



SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **King Abdullah meets with leaders of Qatar and Lebanon**

On September 18, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora at the royal palace in Jeddah to discuss the latest developments in Lebanon as well as areas of bilateral cooperation. On September 23, the King met with Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani in Jeddah for talks focused on Gulf, Arab, Islamic and international issues.

### **Foreign minister attends meetings on the fringes of UN session**

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal is currently in the United States to head the Saudi delegation to the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. While in New York, he has participated in a number of meetings held on the fringes of the UN session.

Prince Saud has also met separately with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as well as the foreign ministers of Spain, Iraq, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, China, Russia, Italy and Greece.

In addition, the Saudi foreign minister has attended meetings of the Arab Peace Initiative committee to discuss this fall's international peace conference on Palestine as well as ministerial meetings on Iraq and Darfur.

### **Prince Saud highlights need for Iraqi unity in NPR interview**

While in New York, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal gave an interview to National Public Radio's Jacki Lyden in which he stressed the importance of achieving a national reconciliation in Iraq.

In the interview, which aired on the September 22 broadcast of *All Things Considered*, Prince Saud said that the Kingdom has participated in a meeting of Iraq's neighboring countries that called for non-intervention in Iraq. "It is an essential matter to practice self-control and to avoid intervention in the Iraqi affairs because intervention will further complicate the situation in Iraq," he said.

Saudi Arabia supports Iraqi unity, Prince Saud noted. He stressed that that partitioning the country would cause enduring unrest in Iraq and its neighboring countries and pave the way for more bloodshed.

Commenting on the upcoming international peace conference on Palestine, Prince Saud said that official invitations have not been extended and that the details of the conference are still under study. "Numerous details need to be studied to guarantee tackling the problem of peace in the Middle East in a comprehensive manner," the Saudi foreign minister said.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### **Saudi Arabia celebrates 77th National Day**

On September 23, Saudi Arabia observed its 77th National Day, which marks the anniversary of the founding of the modern Kingdom by King Abdulaziz Al-Saud in 1932.

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz received congratulatory cables from world leaders in honor of the occasion. Saudi embassies around the world also hosted special celebrations.

During the weekly Cabinet meeting on September 24, King Abdullah said that National Day is a reminder of the basic principles on which the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded. These principles include adherence to Islam, which advocates the values of responsibility, equality, solidarity, justice, and harmony, he said. Moreover, National Day harks back to the bravery, courage, and strength of belief shown by the generation that founded the modern state.

### **Cabinet approves multiple-entry business visas**

On September 17 the Cabinet approved a measure making it easier for foreign businessmen to visit the Kingdom. This measure allows Saudi embassies, consulates and point-of-entry immigration authorities to issue business visas without requiring a letter of invitation or sponsorship from a Saudi host. The visas will be multiple entry and valid for 12 months.

### **Saudi Arabia elected to IAEA Board of Governors**

Saudi Arabia has been elected to the 35-member International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors for 2006-2007. The election was held September 20 at the IAEA's 51st Annual General Conference in Vienna, Austria. Also elected to the board were Albania, Algeria, Ecuador, Ghana, Iraq, Ireland, Lithuania, Mexico, Philippines, and Switzerland.



