AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF BAHRAIN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA

The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Government of Australia convinced of the importance for the two countries of strengthening and expanding economic relations and trade relations between them on the basis of mutual respect and joint benefit,

Have agreed as follows:-

ARTICLE I

The two Governments shall take all appropriate measures to develop and expand trade and economic relations and also technical co-operation in the areas of the export of goods and services on a mutually beneficial basis for both countries.

ARTICLE II

In accordance with the objectives set out in Article I the two Governments shall:-

(1) encourage and facilitate the development of economic relations and technical co-operation between the organisations and commercial enterprises of the two countries;

(2) encourage the efforts of the organisations and commercial enterprises of the two countries which are concerned with the subject matter of the Agreement in connection with developmental projects and technical and commercial co-operation;

(3) in accordance with the provisions of their legislation the two Governments shall grant to organisations and commercial enterprises all facilities necessary for the implementation of projects in both countries.

ARTICLE III

In accordance with this Agreement, commercial and technical co-operation shall be furthered by:-

(a) facilitation of the exchange of joint ventures in connection with commercial projects and natural resources in each country;

(b) exchange of visits by delegations from the two countries, for example, trade missions, professional consultants and construction contractors, and representatives of research and design institutes, and other specialised organisations;

(c) commercial arrangements relating to the exchange of technology through concessions, patents, licences, services and the provision of commercial and technical expertise;

(d) co-operation between organisations and commercial enterprises of both countries for the exchange of designs and of plant and equipment;

(e) other means which may be agreed upon between organisations and commercial enterprises of both countries.

ARTICLE IV

1. In accordance with existing laws and regulations of the two countries the two Governments shall encourage:-

(a) participation in international fairs held in either country;

(b) the establishment in either country of temporary or permanent trade centres and fairs;

(c) the provision of facilities to import samples, machinery and other necessary materials for the purpose of establishing fairs and trade centres and for related publicity purposes.

2. Samples, machinery and other necessary materials referred to in sub-paragraph 1(c) above shall be temporarily free from customs duties. These goods and materials shall be removed from the country into which they have been imported, unless the two Governments arrange other means of disposal. If these goods and articles are used for commercial purposes in any way they shall be subject to full rates of customs duty without exemption.

ARTICLE V

Payments arising out of the implementation of this Agreement shall be made in any mutually acceptable convertible currency in accordance with conditions and contracts and in accordance with the foreign exchange laws in force in the two countries.

ARTICLE VI

1. Contracts and arrangements entered into between organisations and commercial enterprises in relation to the execution of this Agreement shall be subject to the laws and regulations in force in the two countries.

2. Performance of rights and obligations arising out of such contracts and commercial arrangements shall be the responsibility of the relevant organisations and

commercial enterprises and shall not impose any legal obligations on either Government except as are provided otherwise under applicable principles of international law.

ARTICLE VII

1. For the purpose of the objectives of this Agreement a Joint Committee consisting of representatives designated by each Government shall be established in accordance with the laws and regulations of the two countries.

2. The Joint Committee shall meet at the request of either Government and the dates and place of the meetings shall be mutually arranged between them.

3. The Joint Committee shall:-

(a) explore the possibilities of increasing and diversifying trade and technical and commerical co-operation between the two countries;

(b) examine possible means of encouraging an exchange of relations between organisations and commercial enterprises;

(c) consider submitted proposals to take necessary measures for continuing and increasing trade and for the expansion of technical and commercial co-operation between the two countries;

(d) seek appropriate solutions to disputes and problems which may arise in the course of trading relations between the two countries;

(e) encourage and facilitate the exchange of ideas and information in the field of technology.

4. The Joint Committee may submit to the two Governments recommendations relating to the matters referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article.

ARTICLE VIII

The two Governments shall seek to encourage the adherence to special international commodity agreements designed to imporve the conditions of international trade in primary products in order to provide a greater degree of stability in that trade.

ARTICLE IX

This Agreement shall be submitted for approval by the two Governments in accordance with the constitutional requirements of each country and shall remain in force for

a period of five years from the date of exchange of notes signifying approval. Thereafter it shall continue in force for ninety days after the day on which either Government gives to the other written notice of its desire to terminate the Agreement.

ARTICLE X

In the event of termination of this Agreement in accordance with Article IX above it shall not affect the continuity of application of the text of Article VI of this Agreement in respect of unfulfilled obligations under commercial contracts entered into during the period in which this Agreement is in force.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, HABIB KASSIM and JOHN DOUGLAS ANTHONY, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

This Agreement is done in two copies on this 17th day of May, One thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine (A.D.) corresponding to the 18th day of Jamadi ... One thousand three hundred and ninety-nine (HIJRIYA) in two original duplicates in the Arabic and English languages, both texts equally authentic.

For the Government of the State of Bahrain

Minister for Trade and Agriculture

For the Government of Australia

Minister for Trade and Resources