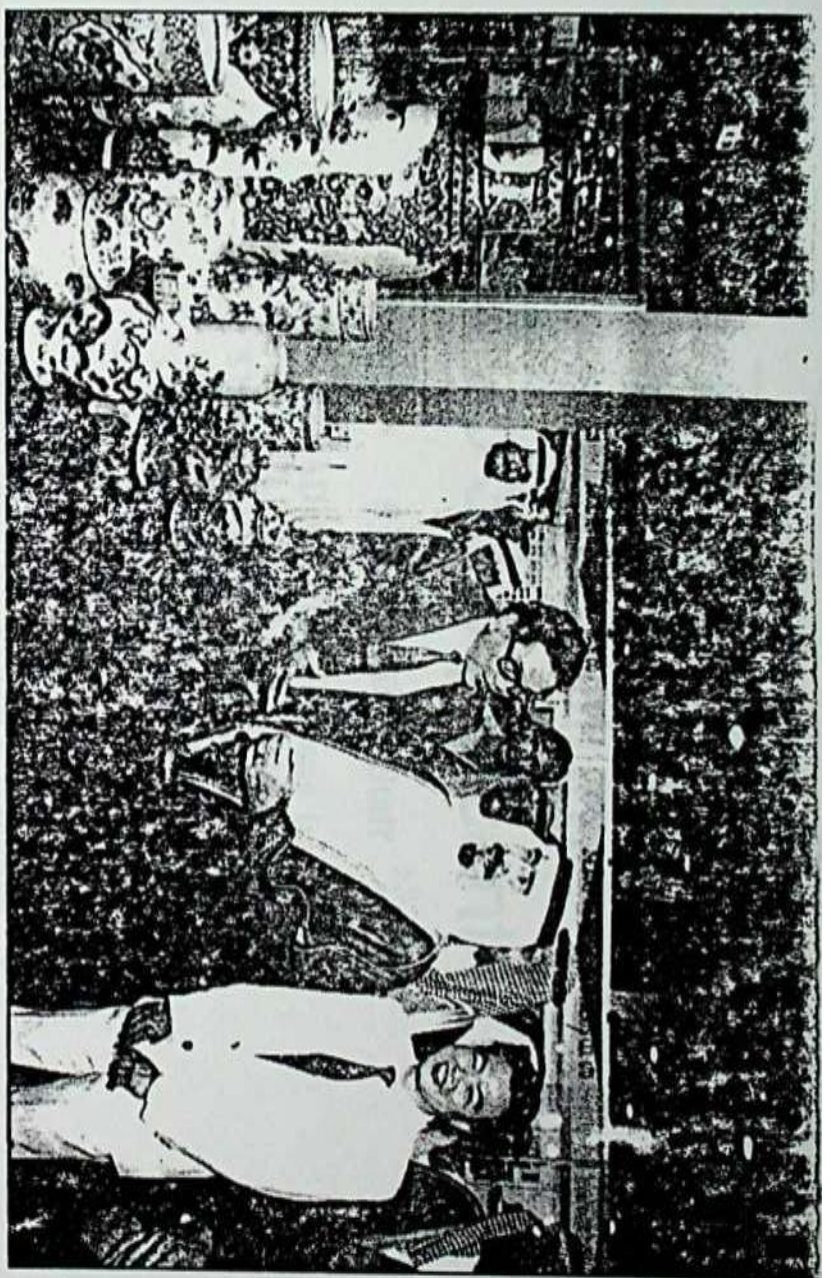
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in China and that the country's development was fast, especially in the fields of textiles and consumer products.
The China Expo '96 is showcasing the products of 65 corporations and enterprises from 14 Chinese provinces and municipalities. One of the exhibition's organizer's said that the aim of the expo was to enhance the potential of bilateral trade, strengthen cooperation on investment and further promote the economic development of the two countries. He added that the Chinese participants were ready to establish good business connections with their Saudi counterparts and explore better ways of importing and exporting as well as ways of economic and technological cooperation between the two sides.

Majed opens China trade expo '96

Makkah Governor Prince Majed, flanked by senior Chinese officials, looking at some exhibits at the China Trade Expo '96 on Sunday. (Photo by Abdullah Ateeq)



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Saudi-China trade volume up 33.5 percent

By Riyadh Daily Staff ^{٤٩}

RIYADH – The two-way trade between China and Saudi Arabia, totalling \$1,268 million, increased 33.5 percent during the January-October period, up 33.5 percent compared to the same period last year, according to an embassy press release.

The volume comprised 40 percent of China's total trade with GCC countries.

The Kingdom's imports from China totalled \$598 million, up 8 percent from last year. The Kingdom's exports to China touched \$670 million, up 69.3 percent from last year.

Saudi Arabia has trade surplus of \$72 million and is China's biggest trading partner in the region.

By Bern Hallway
Special to Saudi Gazette

JEDDAH, Dec 14

CHINA is ready to send qualified technicians and labourers to be employed in the Kingdom, Hu Jingyan, deputy director-general of the Foreign Investment Administration in China, said here today.

Opening the Saudi-China Investment and Trade Seminar organised by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, and the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Hu Jingyan noted that good prospects exist in further development of labour contracting between Saudi Arabia and China.

"China has a qualified team of technicians and abundant labour resources and Saudi Arabia is the largest market of labour contracting in the Mid-east. These factors constitute basic conditions for bilateral cooperation," Hu Jingyan said.

He also spoke of the great potential that exists in the development of bilateral economic and trade relations between the two countries. Saudi Arabia, he said, has abundant capital resources, and China boasts rich labour resources and a big market.

"The Chinese government is willing to develop economic and trade cooperation,

and I am convinced that the bilateral friendly relationships and economic cooperation will reach a new height under the concerted efforts of both governments," Hu Jingyan said.

The two-day seminar coincides with the visit of the Chinese Investment and Trade delegation. Members of the delegation come from nine Chinese provinces and cities. They brought with them 200 investment projects.

It was noted that during the seminar, business people from both countries can improve their understanding of each other through extensive contacts so that a solid foundation will be laid for future cooperation between the two countries.

Hu Jingyan said. He also spoke on behalf of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Ahmad Abualjoudail, assistant secretary-general for industrial and commercial relations, said the Kingdom values its relationship with China, and aims to enhance it further.

"Our trade has been growing, but we can increase it more," he added.

He also noted that the Kingdom's diplomatic relations with China, and aims to enhance it further.

He also noted that the Kingdom's diplomatic relations with China, and aims to enhance it further.



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By FURQAN AHMED
 Riyadh Daily Staff

Saudi-China t

RIYADH DAILY
 9/12/96

ne-day seminar discussed two
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Saudi Arabia and China have enjoyed
 remarkable success in the field of eco-
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Further, negotiations in the oil sector
 are going on smoothly. "In February
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: Petrolube inks /\$18-million deal with

Chinese firm

BEIJING, Dec. 21 (SPA)

PETROLUBE, an affiliate of Petromin, signed yesterday an agreement with a Chinese company for the marketing of its products in China. The five-year agreement is worth \$18 million.

The agreement was signed by Petrolube's executive president Ahmed Barasheed, and Chin Ching Yung on behalf of the Chinese company, Bengwenda Industry Investment.

The ceremony was attended by the Saudi Ambassador to China, Yousef Al-Madani, and a number of senior Chinese officials.

Under the agreement, Petromin will export 30,000 tonnes of oil and lubricants to China under its brand name. The quantities of the marketed products will increase annually by 20 percent.

Addressing a press conference, Saudi Ambassador Yousef Al-Madani said the agreement comes within the framework of the existing economic and commercial cooperation between the Kingdom and China.

Ahmed Barasheed said this agreement institutes a new era for the development of commercial cooperation between Saudi Arabia and China.

He noted that the Chinese market is one of the biggest markets and added that "Petrolube is the sole Saudi company that has signed such a big agreement, outside the local market."

He pointed out that Petrolube is the pioneering company in the Kingdom and the Middle East for lubricants.

Petrolube which has factories in Jeddah, Riyadh and Jubail, is capable of producing more than 6.5 million barrels of lubricants and eight million tonnes of grease, he said.

He added that "the products of Petrolube, which are exported to more than 30 countries, meet more than 60 percent of the requirements of the local market". Barasheed said that under the agreement the Chinese company will be the sole agent of Petrolube in China and it will undertake the responsibility of importing and distributing products that carry the mark of Petromin in China.

Chin Ching Yung hoped that the agreement will open new horizons in economic cooperation between the Kingdom and China.

• He hoped that the quantities of the marketed products of Petromin in China will soon increase. •'

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China keen on boosting ties, says aide

By Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH - The Peoples Republic of China (PRC) is keen to promote its bilateral relations with the Kingdom and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

This was stated by PRC Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Tian Zengpei at a press conference here Thursday. He said his delegation held talks with GCC Secretary General Jameel Al-Hujailan and Assistant Foreign Minister Abdulrahman Mansouri on wide-ranging subjects in order to promote harmonious relations in many fields.

Economic and trade ties with the Kingdom he said, were improving. In 1995 bilateral trade between the two countries exceeded \$1.2 billion. There is a greater scope of its further expansion, he added.

On the question of setting up a joint oil refinery in China, the vice minister said: "The proposal is still being studied by China. Although China produced about 150 million tons of oil in 1996, it still imported oil for its expanding industrial projects. Saudi Arabia is an important source of oil supply to China."

Referring to his talks with Al Hujailan, he said, it was a follow up to his

talks in September 1996 at the United Nations, where they agreed to hold frequent talks to intensify efforts to promote GCC-China ties on bilateral and multilateral matters.

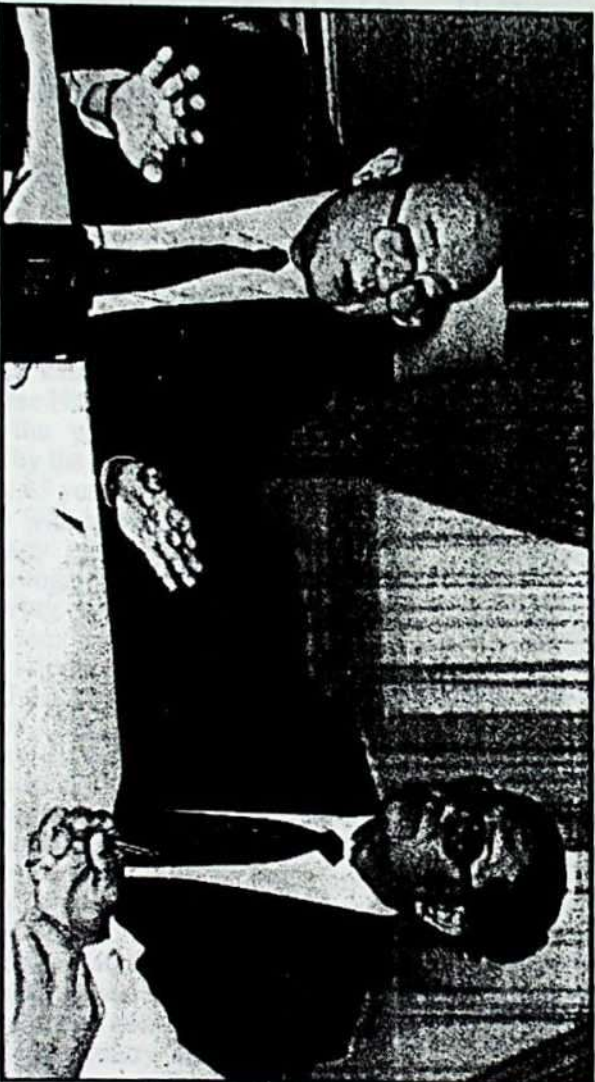
He said he had invited Al-Hujailan to visit China.

Referring to the GCC stand on Taiwan, the vice minister said: "GCC countries deserve high marks for their strong support for one China policy."

In reply to a question Zengpei said that Beijing has halted its plans to build a nuclear power plant in Iran following a perusal of its nuclear export policy. There are some specific issues which are unsettled between the two countries, he added.

He also refuted speculations of the Western media about billions of dollars of Chinese arms sales to foreign countries. "These reports are unfounded and just rumors," he added.

He said China's policy to export its nuclear technology is based on the fact that it should be used for peaceful purposes.



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Chinese Consulate to celebrate national day

By Habib Shaikh
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Sept. 27 — The Consulate General of China in Jeddah will celebrate the Chinese National Day with a literal focus on the progress and development achieved by the country in different sectors in the last 45 years.

“There will be an exhibition of large-size, mostly color and some black and white, photographs recently received from China during the official reception at my residence tomorrow,” Consul General Gao Shi Tong told Arab News today.

He said that the number of Saudis wanting to visit China is rising; and interest in doing business and making investments is also increasing.

Last year, the bilateral trade totaled \$700 million, with Chinese exports to Saudi Arabia worth \$405 million, and imports from the Kingdom totaling \$295 million.

“We would like to increase import of products from Saudi Arabia, enhance economic relations and strengthen traditional ties,” he said, and added, “China is also an oil producing country and would like to strengthen relations with Saudi Arabia in this sector.”

Gao Shi Tong said that China has diplomatic relations with 159 countries and considers Saudi Arabia as an important partner. “We share common interests and believe in peaceful co-existence,” he added.

After diplomatic ties were established between the two countries on July 21, 1990, official visits from both sides have increased. Prime Minister Li Peng visited the Kingdom last year, so did Vice Premier Li Lanqing. In June, Vice Foreign Minister Tien Ching Piy paid a visit.

From the Saudi side, Minister of Commerce Dr. Soliman Al-Solaim, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Hisham Nazer, and Minister of Industry and Electricity Abdul Aziz Al-Zamil, have visited China.

Saudi Arabia will be one of the countries taking part in the Gulf Week to be held in Beijing in May next year. It will include exhibitions, presentation of folk arts and crafts, and seminars, all focusing on the Gulf states.

According to the consul general, some 21 big Saudi companies are studying the Chinese market.

Some 21 companies from six Chinese provinces will be participating in the Life-style '94 exhibition to be held in Jeddah next month, representing foodstuff, light machinery and electrical equipment

In November, a solo exhibition will be held in Riyadh, with 130 Chinese companies displaying goods from light to heavy industry.

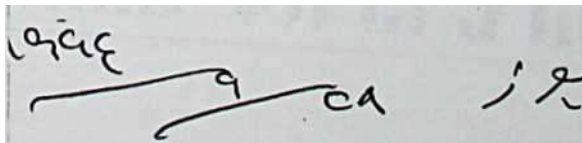
He said that the photographs will give an idea of the potentialities that exist in China, its place in history, and international politics.

The pictorial presentation includes such historical photographs as Chairman Mao Zedong proclaiming the founding of the central peoples' government of the PRC from the Tiananmen Rostrum in Beijing on Oct. 1, 1949.

Another such photograph is that of the signing on Dec. 19, 1984, of the joint statement by the governments of China and Britain concerning the return of Hong Kong to China.

The photographs reflect the country's achievements in science and technology, education, culture, agriculture, aquaculture, and youth activities.

An eye-catching photograph is that of the Nanguan Mosque in Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia Hui, which has some 4,000 mosques. Not only is it picturesque, but also says a lot about the massive number of Muslims and Muslim life in China.



s to take part in Beijing world fair

By Habib Shaikh
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, May 1 — A sizable number of leading Saudi Arabian companies will be taking part in the Beijing International Muslim Economic and Trade Fair '93 to be held from June 12-16.

"The participants' optimism was on the fact that a large number of big executives have been visiting the opened consulate general of the Republic of China in Jeddah", G. Tong, the first consul general took News today.

Tong said the serious inquiries would be exhibited covered ranging from steel to textiles "the to the delicate."

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Gao Shi Tong

entific and technical cooperation, contracting, engineering and labor services" he added.
The exhibition, which will be held at the International Center, will have on special, high quality products ranging from machinery to chemical, industrial, products, textiles, clothing, oils,

cereals, foodstuff, arts and crafts, medical appliances and health care services.
It will also include an international seminar on "Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Islamic Countries and Areas," which will be addressed by experts from China as well as abroad.

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TOURS: Jeddah Mayor Dr. Khalid Abdul Ghani touring Lifestyle '93 on the opening day with Korean businessmen.

China invites Kingdom's businessmen to visit

By K.S. Ramkumar
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Nov. 21—A visiting Chinese trade mission has invited Saudi businessmen to visit the world's most populous country and see the multi-directional progress it is making, following the implementation of the policy of economic reform.

Li Xiumei, deputy director of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, and leader of the Chinese delegation extended the invitation at a news conference at the opening of Lifestyle '93 here last night.

Asked whether the invitation has been accepted, she said: "Yes, the visit is expected to materialize early next year."

The Chinese mission, comprised of more than 100 companies, has put up a big pavilion at the week long international trade fair comprising Ideal Home, Childworld, Fashionworld, light industries and handicraft, which was inaugurated by Jeddah's Mayor Dr. Khaled Abdul Ghani.

Xiumei, who was accompanied by Ambassador Sun Bigan and Consul General Gao Shi Tong, said that the main objective of staging the exhibition's biggest pavilion is to demonstrate the country's determination to further enlarge and develop its economic and trade cooperation with the Kingdom.

"The Kingdom and China are large markets in Asia's foreign trade. Hence, with the joint effort of businessmen from the two sides, there will surely be vast prosperity in trade cooperation," she said.

The two countries have a long history of friendship and trade, with rapid progress made in business and technological coop-

eration ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two sides, the ambassador said.

"The pavilion gives a glimpse of the economic achievements China has made, and the potentials in foreign trade since the country implemented the policy of reform and opening to the outside world," explained Bigan.

"We were determined to show our presence in a big way, following the successes of the China trade exhibitions in Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran between 1989 and 1992," said Xiumei.

The pavilion displays the mission members' new products and techniques. Most of the participants are looking for local agents and distributors.

With a view to introducing and promoting Chinese history and fractional culture, Chinese folk arts and crafts are also on show. They include Dunhuang art, a tea culture show, and traditional furniture.

Following the policy of reform, Xiumei said, a complete ; rationally distributed, large-scale modern industrial system has been established.

Not only have such traditional industries as coal mining, iron and steel, textiles and other light industries, been greatly strengthened, but new industries including automobile, petrochemicals, nuclear energy, aeronautics and computers have also been firmly established.

"Today's China is not only able to manufacture aircraft, Automobiles, ships and precision machine tools, and whole plants for mining, synthetic ammonia production and electricity generation, it is also manufacturing and launching various manmade satellites, smelting some 1,400 types of steel and rolling some 20,000 specifications of steel," she added.

Bilateral trade with China up by 25% in 1994

By Habib Shaikh
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Jan. 6 — Bilateral trade between China and Saudi Arabia increased about 20 percent to 25 percent in the period January-October 1994, as compared to the same period a year earlier, according to Gao Shi Tong, consul general in Jeddah.

"The main exports to the Kingdom included light machinery, textiles, garments, and metals," Gao Shi Tong told Arab News yesterday. "Imports from Saudi Arabia included fertilizers, chemical products, wheat and oil products," he added.

He said that China's economy is developing rapidly. "We registered an 11 percent growth in GNP last year, and the volume of trade with foreign countries reached \$230 billion," he stressed.

China produced 160 million tonnes of oil last year and 1.80 million cars. It plans to increase the number of car production to 6 million by the year 2010.

The consul general said that to meet the increasing need for oil, China signed an agreement with the Kingdom last year to import between 3 million tonnes to 3.5 million tonnes of oil. "We will continue to increase the import of fertilizer and other petroleum products as well," he said.

He said that relations between China and Saudi Arabia are developing progressively. According to him, many Saudi businessmen are visiting China to explore opportunities for trade and investment.

"China is continuing its reforms in state

enterprises and making efforts to strengthen market economy," he said, and added, "Chinese companies are ready for investments in Saudi Arabia and welcome Saudi businessmen to invest in Chinese provinces."

He said that China is a huge market, and many Western companies are already building enterprises there. The number of foreign joint ventures in China exceeds 100,000. Some 26 countries have opened bank branches in China, and Shanghai alone has 330 offices of foreign companies.

Gao said that the National Commercial Bank has expressed desire to open a branch in China and a delegation will be visiting the country for discussions.

Welcoming the proposed idea of holding a Saudi exhibition in China later this year, he said that this will go to strengthen relations between the two countries. Details for the show are being worked out.

Gao said that China plans to hold a solo trade exhibition in Jeddah in November. "It will be the biggest Chinese exhibition so far, with big Chinese companies taking part," he said.

He said that encouraged by last year's results, Jiangsu Province will hold another trade show at the Al Hamra Center in Jeddah in March. "All these activities will help boost the bilateral relations to new heights," he commented. He said that China has been making stable progress in all fields, and added that the world women's conference will be held in Beijing in the autumn.

Al-Mukairish & Al-Mawashi strike Chinese livestock deal

By Wahib Ghorab
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, Dec. 27 — Four Chinese government companies specializing in the export of sheep and foodstuffs have signed deal with Al-Mukairish and Al-Mawashi, two Saudi companies specializing in livestock business, which are currently completing the procedures for their merger. Under the agreement the two companies would import all the live sheep the Chinese firms export to the Middle East. The deal is said to be about SR500 million.

The four Chinese companies have to export two million head of sheep at the minimum during three years starting from the beginning of 1995, sources of Al-Mawashi said.

Sources of Al-Mukairish refused to give further details about the size of the deal or its value, as they do not want to divulge such business secrets for fear of competition. A Chinese trade delegation had visited the Kingdom in the beginning of the current month. It included representatives of Chinese livestock companies.

Representatives of the Chinese firms held talks with a number of Saudi companies specializing in livestock business. But at the end, they decided to strike the deal with

considered the largest of Saudi firms operating in the field. Sales of Al-Mukairish is estimated at about SRI billion annually and its market share absorbs around 30 percent Al-Mawashi, a Saudi joint stock company, had decided to merge with Al-Mukairish a few months ago, after a group of Saudi businessmen dominated over 64 percent of its shares.

Prince Walid ibn Talal, Businessman Sulaiman Abanami and Olayan Company purchased Al-Mawashi last October. Earlier it was owned by National Shipping Company. At that time, the deal cost over SRI 04 million.

Attempts at merging the two companies came at a time when Al-Mukairish was trying to create well-equipped sale centers with an investment of SR30 million. At the same time, Al-Mawashi has been trying to expand its activities to the Gulf market in addition to the Kingdom. It had already expanded its activities to Kuwait and Emirates. The merger will enable the new company to control the market which imports millions of sheep annually from Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Syria, Sudan and other countries. The entry of Chinese companies to the Saudi market would further toughen the competition among sheep exporters from all countries and provide

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China to buy 3.5 tons of oil from Kingdom

By M. Ghazwanfar Ali Khan
Arab News Staff

RIYADH, Oct. 9 — Nearly 3.5 million tons of Saudi oil will be imported by China after work on two proposed joint-venture refinery projects is completed, a diplomat said today.

Chinese imports of Saudi oil have been meagre through the past few years. It imported only 70,000 tons of crude oil and 10,000 tons of refined oil during January to July last year, according to recent statistics.

Talks on setting up the \$3-billion refinery projects are believed to be in the final stage. The three countries — Saudi Arabia, China and South Korea — which are taking part in the joint venture have not yet decided the location of one of the refineries.

Chinese Ambassador Zheng Dayong told Arab News that "the involved parties are studying the location of the \$1.5 billion project which will shortly be set up in China". Saudi Aramco has agreed in principle

to participate in the project. "An old Chinese refinery will also be repaired and upgraded," said Ambassador Zheng, adding that "Saudi officials have ensured us of their participation" in the task.

"The refinery, which will be upgraded, is likely to be completed early next year," he informed. One of the proposed oil refineries — which is to be set up in China's eastern coastal areas — will have a capacity of 200,000 bpd, and be operational by the end of 1998. It is understood that Saudi Aramco along with Seoul-based Ssangyong Oil Company will enter into a joint-venture with two Chinese companies namely National Chemical Corporation and Qingdao Municipal Government.

Asked about the proposed visit of a Shoura delegation to China, Zheng said that a 10-member delegation led by Shoura Council President Sheikh Muhammad ibn Jubair will visit China in the middle of this month. The delegation will visit four Chinese cities and hold talks with senior officials in Beijing.

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Saudi-Chinese trade soars by 43 percent

Oct. 6 — Saudi-Chinese trade soared 43 percent during the first nine months of this year compared with the same period last year, according to the economic newspaper at China's capital, Beijing.

The newspaper said that trade between the two countries in 1990, which began in 1984, had increased by 43 percent over the same period in 1989.

Notably, Saudi investment in China is on the rise.

He added that Saudi Arabia was an important market for China, and China likewise was a lucrative market for Saudi exports and a significant investment area.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1990, economic and trade relations have progressively developed.

Notably, Saudi investment in China is on the rise.

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Chinese vehicles to enter local market

By Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH - For the first time, vehicles manufactured in the Peoples Republic of China are expected to hit the roads of the Kingdom by the end of this year.

A contract has been signed by the Kingdom's Al-Rashid, and Al-Theman Company and China's First Automobile Company whereby the former will be the distributors in the Kingdom for the Chinese firm.

According to *Okaz* Arabic daily, Chinese-made trucks, buses and mini buses, made with technical cooperation from

American companies, will be imported into the Kingdom.

Fahd Al-Theman, vice chairman of the Al-Rashid and Al-Theman Company, told the paper that the Chinese company has over 30 plants, all equipped for manufacturing even the spare parts of the vehicles it produces.

Al-Theman said following eight months of talks and studying the situation of the Saudi market, the Chinese company named Al-Rashid and Al-Theman Company as its agents in the Kingdom. "We signed a contract with Chinese company about three months

ago," said Al-Theman and added, "The standards of the Chinese company conform with the standards set by the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization (SASO)."

Al-Theman pointed out that the Chinese company has a research center with about 1,500 technicians to develop the engines and gears.

The company also manufactures radiators and batteries that are exported for the American Cadillac vehicles.

In addition to the Kingdom, the Al-Rashid and Al-Theman Company will also be the agents of the Chinese company for Syria and Morocco, he said and added the main showroom in Riyadh will be set up on an area of about 5,000 square meters on Khureis Road.

Arrangements are also under way to market the vehicles in the various cities of the Kingdom, Al-Theman said.

He noted that the Chinese company has been successfully marketing its products in the United Arab Emirates since two years and the vehicles have not developed any technical defects.

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Kingdom to help build oil refinery in China

By M. Chazanfar Ali Khan
Arab News Staff

RIYADH, July 23 — Amid progressively growing relations with South Asian countries presently serving as potential outlets for crude oil, Saudi Arabia in cooperation with Seoul-based Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. will build a \$1.5 billion oil refinery in China's eastern coastal areas.

With a capacity to refine over 200,000 bpd targeted to be set up by the year 1997, the Saudi Aramco along with Ssangyong, in which Aramco has a 30 percent stake, will enter into a joint venture with two Chinese companies namely National Chemical Corporation and Qingdao Municipal Government.

"This joint-refinery project was proposed during the high-level consultations with Chinese officials including Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Madam Wu Yi, which took place recently when Saudi Commerce Minister Dr. Salehman Al-Soleim visited China", said Zhang Dimo, economic & commercial counselor at the People's Republic of China's Embassy.

Later it was confirmed that starting from 1995 China will import 3.5 million

tons of Saudi crude oil per year and when the oil refinery begins to operate, more Saudi oil will be needed. From then on, China's imports from Saudi Arabia will be greatly increased.

"China has been importing petrochemicals, fertilizers and some other commodities from Saudi Arabia besides progressively seeking to boost its oil imports from the Kingdom", said Dimo, while speaking to Arab News here.

With 18 oil fields in production presently, China has made considerable progress in off-shore oil exploration and production with one of the four off-shore operations, Bohai Oil field alone producing one million tons of oil annually.

Referring to the recent visit of a six-member Chinese delegation to Saudi Arabia especially to exchange experience in the fields of desert exploration and the consequent possibility of oil findings with Saudi Aramco, Dimo said that "the final details of the project is still to be worked out".

However the reports published following the visit of Saudi Minister of Commerce Dr. Suleiman Al-Suleim indicate that Saudi Aramco will hold 45 percent of equity share whereas the Saudi-South Korean joint venture Ssangyong will have 15 percent. The

rest will be shared by Chinese companies.

Asked about the bilateral economic relations, Dimo pointed out that some more important Saudi delegations will visit China in foreseeable future probably later this year. "It is for certain that the closer cooperation in every field between the two countries will be promising in future," he noted.

It is important to note in this context that China's trade with Saudi Arabia has been growing steadily since the establishment of diplomatic relations between these two countries in 1990.

Referring to the China's customs statistics, he said that the two-way trade has reached \$697 million during 1993, of which China's export to Saudi Arabia amounted to \$578 million and the Chinese imports accounted for \$118 million.

"Though these figures are still small, yet they have already doubled those recorded in 1990", said Counselor Dimo showing convictions about the potential Saudi market for Chinese textile, garments, carpets, toys, electronics, household electrical appliances, medical equipment, chemicals and hardware. AN 24/7/94

Welcoming Saudi companies to invest in China, which is presently a potential market

with 1.2 billion population, he said that "the Chinese enterprises are eager to develop their business here in this thriving Saudi market".

Referring to the visit of Dr. Soleim to China, he pointed out that a letter of intent for the import of 80,000 live sheep was signed with China National Cereals, Food-stuffs, Oils Import and Export Corporation.

Besides the proposed SR100 million-China Town under construction in Jeddah presently by Al-Khaleeja for Export Promotion & Marketing Company, another Saudi businessman Ghazi Abdullah Abbar, executive director of Abdullah Abbar & Ahmed Zairy is negotiating with Chinese companies for importing frozen chicken.

Scheduled to be completed by 1995, the China Town will cover a space of 120,000 sqm including exhibition center, different outlets, warehouses, parking facility and Chinese restaurants besides a host of other related facilities.

Explaining the ever-increasing Chinese trade and its vitality, Dimo pointed out that China's foreign trade recorded a deficit of \$12.18 billion last year, resulting from the rapid growth of imports arising from the brisk demand of the domestic market.

'Saudi-China deal will protect investments'



Dr. Ibrahim Assaf

BEIJING, Feb. 29 (SPA) — Saudi Arabia and China initiated here today an agreement for encouraging and protecting investment.
The agreement was signed by Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Dr. Ibrahim Assaf and Chinese Minister of Economic Relations and Foreign Trade Wu Ye.

The agreement provides a legal framework for regulating relations of those who invest, from any of the two countries, in the other country and covers all kinds of investments. So also it provides all possible facilities to the investors, giving just and equal treatment including that of the most-favored nation.
The agreement also aims at providing the necessary guarantees for investments and protecting them from confiscation and nationalization or any measure having the same effect, as long as it is not in the public interest. Also such measures should be in accordance with law, without any discrimination and in lieu of just material compensation, the Saudi Press Agency has learned. The agreement provides for the freedom of transferring investment and its returns in a transferable currency.
The accord also defines the measures for solving disputes arising from investment between the investor and the host country, including resorting to arbitration and the commitment of the host country to implement the decisions of arbitration.
The agreement aims at encouraging and protecting investments especially the direct investments like the joint projects implemented by the private sector in both the countries. Dr. Assaf told the Saudi Press Agency, "What concerns us in this field is increasing the exports of Saudi products like oil and petrochemicals, besides encouraging joint projects which is considered one of the most important means of technology transfer, as well as at making opportunities for work and trade development available," Dr. Assaf said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Saleh Al-Adhi, president of the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology (KAACST) signed a memorandum of understanding for scientific cooperation between the Kingdom and China. The memorandum provides for cooperation in a number of fields related to environment, oil and planning for science and technology as well as atomic energy.
The signing of the memorandum would strengthen cooperation in a number of vital fields like that of environment which includes the study of the problem of desertification. It would also strengthen cooperation in the field of oil, including development of new types of incentives. It also would boost cooperation in the field of planning for science and technology, as well as in the field of atomic energy which includes protection against radiation, Dr. Al-Adhi said.

A work team from KAACST will visit China to give the final touches for the detailed programs in these fields soon after signing the agreement, he said. So also a Chinese delegation will visit KAACST after which implementation of the projects will start straightaway, he said.
Also today Chinese President Jian Zemin received Dr. Assaf who heads the Saudi delegation to the meetings of the Saudi Chinese Joint Commission. During the meeting, bilateral relations and the ways of boosting them were reviewed and views on the ways of strengthening economic relations between the two countries were exchanged.
On the other hand, the Saudi and Chinese businessmen held an economic and trade seminar in Beijing today. It was attended by Dr. Assaf and Wu. It was held on the fringes of the meetings of the Saudi Chinese Joint Commission currently in session. Joint investment projects and available opportunities were discussed at the seminar, besides the possibility of setting up joint projects and the facilities that the investors in both countries would get.



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By Edgar C. Capano
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 Saudi Gazette Staff

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Sign accord ; % on investment

BEIJING (SPA) – An agreement for encouragement and protection of investment between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China was initiated here Thursday in the framework of the first session of the Saudi-Chinese Joint Commission.

The agreement was signed by Finance and National Economy Minister Dr. Ibrahim Al Assaf and the Chinese minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation.

The agreement reportedly provides the legal framework which regulates relations between investors of both countries, all possible facilities and equal and fair treatment as well as necessary guarantees to protect investments from confiscation or nationalization.

The agreement stipulates the freedom of investment transfer and its proceeds by exchangeable currency in addition to the settlement of disputes between the investor and the host country including the resort to courts and abidance of the host country by the decisions of such courts.

Speaking to SPA, Dr. Al Assaf said the agreement is aimed at encouraging and protecting investments, especially direct investments such as joint investments which could be undertaken in both countries.

He said their area of concern in this context was to increase Saudi exports to China of oil and petrochemical products as well as encouragement of joint ven-

tures and promotion of trade.

Meanwhile, the president of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), Dr. Saleh Athel, signed a memorandum of understanding for scientific cooperation between the Kingdom and China. The memorandum covers cooperation in environment, oil, scientific and technical planning, and nuclear energy.

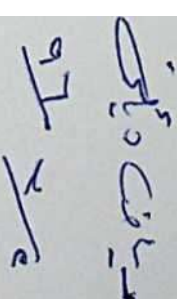
Soon after the signing, a KACST working team will visit China to put the finishing touches to the detailed programs of the above areas and a Chinese delegation is to visit KACST as well, Dr. Athel told SPA.

Jiang receives Al-Assaf

BEIJING (SPA) – Chinese President Jiang Zemin received here Thursday the visiting Saudi minister of finance and national economy Dr Ibrahim Al-Assaf and his delegation. The talks dealt with the bilateral relations between the two countries and ways to promote them.

The two sides also reviewed a number of economic issues of mutual interest.

Dr Al-Assaf is chairing the Saudi delegation to the first meeting of the Saudi/Chinese joint commission for economic, commercial and technical cooperation.



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Chinese team proposes new joint ventures worth \$4 billion

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 The Chinese business mission has come

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Kingdom turning to China for new investments

By Aishia Motlavi
Arab News Staff

RIVADH, June 12 — In the 1970s, Gulf economies were booming. In the 1990s, the boom is in East Asia. Now, the 70s "boomers" are looking to the 90s "boomers" for a bit of a jump-start.

Increasingly, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations, wracked by falling oil prices and high budget deficits, are turning their attention toward East Asia's lucrative market to give a boost to their own economies.

Particularly appealing to GCC nations is the industrial and manufacturing boom taking place in East Asia, which creates greater demand for petrol products.

Reflecting this greater demand is China's recent deal with Saudi Arabia to purchase 3 million tons of oil a year from the Kingdom beginning in 1995. China, long a net oil exporter, has become an oil importer due to the nation's massive economic growth.

Saudi Arabia, in particular, is making an East Asian push with the recent visit of Saudi Petroleum Minister Hisham Nazer to

is seen as a key long-term investment in the region that could benefit the Kingdom greatly.

"We need a stable oil source just as Saudi Arabia needs a stable oil market," said Chinese Embassy First Secretary Zhai Jun, "so it is a complementary relationship."

Until now, the balance of trade between China and Saudi Arabia heavily favored China 6-to-1, but the gap will be closed dramatically as soon as Saudi Arabia begins shipping the 3 million tons of oil to China and the refinery comes on line.

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Tien Zeng Pei recently visited the Kingdom carrying a message of closer economic ties between the two nations, and Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba Alkhalil is scheduled to visit China in November for the annual Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meet-

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Kingdom, China sign

new pacts

By FURQAN AHMED
Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH — Several agreements have emerged in the realm of the growing bilateral trade relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC), as a result of the recent visit by Minister of Commerce Dr. Suleiman Al Suleim and his delegation to Beijing.

PROC Economic and Commercial Counsellor Zhang Dimo said the minister's visit was a great success, though the time for the delegation's stay in China was only five days covering three cities — Beijing, Xian and Shanghai.

Speaking to *Riyadh Daily* here Monday, Dimo said that during Dr. Al Suleim's stay in China, a letter of intent for the import of 80,000 live sheep was signed with China National Cereals, Foodstuffs and Oil Imports and Export Corporation.

Abbar & Zainy Executive Director Ghazi Abdullah Abbar held talks on the import of frozen chicken and the building of refrigerated ships to transport foodstuff and dairy products. Fruitful discussions were held between the businessmen of the two countries on the setting up of automobile service centers in China and a Chinese trading house in the Kingdom, the official said.



DIMO

Dimo further said that the president and managing director of Al Khaleeja for Export Promotion and Marketing Company, Adek S. Almaddah, has started building a China Town in Jeddah with a total investment of SR100 million at a space of 120,000 sq. meters. It will include an exhibition center, shops, warehouses, Chinese restaurants and parking and other facilities. The town is slated to be completed in 1995, Dimo added.

Almaddah, who was a member of the delegation, discussed this project with about 50 Chinese companies in Beijing.

Shanghai and other cities, where great interest was shown in this gigantic commercial complex.

At the meeting with Commerce Minister Madam Wu Yi, Chinese minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation confirmed that beginning 1995 China will import 3.5 million tons of crude oil per year. And when the proposed oil refinery in China, jointly sponsored by the Kingdom, South Korea and China, begins to operate, more Saudi oil will be needed. China's imports from Saudi Arabia will then greatly increase, he said.

The delegation — first of its kind — was very important, as it included, besides the commerce minister, senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce, representatives of Saudi Aramco and Petroin and 21 leading businessmen, who are currently leaders of the Saudi chambers of commerce and industry in different regions of the Kingdom.

Both ministers jointly presided over a seminar in which speeches were delivered on investment environment, foreign trade policies and the situation on the development of their industries. Thereafter, Saudi and Chinese entrepreneurs had separate business dialogues.

In Shanghai, the Saudi delegation was met by the vice mayor of the city who showed them the famous Pudong Economic Development Zone.

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NCB plans \$1 billion projects in China

By Galal Fakkar
Special to Arab News

JEDDAH, May 7 — The National Commercial Bank (NCB) is planning to implement a number of infrastructure projects in China at an estimated cost of \$1 billion in association with international companies.

Disclosing this here today Sami Baarma, director of Investment Management division at the bank, said negotiations were underway on establishing a number of joint investment projects in India.

"NCB's future strategy includes entering a number of Asian countries including Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines," Baarma told Arab News.

He said NCB has established an investment company in China with the cooperation of international firms. The new company will implement a spate of projects related to telephones, electricity, transportation means and water purification in China.

"The actual implementation of these projects will start within a month from now," he said adding that studies and dis-



The winners of the Ramadan Competition, organized by the NCB, were presented the prizes. Sami Baarma, middle, a representative of Red Sea Sea Est., left, is seen presenting keys of the car to the winner.

ussions on some projects have already been completed. Baarma recently returned from China after a working visit during

which he studied investment prospects in the country in the light of Beijing's new relaxed foreign investment policies.

NCB is currently operating 12 investment funds with a total capital of \$12 billion. Baarma said adding that the bank's investment management intended to expand its investments in Southeast Asia.

The director said the bank's new administrative structure had given greater authorities to different departments. "This will give our department more freedom to take decisions," he added.

He said the foreign stock funds at the bank, like the International Investment Fund had realized substantial profits this year amounting to 37 percent.

"The funds had been affected by world stock market fluctuations and raise in dollar interest rates during the first quarter of this year," Baarma said and hoped that the upcoming months would be better for the funds.

Meanwhile, the Investment Management Division today held a ceremony to distribute prizes to winners of its Ramadan competition.

A total of 33,000 contestants had participated in the competition. Prizes worth SR250,000 provided by NCB and other establishments were distributed to the winners.

Saudi-China ties expanding: aide

By FURQAN AHMED
Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH — The volume of trade between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia* and Peoples Republic of China (PROC) reached \$700 million during 1993 which amply reflects the fact that the trade and economic ties between the two countries; have been expanding steadily. PROC Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Tian Zengpei told *Riyadh Daily* here Thursday at the end of his four-day visit to the Kingdom.

Zengpei added: "I am proud to say that our relations in political, trade and economic fields have been improving to fulfill the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries." The vice minister left Friday morning for Damascus on the third leg of his current Middle East tour. He arrived at Jeddah on May 30 from Kuwait alongwith a seven-member delegation.

He noted that both Saudi Arabia and China were engaged in developing their respective economies by taking major strides in industrial, agricultural and other fields. We are pursuing efforts to

achieve our ambitious programs of development".

PROC's major items of import are Saudi crude oil and petroleum products while its exports consisted of manufactured goods, textiles, silk products, tools and machinery. There is potential for further improvement in these relations, he said.

In the framework of this, he continued, a solo Chinese trade exhibition will be held in Riyadh November this year to promote the existing commercial ties and introduce China's exportable items and heavy and light machinery to the Saudi market.

"Saudi Arabia is an important country for us. Our policies are aimed at resolving all disputes anywhere in the world by peaceful means and contributing to international stability," * the vice minister asserted.

The recent visits by high-powered Saudi delegations, including the visit by Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Hisham Nazer have "strengthened the bonds of friendship". He said Saudi Arabia, China and South

Korea have agreed to establish jointly an oil refinery in China for which the Kingdom will supply crude oil. Negotiations and studies are currently being made on the feasibility of this project, the vice minister added. - . .

He said the increase in import of Saudi oil last year substantially to meet its growing needs due to its rapid economic expansion.

Talks with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Sheikh Faheem Al-Qassimi in Riyadh, Tuesday were "fruitful and conducive," Zengpei said.

He re-affirmed that the relations between the GCC states and China have been established on "solid foundation" and are expanding steadily. "Our views on almost all international issues are identical. Our policies are based on friendship, mutual understanding and non-interference in each other's internal affairs."

In the framework of these policies, Zengpei added, a seminar on "The Economic Development of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Peoples Republic of China" will be held in Doha, Qatar in November this year to highlight the growing cooperation of the GCC states with China and to further forge the existing economic, ties.

He said the GCC states have agreed to hold a cultural week in China next year, for which dates and programs are being finalized. Exhibitions and trade fairs play an important role in boosting each other's commercial ties, the vice minister noted and added: "Many Saudi businessmen who visited China in recent years have shown great interest in joint industrial enterprises and other activities in the economic sector of China," he added.

The vice minister urged Iraq to implement all resolutions of the United Nations Security Council with regard to Kuwait in order to establish durable and ever lasting peace in the Gulf region.



High level Chinese officials on visit

By Ezzuddin Hafez
&K. S. Ramkumar
Arab News Staff •

JEDDAH, June 1— A six-member Chinese delegation, headed by Tian Zengpei, executive vice minister of foreign affairs of China, arrived here Monday on a five-day tour of the Kingdom.

The delegation, accompanied by Zheng Dayong, the new ambassador of China to the Kingdom, is scheduled to hold a series of official meetings here, according to Zhai Jun, first secretary at the Chinese Embassy in Riyadh, who is here.

One of the first meetings was with Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, who received Zengpei on Monday at OIC headquarters.

The talks between the two senior officials addressed a wide range of issues of common interest, and more particularly the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslavia and the peace process in the Middle East, as well as optimal ways and means to achieve an enhanced level of cooperation between the OIC and the government of China.

Algabid underlined the importance of the role played by China, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, in the quest for adequate solutions to the various international problems, and in the maintenance of world peace and security.

Considering its important role on the world scene, China, the OIC hopes, will be

able to bring the precious contribution towards the achievement of a peaceful and equitable settlement to the various problems faced by the Islamic world.

On his part, Zengpei laid emphasis in his interventions on the importance which his country accords to the Islamic world and the OIC, particularly within the framework of the maintenance and promotion of peace and security at both the regional and international levels.

With regard to the large-size Chinese Muslim community composed of well in excess of eighteen million, the deputy minister pointed out that they enjoy all its cultural, social and other rights, which are fully guaranteed by the Chinese constitution for all citizens without any discrimination.

Algabid recalled in this respect that he has accepted an invitation addressed to him by the Association of Muslims in China to pay a visit to the People's Republic of China.

During that visit Algabid said he would have an opportunity to examine optimal ways and means to consolidate their cultural, social and economic cooperation with the OIC and its various member states.

The number of Chinese Muslims that arrived in the Kingdom this year to perform Haj witnessed a considerable increase, a reflection of their keen attachment to the Islamic faith.

Zengpei congratulated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd and his government for the excellent facilities provided for pilgrims this Haj season. He said the facilities enabled pilgrims to perform Haj in comfort and safety.

NOT THE WHOLE TRUTH

By SOHAIB RASUL
Special to Riyadh Daily

WHEN the economic indicators for 1993 came out last month, economists were startled. While almost the whole world had depressedly struggled against recession and had shown retarded economic trends, China had achieved a double-digit growth rate. It was Deng's China, trying to raise its iron curtain, and open up its markets to foreign investments.

Formerly, it was a China of Mao era, breeding only where the stipulations of the "Red Book" dictated. Superpower it did become then, and managed to feed its billions, too. Borrower it tried not to be; lender it became.

Today's China, of the neoliberals, has woken to some new fiscal realities. It seems to have successfully reassessed its priorities. The introduction of the free-market economy has already started paying dividends. But then not everything is silver-lining. Apprehensions have taken root - of the "overheating" of economy if growth continues at the same pace. Signs, say the Chinese officials, have been taken to remedy the adverse circumstances, if they arise.

To shine amongst today's "block-oriented" economies is, definitely, a daunting task. China has apparently taken on the challenge. Another long march is on - of a different nature. This time the whole nation has made a unanimous move. Sun Bigan, ambassador to the People's Republic of China to Saudi Arabia grants this exclusive interview to Riyadh Daily:

Question: Your economy has done remarkably well during the last year, showing a growth rate of 10.2%. Don't you think that, if it continues the same way, you might end up having inflation?

Answer: In general, our economy is normal and very good, but in order to ensure a sustainable development, our government has decided to adjust for the present year growth rate from around ten percent to eight percent. Of course our government has paid a lot of attention to the phenomenon of economic overheating. It has foreseen the problems, and has therefore decided to act. We are trying our best to ensure healthy and normal development of our economy.

Question: Conditions on your borders are also improving. You recently

decided to hold meetings with Indian officials regarding the reduction of your armed forces on the Sino-Indian border. Are you planning to further reduce your military presence on that border in the foreseeable future?

Answer: I think that cutting down of the armed forces is our overall policy. Three years ago, China decided to unilaterally cut down its troops by one million. We hope this will facilitate world peace, and peace in Asia in particular. This is our policy. Cutting down of armed forces on the Sino-Indian border is just one part of our overall policy. You have correctly said that our relations have improved, and we hope that our border dispute will be settled through peaceful means.

Question: The recently concluded visit of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Pakistan, to China was quite successful. How do you foresee the cooperation between the two countries?

Answer: The friendship between China and Pakistan is the best example of international relations. Our relations are deep-rooted, and have never been affected by any changes in leadership or circumstances. Starting from the time of prime minister Benazir's father, the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, we have remained very good friends. The Pakistani prime minister's visit was welcomed by us, and we are sure that through this visit, our bilateral relations will be further promoted in all fields. We particularly hope that our relations will advance in the economic field, and so we could think of starting some mutually beneficial joint ventures.

Question: There have been some misunderstandings regarding China's arms sales to some countries in the area, especially to Pakistan. As a result of that, the United States has imposed or threatened to impose some trade barriers on both the countries. How do you clarify your position?

Answer: I must say that this is an old issue. I agree with you that there are military relations between China and Pakistan, and we have also made some deals in weaponry. But I think such deals are a part of our normal trade relations. We have our clear-cut principles in arms sales. The first is that our sales must facilitate the self-defense of the recipient country. The second is that the sales must facilitate peace in the world, and in the region. The third is that we never attach any political conditionalities with

China - the march is on



SUN BIGAN

the sales. While conducting arms sales, we always observe international norms and principles. China is developing its economy, and our main emphasis is on the enhancement of our people's living standards. We do not spend much money on defense. Our arms sales are also very small, compared with those of the superpowers of the West. The arms sales of the United States, for example, account for 30 or 40 percent of the total arms deals of the world. It is therefore ridiculous for the US to make use of our situation to achieve its own objectives.

Question: Some problems in the area linger on. If the Kashmir issue exacerbates and spills over into the neighboring areas like China, what will your reaction be?

Answer: China, as a neighbor of both India and Pakistan, has of course great concern for the Kashmir issue. We hope that the countries will settle their issues through negotiations and peaceful means. We are glad to note that the Indian president will visit Pakistan. This, we are sure, will help reduce the tension

forms there. Now when they are going to leave, they have suddenly begun to talk about democracy. We think that they just want to make Hong Kong a colony without the British colonial rule. This is not in the interest of people from both Britain and Hong Kong. There is another point which I would like to add. The government of China has decided that after recovering the sovereignty of Hong Kong, we will implement the principle of "one country, two systems", which means that the capitalist system in Hong Kong will remain unchanged. What we will recover is the sovereignty of Hong Kong, which means we will take care of the foreign relations and defense of Hong Kong. Its economic and social aspects, and political life will not be changed. This, we believe, will be in the best interests of the peoples of Hong Kong, China and Britain. We are fully confident that we will be able to ensure the prosperity, and the status of Hong Kong as the most important commercial center in Asia, no matter what changes occur in the future.

Question: You are opening up your economic sector to the world. Have you invited any Taiwanese businessmen into China to make investments on the mainland?

Answer: It is a fact that there are very many businessmen from Taiwan coming to China these days. They want to invest, and do business with us. They include some very famous Taiwanese entrepreneurs.

Question: Are they officially allowed to come and invest?

Answer: They have come to China through various channels.

Question: Does it mean that your stance on Taiwan will ultimately become a bit soft, and you might agree to have confederation with Taiwan?

Answer: I must say that our overall policy regarding Taiwan hasn't changed, and that is the peaceful unification. We hope to implement the principle of "one country, two systems" there once the unification has taken place. We think that the people both on the mainland and in Taiwan think there's only one China. So any attempts to make two Chinas, or one China one Taiwan, or one China two governments will not be accepted. As far as our position is concerned, we put forward three proposals a long time ago. They were for establishing business contacts, mail services, and aviation links between Taiwan and mainland. We think that the relations between the mainland and Taiwan now are in the best interests of the peaceful unification, and in the best interests of both the sides.

Question: Are your relations with Taiwan improving now?

Answer: I think there is some improvement in this respect.

Question: Saudi Arabia has become an industrial giant, and a strong trading force. How have your commercial relations been with the country, and how are you planning to further develop them?

Answer: We too think that Saudi Arabia is an important market. In recent years, China's economy has developed fast, and so we hope to further expand our trade relations with the Kingdom. When we talk of bilateral trade, we mean both imports and exports. We hope to export more goods to Saudi Arabia since they are very good and cheap. On the other hand, we hope to increase our imports from Saudi Arabia as well. At present, we import from Saudi Arabia almost one hundred million dollars worth of mostly chemical products, and wheat, annually. Starting 1995, we are planning to add to these imports about 3.5 million tons of oil. I must say that the Chinese government and our entrepreneurs are very much interested in cooperating with Saudi Arabia to set up joint ventures. We also think that both the sides have favorable conditions. We have considerable experience in machinery and building. We are also experienced in joint management, and have well-trained technical and management personnel. Then we have considerable experience in machinery and building. We are also experienced in joint management, and have well-trained technical and management personnel. Then we also boast of our labor force which is disciplined, and very skillful. Thus, there are always possibilities of Saudi businessmen investing in China. In recent years, many businessmen have visited China to invest there. According to the incomplete statistics I have, in 1993, foreign investment in China reached around seventy billion dollars. We have approved around eighty thousand joint ventures to be started in China. We think that if Saudi entrepreneurs come to China to invest there, they will be very welcome. We know they have a great potential for business, and we assure them that they will make a lot of money by investing in our country.

R. D. 10/1 July 1994



Chinese Vice President Li Langing receives Muhammad Abdul Lateef Jameel, chairman of the ALJ Group, left, in Peking.

ALJ enters Chinese market

By Wabib Ghorab
Arab News Staff

JEDDAH, March 4 — The Abdul Lateef Jameel (ALJ) Group has won the agency for the distribution and maintenance of Toyota cars and the sales of Toyota spare parts in 10 Chinese cities including Beijing and Shanghai.

ALJ clinched the deal after tough competition with 35 international companies from Japan, Europe and East Asia.

The deal comes following the visit of Muhammad Jameel, the group's chairman, to China at the head of a high-level delegation to explore investment and trade prospects. The delegation also studied the products and services that can be exported from the Kingdom and other Middle Eastern countries to China and vice versa. Chinese Vice President Li Langing received Jameel in Beijing.

Jameel said the special agency right that begins in January 1995 covers all Toyota cars. In the preliminary stage, the group's activities will be limited to maintenance and sales of spare parts as there is still a ban on import of cars to China by nongovernment agencies, he said.

In the second stage, Jameel said, the company will start distribution of cars,

when the ban is lifted and market kept opened.

ALJ had given considerable importance to China as it has made detailed studies on the market in cooperation with the London-based Hartwell Co., an affiliate of the group. The study, which took six months, is stated to be encouraging.

Jameel said the study was conducted at Toyota Company's request. "After the study we presented our demands and the Toyota has agreed to them," he told Arab News. He said ALJ has also won the agency of many Chinese companies that supply household utensils, office equipment, spare parts and foodstuffs. This agency rights also include import of the products of these companies to the Middle East. "We'll start importing their products by the beginning of next year," he said.

Jameel said ALJ was also planning to study the Vietnam market shortly. According to him the new market is likely to draw tough competition among international firms.

Commerce Minister Dr. Suleiman Al-So'laim is scheduled to visit China by the end of this month. Jameel will accompany the minister as part of his official delegation including senior ministry officials and prominent businessmen.

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عبد لاطيف

Sino-Saudi trade on the rise

CHINA's trade with Saudi Arabia has been growing steadily since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1990. According to China's customs statistics, the trade volume in 1993 reached \$697 million, of which China's export to the Kingdom was \$578 million and its import from this country was \$118 million. Though these figures are comparatively small, yet they have already doubled those recorded in 1990. There surely exists great potential to further develop trade and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Products produced by both countries can be supplementary to each other. China import petrochemicals, fertilizers and other commodities from Saudi Arabia and is seeking to boost its oil imports from the Kingdom as well. In the meantime, China's textile, garments, carpets, toys, electronics, household electrical appliance, medical equipment, chemicals, hardware, etc. are selling well on this market. China will try to balance its bilateral trade in a positive way by increasing imports to achieve

that effect. Besides, China and the Kingdom possess excellent investment environment.

In December, 1994, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) will stage a "China Trade Exhibition" at Riyadh International Exhibition Center. This exhibition, with a total area of 2,500 sqm, will display the best Chinese technologies & export commodities, including oil exploration & refining technology, petrochemical engineering, technology and products, chemical products, automobile, complete plant technology, machinery, metal & mineral products, telecommunication & electronic products, household electric appliances, light industrial products, textile, silk, artex, cereal, oil & foodstuffs, native produce and animal by-products, building materials, arts and crafts, etc. Approximately 230 people representing more than 100 companies from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Guangzhou, Ningbo and other Chinese provinces and municipalities will participate in the exhibition.

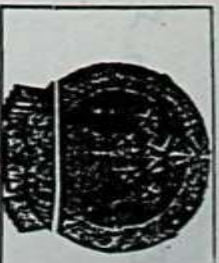
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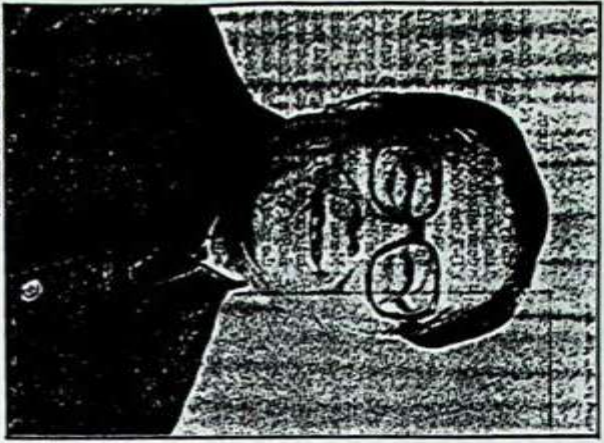


45th Anniversary of the Founding of the
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

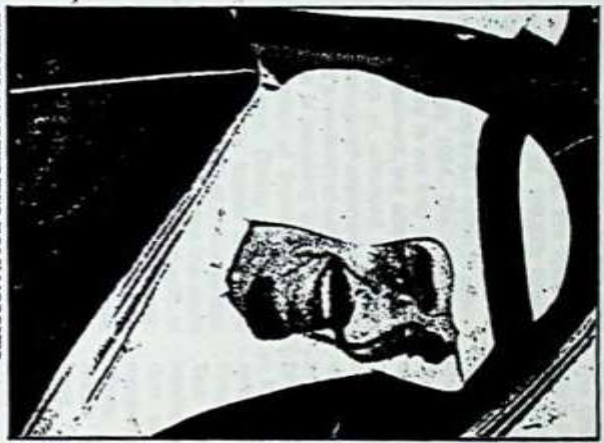


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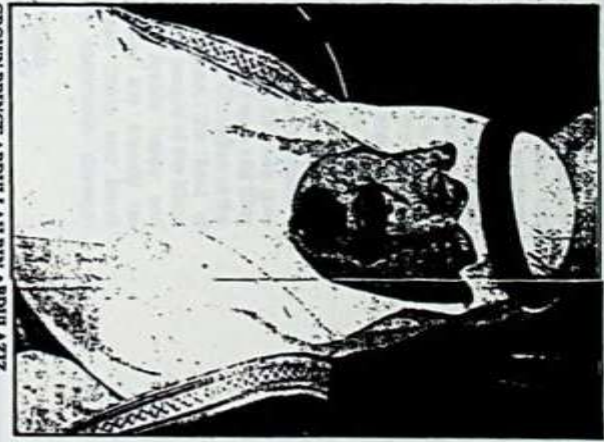
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1994



PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN



CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES.
KING FAHD BIN ABDULAZIZ



CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ



PRIME MINISTER LI PENG

**On the march to further
 development and prosperity**

WHILE the friendly people of Saudi Arabia celebrate their National Day on the 23rd of September, the people of China are ushering in their own Red-Letter Day — October 1 — 45th anniversary of founding of the People's Republic of China.

It is my great honor to be appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I avail myself of this happy occasion to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to HM King Fahd bin Abdulaziz, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the



rest of the 1990s, China will double its annual foreign trade volume to \$400 billion by the turn of the century.

The friendship between the Chinese and Saudi peoples goes back to ancient times. China and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations on July 21, 1980. This development was in the common desire and interests of both countries and would benefit world peace and regional stability. The Chinese government attaches great importance to the development of friendly relations of cooperation between the two countries during the next four



other distinguished leaders for their concern for and support in the development of the friendly relations of cooperation between China and Saudi Arabia, and also my determination to work for the further development of this cordial relation between the two countries.

China is a developing country with ancient civilization. At present, China has established diplomatic relations with 159 countries. As a permanent member of the Security Council of UN, China pursues steadfastly a foreign policy of independence and peace. The five principles of peaceful coexistence have been regarded as the cornerstone of China's foreign policy. In link with these principles, China carries on an "all-round" diplomacy which has scored important achievements. Developing friendly relations of cooperation with Middle East and Gulf region countries remains a bedrock of China's foreign policy.

It is an unswerving goal of the Chinese people to build China into a powerful and prosperous country. In 1978, the Chinese government formulated the policy of reform and opening-up to the outside world, drew up a working target for national economic development, i.e. to quad-

uple GNP by the end of the century. In 1988, China fulfilled the target of doubling the GNP of 1980 and now we are working hard to achieve the second step with full confidence. The coastal area in China have established special economic zones which benefit from preferential policies in foreign investment and trade. We have approved a total of 199,678 foreign-funded projects with investment of foreign capital worth \$266 billion in contracts and \$76.6 billion in operation by July 1994. The aim of our open policy is not only to draw foreign investment, but also for the introduction of advanced technology and managerial experiences so as to build a modernized economy.

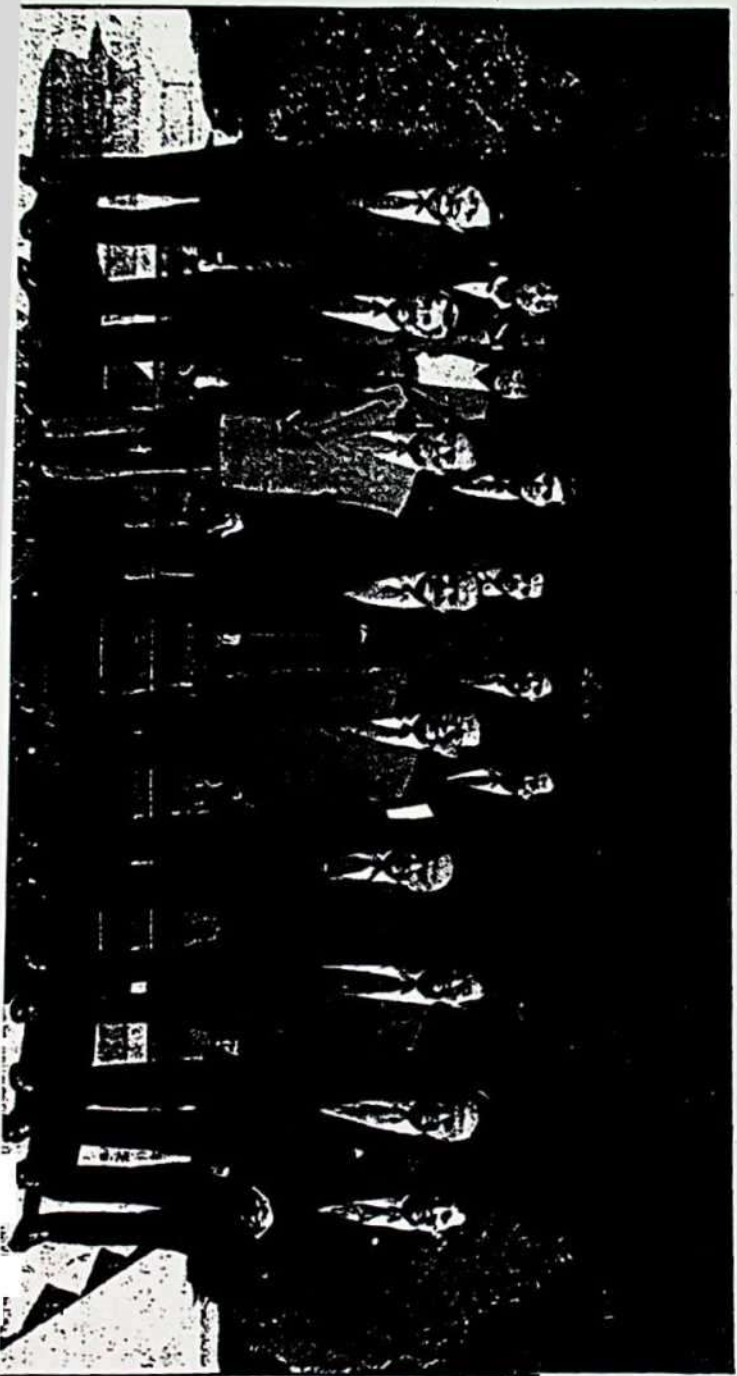
China is marching forward along the direction of becoming a world trade power. During the past 15 years, China's import and export have been growing at an annual rate of 16 percent, two times the world average. China is now eleventh in the world, in terms of trade volume. Domestic market is becoming more accessible to foreign enterprises, and there is a better access to overseas markets than ever before. According to the government's ambitious foreign trade policy for the

years, continuous exchanges in the political, economic and cultural fields have brought the cordial relations even closer. Top government leaders have exchanged visits and trade volume has seen a steady rise. In 1993 mutual trade volume exceeded \$697 million, 2.5 times that of 1980.

The China Trade Exhibition will be held in Riyadh in December this year with participation of more than 130 Chinese companies. We welcome friends from all walks of life in the Kingdom to visit China. We welcome friends in the commercial and industrial circles to come to China to see with their own eyes the immense market of China with a population of over 1.1 billion. I believe that there exists great potential in the fields of economic cooperation between the two countries in the years to come.

In the name of the Chinese government and people, I wish HM King Fahd bin Abdulaziz, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the best of health; I wish the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia happy and prosperous. May the friendly relations between China and Saudi Arabia enjoy continuous development.

ZHENG DAYONG
Ambassador E & P



Rise; in Saudi-

By FURQAN AHMED
Riyadh Daily Staff

RIYADH — The trade volume between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China (PROC) was recorded in 1993 as \$697,

JEDDAH (SPA) — Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdiuaziz on Friday sent a cable of congratulations to the president of the Peoples Republic of China Jiang Zemin on the occasion of the National Day of his country. The Saudi Monarch also sent a cable of congratulations to the president of Cyprus marking his country's Independence Day anniversary.

million, of which China's exports figured at \$578 million and import stood at \$118 million.

This was stated here by Chinese Ambassador Zheng Dayong in an interview to *Riyadh Daily* on the occasion of his country's National Day which falls on Saturday. But was celebrated on Wednesday.

The ambassador said: "Compared to the 1990 trade volume the 1993 figure was doubled. From January to July this year alone, the trade volume reached \$383 million, with China's export of \$297 million and import of \$85.3 million, reflecting a 12 percent increase in trade as compared to the same period lastyear."

"The major export commodities from China to the Kingdom he added, were textiles, light industries products and metal. China imported from Saudi Arabia crude oil and petrochemical products, the envoy said.

Underlining the need for further promoting economic and commercial ties between the two countries Dayong said. "I believe starting from 1995 there will be a remarkable increase be



DAYONG

cause China is determined to improve the bilateral trade balance by increasing imports from Saudi Arabia, especially oil and petrochemical products.

On the prospects of setting up a joint venture in oil refinery industry, he recalled: "Last May, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Sheikh Hisham Nazer visited China to present a letter from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd to President Jiang Zemin. What transpired from this message was the Kingdom's desire to strengthen cooperation in the oil field between the two countries. "We have responded positively since it is common desire shared by the two sides," the envoy said.

A six-member Chinese oil company delegation would be headed by its general manager and hopefully it would visit the Kingdom in November to push the proposition of jointly setting up an oil refinery for which consultations are already underway. When finalized, Dayong added, an oil refinery would be established in a coastal area in North China.

Underscoring the significance of the

growing bilateral relations, the ambassador said these ties would further get a boost when a direct air link is established between the two countries.

"I have no doubt that with the increase in mutual exchanges, there is very good chance of starting an airline service directly between China and the Kingdom and the first ones to enjoy this service will be my wife and myself!" he pointed out jokingly.

He further said the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAQ) has already established air routes to a few Gulf and the Middle East countries, with scheduled direct flights from Beijing to Bahrain, Dubai, Sharjah, Kuwait and Cairo.

Reflecting on the increased commercial ties, the envoy said that a large scale China Trade Exhibition will be held in Riyadh by the end of November in which over 130 Chinese companies are expected to present. This exhibition will display the best of Chinese technology and export commodities including oil exploration and refining technology, petrochemical engineering and chemical products, complete plant technology, household electric appliances, light industrial products, textile, silk, arts and crafts, foodstuffs and so on. "This will be a big Chinese presentation in the domain of high-tech and medium industries," the ambassador said.

Apart from this, he continued, about 20 Chinese companies will take part in Jeddah's "Lifestyle '94" show to be held later this year. At the same time, the envoy added, "we very much welcome our Saudi friends to hold a Saudi industrial exhibition in China."

On the question of supplying manpower to the Kingdom and the Gulf region, the ambassador commented: "There is possibility and feasibility to broaden cooperation between us in this aspect."

In reply to a question on joint research and technological cooperation, the envoy said: "We are interested in promoting joint research projects with the Kingdom and I believe there can be a very wide scope. To mention a few, these are in the field of oil exploration and refinery, chemical industry and agriculture. We have several provinces, especially in Western China, where geographical features are very similar to the Kingdom. China is quite advanced in the prevention of desertification, so in the field of environmental protection we can have joint research."

Dayong said there are a sizable number of Chinese students history, Arabic language and literature and Islamic studies in the Saudi universities and institutes.

"There have been some contacts between Chinese scholars and professors of Arabic literature with their Saudi counterparts and I believe they would like to see more exchange in art and literature," the ambassador said.

There are many areas of cooperation between the two countries and the envoy expressed his gratitude to his Saudi friends for extending great assistance to him during his four months stay in

1998

Kingdom to help build oil refinery in China

By M. Ghazanfar Ali Khan
Arab News Staff

RIYADH, July 23— Amid progressively growing relations with South Asian countries presently serving as potential outlets for crude oil, Saudi Arabia in cooperation with Seoul-based Ssangyong Oil Refining Co. will build a \$1.5 billion oil refinery in China's eastern coastal areas.

With a capacity to refine over 200,000 bpd targeted to be set up by the year 1997, the Saudi Aramco along with Ssangyong, in which Aramco has a 30 percent stake, will enter into a joint venture with two Chinese companies namely National Chemical Corporation and Qingdao Municipal Government.

"This joint-refinery project was proposed during the high-level consultations with Chinese officials including Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Madam Wu Yi, which took place recently when Saudi Commerce Minister Dr. Suleiman Al-Soleim visited China", said Zhang Dimo, economic & commercial counselor at the People's Republic of China's Embassy.

Later it was confirmed that starting from 1995 China will import 3.5 million

tons of Saudi crude oil per year and when the oil refinery begins to operate, more Saudi oil will be needed. From then on, China's imports from Saudi Arabia will be greatly increased.

"China has been importing petrochemicals, fertilizers and some other commodities from Saudi Arabia besides progressively seeking to boost its oil imports from the Kingdom", said Dimo, while speaking to Arab News here.

With 18 oil fields in production presently, China has made considerable progress in off-shore oil exploration and production, with one of the four off-shore operations, Bohai Oil field alone producing one million tons of oil annually.

Referring to the recent visit of a six-member Chinese delegation to Saudi Arabia especially to exchange experience in the fields of desert exploration and the consequent possibility of oil findings with Saudi Aramco, Dimo said that "the final details of the project is still to be worked out".

However the reports published following the visit of Saudi Minister of Commerce Dr. Suleiman Al-Suleim indicate that Saudi Aramco will hold 45 percent of equity share whereas the Saudi-South Korean joint venture Ssangyong will have 15 percent. The

rest will be shared by Chinese companies.

Asked about the bilateral economic relations, Dimo pointed out that some more important Saudi delegations will visit China in foreseeable future probably later this year. "It is for certain that the closer cooperation in every field between the two countries will be promising in future," he noted.

It is important to note in this context that China's trade with Saudi Arabia has been growing steadily since the establishment of diplomatic relations between these two countries in 1990.

Referring to the China's customs statistics, he said that the two-way trade has reached \$697 million during 1993, of which China's export to Saudi Arabia amounted to \$578 million and the Chinese imports accounted for \$118 million.

"Though these figures are still small, yet they have already doubled those recorded in 1990", said Counselor Dimo showing convictions about the potential Saudi market for Chinese textile, garments, carpets, toys, electronics, household electrical appliances, medical equipment, chemicals and hardware.

Welcoming Saudi companies to invest in China, which is presently a potential market

with 1.2 billion population, he said that "the Chinese enterprises are eager to develop their business here in this thriving Saudi market."

Referring to the visit of Dr. Soleim to China, he pointed out that a letter of intent for the import of 80,000 live sheep was signed with China National Cereals, Foodstuffs, Oils Import and Export Corporation.

Besides the proposed SR100 million-China Town under construction in Jeddah presently by Al-Khaleeja for Export Promotion & Marketing Company, another Saudi businessman Ghazi Abdullah Abbar, executive director of Abdullah Abbar & Ahmed Zainy is negotiating with Chinese companies for importing frozen chicken.

Scheduled to be completed by 1995, the China Town will cover a space of 120,000 sqm including exhibition center, different outlets, warehouses, parking facility and Chinese restaurants besides a host of other related facilities.

Explaining the ever-increasing Chinese trade and its vitality, Dimo pointed out that China's foreign trade recorded a deficit of \$12.18 billion last year, resulting from the rapid growth of imports arising from the brisk demand of the domestic market.

Oil

China's share of

Arab News here today. Some multimillion riyal projects are likely to be finalized soon. Most of these planned projects are in the

oil and petrochemical sector, two projects worth billions of riyals were

announced earlier. Terms of bilateral trade, Saudi Arabia

negotiated as the largest trading partner, two-way trade touching a figure of \$2 billion during 1995 compared to \$290 million during 1990. In 1990, Saudi Arabia

China established diplomatic relations. The Chinese Commodities

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will be organized in Jeddah during the month of December. By the end of the current year, the Chinese Textile Import and Export Co. will also hold another fair in Dammam. Beijing has also planned to

visit the Kingdom by the end of orandum of understanding early this year.

Envoy praises decision on Chinese labor

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RIYADH - Chinese Ambassador to , the Kingdom Yu Xing Zhi has expressed happiness over the Kingdom's approval of recruiting workers from the Peoples Republic of China, adding that the approval was conveyed to him by Foreign Minister Prince, Saud Al-Faisal.

The ambassador told *Okaz* Arabic daily that populated China has efficient and diversified technical expertise in addition to competent maids.

He further stated that during his last meeting with the Minister of Health Dr. Osama Shobokshi, the minister had expressed interest in recruiting nurses and medical technicians from China.

“It is premature to speak of the date of arrival of Chinese workers before formulating recruitment regulations,” the ambassador said.

Riyadh Daily

boost trade ties: Jeraisy

By Riyadh Daily Staff

RİYADH — A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was recently signed between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and China calling for construction cooperation between the two countries through implementation of some support activities and respect of rules and regulations on trade exchange and trade agencies.

This was announced by the chairman of the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and head of the Saudi side in the Saudi Chinese Friendship Society, Abdul Rahman bin Ali Al Jeraisy.

Speaking to newsmen here last week, he said that the memo of understanding will boost trade ties. It comes as a beginning for the work of the Saudi Chinese Friendship Society which was set up by a Royal approval issued in accordance with a proposal submitted by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal.

He noted that the society was set up with the aim of the boosting economic ties with the Peoples Republic of China

and raising the level of cooperation.

He said that concentration would be on export and joint investments as well as the divert cooperation between businessmen in the two countries.

Al Jeraisy denied that there were any obstacles for joint investment with China. "All previously known obstacles have been lifted from the Chinese financial system," he said.

"China has managed to attract foreign investments totaling up to \$200 billion a matter which has created a surplus of up to \$210 billion in China and this prompts us to think seriously to enter this huge market," he added.

He also denied that he had discussed with the Chinese side opening of airline routes between the two countries.

As for recruitment of Chinese manpower, he said that this matter is currently being studied by the concerned authorities.

"I do not believe that they will enter as competitions to the existing manpower markets," he added.

Al Jeraisy expressed his conviction that the Saudi-Chinese cooperation would yield positive results particularly for Saudi consumers.

"Generally it will have positive effort on Saudi consumers, but some Saudi industries may face strong competition from Chinese industry," he said.

Riyadh Daily 2. Nov. 97

China says relations

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"China and Saudi Arabia share similar views on international and issues of significance, always sympathy and rendering support other," he said. Saudi Arabia is largest trading partner in the Middle East and Northern Africa. In the past six years the two-way trade has increased, touching \$1.577 billion in 1996.

Jimren said Chinese pilgrims have been coming for Haj since 1955, and more than 20,000 have performed Haj since 1994. Nearly 5,000 will come this year. "The government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has taken good care of our pilgrims, and we appreciate that very much," he said.

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Arab News

China, Kingdom to discuss education

By Habib Shaikh
Arab News Staff

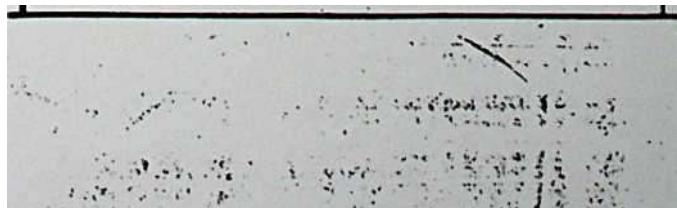
JEDDAH, Sept. 30 —¹ China and Saudi Arabia will discuss signing of an education I co-operation agreement next month, according to Ambassador Yu Xingzhi.

The ambassador told Arab News during a reception on the occasion of his country's National Day at the residence of Consul General Ali Li Jinren last night, that the I subject will be discussed during the official I visit to Beijing by Minister of Higher Ed- i ucation Dr. Khaled Al-Anqari.

The reception was attended by Am- ¹ bassador Mushtaq Marouf, chief of proto- ¹ col, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Western Region branch, other diplomats and leading figures from business and industry. The cake was cut by the ambassador, the consul general, Mushtaq Marouf, and Abdul Kader M. Alfadl, chairman of the Alfadl Group.

Yu said that also next month a joint announcement will be made about the founding of the Saudi-Sino Friendship Association (SSFA) when a delegation of SSFA visits Beijing.

He said that strengthening co-operation in the field of petroleum will be discussed when Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali ibn Ibrahim Al-Naimi, pays an official visit to China in October.



Chinese team meets Saudi businessmen

RIYADH, Oct. 14 (SPA) — The visiting Chinese business delegation held talks with Saudi businessmen at the **Riyadh**, Chamber, Jyof Commerce and Industry here today. Led by Foreign Affairs Office Director in Beijing, the Chinese delegation included Harbin Mayor Wang Quwan.

Earlier today, Riyadh Governor Prince Salman met with Wang and discussed issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Chinese ambassador.

Addressing Saudi businessmen, the Chinese mayor called for more cooperation between the two countries. He also explained industrial investment opportunities in China.

Wang said his Country manufactures cargo planes with the license of American companies. He urged the Kingdom to test Chinese-made cars.

"China has made remarkable advancement in medicine and we hope that both countries can cooperate in this field," the mayor said. Saudi exports to China totaled SR955 million in 1993.

Arab News
15 Oct-96

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Chinese political | delegation to j visit Kingdom

Riyadh Bureau

7 Nov. 96

RIYADH, Nov. 6 — A high-ranking delegation of the National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) led by Ye Xuanping, CPPCC's executive vice chairman, will ; visit the Kingdom next week following an invitation extended by the Shoura Council I President Sheikh Muhammad Ibn-Jubair.

News

Ye will begin his five-day official visit on Nov. 9. The visit of Ye is important as the CPPCC plays a very significant role in Chinese politics. ■ *

Arab

The Beijing government holds political consultations with CPPCC members prior to taking any decision on major policy matters.

Information Officer Yang Tao told Arab News here today that "the Chinese government attaches great importance to Saudi- Sino relations." •

Ye's visit to Saudi Arabia is sure to enhance the cooperation between the .Shoura Council and CPPCC. Ibn . Jiibair also , paid v a visit to China last year during October^ (



Lin Bin arrives in Riyadh China's Vice-Chairman of the Govern- mental Commission for Education, Lin Bin, and his delegation arrived in Riyadh on

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Saudi Gazette
8. Nov. 97

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China signs \$110m
AC import accord

China is pursuing campaign to grab share of Arab market

ABU DHABI, Aug. 19 (AFP) — China is pursuing a campaign to grab a bigger share of the lucrative Arab market, which is dominated by fierce competition among industrial countries, official trade figures showed today.

Trade between China and the 22-member Arab League has shot up nearly 160 percent over the past five years as the Asian giant penetrates regional markets with the help of trade offices, fairs and trade delegations.

Figures from the Chinese Embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) showed two-way trade between China and Arab countries jumped to nearly \$5.15 billion in 1995 from around \$1.99 billion in 1989, when the two sides agreed to establish a joint chamber to promote commercial exchanges.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman and the UAE were the main markets for China during those years, Chinese Ambassador Hua Li Ming said.

Trade between China and Arab League

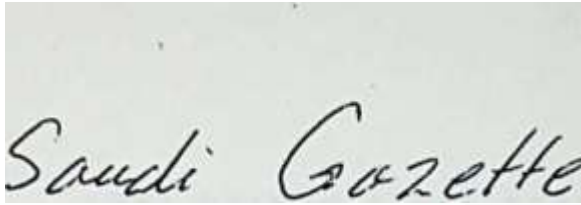
Year	China to Arab League	Arab League to China	Total
1989	\$1.99 billion	\$1.99 billion	\$3.98 billion
1995	\$5.15 billion	\$5.15 billion	\$10.3 billion

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China lashes out at US for Iran, Libya sanctions

The United States was "assuming the posture of a superpower and giving orders to other countries," the People's Daily said.

"Instead of saying these are sanctions against Iran and Libya, it might be more appropriate to say these are sanctions against European countries," it said, quoting Gulf media.

The People's Daily linked the law to the upcoming US presidential elections, saying it appeared to be needed to divert public indignation at a string of "terrorist activities". It did not identify the activities.

Earlier this week, a foreign ministry spokesman was more circumspect, charging the law broke from international norms but urging the United States to hold talks with Libya and Iran.

Beijing has developed a love-hate relationship with the United States with many Chinese craving for American things while suspecting Washington is trying to contain China.

Anti-US sentiment has been growing in China, especially after Chinese state media played up what they described as the unfair and discriminatory treatment meted out to Chinese Olympians at the Atlanta Games.

A controversial call by the umpire in the women's softball finals, a midnight fire alarm that yanked Chinese athletes out of bed, cramped housing and a dearth of good Chinese food infuriated many Chinese sports fans.

A recently published book which urged Beijing to take a tougher stand against Washington has become a bestseller.

China's propaganda machine has rarely missed an opportunity to take a swipe at the United States in recent months - most recently against reports of a martian meteorite that US scientists say may help confirm extraterrestrial life.

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BEIJING, Aug. 1 (Ktr)
CHINA toughened its criticism of the United States today, accusing it of engaging in power politics by trying to thwart foreign companies investing in new oil and gas projects in Libya and Iran.

Ties between Beijing and Washington have see-sawed in recent years over disputes ranging from Chinese anger over US policy towards Beijing's arch-rival Taiwan and US criticism of Chinese human rights abuses and widespread copyright piracy.

"This is another case in point of it (the United States) practising power politics," the official People's Daily said in a commentary on the new US law that threatens punishment against major investments by foreign companies in oil and gas projects in Libya and Iran.

"It would be strange if this kind of high-handed action which ignores international trends and clings obstinately to its course ... Does not run up against a stone wall," it said.

US President Bill Clinton on Monday signed a law aimed at limiting new foreign investment in Iran and Libya, condemning sponsors of international terrorism.

The law threatens a split with European trade partners who said Washington had no right to dictate where their companies could invest and warned they would hit back if the law is fully enforced.



China is pursuing campaign to grab share of Arab market

ABU DHABI, Aug. 19 (AFP) — China is pursuing a campaign to grab a bigger share of the lucrative Arab market, which is dominated by fierce competition among industrial countries, official trade figures showed today.

Trade between China and the 22-member Arab League shot up nearly 160 percent over the past seven years as the Asian giant penetrated more regional markets with the help of commercial offices, fairs and trade delegations.

Figures from the Chinese Embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) showed two-way trade between China and Arab countries jumped to nearly \$5.15 billion in 1995 from around \$1.99 billion in 1989, when the two sides agreed to establish a joint chamber to promote commercial exchanges.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman and the UAE were the main markets for China during those years, Chinese Ambassador Hua Li Ming said.

"Trade between China and Arab countries has witnessed a tremendous growth following the creation of the joint chamber. Cooperation in other fields has also largely grown," he told the UAE Oil Ministry's monthly bulletin.

China has launched a drive to boost its share in the Arab markets since opening up to other countries with sweeping reforms that sharply increased its worldwide exports and enabled it to have one of the fastest-growing economies.

Its exports to the Arab world were negligible a decade ago but it was a main importer of Gulf fertilizers and aluminum.

Trade with the region, especially with Gulf oil producers, is set to expand further in the coming years as China relies more on their crude supplies to bridge a gap created by a steady increase in its oil consumption.

The biggest export market for China in the Middle East is Dubai, the main trans-shipment center in the region. Official fig-

ures showed China had ousted Japan from the position of the top supplier of goods to Dubai, with exports exceeding \$1.5 billion in 1995. But economists said China still far lagged behind the Middle East's three main economic partners — Japan, the United States and the European Union. The three industrial giants account for more than half the Arab world's total trade of around \$250 billion a year.

According to the Chinese ambassador, China's exports to Arab states included mainly foodstuffs, clothes and textiles, watches, home appliances and machinery. It imports fertilizers, aluminum, chemicals and cement.

With oil consumption growing by more than six percent, China is set to become a key importer of Gulf oil in the next few years as production is growing slowly. It stands at around three million barrels per day and is projected to rise by only 200,000 bpd in 1997 before it starts to recede.

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RIVADH, Nov. 10 — The Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard Crown Prince Abdullah held wide-ranging talks with the visiting Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Cl

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last night following an invitation
ed by the Shoura Council President
Muhammad Ibn Jubair.
called on Sheikh Ibn Jubair this
ng and reviewed bilateral relations.

se delegation

Sheikh Ibn Jubair hosted a banquet dinner tonight in Ye's honor.
The visit of CPPCC Vice Chairman Ye is significant in view of the fact that the CPPCC plays an important role in the Chinese political system.

Saudi Arabia and China have joined hands on various issues, with two-way trade reaching \$1.28 billion in 1995.

Trade between the Kingdom and China has been growing at an average annual rate of 34.5 percent since 1990, when the two nations established diplomatic relations. The balance of trade is in favor of Saudi Arabia.

Ye will address a group of Saudi entrepreneurs and officials of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry tomorrow. He will also visit Saudi Aramco.

Jiang, Mubarak meet boost ties, sign accords

CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin met in Cairo on Tuesday for talks on strengthening relations and to sign a series of cooperation accords.

The second day of meetings between the two leaders focused on bilateral relations and ended with the signing of a number of agreements between the two countries, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousssa said after the session.

Mousssa then entered a meeting with Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen "to discuss the political situation in the region and Asia."

Jiang will later meet with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Ganzuri "to exchange views on Sino-Egyptian relations especially in economic reform and Egypt's plans in that field," Mousssa said.

One of the three accords signed Tuesday provides a 30 million yuan (\$3.75 million) grant to Egypt, while the others concern technical and cultural cooperation, the international cooperation and

foreign ministries said.

The two presidents first met late Monday after Jiang's arrival in Cairo to kick off his four-day visit to Egypt, his third stop on a six-nation African tour.

Both days of talks also concerned a general political survey of the situation in the Middle East and the peace process as well as the so-called new world order with all its positives and negatives," Mousssa said.

Mousssa commented that "coordination between Egypt and China on the UN Security Council continues to be stable."

China "is a great power playing an important role in Asia and the world and holds an independent position concerning the new world order in a number of issues on the world stage," Mousssa said.

Egypt will take over the presidency of the Security Council in June, the government daily *Al-Ahram* reported Tuesday.

Beijing, a permanent member on the council, backed the Egyptian position in

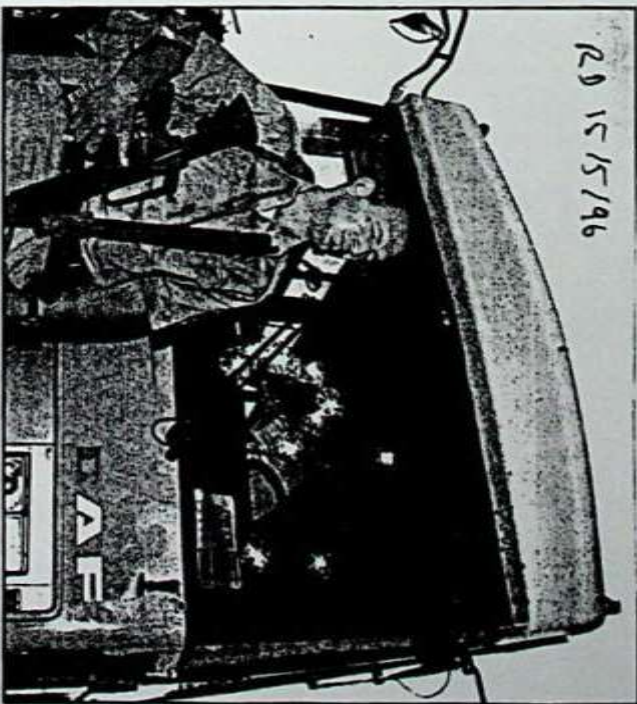
imposing lighter diplomatic sanctions against Sudan in April in the face of demands by the United States for stronger economic measures or an arms embargo.

The council is to consider strengthening the sanctions within 60 days of May 10 if Khartoum does not comply with resolutions demanding it hands over three militants accused of trying to assassinate Mubarak in June 1995.

China and Russia have also taken a more moderate position than the United States in continuing sanctions against Iraq.

Arab League head Esmat Abdel Meguid is also to meet Jiang on Tuesday to "explain the Arab position and how China can increase its support of the Arabs in international forums, especially the Security Council."

Mousssa underlined the "necessity of increasing trade exchanges with China," pointing out that Chinese trade with Israel totals \$800 million compared to the \$450 million trade with Egypt.



BULLET IMPACTS: An Israeli soldier guards a bus with bullet impacts on the window, after gunmen opened fire and killed one Jewish settler in Beit el settlement near Ramallah in the West Bank Monday. AP

Kuwait, China to sign defence pact

KUWAIT CITY, July 23 (AP) —

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmed Hamoud Al-Sabah said in remarks published today that he would sign a defence agreement with China by the end of this year similar to the accords signed with the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council.

In his first interview since he was appointed defence minister in a cabinet reshuffle three months ago, Sheikh Ahmed told the Kuwaiti daily Al-Qabas that the Kuwaiti and Chinese governments were holding talks on the details of a draft defence accord.

He said he hopes to sign the agreement during his visit to Beijing in the last quarter of the year. Kuwait, still apprehensive of Iraq's post-Gulf war intentions, has signed defence cooperation accords with the United States, Britain, France, and Russia.

Since the end of the 1991 Gulf war that led to its liberation from Iraqi occupation, Kuwait has also signed numerous arms purchase contracts with major western powers such as the United States, and Britain, which played key roles in ousting Iraqi forces from the emirate.

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and forge new ones

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Qian trip to revive old ties and forge new ones

BEIJING, Feb. 20 (AFP) — Chinese cooperation between Tehran and Beijing Foreign Minister Qian Qichen leaves to- have also caused concern in the West. An morrow on a two-week goodwill tour of Iranian diplomat here said there was no five Asian and Middle Eastern countries fixed agenda for Qian's March 4-6 visit to that is likely to focus on regional disputes his country, adding only that die two sides and strengthening bilateral ties. would discuss international, regional and Qian's first and last stops will be to Chi- bilateral affairs, na's close allies Pakistan and Iran re- Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are also respectively. In between he will visit Ban- cipients of Chinese military hardware, but gladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives,' such ties have eased off in recent years be- returning here March 6. cause of the countries' difficulties in ob-

"It's an odd mixture ... two in one pot, taining credit to meet Beijing's terms, the three in another," said one Beijing-based Asian diplomat said. Asian diplomat. "It's a set of countries in While arms sales may be touched on in which China's interests are not parallel and Qian's talks, a Bangladeshi source said the the reasbtt for each country .is rather differ- focus of his visit..to Dhaka would be ecr. ent" The Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the onomic cooperation. Bangladesh would. Maldives, trips are "part of China's policy seek Chinese investment in its textile iii-. of strengthening ties with the region," he dustry and in ventures in labor-intensive said. ' sectors such as electronics, the source said.

' But the situation was "more complicat-' "Since China is advanced in textiles and ed" in the cases of Pakistan and Iran, he ' we are one of the world's major garment said. Pakistan is expected to use Qian's exporters, we think China could help us visit to continue lobbying its traditional ally develop a textile sector," he said, but ac- to assist in talks between New Delhi and knowledgeable that Beijing's reaction had Islamabad over Kashmir — a commitment been "very cautious."

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto failed to win Like Qian's hosts in Islamabad, Ban- during her visit here in December. gladeshi leaders would also seek -China's

"Pakistan would like most to talk about help to "influence India" in a dispute over Kashmir," said a Pakistani diplomatic sharing the water of the Ganges River, he source,¹ noting that Islamabad is due to pass said.

a resolution on the disputed region on Fri- The Asian diplomat said Qian's stops in day. The source said Qian would meet Sri Lanka and the Maldives were mainly Bhutto and his Pakistani counterpart, As- aimed at developing bilateral ties, but may seff Ahmad Ali, for bilateral consultations also be influenced by Beijing's desire to as well as discussions on regional problems secure civil aviation agreements that would i and matters of mutual concern. provide Chinese planes with jumping-off

During Bhutto's visit here, China and points for destinations in Africa. Pakistan issued a joint call for Washington Maldives' Foreign Minister Jathulla Ja- to lift "unjustified" sanctions on them for meel visited Beijing in June, when the two sides reportedly exchanged views on national accords. reaching a civil aviation agreement Qian's

Beijing and Islamabad are also engaged delegation includes Assistant Foreign Min- in nuclear cooperation, which has worried ister for Southeast Asian Affairs Wang Western countries. Arms sales and nuclear Yingfan.

کے لیے نیوز ۱۹۹۴ء



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Iran officials would focus on bilateral relations and hold talks with Qian is to hold talks with Iranian Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjari and Velayati. Iran and China-South-South cooperation coordinated front in charges of human rights violations, sources said.

Qian said on arrival that charges leveled against "accusations" and stressed cooperation with international issue. He vowed his coalition allow others to interfere in affairs. "The two countries are to discuss expansion of trade cooperation and settling Iran's overdue debt to China."

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France is reported to be pressing for easing of the U.N. trade embargo on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait while the United States wants to keep restrictions. Colonna quoted Foreign Minister Alain Juppe as telling a private meeting yesterday that while Iraq had cooperated with the U.N. resolution calling for elimination of its weapons of mass destruction, it continued to flout other parts of the resolution. He cited a resolution on the inviolability of Iraq's border with Kuwait. Qaissi's visit comes after France granted Iraqi oil officials visas to come to Paris talks with the Elf Aquitaine and Total companies. The two firms have held several meetings in Baghdad since mid-1990. Developing the two giant fields of Umar (Total) and Mainoon (Elf) but talks will be needed before draft agreements are finalized, the Middle East Economic Survey said.

Paris aide visiting Paris for oil talks PARIS, M... We are examining Iraq's attitude towards its obligations under the Security Council resolutions," Colonna told reporters. France is reported to be pressing for easing of the U.N. trade embargo on Iraq after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait while the United States wants to keep restrictions. Colonna quoted Foreign Minister Alain Juppe as telling a private meeting yesterday that while Iraq had cooperated with the U.N. resolution calling for elimination of its weapons of mass destruction, it continued to flout other parts of the resolution. He cited a resolution on the inviolability of Iraq's border with Kuwait. Qaissi's visit comes after France granted Iraqi oil officials visas to come to Paris talks with the Elf Aquitaine and Total companies. The two firms have held several meetings in Baghdad since mid-1990. Developing the two giant fields of Umar (Total) and Mainoon (Elf) but talks will be needed before draft agreements are finalized, the Middle East Economic Survey said.

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Iraqi aide visiting Paris for oil talks



Chinese premier to work for dialogue on

BEIJING, Oct. 21 — Chinese Premier Li Peng said here today that China will try its utmost to facilitate a dialogue between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute.

According to Pakistan Embassy sources, the Chinese leader made these remarks when Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani, speaker of the National Assembly and other members of a Pakistani parliamentary delegation called on him before flying back home after a 10-day tour of China.

Li Peng said China was concerned at the Kashmiri situation, and sympathized with the people of Kashmir. He expressed the hope that the Kashmiri people would soon find peace and at tranquillity and Pakistan and India would carry out a dialogue to settle the dispute in accordance with the relevant international and bilateral agreements. He assured the parliamentary delegation that China would try its utmost to facilitate such a dialogue, sources said.

During the 25-minute meeting at Zhongnanhai (office of the Chinese top leadership), Speaker Gillani, among other matters, briefed Premier Li Peng on the escalating Indian repression in occupied Kashmir. The speaker expressed Pakistan's readiness to enter into a purposeful dialogue with India to resolve the dispute under the Simla agreement and on the basis of United Nations resolutions. He urged China

to use its influence with India to promote such a process so as give the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination.

Premier Li thanked Pakistan for its leading role in extending support to China on various international issues, like the human rights and re-entry into GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). Li said China attached great importance to relations with her neighbors. China's "time-tested friendship with Pakistan currently stands at its prime," he said.

Premier Li said the Chinese government looked forward to President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari's visit here in December. The speaker renewed the official invitation to Premier Li Peng to visit Pakistan. Li said he had already accepted the invitation from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and was looking forward to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time.

The Chinese leader appreciated the policies of the present government in Pakistan. He said "surely under Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan can realize new achievements in economic and social developments". In his opening remarks, the speaker said that Pakistan and China had stood by each other like a rock on all regional and international issues. He said that friendship with China was the corner stone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

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Mahathir opposes sanctions on China

WASHINGTON, May 7 (AFP) — Malaysia's prime minister urged President Bill Clinton yesterday not to revoke trade privileges for China in an effort to bring about changes in Beijing's human rights policy.

"I asked for my views. I gave my views," said Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad after a White House meeting. "I think that one should not apply pressure. One should try to convince."

Clinton said Tuesday that it was possible the United States would revoke the most favored nation (MFN) clause that grants China the right to export goods to the United States under the lowest tariffs.

The administration has linked MFN re-eligibility to China making progress on human rights.

The first meeting between the two leaders was in 1984 when Mahathir boycotted the Non-Aligned Summit of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in Seattle, Washington.

The two leaders met in 1985 in Manila.



Mahathir Muhammad, Malaysia's prime minister, is seen in a photograph taken during a meeting with U.S. officials in Washington, D.C., on May 7, 1993. He is wearing glasses and a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt and tie. The background is dark and out of focus.

manufacture of illegal reproductions. The director of the standing committee's legislative affairs work committee, Gu Angren, said book, audio, and video tape piracy had become especially rampant in recent years.

"This has infringed upon the rights of authors and destroyed the normal order of the socialist cultural market and economic order," he said.

China today listed China as a copyright violator of U.S. copyright law if no action is taken by the U.S. government within 30 days.

The ultimatum, issued by the U.S. Trade Representative, is also intended to show that the U.S. is serious about its intention to take action by eliminating the special provisions for China's development of its real estate market.

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Chinese PM to meet King Hassan

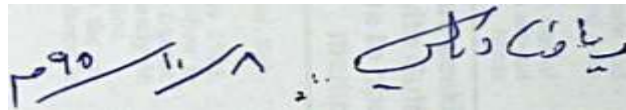
RABAWAFP) - Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng on Wednesday is to meet King Hassan II of Morocco on the second day of an official visit aimed at supplementing long-standing bilateral political relations with increased trade. "China and Morocco, two developing countries, have common interests and their people aspire to a peaceful and stable environment to build their countries," Li said at a dinner here Tuesday night given by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdpllatif Filali. "Moroccan-Chinese relations of friendship and cooperation have developed in all areas and have yielded satisfactory results," Li added.

بیاضہ دلی ۱۰/۹۰

China to sell arms to Kuwaiti army **PJ**

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BEIJING (DPA) - China will sell a number of self-propelled guns to Kuwait's army, the official media reported Saturday, quoting a Kuwaiti newspaper. Kuwait is ready to sign a contract with China to purchase 24 self-propelled, long-range 155mm cannon with a range of 38 kilometers, The Xinhua news agency said, quoting the Arabic *Waian* daily. The report did not give the value of the contract. Xinhua said the weapons were intended to equip six companies of the Kuwaiti's army's ground forces. It said the daily also quoted a senior-level Kuwaiti officer who praised the weapons' performance after testing them and would "definitely meet the requirements of the Kuwaiti land force."



Handwritten signature and date in Arabic script. The date is 1990. The signature is written in blue ink.



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China's exports to Gulf states soaring

DUBAI, Aug. 22 (AFP) — China is set to become a key economic partner of Gulf Arab states as it pushes into lucrative regional markets and relies more on Gulf oil, officials said today.

China's exports to the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have leapt by nearly 15 percent a year over the past decade and the exchange will continue to grow as it presses ahead with reforms and with its economy recording one of the fastest growth rates.

"We are seeking to boost trade with Gulf states as we continue to open up to other markets," Chinese consul general in Dubai, Wen Zhao Xiang, told AFP.

"Such trade is already increasing very fast given the rapid economic growth in China and the vast markets in the region."

Wen disclosed plans to set up a center in Dubai to supervise trade with the region. He said he had discussed the project, which could be called a Chinese chamber, with Dubai officials yesterday.

According to the official news agency Wam, chairman of Dubai Chamber of

Commerce and Industry, Said Al-Nabuda, welcomed the project and urged the Chinese to take more steps to bolster trade and economic cooperation with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Wen said the chamber would be one of four centers to be opened by China around the world with other trade with other countries. He said the plans followed a new trade law in China this year.

The reforms have enabled China to sharply boost trade with GCC countries - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE.

From less than \$200 million in 1985, two-way trade jumped to \$2.2 billion in 1993, according to official Chinese figures. The 1993 figures were a rise of nearly 46 percent over 1992, trade of \$1.5 billion.

A surge in Beijing's exports to the six members has turned the trade balance in

China's favor, registering a surplus of \$600 million in 1993. The exports included mainly clothes and textiles, foodstuffs, toys, watches and clocks, electrical appliances and machinery.

Despite the increase, China's trade with the region is still dwarfed by the Japanese exchange of around \$35 billion in 1993. But its exports have grown much quicker than the Japanese exports to the Gulf. "We know our exchange is still relatively low but it is growing rapidly. We expect sharp increases in future as the market is steadily growing and we are involved in promotion drives, including participation in fairs," Wen said.

Several Chinese companies have also set up branches in Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone, with another company planning to move in soon to make leather bags for export to Asia, Europe and the United States.

Some 15 construction firms also operate outside the zone. Official Chinese figures showed projects more than \$100 million have been undertaken in the UAE.

China is also a key market for GCC fertilizers and is set to become a major importer of Arab oil due to a steady growth in its consumption.

A high-level Chinese delegation toured Gulf states in 1993 and signed contracts with Saudi Arabia and the UAE for the supply of around 80,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude. Oman already exports oil to China.

A recent study by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said China's oil output was projected to grow to 3.1 million bpd by 2000 while demand will increase to 3.7 million bpd.

"This will turn China into an oil importing country by the end of this decade," the study said.

"Given future oil production capacities around the world, the Middle East region, especially Gulf Arab countries, will be the main source of crude supplies for China."

China tightens grip on army to stop breakup

BEIJING, Oct. 13 (AFP) — The Chinese Communist Party, fearful of a Soviet-style collapse, has decided to boost central command over the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and speed up efforts to upgrade its weaponry.

The PLA will emerge from this week's party congress with more political clout and more funding, with one general set to enter the Politburo standing committee, the country's highest decision-making body, analysts say. With market forces playing an increasing role in the Chinese economy, the party has lost much of its leverage over provincial governments and the erosion of its power can only worsen.

In a country with a long tradition of warlords, this prospect has triggered fears among the top leadership that economic interests could lead to attempts to break away from central control, especially in the wealthier coastal regions.

Under the guidance of paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, the party is moving to prevent its collapse by tightening its grip over the PLA. It is essential always to uphold the party's absolute leadership over the army, party general-secretary Jiang Zemin said yesterday. Jiang is also the head of the party's powerful central military commission. The commission has decided to do away gradually with its system of seven military regions and implement a new system intended to prevent local power bases from becoming too strong, military analysts say.

Top regional leaders will also be regularly transferred. The armies in eastern parts of the country failed to respond at a time of crisis because party control had been eroded, a mid-ranking Chinese officer said. China has learned this lesson. The party has also decided to give the military more say in running the country, hoping to boost loyalty.

Latest figures put the PLA's troop strength at about three million. By increasing the PLA's political power, the party has acknowledged its indispensable role in maintaining the country's unity, or as Jiang put it yesterday, as the defenders of the Socialist motherland.

The military is playing a more important role as kingmaker, said David Shambaugh, a Chinese politics lecturer at the University of London. Since the PLA was ordered to crush the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement in 1989, the stress has been on ideological loyalty.

But Deng, with a tour of southern China in January, put the army's modernization drive back on track, deciding that the best way to keep the military on board was with new hardware, not hardline Marxism. Deng ordered boosting the armed forces' military capability to meet demands of the new period, party leader Jiang said.

China tries to attract Gulf funds

ABU DHABI, July 2 (AP) — China is offering attractive incentives, including investment protection guarantees, to attract funds from the oil-rich Gulf, officials said today.

United Arab Emirates officials have held talks with Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing and a high-level economic delegation which began a Gulf tour June 22.

"Li briefed senior U.A.E. officials about the investment opportunities in China, following the recent changes promulgated by the government guaranteeing the protection of capital and overseas funds," a member of the U.A.E. delegation said.

Li and his team arrived in Abu Dhabi yesterday for a three-day visit to the U.A.E., the largest importer of Chinese industrial products in the Middle East.

The delegation has already been to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. It is scheduled to visit Iran. The delegation includes senior executives of China's leading trading and industrial enterprises, including the National Petroleum Engineering Construction Co.

The Arab officials quoted Li as saying during talks with his U.A.E. counterpart,

Sheikh Sultan ibn Zayed, son of the U.A.E. president, that China was ready to offer advanced technology and expertise, particularly in the petrochemical sector.

China was making inroads in the Gulf region even before diplomatic relations were established in recent years.

The Chinese are striving to develop the Gulf market for textiles, foodstuffs, light industrial goods, technology and machinery. In return, they want petroleum products.

Soon after his arrival yesterday, Li and Sheikh Sultan signed two accords on investment protection and avoiding double taxation. Muhammed Khalfan Kharbash, the U.A.E. assistant undersecretary for budget and resources at the Ministry of Finance and Industry, said the accords will bolster trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. The investment accord provides for protection from nationalization, confiscation and restrictions on capital movement, Kharbash said. Li and his delegation told officials here that China is seeking investment worth \$35 billion.

Trade between China and the Middle East, including Iran, was worth more than \$2 billion last year.

Jiang's Pakistan visit to boost defense, technical ties

By SAMI ZUHEIRI

CHINA and Pakistan will play upon their "time-tested" bonds as they work towards boosting defense and technical ties during Chinese President Jiang Zemin's visit next week, say officials and diplomats here.

The commander of China's air force, Yu Zhenwu, is already in Islamabad holding talks with Pakistani leaders ahead of Jiang's December 1-4 visit.

The Asian neighbors enjoy close economic cooperation and "we would like to have even greater cooperation in trade and technology," Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Leghari told the PLA chief on Monday.

Leghari, who visited China in December 1994, hoped Jiang's visit would "further strengthen the exemplary cooperation" between the two countries.

Pakistan has increasingly relied on China to strengthen its defense capability since the United States imposed an arms embargo in 1990 over its controversial nuclear program.

The country's half a million-strong army is equipped with Chinese tanks and its air force has inducted F-7P fighter jets, considered similar to the Russian-made MiG-19s.

Pakistan, in collaboration with China, is producing the Karakoram-8 trainer aircraft at Kamra Aeronautical Complex near Islamabad and the two countries plan to supply the aircraft to other countries. The plane was displayed at an

air show in Malaysia earlier this year.

In the ancient Buddhist town of Taxila some 20 kms (12 miles) west of Islamabad, China has built a heavy mechanical complex which is producing armored personnel carriers and heavy military trucks as well as overhauling tanks.

It also manufactures heavy machinery for road construction, sugar and cement production, oil and gas and thermal and hydro power projects, officials said, adding it had started exporting some heavy machinery.

Work is also underway on other defense projects including local production of a modern battle tank with Chinese assistance, they said.

Leaders of the two countries have always described Sino-Pakistan relations as "time-tested" bonds that have steadily grown despite internal changes in the two countries.

Jiang will be the first foreign head of state to visit Pakistan after the November 5 dismissal of Benazir Bhutto's government by Leghari.

Pakistan has traditionally described relations with China as an important pillar of its foreign policy to counter balance perceived security threats from neighboring India.

Western countries have frequently suspected Pakistan of receiving nuclear-related material from China. They also suspect Islamabad obtained the nuclear capable M-11 missiles from Beijing.

Reports in Western media earlier this year said China ex-

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ported 5,000 ring magnets to Pakistan for use in gas centrifuges, to enrich uranium for military purposes.

Both countries have consistently denied reports of a transfer of nuclear weapon technology.

With Chinese assistance, work is progressing on a 300-megawatt nuclear power project on the right bank of the River Indus in the Punjab town of Chasma.

The project began in August 1993, major equipment is due to be installed early next year and the nuclear plant is expected to go into operation in 1998.

At a political level, Pakistan has received support from China on various regional and international issues including Afghanistan, and officials here say there have never been any problems between the two neighbors.

On the Kashmir dispute, China calls for a peaceful political settlement taking into account the aspirations of the people in the Indian-held Himalayan state.

The trade balance is tilted in China's favor with total transactions between the neighbors at about one billion dollars.

Chinese sources said Jiang's visit had been planned to "deepen mutual understanding and develop bilateral cooperation."

They also said they hoped his trip, while also takes in the Philippines, India and Nepal, will have a "positive impact" on safeguarding peace and stability in Asia. (AFP)

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China ahead . of Japan in¹⁷ Dubai exports

DUBAI, Aug. 27 (AFP) — China has remained ahead of Japan in exports to the main Gulf commercial center of Dubai because of the strong yen and Beijing's reforms, official figures showed today.

China's exports to Dubai, dubbed the Hong Kong of the Middle East, stood at 5.76 billion dirhams"(\$ 1.56 billion) in 1995 while those by Japan amounted to 5.69 billion dirhams (\$1.43 billion), according to the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In the first quarter of 1996, Chinese exports to the emirate stood at around 1.78 billion | dirhams (\$485 million) and exports by Japan at 1.58 billion dirhams (\$430 million), the figures showed.

"China has become the top exporter to Dubai for many reasons, including the rise in the Japanese yen, the expansion in China's industrial sector and exports, and its switch to a market economy," the chamber's director general, Abdul Rahman Al- Mutaiwi, told Al-Ittihad newspaper.

ChinaVcexports to Dubai and other Gulf markets were negligible before it started to launch promotion drives over the past decade as part of economic reforms.

It ousted Japan as a top exporter to Dubai in 1994 but Tokyo is still the biggest commercial partner of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Dubai, the second biggest member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is the main transshipment center of die Middle East and is considered the barometer of economic activity in the Gulf as it handles nearly. 20 percent of the region's total non-oil trade.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry figures show Dubai's trade is projected to hit a record 78.5 billion dirhams (\$21.38 billion) in 1996. Dubai's position as a major reexport center has attracted competition from more than 100 countries seeking a bigger share of the lucrative market in the Gulf. Its imports account for more than two thirds of the total trade.

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China remains ahead of Japan in exports to Dubai

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