

# Atiyeh will return early from Middle East mission

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Gov. Vic Atiyeh will return to Oregon from his Middle East trade mission earlier than planned, his top aide says.

Executive assistant Gerry Thompson said Tuesday that Atiyeh had decided not to duplicate his route and return to Egypt. Instead, he will leave Thursday from Tel Aviv, Israel, and arrive in Portland late that night, she said.

He originally was to return to Oregon next Tuesday.

"The change has been pending for some time, but he wanted to wait until he joined up with the group that was joining him in Israel so he

could discuss it with their leader to make sure it was amenable to them for him to depart early," Ms. Thompson said.

She also said Atiyeh wants to tend to state business.

"The governor is anxious to get back to state business and just felt there was no point in duplicating that portion of the trip" by returning to Egypt, she said.

Thompson said Atiyeh is "anxious to get back here, take care of the business at hand and then clear the decks again for another trade mission."

Atiyeh is scheduled to leave May 1 on a two-week trade mission to Taiwan and Korea.