



NOVEMBER 4, 2008

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

King Abdullah to attend economic summit in Washington

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz will attend a G-20 summit on the global economic crisis hosted by President George W. Bush in Washington November 14-15.

"The King welcomes the economic summit and has accepted an invitation to take part in the meeting scheduled to discuss the international financial crisis and its repercussions and the requirements of joint efforts to restore confidence of the global economy and avoid entering into a recession," Foreign Minister Prince Saud said October 29.

On November 3, the Cabinet discussed the Kingdom's participation in the G-20 summit. It said that King Abdullah will seek to present the Saudi perspective on the global financial crisis and stress the importance of reviewing the way international banks are monitored. He will also discuss the need to rethink the way global financial institutions operate in light of the current economic reality.

The Cabinet also discussed the upcoming interfaith dialogue conference at the United Nations in New York, which King Abdullah will also attend. It emphasized the importance of dialogue among the religions and cultures of the world in resolving global crises.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah meets with leaders of Britain, Sudan

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in Riyadh November 1. Saudi Arabia is the first stop on the prime minister's four-day visit to the Arabian Gulf to discuss economic, energy and business issues.

On October 30, the King held talks with Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir at the royal ranch in Jenadriyah. They discussed regional and international issues, in particular the situation in Sudan, as well as bilateral relations

Foreign minister comments on Afghan reconciliation talks

Foreign Minister Prince Saud said October 28 that the Kingdom is awaiting an official response from the Afghan side to start serious talks.

“We must ensure that the groups attending the dialogue are open-minded and open-hearted and that the purpose of the meeting is to reach an agreement and not display problems and issues,” Prince Saud said at a joint press conference with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Prince Saud added that the Afghan factions should renounce terrorism and any cooperation with terrorists. He also called on all Afghan factions to work towards reconciliation and begin rebuilding the Afghan economy.

FOREIGN AID

Saudi Arabia donates \$100 million to flood-stricken Yemen

Saudi Arabia has donated \$100 million in aid to Yemen after torrential rains and floods devastated the Hadramout, Al-Mahra and Al-Hudaida provinces.

A Saudi airlift began delivering relief supplies to Mukalla, Yemen November 2. The plane carried 88 tons of foodstuffs, tents, medical supplies and blankets. A second plane arrived in Mukalla November 3 carrying 82 tons of foodstuffs, electric generators, tents and quilts.

The Kingdom is also airlifting relief supplies to Pakistan, where a powerful earthquake struck Baluchistan province this past week. The first shipment of aid included nine tons of food, medical supplies, tents and blankets. The Ministry of Finance has set aside 100 tons of relief supplies including tents, blankets, rugs, and foodstuffs to be airlifted to Pakistan.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Abdullah lays the foundation stone for new women’s university

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz on October 29 laid the foundation stone for the Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University for Girls, one of the world’s largest institutions of higher learning exclusively for women.

The new university will have a 700-bed hospital and 15 colleges, including those for medicine, dentistry, nursing, naturopathy and pharmacology. It will also feature an administrative area, staff housing and public facilities including mosques, schools, and a transportation system. The project is expected to be completed by 2010.

