



MARCH 25, 2008

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

King Abdullah meets with Vice President Cheney

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and Vice President Richard Cheney held a meeting at the royal ranch at Al-Janadriyah March 21. Cheney paid a brief official visit to Saudi Arabia as part of a tour of the Middle East.

During the talks, King Abdullah and Cheney discussed ways to boost bilateral cooperation as well as regional issues, including Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon. They held a follow-up meeting later in the day to continue talks. King Abdullah also hosted a luncheon in Cheney's honor and presented his guest with the King Abdulaziz Sash.

Jeddah Community College signs accord with Louisiana institution

The Jeddah Community College (JCC) signed an agreement for scientific and academic cooperation with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) on March 23. JCC is a part of King Abdulaziz University.

ENERGY POLICY

Kingdom reaffirms desire to ensure oil market stability, supplies

In a meeting March 23, the Supreme Council of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs reiterated Saudi Arabia's desire for oil market stability and maintaining supplies to all regions at all times to ensure global economic growth. The meeting was chaired by King Abdullah.

The Council expressed satisfaction with the progress of Saudi efforts to expand production and refining capacity in order to help meet global demand. It also renewed the Kingdom's commitment to coordinating with OPEC and non-OPEC countries as well as consuming countries in order to ensure the stability of oil markets and avoid the effects of harmful speculation.

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah calls for interfaith meeting

On March 24, King Abdullah called for a meeting of monotheistic religions in order to solve the pressing problems facing humanity.



He made the remarks at a reception for delegates of a Japanese-Islamic cultural dialogue forum in Riyadh.

The King emphasized the need for people of all faiths to return to God and confront the spread of atheism, the disintegration of the family structure and an overall lack of ethics.

He said that he presented the idea of holding an interfaith meeting to Islamic scholars in Saudi Arabia and that they approved it. He also discussed the idea with Pope Benedict XVI at their November 2007 meeting.

Cabinet highlights the Kingdom's role in supporting Arab unity

In a March 24 meeting chaired by King Abdullah, the Cabinet stressed the Kingdom's role in supporting the unity of the Arab world and defending the issues of the Islamic nation.

It affirmed that the best way to deal with the Arab and Muslim issues is approach them with sincerity and clarity, adhering to charters and covenants giving priority to the national interest rather than external alliances, and utilizing international relations in a way that serves the country and the Islamic nation.

These principles are the basis of the Kingdom's position on developments in Palestine, events in Iraq, and the polarization in Lebanon that prevents the country's political stability and national independence, the Cabinet said.

Kingdom to attend Arab League Summit

Saudi Arabia's Permanent Representative to the Arab League Ambassador Ahmed Kattan will lead the Kingdom's delegation at the upcoming Arab League Summit in Damascus.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi relief aid sent to Tajikistan

This week, three Saudi relief planes delivered over 32 tons of supplies to Tajikistan to aid people affected by severe cold weather.

The Saudi airlift to Tajikistan began February 17. Since then, 11 planes have delivered more than 112 tons of relief assistance. The Saudi relief package to Tajikistan also included a \$10 million grant.

