



AUGUST 12, 2008

FOREIGN POLICY

Cabinet urges support for joint Arab institutions

Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah August 11.

The Cabinet was briefed on developments in Mauritania and growing violence in Somalia. It urged all parties August 8 involved to resolve their differences through reconciliation and put the national interest above partisan affiliations. The Cabinet also stressed the importance of supporting joint Arab institutions that contribute to resolving disputes in the region and avoiding foreign interference.

In addition, the Cabinet authorized an accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the application of safeguards related to the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty and its attached protocols. It also approved the Kingdom's accession to the Customs Convention on Containers.

Prince Bandar meets with Chinese officials in Beijing

Prince Bandar bin Sultan, Secretary-General of the National Security Council, met with Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping in Beijing August 8. Prince Bandar was in Beijing to attend the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games.

During the meeting, both Prince Bandar and Vice President Xi highlighted the importance of enhancing Saudi-Sino strategic cooperation. In June of this year, Vice President Xi visited Saudi Arabia to attend the Jeddah energy summit.

On August 7, Prince Bandar also met with Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi relief aid arrives in Myanmar, Lebanon

Saudi humanitarian aid was delivered to Myanmar August 11 to alleviate suffering caused by tornados and floods. The aid included tents, foodstuffs, blankets, medicines, ambulances, rescue equipment and electric generators.

In May 2008, Saudi Arabia airlifted 370 tons of relief supplies after Cyclone Nargis devastated parts of Myanmar.



Saudi aid was also distributed in Lebanon this week. The Saudi Popular Campaign for the Relief of the Lebanese People handed out relief rations and emergency assistance to displaced persons in the Jebel Mohsen and Bab Al-Tabbanah areas of Tripoli.

Kingdom to assume presidency of UNRWA Advisory Commission

It was announced this week that Saudi Arabia will assume the presidency of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Advisory Commission for 2010-2011. In addition, the Kingdom will hold the vice presidency of the Advisory Commission in 2009-2010.

Saudi Arabia will be the first Arab donor state to assume the presidency of the UNRWA Advisory Commission.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi team participates in Beijing opening ceremonies

The Saudi Arabian Olympic team participated in the opening ceremonies at the 2008 Games in Beijing. The Games are taking place August 8-24.

Track and field athlete Muhammad Salman Al-Khuwaildi carried the Saudi flag into Beijing's National Stadium, known as the Bird's Nest, at the August 8 opening ceremonies.

Five Saudi national teams qualified for the Beijing Games: equestrian, athletics, shooting, swimming and weightlifting. Saudi Arabia made its Olympic debut at the 1972 Summer Games in Munich, Germany.

