



SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **King Abdullah meets with UN secretary-general on Lebanon**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah September 4. Annan, who is currently on a tour of the Middle East, briefed King Abdullah on his talks with a number of regional leaders in the region. Then the two discussed regional developments, in particular the situation in Lebanon and the UN's role in implementing Security Council Resolution 1701 and achieving unity in Lebanon.

Talks also addressed the Middle East peace process and the situation in the Palestinian territories. King Abdullah told Annan that the Palestinian issue is at the root of the conflicts in the region, and its resolution would have a positive impact on Lebanon and Iraq.

In a joint press conference with Annan after the meeting, Prince Saud criticized the Israeli blockade of Lebanon, saying that it obstructs international efforts to provide aid and help rebuild Lebanon.

Prince Saud praised the strong international will to help Lebanon overcome its difficulties. He welcomed the outcome of the recent donors' conference in Stockholm, and said that such international support would help Lebanese authorities begin reconstruction immediately.

What is needed now is unity in Lebanon and a collective international effort to support the Lebanese government in its efforts to extend its authority throughout the country and assure stability, Prince Saud said. The foreign minister made a similar call for international support for Lebanon in an August 29 meeting with the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Saudi Arabia.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Kingdom provides \$5 million in food aid to Lebanon**

Saudi Arabia today signed a cooperation agreement with the World Food Program (WFP) Sept. 4 to provide \$5 million in food aid to Lebanon. The aid,

which will be distributed by the WFP, is being funded through the Saudi Popular Campaign for the Lebanese People.

Meanwhile, a new shipment of Saudi relief aid arrived in Beirut Sept. 4. Sixteen trucks and trailers carrying foodstuffs, medicine, and medical equipment traveled to Lebanon overland across Syria. Saudi Red Crescent officials in Beirut will distribute the aid to those in need.

### **Saudi field hospital in Beirut treats 21,000 in its first month**

The Saudi field hospital in Beirut has provided medical care to more than 21,000 patients since its opening July 31, director Saud Alomani said August 31.

On Sept. 4, the hospital kicked off a blood drive The Saudi field hospital in Beirut will launch a blood drive tomorrow as part of its efforts to provide medical care to Lebanese affected by the recent violence in the country.

