

1. What role does American security assistance, troop presence and U.S. naval presence in the Gulf play in Saudi Arabia's decision-making process on oil production and OPEC policies?
2. Why did OPEC in 1999 decide to raise crude oil prices by cutting back on production? When was that decision made? Was the decision driven primarily by production or price considerations?
3. Other than seeking to raise prices by cutting production, what other objectives did OPEC have in mind when reaching its decision? What foreign policy implications did OPEC foresee flowing from its decision to restrict production?
4. Was the OPEC decision to cut production motivated in part by a desire to expand the oil-for-food exports from Iraq in the face of increasing international criticism of sanctions?
5. U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson visited Saudi Arabia in February 1999 when oil prices were at their lowest. Were the issues of production quotas and price discussed during that visit?
6. Former Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Sheik Ahmed Yamani reportedly told a Houston, Texas, audience in the fall of 1999 that the U.S. Energy Secretary saved the oil industry during that visit to Saudi Arabia because his intervention had persuaded Saudi Arabia to change policy by raising oil prices. Could you please comment on the accuracy of this story?
7. If Saddam Hussein decided suddenly to abandon the oil-for-food program and withhold oil production from the international market in the next few months -- without regard to his own people -- what effect would that decision have on the global supply of oil and natural gas? On the price of energy? On other major energy supplier nations? On the global economy?
8. Do you anticipate that the rate of energy consumption in the world will continue to grow as the global economy expands generating new requirements for energy? Or do you believe that the production of other non-renewable energy sources such as wind power, nuclear power, biomass and other sources will eventually reduce the rate of growth in the world for non-renewable energies such as oil and natural gas. How do you see the future demand for oil evolving?
9. How are decisions on production quotas made in OPEC? By consensus? How are compliance with OPEC decisions monitored and enforced?