



AN exhibition titled 'Religious Tolerance in Oman' was opened in Barcelona yesterday under the auspices of Shaikh Ahmed bin Saud al Siyabi, Secretary-General of the Ifta Office, in the presence of Shaikh Hilal bin Salim al Maamari, the Sultanate's Ambassador to Spain. Speeches on the occasion focused on the need to promote shared values among people with different religions. A documentary on religious tolerance in Oman was screened. The film, which featured various aspects of religious life, was well-received by the visitors of the month-long exposition who gained insight into the Sultanate's cultural diversity. The exhibition is addressing the new generations and encouraging them to begin a new stage of cultural exchange. — ONA

Sultanate encourages co-existence

Religious tolerance hailed

BARCELONA — An exhibition titled "Religious Tolerance in Oman" was opened here yesterday under the auspices of Shaikh Ahmed bin Saud al Siyabi, Secretary-General of the Ifta Office, in the presence of Shaikh Hilal bin Salim al Maamari, Sultanate's Ambassador to Spain.

Al Siyabi said that His Majesty Sultan Qaboos accorded special importance to religious tolerance, making the Sultanate an oasis of tolerance among religious, ethnic and cultural groups, a fact testified and commended by interna-

tional reports.

"This is not a strange thing in an Arab and Islamic country, like Oman, which derived its humanitarian approach from Islam's call for activating ethical and social values, including tolerance with non-Islamic groups," said Al Siyabi.

Al Siyabi pointed out that Omanis communicated in full transparency with all those who resided in the Sultanate's lands, offering them security and comfort in practising their religious rites. There is historical evidence that Omani religious scholars exchanged vis-

its with people who belonged to other religions and respected them, Al Siyabi added.

Speeches on the occasion focused on the need to promote shared values among people with different religions. They encouraged co-operation and peaceful co-existence and they stressed the importance of curbing clashes and violence.

The speakers said over the years, the image of Islam was tarnished by some sections of the media which tried to manipulate public opinion and its time to portray true values of Islam. — ONA (See also P2)