



*FEBRUARY 19, 2008*

## SAUDI-US RELATIONS

### **Foreign minister meets with President Bush at the White House**

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal met with President George W. Bush at the White House in Washington February 15.

The meeting focused on a wide range of regional issues, including the peace process, Lebanon, and the president's visit to the Middle East last month, which included a stop in Saudi Arabia.

Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley, and Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel A. Al-Jubeir also attended the meeting.

## FOREIGN POLICY

### **Cabinet urges US, UN to move the Middle East peace process forward**

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting in Rawdhat Khuraim February 18. The Cabinet condemned Israel for its ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people as well as its construction of new settlements in East Jerusalem, a policy that undermines the peace process.

The Cabinet also denounced Israel's military escalation and the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza's Bureij refugee camp. It called on the UN, the US and the international community as a whole to stop Israel's aggression and move the peace process forward.

### **Cabinet ratifies UN protocol on illicit weapons**

This week the Cabinet also ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, part of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

### **Foreign Ministry issues travel advisory for Lebanon**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has advised Saudi citizens to avoid travel to Lebanon in light of the unstable political and security situation there. The advisory is in line with Saudi Arabia's desire to ensure the safety of its citizens planning travel abroad. The Ministry has also urged Saudi citizens currently

residing in Lebanon to take precautionary measures when they travel around the country.

### **Visit by Crown Prince of Luxembourg to boost trade**

Crown Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg paid a four-day visit to the Kingdom this week. The Crown Prince, who is accompanied by a 30-member trade delegation, aimed to boost trade between Luxembourg and Saudi Arabia.

Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz met with Crown Prince Guillaume at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh February 17. During his visit, Crown Prince Guillaume also met with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Al-Naimi, Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr. Hashim Al-Yamani, Minister of Economy and Planning Dr. Khalid Al-Gosaibi and businessmen at the Riyadh and Jeddah Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

## **FOREIGN AID**

### **Kingdom sends relief aid to Tajikistan**

Saudi Arabia has begun an airlift to Tajikistan to aid people affected by severe cold weather.

The first plane in the Saudi airlift arrived in Dushanbe February 17 carrying 10 tons of relief materials, including blankets, carpets and foodstuffs. In total, the airlift is expected to deliver 80 tons of relief supplies.

The Saudi relief package to Tajikistan also includes a \$10 million grant.

### **Saudi Arabia to train Iraqi doctors**

King Abdullah has directed the National Guard Health Affairs to host 48 Iraqi doctors for intensive training in treating accident victims.

In a February 13 statement Executive Director-General of Health Affairs for the National Guard Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabiea' said that preparations are already underway to receive the Iraqi doctors and begin the training this weekend.

The doctors will undergo one week of intensive training, and then an additional group of 12 doctors will come to the Kingdom for training to become qualified instructors in Iraq.

