

THE IMPORTANCE OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE
SOUTHWEST REGION OF SAUDI ARABIA

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ABSTRACT

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE  
SOUTHWEST REGION OF SAUDI ARABIA

By

Saleh Ahmed Nasser

Many efforts are underway in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to improve the level of living of its citizens. These efforts, however, cannot be fully effective unless the people are capable of participating in and sharing responsibility for many of the programs. Community development is one effort designed to prepare people and areas for a greater measure of effective participation in the many kinds of human and natural resource development efforts now underway or being contemplated.

The Southwest Region was selected for study because, historically, it has been the most isolated area of the country. The Region is losing population through outmigration. Essentially it has a traditional type population relying primarily on agriculture. The national government is taking a special interest in this area.

The lack of many kinds of information and the problems of gaps in data were substantial obstacles to a

more specific analysis. However, many accurate government reports are becoming available. Also there are a number of articles in scholarly journals and recent books that can be used in constructing an evaluation of the type attempted in this dissertation. Essentially the hypothesis that guided the investigation was: Community Development can be a significant component in the socio-economic development of the Southwest Region.

The findings of this study suggest that while the Region has 31 percent of the total population of the country and despite the efforts in social, health, and educational fields, the Region still is confronted with a significant backlog of unmet social needs, education services, and health care delivery systems. Self-initiated community efforts are also notably missing in much of the Region. These areas, then, constitute the highest priority avenues for enhancement of the living conditions for the people.

It seems reasonably obvious that the agricultural sector is the most likely sector for concentrating development efforts. Here the needs range from agricultural experimentation and infrastructure enlargement to training of agricultural producers in modernized type of farming. Later perhaps the tourism and the manufacturing potentials can be explored in some depth for possible development.

Expansion of the community development program in the Region may have a significantly positive effect by facilitating coordination among the various programs and personnel that are also being implemented in the Region. The lack of coordination is a problem that occurs in all countries irrespective of level of development but is especially acute in those instances characterized by rapid expansion in many program areas.

The need for trained personnel who can implement community development type programs is perhaps the most important finding of this study. If programs to help the people are to evolve according to the plans now being formulated there can be no delay in development of the trained personnel--it must begin immediately.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE  
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By

Saleh Ahmed Nasser

A DISSERTATION

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Dedicated to my wife  
Najla A. Alshaibi

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia several years ago began a number of programs to improve the standard of living of all people in the Kingdom. Since then the Kingdom has seen its income enhanced significantly, largely because of the increase in the quantity and price of exported oil. As a result, it has been possible to expand existing programs and to develop new ones to further original goals.

The maintenance of a good measure of balance in the distribution of benefits from development programs has always been a concern in developing countries. Saudi Arabia is no exception. Measures to insure equal participation are always difficult to design and implement. This is as true when the Region is the focus as it is when different groups of people within a region are the focus.

In Saudi Arabia significant emphasis has been placed on the concept of "community development" as the approach to help assure equality of access to improvement. But it is becoming increasingly apparent that community development must be modified to fit the different conditions

in the Kingdom. These differences are obvious when viewing the Country from a regional perspective.

### The Study Area

The Southwest Region was selected for study because until recently it was rather isolated and had been losing population to the other regions. It has been estimated that three-fourths of the population of the Region are dependent upon agriculture for their living. However, much of the Region is not particularly suited to agricultural expansion except in those areas where the water supply can be improved.

Other income potentials exist in the Region. Some parts of the Region may be especially suited for tourism development. The climate during the summer might be particularly attractive to residents of other regions and possibly some of these people could be induced to spend their vacations in the Southwest Region. Forest development may also be a potential for the Region. Possibly the two, tourism and forestry, could be linked because it is only in this Region that any forest land at all exists in the Kingdom.

At present, the development of a manufacturing sector is constrained by the lack of raw materials, low purchasing power of the regional population and the high cost of transportation. It is possible that the development of agriculture, which is now essentially at the subsistence

level, will stimulate those manufacturing industries closely related to agricultural inputs and outputs. This in turn may encourage the development of additional manufacturing sectors. Eventually, it is hoped this will have a positive effect on the construction and service sectors.

It is unlikely that minerals, including oil, will be the basis for development in the foreseeable future. Thus other sectors will be the basis for income growth and a better level of living for the people of the Region.

Thus, for the above mentioned strengths and weaknesses and because it appears to present almost a "classic" case in regional development, the Southwest Region has been selected for study in this dissertation. Also, this area is of particular interest to the author.

#### Sources of Information and Their Limitations

The progress of this study was substantially dependent on data from the various government ministries and agencies. This information is considered to be accurate but there are many data gaps. Also, it becomes obvious early in a study such as this that there is little "benchmark" data. There are few historical series and therefore comparisons over time are difficult.

Books, monographs, and scholarly journal articles were also used in this study. Generally, the accuracy of these is considered high but few, if any, of these sources focus specifically on the Southwest Region. Therefore,

both historical data and breadth of present data for the Southwest Region did present a significant handicap for this study.

It was recognized at the outset that this study would be limited due to lack of appropriate information and because the study was done in the United States. Lack of appropriate information is a problem common to almost all research. When this is coupled with the necessity of doing the research at some distance from the study area, additional shortcomings become obvious to the investigator. During the progress of a study, like this, it would have been especially helpful if the author could have "talked over" some of the findings of some of the recommendations with others who are quite familiar with conditions in the study area. This, of course, was not possible.

Although the study is limited it is felt that it has value in that it will bring together in one place a number of observations and pieces of information the author has not found in one place before. Further, the effort will advance the knowledge of the author considerably in relation to this area of his home country.

### Hypotheses

This study differs from most studies in resource development in that it is not designed to test specific hypotheses. Rather it is designed to build a basis or a framework out of which additional researchers might draw

more specific hypotheses for testing on site or at least closer in geographic proximity.

Essentially this study utilized the following guiding hypotheses: Community Development can be a significant component in the overall socio-economic development of the Southwest Region of Saudi Arabia. In fact, the implied hypotheses is: The better the Community Development program is designed and the more actively it is implemented, the stronger the sustained socio-economic growth and change will be in the Region.

## CHAPTER II

### SAUDI ARABIA IN PERSPECTIVE

#### Location and Regions

Saudi Arabia is one of the Arab states which is located in Asia. It occupies about four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula, the largest projection of the South-western corner of the Asian Continent. The total area of Saudi Arabia is approximately 865,000 square miles,<sup>1</sup> but great stretches of the land are desert.

Historically speaking, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia up to 1926 was an aggregate of independent tribes living all throughout the peninsula. The present Kingdom was the creation of King Abdul-Aziz Ibn Abdul Rahman Al Faisal Al Saud, well known as Ibn Saud. He worked to unite the tribes and in 1924, after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, he had control of Hijaz, including the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina. In 1926, Ibn Saud was proclaimed King of Hijaz and Sultan of Najd. In 1932 the

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<sup>1</sup>U. S. Government Printing Office, Area Handbook for Saudi Arabia, Washington, D.C., 1971, p. XII.



two areas, Hijaz and Najd, were consolidated to form the present Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.<sup>1</sup>

Saudi Arabia is divided into four geographical divisions which do not, in every case, correspond to political division.<sup>2</sup> These four principal regions are:

#### Hijaz or the Western Region

Hijaz is an area of 150,000 square miles, and has a coast line of about 700 miles along the Red Sea. It is considered as the most well known region of the country because of the two Holy Cities, Mecca and Medina, the commercial city of Jedda, and its important ports and, in recent years, the discovery of the huge mineral resources. It is located in the Northwest portion of the Kingdom.

#### Asir or the Southwest Region

Located on the South of the Hijaz Region, it has an area of about 100,000 square miles. This region has a good sized farming area and it receives more rain than other regions in the country. This region will be discussed further in the following chapters.

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<sup>1</sup>See: George A. Lipsky, Saudi Arabia, Its People, Its Society, Its Culture (New Haven: HRAF Press, 1959), pp. 8-19, and K. S. Twitchell, Saudi Arabia (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1958), pp. 115-163.

<sup>2</sup>G. A. Lipsky, Saudi Arabia, p. 21.

### Najd or the Central Region

Located in the Central Plateau of the Kingdom, with an area estimated as 600,000 square miles. Riyadh, the Capital of Saudi Arabia, is in this region and it has a good agricultural activity, especially around the capital city and in the Province of Qassem, where the discovery of the underground water has contributed to the improvement of the agricultural production.

### Alhasa or the Eastern Region

Located in the Eastern part of the country, with an area estimated to be 40,000 square miles. In this region, beside the Oasis and its seven enormous water springs, the two million palm trees and the new irrigation system project there is the oil production, the main natural resource of Saudi Arabia. There are some important cities in this region like Dhahran, where the oil companies are headquartered and Damman, the commercial city with its port.

## Human Dimensions

### Human Component Characteristics

The exact size of the population of Saudi Arabia is not available at the present. The only complete census that was done in the country took place several months ago and the figures have not been released. There were a number of estimates made by private, public, and

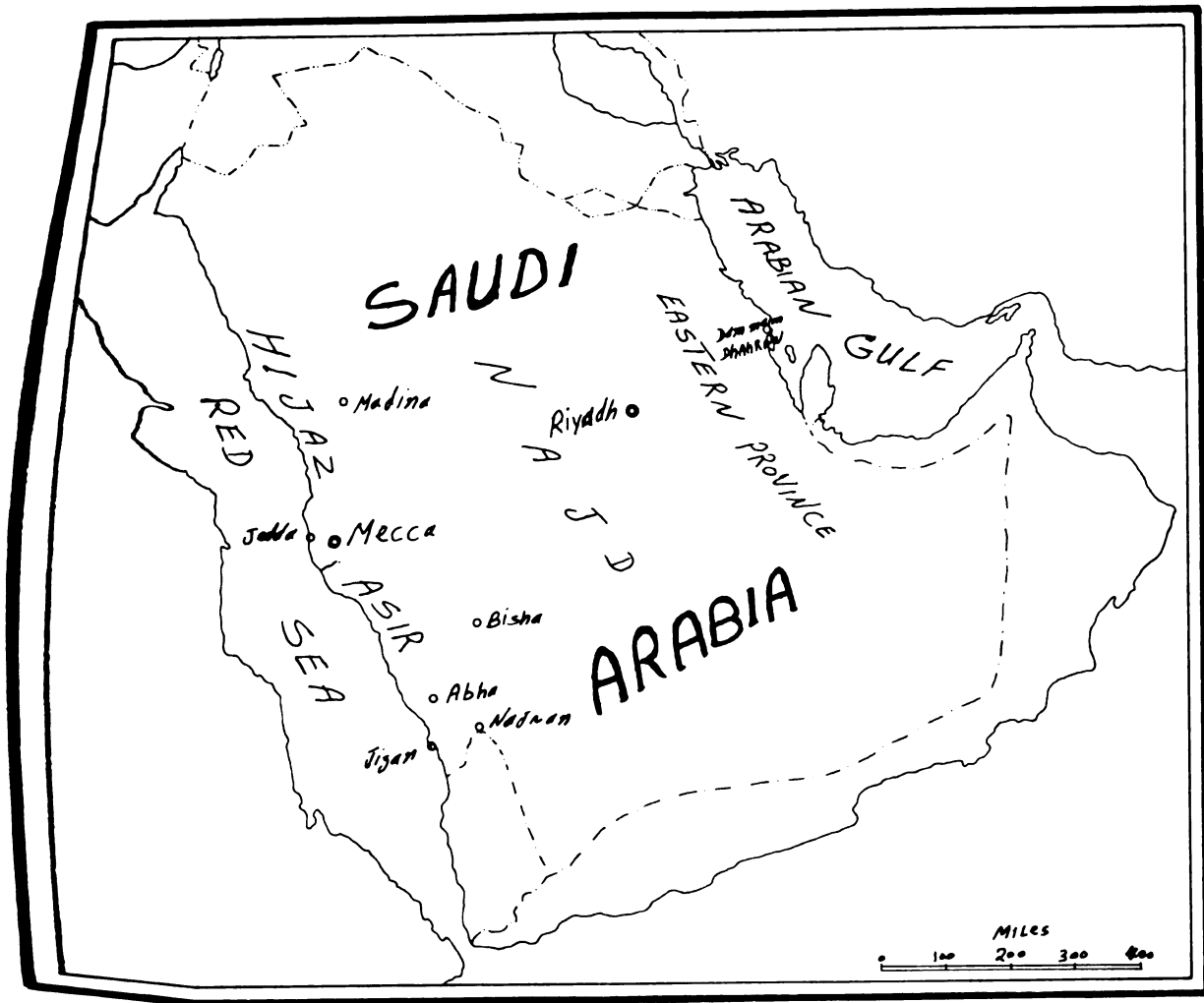


Chart 1.--Map of Saudi Arabia.

international authorities. Such estimations range from 2,900,000 to 9 million. In this study an average of five selected approximations will be recognized. In the late Fifties some reports by Aramco and other organizations estimated the population at 2,900,000. The international Demographic Year Book of the United Nations estimated the population in 1973 at 8,440,000.<sup>1</sup> The World Bank estimated the population at 5 million in 1961.<sup>2</sup> The Population Reference Bureau, Inc. estimates the population of Saudi Arabia in 1975 at 9 million.<sup>3</sup> Several other sources, including unpublished governmental reports, estimated the population at 4.5 million. These different figures give us an average of over 5.5 million, which means about five persons per square mile. Great portions of the population live in the rural areas, although in the last two decades the country faced the biggest movement, or immigration, from these areas to the cities where better jobs and higher income are available.

One of the most serious problems in the development of Saudi Arabia is the shortage of the skilled manpower. There is a lack of well-trained people to handle

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, International Demographic Year Book (New York: U.N. Publications, 1973), p. 104.

<sup>2</sup>The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank Operations (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972), p. 1.

<sup>3</sup>Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1975 World Population Data Sheet (Washington, D.C., 1975).

the jobs. That is why the country is importing large numbers of foreign experts and technicians. At the same time, a massive educational program, to train the young Saudis, has been developed in the last twenty years. With the huge flow of the oil revenue, education has achieved a considerable measure of progress in the Kingdom. The expenditure for this sector alone has risen from 12,817,000 Saudi Riyals<sup>1</sup> to 1,595,000,000 Saudi Riyals in 1972, and in the fiscal year 1974-75 the budget of this sector increased 100 percent over the previous year to become 3,784,000,000.<sup>2</sup>

In the society of Saudi Arabia, religion plays an important role. It has an effect on the family affairs and social relationships are concerned with religion. It is impossible to separate religion from their lives. Even education cannot be separated from religion. That is because Islam is basically a cooperative system. Prophet Mohammed's words show the Philosophy of the Islamic Cooperative Concept. He says:

The faithful are to one another like a building-- each part strengthening the others. Every Muslim is brother to a Muslim, neither wronging him nor allowing him to wrong. And if anyone helps his brother in need, God will help him in his own need;

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Information, The Plan of Social and Economic Development (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1971), p. 23.  
U.S. Dollar = 3.55 Saudi Riyals.

<sup>2</sup>Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Annual Report (Jedda, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 59.

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and if any one removes a calamity from another Muslim, God will remove from him some of the calamities on the Day of Resurrection.<sup>1</sup>

This philosophy and the other principles of Islam, as Asad Mohammad says:

To arrange social and economic relations in such a way that every individual shall live in Freedom and Dignity, and shall find as few obstacles as possible and as much encouragement as possible in the development of his personality.<sup>2</sup>

are well dominating the life of the people of Saudi Arabia and at the same time it does not have any actual limitations to the progressive government activities. In this social framework, the relationship within the rural family is very attached to one another and each feels responsible for the family. The size of rural families is usually large, consisting of parents, their children and grandchildren. This type of family used to exist in the urban areas, but is seldom found there today.

Some of the factors which will continue to have an important effect on the rate of social and economic development are directly related to the need for increased efficiency and desirable changes in the occupational distribution of the labor force. An economy initially based mainly on agriculture and commerce, and more recently on oil, is now attempting to diversify as quickly as existing constraints will

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<sup>1</sup>Al Bukhari and Muslim, on the authority of Abu Musa and Abdullah Ibn Umar, quoted from Asad Mohammad, The Principles of State and Government in Islam (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1961), p. 21.

<sup>2</sup>Asad Mohammad, The Principles of State and Government in Islam, p. 33.

permit, and manpower shortages have, at times, made it difficult to proceed as rapidly as desired.<sup>1</sup>

In 1963, some studies estimated the labor force of working age, 15-65, as about 800,000 men.<sup>2</sup> According to the report it was as follows, by field:

Table 1.--Labor Force of Working Age 15-65, Saudi Arabia 1963.

| Occupation                         | Number                     |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nomads                             | 165,000                    |
| In private establishment           | 176,000                    |
| In government                      | 96,000                     |
| In agriculture                     | 200,000                    |
| Not accounted for (students, etc.) | 172,000                    |
|                                    | <u>809,000<sup>a</sup></u> |

<sup>a</sup>Central Planning Organization, Economic Report, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1963), p. 7; see also, Fayed Ibrahim Badr, Developmental Planning in Saudi Arabia: A Multidimensional Study (Thesis, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, 1968), p. 132.

The writer does not believe that these figures are accurate. It can be assumed that the Nomads figure is underestimated. Several studies show that nearly half the population of Saudi Arabia is Nomadic or semi-Nomadic,

<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Development Plan (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1970), pp. 23-24.

<sup>2</sup>Central Planning Organization, Economic Report, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1963), p. 5.



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therefore, the number must be higher than 165,000. More important, within Nomads, women work hand-in-hand with men and it is normal that less than 15 year old members of the family, in the Nomadic areas, are as productive as the elders. In the last fifteen years the role of women, in the urban labor force, started growing, especially in the fields of education, social services, and health. That report did not include female activities in either urban, rural or Nomadic areas. Actually the shortage of manpower exists in both labor force and skilled manpower. As an example, up to March, 1970, the total number of the employees of the Ministry of Agriculture was 5,200.<sup>1</sup>

Table 2 shows the academic qualifications, years of experience and attendance of training courses of those employees. This table reveals that 45.3 percent of all the employees do not have any academic qualifications and 42.6 percent hold the elementary certificate or their academic level is below this certificate. The rest of the employees, 12 percent of the total, hold certificates equivalent to the intermediate certificate or above, including holders of university degrees, who compose 2.2 percent of all the employees (118 with B.S. and nine holding M.S.). As far as training is concerned, the table shows that 6.4 percent of all employees attended different training courses,

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Study of Man Power of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1970), pp. 50-51.

Table 2.--Number of all the Employees According to Their Academic Qualifications, Years of Service and Training, Ministry of Agriculture, Saudi Arabia, 1970.

| Academic Qualification                       | Years of Service<br>Four or Less |      |                      |     | Years of Service<br>Four or More |      |                      |     | Total Accord-<br>ing to<br>Academic<br>Qualification |      |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|----------------------|-----|----------------------------------|------|----------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------|------|
|                                              | Did not<br>attend<br>training    |      | Attended<br>training |     | Did not<br>attend<br>training    |      | Attended<br>Training |     | Total                                                |      |
|                                              | #                                | %    | #                    | %   | #                                | %    | #                    | %   | #                                                    | %    |
| Do not have academic<br>qualification        | 948                              | 18.2 | 7                    | 0.1 | 1382                             | 26.4 | 19                   | 0.3 | 2356                                                 | 45.3 |
| Below the Elementary<br>Certificate          | 379                              | 7.2  | 6                    | 0.1 | 669                              | 13.0 | 35                   | 0.7 | 1089                                                 | 21.0 |
| Elementary Certificate<br>or equivalent      | 368                              | 7.0  | 15                   | 0.3 | 650                              | 12.0 | 71                   | 1.4 | 1124                                                 | 21.6 |
| Intermediate<br>Certificate or<br>equivalent | 90                               | 1.7  | 9                    | 0.2 | 130                              | 2.5  | 42                   | 0.8 | 271                                                  | 5.2  |
| High School Diploma<br>or equivalent         | 10                               | 0.2  | 4                    | 0.1 | 22                               | 0.4  | 21                   | 0.4 | 57                                                   | 1.1  |
| Below the Agricultural<br>Diploma            | 12                               | 0.2  | --                   | --- | 23                               | 0.4  | 10                   | 0.2 | 45                                                   | 0.9  |
| Intermediate<br>Agricultural Diploma         | 46                               | 0.9  | 24                   | 0.4 | 18                               | 0.3  | 37                   | 0.7 | 125                                                  | 2.4  |
| Intermediate<br>Industrial Diploma           | 5                                | 0.1  | --                   | --- | 7                                | 0.1  | 1                    | --- | 13                                                   | 0.2  |
| Intermediate<br>Commercial Diploma           | 4                                | 0.1  | --                   | --- | 7                                | 0.1  | 2                    | --- | 13                                                   | 0.2  |
| Auditor's<br>Fellowship                      | --                               | ---  | --                   | --- | --                               | ---  | 1                    | --- | 1                                                    | ---  |
| University Degrees                           | 38                               | 0.7  | 10                   | 0.2 | 58                               | 1.1  | 21                   | 0.4 | 127                                                  | 2.2  |
| Total According<br>to Training               | 1900                             | 36.3 | 75                   | 1.4 | 2966                             | 56.8 | 259                  | 5.0 | 5200                                                 | 100% |
| Total According to<br>Years of Service       | 1975                             |      |                      |     | 3225                             |      |                      |     | 5200                                                 |      |

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Study of Man Power of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1970), p. 51.

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almost half of whom were from those holding the elementary certificate or those with lower academic levels. The same table reveals also that 61 percent of the employees have four or more years of service.<sup>1</sup> This shows how the shortage of manpower in Saudi Arabia demands a very general expansion of different activities in the field of education and training and its various areas. The government has recognized this problem as a serious one and programs are under way to solve it. According to F. Harbison and C. Myers:

The building of modern nations depends upon the development of people and the organization of human activity. Capital, natural resources, foreign aid, and international trade, of course, play important roles in economic growth, but none is more important than manpower.<sup>2</sup>

This is very true in the case of Saudi Arabia, the country which has natural resources and the capital, but the shortage of manpower is the main issue.

#### Natural Resource Characteristics

In general the whole country is considered as a dry country, so the shortage of water is a major problem which encouraged the government to start some projects of building dams in different locations to save the rain

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 50.

<sup>2</sup>Frederick Harbison and Charles A. Myers, Education Manpower and Economic Growth (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1964), p. v.

water during the rainy season. The establishment of desalinization stations and searches for underground water were also begun. As a matter of fact, the water resources in the country are classified into five categories:

- a. Free-flowing artesian wells, which are of two kinds:
  1. High level water springs, and
  2. Underground water which is extracted, by pumps, in most regions.<sup>1</sup>
- b. Shallow wells: this source is rarely used for drinking.
- c. Springs: these are a natural spring which have soft water, water suitable for drinking and for irrigation purposes. Some cities depend on such springs.
- d. Streams which flow during most of the rainfall season. These streams are in different areas in the country, but most dams construction projection are for the Southwest Region.
- e. Rainfall: most of the Northern Bedouins and some villages in the Northern and Southern regions are dependent on this kind of water resources.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Depth of water varies from 1,000-10,000 feet below ground level.

<sup>2</sup>Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Statistical Year Book (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1969), p. 10.

In terms of climatic factors, Saudi Arabia is one of the hottest regions of the world in the summer. The highest temperatures occur in the interior where daytime temperatures, at many stations, are about 118°F while night temperatures range from 55-65°F.<sup>1</sup> The minimum temperatures below freezing are recorded on a few mornings during the winter in some parts of the Plateau. Relative humidities are lower in the hot season, but absolute humidity is higher in coastal areas than in the interior. Finally, the precipitation records show average annual rainfall throughout the country is about five inches or less.<sup>2</sup>

There is no doubt that oil is the most important natural resource that provides the dynamic element in the Saudi economy. Oil production, which has been increasing every year, has provided revenues which started at 3.2 million dollars in 1939, and reached 6.3 billion dollars in 1973.<sup>3</sup> This revenue provided about 92.5 percent of the total government income in the year 1973. It is anticipated that the economic development of the Kingdom will depend on its oil resources to a great extent and for a long time to come, as the amount of income and foreign exchange which this sector provides is considerable. Yet,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 23-25.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 12.

<sup>3</sup>Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Annual Report (Jedda, Saudi Arabia, 1971), pp. 6-7.

the overall plan of development has adopted, as one of its main targets, the progressive decrease of its dependence on oil as its principal resource. Rather it plans to diversify its production of resources for export to attain a stage where oil will represent only one of its essential export products and not the sole resource.<sup>1</sup>

Before the discovery of the oil, the country was dependent, economically, upon the income from agriculture, small scale fishing along the coasts, and the pilgrims that come to the Holy Cities every year. There is no precise data about the contribution of agriculture in the national economy, but in the recent years it is estimated to be between 8-10 percent. However, development of agriculture is under way especially after the discovery of underground water in some parts of the country and in some regions the improvement of the agricultural production is going well, especially in the Southwest and Eastern regions, where the quantity of available water is greater than in other regions of the country. Asir (Southwest Region) has the largest agricultural area of any province because of its relatively more favorable rainfall and the larger number of intermittently flowing streams found there.<sup>2</sup>

The major crop is dates. Saudi Arabia ranks fourth among

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Information, The Plan of Social and Economic Development, p. 13.

<sup>2</sup>G. A. Lipsky, Saudi Arabia, p. 206.



date producing countries and its annual production is estimated at a little over 180,000 tons.<sup>1</sup> Dates have a great economic value in producing food, wood for construction and fodder for animals. Other crops are wheat, maize, barley, alfalfa, various fruits, vegetables, especially tomatoes, and lentils. The cultivated area is estimated between 0.5 and 0.8 million acres, 230.7 million acres used for grazing, which includes stretches of land which support palatable vegetation only occasionally, following rainfall; 3.7 million acres are forested land; 321.6 million acres are primarily wasteland. It was reported in 1960 that aerial photographs showed the cultivated area as covering 741,000 acres.<sup>2</sup>

Fisheries could play an important role in increasing the food supply and provide the basis for a lucrative fishing industry. The seas around the Arabian peninsula are rich in fish. Among the extraordinarily large variety of species, sardines are abundant in the Red Sea, and sardines, groupers, mackerel, barracuda, tuna and shrimp are found in the Gulf in the Eastern part of the country.

Besides oil, there are considerable mineral resources for commercial production, such as gold, silver, copper, zinc, lead, titanium, iron, silica, ironite,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 217.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Government Printing Office, Area Handbook for Saudi Arabia, p. 215.

granite, limestone, marble and salt. At the present, these resources are unexploited.

## CHAPTER III

### AN OVERVIEW OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION

#### Location

The Southwest Region of Saudi Arabia includes the Provinces of Asir, Baha, Bisha, Najran, and Jjizan, with districts of Al Birk, Qunfudhah, and Allith (see map on the following page). The area of this region is approximately 100,000 square miles. The distance from the North to the South, along the Red Sea coast is nearly 450 miles. The width from Southwest to Northeast varies from 150 200 miles.

#### Climate

The climate of this region is governed by the movement of the inter-Tropical Front and the geographic features of the area.<sup>1</sup> The Coastal Plain is dry most of the year, very hot in the summer and warm in the winter. As elevation increases toward the Dissected Highlands, the temperature regularly drops, resulting in increased precipitation. In the valley areas, typical desert climate with high winds

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Development Plan, p. 7.

Source: "Central Planning Organization Socio-Economic

Development Plan for the Southwest Region" (unpublished report, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1973).

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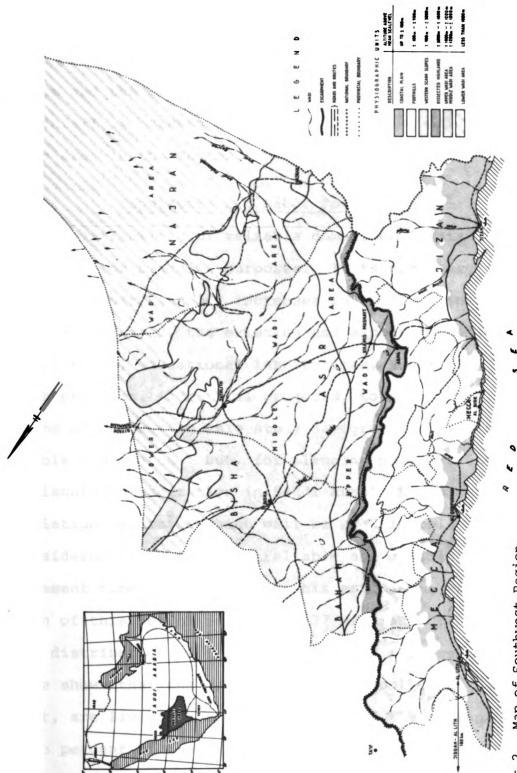


Chart 2. Map of Southwest Region.

and dust storms occur, particularly in the Coastal Plain and foothills. Rainfall is concentrated in relatively short, but heavy local storms, especially in the Western Scarp Slope and the Dissected Highlands. The average annual rainfall is between 5-20 inches depending on particular area in the Region.

#### Population and Labor Force

The availability of reliable demographic data is very important for planning purposes. It is necessary for assessing per capita income, increases in level of income, the future labor force, the existing and expected needs for health facilities, educational institutions, social activities programs, industrial projects, to name a few. At the time of conducting this study demographic data in Saudi Arabia was scarce. But, for planning purposes the Central Planning Organization in Saudi Arabia has made some population estimates which will be used in this study. It is considered to be the only reliable and official data at the present time. According to this estimation the population of this Region is about 1.77 million. Table 3 shows the distribution of this population as follows. This table shows that the majority of the population, 92 percent, are living in the rural areas of the region. Eighty two percent of them are engaged in agricultural activities, although the writer has some observations concerning the number of settled and nomadic population. It

Table 3.--Estimated Population and Its Distribution, Southwest Region of Saudi Arabia, 1972 (1,000).

| Province                                          | Total | Urban | Total Rural | Rural Non-Agricultural | Agricultural Settled | Agricultural Nomadic |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                                                   |       |       | (1,000)     |                        |                      |                      |
| Bisha                                             | 104   | 13    | 91          | 10                     | 65                   | 16                   |
| Bahah                                             | 223   | 6     | 217         | 25                     | 165                  | 27                   |
| Asir                                              | 520   | 35    | 485         | 55                     | 335                  | 95                   |
| Najran                                            | 64    | 12    | 52          | 5                      | 35                   | 12                   |
| Jizan                                             | 655   | 65    | 590         | 65                     | 465                  | 60                   |
| S. Mecca<br>(Al Birk,<br>Qunfudhah<br>and Allith) | 206   | 11    | 195         | 20                     | 135                  | 40                   |
| Total<br>Southwest Region                         | 1772  | 142   | 1630        | 180                    | 1200                 | 250                  |
|                                                   | 100%  | 8%    | 92%         | 10%                    | 68%                  | 14%                  |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 1.

is felt that they are over estimated because out migration to the central belt, Jedda, Riyadh and Dhahran has played an important role, especially in the early 1960s, during the drought period, but unfortunately I could not find other figures available to compare. This figure shows a slight difference in the same area between 1966 and 1972, as was mentioned in Table 3. This comes as a result of changes in the area. Between the year 1962 and 1971 there had been some increase in the urban population as a result of the urbanization trend and the economic activities which took place in the urban center of the region and other activities in other regions which attract the people of this region, especially during the dry period. Although at the present time, there is no firm data on the distribution of the population of this region according to age group. It is generally conceded that out-migration has affected the male age group 15-59 years of age and improvement of health conditions and services in other regions of the Kingdom has its influence upon the age group 0-10 years. It could be that these figures, as it shows in Table 4, is over-estimated for these two groups.

Concerning the labor force in this Region, we can find some data on the distribution of labor force according to economic activities. In 1966, the Central Department of Statistics did a demographic survey to find out the labor force distribution in the Kingdom. Table 5 shows the

Table 4.--Estimated Population in Saudi Arabia and in the Southwest Region by Age and Sex, 1972 (1,000).

| Age Group | Saudi Arabia |        | Southwest Region |        |
|-----------|--------------|--------|------------------|--------|
|           | Male         | Female | Male             | Female |
|           | Total        |        | Total            |        |
|           | (1,000)      |        |                  |        |
| 0-4       | 480          | 480    | 960<br>(16.8%)   | 298    |
| 5-14      | 820          | 780    | 1600<br>(28.1%)  | 497    |
| 15-59     | 1540         | 1340   | 2880<br>(50.5%)  | 894    |
| 59-       | 140          | 120    | 260<br>( 4.6%)   | 81     |
| All Ages  | 2980         | 2720   | 5700             | 1770   |

Source: Central Planning Organization and ILACO, Tentative Notes Concerning Demographic Data of the Southwest Region, Unpublished Report (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 5.



Table 5.--Employed Persons 15 Years and Over, Classified by Type of Economic Activities for Southwest Region and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1966.

| Type of Activity           | Southern Region |       | Saudi Arabia |       |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------|--------------|-------|
|                            | Number          | %     | Number       | %     |
| Agriculture, livestock     | 213,937         | 74.4  | 464,774      | 46.2  |
| Mining, quarrying          | 484             | 0.2   | 25,226       | 2.5   |
| Manufacturing              | 6,853           | 2.4   | 41,059       | 4.1   |
| Construction               | 10,765          | 3.7   | 104,028      | 10.3  |
| Electricity, gas and water | 2,586           | 0.9   | 8,351        | 0.8   |
| Commerce                   | 19,865          | 6.9   | 95,761       | 9.5   |
| Transport, Comm., Storage  | 5,600           | 1.9   | 44,010       | 4.4   |
| Services                   | 27,073          | 9.4   | 218,943      | 21.8  |
| Other Activities           | 469             | 0.2   | 4,472        | 0.4   |
| Total                      | 287,632         | 100.0 | 1,006,624    | 100.0 |

Source: Central Planning Organization and ILACO, Tentative Notes Concerning Demographic Data of the Southwest Region, Unpublished Report (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 6.

employed person classified by type of economic activity for Southwest Region and the Kingdom. At this moment there is no firm statistical evidence that there is a large scale out migration from the Southwest Region. However, there are strong indications that there is a steady and considerable out migration that could have been stimulated by the drought period in recent years. Also in Table 5 we notice that the people who are working in manufacturing are less than 5 percent on the national level. But, information was obtained indicating that 62 percent in the Central Region (Najd), 66 percent in the Western Region (Hijaz), and 25 percent in the Eastern Region of those who are engaged in the manufacturing sector come from the Southwestern Region. In recent studies, employment estimates for the Southwest Region have been done by ILACO for the Central Planning Organization. These estimates, as shown in Table 6, indicates that in 1972 there was about 235,000 or 66 percent of the male labor force in the region engaged in agricultural activities, but 40,000 of them were emigrated to non-agricultural sectors. It shows that 100,000 or 34 percent of the male labor force are engaged in non-agricultural occupations in the region. Twenty-four thousand or 8 percent and 76,000 or 26 percent of those males engaged in the non-agricultural occupations are in manufacturing, construction and services (see Table 6). This estimation did not include the female

Table 6.--Male Labor Force Employment Estimates for Southwest Region in 1972.

|                                         | Non-Agricultural<br>Occupations<br>(urban and rural<br>non-agricultural<br>population) | Agricultural<br>Occupations | Total<br>Southwest Region |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                         | (1,000)                                                                                |                             |                           |
| Male labor force<br>(21% of population) | 70                                                                                     | 305                         | 375                       |
| Male immigrants                         | -10                                                                                    | -70                         | -80                       |
| Male labor in<br>Southwest Region       | 60                                                                                     | 235                         | 295                       |
| Migratory male<br>labor                 | +40                                                                                    | -40                         | -                         |
|                                         | 100<br>(34%)                                                                           | 195<br>(66%)                | 295<br>(100%)             |
| Employment Categories:                  |                                                                                        |                             |                           |
| Quarrying, mining                       | Negligible                                                                             |                             |                           |
| Manufacturing,<br>construction          | 24 (8%)                                                                                |                             |                           |
| Services                                | 76 (26%)                                                                               |                             |                           |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1973), p. 2.

labor force which is an important factor in the rural area of this region. It is the author's personal opinion that this part was neglected because of the sensitivity of conducting a survey or studies among females without using a female researcher. In general, female activities in Saudi Arabia, either in urban or rural areas, need more recognition and study. As long as the number of young, educated Saudi females is increasing, the closer they come to their effort and activities being recognized.

Eight municipalities exist in this Region. In 1970, Doxiadis, according to an agreement with the Central Planning Organization in Saudi Arabia, prepared a study aimed at helping to design a five-year developmental plan for municipalities of the Kingdom. In that study they estimated the population of the eight municipalities of the Southwest Region as shown in Table 7.

The difference in figures between this estimation of 1970 and the other one of 1972, as shown in Table 3 (p. 25) can be noted. The municipal population of Bahah was unknown in 1970, and the figure of its urban population was about 6,000 in the estimation of 1972. Although there is a difference in the estimates of the urban population it is not a large difference and did not change the fact that the population majority of this region is living in the rural areas. Other studies supporting this fact show

Table 7.--Estimated Population in Municipalities, South-west Region, Saudi Arabia, 1970.

| Municipality | Province or District | Population |
|--------------|----------------------|------------|
| Abha         | Asir                 | 17,500     |
| Abu Arish    | Jizan                | 7,000      |
| Al Baha      | Bahah                | Unknown    |
| Bisha        | Bisha                | 15,000     |
| Jizan        | Jizan                | 25,000     |
| Najran       | Najran               | 22,000     |
| Alqunfudhah  | S. Mecca             | 6,000      |
| Al-Lith      | S. Mecca             | 3,000      |

Source: Central Planning Organization and ILACO, Tentative Notes Concerning Demographic Data of the S.W.R., Unpublished Report (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 7.

slight changes happening, without affect, in a 10-year period, as Table 8 indicates.

In the conclusion of this argument about the Region's population there is an estimation concerning the population growth in the Region within the next fifteen years. Table 9 indicates the growth rate of the population and the potential male economic active population, age 15-59, and estimated potential school population.

It can be assumed that the annual growth rate was based on the outcome of the Socio-Economic Development Plan designed for the Region, which will be summarized in the following chapter. Social, health, educational programs

Table 8.--Percent Distribution of Population by Urban, Rural and Migratory Status, Southwest Region, Saudi Arabia, 1962 and 1972.

| Status    | 1962<br>% | 1972<br>% |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Urban     | 6         | 8         |
| Rural     | 84        | 86        |
| Migratory | 10        | 6         |
| Total     | 100%      | 100%      |

Source: Central Planning Organization and ILACO, Tentative Notes Concerning Demographic Data of the S.W.R., Unpublished Report (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972).

and the economic activities, especially in the fields of agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, which were implemented in that plan, will affect the population growth rate.

### Resources

#### Agriculture

##### Physiographic Areas

The physiography of the Region is determined by the edge of a mountain massively uplifted during the formation of the Red Sea Trough. This edge bisects the survey area into the Eastern and Western parts. The huge cuerta

Table 9.---Estimated Population Growth, 1972-1990, Southwest Region, Saudi Arabia.

| Year    | Population Growth | Increase | Annual Growth Rate | Potential Male Economic Active Population, Ages 15-59 | Estimated Potential School Population |         |
|---------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
|         |                   |          |                    |                                                       | Boys                                  | Girls   |
| 1972    | 1,773,000         | --       | --                 | 375,000                                               |                                       |         |
| 1975    | 1,910,000         | 137,000  | 2.5%               | 475,000                                               | 177,000                               | 163,000 |
| 1980    | 2,182,000         | 272,000  | 2.7%               | 510,000                                               | 190,000                               | 183,000 |
| 1985-90 | 2,933,000         | 751,000  | 3.0%               | 590,000                                               | 221,000                               | 212,000 |

Source: Developed from several figures and tables in Demographic report done by Central Planning Organization.

gradually dips to the East but has a steep and tremendously eroded scarp slope facing West.<sup>1</sup>

The geological formation has resulted in seven distinct physiographic zones, not only from an ecological point of view, but also from that of development potentials. From East to West these zones are:

- The Coastal Plain, from MSL to 100 m (333 feet) above MSL.
- The Foothills, from 100 to 900 m (333-2990 feet) above MSL.
- The Western Scarp slope, the steeply eroded area from 900 m (about 2990 feet) to the edge of the escarpment.
- The Dissected Highlands, the deepest dissected part of the massif (Hijay-Asir escarpment).
- The Upper Wadi (Valley) Area, a transitory zone East of the Dissected Highlands, between 1,400 and 1,800 m (4662-5994 feet) above MSL.
- The Middle Wadi (Valley) Area, part of the dipping cuesta between 1,000 m (3,330 feet) and 1,400 m (4,662 feet) above MSL.

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 7.



--The Lower Wadi (Valley) Area, a deposition zone less than 1,000 m (3,330 feet) above MSL.<sup>1</sup>

### Crop Production

#### Irrigated and Rainfed Cropping Land

In this Region two consulting institutions, Sogreah and Italconsult, worked on a contract with the Central Planning Organization and gave assessments for the mid 1960s. Some 150,000 ha (about 375,000 acres) of land was devoted to irrigated agriculture in the Region, and either permanently or regularly interrupted by fallow periods.<sup>1</sup> This includes both the land irrigated with ground water, pumped from wells (22,500-25,000 ha = 56,250-62,500 acres), and that intermittently flooded by surface water from Wadis (Valley) (125,000-130,000 ha = 312,500-325,000 acres). Over 20,000 ha (50,000 acres) of the well irrigated land was found in the Upper and Middle Wadi (Valley) areas and the Dissected Highlands and hence in the Bisha, Najran, Baha and Asir Provinces.<sup>2</sup> Just in the recent year well irrigation became popular in the Coastal Plain and in the Foothills areas. However, it is still limited to some 1,500-2,500 ha (3,750-6,250 acres). The area irrigated with Wadi water varies widely

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 7.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 8.

from year to year. As far as the Coastal Plain and the Wadi irrigated terraces of the Foothills are concerned, this applies both to land where flood spreading occurs and to naturally flooded areas. In addition to the irrigated land some 235,000 ha (587,500 acres) rainfed cropping land was available in the Coastal Plain, the Foothills, the Western Scarp slope and the Dissected Highlands. In dry years only a very small portion of this land is actually cultivated, during relatively wet years double cropping, i.e., a summer and winter crop, would be possible. Table 10 shows the size of irrigated and rainfed cropping land and its location.

### Cropped Areas

Cereals are by far considered the most common crops, in particular on the flood-spreading and naturally flooded land in the Coastal Plain, the Wadi-irrigated terraces in the Foothills and the rainfed cropping land. Even on well-irrigated land the cereals are among the major crops. Millet and wheat are the principal rainfed crops: millet is in the Coastal Plain and the Foothills, wheat is in the Dissected Highlands. The area cultivated with these cereals is subject to wide fluctuations, because of the irregular rainfall. During the dry years of the late 1960s and the early 1970s, e.g., practically no millet could be grown in the Coastal Plain and the Foothills, whereas some years earlier about 84,000 ha (210,000 acres)

Table 10.--Irrigated and Rainfed Cropping Land (in ha) in the Southwest Region  
by Physiographic and Administrative Unit, 1972.

| Area Unit             | Irrigated Land <sup>a</sup>    | Rainfed Cropping Land <sup>b</sup> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Physiographic</b>  |                                |                                    |
| Coastal Plain         | 100,000 (250,000 acres)        | 142,000 (355,000 acres)            |
| Foothills             | 28,000 ( 70,000 acres)         | 15,500 ( 38,750 acres)             |
| Western Scarp Slope   | ---                            | 12,000 ( 30,000 acres)             |
| Dissected Highlands   | 9,000 ( 22,500 acres)          | 65,000 (162,500 acres)             |
| Upper Wadi Area       | 7,500 ( 18,750 acres)          | ---                                |
| Middle Wadi Area      | 6,000 ( 15,000 acres)          | ---                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>150,500 (375,000 acres)</b> | <b>235,000 (587,500 acres)</b>     |
| <b>Administrative</b> |                                |                                    |
| South Mecca           | 36,800 ( 92,000 acres)         | 14,800 ( 37,000 acres)             |
| Jizan                 | 86,400 (216,000 acres)         | 144,400 (361,000 acres)            |
| Bahah                 | 8,600 ( 21,500 acres)          | 18,600 ( 46,500 acres)             |
| Asir                  | 20,700 ( 51,750 acres)         | 46,100 (125,250 acres)             |
| Bisha                 | 5,400 ( 13,500 acres)          | 11,100 ( 27,750 acres)             |
| Nijran                | 2,600 ( 6,500 acres)           | ---                                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>150,500 (375,000 acres)</b> | <b>235,000 (587,500 acres)</b>     |

<sup>a</sup>Well irrigated and intermittently flooded land.

<sup>b</sup>The areas of rainfed cropping land refer to a climatologically favorable year.

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 11.

were cultivated.<sup>1</sup> Similar fluctuations characterize the cultivation of wheat on the terraces of the Dissected Highlands. Also the cultivation of sorghum, the prevalent crop on flood-spreading and naturally flooded land in the Coastal Plain and on Wadi-irrigated Foothills terraces, usually varies widely from year to year. The other crops, such as fruits (including dates), vegetables, alfalfa and oil seeds are still of minor importance in comparison with the cereals. The area cultivated with these crops, however, is gradually increasing, especially on well-irrigated land. The assessment of the acreages of the main crops cultivated in the Southwest Region as done by Sogreah and Italconsult is summarized in Table 11. The figures of this table represent a more or less "normal" situation, in that, e.g., for the Dissected Highlands and the Upper Wadi Area the unfavorable cropping year--1966-67 and the favorable year--1967-68 have been averaged.<sup>2</sup>

#### Crop Production Volumes

In a normal year over 150,000 tons of cereals are produced in the Region; sorghum being the most important single crop with some 85,000 tons. The production of fodder amounts to 150,000-200,000 tons of alfalfa, 500,000-550,000 tons of cereal, green fodder and 600,000-650,000 tons of

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 11.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 11.

Table 11.--Areas (in ha) Cultivated with Major Crops in the Southwest Region by Physiographic Unit in 1972.

|                      | Coastal<br>Plain           | Foothills<br>Western<br>Scarp | Dissected<br>Highlands<br>Upper<br>Wadi Area <sup>a</sup> | Middle<br>Wadi<br>Area | Total                      |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Cereals:</u>      |                            |                               |                                                           |                        |                            |
| Sorghum              | 73,800<br>(184,500 acres)  | 51,700<br>(129,250 acres)     | 7,900<br>(19,750 acres)                                   | 300<br>(750)           | 133,700<br>(334,250 acres) |
| Millet               | 63,900<br>(159,750 acres)  | 19,400<br>(48,500 acres)      | --                                                        | --                     | 83,300<br>(208,250 acres)  |
| Wheat                | --                         | 2,100<br>(5,250 acres)        | 36,600<br>(91,500 acres)                                  | 1,200<br>(3,000)       | 42,900<br>(107,250 acres)  |
| Barley               | --                         | 5,900<br>(14,750 acres)       | 2,600<br>(6,500 acres)                                    | 400<br>(1,000)         | 8,900<br>(22,250 acres)    |
| Dates                | --                         | --                            | --                                                        | 3,100<br>(7,750)       | 3,100<br>(7,750 acres)     |
| Fruit trees          | --                         | --                            | 1,300<br>(3,250 acres)                                    | 100<br>(250)           | 1,400<br>(3,500 acres)     |
| Vegetables           | --                         | --                            | 2,200<br>(5,500 acres)                                    | 300<br>(750)           | 2,500<br>(6,250 acres)     |
| Oil seeds            | 8,100<br>(20,250 acres)    | 2,400<br>(6,000 acres)        | --                                                        | --                     | 10,500<br>(26,250 acres)   |
| <u>Green fodder:</u> |                            |                               |                                                           |                        |                            |
| Alfalfa              | --                         | --                            | 1,500<br>(3,750 acres)                                    | 1,300<br>(3,250)       | 2,800<br>(7,000 acres)     |
| Cereals              | --                         | --                            | 2,200<br>(5,500 acres)                                    | 700<br>(1,750)         | 2,900<br>(7,250 acres)     |
| Unspecified<br>Crops | 1,000<br>(2,500 acres)     | 1,200<br>(3,000 acres)        | --                                                        | --                     | 2,200<br>(5,500 acres)     |
| TOTAL                | 146,800<br>(367,000 acres) | 82,700<br>(206,750 acres)     | 57,300<br>(143,250 acres)                                 | 7,400<br>(18,500)      | 294,200<br>(735,500 acres) |

<sup>a</sup> The figures for Dissected Highlands refer to a so-called average year.

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 12.

dry roughage.<sup>1</sup> Table 12 shows the production of major crops in the Region by physiographic unit.

### Livestock Production

The drought of the late 1960s has seriously affected the livestock population of the Region, particularly the nomadic herds which were nearly decimated. Table 13 shows the estimated present livestock of the Region.

These figures, according to ILACO, are below the figure assessed by Sogreah and Italconsult. It is expected that the droughts have contributed to both the decline of the number of Nomads and loss in the livestock population. It is not known how far this number, estimated to be 250,000 for 1968, will have fallen.<sup>2</sup> "The average annual production of livestock products in the Region amounts to some 51,500 tons of milk and about 5,300 tons of meat."<sup>3</sup>

### Gross and Net Values of Crop and Livestock Production

For an "average" year the gross values of crop and livestock production are estimated at SR<sup>4</sup> 125-140 million

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 12.

<sup>2</sup>It was not possible to indicate the present distribution of the livestock population over the physiographic and administrative areas due to the decrease of herds related to the recent droughts and the mobility of the nomads.

<sup>3</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for Southwest Region, p. 13.

<sup>4</sup>SR = Saudi Riyal (\$1 = 3.55 SR).

Table 12.--Production of Major Crops in the Southwest Region by Physiographic Unit, 1972 (Metric tons, rounded figures).

|                     | Cereals |        |        |        | Fruits  |            |              |
|---------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|------------|--------------|
|                     | Sorghum | Millet | Wheat  | Barley | Total   | Vegetables | Dates Others |
| Coastal Plain       | 45,000  | 7,000  | --     | --     | 52,000  | --         | --           |
| Foothills           | 27,000  | 11,500 | --     | --     | 38,500  | --         | --           |
| Western Scarp Slope | 4,000   | 500    | 2,000  | 5,000  | 11,500  | --         | --           |
| Dissected Highlands | 5,500   | --     | 31,900 | 2,000  | 39,400  | 1,800      | 900          |
| Upper Wadi Area     | 2,700   | --     | 4,500  | 500    | 7,700   | 900        | 200          |
| Middle Wadi Area    | 400     | --     | 1,900  | 500    | 2,800   | 3,700      | 9,500 700    |
| TOTAL               | 84,600  | 19,000 | 40,300 | 8,000  | 151,900 | 6,400      | 9,500 1,800  |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 13.

Table 13.--Estimated Present Livestock of the Southwest Region, 1972.

|         | Settled and<br>Semi-settled<br>Stock Raising | Nomadic<br>Stock<br>Raising | Total   |
|---------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Cattle  | 150,000                                      | ---                         | 150,000 |
| Sheep   | 550,000                                      | 300,000                     | 850,000 |
| Goats   | 550,000                                      | 200,000                     | 750,000 |
| Camels  | 35,000                                       | 70,000                      | 105,000 |
| Donkeys | 65,000                                       | 10,000                      | 75,000  |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 14.

and SR 75-85 million, respectively; the net values are estimated to be SR 95-110 million and SR 30-40 million.<sup>1</sup> The distribution of the latter values over the administrative areas is indicated in Table 14. It is stressed that the distribution of livestock values have been rather arbitrary on the basis of field observation and judgment by the specialist of ILACO and the Central Planning Organization. The distribution of the gross and net values of crop production by physiographic area is indicated in Table 15. Because of the paucity of data such a distribution could not be estimated for the values of livestock production.

<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for Southwest Region, p. 15.



Table 14.--Net Values of Crop and Livestock Production for an "Average" Year by Administrative Area in the Southwest Region, 1972 (SR million).

|                    | South<br>Mecca | Jazan | Bahah | Asir    | Bisha | Najran | Total<br>Southwest<br>Region |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|--------|------------------------------|
| Crop<br>Production | 10-15          | 35    | 10-15 | 30      | 5-10  | 5      | 95-110                       |
| Livestock          | 5              | 10-15 | 5     | 5-7.5   | 5     | 0-2.5  | 30-40                        |
| TOTAL              | 15-20          | 45-50 | 15-20 | 35-37.5 | 10-15 | 5-7.5  | 125-150                      |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 15.

Table 15.--Gross and Net Values of Crop Production for an "Average" Year per Physiographic Unit in the Southwest Region (SR million).

|             | Coastal Plain | Foothills | Western Scarp Slope | Dissected Highlands | Upper Wadi Area | Middle Wadi Area | Total Southwest Region |
|-------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Gross Value | 40            | 25-30     | 5-10                | 35                  | 5-10            | 15               | 125-140                |
| Net Value   | 30-35         | 20-25     | 5                   | 25-30               | 5               | 10               | 95-110                 |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 15.

The gross and net values of crop and livestock production for the year 1971-72 most probably remains below those of an average year as the weather conditions during 1971-72 were generally unfavorable for crop and livestock production. About SR 100 million could be an appropriate estimate of the total net value of crop and livestock production for that particular year. The net value of well-irrigated agriculture alone would have been SR 30 million.<sup>1</sup>

### Food Balance of the Region

The Region is deficient in cereals, fruits (including dates), vegetables and meat. It is estimated that per year about 60,000-70,000 tons of cereals and 150,000 tons of fruits and vegetables (including dates) have to be imported to meet the demand of the Region's 1.77 million inhabitants.<sup>2</sup> As indicated in the previous discussion about population in this chapter, the population figures are only an estimation, therefore there is an impression that the size and the amount of food to be imported will be accurate when the National Census, which took place in the middle of 1974, by the Statistical Department, in the Kingdom, publishes the actual population in the Region. It could be that the actual figures are lower than the estimated 1.77 million, but to date it is the only figure officially used.

### Agricultural per Capita Incomes

In an unfavorable year like 1971-72, the average income from farming and stock raising would be as low as

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 14.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

SR 100-150 per person. The vegetable growers around Najran, the date growers in Bisha and farmers with tube well-irrigated land near Samtah in the Coastal Plain generally earn above average incomes, namely some SR 400 per capita. Most of the farmers with rainfed cropping land, on the other hand, were far worse off, with around SR 75 per capita (caput) per year. In a year with about average weather conditions, the incomes might be in the order of SR 125-200 per capita (caput). Table 16 shows the average net values of crop and livestock production per capita of agricultural population. It can be noted that the farming population in this table is slightly different than the figure estimated earlier in Table 3. ILACO stated that this estimate in Table 16 is derived from an agricultural census, therefore, they suggested that these estimates are related, much better, to the per capita incomes, as observed during some field trips in the Region. The poor incomes earned from agriculture have forced many farm workers to try and earn additional income from jobs outside agriculture, either in the Region itself or elsewhere in the country. The out migration apparently started 10-15 years ago in the Dissected Highlands and Eastern Wadi Area. At the time being, according to the study done by CPO, there is much out migration in the Coastal Plain and Foothills. Particularly in the Dissected Highlands a considerable part of the higher-lying

Table 16.--Average Net Values of Crop and Livestock Production per Caput of Agricultural Population, for a Normal Year by Administrative Area, Southwest Region, Saudi Arabia, 1972.

| Administrative                       | Net Value of Crop and Livestock Production (SR 1,000) | Farming Population (rounded) figures) | Average Net Value of Crop and Livestock Production per Caput of Farm Population (SR) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Settled and Semi-settled agriculture |                                                       |                                       |                                                                                      |
| South Mecca                          | 12,500                                                | 100,000                               | 125                                                                                  |
| Jizan                                | 45,000                                                | 350,000                               | 130                                                                                  |
| Bahah                                | 17,500                                                | 125,000                               | 140                                                                                  |
| Asir                                 | 37,500                                                | 250,000                               | 150                                                                                  |
| Bisha                                | 10,000                                                | 50,000                                | 200                                                                                  |
| Najran                               | 5,000                                                 | 25,000                                | 200                                                                                  |
| Nomadic herding                      | 10,000                                                | 250,000                               | 40                                                                                   |
| TOTAL SOUTHWEST REGION               | 137,500                                               | 1,150,000                             | 120                                                                                  |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 16.

rainfed terraces have been abandoned for farming. According to ILACO increased erosion affecting the lower-lying terraces will be the result unless an afforestation program is undertaken.

### Forestry

Saudi Arabia is not rich in forests. There are only some natural forests scattered in the Southwest Region, mainly in the Dissected Highlands. "The forests are not very heterogeneous, the major species is Juniperus Procera and the other kind are Acacia Seyal, Acacia Tortilis, Tamarix Aphylla and Ziziphus Spina Christi."<sup>1</sup> The present gross value of forestry production in the whole country is estimated around SR 20 million. It used to be higher according to other studies done by the Forest Management Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, but more stringent control and effective protection have lowered the production.

The Southwest Region's share in the national production is 65-75 percent; the value added component is around 70 percent of the gross value. The value added in the Southwest Region is around SR 10 million a year (equivalent to SR 50 per rural family).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Agriculture and Water, Broadlines of Forestry Development in Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 18.

### Fisheries

According to ILACO and Sogreah the Region's fishing fleet consists of 200-250 small boats, providing full-time employment to 750-1,000 fishermen. The total annual catches might range from 1,000 to 1,500 tons of which the gross value is SR 3.0-4.5 million. The non factor costs of fishing are SR 3,500-4,000 per boat/year. Hence, the net value of production could be in the order of SR 2.3-3.5 million per year. Part-time fishing is practiced by a number of farmers living near the coast; normally they use fish-traps, but also nets or rods. The earning varies widely with the season, namely, between SR 20 to over SR 80 per fisherman per week.<sup>1</sup>

### Agricultural Extension, Training and Research

Agricultural extension, training and research are closely interwoven. All are carried on by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, through its branches in the Region.<sup>2</sup> There is a newly established research station at Hakmah, but no definite investigations are made yet. Field experiments are conducted by the extension staff who are also in charge of training farmers.

The extension service in the Region is staffed with some 800 persons, about one per 140-160 farm families.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 18.

<sup>2</sup>There is one Directorate in Abha, and 12 Agricultural Units and affixes all over the Region.

There are, however, less than 100 extension workers, plant protection officers and veterinary specialists among them. Only 50 of these are really qualified and trained. The activities of the extension staff are mainly confined to small scale demonstrations and to such special services as the supply of seed, planting material and fertilizers, plant protection and veterinary care. The agricultural machinery services are transferred to the private sector. The supply of seed and planting material mainly comprises vegetable seed and fruit trees.<sup>1</sup>

But, still, the extension units are not able to meet the farmers demand for fertilizers which have been increased in the last three years in regard to quantities and qualities. Therefore, private retailers are getting the venefit of that. One of the important activities of the extension staff is crop spraying, but because it is a small staff, they are not able to guarantee timely assistance, therefore, many large vegetable farmers have decided to buy the plant protection equipment themselves. In other areas the spraying services are mainly rendered to the nearby large estates, while the new settlers in the more remote areas are not served. The staff of almost all the field branches includes a veterinary surgeon and an assistant. The veterinarians are, in general, not very mobile. They leave for the rural areas mainly during outbreaks of contagious diseases.

In all, some 40 staff members are engaged in the veterinarian section. Veterinary care is estimated

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<sup>1</sup>Vegetable seed is usually provided free of charge. Between SR 0.40 and SR 1.00 is charged for the fruit trees. Private retailers often charge SR 10-12 per tree.



to make up SR 500,000 of the annual budget of the field branches. The impact of the veterinary section on the livestock economy appears to be very small, because preventive care has hardly been organized yet.<sup>1</sup>

However, it should be realized that agricultural extension is extremely difficult in such an area as the Southwest Region whose communication system is in very bad condition and in need of much improvement. Later in this chapter there will be a description of the road and transportation condition of the Region.

The training of farmers and their sons has not yet been started, although the need for this training is strongly felt, especially among the new (ex-Bedouin) settlers in Bisha, who lack the knowledge involved in modern vegetable growing. The program in Bisha started in the late 1960s on a limited scale.

Concerning research, the Hakman Research Station is the only institute for agricultural research in the Region. At this institution it is planned that research mainly in support of the Jizan Development Scheme will be done.<sup>2</sup> Several years ago, two areas, Bisha and Baljurski, were selected for agricultural research sub-stations. In Bisha the land has been allocated and research officers

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 19.

<sup>2</sup>New Dam was completed in 1970 in Jizan and it is expected to help improve the water supply for agricultural irrigation.

were stationed there in 1963, but no funds have been assigned. In Baljurski the situation is practically the same.

#### Credit

The Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank is the main supplier of institutional credit in the Region. Non-institutional credit is provided by traders and shopkeepers, relatives and friends. The Bank's credit to the farmers in the Region is estimated at SR 22,000,000 (some 8,850 loans) during the fiscal years 1964-65 through 1970-71. For the whole Kingdom the figure was SR 81,587,000 (about 21,172 loans).<sup>1</sup> The following Tables 17 and 18 show the number and value of loans granted by various branches of the Agriculture Bank for the whole country and the distribution of the loans in Abha Southwest Region in 1969-70.

It has to be noticed that as it is shown in Table 17, Abha Branch, which is located in the Southwest Region, ranks first in the number of medium-term loans (739 loans) or about 28.7 percent of the total number of loans.<sup>2</sup> One important factor which needs to be emphasized later on in Chapter 5 is the fact that the

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 20.

<sup>2</sup>Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank, Sixth Annual Report, Sept. 1969-Sept. 1970 (Jedda, Saudi Arabia, 1970), p. 15.

Table 17.--Number and Value of Loans Granted by Various Branches of the Bank in the Fiscal Year 1969-70, Saudi Arabia.

| Branch                        | Short Term Loans |           | Medium Term Loans |            | Total  |            |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|--------|------------|
|                               | Number           | Value SR  | Number            | Value SR   | Number | Value SR   |
| Riyadh                        | 252              | 326,568   | 555               | 4,204,224  | 807    | 4,530,792  |
| Jedda                         | 374              | 646,866   | 609               | 2,219,698  | 983    | 2,866,564  |
| Buraidah                      | 351              | 574,295   | 368               | 2,804,062  | 719    | 3,378,357  |
| Abha<br>(Southwest<br>Region) | 641              | 810,380   | 739               | 2,377,029  | 1,380  | 3,187,409  |
| Hafuf                         | 167              | 637,857   | 116               | 520,520    | 283    | 1,158,377  |
| Medina                        | 8                | 12,888    | 176               | 1,001,704  | 184    | 1,014,592  |
| TOTAL                         | 1,793            | 3,008,854 | 2,563             | 13,127,237 | 4,356  | 16,136,091 |

Source: Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank, Sixth Annual Report, Sept. 1969-Sept. 1970 (Jedda, Saudi Arabia, 1970), p. 15.

Table 18.--Distribution of Medium Term Loans in Abha  
Branch by Purpose, 1969-70, Southwest Region.

| Objective                                  | Value SR  | %      |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Engines                                    | 1,258,025 | 52.9   |
| Pumps                                      | 184,394   | 7.8    |
| Pipes                                      | 49,077    | 2.1    |
| Drilling, Deepening and<br>Casing of Wells | 134,160   | 5.6    |
| Livestock                                  | 389,975   | 16.4   |
| Plants                                     | 19,618    | 0.8    |
| Ploughing and Levelling                    | 30,753    | 1.3    |
| Construction Materials                     | 94,019    | 4.0    |
| Fertilizers                                | 5,100     | 0.2    |
| Transportation & Installation              | 81,761    | 3.4    |
| Others                                     | 130,147   | 5.5    |
| TOTAL                                      | 2,377,029 | 100.0% |

Source: Saudi Arabian Agricultural Bank, Sixth Annual Report, Sept. 1969-Sept. 1970 (Jedda, Saudi Arabia, 1970), p. 42.

non-institutional credit is still more popular in the Region than that of the Agricultural Bank. It can be assumed that the main reason for this is the farmer's ignorance of the bank's program and activities, the small number of widely scattered offices, the comparatively complicated, time-consuming procedures and the rigid repayment schedule. A result of an interview done by ILACO staff, for the Central Planning Organization, with 234 farmers, shows that only 29 had borrowed money from the Bank, while 105 had preferred to contract non-institutional loans.

#### Marketing

In the Dissected Highlands, the Foothills, and the Coastal Plain where the production of agricultural commodities is mainly geared to the needs of home consumption, agricultural marketing is still in its infancy. Small quantities of cereals and some fodder are the only products marketed, in addition to a number of sheep and goats. In the Upper and Middle Wadi areas, especially around Najran and Bisha, where larger marketable surpluses are produced, such as dates, tomatoes, watermelons, and other fruits and vegetables are sold in many other areas in the Region and at cities such as Taif, Mecca, and Jedda, whose roads and transportation make this easier for the farmer to carry their production to these cities.

Usually the farmers market their produce themselves, especially within the Region itself. A few engage brokers. Prices tend to fluctuate sharply because of the poor communications. There are no cold storage facilities or processing units available for fruits and vegetables.<sup>1</sup>

In the agricultural sector of the Region, there are some activities undertaken by the various government agencies or they are under study, such as:

- The various programs and studies with respect to the improvement and development of agriculture in the Wadi-Jizan Valley. One of these programs concerns the establishment and expansion of the Hakmah Research Station.
- A number of flood protection measures, i.e., the construction of a cement barrier in the Wadi-Habawna and the repair of barriers around Al Qunfudhah.
- The Wadi-Najran Study that will provide a better insight into the potentials of an optimum exploitation of the ground and surface water resources in the Najran Valley.
- Very valuable research on the possibilities of and the problems related to well-irrigated agriculture in the Tihamas; the Program is prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, in close cooperation with FAO.
- A large number of programs for drinking-water supply, such as those concerning the Abha and the supply of the urban centers of Najran, Abu Arish, Kiyad and Tathlith.
- Research into the potentials of marine resource exploitation, carried out by the Marine Research Station in Jeddah, in cooperation with the University College of North Wales.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 20-21.

## Mining

For decades several reconnaissance surveys have been carried out by the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals and other authoritative institutions in the country, but nowhere have economically feasible mining activities been determined in the Region. Search is still going on with the technical help of many international experts and institutions. However, certain ancient mines and prospects, as a group, might contain possibilities of exploitation, particularly if several metals could be processed. "One such group might be the Wadi-Bidah and the Ablah-Wadi shows prospects and the Al Azig mines, with emphasis on the attraction of copper, silver, zinc, lead and gold."<sup>1</sup> However, transportation and water supply provide problems rendering mining and milling expensive. Other mineral sources are found, such as sulphides in Wadi-Wassat and Wadi-Qatan but, since sulphur and sulphuric acid are cheaply extracted from natural gas in the Eastern Region, its economic value in the Southwest Region is very low. The same applies to rock salt, which is found in Jizan, but has a low economic value because the world market prices of salt are low and the quality of Jizan salt is not high. Cement raw materials are available in the Asir and Jizan provinces and fairly good to excellent marble is found in Bisha.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 21.

The geological formations in the area do not give rise to optimistic expectations as to cheap energy sources. Drilling in the Red Sea has not been encouraging either. Oil and gas have been noted, but the wells provide such problems as high temperature and pressure as well as thick salt sections.<sup>1</sup>

However, transportation, lack of harbor facilities and the mining code are not very attractive for private companies.

### Manufacturing and Construction

According to the World Bank, Saudi Arabia has to be classified as a "non-industrial" country.<sup>2</sup> The present share of the manufacturing industries, including the petroleum refineries, in the annual GDP is 8.5 percent. In the Southwest Region the manufacturing industry is even less important.

In the Kingdom about four percent of the professional population is employed in manufacturing establishments. In the Southwest Region, however, this percentage is about 2.5, i.e., approximately 10,000 persons of 15 years of age and older.<sup>3</sup>

There are several reasons causing the low level of development of manufacturing industries in the Southwest Region.

Most important of them are:

1. lack of cheap energy resources,
2. lack of industrial raw materials,
3. the isolated location of many ports of the Region,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 21.

<sup>2</sup>The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank Operations, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region.



4. lack of transportation means. As an example, in sea transportation there is an important port, Jizan, but its in bad condition and was inadequately equipped to handle modern freight traffic. Also, most of the roads which connect the cities are in poor condition. The best transportation means, at the present time, is by air, but transporting industrial and manufacturing equipment by air freight is not economically feasible. Great efforts are being made, by the government, to improve the road conditions in the Region,
5. in addition to the lack of resources and the bad condition of the physical components there is another important obstacle to the development of manufacturing establishments. This obstacle is the social conditions. The Region is mainly rural and comparatively densely populated. Skilled labor is scarce because people of this Region did not have the chance, up to now, to improve their skill situation. The Region's organizational infrastructure and institutional settings are very poor.

At the present time, the Region's most important categories of industry are:

1. food industry, such as small bakeries,

2. manufacturing of non-metallic mineral products, such as tiles and bricks,
3. the metal products industry, in the form of a number of small workshops in the Region.

The construction industry in the Region is not important. The cement consumption, as an example, is estimated at only 5 percent of the total national consumption. "It is clear that the activities of governmental agencies are of vital importance to this industry, as they make up 50-60 percent of all activities in this sector."<sup>1</sup> During the period of 1972-73, the main project was road construction, the completion of which will take several years. Other construction projects were undertaken in 1972-73, those of reshaping the town of Abha and the extension of Jizan and Najran airports. The construction industry is estimated to employ 14,000 persons. The employees of the manufacturing and construction industries include a high percentage of imported labor. It is estimated that over 40 percent of the labor in this sector are foreigners.

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<sup>1</sup>The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank Operations, p. 22.

## Private Services

### Transport

#### Land Transport

Land transport dominates the transportation activities in the Region. Animals, such as camels and donkeys, play a minor role in the transporting of goods today. Usually 12 ton trucks are used for long distance haulage, especially from the supply centers, such as Jedda, in the West, and Riyadh, in the East of the Region, and around the consumption centers within the Region, such as Abha, Khamis-Mushayt, Al Baha, Baljurshi, Jizan and Najran. About 100 trucks from Jedda and 80 from Riyadh enter the Region everyday. Small trucks, such as pick-ups, are used when the distance is short. Transportation costs are high due to the poor road conditions within the Region.

#### Sea Transport

Sea transport in and out of the Region is considered minor and less important. Jizan Port, even with its inadequate loading and unloading facilities, including shallow depth of draft, is the most significant port in the Region when compared to the other two ports at Alqunfudhah and Al Lith. The only time this port was busy was during the Jizan Dam construction period. After the completion of that dam, traffic figures show decline in

the number of ships and boats coming to this port. "Only 40-60 vessels per year of 200-500 dead weight tons unloaded about 20,000 tons of cargo."<sup>1</sup> There is no exports from the Port of Jizan.

#### Air Transport

There are four airports in the Region located at Bisha, Abha, Najran and Jizan. There is a daily flight between Abha and Jizan, on one hand, and Jedda and Riyadh on the other. Jizan has an air connection with flights to the South. The number of passengers is about 75,000 per year, 30-40 percent of this number are regional passengers. There is no air cargo of importance but the present air service for passengers is considered sufficient and reliable.

#### Postal and Telecommunications

The road situation also affects the quality of the mail services within the Region. The mail may take up to a few weeks to arrive. There are central post offices in Abha, Najran, Jizan, Bisha and Albahah and other small offices. Postal carriage is mainly managed by contractors who serve 400-500 villages. There is a study underway by the Ministry of Transport and Communication to find ways to improve the postal services in the whole Kingdom. The

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 23.

Region has 22 high-frequency telegraph offices which they can only serve one call at a time because of the specific equipment used. There is no television station in the Southwest Region at the present time, but construction of the first color television in the whole Kingdom is under way in Abha.

### Trade

Small businessmen are handling the trade activities in the Southwest Region, while the few bigger enterprises, located mainly in Abha or Jizan, are mostly branches of establishments located in Jedda. Marketable surpluses in the Region are insignificant and almost entirely sold in the Region. Only the dates from Bisha, the cattle before and during the Hadj (pilgrimage) period and sometimes the vegetables from Al Baha and Baljurshi are sold outside the Region. There is also a transit trade with Yemen, through Najran and Jizan, but still, in this case, the traders from Jedda and Riyadh play a dominant role. The Southwest Region's own interregional trade is based mainly on imports of food, construction material, if not directly imported by the construction company, and other consumer goods.

### Banking

The Region's official banking is still a small-scale business. The National Commercial Bank has branches

in Abha, Baljurshi, Jizan, Najran and the Riyadh Bank has a branch in Khamis Mushayt.

A considerable part, if not the majority, of the private transactions are entrusted to the money dealers who are not officially registered and have branch offices in almost every important town in the Southwest Region and connections elsewhere in the Kingdom, and they seem to function well in the community.<sup>1</sup>

Since there is no data, the picture of the Regional Banking System is bound to remain incomplete. The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, or SAMA, which is considered as the central bank of Saudi Arabia, has branches in Abha and Jizan to deal with the official government transactions and transfers.<sup>2</sup> There is activity for the Agricultural Bank, which deals with credit for farmers in the Region.

### Electric Power

Abha, Najran, Jizan, AnNamar, Buljarshi, Al-Baha, Zafir, and Sabya have non-franchised public utilities. The town of Khamis Mushayt and Bisha have small privately owned, generating plants. The newly established Electrical Services Department, of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries is undertaking a study of new electric utility network systems for the Region.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 24.

<sup>2</sup>Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency, Annual Report.

## Public Services

### Health

Generally speaking, the Southwest Region is still far from a satisfactory health condition, especially in the area West of the Hijaz Encarpment. Poor drinking water, lack of hygiene, malnutrition and diseases are common not only in the more isolated parts of the Region. In the past six years the situation actually got worse in the area South of Jizan Province as a result of the droughts.

During the last decade the Ministry of Health has made a great effort to improve health conditions in this long neglected part of the Kingdom. But the Ministry, with all its efforts, still has not been able to catch up with the back log.

A comparison between the present services in the Southwest Region and those in the whole Kingdom shows that the Region, which has about 31 percent of the total population, has less than 20 percent of the medical services (in five hospitals and approximately 40 dispensaries). There are about 130 small health points.<sup>1</sup>

The problem is that not all of these hospitals, dispensaries, and health points are functioning adequately. Inadequately trained personnel and a lack of good equipment are the bottlenecks in medical services at the present time. There is, indeed, a real need for thousands of medical and technical personnel on the national level in general, but in the Southwest Region especially. Most of the Saudi trained

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 32.

medical and technical personnel prefer to work in urban areas, especially around big cities where jobs are available. The reason for that is the fact that the present fringe benefits and field allowances do not provide sufficient compensation for the hardships the workers endure in their jobs. Another important problem which contributes to the poor health care situation of the Region is the lack of health education. Priority must go to health education which confronts the health problem at its source. Unfortunately, most of the efforts are directed towards curative care and little or not enough attention has been given to preventive care, "though the most prevalent diseases, such as tuberculosis, malaria, and enteric disorders, require preventive measures first of all."<sup>1</sup>

### Education

As in most of the developing nations of the world, the psychological value of education in Saudi Arabia, in general, and in the Southwest Region in particular, is tremendous. People of the Region consider education as the key to a better future for the younger generation. The experience of the early out migrants and the young who had the opportunity of getting an education and joining the government institutions or companies like ARAMCO, was enough to make them believe in the great value of education.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 23.



In the Region itself, the government has recognized this fact and, in the last 10-15 years, schooling facilities and school attendance have been increased. But, in spite of this effort, there is, however, in the Southwest Region still a real need for more educational services. Available information shows that this Region, which houses about 31 percent of the Kingdom,

had only 20 percent of the boy's elementary schools, 12 percent of the intermediate schools, 5 percent of the secondary schools, and 12 percent of the teacher training institutes. There are no institutes of higher education in the Southwest Region.<sup>1</sup>

Table 19 compares the number of students (boys) in these levels and the number of schools in the Region to the Kingdom.

There are six religious training institutes in the Region out of forty in the Kingdom. Figures indicate that out of the approximately 177,000 schoolable boys--age 6-12--35 percent are attending schools. In 1972, the Region's finest vocational school was opened in Abha, becoming the sixth school of that type in Saudi Arabia. Although this Region is primarily agricultural, there are no agricultural training centers in the Region and no other institute that could organize courses for farmers. In terms of education for girls, only 10,500 or 8 percent of all elementary school-going girls in Saudi Arabia live in the Region. Corresponding figures for intermediate and public secondary

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 33.

Table 19.--Comparison of Number of Students and Schools at Elementary, Intermediate, and Secondary Levels in the Southwest Region and Saudi Arabia, 1971-72.

| Provinces of<br>Southwest Region | Students (Boys) |              | Students (Boys) |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
|                                  | Elementary      | Intermediate | Elementary      | Secondary |
| Abha (Asir)                      | 16,164          | 1,880        | 122             | 3         |
| Al Baha                          | 9,825           | 1,928        | 110             | 2         |
| Bisha                            | 8,026           | 688          | 59              | 1         |
| Jizan                            | 15,112          | 1,026        | 83              | 2         |
| Alqunfudah                       | 7,179           | 544          | 66              | --        |
| Najran                           | 4,512           | 355          | 23              | 1         |
| Total<br>Southwest Region        | 60,818          | 6,403        | 463             | 9         |
| Total<br>Saudi Arabia            | 308,598         | 50,586       | 1,596           | 64        |

Source: Ministry of Education, Educational Statistics (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1970); and Van Dusseldorp, Preliminary Notes on Education in the Southwestern Region, Unpublished Report, Central Planning Organization (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972).

education are 600 or 5 percent and 30 or 4 percent. The total number of teachers at girls schools in the Southwest Region is 444, which is only 9 percent of the national total.<sup>1</sup> Outmigration and scarcity of jobs in the Region have their effects on the level of education. Very few people have farming ambitions, therefore the majority of the Southwest Region's school graduates migrate to find suitable, non-farming jobs, mainly in the larger urban areas or to continue their education.

#### Labor and Social Affairs

The many services provided by the agencies of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs throughout the country did not yet extend to the Southwest Region at the level which it is supposed to be. There are some activities concerning the labor field. The Ministry has three labor offices in the Region, located at Abha, Najran, and Jizan. (There are 21 in the Kingdom.) These offices deal mainly with employment matters and enforcement of the labor laws, settlement of labor disputes and labor information. There is one vocational training center in the Region. In terms of social affairs services, the institutional care for juveniles, aged and disabled are not found in this Region in a significant scale. There is an orphanage in Abha which is the only one of this kind of institution. As

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 33.

regards community development activities, there are two<sup>1</sup> centers in Khamis Mushayt and Jizan. Both centers are urban minded although they are active in the surrounding rural areas where their activities involve giving advice and assistance in a wide range of social matters, including cooperatives. Two types of social services in the Region deserve specific attention.

### Social Security

From the beginning of its activities, social security became very known. (It was appreciated as a welcome supplement on the part of the government, to the customary duties towards the aged, disabled and the needy in the family or the community.) Several problems result in insufficient services of the social security agencies. As an example, the distribution of its branches is below the national average; the Region has only eight of the 32 offices in 1970, one in each of the seven major towns and one additional office in Al-Mandaq, in the Albahah Province. Another problem is the coverage of the scheme which leaves much to be desired, this being caused by the topographical nature of the area which prevents easy access for those eligible, the personnel difficulties in number and ability and the intricate administrative procedures and regulations. Therefore, the program, despite its sound design and

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<sup>1</sup>There are 17 in the Kingdom.

objective, tends to create dissatisfaction and frustration in places where anticipated benefits fail to materialize.

### Cooperation

Up to 1972, there were nine registered multi-purpose cooperative societies in the Region. Application for registrations were submitted by several other would-be cooperatives, initiated jointly by government officials and leading merchants. The main activities of these cooperative societies are concentrated on electricity for street lighting and domestic use, also for irrigation, as the old, oil-driven pumps are gradually replaced by electrical, a modest social welfare program and distribution of agricultural equipment at reduced prices, with the help of the Ministry of Agriculture. In general, despite the success of some of these societies, there are other problems because the cooperative development in the Region--as in the rest of the country--is facing the lack of most of the conditions essential to sustained success. As an example, the lack of devoted leadership, organizational know-how, membership participation, and, above all, sound communication between the board and the share-holders.

### Municipalities

It is still not quite clear how a municipality in Saudi Arabia is defined or what conditions a town should fulfill to qualify as a municipality. It is, however,

generally agreed that the role which the municipalities play in the network of services in the country, and particularly in the predominantly rural region of which they are focused, will become increasingly important. Therefore, the Ministry of the Interior has appointed regional planning consultants for the Western Region and is about to do the same for the Southwest Region. These consultants are asked to design a regional plan and to advise on the physical planning of urban centers, i.e., interplaying with the rural counterparts. In the Southwest Region there are about nine municipalities, Abha, Khamis Mushayt, Najran, Bisha, Al-Bahah, Baljurshi, Jizan, Alqunfudhah and Al-Lith. Apart from meeting the normal requirements for fenced cemeteries, asphalted streets, public lighting, drainage, and sewerage facilities, these towns face specific problems as outlined hereafter.

#### Abha

Rapid modernization is the most striking feature requiring due attention and guidance. Scarcity of water is likely to be the most serious constraint on expansion of this main growth pole of the Region.

#### Najran

The establishment of governmental centers at Al Faisaliya has alleviated the space shortage of the present

capital, Najran Suq, but already causes some divergence in services.

### Bisha

Despite the re-routing of the Taif-Abha road, the town shows considerable vitality. The problem is that spatial growth of Rawshan, the capital of the province, is jeopardized by the planned re-location/extension of the airport.

### / Al Baha

The topographical setting of this mountain town makes high demands upon urban planners. The present municipal layout needs some adjustment. The presence and traditional importance of the former capitals, Baljurshi and Zafer, tend to divert attention from Al Baha, and to curtail its functions as the leading administrative center.

### Baljurshi

A former provincial capital with an outspoken urban character. Preservation of this important market town without derogation from Al Baha seems to be the delicate problem the government is facing.

### Jizan

In view of the unfavorable soil conditions of this Red Sea port, construction activity has virtually come to a halt.

Algunfudhah and Al Lith

The importance of these coastal towns is mainly geared to their function as administrative and transit trade centers for the agricultural hinterland.

Due to the airport and the military encampment, Khamis Mushayt has completely outgrown its initial proportions of a moderate country town. The intention being to give to this second largest center of Asir Province a municipality status and to have it supported.<sup>1</sup>

These towns are the major centers of the public services in the Region and thus form the backbone of the institutional framework. At a lower (district) level the distribution of the service points is not always commensurate with the population density. Moreover, services are, by and large, insufficiently concentrated and, therefore, as a packing service network could well serve as a workable basis for future institutional development.

Administrative Structure

The Southwest Region has no administrative status yet. Analysis of its present administrative framework and of its component units provides four main features which are of vital importance to its future development. These are as follows.

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 37.



### Diversity in Administrative Division

The topographical boundaries of the parts of the Southwest Region, distinguished by the different major technical ministries, do not coincide. The field offices of the various ministries, more often located in the provincial and district capitals than outside, cover different areas. (Official government documentation and publications references to geographical areas are not consistent. Integrated and comprehensive action programs, however, require joint development administration, coordination on various levels and, consequently, a uniform administrative division.) The prevailing heterogeneity of functional units does not only lead to dissipation of funds, but also complicates an accurate inventory of the requirements and resources that are prerequisites to adequate multi-sectoral planning.<sup>1</sup>

### Lack of an Administrative Structure at Regional Level

The above situation shows how important it is to realize the need for a regional structure to facilitate preparation and implementation of regional plans. There is a need for administrative framework to intermediate between the provincial and national levels.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 38.

### High Degree of Centralizations

Decision making is centralized at the national level, so little is developed on provincial and local levels of administration. This situation which has historically evolved is unlikely to promote the development of a responsible and motivated civil service. The centralized government system and the low economic incentive may result in little motivation on the part of public servants which is sometimes reflected in poor services and low productivity.<sup>1</sup>

### Shortage of Qualified Personnel

It is well known that there is a pressing need for education and training of the personnel to make them able to live the rapid change which requires timely readaptation of the administration.

The tasks of the modern-style administrator make high demands upon the quality of the incumbent. It is realized that gradual rejuvenation and training of the civil services are possible answers to the problem. In this connection emphasis will be put on aptitude and qualifications, which in turn require more refined recruitment and selection techniques.<sup>2</sup>

### Social Structure and Organization

After the creation-establishment-foundation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, by King Abdul Aziz Al Saud, tribal structure--in the whole country--in general and in the Southwest Region in particular, has lost a great deal of its power and significance. All aspects of life in the Region have been influenced by the national government.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

Law and order was established in areas which before were the scene of tribal feuds and war. Freedom of movement was guaranteed, fear of life and property made way for security. Health care, education and other government services brought new outlooks and new attitudes and accelerated the emergence of a more modern society with unprecedented possibilities and expectations.<sup>1</sup>

Although tribal structure has lost its power and significance from the sociological point of view, identification with and the feeling of belonging to a tribal group are still an important factor.

Local organization is largely characterized by kinship. Land, both privately owned or communal, is regarded as the unalienable asset of the rightful kin group and indirectly of the tribe. It is a cohesive factor, but at the same time a certain constraint on development towards more territory-conscious groups. There is, however, a growing tendency that the traditional and still predominant one-tribe village will be substituted by a multi-tribal village of which the inhabitants identify themselves with the village more as a territorial than as a kinship unit.<sup>2</sup>

The once undisputed authority of the paramount Sheikh-Gabila (tribal chief) deceased during the last two decades. Yet, tribal leadership as an institution has retained many of its social functions. The sheikh of the sub-tribe, or the lineage, has largely remained the traditional cultural leader of the kin group, respected for his personal qualities or noble descent. In this capacity he is also recognized, to some extent, by the government. He can be held responsible for the behavior of his subjects, represent

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 39.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

his group at government, and in other respects be an extension of the government. Thus, tribal representatives, especially village heads, are often in a rather ambiguous position. Sometimes they tend to be very conservative in outlook and reluctant to change especially the older representatives, but on the other hand, the younger and educated village heads, are in an active position to promote change and activate progress.

11 In the Southwest Region the extended family, based on kinship and locality, is still the most important social group. But in the areas which are relatively open to influences from the outside world--especially these which are affected by the outmigration--this extended family structure show signs of decline. Yet, the prevailing inheritance laws are here the major constraint on physical split-up of the large family into smaller entities (nuclear families), each living on their inherited land. As regards the views of the people, two may be singled out.

First, outmigration (mainly urbanization) which is considerable in several provinces (up to 60-70 percent in age group, 15-25, i.e., some 40 percent of the total working population) is often considered with some ambivalence.<sup>1</sup>

The exodus of young men no doubt is a serious drain of farm manpower, but parents often admit that they have also benefited from the migration of their sons to the urban areas and the center of the activities in the Kingdom,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

where better jobs and higher wages have contributed to the family income better than the work on the farm. This created a shortage of labor at the farm level, but it was replaced by Yemenite land labor or sharecroppers. Secondly, the government services and welfare extension are appreciated as well as taken for granted. The latter attitude, which was frequently observed in this Region and other parts of the country, may be mainly due to "certain paternalistic" elements in the government approach and to the lack of popular participation in development. Neither is conducive to a more positive attitude towards social change and economic progress. Where community initiative is shown, as it is in a handful of cooperative societies, sustained success can hardly be expected as long as the government machinery, both in approach and adequate guidance, is not geared to such self-initiated community efforts.

The cooperative societies are (unfortunately exceptional) examples of so-called, purpose-oriented, ventures of people, i.e., with a common, socio-economic goal in mind. The smaller societies, with a limited number of member/shareholders (usually from the same village) and a modest range of activities, are not unsuccessful as the board enjoys confidence and its performance is under daily scrutiny of the members. Where the cooperative has a multi-village character and the scope is wider--like in the

An Namas, Asir, Cooperative society--the initially successful start may soon be followed by a setback, with survival of the whole or part of the enterprise at stake. Namely whenever a less inspired person takes over as president, when benefits are held off, or when branches become a burden on the parent cooperative, ignorance, selfishness and mistrust get the upper hand, and without proper outside interference, the cooperative may soon cease to exist. This indicates that the target-oriented groups are still weak compared with consanguineous and territorial groups.

#### Summary

In summarizing the socio-economic structure of the Region, it can be noted that the principal natural resources available there are land and water and the major activity is agriculture. Mineral resources, including oil and gas, are insignificant. The manufacturing sector is very small. Agriculture itself cannot supply sufficient food for the population of the Region and about one-third of the food-grain requirements are imported. Sometimes one-half is imported, especially in bad harvest years. Water is a serious problem in the Region and the development of water resources needs much technical input, which makes it expensive. Therefore, water potential has, so far, been developed only partly and agriculture generally shows a low productivity. There are reasons that cause the low agricultural, and other sectors, productivity of the

Region, rugged topography and the scattered population probably being the most important. Road construction is also relatively expensive, consequently large numbers of people live isolated from each other and from the rest of the more prosperous parts of the Kingdom. Incomes gained in agriculture (including livestock, fisheries, and forestry) are low;

for the Southwest Region in total approximate SR 150 million per year, equivalent to SR 110 (rounded) per caput. It is, therefore, necessary for the farmers to have off-farm sources of income. Outside agriculture the average earnings are much higher; in the Southwest Region approximately SR 4,000-5,000 per average migrant worker (SR 800-1,000 per caput), while outside the Region, the average earnings are at least 25 percent higher.<sup>1</sup>

These income differentials are the principal causes of the large-scale migration from agriculture. According to a rough estimate about 110,000 workers have left agriculture in the Southwest Region. Roughly 40,000 of them have found employment in the Region, the others, 70,000, work outside the Southwest Region, mainly in the central urban belt--Jedda, Mecca, Riyadh, and Dahrán.<sup>2</sup> These workers transfer sizeable amounts of money to their families. There is no data to show how much they transfer, but the Central Planning Organization, with ILACO, make a rough estimate of SR 300-350 million each year, each

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 41.

<sup>2</sup>Immigrants from non-agricultural sectors are assumed to amount to 10,000 workers according to ILACO's estimation.

category of migrant workers contributing about half of the above amount.

Total disposable incomes in the agricultural sector, therefore, amount to SR 450 million or SR 325 per caput, per year on the basis of official population figures. As the estimates of the regional product are not based on reliable statistics, only rough approximations are possible. Agricultural census data, population statistics, official employment estimates, industrial investigations, etc. are outdated (relying on extrapolations) or incomplete, or both.<sup>1</sup>

However, the overall national data about the sectoral composition of GDP, adjusted by ILACO to regional conditions, where possible, form the basis for Table 20. In conclusion, the disposable incomes, per caput, in the Kingdom are about two to three times as high as in the Region.

It has also been noticed that the social, health and educational situations of the Region's population are not enough, or sufficient at least, to be equal to the situations of the other regions of the country. Farmers are not yet ready for modern agricultural techniques, their ability is very limited which leads to the lack of popular participation in the development programs. An integrated effort is required in order to prepare the Region's population for the development program plans, by the government, through its several agencies. The attitude of the people must change and they must feel the need

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 41.



Table 20.--Gross Regional Product and Disposable Income, Southwest Region, Saudi Arabia, 1971-72.

| Sector                                               | Total Gross Value Added (SR million) | Total Net Value Added (SR million) | Total Disposable Income <sup>a</sup> (SR million) | Population (million) | Disposable Income per Caput per Year (SR) |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Primary sector (including fishing, forestry, mining) | 165                                  | 150                                | 450 <sup>b</sup>                                  | 1.38 <sup>e</sup>    | 325                                       |
| Secondary sector (manufacturing and construction)    | 80                                   | 60                                 | 60 <sup>c</sup>                                   | 0.12 <sup>f</sup>    | 500                                       |
| Tertiary sector (public and private services)        | 700                                  | 400                                | 260 <sup>d</sup>                                  | 0.19 <sup>g</sup>    | 1,370                                     |
| TOTAL SOUTHWEST REGION                               | 945                                  | 610                                | 770                                               | 1.69                 | 455                                       |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 42.

<sup>a</sup>Net value added plus (or minus) remittances by immigrants.

<sup>b</sup>Net value added from primary sector activities SR 150 m + remittances by 70,000 immigrants workers, SR 140 million + income by 40,000 migrant workers in the Southwest Region, SR 160 million.

<sup>c</sup>Net value added 75 percent of gross value added, GVA per worker between SR 3,000 and 3,500/year.

<sup>d</sup>Average GVA per worker weighed over the various services activities SR 9,200 or SR 700 million for the Region. Number of workers 76,000. Net value added per worker SR 5,000-5,500 weighed average, in SR 400 million (rounded). Income for 40,000 migratory labor of agricultural origin SR 160 million, remittances by 10,000 immigrant workers SR 20 million. Balance for tertiary sector population SR 400-160 + 20 = 260 million.

<sup>e</sup>Agricultural population 1.45 million, minus 0.07 million immigrant workers.

<sup>f</sup>Twenty-four thousand male workers; male labor/population ratio 0.21.

<sup>g</sup>Urban population 0.14 million + rural non-agricultural population 0.18 million - secondary sector population 0.12 million - 0.01 million immigrants = 0.19 million.

for change themselves, first, and that requires changing the government's approach.

## CHAPTER IV

### PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE SOUTHWEST REGION

#### Development Objectives and Strategy

First of all, the Regional Development Plan should fit in with the National Development Plan. Objectives and strategy of the National Plan are as follows:

a. Objectives:

1. Maintaining the religious and moral values;
2. Raising the standards of living and welfare of the people;
3. Providing national security;
4. Maintaining economic and social stability.<sup>1</sup>

b. The specific objectives are:

1. Increase of the rate of growth of gross domestic product;
2. Development of human resources in order to enable the several elements of society to contribute more effectively to production and

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Development Plan (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1970), p. 23.

full participation in the process of development;

3. Diversification of the sources of income by reducing dependence on oil and compensating for it by increasing the share of other productive sectors in gross domestic product.

These objectives are to be achieved by adopting a strategy aiming at:

1. An increase of the earning capacity of the population by an economic exploitation of the Kingdom's natural resources. The government will assist in creating an economic environment to which private entrepreneurship will respond with participation in production.
2. Improvement of the physical, social and administrative infrastructure in order to support the development referred to under number 1 and to insure that all strata of society has access to education, medical and welfare services to more or less the same degree.
3. Providing minimum family incomes by a system of welfare payments for those who cannot participate in production owing to circumstances beyond their control.
4. Freedom of migration for workers who want and can contribute effectively to the socio-economic development elsewhere in the country.<sup>1</sup>

This summarizes the National Framework for Development and its objectives and strategies for the whole Kingdom. In terms of the Regional Framework, it appears from the previous section that the key objective is to raise the standard of living of the people in the country and that also applies to the Southwest Region. So, the

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 82.

Regional development strategy, derived from the National strategy, but more specifically geared to the needs and potentials of the Southwest Region, can be formulated as follows:

1. In order to increase the earning capacity, efforts must be concentrated on the sector with the most natural resources, which is agriculture. It is clear that agriculture is bound to act as the carrier of development for other sectors in the near future since there is a scarcity of other natural resources in the Region.

With regard to agriculture, the government should see to it that the infrastructure, the technical and the capital inputs, for which the people themselves lack the means, are provided in appropriate timing sequences. In spite of the governmental support the agricultural developmental projects should be macro-economically justified. The economic benefits should insure an adequate remuneration of the farmer's labor and capital inputs.<sup>1</sup>

In principle, the same strategy applies in the case of manufacturing and construction. One of the consequences is that diversion of secondary sector activities from regions which are relatively better circumstanced (more energy sources and raw materials, neighboring markets, agglomeration with other industries, etc.) for the sake of

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 83.

employment creation in the Southwest Region only is considered uneconomic and, therefore, undesirable.

2. Improvement of the physical, social and administrative infrastructure in the Southwest Region means:

- a. Considerable extension and improvement of the road network. "Without a greatly improved accessibility the people in the Southwest Region cannot be provided with a reasonable share in the social services."<sup>1</sup> Intangible benefits (e.g., for national unity and purely social reasons) weigh heavily in deciding whether construction of roads is justified. The same applies to postal services, telegraph, telephone, T.V. and public utilities, such as electric power, domestic water and general urban development.
- b. Development of the administrative infrastructure should be geared to the actual socio-economic and political requirements of the Region.
- c. Educational institutions, medical facilities and network of social service centers should be established--despite of the trend of the earning capacity of the Region, because this is to be considered as a social right of the

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 83.

people and also because people can be fully productive only when enough of such services are available. "National criteria for the provision of these services will serve as guidelines in expanding the social infrastructure."<sup>1</sup>

3. Welfare payments should be made available to those persons who cannot participate in the development process owing to circumstances beyond their control, such as the disabled, the blind, and the aged. Such payments should be made to those who are likely to have lower incomes than the national minimum accepted as a result of unexpected natural disaster, such as floods, droughts, and crop failure.

4. The government does not see the need of restrictions on the present and future stream of immigrant labor from the Southwest Region to other parts of the Kingdom under the following conditions:

a. "That the immigrants should be able to contribute to the economic development of these other parts" and

b. "That the outflow does not affect the development of the Southwest Region."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 84.

This implies that immigration should be based upon economic grounds and not on the consideration that the level of social services in the Southwest Region is lower.

Immigrants who cannot find adequate remunerative employment in the Region will be either prepared for jobs outside the Southwest Region or, if they appear unfit for education and training, they will be allowed to rely on social welfare.<sup>1</sup>

Other conditions concern the sufficient employment opportunities outside the Region and that measures are taken to accomodate these people and their families. (Considering that the major part of the outmigrants will be young males, job opportunities are not likely to be a very serious constraint.)

This strategy is an economic exploitation of natural resources, although the official strategy gives much more attention to the development of the social infrastructure, health, education, and welfare as it is implied in the National Development Plan of 1970. The regional per capita incomes will include more transferred incomes than in the case of economic exploitation of resources only. ILACO has an alternative strategy which said:

In order to create employment and to support income growth in the Southwest Region it was proposed to develop a program of diverting to the Region secondary-sector activities from the Central Belt--Jedda,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.



Riyadh, Dammon areas, with comparative advantages for industrialization, vis-a-vis the Southwest Region. Price-supporting measures for<sup>1</sup> agricultural commodities would serve the same purpose.

Such strategy aims toward accomodating more people in the Region. It would require substantial, long-term government support and subsidies to the private sector, besides price support in agriculture would effect the cost of living of the non-agricultural population. (Both implications are not acceptable to the government.)

The Development Programs for the Southwest  
Region 1973-1980

In this part a summary of the Development Program for the Southwest Region, as it was proposed and suggested to the government of Saudi Arabia, will be presented. These programs are aimed at an identification of possible and necessary projects and actions. Therefore, these sectoral programs are not a set of feasibility studies. With a margin of accuracy entirely depending on the volume and quality of the available and additionally collected information, the technical feasibility and the economic and/or social justification of the proposed projects and actions are explained. Before a project can be implemented a specific feasibility study is required in nearly all cases. This study should specify the local conditions and circumstances of each project. These conditions, which

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 84.

can vary considerably from location to location for the same type of project cannot be studied as part of a regional planning study, which, moreover, had to be executed in a very short period.<sup>1</sup> The following pages describe the development program for each sector.

### Agriculture

In the Southwest Region the agricultural developments goal is to increase the standard of living of the farming population through an economic exploitation of the available land and water resources. Subsidy of farmers' incomes is acceptable as long as it does not endanger the economic exploitation of resources, nor appreciably raise the cost of living of the non-agricultural population. The plan suggested that emphasis must be focused on irrigated crop production and settled stock raising "as these are the only agricultural activities which would enable the farmers to improve their standard of living." Rainfed cropping and nomadic stock raising certainly does not have such potentials. Therefore, since the irrigation water, rather than agricultural land, is the Region's scarcest production factor, the development of water resources should be at the top of the development priorities list. The plan has suggested several steps to be taken in the

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 85.

program for the development of land and water resources as follows.

#### Collecting of Hydrological and Geohydrological Data

The present rainfall and runoff data are not sufficient for the planning and implementation of projects for water resources development. Therefore, it is very important that the program for recording must continue and expand at a rather large number of stations.

Also it is essential that geohydrological research, including test drilling, is carried out by the Geology and Drilling Division to assess the potentials for tube-well irrigation in the Coastal Plain and Foothills and to determine the optimum locations of the wells.<sup>1</sup>

#### Preparation of Topographic Maps

According to the current five year national development plan, the preparation of topographic maps, scale 1:50,000 on the basis of air-photos. In a program of the Aerial Survey Department covering about 14,000 sq. km in the Southwest Region, topographic maps on the 1:30,000 scale have been completed. By the end of 1975 the first maps will become available. Concerning irrigability classification of land,

Sogreah and Italconsult have made irrigability studies of some selected areas, using the irrigability classification as outlined in the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Manual Vol. V. It is recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture should introduce a uniform

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 87.

irrigability classification for the whole of Saudi Arabia to enable comparison between the classes in various areas.<sup>1</sup>

**Feasibility Studies Regarding  
Major Wadi Improvements in  
the Coastal Plains**

An optimum exploitation of the water resources available for flood spreading necessitates first improvement of the diversion works and intake structures, e.g., through gabion constructions, secondly construction of proper main canals and laterals (dividing the land into units of about 50 ha (100 acres)) to warrant a speedy distribution of the irrigation water, and, thirdly, proper land levelling. These studies will be applied to Wadi Hali and it will include:

- a. Evaluation of the available rainfall and runoff data.
- b. Preparation of detailed topographic and soil maps.
- c. Preliminary design of an improved irrigation layout.
- d. Investigation into possible sites for flood-retention structure of dam.
- e. Preliminary design of such a dam or structure.

These studies and recommendations are applied to Wadis Baysh, Khums-Khulah, Liyyah and Ta'ashar.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 88.

Implementation of Small-Scale  
Projects Under a Rural Works  
Program

It was suggested that a number of comparatively small-scale projects can be implemented without extensive studies. These projects include:

- a. Improvements of flood spreading and flood diversion in the Coastal Plain and Foothills.
- b. Development of tube-well irrigation in the Coastal Plain and Foothills.
- c. The construction of small earth or rockfill dams in the Wadis and grouting in the Dissected Highlands and Upper and Middle Wadi areas.
- d. A number of land conservation and flood protection measures. A large part of the work involved can be done by the farmers themselves, provided they would receive adequate technical and financial support.

**The Wadi-Bisha Drainage Study**

Severe salinity problems exist in the Middle Wadi-Bisha oasis. Preliminary investigations have indicated a rather limited occurrence of perched ground water tables in these areas. Under such conditions drainage would not function. The only remedy can be to root up the hard pans to allow an undisturbed moisture flow to a greater depth. For a proper solution, that might differ for various parts of the area, a detailed soil and drainage survey is urgently required. Such a drainage study for the Wadi-Bisha oasis should be carried out on short notice.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 95.

### The Wadi-Najran Study

A feasibility study regarding water resources development in the Wadi-Najran oasis is recommended and it is supposed to be included in the budget of Ministry of Agriculture and Water. Also it was recommended that implementation should take place during the periods of 1973-74 and 1979-80.

### The Wadi-Bisha Water Development Study

A similar feasibility study as anticipated for the Wadi-Bisha area should also be made for the Wadi-Bisha area during the second five-year plan.

### Research, Experiments, Demonstrations

It is natural that a program for agricultural development anticipated for any area in general and for the Southwest Region of Saudi Arabia in particular, can only be implemented successfully when at the same time adequate supporting services are rendered, especially in the field of agricultural research, experiments and demonstrations, education and training, extension, credit supply, etc. Within this understanding the development program includes:

- a. The establishment of a central agricultural research station because there is just one station under construction at this time, in Hakmah, and it

will not be capable of accomplishing the research tasks for the whole Region. Thus, to assure sufficient research and experimental capability for the planned agricultural development, especially because the various physiographic zones markedly differ in soil and climatic conditions, it was recommended that another station must be built. Both stations are to be engaged in an integrated research program regarding fruit and vegetable growing, as those are the crops which dominate in the anticipated cropping patterns. Special attention should be given to research on the growing seasons of the various species and varieties to insure regular supply of fruits and vegetables over the year, preventing sharp price fluctuations. Spacing, fertilizers, spraying and cultivation trials should also be included in this program. It was suggested that the Hakmah station should further focus its research activities on crop production problems with regard to the Coastal Plain and Foothills. Most emphasis is to be devoted to such food and fodder crops as sorghum and sesame and on new crops such as cotton, groundnuts, sugar cane, and stylosanthes. Special problems are certain aspects of irrigation and drainage, in particular the effects of under

irrigation on crop production are to be studied. The proposed central research station is to be established near Khamis Mashayt. It should be engaged primarily in research on the problems of crop production in the Dissected Highlands and Upper and Middle Wadi-areas, especially regarding wheat and alfalfa, and on salinity, soil fertility and crop rotations. The central station should have an experimental farm of about 80 ha (200 acres) mainly for research on fruits, vegetables, cereals and fodder crops. Also, two other smaller substations were suggested to be established in Bisha and Najran, each with an experimental farm of some 10 ha (24 acres), for experiments with crops under the specific climatic and soil conditions of the Middle Wadi areas.

- b. Trickle irrigation demonstration plots: it was recommended to start small scale trials with trickle irrigation on short notice in Abha and Najran and at the Hakmah research station. This type of irrigation is considered as a very efficient irrigation system, because it minimizes water losses and makes it possible to use also water of mediocre quality. Moreover, it facilitates application of fertilizers and herbicides and requires practically no land levelling. The



only disadvantage of this system is its high installation costs (SR 2,000-6,000 per ha). Therefore, trickle irrigation is only suitable for high-value crops, such as fruits and vegetable.

- c. Pilot schemes for groundwater development in the Coastal Plain: For the development of tube-well irrigation in the Coastal Plain--it is important that a number of pilot projects, such as demonstrating the proper use of groundwater, be implemented. It is recommended to start with three schemes, 25-50 ha each (60-125 acres), during the years 1974-75. By the end of 1976-77 the number of schemes are to be expanded to five with average size around 100 ha.
- d. Fruit tree multiplication farms: central agricultural research stations should be charged with the supervision of a number of fruit tree multiplication farms to provide for the supply of young trees necessary for the planned extension of the area under fruit trees, in the Dissected Highlands and the Upper and Middle Wadi areas. It is proposed that the existing multiplication farms in Abha, AnNamas, Baljurshi and Al Mandag be expanded to supply young fruit trees for the area around 3,000 ha (7,000 acres) to be planted in the Dissected Highlands, and to set up new farms in

Khamis Mushayt and Najran. The latter multiplication farms would serve an area of 2,000 ha (4,800 acres) during the next 7-10 years in the Upper and Middle Wadi areas and possibly in the Foothills, around 5,000 ha (12,000 acres) seems a realistic target area to be planted in the period considered in view of the availability of qualified staff for the essential guidance during and after establishing the orchards. Toward the end of the decade each of the six stations is expected to produce enough seedlings for 100-150 ha (240-360 acres) annually. In the initial phase this quantity might only be enough for 25 ha, since both the multiplication staff and the farmers will have to gain experience. Each of the six farms should be 8 ha (20 acres) large.

#### Agricultural Extension

Because of the limited number of qualified extension officers among the total staff of the extension service (only 50 out of 800) and because of the limited mobility of these officers, the impact of extension on the Region's agricultural productivity--in general--is still slight. (It is assumed that one fully qualified officer will be needed per 400 farmers in the Region.) This implies that ultimately around 350 qualified officers are required. The total recurrent cost (includes the salaries of the

additional staff and the overhead costs) of such an extension apparatus would amount to SR 8-9 million, or to 2-3 percent of the total annual net value added of the agricultural sector. These figures are reasonable by international standards. It is well known that an adequate extension service is a prerequisite for a successful agricultural development. Therefore in the next 7-10 years the extension service has to be expanded and improved. By the end of 1979-80, around 250 qualified officers will have to be engaged in the extension service in the Region. A large number of these 250 is to come from outside the Region, either from other Arab countries, since the effect of the training centers and other educational facilities planned for the Region will not be clearly felt until the end of the second five-year plan (1980). Moreover, the extension officers must be provided with appropriate means of transport (costs are included in the previous estimation). Even the expansion of the number of qualified officers from 50-250 and greater mobility might not suffice to serve the farmers in such remote and relatively inaccessible areas as the Northern Foothills. It is therefore recommended to establish an agricultural office in the Northern part of the Foothills, where ultimately, around 10 percent of the Region's agricultural population is expected to live. Mkhurah, Turayhan or Muhayl is eligible for such an office--by the end of 1979--so this

office should be staffed with some 20 qualified extension officers.

#### The Supply of Agricultural Credit

As was mentioned in Chapter III, the Agricultural Bank still plays only a minor role in credit supply in the Region, because its program is practically unknown to most of the farmers. This is largely due to the limited number of officers (see Table ) and the relative inaccessibility of the area, and secondly because of the time consuming procedures and stern repayment schedules. In the next seven years, the demand for agricultural credit in the Region is likely to expand rapidly, especially in the Coastal Plain, where, according to the program for the development of tube-well irrigation, around 38 tube-wells have to be installed in that period.

This program alone requires a total investment of SR 21.0 million (excluding land levelling) which is almost certainly to be financed from medium term bank loans. To meet this demand for medium term credit, a total revolving fund will be required by the end of 1979-1980 of around SR 11.0-12.0 million, if it is assumed that the loans are to be repaid in five yearly installments, and that the first repayment will be due after two years. This amount should be increased by another SR 1.0-2.0 million because of the revolving fund needed for short-term loans.<sup>1</sup>

If account is taken of the fact that the demand for credit in the other areas of the Region might grow less rapidly, a revolving fund of SR 15.0- 20.0 million must be

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 99.

available by the end of the second five-year plan period to meet the demand for credit in the Region's agricultural sector.

It goes without saying that the Bank cannot possibly satisfy this demand unless more progressive lending policies are enforced. It is recommended: (1) to use vans to bring the bank to the farmers, (2) to adopt smoother credit procedures, viz., liberalization of the collateral requirements and granting emergency lending authority to lending officers for short-term crop loans and replacement of irrigation equipment, (3) to adjust the repayment periods better to the economic life of the assets.<sup>1</sup>

As the Coastal Plain is the area where the demand for credit is expected to increase most, it is recommended to extend the staff of the Jizan and Al Qunfudhah sub-branches and to transfer at least one mobile unit from each of these sub-branches.

#### **Marketing of Agricultural Products**

The agricultural development is expected to have gained sufficient momentum to produce substantial marketable surplus after the 1980s. By that time, according to the development program, the marketing of agricultural products will definitely have become a vital issue. Therefore, it is suggested that a comprehensive study of all aspects of such marketing in the Southwest Region should be undertaken during the last two years of the second five-year plan period. For the time being, it is

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

sufficient to improve and extend price information, e.g., through daily broadcasting of the market prices of fruits and vegetables quoted in various areas.

#### Plant Protection

Until 1972 almost only the spraying teams of the agricultural field service took care of plant protection. Their jobs were not sufficient because they could not guarantee timely assistance and because they limited their services to mostly large farmers in the immediate surroundings of the station. Therefore, the program suggested that, in the future, the agricultural field service, should leave all spraying activities to the farmers themselves or to private companies. A continuation, temporarily however, might be useful, provided these services would be limited to the farmers that are not yet familiar with modern crop production, to those who are unable to buy spraying equipment themselves, or to those living in rather remote areas. In this respect, particularly the Coastal Plain and Foothills deserve due attention. It is, therefore, recommended to direct the activities of the spraying teams of the Jizan agricultural unit and to station new teams at the unit in Al Qunfudhah and the office proposed for Muhwah, Turaljhan or Muhayl.

### The Land and Water Development Organization

It has been mentioned that the construction of small diversion and intake structures, flood protection walls and small earth or rockfill dams can be carried out by the farmers themselves, provided they would receive adequate technical support. This technical support, including feasibility studies, design and supervision, can only be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, either directly, or indirectly through consultants. To this end a land and water use development organization should be established within the Ministry, preferably within the projects execution directorate. This organization should further have a number of field teams, each consisting of an irrigation engineer, two assistant engineers and a surveyor. The organization could undertake the planning of a new irrigation layout for farms in the Coastal Plain and Foothills, diverted from surface irrigation or rainfed cropping to well irrigation; supervision and advice on water management; the study of drainage problems and construction and maintenance of terraces. The first two field teams should become available during the last two years of the current five-year Plan and the third during the next period. They are to be stationed at the agricultural directorate in Abha and at the units in Baha and Al Qunfudhah, respectively.

## Regulation of Water Use or Water Code

To prevent waste of scarce water and any discord, water use should be regulated by law. Such a law should regard the free use of water as it is available to any inhabitant of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the present users cannot be deprived from their rights. However, regulations can be made so as to control water use. Some years ago a proposal was drafted at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water for the regulation of water use by law. It is strongly recommended that this proposal be approved and that appropriate measures enacted as soon as possible.

## Agricultural Subsidies

The development program--as it was mentioned before--suggested that subsidies on capital investments are almost the only subsidies that could contribute appreciably to the growth of farmer's incomes. The following activities are eligible for such subsidies:

- a. Drilling of wells, proposed subsidy percentage is 50 percent. Such a subsidy would not only lower the repayment commitments of the farmers, but also offer the opportunity of keeping a firm grip on the implementation of tube-well development.
- b. Land levelling, necessary for well irrigation, either or not supplemental to improved flood spreading, percentage, again 50.



- c. Young fruit trees. The production costs of such young trees are estimated at SR 5 per specimen. It is proposed to sell these trees to the farmers at SR 1.<sup>1</sup> The payments to the farmers under the rural works program, such as those for the construction of better intake and diversion structures small earth and rockfill dams and flood-protection walls, are also subsidies. The impact of these subsidies, in terms of governmental budget expenditure, is indicated in Table 21.

#### Animal Production

It is anticipated that a steady decline of nomadic stock raising and a growing tendency towards intensification in settled stock raising will take place. That is because animal husbandry will become more and more dependent on irrigated crop production for its fodder supply. Therefore, the development of irrigated crop production will largely determine the rate of growth of animal production during the next seven years. No large scale program has been proposed yet with regard to livestock keeping because development of animal production is generally a slow process, requiring improvement of all facets of husbandry, or, in short, improvement of feeding, sanitation and management. However, the development program has proposed

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 101.

Table 21.--Budget Expenditure for the Government of Saudi Arabia of a Subsidy on Certain Capital Investments, Southwest Region.

| Type of Subsidy                               | 1973-74<br>1974-75<br>Total |            | 1975-76<br>1979-80<br>Total |             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
|                                               |                             |            |                             |             |
| Tube-well Development<br>Coastal Plain:       |                             |            |                             |             |
| a) Drilling, SR 10,000/well                   | SR                          | 500,000    | SR                          | 3,300,000   |
| b) Land leveling SR 600-750/ha (2.4 acres)    |                             | 900,000    |                             | 5,100,000   |
| Fruit-tree subsidy, SR 3,000/ha               |                             | 1,500,000  |                             | 13,500,000  |
| Rural Works program:                          |                             |            |                             |             |
| a) Flood-spreading improvement<br>SR 2,500/ha |                             | 12,500,000 |                             | 90,000,000  |
| b) Small dams, SR 30,000/dam                  |                             | 360,000    |                             | 1,500,000   |
| c) Flood-protection walls SR 10,000/wall      |                             | 120,000    |                             | 500,000     |
| TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE                      | SR                          | 15,880,000 | SR                          | 113,900,000 |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 101.

an outline for supporting services such as veterinary care. Adequate control of animal diseases is the prerequisite to the improvement of animal production. This especially applies in the case of nomadic and semi-nomadic stock raising in the Region.

It is generally accepted that in comparatively extensive animal production, one veterinarian is required per 20,000 livestock units. For efficient service each veterinarian should have five qualified assistants and proper means of transport, equipment, drugs, vaccines, etc. As the ultimate feed production of the Region will suffice for a livestock population of around 1,200,000 livestock units, in all 60 veterinarians are expected to be required. This number should be available by the end of 1979-80 to enable optimum development during the subsequent period. To insure streamlined disease control it is further strongly recommended to operate mobile diagnostic laboratories in the Region.<sup>1</sup>

Because of the severe shortage of Saudi technicians, those veterinarians will have to be recruited from abroad. The education and training of qualified veterinary assistants should be provided by the central laboratory in Riyadh. Concerning extension service for animal production, it was suggested that this extension had better be entrusted to the general agricultural extension service. Concerning research in the field of animal feeding there is an excellent facility established in Hufaf (Eastern Region). Most of the results obtained are applicable to the Southwest Region. Any necessary specific research could be carried

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 102.

out jointly with Hakmah research station and the central station proposed for Khamis Mushayt.

### Marine Fisheries

In cooperation with the University of North Wales, in the United Kingdom, a marine research station was established in Jedda. The station is carrying on research into the potentials of exploiting marine biological resources in the Red Sea. This research program gives special attention to:

- a survey to identify the concentration of fishermen, vessels, landing volumes, prices and ice-making facilities along the Red Sea coast.
- exploratory fishing surveys to locate new stocks and to identify the underexploited stocks of fish using a variety of fishing methods and gear. In this respect especially, the potentialities of shrimp fishing are under study.<sup>1</sup> The first results of this study are expected to become available within two years. Then--as the development plan suggested--it will be possible to draft a program for the development of marine fishing.

### Forestry

At the present time, the Division of Forestry at the Ministry of Agriculture and Water is carrying out a

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 103.

five-year program. The aim of this program is to establish some 20,000 dunums (5-6,000 acres) of plantations in the barren mountainous sites and hilly plateau areas of the Southwest Region of the Kingdom. The cost has been estimated at approximately SR 58 million. It is suggested that this scheme should be extended with an afforestation program for former rainfed, terraced crop land in the Dissected Highlands. The population should be encouraged to take part in such a project by planting seedlings and by doing other forestry work. The owners of the terraced lands might thus compliment their income from agriculture. At the same time the authorities might use the employment opportunities and the benefits to be derived from forestry production as arguments to make legislation about the admittance to the abandoned terraces for afforestation purposes palatable. On a sustained yield basis an afforestation project of this magnitude, i.e., some 16,000 ha (about 40,000 acres) will provide a regular flow of income to those who take part in its implementation. On an average, 800 ha (2,000 acres) should be planted annually to attain afforestation of the whole area in 20 years, which is the assumed rotation period. The costs of establishment and silvicultural practices on a per hector (2.5 acres) basis--as it was suggested in the program--is as follows:

|                                                               |    |                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Seedling                                                      | SR | 750                 |
| Afforestation (Land preparation,<br>planting, thinning, etc.) |    | 4,000               |
| Irrigation during the first two<br>years after planting:      |    |                     |
| --Opportunity cost of water                                   |    | 800                 |
| --Tractor (1 per 2 ha)                                        |    | 4,000               |
| --Tractor operation and maintenance                           |    | 8,800               |
| --Project management                                          |    | 300                 |
| TOTAL                                                         | SR | 18,650 <sup>1</sup> |

As for the natural forests of the Region, the program recommended that these should be left to natural regeneration. Access roads should be built, as has already been done in the Baha and Asir provinces, to make the forests available to the population for recreation. The forest authorities in the provinces could best determine where these roads should be constructed. It was recommended that enough budget must be approved for the purpose of experiments with various exotic and indigenous species to be planted on the terraces. Also, the right of admittance to the terraced land for afforestation should be regulated by law.

### Mining

The government policy towards mining companies plays an important part. The recent revision of the mining

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 104.

code has made it more attractive for private companies to undertake exploration drilling. It is the policy of the government to withdraw from exploration activities after the first investigations have yielded positive results, and to hand over the more detailed explorations to private companies. An evaluation of the mining potential can be made only after more investigations have been carried out by the Directorate General of Mineral Resources in Jedda. There are several exploratory investigations undergoing in the Southwest Region, where the primary results indicate that there is marble, copper, silver, zinc, lead, gold, iron, sulphur, and sulphuric acid in different provinces in the Region.

#### The Industrial Development Program

The strategy to develop manufacturing industries must be based on an economic exploitation of the available resources. In the Southwest Region the industrial development has to start practically from zero. The government of the Kingdom has, on principle, chosen for a policy of free enterprise. Consequently, the less favorable circumstances in the Southwest Region form an extra restraint on the industrial development. If we assume that neither mining nor quarrying will be of great importance in the future, then the main resources for industrialization in the Region are agriculture including animal husbandry and

fisheries and manpower. These resources have their own limiting factors, agriculture in the availability of raw materials, in quality as well as in quantity, and for manpower its limiting factor appears in the lack of skills.

Development of these resources only is not enough to promote industrialization of the Region. The industrial development plan should also aim at creating a propitious industrial climate or, in other words, a social climate that encourages entrepreneurs to start manufacturing activities. At the same time, it should be stimulated to transform the artisan industry, which prevails in the Region, into small factory industry.<sup>1</sup>

The development program suggests that the industrial development program should be based on the following.

#### Training of the Available Manpower

Roughly estimated, a sound regional manufacturing industry will require 5,000 skilled laborers in 1979-80. This development of an industrial labor force calls for:

- training schemes for semi-skilled and skilled labor, and
- training courses for supervisory personnel, managers and entrepreneurs.

#### Creating a Favorable Industrial Climate

It was recommended that key centers for industrial development should be selected in the Region. The most promising urban areas to be considered as industrial growth centers are:

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 109-110.



- a. Jizan - with an estimated urban population of 80,000 in 1980 and
- b. the Abha/Khamis Mushayt area - with an estimated urban population of 43,000 in 1980.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, the program suggests the following measures should be taken to stimulate the industrialization in the two regional growth centers:

- a. the establishment of branches of the "Industrial Studies and Development Centers" in Jizan and Abha for industrial advisory services.
  - b. the establishment of an industrial pre-investment study fund for the Southwest Region to finance studies for project identification in the Region. This fund could be managed by the ISDC.
  - c. the establishment of an "Industrial Development Fund for the Southwest Region" to provide long-term loans to industrial investors in the Region. This fund could be managed by the Saudi Arabian Industrial Bank.
  - d. the allocation of industrial areas and plant sites in the areas of the Growth Centers.<sup>2</sup>
- Next to these measures, the common utility services, such as electric power supply, water

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 110.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 111.

supply, other public services and the development of physical infrastructure should be provided.

#### Transformation of Existing Artisan Industry

Because of the importance of this transformation in the modernization process of Saudi-society, the program has suggested that "a regional" Industrial Extension Services office" should be established to start and guide this transformation. This office could be a department of the regional branches of ISDC. It will, however, not limit its work to advisory services only. A program of visits to plants, informal meetings, demonstrations, and fairs should be carried out all through the Region.<sup>1</sup>

#### Development of Agro-Industries

Because raw material for agro-industries will not be available before the end of 1980, a rapid development of the agricultural potentials in the Region is not expected. These raw materials are limited to:

- a. seed cotton in the Coastal Plain, where in 1979 the first small ginnery will be needed (the cost of such a ginnery is estimated at SR 1.2 million).

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

- b. fruits (other than dates) in the Foothills, the Dissected Highlands and the Upper and Middle Wadi-areas.
- c. dates in the Middle Wadi area.
- d. vegetables in the Coastal Plain, the Foothills, the Upper and Middle Wadi areas.
- e. animal husbandry products (hides, skins, meat and milk) mainly in the Coastal Plain. A study on the possibility of fisheries in the Red Sea is being carried out, but the results are not available yet.<sup>1</sup>

Most of these items can also be marketed as fresh products, especially in the central urban belt of the Kingdom, where probably higher prices can be obtained, also because of the differences in harvesting seasons between the Southwest Region and the rest of the country.

A program of feasibility studies for industries based on these agricultural products should be carried out some two years before production of the raw materials in reasonable amounts can be expected. Furthermore, it is recommended that the regional ISDC extension service should set up a program to introduce modern techniques for preparing hides and skins in cooperation with the FAO.<sup>2</sup>

#### Development of Other Industries

It is strongly recommended that factories which can act as magnets attracting other industries should be

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 111-112.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 112.

established in the Region to encourage private investors to make their investments in the Southwest Region. Therefore,

the government should make efforts to the effects that, if feasible, a cement plant with annual capacity of 100,000 tons is erected in the Region near Jizan. The investment cost of such a plant is estimated at SR 50 million. The export possibilities of cement to Yemen should also be investigated. The establishment of the Petromin bulk plant in Jizan (estimated investment SR 18 million) should be considered, also in connection with the possible construction of a cement plant in the Region. Also, feasibility studies on the establishment of a soft drink bottling plant in Jizan or Abha, or both, should be given priority, and a feasibility study concerning marble industries around Bisha and on industrial salt exploitation in Jizan province are recommended.<sup>1</sup>

### Transport and Communication

#### Roads

The Ministry of Communication has a plan which includes road projects under construction, designed or under design. It represents a network that will fulfill the needs of the Southwest Region to a high degree. Therefore, the aim of the study done by ILACO was not to formulate new road projects, except in the Foothill area.

The primary goal of their study about roads has been to formulate a priority schedule for project implementation, based on economic and social criteria. As for the economic analysis, a benefit-cost evaluation has been made for each project. Benefits consist of savings in costs of vehicle operating and that part of the net value increase of agricultural production which is judged to result from the road project. Economic considerations are not the only

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 112.

factors deciding priority ranking and thus the implementation schedule. Also, social considerations, as well as straight organizational matters (e.g., state of project preparation} may give rise to a rearrangement of priorities.<sup>1</sup>

The following table summarizes the priority schedule and indicates, approximately, the timing of the capital expenditures.

### Seaports

The only important seaport in the Region is Jizan Port, where the results of some studies of ports along the Red Sea have shown that the development of this port is the only feasible project in the Region. Its present traffic is about 20,000 tons, the plan is to expand its capacity to 200,000 tons in 1975, 370,000 tons in 1985, and 480,000 tons in 1995. Therefore, the project is economically submarginal, especially considering the planned and ongoing construction of the major road network.<sup>2</sup> The project could be made more attractive, if part of the present cargo of Jeddah (over 2.5 million tons per year) could be diverted to Jizan. At the present time, it is estimated that the Southwest Region imports about 350,000 tons, plus cement and fuel. In the future, with the industrial activities that are included in the development program of the Region, the port must be able to receive all the cargo needed for the Region.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 117.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 21.

Table 22.--Approximate Investment Schedule for Road Construction (SR million), Southwest Region.

| Ranking Number | Road                                     | Total Investment | Of Which In     |                                                  |
|----------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                |                                          |                  | 1973/74-1974/75 | 1975/76 - 1979/80<br>First Half      Second Half |
| 1              | Talah-Abha                               | 450              | 220             | 230                                              |
| 2              | Abha-Ad Darb                             | 110              | 80              | 30                                               |
| 3              | Rural roads <sup>a</sup>                 |                  |                 |                                                  |
| 4              | Khamasin-Khamis Mushayt                  | 180              | 30              | 150                                              |
| 5              | Al Lith-Muthaglif-Al-Qunfudhah (Road 61) | 60 <sup>b</sup>  | 20              | 40                                               |
| 6              | Foothill road                            | 470              |                 | 270                                              |
| 7              | Bisha-Sabt Al Alayah                     | 100              |                 | 50                                               |
| 8              | Jizan feeder roads                       | 130              |                 | 70                                               |
| 9              | Bisha feeder roads                       | 25               |                 | 10                                               |
| 10             | Najran feeder roads                      | 13               |                 | 5                                                |
| 11             | North of Abha feeder roads               | 100              |                 | 40                                               |
| 12             | Descent roads                            | 60               |                 | 20                                               |
| 13             | Al Qunfudhah-Shugayg                     | 250              |                 | 250                                              |
|                | TOTAL                                    | 1,948            | 350             | 845                                              |
|                |                                          |                  |                 | 753                                              |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 120.

<sup>a</sup>Continuous program; cost of roads per km SR 15,000-17,000 in flat and SR 75,000-100,000 in mountainous areas.

<sup>b</sup>Of which SR 30 million for the stretch Al-Lith-Muthaglif which is part of the Foothills road.

## Airports

The improvement and extension program of airports in the Southwest Region includes:

- extension of Jizan airport;
- construction of an airport in Najran for jetliner service;
- improvement of terminal buildings for civil traffic, in Khamis Mushayt;
- extension of Bisha airport.

Most of these projects are underway and completion is expected before the end of 1976.

## Telecommunications

There is progress in the program for the improvement of the post offices and telecommunication facilities, planned for the immediate future. According to the available information, it appears to be adequate to meet the Region's requirements during the next decade.

## Electric Power

The objective of the electricity development in the Kingdom has a specific target and that is to electrify most centers with populations of over 2,000, by the end of the current plan period. For the Southwest Region, three phases have been distinguished in the electrification program:

1. It is recommended to combine as much as possible the generating capacity in several central power stations and to connect surrounding villages to these stations in the first phase.
2. In phase two - construction of extended subtransmission and distribution system (on KV service voltage) should be started.
3. In the third phase, the connection of the different centers in the Region must be completed so, by 1980, some 240,000 people (out of a total urban and rural non-agricultural population of 300,000 in the Southwest Region) will have electricity. Table 23 shows the investments in a regional electrification program. The total investments are estimated to amount to SR 110 million.<sup>1</sup>

Government interest-free loans for the public utilities, up to 75 percent of the capital costs, are available to private entrepreneurs who are interested in investments in this sector. A fair rate of return on the investments is essential to insure the continuity of the services. However, the dispersed location of relatively small communities, the on-average small size of the generating plants, the lack of diversity in the demand, and thus the low a load and plant factors are responsible for a high cost price of electric power.<sup>2</sup>

### Service Center Networks and Municipalities

#### Objectives

Within the national framework the main objectives of developing the physical infrastructure are:

- to increase the efficiency of the social and economic services as much as possible to render optimum services to the people;
- administration and organization of the people in the rural areas in such a way that they can contribute to and participate in their own development;
- to promote development of viable communities, which are the basic elements of the socio-economic structure of the Kingdom;

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 128.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 129.



Table 23.--Investments in a Regional Electrification Program, Southwest Region, 1972.

|                                                                                      |       | (SR million) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| <hr/>                                                                                |       |              |
| Phase I Establishment of Central Power and Connections with surrounding communities: |       |              |
| Jizan                                                                                | 26.4  |              |
| Abha/Khamis Mushayt                                                                  | 14.0  |              |
| Al Baha                                                                              | 10.8  |              |
| Bisha                                                                                | 7.7   |              |
| Najran                                                                               | 6.5   |              |
| Al Qunfudhah, Al Lith, Al Quz (S. Mecca)                                             | 4.0   |              |
|                                                                                      | <hr/> | 69.4         |
| Phase II First step to a Regional (33KV) system and Extensions of Phase I            |       |              |
| Abha (generation and extension)                                                      | 1.5   |              |
| Al Baha (generation and extension)                                                   | 4.1   |              |
| Abha-AnNamas, Al Baha-Sabt Al'Alayah (transmission and extension)                    | 1.4   |              |
| Mohayl (transmission and extension)                                                  | 2.6   |              |
| Isolated communities (generation and extension)                                      | 2.5   |              |
|                                                                                      | <hr/> | 24.3         |
| Phase III Extension of the Regional System                                           |       |              |
| AnNamas-Sabt Al'Alayah (transmission and Sabt Al'Alayah-Bisha extension)             |       | 16.3         |
| Al Qunfudhah, Muhayl, South of Khamis Mushayt (extension)                            |       | <hr/>        |
| Total Investment                                                                     |       | 110.0        |
| (financed by Government on Loan 75% = 82.5 million)                                  |       |              |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972).

--to enable creation of rural living conditions that are not too far below those of urban areas; thus it is possible to curb rural outmigration insofar as it is motivated by lack of public services.<sup>1</sup>

#### Future Development

The realization of socio-economic services is not only the means to attain the above objectives, but also important to promote the economic development in the rural areas. A well designed socio-economic infrastructure can motivate the rural population to self-sustained activities resulting in rural development. At the same time, a sound rural infrastructure can generate a better social, administrative, economic, and physical structure (better markets, roads, cooperatives, extension services, availability of inputs, etc.) necessary for agricultural development. As far as the location of services is concerned, an integrated policy should be followed. The main point of such a policy is that the services are to be concentrated in so-called "service centers." Concentration of facilities and services have a number of advantages: it makes welfare more accessible for the people (beneficiaries), enhances the living conditions for the government field personnel, promotes social change and spontaneous growth of community action and socio-economic organizations. Yet implementation of the policy will require a great deal of flexibility in view of the variety of human and physiological features

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 134.

within the Region. The program provides a guideline as to the criteria to be used in selecting the sites and in building the centers. In this connection the location of the prospective centers, in relation to the general road system, is very important. Lack of road connections will seriously limit the viability of a center. On the basis of certain criteria related to the range and capacity of the services rendered, the number of population served and, indirectly, the position in the communication network, the program suggested--that the service centers are classified into (a) tertiary centers (at provincial level), (b) secondary centers (at district level) and (c) primary centers (at local, i.e., village level). This theoretical classification is helpful in locating the several types of centers in the Southwest Region. Also, it is suggested that the center network in the Region should consist of six tertiary centers of which two (Abha and Jizan) are distinguished as growth centers or "growth poles" in view of their relative importance in the future, and of 35 secondary centers. In addition to the secondary centers, i.e., their inclusion in the network is not considered essential, but left to the governments discretion for specified reasons. Finally, a large number of primary centers have to be selected which have not yet been identified mainly owing to insufficient reliable data concerning the present situation. As the functioning of

these primary centers is very important to the living conditions at the local level, the government is advised to complete the present structure of service centers by identifying the primary centers as soon as the required information is available, mainly a population census.

## Health

### Objectives

The main objective of health development in the Southwest Region is to eliminate, as soon as possible, the disparity in health coverage between the Region and the nation. This can be done by providing the Region's population with a range of curative and preventive health services whose quantity and quality are up to national standards.

The main activities are:

- to expand and improve the existing network of health facilities in the Region, and the range and nature of the services extended to the people;
- to initiate and expand preventive health care, of which health education is to be an integral part.<sup>1</sup>

### Policies

The following policies are recommended:

- finalization of plans for a national health network as defined in the development plan, i.e., the division of the Region into health provinces and health units could well fit in with the proposed future service network;

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 136.

- cross-check (or establishment) of the personnel anticipated in 1980 by the national standards and criteria, incorporated in the Development Plan of 1970;
- priority ranking, facilities under construction or completed, but still to be staffed should be given first priority to make them operational as soon as possible.
- recruitment of more non-Saudi medical personnel, if necessary, in order to meet shortages of qualified Saudi personnel.
- revision of terms and conditions of work for medical personnel (both Saudi and non-Saudi) to remove any objections on their part against field assignments and to insure optimum selection and recruitment criteria.
- short-term design and initiation of a general health survey in the Kingdom to increase the knowledge of and deepen the insight into the existing health situation, and to provide the basis for subsequent plans and action programs. This health survey could be designed and conducted in cooperation with the health department of one of the national universities, and/or with international technical assistance.
- study of the possibility of establishing a health department (under the auspices of a university) in the Region, preferably in Abha, to increase training opportunities for Saudi medical personnel, and to stimulate the development of health in the Region.
- promotion of the process to have health regions and units coincide with those of other ministries, even if this<sup>1</sup> would imply partial revision of the present set up.<sup>1</sup>

#### Development Program

Facilities.--The plan suggested that the following priorities apply in the case of programming and project design:

- facilities under construction or completed should be given first priority to make them operational as soon as possible. In particular, this would apply to the hospitals in Khamis Mushayt, Baljurishi, Sabya, Abu Arish, Al Qunfudhah and Al Lith; completion of these facilities has been retarded owing to various causes.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 138-139.

Continuation of the present situation is undesirable. Once completed the total bed capacity of all general hospitals (50 beds and more) in the Region should be considered adequate.

--early establishment of three minor (local) hospitals in two of the relatively retarded and densely populated areas of the Region: the Foothills (two hospitals, possibly in Muhayl and Mkhwah) and the Southern part of Jizan province (a hospital preferably in Samtah). The accommodation of these hospitals should be 20-50 beds and staff could be limited to six doctors and 18 paramedical assistants for each unit. In the long run all health centers (secondary service centers) will have to be provided with similar accommodations.

--attention should be concentrated on expansion and improvement of dispensaries (mainly curative) and health centers (curative/preventive) at the secondary center level.

--although the emphasis may be shifted towards the higher levels of health care extension, the preceding approach does not suggest that development should be carried out "at the cost" of the local (village) level. As the service aims at reaching the greatest possible number of people, the services at village level should not be neglected. Most polyclinical work will continue to take place at the grassroots level. The expansion of the health subcenter network should, therefore, not be postponed until activities have been carried out at higher levels. The quality of the services may be improved by mobile dispensaries.<sup>1</sup>

Manpower.--Given the current ratios between physical health units and the corresponding number of staff members, it is possible to estimate the number of doctors and paramedical personnel needed to staff the health units in the proposed service centers (tertiary and secondary only). In the following table, the difference between the high and low estimate relates to the fact that in the latter case the 20 possible secondary centers are excluded and a

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 140.

Table 24.--High and Low Estimates of Medical Personnel Establishments for 1980,  
Southwest Region.

|                                                                            | High    |             | Low     |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|
|                                                                            | Doctors | Paramedical | Doctors | Paramedical |
| Hospitals and health centers<br>in two "growth poles"                      | 49      | 147         | 38      | 114         |
| Hospitals in four tertiary<br>centers                                      | 45      | 135         | 36      | 108         |
| Other hospitals (under<br>construction)                                    | 75      | 225         | 60      | 180         |
| Health centers/dispensaries/<br>small hospitals in 35<br>secondary centers | 116     | 318         | 53      | 159         |
| Dispensaries in 20 potential<br>secondary centers                          | 40      | 120         | --      | --          |
| TOTAL SOUTHWEST REGION                                                     | 325     | 945         | 187     | 561         |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972), p. 141.

smaller staffing is assumed for the hospitals and the health units of the secondary centers. The number of doctors required in 1980 according to the high estimate corresponds with the current ratio of one doctor to 4,000 people in the Region. If this ratio is applied to the estimated population of 1.3 million in 1980, the figure will be 325. This means that compared with the present situation some 200 additional doctors will have to be assigned to the Region. The majority of them will probably come from outside the Kingdom.<sup>1</sup> In summary, manpower requirements should be planned according to projected needs, taking account of all following factors: (1) the anticipated pattern of land use and settlement; (2) the population projection, and (3) the subsequent projected network of service centers. For 1980, the preceding number of staff members (high estimates) should be adopted. Although the regional population is expected to decrease even further, the health standards then attained are to be maintained, because in the meantime, the national standards will have changed towards a more intensive health coverage. Planning for training and development of personnel is to be tuned to national needs, therefore recruitment of foreign manpower should form an integral part of a national program.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 141.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 142.



## Public Education

### Objectives

Planning for educational development in the Southwest Region is based on (a) the manpower requirements in the Southwest Region, with special attention to those for teachers and skilled labor in the secondary sector, and (b) the objectives for education included in the Development Plan of 1970. The primary national objective actually consists of two interrelated parts:

- (a) development of comprehensive systems of education, training and information capable of providing every individual in the Kingdom with the opportunity and the means to improve his knowledge, skill and recreational talents (human welfare approach).
- (b) steering this development in such a way that, apart from the humanitarian effect, education will enhance the capability of people to contribute more effectively to and participate in national development and progress.<sup>1</sup>

For the Southwestern Region the following major objective can be added:

- (c) reduction and ultimately elimination of the Region's backlog in educational opportunities and facilities as compared with the Kingdom as a whole, and realization of an educational system up to the national standards in 1980.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Central Planning Organization, Development Plan, 1970.

<sup>2</sup>Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, p. 143.

## Policy

In planning for the future of education improvement in the Southwest Region, the Development Plan suggests that the following points are to be taken into consideration:

--The socio-economic development of the Region is assumed to be based on a free economy, i.e., without governmental interference in the natural process determined by actual forces of the market economy and free factor mobility.

--As a result of this policy the population in the Region must be expected to decrease, an expected 1.3 million in 1980, owing mainly to outmigration in general and urbanization of the Central Belt--Jedda, Riyadh, and Damman, in particular.

--In order to curb the emergence of unskilled urban labor, migrants should be adequately educated and trained so that they can find suitable jobs and contribute effectively to the development of the nation.

--Sound quantitative educational planning ought to be supported by (a) up-to-date demographic data, (b) a clear insight into the future development of manpower structure, and (c) detailed statistical data concerning the actual educational system. Improvement of these vital tools for planning (insufficiently available at present) should be given high priority.

--As it is unlikely that sufficient Saudis can be trained to meet the demand for qualified teachers for the present time, non-Saudi contract personnel will have to be recruited. A revision of the terms and conditions of work, especially with regard to field assignments, may be necessary to attract sufficient numbers of applicant teachers, both Saudi and non-Saudi.

--In order to keep the system somewhat flexible, the possibility should be explored of running schools (especially elementary ones) in rented accommodations. This will expedite the expansion of the school network and enable even spread of construction cost over the budget years.

--In order to meet the minimum targets in manpower planning, the possibility of subsidizing certain types of education should be considered. If enrollment does not materialize according to the projections, this will have serious effects upon the "production" volume of subsequent educational institutions, and ultimately retard the whole system. The allowance to be paid to

parents could equal that at present payable to students of religious institutes (which have a noticeable effect on enrollment).<sup>1</sup>

## Development Program

### Elementary Education for Boys.--

The target of development for the elementary education is to accommodate, by the year 1979-80, all children between 6 and 12. If the total population in that year numbers 1.3 million, those eligible for elementary school enrollment in the Southwest Region is estimated at 64,000, distributed among 503 schools, with 3,500 teachers.<sup>2</sup>

The average investment in an elementary school (including land) is estimated at SR 1.0 million. So the investments required to expand the present school network by nearly 200 schools would total SR 197 million.<sup>3</sup>

### Intermediate Education for Boys.--Intermediate

school enrollment depends on the output of the elementary schools and determines the scope of secondary education.

The Southwest Region's 1972 school population in the Intermediate bracket was 6,400 students spread over 64 schools. As it is expected the number of certified elementary school learners will increase from around 5,000 in 1972-73, to around 7,000 in 1974-75 and 10,000 in 1979-80. It is assumed that in these respective school years 50 percent, 60 percent, and 85 percent (the national target for 1974-75) of the graduates will continue their education at the Intermediate level. On the basis of various assumptions, there must be accommodations for around 20,000 students by 1980.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 147-154.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 144.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 145.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

Secondary Education for Boys.--The population of Secondary schools in the Southwest Region was 620 in 1972. There were nine schools and just about 30 percent of the Intermediate school graduates enrolled in the Secondary schools. This percentage is expected to rise to 40 in 1980 which is less than the 50 percent national target according to the Development plan of 1970. Due to the pressure of the manpower market in the Region, especially regarding teachers and industrial vocational trainees, other educational opportunities, e.g., religious schools, as well as the urge to seek a job, the intake of general Secondary schools is not likely to be much beyond the 40 percent indicated before.

Girls Education.--In the school year 1972-73, enrollment of girls in the Southwest Region schools amounted to 10,500 pupils attending ten Intermediate schools and some 30 attending the only Secondary school of the Region, in Jizan. The target for Elementary education is to reduce the current boy/girl ratio of 6:1 to 3:1, by 1980. Consequently, the total enrollment will increase from 10,500 in 1972/73 to 35,700 in 1979-80. The estimated investment program is summarized in Table 25. In general the opportunities for girls to participate more directly in the development of the community, the Region and the nation should be greatly improved by encouraging them to follow formal and vocational training.

Table 25.--Enrollment and Investment in Girl's Elementary Education, 1972-1980, Southwest Region.

| Year    | Total Enrollment    | Number of Schools | Number of Teachers <sup>b</sup> | Investments in new buildings (SR million) <sup>c</sup> |
|---------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1972-73 | 10,500 <sup>a</sup> | 64 <sup>a</sup>   | 350-525                         |                                                        |
| 1973-74 | 13,900              | 78 <sup>d</sup>   | 450-700                         | Budgeted 4.2                                           |
| 1974-75 | 17,700              | 99                | 600-900                         |                                                        |
| 1977-78 | 30,000              | 167               | 1000-1500                       | 13.6                                                   |
| 1979-80 | 35,700              | 199               | 1200-1800                       | 6.4                                                    |

Source: Central Planning Organization, Socio-Economic Development Plan for the Southwest Region, Interim Report, Phase A, Unpublished (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1972).

<sup>a</sup>Actuals based on official information.

<sup>b</sup>Figure corresponds with an assumed teacher/pupil ratio of 1:30 and 1:20, respectively.

<sup>c</sup>Establishment cost one Elementary school unit with capacity of 180 (6 x 30) pupils estimated at SR 0.2 million, including land. Budget appropriations to be made one year before the new school(s) are to be in operation.

<sup>d</sup>Based on a school capacity of 180 (6 x 30) pupils.

Although conservatism is still strong in rural society, there are signs that the attitude towards girls education is changing. In any event, the situation of girls education (particularly other than elementary education) should be studied more closely for future planning.

#### Industrial Vocational Training.--

The development of small scale industries and agro-industries in the Region asks for improvement of technical skills. Besides, it is desirable to prepare immigrants for jobs in industry outside the Region. Vocational training in the Region will increase the possibilities of finding suitable employment and relieve vocational training centers in other regions. If the number of trainees is assumed to grow from 64 (i.e., the actual number of the Abha Vocational School) in 1972 to around 700 at the end of 1980, the total number of graduates (semi-skilled), trained in the Region, will be 2,500 to 3,000, if there are no drop-outs and the duration of training is up to one year. Even then, only 50-60 percent of the vacancies in 1980 can be filled.<sup>1</sup>

The plan, according to this expectation, suggests that additional schools must be built in Abha, Al Baha, Khamis Mushayt, Jizan, Najran, Al Qunfudhah and Abu Arish. Also, it recommended optimum cooperation and coordination between the government agencies involved in vocational training and education, particularly the Ministries of Labor and Social Affairs and Education.

#### Agricultural Vocational Training.--

The projected rise of net value of crop and livestock production in the Region from SR 137.5 million in 1972 through SR 167 million in 1980 to SR 425

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 153.

million in the year 2000 will require a considerable increase in agricultural knowhow and managerial skill of the farmer. This implies that, in addition to improvement in the general education sector, the vocational training for agriculture in the Region should start as soon as possible.<sup>1</sup>

The development program suggests four types of vocational training for agriculture as follows:

1. Farmers Training Centers - This type of training provides short (one day to two week) courses for farmers to make them familiar with the latest innovations of the agricultural extension service, and long (four months) courses for three years for young farmers and farmers' sons, the latter course providing training in agriculture at a level between elementary and intermediate.
2. An Agricultural School (Ministry of Education) - There is no such school (on secondary level) in the Region, therefore, it is proposed to establish one in Khamis Mushayt, preferably near the proposed experimental station. Building and investment costs of this type of school with appendices (staff houses, boarding facilities, training accommodation and equipment, etc.) is estimated as SR 5 million.
3. An Agricultural Training Institute (Ministry of Agriculture and Water) - As mentioned before, 250

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 154.

qualified extension officers should be available by the end of 1979-80. If it is assumed that the present 100 extension workers (50 percent of whom are qualified) will be fully qualified in 1980, the training program should be geared to a required additional number of 150 officers over the next five years. The training institute is to provide: (a) 3-4 years training courses for prospective extension officers and subject matters specialists, and (b) short term in-service training courses, mainly for active personnel, as well as for others. It is proposed for Abu Arish as it is near the agricultural experimental station (Hakmah) and not far from the Jizan Dam. Cost estimated at SR 5 million.

4. An Agricultural Faculty - In view of the specific character of the Region, i.e., climatic and soil conditions, agricultural possibilities, there is a great need for research and (higher) education to be focused on these aspects. It is, therefore, proposed that an agricultural faculty should be established, preferably in the Abha/Khamis Mushayt area to form a link with the agricultural school.



## Other Social Services

### Social Security

The people have become increasingly aware of and interested in the national (non-contributing) social security scheme. The present network has not enough facilities and personnel to meet the requirements of most provinces. Ultimately, all tertiary and secondary service centers should have either a social security office or sub-office, so that emergencies can be dealt with promptly.

In building up the network, the program suggests that four points seem to be of special interest: (a) simplification of the administrative procedures, (b) expansion of the service points, (c) priority treatment of the faraway cases, and (d) revision of service conditions of personnel so as to attract more and better<sup>1</sup> qualified officials and promote motivation of staff.

### Community Development

Community development as a national program will be further assessed from the results of the various projects initiated in recent years. In this connection it should be decided to what extent community development is to be continued as a more or less independent program or remodelled into a useful tool for integrated rural development. The government objective to encourage popular participation in development at the local level is strongly supported. Nevertheless, consultants believe that this

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 157.

could be better achieved through intensifying coordinated government efforts via local extensions of the various ministries, which could adopt the community development approach as a common instrument. The program suggests that the Diriyah CD center for training and applied research, and possibly some of the field branches could be extended to provide short-term training courses in community development for selected field officials of the various ministries. The centers could also act as applied research stations with regard to special social subjects related to development at village level.

#### Cooperatives

The development plan recommended that the inducement and, the functioning of cooperative societies in traditionalistic communities be carefully evaluated in the light of recent experience. The main reason for a cautious approach is that this form of economic organization has often proved to be a rather drastic innovation, which may not be expected to be successful as long as some basic conditions are not fulfilled. These conditions are: (a) a more positive attitude of the local population towards this kind of purposive venture which presupposes their willingness to meet individual (and community) needs through collective efforts by modern means and techniques, and (b) the availability of dedicated leadership which enjoys the confidence of the members

(shareholders), combines wisdom, tact and integrity, and is aware of social and economic factors that are bound to impede the rural cooperative society for the time being. In this process the role of the administration with regard to organizational and technical guidance and administrative supervision is of vital importance.

#### Youth Development

Apart from some secondary schools, there are no opportunities for athletics in the Region. Development of the Boy Scouts Program, organization of summer camps, sports and other leisure time activities for youth (school going or not) would not only greatly enhance the attraction (or alleviate the burden) of rural life, but also contribute to the development of personality (adaptability, team spirit, solidarity and civic responsibility). Apart from the physical development and recreation, youth should be given considerable attention in radio programs and, in the future, television programs that ought to be tuned to its specific needs and interests.

#### Labor Affairs

The new labor and insurance laws, enforced in 1969, have, of course, been designed to meet requirements of an expanding and changing industrial situation. However, these laws seem to be rather sophisticated for the predominantly agricultural Southwest Region and cannot (always) be used. This situation will probably have to be changed because of the proposed rapid development of the Region, particularly, the envisaged expansion of the educational and vocational training programs. Consequently, the need for

effective labor institutions will rapidly increase in view of the conversion of artisan industry into small-scale, largely agro-industries, and large-scale out-migration. The responsibility of the labor and employment information units in the Region for both the demand and the supply of labor will grow. School leavers, and in general, all unemployed persons, need to have accurate and timely information about the job opportunities within and outside the Region, including the nature of the work and the terms and conditions of employment. The employers who have openings for new workers will have to be informed about the quantity and quality of those seeking employment. The important dual function of the Region's labor offices (employment clearing center and labor exchange) will require thorough reorientation and remodelling.<sup>1</sup>

The reorganized labor offices are proposed for Abha, Jizan, Al Bahah, Najran, Bisha, Al Qunfudhah and Al Lith. Staff will have to be enlarged and adequately prepared for the new tasks.

#### Public Information

There is no doubt that proper information will guide the people on the path of change, make modern life more meaningful and get them to take an active part in building their future, and that of the nation. The most effective information media are radio and television. There is a plan for the establishment of a powerful broadcasting transmission station in Jizan which is to cover the Southern area of the Kingdom.

As for television, two stations are reported to have been planned, one in Abha and one in Jizan; the former is to be the first place in the Kingdom to transmit color television. As for the programs to be broadcast, it should appeal to the population, and relate

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 158.

to their day-to-day interests, needs and problems. The development plan suggests that the major subjects may be: religion, literacy (to combat illiteracy), public health (e.g., prevention, nutrition, hygiene) and agriculture (e.g., new methods and techniques, extension services, marketing, etc.), women's programs (housekeeping, home economics, child care, etc.), education (school radio), and information on development projects of special interest (rural and community development, cooperative, people's participation, etc.).<sup>1</sup>

## X Social Structure

The Region's society will pass through a process of change, largely activated by the government's effort to improve welfare and the socio-economic infrastructure. It has to be realized that the transition from one social system into another needs appropriate guidance, so that time-honored moral values and social stability are preserved. Therefore, change should primarily mean progress. In this matter it is important that before or at the time of integrated development planning, a social research program should be initiated so as to provide vital social data for the government agencies engaged in regional and local development. Thus, it might be forecast how people will respond to certain projects that are designed for their benefit and whether or not certain policies are likely to work; if not, how these policies should be modified to be effective. The program recommended that

the social research program should consist of two components: (a) basic research, and (b) applied

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 160.

social research which must deal with:  
 --the social consequences of migration,  
 --social aspects of agricultural development,  
 --the capacity of territorial groups,  
 --the potentials and constraints with regard to  
 enlisting full popular support for and participation  
 in development programs and the capacity of the civil  
 service to induce this process,  
 --social<sup>1</sup> attitudes towards change and progress in  
 general.<sup>1</sup>

Also, it was suggested, as for the set-up of the research programs, first of all, that the national universities should be approached, whereas cooperation with universities outside the Kingdom might be sought.

#### Drinking Water Development

The areas of the Region which have drinking water problems are the higher-lying Foothills and the Western Scarp Slope. The aquifers, if any, are very shallow and in the dry period many people are forced to go down to the valleys for water. Abha is another problem area. The aquifers in the Highlands around Abha are very shallow, further extraction of ground water upstream of the Abha Dam will effect storage. At some places surface storage is still possible, although undoubtedly at very high costs. Without topographic contour maps this potential cannot be quantified. The plan suggested that the only effective solution to the drinking water problem of Abha viz. is supply from the aquifers in the Upper Wadi-Bisha near Khamis Mushayt. These aquifers contain sufficient ground

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 161.

water to satisfy the domestic water needs of both Khamis Mushayt and Abha.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Water has drafted an extensive program for drinking water supply in the Kingdom. The 1972-73 budget appropriates nearly SR 500 million for this purpose.<sup>1</sup>

### Urban Housing

Migration from the rural areas of Saudi Arabia to the urban centers, and the huge number of foreign technicians needed for the development programs of the Kingdom, added another obstacle to the problem of housing in the country. The implications of large-scale urbanization for the cities of the Kingdom are clear. Given the population explosion in the towns and cities, the constant influx of people from the rural areas will put a serious strain on the urban accommodating capacity and give rise to a series of significant social problems. Therefore, it is recommended that every possible effort should be made, right away, to prevent the present situation in the cities from enlarging into a social drama.

The urgency of the matter is increasingly realized by the Saudi Government. It is agreed that adequate housing promotes social stability and prevents a decline in public morality which so often results from poor housing. Economically speaking, the execution of housing programs will stimulate the building industry, create more employment opportunities and thus contribute to prosperity.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 162.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 163.

Therefore, the government has engaged international consultants to assist in the formulation of a well-conceived housing policy and realistic housing program for all regions of the Kingdom.



## CHAPTER V

### THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION

#### Concepts and Definitions

Community development is an instrument and a method based on investigations of scientific grounds and aims at promoting standards of living and introducing useful change in ways of thought, action, and living of the developing local communities, urban and rural, with the full utilization of their material potentials and human powers in a process that harmonizes their needs with their traditions.<sup>1</sup> In the last quarter of the century, community development "has become the universal concept applied to national programs for development,"<sup>2</sup> and the term has been used widely around the world. Over the years, community development has been a rural-bound

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Development of Social Affairs in Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1973), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Institute for Community Development, Michigan State University, A Holistic Approach to Community Development (East Lansing: Continuing Education Service, Michigan State University, 1966), p. 1.

movement. In Asia, the Middle East and Africa, national Community Development programs were undertaken as part of a strategy for rural development. Chief among the concerns of the latter has been the social and economic uplift of the village, which it seeks to realize by building a rural infrastructure, improving the supply of-- and stimulating the demand for--social services, increasing agricultural productivity and developing human resources. Within this rural-agricultural matrix, community development programs and techniques--allowing for regional, national and subnational variants--have evolved to their present stage.<sup>1</sup> Community Development with its emphasis on change, popular participation and leadership training, involved a dynamic interaction between the central government and the village. Although, it was not possible in every country to achieve this kind of relationship, still Community Development has become

an instrument for forging a more constructive role for government in development, helping to establish on the one hand, a better understanding between ruler and ruled within the village, and between central government and village authorities on the other.<sup>2</sup>

In different parts of the world community development activities, varying in form and approach, ranging from fully integrated programs with their own administrative

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Popular Participation in Development: Emerging Trends in Community Development (New York: U.N. Publications, 1971), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 8.

structure to individual local projects, reflect a trend towards a particular strategy of national development, incorporating a certain set of assumptions about rural communities and the most effective ways of bringing change in them.

Such a strategy is based on the desirability of giving priority to investment for increasing agricultural output, of improving amenities and social services in rural communities, and strengthening rural institutions.<sup>1</sup>

This strategy, by itself, however, does not constitute community development unless they are implemented within a given framework, crucial elements of which are the concept of felt needs, local involvement and popular participation, working with groups and communities rather than individuals and using integrated approaches to development.

In many developing countries, community development has awakened the national leaders, policy makers and planners to the need and importance of rural development and local planning and has enhanced the contributions of rural communities to national development. It has also represented an attempt to achieve a balanced growth in the human and material resources of nations and in this it has, to some extent, helped to redress the bias towards largely urban and industrial-oriented development efforts.

People in some developing societies look at community development as a way or method which aims to create

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

a self-determining society in which the people as a whole can and will exercise a constructive and productive role in the life of the nation. To help in solving social, economic and political problems they are facing

community development will cause the people to view their situation in a new light, realize new hope for its improvement, and experience the satisfaction of growth in their capacity for achievement.<sup>1</sup>

William Biddle defines community development as a social process "by which human beings can become more competent to live with and gain some control over local aspects of a frustrating and changing world."<sup>2</sup> At the same time,

Professor A. Dunham defines community development as

an organized effort to improve the conditions of a community life and the capacity for community integration and self-direction--community development seeks to work primarily through the enlistment and organization of self-help and cooperative efforts on the part of the residents of the community, but usually with technical assistance from governmental or voluntary organizations.<sup>3</sup>

So, promotion and improvement of the community is the goal of the community development with emphasis on the participation of the members of the community, as it shows in

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<sup>1</sup>Richard Waverly Poston, Democracy Speaks Many Tongues (New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1962), p. 186.

<sup>2</sup>William W. Biddle and Louieide J. Biddle, The Community Development Process (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.), p. 78.

<sup>3</sup>Peter DuSautoy, The Organization of a Community Development Program (London: Oxford University Press, 1962), pp. 122-123.

the report of the Ashridge Conference on Social Development in 1954.

It was stated that

community development is a movement designed to promote better living for the whole community with the active participation and, if possible, on the initiative of the community, but if this initiative is not forthcoming spontaneously, by the use of techniques for arousing and stimulating it in order to secure the active and enthusiastic response to the movement.<sup>1</sup>

Community development was described as a process of social action in a definition given by the U.S. International Cooperation Administration:

. . . community development is a process of social action in which the people of a community organize themselves for planning and action, define their common and individual needs and problems, make group and individual plans to meet their needs and solve their problems, execute these plans with a maximum reliance upon community resources, and supplement these resources when necessary with services and materials from governmental and<sup>2</sup> non-governmental agencies outside the community.

In the rural areas of the developing countries, where, the lack of knowledge and knowhow is affecting the development process, technical assistance is required in order to help people to learn how to help themselves.

Speaking about social action in community development, Professor Charles Hoffer brings about the aspects which involved the action process. These aspects are:

- (1) initiation
- (2) legitimation
- (3) execution.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 122.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 123.

He summarizes these three aspects in the quotation to follow:

Social action is a complicated process, but certain aspects of it may be delineated for purposes of analysis. One aspect is initiation. The plan for this project must be proposed in a manner which makes it seem like a logical and necessary step. The second aspect is legitimation or approval, otherwise the proposal will not be accepted. The third step is executioner carrying out the project once it has been approved. This may be done by any organization in the community which assumes the responsibility, or by the formation of a special committee to carry out the proposal. Finally, an organization or agency may be employed to do the work.<sup>1</sup>

Sometimes community development is also considered as both technique and a movement. Dr. R. Lal of India says:

when it is concerned with only a section of agricultural population and/or covers only some of their problems, as in the U.K. and the U.S.A., it remains as a technique. But, when it embraces within its wide arms millions of rural men, women, and communities along with the totality of their numerous problems, as in India, it becomes a movement.<sup>2</sup>

Speaking about the term community itself we can define it as any group of people living in an area with geographical boundaries who share common interests of sufficient importance in their lives and possess certain social institutions which help them to meet their basic needs and participate jointly in maintaining these

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<sup>1</sup>R. Charles Hoffer, Michigan Communities (East Lansing: Michigan State University, 1964), p. 114.

<sup>2</sup>R. Lal, Community Development Principles and Problems (Calcutta, India: Bookland, 1963), p. vii.

institutions. Therefore, the community may be determined by the following four basic and essential characteristics:<sup>1</sup>

- (1) locality
- (2) common interest
- (3) the existence of the basic social institution
- (4) the participation of the people.

Professor W. J. Kimball, of Michigan State University, in his presentation, "Understanding the Community," discusses different definitions given to the term community, by different scholars. The first one is Lee Cary of the University of Missouri who says: "community, as the term is used here, refers to people who live in some spatial relationship to one another, and who share interests and values."<sup>2</sup>

The second one is Lurin Sanders who defines community in sociological terms:

a community is a territorially organized system co-extensive with a settlement pattern in which (1) an effective communications network operates, (2) people share common facilities and services distributed within this settlement pattern and (3) people develop a psychological identification with the "locality and symbol" (the name).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Salah El-Abd, An Approach to Integrated Rural Development in Africa (Sirs El-Layyan, Egypt: Regional Center for Functional Literacy in Rural Areas for the Arab States (ASFEC), 1973), pp. 33-34.

<sup>2</sup>William J. Kimball, Understanding Community (East Lansing: Michigan State University, 1975), p. 1.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 2.

The third scholar is Robert Park of the University of Chicago who defined community as

the essential characteristics of a community so conceived are those of: (1) a population territorially organized, (2) more or less completely rooted in the soil it occupies, (3) its individual units living in a relationship of mutual interdependence that is symbiotic rather than societal in the sense that the term applies to human beings.<sup>1</sup>

Loomis and Beegle of Michigan State University — prefer a less complex definition: "The community may be defined as a social system encompassing a territorial unit within which members carry on most of their day-to-day activities necessary in meeting common needs."<sup>2</sup> The key characteristics of a community, according to Professor Kimball are:

- (1) a group of people,
- (2) shared interests, attitudes, and activities,
- (3) common identity (agreement on a locality--perhaps a name),
- (4) frequent and continuing interaction,
- (5) living in an identifiable territory (space which can be mapped).<sup>3</sup>

In addition to the above mentioned concepts and definitions, national programs of community development are found, today, in various forms and under different names in a considerable number of countries of Asia,

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.



Africa, Latin America, and some parts of Europe. It seems there is a general agreement or common thought that community development should imply:

1. A planning program with a focus on the total needs of the village community,
2. Technical assistance,
3. Integrating various specialties for the help of the community,
4. A major emphasis upon self-help and participation by the residents of the community.

For the purpose of this study and as it was accepted at least to a certain extent in Saudi Arabia, the following definition, which was set up by the United Nations, is considered as a guideline.

This definition has obtained wide acceptance among social scientists and practitioners throughout the world and has to some extent, at least, guided the course of community development activities in many countries. The main elements of this definition and its elaboration are:

1. The term Community Development has come into international usage to connote the process by which the efforts of the people themselves are united with those of governmental authorities to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions of communities to integrate these communities into the life of the nation, and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress.
2. This complex process is then made up of two essential elements:
  - a. The participation of the people themselves in efforts to improve their level of living with, as much reliance as possible on their own initiative.

- b. The provision of technical and other services in ways which encourage initiative self-help and mutual help and make these more effective. It is expressed in programs designed to achieve a wide variety of specific improvements.<sup>1</sup>

These programs are usually concerned with local communities because of the fact that the people living in a locality have many and varied interests in common. Some of these interests are expressed through functional groups organized to further a more limited range of interests not primarily determined by locality. Therefore,

if participation of the people is to make a significant contribution to social and economic development throughout a country or territory, it should be undertaken within the framework of a national plan covering a large number of the smaller communities.<sup>2</sup>

According to the U.N. definition, community development has been defined as a process designed to create conditions of economic and social progress for the whole community with its active participation and the fullest possible reliance upon the community's initiative.

Its success as a process depends upon:

- a. The people's capacity for cooperation, self-help and ability to assimilate and adopt new ways of living.
- b. The extension of technical knowledge.<sup>3</sup>

Also, as a process, community development emphasizes the change in culture patterns through which the community

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Popular Participation in Development: Emerging Trends in Community Development, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 6.

<sup>3</sup>Salah El-Abd, An Approach to Integrated Rural Development in Africa, p. 62.

moves from one stage to another. It attempts to eliminate obstacles to such growth. It also changes the attitude of people by making them more receptive to change and by making them capable of adopting new technical ways and capable of adjusting to such changes.

As a method, Community Development attempts to achieve well defined objectives. It focuses upon accomplishment. It is concerned with whether the per capita income going up or down, and by how much. It also tries to measure the rise in the literacy rate, the fall in the death rate, the change in social attitudes, etc., and the effectiveness of the method.

As a program, Community Development focuses on the content of the program. It tries to have a large volume of activities and a balanced program. It tries to see how a balanced educational program, for both children and adults, is combined with literacy education and how education, as one activity, is balanced with health and economic programs.

As a movement, Community Development is a peaceful reform which attempts to eliminate poverty and illness among the great masses of the under-privileged classes of humanity by efforts of the people themselves. It does not intend to change the political set-up of the country, but tries to strengthen the existing one by eliminating some of the evils which result from the lack of

understanding of the existing political system. For instance, in the Capitalist system, it attempts to raise the economic and social standard of the majority of the people in order to bridge the gap between the extreme social classes in the country, thus developing community sentiment and avoiding community conflict.

As an organization, Community Development is regarded as a group of persons united for a definite purpose. In this sense, organizational structure is simply a device for getting things done. It is required for the achievement of objectives. It attempts to help people to improve their cooperative action and to have more interest in community goals. It reorients the existing institutions and creates other types of institutions for making self-help fully effective and for providing the necessary channel for government services.<sup>1</sup>

In this context, we can say that Community Development has general and specific objectives. The general objectives can be summarized as follows:

- a. To make maximum use of available resources (natural, human, capital, technical, and institutional) for meeting the felt and most basic needs of the community.
- b. Democratically to assist in bringing about changes which will remove fear of want.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 63-64.

- c. To bring about mutual understanding among agencies, which exist to achieve a higher standard of living.

The specific objectives are summarized as follows:

- a. To coordinate the services of the technical departments and the universities and make them communicable to the average citizens.
- b. To provide training facilities for all levels of workers (paid and voluntary) by establishing professional institutions for this purpose.
- c. To assist in building effective working relationships among villages, districts, regions, nation building departments.
- d. To assist in establishing the proper organizational machinery for the best possible results in social and economic development.

Keeping these objectives in mind, it should be noted that there are certain procedures used in any community work in order to achieve these objectives.

#### Application of Community Development Principles in Saudi Arabia

As mentioned in the previous section, the implementation of the U.N. definitions have been applied to the Saudi Community Development programs, which aims to help people of the communities to learn how to help themselves with technical assistance and several kinds of services provided by the specialists in order to encourage



the initiation of self-help. It aims at human development through the promotion of self-reliance and changes in social attitudes, ideas and habits which, in turn, will make it possible for the people, mainly through their own efforts, to increase their income, improve their living conditions and utilize processes as a means of achieving community objectives. Therefore, it is a multi-purpose coordinating program intended to meet major community needs, including activities in many fields, such as:

1. Agricultural development,
2. Adult Education,
3. Health Service,
4. Social Welfare,
5. Development and improvement of local crafts and trades.

Thus, Community Development in Saudi Arabia is involved with the government and the people of the country, in enhancing the economic and social progress of rural and urban communities through definite local needs and meeting these needs through the full and organized utilization of available community resources.

### Historical Background

#### The Initiation

The first community development pilot center in the country was inaugurated in Diriyah village, in

October, 1960. It is worthwhile to look at the background of this village as a model because of the common life situation in the rural communities of the country.

Diriyah village is located in the central province of Saudi Arabia. Eighty percent of its population are farmers and the rest have various kinds of jobs. The majority of the farmers own their land. However, size of ownership varies considerably. Some families own many acres of land, others own few. Size of farm is positively related to size of family. The farmers did not have the experience of using modern machinery for plowing and planting and they did not have enough money to purchase modern machinery. Primitive ways of farming were still used. The main products are vegetables, dates, wheat and some fruits. All the products are sold in Riyadh, the capital city, which is about twelve miles from the village. This community--as others in the country--had no industrial development. Many of its members--especially the young people--were leaving their community for the city where they could find easier and better jobs and they could obtain better education.

Since Community Development is to be carried on, not for, but with, and so far as possible, by the residents of the community, the program should start with the felt needs of the villagers. It should also involve the participation of as many people as possible. The skilled community development workers are expeditors and helpers; it is not his function either to dictate courses of action or to "take over" the community's problem and relieve the people of the community from finding their own solutions. The



development of local leadership and of village councils, or other devices, for democratic discussion and action are among the most important aspects of a community program.<sup>1</sup>

Members of this community felt the need for help to change their living conditions. They recognized the need for modern schools, a health center, modern agricultural machinery, and advisors to recommend better methods of farming. They felt that the above mentioned problems were steadily growing. These problems were plainly understood by only a few members of the community who felt the need for change.

The immediate and pressing circumstances brought the problems to the foremost attention in the year 1958. The need for a better educational program was expressed by some individuals who came in contact with the city life. They were unable to secure jobs in the city because they were uneducated or trained. Others noticed the successful gains which resulted from the improvements of agricultural methods in some other communities which had the help of specialists.

#### The Legitimation

The problems were then brought to the attention of the government from different communities in different parts of the country including some of the Southwest

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<sup>1</sup>Arthur Dunham, Community Welfare Organization (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1962), p. 253.

Region's communities by those members who wrote letters to responsible figures in the government asking for the help of the government in order to improve their living condition. The reason for their request was their understanding that the government is responsible for improving their condition, and because they had a limited ability to do this. When the problem was relayed to the government officials, representatives of some communities were asked to be guides in a survey of the community's problem area. Government officials participated as observers according to community routine. This routine was in the form of preliminary activities--such as walking among the community members and studying their ways and means of living and their traditions. By so doing, they were able to observe that a large proportion were unaware of better living conditions. Further information was obtained by the direct contact with leaders of the community who helped in collecting information needed about the problems. The leaders were their religious men, who are very respected in the rural area, and the heads of large families who act as the community council.

Then, some formal discussions were started between different departments concerned with the rural areas. With assistance of some experts and advisors--who were imported--planning was started for organizing community

development program. The project was legalized from the Cabinet which acts as the legislature in the country.

### The Execution

When the survey was done and the plan was studied and approved, the government, with the cooperation of the United Nations, established the Community Development Program by inaugurating the first community development pilot project in the community of Diriyah, in 1960.

The early results of the social, cultural and economic aspects achieved by the pilot project stimulated the government to expand the program to other needy areas. Consequently, in 1961, five centers were opened in different rural areas. In the next year, 1962, another expansion of the program followed by setting up ten more community development centers. Five of them were in rural areas and five in urban places of five cities.

### Goals of the Project

As it was mentioned before, the project aims at human development, through the promotion of self-reliance and changes in social attitudes; it aims toward the development of self-help practices within the local communities; it aims towards building up local community self-autonomy to raise and meet effectively the changing and vital needs of its inhabitants. In these broad lines, the project includes the following objectives:

1. The discovery and development of local leadership.
2. The development of new social organizations (village councils, committees, cooperatives, clubs, etc.) in which people can work jointly for the welfare of their communities.
3. The study of local community resources and potentialities (social-economic) in order to help the citizens utilize them effectively and develop them continuously.
4. The introduction of new social economic activities which enrich community life and strengthen citizen's loyalty to their communities.
5. The introduction of new and favorable social values.
6. The integration of coordination of the public welfare services rendered by different local institutions.
7. The fundamental training of citizens to acquire basic knowledge, skills and attitudes which make them good citizens.
8. The betterment of the standards of living in the local community from all sides (social, health, cultural, and economic).
9. Development of prevailing traditions and habits so as to support development processes, and

elimination of traditions and habits that handicap and are detrimental to progress.

10. Development of correlation and coordination between governmental agencies and local efforts within the local communities.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, the program uses the local institutions as a basis for establishing inter-communications toward desired cultural changes. The participation of the community members, through their own institutions, not only gives them a chance to develop a feeling of need for a change, but also enables them to work out in their own way adjustments which will fit the new pattern of existing customs. Therefore, each community development center makes a careful study of the existing institutions in order to understand the broad composite picture of how they carry on their roles and their status and pattern of influence in the community. On the basis of this study, an attempt is always made to help them to play their roles more effectively. In the planning and execution of community programs, these institutions are always encouraged to work in collaboration with the community development schemes. Other social institutions and agencies, such as cooperative societies, social security bureaus, youth organizations

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Development of Social Affairs in Saudi Arabia, p. 2.

and women's societies are also formed to meet various community needs.

### Organizational Structure

The Saudi community development project is an integrated approach to the field of community welfare. The program was based on the participation of four ministries which are concerned about the rural areas and there is a similarity in, and their activities are related.

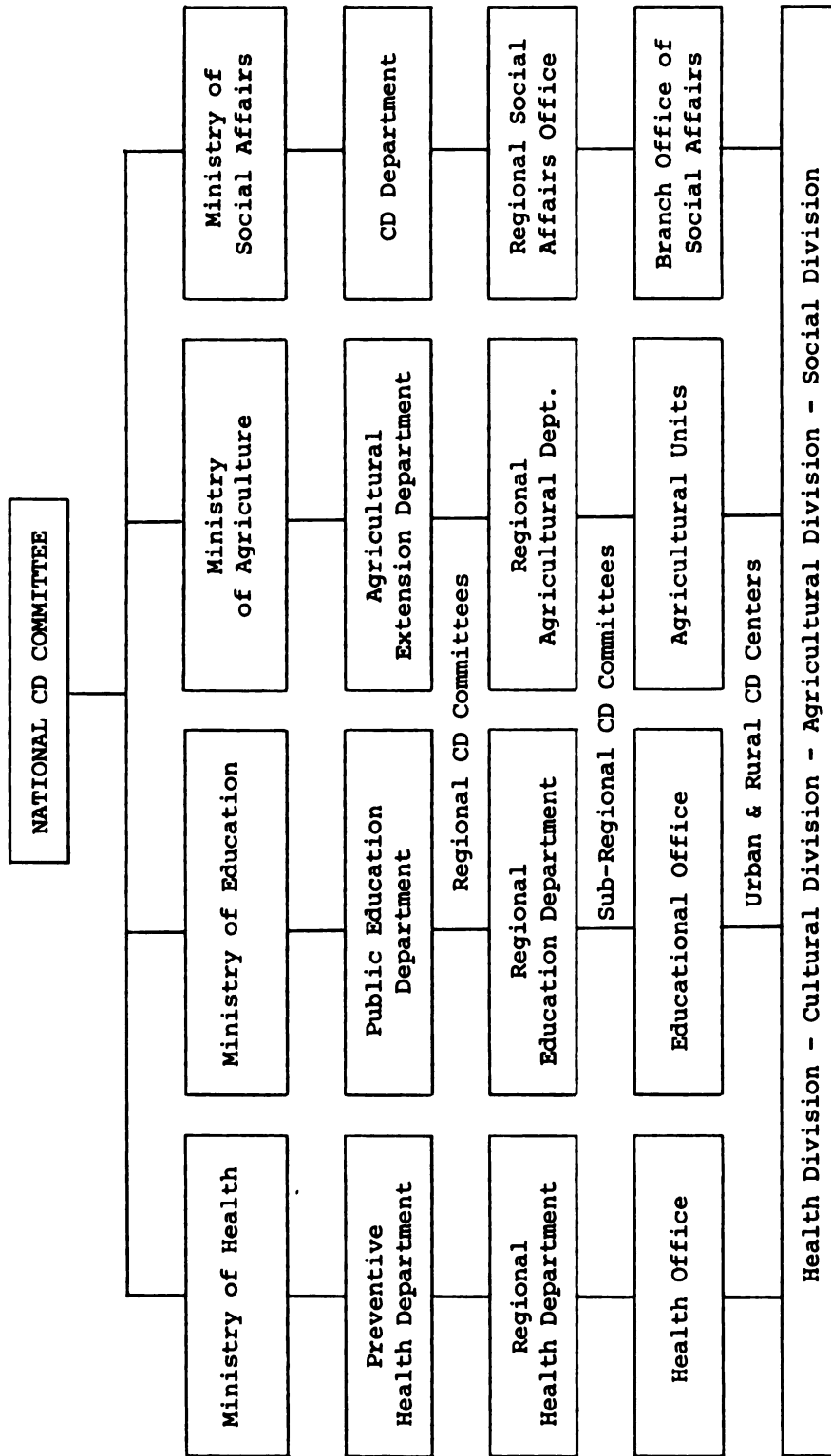
Those ministries are:

1. Ministry of Agriculture
2. Ministry of Education
3. Ministry of Health
4. Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which is administratively responsible (see Chart 3).

For the unique character of the project, the following organizations were designed to plan, operate and supervise the scheme:

1. The Central community development committee--or National Committee--is made up of representatives of the four ministries, and two other representatives, one of them from the Ministry of Finance and the other from the Central Planning Organization. Among other functions, this committee mainly formulates the general policy of the community development program, plans and coordinates the activities of the concerned bodies.

Chart 3.--Organizational Structure of the Community Development Project in Saudi Arabia.



Source: Developed from several reports and publications of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

2. The Regional Community Development Committee includes the regional representatives of the four participating ministries who assume the responsibility of coordinating, supervising and following up the activities of the community development centers functioning in their respective areas.
3. The Community Development Center is composed of the following divisions:
  - a. Social Division with male and female social workers,
  - b. Health Division with a physician, nurse and sanitarian,
  - c. Agricultural Division with an agricultural worker and specialists,
  - d. Cultural Division with a literacy specialist,
  - e. The Director of the Center and his administrative staff.
4. The Community Development Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs implements and follows up on the general policy of the program. The Department of Agricultural Extension in the Ministry of Agriculture supervises technically the agricultural divisions in the centers through its regional departments or agricultural units. The Department of Public Education, at the Ministry of Education takes the charge of educational and cultural



activities of the centers through its regional branches. Finally, the Preventive Health Department, at the Ministry of Health is responsible for the medical divisions. The Regional Health Department, if it exists, or the Director of the area hospital, supervises the work of the health team in the centers.

5. The local councils formed in project areas are composed of local leaders who work jointly with the center workers in studying the local needs and planning community development projects, as well as participating in the execution and follow-up of these projects.
6. Local committees affiliated to local councils are concerned with the social, health, agricultural and cultural aspects, in which citizens participate according to their interests and abilities in planning and operating the various local welfare programs.

### Program Resources

#### Human Resources

The staff of the Community Development Department, in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is composed of governmental officers or employees, the same as other departments concerned with community development programs.

Some of the advisors and experts were imported, either from the U.N. or by direct contract with the government. At the center level, the staff of each one is organized as follows:

1. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs appointed the director and his administrative staff, the social workers, both male and female;
2. The Ministry of Health appointed the physician general, the nurse, and the sanitarian;
3. The Ministry of Agriculture appointed the specialist and the agricultural workers;
4. The fundamental education workers were appointed by the Ministry of Education.

#### Financial Resources

Every ministry has the responsibility of paying the salaries of its workers because all of them are governmental employees. Also, every ministry pays the necessary expenses to finance their portion of the projects throughout the country. Material needed for the project, including buildings for the centers are paid for by the government.

#### Some of the Program Achievements

The first center is about 15 years old and the rest are about 13 and, during this period, some of the goals and objectives have been achieved, such as:

1. Foundation of a number of local, social institutions and organizations with which inhabitants cooperation and through which they determine their needs, discuss their problems, and endeavor to find suitable ad hoc solutions by self-produced efforts or through coordination with government efforts after they had been heedless and entirely dependent on the government to fulfill their requirements and needs.
2. The assistance of Community Development Committee's in diffusing cooperative awareness in their location to the extent that cooperative movement reached a satisfactory matureness and in so much that cooperative societies, whether agricultural, consumer or professional (productive) had attained an evident role in meeting inhabitants needs.
3. Organization of youth efforts through the opening of sports clubs and formation of activity groups to exploit their leisure time in feats that yield benefits to their community.
4. The stimulation and enlivening of the woman's role, and the endeavour of getting the best of her in household work and of raising her participation in social life activities. The inhabitants response to this impulse was so strong that girls were enrolled in regular girls schools, and ladies

attended special courses and classes provided for them in the centers which manifested a great attention for the preparing of woman and providing her with household work training, such as cooking, tailoring, health education, maternity and child care.

5. The attraction of the inhabitants attention to the dangers of illiteracy, and the appeal to them to learn and attend illiteracy combat classes opened by the Ministry of Education; inhabitants reluctance was replaced by welcome and acceptance, enhanced by propagating libraries, paper and circulars on the side of the center.
6. Diffusion of theory and field agricultural guidance to adopt modern agrarian methods and equipment and to abandon old ones which farmers and tillers used to stick to, and to introduce new improved suitable agricultural products.
7. The provision of curative and protective medicine to all inhabitants where the Ministry of Health provided for medication along with protective work, health guidance and motherhood and childhood care. Positive consequences are clearly indicated by the increasing number of clinics and dispensaries visitors and by abandoning of old age methods of

medication, such as cautery, herbs and other primitive ways.

8. The most prominent changes that have taken place are represented by the acceptance of inhabitants to participate with money and effort in implementing national projects and enterprises, and by their shouldering social responsibility towards their local and national community.<sup>1</sup>

At this point, we have to recognize the fact of unattained objectives of the program. If the above information tends to give the positive side of the project development, of course, it is important to look at the negative side too. In some areas the center was closed because it failed to act and budget and personnel moved to other locations. In another area an evaluation indicated that the center did not perform more than 25 percent of the required activities. Many kinds of difficulties faced the whole program and its expansion.

Fifteen years have now elapsed since the establishment and 13 years since the last expansion, during which no new centers were established. Reasons for this are varied, one of which is that the enthusiasm of the participating ministries did not continue as it started during the rapid expansion of the program. This is in addition to the lack of necessary technical staff for more

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Development of Social Affairs in Saudi Arabia, pp. 5-6.

new centers, as well as some administrative and technical difficulties. This period might be a help in consolidating the program and discovering its shortcomings, a matter which makes it possible for any future expansion to be based on sound, practical basis, through a sufficient period of actual functioning of the program. It is understandable, from the early establishment when the program was adopted by the people and the government of the country, that this project was not aimed at initiating these centers as samples limited to only some parts of the different areas of the Kingdom.

Community Development is a comprehensive reform method which, if generalized, insures the development of the society as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to expand this program--after careful study of its existing problems--for the following reasons:

1. The existence of some areas in the Kingdom which need community development services.
2. The integration of the community development projects and the supplementation of their services to new areas, and increasing the efficiency of these through the community development action.
3. Coordinating the governmental services rendered to the local communities.
4. The pressing demands of the people for establishing community development projects in their respective areas.

5. Utilizing the available manpower in some areas for implementing voluntary and self-help projects for the benefit of them and their communities . . . .

Community Development Approaches to  
Development in the Southwest Region

Community Development Programs should work for the development of the local community, mindful of the obstacles posed by the traditional ways of village life. The cohesion of a traditional community may obstruct innovative approaches to agriculture and parochial loyalties may hinder the movement toward the establishment of larger co-operative bonds with geographical configurations such as the zone or region. To utilize fully the geographical and other benefits of a larger area consisting of a number of rural communities and urban centers, it may be necessary to make the region a unit of planning and implementation rather than the small rural community.<sup>1</sup>

It has to be clear that community development has its own capacity and limitation which there will be the risk if it goes beyond it and given an impossible task. For an example, there is a suggestion that community development--in the future--will need to get away from the limitations of the village as the local point of development. The primary objective of community development, namely, to promote popular participation and involvement in the development process. The village or the urban center must be the local point for establishing the activities, especially in the beginning of a new Community Development Program. So, adopting a broader regional framework should

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Participation in Development:  
Emerging Trends in Community Development, p. 38.

be carefully studied and planned after establishing a Community Development Program in the village, and the urban center of the region to avoid the risk of creating "a super-agency with unlimited responsibilities for doing an infinitive number of jobs rather than the forms and the process of community development."<sup>1</sup> Community development helps to reorganize the efforts of the local institutions making self-help activities fully effective, and providing the necessary channel of governmental service at all levels, from the local to the national.

It aims to secure coordination at all levels for combining the government efforts with those of the people for the nations prosperity. It should not duplicate other substantive efforts. It helps to eliminate the departmental isolation and bureaucracy and harnesses the enthusiasm and energy of the people for making government services more readily available at the local levels.<sup>2</sup>

In the Southwest Region where the majority of the people are working in agriculture and they lack the experience and skills which are needed for the development and improvement of their standard of living. Also, as it was described in Chapter III, the region is facing several problems, economic, social, health and education, compared to the other regions of the Kingdom which causes the out-migration of the young people to the central belt, "Jedda, Riyadh and Dammam" where the opportunity for better

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 39.

<sup>2</sup> Salah El Abd, An Approach to Integrated Rural Development in Africa, p. 209.



jobs and higher income exists than in the Southwest Region itself. Agriculture is the main natural resource in the Region. Mineral resources had been discovered, but economically speaking, agriculture is providing most of the income to the citizens of the Region. In the comprehensive development plan for the Region, the community development approach has to play an important role for the successful implementation of the plan. The community development center as a change agent, if it was carefully studied before its establishment, can provide the linkage between the change agency. "Government in this case, and the client system, the member of the local community." Dr. Everett M. Rogers suggested that there are seven roles for the change agent. These

seven roles are isolated in the process by which a change agent introduces an innovation to his clients:

- (1) Develop need for change.
- (2) Establishes a change relationship.
- (3) Diagnoses the problem.
- (4) Creates intent to change in the client.
- (5) Translates intent into action.
- (6) Stabilizes change and prevents discontinuances.
- (7) Achieves a terminal relationship.<sup>1</sup>

The very concept of community development implies a gradual process of evolution or an unfolding of abilities guided by the technical and financial resources of the government.

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<sup>1</sup>Everett M. Rogers and F. Floyd Shoemaker, Communication of Innovations (New York: The Free Press, 1971), pp. 229-230.

When the participation of people in their communities is linked with the resources of government in such ways will contribute to balanced social and economic development, the communities can become effective partners in achieving national objectives.<sup>1</sup>

With this understanding and under ideal conditions, each branch of the governmental services in the Southwest Region, such as: agriculture, cooperatives, industry, housing education, health and social welfare will be integrated with the overall development needs of the Region communities. Sometimes, in practice these ideal conditions are seldom realized as in the case of the community development program in some parts of Saudi Arabia where losing on the decreasing in the enthusiasm of the participants ministries consider as the main set back for the program. In re-evaluating the program, careful planning and full commitment among the governmental departments participating in the program must be done and met.

Community development demands the use of the knowledge and skills of all the relevant national technical services in such a fashion as to serve the ultimate objective of a fuller and better life for individuals within the family and community. The various activities which are component parts of a community development program are usually carried on by governments through direct measure, supporting measure, or overall development measures, and require that they be coordinated in territorial or national plans so that they may fully support each other.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Community Development and Economic Development (New York: U.N. Publications, 1963), p. 15.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 17.

So, in the case of the Southwest Region of Saudi Arabia, and for the purpose of planning for governmental action in the encouragement and guidance of self-help at the local level, it is desirable to start with a thorough analysis of rural conditions in the Region, so that realistic goals can be established within the resources available. Then the contributions of community development can be defined and responsibility allocated to the appropriate departments and ministries of the government. Most importantly is that the government ensures that adequately trained personnel and workers will be available to carry on the educational and organizational processes associated with community development in the Region. This includes, the workers who operate indirect and continual contact with communities in generalistic capacities, the teams of technical specialists attached to the various ministries and the higher levels of supervisory and other supporting services. In the rural communities--such as the Southwest Region--considerable reliance has been placed on village-level workers as vehicles for change.

A paid government worker--as it is in Saudi Arabia--appointed to work with the villagers over a period of time working with them in face-to-face situations may provide a far stronger stimulus for change than occasional visits by outside technical proposal. A multipurpose worker, by remaining in touch with villagers, helping them to accept new values and attitudes, can help create conditions for the acceptance and diffusion of technical assistance to be provided by the competent specialized government department. Local leaders, on the other hand, may be ineffective in inducing change; their ability to act decisively

may be limited by ignorance of modern methods of farming or by an unwillingness to alter existing social institutions and power relationship.<sup>1</sup>

There is a growing criticism of the village-workers approach. The argument centers on his background. In most cases the village workers have been born and educated in a city or town--which in most instances make them interested in the urban life more than being in rural areas, and they probably think that their life in the rural areas is just temporary. This influences their ability to contribute to the village improvement. However, some of them have been experienced in communities in Saudi Arabia. They have been satisfied without pressure, and willing to work in the rural areas. It would be better that those who are chosen for the job do come originally from a rural area because they will communicate easily and be more effective.

Therefore, community development with the availability of well trained teams, and well planned and studied programs could prepare the local people to learn how to help themselves and feel the need for change. This will lead to their acceptance and participation in the overall development programs. The workers in the center must start with discovering and helping to strengthen the local leadership in the community. According

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Popular Participation in Development: Emerging Trends in Community Development, p. 25.

to John Friedman in his book "Regional Development Policy,"

Community leadership is a vital element this process. Social change comes to a head in the districts, cities, rural towns, and villages of a country. The search is frantic for those who are able to channel this change and render it meaningful. The state cannot be everywhere. It is hidden, remote, inaccessible. It acts with imperfect knowledge of local detail and in a manner largely disinterested in the fate of the individual person. The state is a merchant in statistical averages, in large and powerful social abstractions, it cannot truly heed the uniqueness of a local situation. Social and economic transformation is rather a communal process, a grouping for opportunities in the intensities of central government action. The choice is to adapt to outside changes, to adapt successfully, or fail. And in making this choice, the role of local leadership is vital.<sup>1</sup>

It is one of the several goals of the community development program to encourage and develop the local leadership as a mean for the successful implementation of the development plan. Also, in various fields the community development center--as change agent--can be effective and helpful in the development of the Region. Below is an instance.

#### The Economic Aspects

Developing the economic capabilities of local communities through utilizing their abilities and resources is one of the most significant principles upon which the community development program is based.

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<sup>1</sup>John Friedmann, Regional Development Policy (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The M.I.T. Press, 1966), p. 65.

Balanced socio-economic development requires that due consideration be given to the economic elements in the community development process. Therefore, attention should be conducted to approaches and procedures that aim at raising the family income such as the following.

#### Encouraging and Developing Rural and Domestic Industries

The community development program has an obvious role in convincing people to practice manual work through various handicrafts, which the community used to consider as being against the dignity of the people. For more accomplishment, efforts should be devoted to rural industries in community development center areas. For an example, pottery making, palm leaves manufacturing and primary fishing equipment in the Southwest Region are kinds of primitive rural industries and handicrafts which if encouraged, developed, and improved can be one of the main sources of the family income. However, markets or local and regional exhibitions must be available.

#### Establishing Agriculture Cooperative Societies

The agriculture sections in the community development centers would give due attention to convince the farmers to use fertilizers, improved seeds, promote agriculture practices, etc., through demonstration fields and agricultural extension methods. The expected results for

this stimulation is the increase of people's demand for these materials. The establishment of agricultural societies in community development program areas and supplying them with the needed materials at reasonable prices will encourage the farmers to use it when they find it easily available in these societies.

#### Development of a Livestock Resource

The agricultural units in the center could pay special attention to livestock and animal husbandry which constitutes a significant ingredient of the economy in the rural areas of the Southwest Region, is improved and developed through free veterinarian services and encouragement of the improved breeding of cows, sheep, and goats--the most preferable animals in the Region--improvement in the productivity of local breed of meat and wool animals can be attained. Also, encouraging poultry breeding which is considered as one of the cheapest projects to initiate in the rural areas of the Region will be appropriate because expenses are very low when the pullets are raised in the house. These matters which will be carried out by the community development workers, will result in adding another source of income to the family and will supply the family as well with more of its needs.

### Social Aspects

The male and female social workers in the center will have an important role with the rest of the team in conducting the following.

#### Social Survey

They need to have the basic data and information about the environment and the community they work with. For example, a map of the area showing the locations of various institutions, charts indicating population distribution, education ratio, and project achievement are useful to planners and workers, the same as to the visitors and the people of the community. Also, the information collected should be used for diagnosis covering as many aspects of community life as possible. This would help together with the projection of existing trends to make it possible to formulate alternative action proposals, especially when it deals with some of the old customs and traditions that exist in the Region, which sometimes prevents some people from accepting some certain kinds of work because of its social value from their point of view.

#### Outlining Projects Plans According to Community Needs

These plans should be based on the results of surveys and studies to meet the real needs of the people. The workers of the community development center will



emphasize the role of local committees and councils in planning projects for the development of their communities.

#### Supporting and Consolidating Local Councils

In the Southwest Region, as in other rural areas of Saudi Arabia, it is important that local councils should be formed at village levels in the community development center areas. A council on this level, the central village, will be more effective in planning and executing projects of relevance to the community's own interest and benefit. In sub-centers, village level councils will be of great help to the multipurpose worker whose activities will depend largely on local organizations and on his direct relations with community leaders. Councils on the Province level, if it is formed to comprise the representatives of village councils, would be responsible for coordination and planning, and that will widen the base of local leaders participating in social organization and will allow for more collaboration and support which is considered as a basis for any development plan for the Region.

#### Education of Women

Women constitute half of the population. They are the homemakers and the center of the family. They are also the main custodians of the social, cultural, and fundamental values of a society and permanent social change is often been achieved through them. In

fact, full community development is not possible without their understanding cooperation and effective participation.<sup>1</sup>

In Saudi Arabia, in general, women's education and participation started late. In the Southwest Region in particular, the formal education for girls, started later, but in the rural areas of the Region, women were participating in the agricultural field work all the time. Although education of girls started late in the country its programs have been expanded very rapidly. It was a great response from the people to break an old tradition of keeping girls at home or limiting their education to religious learning and reading and writing. Through community development programs, it is expected that an important contribution will be made by women to the economy of the family and of the community through crafts and productive home enterprises such as poultry keeping. In community development, activities are planned in relation to local raw materials, market conditions and the skills and leisure time of women. Through the community development efforts arrangements will be made for their training, for the supply of raw materials, collecting the finished goods, sales preferably through existing cooperatives and ensuring the proceeds get back into the hands of the producers. The extra income, however small, adds to the domestic budget,

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Community Development and National Development, p. 39.

contributes greatly to the economic independence of the women and raises her status in society. Community development centers can be usefully served as recreation centers and meeting place for women, from which movements to improve their social status may well emerge.

The role and participation of women must be encouraged in the context of total community efforts, if the contribution of women is to have its optimum impact. There seems to be at least three specific reasons why this should be so:

(a) In order to arouse initial interest and establish a "social climate" of readiness to accept change, it may be necessary to begin with, or undertake at the same time, activities of interest to the village, but not necessarily with a home economics, child care, or other content of special interest to women.

(b) The changes desired in the sphere of activity of women are often not within the ability of the women to achieve by themselves, as they require the approval and, in some cases, the physical labor of men.

(c) Changes in attitude and behavior by individual women and families are more likely to take place, and to be permanent, if they receive influential support in the community.<sup>1</sup>

In the Southwest Region where rural communities are considered very traditional, the staff of the community development center, must study and plan carefully the beginning of women's programs and activities to avoid any adverse reaction by men of the community--especially the older men. It was approved through experience in other rural communities of the country, that the way and the methods of approaching this sensitive matter has two edges. It was intelligent and well studied before, and the outcome will be to the benefit of the community and the families. If

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 41.

it was just a duplication it might lead to set back and delay in the effort of the community development center. So, the training and the orientation for the workers who are selected for the communities of the Region is very important to guarantee the success of the program.

#### Youth Rural Clubs

Another aspect of the social activities which can be carried out by the community development center and has its impact upon the social and economic situation of the rural communities in the Region is the youth rural clubs. These clubs, through its cultural, social, and sports activities can present the contribution of young generation in the community development efforts in different aspects. For an example, youths can participate in summer camps, repairing roads and playgrounds, agricultural projects, health extension by cleaning the village streets, attending group discussions and cultural competitions, and in combating illiteracy. These clubs can play a remarkable role in creating the feeling of responsibility and leadership among the youth and in encouraging their contribution in the development of their communities. In many developing countries, community development activities reserves an important place for the problems of youth. This gives recognition to the predominance of this age grouping in the population of virtually all developing countries.

Attempts to induce social change are likely to yield more effective and lasting results by involving youth who are more receptive to innovation. As a group, young people have special needs and problems and are<sup>1</sup> even more vulnerable to the effect of modernization.

### Educational and Cultural Aspects

Community education is needed for yet another reason. People who have some basic values in common, respect one another, and to some extent feel responsible for each other's welfare, can usually achieve a reasonably happy and satisfying community life together, even if they are poor and not very well educated. They feel that they belong to their community and because they share this feeling of belonging they find it easy and natural to work together for the common--old or sick people and widows and orphans--who are in special need of help. Life in such communities gives people and underlying feeling of security. Whatever happens, they know they will not have to face it alone.<sup>2</sup>

As mentioned in Chapter II, the relationship among members of the Saudi society in general, and in the rural areas in particular, is very closed as a result of the "Gemeinschaft-like" relation among the members of a family. They are very attached to one another and each feels responsible for the family. The people of the Southwest Region are no exception. The main educational problem in the rural areas is the high rate of illiteracy. So, the staff of a community development with the guidance and cooperation of the adult education department in the

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Popular Participation in Development: Emerging Trends in Community Development, p. 21.

<sup>2</sup>T. R. Batten, School and Community in the Tropics (London: Oxford University Press, 1959), p. 9.

Ministry of Education can plan and carry out a program for combating illiteracy in the community. The literacy workers must have good qualifications and personalities which enable them to be in a respected position when dealing with the school directors and teachers in the center area. Moreover, they could be entrusted with social activities and act as social leaders in the schools of the project area since the new development program calls for a school in every village in the near future. Also, through the cultural activities, more efforts would be made to stimulate adults to join literacy classes, possibly through incentives such as grant and rewards to be offered to those who complete the course successfully. In addition the cultural workers can set up parental councils to participate in conducting the schools activities and sustaining its relationship with the community.

### Health Aspects

The health division in a community development center would give more consideration to preventive measures through public health guidance to support corrective measures. It could establish maternity and child welfare units in the health divisions to realize more supervision on delivery cases and organize training courses for village midwives and acquaint them with the healthy methods of delivery as well as providing them with the needed equipment. The health visitors can participate with female

social workers in public health guidance and to supervise the health conditions among the students.

It needs a good effort from the staff of a center to train the people, especially in the semi-isolated communities of the Region, to adopt healthy directions and methods and to reduce their dependence upon the traditional way of treatment and to make them accept the new innovation without rejection or objections. The development plan of the Region, implying the building and establishment of new hospitals and clinics, without preparing the people and convince them to leave their way of traditional treatment and encouraging them to take preventive measures at their homes, the health situation in the Region will not improve.

#### Urban Community Development

Despite the strong rural-agricultural character of most areas of the Southwest Region of Saudi Arabia, still, as it was noted in Chapters II and III, the Region has a number of municipalities and towns in the provinces of Asir, Baha, Bisha, Jizan, Najran and South Mecca. Saudi Arabia as a developing country, is facing the rapid growth of cities and towns which has led to the extension of community development techniques and programs in urban areas. Among the cities with such programs in the world are Addis Ababa, Cairo, Dacca, Delhi, Lusaka, Manila, Montevideo and in Saudi Arabia, Rixadh, Mecca, Ratif,

Khamis Mushayt and Madina. There is a suggestion that community development must use the same techniques in the urban areas as in rural areas. It is true that community development is rural-agricultural oriented, but situations in the urban areas are different. The impersonal nature of urban life, the bureaucratization of public services, the organized distribution of social services through established channels and the complex nature of urban life, limits the scope of self-help and mutual aid programs which are the significant characteristics of rural community development.

There is, therefore, a compelling need to examine community development methods and programs for the purpose of determining their suitability within an urban environment. Generally, community development strategists have tended to stress an ameliorative approach to urban problems, stressing social objectives, and improving environmental conditions. Following are some of the main elements of this strategy:

- (1) To establish representative neighborhood councils to achieve maximum popular participation and support;
- (2) To organize adult education programs;
- (3) To promote vocational training courses and job placement programs;
- (4) To organize neighborhood and community health centers;
- (5) To promote the formation of youth clubs, women's associations and civic improvement groups;
- (6) To improve the immediate physical environment by eliminating unsanitary conditions;
- (7) To form organizations of a cooperative type including consumer-producer and marketing cooperatives and savings and loans associations.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>United Nations, Popular Participation in Development: Emerging Trends in Community Development, pp. 17-18.



In many cities of Saudi Arabia and other such as "Singapore and Guayaquil"<sup>1</sup> community centers have been built to serve as the focal point of community activities. Studies by the United Nations experts show some evidence that the centers have not always attracted the numbers and types of persons that the establishment of this facility had hoped for. Perhaps, it depends upon the location of the center. In Saudi Arabia some of these centers which were built in the remote and less developed section of the cities are functioning well and attracting large numbers of that section of the city. In any case, the urban community development has a potentially important area which is self-help--or modified self-help housing. Here community development could help ease the critical urban housing shortage.

Self-help housing is a logical extension of the concept of community improvement, where residents of a neighborhood assists in maintaining a clean and attractive environment. Self-help housing projects have been successfully undertaken in Trinidad, Chile, Guatemala, and Ghana.<sup>1</sup>

Self-help housing can be successful when community groups are committed to the purpose of the program, and when enough of their members possess the requisite skills and capacity for leadership.

Another necessary condition for the program's success is assuring residents of title to the land. For self-help housing to be successful, the municipal government has to work in close cooperation with

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 18.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

community development workers. The government can designate suitable sites for construction, resolve tenure problems, conclude agreements with the community on the division of responsibility for the installation and maintenance of public services and utilities, and provide credit and technical assistance. The commitment of the government to act in urban community development was explicitly recognized in Pakistan's first five-year plan.<sup>1</sup>

Of course, the need for government support to provide a more solid basis for citizen initiatives, invites consideration of a somewhat different strategy for urban community development than that in the rural areas.

Another aspect which would be given a consideration is the relationship of traditional rural communities to the process of urbanization and overall development. Industrialization is not, just simply, an economic process, but also brings about changes of a social nature. "Most low-income countries realize that in the long run they can ensure higher levels of income for their population only through industrialization."<sup>2</sup> It is true that urbanization increases with industrialization, and at the same time, attracting a great number of the rural areas to immigrate to the urban areas, looking for better jobs and higher income, as it is the case of the Southwest Region. But, it should be realized that the flow of people from countryside to the cities is a product of a stagnant rural economy and lack of the social amenities and opportunities afforded by the city. If the rural

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 14-16.

economy offered more of the opportunities and facilities that attracted people to the cities and if it is realized by the planners that the beginning of industrialization must be accompanied by continuing efforts to increase agricultural production to support the growing non-farm population and provide raw materials for industry, it will be a major challenge for community development to achieve the objective of helping the rural areas and the member of the communities to understand and realize the importance of their role in the overall development.

Since an increase in agricultural productivity is not purely a technical matter, but depends upon such factors as changes in land, tenure, attitudes and culture, as well as in the social structure of rural communities (changes that community development attempts to facilitate), there is in fact a complementary relationship between industrialization and community development rather than any inherent incompatibility.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, this relation which exists between the urban and rural, gives the community development process an important role to play in order to strengthen this relation for the benefit of the two communities.

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 15-16.

## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the importance of community development as an element for the successful implementation of the development program for the Southwest Region in Saudi Arabia. In the previous chapters, the current situation of the Region and its proposed development programs have been presented. Also, in Chapter V, the role of community development in the overall development of the Region, was discussed. In this chapter, an attempt will be made to summarize the main issues and findings which would lead to several recommendations and suggestions the writer feels are necessary to pave the way for community development to play its role in the development of the Region. That will be followed by a statement of conclusions which will deal mainly with the overall concept of community development and its application in Saudi Arabia in relation to the national development plan of the Kingdom since the Southwest Region development is a part of that plan.

### Summary of Findings

In the Southwestern Region of Saudi Arabia, the main natural resources and the main economic activities for most of the population of the Region is agriculture. About 52 percent of the male laborers work in this sector.<sup>1</sup> But, still the productivity in agriculture is low. The reason for that is the scarcity of water, especially during the dry period. Up to 1973 little has been done to develop the water resources of the Region, but research is underway, including the large-scale flood-retention and water storage in the Wadis areas. Food production also is not sufficient, so the farmers of the Region have to import some of their basic nutritional needs such as cereals. Therefore, the standard of living among the agricultural population is low. The average per capita income is around SR 100-150 per year. This includes the value of the crops raised by the farmers for their own consumption. This level of income is considered as too low to live in Saudi Arabia. Therefore, most of the agricultural workers were forced to find additional earnings elsewhere. Some of them have other jobs in the Region, and many have migrated to other regions in the country, especially to the urban belt Jedda-Riyadh-Dammam. In certain parts of the Region, such as Al Bahah and

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<sup>1</sup>Total of the male laborers is estimated at 375,000 according to the Central Planning Organization of Saudi Arabia.

Baljurshi provinces about 40-50 percent of the active male farming population has migrated. In Tihama, also large scale outmigration took place. Most of those workers leave their families in the Region, and transfer most of their income to them. It is roughly estimated that their remittances cause the total disposable income for the agricultural population to rise from SR 100-150 to some SR 350-450 per capita per year. This better income and better education for the younger generation outside the Region is still encouraging more people to migrate. There is no governmental restriction on migration.

Concerning education, great efforts have been made to develop the educational system in the Region, especially between the years 1967-72 when the number of boys in elementary schools increased from 44,000 to 46,000, in intermediate schools from 3,600 to 6,900, in secondary schools from 168 to 737, and in teacher-training institutes from zero to 955. Despite the educational's program efforts, the Region is still confronted with a considerable backlog in educational services. In 1971-72 the Region which has 31 percent of the total population of the Kingdom, had only 20 percent of the nation's boys elementary school enrollment (boys in the age group of 6-12 years). The potential number of boys for elementary education is estimated at 10 percent of the total population, or 177,000 boys. The 1971-72 number of 64,000

implies that only 36 percent of the boys in the Southwest Region received elementary school education. The comparison is even more striking for boy's intermediate and secondary education where only 12 percent of the intermediate schools, 5 percent of the secondary schools and 12 percent of the teacher training institutes in the Kingdom are located in the Southwest Region. These figures indicate the fairly recent development of the educational system in the Region. As regards the number of girls attending elementary schools in the Region in 1971-72, they are 7229. It must be noted that only 8 percent of all school girls between 6 and 12 years in Saudi Arabia live in the Region. In the intermediate schools the number is 370. None were in secondary schools at the same year. There is no university or college in the Region yet.

The general health situation in the Region is far from satisfactory. Poor drinking water, lack of hygiene, malnutrition and diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, and trachoma and enteric disorders are common. During the years from 1968-1972 the situation of the southern part of Jizan province has aggravated considerably due to excessive droughts, which increased malnutrition and thus weakened the people's resistance to infections and diseases. There is no doubt about the great efforts that have been made by the Ministry of Health in the last five years to improve health conditions in this long neglected

part of the Kingdom, but still, it has not been able to catch up on the backlog. For instance, there is one doctor to 8,800 people in the Region, whereas the current national ratio is 1 to 4,000. The Region, containing some 31 percent of the total population of the Kingdom, has only 8 percent of the country's hospital facilities. As for clinics, this percentage varies between 15 and 20. The total number of health points (approximately 130, run by male nurses) is, however, commensurate with the national average.

Many of the services provided under the branches of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs do not yet extend to the Region. Some are being developed. Social welfare, including institutional care for juveniles, aged, disabled, etc., has not yet been started on a significant scale. There is an orphanage in Abha. Youth welfare has just started in Abha, where, jointly with private persons, summer camps for school pupils have been organized. In the Region also two small sport clubs for practicing soccer have been started. Community development, activities are restricted to Khamis Mushayt, where one of the Kingdom's 16 community development centers is established. While this center is mainly urban oriented, it is also active in the surrounding rural areas where it gives advice and assistance in a wide range of social matters, including cooperative societies. There are three branches



of the labor office in the Region. One in Abha, one in Najran and one in Jizan. There are 21 in the Kingdom. These offices deal mainly with employment matters, but their role in the labor market is reportedly of little importance. Other matters such as enforcement of the labor law, settlement of labor disputes and labor information are becoming more important. The program for social security leaves much to be desired. The main problem is the inadequate number of offices. Although the Southwest Region is large and houses a very dispersedly living population, it has only 8 of the 32 offices of the Kingdom. Another problem is the personnel difficulties, in number, ability and the complicated administrative procedures and regulations for the processing of applications and the settlement of payments.

With reference to the administration situation in the Region, it appeared that the geographical boundaries of the parts of the Southwest Region distinguished by the various ministries do not coincide. There are differences in the delimitation of administrative areas between the Ministries of Agriculture and Water, Education, Health and the Interior. As an example, part of Baha province as defined by the Ministry of the Interior, comes under the jurisdiction of the district of Taif as far as the Ministry of Health is concerned; the Tihama part of the Interior's province of Baha and the whole of the Qunfudhah

district are under the Health administration of Jedda. The Ministry of Education tends to redefine the boundaries of its educational districts and to bring them more in line with those of the Ministry of the Interior.

Concerning transportation and communications, the roads in the Region are still in a poor condition which causes some of the lack of progress in the development and the improvement of the area. But, the situation is expected to improve greatly within the next five years as a result of the government road-construction program which started a few years ago and includes a network of roads of about 2050 km which is estimated to cost SR 2080 million. At the same time, the Ministry of Communication has allocated a SR 230 million for the construction of about 700 km of feeder roads which are to connect villages with major road networks, especially around Jizan, Abha, Al Baha and Najran. Sea transport into and from the Region is considered as of minor importance. Jizan is the only port of some significance, the ports of Al Lith and Al Qunfudhah are not important. Airports are fairly well distributed over the Region and the planned and ongoing improvements of the airports in Jizan, Najran, Khamis Mushayt and Bisha will make the air-transport situation better. The postal services and telecommunications in the Region are inadequate. The mail may take a few weeks to arrive, mainly because of too low a frequency of haulage.

The Region has 22 high-frequency telegraph offices which can serve only one call at a time. Telephone networks, which are all manually operated, are found only in the six provincial capitals and in Baljurshi and Al Qunfudhah.

Manufacturing and construction in the Region are relatively undeveloped. The main constraints being, the lack of raw materials and of cheap energy sources, the low purchasing power of the local population and the isolated position from those parts of Saudi Arabia where the purchasing power is concentrated. In the Kingdom about 4 percent of the professional population is employed in manufacturing establishments. In the Southwest Region it is not more than 2.7 percent or approximately 10,000 persons. Construction is also a minor activity, in spite of the ongoing road-building program. Cement consumption in the Region is only 5 percent of the national consumption. About 14,000 people work in this sector. The per capita incomes in manufacturing and construction are some SR 500 per year.

Another important finding is the attitude of the Region's population toward change. It was noticed that the government services and welfare extension are appreciated as well as taken for granted. This, it can be assumed, is mainly due to certain paternalistic elements in the government approach and to a lack of popular participation in development. The self-initiated community effort is

almost missing in the majority of the Region's communities. So, most of the people feel it is a government obligation without giving any attention to their role in the development process. The felt need concept of community development has to be practiced there to let the initiative for change be expressed by the people in most communities of the Region. Popular participation of the communities member will lead to the real appreciation for any development efforts and the change process will be more effective.

#### Recommendations

Since the agricultural is the sector with most natural resources in the Region, and since the majority of the population are engaged in this sector, efforts to increase the individual income and to improve the standard of living must be connected with agriculture. The government must provide the infrastructure, the technical, and the capital inputs in terms of subsidies and credits through the agricultural bank which is a governmental institution. The development of water resources must be at the top of the list of priorities, since irrigation water rather than agricultural land is the Region's scarcest production factor. Optimum development of water resources necessitates the implementation of a number of major projects, such as the construction of flood-retention structures or dams in the main Wadis, or both. Drinking water is sufficient in most parts of the Region except in the

higher-lying foothill areas and the Western Scarp Slope where an urgent solution is needed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water.

In order to meet the conditions for an efficient implementation of regional planning, the administrative structure needs to be adjusted. An integrated development planning is meaningful only if the geographic division into administrative areas is uniform for the different ministries. Integrated and comprehensive action programs such as regional development planning and implementation require a joint development administration, coordination at various levels and consequently a uniform administrative division.

The Southwest Region is in a period of transition of people from a predominantly tribal system to territorial and target-conscious groups, therefore it needs appropriate guidance to preserve moral values and social stability. So, it is highly recommended that the social science departments in the local universities of Saudi Arabia should carry out--with the cooperation of the Community Development Department and related governmental agencies--a basic and applied social research to obtain the necessary information about the people's reaction to the development programs and policies.

Community development is a comprehensive reform method which, if generalized, could insure the development

of the society as a whole. Therefore, the expansion of the current community development program in Saudi Arabia has become a necessity for the coordination of the governmental services rendered to the local communities, and for utilizing the available manpower in some areas for implementing voluntary and self-help projects for the benefit of them and their communities. Another reason, is that it is evident that a close relationship between community development and national planning is mutually advantageous to both. Therefore, to achieve the utmost results out of the community development program, inter-relation between the national development programs and the development of local communities in project areas is recommended. Overall projects relevant to community development when associated with and contributed to by community development projects will enhance the achievements of both. Since the program was planned to be nationwide and it has been functioning through 16 centers, distributed in the different areas of the Kingdom (Southwest Region has just one center out of those 16), and since some of the goals and achievements of the program--so far--has been reached, in several areas and communities having community development centers, the demand for more centers is increasing. It can be concluded that the Southwest Region is one of the most needy areas for more community development activities. Based upon the information

discussed in this study of the Region, and upon the geographical and administrative situation of the Region the writer would suggest the establishment of six new centers in the different provinces and districts of the Region. Working with most communities in the areas and preparing the people for the self-help and popular participation concepts will increase their ability and acceptance for change and development.

This recommendation for expanding the community development program in the Southwest Region will meet with the fact of one of the major problems facing the whole program which is the lack of adequate numbers of Saudi qualified personnel in the various levels or fields of community development. The dependency on recruiting the needed staff for running the community development projects from other Arab states will partially solve the problem, but it is more preferable that community development projects should be operated by local personnel. So, any further expansion in the programs will depend first on the availability of qualified manpower to be assigned in the newly established centers. Expansion should go on parallel with the availability of specialists./ Those specialists could be provided by the following means:

- a. The University of Riyadh has a college of Agriculture and there is a department of Sociology, the University of King Abdul Aziz in Jedda has a

department of Social Science, and a new college of Agriculture has recently been established at King Faisal University in Dammam. These colleges and departments should start a program or courses within their curriculum for the training of community development specialists. This will reduce gradually, the dependence upon recruiting from outside, and will improve and encourage the execution of the development programs.

- b. In 1970, according to a joint agreement between the government of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations, the Center for Training and Applied Research in Community Development was established. The objective of this center is to train specialists in community development, particularly those who are working in the existing community development centers or which will be established in the future; to conduct research in methods and techniques needed for the development of local communities and for encouraging popular participation in development projects; and to identify the factors which would lead to social and economic change in these communities. The establishment of this center with the technical participation of the U.N. and the full support of the Saudi government will help to a large extent in providing



the necessary technical staff for the existing projects and those to be established. This can be done through short, medium and long term training courses for the graduate of the colleges and the technical institutes, for senior level personnel, field work staff, specialists and technicians as well as local leaders in the different fields of community development. This center must arrange a special orientation course for those administrative who are working in various departments in the ministries concerned with the program.

- c. Establish an institute for training girls in social work careers within the country instead of sending a limited number abroad. The community development program is facing a serious problem in obtaining the needed number of career employees. Because of the lack of movement of girls from one region to another, due to family traditions especially in the rural areas, it would be useful to recommend the establishment of more than one institute in the Kingdom. The Southwest Region is a suitable area for having an institute like this for training local girls in their areas to prepare them for working in the community development centers in their communities.

- d. The same reasoning applies to the establishment of an institute for female health visitors. Maternity and child care is receiving increasing attention of the state. There is no doubt that the establishment of an institute for preparing female health visitors to supervise the delivery cases and provide health and nutrition guidance is of vital need in the rural areas where delivering babies in a hospital is not common. This institute, which can be attended by the graduates of intermediate girls schools in the Region, will open this field of work for them and make available the needed number of such workers for the health divisions of the community development centers and increase the efficiency of these divisions.

As mentioned before, there is no university or college in the Southwest Region. Since agriculture is the main natural resource in the Region and the majority of the population are engaged in this sector and also because it is the only part of the Kingdom which has forests with a potential forestry development and improvement, it is very important to establish at least an agricultural college in the Region. This college can be a branch of the King Abdul Aziz University which is located in Jedda. It is close to the Region and it does not have an

agricultural college among its faculties. It will help in providing higher educational services and facilities to the young generation of the farmers in the Region. Among its aims and objectives would be carrying out research in the area. Therefore, it would be useful if the proposed two agricultural research stations will belong scientifically to this suggested college. At the time being, until this college will be established, the College of Agriculture at the University of Riyadh must be supervisor of these two stations. There is no doubt that the university is more capable than the Ministry of Agriculture in carrying out and handling research matters. The Ministry will benefit from the results of the cooperation with the University by utilizing its research facilities and students of the college--especially those in natural resources departments, crop science, and forestry will find a good environment for their training in the Southwest Region.

In all joint programs in which a number of ministries and bodies are involved, coordination plays an effective and vital role in the success of the program. This being so, coordination in planning and implementation has to be given due consideration of a national, regional, and local level. It is highly recommended that coordination in planning should take place, especially in expanding the program to areas where some services within the community development interest has been initiated by one

or more of the participating ministries. Moreover, although administrative responsibilities are entrusted chiefly to the project director who is an official of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the fact that the other specialized personnel each follows the concerned ministry technically has resulted in lack of coordination, administration and supervision in some project areas. Since each ministry is in charge of appointments, transfers, and promotion of its personnel, conflict as to channels of instructions and guidance is the unavoidable result. A clear distinction between the technical and administrative sphere of work is difficult to set. Thereby, the administrative role of the project director should be given more emphasis and consideration. The participating ministries should make it clear to their officials in the field and in the regional departments the concept that, even these officers are under the technical supervision of the regional departments or branches, they are administratively instructed by the project director. This is to avoid any duplication or conflict in giving orders.

The National Community Development Committee comprises the representative of the four participating ministries in the community development program, plus representatives from the Central Planning Organization, and the director general of the Technical Cooperation Administration. This committee is responsible for the following duties:

- a. Planning and executing the community development policy and projects in the Kingdom,
- b. Follow-up and evaluation of community development projects,
- c. Study difficulties facing community development programs, give suitable solutions and carry out necessary contacts with concerned agencies,
- d. Coordinate the work between ministries and organizations engaged in community development work and lay down necessary foundations,
- e. Submit budget proposals for development programs and specify required funds from each contributing organization before the beginning of the financial year,
- f. Supervise arrangements to train workers engaged in different fields of community development,
- g. Supervise studies and research work, and the utilization of finding in community development work,
- h. Prepare periodical reports on community development work and training conducted in its various fields.<sup>1</sup>

Based upon the growing attention toward the role of youth welfare which is lately recognized by the government of Saudi Arabia, it is developing and improving the department of youth welfare. This improvement comes as a result of several studies and well planned investigations, which lead to huge increases in the budget of this department in the last three years. For instance, in 1972-73, the budget of the Youth Welfare was around SR 2 million, in the fiscal year 1974-75, it became SR 1033 million. Because of the importance of the role of this department, especially in the rural areas, it is suggested that a representative or the general director of this department

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Center for Training and Applied Research in Community Development (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1973), p. 5.

become a member in the National Community Development Committee.

Communication has its important role in the development process. In the Southwest Region, the same as in most parts of Saudi Arabia, the most effective information media are radio and television. Therefore, it is very important to establish an extension of medium wave broadcasting and television coverage. This will make it easier for all areas to be reached by Saudi radio stations in Mecca, Jedda, and Riyadh. The importance of radio and television coverage appears in its role of carrying information and educational programs which must appeal to the population of the Region and, therefore, be geared to their day-to-day interests, needs and problems. The major subjects of the program would include religion, literacy, public health, agriculture, women's programs, education including school radio, and information on development projects of special interest, such as rural and community development, cooperatives, people's participation, and youth activities. Newspaper would have a less important role compared to radio and television, at least in the Region, during the next few years.

### Conclusions

As Professor Raleigh Barlowe of Michigan State University states in his presentation, Growth and Development,

whatever the future brings, we have a definite challenge ahead in the area of community resource development. Some of our problems will be easier to handle if we have a growth and development-oriented economy. Others appear more capable of solutions with the assumptions of no-growth. As often happens, we will probably find ourselves operating with conditions that represent a compromise between these alternatives.<sup>1</sup>

Balanced socio-economic development requires that due attention be given to the economic aspects in the development process. It requires, then, the strengthening of the capacity of man "as a productive agent, investor, innovator and developer." Increasing his capacity will enable him to contribute effectively in the social development of his community. This, of course, will be a task of the community development planners to specify the goals which the contribution of the members of the community will help in bringing a change and improvement to their own community. As was mentioned in Chapter I, the maintenance of a good measure of balance in the distribution of benefits from development programs has always been a concern in developing countries. Saudi Arabia is no exception. Measures to insure equal participation are always difficult to design and implement, especially when the Region is the focus--community development programs, through their techniques and processes, if designed according to realistic measures and reliable information about the Southwest Region of

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<sup>1</sup>Raleigh Barlowe, Growth and Development (East Lansing: Department of Resource Development, Michigan State University, 1975), p. 26. Mimeographed.

Saudi Arabia, and if the planners, having studied deeply the situation of the Region--it will be a useful method in helping insure the continuity of improvement in living for the communities as a whole in a variety of ways, which will help achieve the goal of the overall development programs designed by the government of Saudi Arabia for the Region. This study shows the important role of the community development approach to the growth and development of the Region, which, hopefully, in the near future, will move substantially in the direction of attaining the stated objectives and goals.



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