



APRIL 15, 2008

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

King Abdullah meets with US Chief of Naval Operations

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with the US Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead and his delegation at Al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh April 12. During Adm. Roughead's visit to Saudi Arabia, Assistant Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Khalid bin Sultan awarded him the King Abdulaziz Medal at the excellent grade for his efforts to enhance Saudi-US naval cooperation.

Foreign Minister meets with US Iraq ambassador, commander in Iraq

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal met with US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq, in Riyadh April 14 to discuss the situation in Iraq. Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel A. Al-Jubeir also attended the meeting.

Assistant US Commerce Secretary discusses boosting Saudi-US trade

During an April 13 meeting in Jeddah with Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry officials, Assistant Secretary of Commerce David Bohigian urged Saudi businessmen to invest in the US. In order to facilitate business partnerships, the Commerce Department would grant five-year visas to Saudi commercial investors, Bohigian said.

Saudi Embassy clarifies misrepresentations in *LA Times* article

In an April 10 letter to the editor, Saudi Information Office Director Nail Al-Jubeir clarified misrepresentations in the April 2 *Los Angeles Times* article "Saudi Arabia is prime source of terror funds, US says." Al-Jubeir took issue with the fact that that he was misquoted in the article and that it mischaracterized an April 1 Senate Finance Committee hearing on antiterror financing.

In the article, the *LA Times* stated that the Kingdom has not established a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to combat terror financing. The FIU has been operational since September 10, 2005, which was confirmed by the Treasury Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes Daniel Glaser in Senate Judiciary Committee testimony Nov. 8, 2005.



FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah holds talks with President Mubarak in Sharm El-Sheikh

King Abdullah met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt April 9 to discuss the situation in Palestine and the importance of reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. They also addressed efforts to resolve the political crisis in Lebanon and the situation in Iraq. On April 12, King Abdullah held a follow-up meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit in Riyadh.

Also this week, King Abdullah met in Riyadh with Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora to discuss the situation in Lebanon; Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade; and Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleksandr Turchynov.

ENERGY

Oil Minister: Fossil fuels to meet global energy needs for 50 years

In an April 10 address on energy and the environment at the International Oil Summit in Paris, Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi said that he expects fossil fuels to meet global energy needs for at least the next 50 years. He noted that Saudi Arabia is increasing its production capacity to meet global needs, and pointed out that the Kingdom is spending more than \$90 billion over the next five years to increase upstream and downstream production capacity.

Al-Naimi said that in 2009 the Kingdom's crude oil production will increase to 12.5 million barrels per day (bpd), with spare capacity of 1.5 to 2 million bpd. In addition, Saudi Arabia has the potential to increase its 264 billion barrels of crude oil reserves by at least 200 billion barrels and double its natural gas reserves of 258 trillion cubic feet in the future, he added.

SAUDI ARABIA

Minister of Islamic Affairs calls for moderation

Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance Sheikh Saleh Al-Asheikh has called for moderation and denounced extremism. Sheikh Saleh made the remarks in a speech at the Officers' Club in Riyadh April 9.

Moderation is the most important factor for the survival of the Muslim nation, the sheikh said. He added that a proper understanding of Islam will lead to moderation because the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah both advocate moderation.

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