



MAY 27, 2008

FOREIGN AID

Saudi Arabia donates \$500 million to the World Food Program

Saudi Arabia has donated \$500 million to the World Food Program (WFP), allowing the organization to meet its call for \$755 million.

“The Saudi donation will keep many people from dying, others from slipping into malnutrition and disease, and will even help to stave off civil unrest,” Executive Director Josette Sheeran said in a press release issued May 23 by the UN humanitarian organization.

WFP had appealed for \$755 million to cover the high costs of food and fuel which have risen dramatically since June 2007. More than 31 countries donated a collective \$460 million. The Kingdom’s donation of \$500 million closed the gap, leaving an additional \$214 million available for other urgent hunger needs.

The half-billion dollar contribution puts Saudi Arabia at the forefront of the large-scale, high-level, multilateral UN action by the global community, focused on emergency and longer-term solutions to the high food and fuel price crisis throughout the world.

Saudi airlifts deliver relief supplies to China, Myanmar

The fourth relief plane in a Saudi airlift to aid victims of the deadly May 12 earthquake arrived in China’s Sichuan Province May 24. The plane carried 64 tons of supplies including foodstuffs and tents.

Saudi Arabia began airlifting relief supplies into Sichuan Province May 20. To date, Saudi planes have delivered 260 tons of relief aid. The airlift is in addition to \$50 million in urgent assistance provided by the Kingdom to China.

This past week, Saudi Arabia also began airlifting relief supplies into Myanmar to aid victims of Cyclone Nargis. The first of five Saudi relief planes arrived in Yangon May 25 carrying more than 73 tons of foodstuffs, tents, medicine and blankets. The remaining four planes are expected to arrive in the next few days.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Abdullah launches development projects in the Eastern Province

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz launched a number of key development projects in the Eastern Province this past week. On May 23 in Jubail, he launched 29



industrial and development projects worth more than \$18.4 billion belonging to the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and the private sector.

On May 24, he laid the foundation stone for a university hospital and the new campus of King Faisal University in Dammam and inaugurated the first and second phases of projects at the King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) in Dhahran.

FOREIGN POLICY

Cabinet welcomes election of Lebanese president

During its weekly meeting May 26, the Cabinet welcomed the election of Gen. Michel Suleiman as president of Lebanon and expressed the hope that the election would strengthen Lebanon's unity and independence. The Cabinet also highlighted the importance of noninterference in Lebanese internal affairs.

Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal, who attended the presidential elections in Beirut, he expressed the hope that the agreement reached by Lebanese parties in Doha would serve as a starting point for a stable and prosperous Lebanon. In remarks May 26, he also urged all the Lebanese factions to work together in the interest of their nation within the framework of the Lebanese constitution and serve as a model for coexistence.

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

Ambassador Al-Jubeir, Gen. Petraeus discuss regional issues

Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel A. Al-Jubeir met with Army Gen. David Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq, at the Saudi Embassy in Washington May 22 to exchange views on bilateral and regional issues. Gen. Petraeus was in Washington to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee in a hearing to confirm him as US Central Command (CENTCOM) commander.

Also this week, Ambassador Al-Jubeir chaired a regional meeting of Saudi heads of mission to North and Latin American nations at the Embassy in Washington. They discussed ways to enhance diplomatic relations with North and Latin American nations, services provided by Saudi embassies in the region and other aspects of cooperation.

