



DECEMBER 12, 2006

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **GCC Supreme Council meeting held in Riyadh**

The the 27th summit of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) took place in Riyadh December 9 and 10. The summit was known as the "Sheikh Jaber Summit" in honor of the late Kuwaiti emir Sheikh Jaber Al-Sabah.

In opening remarks at the summit, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz noted that the region is beleaguered with dangers and that it is a powder keg awaiting an igniting spark. He noted that crises in Iraq, Lebanon and the Palestinian situation require the Arab Gulf region to act together and speak with one voice. The King also called for more progress toward GCC economic integration.

In a final communiqué, the GCC Supreme Council called on Iran to continue dialogue and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). It also urged Iran to consider the environmental aspects of the issue.

In addition, the Council commissioned a joint study on the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes according to international criteria and regulations.

The communiqué also addressed regional crises. It urged unity in Iraq and Palestine, and called for the convention of an international conference aimed at restarting the peace process on the basis of the Abdullah peace plan and the Road Map for peace. It highlighted the GCC's firm renunciation of terrorism in all its forms, and stressed that all peoples are responsible for confronting the causes of terrorism.

## SAUDI ARABIA-US

### **Prince Turki Al-Faisal visits Philadelphia, Princeton**

Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal visited Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Princeton, New Jersey this past week.

On December 6, Prince Turki discussed Middle East stability at the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Commenting on Iran's nuclear ambitions, Prince Turki stressed the Kingdom's oft-stated position that the Middle East should be a

nuclear-free zone, including Israel. He also remarked that the Kingdom continues direct dialogue with Iran.

Turning to Iraq, Prince Turki said that the Kingdom continues to work to bring stability to Iraq, and that a solution must come from within the country. On Lebanon, he reiterated the Kingdom's support for the people of Lebanon, and called for Israeli withdrawal from the country.

Prince Turki also underscored the importance of resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which lies at the heart of the region's conflicts. He urged the United States and the international community to focus its efforts on restarting the peace process in line with the Abdullah Peace Plan and the Road Map.

In remarks at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs December 8, Prince Turki outlined steps the Kingdom has taken to ensure that its educational system meets the needs of today's global community.

First, Saudi Arabia is upgrading and modernizing its educational curriculums, including removing materials that are perceived as intolerant, he said. Second, Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in its educational system through increased funding for higher education and the establishment of new schools at all levels throughout the country. Finally, he noted that the Kingdom is emphasizing cultural exchange in order to broaden its citizens' horizons, including scholarship programs for study abroad.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### **Omani conjoined twins to be brought to the Kingdom**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has directed that Omani conjoined twins be brought to the Kingdom for possible separation surgery at the National Guard's King Abdulaziz Medical City. The King's generous gesture includes transportation for the twin baby girls from Oman, medical tests and hosting their parents while in Saudi Arabia.

To date, 12 sets of conjoined twins have been successfully separated in the Kingdom, nine at King Abdulaziz Medical City. Most recently, Iraqi conjoined twins Fatima and Zahra were separated by a team of 30 doctors in an 18-hour surgery on December 3.

