



AUGUST 8, 2006

FOREIGN POLICY

Kingdom stresses support for Lebanon, offers to host summit

The Cabinet stressed the Kingdom's support for the Lebanese and Palestinian people at its weekly meeting chaired by King Abdullah on August 7. The Cabinet called for a clear, firm Arab position on the situations in Lebanon and Palestine. The Cabinet also stated that current international efforts to contain the crisis are insufficient.

Also on August 7, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal said that Saudi Arabia is prepared to host an emergency Arab summit in Makkah to deal with the situation in Lebanon. Prince Saud issued the invitation on behalf of King Abdullah at the meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Beirut. He added that the Kingdom does not setting preconditions for the summit, but requests that it take place after thorough preparation and amid a clear Arab strategy that will bring about concrete results.

In Beirut, Prince Saud also called on Arab countries to stand by Lebanon and decisively support the Lebanese government's seven-point plan to end the crisis. This plan should be the basis of a UN resolution on the matter, he said.

Prince Saud had previously called for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon during his August 2 weekly press briefing. In the briefing, the Foreign Minister expressed his hope that the United States would change its position and support an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon. Prince Saud also said that he hoped the US would adhere to its principles in the case of Lebanon, as it is a democratic state suffering from unjustified, inhuman attacks.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi relief planes bring aid to Lebanon

Saudi relief planes have begun delivering much-needed humanitarian assistance to Lebanon. Two planes arrived in Lebanon August 1 carrying 24 tons of foodstuffs, medical supplies and tents. Two additional planes were dispatched August 2 with 50 tons of aid.

Saudi Arabia donates \$2 million to World Food Program for Lebanon

Saudi Arabia has donated \$2 million to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to support relief efforts in Lebanon, the WFP announced in a statement August 1. The \$2 million donation is part of the proceeds of the July 26 telethon to raise funds for Lebanon, which was broadcast live on Saudi TV. The fundraising campaign raised over \$29 million.

SABIC donates \$2.1 million to Lebanon

The Saudi Basic Industries Company (SABIC) has donated SR 8 million [\$2.1 million] to Lebanon. The donation is part of the fundraising campaign for Lebanon ordered by King Abdullah to provide humanitarian assistance to the Lebanese people.

