

**Speech by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said
on the occasion of the
25th National Day Silver Jubilee**

18/11/1995

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

We give profound thanks to God, and may prayers and peace be upon His Prophet, on His Prophet's Family and Companions and on those who Follow Them in good faith until the day of judgement.

Dear Countrymen,

IN this glorious year in which we celebrate the Jubilee of Oman's Renaissance, the dawn of which broke upon us with such hope twenty-five years ago, we take pleasure in greeting you all. We call upon God, in full submissiveness, to care for our blessed progress and to grant that we may proceed with sure steps towards the glorious vista of our continued achievement.

Countrymen,

During these past years, with God's help, our precious land has witnessed the realisation of many successes in all fields, which have resulted in bringing our Omani people to higher standards of life through their deliverance from the bondage of isolation, ignorance and backwardness. This flame that was thus lit in the spirit of our people enabled them to stand in resolute determination, with heads held high, to build the foundations of the glorious victories that we now behold, and the vision of a promising future of proud progress.

These achievements cannot be ignored or denied. In mentioning them we do so in order only to show our gratitude and appreciation to God for His benevolence to our country. However, we must always bear in mind that all this could not have been realised without the heartfelt effort, struggle and true determination of the Sons of this country. Therefore it is the duty of every devoted Omani to preserve these achievements and to protect them from harm.

Countrymen,

You have all played your part in the making of this new chapter in Oman's history. Everyone has made his own contribution, according to his ability, in building this structure of our future. We are confident that the coming generations will appreciate all you have done, and with God's permission, will work to consolidate and strengthen it further. You are the pioneers who blazed the trail that ensured that, in days to come, our progress will be faster and unconfined, with our future gains assured.

Honourable Countrymen,

In the past years of the Renaissance we have undergone great experiences of comprehensive development, which have enriched our capabilities and allowed us to adopt effective methods to overcome the difficulties that beset us. Today, we thank God that we possess a great armoury of knowledge, skill and experience which we have acquired through our work and practice. It is natural that we should make use of this armoury and apply it with wisdom and competence, to ensure our future success. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly define our plans for the future. In this context we have reached the conclusion that we must attach great importance to the enhancement of our human resources through improving general and technological education, so that our Omani people can further equip themselves so as to undertake tasks greater than in the past.

The human being, as we have always said, is the power, the instrument and the ultimate aim of national development. Thus we exert every effort to provide him with these essential qualities so that we can all, together, build our nation. You are aware that there are countries in this world which do not possess rich natural resources, but nevertheless have cared for their people and directed them in the right direction, developed their skills and provided them with technological expertness in order to face their domestic and international evolution.

Therefore, their innate abilities have been released and their inventions have been eagerly sought throughout the world. By this means they have taken their place in the forefront of the developed countries.

In addition to the development of human resources, which is the foundation stone of our policy, it is also necessary to draw up a complete strategy for economic diversification, and to seriously work by all means to utilise the available natural resources and to create a suitable economic atmosphere which will allow individual initiative to flourish. It will enhance

the role of the private sector and develop the system that will make Oman an oasis for useful foreign investment; and attract international capital and expertise which will have an effective impact on various fields of life.

Oil is a finite resource and its age is limited. Therefore, it is necessary not to depend on it solely to finance the development. From the beginning, we have stressed this truth, and our efforts have been notably successful. However, oil is still the main resource, and the fluctuation of its prices is of great concern to everyone. Thus there is no other course but to diversify the sources of our national income more widely, in order to make oil revenues only a minor element of this income. This leads us to call upon all citizens to save, invest, pursue business interests, develop industry, tourism, and agriculture and utilise mineral resources, fisheries, livestock and other sources of revenue. It is essential that the Omani private sector be more active, roll up its sleeves and prove its efficiency and ability to compete. The governmental administrative system must react to, and co-operate with, the private sector. It must not allow bureaucracy and routine to hinder its good performance. With this, the process of development can reach its goals.

Dear Countrymen,

We have always, in the past years, maintained our principles in the exercise of our foreign policies, and our firm attitude based on our precise beliefs and assessments on regional and international issues. We have strengthened our brotherly ties to the Arab and Islamic States, and we have confirmed the bonds of friendship with all countries and nations on the basis of mutual respect and mutual interests, non-interference in internal affairs, worked to solve disputes through peaceful means, and respect for international pacts and law.

With regard to the Middle East problem, we have supported peace, and called for its achievement on all fronts, including the Syrian and Lebanese fronts, on the basis of a whole withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon. We re-affirm our position on these matters, and we demand the full implementation of what has been agreed between the parties concerned, without obstruction, and by taking serious steps to reach a just solution with regard to the remaining matters.

Within the AGCC we contributed with continuous devoted effort to carrying out our obligations within the framework of the treaties between those States.

It is our pleasure to take this opportunity to express our great

happiness in hosting the brotherly meeting which will take place with the Leaders of the AGCC States at our 16th Summit next month in Muscat, God willing. They are most welcome in this, their country and among us, their family. We wish them and all members of their delegations a happy stay and a successful Summit in meeting the needs and aspirations of the peoples of the States of the Council.

Dear People,

From the first day of the Renaissance, there was a highly significant role for our valiant Armed Forces and the Security Services in protecting the country and in ensuring its security and stability. The achievements of any country are exposed to destruction if there is no national defence force, therefore we have always worked to ensure its continued development and renewal. On this occasion we are pleased to affirm our determination to continue to provide our Armed Forces with the fullest care and attention in order that their requirements are met.

As an expression of our pride and appreciation of the great role they have performed in securing the safety of Oman and in maintaining the gains of the Renaissance, we salute and greet them on this glorious day of dignity and pride.

Countrymen,

Soon, our blessed Renaissance will enter a new phase of its successful process, which has been achieved in the past 25 years through persistence and effort, exemplified by achievements in which we can take the greatest pride. This phase will be full of the highest expectations, but contain great challenges which will require from you unflagging determination, strong arms and clear minds. This phase will call for intensive work, effort and sacrifice for the country.

O Sons of Sacred Oman everywhere!

O Valiant Soldiers of Oman, wherever you are!

With the blessing of God, be prepared to continue the process with resolution and full hearts. Oman needs your devotion, your hard work and your sacrifice. Therefore, we again call upon you for the sake of Oman's future to further co-operate and strive together with love and brotherhood.

On this basis, let us renew our allegiance and commence, in the name and with the help of God, this new phase of Oman's history. We look to

Almighty God to grant us the success that He has given us in the past, and to bestow upon Oman glory until the last of our days.

It is an oath and a pledge:

'Anyone who violates His oath does so to the harm of his own soul.

Anyone who fulfills what he has covenanted with God, God will soon grant him a great reward.'

O God, we thank You for all that You done for us. You deserve the thanks and appreciation.

We go according to Your guidance, and You are our only resort. Please lead our steps to success, and give us the help and the victory.'

