

INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATIONISTS DINNER MEETING—MARCH 16, 1988

ZIAD R. BEYDOUN—Biographical Sketch



Ziad R. Beydoun was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and received his B.A. (1948), M.A. (1953) and D.Phil. degrees in geology from Oxford University. He joined the Iraq Petroleum and Associated Companies in 1948, doing field work and subsurface geology in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Qatar, the Trucial States (UAE), Oman and the Aden Protectorate (South Yemen), where he was in charge of operations.

He later became Senior Geologist for S.E. Arabia. In 1961 he was seconded to Partex (the Gulbenkian interests) as Representative for S.E. Arabia but was primarily concerned with operations in Oman. In 1963, after discovery of commercial oil in Oman, he returned to Lebanon as Advisor on Natural Resources (hydrocarbons and minerals), Ministry of National Economy. Beydoun also joined the American University of Beirut (AUB) as Assistant Professor, later becoming an Associate Professor. He ultimately was named Chairman of the Department.

In 1966 Mr. Beydoun joined Marathon International Oil Company in London as Senior Geologist responsible for Middle East evaluations. In 1970 he returned to AUB as Professor of Geology and Chairman of the Department but continued to consult for Marathon during the summers. On leave of absence from AUB, he returned full time to Marathon's London office in 1985 as Middle East Geological Advisor and subsequently London Representative, New Ventures. In 1987 he became Scientific Director Designate for the UNDP/World Bank-Red Sea/Gulf of Aden regional hydrocarbons study project, which is awaiting final funding.

Ziad R. Beydoun has published some 20 scientific papers on various aspects of the geology of the Middle East (principally the Gulf of Aden region and the Levant), including a new book on the regional geology and petroleum resources of the Middle East. He is a Fellow in the Geological Society of London and an Active member of AAPG.

PETROLEUM HABITAT, NORTHERN MIDDLE EAST: A REVIEW

The area covered by this review encompasses the countries of the Fertile Crescent, extending from southern Iraq through southeast Turkey and Syria to the Mediterranean coast and Sinai. Thus far only Iraq is a major petroleum producer, with enormous proven and potential oil reserves. Syria, however, is emerging as an important potential oil and gas producer with rapidly growing reserves. Southeast Turkey, containing that country's only important petroleum basin, is a relatively modest producer but has potential in deeper Paleozoic targets. The remaining countries (Jordan and Israel) are either minor producers or have no established production (Lebanon). The history of petroleum exploration and the petroleum habitat of this region,

including source, reservoir, and seal formations in the different sub-basins are discussed. The tectonic evolution affecting the structuring and trap formation are touched upon, together with a review of the principal fields and potential plays.