



FRENCH-SAUDI COMMUNIQUE

At the invitation of the President of the French Republic Jacques Chirac, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Vice President of the Council of Ministers and Head of the Saudi Arabian National Guard visited France on an official visit from 13 to 15 April 2005. The two parties conducted in-depth discussions on matters of common interest concerning the means of strengthening and developing bilateral relations.

As regards the situation in Lebanon, the two countries have noted Syria's commitment to withdraw in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1559. The two countries support the independence of Lebanon, its security and stability. They also call for the formation of a Lebanese Government as rapidly as possible and the holding of free and democratic elections within the prescribed deadlines.

The two countries stressed the importance they ascribe to the Security Council Resolution providing for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to elucidate the circumstances of the assassination of President Rafic Hariri and have requested the Lebanese authorities to cooperate, under the Resolution, with a view to establishing the truth and punishing those involved in this terrorist crime.

The two countries reiterated their encouragements for the actions conducted with a view to restarting the peace process in the Middle East in accordance with the international resolutions and the Road Map, which provides for a solution based on two independent States living side by side in peace and security. They also welcomed the reaffirmation by the Arab countries, at the close of the Algiers Summit, of their commitment to the peace initiative put forward by Prince Abdullah and adopted at the Arab Summit in Beirut.

They reaffirmed their commitment to peace and security in Iraq, to the safeguarding of its unity and its sovereignty. They called for participation of all Iraqi people in the political process. Saudi Arabia and France insisted on the need to activate international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and its sources of financing. They have planned to deepen their cooperation in this area within the framework of the United Nations.

France expressed its satisfaction with regard to the moderate oil policy conducted by Saudi Arabia that aims to preserve stability in the oil markets as well as to foster global economic growth. The two countries have agreed to strengthen their cooperation on the economy, investments and culture in the framework of their strategic relations. Saudi Arabia has also declared that it appreciates French support for its joining the World Trade Organization and its signing the Free Trade Agreement between the European



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Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. |

