

SEP 04 2008



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

AUG 29 2008

Dear Mr. Wolf:

Thank you for your letters of June 24 and July 14 concerning the issue of textbooks and the Islamic Saudi Academy (ISA). We regret the delay in our response.

Your letters raise important issues. We have appreciated the opportunity to discuss these with you and your staff in recent months. No government should produce materials that are intolerant of religious, racial, or ethnic groups, nor include such materials in its educational curricula. For several years, we have engaged with the Government of Saudi Arabia on the need to eliminate intolerant references toward other religious groups in textbooks and other educational materials used in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

We continue to focus on the Government of Saudi Arabia's efforts to revise and update its textbooks to excise all intolerant passages that disparage or promote hatred toward religions or religious groups. We are raising the issue both in Washington and through our Embassy in Riyadh.

With regard to the ISA in particular, the school has reported that it is in the process of adopting new religious curricula and textbooks for the 2008-09 school year. The ISA has stated publicly that the new school year's textbooks are currently being reviewed by professors at two American universities.

We hope this information is helpful to you. The Department remains willing to brief you in more detail on our efforts. Please let us know if we may be of any further assistance on this or any other matter in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew A. Reynolds".

Matthew A. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Frank R. Wolf,
House of Representatives.