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**KAZAKHSTAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES:
FORMATION OF RELATIONS (1991-1999)**

The foreign policy activity of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years of independent development has gone its way and it should be noted that the contractual and legal framework of Kazakhstan's relations with many states was basically formed, the trust and respect of the world community to the country increased. The necessary prerequisites for Kazakhstan's integration into global and regional economic processes were laid, priority directions of foreign policy were chosen. One of the most important vectors of cooperation is the relations of our republic with the countries of the Middle East.

Key words: Kazakhstan, Middle East, political and diplomatic contacts, agreements and documents.

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**Қазақстан және Таяу Шығыс елдері:
қатынастарды қалыптастыру (1991-1999 жж.)**

Тәуелсіздік жылдарында Қазақстан Республикасының сыртқы саяси қызметі өз жолын жүріп өтті және осы тұста Қазақстан көптеген мемлекеттермен қарым-қатынастарының шарттық-құқықтық базасы негізін қалыптастырғандығын, әлемдік қоғамдастықтың елге деген сенімі мен құрметі артқандығын атап өту керек. Қазақстанның әлемдік және аймақтық экономикалық үрдістерге интеграциялануы үшін қажетті алғышарттар жасалды және сыртқы саясаттың басым бағыттары таңдалды. Ынтымақтастықтың маңызды бағыттарының бірі біздің республикамыздың Таяу Шығыс елдерімен қарым-қатынасы болып табылады. Бұл тақырыптың өзектілігі ынтымақтастықтың белгілі бір аспектілерін зерттеу қажеттілігі болып есептелінеді.

Түйін сөздер: Қазақстан, Таяу Шығыс, саяси-дипломатиялық байланыстар, келісімдер және құжаттар.

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Казахстан и страны Ближнего Востока: формирование отношений (1991-1999 гг.)

Внешнелитическая деятельность РК за годы независимого развития прошла свой путь и необходимо отметить, что в основном сформировалась договорная и правовая база отношений Казахстана со многими государствами, возросло доверие и уважение мирового сообщества к стране. Были заложены необходимые предпосылки для интеграции Казахстана в глобальные и региональные экономические процессы, выбраны приоритетные направления внешней политики. Одним из важнейших векторов сотрудничества являются отношения нашей республики со странами Ближнего Востока. Актуальность данной темы заключается в необходимости исследовать определенные аспекты сотрудничества.

Ключевые слова: Казахстан, Ближний Восток, политико-дипломатические контакты, соглашения и документы.

Introduction

Kazakhstan and the Middle East countries have been cooperating fruitfully since 1991, but contacts have long history. In the article we consider the formation of these relations during short period from 1991 to 1999. The article is based on the documents of the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, where information on this period has been recorded. Kazakhstan is a country with a market economy, that also attracted the Arab investments.

Methods of research

In the work authors applied comparative analysis, as well as historical method. Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia are the main partners of Kazakhstan. In this regard, we analyzed the formation of relations between Kazakhstan and the countries of the Middle East and their development. Scientific novelty lies in the study of the APRK documents, first time introduced into scientific circulation. Let's also note that trade and economy are one of the main aspects of cooperation. A systematic approach to the study of the problems of relations between the RK and the Middle East is explained by the fact that it enhances the scientific and practical components of these relations.

Results and discussion

In the early 40's of the XX century the idea of Arab unity as an alliance of free Arab states, which eventually became the basis for interaction of the Arab countries, became more clear. The mission of the organizer of this idea was undertaken by Egypt, the result of which was creation of The League of the Arab States on March 22, 1944 and the main document the Charter was adopted. The formation of the Arab League was a major event in international relations and was prepared by the course of the Arab national liberation movement in the period between the two world wars.

Serious analytical scientific works of Laumulin M., Pastukhov, Mukhamedzhanova D. are devoted to multilateral contacts of our republic with the Arab world.

One of the first works is the monograph of Amirev B. "Arabian monarchies and their place in the foreign policy priorities of Kazakhstan," which analyzes the formation and development of political, diplomatic, trade, economic and humanitarian

contacts between Kazakhstan and the Arab states (Amreev, 2004: 408).

For many years M. Laumulin has analyzed international relations in Central Asia, Europe, the Near and Middle East. For us, it is important to understand the events, that take place in the Near and Middle East in terms of economic interests, attraction of investments, etc. In this connection, Kazakhstan's relations with the OIC plays an enormous role (Laumulin, 2011).

A. Shukurov in the article "Repetition of the past" examines the deterioration of the situation in Iraq, the humanitarian crisis and balance of political forces in the country connected with terrorist attacks. For Kazakhstan, terrorist acts of Islamists are dangerous because they can happen in Central Asia (Shukurov, 2014: 52-59).

Pastukhov E. in the work "The Middle East: Judgment Day" examines the complex Kurdish issue, the strategy of the US struggle against the Islamic state. Rapid changes are taking place in the Middle East, as well as hard struggle for influence in the region. By its potential, the changes in the region are so deep and large that it is difficult to predict its final. For Kazakhstan, the important point is that the Middle East has set into motion, it is transforming and Central Asia countries must learn to live in the new geopolitical realities (Pastukhov, 2014: 47-69).

Monograph of Wilkowski D. "Arab-Islamic organizations in modern Kazakhstan: external influence on Islamic revival" is devoted to the activities of foreign Islamic funds in our republic, their controversial impact on Islamic renewal and the overall religious and social situation in Kazakhstan. The author notes that in the early 90's Arab diplomats and political scientists tried to identify those areas that must be taken into account when developing relations with the regions of Central Asia. It was emphasized that Kazakhstan should be viewed as a "bridge" between Russia and the East, as a key country in Central Asia.

In the mid-1990s, Islamic theologians also made their contribution to the development of the Arab world's strategy towards new Islamic republics, actively expressing their opinions in the newspaper of the League of the Islamic World "Al-Alam al-Islami" ("Islamic World"). In a rhetorical form, they supported the proclamation of the independence of the new Islamic republics, stating that "The collapse of the Soviet Union has brought a new spirit to our Islamic world (Wilkowski, 2014: 192).

Among Arab experts studying problematic issues of bilateral relations are Abdel Aziz, Mustafa Alava Saif, Mohammed Abdo Yamani, Fawzi

Mahammad Tail, Ahmad Fouad Pasha, Al-Habani and others.

The Arab world, because of its political and economic potential, the key positions of the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa in the world political, economic and financial system, the history of the community of cultures, traditions and spiritual heritage, and the common desire to establish an active and constructive dialogue are very promising directions for foreign policy and economic activity of Kazakhstan. Arab countries play a leading role in international organizations such as the Non-Aligned Movement, OPEC, OIC, and the Organization of African Unity.

During 1992, official delegations from Kuwait, Libya, Syria, Israel, Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia, the Commission on the opening of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Almaty, the delegation of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry visited Kazakhstan. The government delegation of Kazakhstan led by Tereshchenko S.A. paid an official visit to Israel, the Sultanate of Oman. In the same period, diplomatic relations were established with 10 countries in the Middle East and 6 countries in Africa. During the second half of 1993, official delegations of the region, such as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Israel, the Sultanate of Oman, Egypt visited Kazakhstan (AP RK, 1996: 4, 15).

An important factor in the development of bilateral cooperation was the official visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev to Qatar in May 1998. During the visit, agreements on trade and economic cooperation, the establishment of a joint high-level commission, cooperation between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries and the establishment of a Kazakh-Qatar business council were signed. Also within the framework of the visit, an agreement on expansion mutual beneficial cooperation in such areas as oil, gas, trade exchange, etc. were reached.

Kazakhstan's bilateral relations with Qatar are progressing steadily. In April 1998, the Qatari delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamad Al Thani visited Almaty with an official visit. As a result of the talks, a Protocol on Consultations and a Memorandum of Understanding between the foreign ministries of Kazakhstan and Qatar were signed.

In April 1999, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, paid an official visit to Astana, during which the parties signed the Joint Communiqué. An agreement on providing by Qatar a grant for construction of the Islamic Cultural Center named after Sultan Beibars in Astana was

reached. The construction was completed in 2005 and renamed as the Islamic Cultural Center "Nur-Astana". For today, the establishment of such authority is the largest in Central Asia.

An important event in Kazakhstan-Oman relations was the first official visit of President R.K. N. A. Nazarbaev in Oman in September 1997. The Sultanate of Oman, one of the first states, which established cooperation with Kazakhstan on specific projects at the governmental level and provided loans for the implementation of projects of strategic importance. In January 1992, the Omani Government provided Kazakhstan with an investment loan of \$ 100 million for projects to improve oil and gas production. In December 1992, a new tranche of \$ 30 million was allocated. In 1998, Muscat was the first who provided Kazakhstan with free financial assistance for the new capital in the amount of \$10 million dollars. These funds were used for a strategic range of facilities, the main of which was the "Saltanat Sarayy".

In Tehran on October 3-4, 1992, a meeting of expert groups was held to discuss the project for the organization of cooperation between the Caspian states. The Kazakh delegation was headed by the Deputy Prime Minister K. Baykenov. Decision on establishing an organization for cooperation between the Caspian countries was made (AP RK, 1996: 7).

New discoveries made in the Kazakh sector of the Caspian along with offshore drilling results obtained before the collapse of the Soviet Union allowed Russian experts to assess the geological resources of Kazakhstan's shelf sector in a narrow range of 7.5 billion tons, according to experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation to 8.1 billion tons according to the estimates of specialists of "Lukoil" (Glumov, 2004: 324).

Since independence obtained, Kazakhstan has taken a number of steps aimed at establishing official bilateral relations with Iraq.

On 29 January 1992, the Government of Iraq decided to establish a Joint Commission on Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Iraq. On December 19, 1992, the National Council (Parliament) of Iraq expressed the desire to establish contacts with parliamentarians of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to visit Alma-Ata, and then on December 12, 1992 the Iraqi lawyers Union wanted to establish direct contacts with the relevant organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan. On February 2, 1993 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Iraq to the People's Republic of China Mohammed

Amin Al-Jaff visited the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Beijing and informed in oral form the intention of the Government of Iraq to establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK, 1996: 70-71).

Important stages in the history of bilateral relations of Kazakhstan were official contacts exchanging at the highest level: visits of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev to Iran (November 1992, May 1996, October 1999) and return visit of Iranian President A. Hashemi Rafsanjani to Kazakhstan (October 1993), participation of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran M. Khatami in the ECO summit in Almaty (May 1998), participation of the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H. Habibi at the Eurasian Economic Summit in Almaty (2000, 2002) and the First Vice President of the Iranian President R. Aref in summit of the heads of member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Astana (2005).

Up to date there are more than 60 interstates, intergovernmental and interdepartmental signed agreements and documents between Astana and Tehran, which serve as a reliable contractual and legal basis for mutual relations. In the political sphere, there are no any problems that would cause a contradiction for development of cooperation between the two states. Both countries hold close positions on many topical issues of the modern world such as defending the idea of a multipolar world, enhancing the role of the UN through its reform, creating reliable structures of international and regional security for combating terrorism, religious extremism and drug trafficking.

The positions of the two countries converge on the need to regulate the legal status of the Caspian Sea on the basis of the consensus of all the Caspian states, use Caspian reservoir exclusively for peaceful purposes, preservation of its natural environment, and work on the draft Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea.

In February 1993, the Protocol on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was signed, on which the parties intended to cooperate in the following areas: energy, oil industry, trade, transport, education, scientific research and development, exchange of art and culture delegations (APRK, 1996: 43).

On May 21, 1991, a delegation of Kazakhstan led by Ilyasov, the Deputy Minister of Communications, visited Israel to discuss joint projects on

development of the Kazakh telecommunications network. The project for the establishment of direct telecommunications through the satellite had the backing of the full support of the Israeli export institute, the Israeli company Bezeq and the Ministry of Communications of Israel and served to strengthen socio-economic ties between the two countries.

On September 9, 1991 in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Kazakh SSR, negotiations were held with the Israeli company Double Contact LTD on the purchase of food products for Kazakhstan the Israeli interest-free loan of \$ 100 million. The loan was expected to be repaid by supplying 300,000 tons of Karaganda energy coal to Israel and other export goods. As a result of the negotiations, a protocol of intent was signed. Various contracts have been signed between the RK and Israel. Since March 1992, a two-way satellite telephony has been organized on 8 channels through the CIS satellite «Horizon».

Agreements were signed on the creation of industrial zones, networks and telecommunications, and scientific and technical cooperation in Kazakhstan. 8 representative offices of Israeli companies were accredited, 8 joint ventures were created. The South Kazakhstan regional administration of agriculture introduced the technology of growing cotton on an area of 500 hectares. The Israeli company «RABEKO» supplied the equipment to the dairy enterprises, carried out the project on drip irrigation, cultivation and transportation of tomatoes in SKO and Almaty region. More than 150 students in 1992-1994 from various ministries, departments and institutions were attended in Israel refresher courses (APRK, 1996: 29).

In February 1993, the first official visit of the President of Kazakhstan to the Arab Republic of Egypt took place, during which negotiations were held with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Discussing the ways of establishing and developing bilateral cooperation the presidents underlined importance of stability and prevention any manifestations of extremism.

The Arab Republic of Egypt participated in assistance programmes under the development project designed by the World Bank for a number of former Soviet republics, including Kazakhstan. Assistance was expressed by sending Egyptian specialists in various sectors. Annually Egypt sent at least 10 specialists at the expense of the Egyptian Technical Cooperation Fund to the CIS republics and independent Islamic republics.

In April 1992, a delegation of the National Academy of Sciences of Kazakhstan, that consisted of the parliament member of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Vice-President of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Academician Zh. M. Abildin, the Director of the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry of the NAS of the RK, Doctor of Biological Sciences N.A. Aitkhozhina, the Director of the State Institute and the rights of NAS RK E.K. Nurpeisova.

Negotiations were held with the President of the Academy of Science and Technology of the Republic of Egypt, the Vice-President, the heads of scientific institutions on the expansion of scientific cooperation, a number of specific issues on joint research, information exchange, and the admission of 10 Egyptian graduate students to scientific institutions of the NAS of RK in 1993 -1994 years.

The institutions of the Ministry of Scientific Research of the Egypt-National Society for Space Research and Aerospace Surveillance, Egyptian National Center for Computer Information and Communication were visited. The issues of the possible establishment of scientific and business relations have been worked out (AP RK, 1996: 50).

In Cairo on February 14, 1993, the Treaty of Cooperation between Kazakhstan and Egypt was signed. Under the terms of the agreement, the parties intended to contribute to strength the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Kazakhstan and Egypt. To this end, they were to contribute to the solution and deepening of relations in the field of culture, information, science, technology, tourism, sports and to facilitate access to the cultural heritage of their peoples, archives, libraries and banks of scientific and technical information to citizens of the other party in accordance with their national legislation.

On February 13-16, 1993, an official state visit of the delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan headed by President N.A. Nazarbayev to Egypt was held. A number of official documents were signed during the visit: the Treaty on the fundamentals of the relationship between the Republic of Kazakhstan and Egypt; Trade agreement; Agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation; Agreement on the promotion and mutual protection of investments; Agreements on information cooperation; Protocol on consultations between the MFA of RK and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Egypt; Protocol on cooperation between the Spiritual Board of Muslims of Kazakhstan and the Ministry for Religious Affairs and Awqfs of Egypt.

During the negotiations with the Prime Minister of Egypt A. Sydki, an agreement was reached to open a branch of one of the leading banks in Egypt or establish a joint Kazakh-Egyptian Bank, prepare the military personnel of the RK, and build an Egyptian cultural and spiritual center in Almaty.

From June 14 to June 17, 1993, a delegation headed by M.A. Magub, the Minister for Religions and Awqfs of Egypt had a working visit to Almaty. Issues related to the construction of the Cultural Center and Mubarak mosque were discussed during the visit. On June 16, the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of this center was held and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev took part in it (AP RK, 1996: 15).

From May 24 to 29, 1995, the first meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation was held in Cairo. As a result of the talks, a joint protocol was signed, which included issues of enhancing cooperation in the field of transport, postal communication, and trade. Also, an announcement about cooperation in the field of tourism and the Agreement on Youth and Sports was made. From June 13 to 20 an official visit of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Zh. S. Karibzhanov took place, as a result of which an agreement on additional cooperation in the field of agriculture and processing of agricultural products was signed. In December, 2-16, 1995, a group of specialists from the Engineering Academy of the Republic of Kazakhstan was invited to visit the National Scientific Center of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo. 74 Kazakhstani specialists in various areas were trained, more than 150 Kazakhstani students studied at universities of Egypt. On July 22 at the University of Ain Shams a celebration in honor of the 150th anniversary of Abay was held. A series of articles about the life and work of the great poet were published in the media. An important event was the participation of the Pavlodar Regional Music and Drama Theater at the VII Festival of Experimental Theaters held by the Ministry of Culture of Egypt (AP RK, 1996: 45,48).

Friendly relations of Kazakhstan and Iran have distinctive dynamics and consistency. The Iranian vector is one of the priorities of Kazakhstan's foreign policy in the Asian region.

The Iranian company "Sharg Barter Trading Group" asked for assistance in creating a joint venture to grow small and large cattle, processing hides, milk and meat products with the production of final products.

On April, 30, 1991, Ministry of Finance of KazSSR registered a joint Soviet-Afghan enterprise "KAZUNIVEST", the founders of which were the store #1 called "Universam", Alma-Ata sugar factory and the firm "Ata.M. Ghaznfvi Co Ltd "(Afghanistan) (AP RK, 1996: 28).

During the visit of the delegation of Gosnab of the KazSSRR in February 21 - 28, 1991 it was signed a contract with «Pars Group» company for Iran to supply 2 million sq. of linoleum and some consumer goods in exchange for asbestos, with "ITIC" - for the supply of 35 thousands of pieces of sanitary wares and signed a protocol of intentions to build, together with the Gosnab KazSSR, a factory of production of bathroom ceramics and ceramic tiles. The Iranian goods exhibition was held in July 1991 in the city of Alma-Ata, which was attended by 12 companies and state-owned enterprises of Iran, representing the interests of more than 600 organizations of the country (AP RK, 1996: 117).

The foreign trade turnover of the Republic of Kazakhstan with Iran in 1992 amounted to \$229 thousand, including exports of \$101 thousand, imports of \$128 thousand. The main export item was asbestos fiber. Kazakhstan buys sanitary ware, bathtubs, washbasins from Iranian firms. At that time four joint ventures were registered in Kazakhstan, the share of Iranian partners achieved 40%. Their specialization consisted in construction, installation and commissioning, processing and production of fur coats, fur products, and the production of medicines. Representatives of two Iranian firms «Pars Group» and «Shaver Investment» were accredited in Kazakhstan. They specialized on export of light industry, namely footwear, clothing, carpet products, were accredited in Kazakhstan.

During the visit of the official delegation of Iran led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Velayati, a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation between the Republics was signed. Also during the official visit of President Nursultan Nazarbayev (1992) to Iran, a number of documents were signed: the Declaration on mutual understanding and cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Protocol on the establishment of a joint commission on trade- economic, industrial and scientific-technical cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Ministry of Transport of Kazakhstan in June 1991 accepted the Iranian delegation and

as a result of their negotiations, a program for the development of the railway line in the territory of Iran, the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan with the aim of forming a trans-Asian highway was developed. In March 1992, a Memorandum on cooperation in the field of navigation was signed in Iran, and lately in May, at the invitation of the Iranian side, a group of Kazakh specialists took part in a conference on shipping in the Caspian Sea. The international maritime transport company «Aktau» was established, one of the founders of which was the Iranian shipping company «Dariye Khazar».

During the official government visit to Iran, a protocol was signed between the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Roads and Transport of Iran on the development of cooperation in the field of transport. The need for cooperation in the field of maritime transport, especially in the transport of goods in containers, packaged goods, bulk dry cargoes between the ports of the Caspian Sea, in particular, between the ports of Enzali and Nousher and Aktau, was highlighted. The Iranian side declared its readiness to accept imported goods of the RoK for transportation through its territory to European ports, ports of the Persian Gulf and back. In turn, the Kazakh port of Aktau declared in December 1992 its readiness to receive Iranian cargo and passenger vessels (AP RK, 1996: 1-3).

In February 1991, the delegation of Kazakhstan visited Iran, and in June 1991 Kazakhstan was visited by an Iranian delegation. At the end of November 1991, an Iranian delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, A.A. Velayati, was in Alma-Ata.

In January 1992, a governmental delegation from Iran arrived in Alma-Ata, which held talks on the opening of the Aktau-Anzami direct sea route and the construction of a Trans-Asian railways.

In the field of logistic, the International Moscow transport company «Aktau» was established, one of the founders of it was the Iranian shipping company «Dariya Khazar», as well as it had a mixed commission consisted of representatives of the Ministry of Transport of Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Highway and Transport of Iran for joint consideration of issues of mutual interest. At that time, protocols of intentions were established between the two countries on establishing direct banking relationships, setting up a Joint Venture, sending Kazakh students to study in Iran and others. For the first time from June 18 to 21, 1993, Days of Culture of Kazakhstan were held in Iran. The question of returning ethnical Kazakh of Iran

to their historical homeland was solved (AP RK, 1996: 89).

Since December 20, 1994, scheduled flights Almaty-Mashhad later Almaty-Teheran for commercial reasons began to operate.

The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran has allocated 20 educational places for studying in their universities for Kazakhstani students on a free basis in priority areas of the market economy. Between KazNU named after Al-Farabi and Tehran University signed a cooperation agreement. Specialists of the Institute of Monuments of Material Culture took part from November 6 to 11, 1993 at the 17th Conference of the Asian Association for the Original Craft in Tehran. The first Days of Kazakhstan Culture in Iran were successfully completed from 18 to 21 June, 1993 (AP RK, 1996: 17).

The progressive character of the development of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia allows us in the nearest future to hope that it will move to the level of strategic partnership. A new fundamental point in Kazakhstan's relations with the KSA is that the interaction based on the signed agreements has moved into the stage of long-term cooperation, as well as regular contacts will be in competence of agencies and organizations directly engaged in interaction process.

According to the instruction of the Internal Policy Department of the Office of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan and application of the Spiritual Board of Muslims of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kazakh Civil Aviation Administration carried out four charter flights in May-June, 1993 for travelling of ihrams to Mecca for religious Hajj along the route Almaty-Jeddah. These flights, for the first time in the history of civil aviation in the Republic of Kazakhstan, were carried out under the national flag and the name of the national airlines was "Kazakhstan Airlines" (AP RK, 1996: 23).

In early January, 1994, Saudi Arabia Prince Muhammad bin Bandar was on a private study tour in Kazakhstan. He expressed a desire to invest in Kazakhstan, primarily in the environmental field. As a result of negotiations with the Ministry of Ecology and Bioresources, an agreement between the Prince and the Ministry on the establishment of the "International Environmental Fund KazSaEF" with a statutory fund of US \$ 2 million was signed, that was a personal contribution of the Prince.

On January 14, 1994, a special Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers on the Establishment of this Fund was adopted. The main goal of the Foundation

is to preserve and increase the number and population of such species of birds as Mac-Queen's bustard and Falcon in Kazakhstan; determine content and effort, as well as provide technical equipment of the inspectorates for the protection of the Mac-Queen's bustard and the Falcon; carrying out research work.

By the same resolution, taking into account the Prince's contribution to the protection of rare bird species, it was allowed to him, as an exception, by the recommendation of the NAS of RK and in coordination with the Ministry of Ecobiosources, annually hunting with a Falcon for a Mac-Queen's bustard, remove of a Falcon within the established limits, which will be determined depending on the reproduction of these species of birds by the efforts of the Fund.

During the period from September 25 to September 28, 1994, the first official visit of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev in the KSA took place. A thorough conversation with King Fadh bin Abdul Aziz took place. Saudi Arabia has expressed its intention to worldwide encourage its companies and business circles to actively cooperate with Kazakhstan in various fields. The head of the Saudi state highly appreciated the balanced and pragmatic policy of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan aimed at ensuring peace and stability in Central Asia and in the CIS in general. The king was sympathetic to the integration efforts of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan within the framework of the CIS and supported his initiative on the CICA.

The General Agreement on cooperation in trade, economic, investment, technical and cultural fields, as well as on sports and youth affairs was signed.

Thus, the republic's multilateral cooperation with the countries of the East develops dynamically and progressively.

Conclusion

Kazakhstan has proven itself as a country with a market economy. The policy of President N. Nazarbayev gives credibility to our Republic by influential countries of the Middle East.

Kazakhstan and the Middle East countries have a wide range of experience: representation of companies and firms, joint projects, exhibitions of modern equipment, business presentations, Days of economy. A number of intergovernmental agreements, political consultations signed at the highest level.

Realization of large investment projects in energy, infrastructure, tourism, food sector,

banking, metallurgy and other industries serve mutual understanding between nations.

The potential of economic cooperation remains unresolved. However, the emergence of Kazakhstan as a new influential force on the international oil market puts in front the domestic diplomacy the task

of bringing mutual interests in line with the strategic goals of our country. And the Islamic factor, that presents in many conflict points near Kazakhstan's borders, requires bringing political component to the level of constant dialogue and regular consultations with the states of the Middle East.

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