



JULY 24, 2007

FOREIGN POLICY

Saudi Arabia welcomes President Bush's Middle East initiative

On July 17, Saudi Arabia welcomed President George W. Bush call for the convention of an international peace conference this fall to move towards a two-state solution. The president also pledged US aid for the government of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

In a statement, the Kingdom praised the "significant positive points" mentioned by President Bush, including the end of the occupation, the creation of a viable Palestinian state, as well as the issues of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees. These points are consistent with the Arab Peace Initiative, the statement said.

Saudi Arabia also expressed the hope that this fall's international conference would address the core issues of the conflict and not settle for the type of partial solutions that have failed in the past.

The Kingdom stressed the importance of a unified Palestinian and Arab approach if there is to be real progress in moving towards peace.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi field hospital staff leave Pakistan after two years

The medical staff of the Saudi field hospital in Pakistan have returned to the Kingdom after two years. Saudi Arabia established the hospital in Mansehra, North-West Frontier Province shortly after the October 2005 earthquake that devastated the area.

In remarks July 20, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Ali Asseri praised the staff and expressed pride that nearly a million patients have visited the hospital for treatment since its establishment. The ambassador noted that the Saudi Popular Campaign for the Pakistani People would remain in the country and continue to provide humanitarian assistance as long as necessary.

The hospital holds 40 beds and is furnished with state-of-the-art medical equipment. It is equipped with an emergency room, ICU, two operation rooms, five general clinics, a gynecology clinic, ENT clinic, dressing room, laboratory and pharmacy. In November 2006, Saudi Arabia handed the field hospital over to the Pakistani government.



ECONOMY

Kingdom to infuse ITFC with \$30 million

On July 23, the Cabinet approved a \$30 million contribution to the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC). The funds will come from the General Investment Fund.

The ITFC, a subsidiary of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) group, aims to develop export and import markets among IDB member countries. Its capital totals \$3 billion.

