

# EEC team in Oman talks

states from April 9 to April 24. The EEC delegation consisting of business representatives, especially dealing in agro-industries from seven of the 10 member countries, was in Oman on a two-day visit for discussions with officials and trade leaders.

by Muzaffar Mohammad

Talking to newsmen after the meeting at the Chamber Mr. Robert Hull, leader of the delegation, said that the European Economic Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council are discussing the possibility of signing a general economic agreement. The talks to this effect were held in Bahrain in March and another ses-

sion is to be held.

Mr. Hull said this is the first EEC delegation to the Gulf and there is a real will in the EEC to increase trade relations with Gulf countries. "During the visit we will explore possibilities of setting up joint ventures with Oman in agro-industries and other industrial fields," he added.

In reply to a question about the existing trade between the two communities he said the GCC is the largest trade partner of the EEC after the United States and EFTA - the European Free Trade Area.

The EEC exports to the Gulf region amounted to 22,542 million

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The EEC and the Chamber delegations.

## EEC delegation

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ECU (EEC currency) in 1983 while imports from the Gulf were 21,517 million ECU. The imports from the Gulf were mainly oil. Exports included machinery, transport, processed food, and manufactured goods.

EEC exports to Oman totalled RO 343.7 million in 1984 compared with R.O. 305.3 million on the previous year. These were mainly manufactured goods, machinery and transport and food.

Oil exports from Oman to the EEC countries amounted to R.O. 2.5 million in 1984. The non-oil Omani exports to EEC were about R.O. 16,258,000 in 1984.

During its stay in Muscat the EEC

delegation called on Ahmed Abdul Nabi Macki, Under Secretary of Commerce and Industry and discussed with him possibilities of cooperation in agro-industries and industrial ventures.

Sheikh Aflah al Rawahi who was the leader of the Chamber's delegation which included Dr. Abdulla Hamed al Riyami and Essa Mohammad al Essa, said after talks: "We told the EEC delegation our priorities for setting up joint ventures in agriculture, fisheries, minerals and small industries.

"We also told them about Oman's requirements in technology, technical know-how and the training of Omanis for industries to be set up in the Third Five Year Plan.

Frank and far-reaching talks were held this week between representatives of the European and Gulf Economic Communities aimed at two-way trade and industrial cooperation.