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# Three Atiyeh Aides To Mind The Store

By CLYDE JABIN

SALEM (UPI) — A trio of top aides will mind the store while Gov. Vic Atiyeh is on a month-long trade mission to the Middle East, but they plan to keep in touch with him on a regular basis by telephone.

Atiyeh left Tuesday for Washington, D.C., where he will pay courtesy visits to foreign embassies before departing Thursday for the Middle East.

Atiyeh plans to lead a trade mission to Saudia Arabia, Egypt, Israel and Syria. He also plans to visit with relatives in Syria, since his family originally came from that country, before returning to Oregon April 17.

While Atiyeh is out of the

country, the day-to-day running of the state will be handled by Gerry Thompson, his chief administrative assistant; Bob Oliver, his legal counsel, and Pat Amedeo, assistant for natural resources.

Oliver said the three top aides plan to continue regularly scheduled meetings with agency heads under the governor's directions to discuss matters and give them directions based on the governor's past policies.

He said he and Ms. Amedeo had worked with Atiyeh for five years and Ms. Thompson since 1981 and believe they have a pretty good understanding of his policy views.

"There will be a lot of routine things we'll take care

of in his absence," Oliver said.

One area where this applies is extraditions, Oliver explained. He said the 1983 Legislature gave him, as counsel, authority to sign extradition requests in criminal cases to other states while the governor is out of state.

He said the three aides might decide to take quick action in case of an emergency such as a flood or other disaster but would seek to contact Atiyeh as soon as possible to get further direction.

Ms. Amedeo said she also feels comfortable in making decisions on behalf of the governor, since she has worked with him a long time.

"It will not be a big problem," she said.

She said one area where they might have to get further guidance from Atiyeh would be where something new came up that they could rely on policy he previously set, but she said she did not expect that to occur very often.

Oliver said that previous to 1972, the president of the Oregon Senate became acting governor when the chief executive left the state. He said the law was changed so that the governor maintains his authority, even when he leaves Oregon on a trip.