PRESS RELEASE
WINNERS ANNOUNCED
1998/1418H KING FAISAL INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR SERVICE TO ISLAM

The 1998 King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam is awarded to:

H.E. President Abdou Diouf, President of the Senegal Republic

LEADING AFRICAN STATESMAN WINS TOP INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, January 6 ... President Diouf's outstanding support for Islamic causes has been recognised in the award of the 1998 King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam, one of five categories in an international awards programme established by the King Faisal Foundation.

He is the first Muslim President of Senegal after independence. As a leading African statesman, he has been President of the Permanent Committee of Culture and Information of the Organisation of Islamic Conference since 1981.

As part of an ongoing Islamic development programme, President Diouf has encouraged the use of Arabic and been a relentless supporter of Islamic causes. He hosted the 6th Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar in 1992. The President played a pivotal role in mending relations between his country and Mauritania following the bloody events that took place in 1989 between these two Islamic countries.

He has participated actively in various international Islamic meetings covering contemporary Muslim issues and has made significant contributions to Islamic summits.

On a cultural and scientific level, he has supported greater cooperation between his country and the rest of the Muslim world.