

**Crown Prince Abdullah chairs Cabinet's session
RIYADH, Oct. 11 2004 , SPA**

Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Premier and Commander of the National Guard, chaired the weekly Cabinet's session at Al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh on Monday. In the name of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdulaziz and in his own name, the Crown Prince congratulated the Saudi people and Arab and Islamic nations on the advent of the blessing month of Ramadan, noting that this month embodies the realities of unity, solidarity and cooperation in good deeds. The Crown Prince briefed the Cabinet on the contents of messages, contacts, talks and consultations held over the previous days between the Kingdom and brotherly and friendly countries on the latest developments in the region particularly the deteriorating situation in the Palestinian occupied territories and Iraq. In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency following the session, the Minister of Culture and Information Dr. Fuad bin Abdulsalam Al-Farsi said that the Cabinet warned of the tragic situation in Gaza Strip which forebodes a humanitarian catastrophe if Israel's occupation authorities continue the annihilation campaign against the Palestinian people in the Strip and other Palestinian territories. The Cabinet stressed that the situation will dangerously escalate following the failure of the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution against these brutal acts which made the Israeli authorities continue their systematic annihilation war against the Palestinian people. The Cabinet also cautioned against the tragic situation in Iraq, calling on the world community represented by the United Nations to play a more active role to stop daily bloodshed resulting from insecurity. Renewing the Kingdom's condemnation of the terrorist act in Taba city, Egypt, the Cabinet affirmed the Kingdom's stand by and solidarity with Egypt to confront these terrorist operations. Dr. Al-Farsi noted that the Cabinet praised the great interest extended by the government to the health sector in the Kingdom. He added that the Crown Prince's patronage of the inauguration of Riyadh-based King Fahd Medical City comprising the 1095 bed hospitals and the launching of the national medical network come within the Kingdom's great interest in this sector to improve the

level of health services. He also pointed, in this field, to the continuation of setting up 2000 health centers in various regions within the framework of King Fahd's project. Dr. Alfarsi said the Cabinet then reviewed the local items on its agenda and issued the following decisions:

The Cabinet extended the period of temporary reassignment of drivers to the general logistics departments of land army brigades from "not more than 60 days" to "not more than 90 days," exempting them from the provisions of a Cabinet's previous decision. The Cabinet authorized the Minister of Culture and Information or his deputy to discuss a memorandum on cooperation in the field of exchange of news between the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) and the independent Media Service Management of the Republic of Venezuela (Venpress). The Council of Ministers authorized the Minister of Transport or his deputy to sign a draft agreement on cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa in the field of maritime transport. The final version of the agreement will be forwarded for further authentication. The Cabinet approved the appointment of Abdullah bin Mohammed Alobaid Alnamlah as Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ahmed bin Mohammed Alsidairi as Minister Plenipotentiary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mansour bin Abdullah Alghifaili as Director General at the Ministry of Civil Service.