



FEBRUARY 10, 2009

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah confers with visiting Turkish President Gul

Turkish President Abdullah Gul arrived in Riyadh February 3 for a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah received President Gul at his palace, where the two leaders discussed regional developments, especially the Palestinian issue. They agreed on the need to intensify international efforts to reach a just, comprehensive peace based on U.N. resolutions and the Arab peace initiative.

The following day, President Gul delivered an address to the Shoura Council, where he emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral relations and working together to solve regional problems. "Turkey and Saudi Arabia, as important Middle Eastern countries, seek to establish stability and security in the region," President Gul noted. He praised the efforts made by King Abdullah to achieve peace and security, pointing to his sponsorship of the Palestinian reconciliation conference in Makkah.

TERRORISM

Interior Ministry issues list of extremists wanted for extradition

On February 2 the Interior Ministry released a list containing the names of 85 men wanted by security authorities for participating in extremist activities abroad. The list, which includes 83 Saudis and two Yemenis, was announced after applications for their extradition were delivered to Interpol.

An official at the Interior Ministry commented, "Those who work for instigating sedition and corruption were deprived of finding a footing in this pure land. The security forces have successfully confronted them and forced them to go to other places, where they work towards harming their country and relatives."

Thus far, fifteen Saudis involved in extremist groups abroad have renounced their beliefs and returned to the Kingdom. However, those who remain involved with deviant groups are being sought by authorities.

ENERGY

Saudi Aramco wins award for clean fuel technology

Saudi Aramco has been awarded the National Oil Companies (NOC) Forum Environmental Stewardship Award for its groundbreaking research on Electron Beam Flue Gas Treatment (EBFGT) technology. The award recognizes member organizations that have demonstrated a voluntary commitment to excellence in environmental stewardship.

Saudi Aramco, in collaboration with the King Abdulaziz City of Science and Technology and the Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology in Warsaw, conducted the research with the aim of finding an environmentally acceptable way to use high-sulfur, low-cost liquid fuel in its operating facilities.

Laboratory tests consistently removed more than 90 percent of sulfur oxides and more than 80 percent of nitrogen oxide from the liquid fuel. Furthermore, unlike conventional technologies that generate large volumes of waste, the by-product generated by EBFGT was a high-quality fertilizer.

SAUDI ARABIA

King lays foundation stone for KSU projects

King Abdullah laid the foundation stone for a group of construction projects at King Saud University (KSU) in Riyadh on February 8. The projects include a University City for female students, completion of a Medical City, housing for teaching staff, a group of male student college buildings, the first phase of the KSU Endowment Project and the Riyadh Techno Valley (RTV), at a total cost of SR 14,039,000,000 [\$3.7 billion].

FOREIGN AID

432 tons of water to be shipped to Gaza

President of the Saudi Red Crescent Authority Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has directed that 432 tons of drinking water be shipped to Palestinians in Gaza. During a February 8 meeting with World Health Organization (WHO) officials, Prince Faisal stressed that the Kingdom is keen on providing aid to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians. However, the water shipment has yet to reach its destination due to the closure of Gaza's border crossings.

Meanwhile, Dr. Khalid Al-Hibshi, head of the Saudi Field Relief Team stationed in Al-Arish, Egypt, noted that fifty tons of children's milk and other food supplies, including juices and dairy products, were on their way to Gaza. The aid will be distributed among school children.

