



APRIL 8, 2008

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah meets with Kuwaiti Emir, foreign officials

King Abdullah held talks with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah in Riyadh April 5. The talks focused on regional and international developments, as well as ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation in all areas.

On April 6, King Abdullah met with Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado in Riyadh to discuss issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal held separate talks with Amado on international issues and bilateral cooperation.

This week, King Abdullah also met with the Speaker of the Polish Senate, Bogdan Borusewicz, and Jozefina Topalli, the Speaker of the Albanian parliament.

UN humanitarian chief briefs King Abdullah on global relief efforts

On April 6, King Abdullah met with Sir John Holmes, the United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh.

During the meeting, Holmes briefed King Abdullah on the UN's relief efforts. Foreign Minister Prince Saud met separately with Holmes.

Cabinet highlights Saudi support for Palestinians, Iraq

During the weekly Cabinet meeting April 7, King Abdullah stressed Saudi Arabia's unwavering support for the Palestinian people, their rights and national unity. On Iraq, the Cabinet said that it was following recent events there with great concern, and reiterated Saudi support for Iraq's territorial integrity and the avoidance of foreign interference.

In addition, the Cabinet authorized the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology to negotiate a draft agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi relief aid dispatched to Kenya



On April 3, a Saudi cargo plane arrived in Nairobi with 12.6 tons of foodstuffs and medical supplies as part of the Kingdom's ongoing humanitarian assistance to Kenya.

In 2006, Kenya received \$2 million of \$10 million in aid that the Kingdom donated to Horn of Africa nations in cooperation with the World Food Program.

SAUDI ARABIA

Kingdom's Grand Mufti reiterates call for moderation

Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Senior Ulema (Religious Scholars) Sheikh Abdulaziz Al-Ashaikh has reiterated his call for moderation in Islam and condemned extremism, *Asharq Al-Awsat* reported April 2.

"Fanatical zeal cannot be considered part of religion, even if they [extremists] falsely pretend to be devout," the Grand Mufti told the press following a workshop at King Saud University. He added that moderation "protects the youth of the nation and guides them towards the good whilst warning them against perversity, fabrication and ideological, moral and behavioral deviance."

Remains of 63 Iraqis repatriated from the Kingdom

The remains of 63 Iraqis who died in the 1991 Gulf War have been repatriated from Saudi Arabia under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the organization said April 4. The remains included 62 soldiers and a seven-month-old girl who died in a refugee camp. All have been identified.

Saudi Arabia to implement a new transportation policy

Saudi Arabia is to implement a set of policy guidelines for an integrated transportation strategy that aims to promote social and economic development, the *Arab News* reported April 3.

According to Transport Minister Dr. Jubarah Al-Suraiseri, the new policy seeks to reduce heavy reliance on motor vehicles as the principal means of transportation and promote the railroad and air transportation sectors as other viable options.

