



DECEMBER 8, 2009

SAUDI ARABIA

King Abdullah orders 10,000 residential units for displaced in Jazan

On December 2 Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz toured Jazan Province, the site of last month's military skirmishes between terrorist infiltrators coming across the Kingdom's southern border and the Saudi Armed Forces. After meeting with front-line troops, King Abdullah warned those who have committed bloodshed on Saudi territory will be taught the lesson that the Saudi military can defend its country and people and will repulse any attempts to violate the sanctity and sovereignty of the Kingdom.

Later, King Abdullah announced the construction of 10,000 new housing units to permanently shelter displaced people in Jazan. The shelters must be completed and handed over to their new residents within a short period of time. In addition, all necessary urban facilities, including mosques, health centers, and schools, will be provided along with the housing.

SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

Prince Saud Al-Faisal meets with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal met in Washington December 8 with United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation and regional and international issues of common concern, including the Middle East peace process.

Earlier in the day, Prince Saud also met with Special Envoy for Middle East Peace George Mitchell and National Security Advisor James Jones. The two sides discussed Saudi-U.S. relations, strategies for reviving the peace process, Saudi efforts to prevent infiltration across its border with Yemen, Iran's nuclear program, and other important issues. All three of the meetings were attended by Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

83rd Meeting of OAPEC Council of Ministers concluded

Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ali Al-Naimi led the Kingdom's delegation to the 83rd meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) in Cairo on December 4. In a

statement released after the two-day session concluded, Minister Al-Naimi said that world oil markets are stable, adding that current prices are appropriate for both producers and consumers.

Saudi Arabia rejects protectionism at WTO conference

Saudi Arabia respects its international trade commitments and all other countries must do the same, Saudi Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdullah bin Ahmed Zainal said during a speech on December 1 before the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. The Minister, who headed the Kingdom's delegation to the conference, urged the world not to resort to protectionist measures. Instead, he insisted countries should reconsider their negotiating positions and show flexibility in order to complete the Doha Round of trade talks as soon as possible.

FOREIGN AID

Kingdom donates \$500 million to support Arab enterprises

Saudi Arabia has notified the Secretary-General of the Arab League Amr Moussa that it has delivered \$500 million towards the \$2 billion fund established by the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the Arab world. The \$500 million donation fulfills the Kingdom's pledge at the Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit held in Kuwait last January. The Kuwait summit stressed the importance of elevating the standard of living for Arab citizens, granting priority to joint Arab investments, and allowing for greater participation by the private sector and civil society in economic and social development.

Saudi relief planes arrive in Vietnam

A Saudi relief plane arrived in Hanoi on December 2 carrying 100 tons of humanitarian relief for those affected by Typhoon Ketsana, which struck central Vietnam on September 26, killing at least 163 people and causing \$782 million in damage, and Typhoon Mirinae, which hit the southern central coast on November 2, causing \$280 million in damages. A second relief plane followed on December 3, carrying an additional 100 tons of relief supplies.

