

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Ministry of Information  
Information Affairs  
Insiding Information



# Lapic Allahoma



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Ministry of Information  
Information Affairs  
Insiding Information

# Lapic Allahoma

1413 A.H. -1993 A.D.

**DAR AL ARD**

**Publication & Informational Services**





His Royal Highness  
Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz  
Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister  
and Commander of the National Guard

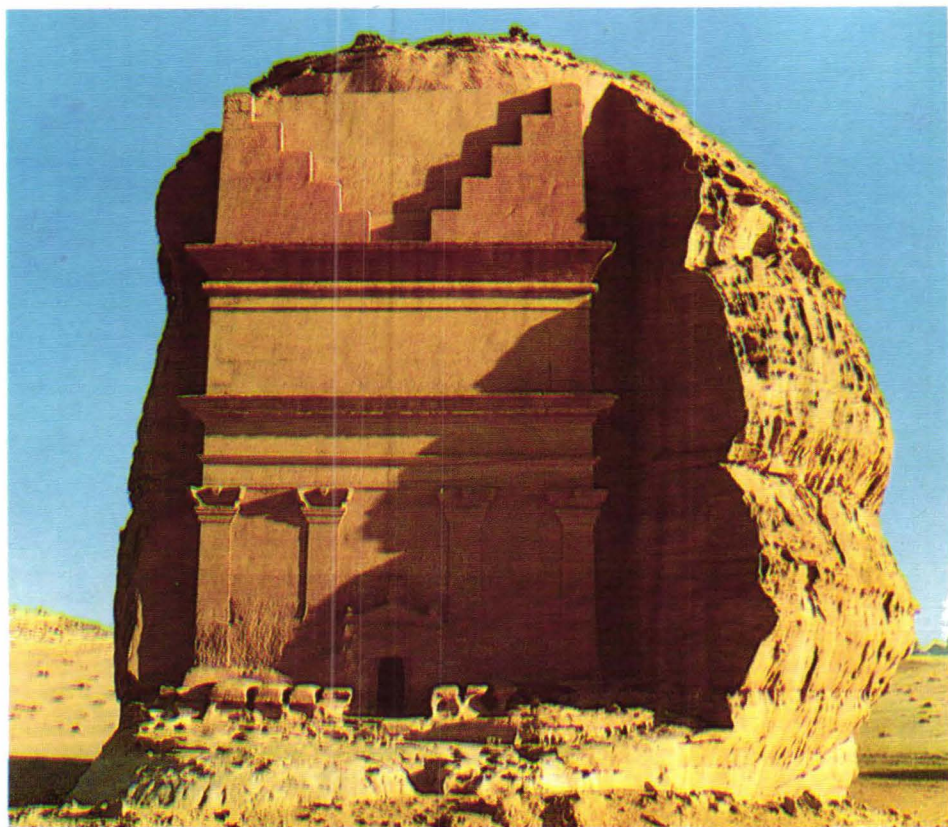


The Custodian of the  
Two Holy Mosques  
King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz





● Ruins of the Okadh market.

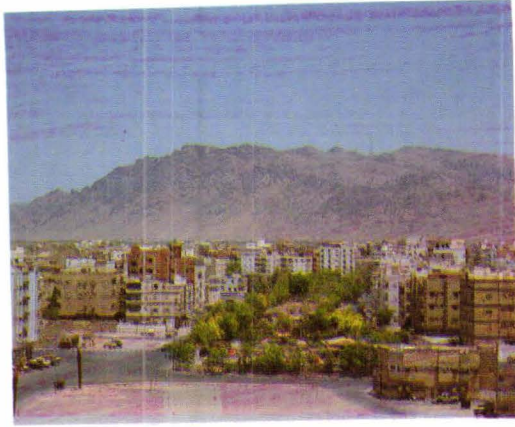


● Historic monuments in Madain Saleh.



● Al Nakheel Park in Al Madina Al Munawwara.

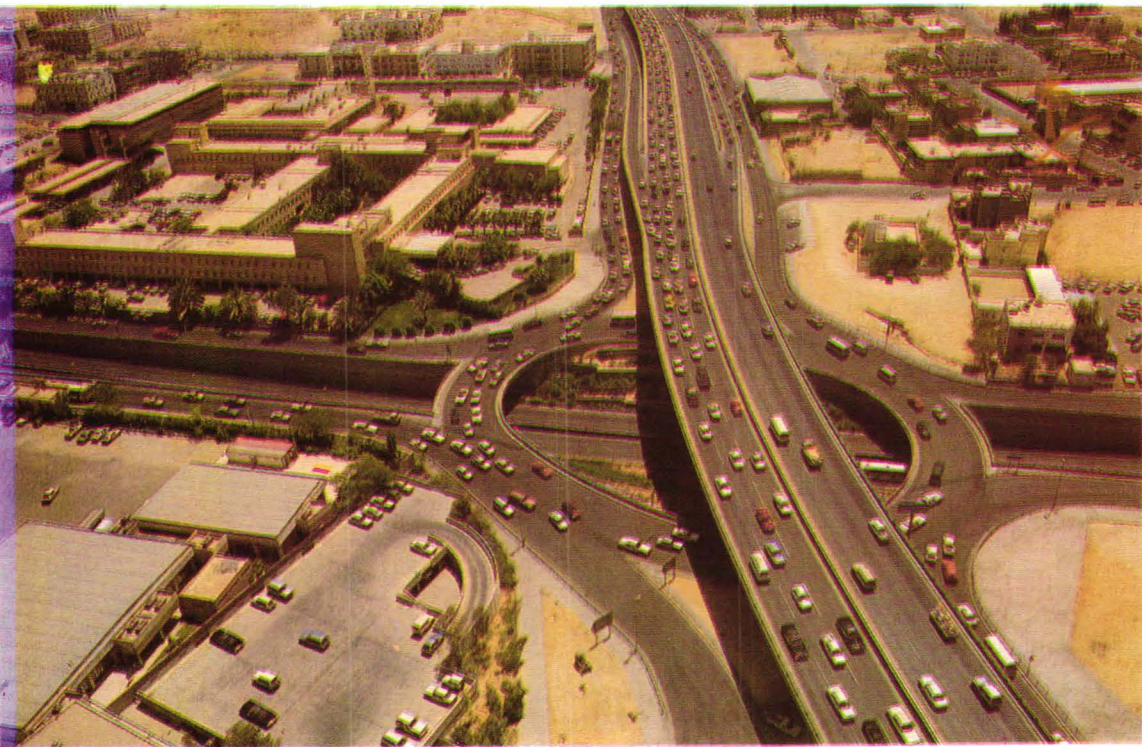






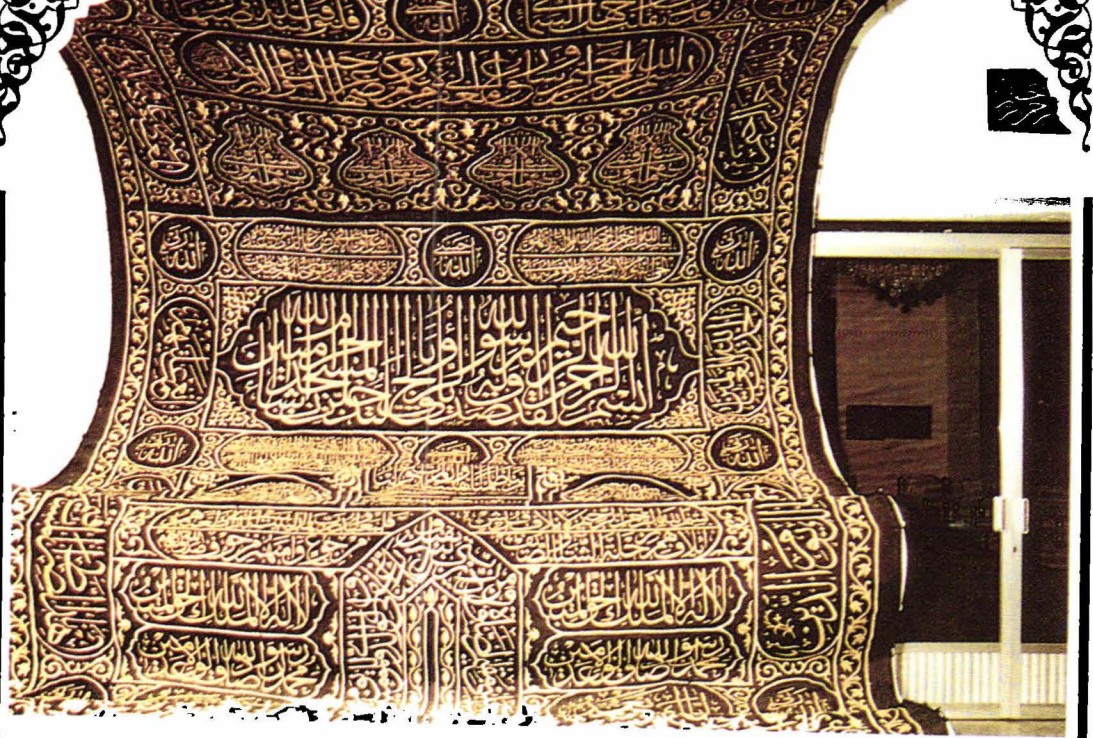


● One of the gardens in the Diplomatic Headquarters in Riyadh.



● King Fahd motorway.





- The factory where the cover for Al Kabaa is produced.





- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques lays the conerstone to the beginning of the expansion work. His Majesty is accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz, Deputy Premier and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Premier.

---

## Introduction

﴿الَّذِينَ إِنْ مَكَّنَّاهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَوُا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَمَرُوا بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ عَاقِبَةُ الْأُمُورِ﴾ ﴿٤١﴾

The leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its people are so fortunate to have the honour of serving the pilgrimage and visitors of the Holy Mosque and the visitors to the Prophet's mosque (peace be upon him). This honour is only got by those who are granted success by our Mighty God and offer good deeds and give what is this honour really worth of serving and caring for the Two Holy Mosques.

The Saudi government under the leader of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - God bless him - has devoted all its resources and capacities for the care for the Two Holy Mosques and the advancement and expansion of the two holy cities in an unprecedented way. It only seeks Gods reward and the comfort of God's guests and facilitating their doing the sharines in peace and comfort besides devoting all their time to God's worship.

﴿وَإِذْنِ النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا لَا وِجَالًا عَلَى كُلِّ مَضَامِرٍ يَأْتِيكَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَيْحٍ عَمِيقٍ﴾ ﴿٢٧﴾ لِيَشْهَدُوا مَنَافِعَ لَهُمْ وَيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَعْلُومَاتٍ عَلَى مَا رَزَقَهُمْ مِنْ بَهِيمَةِ الْأَنْعَامِ فَكُلُوا مِنْهَا وَأَطِيعُوا أَلْبَاسَ الْفَقِيرِ﴾ ﴿٢٨﴾

All what has been secured by the Saudi government and offered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques - God bless him - for the comfort of the pilgrimage can not match the honour bestowed by God to this country. Both the leadership and people of this country are still exerting all they can to give both Mecca and Madina waht they are worth of special care. We all end our prayers thanking God.

Ministry of Information







## CHAPTER ONE

# ***Saudi Arabia: A Unique Personality***

- **Saudi Arabia: History and Location**
- **The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques:  
Continuous Generosity, Progressive Mind**
- **The Government**
- **Some Aspects of Saudi Developement**

## **SAUDI ARABIA: A UNIQUE PERSONALITY AND A GREAT HISTORY**

---

Every place has its own personality which makes it different from the rest of the world. These differences can be geographical in nature, civilizational or historical. While the first two elements can share certain similarities, history on the other hand is the main factor that makes the real difference between the personality of one country and another.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia distinguishes itself from the rest of the world by the following three elements altogether: topography, civilization and history.

The Kingdom stands unmatched in the world by its spiritual roots which go back to prehistorical eras when God Almighty ordered his angels to erect his holy shrine lending this land sacredness and purity. This land saw the arrival of Abraham, peace be upon him, his immigration and the spread of Islam and the power of Islam. Time went by where the Kingdom saw the succession of different rulers and peoples until the 12th century Hijra when Prince Mohammad Ibn Saud ruled the governorate of Al Diriyah in Riyadh. It is this era that saw the beginning of the birth of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It was also during this era that the movement of Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Abdulwahhab started. The search for statehood went through various phases of success as well as failure until the arrival of King Abdulaziz, God bless his soul. It was he and his children afterwards, who gave the Kingdom its unique character, one that brought together a glorious past, a great present and formidable development.



# **THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

---

## **Location**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is located between the three ancient continents of the world (Asia, Africa and Europe), and more exactly on the western side of Asia. It covers almost all of the Arabian Peninsula in terms of area, which makes it, geographically speaking, a continent on its own separating Asia and Africa, while in fact it acts more as a link between the two continents from a civilizational point of view.

The Saudi Arabian territory stretches over 15 degrees on the latitudinal scale. As a consequence, the location of the Kingdom with its special climate, its hot and humid weather have had a direct impact on the distribution of its population, the diversity of its topographic relief and its agricultural and animal production. With the Arabian Gulf to its East and the Red Sea to its West, the Kingdom boasts of an excellent climate and a constant flux of people from inside and outside the country over the ages.

The Kingdom is surrounded by Jordan and Iraq to the North, the Arabian Gulf, the countries of Bahrain, Qatar and the Emirates to the East, Yemen and Oman to the South and the Red Sea to the West .

## **The Topography of the Kingdom**

Despite the vast area covered by the Kingdom, which stretches over a large part of the Arabian Peninsula, its topography displays a diversity well suited to its vastness. Thus, we find the wide plains, the desert stretching in all directions, the high mountains, the deep valleys, the mounds and the rocky lands, all gathered in one country.

## **The Sahara**

There are three Saharas in the Kingdom and these are:

1. Al Nufud Kabir which stretches from the Central region of the Kingdom to the North.
2. Dahra with its red sands in the Eastern part of the Kingdom.
3. Al rub' Al Khali with its soft white sands located in the South



---

of the Kingdom, is considered the largest sandy area in the world.

### **The Mountains**

There are many mountain chains in the Kingdom, the most well known chain is that of Al Sarawat mountains spreading from the straight of Aqaba in the North to the country of Yemen in the south, extending parallel to the Red Sea in the West. Some of the mountains in this chain can reach up to 8415 feet of altitude. There are also the mountains of Twig in the Najd highland with a high peak of 3000 feet and the Asir chain in the Southern region.

### **The Highlands**

The most important plateau in the Kingdom is that of Najd, sometimes referred to as "Aliyyat Najd. This mound is situated at 300 feet above sea level.

### **The Plains**

The most important plain in Saudi Arabia is the plain of Tihama which borders the Red Sea.

### **The Valleys or Wadis**

The Kingdom has a number of valleys which fill with water after rainfall in the winter season. The most important of these are the following: Wadi Al Sarhan, Wadi Hanifa, Wadi Al Rimma, Wadi Fatma and Wadi al Dawasir. Despite the inexistence of rivers or lakes, the Kingdom does have a number of oases and springs, the most important of which are the springs of Al Ahsa, Al Qatif, Al Kharj and Al Aflaj.

### **The Population**

According to the estimates made in 1990, the population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is 14,016,000 spread over rural and urban areas, in addition to the Arab and foreign communities working in the Kingdom. Conscious of its responsibilities toward raising the standard of living of its citizens, the government has begun through development

---

programs implemented by the Ministry of Rural affairs to design plans aiming at the redistribution of the population by setting up urban centers well equipped with the necessary amenities and services.

### **The Coastline**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has 1800 kms of coastline overlooking the Red Sea and another 610 kms overlooking the Arabian Gulf to the East. Saudi territorial waters extend up to the continental shelf.

### **The Climate**

The geographical location of the Kingdom, the vastness of the area it covers and the variation of its relief meant that its climate is also varied, changing from one region to another. In general, we can say that the weather in the Kingdom tends to be hot in summer, especially in the Central region and moderate toward the South and in the mountainous regions such as the Asir region well known for its resort areas, in particular Abha. As for the Eastern and Western coasts, they are characterized by high temperatures and humidity especially during summer season. Since the Kingdom is situated in a tropical zone, the temperature varies according to the climatic elements surrounding it. Among these, the relief. Thus, in the central, Eastern and Western regions, the temperature varies between 35 and 45 degrees in the summer and between 7 and 37 degrees celsius in the winter. In the north and in the higher elevations of the South, however, the temperature can reach the freezing point. On the whole, the general climate of the Kingdom is said to be moderate throughout the year.

The seas, the mountains, the plains and the desert also play a major role in shaping the climate of the Kingdom. They have a direct impact on the rise and fall of humidity and on the amount of annual rainfall.

The climate is also subject to cyclical air streams which bring about seasonal winds. Thus, in the Soutwestern region, seasonal winds are observed in the summer while in the South continental cyclical winds are observed in winter. These are

---

usually accompanied by sand storms. The North is subject to polar air masses originating in the sea and causing rain in winter. Rain is usually torrential in many parts of the Kingdom due to the conjunction of hot and cold air streams. Rain is often accompanied by thunder storms. The heaviest rainfall in the Kingdom is observed in the Khamis Mshit area with an average rainfall of 215.5 mm.

### **Natural Resources**

The soil of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia abounds with mineral resources such as oil and many others, and even though oil has had the lion's share in terms of development, the government has not neglected the other types of resources. Intense geological efforts to chart these mineral resources and lay the foundation for a mining industry have been made by the government. The exploration and development of raw materials other than oil have been set as the main objectives of Saudi development plans which aim at the diversification of the economic basis of the country. This new direction away from a reliance on crude oil and more toward manufacturing allows the country extra income and more diversified exports while at the same time attracting investment from the private sector into the manufacturing business, leading the country to a stronger and more balanced economy.

The richest and most important oil deposits are found in the Eastern region. Oil reserves in this area, estimated at 315 billion barrels, represent one quarter of the total world reserves. Natural gas reserves are estimated at 253 trillion cubic feet.

The most important mineral resources that have been discovered in Saudi Arabia are the following:

#### **Magnesium:**

This mineral is found at 160 kms. South West of the city of Hail. Reserves are estimated at 4.5 million tons.

#### **Limestone:**

There are more than 400 mines of this mineral in Saudi Arabia. The important ones are Um Al Firyan located at 50 kms.

---

East of the city of Al Kharj, Sedous situated just outside the city of Riyadh and the Northern part of Dirijyah.

**Phosphates:**

Phosphates were discovered in 1965 in the Northern Western part of the Kingdom 70 kms East of the city of Tarif. The largest deposits are found in Al Jalamid which is located at 100 kms North West of the city of Arar. These deposits are estimated at 4470 million tons.

**Silica:**

This mineral is used in the manufacturing of paper products, plastics, ceramics and paint. It is found in many areas in the Kingdom. The most important deposits are located in Khashm Radhi at 45 kms East of Al Kharj.

**Gold:**

There are huge deposits of gold in the Kingdom. Reserves are estimated at 8.4 million tons. Mahd Al Dhahab is considered to be the most important gold mine in the Kingdom. Other deposits are found in the Skhirat mine and in Wadi Hawashi.

**Copper:**

More than 825 mines of copper are found in the Kingdom. The most important ones that are being exploited are: Jabal Sayid, Kitam, Al Masnii, Salasila, Jabal Shamrani and Hanifa.

**Agriculture in the Kingdom**

One of the greatest success stories of the Kingdom's development is undoubtedly its agricultural sector. Within the last decade, this sector has made a fantastic leap in terms of quality and quantity. As a consequence, agriculture has become one of the major sources of national income and Saudi Arabia has moved from the status of an importer to that of an explorer.

The honorific prize awarded to the Kingdom by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization is a clear acknowledgement of the tremendous success achieved by the Kingdom in the field of agriculture. So much so that the FAO



---

did not hesitate to cite the Kingdom's experience as a model to be emulated by many developing countries.

The development of the agricultural sector was well thought out. It was executed according to the objectives set out in the five year plans designed by the government. Thus, hundreds of thousands of acres of land have been given for free to farmers and to agricultural companies while the bank of agriculture provide the farmers with loans to be paid in installments without interest. In addition, the government subsidizes to the tune of 50% the prices of grains produced locally and imported and up to 45% of the cost of machinery used in farming. In order to encourage Saudi farmers , the government also buys wheat and barley crops from them and organizes training programs to initiate them to the new methods and technologies in the field of agriculture.

The following figures demonstrate the extent of the success achieved by the Kingdom in the field of agriculture defying the difficult geographical conditions of the country and the lack of continuous rain and the absence of rivers.

The total area of uncultivated land given to the farmers for free has reached 40 million acres.

The production of wheat has increased to 3,600,000 tons covering 95% of the total production of grains in the Kingdom making it an essential source of national income.

### **Ports and Airports**

One of the largest and most modern airport is King Khalid airport located in the capital Riyadh. In the Eastern region, and in addition to the international airport of Dhahran we find the second biggest airport in the Kingdom: King Fahd airport. This airport handles 7 million passengers a year with a possibility of expansion to accommodate 12 million. The third biggest airport, King Abdulaziz International airport is located in Jeddah. 23 other airports are scattered all over the Kingdom to serve the domestic sector. As far as ports as concerned, King Abdulaziz port in Dammam and Ras Tannura port in Jubail are considered the most important sea harbors in the Kingdom. It is from these two ports that most if not all the oil is exported. Among the

---

other ports in the Kingdom, we can mention the port of Jeddah in the Western region, the port of Yanbu and Jazan, all located on the Red Sea.

## **The Major Cities in the Kingdom**

### **Riyadh**

As the capital of the Kingdom, Riyadh serves as the official residence of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the center of government. It is home to the Council of Ministers, the various ministries, government agencies and foreign embassies consulates.

Situated in the middle of the Najd plateau, Riyadh occupies the site of the ancient city of Hajr whose name was mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. Its present name, Riyadh, dates back to the second century Hijra and it was so named after the green lush gradens that characterized the area.

Riyadh has many historical monuments such as the Musmak, and ancient fortress, the Murabbaa Palace, Al Nassiriyah Gate, Jabal Abu Makhruq, Al Diriyah District and the Burma Cave. As far as modern buildings and facilities are concerned, one has to mention King Khalid International Airport and the three stories gulf bridge which took two years to complete and which measures 2200 meters in length and 37.5 in width in addition to the many tunnels and intersections.

### **Makkah Al Mukarramah**

Makkah Al Mukarramah is by far the most important islamic city in the whole world. The birth place of Islam, this city hosts the Kaaba sanctuary or Bayt Al Haram which Muslims from around the globe aspire to visit. It is thus a place endeared by all Saudis and in particular by the rulers of the Kingdom who competed with each other to develop the city as a whole and the Holy Mosque in particular. This mosque, also called Al Masjid Al Haram, is the most significant landmark in the city of Makkah Al Mukarramah. Its sacred Islamic value deeply touches the hearts of all muslims around the world regardless of their color of origin.

In the last two years, the two Holy Mosques and the areas surrounding it have seen the most grandiose project of expansion ever. Construction work was designed according to original Islamic architectural styles with a touch of modernism.

The city of Makkah Al Mukarramah as a whole has witnessed tremendous development in terms of size and architecture and has become a real gem in the heart of the Kingdom. All of this was made possible thanks to the Kingdom's rulers dedication, persistence and genuine desire to make Makkah a worthy host to the holy Mosque.

Among the most important projects carried out in the city of Makkah Al Mukarramah, we can cite the following:

- The development of the urban road network, the construction of the ring road around the Holy Mosque, the building of a number of tunnels through the mountains surrounding the city of Makkah, the renovation of the city's main squares and the construction of a desalination plant.

In the field of education, the university of Um Al Qura is considered to be an architectural masterpiece and an important academic institution.

The government has also paid special attention to improving health services through the construction of new hospitals and health units equipped with the most modern machinery so as to provide the inhabitants of the city of Makkah and the millions of visitors of the Holy Mosque with the best health care possible.

Finally, the city was supplied with an extremely modern national and international communication network in addition to a sophisticated post office.

### **Al Madina Al Munawwarah**

The first home of Islam which came to the aid of the Prophet Mohammad, Peace Be Upon Him, it is considered to be the third most important islamic center since it hosts the Prophet's Mosque. In this respect, Al Madina Munawwarah is as special as Makkah. As is the case with the Holy Mosque in Makkah, the Mosque of the Messenger of Allah in Al Madina has seen extraordinary expansion work which reached its peak

---

during the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. The area surrounding the mosques was also expanded and renovated so that it harmonizes with the Islamic architectural style of the holy monument.

The city of Al Madina Al Munawwarah is located on an elevated flat plateau at the junction of three valleys or wadis: Wadi al Aql, Wadi Al Aqiq and Wadi Al Hamdhi. As a consequence, there are vast green surfaces in the middle of a dry mountainous region. The total area of Al Madina is 50 square kilometers but it is constantly expanding due to the rapid construction boom the city has recently witnessed.

### **Jeddah**

Jeddah, the "The Bridge of the Red Sea" is well known for its splendid corniche which extends over 80 kms of coast line, and provides the inhabitants with a multitude of recreational facilities. Among its many landmarks, the famous water fountain offered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques as a gift to the city. This fountain is the highest of its kind in the world. It can shoot water up to a height of 260 meters. A number of sculptural monuments and artistic designs, some with religious motifs, others with designs inspired from local folklore, are scattered in the main squares of the city adding to its beauty.

### **Dammam**

Located in the Eastern region along with the cities of Al Khobar, Al Dhahran and al Ahsa, Dammam grew rapidly from a poor city to a large modern urban center especially after the construction of King Abdulaziz harbor and the reactivation of the railway road linking the harbor to the city of Riyadh. These two projects gave an economic and cultural boost to the city and changed its whole image from a small town to an industrial metropolis. King Fahd International airport, the largest in the country in terms of area and the best equipped, also played a major role in the development of the city.

Dammam is also a touristic town. Situated on the Arab Gulf, it boasts of the finest and most beautiful beaches in the Eastern region. The most famous of these beaches are: "The Bay

---

of Nisf Al Umur". A number of chalets, hotels and fun parks for children have been built in the area to accommodate the growing number of tourists. The city is also equipped with no less than 27 parks among which the King Fahd Park which is one of the biggest in the Kingdom in addition to many green spaces scattered around the city.

### **Bureydah**

The city of Bureydah is considered one of the most important cities in the Kingdom due to its strategic location and its connection to the main highways of the Kingdom. It has grown quite rapidly during the last decade as a result of the many development and social projects implemented in the area. Its architecture is a mixture of the old and the new and it comprises a number of modern buildings as well as parks and gardens. The city has witnessed one of the biggest projects of beautification and forestation in the Kingdom in addition to the renovation of historical monuments and public squares. Among the modern landmarks of the city of Bureydah, we can cite King Khalid Cultural Center, Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdulaziz Sports Complex and the Bureydah water tower. Bureydah is also well known for its beautiful big parks the most important of which is the Bureydah public park.

### **Resort Areas**

One of the most important resort areas in the south of the Kingdom is the city of Abha and in particular the enchanted locality of Al Souda with its mild climate and its dense forests. The city of Abha is famous for its moderate climate all year around and its historical scriptures and engravings dating back to various eras. It also has a museum where a number of archeological findings discovered in the area are displayed. Then we have the city of Taif, one of the best resorts in the Kingdom. The summer resort of Al Shifa and that of al Hada are among the prettiest in the Kingdom. There are also many beautiful parks and a zoo comprising a rare collection of local birds and animals. In addition, Al Taif has always been famous for its agricultural sector, especially for the cultivation

---

of fruits. Al Taif grapes, pomegranates and honey are extremely popular in the Kingdom. Al Taif is also the first city in the Kingdom to embrace the faith of Islam and the richest in historical monuments going back to ancient times. The famous Ukadh market place which played a major role in pre-Islamic and Islamic literature and poetry is in Al Taif and some of its remnants can still be seen today. Vestiges of ancient castles, bridges and fortresses going back to the Ottoman period are also well preserved.



## **The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Continuous Generosity, Progressive Thinking:**

---

In the capital city of Riyadh and in the year 1343 Hijra which is the same year that Makkah Al Mukarramah came under the ruling of his late father King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud, the founder of the Kingdom; This year saw the birth of Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, who was raised by a genius father, a real fighter who had to struggle against ignorance and anarchy in the middle of a bare desert until he established a state based on the Islamic faith and the teachings of the holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet, peace be upon him.

Fahd's early childhood and experiences were simultaneous with the birth and growth of Saudi Arabia. His development as child ran parallel to that of the state, a period of great achievements. He always accompanied his father during his meetings and learned a great deal about government. Thanks to this on hand training, he was able later to conduct various important tasks and his father sent him on a number of missions outside the Kingdom. He was also asked several times to go and meet on behalf of his father with many heads of tribes and nobility which gave him a first hand knowledge of rural and tribal affairs.

King Fahd, may god protect him, started his schooling in one of the first schools his father founded to educate his people. He continued his education in the Saudi Science School where he was taught the Arabic language and religious education after which he was sent abroad to widen his knowledge of the world and gain more experience in world affairs.

In 1373, the Ministry of Education was created and King Fahd, may god protect him, was the first government official to head it. He was faced with a formidable task which called for intelligence, experience and alertness. He proved to be well up to the job and his performance was brilliant.

A quick glance at the achievements of the Kingdom in the field of education demonstrates the amount and quality of efforts



---

made by King Fahd in this domain. When the Ministry of Education was founded, there were only 43 elementary schools, 4 secondary schools, one preparatory school for students to be sent abroad and the Saudi Science School.

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, a long term plan was drawn whose aim was to spread education and make it available throughout the Kingdom in addition to increasing the number of scholarships abroad so as to train the maximum number of Saudis needed in the education sector and in other government agencies and to achieve step by step the Saudization of the teaching staff in the Kingdom.

The results of this major campaign did not wait. The number of elementary schools jumped to 748 schools. The first university in the Arabian Peninsula, King Saud University was open after only four years of his majesty's mission at the head of the Ministry of Education. This was followed by the opening of another three Islamic universities which drew a big number of students from more than a hundred different nationalities.

In 1382, King Fahd had to change course and enter yet another important and highly sensitive field. A royal decree was issued nominating him to the post of Minister of the Interior. Here also, he took the job head on and worked hard to modernize the Ministry and to give its agencies a new look befitting the new era Saudi Arabia was living in. Thus, the College Security Forces (King Fahd College for Security Forces) was created to train young Saudi Nationals in the sciences of security needed at the Ministry of Interior. This was followed by the creation of the Army Officers Institute, the School Motor Vehicles, the Institute of Languages, the Institutes of Physical Education, the International Shooting arena and a number of other schools needed by the various departments of the Ministry.

In addition to this, His Royal Highness worked hard to develop the agencies attached to the Ministry and to improve on the types of weapons used by security forces so as to ensure full security and peace to the country. Under his leadership, the Ministry grew both in size and in responsibilities to include under its umbrella the Department of General Security, the

---

Coast Guard, Civil Defense, the Passport Department, the Department of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the Department of Criminology and the Emirates and their branches.

His Royal Highness's responsibilities grew even heavier when King Faysal, God bless him, nominated him in 1387 Hijra to the post of Second Deputy to the President of the Council of Ministers in addition to his responsibilities at the head of the Ministry of Interior and of many special committees.

In 1395 Hijra, King Khalid, God bless him, succeeded King Faysal as the leader of the country. His first decision was to make His Royal Highness Prince Fahd heir to the throne and President of the Council of Ministers. His Royal Highness also entrusted with numerous other tasks which he carried out with perfection. His efforts resulted in the tremendous improvement of government agencies staff and in a remarkable economic growth and development.

When King Khalid, God bless him, passed away in 1403 Hijra, His Royal Highness Prince Fahd was chosen as the successor to the throne.

During his first ten years of leadership, the country reached an unprecedented level of prosperity and growth in all domains. The Kingdom gained in power and stature internationally, on the Arab scene and in the Islamic world, to become a model to other nations.

A gigantic effort to construct, renovate and expand mosques was undertaken more than two thousand mosques were built in addition to the extraordinary expansion of the Holy Mosque in Makkah and the Mosque of the Prophet in Madina.

In the field of education, the number of academic institutions including elementary schools, secondary schools, teacher training colleges, universities and technical schools has increased significantly so as to ensure a brighter future for Saudi citizens. Progress was tremendous in other fields as well. More hospitals and health units, new roads, bridges, desalinization plants, ports, airports were built. In addition to this, a modern tele-communication network was put in place electricity was made available to all regions of the Kingdom. The industrial and agricultural sectors also witnessed a remarkable development.

---

All of these achievements and many others are but one example of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosque's keenness on making Saudi Arabia a leading model country.

We cannot however move on without mentioning the noble gesture his majesty made when he announced during his inauguration of the television station in Madina in 1407 his decision to change his title to that Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques demonstrating to his people and to Muslims around the world his awareness of the big responsibility dictated to him by his belief in God and his understanding of the Islamic law. This heavy responsibility exhorted him to do his utmost in order to protect the holy shrines of Islam and to make sure that the guests of Allah who come from all over the globe to visit are as comfortable as possible. He did all this out of deep conviction and with great happiness.

Having laid the foundation for a capable, competent and developed society when he was in charge of the Ministry of Education; Having ensured security and peace for his country as the Head of the Ministry of Interior, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques demonstrated his ability to protect and defend the Kingdom during the gulf crisis which threatened to destroy all ambitions and achievements made in the Arab region. His majesty was able to deal with a difficult situation with unequalled political savoir faire. He took the brave decision to call on friendly countries for help and took a clear stand vis a vis the Iraqi leader, exposing his ploys and treachery to the public and confronting him with the courage of a true believer in god and in his responsibility.

After the crisis, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques continued his relentless effort to lead the country toward more enlightenment and progress. Thus, he formulated new rule for the practice of government and instituted the SHURA (Council) whose aims were to place the Saudi citizen as the primary interest of the political body and ensure that every member of society enjoy his or her full the rights as a human being and to make sure that government agencies be at the service of the citizens of the Kingdom. He also empowered the Shura or council to study and analyze all decisions and government

---

regulations, giving its members the right to question government officials on any matters related to the country. Such actions strengthened the feeling of security of all citizens of the Kingdom. In addition, these changes in the political system were based on Islamic law whose concern for the prosperity and dignity of mankind will always be there.

## **The Constitution and the System of Government**

### **Government**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a fully independent Arab Islamic state. Its religion is Islam and its constitution is based on the of Allah, the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of his Prophet, peace be upon him and the system of government is of the monarchy type. It was agreed from the start that the power was to be handed down from the founder of the King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud to his son to his grand children and that the most competent and the fittest of them was to be chosen as King who would govern the country according to the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet, peace be upon him. This is a guarantee that government would be based on justice, consultation and equality according to Islamic law.

The country is divided into regions each headed by a prince, an Emir, with the rank of Minister. Each region is divided administratively into municipalities and centers. The Emir is in charge of running the affairs of the region to which he was appointed to as Governor. Each region has a local council comprising heads of local government agencies and 10 members selected from the local community on the basis of knowledge, experience and expertise. This council is headed by the Emir whose role is to help the member of the council, the heads of the government agencies and other officials to run the affairs of the region and to work toward its development. The council's role is to monitor and supervise all matters related to the administration of the region according to established rules and regulations.

## **Majlis Al Shura (Consultative Council)**

This council run according to the teachings of Allah and to Islamic Shariaa or law is headed by a president and comprises 60 members chosen by the King according to competence and level of expertise. The members have to be Saudi nationals of origin with an established good reputation. The council is appointed for a four year term. Its task is to formulate its opinion of the general policy of the government submitted by the president of the council of ministers and discuss social, economic and development planning and to study rules and regulations proposed by the government and international accords and treaties. The headquarters of the council are located in the capital, Riyadh.

## **The official language in the Kingdom**

Since the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an Arab Islamic country whose constitution is the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet, and since it adheres very strictly to the teachings of the Islamic faith and to Islamic law, it is only natural that its official language be the language of the Holy Qur'an, Arabic. The use of English is relatively widespread in the Kingdom, followed by French.

## **The Kingdom's National Day**

It is celebrated on the first day of the month of Mizan according to the solar hijra calendar. It commemorates the foundation of the state of Saudi Arabia after its name changed from the Hijazi Najdi Kingdom and its Annexes to that of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## **The Official Calendar**

The official calendar followed in the Kingdom is the Islamic Hijra calendar following the Prophet's emigration from Makkah to Al Madina. There are twelve months in this calendar and they are as follows: Muharram, Safar, Rabii Al Awall, Rabii Al Thani, Jumada Al Ula, Jumada Al Thani, Rajab, Shaaban, Ramadhan, Shawwal, Dhu-L-Qiida and Dhu-L-Hijja. There is an eleven day difference between this calendar and the gregorian

---

calendar since the number of days per month vary between 29 and 30. The Gregorian calendar is used along with the Hijra calendar to facilitate administrative work for some companies, special agencies and foreign embassies.

### **Local Time**

Local time in the Kingdom is three hours ahead of Greenwich meantime. Thus, one o'clock in London is four o'clock in Riyadh without taking in consideration summer saving time.

### **Working Hours and Holidays**

Government offices work on a single shift basis from 7:30 in the morning to 2:30 in the afternoon. In the month of Ramadhan, however, official working hours are from 10:00 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon. Private companies and banks work on a double shift system, from 7:30 to 12:00 and from 4:00 p.m to 8:30 p.m Thursdays and Fridays are official weekly holidays for the banks which stay open Thursday mornings.

### **The Emblem of the Country**

The emblem of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia comprises two crossed swords symbolizing justice and power with a palm tree on top symbolizing prosperity.

### **The Country's Flag**

It is the only flag in the world which cannot be halfmasted since it has inscribed on it the Shahada "There is only one God and Mohammad is his Prophet", which is the first foundation of the Islamic faith. The slogan is written in white in Thuluth calligraphy style. Right below and parallel to the shahada, there is a drawn sword with its handle pointing leftward. The whole design has been drawn on a green background.

### **Saudi Currency**

The Riyal is the basic currency unit of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is convertible and it comprises one hundred

---

Halalas. The bills used in the Kingdom are as follows: One Riyal bill, Five Riyals, Ten Riyals, Fifty Riyals, One Hundred Riyals and Five Hundred Riyals. The coins are divide as follows: Five Halalas, Ten Halalas, Twenty Five Halalas, Fifty Halalas and One Hundred Halalas.

### **The Saudi National Costume**

All Saudi nationals wear one and the same costume regardless of their color or status. This costume is called Thawb, a sort of a long gown, white in color, a white Ghutra (a scarf) over the head and a black Agal (a round string to hold the scarf in place). On special occasions, men wear the Mshallah over the white Thawb and in winter they wear woollen Thawbs with a red Ghutra instead of the usual white one. Women, on the other hand wear all kinds of colorful garments covered with a black Abaya. All Saudi wear the veil covering their faces and their hair. In rural areas, women put on the Burgaa which is a kind of veil covering the whole face except for the eyes.

### **Visas and Residence Permits**

All applicants seeking employment, visit or residence in the Kingdomn can obtain entry visas through Saudi embassies and consulates abroad. The Ministry of Interior is the body that issues these visas.

### **Aspects of Saudi Development**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoys an excellent stature among Arab and Islamic countries and is highly expected by all members of the international community due to its quiet and well balanced diplomacy which is based on the desire for peace, friendship and prosperity for all people of the world.

During the last twenty years, the Kingdom was able to attain a number achievements and tremendous progress through its development plans started in 1390 Hijra corresponding to 1980. With the implementation of these plans, an unprecedented level of growth was accomplished in all facets of Saudi life and throughout the Kingdom. This incredible progress provided all



---

Saudis with a comfortable and dignified living status. It is also won the respect and admiration of visitors and residents in the Kingdom.

### **The Construction Boom**

The government of Saudi Arabia paid special attention to building the infrastructure of the country. Public facilities and government buildings were erected throughout the Kingdom covering all sectors. This included hospitals, schools, roads, bridges, tunnels, universities housing compounds, airports, communication networks, industrial complexes, sports facilities, parks, etc.

Throughout the four development plans, construction was seen everywhere. New cities and villages were created and the Kingdom quickly became one of the greatest and the richest countries in the urban development sector. Experts in the field from all over the world agree that what has been accomplished by the Kingdom in the field of development and construction is a miracle. 300 billion Riyals were spent on various projects, the most important of which were the renovation and expansion of the holy Islamic shrines.

### **Roads and Communication**

The achievements made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the sector of transportation is in unique experience worthy of being considered by other nations as a model to be followed.

A huge network of highways was built in the Kingdom according to the last technology available in the field. This extraordinary expansion of the road network and the building of bridges and tunnels was not limited to any city. It included all towns and regions in the Kingdom to become the pulsating heart of this vast country.

Thanks to this extremely modern network, movement between various regions of the Kingdom was facilitated and the geographical and geological obstacles disappeared. It was a dream come true and a miracle that became a reality.

## **Education**

The government has always considered education as the most important foundation aimed at developing the intellectual competencies of its citizens so that they can assume their full responsibility toward their country, and as such, it was given as high a priority as that given to the creation of the state itself. The development of the education sector was soon generalized to cover all regions of the Kingdom without exception. To the few scattered small religious schools were added thousands of schools, hundreds of institutes and tens of colleges spread over seven universities. The number of academic institutions rose to approximately 17,000 units serving the educational needs of more than 2 million male and female students. The number of vocational and technical schools has also increased considerably during the last period. More than 26,000 students are presently enrolled in these schools with an average of 18% of the total student population a year.

The following universities are found in the Kingdom:

- King Saud University (Riyadh)
- King Abdulaziz University (Jeddah)
- King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (Dhahran)
- King Faysal University (Al Ahsa)
- Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University (Riyadh)
- Um-Al Qura University (Makkah Al Mukarramah)
- The Islamic University (Al Madina Munawwarah)

## **Agriculture**

One of the first priorities of the Saudi development of agriculture aimed at achieving self sufficiency and thus reducing dependence on imports. Following this plan, the desert was transformed into a specialized farm equipped with high tech machinery. The Saudi experiment with agriculture drew admiration and amazement of the world when Saudi wheat reached international markets, these markets which not long ago dictated the price of this commodity when Saudi Arabia was still an importer of wheat.

This unique experiment in the field of agriculture and

---

development was followed both quantitatively and qualitatively by the success in other agricultural products which have in turn penetrated international markets in addition to covering the local needs.

The development of agriculture in the Kingdom started with the distribution of land over agricultural companies and individuals along with providing professional training and technical support to the farmer. The government also helped by giving financial support in the form of grants and loans and by buying crops from farmers at encouraging prices. This effort led to an increase in the cultivated area and in the level of production.

In 1991, the Kingdom established a record in wheat production which reached 4 million tons approximately, hoisting Saudi Arabia to the sixth place of wheat exporters in the world.

Acknowledging this fantastic accomplishment, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques issued a royal decree to pay the farmers for their gigantic efforts in the field of agriculture. These payments totalled 7.9 billion Riyals. This move encouraged many individuals and companies to get involved in agriculture which in turn had a direct impact on the level of production.

In a continuous effort to further develop the agricultural sector, the government paid special attention to the professional technical training of young Saudis interested in agriculture. Hence the establishment of the Technical Institute of Agriculture which provides training in plant production, animal production, basic science and agriculture mechanization.

## **Industry**

Despite the fact that the Kingdom is one of the richest countries in the world owing to its huge oil reserves, great efforts were made to move toward industrialization.

Parallel to the development of an industry based on petrol, the government sought to develop an intensive manufacturing industry moving the country from an oil producer and raw material exporter to a manufacturer of various products. The Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Company, SABIC, was thus able

---

to open 7 new factories for petrochemicals and 264 new manufacturing complexes were created.

The Kingdom exported 10 million Riyals worth of petrochemical products, 39 million tons of refined products and 3612 million tons of other manufactured products.

In Jubail and Yanbu, the government built two of the biggest industrial complexes in the Middle East to accommodate new investments in the industrial sector. The two cities comprise 107 factories. 6 more industrial cities were built in the Kingdom. With the two complexes in Jubail and Yanbu, they cover 32 million square meters.

It should be mentioned that the establishment of the two industrial complexes in Jubail and Yanbu was done with no negative impact whatsoever on the natural environment of the region.

### **Science and Technology**

The development of the Kingdom in the field of education, agriculture and industry could not be complete without the incorporation of science and technology as an essential ingredient of development if the Kingdom is to compare with other developed nations. Hence the creation of a number of scientific institutions equal to the best in the world.

The establishment of King Abdulaziz City of Science and Technology was done with this particular objective in mind. This academic institution is independent in nature and its administration falls under the umbrella of the President of the Council of Ministers. Its aims are to support, to encourage and put to practice scientific research, to coordinate the activities of scientific research centers and institutes and to serve the development needs of the Kingdom by transferring new technology local industry.

One of the most significant aspects of research conducted in this city is the research program on solar energy and its applications inside the Kingdom whose geographical characteristics are ideal for such research given that it enjoys year around sunshine. Some of the regions of the Kingdom have already been supplied with electricity generated from solar

---

energy. For this purpose, a number of research projects have been completed among which the Photoelectricity research program, the design and installation of a solar powered dehydrator, the solar collector project and the project of hydrogen production through solar energy.

One of the other areas of interest of King Abdulaziz City of Science and Technology concerns the project of fresh water pisciculture. Indeed the Kingdom has succeeded in breeding and producing larvae of Tilapia and Carp in the Dyrab experimental pisciculture station.

In addition, the city has established a complete network of seismological monitoring stations at King Saud University, King Abdulaziz University and King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals. Most recently, the city has also signed an accord with the American Space Agency NASA which will include the Kingdom among those nations participating in the international program for the study of geological movements. As a result, the city has begun work on a Saudi laser to be used in monitoring the earth's movements. This monitoring station is one of the most advanced in the Middle East region. In a similar vein, a national observatory was built in order to monitor the phases of the moon among other uses.

Furthermore, King Abdulaziz City of Science and Technology gives a great deal of importance to the peaceful use of space. Hence the creation of the Saudi Center for Remote Sensing.

In the field of space exploration, the Kingdom has made significant strides with the participation of one of its sons, the Arab and Muslim astronaut, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn Salman Ibn Abdulaziz, is one of the voyages into space aboard the American space shuttle Discovery.

### **Social Development**

To the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the real wealth of the Kingdom will always be the Saudi citizen himself. This wealth should be the center of attention of the authorities as it is the real source of prosperity and civilization. No wonder then that the development of Saudi society has

---

always been the main consideration of the many vital development plans and projects. Such plans have provided the Saudi citizens with the means to lead a happy and comfortable standard of living with an average annual income among the highest in the rich and developed nations.

In conclusion, the governemtn of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does indeed provide its citizens with complete and comprehensive services in the fields of health, education, housing and culture in harmony with their efforts, as they aspire to achieve the objectives of the wise Saudi leadership.



## CHAPTER TWO

# *The Expansions of The Two Holy Mosques and the Holy Sites*

- ★ Expansion of the Holy Mosque in Makkah.
  - Form the reign of King Abdulaziz to the reign of King Khalid.
  - The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' expansion project.
- ★ Expansion of the Prophet's Mosque.
  - The Prophet's Mosque in the care of Al Saud.
  - A historical achievement for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.
- ★ Expansion and development of the Holy Sites.
  - The area of Mina.
  - The road and tunnel network.
  - Water and sewer systems.
  - The model slaughterhouse.





### ★ The Holy Mosques in Makkah:

It is God's Ancient House to which moslems face and travel in their hearts five times a day and night ("Wherever ye are, turn your faces in that direction" Sura II, v. 144), and which they long to visit ("Whoever enters it attains security" Sura III, v. 97)... God has honored it and preserved it for all moslems as a "Qibla" and a destination, and as a symbol of unity of purpose and belief ("For them, perform their vows, and (again) circumambulate the ancient House" Sura XXII, v. 29).

### ★ The Prophet's Mosque in Medina:

It is the first building erected by the Holy Prophet (PBUH) in Medina and the second destination for pilgrims and visitors. The Prophet (PBUH) has declared that his mosque includes one of the Gardens of Paradise, and that a prayer performed on its grounds is the equivalent of one thousand prayers performed elsewhere.

These two holy sites have a very long history and, like all other sites, have experienced the aging powers of time. But Allah the Almighty has protected these sites by placing them in the hands of people who would care for them, with the help of the Almighty, and who would reconstruct and restore what would have crumbled, and who would, in addition, expand the existing sites whenever it becomes necessary. Consequently, the holy mosques in Makkah and Medina have undergone several restoration and expansion operations at different periods; operations which have always achieved the planned objectives for that given period.

But history will bear witness, with respect and admiration, to the latest and most remarkable of expansions, those ordered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. These expansion projects have truly surpassed all previous ones in size and quality. In this context, nothing is more telling of the care of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for these holy sites than his decision to relinquish the title of "His Royal Highness" and adopt the title of "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques."

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has further taken under his care the other holy sites in Mina and Arafat. He in fact

---

issued directives for the construction of roads and tunnels, the building of a model slaughterhouse, the improvement and organization of the area between the hills of Al-Safa and Al Marwa known as the "Mas'a," for paving the area of Mina, and the improvement and expansion of the mosques in the holy sites. These gigantic efforts on the part of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the betterment of the Two holy Mosques and the holy sites clearly show the extent of his awareness of the enormous responsibility towards Islam and Islamic sites which fell on the shoulders of his country. It also reflects his keenness to maintain the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its role as the "mother country" for moslems everywhere, by providing moslem visitors and pilgrims with comfortable accommodations, and by caring for and improving their holy sites.

In undertaking these efforts, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is obviously drawing on his strong conviction in the Islamic faith and his firm belief in God, seeking only God's approval and mercy.



## **The Holy Mosque in Makkah**

---

Makkah Al-Mukarramah is the city which God blessed by choosing it as the site of his Holy House, and by designating it as the "Qibla" for all moslems, a place to which they turn in their prayers and supplications. Allah says in the Qur'an: "The first House (of worship) appointed for men was that at Bakka: full of blessing and guidance for all kinds of beings" (Sura Al-'imraan, v. 96). God further blessed and honored Makkah when He made it the birthplace of His Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the site of revelation, and the launching pad for Muhammad's mission as the Prophet of God and His Messenger to mankind, calling upon them to worship God and God alone.

Because of its special place in the hearts of all moslems, it is not surprising therefore that God's House should witness history time a number of successive architectural and urban improvements. But the current expansion works during the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques are by far the most extensive and comprehensive among the recent improvement projects of the Holy Mosque in Makkah. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has given this project his utmost attention and has issued his instructions to the concerned authorities for its successful completion, which was planned for the end of the year 1412 of the Hijra.

Within the context of the historical review of the Kingdom's efforts and achievements on the road to modernization, it becomes necessary here to look at some of the important expansion and improvement works in the Holy Mosque in Makkah.



## **Previous Expansions of the Holy Mosque: From King Abdulaziz Al Saud to King Khalid**

---

Since the last expansion before the modern era, in the year 306H., nothing has been added to the Holy Mosque in Makkah. Consequently, the mosque remained as it was for about 1,069 years. But the number of moslems in the world has increased and modern developements in the means and modes of transportation have played a tremendous role in shortening distances between countries. All these factors led to the multiplication of the number of pilgrims to the holy grounds and the Holy Mosque in Makkah, which in turn resulted in the pressing need for expanding the area of the Holy Mosque to accommodate these new multitudes. The answer to this need was the expansion project for the Two Holy Mosques initiated by His Majesty the late King Abdulaziz, the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This project fits naturally with His Majesty's remarkable generosity and his leading role in serving the Islamic faith, by giving his full support and attention to God's House and His Prophet's Mosque in particular, and the holy sites in general.

The plans for the expansion works ordered by the late King Abdulaziz (God rest his soul) called for the expansion and improvement of the Holy Mosque in Makkah after the completion of the expansion project of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. But fate intervened and King Abdulaziz passed away before the completion of his worthy project. The late King Saud however kept the wish of the great founder of Saudi Arabia alive and issued his instructions for the expansion of the two holy mosques in 1335H.

Preparatory work on the project began on the fourth of the month of Rabii II. in the areas of the "Mas'a" and "Ajyaad" and around the road of Al Qashashia. Real estate properties surrounding Mas'a and Ajyaad were expropriated and the buildings on them torn down. The Mas'a area was cleared; and in the process, a part of the old mosque near Bab Ali (Ali's Gate) had to be torn down.

---

On the twenty third of the month of Shabaan 1375H, an official ceremony was held, during the late King Saud laid the cornerstone in front of Baab Um Hani, thus officially marking the beginning of the various stages of the expansion project.

### **The First Phase:**

In this phase, the section designed to enclose the Mas'a between the low hills of Al-Safa and Al-Marwa was built over the grounds of this historical corridor which used to be covered with metal sheets. A concrete frame designed to support two floors, in order to accommodate the greatest number possible of worshippers, was built first, while still preserving the original corridor. The walls, gates, tiles paving, decoration, and other finishing touches took place later.

On the inside, the Mas'a is 394.5 meters long and 20 meters large. The ground floor is 12 meters high, while the first floor is 9 meters high. A separation barrier was built in the middle along the length of the Mas'a, dividing it into two lanes: one lane for the "Sa'i" (walking in hurried steps) from Al-Safa to Al-Marwa and the other for the "Sa'i" in the opposite direction. This simple layout was designed to ease congestion during the Sa'i and prevent collisions among worshippers. Furthermore, similar but narrower lanes were constructed in the middle of the Mas'a and reserved for handicapped and wheel-chaired worshippers.

The Mas'a has 16 gates at ground level in its eastern side and two more on the upper floor, one at Al-Safa and the other at Al-Marwa. The upper floor of the Mas'a is also accessible from inside the mosque through two stairways, one at Bab Al-Safa and the other at Bab Al-Salaam. In addition, an underground floor 3.5 meters high was constructed.

### **The Second Phase:**

Work on the exterior of the new building was completed in 1379H., corresponding to 1959 A.D. During this phase also, the foundations and the walls for the southern hall were erected. These walls were covered with marble, while the beams and ceiling were covered with carved and decorated artificial stone.



---

The remaining section of "Majra Al-Sayl" was also completed. In addition, a circular passageway, with a domed ceiling, was constructed on Al-Safa at the level of the roofs of the upper floors of the southern hall and Al-Mas'a, linking the two areas. The new passageway made access to the upper floors from the new main gate of Bab Al-Safa possible. During the second phase also, the "Mataf" area (the open space around the Holy Ka'ba used by pilgrims and worshippers to circumambulate the Ka'ba) was expanded to its current shape. Finally, the stairs leading down to the well of Zamzam were constructed.

### **The Third Phase:**

Work on the third phase of the project began in 1381H., corresponding to 1961 A.D., after a historical royal decree issued by the late King Faisal Ibn Abdulaziz (God rest his soul). The project called for adjustments to the original design of the Holy Mosque, while preserving the part of the mosque known as the Ottoman Mosque. Several additions and renovations were completed during this third phase. The second section of the southwestern hall was erected and the ground floor in this section completed. The northern hall was built covering the area between Bab Al-'umra and Bab Al-Salam. An underground level was constructed under the various buildings of the Holy Mosque, with the exception of the Mas'a.

The expansion project at that time also called for the clearing of the central court of the Holy Mosque, by removing all nonessential buildings. This part of the project affected in particular the small area known as "Maqaam Ibrahim". A portion of the general public believed that it was Abraham's tomb (PBUH). In reality, it was a stone measuring no more than 40x40 cm which the prophet Abraham used as a stepping stone while building the Ka'ba with the aid of his son Ismail (PBUH). After clearing the old site, the stone was placed under a crystal cover measuring 180x130 cm in area, 80 cm in circumference, one meter in height, and 1,700 kg in weight. The finished new site had a total height of 3 meters and was inaugurated on the 18th of Rajab, 1387H. (1968 A.D.). The new design enabled those performing prayers or "tawaf" to behold Abraham's "site" as it really is, under its glass cover.

All of the additions and renovations mentioned above increased the area of the Mas'a, after it had been connected to the Holy Mosque, to a total of 8,000 square meters for the upper floor, and another 8,000 square meters for the ground floor. The number of gates on all sides of the Holy Mosque reached a total of 64 gates. In addition, a total of 5 terraces were arranged outside and around the Holy Mosque. In order to protect pilgrims and visitors from traffic accidents and to ease congestion at the entrance/exit points of the mosque, pedestrian tunnels in all directions were dug out and equipped with bathrooms and ablution rooms.

As to the total area of the Holy Mosque, it has increased from 128,000 square meters to 151,000 square meters, making it possible to accommodate about 400,000 worshippers at the same time. The project also included the restoration of the Holy Ka'ba and the expansion of the "Mataaf" area after the redesign of Abraham's "site".



## **The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Project: The Biggest and Most Modern Expansion Project**

---

During his last visit of inspection to the site of the expansion projects of the Prophet's Mosque, on Monday the 3rd of Jumada II, 1412H., the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques reiterated his unwavering commitment to be in the service and care of the Two Holy Mosques. He declared: "I would like to emphasize that anything I can do in the service of the two Holy Mosques and of Makkah Al-Mukarrama, the site of God's revelation, and Al-Medina Al-Munawwara, the source of the light of the message, I will not hesitate one second in offering, because the special characteristic of this country lies in the service of the two Holy Mosques, and in the care for pilgrims, visitors, and those performing 'Umra, all year-long. And I will not spare any effort or expense in pursuing the completion of this historical work of Islamic civilization, and to the realization of which I have devoted my life and that of my brothers. And I give thanks to Allah for having bestowed this great honor on myself and my brothers and the people of this country."

The above declaration of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, clearly shows the great importance and the personal attention he gives to the projects in the two holy cities, and the special care accorded them by his majesty's government. Furthermore, this attention is not the product of the moment but a natural extension of his policies from his time as Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister. He was keen then on following up on the various stages in the execution of the projects initiated by King Khaled Ibn Abdulaziz (God rest his soul). He would personally inspect the construction works in detail and check on their timely progress. It is not surprising then that, as Monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he would launch the most comprehensive and extensive of expansion projects that the Holy Mosque in Makkah has witnessed in its long history. The execution of these projects was begun in the month of Ramadan in the year 1406H.,

---

corresponding to 1986 A.D., and was projected to be completed by the end of 1412H. One can get an idea of the magnitude and the quality of the expansions initiated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques when one places them in their appropriate historical context, from the point of view of the Kingdom's progress on the road to total development and among the other expansion projects ordered by the previous Monarchs of the Kingdom. Indeed, these last expansions and improvements took place during a time when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was going through its most ambitious and technologically advanced stages of total development.

The go for the execution of this immense project was given by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, when he personally laid the cornerstone on Tuesday, the 2nd of Safar of 1408H., corresponding to the 3rd of September 1988 A.D. The first steps in the actual execution of the project began in Jumada II of 1409H., corresponding to the 15th of February 1989 A.D.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques continued to supervise the execution of the project every step of the way. During one of his visits to the Holy Mosque in Makkah, he noticed that the electrical and audio cables were taking up a wide area of the roof. He therefore gave instructions to group them in designated areas of the roof and encase them under of a line of small domes. By making these modifications, enough space on the roof of the mosque could be opened up for an additional 90,000 worshippers. His recommendations were indeed implemented during a period of eight months, from Muharram 1409H. to Ramadan of the same year, resulting in an increase in the mosque's capacity.

### **The Components of the Project:**

Special care was taken in the design of the projects to connect the latest expansions with the previous ones undertaken during the time of Al Saud. This was achieved by enlarging the existing openings between Bab Al-Malik and Bab Al-'Umra, while preserving the original structure of the previous expansion works. King Fahd's expansion project included the addition of a

---

new building composed of two basement levels, a ground level floor, an upper level and the roof. The lower basement was reserved for the mechanical and the air conditioning units, while a part of the upper basement was reserved for prayer and the other part for the needs of air conditioning. As to the ground and upper floors, they included offices for the different administrative needs of the Holy Mosque, storage rooms, and areas reserved for prayer. Finally, the roof area contained a broadcasting studio. Three large domes covered the central courts on the ground and upper floors.

Work on the foundations and the two basement floor has been completed. Also completed were the ceilings for the ground and upper floors. In addition, the existing sections of the holy Mosque and the new expansion areas were linked through a network of technologically up-to-date means of communication.

### **The Gates:**

The new building included one new main gate and 18 regular gates, in addition to two new access gates to the upper hall and roofs. These new gates will bring the total number of gates of the Holy Mosques and after the completion of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' expansion, to total number of 4 main gates, 45 gates, and 6 gates to the upper halls and roofs. In addition, two new minarets were built in the same design as the seven other existing minarets, thus bringing the total number of minarets in the Holy Mosque to 9.

### **The Expansion Project in Square Meters:**

The Project called for the addition to the existing structure of the Holy Mosque of a new section on the western side between Bab Al-'Umra and Bab Al-Malik. The new addition translates into the availability of some 86,000 new square meters, enough to accommodate 190,000 worshippers. The expansion of the roof further adds 61,000 square meters, bringing the total area of the Holy Mosque to 312,000 square meters, capable of accommodating 830,000 worshippers during the Haj season.

---

### **The General Facilities Around the Holy Mosque:**

It must be noted that all the expansion projects of Al Saud have included the construction of large open spaces around the Holy Mosque to accommodate the overflow of worshippers during prayer times. The latest expansion is no exception, and it included the construction and refurbishing of several open places in front of the new building and on the eastern side of the Mas'a, covering a length of 750 meters and between 24 and 36 meters wide. The prayer areas in these squares were constructed on top of a basement housing maintenance services.

The project also included the construction of special passageways connecting the various service areas around the Holy Mosque with the tunnel of "Al-Suq Al-saghir" (the small market). These passageways cover a compounded total distance of about 6,000 meters and their width varies between 1.5 meters to 8.5 meters. Work on the services basement east of the Mas'a and the areas of Al-Marwa and Al-Qashashia is still in progress. In addition, work continues on a network of new passageways serving the area between Al-Qashashia and the dome of Al-Safa, up to Ajyad Al-Sad street and the area behind Ajyad Hospital and the Hijra Street.

### **Five Escalator Buildings:**

In order to facilitate access of worshippers to the roof of the new building during peak seasons, two buildings of 375 square meters each and each housing two groups of moving escalators were added. These escalators were designed to facilitate the movement and flow of worshippers during peak prayer times and peak seasons, thus enabling worshippers, and especially the elderly, to reach the roof area of the mosque with ease. With this addition, the Holy Mosque in Makkah is now equipped with five such escalators.

### **Safety and Comfort for the Guests of God:**

Keen on securing for the pilgrims and other visitors to God's House the maximum degree of safety and comfort, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has issued orders for the improvement of all the housing facilities surrounding the Holy



---

Mosque. Thus, the expansion project of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques included a project for the improvement and development of the urban areas surrounding the Holy Mosque on the eastern, western and northern sides, and for covering the streets in these areas with heat resisting tiles. In addition, some very modern housing units reserved for visitors of God's House were constructed, in a typically islamic architectural style, in the areas to the south and west of the Holy Mosque. The area of the "small market" was also added to the area of the Holy Mosque.

### **A Characteristic Architectural and Artistic Style:**

Ever since the beginning of the islamic period, the Holy Mosque has acquired an artistic and architectural style which truly reflects its spiritual and religious character. Indeed, with the the beginning of Islam, a new form of art, appropriately called "Islamic art", came into being. It is characterized by intricate drawings and carvings, based on abstract flowery forms and other geometric designs, and interwoven with beautiful Arabic calligraphy. The end results are always balanced and elegant pieces of art.

The monarchs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from King Abdulaziz (God rest his soul) to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, have always appreciated the artistic value of this art form, its importance in islamic culture, and its role in perpetuating the spiritual values of the islamic faith. It is not surprising then that the Saudi kings have always insisted on including the beautiful forms and symbols of islamic art in all the expansions of the Holy Mosque in Makkah.

The latest expansion ordered by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques was no exception. King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz insisted that the design and styling of the new building should be inspired from our traditional islamic heritage. This choice has resulted in numerous wonderful pieces of islamic art throughout the building, giving it an aura of tranquility and peace without distracting worshippers and visitors of the mosque from the sacredness of their purpose.

## **The Potential of the Project for Improvements:**

The new expansion of the Holy Mosque in Makkah was designed with the potential for improvement in mind. All the new additions were built on an earthquake-resistant concrete base, 100 cm in thickness. Moreover, the foundations were designed to support an additional third floor on top of the ground and first floors.

Each floor in the new building was erected on 492 round and square pillars. The circumference of each of the round pillars is 81 cm, while each side of each of the square ones is 93 cm. On the first floor, each pillar is 4.70 meters high from the base to the tip of the crown, and 4.30 meters high on the ground floor. The measurements of the bases of the square pillars are 102x102x54 cm. The round pillars have hexagonal bases 98 cm wide and 54 cm high. The bases of all pillars are covered with marble.

On the inside, each of the ground and the first floors is 10 meters high. As to the exterior facade of the new building, it is 20.96 meters high, covered with marble and cultured stone, and decorated with intricate carvings. The corners of the building are reinforced with rust-proof iron brackets.

As for the terraces, they were decorated using industrial stone. All the floors of the mosque were covered with marble tiles decorated in islamic designs, while preserving the original decorations of the previous Saudi renovations.

The recent expansion also included three domes covering about half of the new building and located near the main gate. Care was taken to make the exterior shape of the new domes similar to that of the already existing ones. Each dome is 15x15 meters and 13 meters high, and has air and light openings all over its surface.

As to the pillars which are currently being erected, the round ones will be covered with mosaic tiles, while the square ones will be covered with marble for a total surface of 6,000 square meters. The crowns of the pillars will also be of marble encrusted with copper to enhance the prevailing mood of peace in the mosque. The exterior gates were made of polished metal encrusted with decorations in copper. The windows and window

---

lattices were also made of the same type of metal and of polished yellow aluminum.

### **The Mechanical Components:**

On the engineering side, the project saw the implementation of a new method of air conditioning and air circulation. In the basement levels, cold air is pushed by main fanning units through filters used to trap dust. Stale air on the other hand escapes through openings to the outside of the mosque and other openings on the central court of the mosque. On the ground and first levels, air is circulated naturally through oppositely facing windows. Electric fans fixed to the pillars help circulate the air and cool the wide halls to the maximum.

In addition, the electricity transformer rooms were connected to a group of emergency generators; and the new building was provided with a U.B.S. emergency lighting system. Furthermore, the expansion project called for connecting the network of electric and mechanical installations in the whole mosque to a central computerized control system.

The project also included the construction of a television studio, equipped with modern and sophisticated communication facilities. A good number of T.V. cameras cover most of the mosque and the new expansion, transmitting pictures of the rites inside the Holy Mosque through satellites to all the Arab countries.

Among the other improvements, the water treatment station supplying the Holy Mosque was modernized. Cooled water is now being drawn and fed to the Mosque through square concrete aqueducts deep in the ground under the Mosque and the basements. The waters of Al-Dawudia well however were reserved for supplying the fire fighting unit.

### **The Expansion Project of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in numbers:**

- \* The cost of the project for the improvement of the roof of the Holy Mosque and its attached facilities reached 300 million Saudi Riyals.

- \* The expansion projects were written in the Kingdom's fourth

---

development plan. A total sum of 1,133 million Saudi Riyals, spread over the years of the plan, was earmarked for these projects.

- \* The government contracted specialized national companies at a total cost of 21 million Saudi Riyals for general maintenance work; another 54 million Saudi Riyals over a period of three years were allocated for cleaning and other services related to drinking water and carpets inside the mosque; and finally the sum 133,059,060 Saudi Riyals over a period of three years were allocated for the operation and maintenance of electric facilities.
- \* The Holy Mosque was equipped with electronic clocks, new electric fans, and new carpeting. The floor tiles in the central court surrounding the Ka'ba were replaced with new heat resistant marble tiles. The doors and gates of the Holy Mosque were renovated and its library refurbished. The cost of all these works reached a total of 80 million Saudi Riyals.
- \* 60 million Saudi Riyals were the cost of the project of cooling the waters of Zamzam well.
- \* Lighting the Holy Mosque requires 55,000 light bulbs of various shapes and sizes interconnected by 35,000 meters of electric cables.
- \* Eight megawatts of electricity are needed for the operation of the electric equipment and facilities in the mosque.
- \* One million cubic meters of earth were dug out to a depth of 10 meters.
- \* 111,750 cubic meters of reinforced concrete and 127,000 tons of iron were used in the project. 45,000 cubic meters of artificial stone was used in the construction of the walls.
- \* A total of 82,000 square meters inside the mosque were covered with decorated marble tiles. On the outside, 46,000 square meters were covered with marble tiles.
- \* The area of the basement is 20,000 square meters capable of accomodating 33,000 worshippers.
- \* The first floor has an area of 48,000 square meters and can accommodate 77,000 worshippers.
- \* The area of the "Mataaf" and "Mas'a" is 30,000 square meters enough for 150,000 worshippers.

- \* After the improvement works, the roof area could accommodate 90,000 worshippers in 42,000 square meters.
- \* There are 56 elevators and escalators.
- \* A cooling and air conditioning station with a capacity of over 140,000 tons was built in the area of Kadi, 3.5 km away from the Holy Mosque.

#### **The Expansion in the Direction of the Small Market:**

- \* The basement area is 19,000 square meters capable of accommodating 35,000 worshippers.
- \* The ground floor has an area of 19,000 square meters for 35,000 worshippers.
- \* The area of the first floor is 16,000 square meters enough for 27,000 worshippers.



## **The Prophet's Mosque**

---

The deep sense of responsibility of the Saudi leaders has played a significant role in the transformation and development of Saudi society, and the Islamic society as well. Under the leadership of the Saudi Monarchs, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has undergone a great deal of change in keeping with the rapid development the world over during the twentieth century. To wit, the tremendous achievements in the fields of urbanism, agriculture, education, and health which command admiration and respect. The Saudi citizen is now enjoying a high standard of living characterized by the availability of comprehensive services in all these fields; services which the Saudi leaders are always keen on providing and improving continuously for his comfort.

During the last few years, Madina Munawwara, the city of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has witnessed a great deal of change to the point where a frequent visitor to the city could see examples of improvement and development that he did not find during his previous visit. This is most clearly visible in the numerous construction works and projects of urban development taking place in the city. Indeed, both the government and the citizens are collaborating to attain the objective set by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, to make the two holy cities among the most beautiful in the world.

It is natural then that the projects of development in Medina would include the Prophet's Mosque, as this mosque is the beating heart of the city and its prized treasure. The Mosque holds a privileged position in the hearts of all Muslims for its important religious and historical significance, for it is the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) mosque. Because of his commitment to the care of the holy sites of Islam, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has seen fit to expand the area of the Prophet's Mosque to accommodate the increasing numbers of visitors and

---

worshippers. He therefore gave instructions to increase the area of the mosque in an architectural style befitting the mosque's religious significance, and drawing on the Prophet's (PBUH) own saying: "If this mosque were expanded to San'a, it would still be my mosque."

Before embarking on the details of the project of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the expansion and renovation of the Prophet's Mosque, it would be appropriate to review some pages from the history of the mosque itself.





## **The Prophet's Mosque During the Reign of Al Saud**

---

The spark for the unification of the Arabian Peninsula came from Kuwait where His Majesty the late King Abdulaziz Al Saud was making plans to recapture his country and restore his father's and forefathers' glory. From Kuwait then, he departed at the head of forty men, deeply convinced of the necessity to unify the Arabian Peninsula under one authority and one government based on stability and security. This came during a time when the Arabian Peninsula was living in conditions of instability and general decline. The city of Riyadh was the first to be captured, thus marking the birth of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its foundation on solid cultural values based on God's laws and the teachings of His Prophet (PBUH).

When authority was firmly established in the hands of King Abdulaziz (God rest his soul), he turned his attention to the protection and service of the Islamic faith by caring for God's houses in general, and the Holy Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina in particular. He would also complete his mission by providing the necessary facilities and services for the guests of Allah to enable them to perform their rites in comfort and safety.

In a radio broadcast in the year 1370 of the Hijra, King Abdulaziz announced to the Moslem world his intention to expand the Prophet's Mosque in Medina and conveyed to Moslems everywhere his government's commitment to place its human and material resources in the service of the holy Islamic sites. This declaration also came to reassure Moslems everywhere after cracks had appeared in the northern sections of the Prophet's Mosque.

Once the preliminary studies were completed King Abdulaziz laid the cornerstone for the first Saudi expansion of the Prophet's Mosque in 1373H. (1953 A.D.). It was decided then to preserve the latest Ottoman expansion to the mosque because of its solidity and quality. The first Saudi expansion

---

would then be added to the existing structure and would covered an area of 12,326 square meters. The total cost of the Saudi expansion came to 70 million Riyals, 30 million of which represent the cost of the additional buildings while the rest covered the expenses of constructing the roads leading to the mosque and the compensations for the expropriated lands around the mosque.

A second expansion of the Prophet's Mosque was completed during the reign of the late King Saud and resulted in the addition of 4056 square meters. The third Saudi expansion took place during the reign of the late King Faisal and consisted in the addition of 35,000 square meters of shaded space on the northern and western sides of the mosque. An additional 43,000 square meters of covered space were joined to the previous ones after the fourth saudi expansion during the reign of the late King Khaled.



## **A Historical Achievement for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques**

---

The latest expansion and improvement project under the guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques is by far the biggest and most advanced in the history of the Prophet's Mosque, whether from the point of view of the size of the works involved or the technology used in the execution of the project.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques himself laid the cornerstone for the project on the 9th of Safar 1405H. (1984 A.D.). The project was comprehensive in that it not only called for the expansion and improvement of the mosque, but also for the development of the areas surrounding it and in other parts of the city as well. The design included the erection of a new building, which would be the highest of the buildings of the mosque, and connecting it to the eastern, northern and western sides of the existing mosque. The new additions would effectively increase the area of the Prophet's Mosque nine-fold. The execution of the works involved was to take place according to predetermined and specific time tables.

### **The Biggest Expansion In the History of Islamic Architecture**

As was mentioned above, the main thrust of the expansion project of the Prophet's Mosque is the addition to the existing mosque of a new building which would surround it and would be attached to it from the North, East, and West. The added area would cover 82,000 square meters and could accommodate 167,000 worshippers. After this expansion, the mosque would cover a total area of 98,500 square meters. In addition, the open spaces around the mosque will be covered with marble tiles and could therefore be used to accommodate the overflow of worshippers during peak seasons. In this case, an additional area of 67,000 square meters becomes available for about 90,000

---

worshippers; thus bringing the overall area of the Prophet's Mosque to total of 165,500 square meters, enough for more than 257,000 worshippers.

### **The Terraces Around the Mosque**

Included in the expansion project is the construction of a basement with an area equal to that of the ground floor and designed to house some of the air conditioning and cooling equipment and other services. In addition, the design of the project included the construction of 235,000 square meters of terraces surrounding the mosque. The floor of these terraces will be of marble and granite of different colors and arranged in geometric islamic art forms.

### **A Capacity of One Million Worshippers**

135,000 square meters of the terraces, capable of accommodating 250,000 worshippers, will be used on a regular basis during prayer times. This capacity can be increased to 400,000 worshippers by making use of the total area of the terraces. The overall capacity of the mosque and the terraces could thus reach 650,000 worshippers, with a potential for one million worshippers during peak times.

The terraces also include rest areas for visitors of the mosque, connected to a two-storey underground car park. The entrances to the bathrooms and the ablution rooms are also situated on the terraces.

Naturally, the terraces will be reserved for pedestrian traffic only. The area will be fenced on all sides and gates installed. Special lighting units fixed on 120 marble poles will be used to light up the terraces.

### **Parasols to Protect Pilgrims**

An innovative technology was used in shading and protecting the open spaces between the old mosque and the first Saudi expansion. Twelve huge parasols, which could be opened and closed automatically, were erected to a height equal to that of the roof of the mosque. This way, the worshippers would be protected from rain and the glare of the sun, while still making it

---

possible to take advantage of natural aeration during periods of nice weather.

The ground floor of the expansion is 12.55 meters high and the basement floor is 4 meters high. 2,104 pillars, between 6 and 18 meters apart, divide and arrange the interior space into coordinated and symmetrical halls and courts.

### **Moving Domes**

Twenty seven domes have been built on the roof of the new extension. They have been designed to slide on iron rails fixed to the roof. The domes could be electrically opened or closed by remote control, thus making it possible to take advantage of natural aeration, weather conditions permitting.

Following the instructions of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, the expansion of the Prophet's Mosque has been designed according to the highest standards and the most recent methods in architecture, and in an authentic islamic style in keeping with the style of the existing mosque. Furthermore, provisions have been made in the design for the eventuality of an additional floor if need be.

Access to the new expansion is possible through seven main gates on the northern, eastern, and western sides. Each of these gates in turn is composed of five contiguous doors at the front and two side doors. On the southern side, there are two main gates composed of three contiguous doors. There are also six other side gates and ten more entrance and exit doors for the electric escalators which are used to access the roof of the expansion. Access to the roof is also possible through eighteen stairways inside the expansion.

### **King Fahd Gate**

The major gate to the expansion is located at the center of the northern side. This is King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz Gate. It is particularly conspicuous by its height and its seven domes. Two minarets, each 104 meters in height, stand on each side of the gate.

In addition to the two minarets of the King Fahd Gate, four more, also 104 meters high, have been erected at the four

---

corners of the expansion. With these six new minarets, the total number of minarets in the Prophet's Mosque is increased to ten minarets. The new ones are 32 meters higher than the four existing minarets which date back to the Saudi expansion.

Decorations for the new expansion were carefully chosen so that they would be in harmony with the existing decorations in the first Saudi expansions. The beautiful forms of islamic art are the dominant theme. The decoration was comprehensive in that it covered all parts and elements of the new expansion such as the walls, ceiling, minarets, doors and windows; and made use of a variety of materials and styles like marble, wrought iron, copper and wood. Thus, the walls were covered on the inside with beautifully decorated and carved marble; and so were the pillars and their bases which included hollowed out spaces reserved for holding copies of the Holy Qur'an. The crown of the pillars were gilded and so were the chandeliers. The windows were latticed and the wooden doors were encrusted with copper decorations.

The electric works in the expansion of the Prophet's Mosque included lighting, loud speakers and public address systems, automatic control systems, closed circuit television cameras covering all the interior and exterior areas of the mosque, an emergency lighting system using special batteries, fire detection and fighting systems, special rooms for switch panels, light fixtures, and electricity distribution networks located essentially in the basement of the expansion.

### **The Mechanical Works**

The engineering side of the expansion project covered plumbing and drainage, air conditioning, and fire fighting systems. The water collection and distribution systems included the installation of cold drinking water taps, sprinklers, water pumps, and storm water and sewer drainage pipes. As to the air conditioning openings, they were built in the bases of the pillars so that they will not disrupt the overall styling and decoration of the mosque. A complete and coordinated safety system was also installed and implemented according to the highest standards. It includes a network of smoke and fire detectors and a system of

---

automatic sprinklers, fed from a special pumping station, to smother any potential fires, God forbidding.

### **Air Conditioning**

The air conditioning system for the Prophet's Mosque is one of the biggest of similar projects in the world. The cooling units and equipment, as well as electricity generators, are located in a central service station. Cooled air is carried from the station to the ground level of the expansion through special pipes running along the length of a service tunnel seven kilometers in length. The air conditioning system is also capable of controlling the ratio of impurities in the ambient air and to keep it at acceptable levels.

In addition, it was possible to cool the air inside the old mosque without resorting to any structural or architectural changes in the old buildings. Cool air is pumped inside the mosque through openings in the windows of the southern wall. This way, worshippers inside the whole of the Prophet's Mosque, whether inside the old mosque or inside the new expansion, could enjoy the comfort of air conditioning.

Running under and around the expansion are the square concrete service tunnels, some being single tunnels while some others gate twin tunnels, used to house all the necessary services installations such as electricity and phone cables and water and drainage pipes.

### **The Air Conditioning and other Services Station**

Cooled air is supplied to the Prophet's Mosque from a totally independent service station covering an area of 70,000 square meters (350x200m). This station is exclusively reserved for the air conditioning and related services. It was situated outside the area of the Prophet's Mosque by design. This way, the mosque will be insulated from the noise generated by the equipment; operation and maintenance of this equipment will be made easy; and the cost of the necessary real estate expropriations would be lower.

The station is seven kilometers away due West of the Prophet's Mosque. It is composed of several buildings. One

---

building houses the air conditioning units; another houses the condensers; and a third houses the emergency electricity generators. At the present stage of the expansion project, the buildings of the service station cover an area of 11,000 square meters and necessitated the use of 15,000 cubic meters of reinforced concrete. The station has also been equipped with fire fighting and irrigation systems and storm water and sewer drainage. The site of the station had of course been readied by fencing it, building the inside roads, and completing the landscaping and greenery works.

As to the air conditioning equipment used on the station, it consists of six cooling units with a capacity of 3,400 tons each. Five units are continuously in use while the sixth one is kept in reserve for use in cases of emergency. In addition, seven pumps, each having 450 horsepower, are used to pump cooled water towards the mosque.

Furthermore, housed inside a separate building, there are six electricity generators, each with a capacity of 2.5 megawatts, to be used in cases of interruptions of electric power. Five of these are reserved for the electric needs of the expansion, while the other supplies the car parks.

All of these mechanical and electric systems are controlled from a central control center equipped with computers. Computers then regulate for example the performance of the air conditioning equipment in the basement of the expansion.

### **The Service Tunnel**

Cooled water is carried from the cooling station to the basement of the mosque through two pipes, 90 cm in diameter, encased in a concrete tunnel. This tunnel is 4.1 meters high and 6.2 meters wide from the inside. The total length of the tunnel is seven kilometers, beginning at the cooling station in the "City of Pilgrims" and the Universities Road and going East to the Prophet's Mosque through Bal Al-Salam (the Gate of Peace). The design of the tunnel has taken into consideration the possibility of adding two more pipes if need be. Aeration inside the tunnel is accomplished through 31 aeration rooms equipped with the necessary fans. The tunnel was built deep enough under



---

street level so that it will not hinder any future public service works. It passes under Al Manakha Tunnel and through the underground car parks around the mosque.

### **The Car Parks Project**

To complete and complement the expansion of the Prophet's Mosque, a project for the construction of underground parking lots was put together. These car parks are located under the terraces surrounding the mosque on the East, West, and North. They consist of two levels with a compounded area of 310,000 square meters, enough to hold 4,444 cars, in addition to 162 private spaces. The highest international standards and the latest technologies were used in the construction of these car parks. The whole structure rests on 4,100 concrete pillars.

There are 11 parking units separated by the service buildings. Each unit is made of 5 parking ramps on each level, giving a total of 110 ramps. Each ramp is 1,600 square meters. Near the main entrances and exits and the on and off ramps, there are an additional four irregular parking units containing a total of 56 parking ramps.

As to the service buildings there are a total of fifteen units. Each one is composed of four levels. They contain the water tanks, a total of 2,432 bathrooms and toilets, 6,314 places for ablutions, and 758 drinking fountains. Twenty seven special buildings have only one level and have been located at three of the corners of the expansion. These buildings are reserved for the medical clinics, the security offices, the switch panels, the control rooms, fire stations, in addition to toilets and storage rooms.

### **Bab Al-Salam Road**

This road project represents one of the vital projects in the area of the Prophet's Mosque, as this road insures fast access for visitors to the Prophet's Mosque. It is a highway in both directions, 5,920 meters long and 64 meters wide. The road has an additional length of 1,800 meters at its intersection with the second ring road. In addition to the main traffic lanes in both directions, there are also two side service roads of three lanes

---

each. The road runs between the City of Pilgrims, in the western part of Al-Madina Al-Munawwarah, and the Prophet's mosque at the Al-Salam Gate.

In addition to this main road project, there are also a number of other no less vital projects. These projects are:

- The construction of 157 meter long bridge at the intersection of Bab Al-Salam road and Wadi Al-'a'iq.
- The construction of an interchange at the intersection of Bab Al-Salam Road and the second ring road. This interchange will be composed of four side ramps, one underpass, and two flyovers at the intersection connecting the side service roads of the ring road with the interchange leading to Bab Al-Salam Road.
- The construction of a concrete square drainage canal on the right side of the road, 2,800 meters in length.
- The construction of a concrete square drainage canal on the right side of the underpass and to a length of 1,030 meters.
- The construction of three ground reservoirs and two pumping stations to be used in irrigation and landscaping works.
- The construction of a reinforcement wall, 180 meters long, to protect the high houses on the right side of the road.

### **King Fahd Road**

Work is also in progress in the construction of King Fahd Road. It is a highway running in both directions. Each pavement section of the road running in one direction is 16,35 meters wide and is divided into three lanes. Each section is bordered on its outer side by either a sidewalk or a one-side concrete barrier, type "New Jersey." Separating both direction is a center island 2.7 meters wide and enclosed by a one-sided concrete barrier. The service roads on both sides of the main road are each 11.5 meters wide divided into three lanes. The side roads are bordered on the side of the main road by one-sided concrete barriers and by a 3 meter wide sidewalk on the other side. Work is now in progress on the first phase of the project covering the section between km. 1 and km. 4, at the intersection of King Fahd Road and the second ring road.

---

The King Fahd Road project also includes a comprehensive lighting plan for the road. Proper lighting will be insured by two types of lighting poles. The main road will be lined by 30 meter high poles. The main road will be lined by 30 meter high poles, at intervals of 110 meters, with a beam of 10.00 watts each. Twelve-meter high lighting poles, with a beam of 2,402 watts, will be used for the side roads. These poles will be set at intervals of 40 meters each. Specialized lighting method will be used for lighting of the underpasses and lower level roads.

The project also includes a comprehensive and self-contained plan for the collection of sewer and storm waters. On both sides of the road, there are collection reservoirs, constructed at regular intervals of about 75 meters, for the purpose of receiving surface water and diverting it to the main drainage and sewer lines. The diameter of these lines ranges between 600 and 1,400 mm. Provisions have been made to deal with the eventuality of an increase in the level of ground water in the earth base of the road. A network of underground small canals have been installed to collect any water that rises to their level and divert it to the main drainage lines.

### **The Project of Al-Manakha Tunnel**

Another project concerns the extension of Al-Manakha Tunnel north in the direction of Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Road. The length of the extension is 7,500 meters. A 35 meter long section of the extension leading to the entrance of the car parks will be covered. In addition, a flyover will be built at the intersection with the first ring road, and an underpass will be constructed at the entrance to the Sayed Al-Shuhada Road. The smooth flow of traffic at these points was taken into consideration in the design of the flyover and the underpass.

In addition, the project includes the beautification and improvement of the existing tunnel by covering the existing walls of the tunnel, constructing storm water drainage canals and collection reservoirs, renewing and replacing the existing lighting system, and providing irrigation and landscaping works

---

for the tunnel area. Furthermore, lighting of the new section of the tunnel will be insured by 20 meters high lighting poles in addition to other decorative lighting poles.

It is obvious from this expose that the city of Holy Prophet (PBUH) is at the center of the attention and care of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. Nothing speaks louder of this attention than the wonderful expansion of the Prophet's Mosque, a real gem of an achievement which will be hailed and honored by moslems all over the world. Moreover, the other complementary projects to this great expansion, as well as all the other projects for the development of the city, speak clearly of the intent of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to give this city a look and feel comensurate with its station in the hearts of moslems everywhere.



## **The Expansion and Development of the Holy Sites**

---

The Kingdom's care for the Holy Shrines was not limited to the two holy Mosques only, but it covered all the sites and places visited by pilgrims. Even the roads linking these sites were part of the improvement projects. Within the framework of this attention, the whole area of the holy shrines, including Mina, Arafat, Muzdalifa, and the Jamarat, have experienced a great deal of development. Thus, it used to be that only one road led to Arafat. But now many roads have been constructed with tunnels, bridges and overpasses. Shady trees have also been planted and toilets installed where there used to be none. Mina, Muzdalifa and the Jamarat areas used also to be only narrow and congested roads, and so was the area for slaughtering sacrificial offerings.

The great achievements of the Saudi government under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in the area of the Holy Shrines in particular are indeed an immense and honorable service for the guests of Allah. This is expected of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques who mobilized himself as the trusted guardian of the Islamic shrines and in the service of the guests of Allah. Conscious of this interest, all of the governmental departments have effectively participated in the expansion and development projects of the holy sites and in making their respective services available to the Guests of Allah. In the field of road construction for example, the Saudi Ministry of Communications has carried out the works related to road construction. Numerous roads, tunnels, bridges and overpasses have been constructed using the most advanced designs and techniques and following particular designs which are suitable to the topography of the terrain. These roads run in all directions and link the city of Makkah to the other major cities in the Kingdom, and Makkah to the holy shrines in Mina, Muzdalifa, and Arafat.

In planning for these improvements, the Saudi government

---

had to come to grips with one major problem, especially that the number of pilgrims and visitors is constantly on the increase. The gist of the problem was that the sites of gathering and observance of the rites in the areas of the holy shrines had legal limits which could not be crossed lest that the Hajj of those pilgrims who are outside these boundaries be invalidated. The solution was then to develop and improve these sites to receive the greatest number of pilgrims possible within their legal boundaries. Further supplementary measures needed also to be taken, such as forbidding the area of Makkah Al-Mukarrama and the holy shrines to small-car traffic during specific times, and taking advantage of every inch of Mina and Arafat to enable pilgrims to perform their rites in ease and comfort.

Many official agencies have participated in the preparation of the needed technical studies. These studies have concluded that it is possible to accommodate three million pilgrims within the boundaries of the holy sites, which by far exceeds the maximum number of pilgrims who visited these places at any given time in the past. Given these limitations, the studies and their implementation plans have focused on the development and improvement of the plateau of Mina with the purpose of increasing its capacity to accommodate pilgrims. The projected works included rock blasting, tunnel digging, grading of high grounds, ground levelling, in addition to the implementation of the roads, bridges and tunnels projects.

#### ★ The Area of Mina:

Because the area of Mina comes at the top of the list of places where pilgrims must gather and remain for some time, the Saudi government has given special attention to its development and improvement. Before the development works, the area of Mina covered a total of six million square meters. Four million square meters were taken by the main valley of Mina and the area of Al-Sha'bayn and the mountains and hills in between. The remaining two million square meters were taken up by the versants and the feet of the Mountains of Mina.

The main camping sites in Mina used to be located in the main valley whose area did not exceed one and a half million

---

square meters, in addition to the inhabited area around the Jamarat. Several slaughtering grounds and a few farms used to be within the legal limits of Mina. The rest of the area was covered by difficult terrain unsuitable for habitat until the beginnings of 1395H.

Work on the Mina development project began by mid 1395H. after the Council of Ministers allocated for the project the sum of 300 million Saudi Riyals in the budget of fiscal year 1395-1396H. The cost estimates for the Mina project came to 1,725 million Saudi Riyals. But the actual expenditures for the project reached 6,500 million Saudi Riyals at the end of the budget year 1406-1407H. That was during the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques who was keen on completing the project regardless of the cost.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing comes at the forefront of the official departments involved in the improvement projects of the holy sites. A special department, the Mina Projects Implementation Department, was therefore established within the Ministry to oversee and follow up on the various projects. A number of major works were completed, which had a positive impact on performing Hajj rites. Some of these completed projects were: a complete network of roads, flyovers, tunnels and pedestrian roads; water reservoirs and a sewer and drainage system; toilets, levelling and smoothing the ground at the mountain feet to increase the area used for housing pilgrims; the construction of modern slaughterhouses to take advantage of the meat of the animals of the rite of "Hadye"; electrification and lighting. We will now take a detailed look at some of the most important of these giant achievements.

#### ★ Makkah Al-Mukarrama's External Ring Road:

This road is 12 kilometers long. It begins at a point on Taif road, between Al-'adl and Al-Sharae', and continues till it intersects road N<sup>o</sup>1 to the south of Muzdalifa. The road then crosses Muzdalifa in a North-South direction as two parallel flyover bridges, each 2,500 meters long and 15 meters wide. The whole design helps to regulate traffic between the roads connecting Arafat, Muzdalifa, and Mina.

### ★ King Faisal Bridge:

This is the section of the External Ring Road which crosses Muzdalifa. It is located to the west of the area of Muzdalifa and crosses it in a North-South direction. It is connected to all the roads linking the holy sites (Arafat, Mina, and Muzdalifa) to each other. It is also the longest and biggest flyover bridge in the holy sites. It is 2.5 km long and 30 meters wide and is composed of eight lanes, four in each direction. 20 on and off ramps connect the bridge with the roads running beneath it. The bridge has been constructed at a cost of 340 million Saudi Riyals.

### ★ King Fahd Road:

This road is 8.5 kilometers long and 31.5 meters wide. There are three lanes in each direction separated by a two-meter wide median strip and three-meter wide mountain shoulders. The road runs from the North of Muzdalifa (road N<sup>08</sup>) to Shieb Ali near the Holy Mosque, intersecting many roads on the way. It crosses the mountain at Majarr Al-Kabsh through a two-way tunnel, around 800 meters long. It then joins a flyover bridge spanning Al-'adl Square and continues westward where it intersects Al-Aziziya road, joins with another bridge followed by two 950-meter long parallel tunnels which exit on the street leading to Shieb Ali in Makkah Al-Mukarramah.

The total cost of constructing King Fahd Road came to 700 million Saudi Riyals, including the cost of tunnels, bridges and intersections.

### ★ King Abdulaziz Road:

This is the main road at the South of Mina connected to the External Ring Road and leading all the way to the area of the Holy Mosque. On the way, it connects with a number of flyover bridges and roads.

The road is 9.5 kilometers long and 31.20 meters wide. It has six lanes, three in each direction covering a width of 14 meters. Its total cost was 520 million Saudi Riyals.



### ★ King Khaled Bridge Road:

This road is located before the area of Jamarat and was built for the purpose of diverting motorized traffic from the area of Jamarat to Al-Aziziya, Al-Mu'aisim, and King Fahd Street. It extends from Thowr Mountain to the External Ring Roads passing by Mina Valley and joining in its course a number of roads and ramps. The road is 8 kilometers long and 31.20 meters wide, with six lanes, three in each direction. It includes two flyover bridges, one in the area of Mina and the second in Al-Aziziya connected with the roads below with 11 ramps. Each of the flyover bridges is 780 meters long, spanning eight underpasses 600 meters long each. The expenditures for the first phase of this project were 270 million Saudi Riyals.

### ★ The Pedestrian Road:

Two 30-meter wide pedestrian roads connect the area of Arafat with the area of Muzdalifa. At Muzdalifa, the roads merge into one 60-meter wide road up to the beginning of the area of Mina. In Mina the road narrows to a 30-meter wide pedestrian road, then forks into two directions, one leading to Jamarat bridge and the other to the Holy Mosque. The latter is the shortest way to the Holy Mosque. It is completely covered and equipped with lighting, mechanized ventilation, and the necessary services and facilities such as water, toilets and food outlets.

The pedestrian road is 7 kilometers in length, including bridges of a total length of 470 meters, and 4 tunnels (two in each direction) 1,830 meters long and 12.5 meters in width each. The total cost of the road, its branches, bridges, tunnels, and the relevant services included, is 445 million Saudi Riyals.

### ★ Secondary Tunnels:

The idea of digging pedestrian and other types of tunnels through the mountains in Makkah and the holy sites was conceived for the purpose of shortening distances and saving space. In addition to what has already been listed, there are also a number of secondary and radial tunnels. Work on these tunnels began in 1401H. Two tunnels, connecting Al-Birka area in Kadi

---

with the square of Bab Al-Malik (the King's Gate Square) next to the Holy Mosque, are completed. The first tunnel is 700 meters long and the second one, which is connected to Kadi, is 1,800 meters long with a 100-meter long open air section serving the surrounding areas. Each tunnel is 16 meters wide and fully equipped with lights, automatic ventilation, early fire detection and fire fighting systems, and telephones. Furthermore, 332 toilets for men and 154 toilets for women, as well as 146 ablution places for men and 68 for women, were built inside the tunnels. Each tunnel also includes a 10,000 cubic meters water reservoir. The tunnels were connected with each other by two emergency passageways.

Two additional tunnels, 12 meters wide and 350 meters long, were also completed and connected with the tunnel leading to Kadi. These additional tunnels are meant to be emergency exits from the main tunnel, but they could be used as pedestrian roads leading to the Holy Mosque. The two tunnels were completed at a cost of 850 million Saudi Riyals.

★ **Restrooms:**

In the area of Mina, 14,000 restrooms and toilets were constructed. The Ministry of Hajj and Endowments has built an additional 2,000 restrooms for Al-Khaif Mosque in Mina, bringing the total number of restrooms in Mina to 16,000 units. The total cost of laying sewer lines between Mina and the collection station came to 10 million Saudi Riyals.

★ **The Model Slaughterhouse:**

Not so long ago, the animals of "Hadye" used to be slaughtered in the open and to be left laying here and there, so much so that pilgrims had to pick their way among the numerous decaying carcasses. The health hazards were obvious in addition to the unfortunate waste of sacrificial meat. But in 1402H., the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques issued orders for the construction of a model slaughterhouse in the area of Al-Mu'aisim, in order to eliminate disease risks and take advantage more efficiently of sacrificial meat by distributing it among poor Moslems all over the world.

---

The project of the model slaughterhouse was completed at a total cost of 150 million Saudi Riyals. It came to be as the result of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' special attention to the noble objectives of helping poor Moslems.

The project began operations in the year 1403H. and benefitted from 63,000 slaughtered animals. During the Hajj season of 1406H., the number of slaughtered animals increased to 350,000 heads, and reached around 500,000 heads the next year. In the last few years, the number of slaughtered animals from which the project has benefitted exceeded one million.

The slaughterhouse has a high capacity and is designed to take care of the stages of slaughtering sheep and other animals, cleaning and storing them, as well as of delivering and distributing meat. Sacrificial animals are brought to the slaughterhouse starting from the first day of "Al-Nahr" days. The pens of the slaughterhouse can hold 120,000 animal heads, which represents the daily capacity of the slaughterhouse.

Sacrificial animals are slaughtered after all religious and medical requirements have been observed. Most of the butchering operations in the slaughterhouse are automated. Butchers sever the heads and limbs, open up bellies and remove the guts and brains and separate and clean them by categories. The carcasses are then cleaned, wrapped and stored in huge refrigeration rooms capable of holding 100,000 carcasses.



## **The Mosques in the Holy Sites**

---

### **Namira Mosque at Arafat:**

The prayer of Arafat Day is lead by the Imam of Namira Mosque from Namira Mosque. Because of this, the Ministry of Hajj and Endowments has carried out an expansion project to increase the area of the mosque to 124,000 square meters. One section of the mosque had two stories with a total area of 27,000 square meters. The mosque can now accommodate 300,000 worshippers, and has been equipped with air conditioning and the necessary ablution areas and restrooms. The total cost of these improvements came to 337 million Saudi Riyals.

### **Al-Kheef Mosque at Mina:**

It is one of the important mosques in the area of the holy sites. It covers an area of 25,000 square meters and can accommodate 25,000 worshippers. A large compound of ablution rooms and restrooms has also been added to the mosque. Moreover, a building for King Abdulaziz charity, which hands out food to poor pilgrims, has been added to the area of the mosque. The cost for the improvements of the Al-Kheef Mosque reached 90 million Saudi Riyals.

### **Al-Mash'ar Al-Haraam Mosque at Muzdalifa:**

This mosque was built by the Ministry of Hajj and Endowments at a cost of 5 million Saudi Riyals. It is 5,400 square meters in area and can accommodate 8,000 worshippers.



## CHAPTER THREE

# *Most Welcome*

- ★ **Catering Drinking Water for Pilgrims**
- ★ **Health Care for Pilgrims**
- ★ **Instantaneous Telephone Calls Services**
- ★ **Sophisticated Information Services**
- ★ **Rest Areas for Land Travelling Pilgrims**
- ★ **A Clean and Safe Environment**



## Most Welcome

"There is no glory for us except in Islam..., no peace except in sticking fast to it... Only by maintaining our inexorable ties with Islam can we preserve our own glory and guarantee our safety... Should we ever want only lose these ties, we would then fallen into perdition and have incurred Allah's wrath... What I emphatically want you to do... is to stick fast to Allah's Religion (Islam).. for this is my way which I shall follow and never deviate from, at whatever cost".

In such terms did the late King Abdulaziz Al Saud, the founding father of Modern Saudi Arabia, adopt Islam as the constitution of the Kingdom; which decision is to be adhered to be by his pious sons who are to follow his path in the service of Islam and the custody of its Holy Shrines.

From this fact, belief in Allah and His Blessed Religion (Islam) and care for the welfare of Islam and Muslims all over the world has always been the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's constitution; for these principles are fundamental and primordial, taken by Saudi leaders to be their watchword and top on their agendas when governing this blessed country which hosts the dearest and holiest places on earth.

Hence the Kingdom's custody of the Two Holy Mosques and its extending its services to the pilgrims (Allah's guests and visitors of His house) comes on top of the list of priorities of the Kingdom's policy under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques who has incessantly emphasized his resolve to put all human, material and technical resources in the service of Allah's guests and the visitors of Allah's House (the pilgrims for Hajj or Umar) who came to the Kingdom from all over the Islamic world.

It follows that the plans and studies conducted by the government through its various ministries and agencies in consultation with the experts and consultants in their respective fields of expertise consist in deciding whatever services can be tendered to Allah's guest so as to facilitate their pilgrimage or visit rituals in all ease and without any problems.

These services are manifold, pertaining to health care, guidance and information, in addition to the general public services such as the amenities and roads; a matter which has been of great positive impact on the comfort of the pilgrims and the ease in their movements.

The pilgrim can now easily see for himself the concrete manifestations of these valuable services denoting the real progress which the Kingdom has undergone under the leadership of the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques... who directly supervises these services through his frequent visits to the different work sites in the Holy areas of Makkah and the Holy Mosque in Medina, his great determination to follow up the execution of his instructions and personally ascertaining the fact that pilgrims are comfortable.

This policy of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques ' is clearly spelled out in a speech which he delivered before one of the pilgrim delegations. He said: "Everything we are doing is our duty... We have enlisted all we can in the service of Allah's guests with a view to providing them with all the means of comfort, security and peace of mind in this blessed season (of pilgrimage)."

He then added:

"Whatever the size of our efforts, they are still below our ambitions. There is still a great deal for us to do, with the help of Allah..."

This has always been and shall ever be the Kingdom's and the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques's policy... namely to see it that the custody of the Islamic Holy places and the service of Allah's guests remain the first priority and main concern so that Islam remains glorious as long as mankind lives and that Allah's word stays ever above anything else.

### **Catering drinking water for Pilgrims:**

The Kingdom's concern for the welfare of the pilgrims and utilizing and developing all possible means towards achieving this goal both at the government's and the people's level has reached incredible proportions.

Catering drinking water for pilgrims is one of the main



---

items top on the list of services rendered by the Kingdom to the pilgrims and visitors of the Holy Mosque in Makkah. This task, though it proved to be difficult at the early stage when the foundations of the Kingdom were being laid due to its lack of resources, has always been one of the priorities taken very seriously by the government under all circumstances and despite the scarcity of water since the Kingdom does not have rivers or cataracts. In the face of all these adverse conditions, the government has always been there up to the task, managing to provide drinking water to the pilgrims.

The government has worked out a plan to supply the Holy City of Makkah and the Holy places in Mina and Arafat with an abundance of water meeting their drinking needs and protecting them from sunstrokes.

To achieve this great goal, the government has drafted more than one working plan... to maximize the exploitation of zamzam water... to construct water desalination plants... and then to distribute cold waters among the pilgrims wherever they might be through the cooling tankers and the mobile and fixed distribution points.

### **Maximizing the exploitation of Zamzam water:**

Zamzam well has remained throughout history one of the focal points of attention of Muslims... During the Abbaside era, Abu Jaafar Al-Mansour tiled the well's floor with marble. Similarly, Caliph Al-Mahdi did some restoration work on the well. Then in the year 320 Higri Al-Mu'tasim Billah Al-'Abbasi gave instructions to build a roof for zamzam room using a fence gilded from the inside. In the beginning of the ninth century Higri, a sun-shading apparatus was built for prayer callers (MUZZIN) on top of the well, in addition to some restoration and expansion work such as the laying of a steel net on top of the stair case... The final shape of the well came to be one of a square room, coupled with another small room for the Aghas; next to it were the stairs.

As early as its very inception of the Saudi leaders devoted special attention to the custody of the Two Holy Mosques, and thence to zamzam well... During the first Saudi-made expansion

---

of the circumambulation area in 1377H. a unique design was made to restore zamzam room. Thus the existing circumambulation area was demolished and gave way to a new area so that another building was constructed for zamzam underground with its roof level with the circumambulation area's floor. The well was tiled with marble.

Care was taken during all the Saudi expansion works of the Holy Mosque in Makkah to preserve Zamzam well intact and to avoid any spoilage by drilling or construction works. It is interesting to note that water has always flown abundantly from the well as of the days of Hagar, mother of Ismail, peace be upon him. except for a few times when the water level diminished. Otherwise, there has been an incessant water supply for all pilgrims however large their number has been. Pilgrims consume an average of ten thousand square meters of zamzam water per day at a pumping rate of 765 square meters per hour.

Zamzam water is now distributed by means of the main well area, known as the "mother" area, which contains marble units equipped with chrome taps and stainless steel basins (of which 350 are in the men's section and 110 in the women's section). Other distribution points include the zamzam water drinking units in the basement, the ground and first floors of the mosque... in addition to the water cooling barrels spread all over the mosque buildings, the circumambulation area and all along the Safa and Marwa passage numbering 10 thousand.

A network for pumping zamzam water was established via a service tunnel below the circumambulation area extending towards the northern square and thence to the reservoir up Al-Fath gate. A depot for all cooling equipment was built at the cost of SR 60 million. It was first operated in the year 1403H.

From King Abdulaziz water collection center in Heela, 40 tons of zamzam water are carried daily to the Holy Prophet's Mosque in Al Madina Al Munawwara. Pumping and cooling of zamzam water is controlled by computer. Besides, water is subjected to ultra-violet rays as an extra precaution to make sure it is sterilized.

### **Distribution of cooled bottled water on the Pilgrims:**

To complete this brilliant picture of the service of pilgrims, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, added yet another achievement to the list of illustrious deeds of his, showing once again the extent of his concern, may Allah save him, for the welfare of pilgrims. The most important facet of this achievement is probably the cold water factory which he established at his own personal expense all of which output is offered as a gift to Muslims.

The factory began its production with an output of 2.5 million 1 liter plastic bottles distributed cool among the pilgrims and visitors of Allah's house. Then in 1405H. the number grew to 10 million bottles distributed by 71 vans; in 1406H., 15 million bottles distributed by 119 vans until the number of produced cool bottles reached 40 million in 1409H.

The factory is located in a wadi to the South-East of Arafat region on Makkah-Taif waters. A number of wells were constructed and drilled with a view to supplying the factory with drinking water. This factory is one of the largest factories in the world compared to similar factories. It was built by a national Saudi company and is run by the department of water and drainage for the Western province.

The factory consists of three fully automatic production units which first treat water with ultra-violet rays to sterilize it. In 1409H. the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques gave his instructions to add a fourth unit. Thus the factory came to have four units each one producing 3600 bottles per hour.

This project can only denote one single fact, namely that the administration of drinking water to the pilgrims has attained now its apogee of excellence. On top of that, the Kingdom's Ministry of Health reports have shown beyond doubt that these bottles have not only solved the problem of water shortage in Makkah and the adjacent Holy places in Minah and Arafat, but have also contributed substantially to the drop in the number of pilgrims suffering from sun strokes. With the increase in demand, the factory's production reached 50 million cooled bottles.

## **Health Care for Pilgrims**

Catering for the pilgrims' health is no less important than providing them with drinking water. In fact it is one of the most urgent priorities of the Kingdom attended to very competently, with Allah's help. No doubt, catering for the health of pilgrims and visitors of Allah's house in an end which the Kingdom's government, as represented by the Ministry of Health, has taken upon itself to achieve.. through the mobilization of national and international resources, their coordination, rationalization and channeling in the service of Allah's guests.

There is nothing more noble than this task of catering for the health of the pilgrims and providing them with all the chances of prevention and treatment so that they can perform their pilgrimage or visit in peace and then go back home safe and sound, Allah willing.

This task is increasingly getting harder, what with the increase in the number of pilgrims coming from all over the world from different geographical environments, a matter which facilitates the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics.

What makes this task even harder is the fact that pilgrims perform their rituals in the same places and at the same time under rather very hot temperatures, all of which factors contribute to the dissemination of diseases.

The density of the pilgrim population, the diversity of their countries of origin, their need for hundreds of thousands of tons of food and water, in addition to their contiguity when performing their rituals, in accommodation and transportation, all these factors render the health and safety of all these millions of people a colossal task by any criteria. Were it not for Allah's grace and mercy over His guests, coupled with the alertness and awareness of Ministry of Health officials, pilgrimage seasons would never have passed so safely.

It must be emphasized however that achieving and maintaining this high standard of health safety among pilgrims does not emanate from a vacuum. It came as a natural result of long-term strategy on the one hand, and the unfailing efforts of thousands of people on the other.

This comes as no surprise since the health strategy

---

designed to cater for the health of pilgrims is not the work of simply one committee or corporation or even ministry. In fact, it is based on the whole State apparatus working as a gigantic team in the fulfillment of its duty in all precision.

This strategy, laid down by the Ministry of Health, and implemented in collaboration with the other ministries, has been fulfilled on two scores, namely prevention and treatment.

### **Safety and Security:**

Stemming from the Kingdom's resolve to keep intact the unadulterated sanctity of the Two Holy Mosques for the pure act of worship (circumambulating, devotion to prayer in the Holy Mosque for a given number of days and nights, bowing or prostrating in prayer..) as Allah has willed them to be, and to keep them away from any deed that might jeopardize the right performance of pilgrimage or visit rituals... the Kingdom has been tendering its since efforts security-wise with a view to defending the sanctity of Islam and its Holy places and guaranteeing the safety of the pilgrims in the course of their pilgrimage.

It falls upon the Ministry of Interior to assume this momentous responsibility of protecting the pilgrims' lives and property and facilitating the performance of their pilgrimage rituals so that they return home sound and safe.

The duty of the various departments of the Ministry of Interior starts with the reception of pilgrims at all land, sea and airports and the smooth and easy finalization of their entry and exit formalities.. In addition to reckoning their number and appointing interpreters for all living languages of the world to facilitate their tasks.

Furthermore, the ministry mobilizes all its services in providing assistance to pilgrims. Thus, the emergency services guard the pilgrims' safety very competently and actively through the use of fast intervention cars and the whole apparatus of the Civil Defence both in fighting fires and in guiding pilgrims as to how to avoid having fires and how to combat them.

This saga of unfailing acts of generosity and sparing no effort in the service of pilgrims is perpetuated through the efforts

---

of the General Traffic Directorate to bring order to movements of pilgrims caravans with a view to guaranteeing their speedy and easy arrival at their destinations... all this should be added to the commendable efforts made by the ministry to combat drug abuse and to prevent and fight against any deed which might threaten law and order in the performance of pilgrimage rituals...

There are also the watchful eyes ever awake to the task of ensuring the welfare of pilgrims through control rooms and security operations rooms which work nonstop day and night. These rooms are wide-spread throughout the Holy places in Makkah and the squares round the Holy Prophet's Mosque in Medina. Not a little efforts are additionally deployed by the Special Royal Forces and groups of scouts under the supervision of the ministries of education and higher education aimed at guiding pilgrims.

Also participate in these efforts the National Guard, the Ministry of Defence and Aviation and the Security Service of the Ministry of Interior. Their contribution lies in the implementation of the master plan for traffic control, enforcement of law and order, guiding pilgrims who lose their way, participating in the interventions of the Civil Defence... and ensuring the perpetual lighting of Arafat area during the pilgrimage season. What is more, National Guard's maintenance work force undertakes to repair the pilgrims' vehicles which might break down, so as to facilitate the smooth running of traffic.

### **Instantaneous Communication Services:**

The Kingdom tenders, through the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, quick services to the pilgrims by ensuring wireless communications and making available offices for post, telephone, and telefax (fax mail) which link pilgrims with their families and homes and also receive the air mail, cables and letters.

The telephone network operating in connection with satellites is one of the most sophisticated and most extensive networks in the world. The ministry has deployed many

---

coin-operated public telephones in Makkah's Holy Places and in Medina and appointed a team of employees to assist pilgrims in ensuring the required calls; in addition to running mobile units carrying coin-operated telephones in mobile cabins which could be transported to wherever the pilgrims are. These units go hand in hand with offices for cables and telex.. The number of telephone lines in Makkah's Holy Places reached 3109 lines. It is expected to reach 5000 lines in 1413H. in view of the inevitable increase in the number of pilgrims every year.

### **A developed information strategy:**

The Saudi Information Service derives its approach from the glorious tenets of Islamic SHARI'A laws. Thus its performance is distinguished for its moderation and balance which are in keeping with the Kingdom's wise policy both internally and internationally.

The information services are totally devoted to serving the Saudi citizens and all the citizens and peoples of the Islamic nations, supporting Islamic causes and propagating Islamic call and guidance. During the pilgrimage seasons, these services concentrate their informational activities with view to providing pilgrims with developed scholarly and religious material, relaying pilgrimage rituals to the world and most importantly sensitizing pilgrims to the right methods of performing pilgrimage rituals. all this is achieved through increasing the share of religious programmes in the radio, television and the press, in addition to gathering a huge number of Islamic scholars, instructors and reporters for this specific purpose.

The departments of home and external information through their various media and centers implement the Kingdom's information policy which takes Allah's Book (the Qur'an) as its guiding constitution lighting its path and a shield protecting it from those activities, philosophies and ideologies whose main purpose is to break the Islamic faith and the noble Arabian customs. This policy seeks to tackle social problems within a pure Islamic framework with due emphasis on the noble tenets of our glorious religion, enhancing the message of love, fraternity and peace in the world and the consolidation of

mutual cooperation between sisterly Islamic countries.

The Saudi mass media are multifarious and possess a significant range of scientific potentials and functions, be they visual, auditory or written. There are now in the Kingdom eight Arabic-medium daily newspapers and three English-medium newspapers. Special appendices are also published on special occasions in French, Turkish, Urdu, Indonesian and Persian... as is evidenced during the pilgrimage season since these newspapers provide pilgrims with invaluable religious information.

The Saudi Radio, through its main and second programmes, together with its targeted programmes and the Islamic radios of "the Glorious Qur'an" and "the Call of Islam", propagates the Blessed Call for Islam by explaining the principles and spiritual and humanitarian values of Islam in multilingual broadcasts lasting every day for about 18 hours.

The television, via its six stations in Riyadh, Jeddah, Medina Munawwara, Al-Qaseem, Dammam and Abha, fulfills many religious and educational roles. For instance, during the pilgrimage season, the Saudi television implements a special programme via its two channels (the Arabic-medium and the English-medium channels) with a broadcasting period extending over 12 hours per day, in addition to relaying the pilgrimage rituals and Eid prayer live on the air via satellites to all parts of the world.

These momentous information services rendered by the Ministry of Information find their consummation in the ministry's invitation, through its external information service, of a significant number of Muslim information specialists and journalists to visit the Kingdom and perform pilgrimage. The ministry also provides them with great opportunities to perform religious information tasks and technical means to facilitate their access to the pilgrims by means of open lectures, sermons, edicts and juridical pronouncements.

Furthermore, the information centers both in Makkah and Jeddah implement a special plan for the pilgrimage season which consists in showing documentaries on the Kingdom and the preparation of religious lectures and symposia which a large



---

number of pilgrims, official pilgrimage delegations and various Islamic institutions are invited to attend.

The Directorate of Religious Affairs in the Ministry of Defence and Aviation, the National Guard and the Ministry of Information all participate in the execution of awareness-fostering programmes which arrange scholarly conferences attended by some scholars of Islam to enlighten pilgrims on the goals, rituals and regulations of pilgrimage in addition to answering pilgrims' questions.

The Directorate of Religious Affairs in the Ministry of Defence and Aviation presents pilgrims with free copies of the Glorious Qur'an, together with a package of religious books and publications specifically relevant to pilgrimage. In turn, the National Guard holds a religious public library open for pilgrims in Makkah's Holy places in addition to the establishment of a mobile information center in collaboration with the Ministry of Information to make available the religious and cultural programmes and books to the pilgrims over and above a mobile radio unit operating from the morning till late at night.

### **Pilgrims travelling by land:**

The Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments plays a decisive role in facilitating the performance of pilgrimage in all respects since it is the governmental department directly responsible for pilgrimage affairs in construction and restoration works and the implementation of plans and studies laid down with the approval of High Committee for Pilgrimage.

The role of the Ministry's is evident through the sets of its impressive achievements in many fields. In addition to building mosques and maintaining them, especially those of historical interest, the ministry has built grouping centers for land-travelling pilgrims, well equipped with modern amenities such as water, electricity, and other necessary facilities. Of these centers we mention those of KADA and 'ADEL in Makkah, and SULTANAH and 'ANBARIAH in Medina.

The Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications, has built rest areas for pilgrims travelling by land all along roads starting

---

from the main gates of the Kingdom and ending in Makkah. The ministry's role has become even more evident in providing big umbrellas and sun shades in the places where pilgrims gather, be they in ARAFAT, MINAH and AL MUSAIJID or in WADI FATIMAH. This should be taken as a token of the ministry's concern to protect pilgrims from sun strokes which are likely to occur during the pilgrimage season well known for its hot and dry climate.

The Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments has played its guiding role in specifying the borders of ARAFAT area within which pilgrims are to stand in prayers all day, by laying down noticeable signs on the religiously sanctioned borders, in order to prelude any likelihood of some pilgrims standing wrongly outside this lawful area. The ministry has also posted big signs bearing the names of streets, roads and tunnels in the MINA area to guide pilgrims to their accommodation and camping grounds.

In order to add a special touch distinguishing the services of the Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowments, this ministry has constructed mobile centers equipped with water, electricity and other necessary amenities in Makkah to cater for those pilgrims who lose their way. This idea was so successful that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz gave his directives to increase the number of such centers to cover all the Holy places in Makkah and the area surrounding the Holy Prophet's Mosque in Medina.

### **A Close Follow-up:**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, may Allah save him, issued a directive to create a committee specifically caring for pilgrimage and pilgrims without any exceptions. This committee was called "the High Committee on Pilgrimage" and is designed to provide the link between him and the rest of the various ministries contributing to the services rendered to pilgrims. It is also in fulfillment of his desire, may Allah save him, to enlarge the platform for ideas and suggestions to optimize the services rendered to pilgrims.

The High Committee for Pilgrimage is chaired by His

---

Royal Highness, Prince Naif Ibn Abdulaziz, Interior Minister and includes a number of their Royal Highness, the Prince of the Provinces and some of their Highnesses the the minister directly linked to pilgrimage.

Among the main duties of this committee are laying down an annual general strategy for all pilgrimage matters and studying the recommendations and suggestions submitted by subsidiary committees for the development of pilgrimage facilities. The activities of the executive committee start on the first of RAJAB every year. The tasks laid down by the high Committee will thus be implemented according to an ascending timetable which culminates in the months of DHUL-QA'DAH and DHUL-HAJJAH, that is, with the first arrivals of pilgrims.

### **The factory making Allah's house cover in Makkah:**

When Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessing shower upon him, entered Makkah as a conqueror, he cleared it of all idols, statues and vestiges of ignorance. However, he did not change the cover of the House's building.

This state of affairs remained for some time until a spark from the fire of a woman using incense to add fragrance to the House burned its cover. Immediately, the Prophet, peace be upon him, ordered the reclothing of the House with a Yemani cloth. This tradition of his was followed by the well-guided Caliphs, ABUBAKER, UMAR and UTHMAN, may Allah be pleased with them, who effectively clothed the glorious House every year.

The Muslim Caliphs, kings and princes following them took upon themselves to cover the house every year. However, they used to lay the new cover on the old ones so much so that the number of covers accrued dramatically. For this reason, the Abbaside Caliph, ALMAHDI, issued directives to take away the old covers and to be content with only one cover: which practice has been followed ever since.

### **Allah's House's cover during the Saudi Reign:**

The Egyptian government took upon itself the responsibility of making the House's cover and sending it to

---

Makkah in an impressive procession known in Egypt as "ALMAHMIL". The pious King Saleh Ibn Qalawun reserved an endowment of the income of the three villages for the making of the House's cover. Then, the Ottoman Sultan Saleem the First added the income of another seven villages for the same purpose. When Muhamad Ali took office, he established a governmental agency to take care of the House's cover.

Acting the concern lest this cover be given a political dimension anathema to the Kingdom, and seeking to complete the Kingdom's efforts in supporting everything pertaining to the Islamic Holy places, King Abdulaziz, may Allah bless his soul, issued directives to construct a factory manufacturing the House's cover in Makkah and appealed for the consorting of all efforts in order to finalize the project and the mobilization of all Saudi craftsmen for the manufacture of the cover. This is what happened indeed. All efforts effectively came together to produce the first output of the factory, a good quality cover made of natural silk dyed in black and adorned with golden engravings of Quranic verses written in the THULUTH (triangular) script.

In 1392H. it was decided to build a new factory for the House's cover. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, who was then Second Deputy Premier, and Minister of Interior, lay the foundation stone of the factory. Then in 1395H. he inaugurated the factory in his capacity as Crown Prince and Deputy Premier, may Allah save him.

The factory was equipped with the most sophisticated weaving and automatic printing machines. The old manual machines were kept in view of their distinguished and unique artistic production denoting a lofty artistic and humanistic dimension.

Each cover costs around SR17 million because of its excellent materials and the verses engraved on it in gold and silver. The House's curtain, called "ALBURQU" (the adorned curtain) is made of the same black-dyed silk engraved with Quranic verses and Islamic adornments.

Every year, prior to laying the new cover, the Glorious House is cleaned by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques or

---

by someone whom he appoints to act on his behalf in an official ceremony which the heads of Islamic delegations in the Kingdom are invited to attend. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques distributes some parts of the old cover, including the engraved Quranic verses, on the senior guests of the Kingdom as a most valuable souvenir which has its religious importance.

### **The King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Glorious Qur'an**

As of the time when the Faithful Spirit (Gabriel) revealed the Qur'an unto Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessings be upon him, and until our own time, clean hearts have been memorizing Allah's Revelation and the believers' hands have been writing them down in spreadsheets and parchments. Allah's emphatic assertion of His will to preserve His own Revealed Book is clear proof of the sanctity and purity of this great book and its absolute freedom from any distortion or incompleteness.

After the death of Prophet Mohammed, peace and blessings be upon him, during the Caliphate of AbuBaker, fierce wars broke out between the Islamic forces and the renegades. A significant number of the companions who memorized the Qur'an fell martyrs in these wars. This phenomenon spurred AbuBaker into thinking of gathering those among them who were still alive in order to write down and document the verses of the Glorious Qur'an. This noble deed led to the collection of all the Qur'anic verses on a huge number of boards and parchments. Then, during the Caliphate of Uthman, the third Caliph, he ordered the unification of all these documents into one single book and the ordering of its chapters according to the testimony of the mother of believers, Hafsa (Prophet's wife). A number of copies of this single original were made and sent to the Islamic countries. All the rest of the parchments were burnt.

In the early stages of the Umayyad reign, the first copy of the Qur'an to bear diacritics distinguishing similar looking but different letters such as /kh/, /h/, /b/, /t/ was made by Hajjaj Ibn Youssef Al-Thaqafi with the assistance of Abu-Al-Aswad Adduali.

As of that date, Allah's Book remained and shall remain

for ever until doomsday intact and free from any distortions.

Despite the fact that many printing houses in Islamic countries have produced tens of millions of copies of the Holy Qur'an... the fact still remains that these copies did not match the grandeur and great elevation of this Glorious Book. For this reason, Allah, Most High, and Mighty, inspired the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to take the wise and well guided decision to construct a complex for the printing of the Holy Qur'an according to very high specifications. He lay the foundation stone for this excellent Islamic project in the month of Muharram, 1403H. The project was inaugurated two years after that date. Medina was chosen to be its venue.

From that moment onward, the complex has been fulfilling the role prescribed for it by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, publishing the Medina copy of the Glorious Qur'an according to very high artistic specifications and in different sizes. The production capacity of the complex reached 8 million copies per annum. To this must be added the translation of the meanings of the Holy Qur'an to other languages of the world.

The complex also issues audio-visual religious materials (audio and video tapes) to satisfy the local needs in the Kingdom and those of the Arabo-Islamic World. The center also conducts scientific research on the Qur'an and the tradition of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, prints them and then distributes them.

#### **Figures on the complex:**

- \* The area covered by the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Qur'an extends over 250 thousand square meters approximately.
- \* The total number of copies issued by the complex from its establishment in 1405H. has been around 75 million copies.
- \* The complex has distributed over 35,898,860 copies both inside and outside the Kingdom.
- \* The first Islamic state to receive copies produced by the complex was the United Arab Emirates which received 10 thousands copies (9 thousand of which were normal copies whereas one thousand copies were excellent).

---

With this great Islamic achievement, the Kingdom will have anchored and enhanced the basis for the Muslim's creed and thought all over the world and have placed the Glorious Qur'an in the lofty position Allah has reserved for it.

### **Some Statistics from the 1413H. Pilgrimage Season**

The number of hospitals in the Holy shrines area is seven with a total capacity of 2700 beds. Three of these hospitals are in the Arafat area and they are:

- Arafat General Hospital with a capacity of 828 beds.
- Jabal Al Rahma Hospital with a capacity of 300 beds.
- Nimrah Hospital with a capacity of 370 beds.

Four others are in Mina and they are:

- Mina General Hospital with a capacity of 591 beds.
- Mina Al Jisr Hospital with a capacity of 257 beds.
- Al Wadi Hospital with a capacity of 181 beds.
- Al Sharii Al Jadid Hospital with a capacity of 91 beds.

In addition to these hospitals, there are 72 health centers spread over Arafat, Mina and Muzdalifa areas.

\* Makka Al Mukarrama has seven hospitals with a total capacity of 2000 beds and these are: King Abdulaziz Hospital, Hira General Hospital, Al Nour Specialist Hospital, the Maternity Hospital, Ibn Sina Hospital and Ajyad Hospital. These hospital are equipped with 70 units of refrigeration to take care of heat strokes and fatigue from heat. There are also 74 health centers in the Makkah area.

\* Thirty million containers of refrigerated water taken from the King Fahd refrigeration station have been distributed among the pilgrims in the pilgrimage season of 1412H. 230 refrigerator trucks have supplied these quantities of water to all the Holy shrines areas.

\* The number of mosques and prayers areas in Al Madina Al Munawwara is 1503.

\* The Zamazima office has distributed over 12.5 million liters

---

of Zamzam holy water among the pilgrims of the House of Allah when they were received in their homes in Makkah Al Mukarramah and in the Holy shrines area.

- \* 950 comfortable and air conditioned buses equipped with cold water and water for ablution participated in transporting pilgrims from one holy area to another.
- \* The total number of workers employed during the Hajj season is estimated at 10000. This number includes drivers, electricians, air conditioning technicians.
- \* 280 emergency buses were reserved as substitutes for regular buses in case of breakdowns.
- \* 1060 coin operated telephone booths, 790 of which have direct international service, have been installed in Makkah, Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifa. Three additional new communication centers were opened with 18 coin operated telephone booths for international calls, 23 telegraph and telex offices and 22 centers dispensing coins for telephone usage.
- \* 410.556 tons of meat from slaughtered sheep were consumed in the 1412H. pilgrimage season 301.486 were exported in addition to 11.173 camel and cow heads distributed among the poor around the Holy Mosque.
- \* Huge quantities of meat were distributed in the pilgrimage season of 1412H. according to the following: 20000 were sent to Pershader and Kwita in Pakistan, 40000 to Jordan, 5000 to Tchad, 15000 to Syria, 20000 to Sudan (Khartoum and Port Sudan), 35000 to Egypt, 10000 to Djibouti, 6000 to Somalia, 65000 to Bangladesh, 10000 to Mauritania, 10000 to Senegal, 5000 to Burkina Faso, 500 to Guinea Conarky, 5000 to Sierra Leone, 6000 to Tanzania (Dar Al Salam and Zanzibar), 3000 to the Comores Islands, 3000 to Mozambique, 3000 to Kenya and 25000 to Lebanon.



## CHAPTER FOUR

# *The Humanitarian Principles of the Government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques*

- ★ Generous Aid
- ★ Support for the Moslem Minorities
- ★ Moslem World League



### ★ **Islamic Relief Society**

Genuine humanism is a principle which invalidates the resort to discriminatory practices, arbitrary and racially motivated conditions, and physical pressure, all of which go against the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH). Indeed, Islam calls for basing the Islamic State on principles of Goodness and Peace.

Despite the various form of persecution against Moslems, we are nevertheless witnessing a resurgence of Moslem States all over the five continents. Thanks to their deeply rooted faith, Moslems everywhere have stood firm in their convictions in the face of religious hegemony and utter lack of sympathy. They have defended God's religion and have done their best to spread it, so much so that we are constantly hearing of hundreds of individuals reverting to Islam in America, Britain, Australia, Spain, Germany, Central Africa, and many other countries in Europe, Asia, America and Africa.

It is not difficult to imagine the plight of Moslem minorities in all these countries, at a time when the United Nations Organizations is constantly calling for the respect of human rights everywhere. Many an international agreement has been signed calling for adequate protection for the Moslem minorities as well as other minorities and refugees in some of these countries, in addition to setting up programs intended to materially aid these minorities to live in peace. But these agreements turned out to be no more than a bunch of papers which were signed and then throwm into desk drawers to be forgotten. With the rare exceptions of small gifts among the general programs of foreign aid of some countries, these international agreements have yet to be effective and to realize their stated objectives.

### ★ **Generous Aid Programs**

In the midst of this depressing darkness enveloping the hearts and souls of humanity, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stands out to light up a candle of hope and dissipate the darkness of despair. Through the clear objectives of its foreign aid policy

---

and its humanitarian stands, the Kingdom is setting the right example of brotherhood for mankind everywhere.

The ideological background and the solely human considerations which constitute the basis of the Kingdom's foreign aid policy and its sympathetic stands towards other countries and minorities, have given the Saudi aid programs a specific and unique status in the world arena, whether from the points of view of quality or size. Saudi aid has always been dispensed without any premeditated gain, political or otherwise. Rather, it stems from the humane outlook which characterizes the policies of the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz towards third world countries and minorities in need of help. This generous humane outlook has been concisely stated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques when he said: "The objective of the Saudi development is to be of service to human issues in all parts of the world."

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia ranks first among other nations in its readiness to offer donations and various other relief materials, and in the size of its foreign aid in relation to the national income on the one hand and the Kingdom's position among third world nations on the other. Statistics show that Saudi Arabia allocates 5% of its national income to various foreign aid and relief programs, a far cry from the 1.5% of the United States of America for example, one of the wealthiest nations in the world.

Furthermore, statistics of the Fourth Saudi Development Plan show that, during the period beginning with the year 1390H., the Kingdom has given the amount of 126 billion Saudi Riyals in aid to developing countries. The citizens of more than 33 countries have benefitted from 3,586 million Saudi Riyals given by the Kingdom to fight draughts and relief disaster victims.

After the earthquake of Dumar in Yemen for example, the Saudi relief focused on counteracting the disastrous consequences of the earthquake in the short term by providing emergency help material, and in the long run by building housing facilities, schools and hospitals, by digging wells and

preventing the spread of diseases.

The courageous decision to send Saudi relief aid to disaster stricken Sudan is another clear example of the generosity and humanitarian feelings of the Saudi people and their leaders, and the extent to which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is attached to other Moslem nations. Electricity generators and the fuel necessary for their operation were sent to the Sudan in addition to well equipped tents to house the victims.

When a dangerous oil slick polluted the coast of the Kingdom of Morocco and threatened its marine life and wealth, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia responded immediately by providing instant monetary assistance to the brotherly country to finance clean up operations and thus avert a major natural disaster.

Always motivated by the same basic human principles, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took the initiative during the Third Summit Meeting of Islamic Countries to reserve 382 million Saudi Riyals as aid to the following draught-stricken African countries: Cape Verde, Guinea, Bissau, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Upper Volta and Chad. 15% of this amount was given in the form of emergency food. Thus, 25,000 tons of cereals and 10,000 tons of cooking oil with a total value of 17 million dollars were shipped to these countries. The remaining 85% of the aid package were allocated to long term programs in the ten African countries, programs covering essentially digging and sinking wells and rural development. It was thus possible to dig a total of 2,556 wells of different depths --315 of which are in the Niger--equipped with necessary pumps and fittings, in addition to two deep wells, 12 pumping stations, and 45 artesian wells, at a total cost of 9,116,000 US dollars. Moreover, answering the call of the Fourth Summit Meeting of Islamic Countries in Casablanca for further aid to the draught-stricken countries of Western Africa, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques offered the sum of 112,500,000 dollars as a gift to these countries.

### ★ 70% of the world

On the international level, the area covered by the Saudi foreign aid program has increased to include now around 100 countries. This is about 70% of the world nations. This number is indicative of the human orientation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Statistics also show that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a major contributor to the humanitarian and philanthropic programs of international and regional organizations and institutions. The Kingdom is further participating in the development of non-Arab African nations. In the last decade, the Kingdom's aid to these nations totalled 30,500 million dollars to 34 nations. This aid was in the following forms:

- \* More than 1,000 million dollars in grants and donations offered to 34 nations to finance various humanitarian, social, developmental, and economic programs.
- \* 1,640 million dollars in unconditional and easy-term loans to 33 nations to participate in the financing of 140 development projects.
- \* 825 million dollars in easy-term monetary loans to 10 nations to shore up balances of payments and aid in the execution of economic adjustment and reform plans.
- \* 1,245 million Saudi Riyals up to the year 1978 in monetary and in kind aid to the International Food Program.
- \* 975 million Saudi Riyals as the Saudi participation in the International Bank for Development and the World Health Organization project for the eradication represents 9% of the total donations for this program from other nations.
- \* 100 million dollars as the Kingdom's participation in the World Bank aid program to the Sub-Saharan African countries to help them initiate economic reforms and boost production.
- \* The Kingdom is furthermore keen on effectively supporting the programs of the various international humanitarian organizations and institutions such as: the International Red Crescent, the International Union for the Blind, the Experts Committee on Work and Social Affairs, the International

---

Food Organization, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Relief Operations, the Queen Alia Fund in Jordan, the Pan-Arab Union for the Mute and Deaf, Youth Camps, and all of the United Nations Organizations.

★ **Support for the Moslem Minorities**

Because of its comprehensive human outlook, the Islamic "Shari'a" can be considered as a model and constitution for mankind in general. Allah the Almighty has set for Moslems noble human objectives aiming to liberate and uplift mankind and provide him with the means for a decent and honorable life, regardless of ethnic, color, or language distinctions, and valid for all times and places.

Furthermore, the Islamic renaissance which we are witnessing nowadays all over the world is gathering momentum with the years and is no longer restricted to the present boundaries of the Moslem world. We find for example that Islam is spreading to and inside communist, christian, and pagan countries alike. The Moslems in those countries however are living in a state of siege and virtually cut off the rest of the Moslem world. They are like strangers in foreign lands and have to endure repressive conditions with no end in sight. They are being denied food and other basic health, educational, social, and cultural services, with the aim of eliminating them. Worse than that, thousands of Moslems in those countries are facing the threat of apostasy from Islam as a result of the discriminatory practices of the governments of these countries. Some of these practices are beyond imagination to the point that some church organizations in Africa have made use of the slogan "Remove the cover of Islam and we will remove for you the cover of hunger, disease, and poverty."

These are the challenges that the Moslem family as a whole is facing today, when Moslems in non-Moslem countries are caught between the fires of poverty and the fires of atheism.

Fortunately, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosque, is keeping live the flame of hope, sending its rays to warm the hearts of

---

Moslems, be they in the Moslem world or in foreign countries. Indeed, the donations and gifts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques are not limited to organizations and institutions. They also extend to individuals and groups who are working to help their Moslem brothers by protecting them from hunger and disease and strengthening their will and determination to resist and put an end to the repressive practices of non-moslem governments and organizations, break the bounds of hate and step out into the light to be heralds of peace and propagators of Islam. The Saudi donations are manifest in enormous sums of money being reserved each year to support Moslem minorities wherever they are and to provide them with some essential services by building numerous Islamic centers, mosques, Arabic language schools, and hospitals, so that these minorities will not have to beg from the infidels.

Saudi aid to the Soviet Islamic Republics is a perfect example of the Saudi role in the protection of Moslem minorities. Thanks to this aid, these republics are now witnessing a period of Islamic renaissance. Islamic schools and universities, hospitals and specialized religious centers have been and are being built. Part of the aid also went into the improvement of the economy in the form of bridge and road construction and some investment projects. The Kingdom also aids these republics in kind by providing them with cereals and fertilizer and various items of life's basics. In addition, the Kingdom plays a major role in the propagation of Islam in the area by appropriately supporting religious teachers and propagators and sending young people from these republics on study and training sessions inside other Moslem countries.

We should point out here the latest gift of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques which came as another of his contributions to strengthen the principles and practices of goodness among moslems. He recently issued his directives to host more than four thousand Soviet pilgrims to perform Hajj at his own expenses, in addition to making a gift of one million copies of the Holy Qur'an to the Soviet pilgrims.

In order to realize the importance of the gift of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the Soviet pilgrims, one



---

should simply compare the present situation with the situation which was prevalent not so long ago. It is well known that before 1989 A.D., the communist government of the former Soviet Union allowed only a minimal number of Soviet Moslems to perform the duty of pilgrimage. Over the years, the number of Soviet pilgrims jumped from only 1,500 to 6,000, which prompted the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz to reinforce this trend by hosting these pilgrims during the Hajj season of 1991 A.D.

No one can deny the generous efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to instill hope in Moslems everywhere and propagate Islam. His particular attention to the Moslems of Greece is yet another example of these efforts. Thus, recently issued his directives to bring out and secure the Arabo-Islamic Philanthropic Organization whose purpose is to support Islamic work in Greece, where Moslems number around 135,000.

The building of the Islamic Cultural Center in the Spanish Capital, Madrid, is another monument to the generosity of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. In addition to being a gathering place for the Moslem community in Spain where they can perform their religious rites and other social and cultural functions, the center is also one of the largest Islamic centers in Europe, devoted to the propagation of Islam in the whole of the Europe and not in Spain alone.

Futhermore, a good deal of the Kingdom's support to the various Islamic societies is channelled through the Moslem World League and other Islamic organizations sponsored or subsidized by the government of Saudi Arabia and whose purpose is to propagate Islam outside the boundaries of their host countries.

The Kingdom also sends to many African countries a variety of books which play a major role in shoring up educational and Arabic language teaching programs in those countries. These books include general books for libraries and Islamic societies, copies of the Holy Qur'an and collections of the Prophet's sayings (PBUH), and other schools books in Arabic. The Moslem of India to have benefitted from the Kingdom's generosity. Through the Moslem World League, the Kingdom has established an Institute for Islamic Sciences, in

---

addition to constructing many mosques in a number of Indian states, which had a very profound effect on the Moslem of India.

The Kingdom was also among the first to come to the rescue of Bangladesh after disastrous hurricane which left in its wake about one million Moslem casualties and destroyed a number of cities and villages. True to his tradition of generous efforts in the service of Islam and Moslems everywhere, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques ordered monetary and other types of aid to be sent to Bangladesh.

In collaboration with the Islamic Bank for Development, the Kingdom further reserves a special portion of the meat from sacrificial offerings during Hajj to the Moslems of Africa and Southeast Asia. The latest donations of about 3,500 slaughtered head of sheep went to the Moslems of Kenya.

And the list of the generous deeds of the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the benefit of Moslems in Africa, Europe, Asia, and America goes on. Thus, the Kingdom reserves an annual monetary contribution to support Islamic education in London. It has also started an Islamic vocational training center in Kenya through the Islamic Relief Agency. Then there is the donation of 17 million Saudi Riyals by the Custodian of the Two Mosques to Bangladesh to help in the emergency treatment of the victims of a tragic collision between two trains in the country. In addition to the monetary aid, huge quantities of medical supplies were also sent for the same purpose.

The Kingdom was also given help to the Islamic Housing Association in France. The aid was meant to boost the activities of the association and build a number of housing projects and a school house for the Moslems of France.

The generous Saudi aid extends to North America where the Kingdom, through the auspices of the Islamic Affairs section of Saudi Embassy in Washington, actively supports all efforts of Islamic education. The section provides a good deal of cultural and material aid to the Islamic schools and centers in the United States of America. Within the framework of the prevailing social, cultural, and economic conditions, Islamic education constitutes a strategic necessity and is of crucial importance to

---

the more than 6 million-member-strong Moslem community of the United States of America.

Moreover, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated in the cost of building two schools for the children of the Moslems community in Los Angeles. It has participated in the purchase of a piece of land to be used as cemetery and burial grounds for the Moslems of Los Angeles so that they no longer have to share the cemeteries of non-Moslems.

The efforts of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz in the care of Moslem minorities has reached a pinnacle during the month of Jumada II in the year 1312H., when he called for an international conference on Moslems minorities to be held in Makkah Al-Mukarrama. This conference would examine the problems facing Moslems minorities today and recommended appropriate solutions for these problems. The Kingdom of course would have a first-hand knowledge of the fundamental projects and activities needed and could therefore give them the appropriate support.

The Kingdom's humanitarian efforts in the service and protection of Islam and Moslem minorities, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz, did not go unnoticed in the international arena. In a most favorable report, the International Islamic Press Agency has lauded the Kingdom's important efforts in the service and propagation of Islam and recorded for prosperity and different monetary and in kind aids, generously donated for this noble purpose. Within this framework, the Kingdom's participation has reached more than 3,650 million Saudi Riyals which went into the construction and furnishing of Mosques and Islamic centers, the support of educational institutions, sending religious teachers and propagators to Moslem countries and societies, offering scholarships for studies inside and outside the Kingdom for Moslem youth, the establishment and support of health and social institutions and philanthropic and Islamic societies. The Kingdom has also donated 2,750 million Saudi Riyals to the Organizations of Islamic Countries and its affiliate organizations for the purpose of strengthening Islamic solidarity.

### ★ The Moslem World League

Faced with antagonistic policies emanating from forces hostile to Islam, it was necessary for the Moslem countries to unite in one strong front and work towards preserving strengthening it. From this historic necessity sprang the invitation to a major meeting of Moslem countries in Makkah Al-Mukarrama during the month of Dhi-l-Hijja of 1381H. The meeting was to examine the constitution of unifying and united body whose purpose would be to give aid to poor Moslems in foreign lands and help them remain attached to their faith, in addition to reinforcing the concept of Islamic unity and solidarity among Moslem nations. The result of the meeting was the creation of the Moslem World League which has conceived as a protective shield for Islamic solidarity from enemy forces. A constitutional council composed of religious scholars, heads of important Islamic organizations in their home countries, was created.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia played a competent and unique role in providing full support to the Moslem World League. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques gave the League special attention since it embodies his unconditional belief in the necessity of strengthening Islamic solidarity in the face of the new developments in the new world order. These developments have taken the form of new clearly defined political coalitions whether in Europe or the Soviet Union. From an Islamic point of view, such developments pointed once more to the importance of Islamic solidarity and the need to plan for the future of Islam and Moslems and counteract the reactionary conspiracies and plots against Islam and Moslems. These needs were clearly stated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in address to the World Moslem League and the Holy Qur'an International Competition held in Makkah Al-Mukarrama on the 21 of Rajab 1412H. He said then: "If the strength of nations resides in their unity and solidarity, their welfare and the honor of their people reside in applying the laws and percepts of Islam and practicing its teachings in everyday life of Moslems, as this is the only and best way to save Moslems from lapsing into the

---

mire of the materialistic civilization which has robbed nations of their moral and human value."

Continuing to address the leaders of the Moslem world, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques said: "The events and the political changes which led to the fall of the communist regimes, and the new developments in the political, economic, and ideological arenas which have begun to lead the world towards the formation of a new order, in addition to the challenges to the Moslem world and the destructive currents targeting Moslems, all underline the importance of Islamic solidarity, the call for which emanated from these holy grounds, so that whether in their unity or on their own, Moslem nations would constitute a force, an impenetrable shield capable of thwarting enemy conspiracies and defeating their aggression, and a single entity in these times when the world is torn between the most powerful coalitions and groupings and in all fields."

And it is clear to everyone that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, motivated only by his deep faith in Allah which enlightens his heart and ennobles his soul, has given the Moslem World League, since its inception, all his attention and care and provided it with the necessary means to continue its work and fulfill its humanitarian role in the best way possible. Thus, he reserved an annual subsidy of 100 million Saudi Riyals to support the League's efforts in the area of Islamic propagation. In addition, he made a personal contribution of 20 million Riyals to the fund of the International High Council for Mosques whose activities center around the construction and refurbishing of God's Houses in those countries which are new to Islam.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' care for the League reaches new heights when he orders the construction of a permanent headquarters for the General Secretariat of the League in Makkah Al-Mukarrama. The new building was erected at a cost of 100 million Saudi Riyals and is truly an architectural marvel and an Islamic edifice which reflects the noble and humanitarian objectives of the World Moslem League.

The Kingdom also subsidizes quite generously the League's relief agency, the International Islamic Relief Society,

---

and provides it with the necessary means to carry out its humanitarian activities in the service of Moslem disaster and war victims. The Moslem minorities for example, it satisfies their needs in health, educational, Islamic, and economic services. The league has thus established numerous health centers, schools, and mosques and subsidized small manufacturing projects. Statistics show that, for the fiscal year 1410-1411H., the League's expenditures in aid and subsidies has totalled 26,715,951 Saudi Riyals.

### ★ **The Islamic Relief Society**

The Islamic Relief Society is one of the Moslem World League. Its purpose is to dispense aid, whether in food or in other kinds, to needy Moslems in all parts of the world, in addition to its relief role in emergency situations.

Through its offices in more than 50 countries over the five continents, the society was able to achieve a lot of its humanitarian objectives in the fields of health, education, Islam and social welfare.

Because of the nature of its objectives and activities, it is natural that the society faces enormous difficulties in carrying out its plans and programs. But thanks to an unwavering belief in Allah and a strong determination, the society is constantly striving to reach its noble objectives and was always able to bypass all obstacles placed in its path by the enemies of Islam. The society is also inspired in its perseverance by the strong support it always found on the part of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and many generous members of the Saudi people. The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques has always been keen on patronizing the society and on giving it the necessary financial support so that it fulfills its noble objectives. The Islamic Relief Society was a great Islamic hope which has been realized. It effectively links between charitable people on the one hand and the needy among Moslems, the orphans, immigrants and refugees, oppressed Moslem minorities, and the poor in the Moslem world on the other hand.

The society also closely collaborates with the Islamic Bank for Development in Jeddah, which finances many of the

---

development projects planned and managed by the society in the poor Moslem countries. Most of the expenditures of the society take place in Asia, then Africa, South Africa, and Australia. The society also collaborates with a number of other relief agencies.

In the area of health services, the Islamic Relief Society has established more than 60 health centers in Sudan, Comoro Islands, Brazil, Kenya, Pakistan, Somalia, Borkinafasso, Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Bangladesh. So much so that the society is now known as supervising the largest network of health and Islamic projects in the world. The society also runs many vocational training centers, ships hundreds of tons of relief products annually to Moslems everywhere, and has helped hundreds of families by setting up beekeeping farms, sheep, cow and poultry farms. The society was the first relief agency to work with the flood victims in Bangladesh, the war victims in Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Burma and Uganda, and the cyclone victims in the Philippines.

The society's achievements in the domain of health care and services is impressive. The society now oversees 112 health establishments including hospitals, health centers, and clinics, in addition to setting up 15 other units, nursing schools, and numerous health campaigns and primary care camps. In the educational field, the society finances many educational institutions and subsidizes financially and in kind numerous institutions in Africa and Asia. It also provides hundreds of students with the opportunity to study at universities, and financially supports and participates in the budgets of religious colleges and institutes. The society is supporting 469 schools for the children of the Mujahidins inside Afghanistan and Pakistan. 23,000 students are benefitting from these schools. The society is also financing 12 Islamic schools in Uganda, 13 in Kenya, 50 in Chad, and the Islamic School in Senegal and Ethiopia. There are also 476 Quranic schools subsidized by the society which has recently opened 20 centers for the teaching of the Holy Qur'an, and 100 study circles in 100 mosques in the Philippines. In addition to all this the society offers compensations to Imams of mosques and to students.

The society has also provided support for 1,100 scholars,

---

propagators, and Imams in Lebanon, Somalia, and Uganda. 22 more propagators have recently been appointed in Afghanistan and Latin America.

In the domain of social welfare, the society offers many services to Moslem women in the form of courses in sewing, weaving, home economics, typing and secretarial work; and in the form of embroidery and sewing workshops.

In Bangladesh, the society sponsored the "Rickshaw Project" which enabled many people to earn a decent living by operating rickshaws. It also sponsors meal plans for the Mujahidins.

One of the most successful projects of the Islamic Relief Society in the project of "Sanabul Al-Khair" (the Spikes of Good), which was founded on genuine Islamic humanitarian principles. It exploits the idea of Islamic endowments in the executions of numerous philanthropic projects. Many charitable people participate in these projects. Their donations have reached levels by far exceeding all expectations for humanitarian activities, since in the year 1411H, alone these donations have exceeded 10 million Saudi Riyals. The donations are handed over to an investment committee within the Islamic Relief Society, and this committee invests them in many projects then channels the yields and profits from these investments to the basic projects of the society.

The efforts of the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques did not stop at this level of support for the Moslem minorities in the word, or for the different Islamic organizations. It has also extended to a continuous interest in Islamic causes everywhere and a constant material and moral support for the task of propagating Islam and for Moslems in general and Moslem minorities in particular.

Thus, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first among other governments to announce its clear and unequivocal recognition of the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina and to call for the exclusion of the Republic of Serbia from the United Nations.

Furthermore, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz has invited the foreign ministers of



---

Moslem nations to convene a meeting in Jeddah to examine the question of Bosnia Herzegovina and place the whole world face to face with its responsibility and natural role in saving the Moslem people of Bosnia Herzegovina. This meeting was tantamount to the beginning of the peace negotiations which took place later between Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia in Geneva.

And in Somalia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stood strongly behind the hungry people of Somalia. Thus, the Saudi forces are taking part in operation "Restoration of Hope" in Somalia, manning and guarding 171 trucks, loaded with around 3,000 tons of food and clothing, which have been shipped to Somalia.

As for the children and innocent victims in Somalia, caring hands have reached them to dress their wounds, wipe out disease among them, remove their pain, restore their hopes and bring smiles to their faces. For the first time in their lives, the Somali people have seen hospitals fall from the skies to bring them medical treatment and cure with the help of God. Complete operation theaters were parachuted in remote areas in Somalia to be deployed, equipped and ready for medical operations in a matter of one hour. This part of the Saudi operations in Somalia was carried by the Medical Services Unit of the Saudi active forces in Somalia. The unit comprised of separate vehicles for revivification, emergency and operations, as well as complete medical teams.

In India, and after the horrible crime against the Barbiri Mosque in Ayodia, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first to express in the strongest terms its condemnation of these terrorist practices against Moslems in India. the Kingdom called upon the Indian Government to rebuild the Barbiri Mosque on its original location as well as the other mosques which were destroyed, and to take the strongest and necessary measures to prevent the intended construction of the Hindu temple while providing the necessary protection for Moslems from the aggression of Hindu extremists.

Finally, we must mention the noble deed of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn Abdulaziz when he offered to cover the reconstruction and restoration of Al-Aqsa

---

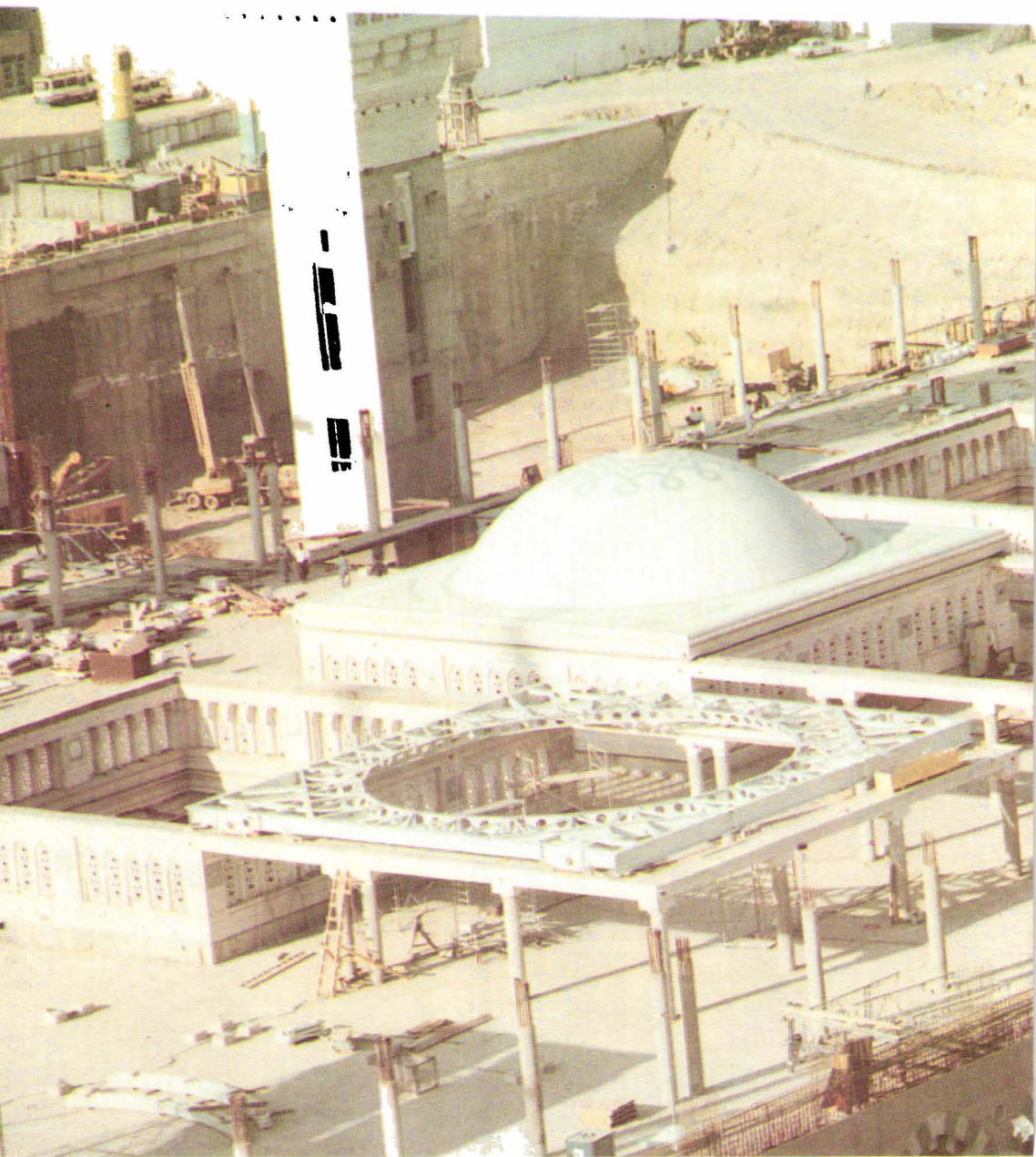
Mosque and the Dome of the Rock as well as the 'Umar Mosque in Palestine. This gesture is a brilliant example of the generosity of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and of his keenness on protecting and preserving Islamic shrines everywhere. It was also the deed of a courageous Moslem who is aware of his duties and of the obligations of the mission with which he was entrusted, not only within the boundaries of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but wherever there are Moslems who are steadfast in their faith.





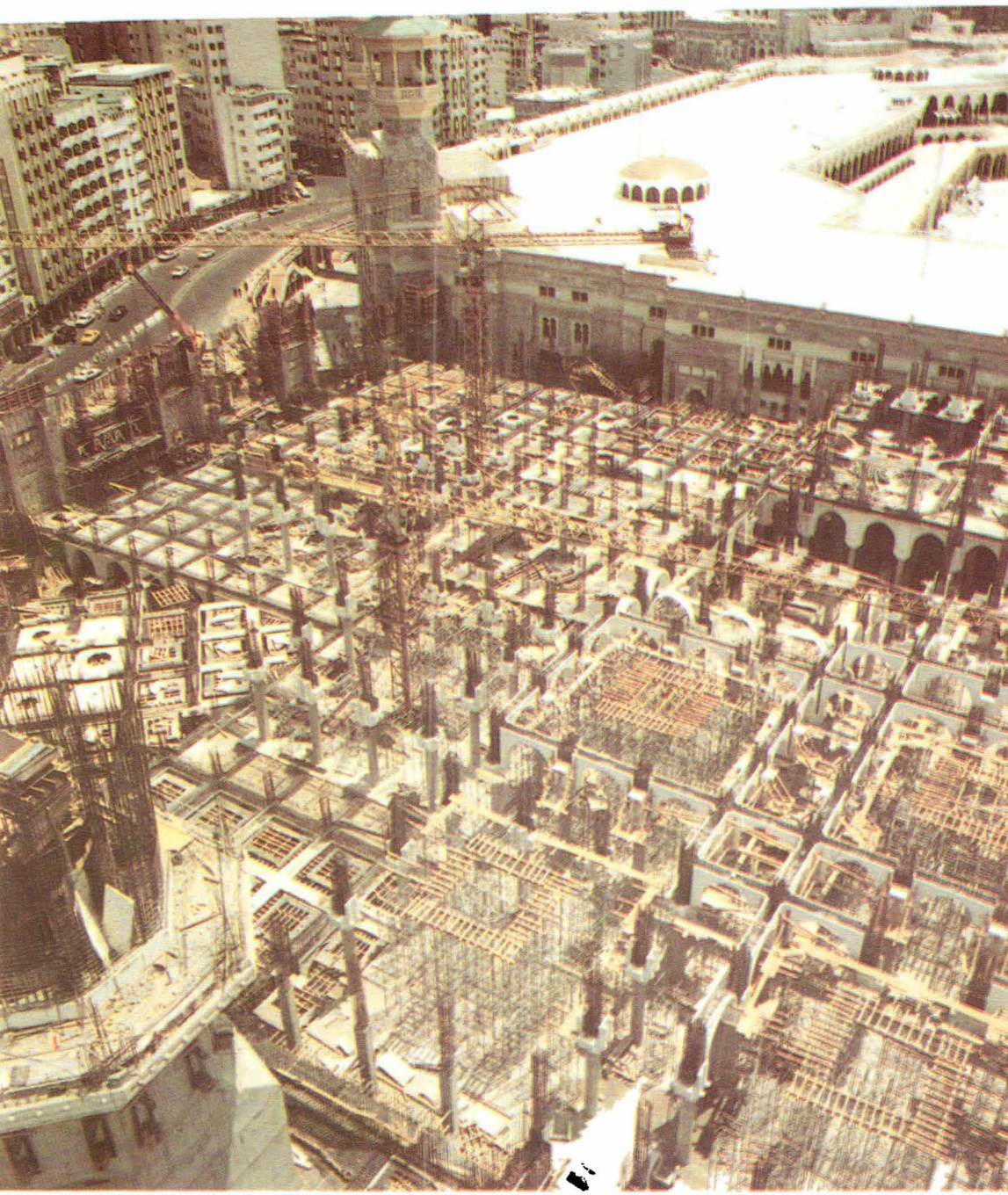


● Expansion work around the Holy Mosque in Makkah.



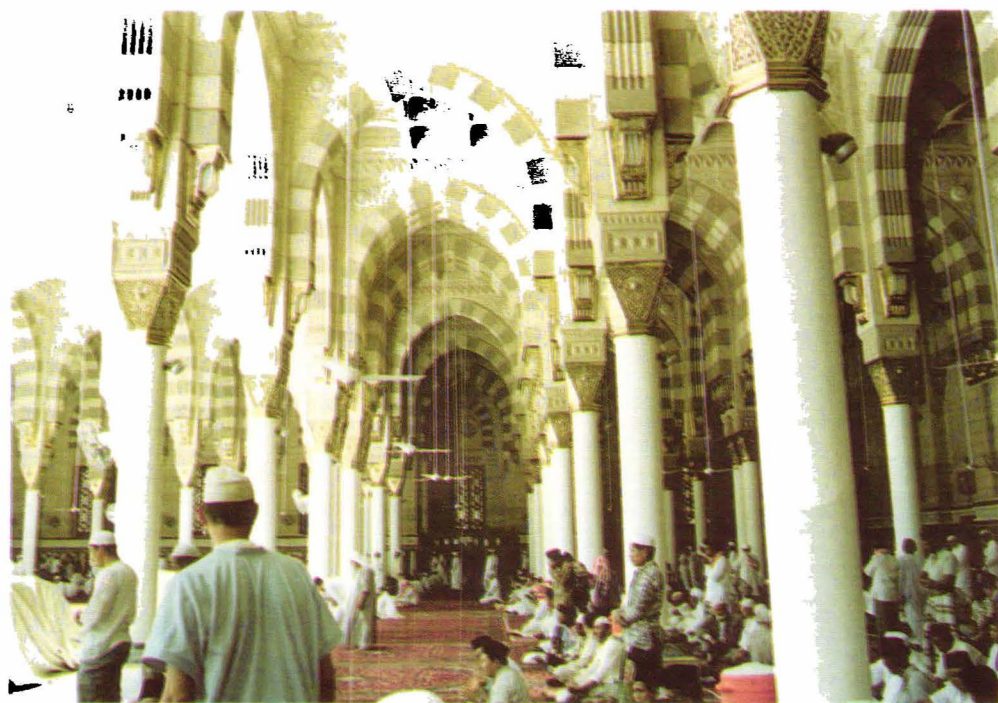
● Expansion work around the Sacred Mosque of the Prophet.



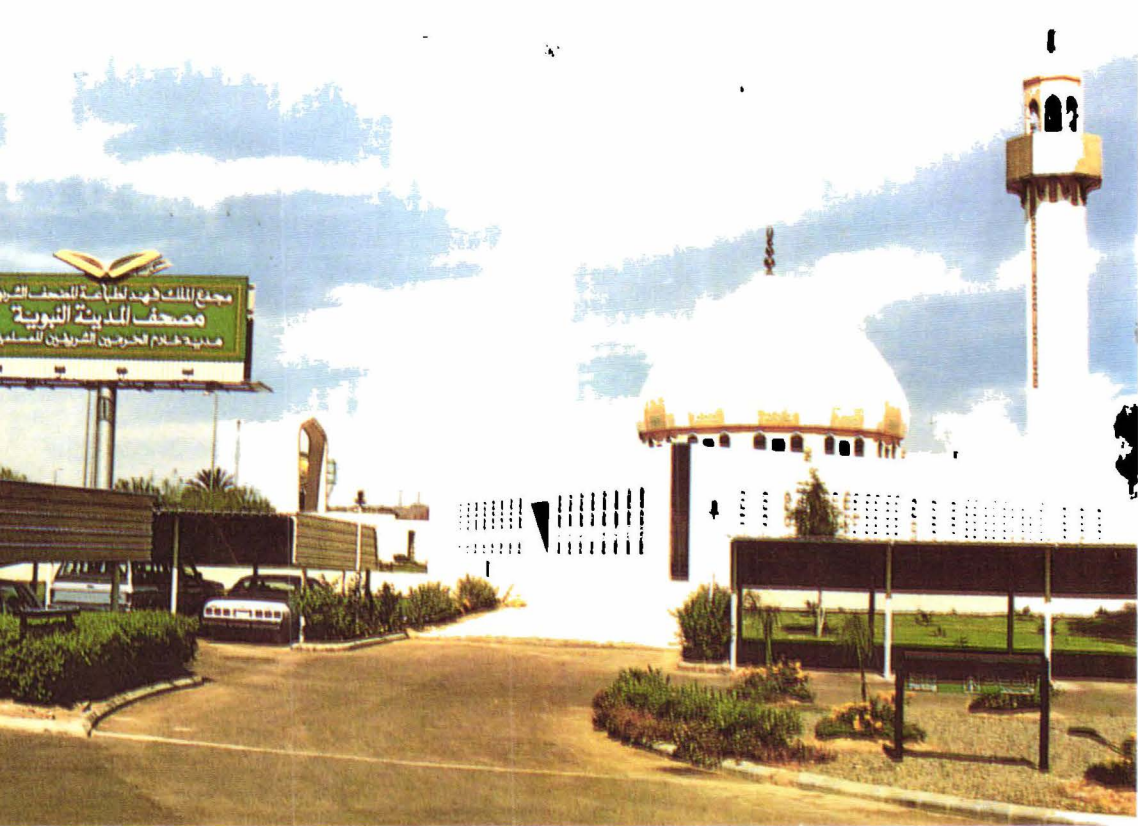


● A view of a part of expansion works around the Holy Mosque of Makkah.





● The Mosque of the Prophet, another inside view.



- The Complex of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for the printing of the Glorious Qur'an.







- An inside view of the Mosque of the Prophet.

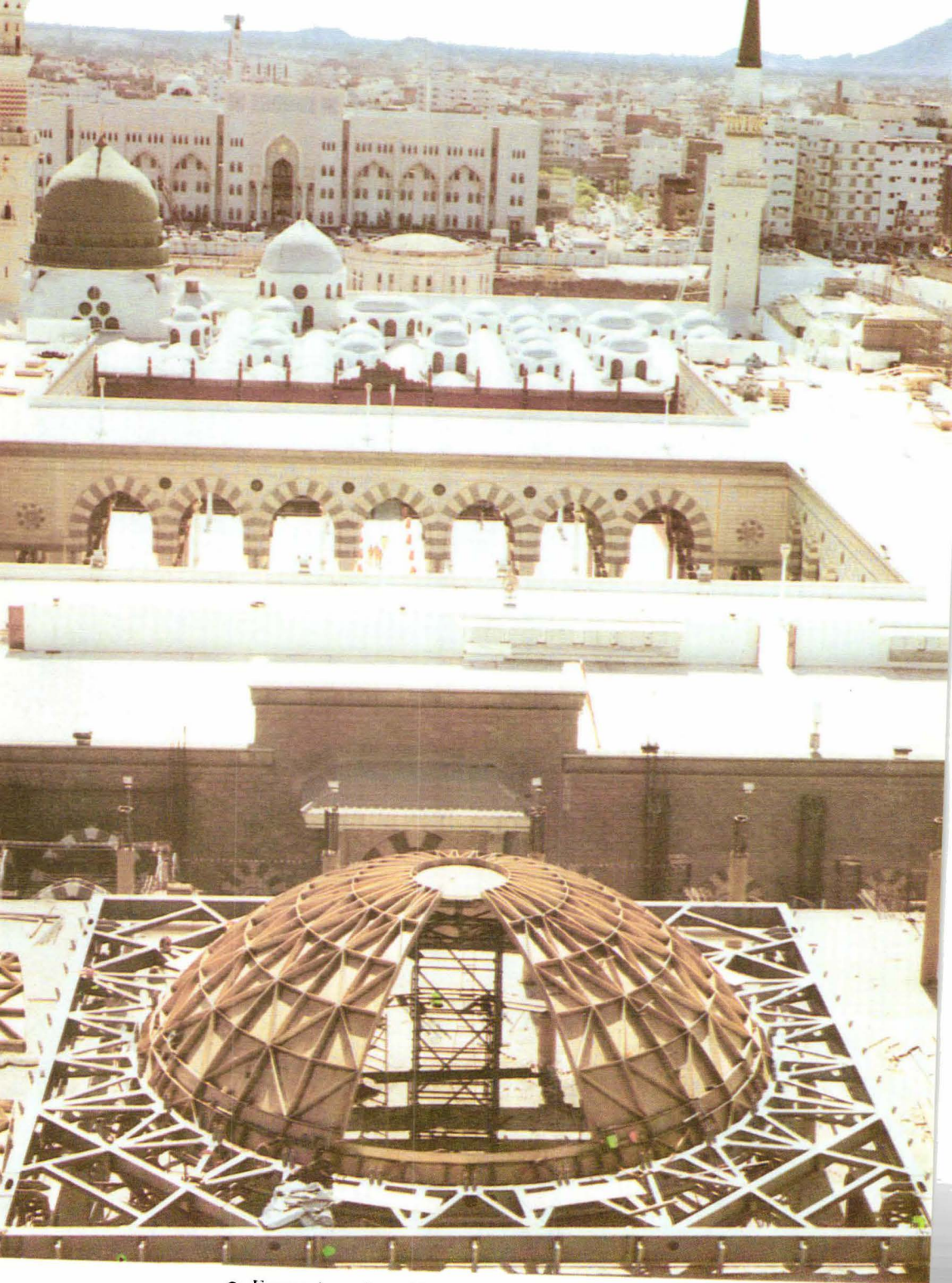


● The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques on one of his inspection tours inside the Sacred Mosque of the Prophet.



● The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Deputy Premier on a tour inside the complex for the printing of the glorious Qur'an.

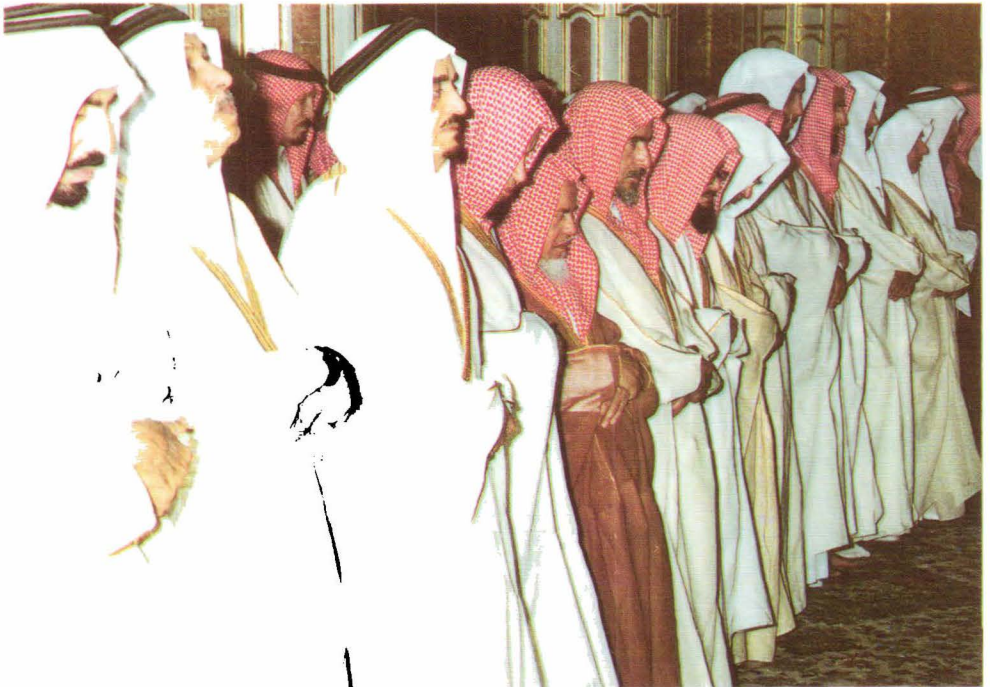




● Expansion of the Mosque of the Prophet.



- O Almighty God grant peace to this country.

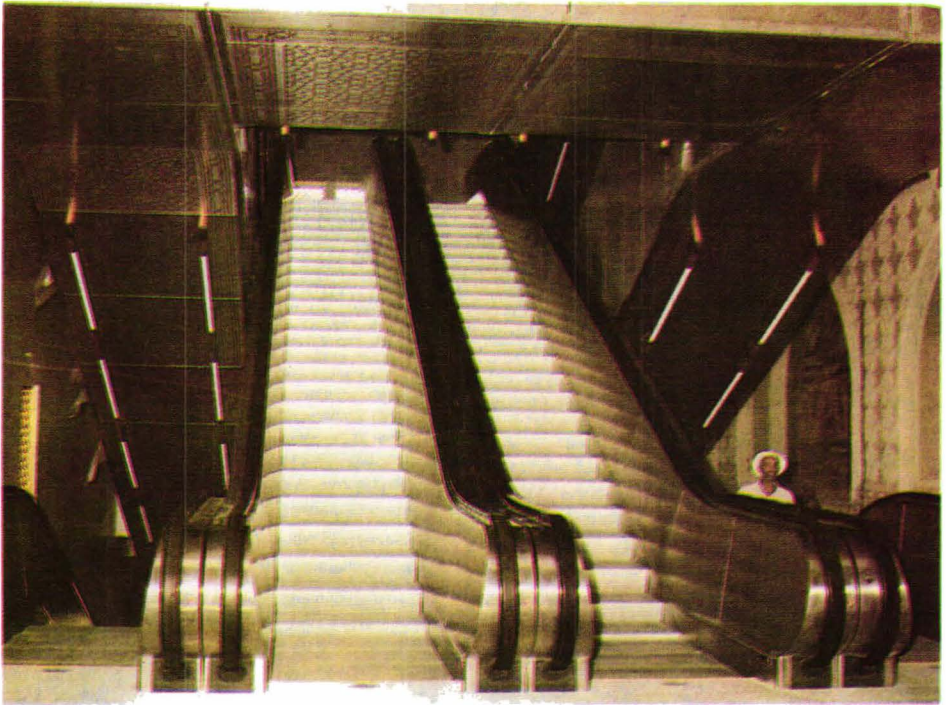


- The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques among groups of worshippers.





- The ground floor of the Al Mas'a with one of the recent bridges in the background.



- Electric escalators which were part of the beautification projects of the holy sites.



● We are with you at all times.



● Health care for God's guests.





● Telephone services for God's guests.



● Tunnels dug in hard rocks to facilitate traffic.







