



JANUARY 16, 2007

## SAUDI ARABIA-US

### **King Abdullah holds talks with Secretary Rice**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at Rowdhat Khuraim, near Riyadh, January 15. The talks focused on the new US strategy for Iraq, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the dangers of nuclear proliferation to the region and the importance of reducing tensions in Lebanon.

After the conclusion of the talks, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal held a joint press conference with Rice in Riyadh. Prince Saud said that the Kingdom agrees with President Bush that a new strategy with a clear purpose is needed for Iraq. He also expressed the hope that the new US strategy for Iraq would achieve security and unity there.

"We hope that President Bush's plan goes forward to achieve these objectives in view," Prince Saud said. "We hope to support the plan by resuming the Iraqi national accord conference in response to the efforts of the Arab League in view of the situation in Iraq of impact on the security and stability of the region and entire world."

He also noted, "In supporting the plan, the plan has objectives. The details of how to implement those objectives I don't think we can cover in one night of discussions, so we really cannot comment on what the means will be applied for this. But a lot of responsibility, as his speech explained, lies on the Iraqi Government itself so it depends on what program the Iraqi Government puts that the details will be clarified."

Prince Saud added that the Saudi-US talks also dealt with developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in light of Secretary Rice's recent meetings with Palestinian and Israeli leaders. He welcomed the United States' renewed commitment to the peace process and to resolving the conflict.

### **Kingdom not asked to mediate between Iran and the US**

Saudi Arabia has denied media reports that it was asked by the Iranian government to mediate between Iran and the US. "The two sides have enough of negotiations and know each other well, which enables them with goodwill, to find a peaceful solution to any differences that exist," Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-

Faisal said in a press conference with Secretary of State Rice January 16. "We are not undergoing any form of mediation on this issue."

### **Saudi Ambassador visits Utah as part of outreach**

Saudi Ambassador to the US Prince Turki Al-Faisal visited Utah as part of his outreach tour of America. During his visit, he met with Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. January 12 to discuss Saudi-US relations as well as issues of mutual interest.

Prince Turki also discussed Saudi-US relations in remarks at Brigham Young University on January 11 and the University of Utah's Hinckley Institute of Politics on January 12. In both speeches, he highlighted the strength of the relationship between the two countries. He also stressed that both nations must continue to cooperate on a range of critical issues facing the region and the world, including the right against terrorism, Iraq, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Lebanon, Afghanistan as well as energy security.

## **FOREIGN AID**

### **Kingdom provides aid to Indonesia, Palestinians**

On January 14, the first Saudi relief plane left Riyadh for Indonesia carrying 80 tons of tents, foodstuffs and medical supplies. The aid is in line with directives of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz to provide relief assistance to the victims of floods and landslides in Indonesia.

The Kingdom has also provided school supplies to Palestinian students. The Saudi Popular Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People began distributing 120,000 bags of supplies to students in the Gaza Strip on January 11 in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

