

Acceptance Speech

Delivered by His Royal Highness

PRINCE SALMAN BIN ABD AL-AZIZ

Governor of Riyadh on behalf of

The Saudi Arabian High Commission for Danations To Bosnia-
Herzegovia

Winner of the 2001

King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam

Friday 16 February 2001 (22 Dhu Al-Qedah 1421H)

*Praise be to Allah and prayers and peace be upon the Messenger of
Allah*

Your Royal Highness, Prince Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz

The Crown Prince, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and
Head of the National Guard

Distinguished Guests

Assalam Alaikum

It is fitting for this country, cradle of Islam, to bestow a prize for service to Islam. Service to Islam originated in this land at the dawn of Islam. It was invigorated, in a general sense, by Imam Muhammad bin Saud and his successors, through embracing Shaikh Muhammad bin

Abd Al-Wahab's call for Islamic reform. With the advent of a modern Saudi Arabia, the late King Abd Al-Aziz bin Abd Al-Rahman Al-Faisal and his sons relentlessly supported the teachings, laws, language and cultural heritage of Islam. We look forward to continuing along this path.

The King Faisal International Prize is an expression of the spirit of service to Islam and a pointer to the progress this country has accomplished under its wise leadership. The Prize is said to have become one of the most prestigious international awards; however, it is unique among all other high-ranking prizes by its Islamic mark: *It takes its hue from Allah, and who can give a better hue than Allah. It is He whom we worship.*

It gives me great pleasure to address you on this blessed occasion on behalf of The Saudi Arabian High Commission for Donations to Bosnia-Herzegovina, this year's recipient of the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam.

The Commission is well known to most of you through its diverse and far-reaching philanthropic activities. Its humanitarian efforts are primarily dictated by the teachings of Islam, which emphasize solidarity, cooperation and mutual collaboration between Muslims. The Prophet Muhammad, peace and prayers be upon Him, described true Muslims – in their brotherhood and unity – as one body; if any part of it ailed, the rest of the body would promptly come to its rescue.

Your Royal Highness Prince Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz,
Distinguished Guests

The Saudi Arabian High Commission for Donations to Bosnia-Herzegovina was established by the order of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in 1982, and has been proud to lead the efforts of Saudis toward their beleaguered brothers and sisters in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Commission has worked steadfastly to accomplish its objectives and was able, with the help of Allah, to stand firmly and enthusiastically with Bosnians during their exposure to persecution and aggression at the hands of Serbians, and to help soothe their sufferings and ease their tragedy. Phenomenal work had to be done to re-build a country shattered by the war: roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, mosques, farms and homes had to be re-constructed.

Careful planning, taking into consideration immediate and future needs and aspirations of Bosnians, guided the Commission in carrying out its relief operations and development programs in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Commission pursued several programs of significant impact, including social, health, educational and cultural programs, and helped re-construct an important part of the country's infrastructure.

Your Royal Highness Prince Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz
Distinguished Guests

It is only fair to attribute any credit the Commission might have earned to those who stood behind it. The Commission could not have accomplished what it has without, first and foremost, the support of Allah, and secondly the unlimited encouragement, support, and guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahad bin Abd Al-Aziz, His Royal Highness Prince Abd Allah bin Abd Al-Aziz, the Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abd Al-Aziz, the Second Deputy Premier. All of them steadfastly supported the Commission, followed closely its activities, and made every possible endeavor to ensure its success and continuity.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques stood solidly by the cause of the Bosnian Muslims and was a driving force behind the recognition of their tragedy by Arab, Islamic and international circles. He played a key role in initiating relief programs for Bosnia-Herzegovina and was one of the first donors to those programs.

The role played by the Saudi Arabian High Commission for Donations to Bosnia-Herzegovina constitutes a landmark in Saudi relief programs; these programs are invariably governed by the teachings of Islam by philanthropy. Through these programs, the Kingdom seeks only one thing: the preservation of man's dignity.

Undoubtedly, the Commission's endeavors along these lines have added substantially to international relief efforts, and particularly Islamic efforts.

The selection of the Commission as winner of this year's King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam is a great source of pride for all workers in the Commission. However, part of the credit must also go to the different sectors of the Saudi public for substantially supporting the Commission, thereby reflecting the true spirit of Islam and the inherent goodness of people. In particular, I would like to express the Commission's thanks to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince, the Second Deputy Premier and the Minister of Interior; their highnesses District Governors, Chairmen of the Commission's local and regional committees, and all members of the Saudi public and expatriates who have generously given to their brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Tonight's recognition is for all of them.

In conclusion, I would like to thank this Foundation that bears the name of King Faisal, a great leader who dedicated his life to philanthropy and the solidarity of Muslims.

Praise be to Allah for all the His bounties.

Assalam Alaikum.