



Ambassador Essa Abdul-Rahman Al-Essa

Four decades of diplomatic work

1950 – 1993



Dr. Abdul-Mohsen Abdullah Al-Jarallah Al-Kharafi

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Ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa

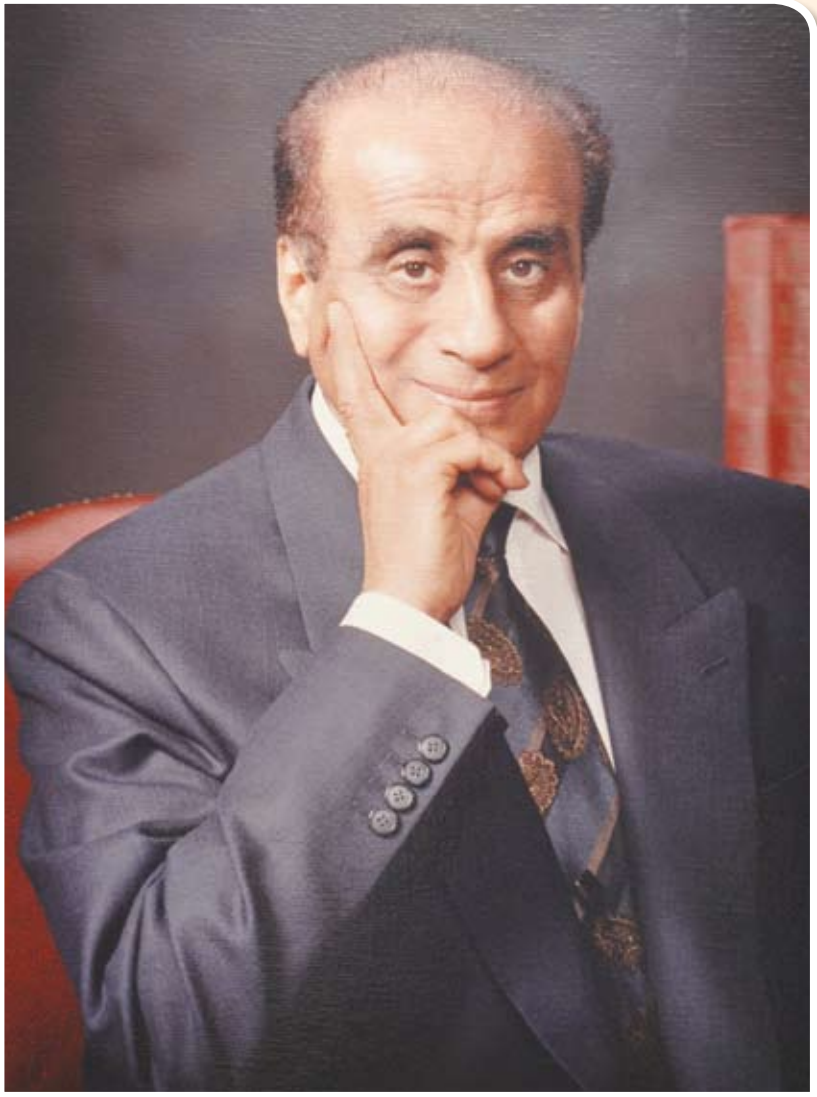
Four decades of diplomatic work

1959 -- 1998

By: Dr. Abdul Mohsen Abdullah Al Jarallah Al Kharafi

Kuwait - 2014





Ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa

Thankfulness & Appreciation

A bouquet of thankfulness and appreciation is presented
To the person who is well aware of the importance of
documentation

To the exemplary ambassador conveying his experience to the
new generations.

To the person dedicating his effort to submit his experience in
a subtle and smooth manner to the readers

All thanks are also due to The Respectable Essa Abdul
Rahman Al Essa for providing us with all documents
and information required to produce this document,
highlighting Kuwaiti diplomacy and its
outstanding achievements.

Another bouquet of thankfulness and
appreciation is offered to all those
honest people who contributed
this book for our dear
readers.

Abdul Mohsen

Acknowledgement

- To all diplomats, past and present, to benefit by the experiences of veteran generations,
 - To all those who believe in the importance of documentation with all its past originality, and
 - To react to the facts of life in order to overlook the future.
 - To all those who, without affectation, respect and venerate people for their achievements while being out of focus.
 - To Al Essa honourable family
 - To those whom we love and cherish
 - To the loyal people of Kuwait
- To all those - We present
this book

Abdul Mohsen

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The Amir of the State of Kuwait H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber May Allah help and protect him

Acknowledgement of the services of the Dean of Arab Diplomacy

**The Amir of the State of Kuwait H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al
Ahmad Al Jaber May Allah help and protect him**

H.E. Ambassador Al Essa highly appreciates the great moral support which he received during his diplomatic career from the Dean of the Arab diplomacy and foreign minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.

H.H. acquired this name because he was the longest serving foreign minister worldwide. He acted as Kuwait foreign minister for more than 40 years during which he managed, through his deep insight and discretion, to handle all Kuwait-related issues thanks to his shrewdness in reading the events and issuing sound decisions aiming to raise the profile of Kuwait and the Kuwaitis. He took advantage of his long experience in the diplomatic work and his solid relations with the top leaders and officials of the world to establish strong foundations for Kuwait ties with the majority of countries. This, no doubt, won Kuwait a high prestige on the international levels.

On this occasion, we shall attempt to recall the major positions occupied by H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the state of Kuwait.

He was declared Amir by the ruling family, the people of Kuwait and the National Assembly on January 29, 2006. An Amiri Decree was issued on 13/7/2003 appointing him Prime Minister. He was also appointed senior deputy of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs on October 18, 1992. H.H. took up several portfolios, for example acting minister of the Ministry of Information, in addition to his duties as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of foreign Affairs during the period from March 3, 1981 to February 9, 1982.

His Highness was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs on January 28, 1963. He maintained this position throughout all the ministries formed since the Independence in 1961 to April 1991. He was appointed Minister of Information (Guidance) on January 17, 1962. Before that he was the head of the Social Affairs and Labour Directorate. To all these responsibilities

was added his duties as chairman of the Advertising and Publication Directorate.

His Highness was nicknamed “Sabah IV” because he was the fourth ruler of Kuwait to hold this name, following Sabah I, Sabah II and Sabah Al Salem (may their souls rest in peace). During his reign there were many achievements which took place during the first seven years, laying emphasis on his intention to urge Kuwait to push its way towards development, just like many Gulf countries.

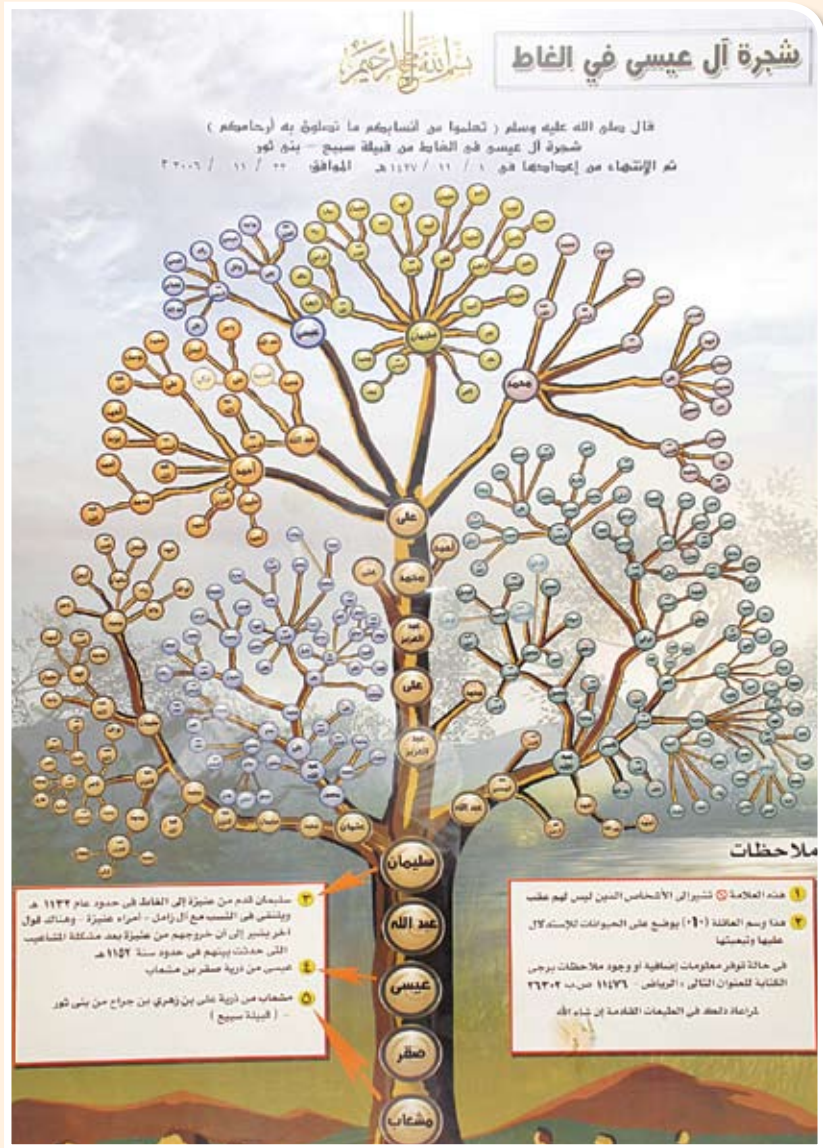
Today, as we all see, His Highness efficiently goes ahead with the rally of progress, cherishing all Kuwaiti issues close to his heart, striving to make his country the economic hub of the region, the centre of learning and progress, while keeping up with modern developments. He has always been keen on establishing solidarity and strong ties between the leadership and the people through unbounded assistance from H.H. the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah and all citizens.

This Book

Mr. Al Essa did not show the least objection to joining the staff of the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington, considering this task as a response to a Kuwaiti call and a fulfillment of a national duty. He started this task in 1962 after the Department of Foreign Affairs was given the name “Ministry of Foreign Affairs”. The career of Mr. Al Essa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs started in 1962 and continued, by the Grace of Allah, for 37 years, i.e. up to 1998. During this period He rendered many services to his country and realized many achievements in the diplomatic domain and other domains. He represented his country in about 12 countries and his mission extended to conferences to cover North America, Africa and Asia (South Asia, S.E. Asia, N.E Asia). He also represented his country in many regional and international conferences.

This documentation process emerges as a platform for providing emerging generations with the rich experiences of old hand diplomats.

Finally, I would like to record a word of thankfulness and gratitude to those who contributed to this work, mainly **Ambassador Al Essa** for facilitating our task. Thanks are also due to **Mr. Mahmoud El Adawi** who was a great asset in recording the interviews with H.E Ambassador Al Essa, may Allah help and protect him.



Al Essa's family tree in Al Ghat

Chapter One

**A Summary of the
C.V. of the author
and his family**

A historical profile of Al Essa family

Ambassador Al Essa was born in 1930. He belongs to Al Subaie tribe. His father is Abdul Rahman, ibn Turki, Ibn Abdullah, ibn Abdul Mohsen, ibn Abdullah, ibn Sulaiman, ibn Abdullah ibn Essa, hailing from the descendants of Saqr ibn Masha'ab. Meshah'ab hails from the descendants of Zahri ibn Jarrah from Bani Thor (Subaie tribe). Mr. Al Essa was brought up by his uncle maternal, the late Mohammad Abdullah Al Saad who settled in Al Qibla quarter. He has three brothers: Turki, Ali and Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al Essa.

Education

Mr. Al Essa received his primary education in Kuwait at the hands of Mulla Mershed,⁽¹⁾ (may his soul rest in peace)

¹Mr. Al Essa completed part of his education at the evening classes of the Commercial Studies Institute in Al Qibla area, belonging to the Kuwait Maarif Directorate. He studied accountancy at the hands of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al Nouri.

1- For more details see "Kutabuna our book" Mulla Mershed Kuwait – 2013

Study in Pakistan

During his career as an accountant in Pakistan between 1948-1951, he was keen on studying English, in addition to his career as he was working for Mohammad Dawood Al Marzooq and Brothers. He used to work by day and study English in the evening at the hands of private teachers in Pakistan at his own expenses.

Scholarship in the UK

Mr. Al Essa was dispatched on a scholarship between 1959-1962 to Balham and Tooting College of Commerce for further Education existing in London and specialized in banking studies. He was studying the theory of currency as a primary step for issuing the Kuwaiti dinar. The college is known for its prestige in the commercial domain.

While in Britain, Mr. Al Essa joined an intensified course in management during the second summer holiday. He also joined the Bank of England during the first summer holiday for training during the holiday. It should be mentioned here that the Bank of England is the Central Bank of the UK.

Courses in the USA

During his residence in the USA, Mr. Al Essa attended many courses in diplomacy, economic development and international relations. He attended three courses in John Hopkins University, as follows:

- The first course was on International Diplomatic Issues.
- The second course was on Global Economic Problems.
- The third course was the Geographical and Regional Division of the African Countries.

Mr. Al Essa completed successfully all these courses within three years as he finished them in 1965



This photo was taken in Southbourn city (England) in April, 1960. In it appear (sitting from the right: Ahmad Abdullah Al Shatti, Khaled Abdullah Al Saqr, Abdul Aziz Abbas Naser.). (standing from the right: Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa, Hamed Mubarak Al Ali, Mohammad Jasem Al Mutawa'a and Hamad Abdul Aziz Al Saqr.)

A Righteous Offspring and A Decent Upbringing

The greatest investment of H.E. ambassador Al Essa and his family is embodied in the goodly offspring wherein he instilled his qualities and values, in addition to his love and devotion to his country Kuwait. He has three sons and one daughter (Sami, Hazem, Mazen and Mona) who constitute a replica of their father. Reflecting on their success, achievements and love to their country Kuwait reminds us of their father's achievements as one of those figures who played prominent roles in the history and development of the Kuwaiti diplomacy through representing the country in many regional and international conferences.

Thus his posterity, imbibing the values and principles of their father, symbolize the fruits of goodness and giving for this country and thereby managed, through emulating him in respecting learning and love of their country, to reflect the bright side of his giving and devotion.



H.E. the ambassador sitting beside H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah. In the photo appears the respectable Abdul Mohsen Abdullah Al Saad (uncle maternal of H.E. the ambassador), then Saud Abdul Aziz Al Rashed on the occasion of his son's wedding.



A portrait of H.E. ambassador Al Essa made from copper wires and fixed on a wooden pedestal to form a work of art. It was presented to him during his stay in New Delhi - India.

Chapter Two

**An outline
of his career**

Ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Essa began his professional and practical career by joining the commercial and accountancy work in the companies of the private and governmental sector through the finance department and his own free business. A brief, on ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Essa's career as an accountant, a banker, a merchant and a diplomat, will be followed.

1- As an accountant

The profession of accounts was the beginning of his career after finishing his studies. This profession highlighted his proficiency in dealing with accountancy. He was accurate and very keen on his work. He had a good knowledge with figures and the accuracy that they need.

Firstly, he worked in some trade corporations in Kuwait where he worked, as an accountant with a monthly salary which did not exceed 150 rupees, then he worked as an accountant for Mohamed Eldawood Almarzouq & co. in the city of Karachi in Pakistan with a salary of 250 rupees. This was in the period between 1948 and 1951.

His work as an accountant perhaps was his breakthrough as this trip was very useful for him. He gained a good experience of it in his career, as he was keen on gathering the study of English to his job while he was working in

Almarzouq's office. He was working at day and studying English under Pakistani teachers at night on his own expense.

2- As a merchant

Ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Essa began his practical life as an ambitious youth and work lover. He knew that trading is the wide gate for money and the free business is the suitable environment to refine his creativity. As he gained the skill and experience from working in the commercial field through the above mentioned companies, Al-Essa went to work in the private and commercial sector (before joining the Finance department then), so he established a small commercial company of his own. It is Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Essa corporation. That was in the period between 1952 and 1953 prior to joining the Finance department.

3- As a banker

Ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al-Essa joined the Finance Department, now Finance Ministry "as an accountant in the Finance division in the department during the period between 1953-1956. Then he worked as a bursar in the same department during the period between 1956-

1959. Al-Essa worked in the Finance Department under the British administrative expert Mr. Smith accompanied with Mr./Ali Yousef Almatrok.

Then, Mr. ambassador moved from the Finance Department to work in Kuwait Currency Board which was established by H.H. the late Amir of Kuwait Abdullah Alsalem Al Sabah in 1960. H.H. the late Amir Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah was the head of the council as he was the head of the Finance Department then the Dinar became the official currency of Kuwait since this date.

Thus, Al-Essa soon showed great progress because of his cleverness, activity and hardworking, the thing that made the officials give him their trust in winning such posts.

Afterwards Al-Essa went to England for two years to complete his university studies and training in the Bank of England as we mentioned earlier.

4- On the Diplomatic Level (Transfer from the Currency Board to Foreign Affairs)

In the lives of many people, there are unforgettable and illuminating moments. This was the case with H.E. Al Essa when Providence guided him to a different channel thanks

to his efficiency. The Currency Board did its best to keep Mr. Al Essa as a member of its staff. Taking a different channel through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the requirements for a post in this domain found in Mr. Al Essa all that political shrewdness. Starting from this point the rally of Al Essa got impetus, assisted by his experiences and achievements in the foreign affairs domain. In consideration of all those qualities, the Kuwaiti Foreign Affairs Ministry addressed the Currency Board, requesting his transfer to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In this respect, Mr. Al Essa says, On asking the secretary general of the Currency Board Mr. Turner about hiding the letter of my transfer to the MFA, he answered that he behaved this way on his own accord because he rejected the request. This clearly indicates that this attitude is attributed to the elaborate work of Mr. Al Essa, who insisted that he should have been notified of the transfer request because the issue concerns him personally. Mr. Al Essa added: 'you have been responsible for not pursuing my studies in England and now you are standing in the way of my transfer to the MFA'.

'I was informed later that it was Mr. Turner who asked Sheikh Jaber (May his soul rest in peace) to keep me in Kuwait until the return of Mr. Hamza Abbas who was

delegated to the UK on a scholarship, and on his return, he was appointed governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait'. After the meeting, I went to see Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad (May his soul rest in peace), the Chairman of the Kuwaiti Currency Board, and Minister of Finance in his office. I discussed with him my transfer to the MFA and the rejection of Mr. Turner. His request was 'I approved your transfer to the MFA and be sure of that'.

On leaving the office of Sheikh Jaber, I saw the Currency Board secretary general coming to see Sheikh Jaber to tell the story of my transfer. He was informed about the decisive attitude of Sheikh Jaber and everything came to an end.

Afterwards, Mr. Turner sent his assistant Mr. Hamad Mubarak Al Ali, requesting me to stay till Saturday, which I wholeheartedly approved even for a whole week.

Following the transfer of my services to the Foreign Affairs, a relevant circular arrived from the Civil Service Commission to the Currency Board promoting me to the post of a first secretary (grade).

Unfortunately, I was not informed about that because Mr. Turner said, 'he is not available'. Knowing what happened,

I contacted the MFA which requested the promotion to be transferred to the MFA where I attained the grade of a first secretary.

This was a turning point in the life of ambassador Essa Al Essa who switched from finance to diplomacy. This nomination can be regarded as an important stage in changing his career. He was notified of this nomination by the respectable Abdul Rahman Salem Al Ateeqi, the Kuwaiti ambassador to the USA, who requested him to join the embassy's staff in Washington. It was a moment of great pleasure to take up this job to serve his country Kuwait. It should be noticed here that the nomination by the respectable Al Ateeqi was based on a solid conviction that the nominee enjoys all those required qualities, added to his fluency in English. Mr. Al Essa took up his responsibilities in 1962 following the change in the name of the "Department of Foreign Affairs" to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

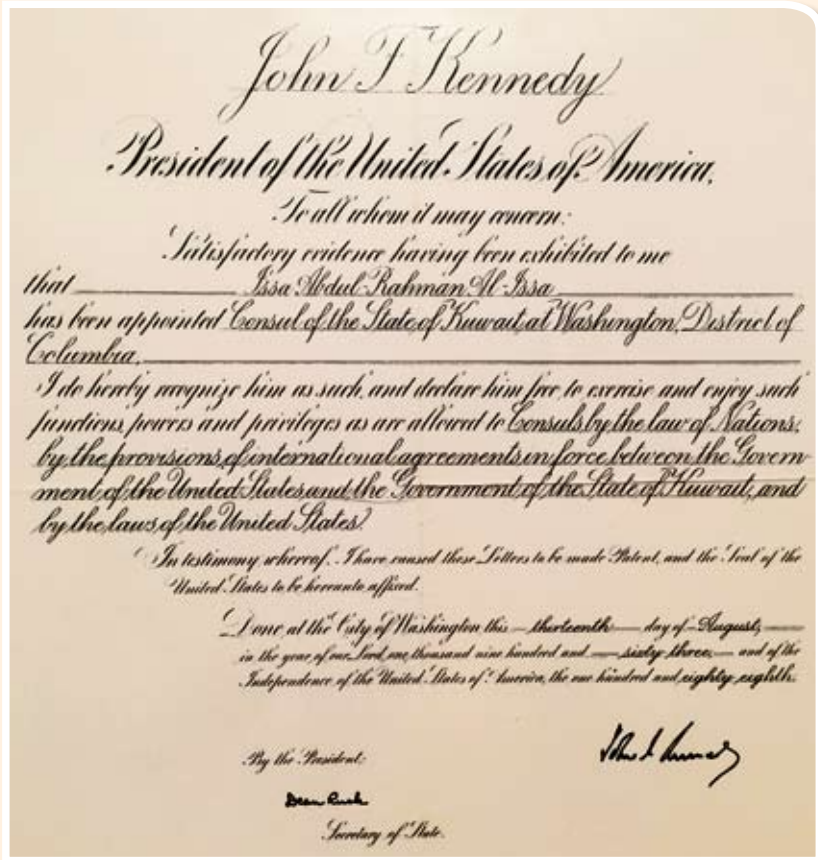
This was the beginning of the rally of Mr. Al Essa in the Kuwaiti MFA which started in 1962 and continued till 1998. During this period which spanned 37 years, he served his country and made many remarkable achievements. He represented his country in nearly twelve countries, including

North America, North Africa, Asia (S. Asia, SE Asia, NE Asia). He also represented his country in several regional and international conferences, for example Non-Alignment Conference, Marine Law Conference, International Work Conference and others.

First Secretary in Washington:

Ambassador Al Essa took up his job as first secretary at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Washington after giving up his job at Kuwait Currency Board in 1962. Arriving in Washington, he was welcomed by the respectable Al Ateeqi, the first Kuwaiti Ambassador to the USA. They were aided by Mr. Tala't Al Ghusain, the counselor at the embassy, the media attaché Jamil Al Husaini, (may his soul rest in peace) and Mr. Ghazi Mohammad Amin Al Rayyes, the third secretary at the embassy who afterwards was transferred to the Kuwaiti embassy in Beirut, then he was appointed ambassador to Bahrain, then ambassador to the UK.

These individuals all together were the first team to establish the Kuwaiti embassy in the USA, in addition to ambassador Al Essa, who was appointed second secretary at that time, following which he was promoted by the Civil Service Commission to a first secretary.



Copy of the credentials recognizing His Excellency Al Issa as Consul General of the State of Kuwait to the United States signed by President John Kennedy in 19/8/1963

Due to some work conditions, Mr. Al Ateeqi did not stay long because he was charged with the responsibilities of MFA undersecretary succeeding Mr. Jasem Al Qatami (May his soul rest in peace). The situation at the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington remained unchanged following the appointment of Mr. Tal'at Al Ghusain Ambassador to Washington.

Member of the Permanent Delegation of Kuwait to the United Nations

In 1963, Al Essa was nominated to join Kuwait permanent delegation at the UN. Mr. Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed was the head of the Kuwait permanent mission following the closure of 18th UN session. The Kuwaiti delegation at that time was headed by HH Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs then. It was he who delivered the speech of the State of Kuwait before the UN General Assembly. The duties of Ambassador Al Essa were restricted to following up the 6th Legal Committee in charge of following the legislations of the International Law and revising its articles endorsed by the League of Nations. During this time in which the 18th session was held, President Kennedy was assassinated and everybody was shocked.

Mr. Al Essa returned to New York for one session whose term was two months: from September to the end of the

year. He worked with the delegation as an official in charge of the 6th Legal Committee. He was keen on following up the interpositions of four major figures representing the Legal Committee, namely Mr. Amado who was a reputable legal personality, Mustafa Kamel Yasin from Iraq, Abdullah Al Eryan from Egypt and Abdul Hakim Tabibi from



Photo of Mr. Tala't Al Ghusain, Charge d'Affaires of Kuwait embassy in the USA signing in the name of the State of Kuwait the document of Nuclear Tests Ban. In the photo appear Mr. Franklin Long, Vice Chairman of the American office for Disarmament Agency. Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa, Kuwait Consul in the USA and Mr. Howard Kutam, US Ambassador to the State of Kuwait (1963).

Afghanistan. Mr. Al Essa was highly interested in following the interpositions of the above mentioned four figures. At the closure of the session, Al Essa returned to Washington to carry out his normal responsibilities.

In Washington, Al Essa attended three courses at the John Hopkins University; the first was about the World Diplomatic Issues; the second was about the World Economic Problems and the third was about the Geographical and Regional division of the African countries. He completed these three courses successfully within three years and finished them in 1965.

The partial Nuclear Tests Ban was signed in August, 1963 by the foreign ministers of the USA, Soviet Union and Britain in the presence of U Thant, UN Secretary General and Khrushchev, the Soviet Prime Minister.

The treaty included five articles which ban nuclear tests in the absolute sense, even in outer space.

Each country undertook to suspend nuclear tests in any land or territory belonging to it and neither to share in any similar activities, directly or indirectly.

Kuwait Consul-General in the USA

With the end of the 18th session of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Al Essa returned to the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington to resume his normal responsibilities. He

was accredited Consul-General in the USA from 1963 till 1965, in addition to his duties as a second secretary in the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington. Soon he was promoted to the rank of the first secretary at the embassy. At that time only one consulate existed to extend services to Kuwaiti Citizens. It was headed by Mr. Ahmad Al Jasem.

While in the USA, Al Essa joined the American University to attend a course in diplomatic problems under the management of Anne Anderson, but he failed to go ahead due to joining the Kuwaiti delegation to the UN 18th session headed by Mr. Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed.



This photo was taken during the UN 18th session in 1963 in New York. In the photo Mr. Al Essa appears third from the left in the first row.



President Jonson (36th president of the USA 1963-1969) who took over after the assassination of President John Kennedy is seen talking with Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa, the Kuwaiti Consul to Washington in 1963 about the American – Kuwaiti bilateral relations. At that time, Al Essa was Consul-General and second secretary at the Kuwaiti embassy in Washington.

Al Essa and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Algeria (1965)

Mr. Al Essa was requested to open an embassy for Kuwait in Algeria in 1965 where he served for one year.

It is known that Algeria is an Arab Country situated on the Mediterranean Sea and constituting a country in the Magharebi area. In the north, it is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea; in the west by Morocco and Mauritania; in the south by Mali and Niger and Libya in the east. It is second to the Sudan in respect of the area which is about (2, 381, 741) square kilometers and second to Egypt in number of population. Algeria falls between the two latitudes 18, 38 north and the two longitudes 12 & 9 to the west in the middle of the North African Arab Countries. It falls between the Mediterranean in the north and the Sahara in the south. Algiers is the capital of the country; its currency is the Algerian dinar. It produces wheat, barley, citrus and grapes and exports oil, gas, steel, phosphate, lead and zinc.



With respect to the establishment of the Kuwaiti embassy in Algeria, Mr. Al Essa says, “I was charged in 1965, while on duty in Washington, to establish an embassy in Algeria. I stayed there for a year, after which the respectable Faisal Al Saleh was nominated ambassador there. My arrival to Algeria coincided with a coup d’etat against the incumbent president Ahmad bin Bella”.

The coup d’etat took place peacefully without shedding a drop of blood. Mr. Hawari Boumedienne was the Minister of Defense at that time and he treated Bin Bella honorably. Mr. Abdul Aziz Butaflika, the foreign minister at that time called for cutting the expenses dedicated to the liberation movements in Africa. Following the coup d’etat, Mr. Faisal Al Saleh presented his letter of credence to President Boumedienne instead of the ex-president Ben Bella.

“I moved to Algeria, as I said before, in 1965, assisted by two young men Mr. Ahmad Saleh Al Ateeqi and Mr. Badr Naser Al Rumaih. We three of us formed the basis of the embassy. One year later, Mr. Faisal Al Saleh was appointed as the first ambassador to Kuwait in Algeria.”

“When Mr. Faisal Al Saleh arrived in Algeria, Mr. Al Essa added, “we received him in the company of the Algerian Minister of state Abdul Rahman Al Sherif. The next day, we heard about the coup d’etat at a time Mr. Al Saleh was prepared to present his credentials to President Ben Bella. We believed that things will change after the coup d’etat which we heard about on the radio through an announcement. Later I was called as a charge d’Affaires,

together with Mr. Fuad Al Khateeb, the Saudi Ambassador to the Algerian foreign ministry and met with the minister Abdul Aziz Butaflika who confirmed that relations with Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will not be affected by the coup d'etat, explaining the reasons underlying the change”.

“I, on my part, confirmed to the Algerian foreign minister that what really concerns us in the brotherly relations between the two countries as individuals in the end are vanishing and leaving this world. It did come to my mind for one single moment that such a change would affect negatively the friendly relations between Kuwait and Algeria because I took it as an internal issue”.

Geographically speaking, Algeria has a beautiful nature and the fertility of the soil differs from one part to another, whereas the south is mostly desert. It shares borders with Libya, Niger, Mali and Mauritania. It is also rich with natural resources, for example oil and gas, in addition to growing grapes.

President Hawari Boumedienne takes great credit for maintaining the Arabic and Islamic identity of Algeria; he stressed the importance of the Arabic language which can be attributed to his religious background as he received his education at Al Azhar University in Egypt. In order to take up a governmental job, you have to know Arabic. In addition to the city of Algiers, the capital, there are other famous cities, namely Qostantina in the east and Telmecin in the west, both of which are known for their Islamic culture. There is also Wahran, Tizi Ozo and Bjaya.”

Chargé d’Affaires in Tunisia (1966 – 1968)

Ambassador Al Essa was appointed chargé d’Affaires in Tunis in the Kuwaiti embassy in Tunis for 2 years, from 1966 – 1968.

Geographically speaking, Tunisia lies in the farthest northern projection of the African continent, separating the eastern basin of the Mediterranean from the western basin, occupying a midway between the Suez Canal and Gibraltar. It falls between latitudes 30 – 37 degrees in the north and longitudes 7 – 11 in the east. The area of the country is 163610 square kilometers, out of which 25000 square kilometers are Sahara. The Mediterranean Sea borders Tunisia on the north and east, Libya from the south. East and Algeria from the west (Arab Encyclopedia – Syria).

The city of Tunis is the Capital of Tunisia. The major agricultural products of the country are olives, dates, citrus, cereals, almonds and grapes. The natural resources include petrol, phosphate, ore, lead, zinc and salt.



After spending eleven months in Algeria, Al Essa was transferred to Tunisia where he spent two years from 1966-1968. He followed the previous chargé d’Affaires Mr. Mohammad Al Balhan who was transferred to the embassy in Lebanon. Two years later, Mr. Ali Zakaria Al Ansari was appointed ambassador to Tunis. In this respect, Al Essa says that his residence in Tunis was enjoyable and he managed to establish friendly relations with his Tunisian brothers. Tunisia is a beautiful country with many touristic attractions and fantastic beaches, particularly the northern beaches of the capital and the eastern beach where beautiful resorts exist.

In the south, there is the city of Sousse, and the Al Monastir, the birth place of Al Habib Bourguiba. Its beaches are fantastic. There are also other cities such as Safaqis, Jerba Island, Tubroq and Air Darahem in the north-west and Benzert. The historical city of Qairawan is situated in the middle of the country, in addition to the city of Matmata which is known for its underground houses, though the houses nowadays are on the ground. In that place we have the city of Sidi Bouzid, Tuzeur and Gafsa.

These cities are like fantastic oases and produce dates

of high quality, especially 'Daglat Noor' which is produced from the Tunisian Sahara (Gafsa and Tuzear). Tunisia is also famous for exporting phosphates.

Tunisia shares borders with Algeria from the west and Libya from the south. In the east it has many beautiful islands and in the north there is the Mediterranean Sea.

I stayed there for two years and managed to establish friendly relations with all, Thereafter I was transferred to India as ambassador in 1968.

During this period there was exchange of visits between Kuwait and Tunisia. Among the top officials who visited Tunisia at that time was Sheikh Jaber Al Ali Al Salem, the Kuwaiti Minister of Information. Moreover, Tunisia received more than 60 visiting students from Kuwait who visited many cities, especially Sousse, the hosting city.

The diplomatic career of Mr. Essa had its effect on his memory, and each visit has its particular impressions. It is a source of pleasure for us to recall the details of each visit chronologically, as follows:

Chapter Three

South Asian countries

- 1- The Republic of India
- 2- The Republic of Sri Lanka
- 3- Republic of Nepal
- 4- Maldives

1- Republic of India (1968-1986)

Mr. Al Essa was appointed ambassador to India in late 1968. He stayed there for 18 years, during which he was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in India from 1976-1986.

India is situated in the south of Asia, with China, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan in the north, Myanmar and Bangladesh and Bengal Bay in the east, the Indian Ocean in the south, the Arabian Sea in the west and Pakistan in the north-west. The area of India is 3287263 square kilometers. The rivers Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra flow through the country. The capital is New Delhi, and the currency is the rupee. The main products are rice, wheat, tea, cotton, sugarcane and main natural resources are coal, ore, manganese, titanium, diamonds and petrol.

India is the second in terms of the population number and the 7th in terms of the area. The population of India is more than one billion, with different languages, ethnicities and religions.



The early stages of the career as an ambassador

Mr. Al Essa served as ambassador of Kuwait to India from 1968-1986, during which he was Dean of the Diplomatic Corps for ten years. This post is contingent upon the seniority of the ambassador.

The embassy's staff at that time consisted of the ambassador, the embassy's advisor Sulaiman Abu Ghosh (may his soul rest in peace), Essa Al Musallam, Mustafa Al Marzooq (may his soul rest in peace), then Abdul Razzaq Al Kandari joined us, together with the late Khaled Al Khamis, Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Al Mijren Al Roomi and the late Hamad Al Ahmad.

New Delhi was the seat of the embassy, but the consulate was in Bombay, headed by Mr. Faisal Yousef Al Essa Al Qanaie. Talking about this first period in India, Mr. Al Essa says that he tried to understand the nature of this country and its people. He adds that the period which extended to 18 years was pervaded by love to my country and doing everything possible to serve it. India at that time was different from India of today. Life was difficult and many necessities were missing.

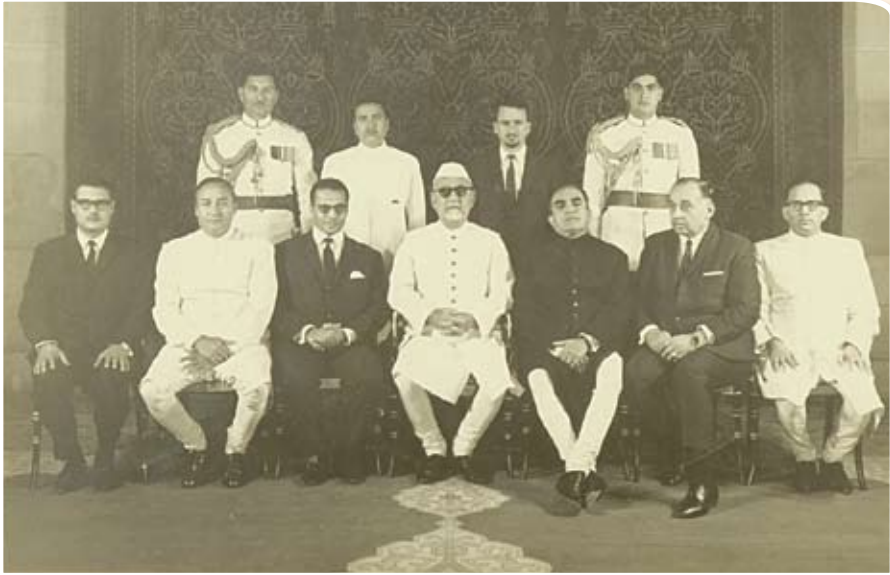
By the Grace of Allah, my efforts were a success and I managed to establish good and friendly relations

with the people of India. A correspondent of a famous Indian newspaper once said that the house of the Kuwait ambassador is the only place which receives all the tapestry of the Indian society, including opposition, governmental and non-governmental officials.

The surprising discrepancy during the service of ambassador Al Essa in India is the mammoth growth of the number of population from 500 million in 1968 to 840 million in 1986. During that period five presidents took turns in ruling the country: Zaker Husain, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, Sanjiva Reddy, V.V Giri, Zail Singh, all of whom appear with Mr. Al Essa in the following photo.



Kuwaiti Embassy building in New Delhi - 1979

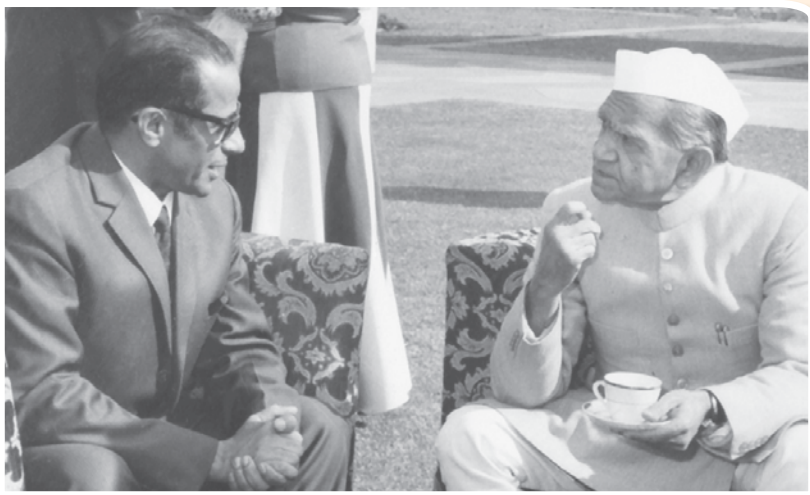


This photo was taken when Mr. Al Essa was presenting his credentials to President Zaker Husain in 1968 who was the Dean of the Islamic Millia University ⁽²⁾ before taking over as president. To his right appears Mr. Al Essa; to his left appears the under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry Mr. Rajwadi, in the presence of the late Mostafa Al Marzooq, who was a diplomatic attaché in charge of the consular affairs (to the far left). The second to the right is the late Sulaiman Abu Ghosh, the charge d'affaires before the arrival of Mr. Al Essa. Standing in the middle appears Essa Al Musallam, the attaché at the embassy.

2- This University was established in Aligar City, Uttar Pradesh Province in 1920. Medicine Engineering, Human Studies, Languages, Law, and Technology are studied at this University. The University has many affiliated Research centers which deal with the third world countries. Moreover, the university awards diplomas for the graduate and post graduate stages in IT.



From the left, ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa is seen sitting with the Indian President V. V. Giri who later joined the International Court of Justice on the occasion of “Eid el Fitr” in 1969 in New Delhi.



His Excellency President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad is seen sitting with ambassador Al Essa in Rastrapati Palace on the occasion of Eid el Adha in 25/12/1974



The Dean of the diplomatic corps and ambassador of the State of Kuwait and his wife are congratulating the Indian president Neelam Sanjiva Reddy on the occasion of taking over as president in 1977 in the Republican Palace



His Excellency Mr Essa Al-Essa, Ambassador of Kuwait being greeted by His Excellency Mr Zail Singh, President of India, at the republic day reception on 26.1.1983. This meeting signals the last period of Al Essa's diplomatic job in India in 1986

Strong Relations with Indian Prime Minister

Relations strengthened between Mr. Al Essa and his family on the one hand and the Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi (daughter of the leader Nehru) on the other hand throughout the former's term of service in India.

It is known that Indira occupied the post of prime minister for three consecutive times (1966-1977 / 1978-1980 / 1980-1984). In this regard, Mr. Al Essa says that he had many friendships in India at all official and popular levels. His friendship with Indira extended to 18 years during which it involved both families. It is worth mentioning that this friendship is still running between the sons and grandsons.



Her Excellency the Prime Minister of India Shrimati Indira Gandhi with H.E. the Ambassador of Kuwait Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa at the Dinner on 25th February 1976 given in her honour by the Heads of the Diplomatic Missions in India.



Indira Gandhi (1917-1984) Whose dynamism and inspiring leadership led to the magnificent success of ASIAD 82. The photo is presented to H.E. ambassador Al Essa to add value to his archive.

Indira Gandhi:

Indira Gandhi, the first woman prime minister, lived the political life of India with all its ups and downs. It is enough to say that she ruled one of the biggest countries of the world. She spent parts of her life in prison and under detention, following her party's defeat and in retaliation by the opposition party against her. Nevertheless she remained loyal to her country, shunning all communal sentiments, until she was assassinated by one fanatic Sikh who was her body guard. This behavior came as a reaction to the army's storming of one of the temples. Thus she met the same fate of the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi.

Indira Gandhi, daughter of Jawaher Lal Nehru, was born in 19/11/1917 in Allahabad city and hailed from a family known for deep involvement in politics. Her father was a prominent figure in the area of national work and joined Gandhi to form what had come to be known as the "Holy Trinity" whose activities culminated in India's independence. Her father was the first prime minister after independence in 1947.

Indira was deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, especially in respect with breaking with the British imperialism and depending on one's own resources in providing for the people and maintaining the unity of the country. She also stood against communal conflicts. Due to her profound admiration of Gandhi, she was named after him.



This photo was taken by the personal camera of H.H. the Amir during the visit of Mrs. Gandhi to Kuwait. In the photo we see the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad (may his soul rest in peace), Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, the Crown Prince (may his soul rest in peace). In the photo is also seen the current Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad. The visit aimed to enhance the intimate relations between Kuwait and India.

Indira, as we mentioned earlier served as prime minister three consecutive times (1966-1977 / 1978-1980 / 1980-1984) during which great achievements were realized mainly nationalization of banks, alleviation of poverty, boosting economy and heading the Non-Alignment Movement.

In 31.10.1984 a treacherous bullet from her body guard put on end to her life at the age of 67.



This photo reflects the good social relations between the two families.
From the right: Hazem Al Essa, Rahul Gandhi, ambassador Al Essa
and Mazen Al Essa



H.E. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India and H.E. Mr Essa A Al-Essa, Ambassador of Kuwait, at the Kuwait Embassy's residence, New Delhi, April 1984



In this photo Mrs. Indira Gandhi is seen with Mazen Al Essa in April 1984 at the residence of the Kuwaiti ambassador in New Delhi. Mr. Mazen is now a top official at the Amiri Diwan.

Exploration Tours

Mr. Al Essa talks about the nature of his task and the tours he made to explore the civilization of the country and the history of the Indian people. In this regard, he says that a fresh diplomat, when living in a country, should exert all efforts to understand everything about this country, for example civilization, culture, dignitaries, political parties, coalitions, etc... He should also be sociable and positive, listening more than talking because the nature of his work requires all that. In short you have to study the country in which you represent your country and to know the minute details thereof.

“In order to get an idea about the history and nature of the Indian subcontinent. I was not content with reading, but to achieve this end, I bought a Mercedes and devoted it to my exploration tours. I embarked on a very long tour over a period of three weeks in which I covered 8500 kilometres, actuated by curiosity and the love to get in contact with the various officials in the different provinces”.

“I started,” he adds, “by New Delhi, the capital, then to Udaipur, then to Ahmadabad, the capital of Gujarat, then to Baroda, then to Bombay, the capital of Maharashtra.



President of India V.V. Giri greets the Heads of Missions of the Muslim countries on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr 1392 H., 1972, New Delhi. (From left to right): Charge d' Affaires of Iran, Algeria, Ambassadors of Tanzania, Sudan, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq, Egypt, President of India, Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Jordan, Bangladesh, Charge d' Affaires of Oman, Syria, Acting Chief Representative of Arab League, Ambassadors of Turkey and Chief of Protocol.

Thereafter, I went to Goa, then to Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka. Here I'd like to tell a story when visiting Bangalore and talking to the governor of the province who talked about coffee beans and Cardamom production which are exported to the Arab world from Mankarur port. It was surprising enough, the governor said, that the first nurslings of coffee beans were brought from Yemen and now our production of coffee exceeds thousands of times that produced by Yemen."

"Finishing my tours in the various parts of the province, such as Mysore, Hasan, Ootacamund in the Nilgiri mountains, I went to Calicut, the capital of Malabar in North Kerala. From Calicut, I went to Cochin, then to Trivandrum, then to Madurai in Tamil Nadu province, then Pondicherry, then to Madras, the capital of the province. Thereafter I went to Vijayawada on the northern coast, then to Hyderabad the capital of Andhra Pradesh, then to Aurangabad in Madhya Pradesh crossing Gwalior and Agra in which the Taj Mahal exists, in addition to some Islamic archaeological sites. In the end, I headed back to New Delhi."

"In another tour, I visited Agra, then Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan (the land of princes), then to Jetpur, then to Jaisalmir, Bikaner, then back to New Delhi.

In a third tour, I started from New Delhi to Uttarpradesh which has cities such as Agra and Khajurahu. This place is known for its ancient temples and statues. These are situated between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Then I headed to Varanasi⁽³⁾ which is a holy city for the Hindus, then back to New Delhi. The members of the local government are sometimes greater in number than the central government due to the great number of population. River Jamuna, regarded holy by the Hindus, flows in this area. There is also river Ganga on which the city of Allahabad⁽⁴⁾, from which Nehru family hails, is situated. Allahabad city is a major city in that area and its capital is Lucknow, which includes several Islamic manifestations till today, in addition to Islamic communities. The inhabitants of the city have their own activities.

3 - Varanasi is one of the holy places frequented by some Indian's who come to swim in its river to get the blessing.

4 - Allahabad: is a Persian name meaning the city of Allah. It is one of four cities frequented by the Hindus to perform their religious rites known by the name "Comba Mella." The other three cities are Hardiwar, Uja and Nashic. Seven Prime Ministers hail from this city, including Nehru, Shastri, Indira Gandhi – Rajiv Gandhi.

Among the Islamic universities in India is Aligar⁽⁵⁾ Islamic university from which a group of important figures graduated. Another university is the Melli Islamic University in Delhi whose rector was Zakir Husain. In Lucknow there is the Scholar's Symposium which is presided by Abul Hasan Al Nadawi who had his followers and disciples; then there is Dar el-Uloum in Deoband, all of which are Islamic places.

Thus this tour was more of an exploratory nature than of a touristic nature, carried out in search of more information about those provinces and getting in contact with the officials there.

With regard to learning the Indian language, Mr. Al Essa says that 'it is easy for a human being to learn the language, but in India, a country with 13 official languages, not to mention the hundreds of dialects, it is difficult to learn a language. Most of the Indians know the Urdu language which can be traced back to the Persian and Arabic languages which differ from the Indian language which is based on Sanskrit'.

5 - It is an Islamic university in Uttar Pradesh, established in 1921 by Ahmad Khan, an Islamic reformer of the 19th century. It is called Oxford of the East and include several colleges, in addition to; college for women. Its library contains more than 4000 manuscripts



One of the portraits indicating the stages of diving for pearls as part of a collection used by Mr. Al Essa in dealing with the history of pearl diving in Kuwait and its economic status.

Report of Mr. Al Essa on India in 1985

A Political, Economic and Social Vision and the Ambassador's Recommendations.

A short outline of the Indian History⁽⁶⁾

Following is a short report which covers the political, social, geographical and economic aspects prepared by Mr. Al Essa during the eighties of the 20th century during his service in India.

6 The population of India is more than one billion, representing different ethnicities, religions and languages which can be detailed in the following: The earliest inhabitants of India are known as Dravid.

- Dravids are spreading from the south to the Ganges basin in the north.
- Arians in Punjab, Rajaputana and Kashmir which are inhabited by the Arians who were influenced by the conquerors and the immigrants.
- Dravid Arians or the Hindustani element in the plains of Hindustan. They are of average height and straightened nose.
- Dravid Moguls which belong to the Bengali race which constitutes the outcome of a mixture between Dravids and Moguls.
- Moguls which inhabit the Himalayas in Nepal and known for short height and dark complexion, with swerving eyes.
- In India there are more than 200 languages, 27 of which are official. English is a second official language and taught everywhere in the country. The prevalent religion in India is Hinduism, which is not a heavenly religion. It is a set ideas, rites and traditions inherited from the past. It is based on the immortality of the human soul and the freedom of an individual in taking one's way in life. With respect to other religions in the country, they are as follows: 13% Moslems; Sikhs 2%; Buddhists, Judaism, Parsians and Jainism. The number of the parts I of India is 6, but the provinces are 28. The rupee is the currency and the capital is New Delhi. The major industrial cities are Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

India is the 7th biggest country in terms of area which is 2.287.263 square kilometres: A census is conducted each 10 years. The latest census was in 1981 as the number of population was 685,1984,292 but nowadays (in 1985) the number of population is 750.000.000. Demographic density per each square kilometre is 216000, though this average differs from one area to another. It goes up to 655 in S. Kerala, but it goes down to 45 in Sikem province and to 8 only in Arunachal province. This represents 23.51% of the total population and tribes in the various parts of the world.

Languages and dialects are numerous in India but the Indian Constitution recognizes fifteen only: Asamic, Bengali, Gujarati, Kenric, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Auriyah, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. English is the prevalent language and takes precedence in courts, parliament, trade, press and education. A member of parliament may use any of the thirteen languages inside the parliament.

Formation of the Indian Union⁽⁷⁾

The Indian Union Consists of 22 states (at that time)⁽⁸⁾
And 9 provinces belonging to the Central government, as follows:

	State	Capital	Area
1	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	275.068 sq. k
2	Assam	Dispur	78.438 sq. k.
3	Bihar	Patna	173.877 sq. k.
4	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	196.024 sq. k.
5	Haryana	Chandigarh	44.212 sq. k.
6	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	55.673 sq. k.
7	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	222.236 sq. k.
8	Karnataka	Bengaluru	191.791 sq. k.
9	Kerala	Travandrum	38.863 sq. k.
10	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	443.446 sq. k.
11	Maharashtra	Bombay	307.690 sq. k.
12	Manipur	Imphal	22.327 sq. k.
13	Meghalaya	Shillong	22.429 sq. k.
14	Nagaland	Kohima	16.579 sq. k.

7- These numbers pertain to 1985 as per the report of HE the Ambassador.

8 - Now they are 28 as some provinces were subdivided.

	State	Capital	Area
15	Auria	Punishur	155.707 sq. k.
16	Punjab	Chandigarh	50.367 sq. k.
17	Rajasthan	Jaipur	342.239 sq. k.
18	Sikkim	Gantok	7.0.96 sq. k.
19	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	130.058 sq. k.
20	Tripura	Agartala	10.486 sq. k.
21	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	294.411 sq. k.
22	West Bengal	Kolkata	88.752 sq. k.

Federal Provinces

	Province	Capital	Area
1	Andaman and Nikubar Islands	Port Blair	8.249 sq. k.
2	Ornashel Pradesh	Etankar	83.743 sq. k.
3	Chandigah	Chandigarh	114.- sq. k.
4	Dadrangkhai	Selvaso	494.- sq. k.
5	Delhi (Capital)	Delhi	1.483 sq. k.
6	Quadmen Deo	Panaji	3.814 sq. k.
7	Lakshadweep	Kavaratti	32.- sq. k.
8	Mezoram	Aizwal	21.081 sq. k.
9	Puducherry	Puducherry	493.- sq. k.

Geography of India

India lies in the northern half of the globe and the distance between its east and west is nearly 2933 kilometres, whereas the distance between the north and south, including Kashmir, is about 3214 kilometres. The Himalayas, China, Nepal and Bhutan border India on the north. In the east, there is Burma and other mountainous borders, Bangladesh and Bengal Bay. It is worth mentioning that Bangladesh is surrounded by Indian provinces from all parts, with the exception of the Bay of Bengal and a tiny part of Burma (Myanmar).

The Indian provinces in the east divided by Bangladesh are Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

To the north-west of India lies Pakistan; in the west there is the Arabian Sea; in the south the Arabian Sea meets with the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal at Palk Strait which separates India from Sri Lanka.

Climate:

The Indian climate is generally tropical with the exception of the North known for its continental climate, extending to the Himalayas whose peaks are covered with snow during the winter season. In spring, there are torrential rains and such is the case for the other seasons. Generally speaking, the remaining parts of India have a tropical climate.

Rainfall:

Average annual rainfall in Assam and the neighboring areas is 2000mm;but there is an area in the east called Cherapunji in which the average rainfall is about 11419mm. In Rajasthan, the average ranges between 100-500mm.

During the monsoonal rains, floods overwhelm the country and vast areas are submerged. This causes some areas to suffer from the lack of water during the drought seasons. Among the major rivers of India are the Ganges, Yamuna, Godavari, Narmada, Brahmaputra and Cauvery.

Education Rate:

According to the 1981 census, the percentage of educated people was 36.23% and the rest (63%) are illiterate, though some tend to believe that the percentage of illiteracy is 80%.

Major Political Parties of India:

1- National Congress Party

It is a political party enjoying high popular rating all over India and it takes credit for fighting the battle of independence. It has been in power most of the time except for three years from 1977 to 1979.

2- Indian Communist Party:

This party's popularity is restricted to specific areas without having a significant popular rating. Its followers are mostly from among the cultured people, university graduates and labour unions.

Communists in India were divided in the 1960's into two divisions: (1) A Pro-Soviet division known as the Indian Communist Party and another party characterized by extremism known as the Marxist Communist Party. The latter used to have a strong influence in West Bengal province which it has been ruling since 1977.

3- Janata Party

This party popped up in 1977 as a result of the people's resentment against some of the excesses which took place during the emergency case imposed from June 1975 to March 1977. All opposition parties united to oppose PM Indira Gandhi and formed this party. Nevertheless the party broke away due to the internal conflicts and remained helpless. Now it rules South Karnataka province.

4- Bahratiya Janata Party:

It is a rightist extreme party with anti-Islamic sentiments to the extent that some of its leaders call for the transfer of Moslems to Pakistan and to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. This party has strong influence in the Northern

provinces and the middle. It rejects any religion or faith with a non-Indian origin.

5- D.M.K. Party

The influence of this party is confined to South Tamil Nadu province which it rules. This party came to existence as a reaction to the prevalence of the Indian language in the South. It calls for having a special flag, in addition to specific privileges to be granted by the government.

6- Telugu Desam Party

It is a regional party which appeared in the south of Andhra province under the leadership of N.T. Rama Rao who was a cinema actor, then took up politics. This party rules Andhra province under the leadership of Mr. Rama Rao. Moreover, this party is considered as the biggest opposition bloc in parliament in terms of the number of members.

7- Lok-Dal Party

This party is under the leadership of Mr. Charan Singh, the previous prime minister. It represents the peasants and the Jat caste in the provinces of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan. Mr. Charan Singh acted as a prime minister during the transitional period from July-December 1979.

8- Akali Dal Party

It is a regional party representing only the Sikhs and its

influence is bounded to Punjab where the majorities of the Sikhs live.

9- National Congress Party (Kashmir)

It is a regional party established by the late Kashmiri leader Mohammad Abdullah as a reaction to the ill-treatment of Moslems in Kashmir at the hands of the Hindu ruler during the British rule. Therefore, this party represents the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. It is headed by Dr. Faruk Abdullah, the son of Sheikh Abdullah. Two years ago, the party broke away as a result of some family differences between Dr. Faruk Abdullah and his brother-in-law Ghulam Mohammad Shah.

10- Pan-Islamic Party

It is a party representing Moslems, but its influence is limited to Kerala and Maharashtra states, so it is after all a regional party. It is noteworthy that Moslems do not have a political party of their own which embraces Moslems all over India. The majority of Moslems are proponents of the National Congress party in power and the rest are affiliated to other parties such as Janata Party, Lok Dal party and other minor parties. The main reason underlying the weakness of this party in the north rests in the partition of the subcontinent in 1947 as the party played an important role in calling for a separate country for the Moslems.

A Survey of Political Events between 1947 and 1985

India won its independence in 1947 under the leadership of the National Congress Party, and Mr. Nehru, reputed to be a charismatic leader with great popularity, became the first prime minister. He remained in power for 18 years until his death in 1964. It should be noted here that Nehru and his supporters from among the Hindus stood against Gandhi who, to avoid the partition of the Indian sub continent, lobbied for premiership to be awarded to Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

During the late periods of his life, Nehru felt that partial leadership in the states have become no longer effective and the popularity of the National Congress Party is eroding, and many suspicious elements are sneaking into leadership positions in the party, following which he decided to cleanse the party and inject new elements into it. Consequently, he requested the big leaders of the states to submit their resignation from the governmental positions and to dedicate themselves to the partial work. Before such a move brought forth its fruits, Nehru passed away in May 1965.

Lal Bahador Shastri for Premiership:

Shastri took over after the passing away of Nehru. As an individual his honesty is unquestionable but he did not enjoy that strong personality. His premiership was short and didn't exceed 18 months, but during this epoch, the war broke out between India and Pakistan in September 1965. The UN urged a ceasefire between the two countries after which the Soviet Union sought to reach a disengagement between the two countries through its peace initiative. For this purpose, a summit was held in Tashkent between Prime Minister Shastri and President Mohammed Ayub Khan, in the presence of the Soviet premier Alexie Kosiygen. Both parties agreed to pull back their troops and the agreement was signed in the presence of the Soviet leaders, following which Shastri died in Tashkent.

Indira Gandhi for Premiership

The death of Shastri triggered a conflict among the leaders of the National Congress Party. The strongest candidate for this position was Morarji Desai, assisted by some of the party's figures, but the majority of partial leadership won the race and made Indira Gandhi winner of the race. She got the majority of votes. The first step

carried out by Mrs. Indira was the devaluation of the Indian rupee before the American dollar in order to improve the economic status of the country.

In March 1967, parliamentary elections were conducted in India and the National Congress Party failed for the first time in a number of states. Consequently, the number of its representatives were reduced in the central parliament.

This was a period of turmoil and insecurity as a natural result of the weakness of the internal build of the party and the conflict among the leaders. Thereafter, conflicts cropped up between India and the leaders of the party and this led to the breakaway of the party in November 1969.

This move created two divisions: Congress O (reference to organization) and congress R (reference to the congress of the ruler.)

After this collapse which hit the party, Mrs. Gandhi managed to remain in power for about one year during which she enforced many drastic measures which raised her popular rating, for example the nationalization of major banks and insurance companies and the cancellation of the privileges of the previous princes estimated at 526 before the independence of India.

New Parliamentary Elections:

At the end of 1970, Mrs. Gandhi dissolved the parliament and held new elections – a step regarded as a great political surprise by her opponents in the Congress Party and other opposition parties. In these elections, Mrs. Gandhi won an overwhelming vote of confidence through which she managed to do away with the assistance from other parties, especially the Indian Communist Party which used to support her government in Parliament. This revealed her political shrewdness which shocked her opponents and proponents.

Popular Rising (intifadah) in East Pakistan:

In March 1971 a popular rising flared up in East Pakistan which was aggravated by the intervention of the Pakistani army to suppress it. This rebellious movement led to the displacement of about ten million refugees from East Pakistan to West Bengal State in India. This situation brought about much tension and caused the relations between India and Pakistan to strain. An embargo was imposed on the Pakistani jets as it was impossible for them to cross India to the other side in the east.

Meanwhile India started to prepare for war secretly and executed a media campaign at an international level. Delegations were dispatched to other countries to discuss the status quo and the financial consequences which caused India to suffer as a result of providing a haven for the refugees taking into account that India bore the brunt of providing for them.

Taking advantage of the turmoil in East Pakistan under the leadership of Mujibur Rahman. India signed a non-belligerency agreement with the Soviet Union in 9/8/1971 after a lengthy debate which took about one year.

Indian – Pakistani War 1971

On 3/12/1971, war was declared between India and Pakistan and lasted 14 days. East Pakistan was defeated and the Pakistani army surrendered to the Indian army. Consequently, a new state was created under the name 'Bangladesh' This state of affairs had left a remarkable influence on the area and tilted the balance of power. This step urged the USA to reduce its subsidies to India, especially in the foodstuffs domain, so India was thrown back on its own resources and had to advocate a self-dependence policy, which culminated eventually in making India a strong country to be reckoned with.

Opposition parties were upset, seeing all this success achieved by Mrs. Gandhi. They carried out a vicious campaign which led to a popular rebellion against the government. It was under the leadership of a political non-partial leader Jayaprakash Naryan. This movement was of a peaceful nature and failed to harvest the required end. Some other elements created some acts of violence, including the assassination of the Minister of Railways Mr. Lalit Mishra in a bomb explosion in January 1975. Thereafter the Supreme Court official was assaulted. Consequently, the court of Allahabad issued an award respecting the rigging of 1971 elections against Mrs. Gandhi by her opponent Mr. Raj Narain the Court declared the award in favour of electing Mrs. Gandhi as null and void. Soon after this award, the opposition started to request Mrs. Gandhi to step down.

Declaration of Emergency

On 25/6/1975 Mrs. Gandhi declared a state of emergency and a wave of arrests swept the country against the opposition leaders who were incarcerated. Parliamentary elections, according to the constitutions were supposed to have been conducted in March 1976 but they were postponed for one whole year.

During the state of emergency, Mrs. Gandhi carried out many measures such as fixing prices and forbidding strikes in factories. Things were nearly back to normal and production showed an increase and more attention was given to export. Cities were made cleaner and more beautiful, especially New Delhi, the capital of the country.

On parallel lines, there was a campaign to check the remarkably high rate of childbirth. To achieve this end, there was a sterilization campaign, headed by Mrs. Gandhi's son Sanjay Gandhi, took a compulsory nature and led to some excesses which infuriated the people. The opposition took advantage of this situation and caused the government to lose its popularity, especially among the farmers who depend on their sons to help them in their work. These excesses, no doubt, left their impact on the parliamentary elections of 1977 and the leaders of the party, including Mrs. Indira herself, were losers. People didn't seek to see her as a loser but they meant to force her give up her position in the government, but not from the parliament. In short, she lost her seat by a tiny minority and the same happened to her son Sanjay, the head of the Congress Party, Mr. Deo Kant Parva and other major figures.

Junta Party Formation

Minor parties which won the elections formed a party under the name Junta and they formed a coalition government after the defeat of the Congress Party in 1977. Elections under the leadership of Mr. Morarji Desai who was known for his rightist sentiments and commitment to his own attitudes. These parties did not unite through definite principles and ideologies, but to spite the Congress Party, and Indira Gandhi in particular. Soon differences loomed up. Two years after the formation of Junta Party, differences flared up among the leadership between the extreme rightist Morarji Desai and Charan Singh who was a feudalist belonging to Jat Community, whereas Jagjivan Ram belonged to the disadvantaged caste. He was one of the old members of the party. Such difference led to the collapse of the government of Desai in July 1979.

Charan Singh for Premier

Charan Singh took over as prime minister assisted by the National Congress Party headed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi at the beginning. Thereafter she withdrew her support at Parliament following which the president called for its dissolution, declaring the ministry of Charan Singh as a

caretaker government. There was a call for holding new elections within six months.

It was possible to keep Junta Party in power had Mr. Jagjivan Ram remained prime minister instead of Charan Singh, but the social classification of Mr. Jagjivan stood against this wish because he belonged to the disprivileged caste. It is worth mentioning here that taking advantage of this situation by Mrs. Gandhi in favour of her party in a decent and decorous manner created a stir followed by a non-confidence vote against the government of Sharn Singh. Therefore the president dissolved the parliament and called for new elections.

Indira Gandhi back to Power:

Mrs. Gandhi was a winner in the elections of 1979 with a great majority, so she was back to power in 1980's after an absence not exceeding three years. On Parallel lines, her younger son Sanjay Gandhi was winner in the elections. Soon after that Mrs. Gandhi received a terrible shock when her son Sanjay died in an air crash on 23.6.1980.

This accident was not only a personal shock to Mrs. Gandhi but also a political shock because she was grooming

her son to take up great positions at the political and partial levels. His sudden death came as a heart breaking shock which affected all her aspirations. Nevertheless, she managed to go ahead due to her strong personality and iron will. At the same time, differences popped up between Mrs. Gandhi and her son's widow Menaka Gandhi. The latter was aspiring to take up those positions meant originally for her deceased husband. Conversely, Mrs. Gandhi resorted to her older son Rajiv, the civil pilot in the Domestic Air India, who was detached from politics. This behavior caused Maneka to get away from the position of a prime minister. Rajiv was appointed secretary general of the National Congress Party and succeeded his deceased brother in representing the same constituency.

Meanwhile a problem emerged in the Punjab State when the Sikhs requested the annexation of Chandigarh to their state and to be their capital, in addition to the re-sharing of the rivers' waters with the neighboring states and other requests, including autonomy.

In an attempt to ease off the situation, she nominated Giani Zail Singh, a Sikh leader and a former prime minister of the Punjab state, in addition to being a minister of interior in the central government, for presidency after

the expiry of President Reddy's term. This had no effect on the Sikhs and things were aggravated and violence was predominant, and there were assassinations in June 1984. The perpetrators took the Golden Temple as a refuge against the security measures implemented by the security men. Mrs. Gandhi was forced to initiate the "Blue Star" operation, stormed the Golden Temple and forced the extremist leaders barricaded in the Temple to leave it.

Mrs. Gandhi's Assassination:

Following the 'Blue Star' operation in Amritsar city in June 1984, the storming of the Golden Temple by the Indian army and shooting. Bhindranwale the leader of the extremists who took the Temple as a hide, the life of Mrs. Gandhi was in danger. Relevant authorities took tight security measures to protect Mrs. Gandhi and other top political leaders but all those measures were in vain when Mrs. Gandhi met her death at the hands of two of her bodyguards in her house's garden on Wednesday, October 31, 1984.

Nomination of Rajiv Gandhi:

At the time of Mrs. Gandhi's assassination, President Zail Singh was on an official visit to the Republic of Yemen.

Rajiv Gandhi, too, was on a visit with some of the ministers and the Chairman of the National Council to West Bengal State. The government waited for the return of the president to declare officially the death of Mrs. Gandhi. On the return of the president this declaration was made. After holding a ceremony at the President's palace, Rajiv swore before the president as a new prime minister.

Anti-Sikh Massacres:

Terrible massacres against the Sikhs were carried out in the capital and some other cities in protest against the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi. Houses and shops belonging to the Sikh community were burnt down. At the same time nearly 2717 were killed as set forth in the formal statistics declared in the parliament, but the informal toll was believed to have reached about four thousand.

Elections:

Following the mourning period over the death of Mrs. Gandhi, Rajiv introduced great amendments which touched the major leadership in the National Congress Party. He also set the date December 1984 for holding the general parliamentary elections.

The National Congress Party won by a landslide

majority never witnessed since the independence of the country. People gave him their overwhelming support as an indication of their love to his deceased mother and to empathize with him and to win the votes of the Hindus following the storming the Golden Temple. Consequently, Rajiv went ahead with steady steps and absolute majority without any significant opposition. Thus his government was free to work in a stabilized environment.

Multiple inquiries were raised concerning Rajiv Gandhi's ability to bear the responsibilities put on his shoulders. He was known to be disciplined and serene, citing that he had never before taken up any governmental position. Nevertheless he displayed high competence and won the admiration of people when he made a tour in the streets and quarters of New Delhi, where massacres were committed against the Sikhs. He issued strict instructions to the relevant authorities to take immediate measures to stop riots and to maintain security and order irrespective of any reaction. This was in the second day of taking over. Thereafter, peace was prevalent and riots came to an end and criminals were arrested. Now that the atmosphere was convenient, Mrs. Indira funeral rites were arranged and attended by a great number of presidents and ministers from the whole world.

Rajiv made his appearance on Radio and TV to identify the priorities of the government which came as follows:

- Settling the problem of the Punjab State
- Setting the problem of Assam State
- Advocating a new policy in education
- Stressing the importance of a administrative discipline in the governmental departments
- Giving top priority to cleanse, purify and clean the Ganges River and to get rid of the adulteries stuck to this holy river. This had a positive effect on the Hindus community and proved a success in winning their vote.

Many believed at that time that this young leader will not be able to hold the helm of the country. It was noticed that discipline and sense of responsibility were felt all over India at that time. To prove this fact, an espionage network was discovered at the ministries of defense, Economy, Finance and the Prime Minister's office. Some of the top officials were involved in passing the country's secret issues to agents of foreign countries. This case was revealed soon after the completion of the parliamentary elections.

Policy of the New Government

The government of Rajiv Gandhi was different from any previous government in terms of its political, social and economic aspects. Rajiv gave important portfolios to some trustworthy young men from among his classmates at the reputable school “Doon” in the UK.

The first draft law to be endorsed by the new parliament after the elections was banning the change of partial affiliation; i.e. a member of parliament cannot abandon his party and move to another party according to his personal interests. In case this behavior occurs, a member of parliament will lose his membership. Members of the Parliament and the Legislative Council used to do this in the past and this led to the collapse of some governments and the appearance of other governments.

Rajiv shut this door and thereby secured sustainability for his government for the next five years without any troubles in the offing which could result from the fluctuations and change of affiliation. This law, no doubt, affected the individuals, freedom of self expression and democracy, but nobody rejected it as a method utilized in the common interest of the nation.

Status – quo (According to 1985 study)

In December 1985, the fourth session of the National Congress Party in power was held on the occasion of 100th anniversary of the establishment of the party. Rajiv, as chairman of the party, in his opening address, severely criticized the ineffective elements, following which a tendency was created to get rid of him. There were unnoticed movements which sought to cause embarrassment to him and to his government, for example the escalation of the situation in Punjab against the Sikh extremists who resumed their terrorist activities. Assassinations took place almost daily and a crisis was created in Kashmir aiming to destroy the government of Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Shah. There were also more problems, for example issuing a court judgment in Uttar Pradesh State relevant to a 36 year old case about Babri Masjid which was built in the 16th century. Hindus leaders claim that this masjid was originally the birthplace of an imaginary god called “Ram” with a platform belonging to it adjacent to the masjid. They sought to knock down the masjid and erect a big Hindu temple on the rubble of the masjid which means the seizure of both the masjid and the platform.

Another point is related to the marital status law and the alimony of Muslim divorced women. The Supreme Court issued a verdict without having a recourse to the Islamic Shari’a. Press turned this issue into a major national

issue and Muslims took to the streets in protest against the verdict. There were ill sentiments against Islamic religion and Shari'a. The visit of the Pope to India was also a pretext for attacking the Christian community. There were other hostilities against industrial and commercial facilities on charges of tax evasion. A Zionist espionage network under the management of Ram Swaroop since the early 1960's was discovered and brought about much criticism from intellectuals and cultured people against the policy of the prime minister who was, unlike his mother, detached from them. This behavior may be attributed to security justifications and his genuine interest in following the developments in the country. It should be mentioned here that pressmen asked Mr. Gandhi if the honeymoon between him and the press has come to an end. He answered them that his love is not to the pressmen but to the Indian people and he feels that this does exist till that time.



Congress Party and the Crisis

A great politician from the northern province, Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi who was the head of the Uttar Pradesh state, aged 82, is reported to have addressed Rajiv, criticizing the behavior of some top officials in the party. He was not doing that on his own, but he was acting on behalf of the party's leaders who lost their positions during the term of Rajiv. It is reported that Tripathi was the second man in the cabinet of Indira Gandhi and he anticipated her assassination.

In this regard, he talked to the president, nevertheless the president nominated Rajiv for premiership. Thereafter all the leaders of the party showed their support to him and put their trust in his leadership. Starting from this point, Rajiv was keen on tracking the behaviour of Mukherjee and his colleagues by virtue of being chairman of the party. He dismissed Mukharjee for 6 years and forfeited the membership of A.P. Sharma, the ex-minister in the central government, Mr. Sripat Mushra, ex-prime minister of Uttar Pradesh State, and Mr. Prakash Mehrotra, governor of Assam state and the Indian vice-commissioner in Britain. This step came as a reaction which the opposition had never expected. In this way, Rajiv managed to avoid a split in time.

Economy:

At the economic level Rajiv Advocated an open door policy to the extent that this would not affect the solid economic relations with the Soviet Union and the Socialist Countries. This policy was an expression of the new government's attitude towards boosting the scientific and technological status of India and to overtake more advanced countries. For this purpose, modern technology items were exported from the west, and the United States in particular.

It was noticed that the US cherished a special attitude towards India after the absence of Indira Gandhi and the nomination of Rajiv. American officials paid many visits to India at different levels during the period from 1984-1985. Similarly, Rajiv paid a visit to the US and received a hearty welcome by the US press and media.

Purchase of New Weapons:

India was interested in renewing its weapons amid rumours claiming that India was interested in exchanging its Soviet-made weapons for US made weapons. This saying, however, was denied by the Minister of Defense in

the Parliament but evidence indicate that such a saying was relatively true based on India's wish to diversify its sources of armament, Eventually, India signed an agreement with Britain through which it bought an old British Carrier for an amount of 50 million sterling pounds. The carrier will be handed over within six months after introducing some repairs and fitting some modern equipment to it. It was expected that India would also buy some of the Harriers, in addition to twenty already available. Two months ago, India signed an agreement with Britain to buy a number of Westland helicopters. Meanwhile, Sweden signed a big deal with India for providing it with field artillery⁽⁹⁾.

On the other hand, India attempted to buy advanced jet engines from General Electric in the US to rejuvenate their light jet planes which were under construction in the military factories in order to attain self dependence in the area of defense as it is the case in the various other industrial areas, both heavy and light. This trend was initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru in the early fifties in cooperation with the Soviet Union and other countries to build iron and steel factories, in addition to other industries.

9 - We are still surveying the message written by the ambassador himself in 1985.

Economic Situation in India:

The main pillars of the Indian economy are agriculture, industry, natural resources, tourism and workforce.

Agriculture:

India is an agricultural country as 65% of the work force is involved in agriculture. The main agricultural products are rice, wheat, hemp, sugar cane, tea, vegetable oil seeds, cotton, tobacco and rubber. India has become an advanced country in the field of agriculture. From an importer of wheat, India has become an exporter of this commodity, in addition to exporting rice, sugar. It maintains a big reserve of foodstuffs at present. Nevertheless, India lacks the adequate silos. The gross production of cereals in 1984-1985 was about 152 million tons.

Industry:

When India gained its independence in 1947 there were modern technical industries, with the exception of textile industry and some other light industries. Nowadays, India is the ninth in terms of industrial products at a global level. Everything is manufactured there and there are big factories which produce iron and steel for the railway facilities, in addition to cars and heavy engineering products. There are also synthetic industries, light industries and consumer products industries.

Indian industrial products are exported to other countries. The US is a major commercial partner to India, followed by West Europe and the socialist countries. Few years ago, India was involved in architectural and engineering projects in the developed countries, mainly Arab countries.

Natural Resources:

Natural resources are plentiful in India. There is a number of rivers which provide adequate quantities of water for irrigation and generating power through dams for heavy industry. There are also Coal, Ore, and other materials such as Mica, Crude Oil, Natural Gas and Diamonds which are exported in big quantities to Israel.

Oil crisis which took place during the Arab-Israeli war of 1973 pushed India to exert great efforts in cooperation with world oil companies to start oil prospecting in many places, especially in the coastal areas and submerged waters. These efforts yielded fruition when oil was discovered in big quantities off the coast of Bombay. This area is the biggest so far and accounts for India's interest in building a big military power to protect its oil fields in the sea. According to the available statistics, the annual oil production in India is about 30 million tons. Now work is in progress to build a

giant pipeline of about 1400 kilometres from the oil field in Gujarat to Jagdishpur City in the Northern Province near the Himalayas. A big factory for producing fertilizers is under construction, assisted by some Arab Gulf financial institutions which own 11% of the shares, in addition to other projects.

Tourism:

Tourism is one of the major channels for hard currency in India. The state exerts considerable effort to encourage tourism through erecting luxurious hotels in the main cities and the historical places with touristic attractions. There are other touristic facilities in the coastal and mountainous areas, for example Kashmir, Darjeeling, Jaipur, Kajurebu, Banaras, and Punisher and others. Tourism offices were opened to encourage US, Europe and West Asia citizens to visit the country and explore its priceless treasures.

Bilateral Relations between Kuwait and India

Political, economic and cultural ties between Kuwait and India date back to the pre-oil era, but nowadays these ties have expanded and strengthened mainly in the commercial domain. The economic exchange between the two countries in 1982-1983 amounted to more than 4000 million rupees, whereas it was 200 million rupees in 1968,

which means that the increase has jumped twenty times within the last 18 years.

India imports oil and its by products such as sulphur, ammonia, urea and plastic from Kuwait. On the other side Kuwait imports meat, rice fruits, vegetables, coffee beans, spices, consumer items, textiles, households items, jewels, engineering products, vehicles, etc...

Trade balance in 1985 was in favour of Kuwait with exception of the transfers of Indians from Kuwait to India as an unforeseeable income which are not less than 3 million rupees, citing the number of the Indian community in Kuwait which was about 100,000 at that time, today it is more than 780,000. Taking these factors in consideration, the trade balance will be in favour of India.

Kuwait Assistance to India:

Kuwait extended remarkable assistance to India through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. This assistance amounted to about 300 million and covered the following projects:

- 1- Kalinadi Power Project
- 2- Kopili Power Project
- 3- Aupara Power Project
- 4- Smad-tal Power Project (Phase 1)
- 5- Yasin Gas Project

Suggestions for Developing Kuwaiti-Indian Relations put forwarded by Ambassador Al Essa – An outline of the report submitted in 1985

The recommendations included in the report are as follows:

- 1- Signing an agreement between Kuwait and India regarding the judicial notifications for the citizens of both countries.
- 2- Concluding an agreement about taxation non-duplicity so as to cover commercial and economic activities of citizens of both countries. The current agreement is restricted to aviation and includes Air India and Kuwait Airways.
- 3- Concluding an agreement which guarantees investments at a large scale.
- 4- Following-up with the Indian authorities. the issue of purchasing a piece of land in New Delhi for building a residence for the embassy's employees
- 5- Follow up the issue of releasing the funds of Kuwait Airways in India. Hiring a lawyer in this respect is preferable for KAC in India whose duty is to follow up the transfers with the relevant Indian authorities.
- 6- Kuwait has extended assistance to India over the last 18 years, including relief to victim's of natural disasters,

building a 24000 seat stadium on which appears a plaque highlighting the assistance of Kuwait. This stadium carries the name “Indira Gandhi” stadium and it is part of Indira and Indraprastha Sports Club.

- 7- I see that establishing strong ties between Kuwait and India in particular, and between the Arab World and India in general is to be taken into due consideration. We have to take into due account the circumstances and difficulties the area has been subject to since early 11th century and the attempts to dominate the West Asian Zone. These attempts of domination are still active since World War I and World War II and how India was used as a platform for attacking the Arab World in the Indian Pre-independence period.



The Welcome Address made on the occasion of Mr. Al Essa's Visit to the Jamia Melli Islami in New Delhi delivered by the Head of the Secondary School Association.

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His Excellency Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa.

It is a source of pleasure and honour for the Jamia Melli Islami ⁽¹⁰⁾ to see your Excellency here today. We are honoured and pleased to see you among us as a guest of honour. We, the students of the secondary Institute at the Jamia and the teachers, accord you our hearty welcome.

Your Excellency, the relation between India and Kuwait is old and steeped in history and covered the various sides in a friendly and brotherly atmosphere. Commercial relations started between the two countries as early as the rise of Kuwait through navigation routes and selling pearls in the major markets of India, in addition to transporting Indian commodities, such as spices and textiles to Basra, then to Africa and Europe. Kuwait ships used to anchor of the coasts of Bombay, Madras and Kerala. Indian ships likewise anchored at Kuwait ports and thus relations between the two countries was boosted and strengthened

10- Now a new library carrying the name of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah has been established at the university.

thanks to the dramatic progress which Kuwait witnessed. India has shown its support to Kuwait and Arab causes and proved its truthfulness in supporting their issues.

Jamia Melli Islami would never fail to perform its duties in supporting Arab causes, ahead of which is the Palestine cause which was created by both western and eastern powers. We request Palestine to be regained to its Arab and Moslem citizens because this is the true solution to this problem which the imperialistic powers use it for their own interests.

In light of those strong ties, the secondary school has invited the Kuwaiti ambassador several times. He opened the Kuwait pavilion prepared by the students of the Arabic language. Today, we are pleased to see you here on this occasion.

Our Worthy Guest... This party honoured by your presence is an opportunity for awarding prizes to the talented students in the area of studies or sport.

Finally, Thanks for your visit to us.

**Vice Chairman - Secondary School Association Club
- Jamia Melli Islami- New Delhi**



A silver shield with more than 90 signatures appearing on it by the heads of the diplomatic corps accredited in New Delhi, presented to him on the occasion of leaving the country at the end of his mission. On the shield we see written the following. Greeting to: Mr. Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Dean of Diplomatic Corps. Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Heads of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to India on 21/5/1986.

Speech by Shri B.R. Bhagat, Minister : of External Affairs, on the occasion of the Farewell dinner for H.E. the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait and Mrs. Al-Essa on 5th May, 1986

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, We have gathered here today to bid farewell to H.E. Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and the Ambassador of the friendly State of Kuwait to India. The question is how does one bid farewell to an institution?

Ambassador Essa is not just a friendly Ambassador or the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. To us, he is an institution, unique in the diplomatic life of Delhi. He has been the Ambassador of his country since 1968 and the Dean since 1976. I need hardly say that as a Dean he has been a very successful Ambassador of all the Ambassadors accredited to the Government of India and he has carried out the onerous duties of the Head of the diplomatic corps with distinction and dedication.

The charm and hospitality of Ambassador and Madame Essa have made them popular figures not only amongst the diplomatic community but in the wider social circles in Delhi. Their departure would leave a void for many of their friends, admirers and well-wishers. We therefore would bid you Mr. Ambassador and Madame Essa a very reluctant farewell.

If I have spoken so far about Ambassador Essa's role as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, it was not intended to ignore his equally impressive contribution to the strengthening of the bonds of friendship between Kuwait and India. The visit of Amir of Kuwait, H.E. Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in 1980 and the visit of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in May, 1981 are two recent examples of the culmination of ceaseless work that Ambassador Essa has put in to strengthen the relations between India and Kuwait. As two countries with historic ties, as

two members of the Nonaligned Movement and as two countries with deep interest in the common region to which they belong, India and Kuwait have worked together on many international and regional issues and on most of them they hold a similarity of views that have been the basis for increasing our bilateral relations.

During the last 12 years since the signing of the Indo-Kuwait Trade Agreement in 1974, our trade has registered more than seven-fold increase. Our economic relations have diversified. We have a large number of our nationals working happily in Kuwait. Much of it has been made possible by the long period of stewardship of Ambassador Essa as head of the Kuwait Embassy in India.

I cherish very happy memories of my recent visit to Kuwait. In making it fruitful, Ambassador Essa's contribution was most noteworthy. During his tenure in India, Indo-Kuwaiti relations have steadily grown, expanded and have become diversified.

Indeed, Ambassador Essa is considered by many to be as much an Indian as he is a Kuwaiti. While we feel sad at his departure, we are confident that we can count on his friendship and his affection for India wherever he may go on his diplomatic assignments.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Ambassador Essa, his charming wife and his family take with them our sincere good wishes to their next destination in Malaysia. I want him to know that he and his family will be welcome in India - their second home - whenever they choose to visit us.

May I request you to join me in a toast to the health and happiness of Ambassador and Mrs. Al-Essa and to the evergrowing friendship between India and Kuwait.

**The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
Ambassador of Kuwait**

5 May 1986

Your Excellency,

On behalf of my wife and myself, I wish to express my thanks and gratitude to your Excellency and Mrs Bhagat for hosting for us this excellent dinner, and giving us the opportunity to meet such distinguished colleagues and friends this evening.

While reciprocating the kind words and sentiments so graciously expressed by you, I would like to assure you it has been a pleasure for me to be my country's ambassador in this ancient, beautiful and hospitable land, for the last eighteen years, where I have had the privilege of being the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps for complete ten years. It is a rare coincidence that I assumed charge as Ambassador of Kuwait in India when Your Excellency was Minister of State for External Affairs, and today this farewell dinner in my honour is being hosted by you as Minister of External Affairs.

During my long stay in this country which is regarded as one of the oldest civilisations of the world and has a rich cultural heritage, I have seen many ups and downs. I have followed with great interest the pace of development in India and have observed the achievements accomplished in all aspects of life under the wise leadership of the late

Shrimati Indira Gandhi. And now we are watching the preparations being made under the able guidance of the young and dynamic Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to take India into the 21st century.

Cordial relations have always existed between Kuwait and India in various fields - commercial, economic, political and cultural - and I am sure these will continue to expand to the mutual benefit of our two countries, and will be further strengthened by my successor. Kuwait and India are contributing towards each others development. There has been a spirit of cooperation - Kuwait contributes by way of participation in different projects and India provides Kuwait with goods and materials, and technical expertise and services. If I recall correctly, the total trade between Kuwait and India in 1968 did not exceed 20 crores; I am happy to say it has crossed 400 crores today - an increase of almost 20 times.

I attach great importance to the good relations between Kuwait and India and I am confident that with your wisdom and guidance, the extremely cordial relations already existing will be further enhanced and reach new heights.

With these words I conclude, wishing Your Excellency and Madam Bhagat health and happiness and continued progress and prosperity to the friendly people and Government of India.

Long live Indo-Arab relations.

Indian-Kuwait Commercial Relations

At the end of this important chapter which surveys the career of Mr. Al Essa's lengthy diplomatic career in India which lasted for more than two decades, we should not forget to highlight another important aspect undertaken by the ambassador with high efficiency, i.e. Communicating with Kuwaiti merchants, businessmen and nakhethas (boat masters) living in India especially Bombay, Goa, and Calicut, in addition to those living in Karachi, Pakistan, on the western coast of the Indian subcontinent. He used to extend support to them in their activities and solve any problems facing them by cordial means by virtue of being the head of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission in India. All those Kuwaitis were regarded as his friends, and relatives, citing his deep involvement in the Indian community at the social, political and economic level. His house, as we mentioned earlier, was the only place which received the various sectors of the Indian society.

It should be mentioned here that the Indian-Kuwaiti relations were established long time ago as Kuwait used to use the Indian currency and stamps up to 1960.

Most ports of the Indian subcontinent and Pakistan, starting by Jawadir on the western coast of the Indian subcontinent, followed by Karachi, Katch Katwar, Surat, then Bombay, Goa, Men Karur and Calicut, all these ports used to receive Kuwaiti ships and formed a destination for

Kuwaiti and Gulf travellers and merchants. Kuwaiti sailing ships were active between these ports and Kuwait. Ships were made from teak wood imported from India, and from Calicut port in particular where ships were built and then used to Transport Indian goods, for example coffee beans, Tea, cardamom, bamboo, spices, wood and textiles to Kuwait and other Gulf countries. On their return they used to transport Iraqi products to the western coast of the subcontinent, especially dates.

On their return these ships used to carry constructional items and some building materials especially the copril used in the roofs of building to East Africa, mainly Mombassa and Zanzibar (now forming Tanzania).

From the ports of East Africa, merchants used to import a kind of wood (Chandal) and Basjil to be used for the roofs in Arab and Gulf countries, especially Kuwait.

It is worth mentioning here that most of those cities lying on the Western Coast of the Indian subcontinent included a good number of traditional Kuwaiti commercial houses, for example the following cities.

1- Karachi

This city included a number of Kuwait merchants and commercial houses, as follows:

- 1- Mohammad Dawood Al Marzooq and Brothers.
- 2- Mohammad Al Marzooq

- 3- Fahad Al Marzooq
- 4- Abdul Rahman Shahin Al Ghanim
- 5- Saud Al Fulaij and Brothers
- 6- Yousef Al Majed
- 7- Hamoud Al Jassar
- 8- Abdul Mohsen Abdullah Al Saad
- 9- Mohammad Abdullah Al Saad
- 10- Ben Saif (The Owner of a famous cafe in Karachi at that time)

There are many other Kuwaiti who used to frequent Karachi in specific seasons for trade and travel.

2- Bombay

Bombay, known as Mumbai, included a number of merchants and traditional Kuwaiti houses, for example.

- 1- Yousef Al Ibrahim
- 2- Jasem Al Ibrahim
- 3- Ali Hamoud Al Shaya
- 4- Husain Ben Essa and Brothers
- 5- Musaed Abdullah Al Sayer
- 6- Ibrahim Al Janahi
- 7- Bait Zeinel
- 8- Bait Al Abdul Razzaq

9- Al Bassam Family and still their sons are living there.

10- Abdullah Al Fozan

11- Hamad Ali Al Qazi

12- Ahmad Al Qazi

There were many others who used to work in Bombay. Most of these houses are still active up to date in order to develop the commercial activities between the Gulf and India. Some of them have been active for more than a hundred years. They are operating in Bombay, especially Husain Ben Essa and Brothers and Ali Hamoud Al Shaya.

3- City of Goa

This city lies in the west of India on the Arabian Sea. In it there are many traditional commercial houses owned by the following:

1- Abdul Latif Al Abdul Razzaq

2- Abdul Aziz Mohammad Al Jalal

3- Ismail, son of Sheikh Abdul Latif Al Abdul Razzaq

4- Marzooq Budai

4- Calicut

Calicut is in the South of India and forms an important commercial center between India and the Arabian Peninsula for trading in spices and silk. There were many Kuwaiti merchants living there and owning reputable shops, for

example

- 1- Hamad Al Saqr.
- 2- Abdul Aziz Al Marzoq

Other coastal cities such as Katiwar and Sur were visited by Kuwaiti merchants and dates' merchants, in addition to other visitors from Kuwait and the Gulf in special seasons

5- Non-resident nukhethas and merchants:

There were also big numbers of sailing boats' nukhethas, merchants and businessmen from Kuwait who used to frequent the country from time to time. Among those important figures were the following:

- 1- Mohammad Abdullah Al Saad.
- 2- Mused Abdul Mohsen Al Aqeel (Ajeel)
- 3- Barrak Abdul Mohsen Al Aqeel who was a Youngman who visited India and worked in Calcutta, the capital of Bengal for years. He established extensive commercial relations and kept dealing in tea trade between India and Kuwait.
- 4- Ahmad Al Khorafi
- 5- Badr Ahmad Al Khorafi
- 6- Mohammad Abdul Mohsen Al Kharafi
- 7- Meshari Humoud Al Jarallah
- 8- Essa Al Othman

9- Sultan Al Kulaib

10- Abdul Rahman Al Omani

There were many other names. This highlights the strong commercial relations between Kuwait and India at that time, which got impetus through the Kuwaiti sailing fleet. Such relations are active till now.

The relations between India and the Arab World, as I mentioned before, have been active since the reign of Emperor Ashur of India and the Pharaohs' in Egypt, thus these relations have always been strong and solid.



His Excellency the ambassador of the State of Kuwait and the Dean
of the Diplomatic Cops.

His Excellency Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa with the regards of
the Head of the Arab Diplomatic Missions
New Delhi 21.5.1986

2- Republic of Sri Lanka 1972-1986

His Excellency the ambassador Al Essa was transferred to Sri Lanka in early 1972 and served there for 15 full years till 1986.

The Republic of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka (previously known as Ceylon) is an island in the Indian Ocean, lying to the S.E of the Indian subcontinent, separated from India by Palk Strait whose width is 32 kilometres. It is situated to the north of the equator by 7 degrees and extends to the latitude 10 in the north. The area of Sri Lanka is 65610 square kilometres, with a regular shape. The longest distance between the north and the south is 435 kilometres and the distance between the east and the west is it is 225 kilometre. The length of its coasts is 1340 kilometres. Agriculture is the essence of the Lankan economy as the farmers there grow the famous tea, in addition to rice, coconut and tobacco. Sri Lanka won its independence in 1948 after 450 years under European colonization. Its capital is Colombo which a densely populated port.

In talking about this island, HE the ambassador says that he was transferred to Sri Lanka for 15 years, starting from 1972 to 1986. He used to go there once or twice a year whenever required by necessity. It is a beautiful island with a rich nature and globally famous for tea production. Precious stones, and sapphire in particular, are found there and it is known for its solidity. There are some special industries for which some technical equipment are used. Mountains are plentiful there. Jewels and diamonds are also found there. There are commercial relations between Kuwait and Sri Lanka as Lankan workers are employed in Kuwait. Furthermore, an ambassador representing Sri Lanka has been appointed in Kuwait.

Sri Lanka was the seat of some of the important international conferences. Ambassador Al Essa says that he was honoured by representing Kuwait in a conference about Marine Law. Among the remarkable conferences held there was the Non-Alignment Conference in 1976 in which the first deputy and foreign Minister HE Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah (the current Amir of the State of Kuwait) represented Kuwait.

Sri Lanka is an active country and advocates pro Arab

policy. Relations with Sri Lanka strengthened during the rule of Prime Minister Mrs. Bandaranayke.⁽¹¹⁾ The Lankan people are divided into two divisions: the Buddhist majority who speak the Sinhali language spoken by the biggest ethnic group in Sri Lanka. It is one of the official languages in Sri Lanka. Sinhali literary works are affected by Buddhism and Indian literature. In the northern part of the island, people are Hindus using the Tamil language. Most of the Tamil people are involved in growing tea. From among the Tamils, there are Moslems and Arabs. Colombo, the capital, is situated on the western coast of the island.

In Sri Lanka, there is a beautiful touristic area named “Bentota” after Ibn Batuta (the famous Arab traveller) as it is said that this place was the first to be trodden by Ibn Batuta when he landed in Sri Lanka (Serandeeb or Ceylon). It is one of the most fantastic beaches. In the middle of the island there are mountains with cold climate. In some cases the tropical soil needs warming at night in Nuralya

11- Mrs. Bandaranayke was born in 17.4.1916 and died in October 2000, she is the first woman to occupy this position for more than once: from 1960 to 1965, from 1970 to 1977 and from 1994 to 2000. She was the Chairperson of Freedom Party for many years. She is the widow of the late Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranayke who was assassinated by Buddhist priest in 1959. She is the mother of Anora Bandaranayke, the head of the Lankan parliament.

which lies south of Kandy, the capital of the middle. People there have Buddhist activities performed in their temples. They keep groups of animals and natural reservations.

The famous city of Kandy lies in the middle of the island which is a mountainous place. This city is believed to be the spring of Buddhism. There are many rivers in the area and one can see rich plains and tea farms and peasants ploughing the soil or reaping the harvest while you are on the way to Kandy. You can also see oxen and cows and elephants moving slowly, with circles of flowers around them. While on your way to Kandy, you can taste the fresh pineapple, unroasted cashew and coconut, which is different from the coconut we see in our Arab countries as it has an orange colour and is heavy. A Salesman uses a cleaver to make a small opening in the crust in which he inserts a straw to suck the sweet liquid inside it. Afterwards he splits it to eat the gelatinous material inside it.

A coconut tree and its fruit is considered precious wealth for the Lankan farmers. They benefit by its wood in making furniture. This wood is known for its solidity and durability. The branches of this tree are used in making mats and baskets. The fruit, in addition to the liquid inside it, can

be a source for oil and last the grated coconut is used for all types of food. The solid crust is cut in linear form and stuck to the trunks of trees by the roadsides to prevent landslides. It can also be soaked in water and its fibers are used in making ropes, in addition to brooms.

In Kandy one often sees those religious celebrations, most important of which are the two celebrations in January and July, during which Sun Buddha is believed to get out of the temple to make a tour on an elephant's back in a cheerful atmosphere of celebrations attended by scores of drum beaters and dancers. Some people hold torches and others are riding on generously adorned elephants.

Spice Gardens:

Before leaving Kandy, one should pay a visit to the gardens of spices and aromatic herbs as visitors are welcome there to listen to an explanation about each herb such as the Cocoa, Cardamom, Coconut, Cumin, Cinnamon, Bahar and even the wild pineapple which is found in the forests only. It is said that it is anti-cholesterol, and fights obesity and brings about a remarkable tonicity. Such by-products can be bought for medical purposes.

Adjacent to Kandy, one can find the tea and silk factories, in addition to workshops for embroidery on cloth known as “Patik”.

Neuralia

This is a summer city meaning (headlight) and lies to the south of Kandy, at one and a half hour drive. In it one can see the extensive tea farms on the mountains along the road. It is the area specified for exporting tea and for this purpose there are several factories. It is a quiet and beautiful place and lies above the sea level by 1250 metres. There one can see fantastic scenery which embraces clouds and waterfalls.

On your way from Colombo to Kandy, to the right you can see a chain of mountains called “Adam Peak” which rises above the sea level by 2243 metres. Some believe that the footprint of Adam is found on the top of this mountain. There are also natural reservations called “Bible Book” because they form a book-like shape.

In Sri Lanka, there is a number of important rivers. Mahaweli River is the longest (335 km) and Bambrakanda fall is the highest (241 metres). In the N. East, there is the

city Trincomalee with its natural port often used during the tillage. It is a port which dominates the navigation between the east and the west. In this city there is a Moslem community. In addition to the middle of Sri Lanka with its beautiful jungles, the southern coasts lying in the south-west are the most beautiful because of the summer resorts. They extend from Colombo to Galle city in the south; to the north of Colombo there are the cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa.

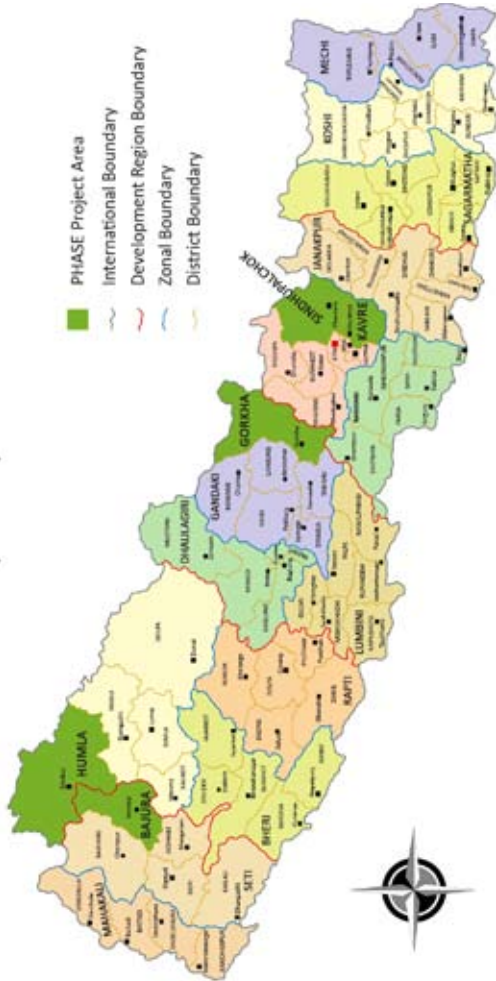
In the middle and in a high place in the jungles we have also Sigiriya, which is regarded as one of the international heritage areas. It is famous for the Sigiriya Rock (or the Lion's Rock) on which a castle was built by one of the Sri Lankan kings in 447 AD. In the castle there are drawings carved in the center of the mountain. There are caves with Buddhist drawings, in addition to the museum and natural touristic resorts. Between Sigiriya and Kandy, there is a beautiful place called "Horton Falls" which is truly fantastic and frequented by tourists from all over the world.

3- Kingdom of Nepal 1982-1986

Mr. Al Essa as an ambassador transferred to the Kingdom of Nepal 1982-1986.

Nepal is a land-locked kingdom with no access to the sea, sandwiched between two neighboring giants: China to the north and India to the east, south and west. It is also famous for the Himalaya, with 8898 metre high Everest peak. Kathmandu is the capital of the country. The land of Nepal is rectangular in shape, with an area of 147181 square kilometres. The country consists of three major areas extending from the east to the west, namely the area of the Himalayas, the plains (terai) on the south and the hills and mountains in the middle.

Map of Nepal



Ambassador Al Essa, in talking about his service there which extended for four years, says that Nepal is the country of tea, mountains, and greeneries throughout the year. It has a wonderful and attractive nature which combines both the human cultures of China and India. The population of Nepal is 22 million, most of whom are Buddhists and Hindus. Moslem and Christian minorities account for 7% and exist in the main cities. The people of Nepal are friendly, amiable and affectionate; guests and visitors are warmly received by the citizens of Nepal who consider this a must.

Nepal has no borders with any other country, neither does it have sea access. Nevertheless it comes next to Brazil in having the biggest sources of underground water.

In Nepal, there are many places of interest falling under the patronage of the UNESCO. They are related to the traditions of the steeped-in-history country. They receive the due attention and protection against extinction. Most of these places are of a religious nature, with many Hindu temples which date back to thousands of years. Markets and streets are fantastic, especially the capital's market in Tamil area. Nepal is also famous for one of the marvels of the world, i.e. the Himalayas, with Everest peak, frequently negotiated by famous mountaineers.

Hotels and resorts in Kathmandu vary and differ and it is allowable for you to make a plane sight-seeing flight over the Himalayas and cast a look on Everest. Furthermore, you can take photos while on board the amphibia or go rowing in one of the rivers and take a bath with the elephants. There you can see the wonderful view of sunset on the back of an elephant in the reservation and see the rare rhinoceros. Cable Cars can also take you among the fields of rice, tea, spices and beautiful rivers, besides enjoying a walk on the ropes. Consequently, tourism is very important for providing the country with hard currency.

Agriculture is the primary activity of the people and attracts 90% of the work force. The main harvests of the country are rice, wheat, jute and fruits which are usually grown in the valleys surrounded by the heights. There are also good natural resources in the country, namely cutting wood and exporting it to India, in addition to several minerals. There are other industries, for example carpets, garments, cement, soap, matches, jute, generating power by water resources (hydro-electric power). Among the major exports of Nepal are carpets, garments, leather goods, jute products and cereals.

Hindus temples are numerous in Nepal including the temple of the Goddess young Girl in which the young

girl is brought up in the custody of her maids inside the open temple. When she reaches marriageable age she is married to one of the priests. When she gives birth to a son or a daughter, this will be a great reward to whoever adopts it. The next step is to find a substitute for her in the temple and so forth.

Nepalese men are known to be brave warriors and good guards. They assisted the British army during the Falklands war against Argentina.⁽¹²⁾ Nepalese warriors are known by the name Ghurakas' often taken by the British as warriors and they still exist till now.

King Birendra was a popular and honest king, much loved by his people to whom I presented my credentials. Unfortunately, he and his wife were assassinated by the son of the king, who later committed suicide. This incident was due to the king's rejection to his son's marriage to a non-royal daughter, though this interpretation is not based on solid ground.

Nepal is a Hindu Kingdom 100% as stipulated in its constitution. It is a country known for its peaceful nature and bizarre natural scenery.

12- The Falklands war took place on 2/4/1982 following Argentina's storming of the Falklands. Britain managed to win the war on 20/6/1982.

Kuwait's contributions to Nepal are unmistakable as we see generators and other types of assistance extended by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. This fact won Kuwait high esteem in Nepal.

There is a limited number of embassies in Nepal, nearly 13 in number, while other embassies are non-resident. Nepal has as resident ambassador in Kuwait.



A model of a leopard presented to ambassador Al Essa on ending his mission in Nepal as an indication of the high appreciation of the officials of the Nepalese environment and its peculiarities.

4- The Maldives

1968 – 1986

The Maldives lies in two rows of atolls in the Indian Ocean, just across the equator. The country consists of about 1190 coral islands. The inhabitants are mostly Moslems. Arabs used to call it Mahal Dibiyat or Mahaldeen which is a distortion of the word 'Maldives'. The country remained under the British rule for 78 years during which it was a protectorate. It became an independent country in 1965. The formal name of the country is Devi Raji. The population of the country is 309,000 and the capital is Malé. It has joined the British Commonwealth since 1982.



Ambassador Al Essa talks about his visit to the Maldives, saying that he used to visit the country while staying in India to attend formal events as requested by the state of Kuwait, including the inauguration ceremony of the president and the national day celebrations. The country at that time was ruled by President Abdul Qayyoom, a graduate of Al Azhar University.

This archipelago of islands consists of about 1190 islands out of which 200 only are inhabited, 100 islands as touristic attractions and the rest are submerged under water.

On some of those islands, hotels and touristic attractions are constructed. Surprisingly enough some hotels are constructed on two islands at a time due to the tiny size of some of these islands.

Some islands are adjacent to the capital Malé and are utilized as touristic resorts for some European countries, such as Italy, Holland and Germany.

The airport covers an independent island. It is noteworthy that it was the state of Kuwait which financed the project, especially the airport's runway in order to allow jumbo jets to land. The runway stretched forward to cover an area inside the water. Most building materials are imported from India. As we said earlier the Maldives consist mostly of atolls.

The population of the Maldives at that time was 160,000 most of whom are Moslems. This means that the country is

an Islamic state 100% thanks to the efforts of the Moslem trader Abul Barakat whose tomb is in Malé.

This trader was passing by the Maldives and his ship touched at the ports of the country, during which he attended the rites of sacrificing a beautiful girl, an event which used to occur on a monthly basis. – Next morning, the girl was not found and the common belief was that she was taken by the devils. This behavior was believed to save the city from the evils. Abul Barakat rejected this belief and insisted on saving the girl through reciting the Holy Qur’ān all night long.

When people came in the morning, they found the girl alive and safe while Abul Barakat was reciting the Qur’ān. He requested the people to give up that custom. The president, who embraced Islam and testified that there is god but Allah and that Mohammad is His Messenger asked Abul Barakat to stay in the country and not to leave. All the people embraced Islam thereafter at the hands of Abul Barakat.

A European tourist, Mr. Al Essa says, killed his female friend and was arrested by the government and put in prison. After serving the term of imprisonment, his country requested his release and return to his country. This man was used to eating seafood and embraced Islam in order to stay in the country.

The Maldives is also famous for producing black coral extracted from the sea and used for making rosaries (beads). Most of the Islands are abound in coconut trees.



Runway of the Maldives Airport which takes up a full island



An aerial view of Malé, the capital

Chapter Four

South East Asian Countries

- 1- Malaysia
- 2- Singapore
- 3- Kingdom of Thailand
- 4- Sultanate of Brunei

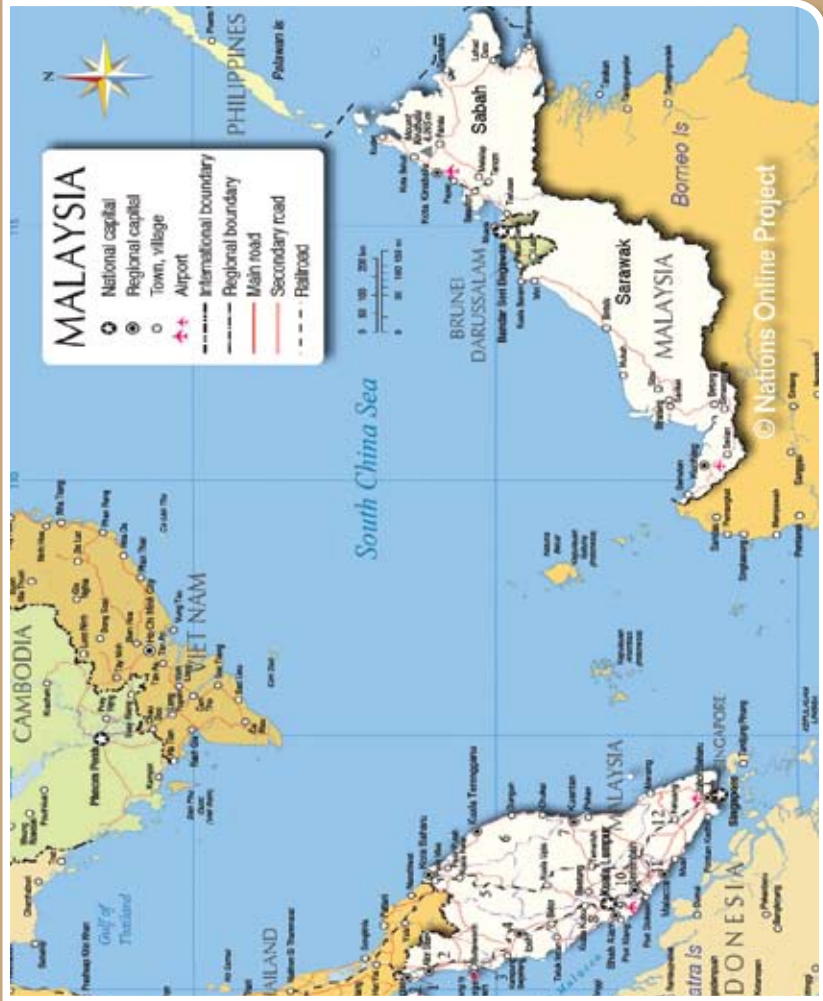
1- Malaysia 1986-1992

Mr. Al Essa served as a resident ambassador to Malaysia for more than 6 years from 1986 to 1992.

Malaysia lies in South-east Asia and consists of 13 states and three federal territories. The area of the country is 229.845 square kilometres. The capital is Kuala Lumpur but Putrajaya is the seat of the federal government. The population of the country is more than 28 million. The country is divided into two divisions separated by the south China Sea: the first part is the Malaysian Peninsula on one side and the states of Sarawak and Sabah which are situated in Borneo Island (East Malaysia), bordered by Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei, near the equator. The country won its independence from Britain in 1965.

The name 'Malaysia' was approved in 16/9/1962 when Singapore and Borneo (consisting of Sarawak and Sabah) were united. Now Sabah is known as the eastern part of Malaya Union which consists of 14 states. Turmoil which followed in the country led to the break away of Singapore in August 1965.

Malaysia is among the technologically advanced countries thanks to the universities and research institutions. It witnessed a huge economic leap at the end of the 20th century.



In talking about his work as a resident ambassador in Malaysia, Mr. Al Essa says that he spent more than six years (from 1986-1992) during which he was also accredited to Thailand and Brunei, in addition to being charged with caring for Kuwaiti interests in Singapore. He adds that his work was highly enjoyable in Malaysia, citing the distinguished relations between Kuwait and Malaysia, especially the prime minister and the other official agencies.

Malaysia Airlines suspended its flights to Kuwait following a decision which denied its request to increase its flights to Europe via Kuwait. This was a purely administrative decision. It goes without saying that there were economic, commercial and investment relations between the two countries. Kuwait investments in Malaysia included vegetable oils and industrial equipment. Investments at that time were active and Kuwait used to establish an office for the Kuwaiti Real Estate and Trading Company, in addition to having shares in some of the Malaysian companies.

“During my staying there”, Mr. Al Essa adds, “Kuwait Airways Corporation initiated its flights, but unfortunately suspended them just like what happened before when Malaysian Airlines suspended its flights to Kuwait before being accredited as a resident ambassador there. Nevertheless, I tried to discuss the possibility of connecting Malaysia with Kuwait through one line or more.”

Later Malaysian Airlines Corporation moved to Dubai in the UAE instead of Kuwait in the hope of better marketing

for their touristic activities, besides taking Dubai as a main station for their flights to Europe. The same thing happened to Thai Airlines.

In Malaysia, the government was keen on encouraging sea transport, especially due to their increasing exports to the Arab Gulf countries.

We can easily say that Malaysia at that time was open to the whole world through encouraging the major Japanese, Asian and European companies to establish branches in the country. This accelerated the speed of progress and became the leader of those countries involved in assembling electrical appliances, in addition to the manufacture of furniture.



Presentation of Credentials

To His Majesty Sultan Iskandar, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong by H.E. Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa, Ambassador of Kuwait
Istana Negara, Malaysia 22nd June, 1986

On the other side, Malaysia is a beautiful country with a captivating scenery. It is known that Malaysia is a tropical zone on which Allah conferred much beauty and natural resources. It is the first in producing vegetable oil and rubber and the second in producing tin. This status may have receded now, but the country is still producing huge quantities of wood; the derivatives of the main materials, rubber, tin and petrol and its derivatives.

Oil and natural gas are plentiful in Terengganu state on the eastern coast, in addition the touristic sites with beautiful scenery and all relevant touristic prerequisites. The people are well-behaved in dealing with tourists and visitors. There are also the touristic islands frequented by visitors all around the year from Europe and the Arab world.

On the official level, the officials and leaders are known for their dedication and honesty, especially the late Tunku Abdul Rahman, the first prime minister, and the late Tun Razaq, father of the current prime minister Najib Razaq, and the late Tun Ismail who took over after Tun Razaq. The position of the prime minister passed to Mahathir Mohammad, the father of the industrial progress and the patron of Malaysia's prosperity. Thereafter came Abdullah Badaur, who was the minister of defense before taking over the prime ministry through to the current prime minister Najib Razaq as we mentioned earlier.

The three federal areas are free zones; whereas the other nine states are ruled by separate sultans. Three states are federal, but there are thirteen states, out of which four

were under the British colonial rule. The zones which have sultans were protectorates, for example the Sultanate of Johor which is adjacent to Singapore. It is the only Sultanate which has its own army. The other sultanate is Pahang on the eastern coast of Malaysia, then there is the sultanate of Terengganu on the eastern coast of West Malaysia; the sultanate of Kelantan on the north-eastern coast of West Malaysia adjacent to Thailand; the state of Negeri Sembilan (i.e. the nine states) which consists of 6 governorates and the state of Selangor with its capital Kuala Lumpur. It is worth mentioning that it gave up Kuala Lumpur to declare it as capital to Malaysia for a consideration.

A new capital for Selangor has been established thirty or forty kilometres from Kuala Lumpur under the name “Shah Alam.” It is an important touristic city in Malaysia which combines beautiful nature and urbanization, residential areas and commercial centers are located in the centre of the city, to which a fantastic mosque and a lake are added to give more beauty to the location.

Away from the centre of the city there are fascinating scenes of rural villages extending along the beautiful coasts of Selangor in Malaysia.

Selangor, in addition to what has been mentioned above, has the Global Activities Centre for organizing popular sports such as (Race Cars Petronas global first class Formula I) and race boats. Thereafter comes the state of Parak, then Kedah, then Perlis which is the smallest one with the least income. It is bordered by Thailand in north-west side.



A photo of one of the kings of Malaysia from the archive of the ambassador. It is a photo of king Azlan Shah and his wife, the Sultan of Perak, presented to the ambassador on the occasion of leaving Malaysia, with the signature of the king thereupon in 1992.

All these states form the Malaysian Union have something in common: Islam. Most of the people are Moslems and the Sultans act as protectors of Islam and land.

The Sultan of Perlis at that time was Jamalullail who visited Kuwait during the reign of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah (may his soul rest in peace) who was an admirer of the Sultan. 'I made a courtesy visit', 'Mr. Al Essa says, 'as an ambassador accredited to the country and it is part of my duties to pay visits to all states. I had lunch with him and when turning to the left, I saw a picture of the late Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem with his signature put in a special location inside the dining room'.

Each state has its own political system. Some advocate the hereditary system and some depend on election, i.e. they elect whoever is deemed more appropriate from among the ruling family. From among the nine sultans, a king of the Union is elected. Each one follows a specific constitution which stipulates that each sultan is appointed king of Malaysia for five years. The word 'sultan' may be derived from the Ottoman traditional terminology.

Language in Malaysia uses Jawi letters which depend on Arabic, but when Turkey changed the letters into Latin, the Indonesian letters changed into Latin. Nevertheless, some states still use the Jawi letters, including Selangor, but the Arabic letters are still prevalent in the state.

The Sultans are highly popular and are often held as the protectors of religion and people. Each Sultan exerts his utmost efforts to care for the land that is mostly dedicated to agriculture.

It goes without saying that the main ruling powers has set a constitution which restricts the powers in certain zones and give them their rights in natural resources and revenues distributed by the government. Resources usually go to the central government for distribution to all the states after deducting 25% in favour of the central government. This can be attributed to the big gap between the states in terms of the revenues. There are some poor sultanates and some rich sultanates, for example. Terengganu on the eastern coast is rich due to oil and gas, whereas such resources are not available on the western coast.

Malaysia is advocating a discreet policy based on investing oil revenues in establishing architectural projects for the benefit of the Malaysian state.

Malaysia consists of nine states, each of which is ruled by a sultan, in addition to four states ruled by governors. Each state has a governor appointed by the King, who is elected by the nine sultans on a regular basis. Moslems in Malaysia form 65% of the population and Islam is the official religion of the country.

13 states are as follows:

- 1- Johor
- 2- Penang
- 3- Terengganu
- 4- Kelantan
- 5- Perlis, which is adjacent to Thailand and it is the smallest

state with the least income.

6- Kedah

7- Perak

8- Selangor

9- Negeri Sembilan

10- Penang

11- Sarawak, which is part of Borneo island

12- Sabah, which is part of Borneo island

13- Malacca.

Labuan Island is a federal zone, together with Kuala Lumpur, the capital. The island is a famous financial sea center which extends financial and commercial services, besides being a touristic attraction for those who travel across Sabah state.

The position of a king is of a constitutional nature but the ruling is in the hands of the Malaysian parties. Quite often, the coalition of the National Bloc is the prevalent side in most of the regular elections. The prime ministers which took over since independence are the following: Tunko Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razaq, Tum Ismail, Tun Mahathir Mohammad, Dato Abdullah Badair, and the current prime minister Mohammad Najib Tun Abdula Razaq. All these prime minister belong to the National Bloc, hailing from Malayan origin.

Malaysian people are generally sociable and cheerful. They have become interested in pushing the wheel of industrialization in the country. Luxurious hotels are

plentiful in Kuala Lumpur, in addition to the modern big commercial complexes. Tourism is flourishing in the country thanks to the efforts of the leaders, specifically Mahattir Mohammad who took over in July 1981. He is one of the greatest political and economic leaders who managed to change the face of Malaysia and made it equal to the economically advanced countries. Nowadays Kuala Lumpur has become a commercial capital, whereas the political capital is Putrajaya (the country of princes).



Taken on 30th May, 1989. Seated from left to right: H.E. Mr. Fouad Al-Khateeb Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Hamid Al-Gabid Sec-Gen of OIC, YTM Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, H.E. Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, H.E. Mr. Abdallah Srairi Ambassador of Morocco
A photo showing the heads of some Islamic missions in Malaysia.
The photo was taken in 30.5.1989

Scenery in Malaysia is generally fantastic and splendid through its mountains and plains which abound in oil palm trees, rubber, and tin mines. Oil industry is flourishing in the country.

Sabah and Sarawak states enjoy fascinating and breathtaking scenery which is attracting tourists, not to mention the splendid coasts and vast forests. In Sabah state there is a rare species of monkeys known as orangutan which live in the forests and public gardens. They cause no harm to human beings.



A rare map which dates back to 1584 which shows S.E. Asian countries. It can be seen in Niagara Museum in Malaysia, copied from the museum's collection. It was drawn in 1584 in Malaysia.



With compliments to H.E. Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from The Heads of Diplomatic Missions. Kuala Lumpur. 3rd September 1992



A shield presented by Selangor Province on which appears Sultan Salah Mosque in Shah Alam city, Selangor Province



With compliments from
H.R.H. Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah
Terengganu, Malaysia



To H.E. Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa
With Best Compliments from the Heads of Diplomatic Missions
Kuala Lumpur, 3rd September 1992



A memorial shield presented to ambassador Al Essa during his mission in Malaysia from Klentan Province in Malaysia.



Among the memorabilia of H.E. ambassador Al Essa presented to him during his mission in Malaysia.



Another presentation from Selangor Province to H.E. the ambassador

2- Republic of Singapore 1986-1992

In addition to his work as an ambassador to Malaysia from 1986-1992, Mr. Al Essa was also non-resident ambassador to Singapore to attend to the Kuwaiti interests there.

Arabs have known Singapore through their trading routes to the Far East. Sailing ships used to stop there and its importance emerged as a port for commercial ships in the 19th century. Thus it became a global port since 1235H/1819AD, getting impetus through exporting Malayan tin and rubber. Consequently, British East India Company considered it the first port in S. Asia since 1876. It came under the British rule during its colonization of the Malayan Peninsula and then it was converted to an important naval base for the British during World War II. It won its independence in 1959, and then it broke away from the Malaysian Union in 1965, to get the name Republic of Singapore. Yousuf ibn Ishaq took oath of office as president and Lee Kuan Yew was the prime minister of Singapore.

Mr. Al Essa resumes his practical tour in Singapore. In this respect he says that he used to care for the Kuwaiti interests in Singapore during his mission in Malaysia for more than 6 years, from 1986-1992. He was transferred to the Kingdom of Thailand and Sultanate of Brunei. He followed all the tasks assigned to him in Singapore.

At that time, Singapore acted against any accreditation to any ambassador due to its specific reasons. Nevertheless, Mr. Al Essa was accorded a hearty welcome by the government of Singapore as if he were an accredited ambassador.

Whenever he went to meet an official or go on an official task assigned to him by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he found all responsiveness in connection with the Kuwaiti interests. Among the achievements at that time was signing the civil aviation agreement between Kuwait and Singapore for the first time.

“Singapore” as a name is pronounced “Singapore” inside the country. In Sanskrit, it means the “the city of the Lion.” This name can be traced back to one of the ancient explorers, namely the Amir of Sumatra called “Sang Nila

Utama” the founder of Singapore. It is narrated that when he came to this small island, he saw a lion and then he gave this name to the country. Modern researches have shown that lions have never existed on this island. Therefore, there is a common belief that Prince of Sumatra had seen a tiger.

The economy of Singapore is based on international trade. The major industries of the country include electronics, financial services, oil drilling machinery, oil refining, Drugs, foodstuffs and beverages, rubber products and repairing ships. During the past few years, the government moved to diversity the revenues’ channels, in addition to manufacturing and exporting electronics and other vital technical, chemical and petrochemical products.

The gross domestic product per individual in Singapore is among the highest worldwide.

3. Kingdom of Thailand

1987 – 1992

H.E. Ambassador Al Essa was appointed non-resident ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand from 1987 to 1992.

Thailand was named Siam up to 1949. In Thai language, Thai means “free.” It is a constitutional monarchy situated in SE Asia, in the east bordered by Laos and Cambodia, from the south by Thailand Bay and Malaysia and from the west by Andaman Sea and Myanmar. It consists of 75 governorates, which are in turn divided into municipalities, in addition to Bangkok, the capital of the country. The population of the country is 66 million.

Buddhists form 94.6% of the population, Moslems form 4.6% and Christians form .07%. Moslems in Thailand live in the southern parts and most of them follow the school of “Ahlel Sunnah Wal Jam’aaah.” Their history is different in the sense that they hail from a Malayan origin, their language is Bahasa and their alphabet uses Arabic letters. In Thailand there are 3494 mosques, most of which are in the south. Thai language is used by nearly 60 million. Education is free for 12 years and compulsory for 9 years as per the constitution of the country. The formal currency of the country is the Pat and an American dollar equals 30 pats.



In this regard Ambassador Al Essa says that during his accreditation in Malaysia, he was appointed non-resident Ambassador to Thailand during the period from 1987-1992. It is normal to transfer an ambassador to a country near to or far from his residence in the light of the country's good relations with that country. He could also be charged with implementing a specific task and then everything will be over. A non-resident ambassador usually stays in the country where he presented his credentials first, based on the date such relations were established.

Thailand is a traditional kingdom and the King is very popular and his love is tantamount to worship. At the time of preparing this book, the king was 86 and he, in cooperation with his wife, have shown keenness on raising the standard of living of his people, especially citizens in rural areas. He shows them how to manage cultural activity. He was also interested in guiding craftsmen and calling them to achieve creativity.

The king concentrates regularly on different parts of Thailand in order to help his people in the rural areas and raise the standard of their living. In this regard, we have to admit that agriculture in Thailand is highly advanced to the extent that a field is cultivated three times a year to give rice. Wood is also plentiful in Thailand, especially



Presentation of Credentials
To His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand by His
Excellency Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa, Ambassador of Kuwait
Bangkok, Thailand 11th June 1987

teak wood⁽¹³⁾. There are other crops which are advanced in terms of quality and quantity.

Among the agricultural products of Thailand are rice, wood and other products such as the durian, mangosteen, lango, rambutan, water melon, in addition to other handicraft and industrial items.

The major exports of Thailand are the long-lived orchid flower and the most preferable by tourists. This flower may survive for a whole month or more after sugar or aspirin is added to it. Annual exports are high from this flower.

Political system in Thailand is parliamentary and the party of the majority is usually the ruling party. In the event a coup d'état happens, the king is not affected by it. It is the political figures that change in the government and the cabinet.

Thailand is a peace-loving country. It is said that the British and the Japanese armies passed through it during the Second World War without facing any kind of resistance from the people or the government. Thus the government of Thailand had maintained the security of their people and country through their neutrality.

13- Teak is a wood found in tropical zones and known for its solidity. It is cultivated in South and East Asia and in Africa and the Caribbean Islands. Myanmar (Burma) produces more than 1/3 of the world production of this wood usually used for ship building. It is similar to the ebony wood but not as black as this wood.



H.R.H. The Crown Prince of Thailand at Nonthaburi Palace August 18, 1992 during Farewell Call by
Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa, Ambassador to Thailand

Thailand has borders on Siam Bay, on the sea of China, Bay of Bengal and Myanmar from the west. It also shares borders with Laos and Cambodia from the east and north. Siam Bay separates it from Malaysia.



Presented to H.E. Mr. Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa
Ambassador of the State of Kuwait by Anand Panyarachun
Prime Minister of Thailand
19 August 1992.

Bangkok seminar to discuss the complications of the vicious Iraqi invasion of the state of Kuwait.

With respect to the picture, Mr. Al Essa says that the officials in Thailand organized a seminar during the Iraqi aggression attended by 800-1000 persons. Attendance was for a fee of 100 pats (10 Kuwaiti Dinars) or around this number. The seminar was entitled “The Iraqi aggression and its effect on Kuwait and the economic and touristic complications on Thailand.”

To this seminar, 7 ambassadors were invited from different countries in Europe, Asia and America. ‘I, Ambassador Al Essa says, ‘was there by virtue of being the ambassador in Thailand. I invited the Iraqi ambassador who requested a 24 hour time to give his reply. Then the reply came saying “that if the Kuwaiti ambassador will attend, I shall not attend.” They told him that the Kuwaiti ambassador will attend and you are welcome to be with him.

I did attend the seminar and delivered a moving speech on that occasion, as follows:

“I wish that my brother and colleague the ambassador of Iraq were with me in order to hear my point of view and



His Excellency the ambassador is delivering his speech during the seminar organized during the aftermath of the Iraqi vicious invasion of the State of Kuwait and published in the Nation newspaper in Bangkok – Thailand

then things will be left to the judgment of the attendees. Unfortunately, he did not come I'm sure that he is sitting now before the TV screen to watch this seminar.”

On this occasion, the ambassador of Iraq was asked “why do you not leave Kuwait?” His reply was ‘How can a human being leave his country?’ This was surprising because Kuwait has an embassy in Iraq and our ambassador is imprisoned in Baghdad. We have also a consulate in Basra and they have an embassy in Kuwait, in addition to a commercial office. I want to know since when has Kuwait been a part of Iraq?

Ladies and Gentlemen:

“Kuwait and Iraq has never been under one flag. Iraq was a part of the Ottoman Empire, whereas Kuwait was a British protectorate and had never been a colony.

Following the seminar, there were several meetings and interviews carried out by Thai press about the same subject, Ambassador Al Essa carried out a remarkable political and media attitude in favour of his country. These media activities and diplomacies left an indelible mark on advocating the Kuwaiti cause at that time.

4- Brunei Sultanate 1990-1992

His Excellency ambassador Al Essa was appointed non-resident ambassador to the Sultanate of Brunei from 1990-1992.

The rise of Brunei was in the 17th century AD and it won its independence from Britain in January, 1984. The official name of the country is Brunei Darussalam and its capital is Bandar Seri Begawan, which is located on the northern coast of Borneo Island in S.E Asia. It is divided into two areas, separated by Limbang town which belongs to the Malaysian province of Sarawak which fully surrounds Brunei, with the exception of Brunei northern coast which overlooks the southern sea of China. Brunei is the sole independent state of Borneo Island as Malaysia and Indonesia share the rest of the island. The total area of Brunei is 5765 square kilometres. Climate is tropical in general.

Brunei comes second to Singapore in the human development index in SE Asia. It is classified as an advanced country by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and comes fourth in terms of the National Domestic Product per individual in terms of the parity of the purchasing power. The government of Brunei provides medical and educational services to its citizens.

The remarkable economic growth during the seventies and the nineties whose average came up to 56% during the period from 1999 & 2008 managed to transform the country into an advanced industrial country. It should be mentioned here that Brunei is rich with natural resources, such as oil and natural gas. The revenues of oil export form more than half of the NDP and more than 90% of the exports which include petrol by-products and garments.

Ambassador Al Essa talks about Brunei saying that he was transferred there near the end of his term as an ambassador, specifically during the period from 1990-1992.

Brunei is a beautiful country, small in size but rich with its natural and human resources. The Sultan is the actual ruler of the country and he is at the helm. The system of

ruling is hereditary in spite of the presence of a government and a prime minister. The king abdicated in favour of his son Hassan and he remained Minister of Defense till his death.

In Brunei there is an investment office which deals with real estate and constructions, especially in Singapore. It also owns numerous hotels in London, Singapore and other countries in the east and west.

Mr. Al Essa says that he remained as a non-resident ambassador there, in addition to Thailand till he was transferred from Malaysia to S. Korea in late 1992 to establish an embassy there. Mr. Al Essa adds that Brunei is a Sultanate recognized by all the countries of the world and it has strong ties with the Philippines, Singapore and other countries. It also maintains historical relations with Malaysia, the United Kingdom, and the USA. The number of population in Brunei is about 270,000. It is said that their grandfather Sultan Bolkaih, when he came to Brunei, married the daughter of the Sultan at that time. He had no children at that time except this girl. Consequently power devolved upon him. It is worth mentioning here that Sultan Bolkaih goes on pilgrimage and Umra on an annual basis.

He has big investments abroad. Brunei is a rich country because all the funds and riches pass to the account of the Sultanate. As we said before, there is an investment authority for investing such funds similar to the Kuwaiti Public Investment Authority.

In Brunei, several races and ethnicities live, most important of which are the Melli (66.9%), Chinese (15.6%). Dostoni (5.2%), Morot and Al Kidian and a few of Arabic origin (.08%). The official religion of the Sultanate is Islam and the percentage of Moslems is 67%, 15% are Buddhists and Tawists, 10% Christians and the rest have different religious beliefs.

In the cities of Brunei, 59% of the inhabitants live, mainly in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan. Economy in Brunei depends mainly on oil and its products. It accounts for 98% of the exports' value (58% oil, 40% gas) Brunei production of natural gas in 1995 was about 10 billion cubic metres. In 1888 Brunei became a British protectorate. After that it carried out an armed resistance movement that led to its independence in January 1984. An economic leap took place between the seventies and nineties which raised Brunei to the modern industrial countries.

Membership of Brunei in the international economic and political organizations:

- 1- Brunei had become member # 49 in the British Commonwealth on the day it won its independence in Jan 1, 1984.
- 2- It joined the ASEAN organization on 7/1/1984 as an initiative towards improving regional relations to become member # 6 in the Organization.
- 3- It became a member of the UN during the 39th session of the General Assembly and later became a full member in 21.9.1984 as a means to acquire the recognition of its sovereignty and independence by the international community.
- 4- It became a full member in the Organization of the Islamic conference during the conference held in Morocco in February, 1994.
- 5- It joined the Economic Cooperation Forum for Asia and the Pacific (APEK) in 1989. It also hosted the economic leaders of APEK in the meeting which was held in November, 2000 and the Regional Forum of the ASEAN in July 2002.
- 6- It became an original member of the World Trade Organization in Jan 1, 1995.
- 7- Brunei is a key player in the Growth area in the east ASEAN zone which was formed during the opening meeting in Dafoe in the Philippines on 24.3.1994.

Brunei is divided into four provinces: Belait, Brunei – Muara, Temburong and Tutono and its climate is that of the Tropical rainy forests.

Several rivers flow through the country, most important of which are Tutong River, Brunei River and Temburong, and forests cover more than 70% of the country's lands.

Among the discrepancies, Mr. Al Essa says, is that Brunei owns a land in Australia more extensive than the area of Brunei itself.



Sultan of Brunei
Hassan Al Bolkiah



Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Brunei

Chapter Five

North-Eastern Asian Countries

South Korea

Republic of South Korea 1992-1998

H.E. Al Essa was the ambassador of the state of Kuwait to S. Korea which represents the end of his diplomatic career during the period between 1992 and 1998.

South Korea or Tachan Min'guk in the local language meaning the "land of the quiet morning". It is situated in the middle of the Asian Far East and occupies two thirds of the Korean Peninsula (middle and south). Its area is 99106 square Kilometres and has a number of islands whose areas amount to 2186 square metres. The capital is Seoul and its economy is based on export and production covering electronics, cars, ships, machinery, petrochemicals, robots, etc... Its meandering borders in the north towards latitude 38 include a three- kilometer- wide buffer zone (the area of which is 1262 square kilometres) which separates it from North Korea and then it extends to the south till latitude 33.6 north of the equator. From the other sides it is surrounded by the seas from the Pacific, e.g. the sea of Japan from the east, the Yellow Sea from the west and the Korean Japanese strait from the South.



In this regard Ambassador Al Essa, the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps says that he was the ambassador to Korea since 1992 till his retirement in 1998. Korean people are known to be active, disciplined and faithful citizens who love their country. This is reflected in their performance of their duties and serving their country and army and other activities.

Korean individuals and people have their own distinctive features. It is easy to mobilize and guide them during times of disasters. Soon they become unified as one body and one soul. A Korean individual has a strong belief in his cause and he may assume dramatic roles to serve the cause he cherishes.

They faced three attacks from N. Korea, in addition to attacks from China and last came the Japanese conquest from 1910 to 1945. They suffered heavily from these attacks which came from the west, the north (China) and the east (Japan). Koreans hail from the Mongolian race.

There was a war between North Korea and South Korea in 1950-1952 and there were great miseries and sufferings as the people fell victims to the expression 'each party wants the other to follow his own example.' In the past, they fell under the Japanese rule and the leaders fled the country, some to the USA and others to the Soviet Union.

Then each came with his own ideologies and this attitudes underlies the state of division which is still prevalent between the two countries.

By the end of the war in which a coalition from the UN and a battalion from Turkey intervened to stem the Communist surge and occupation of all Korea, the people had already came to a point at which they were facing grinding poverty which pushed them to eat the leaves of trees because they found food nowhere.

In 1954, the war came to an end and soon the Korean people managed to upgrade their economy which is the tenth worldwide and the fourth in Asia. All this happened within a limited period of time, taken into consideration that the rule was of a military nature for a long time. Among the prominent figures is Park Chung-hee who was assassinated after a rule that extended for 18 years. It is this man who put Korea side by side with the major industrial countries.

Following are some important stations in the history of S. Korea as cited by H.E. the ambassador Al Essa:

- In 2333 BC Go Chosun (Korean for the land of the quiet morning) was established with its capital Pyongyang.
- 4th Century AD: Tribes scattered about in the Korean Peninsula, developed and formed three kingdoms:



Presentation of Credentials to H.E. Tae Woo ROH, President of Republic of Korea by H.E. Mr. Essa A. Al-Essa, Ambassador on November 25, 1992

H.E. Tae Woo Roh (center), H.E. Al-Essa (left), H.E. Sang-Ock Lee, Minister of Foreign Affairs (right) Mr. Al-Adwani, Third Secretary (left), H.E. Sun Sun Chang Chief of Protocol

Goguryeu in the north which included part of China: Backje in the south west and Silla in the south east.

- 676 AD: Silla Kingdom defeated the neighboring kingdoms and unified the Korean Peninsula and established the capital Jeongjo.
- 918 AD: The establishment of Koryo Kingdom with its capital Kaesong. The word “Kory” means high mountains and “resplendent seas”. It is the origin which was changed by the Portuguese in “Koreo” from which the English name “Korea” was derived.
- 1392 AD: The name “Juson” was used as name for the kingdom which adopted the philosophy of Confucius.
- 1910: Japanese occupation and annexation of Korea.
- 1945: The end of World War II and the liberation of Korea from the Japanese occupation.
- Korea was divided into the Republic of Korea in the South under the leadership of Lee Sung-man and the Democratic Popular Republic of Korea under the leadership of president Kim Il-sung.
- 1950: North Korea invades S. Korea and the Korean War flares up.
- 1953: The two Koreas sign a truce.
- 1960: President Lee submits his resignation following the students demonstrations which were organized in

protest against the rigging of elections.

- 1960: General Park Shung - he led a military coup against the government of Prime Minister Chang Meon. He is the father of the economic development plans and industrial progress.
- 1979-1980: General Chun Do Huan takes over as president.
- 1980-1988: The term of presidency for Chun Do Huan.
- 1988: President Nutti Wu took over after winning the first democratic elections. He was the last among the military rulers. During his first year. Korea hosted the summer Olympic Games in Seoul.
- 1993-1998: President Kin Young Sam takes over as the first elected non-military president.
- 1998-2003: The term of president Kim Dae Jung.
- 2000: The first summit between S.Korean president Kim Dae Jung and Kim Jong IL, Chairman of the Defense Committee in N. Korea for which president Kim was awarded the Nobel prize.
- 2002: Korea, in cooperation with Japan, hosted the World Football Cup.
- 2003-2008: The term of president Roh Moo-hyun.
- November 2005: Korea hosted the conference of APEK leaders of the countries overlooking the Pacific.

- October 2007: President Roh Moo-hyun holds a summit meeting with Kiw Jong il, chairman of committee of Defense in North Korea after which a declaration of peace between the two Korea's was issued.
- December 2007: President Lee Myung-bak won the presidential elections.



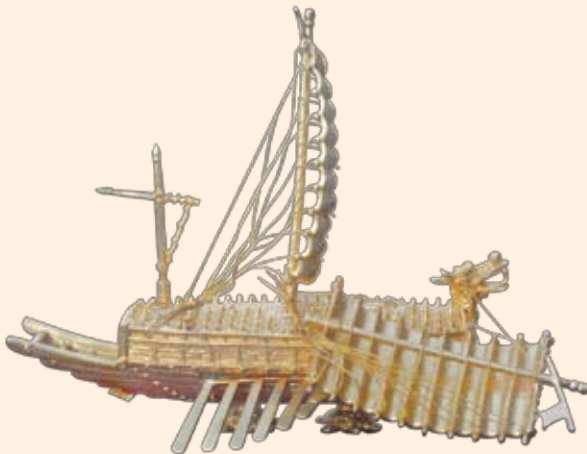
Crown of shilla Kingdom of South Korea presented to the ambassador Al Essa during a visit paid by a S. Korean delegation to encourage Korean tourism



Korean Prime Minister Kim Jong-pil is seen awarding the Sash of Diplomatic Merit (First Class) on the occasion of leaving the country in May 1998.



H.E. Ambassador and Mrs. Al-Essa are shaking hands with H.E. President of the Republic of Korea and Mrs. Kin Young Sam at the Garden Party on May 17 (Thursday), 1995 at Chong Wa Dae



Shield of the Golden Ship, The first and greatest ship (1592 Korea) made of solid gold 24 karat, presented by the ship factory in Korea



PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION

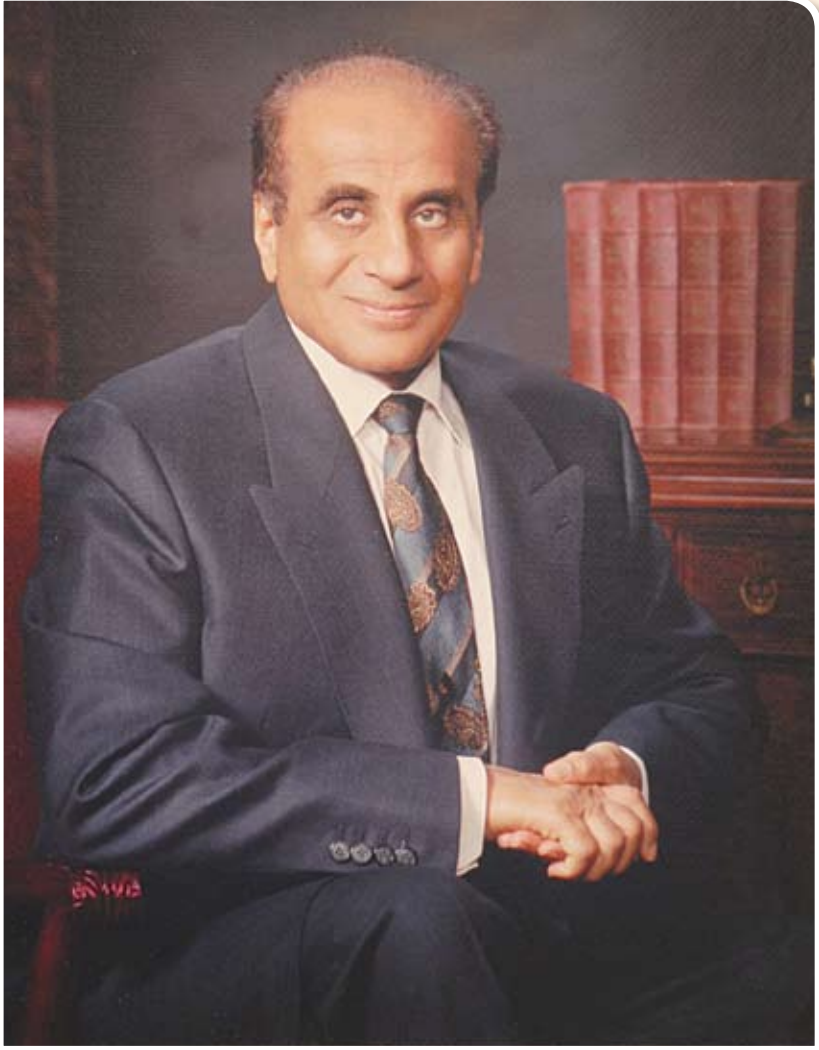
To. H.E. Essa A. Al-Essa
Ambassador, Embassy of the State of Kuwait
Seoul, Korea

During your stay in Korea, you contributed a lot to Anyang Al-Rabitah Masjid through your great Islamic service and cooperation. To express our profound thanks for your Islamic efforts, we herewith present this plaque as a token of Muslim Brotherhood.

May Allah the Almighty bless you and your family.

May 20, 1998

Hussain Yu, Chang-sik
Imam - Anyang Al-Rabitah masjid



A photo of the ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa taken in South Korea. (Cover Photo)



PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION

To: H.E. Essa A. Al-Essa

Ambassador, Embassy of the State of Kuwait, Seoul, Korea

To express our heartfelt appreciation for your noble efforts to upgrade Islamic development in Korea and your special cooperation extended to Korea Muslim Federation during your duty in Korea, on behalf of all Korean Muslims we present this plaque as a token of Muslim Brotherhood.

May Allah the Almighty bless you and your family with health and happiness.

May, 11 1998

Dr. Ilyas Shin, Yang-Sup - Secretary General, Korea Muslim Federation



Honorary Korea Tourism Envoy

His Excellency Mr. Essa Al-Essa

With sincere appreciation for your contribution to friendly cooperation and tourism exchanges between the Republic of Korea and the State of Kuwait, we entrust you as Honorary Korea Tourism Envoy in Kuwait.

May 9, 2002

Cho Hong-Kyu, President

Korea National Tourism Organization



A gold medal presented to Mr. Al Essa from the Mayor of Seoul, the Korean capital. It consists of an eight point star indicating the eight mountains or hills which hug the city of Seoul.



To His Excellency Essa Abdulrahman Al-Essa Ambassador of the State of Kuwait from His Colleagues of the Diplomatic Corps Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 1998



Mr. & Mrs. Youn Tai CHI, Pres. of KNTC greet H.E. & Mrs. Essa A. Al-Essa, Amb. of Kuwait during the Diplomatic Spring Tour to Cheju Island on April 21-23, 1993

A Word for History

These memorabilia with all their diversity and variation reflect clearly the high prestige of H.E. ambassador Essa Al Essa in S. Korea in which he represented his country Kuwait from 1992 to 1998. He enjoys a highly diplomatic personality with exceptional dedication and generosity. In addition to his love for his country, he was keen on boosting the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries Kuwait and South Korea at the diplomatic, political and economic levels.

On the other side, H.E. the ambassador managed to maintain strong social relations with the Korean Prime Minister Kim Jung Pil and other officials due to his attractive personality and presence, in addition to an extraordinary ability to understand the peculiarities of the people he is dealing with. He had that deep insight of the atmosphere surrounding him as a representative of his country. All those qualities motivated him to get in touch with the people through his daily life and to understand the customs and traditions of the Korean people thanks to his daily involvement in the diplomatic, social and economic events.

His behavior and performance in other countries is a replica of his behavior in Korea, especially India, the steeped-in-history country.

Chapter Six

Participation in International Conferences

Non-Alignment Conferences

H.E. Al Essa, as we said earlier in this book, represented his country in many international and regional conferences, for example the Non-Alignment Conference, Marine Law Conference, International Labour Conference and others. Following are some of these participations, arranged chronologically.

H.E. Al Essa witnessed the emergence of the Non-Alignment movement which came to existence in 1955 with the participation of 29 countries. He represented his country in many of the preparatory ministerial meetings and conferences, in addition to the meetings of the consultative committees which were held in the countries where Mr. Al Essa existed as a representative to his country. The emergence of the Non-Alignment movement came as a result to the cold war which reared up its head in the early forties of the 20th century. At the end of the World War II, a new war emerged under the name 'Cold War' in which the major powers were involved. At the same time, the United States emerged as an economic, nuclear and political power and started to exercise the policy of 'containment'

to impose a blockade on the Soviet Union and its allies in eastern Europe through a chain of treaties and military bases.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union sought to confirm its influence in East Europe by concluding bilateral and collective pacts, not to mention its development of a nuclear power, and strengthening its geopolitical powers to face the western countries whom the Soviet Union regarded as the major allies of America on the other side of the Atlantic.

Amid this cloudy atmosphere and the attention to propitiate the newly-independent countries, the Non-Alignment movement came as one of the political manifestations of the post-war era. A number of the newly-independent countries decided to advocate a new principle in foreign policy which might maintain their independence and their interest in supporting the liberation movements.

During that complicated state of affairs came the principle of non-alignment as designed by the founders President Jamal Abdul Naser of Egypt, Jawaherlal Nehru of India, Josip Ros Tito of Yugoslavia, Ahmed Sukarno of Indonesia and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.



A memorial shield presented to the ambassador Al Essa by the Ministerial meeting of the Coordination office of the Non-Aligned movement in Colombo: 4-9/6/1979



Medal Apolinario Mabini dedicated to H.E. the ambassador from Philippine foreign affairs

The foundation of the movement was laid down in Bandung with the participation of 29 countries. The declaration of principles that govern relations between the countries was made and later known as the “Ten Principles of Bandung”. The Declaration stipulates that the sovereignty and security of each country must be respected, human rights should be observed. UN principles and objectives must be respected and there should be no intervention in other countries’ affairs, and all disputes should be settled by peaceful means in the light of the UN charter. Bilateral relations, cooperation, justice and international cooperation must be boosted.

The first Non-Alignment Conference was held in Belgrade in 1961, attended by 25 countries. Other conferences were held until they reached 16, starting by Belgrade and ending by Sharm-el- Sheik in July 2009. Egypt presided the movement ever since for three years, and then it was Iran’s turn. The 16th conference was held in Tehran during the period from 31.8-1.9.2012.

Nowadays the Non Aligned movement includes 120 countries: 53 African countries; 39 Asian countries; 27 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean and one country from Europe, in addition to 17 countries and governmental organizations which attend as observers.

This movement represents 51% of the world population, 80% of the world resources of oil and 52% of the water resources, all of which are regarded as factors of strength.

Observers maintain that the Non-Alignment movement will continue to be a spotlight that lights the way before the developing world regarding challenges and sensations because the relevant countries have many things to contribute to the future.

Non-Aligned countries are determined to justify their existence on the international arena with all its regional and international changes in the same way it faced all attempts to marginalize it.

Ten principles of Bandung:

(Xinhua) Updated: 2005-04-23 13:53

The result of the 1955 Asian-African Conference was known as the Ten Principles of Bandung, a political statement containing the basic principles in the efforts to promote peace and cooperation in the world. The following are the Ten Principles of Bandung:

1. Respect for fundamental human rights and for the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. Respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.
3. Recognition of the equality of all races and of the equality of all nations large and small.
4. Abstention from intervention or interference in the internal affairs of another country.
5. Respect for the right of each nation to defend itself singly or collectively, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
6. Abstention from the use of arrangements of collective defense to serve the particular interests of any of the big powers, abstention by any country from exerting pressures on other countries.
7. Refraining from acts or threats of aggression or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any country.
8. Settlement of all international disputes by peaceful means, such as negotiation, conciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement as well as other peaceful means of the parties' own choice, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.
9. Promotion of mutual interests and cooperation.
10. Respect for justice and international obligations.

Mr. Al Essa presided the Kuwaiti delegation to the Ministerial Media conference of the Non-Aligned countries which was held in India in 1975 and participated in the Non-Alignment Summit in Colombo-Sri Lanka in 1976, in addition to the Ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned coordination office held in Colombo during the period from 4-9/6/1979. He also represented his country in the Non-Alignment conference in 1981 and the conference of the News Agencies emanating from it.

H.E. the ambassador participated in the Non-Alignment Summit held in New Delhi in 1983 which was presided by the late Amir H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah in the presence of the representatives of 103 countries. This movement was the biggest ever after the UN number of delegates.

The first Non-Alignment conference in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in 1961.

Before this conference, Jamal Abdul Nasser, one of the patrons of the movement said that there is a difference between non-alignment and neutrality; neutrality is used at the time of war, but non-alignment means that we develop our policies according to what we believe not according to what appears to this or that country.

H.E. the ambassador participated also in the coordinating meeting of the Non-Alignment conference held in New Delhi in 1986.

The actual birth of Non-Alignment was in Bandung in 1955 in which 29 countries participated from the newly independent countries from the third world which were

keen on detaching from the two Big Powers, the USA with its allies in the NATO on the one hand and the Soviet Union and its allies in Warsaw Pact. This movement created a new approach for the administrative style. It had been agreed that it would not be necessary to draft a constitution, a set of principles or permanent secretariat for the movement. This was attributed to the differences in the ideologies and interests of this great number of states which make it difficult to develop an administrative structure accepted by all members.

Thus management is regular and comprehensive including all countries. The presidency of the movement passes to the country hosting the summit and it remains



Emblem of 5th Non-Aligned Summit conference
1978 - Colombo

valid until the next summit is held. Presidency after that passes to the host country and so forth.

The procedure of the administrative arrangements would be borne by the country which takes up presidency. A full department at the Ministry of foreign affairs must be established to deal with the Non-Alignment Affairs. Given that the Non-Aligned countries hold regular meetings at the UN headquarters, the ambassador of the country presiding at the UN shall carry out his duties as an ambassador for the Non-Alignment Affairs at the UN.

Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the end of the cold war, the importance of the Non-Aligned movement receded and its existence had become insignificant, taking into account that its presence was highly important during the cold war era.



Emblem of Sharm El Sheikh Non-Alignment Summit in 2009



Emblem of Non-Alignment Summit in Tehrn 2012.

Regional Asian International Labour Organization Conference (IOL).

Mr. Al Essa participated in this conference as a representative of his country in November 26, 1991. The conference was held in Bangkok, Thailand. This organization was created in 1919, with



Emblem of the Regional Asian International Labour Organization.

Geneva as its seat, and as a reaction to the aftermath of the World War I. It was affected by the changes and turmoil over a period of three decades and took major constitutional basics as a foundation for its activities to establish just peace.

ILO had set down an array of values and criteria for the industrial societies, for example defining the working hours to be 8 hours, in addition to the policy of hiring employees and other aspects related the safety in the working places and the sound industrial relation.

The Third conference of UNIDO

His Excellency the ambassador Al Essa represented his country in the third United Nations Industrial Development Organization which was held in February 8, 1980 in New Delhi, India. This organization is a specialized agency affiliated to the United Nations whose seat is in Vienna, Austria.



Emblem of United Nations Industrial Development Organization "UNIDO"

The aim of the organization is to speed up the process of sustainable development, industrial development and the industrial and technical cooperation in the developing countries and those countries undergoing a transitional period. It also seeks to provide assistance to the developing countries for the sake of industrialization, in addition to improving the life of the poor worldwide through depending on the joint international resources and experiences in the following areas:

- Alleviating poverty through productive activities.
- Building commercial capacities.
- Power and environment area

UNIDO has 172 members and more than 850 projects.

Vienna is the seat of UNIDO and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Chapter Seven

**His vision of a
diplomatic success**

Mr. Ambassador Al Essa says the following:

“A diplomat is a graduate of the Political and Economic College or any similar institution specialized in foreign affairs or diplomacy. He applies for a post and then he is interviewed by a specialized panel.

Applicants for such a post must have a set of qualities in addition to the academic qualifications. Any applicant must be of good conduct and reputation and free from previous blemishes. A diplomat must preferably know more than one language, in addition to having a good informational background, besides being an example for others because he represents his country abroad, not himself.

He must be sociable, positive quiet and a good observer of what is going around him and may affect his country at the economic or political levels. Failure to abide by all these elements could lead the hosting country to declare him a *persona non-grata* and thereby request his departure.

A diplomat, just like any other employee, goes through a process of gradation. He is appointed a diplomatic attaché or a political attaché.

An administrative attaché is in charge of the administrative affairs and the requirements of the embassy in the hosting

country. A political attaché is in charge of managing the political and economic affairs with the hosting country. Thereafter, an attaché will be promoted a 'third secretary' once he proves his efficiency and abilities. The term of a political attaché may take 3-5 years. Once he shows remarkable proficiency, he can skip the grade and will be promoted within 3 or 4 years. In case he is a second secretary and got "good" degree in his annual professional report through his work and social activity, decisions and reports in the area of economic or political development, this could cause him to be promoted regardless of term specified for his degree.

The term of a senior diplomatic secretary, Mr. Al Essa says, lasts for 2 years. If his performance is good he will be promoted to the post of a counselor, or an ambassador. He may retire without acquiring the position of an ambassador.

In talking about the ambassador plenipotentiary, Mr. Al Essa says that such an official is entitled to make decisions in critical situations as far as he feels that such decisions are in the interest of his country. He is given credit and trust to act on his own in the various situations for facilitation and to avoid a waste of time.

Among the tasks assigned to an ambassador, Mr. Al Essa adds, is to gather all information and data respecting his country and to convey the same whenever required by necessity. Mr. Al Essa has a special vision concerning the work of an ambassador. In this regard he says that an ambassador should charge those working with him some affairs. There are many ambassadors, including Mr. Al Essa himself, who used, before taking a decision, to gather the diplomats at the embassy and discuss the matter with them. This is in fact a training method which brought forth good results.

Some of them had later become ambassadors plenipotentiary, for example Abdula Razzaq Al-Kandari who worked with Mr. Al Essa in New Delhi, and H.E. Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Mejren Al Roomi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our ambassador in Kuala Lumpur and currently is our ambassador in Berlin, and Mr. Monther Al Essa who worked with me in Korea and our ambassador in Singapore and currently he is in Moscow, and the ambassador Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Adwani who worked with me in Korea and Mr. Abdullah Al Sharhan, our ambassador in Thailand.

Diplomatic Situations

Some diplomatic attitudes can be recounted here for the benefit of the reader and as a reaction to some diplomatic behaviour. Among these attitudes are the following:

Situation 1:

Following the Iraqi-Kuwait border problem in “Al Samitta¹⁴” in 1973, there had been a meeting at the Indian Foreign Ministry organized at the request of the Indian undersecretary to get the non-Aligned countries’ ambassadors informed about the treaty between India and Pakistan related to approving the actual control line between the two countries as a border between both them. After the undersecretary finished the task, and before extending thanks to him by virtue of being the dean of the diplomatic corps which coincided with the issuance of a

14- This event took place in 30/3/1973 when the Iraqi troops attacked the border line in Al Sammeta zone in northern Kuwait. This place is known for the presence of low height which poses an ideal watch out point. In that centre there were ten Kuwaiti policemen. An Iraqi attack was carried out to control the post and the Iraqi forces penetrated for 3 Kms. inside the Kuwaiti land, A state of alert was declared in the Kuwaiti army and a special force was dispatched to manage the situation, with the assistance of two fighter jets (English Electric made). A withdrawal of the Iraqi forces was reported on the same day. A state of emergency was declared and the borders with Iraq were closed on in addition to the Iraqi News Agency. An Iraqi announcement was made accusing Kuwait of initiating the aggression and killing two Iraqi soldiers.

newspaper called “New Wave” in which this paper claimed that there is an American naval base in Kuwait and said some abusive language about the Amir as maintained by the writer. I stood up and asked permission from the undersecretary before thanking him and said:

“On behalf of the non-Aligned Countries ambassador, I would like to point to that unfair article which abused the state of Kuwait”.

Here the undersecretary said that newspaper is both trivial and unreadable. The ambassador replied, “I agree with you but after all it is misleading as far as the simple public is concerned.” Here the undersecretary promised to take the proper measures in this regard. “I thanked the undersecretary on behalf of my colleagues the ambassadors for his detailed interpretation of the situation between India and Pakistan and his attitude towards the newspaper.

On leaving, the ambassador of Iraq Mr. Mohammad Said Al Sahhaf said in a loud voice “This applies only to the attitude of the Kuwaiti ambassador only.” In response to this attitude I asked him, “How much did you pay for the writer of the article?” It is a shame to be like a milky cow for the hired people. Here Al Sahhaf broke off and all the attendants

understood who was standing behind that hired journal and trivial article as maintained by the Indian undersecretary.

Situation 2:

This situation is related to the first situation. The meeting ended, then the Algerian ambassador Mr. Omar Usiddiq went to the Iraqi ambassador in his office and requested him to abandon that kind of behavior. “The ambassador of Kuwait has come to this country before you. They do not lack money. The Kuwaiti ambassador said that he does not want to be a milky cow for the hired people”.

Here the Iraqi ambassador denied that, but the Algerian ambassador’s reply was “why then did you speak in the meeting?”

Situation 3:

Mr. Al Fadhel Al Ghazawi was appointed ambassador of Iraq to India and made a courtesy visit to me accompanied by his wife, by virtue of my being the dean of the diplomatic corps. As usual, I repaid the visit accompanied by my wife. We were sitting round the table discussing the bilateral relations between Kuwait and Iraq. The Iraqi ambassador started talking about the islands of Warba and Bubyana and

the importance of maintaining them against any Iranian aggression. He added that Iraq is powerful enough to defend them because of the number of population and the military equipment. He said these words while he was holding a revolver in his hand.

I replied saying that maintaining rights is not contingent on the number of population and military equipment. The islands are under our control and all Kuwaiti ports are open for sending assistance to Iraq. Here I broke off and ended the visit.



A rare picture which adorns the archive of Ambassador Al Essa which is a copy of the Prophet's letter to Amir of Bahrain Al Monzer Ibn Sawi asking him to embrace Islam

Situation 4:

It should be mentioned here that some of the Kuwaiti ships which transport goods between India and the South-east African coast used to touch at Mauritius⁽¹⁵⁾ island in times of bad weather. Arabs are believed to be the first to take this island as a rest and to get water and other needs while on their way to India or their way back to east Africa.

Among the strange events which spring to my mind at this moment is what happened between me and the ambassador of Mauritius when he talked about the Arabs' visits to the island and that they were the first to come to the island, after which they left it, leaving no traces for their visits. Here I found myself in a situation to intervene, saying that the Arabs did not visit the island to colonize it or to search for natural resources. They left it to you to enjoy peace.

15- Mauritius is a small island in the Indian Ocean. The distance between Mauritius and Madagascar is 860 kilometres. It is reported that the Arabs were the first to visit the island. The island had been a Dutch colony since 1368 followed by the French who came in 1715 and established Port Louis (the current capital of the island). The island remained a base for them till the defeat of Napoleon after which Britain took control of the island in 1810 until independence in 1968. Now it is named. Democratic Republic of Mauritius."



Rare map of Arabian Gulf in 1686



Another rare map of Arabian Gulf in 1886 for H.E. ambassador Al Essa to his archive



This photo was taken in New Delhi in 1975. It shows H.E. ambassador to India Mr. Essa El Essa heading the Kuwaiti delegation to the non-Aligned Information Ministerial Conference. Mr. Al Essa is flanked by Mr. Ahmad Dashty, representative of Kuwait Ministry of Information.
Greeting from Ahmad Dashty Kuwait 31.7.2013



On air interview with the Kuwaiti ambassador to Malaysia. H.E. Al Essa is seen interviewed by the Malaysian Channel 3 on 25/2/1991 during the Iraqi invasion of and one day before the liberation

National positions And its role in the plight of the brutal occupation of Kuwait

Talk given By H.E. Mr. Al-Essa, Ambassador of The State of Kuwait to Malaysia, at The Islamic College, National University of Malaysia, on 12th September 1990.

In 1756 the people of Kuwait elected the head of the al-Sabah family to be Emir of Kuwait. Since that time, Kuwait has never been a colony, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Even the Ottoman Empire never acquired a right of sovereignty over Kuwait which was neither occupied nor conquered by the Turks but only came under their influence. The Ottoman flag never flew over Kuwait.

Actually, the Kuwaiti rulers recognised nominal Ottoman sovereignty on the basis that the Ottoman sultan was the Khalifah of the Muslims and in this regard they were no different from the many other muslim countries at that time.

In 1899, the Amir of Kuwait entered into a Protectorate Agreement with the United Kingdom to avoid the domination of the Ottoman Empire.

In 1913, a Convention defining the borders of Kuwait was signed between the United Kingdom and the Ottoman Empire; at this time Iraq as a State did not even exist.

The Protectorate Agreement remained in force until Kuwait's independence in 1961, when the Agreement was replaced by a Friendship Treaty.

Iraq was considered a part of the Ottoman Empire since 1534, and remained a part up to the end of the first World War. It was ruled by Turkish Governors directly from Istanbul in the name of the Ottoman Sultan. In 1920, Iraq came under the British mandate and remained so till it gained independence in 1932 as a Kingdom.

In the same year, 1932, the Kingdom of Iraq reaffirmed the 1913 boundaries in the Letters of Exchange between the then Prime Minister of Iraq, whose letter defined the boundaries which were then accepted by the Ruler of Kuwait.

In 1961, Iraqi President Abdul Karim Kassim congratulated Kuwait on its independence. A few days later, he put forward his claim on Kuwait.

In 1963, the Foreign Minister of Iraq at that time sent a letter to the Secretary-General of the U.N. informing him of Iraq's official recognition of the sovereignty of Kuwait and the two countries signed an Agreement on 4th October 1963 under the supervision of the Arab League, in which Iraq officially recognised the existing boundaries between the two countries, which were accepted in accordance with the Letters of Exchange of 1932.

The two parties agreed to a demarcation by joint technical teams, but unfortunately this did not take place

as the Iraqi's kept dragging their feet and saying it would be done in due course. They kept it hanging for blackmail and exploitation.

If Kuwait is a part of Iraq, how could Iraq conclude Agreements with Kuwait in 1913, 1932 and 1963, and how could the Foreign Minister of Iraq send the above-mentioned Letter of Recognition? According to this agreement they agreed to exchange embassies, consulates and trade agreements of technical cooperation in all fields from 1963 until the day of the invasion, 2nd August 1990.

During the hardship days of Iraq during the war with Iran, Kuwait suffered attacks on the Amir and other subversive activities in Kuwait. Its planes were hijacked, shipping lines were blockaded and in spite of all that, Kuwait supported Iraq during its days of difficulty. Due to that support, Iraq's highest decoration was conferred by Saddam Hussein on His Highness the Amir of Kuwait on 23th September 1989, less than a year ago. Unfortunately, Iraq repaid this support by pointing the dagger against Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein accused Kuwait of stealing oil and establishing a military base on an area he claimed to be part of Iraq; and he deceived President Mubarak of Egypt when he said he would resolve the problem through negotiations, and gave his assurance that he would not invade Kuwait.

During the negotiations; he sent his team for only a 2-hour session. They asked Kuwait for the impossible and

flew back to Iraq. Only a few hours after the negotiating team's return to Baghdad, at about 2 a.m on 2nd August 1990, Iraq invaded the peaceful nation of Kuwait with a strong army of 120,000 men and 350 tanks, by land, air and sea.

The Iraqi media misled the whole world by claiming there was a revolution in Kuwait and they were called in by Kuwaiti revolutionaries. Saddam Hussein then established a puppet government in which there was not a single Kuwaiti as far as is known.

When he was met by Security Council resolution 660 and was exposed to the international society, he told the world that he had started withdrawing, but did not withdraw from Kuwait, and instead massed tanks along Saudi Arabia's border.

When the Security council resolution 661 for sanctions was passed, he chose to merge Kuwait with Iraq.

At the Arab League summit in Cairo, the Iraqis insisted that they alone would represent Kuwait at the Summit, in spite of the presence of a strong Kuwaiti delegation, headed by H.H. the Amir, and the Prime Minister.

At the meeting the majority of Arab leaders agreed to a resolution to send an Arab force to defend Saudi Arabia, in line with U.N. Security council resolutions Nos. 660,661 and 662, and insisted on unconditional and immediate withdrawal from Kuwait.



His Highness the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Iraqi President

Twelve countries voted in favour of the resolution viz. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Syria, U.A.E. and Djibouti.

Algeria and Yemen abstained, while Jordan, Sudan and Mauritania expressed reservations. Tunisia did not attend.

Iraq, Libya and the PLO voted against the resolution.

Due to the total occupation and annexation of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime, the Security Council passed Resolutions 660, 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667 and 670.

Resolution 660 condemned the invasion and called upon the invaders to withdraw their forces immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait.

Resolution 661 called for sanction to bring the invasion and occupation of Kuwait to an end and to restore the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Kuwait.

Resolution 662 declared Iraq's annexation of Kuwait legally null and void.

Due to the total occupation, and the looting and suffering of the whole Kuwaiti population, Kuwait did not resort to Article 42 of the UN Charter which deals with joint military action by only the five permanent members of the Security Council.

However, in view of the above-mentioned Resolutions, Kuwait requested many friendly countries to take necessary

action in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter which gives the right of self-defence to States, individually or collectively, in any suitable manner.

Iraq ordered the closure of all Embassies in Kuwait and demanded they shift to Baghdad. They also took hostage several foreign nationals and moved them to key military and civil installations in Kuwait and Baghdad.

Under Resolution 664, the UN Security Council demanded that Iraq permit and facilitate the immediate departure from Kuwait and Iraq of the nationals of third countries, and grant immediate and continuing access of consular officials to such nationals.

It reaffirmed its decision in resolution 662 (1990) that the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq is null and void, and demanded that the Govt. of Iraq rescind the orders for the closure of diplomatic and consular missions in Kuwait, and the withdrawal of the immunity of their personnel.

Since Iraq did not implement Resolution 660 and 661, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 665 which gave power to the States, including the United States, to use minimum force to enforce the sanctions against Iraq.

Resolution 666 called for a constant review of the situation regarding, foodstuffs in Iraq and Kuwait.

Resolution 667 again demanded the release of all foreign nationals taken hostage and the protection and well-being of diplomatic and consular personnel and premises in Kuwait and Iraq.

Resolution 670 confirmed that the sanctions applied under Resolution 661 (1990) applies to all means of transport, including aircraft.

In a sudden offer to Iran, President Saddam Hussein agreed to all the Iranian conditions for a peace treaty, viz. (1) Iraq to pull out all soldiers from Iranian territory; (2) freeing of all Iranian prisoners-of-war, and (3) accepting a 1975 agreement dividing the Shatt al-Arab waterway between the two countries.

While welcoming the peace between Iran and Iraq, it is hoped that it is not a ploy in order to reinforce the Iraqi regime's occupation forces in Kuwait.

In a message relayed over radio and TV, President Saddam Hussein linked his withdrawal from Kuwait to the immediate withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab lands, there by equating himself with Israel as an occupation force. Now, he says there is no question of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

There are many who talk about a peaceful solution through negotiations within the Arab fraternity. Those who are seeking such peace should insist on the implementation of the eight Security Council resolutions condemning Iraq, and should ask Iraq to comply with these resolutions.

There are voices of objection to the invitation to friendly countries to help defend Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries against the Iraqi regime's aggression,

on the pretext that they are non-muslims coming to holy places.

1) It is worth mentioning here, that the area where the confrontation is, is 1500 kms away from the holy places.

2) When the Prophet, peace be upon him, was subjected to threats from his own tribe at the time of the revelation of the message of Islam, he and his companions left Mecca in two groups. One group sought refuge and help from the Emperor of Ethiopia, who was a Christian, and the other group, along with the Prophet, went to seek help the refuge in Medina, which at the time was inhabited by Jews and Arab atheists.

3) When the Prophet, peace be upon him, wanted to regain Mecca, he sought the help of the tribe Khozah, some of whom were muslims and some of them non-muslims.

As illustrated above, that means there is no harm in seeking help in self-defence from any friendly country, especially in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter which gives the right to States, individually and collectively, to act in self-defence against brutal and vicious aggression.

Surprisingly, it is Mr Tariq Hanna Aziz, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, who is an Arab Christian, who is calling for the liberation of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina from the muslims who have been there more than 1400 years; these cities are 1500 kms away from the Saudi-

Kuwait border where muslim and non-muslim forces are gathering to stop and remove the Iraqi aggressor.

The Iraqi occupation authorities' organised operation to loot and plunder Kuwait has no precedent in history. What has occurred in Kuwait is the act of armed robbery by a Government which has used its military, security and technical forces for that purpose.

They have looted food and medical supplies from public and private stores, and have even stolen from the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Association the stores and medical supplies set aside for relief operations in disaster-stricken countries. All this has been transferred to Baghdad.

Not content with plundering liquid cash, gold, etc from the Central Bank of Kuwait and other banks, financial institutions and jewellery shops, they have even confiscated furniture and equipment from colleges and laboratories of Kuwait University and the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research.

They have stolen equipment from private and public hospitals, including X-ray machines, scanners, etc., and have expelled all patients from hospitals, including babies in incubators and people on life-support systems, and these are now used exclusively for the treatment of wounded Iraqi soldiers.

Civilians have been deprived of medical aid, and they are now being taken care of by Kuwaiti volunteers in

mosques, which are also being used to carry out social welfare activities.

Even private homes and institutions have not been spared from looting.

The Iraqi regime has stolen equipment and material belonging to the Kuwaiti armed forces; has confiscated civilian aircraft belonging to Kuwait Airways and sent them to Baghdad.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Mr Saddam was "most unlikely" to pull out and called for sanctions to be pressed home. She said, "This man is a despot and a tyrant and must be Stopped."

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze described Iraqi troops' invasion of Kuwait as a "tragic event". He said, "I did not think and did not expect that the Iraqis would resort to such an overt invasion, an undisguised aggression against the defenceless peace-loving country which did not and does not threaten anyone."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev branded the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as "treacherous" and a blatant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.

U.S. President George Bush termed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait "a ruthless assault on the very essence of international order and civilised ideals".

He said, "Leaders who use citizens as pawns deserve and will receive, the scorn and condemnation of the entire

world.” The President said the Iraqi leadership, in moving foreigners against their will was “violating the norms” of Islam.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said: “We are now on the brink of what would be a great disaster of a very painful, maybe even a costly, exercise in international enforcement of law and order.”

“If the Gulf crisis was not resolved to uphold law and order, you’ll have international outlaws taking over. Without international order, which means somebody maintaining the peace, the world cannot progress.”

He urged the United States to act quickly to end Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait, saying Baghdad’s invasion had opened the way for international outlaws to seize power.

At the Summit meeting in Helsinki on 9th Sept. 1990 President Bush and President Gorbachev made a joint demand for a complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

“Nothing short of the complete implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions is acceptable”, they said. The statement added, “We must demonstrate beyond any doubt that aggression cannot and will not pay.

President Saddam Hussein sent a summit-eve message to President Bush and President Gorbachev warning that attempts to reverse his invasion of Kuwait are “futile”. He said, “Foreign intervention complicates things and does not

resolve them.” Isn’t Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait also “foreign intervention”?

He also told them, “...The Arab Nation is one, even though it is now divided.” But who has divided them - it is Saddam Hussein himself.

He describes his own country as “peace-loving”. Iraq has just finished fighting an aggressive 8 year war with one neighbour, and now invades a tiny, defenceless, brotherly neighbour. This is not the act of a “peace-loving” country.

According to Mr Saddam Hussein Iraq has a so-called “historical claim” on Kuwait. Assuming for the sake of argument that this is taken as the basis for his invasion, what will he say if tomorrow the Tartars claim Iraq, since historically they too at one time ruled over Mesopotamia (as Iraq was then called). Or, according to Mr Saddam’s logic, it would be just as valid for Turkey to annex all the land which were under the Ottoman Empire, including Iraq. If one followed Mr Saddam’s logic, most of the maps of the world would have to be redrawn.

Just a week after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt said: “I call once again on (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein and the Arab nation to hold an Arab summit within 24 hours to reach a solution and discuss the issue”.

“We want to find a solution within the Arab framework which is better for the Arab world,” he said.

“I fear that Iraq will receive a massive strike...There is an aggression coming (against Iraq). It could be horrible and destructive.”

In a statement issued at the Fifth Islamic Summit on 1st Oct. 1990, H.H. the Amir said: “In my capacity as Chairman of the Fifth Session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I launched that call for peace and the easing of tension among Islamic countries. In fact, Kuwait was the initiator of the proposal to set up an Islamic Court of Justice which would adjudicate disputes between Islamic countries.

Our hopes in that regard were high and promising especially under the umbrella of International detente witnessed in the 1990s. However, these hopes were dashed overnight by the malevolent biases inherent in the Iraqi regime when its military forces invaded peaceful and tranquil Kuwait at dawn on the eleventh day of Muharram, one of the months in which fighting is prohibited and corresponding to the 2nd of August, under the pretext of assisting an alleged internal rebellion, that gross falsehood fell apart when the Iraqi regime found not a single Kuwaiti willing to cooperate with it. Hence, that regime retracted that lie only to come up with yet another scandalous fabrication whereby it annexed Kuwait to Iraq on allegedly historical claims. If such a line of thinking were to be followed, the entire current international order would be destabilized. Indeed the whole political map of the world would then be altered and Iraq itself would be its first victim.

The Iraqi regime pompously raising now the banner of Islam and advocating jihad, is farthest from all that, for the Iraqi regime has not heeded any of the appeals calling on it to avoid bloodshed and return to the righteous path. The Iraqi regime disobeys God's call as rendered in the following verse:

“The answer of the Believers,
When summoned to Allah
And His Messenger, in order
That he may judge between them,
Is no other than this;
They say, “we hear and we obey”:
It is such as these
That will attain felicity.”

The Iraqi regime disobeys the tradition of our Prophet Mohammad.

“A moslem is brother to every other moslem. He therefore ought not betray, deceive nor abandon his fellow moslems. A moslem's whole person is inviolable by any other moslem: be it his personal honour, property or life.”

The Iraqi regime has been treacherous and deceitful. It has violated the sanctity of personal honour, property and human life. Is there Islam in all that?”

At his speech at the 45th Session of the U.N. General Assembly, H.H. the Amir said: “From the early years of

independence, my country has been privileged to be in the forefront of states that gave development aid to other countries. Kuwait's contributions represent the highest rate in the world in terms of gross national product, amounting to 8.3% of its GNP. This highlights Kuwait's genuine desire to contribute towards raising the standard of living in the developing nations. It also proves that Kuwait has been a leader in the efforts to improve the economic infrastructure of other countries.

His Highness also said: "Two years have now elapsed since I made an initiative from this rostrum calling for the cancellation of foreign debts under the burden of which numerous countries suffer enormously, in this spirit, Kuwait, for its part, has decided in line with our previous proposal regarding this issue, to write off all interests on its loan. In addition, Kuwait will consider with the poorest nations arrangements regarding the principal of its loans with a view to easing the burden of their debts."

**From : “Letters to Editor”
When brothers betray brothers**

News Straits Times
Thursday, August 23, 1990

In the still
of the dawn
When peace reigned
supreme
Aggression spawned
its monstrous scheme
Mindless aggression
Insane ambition
ousted peace
and became monarch.
The sanctity of your gentle land
has been outraged
Alas!
Aggression calls it a
“holy war”.
Trampled on; torn
and violently scarred
You stand, disbelieving
with your bleeding heart.
Crying out
in agony and humiliation
“Oh brothers
How could a brother
betray his own brother?”

SARAS

Perak.

(PRESS RELEASE)

**STATEMENT BY THE EMBASSY OF
THE STATE OF KUWAIT IN MALAYSIA**

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Malaysia denounces the so-called “new Kuwaiti government” which was set up by the invading Iraqi regime, and it asserts that the Kuwaiti people cannot accord any importance to this alleged government, as it is one of the unacceptable outcomes of the vicious aggression against Kuwait by the Iraqi regime, an aggression that is denounced by the world in its entirety. The Embassy confirms its allegiance to His Highness the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, and to the Government of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. The Embassy warns against any dealings with any party affiliated with the puppet government.

IRAQ/KUWAIT

Kuala Lumpur, Aug 7 (kuna) - Kuwait will not become part of Iraq and will remain a free and independent country, Iraqi Ambassador to Malaysia Hisham Fakhri al-Tabaqchali said today.

He claimed that there was now a free provisional government in Kuwait made up of Kuwaiti army officers and that the Kuwaitis would decide for themselves the type of government they wanted for the oil-rich Gulf state.

He also claimed that Iraq, in accordance with a timetable, had already started pulling out its troops from Kuwait since Sunday.

What happens after this is for them (the provisional government) to settle down, settle their own affairs, (decide

on) the kind of government and constitution they want, he told newsmen at the Iraq Embassy here.

Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait on Aug 2 after talks to resolve differences between the two major oil-producing countries failed. Iraq had accused neighbouring Kuwait among other things of undermining its economy by refusing to lower oil production to boost prices.

Hisham Fakhri however denied that Iraq had invaded Kuwait, maintaining that the Iraqi government was merely responding to a call for help from the new government.

But he refused to reveal the identity of the army officers they pressured others. Look at the news on television on what action and moves they took and used to pressure other governments to come out with this (condemnation), he said.

Asked about the impact of impending stiff economic sanctions on Iraq, he said: it is not the end of the world, we are hopeful of our future.

He said as a country which believed in international cooperation and relations, Iraq did take into account international opinion.

We have our own stand, they have their own. Not everybody can agree, he said.

He also spoke of Islamic and Arab brotherhood, saying that it had always been their but that sometimes there were conflicting views.

When these views become extreme, they will be diffused and then relations will come back to normal, Hisham Fakhri added.
- Kuna

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

PRESS STATEMENT

ALHAMDULILLAHI RABBILALAMIN, PEACE BE UPON PROPHET. The Almighty says: “Muslims are allowed to go war (against invaders) if they have been oppressed, and the Almighty will help them to win.” Al Hajj Verse No. 39.

Al Hajj verse # states: “Those who have been driven away from their villages without a true reason; those who have been driven away just because they say, ‘Allah Almighty is our God’; and if Almighty does not urge human beings to fight against intruders, then certainly the churches, synagogues and mosques will collapse, as Allah knows who is fighting for religion (Islam), as Allah is the Almighty.”

Kuwait Embassy in Kuala Lumpur has received a bulletin from Iraq Embassy “Return of the split part to its motherland”. Do the contents mean that Iraq has returned to the Ottoman Empire or its heirs, as Iraq formerly was part of it, while Kuwait was always an independent State. Explanation of the Bulletin itself is not acceptable to intelligent people. It would have been better if those who distributed the bulletins had informed the public of Saddam Hussein’s own words of commendation to H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, while presenting him the Award under Decree No. 472 on 23 September 1989 (copy enclosed). And what is important is that we, the Kuwaiti youth, have the right to reject the invasion of the freedom and sovereignty of our country.

Allah Almighty is always with us.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh.

Embassy of
the State of Kuwait
Kuala Lumpur



H.H. the late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, flanked right by the late Barrak Abdul Mohsen Al Ajeel, then the late Sheikh Ali Al Jassar, then Mr. Jabr Al Ghanim, Mr. Faisal Abdul Aziz Al Jalal, then Abdul Aziz Faisal Al Jalal on the occasion of the wedding ceremony of the son of the ambassador Hazem Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa.



His Excellency the ambassador Al Essa and some Kuwaiti and Indian personalities in one of the events.

Recognition

After all those exceptional services and sincere efforts over this long period of time, the devotion to raise the profile of his country and maintain its prestige and standing among other countries, Mr. Al Essa deserves the due recognition and appreciation.

Recognition is a moral principle cherished by civilized countries, thus our beloved country Kuwait which produced such devoted and principled people is proud of such people and seeks to highlight their achievements and activities. Mr. Al Essa, no doubt, is one of those people who deserves appreciation and recognition for his services in the interest of his country.

It is clear that manifestations of such a recognition had been indicated in this book, such as certificates, shields and other memorabilia' which were presented to him from the kings, leaders and presidents of the countries he dealt with during his career. There are also words and speeches made on the occasion of leaving a country. Some of this recognition will be indicated in the following.



A certificate of appreciation presented by H.E. Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah Minister of Foreign Affairs to Mr. Ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa in appreciation of his sincere efforts in serving his country throughout the period of undertaking his responsibilities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Conclusion

Now we come to the end of this long story as cited in the book which presents:

- **To the kind reader:**

The essence of a human experience which reacted to real life so that the conclusion included highly honourable services to the beloved country.

- **To the emerging diplomats:**

The essence of a pioneering diplomatic experience which constitutes a school of diplomatic reaction to achieve an optimal representation of the state of Kuwait.

- **To those involved in the diplomatic domain:**

A model of how to benefit from the accumulated experiences, and in any form, to invest and initialize such experiences in the proper domain, and to be transferred to the people in the some countries where those people once existed.

- **To the retired diplomats:**

A good model so as not to give in to the killing leisure time on the one hand, and not to withhold the acquired

experiences from reaching whoever deserves them on the other.

• **To the authenticators of Kuwaiti personalities:**

A rich material for authentication, rife with good content which constitutes an invaluable treasure to benefit by it in a condensed manner, highlighting the essence of the experiences detached from insignificant details.

In the end let us come up with a diplomatic encyclopedic work with its tremendous experiences which could be missing after the demise of their owners unless authenticated. It is a call for my brothers who are interested in documentation to repeat this experience.

Thanks are due to the Lord of all the worlds,

Abdul Mohsen

References & Resources

1- Resources:

- Documentary interviews with H.E. the ambassador Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa.
- Three episodes of the TV program “Hasad Al Ayyam” (Harvest of the Days)
- Five episodes of the program “I was an Ambassador” on Kuwait Radio.
- An episode of ‘From the Heart’ on Kawaii TV. Presented by Basem Al Lugheni on 22.6.2013.
- Papers and researches from the archive of Mr. Al Essa.
- Wikipedia.
- Arab Encyclopedia Website.
- Masrawi Web site.
- Al Ahram Digital Website.
- Al Jazira.net.
- Al Qabas daily on 2.10.2006 and the issue #28.2.2014

2- References:

- Islamic World Atlas – Saifeddin El Katib. Version 1 Darel Shurouq el Arabi – Beirut 2003
- Iraqi invasion of Kuwait – Kuwaiti embassy in Malaysia – Version 1 – 1990.
- Kuwaiti Diplomacy facing Iraqi Aggression of Kuwait – Kuwaiti Media Center – Cairo. Jan. 1999.
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Ambassador Essa Abdul-Rahman Al-Essa

Four decades of diplomatic work

1959 – 1998



H.E. Ambassador Al Essa showed no reluctance in approving to join the Kuwaiti embassy staff in Washington which he regarded as a response to the call of Kuwait and carrying out his national duty. He took up his task in 1962 following the change of the name of the “Department of Foreign Affairs” to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This was the beginning of the rally of Mr. Al Essa in the Kuwaiti MFA which started in 1962 and continued till 1998. During this period which spanned 37 years, he served his country and made many remarkable diplomatic achievements. He represented his country in nearly twelve countries, including North America, North Africa, Asia (S. Asia, SE Asia, NE Asia). He also represented his country in several regional and international conferences, for example Non-Alignment Conference, Marine Law Conference, IOL Conference and UNIDO.

Finally, this authentication comes as an opportunity for emerging generations to benefit from the experience of the founding generations of the diplomatic life.