



*Biography of His Majesty
Sultan Zaboos bin Said
and Schedule of Events
October 15, 1998*

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD

to

**His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said
Sultan of Oman**

October 15, 1998
The Willard Hotel
Washington, D.C.

Schedule of Events

6:00-6:30: *President Carter and H.E. Yusuf bin Alawi Abdallah, Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, Sultanate of Oman, and Guests Arrive*

6:30-6:40: *Dr. John Duke Anthony, President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations*

6:40-6:50: *President Jimmy Carter*

6:50-7:00: *H.E. Yusuf bin Alawi Abdallah*



Right: His Majesty Sultan Qaboos at the 10th Annual GCC Heads of State Summit

Below: Ariel view of Salalah, in Oman's Southern Province.



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said was born in Salalah, in the Sultanate of Oman's Southern Region, on 17th Shawwal 1359 (18th November 1940).

Education and Training

His Majesty received his basic education in Oman. Then, in September 1958, his father sent him to England to complete his studies. In 1960, he joined the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, as an officer cadet passing out two years later. After this, His Majesty joined a British infantry regiment - the 1st Battalion, the Cameronians (the Scottish Rifles), which was at that time stationed in Germany - and spent six months with them as a trainee in leadership skills.

When His Majesty completed his military education, he returned to Britain. There, he studied local government systems and completed specialized courses in administration. In 1964, he returned to Oman and lived with his father in Salalah, where he spent most his time improving his knowledge of Islamic Shari'ah law and the civilization and history of his country. During this period, he also met senior Omani Shaikhs, officials, and others when they visited his father, but he held no official position.

On 23rd July 1970, Sultan Said bin Taimur abdicated and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said took over the reins of government in Oman. In 1970, Oman was one of the least developed of Arab countries and His Majesty inherited a legacy of backwardness and stagnation. In addition to this, Oman was preoccupied with civil conflict and foreign incursion in the Southern Region's mountains of Dhofar.

Leadership

From the moment he came to power, His Majesty set about implementing development projects with the aim of improving people's standard of living. He opened schools, built hospitals and roads, provided essential ser

vices, and began to expand the national economic base so that the country would not have to depend on oil as its sole source of revenue. He secured an end to the civil conflict in Dhofar on 11th December 1975, allowing the development process to embrace the entire country.

In the years that followed, His Majesty accelerated and expanded his country's economic, social, and political development. He established a Cabinet of Ministers to perform an executive role and run the day to day affairs of government. In 1981, he expanded the Sultanate's government and consultative base when he set up the State Consultative Council to provide for maximum participation in the country's economic and social planning and development. Omani women, who from that time began to play a full role in Omani society, now occupy important positions in the government, the private sector, social services (education and health) and in the economy as well as in the security forces.

Institution Building

In 1991, His Majesty replaced the State Consultative Council with the Majlis ash-Shura, and elected assembly. Elections to the Majlis ash-Shura have been held in 1994 and 1997, with men and women throughout the country voting for the members. Two women currently serve as members of the Majlis ash-Shura. In 1997, His Majesty further strengthened the country's political institutions with the creation of a second chamber of the parliament, Majlis a'Dawla (State Council).

The process of institutional development in Oman is taking place in accordance with the framework of the Basic Statute of the State, which His Majesty announced in 1996. The Basic Statute of the State is Oman's first written constitution. In addition to setting out the framework for the political development of the Sultanate, the Statute codifies the rights and responsibilities of Omani citizens, and states the general principles on which the government of the Sultanate is to be conducted. These principles combine traditional Omani values, derived from the Islamic Shari'ah, with modern conceptions of human rights, political participation, and free market economics.



Above: Qurum National Park in the heart of Muscat, Oman.

Below: View of Port Qaboos and Riyam Park in Muscat.



Modernization and Development

The fusion of modern and traditional values expressed in the Basic Statute of the State can also be seen in the fact that His Majesty continues to make annual tours of the country to meet citizens face to face. In these meetings, he listens to their requests and views, addresses himself to their interests, and receives personal letters, which he reads with care before deciding on appropriate courses of action.

Applying his military experience, His Majesty has successfully modernized the country's armed forces. He is committed to the protection of international shipping in Omani territorial waters, which include an important part of the Strait of Hormuz; this Strait is vital to the Gulf region and is the corridor through which most of the region's oil production is shipped to the outside world.

External Relations

In world affairs, His Majesty returned Oman to the international community shortly after his accession, leading it into membership of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. In 1981, His Majesty was one of the founders of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council and has been a strong advocate of enhanced regional cooperation.

His Majesty has ensured that the Sultanate's foreign policy is conducted in accordance with the principles of peaceful coexistence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and cooperation and reciprocity with states whose political systems differ from Oman's. The application of these principles has sometimes led Oman to challenge conventional views in order to give practical support to those who seek peace and reconciliation. The Sultanate's position in support of the peace process in the Middle East reflects this distinctive approach.

