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## **The Address of His Highness the Prime Minister at the NATO Conference Held In Kuwait**

**12 December 2006**

**His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,  
His Highness the Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of the Defense Force in  
the Kingdom of Bahrain,  
His Excellency Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer Secretary General of the NATO  
Alliance,  
His Excellency Mr. AbdulRahman Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah Secretary General of  
the Gulf Cooperation Council,  
Your Excellencies Heads and Members of Delegations,  
Your Excellencies Sheikhs, Ministers, and Ambassadors**

**Dear Attendance**

**I warmly welcome you, and wish our esteemed guests a pleasant stay in this safe  
country. It is an honour for me to convey the best wishes of His Highness the  
Amir and the compliments of His Highness the Crown Prince.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**We are gathered today at a historic meeting comprising prominent officials from  
the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and officials from the North Atlantic  
Treaty Organization "NATO". It is a first consultative conference in Kuwait of  
which we anticipate fruitful achievements for all our states, developing into a  
productive meeting we may collectively benefit from.**

**Our conference comes two days after the closing of the twenty seventh Gulf  
Cooperation Council leaders summit, through which our countries in this region  
exert consolidated efforts to enhance cooperation, in order to achieve our  
people's objectives of security and development.**

**Dear Guests,**

**Undoubtedly, everyone fully understands that the Middle East has, within the  
last decades, endured continued crises; crises that the people have paid a high  
price for with lives and lost opportunities for development.**

**We live in Kuwait and the Gulf where we possess, in and around us, oil reserves  
that are indispensable for providing energy to the world; it is the basis and the  
instigator of International development. Therefore, stability, cooperation and  
development are fundamental objectives of our countries, and the world shares  
our views on this. Here lies the importance of cooperation with the North  
Atlantic Treaty Organization "NATO" which has expanded to group a number**



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of countries in the last few years reaching twenty six countries with all their expertise, capabilities and experiences from which our countries may benefit and learn; above all, an important lesson which is that cooperation and exchanging expertise are the best means to overcome crises, serve the peoples and promote peace.

Last September I visited various member countries of the NATO alliance and I perceived firsthand, from the leaderships of these countries their aspirations and high hopes in establishing cooperation and realizing peace and security, not only in their regions, but in other regions around the world.

Today we witness a contrast in the nature of the role and function carried out by alliances for the sake of peace. Every region around the world, from East to West seeks to join a specific alliance that safeguards it from harm, provides security and achieves development. This phenomenon basically confirms that international cooperation is the means for resolving disputes.

We embrace fruitful cooperation between Gulf Cooperation Council states and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance “NATO”, to enhance initiatives launched from the outset of the Mediterranean Dialogue leading to the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative in the framework of which, this conference is held. And in order to explore means of cooperation which will accomplish mutual interests. We emphasize our need for affiliation to a partnership to obtain stability and peace based on values of respect, equality, justice and mutual trust.

Dear Attendance,

We believe that all peoples and societies have a culture and distinctive attributes in the social and political structure they hope and desire to attain, drawing on the experiences of others while reinforcing their individual experiences. The Gulf Cooperation Council states propose overall political and economic reform that will be in the interest of citizens and will achieve cooperation with other countries.

However, we recognize that there is a gap that must be bridged between the developed and the developing countries, illustrated in technological advancement and scientific research which is relevant to all fields of life. NATO countries can play an effective role in eliminating this gap and assisting in maintaining natural resources, protecting the environment and encouraging peaceful coexistence between nations.

Time and scientific advancement will ensure the abolishment of all barriers and walls between nations. On this matter, our conference shall lay the foundations for close cooperation between Gulf Cooperation Council states and the North Atlantic alliance in all opportunities and potentials attainable to both sides.



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**Therefore, we look forward in Kuwait, to holding direct and constructive dialogue between officials and researchers in the Gulf Cooperation Council states, and officials in the alliance institutes to pursue the best means of cooperation.**

**May Allah grant you all success in this meeting, which I hope will recur for the benefit of us all. Wishing your conference every success.**

**Wassalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh**