

SEPTEMBER 18, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

President Ford and Saudi Arabian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Saud Bin Faisal Al-Saud, met in the Oval Office at 12:50 p. m. The meeting lasted thirty-four minutes. Also attending the meeting were Secretary of State Kissinger and General Scowcroft on the American side and Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Ibrahim Sowayel.

This was the first personal meeting between the President and His Royal Highness, Prince Saud. It afforded an opportunity for a general review of the Middle East situation, with particular reference to the new interim agreement in the Sinai. The President expressed his appreciation for the constructive role which Saudi Arabia has played in support of the peace efforts, both under the wise leadership of His Majesty, the late King Faisal, and under His Majesty, King Khalid. The President expressed his determination to use the opportunity created by the recent Agreement between Egypt and Israel to generate further momentum for the process leading toward a just and final peace in the Middle East.

Given the close and long-standing ties which exist between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States, the President and His Highness, Prince Saud, also discussed the broad range of issues which comprise our overall relationship. The President reaffirmed the importance he attached to close relations between our two countries, emphasizing that these ties should be further strengthened and consolidated in the interests of both our peoples and in the interest of working together to resolve serious regional and world problems. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the progress of the U. S. - Saudi Arabian Joint Commission which exists to help promote cooperation between our two countries and reflects the continuing interest of the United States in the Kingdom's economic development and security.

The President asked His Highness to convey to His Majesty, King Khalid, his high regards and assurance that our shared goal of the establishment of peace in the Middle East remains a principal concern of the United States.

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