



NOVEMBER 11 2008

SAUDI-US RELATIONS

King Abdullah arrives in New York for interfaith conference

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz arrived in New York November 7 to attend a special UN conference on dialogue from November 12-13.

The King was greeted at John F. Kennedy International Airport by Saudi officials including Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Assistant Minister of Interior for Security Prince Saud bin Khalid, Prince Muhammad bin Nayef and Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel A. Al-Jubeir.

The UN conference is a follow-up to the World Conference on Dialogue, which was held on the initiative of King Abdullah in Madrid this past July.

While in the United States, King Abdullah will also participate in the G-20 economic summit in Washington November 14-15.

Saudi leadership congratulates President-elect Obama

King Abdullah and Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz this week congratulated President-elect Barack Obama on his victory in the US elections.

In a November 5 cable, King Abdullah highlighted the close relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States. He noted that both countries share a desire for peace, security and stability in the Middle East and beyond.

In related news, Crown Prince Sultan met with Gen. David Petraeus, chief of the US Central Command (CENTCOM), in Riyadh November 8. Gen. Petraeus also held a separate meeting with Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz to discuss security issues, in particular Iraq.

Also this week, Crown Prince Sultan met with a delegation of US mayors visiting the Kingdom. The delegation also met with members of the Shura (Consultative) Council and the Saudi-US parliamentary friendship committee.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah meets leaders of Pakistan, Kuwait

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz hosted Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Riyadh November 4. The two leaders discussed bilateral and international issues at a meeting attended by Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz.

While in New York to attend the UN conference on interfaith dialogue, King Abdullah met with Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah November 10. The two leaders discussed bilateral ties, along with regional and international issues.

GCC interior ministers meet in Doha

Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz led the Saudi delegation at the 27th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting of interior ministers in Doha on November 6. The ministers firmly reiterated their stand against terrorism and called for regional cooperation to counter extremism.

Prince Nayef also announced that Saudi Arabia will join the Gulf Crime Data Center for Combating Drugs.

FOREIGN AID

King Abdullah meets World Food Program Executive Director

King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz met with the Executive Director of the World Food Program (WFP), Josette Sheeran, in Riyadh on November 4. They discussed ways in which the Kingdom and the WFP can cooperate in the fight against world hunger. In May 2003, the Kingdom donated \$500 million to help the WFP reach its goal of raising \$755 million.

Kingdom continues airlifting relief aid to Pakistan and Yemen

Saudi Arabia continued its airlift of relief supplies to victims of a recent earthquake in Pakistan's Baluchistan province. The deliveries began November 1, when a Saudi cargo plane arrived in Quetta with nine tons of food, medical supplies, tents and blankets. As of November 10, 12 Saudi planes have arrived in Pakistan. The Ministry of Finance has set aside 100 tons of relief supplies including tents, blankets, rugs, and foodstuffs to be airlifted to Pakistan.

A second Saudi airlift has been underway in Yemen to aid victims of recent flooding. The third Saudi plane arrived November 5 carrying 82 tons of food, tents, quilts and electricity generators. The airlift, which began November 2, is in addition to the Kingdom's donation of \$100 million to help Yemen cope with the natural disaster.

