

Iraqi, Syrian PMs say talks were fruitful

by UPI

DAMASCUS, Syria -- The prime ministers of Iraq and Syria said Wednesday their talks in Damascus had resulted in agreements on security and economic matters. At a joint news conference, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said he and Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Naji Al-Utri had reached agreement on a "mutual desire to fight terrorism," and that it was a problem requiring the attention of all Middle Eastern countries, Kuwait's KUNA news agency reported. Utri called for an end to the military occupation of Iraq by the U.S.-led coalition, and went on to say Iraqi refugees were causing financial difficulties for Syria. He said a joint Syrian-Iraqi committee would be established to address the problem. The leaders also reached agreement on Iraq supplying natural gas to Syria and reopening a pipeline, as well as supplying water to Syria from the Tigris River, the report said. Several undisclosed agreements deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein struck with Syria were reviewed, and some were maintained, while others were canceled, Maliki said.

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