

BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY VISITS THE KINGDOM



Foreign Secretary David Miliband visits the Saudi Government's Rehabilitation Centre in Riyadh on 23 April 2008.

The British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Rt Hon David Miliband MP continued the series of high level visits between the two Kingdoms when he visited Riyadh in April 2008. Mr Miliband's visit followed the very successful state visit to the United Kingdom last year by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

The visit by the British Foreign Secretary was a significant opportunity to reinforce the already strong relationship between Saudi Arabia and the UK, with wide-ranging talks that touched on both regional and international issues as well as bilateral concerns. Meeting with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and HRH Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Foreign

Secretary described his visit to Saudi Arabia as "very important and beneficial", with "very deep, clear and helpful discussions on a range of bilateral and regional issues."

Mr Miliband's visit came at a time when the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is better than ever before. The traditional pillars of that relationship, defence and trade, are now part of a wider and more developed set of shared interests including: promoting peace, justice and stability in the Middle East; a shared interest in confronting extremism and terrorism; co-operation in the area of education and training; and now, increasingly, energy and climate security.