

moba media

PO Box 4653
Portland OR
97208
1217 SW 19th
Portland OR
97205
(503) 223-1677

Marlene
McClinton

Stark
Cyprus
airport

Damascus
airport

Atiyeh

Stark

Atiyeh

Stark

Atiyeh

Stark

lounge

IN HOMELAND

Channel 2 KATU-TV

3/26/84

5:10

Oregon Governor Vic Atiyeh left Egypt today and returned to the homeland of his father in Syria. Atiyeh plans to visit Anar where his father was born and he also hopes to meet with Syrian President Assad.

Lisa Stark with the Governor's party reports from Damascus.

The trip from Egypt to Syria included this stop in Cyprus to change planes. The Governor could not fly direct since Egypt and Syria broke off diplomatic relation after Egypt signed the Camp David accords.

That signing was five years ago today. This hour stopover a reminder of the ever-present tensions in the Middle East but those tensions seemed far from the Governor's mind as he landed in Syria.

Well, here we are, back home. It's pretty nice.

Do you have any mixed feelings given the tension between the U.S. and Syria?

No, none at all. I have none.

Why is that?

Oh, I don't know. It's, my mission is different. I'd like to see better relations but it's more of my concern about war, people getting killed and that sort of thing more than it is a matter of diplomatic policy.

I think about individual human beings how much better their lives will be without war.

Aiyeh was greeted warmly by Syrian officials and then whisked to the opulent VIP lounge at the airport, the same room where Jesse Jackson announced his success in freeing captured Navy flyer Lieutenant Robert Goodman.

(MORE)

In Homeland, Chanel 2 KATU-TV, 3/26/84

S There to greet him was the Governor of Damascus, the Deputy Minister of Local Affairs and a number of relatives. Using Atiyeh's cousin as a translator, the Damascus Governor welcomed Atiyeh to Syria and said we hope you'll enjoy your tour and notice the progress we've made.

Atiyeh joked, is the progress because you're such a good Governor. (laughter)

Certainly Governor Atiyeh will notice many changes here. His last visit to Syria was at age six. That was 55 years ago. later this week, Atiyeh, his wife and son will travel to his father's native village of Amar Al Hoseth to look back at the family's roots.

For the Governor, this is a real homecoming but it's one he almost didn't get to make. The Syrian government was reluctant to officially welcome Atiyeh to this country because he was going on from here to Israel but Atiyeh's father is Syrian-born; so the Syrian government relented and as shown by today's red carpet treatment and polcie motorcade, the Syrians have truly welcomed Atiyeh into the country. In Damascus, Syria, Lisa Stark, Channel Two news.

M ton Lisa also reports this evening that the chances for Atiyeh meeting with President Assad are pretty good.

###