



MAY 8, 2007

FOREIGN POLICY

Sudan and Chad sign reconciliation agreement in Saudi Arabia

On May 3, Sudan and Chad signed an agreement pledging political, economic and social cooperation between the two countries. They also agreed to support international efforts to stabilize the Darfur region of Sudan and the neighboring border areas in eastern Chad.

Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir and the President of Chad, Idriss Deby, signed the accord at a reconciliation conference hosted by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz at the royal ranch in Janadriyah.

In the agreement, Sudan and Chad agreed to develop bilateral relations in all areas. They pledged to respect each other's sovereignty and integrity, and agreed not to interfere in each other's internal affairs or harbor opposition groups of each party.

The two countries also agreed to support African Union and United Nations efforts to bring stability to Darfur and the surrounding areas on the Sudanese-Chadian border.

Foreign Minister concerned by the deteriorating situation in Iraq

In remarks at the international conference on Iraq in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt May 3, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal expressed concern at the deteriorating situation in Iraq. Bringing stability and security to Iraq requires eliminating violence and terrorism and reviving the state institutions, he said.

Prince Saud affirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to provide \$1 billion for reconstruction in Iraq, and said that the Saudi Development Fund has been in contact with Iraqi officials on the matter. He also reiterated that Saudi Arabia is considering forgiving Iraq's debt. On a humanitarian level, the Kingdom will continue extending aid to Iraq, he said.

The minister underscored the importance of extricating Iraq from its current situation in a way that allows it to preserve its unity, sovereignty and independence. Moreover, Saudi Arabia views all Iraqis equally, regardless of religion or ethnicity, and continues to advocate a policy of nonintervention in Iraqi internal affairs.

While in Sharm El-Sheikh, Prince Saud met with a number of foreign ministers, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, for talks about Iraq's reconstruction and the Middle East peace process. The Saudi foreign minister also attended a May 5 meeting of the Quartet and the Arab League committee charged with promoting the Arab Peace Initiative.

