



APRIL 29, 2008

SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

President Bush to visit Saudi Arabia in May

President George W. Bush will visit Saudi Arabia in mid-May to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the formal establishment of Saudi-US relations. In January, President Bush paid a three-day state visit to the Kingdom.

FOREIGN POLICY

King Abdullah, Prince Saud meet with Norwegian foreign minister

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre in Riyadh April 28 to discuss issues of mutual interest.

In a joint press conference after a separate meeting with Støre, Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal said that they had discussed cooperation in petroleum-related matters, the Middle East peace process, Norway's aid for the Palestinians, the Iranian nuclear file, crises in Lebanon and Darfur as well as the upcoming international conference on Sudan to be held next month in Oslo.

On the issue of Saudi-Syrian relations, Prince Saud denied that Arab countries were mediating between Saudi Arabia and Syria: "Our relations are existing, communications are direct and relations are not complicated. Thus, I think there is no need for external mediation between the two countries."

Foreign Minister addresses meeting of Iraq's neighboring countries

In an address to the third multilateral meeting of the foreign ministers of Iraq's neighboring countries in Kuwait April 22, Prince Saud Al-Faisal welcomed the positive security developments in Iraq and called for them to be reinforced by completing the political process.

He also praised the Iraqi government's efforts to confront armed militias and combat terrorism, and denounced the ongoing foreign interference in Iraq's internal affairs as unacceptable.

King Abdullah meets with Bahraini prime minister, Eritrean president

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki in Riyadh April 27 to discuss regional issues and ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation. Also last week, King Abdullah hosted Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Al-Khalifa and British Foreign Secretary David Miliband in Jenadriyah.



Cabinet condemns assassination attempt on Karzai

During its weekly meeting April 28, the Cabinet condemned the assassination attempt on Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Sunday, noting that such terrorist acts contradict Islam.

Iraqi official praises "ideal" Saudi counterterrorism cooperation

Iraqi National Security Adviser Muwaffaq Al-Rubaie praised Saudi Arabia's "ideal" cooperation on counterterrorism in an April 23 interview with the London-based *Asharq Al-Awsat*.

"I state that our cooperation with the Saudis is ideal, whether in respect to the movement of persons or the transfer of finance, and we have a hotline for the exchange of prisoners and information analysis," Al-Rubaie told *Asharq Al-Awsat*.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi Arabia donates foodstuffs to refugees in Cameroon

Saudi Arabia has donated over 300 tons of foodstuffs for Central African Republic refugees in Cameroon. The aid, which was handed over to Cameroonian officials in Yaounde, includes rice, flour, milk, and cooking oil. The Saudi Embassy in Yaounde is coordinating distribution of the foodstuffs.

SAUDI ARABIA

Applied media institute opened in Riyadh

The Prince Ahmed bin Salman Applied Media Institute opened in Riyadh April 27. The institute, the first media training facility of its kind in the Arab world, offers technical, design and practical training to prospective members of the media. It is expected to open a new era in Saudi mass communication with its diverse international courses in print and broadcast media.

Saudi antiquities to be exhibited at the Louvre in 2010

A collection of Saudi antiquities will be exhibited at the Louvre Museum in Paris in the summer of 2010. Secretary-General of the Supreme Tourism Commission (SCT) Prince Sultan bin Salman and Louvre Director Henri Loyrette signed an agreement on the exhibit in Riyadh April 27. The Louvre previously mounted an exhibit of Islamic artifacts at the Saudi Arabian National Museum in Riyadh.

