

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

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IRAQ

SAUDI PROPOSAL FOR MUSLIM PEACE-KEEPING TROOPS IN IRAQ

At a press briefing on August 1, Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal explained that the Saudi proposal for Muslim peace-keeping troops in Iraq envisions four prior conditions for the participation of Muslim countries, Iraq's neighbors excluded:

- first, that the request come from the Iraqi government and with full and clear support from the Iraqi people;
- second, that the troops operate under the umbrella of the United Nations;
- third, that the troops replace the coalition forces currently present in Iraq and not be additional to them;
- and fourth, that the United Nations be responsible for the political process in Iraq, including the holding of elections to choose a new government.

Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Amr Musa was in Jeddah on August 1 to discuss the Saudi proposal. Meanwhile, King Fahd and Crown Prince Abdullah held talks in Jeddah last week with Prime Minister of Iraq Dr. Iyad Allawi as well as with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ AGREE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION

On July 29, Saudi Arabia and Iraq issued a joint statement on economic cooperation, agreeing to restore diplomatic representation, to work to develop cooperation in all fields, and to set up a Saudi-Iraqi businessmen's conference. The Kingdom also renewed its pledge to implement the one billion U.S. dollar program it had announced in support of the process of reconstruction in Iraq.

TERRORISM

SECURITY FORCES SEIZE WEAPONS IN RIYADH HOUSE

Security forces have seized, from a private residence in Riyadh, large quantities of weapons, including two rocket propelled grenades, four hand grenades, and a machine gun, as well as explosives, ammunition, and forged documents.

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