



APRIL 4, 2006

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah holds talks with Arab leaders

King Abdullah held talks with key Arab leaders last week to discuss crucial regional issues. He paid separate state visits to Egypt and Jordan, where he met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Abdullah II of Jordan respectively to discuss the situations in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, as well as Iran's nuclear program.

During their meeting in Egypt, President Mubarak also briefed King Abdullah on the outcome of Quartet summit held in Sharm El-Sheikh June 25.

King Abdullah also met with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora in Jeddah June 30 to discuss the latest developments in Lebanon.

King Abdullah comments on key foreign policy issues in interview

Prior to his state visit to Jordan June 27, King Abdullah discussed a number of critical regional issues facing the Middle East region in an interview with the Jordanian newspaper *Al-Rai*.

In the interview, King Abdullah urged the Palestinian leadership to act wisely and live up to its responsibility towards the Palestinian people. The King noted that during his recent state visits to Spain, France and Poland, he found support for the Arab Peace Initiative to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Regarding Lebanon, he called on the various political factions there to resolve their differences through negotiation, and denounced any intervention that widens the gap between the Lebanese factions.

On Iraq, the King said that Saudi Arabia is concerned about the situation in the country, adding that the Kingdom will continue supporting the Iraqi people in any way possible. He stressed the importance of reducing tension in Iraq and noted that the future of Iraq must be determined by the Iraqis. In addition, the Kingdom has not ruled out hosting a reconciliation meeting for the various Iraqi factions if such a meeting would be useful, he said.



FOREIGN AID

Saudi Arabia's King launches residential complex in Jordan

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Jordan's King Abdullah II launched the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Residential City in a ceremony at the Basman Palace in Amman, Jordan on June 28. The Saudi King was in Jordan for a two-day state visit.

Located in Al-Zarqa Province near Amman, the residential city will include 70,000 housing units that can accommodate more than 370,000 people. Once completed, the city will be Jordan's largest residential development project.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Interior Minister briefs Shura Council on counterterrorism efforts

On July 1, Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz briefed the Shura (Consultative) Council on the Kingdom's counterterrorism efforts.

Prince Nayef praised the Saudi security forces, noting that authorities have foiled a number of dangerous terrorist plots. If only ten percent of these plots had come to fruition it would have caused disaster, he added. He again called on the Kingdom's ulema, intellectuals and the media to do their part to confront the deviant thought.

Commenting on the judicial process for the militants, Prince Nayef said that some of the militants have already been sentenced and that the Ministry of Justice is in the process of assigning judges to additional cases in Riyadh and Jeddah.

In a press conference after the briefing, Prince Nayef said that efforts are underway to establish security units for oil facilities.

