

SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE
INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE
ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA
IN WASHINGTON, DC

AUGUST 2, 2005

GOVERNMENT

DEATH OF KING FAHD; CROWN PRINCE ABDULLAH PROCLAIMED KING

The death of King Fahd bin Abdulaziz was announced on August 1, 2005. Crown Prince Abdullah was proclaimed King; he then designated Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz as Crown Prince.

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has been receiving messages of condolence from all over the world, including a phone call from U.S. President George W. Bush, who also issued a statement expressing his deep sorrow and describing the late King Fahd as a friend of the United States and a leader of wisdom who had earned the respect of the entire world.

One of the first orders issued by King Abdullah was a statement that all current members of the Council of Ministers will continue with their posts under his chairmanship as Prime Minister, with Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector-General, as Deputy Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, the Arab League has postponed the Summit scheduled to take place on August 3 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt.

The United Nations' General Assembly will hold a special session at some future date honoring King Fahd with observance of a moment of silence and speeches by delegates of member states. The UN flag is at half-mast.

Heads of state and leaders from all over the world attended funeral prayers for the late King Fahd on August 2 at Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque in Riyadh.

EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC OPENS CONDOLENCE BOOK

A condolence book is open for signing at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington DC at the following times: on August 2 from 1 to 4 pm, August 3 from 10 am to 4 pm, and on August 4 from 10 am to 4 pm. The Embassy is at 601 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., but access is from the main entrance on the other side of the building, on 25th and F.

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