

Bush encourages U.S. investment

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- A deal to sell satellite-guided smart-bomb kits to Saudi Arabia will help solidify ties with the kingdom, a top U.S. national security official said Monday. The arms package is part of a sale to the United States' allies in the Persian Gulf, aimed at shoring up support against Iran's nuclear ambitions. "All agreed it's a difficult problem that needs to be addressed and at this point pursued in a diplomatic fashion," U.S. national security adviser Steven Hadley said of the Islamic republic's desire for nuclear weapons. Hadley also told reporters aboard Air Force One that Bush told leaders in the United Arab Emirates that the United States remains open to foreign investment. "There was a lot of discussion about the U.S. economy, the importance of the United States economy, and a healthy U.S. economy, to this region," he said. "The president was reassuring about the underlying fundamentals on the economy, and his optimism on its long-term strength."

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