



FEBRUARY 03, 2009

FOREIGN AID

King Abdullah named “Champion in the Battle Against Hunger”

The World Food Program (WFP) awarded its 2008 “Champion in the Battle Against Hunger” Prize to King Abdullah at a ceremony held January 30 in Davos, Switzerland. The prize was presented by WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran, who expressed great thanks to King Abdullah for his support. She described King Abdullah’s recent \$500 million donation to the WFP as a beacon of hope for the poorest and neediest in the world.

Saudi Minister of Commerce and Industry Abdullah Alireza accepted the award on behalf of King Abdullah, declaring, “I am honored to receive this distinguished award on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, who, by accepting it, dispatches a broad message to the world that we have to bear a shared responsibility to combat hunger, which is of urgent importance in the light of the current economic crisis and its impacts.”

SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

King Abdullah receives U.S. Middle East envoy

King Abdullah received U.S. Middle East Envoy George Mitchell February 1 in Riyadh. During their meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and discussed the importance of intensifying international efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution that enables the Palestinians to establish an independent and viable state. Mitchell also met with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal to discuss regional peace efforts.

King Abdulaziz Medal Awarded to Joseph Grant

Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to the United States, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, presented the King Abdulaziz Medal - First Class to Captain Joseph W. Grant, a U.S. World War II pilot, on behalf of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz at the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington on January 28.

Captain Grant, who is 100 years old, flew a Douglas-DC3 aircraft to Saudi Arabia to be delivered as a gift to King Abdulaziz from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, following their historic meeting onboard the U.S.S. Quincy on February 14, 1945. Subsequently, Captain Grant served two years as the first airline pilot to King

Abdulaziz and was instrumental in the establishment of Saudi Arabia's first national airline and the training of its pilots.

"Mr. Grant's contributions to helping foster Saudi-U.S. relations are deeply appreciated to this day," said Ambassador Al-Jubeir. "We are pleased to honor such a longstanding friend and wish him happiness and continued good health."

SAUDI ARABIA

Winners of the 2009 King Faisal International Prizes announced

Makkah Governor Prince Khalid Al-Faisal, the President of the King Faisal International Prize Panel, announced the 2009 award winners during a January 27 press conference in Riyadh. Prizes were awarded in five categories: Islamic Studies, Arabic Language and Literature, Science, Medicine and Service to Islam.

The prize for Islamic Studies went to Professor Abdulsalam Mohammed Cheddadi of Morocco for his seminal studies on the works of Ibn Khaldun, a leading authority on Islamic thought.

The Arabic Language and Literature prize went to Professor Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al-Manie of Saudi Arabia, professor emeritus of Arabic Literature at King Saud University, for his distinguished efforts in editing, verifying and elucidating several Arabic literary works of the 3rd to 7th Century Hegira.

In the Science category, the prize was awarded jointly to Professor Richard Henry Friend of the U.K., Chairman of the Council of the School of Physical Sciences and Cavendish Professor of Physics at the University of Cambridge, and Professor Rashid Alievich Sunyaev of Russia, Chief Scientist of the Space Research Institute at the Russian Academy of Science and Director of the Max-Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany. Professor Friend pioneered the physics and engineering of semi-conductor devices made of plastic. Professor Sunayev has made fundamental contributions to astrophysics and cosmology.

In the category of Medicine, the prize was granted to Professor Ronald Levy of the U.S., head of the Division of Oncology at Stanford University Medical School's Department of Medicine, for his pioneering studies in Cancer Immunotherapy.

The prize in the category of Service to Islam was awarded to the Principal Shari'ah Society for Qur'an and Sunnah Scholars in Egypt. The organization was recognized for its perseverant efforts, spanning almost 100 years, to assert the purity of the Islamic Daawa (Call), its total dedication to the cause of Islam and its remoteness from any political ambition.

