



JUNE 6, 2006

SAUDI ARABIA-US

Prince Turki addresses Nashville Chambers of Commerce, US students

In remarks to the Nashville Chambers of Commerce in Tennessee June 6, Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal said that the Kingdom's economic reforms over the last ten years have resulted in an unprecedented economic boom. He pointed out that there are investment opportunities worth over \$650 billion over the next 15 years in a variety of fields.

"In Saudi Arabia, we expect the partnerships we form, by working with others, will build bridges of understanding between our cultures for generations to come," he said. "Our common business will underscore our common interests and common goals."

On June 5, Prince Turki met with students from the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars at the Saudi Embassy. He discussed the responsibilities of his job as ambassador, and gave an overview of Saudi Arabia's role in the global community. Commenting on human rights, Prince Turki said that while the Kingdom has developed a great deal, it still has a ways to go, including suffrage for women. "We're not a perfect society. We recognize our faults and shortcomings, and we hope to rectify them," he said.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi relief aid to quake-stricken Indonesia remains ongoing

Saudi humanitarian relief for quake-stricken Indonesia remains ongoing, in line with directives of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. A fifth Saudi relief plane was dispatched June 6 carrying 70 tons of foodstuffs, tents and medical supplies. Immediately after the May 27 earthquake, King Abdullah extended \$5 million in urgent financial assistance to Indonesia.

Kingdom donates \$10 million to fight AIDS

Saudi Arabia has donated \$10 million to the United Nations Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced June 5. The Kingdom has previously donated \$10 million to the fund.

Kingdom donates food baskets to Palestinian families

A Royal Order has been issued for the Saudi Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People to provide 50,000 food baskets to Palestinian families in cooperation with the World Food Program. In 2004, the Committee provided 200,000 food baskets for more than 200,000 Palestinian families.

FOREIGN POLICY

Saudi-Egyptian talks focus on Palestinians, Iraq, Iran

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt May 31. The meeting was part of an ongoing effort to jump start the peace process, Egyptian spokesman Ambassador Suleiman Awad said June 1. Saudi Arabia and Egypt both called on the international community to respect the Palestinians' democratic choices and to avoid punishing them for those choices.

Turning to Iraq, King Abdullah and President Mubarak are eager for the political process in Iraq to succeed, and they both encourage national reconciliation among the various Iraqi factions, Awad said. On the Iranian nuclear crisis, both leaders called for a Middle East free of nuclear weapons.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen sign border agreement

At the June 2 Saudi-Yemeni Coordination Council in Yemen, the two countries signed a number of agreements, including the accreditation of the final Saudi-Yemeni border as per the Jeddah Border Treaty. The meeting was co-chaired by Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz and Prime Minister Abdulqadir Bajammal.

EDUCATION

Crown Prince lays foundation stone for high-tech private university

Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz laid the foundation stone for Al-Faisal University at a ceremony in Riyadh May 30. When completed, the university will be a world-class institution of higher learning with advanced academic facilities. It will have four faculties for science, business, medicine and engineering, and will be able to accommodate 4,000 students. English will be the language of instruction.

