

# *SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS*

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## **GOVERNMENT**

### **ASSURANCES OF CONTINUITY OF SAUDI POLICIES**

At the August 8 Cabinet meeting, King Abdullah reaffirmed that Saudi Arabia's foreign policy will remain the same, declaring his determination to work for "international peace and security, and the growth of the global economy".

At press briefings on August 3 and 7, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal attested to the fact that transfer of power had taken place smoothly and that there would be no change in the Kingdom's policies, either domestic or foreign. Saudi-U.S. relations, he said, will continue to be excellent. Saudi Arabia will remain open to the world while adhering to its deep-rooted traditions and values, and remain supportive of global peace and stability, honoring its bilateral and international commitments as well as respecting the principles, laws and resolutions of the United Nations, and preserving its close relations with friendly countries within the framework of the principles of mutual respect and non-interference in the domestic affairs of others.

### **KING ABDULLAH, CROWN PRINCE SULTAN RECEIVE CONDOLENCES**

Among the many foreign dignitaries who traveled to Riyadh to offer condolences on the August 1 death of King Fahd were U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney, former President George H.W. Bush, and former Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Meanwhile, ordinary people as well as government officials and ambassadors came to the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington DC to sign the condolence book.

### **KING ABDULLAH ORDERS PARDON FOR PRISONERS**

King Abdullah has ordered the pardon and release of three political activists: Ali Al-Domaini, Abdullah Al-Hamid and Matrouk Al-Faleh. Also pardoned were two Libyans detained in the Kingdom for their involvement, testified to by confirmed evidence, in a conspiracy against the Kingdom's stability and security.

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