

**DIGEST OF INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FOREIGN  
SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH HRH PRINCE AL FAISAL - 30  
OCTOBER 2007**

**EXTRACT FROM FCO MATERIAL 25 OCTOBER 2007**

**Steering Brief for Foreign Secretary's meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Saud Al-Faisal Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 29 October 2007.**

The Foreign Secretary will meet Prince Saud twice on 29 October. The first meeting will take place at Lancaster House just before the Foreign Secretary and Saud make speeches opening the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the UK-Saudi Arabia Two Kingdoms Dialogue. The second meeting will take place at the Foreign Office. Regional issues will be the focus of that meeting. Briefing for both is attached.

Prince Saud became Foreign Minister in 1975, the year his father, King Faisal, was assassinated.

Mr Miliband will be the 12th Foreign Secretary with whom he has dealt.. He thinks the UK has an important role to play in the Middle East, and genuinely looks to us as a natural partner.

Saud is in the business of forming personal relationships. The Foreign Secretary has not previously met Prince Saud (who should be addressed as Your Royal Highness).

The first meeting will give the Foreign Secretary an opportunity to discuss issues that are important to the bilateral relationship including counter radicalisation and Education for All.

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**BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRINCE SAUD, SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE TWO KINGDOMS CONFERENCE, 29 OCTOBER**

**Bilateral**

Hope that the Two Kingdoms Conference will be an opportunity further to deepen the UK/Saudi relationship in key areas, including education.

Welcome the open letter of 13 October from 130 respected Muslim scholars to Christian leaders. Faith and community leaders play an important role in promoting shared values, locally and globally. We fully support these efforts.

Welcome King Abdullah's recent announcement of a six-year project to reform the Saudi education system. Essential that young people have the necessary skills to get a job in the global marketplace and therefore fulfil their aspirations.

### **Education for All**

The Prime Minister firmly believes that offering education to every child in the world would transform international relations. He has made it a priority to focus international efforts on achieving the UN Millennium Development Goal that all children will have access to primary education by 2015.

We recognise that education is an issue close to King Abdullah's heart, as demonstrated by his announcement at the 2005 OIC Conference of a \$1 billion fund for education in Islamic countries.

### **Education for All**

In 2002, the G8 launched Education for All - a global partnership between donors and developing countries to ensure accelerated progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goal that all children will complete primary education by 2015. The UK has pledged £8.5bn on education in developing countries over the next ten years.

The Prime Minister is personally committed to this initiative and is concerned that unless the international community ramps up its support, the Millennium Development Goal will be missed.

### **THE TWO KINGDOMS CONFERENCE**

The 'Two Kingdoms Dialogue' is the key institutional part of the UK-Saudi relationship, covering the reform aspects of the bilateral relationship. Two previous conferences have been held (London 2005; Riyadh 2006).

The conferences have been a success. The original objective was to promote reform in Saudi Arabia, and provide a rare opportunity for senior British and Saudi policy makers and opinion formers to discuss internal reform and contribute to policy formulation. The Two Kingdoms process has contributed to projects concerning English language training, charity regulation and women's participation in business and society, with opportunities evolving in the area of economic reform, good governance and NGO capacity building.

The objectives of this year's conference are the endorsement and promotion of PREVENT related themes (tolerance, peaceful co-existence and tackling shared challenges, in particular countering extremism on the basis of shared values); and identifying possible ways to make progress on key reform objectives, in particular education and effective civil society/media.

You and Prince Saud will deliver speeches at the opening session (at which point you will depart). This will be followed by a plenary session, chaired by the two Ambassadors, would review and focus discussion on key bilateral issues, with the afternoon taken up with two working groups on (a) Education, and (b) Dialogue of Cultures and Media. The Plenary would also take a report back from a UK/Saudi Youth Forum, which will have met over the preceding weekend. The discussions will result in positive vision on issues such as education and how to counter extremism.

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**Briefing for Foreign Secretary's meeting with Prince Saud, October 29 2007**

**Bilateral:**

The State Visit and the Two Kingdoms Conference provide the perfect opportunity to showcase the UK/Saudi Arabia bilateral relationship, particularly areas of joint co-operation and concern. We look forward to further deepening our already productive ties across the spectrum.

King Abdullah (then Crown Prince) launched the Arab Peace Initiative in 2002.

Saudi Arabia is key in influencing Iraq's Sunni Arab community.

Saudi Arabia plays a vital role in the global response to the terrorist threat