



SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

U.S. Visit of Deputy Crown Prince Focuses on Security, Economics

In his first visit to the United States under the new administration, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, met with President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis to discuss the longstanding and strategic Saudi-U.S. relationship.

"I would like to commend again the historical and strategic relations between our two countries witnessing further development in all fields," stated Prince Mohammed in a cable to President Trump upon his departure on March 17.

Following the March 14 White House meeting, the White House reaffirmed the importance of the relationship, characterizing it as "strong, broad and enduring."



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NOTABLE QUOTE

"I believe that no two countries are working as closely in fighting terrorism, and in particular ISIS, as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States. This has been the case for a number of years. We are intensifying our efforts."

- Saudi Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, March 23, 2017

SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

Foreign Minister Expresses Confidence in Administration in Interview with Fox News

On March 23, Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir held an exclusive interview with James Rosen of Fox News.

In response to questions about President Trump, Minister Al-Jubeir remarked, “I believe that he has vision. I believe that he understands the importance of having America playing a big role in the world. We support that.”

Minister Al-Jubeir also commented on the state of security in the Middle East, emphasizing that Iran has

intensified its covert actions and military activities in the Middle East following the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“I believe they [administration] will be less forgiving of Iran’s violations of the missile accords, its threats to maritime security in the Bab el-Mandab area, and in the Strait of Hormuz. I believe they will be very strict in enforcing the nuclear agreement to the letter,” he said.

Energy Minister: Saudi-US Relations Are in Alignment

In an interview with Bloomberg’s Kathleen Hays on March 16, Energy Minister Khaled Al-Falih commented on the Saudi-US relationship following the meeting with Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed and President Trump. Minister Al-Falih was part of the official delegation.

“The visit gives us a chance to refresh, renew and revive that relationship and take it to a higher level, which has been achieved by near-perfect alignment

on geopolitical, security as well as economic points of views,” said Minister Al-Falih. “That has been strengthened even further by the great rapport and bonding that was created between President Trump and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman as well as between the ministers and the delegations on both sides as we establish channels of communication, cooperation and driving the issues that are important for our two countries.”

COUNTERTERRORISM

Saudi Arabia Participates in Counter Daesh Coalition Meeting

Foreign Minister Al-Jubeir participated in a ministerial meeting of the Global Coalition Against Daesh (ISIS) in Washington on March 22, once again emphasizing Saudi Arabia’s commitment to standing with its international partners against terrorism across the world. Saudi Arabia was one of the founding members of the coalition.

Minister Al-Jubeir held a separate meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson the day after the meeting took place.

“I believe that no two countries are working as closely in fighting terrorism, and in particular ISIS, as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States. This has been the case for a number of years. We are intensifying our efforts,” Minister Al-Jubeir told reporters.

The conference, he stated, “was huge success and reinforced the determination of the civilized world to take on this evil and to defeat it.”

Saudi Arabia Supports America’s Tough Stance on Terrorism, Iran

In an op-ed on FoxNews.com on March 26, Adviser to the Saudi Defense Minister and Spokesman for the Saudi-led Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen Brigadier General Ahmed Asseri asserted Saudi Arabia’s commitment to supporting America’s tough stance against Daesh, terrorism and Iran.

“While the US-Saudi partnership is time-tested, reaffirming this relationship is a matter of strategy, not sentiment,” wrote Gen. Asseri.

Gen. Asseri emphasized that the Saudi-U.S. partnership is indispensable as the Kingdom confronts a host of

challenges in the region, including putting an end to Iranian interference in Yemen, cutting off terrorist financing, combating extremism, and promoting maritime security.

“We stand shoulder-to-shoulder for a secure and stable Middle East in a peaceful and prosperous world,” he concluded.

Gen. Asseri also highlighted the efforts the Kingdom is taking in mobilizing the Muslim world against terrorism and extremism, describing the 41-nation Islamic Coalition created under Saudi leadership.

REGIONAL SECURITY

Saudi U.N. Delegation Hosts Yemen Coalition Experts

Saudi Arabia’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York convened a series of meetings from Feb. 27 to March 2 with military leaders, relief organizations and U.N. organizations to promote the security and stability of Yemen.

A delegation of military leaders from the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, headed by Saudi

Major General Misfer Al-Ghanem, met with John Ging, operations director of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Representatives of UNICEF, the UN Environment Program, the UN Population Fund, the UN Department of Safety and Security, the World Bank and the World Food Program (WFP) were also in attendance at the meetings.

HUMANITARIAN AID

Saudi Arabia Leads Efforts to Support Yemen’s Health Sector

The Riyadh-based King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) is leading international efforts to rehabilitate the health sector in Yemen and provide life-saving care to injured and ill Yemenis.

The health system in the country has been nearly destroyed since the Houthi militias and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh usurped power in 2014.

KSRelief – established in May 2015 – has carried out more than 50 projects in health, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation in Yemen, valued at more than \$208 million and benefiting 24.5 million Yemeni citizens. The organization also treats the injured in Yemen by providing medical services and treatment devices.

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KSRelief has partnered with the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to train 3,153 health workers to manage acute malnutrition and opened 854 centers for a therapeutic nutrition program. KSRelief mobile health teams have treated over a quarter of a million children suffering from acute malnutrition in Yemen and has provided immunization and postnatal care to over 1.2 million children through the country.

In collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), KSRelief has also provided basic services, including diabetes and cancer treatment, and supported the operation of emergency rooms by providing hundreds of thousands of gallons of fuel to 88 hospitals and 19 health facilities throughout the country.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Saudi Women Are Redefining Their Roles

On March 8, a group of Saudi women marked International Women's Day by unveiling a campaign to highlight the changing role and economic potential of women in the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabia is in the midst of a great transformation. Government reforms are diversifying the economy, revitalizing the cultural scene and modernizing the educational system. Saudi women are in the vanguard of this transformation.

"It is the right time...we are more aware of the importance of women's participation in jobs, in

different sectors," Princess Lamia bin Majed Al Saud, secretary general of Alwaleed Philanthropies, told Thomson Reuters Foundation. Alwaleed Philanthropies is a charity that supports programs and policies to empower women.

She added, "Women have achieved a lot in our country and we are very proud of this, achievements the outside community does not know about. Like any other country we have obstacles, we acknowledge that...but we are doing our best to make it better."



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