

APPENDIX A

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faisal's Statement regarding Saudi Textbooks

(In an interview by Lesley Stahl on CBS's 60 Minutes program, September 9, 2002)

Interviewer: ... We didn't understand that your schoolchildren were being fed a diet of hatred about the United States.

Prince Sa'ud: This is absolutely a misconception. The moment the [September 11, 2001] attack happened, and the moment we found out, to our remorse, that so many of those involved in the attack were Saudis, the first thing that occurred to my mind was: 'how can this happen; how can this happen in spite of the friendship that we have for the United States?' So, the first thing I thought was to go through the books that are taught in our schools and see within them direct [clues to a] Saudi Arabian [being] liable to be deluded by anybody who harbors enmity toward the United States. I was expecting the worst...

Reporter: Even he thought students were being poisoned with anti-American vitriol. That is because he knew his government has long ago ceded control of Saudi schools and their curriculum to the hardline Islamists. Prince Sa'ud said he was relieved when his textbook review showed that 85% of what was being taught was not hateful.

Prince Sa'ud: Ten percent of what we found was questionable. Five percent was actually abhorrent to us. So, we took a decision to change that, and we have changed.