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SAUDI ARABIA-U.S.

Foreign, Finance Ministers attend G-20 summit in Pittsburgh

Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Saud Al-Faisal led the Saudi delegation to the G-20 Summit held September 24-25, 2009, in Pittsburgh. He was accompanied to the gathering of world leaders and economic officials by Minister of Finance, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Assaf and Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Governor, Dr. Muhammad Al-Jasser. Following a number of meetings, Prince Saud attended a working dinner held by President Barack Obama on September 25 to discuss the summit's agenda. Representatives of the G-20 nations focused their attention on the financial crisis that has plagued much of the world over the past year.

Saudi delegation participates in 64th U.N. General Assembly session

Following the G-20 summit, Prince Saud headed the Saudi delegation to the opening of the 64th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. On September 26 he attended a meeting between the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The group discussed GCC-U.S. relations, as well as a range of regional and international political issues.

In its official statement to the General Assembly, Saudi Arabia declared that the many daunting crises faced by mankind today can only be solved on the basis of international legitimacy, international law and multilateral cooperation. "Adherence to this criterion offers the easiest, best and most effective way to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is rightly deemed to pose the most serious threat to peace and security in the Middle East," the statement added.

The Kingdom stressed that the Arab Peace Initiative, a comprehensive proposal to end the conflict with Israel, is still on the table. However, "All international initiatives, solutions and endeavors in this regard have invariably run up against a wall of rejection, obstruction and procrastination on the part of Israel," it lamented. "No real results or notable signs of progress have been achieved in spite of the commendable endeavors of the United States of America, the evident personal desire of President Barack Obama and his team to further the peace process, and the ongoing efforts of the International Quartet."

Regarding the world economic crisis, the Kingdom called for reform of the international financial system and the recognition of the interdependence of

world markets. Touting its own initiatives to assist the global poor, it called upon other countries to help create more economic opportunities for the disadvantaged.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia celebrates National Day

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia celebrated its National Day on September 23, marking the 79th anniversary (based on the Hijra calendar) of the founding of the Saudi state by King Abdulaziz Al-Saud in 1932. "Saudi Arabia marks its National Day with its eyes toward the future," said Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel A. Al-Jubeir. "The Kingdom continues to work toward its development and prosperity in the global community." Secretary of State Hillary Clinton commended Saudi Arabia on the occasion, stating "On this historic occasion, I want to salute King Abdullah for his leadership on key regional and global challenges, from championing the Arab peace initiative to working to respond to the international economic crisis."

Coinciding with National Day, King Abdullah hosted the Inauguration Ceremony of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), an international, graduate-level research institution. The state-of-the-art, 9,000-acre campus is located along the coast of the Red Sea in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia.

Dow Chemical funds \$100 million KAUST research center

The Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dow Chemical, Andrew Liveris, announced that the company has allocated \$100 million for the establishment of a center for research and development at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST). The center will focus on advancing water-related technology and developing desert irrigation projects. Addressing a symposium held within the framework of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York on September 25, Liveris described the newly opened KAUST University as an example of successful coordination between government policy, scientific research institutions and businesses.

