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Saudi National Day Remarks

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Good afternoon. Thank you for inviting me to be part of your celebration. I understand Sept. 23 is the 80th anniversary of the day your nation was formally united by King Abdulaziz and began its growth to become modern Saudi Arabia and the major economy it is today. It is a remarkable journey your nation has taken in just 80 years.

We have been pleased to be a destination for an ever-growing population of Saudi students. That growth has taken place in less than a decade.

In 2004, we were the host institution for just 13 Saudi students. This fall, the number of students from Saudi Arabia stands at 330.

You bring your nation's culture with you and you help broaden the experiences of students from this nation. Both of our nations and all of the students involved benefit.

You are a long way from home on this important day for you, your families and countrymen. Please accept my personal congratulations on the enormous progress and growth your nation has made. And please share that information with your friends here as your way of honoring that progress.

Thank you.