



NATIONAL DAY OF SAUDI ARABIA



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THE Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's quest for peace and friendship with all countries of the world has drawn world-wide acclaim. It is interesting to recall how 59 years ago King Abdul Aziz, an astute warrior and statesman, who almost singlehandedly forged a state out of warring tribes and conflicting claims. King Abdul Aziz who had the vision of the single state stretching from the Gulf to the Red Sea and from the Iraqi border to that of Yemen. Overcoming all the odds, he succeeded in consolidating and modernizing the state. King Abdul Aziz died in 1953 was succeeded by his son King Saud, who had mainly fulfilled the task of maintaining peace and security of the state.

King Saud abdicated in favour of his brother King Faisal in 1964 and to him fell the responsibility of building a modern state in the real sense of the term. From 1964 until his death in 1975 King Faisal made Saudi Arabia a modern, progressive state yet firmly entrenched in the tenets of Islam and the Sharia. Along with rapid economic development through two five-year plans, he specially gave the country a foreign policy that was "clear, straightforward, honest and consistent".

In fact, by following an open policy, King Faisal laid the

cornerstone of the subsequent governments, including the present one run by King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. King Faisal advocated the concept of Islamic solidarity and converted it into real, palpable institution serving the interest of the Islamic states and their peoples. By piloting the formation of the OIC and the Islamic Development Bank, he had brought the Muslims closer together more than any other time since the fall of the Caliphate.

Following the footsteps of King Faisal, King Khaled took steps to carve out a dynamic foreign policy for his country. He summed up the Kingdom's role to promote world peace in the following words: "The interests of the world are intermingled, and because of this interdependence, the world looks to a new and co-operative spirit. We, as a Muslim state, draw this spirit from our Quranic constitution. The Holy Quran says, 'O People, we have created you of male and female and make out of you nations and tribes in

Saudi Arabia in the Modern Era

Kings with Vision and Dynamic Policies



order for you to know each other. The most deserving before God is the most pious among you.' So it is the duty of all of us to act for understanding among nations to achieve a better life, worthy of human

dignity. The Arabs and Muslims carry the torch of this human spirit for the whole human beings in the world at large."

Following the principles that were laid down by King

Abdul Aziz, he is the first Arab and Muslim leader to initiate a peaceful plan to bring an end to Arab-Israeli dispute based on achieving a Palestinian State on Palestine soil and restoration of all legitimate rights of Palestinian peoples as it was known Fahd Eight Points Plan and later on it was adopted by Pex Arab Summit to be Arab Scheme of Peace.

King Fahd's staunch effort to bring an end to Lebanon's civil war and the great achievement of Taif Conference of all Lebanese national powers. Taif Conference was the main pillar of all the recent success of bringing peace to that war-shattered Arab country.

The great and crucial role played by King Fahd during the tragedy of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The wisdom and deep experience of the Saudi leader are of no doubt the crucial factor in defeating the aggression, protecting Saudi land and liberation of Kuwait.

Since then and until now the relationship between Saudi Arabia and other nations is based upon the principles of

equality, mutual respect and non-interference. While following foreign policy the Kingdom adheres to the principles as stated below:

- Protection of Saudi Arabia from any form of foreign aggression and safeguarding the country's independence.
 - Preservation and protection of Islam's sacred places.
 - Cooperation with Arab and Islamic countries for the welfare of the Arab and Islamic peoples.
 - Respect for the Charter of the League of Arab Nations and reinforcement of Arab and Islamic solidarity.
 - Respect for the UN Charter and cooperation with the peoples of the world to establish peace, stability, welfare and lessening of human suffering.
 - Condemnation of any interference with other countries' internal affairs and of foreign aggression and invasion of other countries.
 - The Kingdom believes that every people has the right of deciding their own destiny and as such the Kingdom supports national liberation movements all over the world.
- While addressing the UN General Assembly's 42nd session in New York in 1987, Saudi foreign minister Prince Saud Al-Faisal observed: "The foreign policy of the Kingdom (Continued on facing page)

*Warmest Felicitations to the Government
and the Brotherly People of the
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
on their
National Day*



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