



JULY 25, 2006

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah calls for a cease-fire in Lebanon

King Abdullah called on the international community to compel Israel to commit to a cease-fire in Lebanon, and warned that the crisis could cause a war in the region if it is not addressed.

“If the peace option fails due to the Israeli arrogance then only the war option remains, and no one knows the repercussions befalling the region, including wars and conflict that will spare no one,” the King said in the July 25 statement issued by the Royal Court.

The appeal was issued to the international community as a whole, in particular the United States, the statement said.

The Kingdom has from the beginning attempted to stop the aggression in Lebanon on various fronts, the statement noted. To that end, King Abdullah sent two personal envoys – Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal and Secretary-General of the National Security Council Prince Bandar bin Sultan – to the United States, Britain and Russia in order to deliver a message requesting a cease-fire.

As part of that effort, Prince Saud and Prince Bandar met with President Bush at the White House July 23 and with British Prime Minister Tony Blair July 25. Saudi Arabia will participate in a conference in Rome to discuss the current crisis.

FOREIGN AID

Kingdom donates \$500 million to Lebanon

Saudi Arabia has allocated \$500 million for reconstruction in Lebanon, the Royal Court announced July 25. King Abdullah has also directed that \$1 billion be deposited at the Lebanese central bank to support the Lebanese economy. The Kingdom has also allocated \$250 million for the reconstruction of Palestine.

The Kingdom is also holding a telethon to raise money for the Lebanese people. The fundraising campaign will be broadcast on July 26. And the Riyadh-based

Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) announced a donation of \$1 million to the victims of the war in Lebanon.

In addition to monetary donations, Saudi Arabia is also dispatching a fully equipped field hospital to Lebanon.

Kingdom provides humanitarian aid to Djibouti, Pakistan

On July 21, Saudi Arabia provided the drought-stricken African nation of Djibouti with over 100 tons of dates for the assistance of refugees in Djibouti. The Kingdom also gifted 300 tons of dates to Pakistan. The dates will be distributed to people affected by last October's earthquake.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Abdullah launches development projects in Taif, Baha

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz launched a number of education, health and transportation project in visits to Taif and Baha this week. The visits are part of his ongoing tour of the Kingdom.

The projects include the King Abdullah University for Sciences and Technology in Taif, Al-Baha University, technical and vocational training institutes, new roads, and a number of hospitals and health care centers.

