



OCTOBER 17, 2006

## SAUDI ARABIA-US

### **Saudi ambassador calls for more US involvement in the peace process**

In remarks to the American Task Force on Palestine Gala in Washington October 11, Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal called for greater US involvement in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

He warned that there will be no lasting peace in the Middle East without a resolution to the conflict, and stressed that it is incumbent upon leading powers – including Saudi Arabia and the United States – to move both Palestinians and Israelis towards peace.

Saudi Arabia understands its role as “a voice of reason and moderation,” Prince Turki said. The Kingdom has worked to gather support for the peace process in the Arab world. To that end, the Kingdom still believes that the best option for peace lies with the Arab Peace Initiative proposed by King Abdullah in 2002.

The United States must act as well. “It is time for the United States to take action and do what it has been talking about within the framework of the Road Map,” Prince Turki said.

Prince Turki also called on the United States to change its Middle East policy. “The political reality is that, in terms of public opinion, US standing in the Middle East is at its all time low,” he said. “Something must be done to reverse that, lest it continue to fuel tensions and bring about new problems. Action needs to be taken, and US policy towards the Middle East needs to change.”

Prince Turki said that he was encouraged by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice’s recent remarks as well as by conversations between the Saudi and US governments. “But encouragement is not enough,” he warned. “When it comes to Middle East peace, hope is too easily dashed.”

### **Prince Turki visits Delaware as part of outreach program**

On October 17, Prince Turki visited Wilmington, Delaware as part of an ongoing outreach program in the United States. At the Tower Hill School, he spoke about the importance of resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and met with a select group of students for discussions.

The ambassador also addressed the World Affairs Council of Wilmington during his visit. In his remarks to the group, he outlined various economic, political and social steps the Kingdom has taken to reform and highlighted the enduring Saudi-US relationship.

"We've gone through difficult periods and easy periods, and it will continue to be this way," Prince Turki said of Saudi-US relations. "But this is the nature of any relationship, whether between friends or between countries. Ultimately, we always return to seeing the real reason why we stick it out with one another: Quite simply, we work well together."

During his visit to Wilmington, Prince Turki was also presented with a key to the city by State Representative Joseph DiPinto.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Kingdom continues to provide humanitarian aid to Lebanon**

As part of the Kingdom's ongoing relief assistance to Lebanon, a relief convoy of 15 trucks left Riyadh October 15 loaded with medicines and foodstuffs. The convoy will also bring needed supplies to the Saudi field hospital in Beirut. Additional medical aid was provided by the Saudi Red Crescent Society, which turned over three ambulances to charitable societies in Tyre on October 12.

In related news, on October 15 Saudi Arabia provided financial support for charities in Lebanon. The funds will be used to help the poor and for reconstruction.

### **Saudi telethon raises more than \$15 million for tsunami victims in Asia**

An October 14 telethon to raise funds for orphans and other victims of the 2004 tsunami in southeast Asia raised more than \$15.2 million. The telethon was broadcast on Saudi TV's Channel 1. King Abdullah donated \$2.7 million to the campaign, and Crown Prince Sultan donated \$1.3 million.

### **Kingdom to provide 4,000 houses to Pakistan quake victims**

On October 13, Saudi Arabia agreed to provide 4,000 prefabricated houses to victims of the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan. The houses will be built in Balakot, Pakistan in the next four months at a cost of \$16.7 million. They can be moved and reassembled 18 times and last an average of 20 years.

