

# *SAUDI ARABIA IN FOCUS*

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

*SEPTEMBER 20, 2005*

## **UNITED NATIONS**

### **CROWN PRINCE SULTAN ADDRESSES THE 60<sup>TH</sup> U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

In his address to the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the U.N. General Assembly September 15, Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz underlined the great importance Saudi Arabia places on sustainable development, and noted that the Kingdom has supported development efforts in 83 countries around the world. He urged developed nations to honor their commitment to contribute 0.7 percent of their GNP to development.

Crown Prince Sultan described terrorism as a global threat and called for a collective effort to combat it, including the creation of an International Counter-terrorism Center. He also stated Saudi Arabia's support for U.N. reform, as well as affirming the Kingdom's commitment to the Middle East peace process and reaffirming Iraq's territorial integrity and Arab identity.

The full text of Crown Prince Sultan's remarks can be found at [www.saudiembassy.net](http://www.saudiembassy.net).

## **ECONOMY**

### **CROWN PRINCE DISCUSSES OIL POLICY, ECONOMIC REFORM IN NY REMARKS**

In an address to the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council September 14, Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz began by extending his condolences to the American people for the losses incurred by Hurricane Katrina. The Crown Prince then said that Saudi Arabia shares the global concern over rising oil prices, and confirmed that the Kingdom is ready to do its best to ease shortages and meet demand. He also underscored the importance of dialogue between producers and consumers to achieve stability in international oil markets, as well as the importance of an enhanced role for the Energy Forum.

Turning to economic reform, the Crown Prince said that the Kingdom has launched a program designed to rationalize spending, develop the country's infrastructure, update education and training, lower the deficit and increase spending on vital areas such as health care and other programs to upgrade the standard of living for its citizens.

## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **PRINCE TURKI DISCUSSES REFORM IN CLINTON GLOBAL INITIATIVE ADDRESS**

In his address to the inaugural meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York September 16, Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Prince Turki Al-Faisal stressed the importance of realizing the goals of democracy by enabling citizens and other segments of the community to participate in the decision-making process. He noted that the

Kingdom has adopted a policy of gradual reform instead of imposing reform on society, and pointed out that the view of Saudi society towards women has been changed not by legislation, but by encouraging women to become educated and more aware of their rights in Islam.

At the conference, Prince Turki also met with former President Bill Clinton, who highlighted the existing friendly relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States.

## **TERRORISM**

### **KING ABDULLAH CALLS ON TERRORISTS TO SURRENDER**

In his weekly Cabinet meeting on September 19, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah said that the occasion of Saudi Arabia's National Day on September 23 is a renewed opportunity for the followers of the deviant group to reconsider and immediately surrender to authorities.

## **MIDDLE EAST**

### **CROWN PRINCE NOTES ARAB COMMITMENT TO PEACE**

In a September 16 interview with the **Associated Press**, Crown Prince Sultan said that the Kingdom is following Israel's withdrawal from Gaza "very closely," and that Israel should enact further withdrawals from Arab lands occupied since 1967. The Crown Prince also pointed out that the Arabs have reiterated their commitment to a just and lasting peace with the peace plan initiated by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah.

### **KINGDOM PLEDGES AID FOR PALESTINIANS**

Saudi Arabia on September 14 pledged over U.S. \$15.2 million to the Palestinian people for a number of educational programs to be administered under U.N. supervision. The programs include tuition grants for university and society college students, as well as scholarships for 30 students outside the West Bank and Gaza.

Saudi Arabia has provided all kinds of support for the Palestinian people through more than 36 relief programs and humanitarian projects at a total cost of over U.S. \$194 million. The projects include food and health programs in addition to repairing 2,545 houses and building 600 residential units in the West Bank and Gaza.

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