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The Gulf Co-operation Council, Law and Institutions: Implications for the Member States

In two volumes

Volume II

By

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**A thesis submitted to the Department of Law of the University of Durham in
fulfilment of the requirement of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Law**

July 1991



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A: Constituent Instruments of the GCC

A.1.a.: Charter of the GCC



Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Charter of the GCC

The United Arab Emirates

The State of Bahrain

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Sultanate of Oman

The State of Qatar and

The State of Kuwait

Being fully aware of the ties of special relations, common characteristics and similar systems founded on the Creed of Islam which bind them; and

Believing in the common destiny and the unity of aim which link their peoples; and

Desiring to effect co-ordination, integration and interconnection between them in all fields; and

Having the conviction that co-ordination, co-operation, and integration between them serve the sublime objectives of the Arab Nation; and

In pursuit of the goal of strengthening co-operation and reinforcement of the links between them; and

In an endeavour to complement efforts already begun in all essential areas that concern their peoples and realize their hopes for a better future on the path of unity of their States; and

In conformity with the Charter of the League of Arab States which calls for the realization of closer relations and stronger bonds; and

In order to channel their efforts to reinforce and serve Arab and Islamic causes;

Have agreed as follows:

Article One

The Establishment of the Council

A Council shall be established hereby to be named the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf hereinafter referred to as the Co-operation Council (G.C.C.).

Article Two

Headquarters

The Co-operation Council shall have its headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Article Three

Co-operation Council Meetings

The Council shall hold its meetings in the state where it has its headquarters, and may convene in any member state.

Article Four

Objectives

The basic Objectives of the Co-operation Council are:

- 1 To effect co-ordination, integration and inter-connection between Member States in all fields in order to achieve unity between them.
- 2 To deepen and strengthen relations, links and areas of co-operation now prevailing between their peoples in various fields.
- 3 To formulate similar regulations in various fields including the following:
 - a Economic and financial affairs
 - b Commerce, customs and communications
 - c Education and culture
 - d Social and health affairs
 - e Information and tourism
 - f Legislative and administrative affairs

- 4 To stimulate scientific and technological progress in the fields of industry, mining, agriculture, water and animal resources; to establish scientific research; to establish joint ventures and encourage co-operation by the private sector for the good of their peoples.

Article Five

Council Membership

The Co-operation Council shall be formed of the six states that participated in the Foreign Ministers' meeting held at Riyadh on 4 February 1981.

Article Six

Organizations of the Co-operation Council

The Co-operation Council shall have the following main organizations:

- 1 The Supreme Council to which shall be attached the Commission for Settlement of Disputes
- 2 The Ministerial Council
- 3 The Secretariat-General

Each of these organizations may establish sub-agencies as may be necessary.

Article Seven

Supreme Council

- 1 The Supreme Council is the highest authority of the Co-operation Council and shall be formed of heads of member states. Its presidency shall be rotatory based on the alphabetical order of the names of the member states.
- 2 The Supreme Council shall hold one regular session every year. Extraordinary sessions may be convened at the request of any seconded by another member.
- 3 The Supreme Council shall hold its sessions in the territories of member states.
- 4 A Supreme Council's meeting shall be considered valid if attended by two-thirds of the member states.

Article Eight

The Functions of the Supreme Council

The Supreme Council shall endeavour to realize the objectives of the Co-operation Council, particularly as concerns the following:

- 1 Review matters of interest to the member states.
- 2 Lay down the higher policy for the Co-operation Council and the basic lines it should follow.
- 3 Review the recommendations, reports, studies and joint ventures submitted by the Ministerial Council for approval.
- 4 Review reports and studies which the Secretary-General is charged to prepare.
- 5 Approve the bases for dealing with other states and international organizations.
- 6 Approve the rules of procedure of the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes and nominate its members.
- 7 Appoint the Secretary-General.
- 8 Amend the Charter of the Co-operation Council.
- 9 Approve the Council's internal rules of procedure.
- 10 Approve the budget of the Secretariat-General.

Article Nine

Voting in the Supreme Council

- 1 Each member of the Supreme Council shall have one vote.
- 2 Resolutions of the Supreme Council in substantive matters shall be carried by unanimous approval of the member states participating in the voting, while resolutions on procedural matters shall be carried by majority vote.

Article Ten

Commission for the Settlement of Disputes

- 1 The Co-operation Council shall have a commission called "The Commission for the Settlement of Disputes" which shall be attached to the Supreme Council.
- 2 The Supreme Council shall establish the composition of the Commission for every case on an "ad hoc" basis in accordance with the nature of the dispute.
- 3 If a dispute arises over interpretation or implementation of the Charter and such dispute is not resolved within the Ministerial Council or the Supreme Council, the Supreme Council may refer such dispute to the Commission for the Settlement of Disputes.
- 4 The Commission shall submit its recommendations or opinion, as applicable, to the Supreme Council for such action as the Supreme Council deems appropriate.

Article Eleven

Ministerial Council

- 1 The Ministerial Council shall be formed of the Foreign Ministers of the Member States or other delegated Ministers. The Council presidency shall be for the member state which presided the last ordinary session of the Supreme Council, or if necessary, for the state which is next to preside the Supreme Council.
- 2 The Ministerial Council shall convene every three months and may hold extraordinary sessions at the invitation of any member seconded by another member.
- 3 The Ministerial Council shall determine the venue of its next session.
- 4 A Council's meeting shall be deemed valid if attended by two-thirds of the member states.

Article Twelve

Functions of the Ministerial Council

- 1 Propose policies, prepare recommendations, studies and projects aimed at developing co-operation and co-ordination between member states in

various fields and adopt the resolutions or recommendations required in this regard.

- 2 Endeavour to encourage, develop and co-ordinate activities existing between member states in all fields. Resolutions adopted in such matters shall be referred to the Ministerial Council for further submission, with recommendations, to the Supreme Council for appropriate action.
- 3 Submit recommendations to the Ministers concerned to formulate policies whereby the Co-operation Council's resolutions may be put into effect.
- 4 Encourage means of co-operation and co-ordination between the various private sector activities, develop existing co-operation between the member states' Chamber of Commerce and industry, and encourage the movement within the G.C.C. of workers who are citizens of the member states.
- 5 Refer any of the various aspects of co-operation to one or more technical or specialized committee for study and presentation of appropriate recommendations.
- 6 Review proposals related to amendments to this Charter and submit appropriate recommendations to the Supreme Council.
- 7 Approve Rules of Procedure of both the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat-General.
- 8 Appoint the Assistant Secretaries-General, as nominated by the Secretary-General, for a period of three years, renewable.
- 9 Approve periodic reports as well as internal rules and regulations relating to administrative and financial affairs proposed by the Secretary-General, and submit recommendations to the Supreme Council for approval of the budget of the Secretariat-General.
- 10 Make arrangements for meetings of the Supreme Council and prepare its agenda.
- 11 Review matters referred to it by the Supreme Council.

Article Thirteen

Voting in the Ministerial Council

- 1 Every member of the Ministerial Council shall have one vote.
- 2 Resolutions of the Ministerial Council in substantive matters shall be carried by unanimous vote of the member states present and participating in the vote, and in procedural matters by majority vote.

Article Fourteen

The Secretariat-General

- 1 The Secretariat-General shall be composed of a Secretary- General who shall be assisted by assistants and a number of staff as required.
- 2 The Supreme Council shall appoint the Secretary-General, who shall be a citizen of one of the Co-operation Council states, for a period of three years which may be renewed once only.
- 3 The Secretary-General shall nominate the Assistant Secretaries-General.
- 4 The Secretary-General shall appoint the Secretariat-General's staff from among the citizens of member states, and may not make exceptions without the approval of the Ministerial Council.
- 5 The Secretary-General shall be directly responsible for the work of the Secretariat-General and the smooth flow of work in its various organizations. He shall represent the Co-operation Council with other parties within the limits of the authority vested in him.

Article Fifteen

Functions of the Secretariat-General

- 1 Prepare studies related to co-operation and co-ordination, and to integrated plans and programmes for member states' action.
- 2 Prepare periodic reports on the work of the Co-operation Council.
- 3 Follow up the implementation by the member states of the resolutions and recommendations of the Supreme Council and Ministerial Council.
- 4 Prepare reports and studies requested by the Supreme Council or Ministerial Council.
- 5 Prepare the draft of administrative and financial regulations commensurate with the growth of the Co-operation Council and its expanding responsibilities.
- 6 Prepare the budgets and closing accounts of the Co-operation Council.
- 7 Make preparations for meetings and prepare agendas and draft resolutions for the Ministerial Council.

- 8 Recommend to the Chairman of the Ministerial Council the convening of an extraordinary session of the Council when necessary.
- 9 Any other tasks entrusted to it by the Supreme Council or Ministerial Council.

Article Sixteen

The Secretary-General and the Assistant Secretaries-General and all the Secretariat-General's staff shall carry out their duties in complete independence and for the joint benefit of the member states.

They shall refrain from any action or behaviour that is incompatible with their duties and from divulging confidential matters relating to their appointments either during or after their tenure in office.

Article Seventeen

Privileges and Immunities

- 1 The Co-operation Council and its organizations shall enjoy on the territories of all member states such legal competence, privileges and immunities as are required to realize their objectives and carry out their functions.
- 2 Representatives of the member states on the Council, and the Council's employees, shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as are specified in agreements to be concluded for this purpose between the member states. A special agreement shall organize the relation between the Council and the state in which it has its headquarters.
- 3 Until such time as the two agreements mentioned in item 2 above are prepared and put into effect, the representatives of the member states in the Co-operation Council and its staff shall enjoy the diplomatic privileges and immunities established for similar organizations.

Article Eighteen

Budget of the Secretariat-General

The Secretariat-General shall have a budget to which the member states shall contribute in equal amounts.

Article Nineteen

The Implementation of the Charter

- 1 This Charter shall go into effect as of the date it is signed by the Heads of States of the six member states named in this Charter's preamble.
- 2 The original copy of this Charter shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which shall act as custodian and shall deliver a true copy thereof to every member state, pending the establishment of the Secretariat-General, at which time the latter shall become depository.

Article Twenty

Amendments to the Charter

- 1 Any member state may request an amendment of this Charter.
- 2 Request for Charter amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary-General who shall refer them to the member states at least four months prior to submission to the Ministerial Council.
- 3 An amendment shall become effective if unanimously approved by the Supreme Council.

Article Twenty-One

Closing Provisions

No reservations may be voiced in respect of the provisions of this Charter.

Article Twenty-Two

The Secretariat-General shall arrange to deposit and register copies of this Charter with the League of Arab States and the United Nations, by resolution of the Ministerial Council.

This Charter is signed on one copy in the Arabic language at Abu Dhabi City, United Arab Emirates, on 21 Rajab 1401 corresponding to 25 May 1981.

The United Arab Emirates

The State of Bahrain

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Sultanate of Oman

The State of Qatar

The State of Kuwait (1)

A.1.b.: Rules of Procedure of the Supreme Council

The Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Rules of Procedure of the Supreme Council

Article One

Definitions

These regulations shall be called Rules of Procedure of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council and shall encompass the rules that govern procedures for convening the Council and the exercise of its functions.

Article Two

Membership

- 1 The Supreme Council shall be composed of the Heads of State of the member states of the Co-operation Council. The Presidency shall rotate on the basis of the alphabetical order of the names of the member states.
- 2 Each member state shall notify the Secretary-General of the names of the members of its delegation to the Council meeting, at least seven days prior to the date set for opening the meeting.

Article Three

With due regard to the objectives of the Co-operation Council and the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council as specified in Articles 4 and 8 of the Charter, the Supreme Council may:

- 1 Form technical committees and select their members from member states nominees who specialize in the committees' respective fields.
- 2 Call upon one or more of its members to study a specific subject and submit a report thereon to be distributed to the members sufficiently in advance of the meeting arranged to discuss that subject.

Article Four

Convening the Supreme Council

- 1 a The Supreme Council shall hold one regular session every year, and may hold extraordinary sessions at the request of any one member seconded by another member.
- b The Supreme Council shall hold its sessions at the level of Heads of State.
- c The Supreme Council shall hold its sessions in the member states territories.
- d Prior to convening the Supreme Council, the Secretary-General shall hold a meeting to be attended by delegates of the member states for consultation on matters related to the agenda of the said meeting.
- 2 a The Secretary-General shall set the opening date of the Council's session and suggest a closing date.
- b The Secretary-General shall issue the invitations for convening a regular session no less than thirty days in advance, and for convening an extraordinary session, within no more than five days.

Article Five

- 1 The Supreme Council shall at the start of every session decide whether the meetings shall be closed or open session.
- 2 A meeting shall be considered valid if attended by the Heads of State of two-thirds of the member states. Its resolutions in substantive matters shall be carried by unanimous agreement of the member states present and participating in the vote, while resolutions in procedural matters shall be carried by majority vote. Any member abstaining shall record that he is not bound by the resolution.

Article Six

- 1 The Council shall hold an extraordinary session in the event of:
 - a A resolution passed in a previous session.
 - b A request by a member state seconded by another state. In this case, the Council shall convene within no more than five days from the date of issue of the invitation for holding the extraordinary session.

- 2 No matters may be placed on the agenda for the extraordinary session other than those which the session was convened to discuss.

Article Seven

- 1 Presidency of the Supreme Council shall, at the opening of each regular session, go to a Head of State by rotation based on the alphabetical order of the member states' names. The President shall continue to exercise the functions of the Presidency until such functions are entrusted to his successor at the beginning of the next regular session.
- 2 The Head of State of a country which is party to a dispute outstanding may not preside over a session or meeting called to discuss the subject of the dispute. In such case, the Council shall designate a temporary president.
- 3 The President shall declare the opening and closing of sessions and meetings, the suspension of meetings, and closures, and shall see that the Co-operation Council Charter and these Rules of Procedure are duly complied with. He shall give the floor to speakers based on the order of their requests, submit suggestions for acceptance by the membership, direct voting procedures, give final decisions on points of order, announce resolutions, follow up on the activities of committees, and inform the Council of all incoming correspondence.
- 4 The President may take part in deliberations and submit suggestions in the name of the state which he represents and may, for this purpose, assign a member of his state's delegation to act on his behalf in such instances.

Article Eight

Supreme Council Agenda

- 1 The Ministerial Council shall prepare a draft agenda and such draft agenda shall be conveyed by the Secretary-General, together with explanatory notes and documentation, to the member states under cover of the letter of convocation at least thirty days before the date set for the meeting.
- 2 The draft agenda shall include the following:
 - a A report by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Supreme Council between the two sessions, and actions taken to carry out its resolution.
 - b Reports and matters received from the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat-General.

- c Matters which the Supreme Council had previously decided to include on the agenda.
 - d Matters suggested by a member state as being in need of review by the Supreme Council.
- 3 Every member state may request inclusion of additional items on the draft agenda provided such request is tabled at least fifteen days prior to the date set for opening the session. Such matters shall be listed in an additional agenda which shall be sent, along with relevant documentation, to the member states, at least five days before the date set for the session.
- 4 Any member state may request inclusion of extra items on the draft agenda as late as the date set for opening a session, if such matters are considered both important and urgent.
- 5 The Council shall approve its agenda at the start of every session.
- 6 The Council may, during the session, add new items that are considered urgent.
- 7 The ordinary session shall be adjourned after completion of discussions of the items placed on the agenda. The Supreme Council may decide to suspend the session's meetings before completion of discussions on agenda items, and resume such meetings at a later date.

Article Nine

Office and Committees of the Supreme Council

- 1 The Supreme Council Office shall comprise, in every session, the Council President, the Chairman of the Ministerial Council and the Secretary-General. The Office shall be headed by the Supreme Council President.
- 2 The Office shall carry out the following functions:
 - a Review the form of resolutions passed by the Supreme Council without affecting their contents.
 - b Assist the President of the Supreme Council in directing the activities of the session in general.
 - c Other tasks indicated in these Rules of Procedure or other matters entrusted to it by the Supreme Council.

Article Ten

- 1 The Council may, at the start of every session, create any committees that it deems necessary to allow adequate study of matters listed on the agenda. Delegates of member states shall take part in the activities of such committees.
- 2 Meetings of committees shall continue until they complete their tasks, with due regard for the date set for closing the session. Their resolutions shall be carried by the majority vote.
- 3 Every committee shall start its work by selecting a chairman and a reporter from among its members. The reporter of the committee shall act for the chairman in directing the meeting in the absence of the chairman. The chairman, or the reporter in the chairman's absence, shall submit to the Council all explanations that it requests on the committee's reports. The chairman may, with the approval of the session's President, take part in the discussions, without voting, so long as he is not a member of the Supreme Council.
- 4 The Council may refer any of the matters included in the agenda to the committees, based on their specialization for study and reporting. Any one item may be referred to more than one committee.
- 5 Committee may neither discuss any matter not referred to them by the Council, nor adopt any recommendation which, if approved by the Council, may entail a financial obligation, before the committee receives a report from the Secretary-General regarding the financial and administrative results that may ensue from adopting the resolution.

Article Eleven

The Process of Deliberation and Putting Forward Proposals

- 1 Every member state may participate in the deliberation of the Supreme Council and its committees in the manner provided for in these Rules of Procedure.
- 2 The President shall direct discussion of the items as presented in order on the agenda of the meeting and may, when necessary, call upon the Secretary-General or his representative in the meeting to provide such clarification as he sees fit.
- 3

The President shall give the floor to speakers in the order of their requests. He may give priority to the chairman or reporter of a committee to submit a report or explain specific points.

- 4 Every member may, during deliberations, raise points of order on which the President shall pronounce immediately and his decisions shall have effect unless voted by a majority of the Supreme Council member states.

Article Twelve

- 1 Every member may, during the discussion of any subject, request suspension or adjournment of the meeting or discussion of the subject, or closure. Such requests may not be discussed but the President shall put them to the vote, if duly seconded, and decision shall be by majority of the member states.
- 2 With due regard to provisions of item 4 of the preceding Article, suggestions indicated in item 1 of this Article shall be given priority over all others based on the following order:
 - a Suspension of the meeting
 - b Adjournment of the meeting
 - c Postponement of discussion of the matter in hand
 - d Closure of discussion of the matter in hand
- 3 Apart from suggestions on formulation or procedural matters, draft resolutions and substantive amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or his representative who shall distribute them as soon as possible to the delegations. No draft resolution may be submitted for discussion or voting before the text thereof is distributed to all the delegations.
- 4 A proposal on which a decision has been taken may not be reconsidered in the same session unless the Council decides otherwise.

Article Thirteen

The President shall follow up on the activities of the committees, inform the Supreme Council of correspondence received, and formally announce before members all the resolutions and recommendations arrived at.

Article Fourteen

Voting

Every member state shall have one vote and no state may represent another state or vote on its behalf.

Article Fifteen

- 1 Voting shall be by calling the names in the alphabetical order of the states names, or by raising hands. Voting shall be secret if so requested by a member or by decision of the President.

The Supreme Council may decide otherwise. The vote of every member shall be documented in the minutes of the meeting if voting is effected by calling the names. The minutes shall indicate the result of voting, if the vote is secret or by show of hands.

- 2 A member may abstain from a vote or express reservations over a procedural matter or part thereof, in which case the reservation shall be read at the time the resolution is announced and shall be duly documented in writing. Members may present explanations about their stand in the voting after voting is completed.
- 3 Once the President announces that voting has started, no interruption may be made unless the matter relates to a point of order relevant to the vote.

Article Sixteen

- 1 If a member request amendment of a proposal, voting on the amendment shall be carried out first. If there is more than one amendment, voting shall first be made on the amendment which in the President's opinion is farthest from the original proposal, then on the next farthest, and so on until voting is completed on all proposed amendments. If one or more such amendments is passed, then voting shall be made on the original proposal as amended.
- 2 Any new proposal shall be deemed to be an amendment to the original proposal if it merely entails an addition to, omission or change to a part of the original proposal.

Article Seventeen

- 1 The Supreme Council may create technical committees charges with giving advice on the design and implementation of Supreme Council programmes in specific fields.
- 2 The Supreme Council shall appoint the members of the technical committees from specialists who are citizens of the member states.
- 3 The technical committees shall meet at the invitation of the Secretary-General and shall draw up their work plans in consultation with him.
- 4 The Secretary-General shall prepare the agenda of the committees after consultation with the chairman of the committee concerned.

Article Eighteen

Amendment of the Rules of Procedure

- 1 Any member state may propose amendments to the Rules of Procedure.
- 2 No proposed amendments may be considered unless the relevant proposal has been circulated to the member states by Secretariat-General at least thirty days prior to submission to the Ministerial Council.
- 3 No basic changes may be introduced to the proposed amendment mentioned in the preceding paragraph unless the text of such proposed changes has been circulated to the member states by the Secretariat-General at least fifteen days before submission to the Ministerial Council.
- 4 Except for items based on the provisions of the Charter, and with due regard to the provisions of preceding paragraphs these Rules of procedure shall be amended by a resolution of the Supreme Council approved by a majority of the members.

Article Nineteen

Effective Date

These Rules of Procedure shall go into effect as of the date of approval by the Supreme Council and may not be amended except in accordance with procedures set forth in the preceding Article.

These Rules of Procedure are signed at Abu Dhabi City, United Arab Emirates on 21 Rajab 1401 AH Corresponding to 25 May 1981 AD.

The United Arab Emirates

The State of Bahrain

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Sultanate of Oman

The State of Qatar

The State of Kuwait ⁽²⁾

A.1.c.: Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Council

Co-operation Council For the Arab States of the Gulf

Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Council

Article One

- 1 These regulations shall be called Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council and shall encompass rules governing meetings of the Council and the exercise of its functions.
- 2 The following terms as used herein shall have the meanings indicated opposite each:

Co-operation Council:	The Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council
Charter:	Statute establishing the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council
Supreme Council:	The highest body of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council
Council:	Ministerial Council of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council
Secretary-General:	The Secretary-General of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council
Chairman:	The Chairman of the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council

Article Two

States Representation

- 1 The Ministerial Council shall be composed of the member states' Foreign Ministers or other delegated Ministers.
- 2 Every member state shall, at least one week prior to the convening of every ordinary session of the Ministerial Council convey to the Secretary-General a list of the name of the members of its delegation. For extraordinary sessions, the list shall be submitted three days before the date set for the session.

Article Three

Convening the Sessions

- 1 The Ministerial Council shall decide in every meeting the venue of its next regular session.
- 2 The Secretary-General shall decide, in consultation with the member states, the venues of extraordinary sessions.
- 3 If circumstances should arise that preclude the convening of an ordinary or extraordinary session at the place set for it, the Secretary-General shall so inform the member states and shall set another place for the meeting after consultation with them.

Article Four

Ordinary Sessions

- 1 The Council shall convene in ordinary session once every three months.
- 2 The Secretary-General shall set the date for opening the session and suggest the date of its closing.
- 3 The Secretary-General shall address the invitation to attend a Council ordinary session at least fifteen days in advance, and shall indicate therein the date and place set for the meeting, as well as attaching thereto the agenda of the session, explanatory notes and other documentation.

Article Five

Extraordinary Sessions

- 1 The Council shall hold an extraordinary session at the request of any member state seconded by another member.
- 2 The Secretary-General shall address the invitation to the Council's extraordinary session and attach a memorandum containing the request of the member state which has requested the meeting.
- 3 The Secretary-General shall specify in the invitation the place, date and agenda of the session.

Article Six

- 1 The Council may itself decide to hold extraordinary sessions, in which case it shall specify the agenda, time and place of the session.
- 2 The Secretary-General shall send out to the member states the invitation to attend the extraordinary meeting of the Council along with a memorandum containing the resolution of the Council to this effect, and specifying the date and agenda of the session.
- 3 The extraordinary session shall be convened within a maximum of five days from the date of issue of the invitation.

Article Seven

No matters, other than those for which the extraordinary session was called, may be included on its agenda.

Article Eight

Agenda

The Secretary-General shall prepare a draft agenda for a Council's ordinary session and such draft shall include the following:

- 1 The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Co-operation Council.
- 2 Matters referred to him by the Supreme Council.
- 3 Matters which the Council had previously decided to include on the agenda.
- 4 Matters which the Secretary-General believes should be reviewed by the Council.
- 5 Matters suggested by a member state.

Article Nine

Member states shall convey to the Secretary-General their suggestions on matters they wish to include on the Council's agenda at least thirty days prior to the date of the Council's ordinary session.

Article Ten

Member states or the Secretary-General may request the inclusion of additional items on the Council's draft agenda at least ten days prior to the date set for opening an ordinary session. Such items shall be listed on an additional schedule which shall be conveyed along with relevant documentation to the member states at least five days prior to the date of the session.

Article Eleven

Member states or the Secretary-General may request inclusion of additional items on the agenda for the Council's ordinary session up to the date set for opening the session if such matters are both important and urgent.

Article Twelve

The Council shall approve its agenda at the beginning of every session.

Article Thirteen

A Council's ordinary session shall end upon completion of discussion of matters listed on the agenda. The Council may, when necessary, decide to suspend its meetings temporarily before discussion of agenda items is completed and resume its meetings at a later date.

Article Fourteen

The Council may defer discussion of certain items on its agenda and decide to include them with the others, when necessary, on the agenda of a subsequent session.

Article Fifteen

Chairmanship of the Council

Chairmanship of the Council shall be entrusted to the member state which presided the last ordinary session of the Supreme Council, or, if necessary, to the state which is next to preside the Supreme Council.

- 2 The Chairman shall exercise his functions until he passes his post on to his successor.
- 3 The Chairman shall also preside over extraordinary sessions.
- 4 The representative of a state that is party to an outstanding dispute may not chair the session or meeting assigned for discussing such dispute, in which case the Council shall name a temporary Chairman.

Article Sixteen

- 1 The Chairman shall announce the opening and closing of sessions and meetings, the suspension of meetings and closure of discussions, and shall ensure respect for the provisions of the Charter and these Rules of Procedure.
- 2 The Chairman may participate in the Council's deliberations and vote in the name of the state he represents. He may, for such purpose, delegate another member of his delegation to act on his behalf.

Article Seventeen

Office of the Council

- 1 The Office of the Council shall include the Chairman, Secretary-General, and heads of working sub-committees which the Council has resolved to set up.
- 2 The Chairman of the Council shall preside over the Office.

Article Eighteen

The Office shall carry out the following tasks:

- 1 Assist the Chairman to direct the proceedings of the Session.
- 2 Co-ordinate the work of the Council and the sub-committees.
- 3 Supervise the drafting of the resolutions passed by the Council.
- 4

Other tasks indicated in these Rules of Procedure or entrusted to it by the Council.

Article Nineteen

- 1 The Council shall call upon preparatory and working committees to assist in accomplishing its tasks.
- 2 The Secretariat-General shall participate in the work of the committees.

Article Twenty

- 1 The Secretary-General may, in consultation with the Chairman of the session, form preparatory committees charges with the study of matters listed on the agenda.
- 2 Preparatory committees shall be composed of delegates of member states and may, when necessary, seek the help of such experts as they may deem appropriate.
- 3 Each preparatory committee shall meet at least three days prior to the opening of the session by invitation of the Secretary-General. The work of the committee shall end at the close of the session.

Article Twenty-One

- 1 The Council may, at the start of each session, form working committees and charge them with specific tasks.
- 2 The work of the working committees shall continue until the date set for closing the session.

Article Twenty-Two

- 1 Each sub-committee shall start its work by electing a chairman and a reporter from among its members. When the chairman is absent, the reporter shall act for him in directing the meetings.
- 2 The chairman or reporter of each sub-committee shall submit a report on its work to the Council.
- 3 The chairman or reporter of a sub-committee shall present to the Council all explanations required regarding the contents of the sub-committee's report.

Article Twenty-Three

- 1 The Secretariat-General shall organize the technical secretariat and sub-committees of the Council.
- 2 The Secretariat-General shall prepare minutes of meetings documenting discussions, resolutions and recommendations. Such minutes shall be prepared for all meetings of the Council and its sub-committees.
- 3 The Secretary-General shall supervise the organization of the Council's relations with the information media.
- 4 The Secretary-General shall convey the Council's resolutions and recommendations and relevant documentation to the member states within fifteen days after the end of the session.

Article Twenty-Four

The Council's secretariat and sub-committees shall receive and distribute documents, reports, resolutions and recommendations of the Council and its sub-committees and shall draw up and distribute minutes and daily bulletins in addition to safeguarding documents and performing other tasks required by the Council's work.

Article Twenty-Five

Texts of resolutions or recommendations made by the Council may not be announced or published except by resolution of the Council.

Article Twenty-Six

Deliberations

Every member state may take part in the deliberations of the Council and its sub-committees in the manner prescribed in these Rules of Procedure.

Article Twenty-Seven

- 1 The Chairman shall direct deliberations on matters on hand in the order they are listed on the Council's agenda.
- 2 The Chairman shall give the floor to speakers in the order of their requests. Priority may be given to the chairman or reporter of a particular committee to present its report or explain certain points therein. The floor shall be given to the Secretary-General or his representative whenever it is necessary.

- 3 The Council Chairman may, during deliberations, read the list of the names or members who have requested the floor, and with the approval of the Council, close the list. The only exception is exercise of the right of reply.

Article Twenty-Eight

The Council shall decide whether the meetings shall be held in open or closed session.

Article Twenty-Nine

- 1 Every member state may raise a point of order, on which the chairman shall pronounce immediately and his decision shall take effect unless vetoed by a majority of the member states.
- 2 A member who raised point of order may not go beyond the point he has raised.

Article Thirty

- 1 Every member may, during discussion of any matter, propose the suspension or adjournment of the meeting, or discussion of the matter on hand, or closure. The Chairman shall in such cases put the proposal to the vote directly, if the proposal is seconded by another member. Such proposal requires the approval of the majority of the member states to pass.
- 2 With due regard to the provisions of the preceding paragraph proposals indicated therein shall be submitted to the vote in the following order:
 - a Suspension of meeting
 - b Adjournment of meeting
 - c Postponement of discussion of the matter in hand
 - d Closure of discussion of the matter in hand

Article Thirty-One

- 1 Member states may suggest draft resolutions or recommendations, or amendments thereto, and may withdraw all such unless they are voted upon.

- 2 Drafts indicated in the preceding item shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat-General for distribution to delegations as soon as possible.
- 3 Except for proposals concerning formulation or procedures, drafts indicated in this Article may not be discussed or voted upon before their texts are distributed to all delegations.
- 4 A proposal already decided upon may not be reconsidered in the same session unless the Council decides otherwise.

Article Thirty-Two

The Chairman shall follow up the work of the committees, inform the Council of incoming correspondence, and formally announce before members the resolutions and recommendations arrived at.

Article Thirty-Three

Voting

- 1 The Council shall pass its resolutions with the unanimous approval of the member states present and participating in the vote, while decisions in procedural matters shall be passed by a majority vote. Any member abstaining from voting shall record that he is not bound by the vote.
- 2 If members of the Council should disagree on the definition of the matter being put to the vote, the matter shall be settled by majority vote of the member states present.

Article Thirty-Four

- 1 Every member state shall have one vote.
- 2 No member state may represent another state or vote on its behalf.

Article Thirty-Five

- 1 Voting shall be by the names in the alphabetical order of the states' names, or by show of hands.
- 2 Voting shall be by secret ballot if so requested by a member or by decision of the Chairman. The Council, however, may decide otherwise.
- 3

The vote of every member shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting if voting is by calling the names. The minutes shall indicate the result of voting if the vote is secret or by show of hands.

- 4 Member states may explain their positions after the vote and such explanations shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- 5 Once the Chairman announces that voting has started, no interruptions may be made except for a point of order relating to the vote or its postponement in accordance with the provisions of this Article and the next.

Article Thirty-Six

- 1 The Council Chairman with the help of the Secretary-General shall endeavour to reconcile the positions of member states on disputed matters and obtain their agreement to a draft resolution before submitting it to the vote.
- 2 The Council Chairman, the Secretary-General or any member state may request postponement of a vote for a specific period during which further negotiations may take place on the item submitted to the vote.

Article Thirty-Seven

- 1 If a member requests amendment of a proposal, voting on the amendment shall be carried out first. If there is more than one amendment, voting shall first be made on the amendment which the Chairman considers to be farthest from the original proposal, then on the next farthest, and so on until all proposed amendments have been voted upon. If one or more amendments have been voted upon. If one or more amendment is passed, then voting shall be made on the original proposal as amended.
- 2 A new proposal shall be deemed to be an amendment to the original proposal if it merely entails an addition to, omission from, or change to a part of the original proposal.

Article Thirty-Eight

- 1 Any member state or the Secretary-General may propose amending these Rules of Procedure.
- 2 No proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure may be considered unless the relevant proposal is circulated to the member states by the Secretariat-General at least thirty days before submission to the Council.

- 3 No basic changes may be introduced to the proposed amendment mentioned in the preceding item unless the texts of such proposed change have been circulated to the member states at least fifteen days prior to submission to the Council.
- 4 Except for items based on provisions of the Charter, and with due regard to preceding items, these Rules of Procedure shall be amended by a resolution of the Council approved by a majority of its members.

Article Thirty-Nine

Effective Date

These Rules of Procedure shall go into effect as of the date of approval by the Council and may not be amended except in accordance with procedures set forth in the preceding article.

Thus, these Rules of Procedure are signed at Abu Dhabi City, United Arab Emirates, on 21 Rajab 1401 AH corresponding to 25 May 1981 AD.

The United Arab Emirates

The State of Bahrain

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Sultanate of Oman

The State of Qatar

The State of Kuwait (3)

**A.1.d.: Rules of Procedure of the
Commission for Settlement of Disputes**

The Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Rules of Procedure of the Commission for Settlement of Disputes

Preamble

In accordance with the provisions of Article Six of the Charter of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council; and

In implementation of the Provision of Article Ten of the Co-operation Council Charter,

A Commission for Settlement of Disputes, hereinafter referred to as Commission, shall be set up and its jurisdiction and rules for its proceedings shall be as follows:

Article One

Terminology

Terms used in these Rules of Procedure shall have the same meanings as those established in the Charter of the Gulf Arab States Co-operation Council.

Article Two

The Location and Session of the Commission

The commission shall have its headquarters at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and shall hold its meetings on the territory of the state where its headquarters is located, but may hold its meetings elsewhere, when necessary.

Article Three

Jurisdiction

The Commission shall, once installed, have jurisdiction to consider the following matters referred to it by the Supreme Council:

- a Disputes between member states
- b Differences of opinion as to the interpretation or implementation of the Co-operation Council Charter.

Article Four

Membership of the Commission

- a The Commission shall be formed of an appropriate number of citizens of member states not involved in the dispute. The Council shall select members of the Commission in every case separately depending on the nature of the dispute, provided that the number shall be no less than three.
- b The Commission may seek the advice of such experts and consultants as it may deem necessary.
- c Unless the Supreme Council resolves otherwise, the Commission's task shall end with the submission of its recommendations or opinion to the Supreme Council which, after the conclusion of the Commission's task may summon it at any time to explain or elaborate on its recommendations or opinions.

Article Five

Meetings and Internal Procedures

- a A meeting of the Commission shall be valid if attended by all members.
- b The Secretariat-General of the Co-operation Council shall prepare procedures required to conduct the Commission's affairs, and such procedures shall go into effect as of the date of approval by the Ministerial Council.
- c Each party to the dispute shall send representatives to the Commission who shall be entitled to follow proceedings and present their defence.

Article Six

Chairmanship

The Commission shall select a chairman from among its members

Article Seven

Voting

Every member of the Commission shall have one vote, and shall issue its recommendations or opinions on matters referred to it by a majority of the members. In the event of an indecisive vote the party with whom the Chairman has voted shall prevail.

Article Eight

The Secretariat of the Commission

- a The Secretary-General shall appoint a Secretary for the Commission and a sufficient number of officials to carry out the work of the Commission's Secretariat.
- b The Supreme Council may if necessary create an independent organization to carry out the work of the Secretariat of the Commission.

Article Nine

Recommendations and Opinions

- a The Commission shall issue its recommendations or opinions in accordance with the Co-operation Council's Charter, with international laws and practices, and the principles of Islamic Shari'ah. The Commission shall submit its findings on the case in hand to the Supreme Council for appropriate action.
- b The Commission may, while considering any dispute referred to it and pending the issue of its final recommendations thereon, ask the Supreme Council to take interim action called for by necessity or circumstances.
- c The Commission's recommendations or opinions shall specify the reasons on which they were based and shall be signed by the Chairman and secretary.
- d If an opinion is not passed wholly or partially by unanimous vote of the members, the dissenting members shall be entitled to record their dissenting opinion.

Article Ten

Immunities and Privileges

The Commission and its members shall enjoy such immunities and privileges in the territories of the member states as are required to realize its objectives in accordance with Article Seventeen of the Co-operation Council Charter.

Article Eleven

The Budget of the Commission

The Commission's Budget shall be considered part of the Secretariat- General's budget. Remunerations of the Commission's members shall be established by the Supreme Council.

Article Twelve

Amendments

- a Any member state may request for amendments to these Rules of Procedure.
- b Requests for amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary- General who shall relay them to the member states at least four months before submission to the Ministerial Council.,

Article Thirteen

Effective Date

These Rules of Procedure shall go into effect as of the date of approval by the Supreme Council.

These Rules of Procedure were signed at Abu Dhabi City, United Arab Emirates on 21 Rajab 1401 AH corresponding to 25 May 1981 AD.

The United Arab Emirates

The State of Bahrain

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Sultanate of Oman

The State of Qatar

The State of Kuwait ⁽⁴⁾

A.2.a: The Internal Rules and Regulations of the Technical Office for Communications

The Internal Rules and Regulations of the Technical Office for Communications of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf

Based on Article (6) of the Basic Statute of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf, and based on the Decree of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council, Paragraph "Fifty", of the economic affairs decrees issued at its eighth meeting, held in Taif, on 14-16 Dhu al-Qa'da, 1403 A.H., corresponding to 22-24 August, 1983 A.D., approving the Decree of their Excellencies, the Ministers of Communications and the Ministers of Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones of the States of the Cooperation Council which converted the Permanent Committee for Communications of the Arab Gulf Area into one of the organisations under the direction of the Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf. The Internal Rules and Regulations for the Office were approved according to the following details:

Article (1)

Definitions

The following terms, whenever they appear in these Rules and Regulations will have the following meanings:

1. **The Cooperation Council:**
The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
2. **The Member States:**
The Member States in the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf.
3. **The Basic Statute:**
The Basic Statute of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf.
4. **The Permanent Ministerial Committee:**
The Committee of the Ministers of Communications and the Ministers of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones of the Member States of the Council.
5. **The Executive Committee:**
The Executive Committee assisting the Permanent Ministerial Committee which is composed of the concerned Deputy Ministers of the Member States of the Council.
6. **The Technical Committee:**
The Committee referred to in Article (5) of these Rules and Regulations.

7. **The Secretariat General:**
The Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
8. **The Secretary General:**
The Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf.
9. **The Office:**
The Technical Office for the Communications of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
10. **The Chairman of the Office:**
The Chairman of the Technical Office of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf.

Article (2)

Setting up the Office:

1. Within the framework of the Secretariat General, an office which will be concerned with wireless and cable communications in the Member States to be named the Technical Office for Communications of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf will be set up as one of the organisations of the Secretariat General.
2. The headquarters of the Office will be in the City of Manama in the state of Bahrain.

Article (3)

The Goals and Functions of the Office:

- A. The Office will be concerned with the development of cooperation between the Member States of the Cooperation Council in all matters which are related to wireless and cable communications, which concern the Member States, and within a framework which the Technical Committee sees fit and on the following basis:
 1. To coordinate public policies for communications services in ways which will unify them and bring them close together.
 2. To work toward laying down a unified plan, according to international radio regulations, for the Member States to use the frequency, spectrum of short and long range, and to separate them without the occurrence of interference between wireless frequencies. There will be various uses for this in the Member States. It will also eliminate the existing interference

especially in the area of the borders. The Office will also follow up the implementation of this plan.

3. To guide the use of the frequency spectrum in such a way as to guarantee the fulfillment of the frequency requirements for the various uses of the Member States.
 4. Whenever possible, to work toward the unification of the ways of operating the communications services in their various forms.
 5. Whenever possible, to work toward the unification of organised legislation for the uses of the communications apparatus especially wireless apparatus.
 6. In regional and international conferences, to coordinate the goals and positions of the Member States.
 7. Whenever Possible, to unify technical measurements, standard specifications and general conditions of the communications regulations, apparatus and equipment in the Member States.
 8. To collect and organise detailed information about communications services in the Member States and to encourage the exchange of this information especially as it relates to experiments or experience.
 9. To develop and encourage the manufacture of communications apparatus, equipment and materials.
 10. To work towards realising maximum benefit from the capabilities of the communications institutes, schools and centres which are set up in the Member States for the benefit of its citizens.
- B. In realising these goals, the Office will have the following jurisdictions:
1. It will make direct contacts with the concerned offices in the Member States of the Council.
 2. On behalf of any Member State or group of Member States, if so requested by the State or States, and after the necessary coordination with other Members has been effected, the Office will make contact with the International Union and other international and region unions and organisations concerned with communications affairs, or which are concerned with the allocation or registration of frequencies.
 3. It will undertake the required studies, research projects and plans.
 4. It will prepare proposals for legislation and standard specifications in the use of communications apparatus and equipment.

5. It will both prepare for and attend conferences and meetings which will be held under the sponsorship of the Secretariat General and which fall within the spheres of authority of the office.
6. It will hold symposia in which the Member States participate.
7. It will assist any office in the Member States in any field of communications according to its capabilities.

Article (4)

The Formation of the Offices:

1. The cadre of the Office will be comprised of a specialised chairman, his deputy and other employees as required to achieve its goals.
2. The Chairman of the Office and his deputy will be appointed by a decree of the Secretary General as per the regulations laid down by the Permanent Ministerial Committee.
3. The Secretariat General in coordination with the Chairman of the Office will appoint the employees of the office as per regulations followed by the Secretariat General.

Article (5)

The Supervision of the Office:

- A. **Technical and Specialised Supervision:**
A technical committee from the Member States will be set up with the aim of undertaking the technical and specialised supervision of the office as well as to delineate its work programmes and activities which are of a technical and specialised nature. This committee will submit its reports to the Executive Committee as necessary.
- B. **Administrative, Financial, Technical and Organisational Supervision:**
Administrative, financial and organisational supervision of the office will be undertaken by the Secretariat General.

Article (6)

Financial, Administrative and Budgetary Affairs:

1. The Office and its employees will be subject to the financial, administrative and personnel regulations which are in force in the Secretariat General.

2. Funds for the office will be allocated within the framework of the budget of the Secretariat General.

Article (7)

General Transitional Provisions

1. The present employees who are working in the Permanent Communications Committee for the Arab Gulf Area will be classified according to the regulations in force in the Secretariat General and they will become the core of the personnel of the Office.
2. The assets of the Permanent Communications Committee of the Arab Gulf Area will pass into the hands of the office.
3. The employees of the Office will be entitled to an end-of-service gratuity when these Rules and Regulations take effect according to the regulations of the Secretariat General.
4. These Rules and Regulations and the classifications schedule of the employees of the Office will take effect from the beginning of the year 1407 A.H. financial year of the Secretariat General. ⁽⁵⁾

A.2.b: The Basic Statute of the Board of Specifications and Standards

The Basic Statute of The Board of Specifications and Standards of the States of the Co- Operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf

Preface:

According to the Basic Statute of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf signed on 21 Rajab, 1401 A.H. corresponding to 25 May, 1981 A.D., and

According to the Unified Economic Agreement of the States of the Co- operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, signed in the City of Riyadh, on 15 Muharram 1402 A.H. corresponding to 11 November 1981 A.D., and

In implementation of the Decree of the Supreme Council of the States of the Co-operation Council, issued at its third meeting, in the State of Bahrain, on 23-25 Muharram, 1403 A.H., corresponding to 9-11 November, 1982 A.D., ordering the conversion of the Saudi Arabian Board of Specifications and Standards into a Gulf Board concerned with Specifications and Standards in the States of Council, and

Based on what was sanctioned by the Commercial Co-operation Committee in its second meeting in Bahrain on Monday 4 Muharram, 1404 A.H., corresponding to 10 October 1983 A.D., to the effect that this conversion would be gradual, therefore

The Minister of State for Financial Affairs and Industry in the United Arab Emirates, and

The Minister of Commerce and Agriculture in the State of Bahrain, and

The Minister of Commerce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and

The Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Sultanate of Oman, and

The Minister of Economy and Commerce in the State of Qatar, and

The Minister of Oil and Industry in the State of Kuwait At the third meeting of the Administrative Council of the Board on 11 Shawwal, 1405 A.H., corresponding to 29 June 1985 A.D., approved the following:

Article (1):

Within the framework of the Co-operation Council, a board will be established to be named "The Board of Specifications and Standards of the States of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf", hereinafter referred to as "The Board". It will be based in Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Article (2):

Definitions

The following appellations, whenever they appear in this Statute, will bear the following meanings:

1. **Co-operation Council:**
 The Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf.
2. **The Board:**
 The Board of Specifications and Standards of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
3. **Gulf Standard Specification:**
 The standard specification issued by the Board.
4. **The Administrative Council:**
 The Administrative Council of the Board.
5. **The Council Chairman:**
 The Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Board.
6. **The Secretary General:**
 The Secretary General of the Board.
7. **The Year:**
 The Hejira Year.

Article (3):

The Board will possess a legal personality and it will have an independent budget.

Article (4):

The Board will be concerned with the following:

1. Legislative affairs concerned with specifications and standards in the States of the Council, and it alone will prepare, sanction and publish the Gulf Standard Specifications for commodities and products and the apparatus for measurements, verification, definitions, symbols, technical terms, conditions for implementation and methods of inspection, testing and verification, etc.
2. To prepare, print and publish the standard specifications in co-operation with the Member States.
3. To follow up the implementation of the approved specifications through the evaluatory apparatus in each Member State.
4. To prepare a comprehensive plan for undertaking evaluation operations in the States of the Council in all fields, and to distribute its workload among the Member States according to their capabilities.
5. To organize legal and industrial verification operations.
6. To undertake research projects and studies in connection with the operations of the Board.
7. To set up regulations for granting marks of quality and certificates of conformance for products.
8. To publish guidance and information in measuring.
9. To store information connected to the operations of the Board for the good of the States of the Co-operation Council.
10. To prepare and organize training plans in the various domains of the Board.
11. To offer technical assistance to the Member States.
12. To participate as an observer in regional and international organisations which are related to measuring and which serve the purposes of the Board.

Article (5):

1. The Administrative Council will consist of the minister concerned or whomever deputizes for him from each Member State. Participating in its meetings, but without voting rights, will be the Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs of the Secretariat General of the Co-operation Council, and the Director General of the Saudi Arabian Board of Specifications and Standards.
2. The Administrative Council will be headed by one of the representatives of the Member States for the period of one year. He will be chosen from one of the concerned ministers according to the procedure followed in the regulations of the Co-operation Council and, in the event of his absence, the minister next in order will deputize for him.
3. The Administrative Council will meet at least twice annually on the invitation of the chairman, or whomever deputizes for him, or at the request of one third of the Members. The meeting will not be valid unless a majority of the members are present among whom will be the chairman of the Council or whomever among the members of the Council deputizes for him.
4. Approval of the specifications of the Board will be by unanimous vote of the Members of the Administrative Council present, and all States will be obliged to approve these standard specifications. Other decisions will be made by majority vote of those present and in the event of a tie, the side on which the chairman votes will prevail.

Article (6):

The Administrative Council of the Board will be concerned with all its affairs and it will do everything necessary to help the Board perform its duties in a satisfactory manner. In so doing, it will:

1. Draw up the general policy of the Board.
2. Pay attention to the recommendations, reports, studies, projects and specifications which are presented to it by the Secretary General or whomever it commissions to prepare them.
3. Appoint the Secretary General for a period of three years, subject to renewal one time only.
4. Approve the organization chart of the Board.
5. Approve the Gulf Standard Specifications.

6. Approve the budget of the Board.
7. Ratify the final accounts of the Board, appoint a certified accountant and establish his fee.
8. Approve all plans, programs, regulations and technical, administrative and financial rules for ensuring the proper functioning of the Board.
9. The Administrative Council of the Board will submit periodic reports to the Ministerial Council on the operations of the Board.

Article(7):

The Secretary General will take charge of implementing the decisions of the Administrative Board and do the necessary follow-up work ensuing therefrom. He will exercise the authorities of executive administration. In so doing, he will:

1. Prepare the technical, administrative and financial plans and programmes of the Board.
2. Facilitate the technical, administrative and financial affairs of the Board.
3. Seek the help of whatever experts, technicians, administrators or workers who were citizens of the States of the Co- operation Council who may be required for the smooth running of the work of the Board, and to fix their emoluments according to rules approved by the Administrative Council.
4. To enter into contracts with experts, technicians, administrators and workers who are not citizens of the Gulf Co- operation Council and who may be required for the smooth running of the work of the Board and to fix their emoluments according to rules approved by the Administrative Council.
5. To engage in technical co-operation with specialized technical offices for developing the operations of the Board within the authorities with which he is empowered.
6. To form specialized technical committees from the member States which are necessary in preparing the specification projects or studies, etc.
7. To represent the Board in local, international and regional quarters.
8. To assemble the meetings of the Administrative Council and prepare the working agenda.
9. To undertake whatever duties he may be assigned by the Administrative Council of the Board.

Article (8):

The Board and its regional offices in each State of the Member States will enjoy a legal personality--as the Board enjoys--as will its offices, the Secretary General and whomever of its employees who are deemed suitable by the Administration. Also its fixed assets, monies, moveables--in the regions of the Member States--will enjoy the concessions and immunities which are accorded to the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.

Article (9):

The financial resources of the Board will be composed of the following:

- A. The credits which are assigned to it by the Member States.
- B. Whatever gifts and subsidies may be approved by the Council.
- C. Whatever other resources the Board may secure.

Article (10):

The interpretation of this Statute or any amendments to it falls within the jurisdiction of the Administrative Council.

Article (11):

This Statute took effect on the date on which it was signed by the Ministers concerned, i.e., Monday 11 Rabi al-Thani, 1406 A.H., corresponding to 23 December, 1985 A.D. Each member State will ratify and issue it according to regulations followed therein.

The Minister of State for Financial Affairs and Industry in the United Arab Emirates

The Minister of Commerce and Agriculture in the State of Bahrain

The Minister of Commerce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Sultanate of Oman

The Minister of Economy and Commerce in the State of Qatar

The Minister of Oil and Industry in the State of Kuwait (6)

B: Economic Documents of the GCC

B.1.: Unified Economic Agreement

The Unified Economic Agreement between the Countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

With the help of God the Almighty;

The Governments of the Member States of the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council;

In accordance with the Charter thereof, which calls for closer relations and stronger links; and, desiring to develop extend and enhance their economic ties on solid foundations, in the best interest of their peoples and for the sake of working to co-ordinate and standardize their economic, financial and monetary policies, as well as their commercial and industrial legislation, and Customs regulations have agreed as follows:

Chapter One

Trade Exchange

Article I

- a The Member States shall permit the importation and exportation of agricultural, animal, industrial and natural resource products that are of national origin. Also, they shall permit exportation thereof to other Member States.
- b All agricultural, animal, industrial and natural resource products that are from Member States shall receive the same treatment as national products.

Article 2

- 1 All agricultural, animal, industrial and natural resource products that are of national origin shall be exempt from customs duties and other charges having equivalent effect.
- 2 Fees charges for specific services such as demurrage, storage, transportation, freight or unloading, shall not be considered as customs duties when they are levied on domestic products.

Article 3

- 1 For products of national origin to qualify as national manufactured products, the value added ensuing from their production in Member States shall not be less than 40% of their final value as at the termination of the

production phase. In addition Member States citizens' share in the ownership of the producing plant shall not be less than 51%.

- 2 Every item enjoying exemption hereby shall be accompanied by a certificate of origin duly authenticated by the appropriate government agency control.

Article 4

- 1 Member States shall establish a uniform minimum Customs tariff applicable to the products of countries other than G.C.C. Member States.
- 2 One of the objectives of the uniform Customs tariff shall be the protection of national products from foreign competition.
- 3 The uniform Customs tariff shall be implemented gradually within five years from the date on which this agreement becomes effective. Arrangements for its gradual implementation shall be agreed upon within one year from the said date.

Article 5

Member States shall grant all facilities for the transit of any Member State's goods to other Member States, exempting them from all duties and taxes whatsoever, without prejudice to the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Article 2.

Article 6

Transit shall be denied to any goods that are barred from entry into the territory of a Member State by its local regulations. Lists of such goods shall be exchanged between the Customs authorities of the Member States.

Article 7

Member States shall co-ordinate their commercial policies and relations with other states and regional economic groupings and blocks with a view to creating balanced trade relations and equitable circumstances and terms of trade therewith.

To achieve this goal, the Member States shall make the following arrangements:

- 1 Co-ordination of import/export policies and regulations
- 2 Co-ordination of policies for building up strategic food stocks
- 3 Conclusion of collective economic agreements in cases where joint benefits to Member States would be realized

- 4 Taking of action for the creation of collective negotiating power to strengthen their negotiating position vis-a-vis foreign parties in the field of importation of basic needs and exportation of major products

Chapter Two

The Movement of Capital and Individuals and the Exercise of Economic Activities

Article 8

The Member States shall agree on executive principles to ensure that each Member State shall grant the citizens of all other Member States the same treatment as is granted to its own citizens without any discrimination of differentiation in the following field:

- 1 Freedom of movement, work and residence
- 2 Right of ownership, inheritance and bequest
- 3 Freedom of exercising economic activity
- 4 Free movement of capital

Article 9

The Member States shall encourage their respective private sectors to establish joint ventures in order to link their citizens' economic interests in various spheres of activity.

Chapter Three

Co-ordination of Development

Article 10

The Member States shall endeavour to achieve the co-ordination and harmonization of their respective development plans with a view to achieving integration in economic affairs.

Article 11

- 1 The Member States shall endeavour to co-ordinate their policies with regard to all aspects of the oil industry including extraction, refining,

marketing, processing, pricing, the exploitation of natural gas, and development of energy sources

- 2 The Member States shall endeavour to formulate unified oil policies and adopt common positions vis-a-vis the outside world, and in international and specialized organizations

Article 12

To achieve the objectives specified in this Agreement, the Member States shall

- 1 Co-ordinate industrial activities, formulate policies and mechanisms which will lead to industrial development and the diversification of their products on an integrated basis
- 2 Standardize their industrial legislation and regulations and guide their local production units to meet their needs
- 3 Allocate industries between Member States according to relative advantages and economic feasibility, and encourage the establishment of basic as well as ancillary industries

Article 13

Within the framework of their co-ordinating activities, the Member States shall pay special attention to the establishment of joint ventures in the fields of industry, agriculture and services, and shall support them with public, private or mixed capital in order to achieve economic integration, productive interface, and common development on sound economic bases

Chapter Four

Technical Co-operation

Article 14

The Member States shall collaborate a finding spheres for common technical co-operation aimed at building a genuine local base founded on encouragement and support of research and applied sciences and technology as well as adapting imported technology to meet the needs of the region and to achieve the objectives of progress and development

Article 15

Member States shall establish procedures, make arrangement and lay down terms for the transfer of technology, selecting the most suitable for introducing such changes thereto as would serve their various needs. Member States shall

also, whenever feasible, conclude uniform agreements with foreign governments and scientific or commercial organizations to achieve these objectives

Article 16

Member States shall formulate policies and implement co-ordinated programs for technical, vocational and professional training and qualification at all levels and stages. They shall also develop educational curricula at all levels to link education and technology with the development needs of the Member States

Article 17

Member States shall co-ordinate their manpower policies and shall formulate uniform and standardized criteria and classifications for the various categories of occupations and crafts in different sectors in order to avoid harmful competition among themselves and to optimize the utilization of available human resources

Chapter Five

Transport and Communications

Article 18

Member States shall accord passenger and cargo transportation belonging to citizens of the other Member States, when transiting or entering its territory, the same treatment they accord to the means of passenger and cargo transportation belonging to their own citizens, including exemption from all duties and taxes, whatsoever. However, local means of transportation are excluded

Article 19

- 1 Member States shall co-operate in the fields of land and sea transportation, and communications. They shall also co-ordinate and establish infrastructure projects such as seaports, airports, water and power stations and roads, with a view to realizing joint economic development and the linking of their economic activities with each other
- 2 The contracting states shall co-ordinate aviation and air transport policies among them and promote all areas of joint action at various levels

Article 20

Member States shall allow steamers, ships and boats and their cargoes, belonging to any Member State freely to use the various port facilities and grant them the same treatment and privileges granted to their own in docking or calling at

the ports as concerns fees, pilotage and docking services, freight, loading and unloading, maintenance, repair, storage of goods and other similar services

Chapter Six

Financial and Monetary Co-operation

Article 21

Member States shall seek to unify investment rules and regulations in order to achieve a joint investment policy aimed at directing their domestic and foreign investments towards serving their interest, and realising their peoples' aspirations for development and progress

Article 22

Member States shall seek to co-ordinate their financial, monetary and banking policies and enhance co-operation between monetary agencies and central banks, including the endeavour to establish a joint currency in order to further their desired economic

Article 23

Member States shall seek to co-ordinate their external policies in the sphere of international and regional development aid

Chapter Seven

Closing Provisions

Article 24

In the execution of the Agreement and determination of the procedures resulting therefrom, consideration shall be given to differences in the levels of development as between Member States and the local development priorities of each. Any Member States may be temporarily exempted from applying such provisions of this Agreement as may be necessitated by temporary local situations that state or specific circumstances faced by it. Such exemption shall be for a specified period and shall be decided by the Supreme Council of the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf

Article 25

No Member State shall grant any non-member state any preferential privilege exceeding that granted herein

Article 26

- a This Agreement shall enter into force four months after its approval by the Supreme Council
- b This Agreement may be amended by consent of the Supreme Council

Article 27

In case of conflict with local laws and regulations of Member States, execution of the provisions of this Agreement shall prevail

Article 28

Provisions herein shall supersede any similar provisions contained in bilateral agreements. Drawn up at Riyadh on 15 Muharram 1402, corresponding to 11 November 1982 ⁽⁷⁾

B.2.: Regulations governing Transit Goods in the GCC

Regulations governing Transit Goods in the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

(These regulations have been approved by the Financial and Economical Co-operation Committee in its second meeting on June 19-20th 1982, for implementing the Fifth Article of the Unified Economic Agreement.

These regulations were effective from the First of March 1983 and were applied to commodities coming through land, sea and air).

First

Permitting the shipment of commodities in means of Transportation through the lands of all the countries signatory to the Unified Economic Agreement, without delay, restriction or discrimination on the type of the containers.

Transit containers have to meet the following conditions:-

- 1 They have to be designed for shipping commodities according to the Customs Seals System.
- 2 Possibility of the Customs Seals to be stamped easily and effectively.
- 3 Impossibility of taking out any commodities from the stamped part, or putting any thing in it, without leaving a clear spot or breaking the Customs Seals.
- 4 They should not contain unseen cavities that would make it easy to hide any commodity in them.
- 5 The uncovered means of Transportation must be packed with tight covers, tied with ropes and wrapped with a wire from outside, leaving it possible to stamp with the Customs Seals ensuring the safety of the load.

Second

Wrapping requirements

- 1 The cover must consist of a single untorn piece that would make it impossible to reach the load.
- 2 The whole truck box must be covered completely on both sides.
- 3 The cover must have certain rings fixed inside and around the cloth.

The rope must consist of one piece, in a length that would allow gathering the two sides after passing through the covers rings, and the box to be stamped by lead.

Third

Customs Seals

Customs Seals must be clear and carry the work (customs) and the country's name in Arabic.

Fourth

Transit Manifest

Means of Transportation must be accompanied with a Transit manifest according to the Layout approved by the GCC countries.

Fifth

Exceptional shipments such as the commodities which can't be wrapped but can be examined and counted are excluded from the condition provided for in paragraphs 1st, 2nd and 3rd shown above.

Sixth

Exchanging the Signatures of the Customs Officials who are authorized to sign on clearing documents and the official Customs Seals for this purpose. ⁽⁸⁾

**B.3.: Gulf Investment Corporation,
Agreement of Incorporation**

Gulf Investment Corporation, Agreement of Incorporation, 10 November 1982

The governments of United Arab Emirates, State of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sultanate of Oman, State of Qatar, and State of Kuwait, in their to attain the principles and objectives of the Arabian Gulf States Co-operation Council, desirous to achieve further co-operation and strengthen ties amongst them and realizing the importance of co-operation in the sphere of investments and developing their resources in a manner which is of benefit to their peoples, have hereby agreed to the following:

Article One

Subject to the laws of the State of Kuwait, a joint stock company to be called the Gulf Investment Corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation") has been incorporated, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and the Attached Articles of Association. The Corporation shall have a corporate entity and all the powers conducive to the attainment of its objectives.

Article Two

The head office of the Corporation and legal domicile shall be situated in the City of Kuwait, and it may establish branches and offices in any other places.

Article Three

The Corporation's period shall be for an unlimited duration.

Article Four

The Corporation's objectives are to invest its own funds and those which are deposited therewith in various investment activities inside and outside the shareholding states and to contribute towards furthering and developing the economic and financial resources of the shareholding states.

Article Five

- 1 The Corporation's capital shall be U.S.\$2,100 million divided into 2,100,000 nominal shares of U.S.\$1,000 each.
- 2 The governments which are signatories to this agreement shall subscribe equally for the share capital in the following manner:

Subscribing Government	Number of Shares	Nominal Value (U.S. Dollars)
Government of United Arab Emirates	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the State of Bahrain	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the Sultanate of Oman	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the State of Qatar	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the State of Kuwait	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000

- 3 Any shareholding government may transfer the ownership of a part not exceeding 49 percent of the total shares in the capital to its nationals, whether natural persons or corporations which have the nationality thereof and are substantively owned by the citizens of said government in pursuance of the terms and conditions set forth in the Corporation's Articles of Association.
- 4 The Corporation's capital and the subscription percentages shall be amended in accordance with the provisions of the attached Articles of Association.

Article Six

The shareholder's liability shall be limited to the extent of their respective shareholdings in the Corporation's capital. No shareholder shall be held liable by reason of its shareholding for the Corporation's obligations towards third parties.

Article Seven

Immunities and Exceptions

Corporation's Property and Operations:

- 1 The Corporation's property and assets in the contracting countries shall not be subject to nationalization, confiscation, or seizure, nor shall they be subject to sequestration or distraint save for the purposes of enforcing a final sentence given by a competent judicial authority.
- 2 The Corporation's funds, profits, and financial transactions shall be exempted from any restrictions that may be imposed by any shareholding government on conversion of currencies.
- 3 The Corporation's assets, revenues and transactions authorized under the provisions of this Agreement shall be exempted from taxes and duties in all the shareholding countries and from any deductions legally imposed in any of the aforesaid countries. Any exception from the above shall apply to the fees charged for services obtained by the Corporation from any public department. Further, the Corporation's shares shall upon the issue and negotiation thereof be exempted from all taxes and duties. This provision shall be applicable to any other securities issued by the Corporation and to the resulting interests and currencies connected therewith.

Directors and Corporation's Staff

- 4 (a) The Corporation's directors shall enjoy immunity from any execution or legal proceedings in connection with the duties performed in their official capacity or for the purposes of carrying out the Corporation's operations.
- (b) The Corporation's directors and staff shall enjoy exemption from any income taxes or fees charged for travel or residence in the host country and other shareholding countries to enable them to discharge their duties in compliance with the laws and regulations in force in each country, provided that the above shall not commit any of the shareholding governments to grant the aforesaid immunities and exemptions to any of its own nationals.

Article Eight

Applicable Provisions

The Corporation and the rights of its shareholders shall be subject to the provisions of the Agreement and the attached Articles of Association which are deemed to be an integral part of this Agreement. These provisions shall

complement the applicable laws in the host country insofar as they do not conflict with the provisions of the Agreement and the attached Articles of Association.

Article Nine

Settlement of Disputes

- 1 Where any dispute arises amongst the contracting governments or between any of them and the Corporation over the interpretation or application of the provision of this Agreement and the attached Articles of Association, the parties to such dispute shall seek an amicable settlement thereof through negotiations. Where a settlement is not reached through negotiations within 90 days from the request of the party seeking such negotiations, the dispute shall be referred to arbitration before one arbitrator or more in accordance with the provisions of the following sub-clauses.
- 2 The arbitration proceedings shall commence by a notice given by the party seeking the arbitration to the other party or parties in the dispute. The said notice shall set out the nature of the dispute, the award sought and the name of the arbitrator nominated by such party. The other party or parties shall within 30 days from the date of giving such notice advise the party seeking the arbitration and any other parties the name of the arbitrator nominated thereby. The arbitrators shall within 30 days from the appointment of the second arbitrator nominate an umpire who shall preside over an Arbitration Board and shall have a casting vote in case of the equality of the votes.
- 3 Where any party fails to nominate an umpire within 30 days from the date of the notice given thereto by the party seeking the arbitration or if the arbitrators disagree over the nomination of an umpire within the period fixed for this purpose, the said arbitrator as well as the umpire shall be nominated by the Secretary General of the Gulf Co-operation Council.
- 4 Notwithstanding sub-clauses 2 and 3 of this Article, the parties to the dispute may agree to the reference of such dispute to one arbitrator who shall be nominated by the unanimous consent of the parties within 30 days from the date of the notice given by the party seeking the arbitration. Should the parties fail to agree on such arbitrator, he shall be appointed by the Secretary General of the Gulf Co-operation Council. This arbitrator shall have all the powers and duties of the Arbitration Board referred to in this Article.

Article Ten

Amendment of the Agreement

This Agreement shall be amended with respect to the Corporation's share capital and shareholding percentages in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. Any matters which are not dealt with herein shall be amended by the consent of the shareholding countries.

Article Eleven

Enforcement

This Agreement will come into force after six months from the date of its ratification by the GCC Supreme Council. ⁽⁹⁾

B.4.: Gulf Investment Corporation, Articles of Association

Gulf Investment Corporation, Articles of Association, 10 November 1982

Chapter 1: Incorporation

Article One

A joint stock company to be called the Gulf Investment Corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation") has been incorporated in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement of Incorporation and these Articles of Association.

Article Two

Head Office and Legal Domicile

The head office of the Corporation and legal domicile shall be situated in the City of Kuwait, and it may establish branches and offices in other places.

Article Three

The Corporation's period shall be for an unlimited duration.

Article Four

Objectives

- 1 The Corporation shall invest its own funds and those which are deposited therewith in various investment activities inside and outside the shareholding states and shall contribute towards furthering and developing the economic and financial resources of the shareholding states. It shall in particular carry out the following activities:
 - (a) Investment in shares and stock of various companies which includes but is not limited to industrial, commercial, trust, real estate, mining, and tourism companies either directly or through stock exchanges.
 - (b) Investment of funds in various securities - in addition to shares - such as certificates of deposit, bonds of various terms, and other such negotiable instruments.
 - (c) Promotion of projects and investing therein with the purpose of realizing profits, particularly such joint ventures which may serve the aims of co-operation amongst the shareholding countries with a view to developing their economies and achieving integration between them.

- (d) Establishing or participating in establishing industrial, agricultural, commercial, mining, service, and other projects without limitation.
 - (e) Undertaking real estate investments of various kinds with the aim of development, including the policy of leasing and letting.
 - (f) Investment in various currencies, metals, commodities, immovable assets and chattels.
 - (g) Acquisition of rights, concessions, and patents and benefiting therefrom.
- 2 Arrangement of extending and managing loans or participating in giving loans and issuing guarantees.
 - 3 Undertaking the issuing of shares, stock and other such negotiable instruments.
 - 4 Managing investment portfolios for the account of third parties and acting as agent or trustee.
 - 5 Borrowing and issuing debenditures.
 - 6 Conducting studies and surveys relating to the investment of capital and exploring investment projects which are conducive to the realization of the Corporation's objectives. Further, the Corporation shall offer advice and investment services to third parties.
 - 7 The Corporation may have an interest in or otherwise participate in any manner whatsoever in companies and organizations which carry out similar business activities or which may assist it in the realization of its objectives. The Corporation may further hold controlling shares therein or fully own such organizations.

Article Five

Investment Policy

The Corporation shall seek to observe the following principles in the course of undertaking its investments operations:

- 1 Maintaining its assets and financial conditions in keeping with stable business and financial practices.
- 2 Diversifying its investments in terms of currencies and the financial markets of its investments and such other considerations in order to protect and develop the Corporation.

- 3 Dealing with local and foreign financial institutions and banks on the basis of their efficiency and financial reputation.
- 4 Emphasizing sound investment and financial markets and exploring other new markets having attractive investment opportunities.

CHAPTER II: CORPORATION'S SHARE CAPITAL

Article Six

- 1 The Corporation's capital shall be U.S.\$2,100 million divided into 2,100,000 nominal shares of U.S.\$1,000 each.
- 2 The governments which are signatories to this Agreement shall subscribe equally for the share capital in the following manner:

Subscribing Government	Number of Shares	Nominal Value (U.S. Dollars)
Government of United Arab Emirates	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the State of Bahrain	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the Sultanate of Oman	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the State of Qatar	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000
Government of the State of Kuwait	350,000 shares	U.S.\$ 350,000,000

Article Seven

- 1 The subscribers to the Corporation's share capital shall pay 20 percent of the full nominal value of the shares subscribed for within 90 days from the effective date of the Agreement of Incorporation. Such payment shall be made to an account to be opened for this purpose with one bank or more of the licensed banks in the host country. Such amounts may not be withdrawn except by a resolution adopted by the constituent General Assembly.

- 2 The balance of the nominal value of the shares shall be paid within five years from the date of the first payment in the manner and on the dates to be determined by the Board of Directors provided that the shareholders shall be given notice of such dates at least 30 days before becoming due.
- 3 Every delayed payment in respect of each share shall bear annual interest of 15 percent unless the Board of Directors decides on an alternative rate.

Article Eight

All shares in the Corporation's share capital shall be nominal and each shall be indivisible.

Article Nine

- 1 Share certificates shall be issued out of a book with counterfoils bearing serial numbers to be signed by the Board chairman and another member of the Board of Directors and shall be stamped by the Corporation's common seal. The certificate shall include such particulars as the nominal value of the shares, the number, and date of the Amiri Decree chartering the establishment of the Corporation, amount of the Corporation's capital, number of shares into which it is divided, objectives, head office and duration.
- 2 The Corporation may issue certificates representing groups of shares upon the request of any shareholder and subject to any conditions laid down by the Board of Directors. Such certificates shall be issued in place of individual certificates given in respect of each share respectively or in exchange for returning the said certificates for revocation thereof.

Article Ten

- 1 Any shareholding government may transfer the ownership of a part not exceeding 49 percent of its total shares in the capital to its nationals, whether natural persons or corporations which have the nationality thereof and are substantively owned by the citizens of said government provided that relations between such government and its citizens shall be governed by such terms and conditions as it deems fit. The government shall also have all the right and obligations arising from the shares as assigned to its citizens towards the Corporation.
- 2 Where any of the Corporation's shares devolve by way of inheritance or will from one of the nationals of any shareholding government to a national of another shareholding government, the government of the state to whom the testator or executor of the will enjoyed its citizenship shall be entitled to purchase such shares at their prevailing market value, but

in case of any disagreement over the determination of such value it shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. Where any of the Corporation's shares are transferred in the abovementioned manner to non- nationals of the shareholding countries, the government of the state to whom the testator or executor of the will enjoyed its citizenship shall purchase such shares in the manner herein provided.

Article Eleven

- 1 Without prejudice to Article 10 of these Articles of Association, any shareholder may transfer all or part of his shares to third parties from the nationals of its countries and corporate organizations having nationality thereof, provided that the Board of Directors may at any time lift this restriction and authorize the negotiation of shares amongst the nationals of shareholding countries and the corporate organizations having nationality thereof. The Board of Directors may also set down the relevant conditions in this respect.

Article Twelve

Every shareholder shall only be liable to the extent of the unpaid part of the shares held by it and its obligations may not be increased in excess of this limit.

Article Thirteen

Ownership of shares shall result in acceptance of the provisions of the Corporation's Agreement of Incorporation, Articles of Association, and resolutions passed by the General Assembly.

Article Fourteen

Each share shall confer upon its owner a proportionate share which is equal to any share held by another without any discrimination as to dividends, subject always to the provisions appearing below.

Article Fifteen

The name of the last shareholder whose name is recorded in the Corporation's register shall have the sole right to take receipt of the sums accruing in respect of each share whether by way of dividends or as part of the assets.

Article Sixteen

- 1 The Corporation's capital may be increased by the issue of new shares or by the capitalization of of reserves by a resolution of the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly, which may decide the terms and conditions of issuing such new shares.
- 2 No new shares may be issued in excess of the nominal value thereof. However, if they are issued at more than such value, the difference shall be considered as an issue premium to be added to to the legal reserve when the issue expenses have been met.
- 3 Every shareholding government shall have the priority to subscribe for the new shares in proportion to the shares held by itself and by its nationals and corporate organizations enjoying the nationality thereof as against the total shares of the Corporation. The shareholding governments shall be given a 15-day period from the date of the notice regarding such new subscription to exercise this right. The shares remaining shall be offered to the shareholding governments wishing to subscribe therefore in the same manner herein abovementioned unless these governments resolve against subscribing for any further shares.

Article Seventeen

The Corporation may by a resolution of the General Assembly decide to issue categories of shares other than the ordinary shares referred to above. These shares shall be governed as to the manner of issue, priority to subscribe, negotiation thereof, and any voting rights arising therefrom by the same terms and conditions contained in these Articles.

Chapter Iii: Management

Article Eighteen

The Corporation's management shall be undertaken by a Board of Directors comprising two members representing each shareholding government, provided that one of them shall be the minister concerned with financial affairs or any minister appointed by his government.

Article Nineteen

- 1 The Board of Directors shall be chaired by a chairman and a deputy chairman and their offices will be filled in rotation every two years by the ministers representing the shareholding governments according to the alphabetical order of the names of their states.
- 2 The Board chairman is the Corporation's legal representative, and he shall be replaced by the deputy chairman in the event of his absence.

Article Twenty

The right to sign on behalf of the Corporation shall be solely vested in the Board chairman, or his deputy in the event of his absence, and the Board of Directors may nominate any other director to sign on behalf of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may empower any of the Corporation's officers to sign on its behalf after laying down any restrictions it deems fit.

Article Twenty-One

- 1 The Board of Directors shall form an Executive Committee from amongst its members to carry on under its supervision the Corporation's activities within the limits it has drawn up. The Board of Directors shall determine this Committee's powers and terms of reference.
- 2 The Board of Directors may appoint a managing director from amongst its members. Further, the Board of Directors may appoint a general manager of the Corporation.

Article Twenty-Two

The Board of Directors shall hold at least four meetings in every year upon the summons of the chairman, and also convene if not less than three directors request a board meeting. A board meeting shall be validly convened in the presence of a number of members representing no less than two-thirds of the number of shares.

Article Twenty-Three

- 1 Upon voting at any Board meeting, each shareholding state shall have a number of votes equal to the votes given thereto according to Article Thirty of these Articles.
- 2 Unless otherwise provided for, resolutions in respect of all matters reviewed by the Board of Directors shall be passed by the absolute majority of votes cast. In cases of equality of votes, the chairman shall cast the deciding vote.

Article Twenty-Four

The General Assembly shall determine the remunerations of the board members. The Board of Directors shall decide the remunerations of the managing director and the salary of the Corporation's general manager.

Article Twenty-Five

The Board of Directors shall have full powers to manage the Corporation and perform all the acts required for the management of the Corporation in accordance with its objectives. Such powers shall not be limited except to the extent provided for in these Articles of Association or in the resolutions of the General Assembly. The Board of Directors shall, in particular, be responsible for the following:

- 1 Deciding and payment of administrative expenses.
- 2 Drawing up the general policy to be followed by the Corporation, including the operations policy.
- 3 Laying down financial and administrative rules and regulations governing the Corporation's business activities.
- 4 Purchase, sale and mortgage of property and chattels and effecting any other conveyance it deems fit in respect of the Corporation's assets.
- 5 Lending and issuing guarantees.
- 6 Borrowing funds.
- 7 Entering into settlements and arbitration agreements and assignments of rights whether any such assignment is made with or without consideration.

Article Twenty-Six

A Board member shall not be held personally liable for any of the Corporation's undertakings and obligations by reason of performing his duties as director.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article Twenty-Seven

- 1 The General Assembly shall consist of members each representing one of the shareholding governments. Such representative shall be elected from one of the ministers concerned with financial affairs or any minister nominated by his government. Each representative shall be empowered to represent the shareholding nationals in addition to his own government. In this case, the ministers shall not be required to obtain any authority or power of attorney from the aforesaid nationals.
- 2 Any General Assembly meeting shall be held in the country where the head office is based, and may be held in any shreholding country upon a decision adopted by the Board of Directors.

Article Twenty-Eight

- 1 Summons to attend ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly shall be given in writing and sent by registered mail at least 30 days before the date set for such meeting. The summons shall include the agenda, which shall be prepared by the Board of Directors.
- 2 Where a meeting of the General Assembly is convened upon the request of certain shareholding governments or the auditors, the agenda of each meeting shall be prepared by whoever makes such a request. In this case, no item other than those included on the agenda shall be discussed.

Article Twenty-Nine

For an ordinary meeting of the General Assembly to be valid, it shall be attended by members representing two-thirds of the Corporation's share capital. Where such quorum is not available, summons shall be given for a second meeting which shall be validly convened in the presence of members representing more than two-thirds of the shares. Should the necessary quorum be unavailable at the second meeting, a third meeting shall be summoned in the presence of representatives of any number of shares.

Article Thirty

Upon voting at any General Assembly meeting, every shareholding state shall have 250 votes irrespective of the number of shares held. To the above votes there shall be added one vote in respect of every share held by the government or its nationals. Every representative shall cast all the votes he represents as an integral unit.

Article Thirty-One

Within 30 days from the date of publishing the Amiri Decree chartering the establishment of the Corporation, the General Assembly meeting shall be convened in a constituent capacity to report on all incorporation proceedings and to decide on incorporation expenses. At this meeting, the General Assembly shall appoint the auditors and announce the final incorporation and commencement of the Corporation's operations. Convention of the Corporation in the aforesaid capacity shall be valid if the quorum provided for in Article 29 is available.

Article Thirty-Two

The ordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be convened at least once in every year upon the summons of the Board of Directors. Such meeting shall be held within four months from the the end of the Corporation's financial year, and the Board of Directors may call a meeting of the General Assembly to be convened whenever required. The Board of Directors shall also call a meeting of the General Assembly to be convened if requested by members of two shareholding states holding at least ***** shares in the Corporation's capital.

Article Thirty-Three

The ordinary meetings of the General Assembly shall be competent to deal with all affairs of the Corporation other than those reserved by law or those Articles of Association to the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

Article Thirty-Four

The Board of Directors shall represent to the ordinary meeting of the General Assembly a report containing a comprehensive statement on the Corporation's activities, its financial position, balance sheet, and profit and loss account of the year ended, a statement concerning remunerations of the Board Directors, auditors' fees, and proposals of the Board of Directors on the distribution of profits.

Article Thirty-Five

The ordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall discuss the directors' report and adopt the decisions it deems appropriate in respect thereof. It shall also review the auditors' report, appoint the auditors for the following year, and fix their remunerations.

Article Thirty-Six

The extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be held upon the summons of the Board of Directors or upon a written request from representatives of at least two shareholding states representing at least one-third of the shares in the Corporation's capital. In this case the Board of Directors shall call the extraordinary meeting to be convened within 45 days from the date of receiving the request.

Article Thirty-Seven

The extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be validly convened in the presence of a quorum representing at least three-quarters of the Corporation's shares. If such quorum is not available at the first meeting, the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be convened upon another summons within the following 30-day period. In this latter event, the meeting shall be validly held if attended by members representing more than one-half of the shares in the Corporation's capital.

Resolutions of the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly shall be passed in all cases with the approval of members representing more than one-half of the shares in the Corporation's capital.

Article Thirty-Eight

Only the following matters may be considered by the extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly:

- 1 Amending the Corporation's Articles of Association.
- 2 Selling or otherwise disposing of the entire undertaking of the Corporation.
- 3 Liquidating the Corporation or amalgamating it with another company or organization.
- 4 Resolving to increase or reduce the capital and to redistribute the shares in consequence thereof.

Corporation's Accounts

Article Thirty-Nine

The Corporation shall have one or more auditors to be elected from amongst practicing chartered accountants to be appointed by the General Assembly which shall determine their remunerations. The auditor shall audit the accounts of the financial year for which he is appointed.

Article Forty

The Corporation's financial year shall commence on the first day of January and end on the 31st day of December of every year.

Apart from the above, the Corporation's first financial year shall commence from the date announcing the Corporation's establishment and end on the 31st day of December of the following year.

Article Forty-One

The rights and obligations of the auditor shall be governed by the provisions of the law in force in the country where the head office is based. In particular, he shall have access at all times to the Corporation's books, records and documents. He shall have the right to seek such information as he thinks necessary to obtain. He shall also have the right to verify the Corporation's assets and liabilities. Where he is unable to exercise such powers, he shall evidence this occurrence in a written report to the Board of Directors. Such report shall be referred to the General Assembly and the auditor may call the General Assembly to convene for this purpose.

Article Forty-Two

The auditor shall submit to the General Assembly a report showing whether the balance sheet and the profit and loss account are true and in order and honestly reflect the financial position of the Corporation; whether the Corporation's accounts are kept regularly and the stocktaking has been carried out according to the usual practice; whether the statements reported by the Directors are in accordance with the Corporation's books and records; whether there were any violations of the law or the Corporation's Articles which affected the Corporation's activities during the financial year in question; and whether, to the best of his knowledge, such violations are still being committed.

In this capacity as representative of all the shareholders or representatives thereof, the auditor shall be responsible for all statements contained in his report, and at any meeting of the General Assembly every stockholder shall have the right to discuss such statements and ask for any explanations.

Article Forty-Three

- 1 The General Assembly shall, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors, set aside such percentage of the gross profits as to meet the Corporation's obligations under the labor laws.
- 2 A percentage of the gross profits to be fixed by the Board of Directors shall be set aside for depreciation of the Corporation's assets or for their possible reduction in value. These funds shall be used for the purchase of materials, plant, machinery the repair thereof. Such funds may not be distributed to the shareholders.

Article Forty-Four

The net profits shall be divided as follows:

- 1 Ten percent shall be set aside for the legal reserve. The General Assembly may order that such deduction be discontinued if the legal reserve amounts to 50 percent of the capital.
- 2 A percentage no less than ten percent shall be set aside by the Board of Directors for the voluntary reserve. Such deductions may be discontinued by a resolution of the ordinary meeting of the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors. This reserve may be used for the purposes decided by the ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.
- 3 A sum shall be set aside for distribution to the shareholders as initial dividends of 5 percent of the paid-up value of their shares.
- 4 The balance shall be used for any of the following purposes or be utilized for all or some of the following purposes in the proportions recommended by the Board of Directors: (a) for distribution to the shareholders as additional dividends. (b) for any existing reserve or reserves or for those which the Board of Directors resolves to establish. (c) for carrying forward to the following year.

Article Forty-Five

Dividends shall be paid to shareholders at the place and on the dates fixed by the Board of Directors.

Article Forty-Six

The reserve fund shall, upon the resolution of the directors, be applied in such enterprises as may yield the maximum profits possible, and therefore shall not be used for the payment of dividends.

Article Forty-Seven

The Corporation's cash funds shall be deposited with one or more banks to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Article Forty-Eight

- 1 Upon its dissolution, the Corporation shall be liquidated by liquidators who shall be appointed by the General Assembly. The liquidators shall have the widest powers to verify the Corporation's assets and liabilities and their remunerations shall be fixed by the General Assembly.
- 2 Upon the appointment of the liquidators, the powers of the Board of Directors shall cease. The General Assembly shall continue to remain in being to determine the terms and conditions of the liquidation and to absolve the liquidators from liability. The General Assembly shall appoint the chairman of any meeting called to be convened by the liquidators.
- 3 When the obligations of the Corporation are satisfied and after refunding the value of the shares, the balance shall be distributed to the shareholders in proportion to the nominal amount of the shares held by them. ⁽¹⁰⁾

B.5.: Economic Declaration of the Riyadh Summit

The Economic Declaration of the Riyadh Summit

The Supreme Council, perceiving the importance of the lofty goals for which the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf was established, goals which require the continuation and broadening of all aspects of co-operation, strengthen the ties between the States of the Co-operation Council and deepen the citizens inter-relations and national feelings, and

In harmony with the lofty principles of the Islamic Sharia as well as the historical, cultural, economic, political and strategic factors of the Gulf area in particular and the Arab area in general.

In its eighth meeting held in Riyadh during the period 6-9 Jumada al-Oola 1408 A.H., corresponding to 26-29 December 1987 A.D., this Council reviewed the progress of joint action in economic, social and cultural fields in light of the provisions of the particles of the United Economic Agreement and the time table which was approved for the implementation of the stipulation of this Agreement according to the resolution adopted by the Supreme Council at its sixth meeting.

The Supreme Council observed with satisfaction the growth of commercial exchange between the Council States and the vast field of action which has been made available for the implementation of the Unified Economic Agreement. This enables the productive energies of the Gulf to serve a wider market and enables citizens to participate in reaping the fruit of economic development in the Council States. This became especially true once customs duties on agricultural, animal and industrial products as well as natural resource products of national origin were abolished and priority in government purchasing was given to national products and products of national origin and once citizens of the Council States were permitted to engage in economic activity.

The Council also noted with great satisfaction the continuous widening and deepening of practical opportunities in various fields which give native-born and naturalized citizens of the Council States the opportunity to engage in economic activities. Citizens who are professionals or who have trades are permitted to engage in their professions and trades. Furthermore, all citizens of the Council States are able to benefit from the services which are available in the domains of education, social affairs, health, capital transfer and labour.

The Supreme Council also noted with satisfaction the measures which have been taken to co-ordinate national policies and to unify the laws, rules, regulations and procedures, bringing them closer together. These are major contributions in the march toward comprehensive co-ordination.

The Supreme Council expressed its great satisfaction at the achievement of important accomplishments in various fields of co-operation, but at the same time it also affirmed its determination to rapidly complete the necessary ar-

rangements to set up the Gulf Common Market. This will be accomplished through the unification of the types and levels of customs duties applicable to goods coming from foreign countries in an effort to protect national products which are in competition with these foreign products. If necessary, this will be accomplished by competently exploiting the productive energies of the Gulf whereby the citizens will be given opportunities for sharing in the benefits of comprehensive economic development by providing them with similar commodities at suitable prices.

With this objective in mind, the Supreme Council affirmed the need for the Financial and Economic Committee to complete its consultations and reach an agreement on the unification of customs duties at the time fixed by the Supreme Council at its seventh meeting.

The Supreme Council praised the steps taken toward authorizing a common index for the currencies of the Council States. They regard this as an important step within the framework of the co-ordination of financial and monetary policies and the achievement of the Gulf Common Market.

The Supreme Council also affirmed its determination to increasingly bring policies closer together and to unify rules, regulations, laws and procedures in order to achieve economic integration and facilitate collective work in encouraging competitive development in economic activity as well as to continue the diversification and expansion of a balanced economic base in the Council States. The Supreme Council directed the Ministerial Council to evaluate the practical experiment involving the implementation of the guideline systems which were approved three or more years ago. The Ministerial Council was commissioned to propose suitable measures in light of this evaluation and to establish common systems to be implemented in the Council States. These will replace the local systems which resemble them and they will contribute to the support of the economic campaign which aims at developing, consolidating and expanding the ties which bind the Council States. The Supreme Council reaffirmed its determination and resolve to continue to adopt measures to further expand national inter-relations in order to increase the chances for citizens of the Council States to reap the fruits of joint action in all fields.

The Supreme Council appreciates the important role of the Gulf Investment Corporation in contributing to industrial development and increasing joint projects as an effective means for increasing participation in the industrial sector in overall economic activity, thus assisting in bringing the levels of development in the Council States closer together. Therefore, the Supreme Council directed the Gulf Investment Corporation and the private sector in the Member States to intensify their efforts to benefit from the investment opportunities which are being made available to them as a result of the Council's achievements in expanding the scope of its activities to include a larger number of projects in the various States of the Council.

Within the framework of relations with the outside world, the Supreme Council affirmed the importance of collective active action as a basic directive in

keeping with the spirit of co-operation and the lofty principles on which the essence of the Council is centred. The Council commended collective action vis-a-vis the principal trade partners in the Council States and in accordance with the goals and policies of co-operation with states and international economic groups. This is an effort to create suitable arrangements for economic co-operation between the Council and the trading partners of the Council States. This effort is expected to provide support for the Council in realizing its goals in the field of economic and industrial development which will in turn increase the well-being and prosperity of the citizens of the Council States. The Supreme Council expressed its hope that the trading partners will respond positively to the objectives and aspirations of the Council States in furthering their true desire to establish continuing fruitful co-operation in the service of common interests and in the exchange of benefits.

The Supreme Council reviewed the recommendations of the second joint meeting between the Ministerial Council and the Financial and Economic Co-operation Committee regarding ways for furthering the collective good through collective action. It approved the implementation of these recommendations hoping to improve the efficiency of the Council and facilitate joint action in the service of the excellent goals for which the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf was established.

Issued in the City of Riyadh on 9 Jumada al-Oola 1408 A.H., corresponding to 29 December 1987 A.D.. (11)

C: Common Policies

C.1.: Common Agricultural Policy of the GCC States

Common Agricultural Policy of the GCC States, February 1984

I. The Task

This paper presents a draft GCC common agricultural policy. The policy is placed within the framework of its premises and basic assumptions, the parameters for joint action, and the elements or functions within such parameters that are necessary to put the proposed policy into effect.

This paper was prepared pursuant to the resolution adopted by the GCC ministers of agriculture on 10 January 1983, which stated:

In order to achieve agricultural integration among the GCC states in accordance with a uniform strategy based on the optimum utilization of available water resources, and to provide for food security from national sources, the Secretariat General is hereby charged with drafting a common agricultural policy based on self-development, increasing production, and encouraging joint projects in which the private sector participates.

II. Fundamentals of the Common Agricultural Policy

The aforementioned ministerial resolution laid down a number of premises and assumptions for a common agricultural policy, which may be defined and its objectives broken down as follows:

- 1 The policy must be based on a uniform strategy that may be defined as a uniform set of directives (policies and legislations that give them effect) and local development enterprises (plans and projects) as well as joint agriculture development plans that supplement and support the local effort, all of which together seek to accomplish specific social and economic objectives within a specified time frame. With this in mind, the strategy should be a practical expression of a common agricultural policy.
- 2 A common agricultural policy would seek to achieve, through a uniform strategy, the agricultural integration of the GCC states, which may be defined as a state of a functional relationship (or co-ordination) between the means and objectives of agricultural development in the GCC states on the one hand, and a state of organic relationship (or integration) between the human, financial, and natural resources and capabilities that are required for a common agricultural development program, on the other. The strategy should be selected with a view to supplementing and supporting, and not supplanting, local efforts, and would be based on securing reciprocal and balanced benefits to the co-operating parties. Agricultural integration therefore would seek, through co-ordinating local efforts and supporting them by joint complementary efforts, to

trigger and expedite the growth of agricultural production and to make such efforts more efficient.

- 3 This policy must seek the optimum utilization of the available natural resources (particularly irrigation water). This would require the intensification and rationalization of both local and joint efforts in two areas: (a) completing survey and exploration work for these resources and establishing efficient organizations for their utilization, and (b) a series of technical and regulatory measures that are required for rationalizing the utilization and conservation of such resources.
- 4 The policy must also seek to realize the highest level of self-sufficiency, particularly in regard to basic food commodities. The existing information on the available natural resources, both presently exploited or exploitable in the future, and on present and potential production levels, indicates that the GCC states can obtain a high degree of self-sufficiency in vegetable production and fish, and a limited one in fruits. The GCC states have taken big strides in the production of eggs and poultry, and are expected to attain self-sufficiency in the not-too-distant future. It should be noted, however, that this growth was in fact based on changing from the importation of finished products to the importation of primary and secondary products (feed, breeding hens and equipment). The GCC states may maintain the present level of dairy production (about 25 percent of consumption). The growth being experienced by this sector (albeit less than in poultry production), however, is dependent on the increased import of milch cows, concentrated feed, and the dried milk powder and fat that are used for reconstituting milk and other dairy products by most dairy plants in the GCC states. An improvement is expected in the level of self-sufficiency in grain, particularly in wheat production, thanks to the generous support extended by Saudi Arabia. As a matter of fact, Saudi Arabia came close to achieving self-sufficiency last season. Judged by the size of planted areas, it is certain that it will go over the level of self-sufficiency this season. The production of rice and maize will remain low, however (about eight percent for maize and nil for rice). A common agricultural policy that seeks a satisfactory and acceptable level of food security must therefore have the extra dimension of devising suitable formulae for co-operation between the GCC states and the other Arab countries, particularly the adjacent ones.
- 5 An object of common agricultural policy should be to underscore and promote the role of the private sector in agriculture and related and complementary fields, such as the production input industry and the manufacturing and marketing of agricultural products. Such a policy must be based on the following considerations:
 - (a) Responsibility for agricultural production and related and complementary production activity must be borne in the private sector except in certain cases, phases, and areas where the private sector is unable to provide the cash flow needed for achieving the stated

objective. Even in such cases, entry by the public sector into most such investments must be temporary and until the rise of objective conditions that would enable the private sector to cover these investments.

- (b) The task of the states and their public sector investments, exercised through their local and joint efforts under the uniform strategy, is to concentrate on providing the foundation and structural support needed for encouraging private initiative to modern production methods, and for developing and modernizing traditional methods. This task involves a long series of actions that include providing the material infrastructure for production and crop marketing, and providing the basic needs of rural inhabitants. Foundation support included providing easy financing, price support, vocational training, technology creation and transfer, discovery of natural resources and protection from abusive exploitation, protecting the environment from pollution, and, finally, regulating production relationships, including ownership, in such a way as to provide incentives and guarantee continuous attractive and fair returns for the efforts of producers.
- (c) The policy of supporting the private sector must seek to balance and integrate modern and traditional methods of production whenever such circumstances obtain.

Areas where such balance and integration are needed in the GCC states are the production of fish and livestock. A large traditional sector exists in both these areas in the form of professional fishermen and nomads and semi-nomadic herdsman. Both these areas, moreover, have become the areas for new investment in the form of trawler fleets, animal husbandry, and dairy production. In addition to the importance of maintaining a balance in the growth of the traditional and the modern sectors, good possibilities exist for them to be mutually complementary and supportive.

III. Perimeters of Joint Common Agricultural Policy Action

In order to transform the common agricultural policy into a strategy, the main programs of common action and their components must first be defined, for they form collectively the basis on which a uniform agricultural policy stands. This necessarily requires achieving balance and consonance between the implementing features of each program. The joint action program for a uniform strategy involves:

- (1) a joint program to co-ordinate local agricultural plans and policies;
- (2) a joint program for agriculture and food production;
- (3) a joint program for surveying, exploiting, and conserving natural resources, and

- (4) a joint program for agricultural research and technology development.

1. Joint Program for Agriculture and Food Production

This program seeks to achieve a long-term view of the conditions of agriculture and food in the GCC states. It examines projected demand and the possibility of producing various agricultural commodities. It also seeks for the GCC states to prepare their development plans and agricultural policies in the light of this view in order to attain agreed production targets. This, in return, would require both a uniform method of agricultural planning and co-ordination of agricultural policies. To realize this end, the program should contain the following:

- (a) **Projections.** Such studies, by adopting a sound scientific methodology, seek to project demand and production of agricultural commodities over a long period (A.D. 2000) and over specific intervals (e.g. every five years), as well as the possible alternatives available to each GCC state. Demand projections will take account of the growth of population, per capita income, consumer spending, and changes in eating habits. Production projections will take into account the available natural resources, production capacity, technological level, crop yields and the influence of agricultural policies on prodding production. One result of such studies is estimating production inputs that are necessary for achieving a limited rate of growth, such as natural and financial resources, material production input, labor, and infrastructure. Such studies would obviously provide a scientific foundation for agricultural development planning on both the local and the common levels, and hence provide the basis for a uniform strategy.
- (b) **Uniform Agricultural Planning Methodology.** Projecting future supply and demand for agricultural commodities would require local agricultural plans to share a common methodology and time frame. This would permit co-ordination, monitoring accomplishments, defining obstacles, and determining the policies and procedures necessary for achieving the stated goal. In other words, such a unification would permit the use of a common language for the formulation and evaluation of such plans. Studies of several agricultural plans in Arab countries reveal a great diversity in the methodology employed, their data base, and the extent of their coverage of various aspects of agricultural and rural development plans. Such a study may provide a scientific basis for the proposed standardized methodology. Recourse for guidance may be made to the study being prepared by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development.
- (c) **Co-ordinating Agricultural Policies.** The co-ordination of local agricultural plans that are formulated within the framework of the uniform strategy would depend on the co-ordination of the agricultural policies concerned. This, in turn, would require a comprehensive study of such policies (and their implementing legislation). Such a study would uncover

the gaps in the policy, the extent of success in achieving stated goals, and ways of developing it into a more effective policy. Agricultural policies may be divided into two groupings:

- (i) Economic and financial policies. These include development financing, investment financing, and agricultural credit as well as pricing, supporting agricultural products and production inputs, and protecting local production from foreign competitors.
- (ii) Technical policies. These include:
 - Policies regarding the use and conservation of such natural resources as water, soil, grazing grounds, forests, and livestock, checking desertification, and protecting the environment from pollution.
 - Policies regarding agricultural production that relate to crop yields and the role of the traditional and modern sectors and the public and private sectors, as well as the policy of state support with respect to the role of the state in the creation and the transfer of technology, vocational training, and providing inputs for modern production methods.
 - Policies that govern production relationships, the most important of which are land and crop ownership, labor productivity, returns from agriculture in comparison with other economic sectors, the provision of other basic necessities to rural communities, and incentives to persons working in agriculture.
 - Policies regarding marketing and manufacturing, the extent of interconnection between marketing and manufacturing, the role of manufacturing and marketing in stabilizing and invigorating agricultural production, and the role of the private and public sectors.

2. Joint Program for Agricultural and Food Production

Pursuant to the policy of promoting the role of the private sector in agriculture and in other related and complementary profitable investment (producing and manufacturing production imports, marketing, and manufacturing), this program seeks to provide material and organizational support for the traditional and modern sides of the private sector with a view to increasing investment in this field and making it more efficient, and the creation of objective conditions necessary for its stability and confidence. This, however, should not exclude the public sector from participation in such investments when such participation serves the public interest and does not discourage private initiative. The objectives of the unified strategy would require the entry of the public sector in certain endeavors, phases, and areas where the private sector is unable, or is

reluctant to enter because of lack of experience or because such endeavors do not realize attractive financial returns in their early stages.

The above-mentioned program for co-ordinating local plans and policies would lead to intensifying and harmonizing local efforts to encourage and support both the local and the common private sector in investing in available agricultural projects. The joint programs (natural resources, technology development) detailed below would support such efforts through joint programs that have the requisite technical and economic feasibility.

Opportunities for joint ventures in the GCC states are available in the following fields:

- (a) Manufacturing and marketing of fish production.
- (b) Agriculture and industry-based inputs for agriculture.
- (c) Manufacture of imported primary agricultural materials.

It should be pointed out in this connection that in view of such features of agriculture in the GCC states as the scarcity of natural agricultural resources (except for fish in the territorial waters of some states) on the one hand, and the abundance of financial resources in most of the states on the other, the opportunities for joint-venture financing in the fields of agriculture are necessarily limited and hence opportunities mainly lie in the three above fields of endeavor.

The opportunity for fish production is basically available in some GCC states, while the opportunity for marketing exists in the other states and perhaps in several other Arab countries.

In regard to production inputs for agriculture, the preliminary information available indicates the existence of good joint-venture opportunities, most significantly in:

- (1) Industrial-based chemical fertilizers, insecticides, and agricultural implements. The last category includes fishing boats, nets, and equipment; such farming structures as cow sheds, chicken coops, grain silos, cold stores, irrigation machinery and pumps, plastics used for shielded crops, etc. It is believed that the rise of such industries in the GCC states is economically and technically feasible due to the availability of cheap power sources and raw materials from petroleum and petroleum products. Co-operation by the GCC states in such industrial fields is expected to lead to the rise of a broad range of industries to meet the demand in said states as well as Arab and non-Arab markets for such products.
- (2) Agriculture-based. The production of improved seed and seedlings, poultry hens, artificial insemination of livestock, and veterinary vaccines. It is believed that there are good opportunities in such fields for joint-venture investments and marketing in the GCC states.

Finally, and in view of the dependence of the GCC states on a large number of agricultural imports, it is possible to reduce the financial burdens involved through expanding the industry that utilizes imported primary agricultural products instead of importing manufactured goods. This already occurs in such fields as flour, dairies, meat, vegetable oils, and feed. It seems that large opportunities for expansion in this field still exist, especially in such areas as cotton and woollen textiles, tanning, and a number of food industries. Specifying joint venture opportunities in the area of agricultural production would obviously require detailed studies.

3. Joint Program for Surveying, Exploiting, and Conserving Natural Resources

THis included water resources,(both surface and underground), land and soil, natural grazing grounds, flocks, wild animals, forests, and fishing grounds.

The prevailing conditions with respect to most agricultural resources in the GCC states require upgrading the present limited efforts geared toward studying, surveying, conserving, developing, and rationalizing the exploitation of such resources.

It is believed that sufficient objective justifications exist for the joint performance by adjacent GCC states of many of these tasks. This is because either some resources are shared by more than one state (as in the case of underground water basins) or because of their characteristic movement or the movement of influencing factors, such as grazing livestock, the spread of animal and plant diseases and plights (e.g. desert locust and bovine pox), and the movement of sand dunes and schools of fish in marine fishing grounds, environmental pollution, etc. Local efforts in most such fields obviously cannot achieve positive results unless they are fully co-ordinated with similar efforts in other GCC states.

The most significant opportunities for joint ventures in the field of natural resources are:

- (a) Upgrading, developing, and completing surveys of water resources, land, soil, marine fisheries, natural grazing grounds, grazing livestock, and wildlife by scientific foundations or local universities.
- (b) Undertaking joint projects to monitor the condition of these resources and changes occurring thereto by reason of natural factors (e.g. climate), or human action (e.g. environmental pollution, and abusive exploitation), and carrying out joint projects (or co-ordinated country- wide projects, as the case may be) to check the negative impact of such influences.

4. Joint Program for Agricultural Research and Technology Development

- 1 This is one of the most important aspects of co-operation between the GCC states in the field of agriculture. This is:
 - (a) Because agricultural technology, as opposed to other economic domains, must be derived from the environment in which it is employed, be it a natural or socio-economic environment. It therefore cannot be imported, and even what can be imported must first be subjected to adjustment experiments.
 - (b) And because a number of prevailing natural environmental factors impose severe conditions on agricultural production in the area. Among the most important of such factors are the scarcity and the salinity of water, widespread desert soil, aridity, heat, and strong winds. Socio-economic factors that have an impact are the scarcity and high cost of manpower and the widespread nomadic grazing system of animal products.

The factors collectively would require a great emphasis on agricultural research and the creation of a special technology for this area that can successfully interact with all the prevailing natural and socio-economic factors.

In view of the great similarity of the agricultural environment in the GCC states and the large technical and financial requirements for carrying out effective agricultural research, co-operation among the GCC states in this field, which is essential for the optimum utilization of scarce resources, should realize greater efficiency at a probably lower cost. By having a well articulated agricultural and livestock research program that is based on general regional (but not local) considerations, it may be possible to link local research centers to the regional centers for feedback on research results. The functions of local centers in this program would be confined to adjustment experiments and tests, and to spreading the newly created technology in their respective states.

- 2 The effective transfer of technology created in research institutes would require the rise of joint vocational training programs for agricultural advisors who would transfer the technology to the arena of practical application. Such programs would also provide technical training for producers and their workers in various plant, animal and fish specialities. This would require a study of the conditions of existing local and regional research centers and institutes with a view to developing them to meet future demands.

IV. Mode of Implementation

This general framework for a common agricultural policy may after its adoption be referred to a specialized agency for an analytical study of each of the four recommended programs with a view toward ascertaining their feasibility. Once this is ascertained, the preparation of the technical format and action plan that are necessary for detailed studies would follow. (12)

**C.2.: Common Uniform Strategy for the
Industrial Development of the GCC States.**

The Uniform Strategy for the Industrial Development of the Gulf Co-operation Council States

Convinced of the need to proceed with the option of economically viable industrialization, not only to diversify sources of income but also in order to create an industrial society that is aware of the importance of industrialization in the life of the nations, the members of which society strive to acquire technical skills and absorb modern technology and adapt it in a manner conducive to a steady growth of economic development, and to the prosperity of the peoples of the GCC States; and taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the Gulf area; the Ministers of Industry (the Industrial Co-operation Committee) have decided to adopt the following basic principles as a strategy for industrial development in the GCC States:

I. Basic objectives of the uniform strategy

- 1 To give impetus to industrialization in all the GCC States, on an integrated and balanced basis, as appropriate to the capabilities and circumstances of each State;
- 2 To maximise the contribution of the manufacturing industries in the GNP;
- 3 To increase the participation of national labour in the industrial sector;
- 4 To narrow the differences in the industrial growth rates of the GCC States;
- 5 To achieve an acceptable level of self-sufficiency in the production of manufactured goods in the GCC States;
- 6 To create an authentic base for research and applied science and technology;
- 7 To bring about the integration of the petroleum and gas sector with other sectors of the economy, particularly the industrial sector;
- 8 To create attractive opportunities for investment of financial surpluses and savings of the GCC States, for the development of the manufacturing industries sector;
- 9 To develop the natural resources available in the area and enhance the efficiency of their industrial exploitation;
- 10 To encourage the establishment of manufacturing industries in rural and less-developed areas.

II. Priorities of the uniform strategy

During this phase, emphasis will be placed in general on the following industries;

- (a) Industries based on the exploitation and development of local natural resources, including external market-oriented industries;
- (b) Industries that supply urgent needs in the Gulf markets, including food markets;
- (c) Development of small and medium industries that supply local market needs which technically and psychologically prepare the society of the GCC States for developing into an industrial society.

Taking environmental protection and water resources conservation into consideration, projects concerning such industries shall be given precedence at the study level and also preferential treatment as regards implementation. They shall be provided with incentives and assistance in accordance as per the following bases and criteria.

- 1 Industries already existing in the GCC States;
- 2 New Industries that would contribute to enhancing opportunities for the success of existing industries in the GCC States, such as upstream and downstream industries connected with the iron and steel, aluminium, copper, petrochemicals and cement industries;
- 3 Modern technology and capital-intensive industries, and utilization of locally available energy;
- 4 Export industries with high relative benefits;
- 5 Strategic goods industries and industries of importance from the security point of view;
- 6 Import-substitution industries with economies of scale that use a high proportion of raw materials available in the Gulf area and in the GCC States;
- 7 Industries owned jointly by GCC Governments or citizens or both;
- 8 Capital goods industries directed towards Gulf and external markets, particularly Arab and Islamic markets.

III. Policies and requirements for the implementation of the uniform strategy

1. Policies for the implementation of the strategy: The implementation of this joint industrial development strategy is founded on two basic principles:

- (a) Encouragement and guidance by GCC Governments of private sector initiatives as regards implementation of viable industrial projects;
- (b) Actual participation by GCC Governments in the establishment of viable industrial projects, complementary to private sector efforts.

Encouragement and guidance of private sector initiatives: The Governments of the GCC States should encourage, promote and guide private sector efforts towards industrialization trends compatible with the priorities of this uniform industrial development strategy by the following means:

- (a) Provision of incentives to industrial projects which are compatible with priorities of the strategy, including projects with a foreign investment component;
- (b) Increasing the provision of infrastructures necessary for industrial projects compatible with priorities of the strategy;
- (c) Creation and/or improvement of a general economic, administrative and social environment conducive to stimulating industrialization in the GCC States;
- (d) Taking the necessary organizational and administrative action to ensure the success of private sector efforts to give an impetus to industrialization in the GCC States.

Incentives: Incentives that could be offered by GCC Governments to Gulf industrial projects include the following:

- (a) Technical aid and assistance in selection, establishment, planning and operating plants;
- (b) Provision of utilities needed by plants at incentive rates;
- (c) Customs duty exemption for raw materials needed by plants;
- (d) Tax exemptions;
- (e) Provision of credit on easy terms;
- (f) Granting priority by government purchasing agencies to local industrial products that are of a certain standard of quality; appropriately priced and ready for delivery when required;



- (g) Promotion of industrial exports by various means, including assistance in establishing and developing specialized centres for the promotion of such exports to external markets;
- (h) Provision of assistance in training and developing national manpower.

Such incentives could be provided to projects on a selective basis reflecting priorities of the strategy.

Infrastructures: These include infrastructures which the GCC Governments are endeavouring to increasingly provide to industrial projects in GCC States, such as:

- (a) Expansion of the establishment of industrial cities and zones equipped with all the services and facilities needed by industry;
- (b) Continuing to improve and develop services provided by support sectors, mainly road and communications networks, ports, and banking, insurance and commercial services.

Environment suitable for industry: An environment suitable for industry may be created by concentrating the attention of GCC Governments on the following basic elements:

- (a) Emphasis on the importance of developing industrial information systems in the GCC States;
- (b) Further development and improvement of the performance of government agencies connected with the industrial sector;
- (c) Sponsoring and honouring innovators and pioneers of industry, as a basic factor in leading the industrialization process in the GCC States;
- (d) Preparation and publishing of studies on industrial investment opportunities, and promotion of promising industrial projects, particularly in less-developed areas;
- (e) Encouraging national qualified personnel to become involved with industrial projects, especially at technical and management leadership levels;
- (f) Disseminating an industrial awareness in the GCC States.

Administrative and organizational action: This action includes efforts by GCC Governments to organize industrial activity in general terms, in addition to efforts by these Governments to guide education, training and technical policies towards serving the aims of industrial development, and accelerating and implanting an industrialization movement in the GCC States.

- (a) **General organizational efforts:** These include efforts by GCC Governments in the following major areas:
- 1 Harmonization of the periods of economic development plans in the GCC States, and reformulation of these plans and co-ordination of their programmes in light of the uniform strategy;
 - 2 Improving the competitiveness of local industrial products in the GCC States vis-a-vis equivalent foreign products;
 - 3 Attracting foreign investment to participate with national investment in industry, particularly in industries compatible with the priorities of the strategy;
 - 4 Development of industrial licensing procedures in the GCC States, to bring them closer into line with one another and to unify them, and agreement on a minimum requirement for industrial implantation in the GCC States;
 - 5 Further efforts to unify approved specifications and standards of Gulf area industrial products;
 - 6 Ensuring the application of uniform specifications and standards approved in the GCC States to imported industrial products;
 - 7 Gradual unification of industrial incentives and facilities, particularly as regards joint ventures, and adoption of industrial specialization;
 - 8 Unification and development of industrial legislation, and working towards consolidating it and spreading its application;
 - 9 Emphasis on increased co-ordination in the establishment and operation of basic industries oriented towards external markets, and creation of a joint negotiating stance by the GCC States as regards the marketing of products of such industries in world markets and the purchase of the inputs required by them from those markets;
 - 10 Reinforcement and development of financial institutions specialized in the financing of industrial projects in the Member States, in a manner conducive to a balanced industrial development in the GCC States;
 - 11 Promotion of the establishment of joint stock companies and investment companies in the field of industry, and broadening the ownership base of such companies;

- 12 Deepening and expanding the role of chambers of commerce and industry in the GCC States as regards the provision of data and determining industrial investment opportunities, the promotion of industrial projects at the level of the GCC States, and assisting plants in the Gulf area to overcome difficulties they might face;
 - 13 Formulation and adoption of an appropriate financial and monetary policy, capable of ensuring a sufficient and sustained demand for national industrial products;
 - 14 The Member States should jointly adopt a policy in their international industrial relations aimed at promoting their exports, and should consider the possibility of adding new clauses to external aid contracts and agreements and commercial agreements with industrial and developing countries that would ensure the promotion of industrial exports from the GCC States;
 - 15 Co-ordination between the GCC States as regards conditions for contracting loans from foreign and international financial institutions, as well as suppliers' concessions contracts;
 - 16 Co-ordination between the GCC States as regards management and marketing contracts with foreign companies;
 - 17 Co-ordination between GCC States joint ventures and Arab joint ventures, to avoid duplication, conflict, waste of financial and human resources, and market competition;
 - 18 Guiding external investments by the GCC States towards Arab and Islamic States and friendly States, for investment in areas that would increase possibilities for the success of industries in the GCC States, as regards ensuring markets for their industrial products, the purchase of important raw material inputs, and the provision of the necessary appropriate technology.
- (b) **Guidance of education, technical training and employment policies:** Governments of the GCC States should devote particular attention in this respect to the following main points:
- 1 Population policy should be in line with the requirements of the industrial plans of the GCC States;
 - 2 Emphasis should be placed on universities, the various vocational training and development institutes and centres for the training of the specialized technical manpower required by industry, with efforts to co-ordinate activities in the GCC States in this domain;

- 3 Co-ordination between the GCC States as regards wage scales, benefits, incentives and employment contract conditions in the industrial sector;
- 4 Education, training and research programmes should be linked to industrial development plans;
- 5 Attention should be devoted to technical and intermediate education and to training of middle management personnel;
- 6 Increased exchange of experience and training methods between the GCC States, consequent co-ordination between them as regards the formulation of the training programmes required by various industries;
- 7 Drawing up a uniform policy on science and technology, and increasing research allocations in public budgets and those of industrial companies;
- 8 Establishing a link between research and technology centres at the universities and industrial projects in the GCC States, in order to develop the capacity of these institutions to absorb, innovate and develop technology;
- 9 Attention should be devoted to existing research centres and consulting firms in the Member States in order to develop them, and assistance should be provided to those States in which no such institutions exist with a view to their establishment;
- 10 Research institutes in the GCC States should be interlinked. Research priorities should be determined and guided towards applied research in the field of industry;
- 11 Attention should be devoted to the creation and encouragement of the creation of productivity centres, industrial research and research on the development of production methods aimed at seeking scientific solutions to industrial problems;
- 12 Support should be provided to scientific laboratories and institutions capable of concretizing research activities and invention in industrial activities;
- 13 Support and development of technology and production support research, such as research in marketing and packaging;
- 14 External investments of the GCC States should be directed towards foreign companies in possession of transferable technologies, in order to benefit from them in industrial development;

- 15 A regional centre for registering patents should be established;
- 16 The establishment of national industrial design offices should be encouraged, in order to benefit from their services to industry;
- 17 The GCC States should co-ordinate the importation of industrial manpower, giving priority to Arab manpower whenever possible.

1. Actual participation in the establishment of industrial projects

In confirmation of the awareness of the GCC States of the need to accelerate industrial development in the Gulf area, these States should individually or jointly co-operate with private sector efforts to give an impetus to industrialization through the establishment of industrial projects and participation in the establishment of such projects, particularly joint ventures, within the following delimitations:

- (a) Highly capital-intensive and high-risk basic and heavy industry projects;
- (b) Projects concerning industries of security importance to the GCC States;
- (c) Projects concerning industries in regard to which private capital is wary, despite their importance as regards the provision of basic requirements of GCC States citizens;
- (d) Projects concerning advanced technologies compatible with conditions in the GCC States, such as solar energy projects;
- (e) Industrial projects that would play an important role in strengthening and reinforcing integration of the GCC States;
- (f) Selection of industrial projects to be located in less developed areas.

In all cases the GCC States should take action to attract the private sector to participate in such projects. As a general rule, the Governments of the GCC States should relinquish part of the ownership of these projects to the private sector as soon as their success is assured. They should also give special attention to foreign participation as regards projects involving advanced technology or monopolized ownership.

2. Requirements of the strategy

The GCC States should individually or jointly apply this strategy by taking its elements into consideration in the formulation of development plans, with emphasis on the following major points:

- (a) Reinforcement of the capability of government agencies concerned with industrial development affairs in each of the GCC States, and development of their *modus operandi*, to absorb and apply the mechanisms required for the implementation of this strategy;
- (b) Reinforcement of and support for the Secretariat of the Co-operation Council, particularly the group responsible for industrial development, to enable it to carry out the additional tasks resulting from the application of the strategy;
- (c) Utilization of specialized applied research institutes and centres, universities and other institutions at the Gulf and regional levels, to ensure the successful application of the strategy, through undertaking the necessary studies and surveys;
- (d) Ensuring a high degree of response by the private sector and its conviction regarding the importance of applying the strategy;
- (e) Ensuring the availability of sufficient financing to undertake studies and surveys and to implement projects resulting therefrom, in accordance with the priorities of the strategy and the requirements of follow-up action and reviews at every stage of the implementation of the strategy. ⁽¹³⁾

C.3.: Objectives and Policies of Development Plans of the GCC

Objectives and Policies of Development Plans of the GCC States, March 1985

Introduction

Pursuant to the decision of the Economic and Social Planning Commission, composed of the Ministers of Planning, made at their first meeting which was held in Bahrain on Tuesday and Wednesday, 12-13 Jumada II 1402, corresponding to 6-7 April 1982, to wit:

A conceptualization of a long-term strategy shall be made within which all development plans and programs of the GCC states shall operate. The real focus of such plans and programs shall be the creation of good productive citizens who believe in God and in their Arabic affiliation and are able to earn the respect of their and other societies.

The Secretariat General invited a group of intellectuals and specialists in government and other establishments to attend in their personal capacity a symposium that was held in the city of ash-Sharqah, the United Arab Emirates, from 7-10 March 1983, with a view to devising a long-term strategy for development and integration.

At the second meeting of the Economic and Social Planning Commission, held in Riyadh on Tuesday and Wednesday, 27-28 Jumada 1404, corresponding to 28-29 February 1984, a committee of experts at the level of deputy ministers was formed to re-write the document in the light of remarks made by member states. On Wednesday, 14 Safar 1405, corresponding to 7 November 1984, the Economic and Social Planning Committee held its third meeting. The ministers agreed to adopt the document and recommended to the Ministerial Council that it be submitted to the fifth session of the Supreme Council for consideration and endorsement.

At its 13th preparatory session held in Kuwait on 27-28 Safar 1405, corresponding to 20-21 November 1984, the Ministerial Council recommended to the fifth session of the Supreme Council that it be authorized to approve the strategy for development and integration at its next ordinary meeting, after its study is completed by the member states.

At its fifth session, held in Kuwait on 5-7 Rabi' I 1405, corresponding to 27-29 November 1984, the Supreme Council authorized the Ministerial Council to approve the document, "Objectives and Policies of the Development Plans of the GCC Member States," with the understanding that it would be submitted to its next ordinary meeting.

At its fourteenth session, held at the Secretariat General offices in Riyadh from 26-28 Jumada II 1405, corresponding to 17-19 March 1985, the Ministerial Council approved the document, "Objectives and Policies of the Development Plans of the GCC Member States".

Objectives and Policies of the Development Plans of the GCC States

I. Objectives of Development Plans of the GCC Member States

The general objectives of development plans and programs in the GCC states shall be defined in accordance with GCC by-laws that are based on preserving Islamic values and the Arab identity and its genuine traditions; adopting free economy as the basis for development; and emphasizing the importance of social homogeneity, defence of religion and fatherland, security and internal stability; and proceeding with the development process that includes:

- (i) The development and preparation of the citizen socially, culturally, and health-wise so that he may stay abreast of the requirements for modern development.
- (ii) Positive interaction with human thought and culture with a view to acquiring the ability for innovative thought that is consistent with the teachings of Islam and guarantees the preservation of the Arab identity.
- (iii) Developing and maintaining human resources through education and training and the provision of a suitable healthy environment, working toward improving public health standards.
- (iv) Achieving a population balance in the GCC states that are suffering from population imbalance.
- (v) Achieving social prosperity in a manner that guarantees to each citizen the enjoyment of a minimum level of an honourable standard of living within the resources available for each state, and anything above this minimum level shall be a right accruing from the individual's efforts and accomplishments.
- (vi) Affirming social integration and solidarity among the GCC societies.
- (vii) Emphasizing qualitative development and upgrading and developing utilities and infrastructures already realized.
- (viii) Maintaining the ecological balance of the environment during implementation of the development program.
- (ix) Emphasizing the importance of personal initiative and the role of the private sector in the development process, and the role of the government in guiding and encouraging this sector by means that make it enjoy stability, competence, and ability for self-growth as well as responsiveness to development requirements.
- (x) Co-ordination and integration of all fields that are vital for the GCC societies to accomplish their aspirations for a better future leading to the unification of their states.

- (xi) Develop all economic resources and the optimum exploitation of natural resources, particularly petroleum, and conserving exhaustible resources for the longest possible time.
- (xii) Diversifying production bases through developing the sectors of industry, agriculture, fisheries, mining, services, etc.
- (xiii) Establish an indigenous foundation for research, applied sciences, and technology.
- (xiv) Complete the infrastructure necessary for the realization of general goals and co-ordinate with the other GCC states in this regard.
- (xv) Reduce disparities between development levels in the GCC states.
- (xvi) Channel public expenditures in ways that make it more effective in achieving the highest level of performance at the least possible cost.
- (xvii) Work toward making beneficiaries bear the cost of public services provided to them.

II. Policies

The GCC states shall seek to formulate policies that realize the above development plans and objectives in accordance with the following:

A. Development of Human Resources. Adopt policies conducive to the development of the human resources in the GCC states that are consistent with the challenges faced and the development plans adopted. This would require:

- (i) Compulsory primary and intermediate education for boys and girls.
- (ii) Specify percentages for each post-intermediate stage of education so as to channel adequate numbers into technical and vocational training.
- (iii) Re-evaluate university education programs and curricula, particularly with respect to admission.
- (iv) Open appropriate job opportunities to women so that they may participate in the development process.
- (v) Confine bonuses given to students to specialities where incentives are needed, such as for technical training and vocational training.
- (vi) Give qualitative attention in both intermediate and advanced training to emphasis on advanced technology.

- (vii) The output of all education and training programs must be tied to the actual quality and degree of competence required by the economy.
- (viii) Increase emphasis on training with a view to encouraging on-the-job training.
- (ix) Emphasize the importance of libraries and provide modern means of information to instil in students the habits of reading and learning from it.

B. Community Development. The policies necessary for community development in the GCC states shall be based on:

- (i) Correcting the population imbalance from which the GCC states are suffering, whereby the proportion of aliens in such communities is reduced and their presence is confined to what the state feels is consistent with economic necessities.
- (ii) Making community members aware of the goals and requirements of development and how to handle its tools by:
 - Raising consciousness through the information media of the importance of work as a religious and social value with a view toward directing community members toward occupations and crafts that are not acceptable to certain citizens.
 - Spreading culture by encouraging authors and public libraries, developing and establishing museums, maintaining historical and archaeological sites, and devising systems for acquiring the work of every GCC author.
- (iii) Increasing attention to the handicapped and instituting national programs for rehabilitation and care.
- (iv) Concern for children and developing their potentials in all fields and at all levels.
- (v) Examination by each state of the possibility of introducing compulsory military service according to their own circumstances.
- (vi) Examination by each state of the possibility of introducing military training in secondary schools according to their own circumstances.
- (vii) Expanding anti-illiteracy campaigns and adult education in order to eradicate illiteracy.
- (viii) Increased attention to local community programs that emphasize participation by citizens in planning and implementing local projects.

- (ix) Attention to preventative medicine and health education, and increasing the effectiveness of preventative and treatment institutions along with expanding health programs for the protection of citizens.
- (x) Raising the ability of individuals to increase their income and improve their standard of living in order to achieve the goals of social development.
- (xi) Increased attention to social welfare programs for all groups and in all fields and work by the private sector toward undertaking such programs.
- (xii) Continue programs for preserving and developing the environment.
- (xiii) Increased attention to youth welfare programs so as to nourish their physical and mental abilities in all fields.

C. Economic Development. The policies necessary for achieving economic development shall be based on taking all economic and social considerations into account when taking investment and disbursement decisions with a view to achieving a balance between the production and the service sectors:

- (i) Diversify sources of income by a gradual reduction of dependence on oil whereby its share in the gross domestic product and in financing general current development expenditures is reduced, and increase the share of non-oil sectors in a way that compensates for reduced dependence on oil.
- (ii) Developing natural resources that have future prospects, such as exploring for mineral and marine resources and locating and developing them, and exploiting the available gas utilizing it in manufacturing to the maximum possible extent once its economic feasibility is established.
- (iii) Make water a basic factor and an important measure of the cost-effectiveness of state projects.
- (iv) Vertical and horizontal expansion of the petrochemical, gas derivatives, and petroleum industries once their economic feasibility is established.
- (v) Increase the refining capacity of petroleum products to the maximum possible extent provided it is economically feasible.
- (vi) Reduce the cost, improve quality, and rationalize the use of public services and utilities.
- (vii) Reduce the scope and coverage of public services and utilities in areas where they exceed reasonable levels, such as putting an end to the exaggerated specifications for building and operation projects.
- (viii) Employing technology in all public services by using cost-effective automated and advanced methods.

- (ix) Emphasize technological methods that are geared toward the requirements of the national economy, such as mechanization and use of saline water for agriculture, etc.
- (x) Judge the economic feasibility of projects on the basis of cost of their operation, maintenance, management, and repair, and not only on their construction costs.
- (xi) Encourage and urge citizens to invest in profitable ventures that depend on energy and other local raw materials and employ production methods that require the lowest amount of manpower and consume the minimum possible amount of such critical resources as water.
- (xii) Encourage investment in large profitable agricultural ventures that use machinery and modern technology for irrigation, and encourage entrepreneurs to establish companies, along with continued encouragement of individual investment in agriculture.
- (xiii) Encourage the trend of investing in ventures that apply state-of-the-art technology and that have economic merit or are sorely needed, such as solar energy, modern irrigation methods, and shielded farming.
- (xiv) Support and collectively benefit from applied research centers.
- (xv) Standardize the technical specifications of new projects so as to facilitate and reduce the cost of operation and maintenance.
- (xvi) Select growth sites in areas that can absorb productive projects and support the movement of people there from surrounding areas that do not possess the ingredients for growth.
- (xvii) Optimum utilization of land consistent with the requirements of development and future population.
- (xviii) Emphasize the employment of trained national manpower in important permanent facilities.
- (xix) Develop the administrative organization on a scientific basis with a view to improving performance and meeting the new requirements of society.
- (xx) Rationalize the direct and indirect subsidies given to many goods and services in a way that does not have a negative impact on low-income people.

D. Development of the Private Sector. The policy of providing opportunities and inducements to the private sector for greater participation in all the economic aspects of the state shall be based on positive interaction with government policies. Such a policy can be achieved by:

- (i) Provide the private sector on a continuous basis with the opportunity to operate, maintain, and renovate some of the facilities run by the state provided that this results in a real benefit in the form of reduced costs, good performance, and the employment of the citizens.
- (ii) Provide the opportunity for investment and sharing in the ownership and management of some state-established industries.
- (iii) Review and update certain state regulations and procedures in such a way as to enable the private sector to operate with greater freedom and flexibility, and to assist it to innovate and grow.
- (iv) Encourage co-operative societies and private charitable and commercial establishments, if available, to carry out certain economic and social projects that the state deems appropriate.
- (v) Urge commercial banks and other financial establishments to increase their credit facilities to production projects.
- (vi) Encourage the rise of more joint-stock companies with the object of investment in large projects that have a sounder economic basis to the advantage of a larger number of investing citizens.
- (vii) Creation, under government supervision, of a medium for stock exchange with a view toward encouraging investment and avoiding the risks of financial speculation.
- (viii) Private sector participation in formulating and implementing training programs.
- (ix) Devise more effective and intense programs to acquaint citizens with the available investment opportunities in production sectors.
- (x) Conduct more studies on investment opportunities and economic feasibility of production sector projects, and co-ordinate the matter with the other GCC states.
- (xi) Give priority to qualified national contractors who have an eligibility classification for the project.
- (xii) Subdivide the project whenever it is technically and economically feasible so as to enable national companies to participate.

(xiii) Encourage the rise of national companies for internal investment.

E. Promote and Support Integration Policies by Means of the Competent Ministerial Committees. This shall be done through:

- (i) Formulation of administrative regulations and policies and the principles necessary to bring about integration.
- (ii) Linking infrastructural projects in member states in order to facilitate integration and co-ordination whenever possible.
- (iii) Carry out joint production projects by some of all member states.
- (iv) Unify the attitudes of member states toward the outside world in all fields whenever possible.
- (v) Draw up policies and programs that seek to realize food security for citizens of the GCC states.

III. Implementation

It was agreed that each member state would adopt the priorities appropriate for its requirements and abilities, and to ask the ministers concerned to follow up implementation of the principles contained in the document and to formulate the necessary programs. ⁽¹⁴⁾

D: International Relations of the GCC

D.1.: Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the GCC

Convention of Privileges and Immunities Concerning the Gulf Co-operation Council for Arab States

Emerging from the eagerness of the member states of Gulf Co-operation Council for Arab States on facilitating the functions of the Council and its main subsidiary bodies in their relevant regions; and

The keen desire to secure that the officials attached to the Council are performing their duties in a satisfactory manner; and

Pursuant to Article 17 of the Organic Statute of Gulf Co-operation Council States which stipulates that the Co-operation Council and its bodies in each territory of the member countries shall be in a legal capacity to enjoy the privileges and immunities required for realization of its objectives; and

Whereas Paragraph 2 of the same articles provides for the representatives and employees of the member states to enjoy certain privileges and immunities which shall be identified in a convention particularly concluded for this purpose; and

Desirous to clarify the privileges and immunities provided for in the organic statute of Gulf Co-operation Council, besides identifying the scope of their application in order to facilitate the task of the Council to perform its activities in the territories of the member states in the light of rules and principles agreed upon;

Therefore, the member countries of Gulf Co-operation Council Arab States have agreed as follows:

Chapter I

Legal Entity (Judicial Personality)

Article 1

The Gulf Co-operation Council shall enjoy an independent judicial personality, with a legal capacity to;

- a Possess movable and immovable real properties and funds with disposal and assignment of the same.
- b Conclude contracts (contracting).
- c Institute legal action (litigation).

Chapter II

Property (funds) and Assets of the Council

Article 2

- 1 The property and assets of Gulf Co-operation Council, whether fixed or movable, whosoever the holder is, shall enjoy the jurisdictional immunity unless the Secretary General shall explicitly waive the same, provided that such waiver shall not deal with the procedure of execution.
- 2 The premises occupied by Gulf Co-operation Council wherever existing in the territory of the member state shall enjoy immunity and its funds and property shall not be subject to inspection, confiscation, seizure, appropriation or any similar act of executory proceedings or compulsory procedure.
- 3 All archives and documents shall enjoy immunity whether relating to the Council or the Council is in possession of the same.

Article 3

The member governments of Gulf Co-operation Council undertake to take the necessary measures required for securing the continuous and full utilization of lands and premises belonging to the Council by the Council in the territories of the said states.

Article 4

The Gulf Co-operation Council shall have full liberty to perform the following acts without being subject to any financial or organizational restrictions, nor shall it be subject to any order suspending payment of debts whatsoever.

The said acts comprise the following:

- a Possession of money in various currencies and to establish (open) accounts in any currency desired.
- b To receive, carry and transfer the said currencies from state to state or within the same country itself.

Article 5

The Gulf Co-operation Council when exercising the rights vested upon it by virtue of the preceding article shall observe the remarks made and/or recommendations proposed by the member states, provided they are not contradictory to the interest of the Council.

Article 6

The Council and its movable, immovable (fixed) real property, funds and assets shall be exempted from the following duties and charges:

- a All direct taxes, but such exemption shall not include the fees collected against use of public utilities and services.
- b Customs duties, laws and orders relating to prohibition or restriction of import or export concerning any materials or items (tools and equipment) specially imported or exported for its official use, as well as any duties imposed on import or export of its printed matters and publications, with exception of storage and transportation charges and such expenses chargeable against public services.

Article 7

Any material imported under this exemption shall not be sold, save under approval of the government concerned.

Chapter III

Facilities Relating to Letters and Communications

Article 8

All letters and communications of Gulf Co-operation Council in each territory of the member states shall have the same reciprocal and similar treatment of privileges applied to any other state, with its diplomatic mission or international organization regarding priority order, post and cable clearance charges and fees of all types whether wire or wireless communicated, included the telephone call fees and the charges applicable to the press regarding transmission of information through radio, television and facsimile.

Article 9

The Gulf Co-operation Council Arab States may use emblem (symbol) in its letters, messages or to dispatch its correspondence through special messenger or diplomatic bags. The messenger and bags shall all enjoy the privileges and immunities granted to the diplomatic mission in member states.

Article 10

During the time of peace no member state is permitted in any manner whatsoever to impose any type of censorship on the official correspondence, communications and calls of the Gulf Co-operation Council such as specified in this chapter.

Chapter IV

Representatives of Member States

Article 11

The term representatives of member states indicated in this chapter denotes all the representatives of the member states, their assistants, advisers, technical experts and the secretaries delegated with them.

Article 12

The representatives of the member states in main or subsidiary bodies of Gulf Co-operation Council and the conferences convened by the Council shall, while performing their functions and travelling to and back from the conference seat, enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a Neither be arrested nor detained and their personal effects shall not be seized.
- b Enjoy jurisdictional immunity regarding any issue of their speech, writing or duty in their official capacity as representatives of their states. The said immunity shall remain valid after lapse of their representative capacity regarding any issue made by them in their aforesaid capacity.
- c All instruments in writing, written deeds and documents shall have immunity.
- d The right of using symbol (cipher) in their correspondence, which shall be delivered by special messenger or in sealed bags/cases.
- e The right of granting them the necessary visas together with their families.
- f Enjoying the facilities granted to foreign states representatives delegated in interim official functions regarding all regulations of stock exchange and hard currency.

- h The provisions of the preceding paragraphs shall not be applicable to the representatives of the host country where such conferences and meetings are held in its territory.

Article 13

The said privileges and immunities are not granted to the representatives of the member state for their personal interest, but for the purpose of assuring that they enjoy full freedom and independence in performing their duties relating to the Council. Therefore, the member states may withdraw (lift) the immunities from their representatives in all cases where they realize such immunity shall not achieve justice and its withdrawal shall not affect the purpose for which it was granted.

Article 14

Permanent missions and delegations together with their members at the Gulf Cooperation Council Arab States and its bodies shall enjoy the same privileges and immunities determined to be granted to the diplomatic missions and their accredited members and of the Council member states.

For realization of this objective the Secretary General shall keep the member states informed of the names of the permanent delegates accredited with the Gulf Co-operation Council and those whose missions and/or services are terminated.

Chapter V

The Officials (the Employees)

Article 15

The Officials/employees of the Gulf Co-operation Council immediately receive their duties regardless of their nationalities shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a Not to be arrested or seized by the competent authorities of the member states regarding the functions performed by them in their official capacity.
- b To enjoy a jurisdictional immunity regarding any issue made by them whether in a form of speech, in writing or an act in their capacity as officials of the G.C.C., and such immunity shall continue to be enjoyed and remain valid even after the lapse of their official capacity with regard to any issue made by them whether in the form of speech, a written statement or an act as a result of performing their official duties.

- c To be exempted from income tax on salaries and remunerations paid and/or payable to them against performance of their functions.

Article 16

In addition to privileges and immunities referred to in Article 15 hereof, the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretaries regardless of their nationalities shall, together with their families maintained by them, enjoy the recognized status of diplomatic missions heads in the territories of member states.

Article 17

Officials of grade 8 and over regardless of their nationalities, together with their wives and family members maintained by them shall enjoy the privileges, immunities and facilities duly recognized and granted to their counterparts of the diplomatic missions accredited with the member states.

Article 18

Non-Seat-General-Secretariat-Officials to whom the provisions of the two preceding Articles i.e. 16 & 17 are not applicable shall enjoy the following privileges and immunities:-

- 1 To be exempted from the civil service liabilities, the restrictions of immigration and the procedure of aliens entry (registration).
- 2 To enjoy the foreign exchange facilities granted to the officials in their relevant grades who are members of the diplomatic missions accredited with the Seat-State.
- 3 To enjoy the facilities granted to the diplomatic missions at the time of international crisis concerning return to their mother-land.
- 4 To be exempted from customs duties within two years as from the date of assuming their relevant functions regarding any furniture and other items imported for the purpose of residing in the concerned state.

Article 19

The official of the General Secretariat enjoying the nationality of the Seat-State shall not invoke the immunity before the Courts of Law of their home in the event of performing any acts not within the scope of their functions.

Article 20

In the case of any General Secretariat official required for the military service, the government concerned may at the request of the General Secretariat suspend such employee needed by the Secretariat for a maximum period of two years.

Article 21

The privileges and immunities granted to the said officials are made for the interest of the Council. Therefore, the Secretary General may withdraw such immunities from the officials of the Secretariat in all cases if it is clearly realized that the immunity granted shall prevent the application of justice, and its waiver shall not affect the purpose for which it was originally established, save the Assistant Secretaries whose immunities shall be waived under the consent of the Ministerial Council, where the Secretary General whose immunity shall only be waived by the Supreme Council (Higher Council) pursuant to a proposal made by the Ministerial Council.

Chapter VI

Experts and Advisers

Article 22

The advisers and experts of the G.C.C., other than those officials prescribed in Chapter '5' hereof shall when performing an assignment (task) entrusted to them by G.C.C., enjoy the privileges and immunities necessary for carrying out their duties in a satisfactory manner, duly comprising the following:

- a They shall not be arrested or detained nor their personal effects shall be seized.
- b To enjoy a jurisdictional immunity following completion of their function, regarding any issue made by them in their said official capacity.
- c To enjoy immunity regarding the documents and instruments held by them.
- d To enjoy the immunity of using the emblem (cipher) and deliver of the correspondence exchanged between them and the G.C.C. through special messenger or official bags/cases.
- e To enjoy the facilities enjoyed by the representatives of states delegated in official task regarding currency and foreign exchange regulations.

- f To enjoy the immunities and facilities granted to diplomatic representatives in respect of their personal effects.
- g To be exempted together with their wives and family members maintained by them from the immigration restrictions and the procedure of aliens entry and registration.
- h Suspension of their military service in accordance with the provision of Article 20 hereof.

Article 23

The privileges and immunities granted to the experts and advisers are made for the interest of the Council. Therefore, the Secretary General is required to waive the said immunity in all if it is realized that such immunity shall not result in achieving justice, and its waiver shall not affect the objective for which it was granted.

Chapter VII

Settlement of Disputes

Article 24

The Ministerial Council may set up a committee for settlement of any dispute relating to the private law, if the council and its main or subsidiary bodies are proved to be involved parties or such disputes where an employee of the council enjoying immunity by virtue of his office is involved, but the said immunity has not yet been waived.

Article 25

If the subject of the dispute concerns a difference between the member states regarding the interpretation or application of this convention, but it could not be settled by negotiations or any other method of settlement agreed upon, then it shall be referred to the Arbitration Panel in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the Organic Statute of G.C.C. Arab States.

Chapter VIII

Final Provisions

Article 26

The provisions of this convention do not contain any stipulation affecting the powers of any member state to take any suitable or proper measures for the purpose of maintaining and protecting its security, peace and public order. Any state which deems that it is essential to take such measures must urgently contact the Secretariat General in order to agree on such adequate steps under which the interests of the council could be protected.

Article 27

- a Any member state may request the amendment of this convention.
- b The application of amendment may be submitted to the Secretary General who shall assume the responsibility of referring the same to the member states at least four (4) months before its presentation to the Ministerial Council.
- c Any amendment made shall come into operation in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 29 hereof.

Article 28

The Council may conclude further conventions for the purpose of regulating and governing the application of this convention in the member states.

Article 29

- a This convention shall be signed and ratified in conformity with the constitutional regulations of each member state, and the relevant instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretariat General of the G.C.C.
- b This convention shall enter into force after depositing of the pertinent instruments of ratification by most of the member states.

This Convention was signed in Riyadh on Sunday, 9.6.1404 H., corresponding to 11th February 1984 by:-

1. United Arab Emirates
2. State of Bahrain
3. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
4. Sultanate of Oman
5. State of Qatar
6. State of Kuwait (15)

D.2.: GCC - EEC Agreement

**Cooperation Agreement between the
European Economic Community,
of the one part, and the Countries Party to the
Charter of the Cooperation Council for the
Arab States of the Gulf (The State of the United
Arab Emirates, the State of Bahrain, the King-
dom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman,
the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait) of
the other part.**

Preamble

The Council of the European Communities, hereinafter referred to as 'the Community',

of the one part, and

the Governments of the Countries party to the Charter of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (the State of the United Arab Emirates, the State of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait), hereinafter referred to as 'the GCC Countries'

of the other part,

having regard to the traditional bonds of friendship between the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Member States of the Community,

recognising that the establishment of contractual relations between the Community and the GCC Countries will help to promote overall cooperation between equal partners on mutually advantageous terms in all spheres between the two regions and further their economic development, taking into consideration the differences in levels of development of the Parties,

confirming their political will to establish a new structure for a comprehensive dialogue between the Community and the GCC Countries in order to broaden and consolidate cooperation between the two regions,

emphasising the fundamental importance attached by the Parties to consolidating and strengthening regional integration, a key factor in the development of the GCC Countries and the stability of the Gulf region,

emphasising the Parties' determination to cooperate with a view to improving the world economic and energy situation,

reaffirming that cooperation between the Community and the GCC Countries is complementary to the Euro-Arab dialogue and not a substitute for it,
reaffirming their attachment to the principles of the United Nations Charter,
recognising the positive role of the GCC for the preservation of peace, security and stability of the Gulf region,
resolved to provide a sounder basis for cooperation in conformity with international obligations,
have decided to conclude this Agreement and to this end have designated as their Plenipotentiaries:

For the Council of the European Communities:

Mr. Hans-Dietrich Genscher

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany,
President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities,

Mr. Claude Cheysson

Member of the Commission of the European Communities.

For the Governments of Countries Parties to the Charter of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf:

HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

President-in-Office of the Ministerial Council of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf,

H.E. Abdullah Yakoob Bishara

Secretary General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

Who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

General Objectives

Article 1

- 1.** The Contracting Parties hereby agree that the main objectives of this Cooperation Agreement are as follows:
 - (a) to strengthen relations between the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and the GCC Countries, on the other, by placing them in an institutional and contractual framework,
 - (b) to broaden and consolidate their economic and technical cooperation relations and also cooperation in energy, industry, trade and services, agriculture, fisheries, investment, science, technology, and environment, on mutually advantageous terms, taking into account the differences in levels of development of the Parties;

- (c) to help strengthen the process of economic development and diversification of the GCC Countries and so reinforce the role of the GCC in contributing to peace and stability in the region.
- 2.** Cooperation in particular fields will be governed by the provisions hereafter.

Economic Cooperation

Article 2

In the light of their mutual interests and in accordance with their long-term economic objectives, the Contracting Parties undertake to establish, within the limits of their competence, the broadest possible economic cooperation from which no field shall be excluded in advance.

Article 3

- 1.** In the economic and technical fields, the Contracting Parties shall strive to encourage and facilitate, *inter alia*:
- the efforts made by the GCC Countries to develop their productive sectors and the economic infrastructure in order to diversify the structure of their economies, taking into account the mutual interest of the Parties,
 - market surveys and trade promotion by both Parties on their respective markets and on other markets,
 - the transfer and development of technology, in particular through joint ventures between undertakings and institutions in the two regions (research, production, goods and services), and to this end, and in the framework of their respective legislation, appropriate arrangements between undertakings and institutions within the Community and those of the GCC Countries, with a view to protecting patents, trademarks and other intellectual property rights,
 - the promotion of cooperation on a long-term basis between undertakings of the two Parties in order to establish more stable and balanced links between the respective economies,
 - the promotion of cooperation in the fields of standards and measurements,
 - the exchange of available information on short- and medium-term prospects and forecasts for production, consumption and trade,
 - training.
- 2.** The specific aspects of cooperation will be dealt with by the provisions hereafter.

Article 4

In the field of agriculture, agri-industry and fisheries, the Contracting Parties shall strive to encourage and facilitate, inter alia:

- the stepping up of exchanges of information on development in agricultural production and on short- and medium- term forecasts of production, consumption and trade on world markets,
- the promotion of contacts between enterprises, research institutions and other agencies in order to stimulate joint projects in agriculture, the agri-industry and fisheries.

Article 5

In the industrial field, the Contracting Parties shall strive to encourage and facilitate, inter alia:

- the GCC Countries' efforts to develop their industrial production and diversify and expand their economic base, taking into account the mutual interest of the Contracting Parties,
- the organisation of contacts and meetings between industrial policy makers, promoters and undertakings in order to encourage the establishment of new relations in the industrial sector in conformity with the objectives of the Agreement,
- the promotion of joint industrial ventures.

Article 6

In the field of energy, the Contracting Parties shall strive to encourage and facilitate, inter alia:

- cooperation in the two regions by energy undertakings of the Community and the GCC Countries,
- joint analysis of trade between the two regions in crude oil, gas and petroleum products and its industrial aspects with a view to considering ways and means of improving their trade exchanges,
- exchanges of views and information on matters relating to energy in general and respective energy policies, without prejudice to the Parties' international obligations,
- training,
- studies, notably on new and renewable sources of energy.

Article 7

In the field of investments, the Contracting Parties shall strive to take steps for the mutual promotion and protection of investments, in particular through the extension by the Member States of the Community and the GCC Countries of investment promotion and protection agreements with a view to improving reciprocal investment conditions.

Article 8

In the field of science and technology, the Community and GCC Countries shall strive to encourage and facilitate, *inter alia*:

- cooperation in scientific and technological research and development in the two regions,
- the transfer and adaptation of technology, notably through research activities and appropriate arrangements between economic operators of the two regions,
- the links between the scientific communities in the GCC Countries and the Community,
- access to data banks concerning patents.

Article 9

The Contracting Parties shall exchange information on developments in their respective policies on protecting the environment and the protection and development of wildlife. They shall encourage cooperation in these fields.

Article 10

1. The Joint Council referred to in Article 12 shall periodically define the general guideline of cooperation for the purpose of attaining the aims set out in this Agreement.
2. The Joint Council shall be responsible for seeking ways and means of establishing cooperation in the areas defined by the Agreement.

Trade

Article 11

1. In the field of trade, the objective of this Agreement is to promote the development and diversification of the reciprocal exchanges between the Contracting Parties to the highest possible level, *inter alia* by studying ways and means of overcoming trade barriers for the access of each Contracting Party's products to the other Contracting Party's market.
2. The Contracting Parties shall enter into discussions concerning the negotiation of an agreement aimed at the expansion of trade in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Declaration annexed hereto.
3. Pending the conclusion of the trade agreement referred to in paragraph 2, the Contracting Parties accord each other most-favoured-nation treatment.

General and Final Provisions

Article 12

1. A Joint Council for GCC/Community Cooperation, hereafter referred to as the 'Joint Council', is hereby established which shall have the power, for the purpose of attaining the objectives set out in the Agreement, to take decisions in the cases provided for in the Agreement.

The decisions taken shall be binding on the Contracting Parties, which shall take such measures as are required to implement them.

2. The Joint Council may also formulate any resolutions, recommendations or opinions which it considers desirable for the attainment of the common objectives and the smooth functioning of the Agreement.
3. The Joint Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 13

1. The Joint Council shall be composed of representatives of the Community, on the one hand, and of representatives of the GCC Countries, on the other.
2. Members of the Joint Council may be represented as laid down in its rules of procedure.
3. The Joint Council shall act by mutual agreement between the Community on the one hand, and the GCC Countries, on the other.

Article 14

1. The office of President of the Joint Council shall be held alternately by the Community and the GCC Countries in accordance with the conditions to be laid down in the rules of procedure.
2. Meetings of the Joint Council shall be called once a year by the President.

Article 15

1. The Joint Council shall be assisted in the performance of its duties by a Joint Cooperation Committee.

It may decide to set up any other committee that can assist it in carrying out its duties.

2. The Joint Council shall determine the composition and duties of such committees and how they shall function.

Article 16

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all appropriate measures required to fulfil their obligations under this Agreement. They shall see to it that the objectives of this Agreement are attained.
2. If either Contracting Party considers that the other Contracting Party has failed to fulfil an obligation under this Agreement, it may take appropriate measures. Before doing so, it shall supply the Joint Council with all relevant information required for a thorough examination of the situation with a view to seeking a solution acceptable to the Contracting Parties.

In the selection of measures, priority must be given to those which least disturb the functioning of this Agreement. These measures shall be notified to the Joint Council, which shall hold consultations on them if another Contracting Party so requests.

Article 17

Where, in the course of the exchanges of information provided for in this Agreement, problems arise, or seem likely to arise, in the general functioning of the Agreement or in the trade field, consultations may take place between the Parties, in the Joint Council, with a view to avoiding market disturbances insofar as is possible.

Article 18

Each Contracting Party may request the other Party to provide all relevant information on an agreement which has a direct and specific impact on the functioning of the Agreement. In such cases, appropriate consultation shall be held with the Joint Council at the request of the other Party so that the interests of the Contracting Parties may be taken into consideration.

Article 19

In the fields covered by this Agreement and without prejudice to its provision:

- the arrangements applied by the GCC Countries in respect of the Community shall not give rise to any discrimination between its Member States, their nationals, or their companies or firms,
- the arrangements applied by the Community in respect of the GCC Countries shall not give rise to any discrimination between them, their nationals, or their companies or firms.

Article 20

1. Without prejudice to the relevant provisions of the Treaties establishing the European Communities, this Agreement and any sanction taken thereunder shall in no way affect the power of the Member States of the Communities to undertake bilateral activities with the GCC Countries in the field of economic cooperation or to conclude, where appropriate, new economic cooperation agreements with those countries.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of the GCC Charter and any other agreements on GCC integration, this Agreement and any action taken thereunder shall in no way effect the powers of the GCC Countries to undertake bilateral activities with the Member States of the Community in the field of economic cooperation or to conclude, where appropriate, new cooperation agreements with those Member States.
3. Subject to the provisions of Article 11, this Agreement and any action taken thereunder shall in no way affect in the power of the GCC Countries to undertake bilateral activities with other Arab League Nations in the field of economic cooperation or to conclude, where appropriate, new economic cooperation agreements with these countries.

Article 21

1. Any dispute which may arise between the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation of this Agreement may be placed before the Joint Council.
2. If the Joint Council fails to settle the dispute at its next meeting, either Party may notify the other of the appointment of an arbitrator; the other Party must then appoint a second arbitrator within two months. For the purposes of the application of this procedure, this Community shall be deemed to be one Party to the dispute, as shall the GCC Countries.

The Joint Council shall appoint a third arbitrator.

The decision of the arbitrators must be taken by majority vote.

Each Party to the dispute must take the measures required for the implementation of the arbitrator's decision.

Article 22

The Declarations and Exchanges of Letters annexed hereto shall form an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 23

This Agreement is concluded for an unlimited period.

Each Contracting Party may denounce this Agreement by notifying the other Contracting Party. This Agreement shall cease to apply six months after the date of such notification.

Article 24

This Agreement shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community is applied and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty and, on the other hand, the territories of the GCC Countries.

Article 25

This Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Arabic languages, each of these texts being equally authentic.

Article 26

This Agreement will be approved by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their own procedures.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day on the second month following notification that the producers referred to in the first subparagraph have been completed.

In Witness whereof the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Agreement.

Done at

on the

in the year

For

For

the Council of the
European
Communities

the Governments of the
Countries Party to the Charter
of the Co-operation Council for
the Arab States of the Gulf⁽¹⁶⁾

E: Security Co-operation

E.1.: The Projected Security Agreement

The Gulf Co-operation Council's Draft Security Agreement

Out of a spirit of sincere brotherhood, stressing the bases and principles set by the GCC countries, adhering to the principle that preservation of the security and stability of the GCC countries is the joint responsibility of the GCC countries, counting on one's own capabilities and the available powers to protect security and stability and moreover to defend the Islamic faith and idealistic views from destructive atheistic views and party activities, and in order to make the current security co-operation among the GCC countries reach a desirable and comprehensive standard, the GCC member countries have agreed on the following:

Chapter 1

General Views

Article 1

[Abstaining from giving refuge to criminals and opponents of regims] whether they be citizens of the GCC countries or other countries, in addition to combating their activities harming the security of any of the GCC countries.

Article 2

Abstaining from allowing the circulation or transfer of pamphlets, printed material or posters that are antagonistic to the Islamic faith or that harm morality, or those directed against the ruling regim of the GCC member-countries.

Article 3

Every country which signs [this agreement] undertakes to adopt the necessary measures to prevent its citizens from interfering in the internal affairs of the other member-countries.

Article 4

Exchange of information and expertise that helps in developing the means to fight crime in its various forms, in addition to exchange of laws and regulations dealing with activities of the Interior Ministries besides exchange of books, magazines and printed material issued by these Ministries, in addition to explanatory methods and training films that are available.

Article 5

Providing the necessary facilities in the field of education and training for those who work in the GCC Interior Ministries and in the specialized institutes and colleges.

Article 6

All the countries will inform the member-countries of scheduled conferences, educational sessions and cultural seminars and those dealing with the fields of specialization of the Interior Ministries, particularly those dealing with crime fighting, traffic, education and training, so that the information can be passed on in enough time to those who would be most likely to attend.

Article 7

The Interior Ministries of the member-countries should hold consultations. Moreover, their representatives should co-operate in order to co-ordinate and unify their stands on issues on the agenda of Arab and international conferences.

Article 8

Work in the direction of unifying the laws and regulations dealing with emigration, passports, residency, nationality and other matters included within the responsibilities of the Interior Ministries of the member- countries.

Article 9

The member- countries should co-operate and provide the necessary facilities for the concerned authorities in these countries in order to put this agreement into effect.

Chapter 2

Combating of Infiltration and Smuggling

Article 10

The member-countries should exert the necessary efforts to combat infiltration through the common borders and undertake legal or suitable disciplinary measures against those who carry out such acts or play a role in these activities.

Article 11

The infiltrators will be arrested by the concerned authorities of the member-countries and legal or disciplinary measures will be taken against them. They will be arrested in accordance with the following:

- A Those who infiltrate the territories of one of the member-countries illegally will be returned to the border post of the country from which they entered illegally.
- B Those with unknown identities and the infiltrators who cross the border of a country after infiltrating another country's border or even making several infiltrations will be subject to the country that arrests them in regard to dealing with their cases.

Article 12

Pursuit patrols belonging to any of the member-countries have no right to cross the border of a neighbouring country, except for a distance not to exceed 20 km in order to arrest those being pursued. Those pursued and all they have with them, including their vehicles, are to be handed over to the nearest post belonging to the country in whose territory the chase began, if they were arrested within the said distance. The principle of the immediate handing over of [those pursued] will be applicable if said persons were arrested at a farther distance by patrols belonging to the sovereign country, in the event they took part in the pursuit operation.

Article 13

The following should be observed during pursuit:

- A Pursuit vehicles should bear official marks and should be distinctive.
- B The number of pursuit vehicles must not exceed three.
- C The squad of pursuit patrols must not exceed three.
- D Vehicles and individuals are to be armed lightly in accordance with what the Interior Ministers will later agree upon.
- E Pursuit operations should stop as soon as the patrols reach the nearest city, village or a group of bedouin camps.

The rules of this article apply to sea pursuit provided the means listed in the above points are made applicable.

Article 14

Security authorities at the borders are to be informed of the pursuit whenever possible and pursuit patrols should inform the nearest official body at the site where an arrest is made as soon as the pursuit operation is concluded in the territory of the neighbouring country, whether the result is positive or negative. This should be in accordance with an official report signed by both sides.

Article 15

Patrol meetings and joint patrols can be organized at the adjacent border regions of the member-countries when there is a need to do so. Regular meetings are to be held between the officials of border posts of the member-countries for the purpose.

Chapter 3

Crime Prevention

Article 16

The names of dangerous ex-convicts and suspects are to be exchanged and the movements of such persons are to be reported. They are to be prevented from travelling whenever possible. Names of personae non grata are also to be exchanged.

Article 17

Contacts among specialized bodies are to be consolidated through criminal detection and search in the member-countries in order to report any information available to these bodies on criminal operations that took place or that are being planned in the territories of these countries or abroad.

Article 18

The special body in each member-country shall inform counterparts in the other countries of what they have in regard to new crimes, the methods by which they were committed and the measures that were adopted to pursue them and eliminate them.

Article 19

The specialized bodies in each of the member-countries shall search for suspects, criminals and escapees, place them under observation or even under detention pending investigation when necessary, prior to their extradition in

accordance with the rules of this agreement. In order to achieve co-operation in this field, official contacts through post, cable, telephone or other means will be approved.

Article 20

The specialized authorities in each member-country shall offer - in accordance with the laws and systems enacted therein - the required help with regard to crimes that are to be pursued by one of the member-countries particularly as pertains to delivery extradition or present memoranda, implementing authorization to question suspects or witnesses and carrying out other services such as examining, searching and arresting.

Article 21

The member-countries shall adopt the necessary measures to preserve the secrecy of the information and materials exchanged between them whenever such things are characterized as secret by the country that delivers them. It is not allowed to hand the information and materials delivered in accordance with this agreement over to any other country that is not a GCC member except upon the approval of the country that delivers them.

Chapter 4

Extraditing Criminals

Article 22

Extraditing criminals among the member-countries becomes mandatory if the following two conditions exist in the request:

- A If, according to its classification by the specialized body of the requesting country and in accordance with the rules enacted therein, the crime represents an offence whose penalty is not less than a six-month imprisonment.
- B If the crime is committed in the territory of the requesting country or outside the territories of both countries provided that both countries' laws allow punishment for an offence perpetrated outside their territories.

Article 23

The country that is requested to extradite criminals has the right to refuse to do so in the following situations:

- A If the person to be extradited held its nationality at the time of perpetrating the crime, provided that it will in this case prosecute him according to

its laws and systems and in accordance with a report to be prepared by the authorities concerned in the requesting country. It also has to inform the requesting country of the result of its judgment.

- B If the crime took place in the territory of the requesting country by the person to be extradited is not one of its nationals provided that the offence he is charged with is an indictable offence according to the law or system of the country requested to extradite him.
- C If the crime took place outside the territories of both countries, provided that the laws or systems of the country requested to extradite the offender do not consider his offence indictable if committed outside its territory if the indicted person is not a citizen of the requesting country.
- D If the crime or penalty had already been dropped when the extradition request was received, in case the crime was committed in the territories of the requested country, provided the wanted person is not a citizen of the requested country and provided the crime is not murder.

Article 24

Extradition is not allowed in the following cases:

- 1 If it is a political crime. The following are not regarded as political crimes:
 - A Sabotage, terrorism, murder, robbery and theft accompanied by acts of force whether committed by one person or a number of persons.
 - B Any financial assault against the leaders of the member- countries, their assets, branches or wives.
 - C Assault the Heirs Apparent, Royal Family members, Ministers and those ruling in the member-countries.
 - D Military crimes.
 - E Punishment for the above mentioned crimes in Articles A, B, C, D, if the laws or rules of the two countries cover such acts.
- 2 If the crime was committed in the territories of a country which is requested to extradite.
- 3 If the individual in question is a member of the diplomatic corps and has diplomatic immunity or any other individual with immunity according to international law or any other treaties and characters.
- 4 If the person to be extradited has been tried or was under investigation or on trial for the crime for which is extradition is requested, whether it was in the country which is requested to extradite or in the other in which the

crime was committed, the latter is duty-bound to the country requesting extradition.

Article 25:

- A If the country which receives the extradition request has a number of requests regarding the same person for the same crime, the deciding factor will be which country's interests were harmed by the crime rather than where the crime was committed.
- B If the requests for extradition are for various crimes, the deciding factor will be the dates the extradition requests were made.

Article 26:

If the wanted person is being prosecuted legally or has been sentenced for another crime in the country which received the extradition request, the decision on this request will be postponed until his prosecution ends, or it has been decided not to try him, or he is declared innocent or not responsible, or he is sentenced for punishment or exempted, or his detention has ended due to the dropping of the charges. It is possible to send the wanted person temporarily to the country requesting him so that he may appear before the authorities concerned on the condition that these authorities guarantee to send him back after his questioning or trial for which his extradition was demanded, and keep him detained according to the sentence or decision issued by the authorities of the country which extradited him.

Article 27:

- A The extradition request from the concerned side in the requesting country must be presented to the concerned side in the country which is requested to extradite.
- B The file of the request must include:
 - 1 A detailed statement on the identity of the wanted person and his description, with an accompanying photograph if possible.
 - 2 Memorandum of arrest or request for appearance from the concerned authority if the person has not been sentenced.
 - 3 Certified copy of the texts that demand punishment for the deed and a detailed statement from the concerned side which includes relevant correspondence and evidences proving the responsibility of the wanted person.
 - 4 A certified copy of the sentence whether the wanted person has been sentenced or not.

- 5 A statement from the authorities concerned with the case not to drop the charges in accordance with the laws or rules of their country.
- 6 Confirmation that the request corresponds to the rules of this agreement.

Article 28

An exception to the above mentioned articles is that the country which is requested to extradite can extradite the wanted person, if he admits that he committed the crime he is charged with, the crime is one of those which requires extradition according to the articles of this agreement, and the wanted person agrees to be extradited without a fil requesting his extradition, then the concerned authorities can order his extradition.

Article 29:

- A The authorities concerned in the country requesting extradition and the country being asked to extradite will decide according to the laws or the pertinent rules of each during the presentation of the request.
- B The concerned side in the country which is requested to extradite will inform the concerned side in the country requesting extradition about the decision issued on the extradition request whether negative or positive, and explanations will be provided when an extradition request is denied.

Article 30

The detention of an individual who has been requested for extradition should not exceed thirty days in the country which has received the extradition request. The individual should be released if during the above mentioned period a request file does not arrive or the concerned country does not ask for the renewal of his detention for a maximum of thirty more days, on condition that the period of temporary imprisonment will be deducted from the sentence imposed by the country which requested the extradition.

The authorities concerned, which are requested to extradite by post, cable or telephone, can ascertain the validity of this request by asking for further information from the authorities concerned in the country which made the request.

Article 31

The country which is requested to extradite turns over everything related to the crime in the possession of the wanted person when arrested in accordance with the rules or laws of the country which has received the extradition request.

Article 32

The wanted person is to be tried in the country requesting his extradition for the crimes he was extradited for and any deeds related to it, as well as any crimes he committed after his extradition. It is also possible to try him for crimes which were not listed in the extradition request as long as the statute of limitations has not run out in accordance to the laws or rules of the two countries.

Article 33

The country requiring extradition pays all the expenses required for the execution of the extradition request. It also pays all the expenses of the individual involved, including those incurred in returning to the place he was extradited from if his non-responsibility or innocence is proved.

Article 34

The country requiring extradition must come forward to receive the wanted person within thirty days after the date the notification cable was sent regarding the issuance of the extradition decision, or else the country which is requested to extradite can release the wanted person. He cannot be detained for extradition again for the same crime.

Article 35

This agreement does not impair the bilateral agreements made between countries. In the event that the rules of this agreement contradict the rules of any of these bilateral agreements, the two countries should apply the more applicable rules in extraditing criminals.

Article 36

This agreement will be ratified by the signing countries in accordance to their legal systems within four months after its signing. The ratification documents will be kept at the GCC General Secretariat, which will prepare a file on the ratification documents of each country and will notify all other member-countries upon receipt of said documents.

Article 37

This agreement becomes valid after one month from the date that all ratification documents are received from the signatory countries.

Article 38

Agreement among one third of the signatory countries is required to revise or cancel the terms of this agreement.

Article 39

Any member-country party to this agreement can withdraw from it by announcing its intention to do so to the GCC General Secretariat. The withdrawal becomes effective six months after notification of intention. This agreement remains valid regarding extradition requests until the end of the six-month period. (17)

F: Decisions of the GCC

**F.1.: Final Communique of the First GCC
Summit
Abu Dhabi Declaration**

The Final Communique of the First Meeting of the Supreme Council of the States of the Co-operation Council held in the city of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on 21-22 Rajab 1401 A.H. 25-26 May 1981 A.D.

In acceding to the invitation of His Highness, the President of the State of the United Arab Emirates, and with the help of God, their Majesties and Highnesses, below named, met in the Abu Dhabi during the period 21-22 Rajab 1401 A.H. corresponding to 25-26 May 1981 A.D.

His Highness Shaikh Zayid bin Sultan Al Nahayan

President of the State of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness Shaikh Essa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Amir of the State of Bahrain

His Majesty, King Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos bin Said

Sultan of Oman

His Highness, Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani

Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness, Shaikh Jabir al-Ahmed al-Jabir Al-Sabah

Amir of the State of Kuwait

Proceeding from the spirit of brotherhood which exists between these states and its peoples, and in complementing efforts already begun by its leaders in their search for an ideal form in which to amalgamate these states, and in response to the wishes and ambitions of its peoples for increased co-operation, and in working toward a better future;

And in accordance with the results of the meetings of their Foreign Ministers in Riyadh on 4.2.1981 A.D. and in Muscat on 6.1.1981.

Their Majesties and Highnesses have agreed between them to establish a council to join their states which is to be called "The Co-operation Council for

the Arab States of the Gulf'. They have affixed their signatures to the Charter of the Council which aims at the development of co-operation between these states, the development of their relations, the achievement of co-ordination, integration and closer ties, and deepening and strengthening the existing ties and bonds between their peoples in various fields. Also to set up joint projects and establish similar rules and regulations in all economic, cultural, informational, social and legal fields which will serve their best interests and strengthen their ability to hold fast to their beliefs and values

Their Majesties and Highnesses resolved on the appointment of Mr. Abdulla Yacoub Bishara as Secretary General for the Council and the appointment of the City of Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the permanent headquarters for the Council.

Perceiving the inevitability of economic integration between their countries as well as social integration between their peoples, they consider that the transitional circumstances through which their countries are living and also the similar questions and problems which they face, including the similarity of their economic and social organizations, necessitate the laying of foundations, setting up institutions and creating machinery which will make integration and social integration recognized facts.

To realize these goals and to execute them in accordance with Article (4) of the Charter, they decided to set up a specialized committee as outlined in detail in the enclosed working paper which was approved by the Supreme Council.

Their Majesties and Highnesses reviewed the current situation in the region and reaffirmed that the security and stability of the region are the responsibility of its peoples and states. Furthermore, the Council expressed the will of these states and their right to defend their security and to maintain their independence. They also reaffirmed their complete rejection of any foreign interference in the region of whatever origin and called for the necessity of keeping the entire region isolated from international conflicts and especially keeping a distance from the presence of foreign military fleets and bases for their own best interests and in the best interests of the world.

They declared that guaranteed stability in the Gulf is tied to the achievement of peace in the Middle East, thereby confirming the necessity for settling the Palestinian Question and arriving at a fair settlement which guarantees the legal rights of the people of Palestine including their right to return to their own country and set up an independent state on the assurance of an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, first among which is the City of Jerusalem.

Their Majesties and Highnesses gave their attention to the dangerous situation which has resulted in the escalation of the Zionist aggression against the Arab nation and in a spirit of national responsibility, they debated the continuing Israeli violation of the sovereignty and independence of fraternal Lebanon, the barbaric bombing Lebanese cities and villages as well as the Palestinian camps,

Israel's war of extermination against the Palestinians, its aggressions against Arab deterrent forces and its threats against Syria. They reaffirmed that they stand beside Syria with complete support. They also called for all parties in Lebanon to recognise the necessity of settling their differences, putting an end to bloodletting on Lebanese soil and beginning negotiations for agreement within the framework of Lebanese legality.

Their Majesties and Highnesses supported efforts being made to put an end to the Iraq/Iranian war since it is one of the problems which threatens the region and increases the possibility of foreign intervention therein. They reaffirmed the necessity for a redoubling of efforts to find a final settlement to the conflict.

Their Majesties and Highnesses also confirmed their obligations to the Charter of the League of Arab States and the resolutions issued at the Arab summit meetings. They also renewed their support for the Islamic Conference Organization and their commitment to its resolutions. They also expressed their adherence to the principles of non-alignment and the Charter of the United Nations.

At the invitation of His Majesty King Khalid bin Abdulaziz, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it was decided to hold the next meeting in the City of Riyadh in Muharram 1402 A.H. corresponding to the first half of November 1981 A.D.

Issued in Abu Dhabi on 22 Rajab 1401 A.H. corresponding to 26 May 1981 A.D.
(18)

Abu Dhabi Declaration, 26 May 1981

The emergence of the Council for co-operation among the Gulf states is in response to the historical, social, cultural, political and strategic reality through which the Gulf region passed and is passing. The need for such a council is more urgent at present than ever before for the good of the peoples of the region.

The natural solidarity which links the Arab states in the Gulf merits appearance in a joint framework after all the positive and effective bilateral and collective measures adopted to date. It also merits better, clearer channeling in the interest of the peoples of the region.

The contemporary trend is toward big political and economic unities for the preservation of stability and security and to bridge the gaps into which many countries in other parts of the world have fallen, learning a lesson after paying dearly in blood, men and money. These gaps are the presence of inconclusive, long-standing territorial disputes in which energies and efforts are wasted and peoples lose a great deal.

If challenges are enough to create effective co-operation in any part of the world, the circumstances of the Gulf region are even more opportune for such

co-operation. We constitute part of an ethnicity which has one religion, a joint civilization and joint values and customs. Moreover, our geographical location and oil resources make us vulnerable to internal and political designs which almost amount to blackmail. This urges us all toward joint co-operation.

Today's world emphasises the importance of links between nations. Hence, the regional merger, particularly in the Gulf region, will be an aid and support to the objectives of the Arab and Islamic nationl, and becomes more urgent and a local demand in this historical phase.

Effective mobilisation of resources and expertise in building a Gulf organisation will enhance the situation and will render the organisation worthy of transporting this Arab region to balanced developmental horizons, benefiting all the sons of the region in general and the Arabs in particular.

The challenges confronting this region are increasing as the industrialised world's needs for oil increases. Gulf merger has become [words indistinct] {Peter the previous parentheses is what is written in the article} which will keep the region away from international competition and bargaining. International designs will not be able to find a foothold in a merged region which has one voice, opinion and strength. However, they will be able to find a thousand footholds if this region, which is rich in oil and men, remains made up of small entities that can be easily victimised.

Talk of 'the power vacuum' in the region and the resource which has no owners can end forever if the rightful owners firmly and resolutely perform their collective role.

The Co-operation Council countries can jointly have a say in the international and regional fields, which will express its respected and feared place in the world economy in the relations of these countries with east, north and south. These countries can also provide active support for the causes of the Arab nation.

Arab union, since the dawn of Arab liberation, after World War II, has been the centre of the attention of the Arab peoples. Positive steps in that direction have sprung up in an area which embraced Islam, sheltered Arabism and has been safeguarding pan-Arab interests since the beginning of history.

The real and hard tasks which await us should be faced collectively. The oil on which we are relying at present is an exhaustible wealth. It generated hug wealth in the past decade but it also generated high tension and changes in human behaviour. The peoples of the Gulf look to their governments to solve the difficult equation of achieving real development on the one hand, and to safeguard social peace, security and progress on the other.

This equation cannot be solved unless we study our priorities with farsightedness, this establishment of a comprehensive development that stands upon a firm foundation and a solid base of production on the one hand, and the training of manpower, which is the more important capital, on the other. We should

answer the important question of how to transform oil into comprehensive and stable development in the interests of our peoples. The historic opportunity to make our choice is available to us now, but it may not be available in the future. The embryo of the industrial revolution was the naval compass, gunpowder and printing. Now, however, humanity is pushing into space and the development of modern nuclear physics, using fast and direct communications. Whoever lags behind remains among the backward states and nations. Briefly it is an age of scientific breakthroughs which dictate the use of scientific tools in political, economic, industrial and educational affairs. The first priority of this organised scientific thinking is for us to reach a genuine and comprehensive merger in the economic, social and political fields.

These are the challenges facing us. Through sound merger plans among our countries and peoples, we can face these challenges, nurture our material and human investments and achieve comprehensive development for our peoples in a fair and wise manner. Furthermore, as a group, we can contribute to the efforts for peace in the world, which is turbulent.

In order to achieve and implement these aims, the Council decided to form the following committees made up of the competent ministers. These committees will have temporary tasks and will co-operate and co-ordinate with the General Secretariat. They will begin their work in accordance with the dates proposed by the Secretary-General.

I. The Committee for Economic and Social Planning

This Committee will devise and co-ordinate joint action in economic and social planning to achieve homogeneity among the national economic plans and draw up bases for future integrated planning in order to bring about economic integration among the member states.

II. The Committee for Financial, Economic and Trade Co-operation

This Committee will study ways to co-ordinate financial and economic co-operation in the light of the general aims of joint economic action. Among its functions are:

A. Financial and Monetary Co-operation:

1. Seeking to standardise laws and regulations governing investment in order to draw up a common investment policy that will gear external and international Gulf investment of these states and the aspirations of their peoples for development and progress.
2. Co-ordinating banking and monetary policies and enhancing co-ordination among the monetary establishments and central banks in these states in order to come out with a standard Gulf currency that will complete the aspired for economic integration.

3. Co-ordinating financial and monetary policies of the member states on the external level in the field of extending international and regional aid for development.
- B. Transfer of funds and individuals and the exercise of economic activity:
 1. Drawing up bases for the treatment of subjects of the Co-operation Council member states without any discrimination in any of these states, in accordance with what is agreed upon in the following domains:
 - a. freedom of movement, work and residence;
 - b. freedom of ownership, inheritance and bequests;
 - c. freedom of exercise of economic activity.
 2. Seeking to remove the obstacles which impede the movement of revenues and capital and co-ordinating and unifying trade, financial and customs regulations in a manner that gives similar treatment to the subjects of the member states in all the states.
 3. Encouraging the private sector in the member states to establish joint projects and companies in order to tie together the economic interests of the citizens in all fields.
- C. Trade Exchange:
 1. Seeking to lift the customs barriers among the member states of this Council regarding their products and seeking to standardise a customs tariff between these states and the outside world.
 2. Applying the principle of total exemption from customs duties levied on the local products of the member states and treating these products as national commodities.
 3. Co-ordinating the policies of import, export and food reserves.
 4. Creating a collective negotiating force in the field of export and import.
- D. Transport and Communications:
 1. Co-operating in the field of sea and land transport and communications and co-ordinating on the establishment of construction projects, such as buildings, airports, water stations, power stations and roads, and developing existing establishments in these spheres.
 2. Seeking to co-ordinate aviation and air transport policies among the Council's member states.

III. The Committee for Industrial Co-operation

This body will be entrusted with the following:

- A. Co-ordinating industrial activity among the member states by formulating policies and proposing ways to bring about industrial transformation in the member states on the basis of an integration that insures the highest benefit to each state and provides reassurance and prosperity to all their peoples.
- B. Studying the standardisation of the industrial laws and regulations of the member states.
- C. Seeking to channel local production toward meeting the needs of the member states.
- D. Preparing laws and regulations for the importation of technology and expertise and choosing the most suitable in the light of the objectives and requisites of development in the member states.
- E. Distributing industry in the member states by encouraging the establishment of industries. Accordance with economic feasibility, that complement the essential projects distributed in the member states.
- F. Formulating policies and implementing integrated programs for training and technical, vocational and artisan rehabilitation on all levels and at all stages among the member states.

IV. The Oil Committee

This Committee will be formed of the foreign, oil and finance ministers and will undertake the following:

- A. Co-ordinate the policies of the Council's members in the field of oil industry in all its stages of drilling, refining, marketing and pricing; transporting and exploiting natural gas; and developing sources of energy.
- B. Draw up a unified oil policy and joint stands toward the outside world and international organisations.

V. The Committee for Social and Cultural Services

This Committee will devise scopes for joint action in the fields of education, health, labour, social affairs and culture and will draw up bases for their integration and homogeneity.

The Secretary-General calls on the finance and economy minister to draw up a unified economic agreement to replace the current bilateral agreements, in

accordance with the principles agreed upon during their meetings in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on 16 Rajab 1401 Hegira, corresponding to 20 May 1981. This should be accomplished within the next two months and will be referred to the Ministerial Council, which will submit it to the Supreme Council at its next session. ⁽¹⁹⁾

F.2.: Final Communique of the Second GCC Summit

The Final Communiqué of the Second Meeting of the Supreme Council of the States of the Co-operation Council held in the City of Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 14-15 Muharram 1402 A.H.-10-11 November 1981 A.D.

In acceding to the invitation of His Majesty, the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and with the help of God, the second meeting of the Supreme Council of the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf was held in the City of Riyadh during the period 14-15 Muharram 1402 A.H. corresponding to 10-11 November 1981 A.D. with the below named Majesties and Highnesses in attendance:

His Highness Shaikh Zayid bin Sultan Al Nahayan

President of the State of the United Arab Emirates

His Highness Shaikh Essa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Amir of the State of Bahrain

His Majesty, King Khalid bin Aabdulaziz Al Saud

King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos bin Said

Sultan of Oman

His Highness, Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani

Amir of the State of Qatar

His Highness, Shaikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al-Sabah

Amir of the State of Kuwait

The Council reviewed the political, economic and security situation in the region of the Gulf in light of current developments, declaring its determination to continue co-ordination in these fields in order to confront the dangers surrounding the region and increase contacts between the states of the Council for the purpose of warding off these dangers.

The Council discussed all the attempts which have been made by other powers which were aimed at creating positions for themselves in the Gulf region

thereby threatening its security and sovereignty. It declared its rejection of these attempts which constitute a danger to the region and its people since their aim is to safeguard the influence of foreign powers in the region.

It reaffirmed that the security of the Gulf and its stability are the responsibility of the Gulf states and it expressed its opposition to the attempts of the great powers to interfere in the affairs of the region which would involve in conflicts which are not in the best interests of its states or in concert with the will of its people. It also confirmed that it is vital to keep the entire area away from international quarrels, especially the presence of military fleets and foreign bases which are not in its best interests or the best interests of security and world peace.

The Council considered the situation in the Middle East and reaffirmed its complete support for the struggle of the Palestinian people in obtaining their inalienable right to self determination including the creation of their own independent state on their own territory under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Council renewed its belief that there is no way to achieve a just peace in the Middle East except by the withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and the removal of the Israeli settlements which have been set up on Arab lands.

The Council reviewed Arab and international reactions in respect to the peace principles announced by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in regard to a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine Question. The Council agreed to the request from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to include it on the agenda of the twelfth Arab Summit Conference which will be convened in Morocco with the aim of crystalizing a unified Arab stand in regard to the Palestine Question.

The Council reviewed the current Arab situation and, in rising to meet its national responsibilities in respect to the necessity of achieving Arab solidarity and removing the differences between fraternal Arab states and resolving their differences, it affirmed the unity of efforts and, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the Co-operation Council, confirmed that it is an indivisible part of the Arab Nation.

The Council resolved that the Member States will make enthusiastic efforts to achieve unity in the Arab ranks.

The Council discussed the on-going conflict between Iraq and Iran and the threats proceeding therefrom to the security and stability of the entire region. It expressed its hope that peaceful efforts will be crowned with success, affirming its support for all such efforts, including the Islamic efforts which spring from the Islamic Conference, as well as the efforts of the non-aligned nations and the United Nations.

The Council reviewed the situation in Afghanistan and the dangers it poses not only to the security and independence of the area but to world peace and it

affirmed its adherence to the resolutions of the Islamic Conference in this respect.

The Council reviewed the Economic Agreement which was initially signed by the Ministers of Finance and Economy in the City of Riyadh on the 8th June 1981 A.D., which was studied by the Ministerial Council at a meeting held in Taif during the period 2-3 Dhu al-Qa'da 1401 A.H. corresponding to 31 August - 1 September 1981 A.D. and the Council confirmed its agreement thereto.

The Supreme Council, in adopting this important measure, inspired by the faith of the citizen in the removal of barriers between the Member States as well as in the strengthening of the ties between the people of the region basing them firm foundations leading to the unity of the region, understands that this is the ideal path for ensuring progress and prosperity for all the states of the Council.

The Council also reviewed the subject of military co-operation between its members and resolved to issue an invitation to the Ministers of Defence to meet for the purpose of fixing the necessary priorities of the states of the Co-operation Council to ensure their independence and sovereignty.

The Council decided to convene in the third meeting of the Supreme Council in Bahrain in the first week of November 1982 A.D. corresponding to the third week of the month of Muharram 1403 A.H.

The Council expressed its thanks, appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty King Khalid bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince Fahd bin Abdulaziz and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the generosity of their hospitality and the excellence of the reception which was accorded to the heads and members of the delegations present and participating in the meetings, all of which had a salutary effect on the success of the proceedings of this fraternal meeting. They also wished His Majesty and Crown Prince continuing health and the Saudi people continuing well-being, progress and prosperity.

Issued in Riyadh on 15 Muharram 1402 A.H.

Corresponding to 11 November 1981 A.D. ⁽²⁰⁾

F.3.: Final Communique of the Third GCC Summit

Final Communiqué of the GCC Summit Meeting

Manama television service 1124 gmt 11 Nov 82

Text of relay of the final communiqué of the GCC Supreme Council held in Bahrain from 9th-11th November - read by the GCC Secretary General, Abdullah Bishrah:

At the invitation of HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Amir of the State of Bahrain, the third session of the GCC Supreme Council was held in Manama from 9th to 11th November 1982. HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Al Nuhayyan, the UAA President; HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Amir of the State of Bahrain; HM King Khalid (as received - King Fahd) Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, Monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; HM Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id of Oman; HH Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar; and HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, attended.

During this session, the GCC Supreme Council reviewed the political and economic ties between the GCC countries. It also reviewed the political and security situation in the Gulf region in the light of current events.

On reviewing ties among the GCC countries, the Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction with the level of co-ordination among the GCC countries in the implementation of the provisions and spirit of the principles of the GCC statutes and the objectives of the efforts of the GCC member-countries to strengthen co-operation and ties in order to achieve integration and the aspirations of their peoples for a better future.

The Supreme Council viewed with satisfaction the agreement on the bases and infrastructure of collective action, thus paving the way for joint Gulf action on its practical objectives and its far-reaching goals. The Council urged the various co-operation (council) apparatuses and committees to continue towards the second stage of collective action and to take the necessary steps to implement the co-operation programme that was agreed upon to serve the citizens of the GCC countries and to consolidate their affiliation to the greater entity on the basis of equal rights and obligations, so that they might carry out their important role in continuing to safeguard the factors for the march of co-operation and in pushing forward this march towards the planned goals.

On reviewing aspects of military co-operation between the GCC countries, the Council approved the recommendations of the Defence Ministers of the GCC countries, which aim to build the intrinsic strength of GCC member-countries and co-ordinate among them to achieve the self-reliance of the countries in the area in protecting their security and safeguarding their stability.

The Council reviewed the resolution of the Interior Ministers made during their meeting in Riyadh on 17th October 1982, on the comprehensive security

agreement, and decided to agree to the Interior Ministers' request to complete the discussion of the necessary studies.

The Council discussed with great anxiety the developments in the war between Iraq and Iran. While it follows the serious developments represented by Iran crossing its international border with Iraq and the great threat which these developments pose to the safety and security of the Arab nation and the violation of its sovereignty, and as it believes that these latest developments have taken place at a time when the Arab nation is striving to consolidate and mobilize its forces to confront the escalating Zionist aggression, which requires the unification of the efforts of the Muslim countries, the Council affirms its support for Iraq in its endeavour to put an end to this war by peaceful means and to safeguard the efforts of the committee stemming from the Islamic Conference Organization and the efforts of the non-aligned countries and the United Nations, and asks Iran to respond to these efforts.

The Council also reviewed the results of the good offices and efforts made by the State of Kuwait and the UAA to end the disputes between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY. The Council praises the efforts that were made by Kuwait and the UAA and the spirit of perseverance which characterized these efforts and salutes the positive policies adopted by the Sultanate of Oman and PDRY and their sincere desire to eliminate all causes of disagreement and alienation between the children of both countries and both fraternal peoples. The success of these good efforts is practical evidence of the constrictive role that the Council plays in establishing peace in the region and in establishing fraternal and neighbourly relations among its states.

The Council also studied the developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and affirmed in this regard its support for the decisions and the statements made by the 12th Arab summit conference that was held in Fez, Morocco. The Council also reviewed the initial results of the contacts made by the seven-member committee which stemmed from the Fez summit conference under the chairmanship of King Hasan II of Morocco, and expressed its support for all efforts to achieve the Arab goals as defined by the Fez summit conference.

The Council reiterated its belief that there was no way a just and permanent peace could be achieved in the Middle East region except through the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, the elimination of all the Zionist settlements that were built and are being built on the occupied Arab soil, and the establishment of the Palestinian state on its national soil under the leadership of the PLO, the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Council also affirmed its full support for Lebanon in preserving its safety, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and demanded an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all the Lebanese territories.

The Council also reviewed the developments concerning the implementation of the articles of the unified economic agreement and expressed its satisfaction

at the implementation of the first stage of the agreement on 1st March 1983, when the citizens will experience the beginning of the economic integration that the agreement aims to achieve.

The Council also reviewed the decisions of the committee for financial and economic co-operation concerning the Gulf Investment Corporation. It decided to approve the formation of this corporation with a capital of 2,100 million dollars. The Council also approved converting the Saudi Arab Foundation for Specifications and Measures into a Gulf establishment that would standardize specifications and measures in the GCC states.

The Council expressed its thanks , gratitude and appreciation to the Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah and his Government for their hospitality and the good reception extended to the heads and members of participating delegations during the meetings. This has had a good effect on promoting the success of the meetings of this fraternal conference. We wish His Highness continued health and happiness and wish the people of Bahrain continued prosperity, development and progress.

The Council decided to hold the fourth conference in the State of Qatar in November 1983.

Issued in the State of Bahrain on 11th November 1982. May the peace and mercy of God be upon you. ⁽²¹⁾

F.4.: Final Communique of the Fourth GCC Summit

Statement on Fourth GCC Summit Meeting

Doha television 1148 gmt 9 Nov 83

Text of statement read by the GCC Secretary General, Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah, at the Sheraton Hotel in Doha:

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The final statement of the fourth session of the GCC Supreme Council held in Doha, State of Qatar, from 3 to 5 Safar 1404 Hegira, corresponding to 7th to 9th November 1983:

At the request of HH Shaykh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, the fourth session of the GCC Supreme Council was held in Doha from 3 to 5 Safar 1404 Hegira, corresponding to 7th to 9th November 1983, in the presence of their Majesties and Highnesses: HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, President of the UAA; HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Amir of the State of Bahrain; HM King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz, of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; HM Qabus Bin Sa'id of Oman; Shaykh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar and Shaykh Jabir al- Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

During this session the GCC Supreme Council reviewed the political and economic ties and co-ordination in defence affairs among GCC member countries. The GCC Supreme Council also reviewed the political situation in the Gulf area in the light of current events.

On reviewing ties among GCC countries, the Supreme Council expressed satisfaction with the level of co-operation attained by the GCC member countries in implementation of the principles of the GGG statutes. The Supreme Council noted that the steps that have been made to achieve political co-ordination and regular consultations to adopt unified positions at the international level have strengthened the GCC and consolidated the ties among the GCC countries.

On reviewing the situation in the region, the GCC Supreme Council discussed the continuing Iraqi-Iranian war and its effect on the region's stability. The Supreme Council expressed the hope that the two countries agree on ending the war between them in order to end the shedding of blood of the two Muslim countries and end the depletion of the resources of the two neighbouring countries and that they harness their efforts to confront the enemies of our Arab and Muslim nation.

The GCC Supreme Council expressed its support for the UN Security Council resolution of 31st October 1983 which calls for an end to all military activities in the Gulf and for refraining from attacking towns, economic installations and ports and for an immediate end to all hostilities in the Gulf area, including all sea routes and waterways. The GCC Supreme Council noted with satisfaction Iraq's agreement to the Security Council resolution. It calls on Iran to respond

positively to this resolution and not to threaten the freedom of navigation in the Gulf and its straits in view of the international importance of such straits and in accordance with international agreements that govern shipping in the straits.

The GCC Supreme Council calls on the UN Security Council, and its permanent members in particular, to shoulder their responsibilities in taking the necessary measures to implement the resolution. The GCC Supreme Council reiterates its readiness to resume the endeavours carried out by the State of Kuwait and the UAA on behalf of the GCC countries.

Out of its concern to end the shedding of Arab blood, the Supreme Council has sent Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Kuwait deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Information Minister, and Shaykh Ahma Bin Sayf Al Thani, the Qatar Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Syrian Arab Republic in an Arab endeavour in co-operation with Syria and Algeria and the representative of the Arab League - and within the framework of the intensive endeavours and efforts to end the current regrettable fighting in the Palestinian arena, so as to heal the rift and stand united behind the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Supreme Council hopes that all the parties will observe the cease-fire as agreed.

The Supreme Council emphasized its support for the PLO's unity and cohesion and for resolving all differences through constitutional and legal channels. The GCC Supreme Council expressed the belief that there can be no peace in the Middle East unless the Palestinian people, under the leadership of their organization, are able to obtain their inalienable national rights, including their right to repatriation, to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national homeland.

The GCC Supreme Council heard a detailed report from Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Information Minister, and Shaykh Ahmad Bin Sayf Al Thani, the Qatar Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, on their meetings in Damascus and on what was achieved. The GCC Supreme Council hopes that what was agreed on will be implemented.

The GCC Supreme Council also emphasized its support for Lebanon and for safeguarding Lebanon's safety, sovereignty, stability and territorial integrity. The Supreme Council expressed its support for the national reconciliation conference held in Geneva and expressed the hope that it will achieve the results to which the Lebanese people aspire.

The GCC Supreme Council also discussed the development in the relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY. The GCC Supreme Council applauds the positive development represented by the declaration on the exchange of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The GCC Supreme Council reviewed the progress of military co-ordination among GCC countries in implementation of the resolutions adopted at its third

session held in the State of Bahrain in November 1982 - resolutions that aim to build the strength of the GCC countries will be able to rely on themselves in defending their security and safeguarding their stability. The Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction with what has been achieved in this regard. The Supreme Council also viewed with satisfaction the Peninsula Shield exercises held in the UAA and the results and significance of these exercises that reflect the determination of the citizens of the region to defend it and consolidate its independence, and also reflect the cohesion among the citizens of the area and their readiness to shoulder their responsibilities in safeguarding stability and security.

The GCC Supreme Council reviewed the progress in the implementation of the unified economic agreement and decided to expand the scope of economic activities which citizens of their countries are allowed to carry out in other GCC member countries as of 1st March 1984. The Supreme Council also adopted decisions on completing the measures for the establishment of the Gulf Investment Foundation (*mu'ssasat al-khalij lil-istithmar*) which will begin its work at the end of November 1983.

The GCC Supreme Council expressed its gratitude and appreciation to Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, and to his government, for the generous hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the leaders and members of the delegations taking part during their presence in the conference - which had a good effect in bringing about the success of this brotherly conference - and wish His Highness good health and happiness and the Qatar people continued prosperity and affluence.

In response to the invitation of HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as- Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, the GCC Supreme Council decided to hold its fifth session in the State of Kuwait in November 1984.

Issued in the State of Qatar on 5 Safar 1404 Hegira, 9th November 1983. Thank you (applause) ⁽²²⁾

F.5.: Final Communique of the Fifth GCC Summit

GCC Summit in Kuwait: Final Communiqué

Kuwait home service 1010 gmt 29 November 84

Text of final communiqué of the fifth session of the GCC Supreme Council - read by Abdullah Bisharah, GCC Secretary General:

The GCC Supreme Council held its fifth session in Kuwait during the period 4th-6th Rabi al-Awwal 1405 AH, equivalent to 27th-29th November 1984 AD, in response to the invitation of HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait. The session was attended by Their Majesties and Highnesses HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, President of the UAE; HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Amir of Bahrain; HM King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, King of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom; HM Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id, Sultan of Oman; HH Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar; and HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Jabir as-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait.

The council reviewed the development of co-operation among the member-countries and what had been achieved since the fourth session in Doha. The council discussed the Iraq-Iran war because of the threat it constituted to the security and stability of the region as a whole. The council also studies current Arab affairs and the effects of Arab disputes on the Arab issues of destiny. The council also discussed the role played by member- countries in the international arena.

The council expressed its complete satisfaction with the steps taken towards uniting and co-ordinating the positions of the member-countries and towards consolidating the ties in a way that deepened the feeling of belonging and reinforcing the conviction of the citizens that they were an integrated part of a single framework which was aimed at uniting those countries. The council also affirmed its conviction of the necessity of achieving broader horizons in political, economic and social co-operation in a way that would consolidate its march towards the fulfilment of its aims.

The council noted that the achievements made in accordance with the unified economic agreement constitute the first step on the road to economic integration. For that reason, out of its desire to open new broad vistas for co-operation, the GCC approved the formula which organises the right of ownership for the citizens of member countries.

The council also reviewed the results achieved by the relevant committees in the sector of defence and security and affirmed the importance of those achievements which are aimed at translating the principle of self-reliance into a tangible fact ensuring that the sons of the council member-countries shoulder the task of defending them.

The council also studied the situation in the region and the danger posed by the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war to the region's stability and security. It studied the development of contacts and efforts exerted to put an end to the war which has exhausted the energies of the two neighbouring countries and their Muslim peoples. The council affirmed its members' approval of the continuation of efforts to find a peaceful solution to the war and to bolster the efforts by the United Nations and the good offices committee of the Islamic Conference Organisation and the non-aligned movement.

The council affirmed the readiness of member countries to undertake any direct effort that could secure progress towards dialogue and negotiations. The council laid down some concepts in this regard, hoping that they will be met with the required response.

The council expressed its satisfaction at the positive attitude taken by the Republic of Iraq towards the UN resolutions and the efforts of the Islamic Conference of the non-aligned countries. The council calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to contribute to the efforts aimed at finding a solution that takes into consideration the rights of both parties. The council also stressed the importance of principles set out in the UN Resolution 552 dated 1st June 1982 AD.

Concerning the Arab arena, the council reviewed the current situation, the negative consequences of the continuation of Arab disputes and the effects of those disputes on Arab issues of destiny. In response to the call of pan-Arab duty, the council expressed its readiness to participate in a collective Arab effort towards the removal of tension, the closure of the rift of our Arab disputes and attempts to reach an Arab agreement which puts Arab interests over and above all other considerations.

The council discussed the Palestine issue and the stages through which it had passed. The council affirmed the continuation of its support for the legitimacy of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine. The council stressed the continuation of its support for the unity of fraternal Lebanon and for the preservation of its stability, independence and national sovereignty over its soil.

In the economic arena, the council expressed its satisfaction with the steps taken towards the implementation of the unified economic agreement; those steps had contributed a tangible increase in commercial exchanges among the GCC countries. The General Secretariat was also commissioned to study means to encourage joint projects. The council agreed to give priority to national products in governmental projects. The council delegated the GCC Council of Ministers to ratify the development and integration strategy for the GCC countries in their coming session after the completion of its study by the member countries.

The council expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the Secretary General and decided to renew the appointment of Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah as Secretary General of the GCC. The council also ratified the budget of the general secretariat for the current year 1405 AH.

The council appreciates the great effort made by HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jibir, the Amir of the State of Kuwait, and his Government to make this session successful. The council also appreciates the true sentiments which reflect Kuwait's belief and role in the march of the council. The council expresses its profound gratitude and appreciation to HH Shaykh Jibir al-Ahmad Jibir and his Government for making such efforts, and records feelings of genuine thanks for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements given to Their Majesties and Highnesses - a warm welcome and excellent arrangements which had a fundamental role in realising the results achieved by the meetings.

The council looks forward to its sixth session in Muscat, in the month of Safar 1406 AH corresponding to November 1985 at the invitation of HM Sultan Qabus bin Sa'id, Sultan of Oman.

Issued in Kuwait on 6th Rabi al-Awwal 1405 corresponding to 29th November 1984 (23)

**F.6.: Final Communique of the Sixth GCC
Summit**

Final Communiqué of Sixth GCC Summit

Muscat television 0946 gmt 6 Nov 85

Text of relay of final communiqué of the sixth session of the GCC SUpreme Council held in Muscat from 3rd-6th November, read by GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bisharah at the Bustan Palace Hotel in Muscat (MR/8 101/i):

The GCC Supreme Council held its sixth session in the Sultanate of Oman from 19th-22nd Safar 1406 Hegira, corresponding to 3rd-6th November 1985, at the invitation of HM Sultan Qabus Bin Said, the Sultan of Oman. The meeting was attended by their Majesties and Highnesses: HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAA; HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Amir of the state of Bahrain; HM King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; HM Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id, the Sultan of Oman; HH Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the state of Qatar; and HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council reviewed co-operation among GCC member states and expressed satisfaction at what has been achieved as a result of such co-operation since the fifth session, held in the state of Kuwait. The GCC Supreme Council discussed the Iraqi-Iranian war in the light of recent developments and in the light of the serious escalation - particularly in the Gulf waters - and discussed the threat this posed to the security and stability of the entire region and to freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

With regard to the situation in the Gulf region, the Supreme Council recalled what was announced at the conclusion of the fourth session in Doha in November 1983, which stated its adherence to UN Security Council Resolutions Nos. 504 of 1983 and 552 of 1984, which expressed the international community's support for freedom of navigation in international waterways and for freedom of passage of merchant ships from and to the ports of the GCC states. The Supreme Council calls on Iran to respect the principles mentioned in these two resolutions.

The Supreme Council also reaffirmed what it had declared in its fifth session in Kuwait in November 1984 regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, especially its emphasis on the need for the readiness of the GCC states to continue their endeavours with the parties concerned to end this destructive war in a manner that safeguards the legitimate rights and interests of the two sides, in order to bring about the establishment of normal relations among the Gulf states.

On the Arab level, the Supreme Council discussed the Palestinian question and its various stages, and stated its continuing support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Supreme Council also condemned the Zionist attack on Tunisia and on the PLO headquarters there, and stated its support for the fraternal republic of Tunisia and the PLO.

The council states its continuing support for the unity of fraternal Lebanon and for safe-guarding its stability, independence and national sovereignty on its soil.

The council also reviewed the Arab situation, the results of the extraordinary summit held in Casablanca and the work of the two committees for reconciliation and clearing the Arab atmosphere, and expressed its satisfaction with the results achieved by the committees. The Council stated its support for the work of the committees and for the need to continue their efforts until their task was accomplished.

The Council also reviewed the steps achieved in accordance with the economic agreement. Out of its desire to push forward with the GCC's march towards achievement of the goals underlined by the economic agreement, the Supreme Council agreed to the drawing up of a timetable to carry out the various activities of economic co-operation. The Supreme Council decided to charge the Administrative Council with the task of approving this programme and to study the possibility of adding new economic activities which the citizens of GCC states are allowed to carry out, such as insurance, trade, and buying and exchanging of shares of companies authorised to carry out their activities, and drawing up regulations for such transactions.

In implementation of the statutes for achieving and co-ordinating integration and links among the member countries in all fields and to strengthen the ties of co-operation, the Council has approved the following:

1. The agricultural policy of the GCC countries.
2. A unified strategy for industrial development.
3. Education goals and methods.
4. Policies and general principles for protecting the environment.

The Supreme Council was also informed of the progress of the initial contacts made with international economic bodies and countries, and has decided to continue those contacts; the Council has also approved treatment for students from GCC countries at the elementary, intermediate, and secondary levels equal to that for those students resident in the country in which they are studying; it also approved treatment for study certificates issued by the GCC countries equal to that for those issued from the country in which these certificates are needed.

The Council reviewed the security situation in view of the escalation of terrorism in the region and the terrorist attempts carried out against some GCC countries in a bid to undermine their security and stability. While condemning all acts of terrorism, the Council stated its support for solidarity with any member state subjected to such acts and considered this a threat to all GCC countries, because the security of the GCC countries is indivisible.

Out of the determination to preserve the solid unity of the internal front and in order to achieve stability and security in the member countries, the Council approved the goals of the security strategy and emphasised the need to realise them quickly. In reviewing defence co-operation, the Council expressed full satisfaction over the accomplishments achieved. The Council also approved the strategic concept of defence co-operation among the GCC countries.

The Council expressed appreciation for the great efforts of HM Sultan Qabus Bin Said of Oman and his Government to ensure the success of this session; it also expressed appreciation for the sincere feelings demonstrated by the people of the Sultanate of Oman and the great meanings of these overflowing feelings which reflect the Sultanate of Oman's conviction for, and its positive role in, the GCC march. The Council reiterated sincere thanks to HM Sultan Qabus Bin Said for the warm welcome their Majesties and Highnesses had been accorded and for the preparations and excellent organisation which had a key role in the good results achieved by the Supreme Council.

The Council looks forward to its meetings during its seventh session in the UAA in Safar 1407 Hegira, corresponding to November 1986, in response to an invitation from UAA President HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Issued in Muscat on 22nd Safar 1406 Hegira, corresponding to 6th November 1985.

Thank you Your Majesty, the Chairman [applause]. (24)

**F.7.: Final Communique of the Seventh GCC
Summit**

Final Statement of the GCC Summit in Abu Dhabi

Riyadh television 1002 gmt 5 Nov 86

Text of statement as read out at relayed final session by the GCC Secretary General, Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah:

At the invitation of HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Head of State of the United Arab Emirates, the seventh session of the Supreme Council of the GCC was held, with God's assistance, in Abu Dhabi, during the period 30th Safar-3rd Rabi al-Awwal AH, corresponding to 2nd-5th November 1986 AD with the attendance of: HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, Head of State of the United Arab Emirates; HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of the State of Bahrain; the Servant of the two Holy Places, King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; HM Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id, Sultan of Oman; HH Shaykh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar; [and] HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir AL Sabah, Amir of the state of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council discussed the overall development of co-operation and co-ordination and new developments in the political, security, military, economic and social fields since the sixth summit meeting in Muscat in Safar 1406 AH, corresponding to November 1985 AD.

The fraternal spirit existing between the member states was crystallised and the determination was stressed to continue the march for good which started in Abu Dhabi on 21st Rajab 1401 AH, corresponding to 25th May 1981 AD, for the realisation of the hopes of the Council's member countries in consolidating security and stability, achieving the citizens' ambitions in providing prosperity and progress, and affirming the cohesion of the peoples of the region.

The Council discussed the Iraq-Iran war, its resulting destructive effects on two Muslim peoples, and the dangers it posed for the region's security and stability, and expressed its regret over the continuation of this war and its profound concern over the intense and continuous escalation and the developments which harm the interests of the two Muslim peoples. It affirmed its adherence to the two UN Security Council Resolutions No 582 and 588 of 1986 AD which call for an immediate cease fire and the withdrawal of forces to the international boundaries and for seeking the settlement of the conflict between the two countries by peaceful means.

It expressed its hope that Iran would respond to this international effort. The Council expressed its esteem for brotherly Iraq's response to the efforts which are aimed at putting an end to this destructive war through peaceful means. The Council renewed its determination to continue exerting all efforts and endeavours and its agreement with all international efforts and endeavours aimed at putting an end to this war and achieving a peaceful solution to it.

The Council also affirmed its adherence with Security Council Resolution 540 of 1983 and Resolution 552 of 1984 which expressed the attitude of the international community with regard to freedom of navigation in international waters and freedom of passage of merchant ships to and from GCC ports. It expressed its hope that Iran would respond to this international effort expressed by these two resolutions. The Council expressed its determination to safeguard the legitimate interests of the member-states and protect freedom of navigation to and from GCC ports.

Stemming from the aims embodied by the basic constitution, the Supreme Council stressed the need to clear up all differences between sisterly Arab countries and heal divisions. It reviewed the results of efforts which have been exerted towards clearing the Arab atmosphere and it affirmed the importance of continuing these endeavours to overcome the hurdles facing the convening of an Arab summit conference which would realise the unity of the ranks in order to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation.

The Council also reviewed the development of the Palestine question and reaffirmed its support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people, and renewed its commitment to the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences which call for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

The Council also studied the situation in Lebanon. The Council reaffirmed its continuing support for legitimacy to preserve the unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon. The Council called on all the sides involved in the conflict in Lebanon to stop the bloodshed and reach agreement in order to guarantee the national unity of the Lebanese people.

The Council expressed its regret for the deterioration in Syrian-British relations. The Supreme Council, while affirming anew its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and types, expressed its rejection of the attempts to link the concept of terrorism to Arabs and to harm the Arab nation.

The Supreme Council has approved the recommendations which were submitted to it with regard to military co-operation. The Supreme Council praised the progress of this co-operation and the achievements of the Dir al- Jazirah [Peninsula Shield] Force in terms of its readiness as a symbol of the joint determination of joint defence and stressed the importance of continuing to bring about self-reliance gradually in order to make available the circumstances and capability to bolster defence capability and to effect the latter's development and modernisation.

The Council expressed its satisfaction with the degree of co-operation and co-ordination reached in the field of security. It approved the intense contacts between the security organs of the member-states in order to consolidate and guarantee the security and stability of the member-states of the Council.

The Supreme Council praised the steps taken so far for the implementation of the unified economic agreement according to a timetable. It stressed the importance of completing the necessary measures for implementing this programme. Out of its desire to realise [equal rights and opportunities] for all citizens [of the member-states] in economic and trade activities, the Supreme Council has decided the following: (1) To permit investors from among the citizens of the member-states of the Council to obtain loans from banks and industrial development funds in the member-states and [to permit] their equality with the national investor [the local investor in any particular member-state] from the point of view of qualifications and according to the regulations which have been approved, as from the first day of the month of Rajab 1407 AH, corresponding to 1st March 1987. (2) To allow GCC citizens to engage in retail and wholesale trade in any member-state and to be treated equally with the country's nationals according to the rules agreed with effect from 1st Rajab 1407 AH corresponding to 1st March, 1987 with regard to retail trade, and from 25th Jumadah al-Ula 1410 AH corresponding to 1st March, 1990 vis-a-vis wholesale trade. The Supreme Council also agreed upon the united bases giving priority to government purchases concerning national products and locally-produced goods [as heard].

In order to achieve better co-operation with other countries and international economic circles in the interests of the economic development, social progress and cultural development of the GCC states and the welfare of their citizens, the Supreme Council agreed upon the continuation of contacts with other countries and international economic bodies. It has charged the Ministerial Council with drawing up the goals and co-operation policies that are the aims of these contacts. It has charged it to follow them up and implement them.

The Supreme Council agreed upon the GCC media charter and external media regulations as a unified basis for the media policy of the member-states stemming from the desire to deepen the heritage and root it in the citizen's discipline, to deal with the external media in a way which would protect the heritage of the region, its Islamic virtues and its national interests.

The Supreme Council expressed its full gratitude and admiration to HH Shaykh Zayd Bin Sultan Al Nuhaayan, the UAA Head of State, his government and his people for the hospitality and the warm welcome accorded to GCC leaders and members of the participating delegations for the excellent organisation which played a major role in achieving the results of the Supreme Council. The Council looks forward towards its eighth meeting in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Rabi al-Thani 1408 AH corresponding to December 1987 in response to an invitation from the Servant of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd Bin Al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, King of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom.

Issued in Abu Dhabi and dated 3rd Rabi Al-Awwal 1407 AH corresponding to 5th November 1986. Thank you Your Royal Highness the Chairman. (25)

F.8.: Final Communique of the Eighth GCC Summit

Final Communique of the Eighth Meeting of the Supreme Council of the Co-operation Council held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

6-9 Jumada al-Oola 1408 AH

26-29 December 1987 AD

In response to the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and with the help and protection of God, the eighth meeting of the Supreme Council of the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf was convened in the City of Riyadh during the period 6-9 Jumada al-Oola 1408, corresponding to 26-29 December 1987 AD. Their Majesties and Highnesses, as listed below, were in attendance:

His Highness Shaikh Zayid bin Sultan Al Nahayan,

President of the State of the United Arab Emirates;

His Highness Shaikh Essa bin Salman Al Khalifa,

Amir of the State of Bahrain;

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud,

King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos bin Said,

Sultan of Oman;

His Highness, Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani,

Amir of the State of Qatar;

His Highness, Shaikh Jabir al Ahmad al Jabir Al Sabah,

Amir of the State of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council reviewed the progress of co-operation between the Member States in political, security, military, economic and social fields. It also reviewed developments in the Iraqi/Iranian war, the situation in the Gulf, developments in the Arab situation, the Palestinian question and the problem of Lebanon.

In the sphere of co-operation and co-ordination between Member States, the Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction at the level which has been achieved by the Co-operation Council in this respect for the benefit and well-being of the citizen as an embodiment of the spirit for which the Council was established.

Concerning the situation in the Gulf Region:

The Supreme Council studied developments in the Iraqi/Iranian war and the tragedy which is being lived through by the peoples of these two warring countries as well as the negative effects with which it is threatening the region. In this respect, the Supreme Council expressed its deep sorrow at what this destructive war has brought about as well as its profound worry with regard to the continuation of the war.

It also noted the national efforts which are being exerted to put an end to this war. In this respect it commended Security Council Resolution No. (598) issued on 20 July 1987 AD by the unanimous consent of the Member States. That resolution represents the will of the international community and it was welcomed by world public opinion because it aimed at stopping the bloodshed and destruction. The Council drew attention to the resolution adopted at the extraordinary Arab Summit which was convened in Amman last November. It adopted a unified Arab position with regard to the Iraqi/Iranian war which obliged the States of the Co-operation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf to express their appreciation of the positive stand of Iraq vis-a-vis Security Council Resolution No. (598) which Iraq agreed to implement without reservations.

The Council observes with regret the attempt of Iran to procrastinate vis-a-vis accepting the resolution. The Council further requests the international community, with the Security Council in the vanguard, to accept its responsibility in adopting measures which will insure the implementation of Resolution No. (598) in the quickest possible time.

The Council expressed its hope that Iran will adopt a stand in response to the will of the international community and accept the call of the Islamic community to end the war, make peace, stop the bloodshed of Muslims and save its energies to confront the enemies of the Islamic community.

The Council also dealt with the dangerous escalation threatening the security and safety of the Member States and international navigation, a matter which exposes the region to the danger of international conflicts.

The Council also gave its attention to the events which occurred in Holy Makkah and the sedition which the Iranians stirred up in the precincts of the Holy House of God. It also considered the rocket bombardment and the Iranian aggression aimed at the security and stability of Kuwait; the Iranian aggression against the embassies of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Teheran; the bombardment of oil tankers and commercial vessels proceeding to and from the

seaports of the Council States in the waters of the Gulf; and the implications of these aggressions in respect to violations of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

In its hope that this region and its peoples will remain free from the threats of war; and with the hope of establishing good will among the nations of the region; and desiring that the Gulf Region remain free of international conflicts; the Supreme Council calls on Iran to adhere to the principles of good neighbourliness and mutual respect whereby the return of security and stability to the region will be ensured.

The Arab Situation:

The Supreme Council reviewed the Arab situation and commended the results of the extraordinary Arab Summit which was held in Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan last November. It praised the strengthening of Arab solidarity and the adoption of solidarity as the fundamental base for joint Arab action, the aim of which is to embody a unified Arab stand.

The Council affirmed its determination to strengthen effective Arab solidarity and to take action to avoid everything which presents obstacles to Arab progress, confronting all challenges to which it is exposed. It also affirmed the necessity of settling all Arab differences within the framework of brotherhood and mutual understanding through constructive dialogue in order to preserve the unity of the Arab ranks in an endeavour to mobilize all Arab energies and capabilities in the service of the fundamental battle in which the Arab nation is now engaged during this sensitive stage of its history.

The Supreme Council studied developments in regard to the Palestinian question and the situation arising from the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories in light of the resolutions of the Arab Summit Conference. In this respect, the Council praised the popular Palestinian uprising (intifada) against the enemy, the enemy's settlement projects and his continuing violations of the sanctity of the holy places in Palestine. It condemned the tyrannical and oppressive measures which the enemy uses against the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. It observed with admiration the heroic resistance and the firm steadfastness which the Palestinian people have demonstrated under occupation. This is obvious proof of the rejection by this struggling Arab people of the fait accompli policy which the Zionist enemy is attempting to impose, and of this people's firm and lawful adherence to their own self-determination, preserving their pan-Arab personality, and exercising their national rights over their own land and soil.

The Council affirmed its support and backing for the uprising (intifada) using all available capabilities and it also resolved to commission the chairman to send messages to the states holding permanent membership in the Security Council regarding this subject in view of the importance of these events which constitute an important development transforming the nature of the history of the struggle of the people of Palestine.

In this respect, the Council commended the latest resolution of the Security Council on this subject and called for the international community to shoulder its complete responsibilities in confronting this situation.

The Council considers that the uprising (intifada) has created a new factor which demands an immediate convening of an international peace conference under the sponsorship of the United Nations in which all parties concerned will participate on an equal basis, including the Palestinian Liberation Organization which is the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people, along side the states with permanent membership in the Security Council. The Council considers that this is the only suitable means for reaching a peaceful, just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab Israeli conflict.

The Supreme Council attached special importance to the situation in fraternal Lebanon and expressed its pain at what the fraternal Lebanese people are enduring as a result of this regrettable situation - and it called the Lebanese leaders, heads of factions and people to put the interest of Lebanon and the higher Arab interest above all other considerations and to make sincere efforts to emerge from this bloody ordeal by reaching an urgent solution which brings security to Lebanon as well as stability, the unity of its territories and its sovereignty. While affirming its stand beside Lebanon in its ordeal, the Council called upon the international community to participate in providing the necessary humanitarian aid which is badly needed by the people of Lebanon.

In the Fields of Co-operation:

The Supreme Council ratified the comprehensive security strategy which was submitted by the Ministers of the Interior, expressing its satisfaction at the co-operation which has been achieved in security spheres and affirming the necessity of taking more advanced measures to protect the gains which have been achieved by the states in these fields.

The Supreme Council also ratified the recommendations of the Ministers of Defence with regard to military co-operation, stressing the importance of self help in building up the Member States in order to support defence capabilities within a framework of co-ordination and integration in such a way as to meet the requirements of security and stability.

The Supreme Council studied the way in which the Unified Economic Agreement is being implemented in light of the programs which have been approved by the Ministerial Council according to the resolution adopted at the sixth meeting of the Supreme Council. It expressed its satisfaction at what has been accomplished and the steps that have been taken in implementing the Unified Economic Agreement while stressing the necessity of continuing to implement the remainder of its articles. It approved the granting of permission to citizens of the Council States to engage in a number of economic activities in new fields in the Member States according to the rules governing the practice of these economic activities which were ratified by the Supreme Council in this meeting.

It also ratified the granting of permission to the citizens of the Council States to engage in additional trades according to the rules governing the practice by the citizens of the States of the Council of the free trades in the Member States which were also approved by the Supreme Council in this meeting.

The Supreme Council also ratified the rules and regulations governing petroleum loans between the Member States.

With regard to negotiations with states and international economic groups, the Supreme Council commissioned the Ministerial Council to begin official negotiations with the European Community according to the recommendations submitted to it by the Ministerial Council in this respect.

In order to deepen ties between the citizens of the Council States, the Supreme Council approved the Cultural Development Plan as well as the equality of students in the institutions of higher education in the Member States.

In the Fields of Co-ordination:

The Council considered the oil situation and the recent developments in the world markets, stressing the necessity for maintaining the stability of the market and the necessity of all the OPEC states to abide by agreed upon prices and to stop granting either direct or indirect discounts. It also affirmed its support for the efforts of OPEC and the obligation of the Member States in implementing the production quotas according to their latest agreement which aims at the stabilization of prices on the basis of eighteen dollars per barrel for benchmark oil.

The Council called upon all oil-exporting states outside OPEC to co-operate in trying to achieve world market stability by limiting surplus production which exceeds actual market demand.

The Supreme Council gave its attention to commercial exchange between various countries of the world and expressed its worry regarding the protectionist policies especially those which Japan is determined to apply with regard to the imposition of duties and taxes on imports of crude oil and petroleum products. This policy impedes the freedom of international trade and places obstacles in the way of commercial exchange, limiting the volume of trade in various nations of the world especially between the developing and the industrialized states. The Council called the international community and especially the industrialized countries to put an end to protectionist measures and to follow commercial policies which are more open, especially in regard to the developing nations, including the petroleum exporting states.

The Supreme Council decided to commission Mr. Abdulla Bishara, the current Secretary General, to continue in his job until this subject is decided upon at the next meeting in accordance with the Charter.

The Supreme Council expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to his government and people, for the generosity of their hospitality and the excellence of the reception which the leaders of the Council States and members of the participating delegations received as well as for the excellent organization which played a noticeable role in the achievement of the results arrived at by the Supreme Council. The Council looks forward to its ninth meeting in the State of Bahrain in Jumada Al-Oola 1409 AH, corresponding to December 1988 AD at the kind invitation of His Highness Shaikh Essa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Amir of the State of Bahrain.

Issued in Riyadh on 9 Jumada al-Oola 1408 AH, corresponding to 29 December 1987 AD. (26)

**F.9.: Final Communique of the Ninth GCC
Summit
Manamah Declaration**

GCC Summit Final Communiqué

Manama television 1023 gmt 22 Dec 88

Text of the final communiqué of the ninth GCC summit conference read out by GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah (ME/0341 i)

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The final communiqué of the ninth session of the Supreme Council held in Bahrain from 10th-13th Jumada al-Ula 1409 AH, corresponding to 19th-22nd December 1988.

In response to an invitation by HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the ruler of Bahrain, the Supreme Council held its ninth session in the city of Manama in Bahrain during the period 10th-13th Jumada al-Ula 1409 AH, corresponding to 19th-22nd December 1988, in the presence of their majesties and highnesses: HH Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the President of the UAE; HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Emir of Bahrain; HM King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz Al Sa'ud of Saudi Arabia, the Servant of the Two Holy Places; HM Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id of Oman; HH Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar; and HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council discussed the progress achieved by the [Gulf] Co-operation Council and the goals of the Council's basic law which have been attained. It also discussed the security situation in the region in the light of Iran's acceptance of [UN] Security Council Resolution 598 issued in July 1987. It reviewed the current Arab situation, particularly the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the escalation of the valiant uprising, the resolutions issued by the PNC during its special session in Algiers and the UN General Assembly's resolutions issued during its session in Geneva on the question of Palestine. The Council also discussed the initiation of dialogue between the PLO and the United States, the Lebanese situation and the current consultations designed to clear the Arab atmosphere.

The Council also discussed changes on the international level and the detente in international relations resulting from these changes.

Integration among the Council's States

The Supreme Council studied the progress made by the Co-operation Council and undertook a comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the actions to attain the goals of faith in common fate and unity of aim as set out in the basic law. It affirmed its desire to achieve more co-ordination, integration and co-operation, and to complete the steps taken during the previous sessions. It recalled the contents of the economic declaration of the eighth summit in Riyadh, particularly the determination to speed up the completion of the necessary measures to set up a Gulf common market and to take more steps which would fulfil the citizens' ambitions. It took cognisance of the results of the activities of the various

ministerial committees and the recommendations of the ministerial council. Consequently, the Supreme Council reaffirms its determination to continue the process in a manner which will consolidate the firm foundations on which the Council was established and will attain more cohesion among the citizens and serve their interests.

In the light of all this, the Supreme Council has decided the following:

To permit the citizens of the member-states of the Council to possess shares in the new joint stock companies engaged in economic activities, according to the proposed rules.

To place the citizens of the Council's member-states on an equal footing regarding taxation dealings with the citizens of the member-state where the investment is made.

The Supreme Council approved the following: The scheme to encourage, co-ordinate and set up industrial projects in the Council's member states; the plan to protect new national industries; the regional emergency plan for petroleum products among the Council's member-states; equal treatment for citizens of a member-state of the Council with the citizens of the member-state where they reside in the field of medical services.

The Security Situation in the Region

The Supreme Council also debated the security situation in the region and the progress of negotiations between Iran and Iraq to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Council noted the previous sessions' resolutions which determined the Council's firm policy to continue efforts to halt the destructive war between Iraq and Iran and to establish a just and durable peace in the region.

After reviewing the Supreme Council's efforts, in implementation of the resolutions passed at the GCC Supreme Council's eighth session in Riyadh and in view of the consultations held with the UN Secretary-General, the Supreme Council expresses satisfaction with the positive developments in the region, represented in the cease-fire and the start of negotiations on the implementation of Resolution 598.

The Supreme Council expresses appreciation of the UN Secretary-General's efforts, and assets that it will pursue its work with the international community and particularly with the permanent member-countries of the UN Security Council, to bring about the full implementation of the resolution.

The Supreme Council also pledges anew that it will work to ensure security and stability in the region, so that the freedom of shipping in international waters and waterways may be guaranteed in accordance with the principles of international law and the UN Charter on the bases of good neighbourliness, non-in-

tervention in internal affairs, mutual respect and peaceful co-existence stemming from the ties of religion and heritage linking the region's countries.

The Current Arab Situation

The Supreme Council reviewed the situation in the occupied Arab territories and noted its resolution at its eighth session in Riyadh in support of the popular uprising against occupation and the Zionist enemy's oppressive practices designed to prevent the people of Palestine from exercising their legitimate rights of self-determination and establishing an independent state of their own.

The Supreme Council lauds the Palestinian peoples' heroic struggle in the occupied territories and announces that the GCC states' support and backing for this uprising will continue with all the means available until this uprising has achieved its goals. The Council also praises the resolutions passed at the PNC's extraordinary session in Algiers and the proclamation of an independent Palestinian state.

The council expresses support for the establishment of this state and appreciation for the countries which recognised it, and it appeals to the rest of the world to recognise the Palestinian state as well. The Council also commends the speech of Yasir Arafat, Chairman of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, at the UN General Assembly's 43rd session on the Palestinian issue in Geneva.

The Supreme Council urges the international community to support the convening of an international conference within the UN framework and with the participation of the permanent member-states of the Security Council. The purpose of such a conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, would be to work out a peaceful, just and lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and to enable the Palestinian people to regain their usurped rights, including their legitimate right of self-determination and the building of an independent state of their own.

The Supreme Council expresses the hope that the US-PLO dialogue will produce positions that will inevitably lead to the adoption of swift decisions to convene an international conference.

While recalling its statement issued at the end of its eighth session in Riyadh about the situation in Lebanon, the Council reiterates its support for the efforts being made to enable Lebanon's constitutional establishments to continue their tasks and preserve Lebanon and its independence and territorial integrity. The Council, in this regard, supports the view that an Arab League Council meeting should be held to discuss the situation in Lebanon.

Their majesties and highnesses note with satisfaction the developments which have taken place within the sphere of Arab exchanges. In view of the constructive role being played by the Arab Republic of Egypt, the GCC leaders support

the steps that would enable Egypt to carry out its responsibilities on the Arab level.

The International Situation

The Supreme Council notes with satisfaction the world detente which will alleviate tension and contribute towards finding peaceful solutions to regional conflicts, limiting the arms race and formulating the bases for a new phase in international relations based on common interests and mutual respect. It voices its support for the UN efforts to find solutions to the current problems. The Supreme Council expresses satisfaction at the direct negotiations conducted between the Afghan mujahedin and the Soviet Union in Ta'if in Saudi Arabia. It expresses the hope that a lasting peace will be established through which the people of Afghanistan will be able to maintain their unity and independence and confirm their non-aligned policy and Islamic character.

Military Security Co-operation

The Supreme Council acquainted itself with the advances in the military and security co-operation among the member-states, expressing its satisfaction with the level this co-operation has reached. It emphasises the need for this co-operation to continue to develop. The Supreme Council is conscious that co-operation among the member-states must be consolidated in order to achieve the area's prosperity and safeguard its gains, security and stability. Therefore, it has approved the recommendations adopted by the defence ministers, as well as the Ministerial Council's recommendations pertaining to the aspects of security and military co-operation in the next stage, in completion of the stages of work commenced in recent years.

Oil Co-operation

The Supreme Council discussed the recent agreement reached by OPEC and affirms its support for and commitment to this decision. It calls on the rest of the OPEC members to show a similar commitment. The Council stresses the need for co-operation between OPEC and non-OPEC states, since the stability of prices is a collective responsibility.

Negotiations with Economic Groups

The Supreme Council took cognisance of the co-operation agreement signed between the GCC states on the one hand and the EC on the other in Luxembourg on 15th June 1988, and decided to ratify it. The Supreme Council authorised the Ministerial Council to enter into official negotiations with the EC with the aim of achieving a trade agreement between the two groups.

The Supreme Council decided to renew the term of office of Secretary-General Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah for another two years.

Their majesties and highnesses expressed their extreme gratitude and appreciation to HH Shaykh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Emir of Bahrain, and to his government and people for the generous hospitality and reception and the warm feelings and fraternal welcome accorded them. Their majesties and highnesses praise the excellent preparations, meticulous planning, and great efforts made to provide for the comfort of the delegations and ensure a successful meeting.

The Supreme Council looks forward to its 10th session in the Sultanate of Oman during Jumada al-Ula 1410 AH, corresponding to December 1989, in response to an invitation from HM Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id.

Issued in Manama on 13th Jumad al-Ula 1409 AH corresponding to 22nd December 1988. (27)

Manama Declaration

22 December 1988

The Supreme Council, realising the importance of materialising the goals stated in the GCC Charter and desiring to enhance efforts at co-operation and integration between member states in all fields with the aim of their unity; and in pursuance of the principles of the GCC Charter and the comprehensiveness of its objectives, in execution of the directives of its leaders, stresses the necessity of continuing and broadening this trend so that GCC accomplishments cover all fields in a balanced manner; and

Being convinced that matters tackled by the GCC aim at deepening its citizens' inter-relations; and

Supplementing what was stated in the Declaration issued during the eighth summit at Al-Riyad.

In its ninth summit held in Bahrain during the period 10th-13th Jumada al-Oola 1408 H, corresponding to 19th-22nd December 1988, the Supreme Council reviewed the progress of the working of the GCC in the various fields in the light of the goals enshrined in the Charter and the Unified Economic Agreement, and the timetable for the implementation of the Agreement according to the resolutions adopted by the Supreme Council at its sixth and seventh summits.

While the Supreme Council voices its appreciation for the steps taken by member states in harmony with the resolutions of the Supreme Council concerning the Unified Economic Agreement and the positive outcome it brought about which resulted in connecting the citizens' economic interests, it looks with confidence for future steps implementing more provisions of the Agreement in a gradual manner which contributes to the broadening of the Gulf common

market and pushing forward the wheel of economic development in member states.

While the Supreme Council praise the efforts made by the Ministerial Council and the ministerial committees functioning within the framework of the GCC for the creation of a solid economic, cultural and social foundation capable of meeting the requirements of the next stage; and

Enhancing the progress of the collective work, it affirms:

The comprehensive and complementary nature of the GCC goals in all fields, the necessity of realising more accomplishments, particularly in the social, cultural and informational fields, and materialising equality between citizens of member states in terms of rights.

The concerned ministerial committees are to undertake programming the necessary steps to complete implementation of Article 8 of the Unified Economic Agreement which aims at realising the principle of economic citizenship, particularly fostering movement of citizens and widening opportunities for citizens to engage in more economic activities.

The necessity of accelerating efforts to unify customs tariff with the external world in order to establish a GCC common market in accordance with the principles of the Unified Economic Agreement and the resolutions of the Supreme Council.

The necessity for reviewing and evolving resolutions made within the framework of the GCC and strategies and policies adopted as stated in the directive of the Supreme Council in its Riyadh Declaration which was directed to the Ministerial Council, in order to guarantee their execution and observation.

While the Supreme Council reaffirms its determination to continue the collective work and its bountiful outcomes to realise the aspiration of the citizens of member states, it calls upon the Ministerial Council to follow up the execution of this Declaration along with the concerned ministerial committees and submit to the Supreme Council periodical reports on the accomplishments, and hindrances to progress such as problems and obstacles so that measures capable of their elimination can be taken.

Issued in the city of Manama on 13 Jamada at Oola 1409 H, corresponding to 22nd December 1988. (28)

**F.10.: Final Communique of the Tenth GCC
Summit
Muscat Declaration**

Final Statement of GCC Summit

Wakh in Arabic 1100 gmt 21 Dec 89

Text of dispatch datelined Muscat, 21st December (ME/0644 i)

Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah, Secretary-General of the GCC, read the final statement of the 10th GCC summit in Muscat today. The following is the text.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Final statement of the 10th session of the GCC States' Supreme Council

The Sultanate of Oman, Muscat, 19th-22nd Jumada al-Ula, 1410 Ah corresponding to 18th-21st December 1989.

In response to the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id, Sultan of Oman, and with the help and care of God, the 10th session of the GCC Supreme Council was held in the city of Muscat from 19th-22nd Jumada al-Ula, 1410 Ah, corresponding to 18th-21st December 1989, in the presence of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, (Emir of the state of Bahrain); King Fahd Bin Abd al-Aziz, Servant of the Two Holy Places and King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Majesty Qabus Bin Sa'id, Sultan of Oman; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani (Emir of the state of Qatar); and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Jabir al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council studied all aspects related to the development of the Council's march and the means of bolstering it according to the aims cited in the basic law; the security situation in the region in the light of the stages of contacts on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598; the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the dimensions of the Palestinian intifadah; the situation in Lebanon and the tripartite committee's efforts and the Ta'if agreement; world developments; the current changes in Europe; and the international situation after the Malta summit.

The Council's march

From its follow-up of the march of co-operation and the requirements of collective action; recalling the principles and aims cited in the Council's basic law; in confirmation of what was contained in the 1987 Riyadh Declaration and the 1988 Manama Declaration, particularly with regard to intensifying joint ventures; taking cognisance of the Ministerial Council's recommendations on the stages of implementing the economic agreement; and in confirmation of the Supreme Council's determination to continue to adopt all suitable steps to implement the remainder of the economic agreement and to establish a unified Gulf market, the Council resolves the following:

- To approve the rules and exclusion from the exemption of custom duties in accordance with Article 24.
- To approve what was cited in the Ministerial Council's recommendations on the unified custom tariff.
- To approve what was cited in the Ministerial Council's recommendations on the mechanism of joint work.

The Council reaffirms its determination to implement the rest of the economic agreement for the sake of establishing a unified Gulf market.

Security Co-operation

Believing in the importance of military and security co-operation among the member states to maintain their security and stability; and desiring to achieve further co-ordination and integration in this field, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the defence ministers on building up one's own strength in accordance with the common vision and on the basis of the defence policy document.

Peace Talks between Iraq and Iran

The Council discussed the development of negotiations between the two countries in the light of Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987. The Council expresses appreciation for the efforts of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to surmount all obstacles to these negotiations. The Council underlines its support for these efforts, which aim at bringing about a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the conflict with a view to establishing peace and security in the region. The Council expresses the conviction in the success of these efforts in the light of the positive signs coming from both sides - signs that clearly indicate both countries' desire to establish peace and embark on a new stage of normal relations between them on the basis of mutual respect.

The Council calls upon the Security Council, especially its permanent member states, to support these efforts by all available means, including direct negotiations under the supervision of the UN Secretary-General, and to release the prisoners of war and return them to their homelands without delay to end their suffering and the agony of their families. This should help both sides achieve balanced benefits and interests that help implement Security Council Resolution 598.

The Council also appeals to the international community to exert further efforts to arrive at a just peace that takes into consideration the legitimate rights of all parties.

Current Arab Situation

The Council reviewed the current Arab situation while recalling the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca on the intifadah and its support for it and the struggle of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their land. The Council pays tribute to the heroic intifadah and appreciates the sacrifices of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It underlines the Council's support and backing for the valiant intifadah towards achieving its aims. The Council appeals to the international community to support the intifadah, expose Israel's methods of oppression and terrorism, oppose Israel's measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and stop the acts of tyranny represented by deportations and demolition of houses, which contradict the principles of human rights and conflict with the most fundamental international norms and conventions.

The Council also supports the call for convening an international conference within the framework of the UN and with the participation of all parties, including the PLO, with a view to reaching a lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

Situation in Lebanon

The Supreme Council, having been briefed by the Servant of the Two Holy Places on the Ta'if accord and the efforts and contacts of the higher Arab tripartite committee, reiterates its appreciation of the prominent role played by the committee to reach the Ta'if accord, and renews its support for the higher tripartite committee's work, expressing its appreciation of the efforts exerted by the Servant of the Two Holy Places, His Majesty King Hasan II and His Excellency President Chaddli Bendjedid, stressing its readiness to contribute to boosting the committee's contacts and efforts. It reaffirms its support for Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the government of national reconciliation and the principles cited in the Ta'if accord, so that Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity can be achieved and so that its national soil can be preserved. The Council appeals to the international community to continue to support the Ta'if accord and back the higher Arab tripartite committee's efforts and the Lebanese legitimacy strongly and clearly and to respect what is dictated by the recognition of legitimacy in dealing with the Lebanese state.

The Council appeals to all Lebanese parties to practise self-restraint and deal with matters at this critical stage with wisdom and patience in conformity with the Ta'if accord and within the framework of legitimacy as a basis for solving outstanding problems and removing the present obstacles for the sake of guaranteeing the unity of Lebanon - its land and people - and entrenching its freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

International Changes

The Council is closely following the world developments and events and calls for adopting steps that end tension and remove the causes of division in the world. It hopes that these developments will lead to an international understanding to find just solutions to the regional conflicts, particularly the Middle East issue.

The Council also hopes that the world will witness closer economic co-operation that is based on reciprocal interests and that supports the economic development programmes in the developing countries.

Negotiations with the European Group

The Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction over the completion of measures to ratify the co-operation agreement between the Council's member states and the EC which will come into effect on 1st January 1990.

On this occasion, the Supreme Council recalled the resolution adopted by it during the Bahrain summit to authorise the Ministerial Council to enter into official trade negotiations with the EC, and expressed the hope that the two sides can reach a balanced trade agreement which contributes to improving and freeing trade exchange between them and which corresponds to the development needs of the Council member states.

While welcoming the convening of the first Joint Ministerial Council in Muscat in March 1990, the Supreme Council hopes that relations between the two parties will, under that agreement, witness positive improvement which corresponds to the importance of the relations and the mutual interests of both parties.

The Council expresses its appreciation for French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative to resume the Arab-European dialogue and hopes that the meetings of the Arab and European foreign ministers will yield positive results in the interests of the two sides.

The GCC leaders expressed great appreciation and deep gratitude for His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id for the hospitality he accorded them as well as for the excellent arrangements to provide an appropriate atmosphere to achieve success.

The GCC leaders commend his Majesty the Sultan's initiative to honour the citizens of the GCC states who rendered prominent services to their societies and states. They also underlined the role of this initiative in deepening cohesion and links among the GCC citizens.

The Council looks forward to the convening of its 11th session in the state of Qatar next December at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hama Al Thani, Emir of the state of Qatar.

Issued in Muscat on 22nd Jumada al-Ula, 1410 AH, corresponding to 21st December 1989. (29)

Muscat Declaration:

Wakh in Arabic (i) 1130 gmt (ii) 1815 gmt 21 December 1989

The political, social and economic changes that have been taking place on the international scene since the convening of the ninth GCC summit in Bahrain and all their ramifications have compelled the countries of the world to develop their international policies and to follow a new line based on wider horizons and greater exchanges while each state, big or small, continues to preserve its national identity.

This new world climate makes it incumbent on everyone to strengthen the basis of co-operation instead of confrontation and struggle, from which mankind has reaped only ruin and destruction.

The GCC states have undertaken many good and constructive deeds within the Arab and Islamic families, as well as on the international level in general and presented a good example for joint brotherly work within the framework of national sovereignty. Their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders have been eager for their 10th summit to contribute to supporting and encouraging the spirit of peace and understanding prevailing in the world today. In order to reaffirm the ties of brotherhood, faith and common destiny among the GCC states, entrench the concept of genuine co-operation, whose foundation is steadily rising on all levels, and promote the joint interests of their peoples in establishing distinguished relations, their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders declare the following:

- (1) Affirming the principle of good neighbourliness as a basic and legitimate pillar to which the GCC states will adhere in their international dealings with the principles of the Islamic religion and international conventions.
- (2) Affirming mutual respect for national sovereignty as a basic principle that must be firmly established.
- (3) Adopting dialogue and negotiations as an effective means to solve disputes among nations in line with the principles of peaceful co-existence defined by the United Nations and international law.
- (4) Supporting joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League, given that it is the Arab house under whose ceiling the Arabs meet to

achieve stability and prosperity for their nation, and extending a hand of friendship and co-operation to all nations that care for truth, justice and peace.

- (5) Considering the principle of peaceful co-existence among nations to be the cornerstone for the achievement of world peace and security and exploiting the prevailing detente in the international atmosphere within the principle of peaceful co-existence among nations to enable man to devote all of his potential to tackling his problems, especially poverty, ignorance, illness and environmental pollution.
- (6) Boosting efforts aimed at consolidating peace between Iraq and Iran, continuing support for the persistent efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis on a basis of legitimacy and national unity, and stressing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state under the PLO.
- (7) Commending the existing policy of accord between the two superpowers, urging the enhancement of this policy to achieve further accomplishments in the international arena, and paying tribute to the growing accord among the European states to remove the causes for confrontation and disagreement in Europe, this contributing towards entrenching world peace and security.

Issued in Muscat on 21st December 1989.

(ii) Excerpts from dispatch datelined Muscat, 21st December

Abd al-Azis Bin Muhammad al-Ruwwas, Omani Information Minister and official spokesman of the 10th summit of the Gulf Co-operation Council Supreme Council, and GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah, held a joint press conference this evening. At the beginning of the press conference, the Omani Information Minister delivered a speech in which he welcomed the media delegations covering the GCC Supreme Council 10th summit.

The GCC Secretary-General then answered the reporters' questions. The first question was on the unity between the two parts of Yemen. Bisharah noted that the GCC leaders received a joint message from the North and South Yemeni Presidents in which they express their inclinations toward unity. Bishara added that the GCC welcomes any friendly grouping that serves the nation's interests and backs the Arab people's aspirations for prosperity and stability throughout the nation...

On the GCC states' relations with Iran, the Omani Information Minister asserted that Iran is a neighbourly country with whom we have strong relations. He added that the GCC trend is to support the peace efforts undertaken by the UN Secretary-General to achieve stability in the region. He said doubt should not be case on the nature of relations between the Arabian Gulf states and Iran,

and noted that this relationship is based on mutual respect between the GCC states and Iran.

Responding to a question on a customs tariff among the GCC states, Bisharah said: Now that three years have passed, a unified customs tariff must be reached and a ministerial committee should be authorised to follow up this issue and assess the obstacles facing this agreement.

On the decision to delay for three years an agreement on real estate ownership in the GCC states, Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah said that the issue of real estate ownership is a technical and complex one. He said this issue will be discussed next year. He affirmed that what has not been achieved now will be achieved in the future. He explained that the GCC states constantly work through a futuristic far-sighted perspective characterised by flexibility and vitality.

Responding to a question on the GCC states' preparations for entering the nineties, the GCC Secretary-General indicated that the GCC states will enter the nineties with a strong, firm and deep-rooted Gulf grouping by concentrating on collective efforts. He indicated that ties and co-ordination among all the GCC states are being further consolidated.

On the GCC states' co-operation with the EC, Bisharah announced that a GCC-EC meeting will be held in Muscat next March, during which economic and trade relations between the two groupings will be discussed.

He added that the GCC will hold a dialogue with the United States and Japan in the future to benefit from their advanced technology and to entrench the concept of dialogue between the GCC states and the EC. He indicated that the dialogue will focus on economic issues.

Regarding relations between the GCC states and the PRC, the GCC Secretary-General indicated that the world is now moving towards dialogue and communication. He said the absence of diplomatic relations between one state and another does not mean rupture and alienation. He affirmed that genuine relations are based on dialogue and communication.

In this regard, the Information Minister welcomed the Chinese President's tour of the region and said: The area states are looking forward to the Chinese President's visit in the service of dialogue, co-operation and understanding between the GCC states and China. (30)

**F.11.: Final Communique of the Eleventh
GCC Summit
Dohah Declaration**

Final Communiqué of GCC Supreme Council Meeting in Doha

The following is the text of the final communiqué of the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council:

In the name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate. The final communiqué of the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council, held in Doha in the State of Qatar from 5th to 8th Jumada al-Akhirah 1411 AH, corresponding to 22nd-25th December 1990:

In response to an invitation from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emire of Qatar, and with God's help and providence, the 11th session of the GCC Higher Council was held in the city of Doha from 5th to 8th Jumada al-Akhirah 1411 AH, corresponding to 22nd-25th December 1990. The session was attended by Their Majesties and Highnesses Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, President of the United Arab Emirates; Shaykh Khalifah Bin Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini Prime Minister; King Fahd Bin Abd al- Aziz, the King of Saudi Arabia and Servant of the Two Holy Places; Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id of Oman; Shaykh Halifah Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar; and Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait.

The Iraqi Regime's Aggression against Kuwait

The Higher Council reviewed the serious situation created in the region as a result of the Iraqi regime's occupation of the sovereign state of Kuwait, which has posed a threat to the security and safety of the GCC member-states and resulted in the shedding of the blood of the innocent Kuwaiti people, the displacement of the Kuwaiti people and others residing in Kuwait, arrests and torture, looting of properties and the violation of sanctities in an attempt to obliterate the Kuwaiti identity and entity.

The Higher Council also discussed the serious repercussions of this aggression on security and stability in the Gulf region and the Arab world, as well as on world peace and security.

The Higher Council reiterates its strong condemnation of the Iraqi regime for its arbitrary and oppressive aggression against the State of Kuwait and its continued refusal to comply with the principles of the Arab League Charter, Arab summit Resolution 195, the UN Charter and the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the aggression against Kuwait. As it repeats its condemnation of these acts, the Council reiterates that the GCC government and peoples stand beside the State of Kuwait in its ordeal and extend their full support for and solidarity with the struggle of the Kuwaiti government and people until full liberation is achieved.

The Higher Council commends the Kuwaiti people's steadfast rejection of the occupation and their adherence to their legitimate government under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. The Council also pays tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kuwaiti people in confronting terrorism, oppression, torture and indiscriminate executions and it honours their continued resistance and determination to defeat the forces of evil and aggression. The Council expresses pride in the cohesion of the one Kuwaiti household, as demonstrated during the Kuwaiti popular conference in the city of Jiddah.

As it recalls the individual and collective efforts to avert this tragedy made by the GCC members before and after the tyrannical Iraqi aggression against Kuwait on 2nd August and their sincere and serious endeavours to find a peaceful solution, the Council expresses gratitude for the good efforts of the leaders of sisterly and friendly states to persuade the Iraqi regime to comply with the principles of legitimacy and respect the resolutions of the Arab League summit and the UN Security Council.

The Council reiterates the GCC countries' firm stand in the face of the Iraqi aggression and their determination to resist it and nullify its negative consequences, proceeding from the premise that aggression against any member state is aggression against all GCC member states and that the security of the GCC member states is indivisible.

Therefore, the Council reiterates its demand that the Iraqi leadership respect international norms and charters as well as the agreements it concluded with the State of Kuwait and calls on it to choose peace to preserve the Iraqi people's achievements and prevent the squandering of their resources, potential and blood in a confrontation which will only result in losses and destruction. The Council calls on the Iraqi regime to begin withdrawing its troops from all Kuwaiti territory immediately and unconditionally so that the legitimate authority can be restored to Kuwait before 15th January 1991. By doing so, the brotherly Iraqi people and the people of the region and the entire world will be spared the horrors of a destructive war.

The Council calls on the Iraqi regime to respect civilians and safeguard their lives and property and to protect public and private properties and establishments in accordance with the provisions of Islamic shari'ah, the fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war and international charters and agreements.

The Higher Council holds Iraq responsible for paying compensation to Kuwait for the damage inflicted on Kuwaiti government establishments, banks and public and private institutions and for the seizure and transfer of their holdings, funds and deposits outside Kuwait. The Council also reiterates the lawful right of Kuwaiti and other nationals to obtain just compensation for damages and losses they suffered as a result of the oppressive Iraqi aggression.

Within the framework of the political and diplomatic efforts to consolidate the Arab and international consensus rejecting the aggression and to guarantee the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, the GCC has decided to entrust a committee comprised of the Foreign Ministers of its member states with the task of visiting the permanent members of the Security Council, certain Arab countries and other important countries.

Recalling the principles outlined in the Muscat declaration released at the GCC'S 10th session, principles which emphasise the basic rules and legitimacy to which the GCC member states are committed in their international relations, the GCC expresses its hope that the Iraqi regime will respond to the demands of Arab and international legitimacy. The principles enshrined in the Muscat declaration call for good-neighbourly relations, mutual respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in the domestic affairs of all countries, respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries, refraining from the use of force or threat to use force and resorting to dialogue and negotiations as an effective means to settle disputes. The GCC, at the same time, underlines its member states' right and determination to resort to all means necessary to secure the restoration of sovereignty and legitimacy to Kuwait.

The GCC expresses its appreciation and gratitude to all the Arab, Islamic and friendly countries that stood on the side of right and legitimacy, condemned the aggression and sought to end it, responding to the resolutions of Arab and international legitimacy and to the GCC countries' request that they deploy their forces beside the Gulf forces to support the latter in their defensive tasks. The GCC asserts at the same time, that the Arab, Islamic and friendly forces that came to the region at the request of the GCC member states will return to their countries when the GCC member states request them to do so after the circumstances that required their presence - the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the threat to the GCC countries - are removed. The GCC asserts that these honourable stands will have positive effects on relations in all fields between the GCC and these Arab, Islamic and friendly countries.

The GCC March

The GCC Higher Council reviewed the stages of the march of joint action in the political, security, military, economic and social fields. It discussed ways to promote co-operation and integration among the member states in accordance with the principles and goals outlined in the GCC's statute, while taking into account the security developments in the region in the light of the treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the developments and transformations affecting the essence of the order in the Arab world and the current world developments that are transforming the international order.

The GCC emphasises its concern to expedite steps and to make a qualitative leap in collective action among the member states in the forthcoming stage in order to achieve further co-ordination, integration and cohesion out of its absolute conviction that its members share the same fate and goals. The GCC

notes with satisfaction the development of security and military co-operation among the member states at this critical time in the region caused by Iraq's contempt for values and international charters and its defiance of the international will. The GCC takes pride in the unity of the GCC member states in the face of the Iraqi aggression and their determination to resist it. Out of their conviction of the importance of achieving further security and military co-operation among the member states, particularly in view of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the threat this poses to the security of the other member states, the GCC has endorsed the Defence Ministers' recommendations on strengthening the intrinsic defensive capabilities of its member states.

The GCC Higher Council also reviewed the march of economic action and expressed satisfaction with the achievements of joint action in this field. It stressed its determination to continue the work to fulfil the ambitions and aspirations of the GCC peoples in completing the steps towards economic integration. To achieve this goal, the GCC Higher Council assigned the financial and economic co-operation committee the task of adopting the necessary measures to develop new concepts for joint economic action in order to expedite the achievement of economic integration and to draw up a program to complete the establishment of a common Gulf market, agree on a unified trade policy, evaluate economic co-operation and examine the texts of the Unified Economic Agreement and methods of implementing it with the aim of securing new privileges that will enable the citizens of the GCC countries to enjoy new benefits in the march towards prosperity and development.

The Security Situation in the Region

The Higher Council notes with deep regret the deterioration of security conditions in the region as a result of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait's territory. It also notes that although the entire region is on the verge of a destructive war, the Iraqi authorities have shown complete disregard for the consequences of such a war for the fraternal Iraqi people, the Arab nation and the entire world.

Believing that establishing and safeguarding security in this vital part of the world serves the interests of the regions' states, the Arab nation and the entire world, the Council reiterates its desire to adopt all measures necessary to protect the region's security and stability. It declares its determination to enhance the effectiveness of co-operation among the GCC members to strengthen their individual and joint defensive capabilities to serve the interests of the region and its security and prosperity and to bolster world peace.

In this context, the Council particularly appreciates the role being played by Arab states in support of Arab legitimacy. It looks forward to co-ordinating efforts with these states to find a way out of the tragedy triggered by the oppressive Iraqi aggression. It is also eager to work alongside these states to heal the rift, unite Arab stands and establish a stronger and more cohesive Arab system.

In the meantime and in view of international détente and the clear movement towards a new world order, the GCC countries will work with the region's countries and the Arab and world household to take the necessary measures to avoid the recurrence of such aggression and to lay the bases for stabilising security in the region and serving the interests of world peace and security.

The Current Arab Situation

The Higher Council studied the current deterioration in Arab relations as a result of the Iraqi regime's disregard for Arab norms and charters, the schism created in Arab ranks by the Iraqi aggression, the collapse of Arab solidarity and the lack of trust among the members of the Arab household. The Council also noted that Arab energies are being wasted in fields far removed from Arab development and interests as a result of the oppressive aggression.

In this context, the Council underscores the importance of working to reverse the current destructive trend in the Arab home and to heal the rift on the basis of a clear commitment in words and deeds to the principles of respect for Arab neighbours, non-interference in internal affairs and refraining from the use of force or political threats and extortion. In this way, all human and material resources can be devoted to Arab and Muslim issues and a better future can be guaranteed for the Arab citizen in all corners of the Arab world.

The GCC states have made effective contributions to Arab development efforts at the bilateral, regional and international levels. The Council members desire to draw up new Arab development plans and believe in the importance of a joint Gulf development policy based on a new concept, which takes into account the contributions these efforts will make to political stability and regional security amid the economic difficulties resulting from the Iraqi aggression against the Arab world. Therefore, the Council has decided to set up a programme to subsidise development efforts in Arab and Muslim states. This programme aims primarily at encouraging economic openness and market economies, improving Arab economic performance and attracting world support for the Arab development process through encouraging international financing institutions and national development aid agencies to contribute to national development plans in Arab states.

The GCC countries express their determination to provide the necessary financing for such a programme. Accordingly, the GCC Foreign Ministers will meet next week to work out the details and determine the funds required for the programme for members' contributions and each country's share according to its resources.

The Higher Council reviewed developments in the Palestinian issue and voiced concern over the consequences of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and its negative repercussions on the Palestinian cause. The Council recalls its previous resolutions and statements on the issue. It reiterates its commendation of the

heroic struggle of the Palestinian people and their daring intifadah in the face of the oppressive Israel occupation and its suppressive and arbitrary practices.

As it reiterates its members' full and absolute support for the historic Palestinian intifadah, the Council appeals to the international community to provide the necessary support for the intifadah and for the sons of the occupied territories in their ordeal. It also appeals to the international community to work to expose the Israeli terrorist methods, put an end to the occupation troops' arbitrary and oppressive measures and stop the deportation of the Palestinian people from and the demolition of their homes, as such practices violate human rights and international laws and charters.

The Council welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 681 on providing international protection to Palestinians in the occupied territories. It also welcomes the UN Security Council's call for holding an international peace conference on the Palestinian issue. In this regard, the Council reaffirms its support for the convening of an international peace conference in which all parties concerned, including the state of Palestine, will participate. It also calls for taking all measures necessary to hold the conference.

Regarding the situation in the Lebanon, the GCC Higher Council notes with deep satisfaction the recent positive developments and the legitimate Lebanese government's achievements in extending its authority over Greater Beirut and other areas. The GCC Higher Council expresses its desire that Lebanon achieve its full unity and territorial integrity. In this respect, the GCC Higher Council expresses its appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Servant of the Two Holy Places, HM King Hasan II and HE President Chadli Bendjedid and for the constructive role played by HE President Hafiz al-Asad in assisting the legitimate Lebanese government. The GCC Higher Council reasserts its support for HE President Ilyas al-Hirawi and its desire for the restoration of security and stability throughout Lebanon. Recalling Resolution No 185 of the emergency Arab summit conference, which provides for the establishment of an international fund for reconstruction and development in Lebanon, the GCC Higher Council emphasises its support for this fund to enable Lebanon to begin reconstruction and exercise its cultural role in the Arab and international arenas.

Relations with Iran

The GCC Higher Council welcomes the desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to improve and promote its relations with all GCC countries. The GCC Higher Council underlines the importance of serious and realistic action to settle the outstanding differences between Iran and the GCC member states so that the countries of the region can proceed to achieve their cherished goals and exploit their resources for comprehensive economic development. The GCC Higher Council stresses its desire to establish distinguished relations with Iran on the basis of good-neighbourliness, non-interference in domestic affairs and respect for sovereignty, independence and peaceful co-existence deriving from the bonds of religion and heritage that link the countries of the region.

International Developments

The GCC Higher Council examined the report prepared by the tripartite ministerial committee charged with studying international developments and evaluating their effects on the GCC countries. Out of its conviction of the importance of dealing with the requirements of international developments in a way that will safeguard the interests of the GCC member states and peoples, the GCC Higher Council ratified the recommendations submitted to it. The GCC Higher Council welcomes the new spirit of concord between East and West. It expresses its satisfaction with the political and economic openness being witnessed in Eastern Europe in view of its effective role and the contribution this makes to enhancing peace and allowing human resources to be used for development instead of squandering funds in an exhausting and futile arms race. It praises the rational spirit prevailing in international relations based on mutual respect for sovereignty, balance of interests and rejection of aggression, treachery and occupation. The GCC Higher Council welcomes unified Germany as a factor for stability and as an effective member of the international community in support of development and international progress in a world permeated with the spirit of peace, understanding, reason, wisdom and prosperity.

The GCC Higher Council wishes to express its solidarity with developing countries and its continued support for them in their efforts to achieve economic growth and improve the standard of living of their peoples. It asserts that its preoccupation with the repercussions of the sinful Iraqi aggression will not divert the attention of its member states from continuing their co-operation and solidarity with the developing countries in their efforts to establish a more equitable international economic order. The GCC Higher Council decided to ask GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Ya'qub Bisharah to remain in his post. It expresses its utmost appreciation and gratitude to HH Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad Al Thani and to his government and people for the hospitality and reception extended to the GCC leaders and members of their delegations. It praises the excellent preparations and accurate arrangements for the convenience of the delegations and the success of the summit. The GCC Higher Council looks forward to its 12th session in Kuwait next December, God willing, in response to the invitation of the Emir of Kuwait, HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah.

Issued in Doha on 8th Jumada al-Akhirah, 1411 AH, corresponding to 25th December 1990. ⁽³¹⁾

‘Doha Declaration’

Wakh in Arabic 1755 gmt 25 December 1990

Excerpts from dispatch datelined Doha, 25th December

The leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council [GCC] member states have decided to complete the establishment of security and defence arrangements to ensure safeguarding the national security of each member state as well as the regional security of the six member states.

In a declaration they issued under the name of the ‘Doha Declaration’, the leaders emphasised the need for the full and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the fraternal state of Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait’s legitimate government under the leadership of its Emir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. The following is the text of the Doha Declaration:

... The events and developments that the region has witnessed and the repercussions resulting from Iraq’s occupation of the state of Kuwait require strengthening cohesiveness and solidarity, consolidating the bases of co-operation, and promoting co-ordination among the GCC member states in all fields.

The Iraqi aggression has upset all assumptions about inter-Arab relations. It poses a threat to the security and stability of the countries in the region and the entire world, and places the very existence of our Arab nation and its common destiny in the most serious danger. This aggression and its subsequent results, in terms of the ensuing rift in Arab solidarity and the setback to joint Arab action, indicate the need to establish a clear-cut and an integrated strategy regarding the future policies that must be followed to prevent the recurrence of such aggression and to lay down more solid rules for stronger relations among our Arab countries.

The Iraqi invasion of the fraternal state of Kuwait has revealed the inadequacy of the security arrangements that exist within the framework of the GCC. Therefore, their Majesties and Highnesses:

- (1) Stress their commitment to the contents of the Muscat Declaration issued at the 10th session of the GCC Higher Council.
- (2) Demand the full and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi troops from the fraternal state of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government under its Emir, HH Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, in accordance with the Arab, Islamic and international resolutions.
- (3) Completing the establishment of security and defensive arrangements for the GCC member states to ensure that the individual national security of each member state and the collective regional security of all member states is safeguarded.

- (4) Reiterate the firm and principled position of the GCC member states in support of the heroic Palestinian intifadah and in support of the Palestinian issue, the Arabs' main cause, to which the international community must find a just solution that will restore the legitimate rights of its people, foremost of which being their rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.
- (5) Increasing political co-ordination among the GCC member states on domestic, regional, Arab and international levels.
- (6) Promoting economic co-operation among the GCC member states, particularly in:
 - (a) Developing new concepts of common economic action to accelerate economic integration.
 - (b) Laying down a programme for completing the establishment of a common market among the GCC member states and of an agreement for a unified trade policy.
 - (c) Reassessing the Unified Economic Agreement with a view to achieving benefits that can bring about a balance of interests among the member states and overcome obstacles.
- (7) Increasing co-ordination among the media agencies of the GCC member states in order to confront hostile media campaigns and establishing a common information plan among the GCC member states with a view to following up and analysing the international media and advising the media agencies on how to deal with it.
- (8) Supporting the GCC General Secretariat in forming committees of experts to study and develop proposals for integrated projects so that they can be submitted to the competent ministerial committees. ⁽³²⁾

**G: Executive Programme of the Unified
Economic Agreement**

**G.1.: Regulations for Practising Liberal
Professions by Nationals of the GCC Member
States therein**

Regulations for Practising Liberal Professions by Nationals of the GCC Member States Therein

Based on the provisions of Article 8 of the EA which calls on member states to agree terms on executive measures which are capable of bringing about the treatment of citizens of the GCC Member States in any Member without discrimination or differentiation in several fields, the most important of which is the freedom of exercising economic activity, and in continuation of what the Supreme Council has decreed, nationals of the GCC Member States are permitted to practise additional liberal professions, pursuant to the following regulations bearing in mind that these Regulations are applied to the practising of professions already decreed by the Supreme Council as well as future ones.

Firstly:

Definitions

1. Liberal Professions are those activities which are dependent upon the direct use of personal, physical and mental capabilities.
2. Practice of profession means either personal engagement in the profession or participation with other nationals of the GCC Member State.
3. GCC States are the Members of the Gulf Co-operation Council.
4. Nationals of the GCC States are the natural persons who are holders of the nationality of any Member State or the legal persons, provided that they are professional joint holding companies and owned wholly by nationals of the GCC Member States.

Secondly:

A practitioner must hold the specialised scientific and practical qualifications of his/her field and he/she must obtain the necessary licensing and registration which are usually required of his/her counterpart nationals of the host State.

Thirdly:

Practising of the profession must be in accordance with the prevailing procedures of the State where the practising takes place through a licensing office or bureau.

Fourthly:

Those licensed liberal professionals may establish professional companies jointly with other licensed professionals; they may participate in newly-established professional companies or already existing ones; they may possess movable objects for exercising their professions under the same conditions usually required of their counterpart nationals of the host State.

Fifthly:

Licensed liberal professionals have the right to obtain all services that enable them to practise their professions including public utilities, i.e. electricity, water, telephone, telex, etc., under the same conditions usually enjoyed by their counterpart nationals of the host State.

Sixthly:

Licensed liberal professionals have the right to obtain the necessary visas for their assistants, technicians and labourers who are non-GCC nationals, who are to be treated in the same manner as their counterparts in the host State, provided that priority of employment had been given to citizens of the GCC Member States.

Seventhly:

These regulations are applicable to liberal professions which have not been accorded special regulations.

Eighthly:

These regulations shall not prejudice preferential privileges in this connection currently granted or which might be granted in the future by any Member State in this respect.

Ninthly:

These regulations enter into effect three months after their approval by the Supreme Council. These Regulations are due for review in the light of practical experience in the five years from the date of their approval by the Supreme Council.

Tenthly:

Interpretation of these Regulations is the prerogative of the Committee for Financial and Economic Co-operation [Author's translation].⁽³³⁾

**G.2.: Regulations on the Acquisition of Real
Estate by Citizens of the GCC Member States
therein**

Regulations on the Acquisition of Real Estate by Citizens of the GCC Member States Therein

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 8 of the Unified Economic Agreement and based on what was recommended by the Ministerial Council in the thirteenth preparatory session held in Kuwait 27- 28 Safar of H1405 corresponding to November 20-21 of 1984, the Supreme Council, in its "fifth" Session held in Kuwait in the period 5-7 Rabi Al-Aowal of H1405 corresponding to November 27-29 of 1984, resolved to approve of the Regulations on the Acquisition of Real Estate by Citizens of the GCC Therein in accordance with the submitted recommendation of the Council of Ministers in the following form:

Article 1

Citizens of the GCC Member States whether natural or legal are allowed to acquire one piece of real estate in the form of land or building in the organised populated areas in any Member State by means of a transaction between individuals or by means of bequest provided that the surface area of the land does not exceed 3000 square metres.

Article 2

Ownership must be for the purpose of residence by the owner or his family. He has no right to use the property for another purpose unless permitted to do so by the laws of the State.

Article 3

In cases where the real estate is in the form of land, the owner must begin construction on it within three years, commencing from the date of its registration in his name and the construction must be completed within five years from the said date. Otherwise, the State concerned has the right to appropriate the estate and sell it at the owner's expense with the compensation to the owner of the value of the estate at the time of purchase or its value at the time of sale, whichever is less. His right to complain of unjust treatment by an appropriating agency is reserved. The State may extend the stated period if convinced by the owner's justifications for delay in construction.

Article 4

The owner has no right to dispose of the property by transferring its title except after an interval of eight years has elapsed from the date of its registration in his name. Exceptionally and in the case of extreme necessity, the owner may dispose of it before the elapse of the eight years provided that prior permission is obtained from the proper authority.

Article 5

If the means of acquiring ownership is inheritance, the owner is to be treated in the manner that citizens of the State where the property is located are treated.

Article 6

In cases where the citizen who wishes to exercise this right in accordance with these Regulations has acquired his nationality of a Member State by naturalisation, it is required that an interval of at least ten years elapses from the date of his naturalisation before he can benefit from this Regulation.

Article 7

Natural and legal citizens of the GCC Member States are allowed to rent lands and make use of them for profit in the allowed economic activities in any Member State. The land may be sold or mortgaged in accordance with the laws of the State.

Article 8

Real estate located within the boundaries of Makkah and Medinah are exempted from the provisions of these Regulations.

Article 9

These Regulations do not contradict the right of the State where the property is located to appropriate the property for the public interest in return for just compensation to the owner in accordance with the laws dealing with the nationals of the State. This does not prejudice the right of the owner to acquire another property according to these Regulations. Also, these Regulations do not contradict the right of the State to prohibit the ownership or use in certain areas for security reasons.

Article 10

These Regulations do not contain preferential rights to those enjoyed by the nationals of any Member State, nor do they prejudice any preferential privileges effective in the past or those which may be passed by all or some Member States in the future.

Article 11

These Regulations enter into force three months after their approval by the Supreme Council.

Article 12

The experiment will be evaluated by the Ministerial Council five years from the date it enters into force. [Author's translation]³⁴⁾

**G.3.: Regulations Governing the Practice of
Economic Activities by Nationals of the GCC
Member States therein**

Regulations Governing the Practice of Economic Activities by Nationals of the GCC Member States Therein

Based on the provisions of Article 8 of the Unified Economic Agreement which expressly calls on Member States to agree on executive measures ensuring equal treatment of nationals of Member States in general fields - in particular the freedom of exercising economic activities and in continuation of what have been decreed by the Supreme Council as allowed economic activities, engagement by nationals of Member States of the already allowed activities and those which will be allowed shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

Firstly:

The allowed economic activities are to be undertaken by natural citizens of the Member States and by naturalised persons which are wholly owned by citizens of the GCC Member States.

Secondly:

These activities are to be exercised in accordance with the laws and procedures of the host Member State applicable to its own nationals including the attainment of the required registration and licensing usually required for the engagement in an activity.

Thirdly:

Practitioners of the allowed activities have the right to establish companies for the purpose of undertaking these activities in which they may participate therein, they may possess raw material and movable objects necessary for the undertaking of these activities; conditions imposed upon nationals of the host State are to be equally applied to them.

Fourthly:

Practitioners of the allowed activities have the right to obtain goods and necessities for providing their services in accordance with the laws and rules applied to their counterparts in the host State.

Fifthly:

Practitioners of the allowed activities have the right of access to all services which enable them to engage in their activities and which are offered to their counterpart nationals of the host Member State, e.g. electricity, water, telephone, etc., and under the same conditions.

Sixthly:

Practitioners of the allowed activities have the right to be granted the necessary visas for their non-GCC labourers and technicians who shall be treated on an equal basis with their counterparts in the host State, provided that priority to work had been given to nationals of the Member States.

Seventhly:

Practitioners of the allowed activities may open more than one branch within a State provided that licensing formalities are satisfied.

Eighthly:

These Regulations shall not prejudice any preferential privileges currently granted, or which may be granted in the future by any Member to nationals of the GCC States in this respect.

Ninthly:

These Regulations are to be applied to economic activities which are not specifically regulated.

Tenthly:

These regulations become effective three months after their approval by the Supreme Council. They shall be reviewed after five years in the light of the practical experiment.

Eleventhly:

The Committee for Financial and Economic Co-operation retains the right of interpretation of these Regulations [Author's translation].⁽³⁵⁾

G.4.: Regulations on the Engagement in Commercial Activities

Regulations on the Engagement in Commercial Activities

1. Retail Trade

- 1.1 By retail trade is meant the practice of selling and buying of any good or goods directly to the consumers without a middleman on a continuing basis and from licensed premises.
- 1.2 Without prejudice to any preferential privilege in any Member State and what has been decreed by the Supreme Council in the fourth and sixth Sessions on the engagement in economic activities, natural and naturalised citizens of the GCC are allowed to open shops for retail trade in any Member State in accordance with the following:
 - a. A natural citizen engages personally in the practice of the activity according to the special laws and regulations in this respect which are applied to his counterpart nationals of the State in which he wishes to practise the activity. He must be a resident of the State in which he wishes to practise this activity and confine his practice to one activity and one place.
 - b. in the case of this activity being undertaken by a legal person, it must be in the form of a company which the State wherein the activity is practised may require that its nationals participate in its ownership of a percentage not exceeding 50%.
 - c. The trader's activity is confined to trading in retail directly to the consumers from his licensed shop.
 - d. The trader must obtain the licences required from his counterparts who are citizens of the State in which he practises his activity.
 - e. The retail trader may buy his goods according to the laws and regulations applicable to his counterpart nationals of the State in which he wishes to practise his activity. The right of import and commercial agencies are excepted.
 - f. A legal person may open more than one branch for undertaking his activity inside a State provided that the necessary and required licensing is obtained.
 - g. The trader enjoys all rights and necessary services and all that is usually needed for undertaking his activity and enjoyed by his counterpart nationals of the State wherein he practises his activity.
 - h. These regulations come into force as of March 1, 1987 for a period of five years, after which they shall be evaluated aiming at their development.

2. Wholesale Trade:

- 2.1 By Wholesale Trade is meant the practice of selling, buying, importing and exporting of any good or goods which is made on a continuing basis from licensed premises.
- 2.2 Without prejudice to any preferential privilege in any Member State and what has been decreed by the Supreme Council in its fourth and sixth Sessions on the engagement in economic activities, natural and naturalised citizens of the GCC are allowed to practice the activity of wholesale trade in any Member State according to the following:
 - a. A natural citizen engages personally in this activity according to the special laws and regulations in this respect which are applied to his counterpart nationals of the State in which he wishes to practise the activity. He must be resident in the State in which he practises this activity and confine his practice to one activity and one place.
 - b. In the case where this activity is undertaken by a legal person, it must be in the form of a company which the State wherein this activity is practised may require that its nationals participate in its ownership of a percentage not exceeding 50%.
 - c. He must obtain the required licensing of his counterparts who are citizens of the State in which he undertakes his activity.
 - d. He shall import and export his goods according to the regulations adopted in the State wherein he practises his activity which are applied to his counterparts who are citizens of that State, including commercial agency regulations.
 - e. The licensee to practise wholesale trade shall himself be obliged to provide maintenance needs, spare parts and guarantee as contained in the regulations of commercial agencies.
 - f. He has the right to obtain services, public utilities and everything to assist him in undertaking his activity, e.g. labourers, cars and equipment, etc. which is necessary to the practice of the activity and which is enjoyed by his counterparts who are citizens of the State wherein he undertakes his activity.
 - g. A legal person may open branches inside the State wherein he practises the activity on condition that he obtains the necessary and required licensing which is required of his counterparts who are citizens of that State.
 - h. These regulations enter into force as of March 1, 1990, for a period of three years, after which they shall be evaluated aiming at their improvement. [Author's translation] ⁽³⁶⁾

**G.5.: Unified Regulations for Treating
Investors of the GCC Member States in the
Same Manner as National Investors in
Obtaining Loans from Banks and Industrial
Development Funds**

Unified Regulations for Treating Investors of the GCC Member States in the Same Manner as National Investors in Obtaining Loans from Banks and Industrial Development Funds.

Firstly:

Investors whether natural or naturalised persons who are citizens of the GCC Member States are to be offered the same treatment as that offered to national investors regarding their qualifications to obtain loans from banks and industrial development funds in the Member States.

Secondly:

All regulations and laws regarding the granting of loans applicable to nationals of a Member State shall in the same manner apply to investors who are nationals of another GCC Member State.

Thirdly:

The loan must be invested in the State where it was granted.

Fourthly:

Industrial loans to natural and legal investors are granted provided that the industrial project for which the financing is required is in accordance with the policy of the bank or fund to which the application for loan has been submitted.

Fifthly:

Investors, whether natural or legal persons, must obtain the necessary license which is required by the bank or fund in the State where the application for loan is made and which are required from nationals of that State.

Sixthly:

The power to interpret these regulations rests with the Committee for Financial and Economic Cooperation, whereas the power to amend them is the prerogative of the Ministerial Council.

Eighthly:

These regulations come into force four months after their approval by the Supreme Council. [Author's translation] ⁽³⁷⁾

**G.6.: The Unified Rules for the Acquisition of
Shares of Companies and the Transfer of
their Titles by Citizens of GCC Member States**

The Unified Rules for the Acquisition of Shares of Companies and the Transfer of their Titles by Citizens of GCC Member States

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 8 of the Unified Economic Agreement which states that

the Member States shall agree on executive principles to ensure that each Member State shall grant the citizens of all other Member States the same treatment as is granted to its own citizens without any discrimination or differentiation in the following fields:

- 1 Freedom of movement, work or residence.
- 2 Right of ownership, inheritance and bequest.
- 3 Freedom to exercise economic activity.
- 4 Free movement of capital.

And pursuant to the decisions of the Supreme Council in its third, fourth and eighth Summits regarding the establishment and acquisition of company shares which engage in allowed activities and pursuant to decisions of the Supreme Court Council in its sixth and seventh Summits regarding the programmes on the implementation of the United Economic Agreement, it is decreed that citizens of the GCC Member States are allowed to own and transfer the title of shares of companies in accordance with the following rules:

Article 1: Definitions

1. *New Stock Company* is one which holds the nationality of one of the GCC Member States, which is established pursuant to the provisions of the companies law of that State and the capital of which is divided into shares equal in value and negotiable.
2. *Joint National Stock Companies* are the ones which hold the nationality of a Member State of the GCC and whose shares are owned by the citizens of more than one Member State.
3. *Citizens of the GCC Member States* are the natural persons who enjoy the nationality of a Member State as well as legal persons owned wholly by governments of the GCC or their citizens or both as long as the companies concerned are nationals of a Member State.

Article 2:

Citizens of the GCC Member States are allowed to acquire and transfer the title of the shares of existing joint stock companies including those in which the Gulf Investment Corporation holds shares. In addition, the said citizens may establish or join in the establishment, ownership or transference of the ownership of joint stock companies and the new stock companies engaged in the economic activities permitted for the citizens of GCC Member States, pursuant to the decisions of the Supreme Council and the provisions of the Unified Economic Agreement in accordance

with the rules applicable to the citizens of the State where the company is located.

Article 3:

Marketing and negotiation of shares as well as the procedures for the acquisition and transfer of its title are to be conducted in the State where the shares are issued in accordance with the prevailing national regulations; those procedures may be completed in any other willing Member State pursuant to joint arrangements to be agreed with the State where the shares were issued.

Article 4:

A Member State may require that its citizens own up to 51% of the shares of the new companies mentioned in Article 2 of these rules. This percentage may be raised to include the unsubscribed shares of the quota of the GCC nationals provided that after subscription the percentage which the State may preserve for its citizens is no more than 51% of its shares.

Article 5:

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Companies Law of the State where the company is registered and the basic law of the company itself, representation on the board of directors of the citizens of the GCC Member States other than the State where the company is registered must not exceed the percentage of their shares ownership, provided that the percentage of their ownership does not exceed the percentage determined by the State under Article 4 of these rules.

Article 6:

These rules shall not prejudice any preferential rights or privileges in force or previously granted to citizens of the GCC Member States in any Member, or those granted by all or some Members in this respect in the future.

Article 7:

Right of interpretation and modification of these rules rests with the Committee for Financial and Economic Cooperation.

Article 8:

These rules are due for review in three years from the date of their entry into force for the purpose of their improvement and evolution.

Article 9:

These rules enter into force three months after the date of its approval by the Supreme Council. [Author's translation] ⁽³⁸⁾

Sources

Sources

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