

Crown Prince Abdullah



FOR more than five decades, Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz has been closely involved in the profound social, economic and administrative changes that have taken place in Saudi Arabia. He has had the experience of working with five Kings who successfully brought about far-reaching socio-economic development while preserving and strengthening the foundations of Saudi society with a strong commitment to Islam and Arab heritage. Under the guidance of his elder brother The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, who appointed him Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister in 1982, Crown Prince Abdullah had assisted in the implementation of the country's series of development plans. He strengthened King Fahd's efforts to ensure the nation's peace and prosperity as well as serving Islam and the Muslim community.

Born in Riyadh in 1924, Crown Prince Abdullah received his early education at the Royal Court. Growing up around his legendary father King Abdul Aziz, who was at that time involved in the successful effort to unify the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula into the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Abdullah demonstrated, at an early age, an abiding commitment to Islam and a keen interest in Arab history, culture and traditions. Like his brothers, Abdullah was tutored by scholars in Islam and Arab history and underwent the rigorous training for the development of his mental faculty.

To develop the physical and mental strength of his sons, King Abdul Aziz used to say: "I train my own children to walk barefoot, to rise two hours before dawn, to eat less, to ride horses bareback" and to study the Holy Quran, the Sunnah and Arab history. As they came of age, the Crown Prince and his brothers spent much time in their father's daily 'Majlis' (meetings) where any citizen could approach the King and discuss a grievance. In this way they learned the intricacies of statesmanship and the art of communicating with the people.

Developing Bonds with People: To develop a strong bond with the people, a deep respect for their heritage and understanding of their aspirations, King Abdul Aziz wanted that his sons spend some time with the 'Bedouins' in the desert. The years Crown Prince spent living with the tribes instilled in him a respect for their values of self-respect, simplicity, generosity and bravery which qualities strengthened his desire to serve the common people.

Crown Prince Abdullah's close association with the af-

fairs of government and the people continued after King Abdul Aziz passed away. He acted as advisor to King Saud Bin Abdul Aziz and later to King Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz and was deeply involved in the internal affairs of the Kingdom.

Commander of the National Guard: In 1962 Crown Prince Abdullah was appointed to command the Saudi National Guard which was formed from among the descendants of Bedouins who were King Abdul Aziz's followers during the years he was working to establish the modern Kingdom. Because of his knowledge of the tribes of Saudi Arabia and their heritage which was accumulated over the years of close association with the tribal elders and members, Crown Prince Abdullah's appointment to this position proved to be particularly appropriate and rewarding. Over the following years, Crown Prince Abdullah worked tirelessly to modernise the National Guard and make it a potent force committed to the preservation of the Kingdom's peace and security. He supervised the establishments of military and technical schools with a view to modernising the force, as well as the establishments of hospitals, clinics and housing facilities for guard members and their families.

Deputy Prime Minister: On the succession of King Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz, Crown Prince Abdullah was appointed the prestigious position of Second Deputy Prime Minister, while retaining his command of the

up the frequency and duration of his visits to various parts of the Kingdom. He undertook visits to Asir, Taif and Al-Baha to inaugurate universities, dams, power generation plants and other development projects. While performing all these duties, Crown Prince Abdullah has steadfastly supported efforts to preserve Saudi Arabia's rich heritage. As chairman of the organising committee for the Jenadriyah National Culture and Heritage Festival, he has overseen the two-week festival held annually since 1985 to promote a greater respect for and deeper understanding of Saudi Arabia's rich past, its dynamic present and its promising future.

Love of Desert: Throughout his life, Crown Prince Abdullah has retained a love for the desert which is reflected in his patronage for equestrian clubs, the Crown Prince's Camel Race and other activities associated with the Bedouins. He has also developed a passion for knowledge and reading. He has established two libraries: the King Abdul Aziz library in Riyadh and one in Casablanca (Morocco). After decades of public service in positions of importance, Crown Prince Abdullah is today recognised, not only in Saudi Arabia but also in the Arab and Islamic worlds as a leader dedicated to ensuring his country's continued future development while preserving past achievements.

Significant Visits Abroad: In 1998, Crown Prince Abdullah visited Great Britain, France, the United States, Japan, China, South Korea and Pakistan. Speaking about the aims and outcome of these visits, he said, "the Kingdom seeks to be a partner in the formulation of the new world order. This is why the Kingdom decided to move forcefully and present its comprehensive conception to the rest of the world, so as to jointly explore new future horizons." In course of an interview with Jeddah-based daily "Okaz" (Nov 1998) he said, he discussed issues of importance to the Arab and Islamic worlds with the leaders of the countries he visited. We do not concentrate only on bilateral cooperation with other countries, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). He has met with world leaders in Saudi Arabia and conducted state visits to other countries, including the United States in 1976 and 1987.

Fahd's Emissary: As King Fahd's emissary, Crown Prince Abdullah has represented the Kingdom at various international conferences, including summit meetings of the Arab League member states, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). He has met with world leaders in Saudi Arabia and conducted state visits to other countries, including the United States in 1976 and 1987.

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Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz

King Abdul Aziz

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The King paid special attention to education. He sought the spread of learning to all parts of the Kingdom. He paid generous grants to students and initiated the production and free distribution of text books. He set up the General Directorate of Education in 1926 and entrusted it with the task of opening and administering schools. In the same year the Saudi Scientific Institute was set up. This is the establishment that produced much of the talents that was to run government departments and the private sector. A school to prepare students for foreign scholarships was established and at the beginning of the fifties, the Kingdom's first two colleges were opened. These were the College of Humanities and the College of Sharia in Makkah, whose main task was to tutor judges and teachers. Young Saudis were sent abroad to study at universities in Arabic and western countries.

Education was not the King's only concern; he built roads, opened hospitals and introduced modern methods of government. Simultaneously King Abdul Aziz paid attention to the Kingdom's position among the nations of the world and sought to enhance it on the Arab, Islamic and international levels. He entered into treaties and established relations with all nations. Saudi Arabia was a founder member of the United

Nations Organization whose charter the Kingdom signed in San Francisco in 1945. King Abdul Aziz took on and vigorously defended the just causes of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

A Protagonist of World Peace: The Kingdom was a founder member of the Arab League that saw the light in 1944. King Abdul Aziz stood side by side with Arab states struggling to rid themselves of colonialism and foreign interference. He put all his weight behind the Palestinian cause and his famous meeting with American President Roosevelt in 1945 and the exchange of letters with him about Palestine are notable examples of his efforts on behalf of the people of Palestine and the struggle for their legitimate rights and their usurped homeland. He sought to secure world peace by ensuring justice and human rights for all.

Among the Greats: Arab and foreign historians have placed King Abdul Aziz among the world's great leaders. Volumes have been written eulogising his heroism, his many talents and his unique personality. He was all of those things: a great and pious leader and an astute politician. He passed away on 2 Rabi Al-Awwal 1373 H. (9 November 1953), an event that saddened not only his people, but those of the Arab and Islamic worlds and, indeed, the world at large.

King Fahd

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Al-Munawarah. From these leading positions, King Fahd, through long experience and unique talent, was able to organise and steer the internal and external policies of the Kingdom. He deputised for King Khalid, when he headed the Saudi delegation to the Arab Summit held in Baghdad in 1978 as well as that which was held in Fez in Morocco in 1980, when he put before the conference his regional peace proposals known as the 'Arab Peace Project'. He also headed the Kingdom's delegation to the conference held in Mexico in 1981 to discuss the world's economic problems and find solutions for the relationship between the haves and the have-nots which was attended by most of the world's heads of state.

As King: Upon the death of King Khalid on 21 Sha'ban 1402 H (13 June 1982 AD) the ruling family and the Saudi people pledged allegiance to Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz as the fifth king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz, President of the National Guard, was proclaimed Crown Prince. On the same day King Fahd appointed the Crown Prince Abdullah as Deputy Prime Minister, and the Minister of Defence and Aviation and the Inspector General Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz as Second Deputy Prime Minister. Since then, Saudi Arabia has achieved many success in various sectors of the national life, maintaining the Kingdom's utmost security and stability under the able guidance of the Custodian of the two holy mosques. There has been a qualitative transformation in the system of government with the promulgation of the four new laws, namely, the Basic Law of the Government, the Shura Council Statute, Regional Administration Statute, and the Statute of the Council of Ministers.

Exponent of Islamic Solidarity: The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd worked tirelessly to foster one of the pillars of Saudi policy, namely, Islamic solidarity. The call for Islamic solidarity was materialised through Islamic summits. The Organization of the Islamic Conference, the World Muslim League and many other channels where Islamic Unity is a prime objective. The Kingdom hosted the historic third Islamic Summit Conference at Makkah and Taif in 1981 AD. There are many examples of King Fahd's efforts to develop cooperation among the Muslims. His intervention in the dispute between the leaders of Afghanistan, his material help to the suffering Muslims of Bosnia, his efforts to make peace among the Somalis and

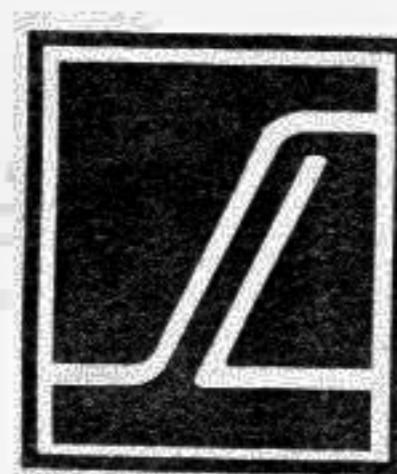
end civil war in Somalia are apt examples of his ability to mediate in disputes. King Fahd has always supported Islamic centres and societies and contributed to the building of schools, mosques, universities and hospitals. Besides, the help provided by the Kingdom to developing countries over the past two decades amounted to more than 71 billion dollars in the form of soft loans and grants. The recipients were more than 70 countries, 38 of which were in Africa, 22 in Asia and 10 other countries elsewhere.

Role in Arab World: The Custodian of the Two Mosques King Fahd played a prominent role in dealing with the problems of the Arab World. He has visited all the Arab States more than once and participated in many meetings and conferences. He is a bold interlocutor and campaigner for peace and amity between Arab States. He stood by every Arab cause. The history of the Palestinian issue is a witness to his defence of the rights of the people of Palestine and his efforts to explain their legitimate claims to the world leaders for more than a quarter of a century. To ensure security and stability in the region without sacrificing legitimate Arab rights, he put forward a solution to the Middle East problems. That was the initiative that carried his name, and was later transformed into decisions adopted by the Arab Summit Conference in Morocco in 1982 and came to be known as the 'Arab Peace Project'. His initiative was received favourably not only in the Arab and Islamic spheres but throughout the world. The initiative was also adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference of Casablanca and formed the basis for the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991. The Lebanon crisis that erupted in 1975 received the conciliatory effort of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the fruits of which was the convening of the reconciliation conference of Lebanese Parliamentarians held in Taif in Saudi Arabia in 1989. This conference helped to restore calm to the Lebanon and heal the wounds of conflict and division. The Kingdom continues to provide the Lebanon with political and economic support to overcome the legacy of the civil war. When the sisterly State of Kuwait suffered Iraqi aggression on 2 August 1990, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd took up his well known stance that made possible the return of freedom to Kuwait. The Kingdom played host to the Government and the people of Kuwait during the crisis as well as helping Kuwaitis abroad. Saudi Arabia also accepted thousands of Iraqis fleeing the tyranny of the Iraqi regime.

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Our Warmest Felicitations
From the core of our heart to the
Government & the brotherly people of
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
on the auspicious occasion of
Saudi National Day

We wish progress and happiness of the Government &
the People of the Kingdom & hope the fraternal
relationship between the two countries will be further
strengthened & remain everlasting.



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