

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FIGHTING THE TERRORIST THREAT

- HRH Prince Saud Al Faisal

causes and desperate conditions to foster hatred and fill their ranks with recruits. We must prevent these exploitations by treating these conditions and resolving such legitimate causes.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict singularly stands out in its enormous potential for encouraging violence in the region and beyond. The illegal and unjust policy of Israel in the occupied territories, which has resulted in constant humiliation and suffering for the Palestinian people, is breeding anger and hatred in the Arab and Islamic world.

This conflict must be addressed and resolved justly in the interest of a peaceful world. We must strive to dissipate the feelings of anger and frustration. The quest for peace in the Middle East is imperative. In April of 2002, King Abdullah introduced his proposal for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace at the Arab Summit in Beirut. This historic proposal, which offered Israel peace with all Arab countries and an end to the conflict in exchange for its withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem, was unanimously adopted. Israel has yet to respond to this historic gesture.

Saudi Arabia is firmly committed to working towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peace with dignity and security for both the Palestinians and the Israelis. We must find ways to persuade both Israeli and Palestinian to overcome their mutual anger and hatred and remove the walls that separate them.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The effort of preaching understanding and tolerance is required not only in the Arab and Islamic countries, it is also needed in the rest of the world. The whole world must do so without overlooking the sensitivity of the moral issues and with full respect for the diversities of values and traditions of all cultures.

Unfortunately, the conflicting nature of the issues contributes to the polarization of views. In this regard, media in all their forms and all educational institutions have a great responsibility to promote sound human values and to immunize societies against delinquent ideas. They must bring people together instead of separating them.

Finally, let me reiterate that we face a common

threat that goes far beyond today's terrorist leaders and terrorist organizations. We can defeat that threat, but only if we unite, and create new bonds of understanding between our different religions and cultures. In my country we are doing our best to deal with a variety of issues: ideological, social and economic, but our efforts alone are not enough.

The fight must be global in order to succeed, because terrorists flee where they face strength and attack where they perceive weakness. The world is in the midst of a hard, tough, and long fight. In the process of conducting it, we should not allow fear to drive us into isolation, or close the door on the human-to-human contact that is so essential for understanding and interchange between cultures.

As your great poet once said in his Meditations, and I need not name him to this audience: " No man is an island, entire of itself...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." These words of wisdom apply to nations as well as to individuals. For no nation is an island unto itself.

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