



APRIL 22, 2008

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

King Abdullah meets with Former President Carter in Riyadh

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with former US President Jimmy Carter at the royal palace in Riyadh April 19 to discuss issues of mutual interest. Saudi officials attending the meeting included Chief of General Intelligence Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Nizar Madani, and Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel A. Al-Jubeir.

King Abdullah reviews Iraq situation with Amb. Crocker, Gen. Petraeus

King Abdullah met with US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker and Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq, in Riyadh April 15 to review the current situation in Iraq. The audience was attended by Ambassador Al-Jubeir and US Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Gfoeller.

Foreign Minister, Assistant Secretary of State Welch hold talks

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal met with US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs David Welch in Riyadh April 19 to discuss issues of mutual interest.

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah and King of Jordan hold talks

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz and King Abdullah II of Jordan held a round of talks at the royal ranch in Jenadriyah, near Riyadh, April 16. The two leaders reviewed regional and international issues including Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq. They also discussed ways to boost bilateral cooperation in all areas.

Also this week, King Abdullah met with Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Moroccan Foreign Minister Taieb Fassi Fihri.

Cabinet reviews situations in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Somalia

In its weekly meeting April 21, the Cabinet stressed continued support for Iraqi unity and reiterated Saudi opposition to any attempts to divide the Iraqi people.

On Lebanon, the Cabinet emphasized that Saudi Arabia does not favor one faction over another and called on the Lebanese people to unite the country. Turning to Palestine, the Cabinet urged Palestinian leaders to achieve a national unity government based on agreed-upon covenants and charters.

The Cabinet also called on Horn of Africa nations not to make Somalia an arena for their conflicts. It urged the countries of the region to cooperate and give Somalia a chance to attain national unity and end the ongoing violence.

Prince Saud pays official visit to Qatar

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal paid a brief visit to Qatar April 19. He met with Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem Al-Thani to discuss bilateral relations as well as various issues of mutual interest.

This week, Prince Saud also met with the United Nations Special Coordinator for Middle East Peace Process Robert H. Serry and Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Interior Minister: Kingdom seeks return of Saudi detainees in Iraq

Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz said April 19 that Saudi Arabia continues to work for the return of Saudi detainees in Iraq. He noted that the issue was the focus of his recent talks with US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker.

FOREIGN AID

Kingdom provides relief aid to northern Lebanon

Saudi Arabia has donated funds and olive oil to impoverished families in the Akkar district of northern Lebanon as part of its ongoing humanitarian assistance to Lebanon. The Saudi Popular Campaign for the Relief of the Lebanese People distributed financial aid to 1,800 families and olive oil for 1,400 families as well as the elderly, orphans and widows.

