



MESSAGE OF HAZRAT AMEER DR. ASGHAR HAMEED

THE INTERNATIONAL AHMADIYYA CONVENTION PARAMARIAB, SURINAME 13TH TO 15TH AUGUST 1999



“And who is better in speech than one who calls to Allah and does good, and says: I am surely of those who submit? And not alike are the good and the evil. Repel (evil) with what is best, when lo! he between whom and thee is enmity would be as if he were a warm friend.

And none is granted it but those who are patient, and none is granted it but the owner of a great fortune.”
(Holy Quran, 41:33-35).

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

Assalaam-o-Alaikum.

I have just recited verses 33 to 35 of Chapter Ha Mim Sajdah and its English translation. These verses emphasise the importance of serving the cause of Islam and how patience and forbearance not only eradicate evil but also bring about peace and friendship. These verses also explain the mission of The Ahmadiyya Movement. All praise be to Allah that The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement for almost nine decades has been serving the cause of Islam with sincerity and dedication. It has established Islamic Centres throughout the world in its humble way and produced extremely valuable literature, which has received worldwide recognition. Maulana Muhammad Ali's English translation of The Holy Quran has been a pioneer work in this field. The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement has laid great emphasis on translating it into several important languages of the world such as Spanish, French, Dutch, German, Indonesian and Javanese. Russian translation with Arabic text and commentary is a recent achievement. Several thousand copies of this translation have already been distributed to important libraries and Islamic centres in Russia. Work on the revised editions of the Dutch and German translations is in progress and Insha Allah will soon see the light of the day.

Brothers and sisters. Suriname Ahmadiyya Anjuman is an important wing of The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement in this region. Together with Guyana and Trinidad it has played a significant role in spreading of the message of Islam. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I send my best wishes and felicitations on this auspicious occasion to the president, brother Rashied Pierkhan, members of the Executive Committee, the organising committee of this International Ahmadiyya Convention and members of the Suriname Ahmadiyya Community as a whole. Completion of the Islamic Centre and a mosque are a significant achievement of the Suriname Ahmadiyya Anjuman since the inauguration of the Central Mosque in Paramaribo in 1986. Our late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan and Mian Fazl-e-Ahmad, on that occasion were very successful in forging strong understanding and cooperation among the Anjumans of the region and also with the Central Anjuman. I hope and pray that the Islamic Centre which is being inaugurated today will play an equally important role in cementing unity and in organising training and tableegh work not only in Suriname but also elsewhere.

The Suriname Ahmadiyya Anjuman through its branches and mosques throughout Suriname has been making steady progress since 1986 and I am confident that addition of the Islamic Centre will further augment its activities.

Brothers and sisters. Modern media with fast developing techniques have opened wide range of means of communication systems. Suriname Anjuman, through our worthy president, is already using radio and television for propagation work. But in order to utilise computers and Internet systems and to disseminate ideas and material through them we need trained men and women who can ably handle these new systems and carry the message of Islam to a wider range of audience. Establishment of the Islamic Centre by the Suriname Ahmadiyya Anjuman is a very well thought-out step towards this direction.

Allah prophesied to the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, more than fourteen hundred years ago, that in the Later Age the sun (of Islam) shall rise in the West. The founder of The Ahmadiyya Movement, under Divine guidance, embarked upon this arduous task and instilled his followers with faith and zeal to work towards this objective. Holding of International Conventions in this far off area of South America is a clear evidence of the fulfillment of this prophecy. The mission of this Movement is to uphold supremacy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and the Holy Quran. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah, beautifully describes his innermost desire and for that matter the objective of his followers in this couplet:

[omitted]

It means:

Every moment this is the desire of my heart that I should kiss thy Scripture
And go round and round the Quran because this is my Ka'bah (the pivot of my life).

Brothers and sisters. People may celebrate heralding of the new millennium by constructing a Millennium Dome and indulging in other festivities, but we humble members of The Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement are directing all our efforts and energies to accelerate the pace of work for the spread of Islam. Holding of this International Convention to work out plans for the future of Islam in the West is the best way of welcoming the New Millennium. It is therefore with the sincerest prayers that I wish this Convention a grand success and am confident that it will pave the way for a bright future for Islam in the coming years.

Brothers and sisters. I am sorry that I am unable to personally attend this important Convention for various reasons. The Promised Messiah had prophesied: "I shall carry thy message to the four corners of the world". I shall miss very much this rare opportunity of seeing for myself the fulfillment of this prophecy. But I assure you that my fervent prayers are with you all and for the noble cause you are working for.

May Allah be with us all and may our humble efforts bear fruit.

Aameen.