



SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah consults with Arab leaders, Blair on Middle East peace

King Abdullah reviewed the Middle East peace process with several world leaders as well as international peace envoy Tony Blair this week.

On September 1, the King met with King Abdullah II of Jordan in Jeddah for talks about the peace process as well as the situations in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon. In addition, the King discussed the Middle East in telephone calls with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In related news, King Abdullah hosted Quartet Middle East envoy Tony Blair at in Jeddah September 3. They discussed developments regarding the peace process and efforts to achieve a fair and comprehensive peace in the region in line with international resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

The meeting with Blair was also attended by National Security Council Secretary-General Prince Bandar bin Sultan and Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel Al-Jubeir. Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz met separately with the former British prime minister.

GCC foreign ministers welcome conference on Palestine

The Middle East peace process was a major topic on the agenda when the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met in Jeddah September 1 under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nizar Madani.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the ministers called for a just and comprehensive peace within the framework of the Arab Peace Initiative. They expressed support for an international conference on Palestine as proposed by President George W. Bush, and urged all concerned parties to attend. The ministers also welcomed President Bush's call for an independent Palestinian state, a halt to settlements and an end to Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory.

Regarding other issues, the ministers called for national dialogue and unity in Lebanon and welcomed the deployment of a joint UN-African Union force in Darfur. On Iraq, the ministers stressed the importance of supporting efforts to achieve national reconciliation as well as a national unity government that represents all Iraqis.



Saudi diplomatic mission visits Iraq

A Saudi diplomatic delegation representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived in Baghdad August 28 to study the possibility of reopening a Saudi embassy in Iraq.

In a September 1 press conference, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Madani said the Saudi delegation has submitted a report and that it is being studied.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal announced that the Kingdom would send a delegation to Iraq to explore the possibility of reopening a Saudi embassy there in an August 1 press conference.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi airlift of relief supplies to Sudan concludes

A third Saudi relief plane was dispatched to Sudan August 30, concluding the Saudi airlift to provide urgent aid to victims of heavy rains and flooding there. The plane carried 69 tons of relief materials. Two other relief planes arrived in Sudan earlier this week carrying foodstuffs, tents and blankets.

The airlift is part of a Saudi aid package to Sudan that was announced last week. The package also includes a \$20 million grant to meet victims' immediate needs.

