



several of the most important princes and ministers in attendance. The Prime Minister and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques then retired for further talks which focussed on regional issues and the global financial crisis. His Majesty King Abdullah and the Prime Minister Gordon Brown also discussed the Saudi interfaith dialogue initiative and the meeting that was shortly to be held in New York on 15 November. The Prime Minister and the King agreed to continue the dialogue between energy producing and consuming countries which was started at the Jeddah oil summit.

In the course of the dinner and in the subsequent talks the Secretary of State for Business Lord Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and the British Ambassador William Patey CMG held discussions with ministerial counterparts. These talks cemented the already strong relationship which exists between the British government and its Saudi counterpart.