



OCTOBER 3, 2006

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

King Abdullah holds talks with Secretary Rice

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met October 2 with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was in Saudi Arabia for a brief official visit. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the region, in particular the Palestinian issue, Lebanon and Iraq.

On October 3, Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal held a joint press conference with Secretary Rice.

Prince Saud said that the talks focused on Palestinian-Israeli conflict and its repercussions on the entire region. These repercussions include other crises in the region as well as terrorism, he noted.

He remarked that Secretary Rice's frequent visits to the region exemplify the attention devoted by the US to the issue and its interest in exploring ways to revive the peace process.

The Saudi-US talks also reviewed the situation in Lebanon and emphasized the importance of stability in that country.

On Iraq, Prince Saud said that the deteriorating situation there is a source of anxiety for Iraq's neighbors. He expressed the hope that the national reconciliation program announced by the Iraqi Prime Minister would be implemented. Prince Saud also urged Iraq's neighbors to take responsibility for helping Iraq enhance the pillars of security and stability through noninterference in its domestic affairs.

The Saudi-US talks also touched on nuclear proliferation in the region, the foreign minister said. He reiterated Saudi Arabia's oft-stated position that the region should be free of weapons of mass destruction, and that the question of Iran's nuclear program should be settled through peaceful negotiations.

Saudi Ambassador visits Imam Al-Khoei Islamic Center in New York

Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal visited the Imam Al-Khoei Islamic Center in the New York City suburb of Jamaica September 29. At the center, he met with the board of directors of the Imam Al-Khoei Foundation, imams and Saudi students in the New York area. He also attended an iftar.



In remarks on the occasion, Prince Turki underscored the importance of Islamic solidarity. He noted King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz's comment at the extraordinary Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in December that Islamic unity would be realized through strong belief, genuine love and sincerity in both word and deed.

Prince Turki also drew attention to the summit's final communiqué, which stressed the importance of fighting extremism that exists under the guise of religion or ideology as well as the need to enhance the pillars of moderation and tolerance.

FOREIGN POLICY

Cabinet calls for revival of the Middle East peace process

In its October 2 meeting, the Cabinet stressed the urgent need for the current effort to advance the peace process in the Middle East. The Cabinet also called for effective steps to end the economic blockade imposed on the Palestinians, an end to the ongoing Israeli violations in the occupied Palestinian territories and a concrete international effort to protect the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights to an independent state.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi relief plane arrives in Lebanon

A Saudi cargo plane arrived in Lebanon October 3 carrying 12 tons of food and medical supplies donated by the Saudi Red Crescent Society. The relief aid is part of the Kingdom's ongoing aid to Lebanon.

