SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE ROYAL EMBASSY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN WASHINGTON, DC

MARCH 16, 2010

FOREIGN RELATIONS

King Abdullah receives Turkish Prime Minister

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz held a meeting with visiting Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan at the Al-Faisaliya Center in Riyadh on March 9. The King congratulated the Prime Minister on winning the King Faisal International Prize for 2010 in recognition of his service to Islam. The two leaders discussed prospects for Saudi-Turkish cooperation and reviewed developments in the regional and international arenas. Prime Minister Erdogan also met with Crown Prince Sultan, Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz, Riyadh Governor Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz and Makkah Governor Prince Khalid Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz.

Arab Ministers of Health meet in Cairo

Minister of Health Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah led the Saudi delegation to the 34th session of the Arab Health Ministers Council in Cairo on March 11. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council denounced Israel's attempts to alter the cultural identity of the Palestinian territories, particularly its plan to build settlements in occupied Jerusalem. Assistant Secretary General of the Arab League for Social Affairs Sima Bobooth said in a statement that the ministers discussed the health situation in the Occupied Territories and decided to provide the Palestinian Ministry of Health with $100,000. Following a review of the health situation in Somalia, the same amount was granted to the Somali Ministry of Health.

The Council also reviewed reports on the spread of swine flu and assigned an experts' committee to follow up the developments of the disease, hailing the efforts exerted by all Arab countries, particularly Saudi Arabia, to control the epidemic during last year's Hajj and Umrah seasons.

SAUDI ARABIA-U.S.

King Abdullah holds meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense

King Abdullah held a meeting with visiting U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at his ranch in Al-Janadriyah, on the outskirts of Riyadh, on March 10. The two sides discussed regional developments and Saudi-U.S. cooperation. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by Chief of General Intelligence Prince

Miqren bin Abdulaziz; Assistant Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General for Military Affairs Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz; Minister of Education Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Saud; and Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir. The American side included U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom James Smith and other top officials.

Crown Prince Sultan also received Secretary Gates and the U.S. delegation at his ranch in Al-Boaybat on March 10.