

NEWSLETTER



O.I.C. RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

April 1984

No.: 5

EDITORIAL

The fifth issue of our Newsletter is in your hands. We shall look forward to comments and suggestions from our readers. These comments have been of great assistance to us in the past and were published in the Newsletter under the caption of "Comments From Our Readers". As the Centre is now embarking upon multifarious activities, the comments are not restricted to the Newsletter but other research/academic pursuits are receiving due attention. The column has therefore been re-captioned "Editor's Post and Comments".

From now on the Newsletter will appear tri-annual and shall come out in April, August and December every year. This is in accordance with wish of our readers. Moreover, it also became necessary in view of the expanding horizons of the activities of the Centre.

The present issue covers a wide range of activities and subjects. Two new articles are being introduced under the captions "Palestine Chronicle" and "Muslim Minorities Cultural News Digest". The first carries cultural news from the Holy land of Palestine.

The second is a survey of cultural activities in islamic countries where muslims are in minority. It is hoped that both articles will interest our readers.

The first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage was held in Istanbul on 8-9 November 1983. Istanbul Centre functions as the Secretariat of this Commission. H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, chairman of the Commission presided over the first meeting in the presence of H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, the Secretary General of the O.I.C. A detailed report of this important event follows. Highlights from the Fourth Islamic Summit, Casablanca (16-19 Jan. 1984) and the 14th ICFM Dhaka (6-10 December 1983) are also being given under separate heads apart from brief write-ups about the Cairo Book Fair and the visit of the Turkish Minister of Culture to the Centre. All happenings at the Centre are being covered under the title of "News of the Centre". It is earnestly hoped that this material will be found informative and useful.

Dr.Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Editor-in-Chief

FIRST MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE, ISTANBUL. 8-9 NOVEMBER 1983.



- H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdulaziz Chairman of the International Preservation Commission during the first session of the Commission. There are Also in the picture: H.E.Mr.Habib Chatty, Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and other members of this Commission.

Inaugural Session

The first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage was held in Istanbul on 8-9 November 1983. The session started in the great historical hall of the Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace, with the recitation from the Holy Qur'an. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre and Secretary of the Commission welcomed the honourable guests and members of the Commission, particularly its worthy Chairman, the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism.

Underlining the structural interdependence and mutual objectives of the Istanbul Centre and the Commission, he assured them "That the Centre shall feel privileged and honoured in serving the Heritage Commission with all its intellectual possibilities and the modest experience it has gained in three and a half years ... Moreover the library of the Centre which now possesses about 10000 volumes and is utilizing computer technology, shall also be at the disposal of the Heritage Commission".

H.E. Mr. İlhan Evliyaoğlu, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey representing the Turkish Government, assured, that "the in-

terest shown to the Istanbul Centre by our Government will also be extended to this Commission." He paid tribute to the sagacity and wisdom of H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and hoped that his chairmanship of the Commission would ensure its success. He underlined the wide range of Islamic Cultural Heritage and said that "All studies and research regarding Islamic Cultural Heritage must be undertaken by specialised international organisations."

In his opening speech, H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Commission, said: "Our target is to serve the Islamic faith in every possible way and serving the heritage is a basic service of this faith. It is a pleasure to work in this Commission with scholars who are not only well known and respected in their own countries but also in the whole Islamic world. This will encourage and facilitate the work of the Commission." He also emphasized the need of informing the Muslim youth of their Islamic heritage and said "Our Islamic youth always asks about his heritage and how best to know, visit and study it. I shall be thankful if this is a starting point in the work programme of the Commission."

H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, appealed to the whole world to save the Holy City of Al-Quds and termed it a responsibility of whole mankind and said "Cultural heritage is a collective asset which must be preserved. This is our duty and we have to participate in the realisation of the projects relating to preservation."

Regarding the Commission's role, he remarked: "We believe that in the International Commission for

the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, all the efforts will be gathered to realise cooperation in this field and to achieve the Commission's objectives and strengthening our solidarity as individuals and as nations. We have in front of us a wide range for cooperation, coordination, exchange of information and ideas about our heritage and also to preserve its identity and authenticity leading to the birth of a better future."

At the end, H.E. Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, Director General of ISESCO gave a speech and remarked that: "The contemporary renaissance of the Islamic Ummah in the socio-economic, scientific and technologic fields must inevitably be based on the Islamic heritage and enlighten himself with his characteristics and must take this power from his composition." which was followed by a slide show on Islamic architecture presented by the famous photographer Mr. Sami Güner.

Working Sessions:

The first working session opened the same evening. It was chaired by His Royal Highness, Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, H.E. the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and members of the Commission were also present. He expressed the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the activities of the Commission. He also conveyed the congratulations of His Majesty the King for the activities and projects and affirmed that the Commission with its international character is indeed worth all the attention and esteem. He also addressed his thanks to H.E. the Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference for the efforts

made in the establishment of the Commission.

After the opening speech, agenda of the meeting was unanimously approved. The following decisions were made:

1. To print the catalogue of the Islamic Heritage Exhibition, prepared by UNESCO.

2. To organise a photography exhibition on islamic architecture.

3. To organise a photography exhibition of the masterpieces of calligraphy to be displayed in the islamic world.

4. To organise seminars among young Muslims in Mekka and Medina for the occasion of the 15th Century Hijra on the subject of Islamic Heritage and to encourage other Islamic States to do the same in their respective countries.

5. To organise a drawing competition among children featuring a mosque and its characteristics.

6. To publish a brochure introducing the objectives and the functions of the Commission.

7. To publish a periodical giving information on the preservation of islamic heritage and distributing it in the entire islamic world.

8. To distribute awards in academic institutions of architecture and art for the best projects inspired from islamic architecture.

9. To prepare audio-visual documents on the masterpieces of islamic art.

10. To declare an international

year of Islamic Heritage during which the Commission will execute a special programme and all Islamic States will participate.

11. To organize a Symposium on Islamic Heritage entitled : "The Actual State of Islamic Heritage and Responsibilities for its Preservation and Stimulation."

12. To ensure the participation of the Commission in other international projects concerned with the preservation of Islamic Heritage in Al-Quds al-Sharif in co-operation and coordination with the Commission of Al-Quds and other international Islamic and Arabic organisations.

The Commission charged the Secretary to make detailed studies of each one of these projects and related financial requirements to determine the priorities, stages and aspects of their realisation, and to accomplish this work before the next meeting of the Commission.

The final session was held on Wednesday night under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz. The report of this last meeting was read and accepted. The Commission also studied the means for financing these projects. Thus in addition to what precedes, the Commission decided that:

1. Declaration of an award in the name of His Majesty King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz. The Chairman of the Commission announced that His Majesty had decided to donate \$ 100.000 to cover all expenses and awards for the islamic architecture competition to be organised in the academic institutions of architecture and art.

2. Approval of the publication of a special issue on Islamic

art in the Swiss-French review "L'Oeil". H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz announced that he would donate \$ 30.000 for the preparation of this issue which will be supervised and directed by Dr. Afif Bahnassi. It was decided that at least 5000 copies would be given to the Commission, the income of which would finance other projects.

3. Approval of the preparation of a register entitled the "Register of Islamic Heritage Properties", in which the historical buildings, cities, sites and works of patrimony will be recorded under the below conditions:

a) Institutions or concerned parties desiring to be included in this register will present detailed information on the importance of their properties.

b) The Commission's approval for registration will be given after the Secretary's presentation of his report on the subject.

c) The projects which will be undertaken by the Commission will only be confined to the registered projects in accordance with the request of the concerned party.

4. Approval of the project to motivate the Islamic waqf for the Preservation of Islamic Heritage and to confirm the importance of the waqfs in supporting large scale projects. The Commission also decided that :

a) The theme of one of the future symposiums shall be: "The Waqfs as Means for the Preservation of Islamic Heritage."

b) Dr. Afif Bahnassi shall prepare a detailed study on this project.

It was decided that the next extraordinary meeting of the Commission be held during the last week of May 1984 at the Executive Centre of the Commission in Istanbul.



- H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz Chairman of the International Heritage Commission.

GLIMPSES FROM THE 14TH ICFM DHAKA 6-10 DEC. 1983

The five-day 14th Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference opened on Tuesday, 6 December 1983 at Sangsad Bhaban (Parliament House) Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference was formally opened by Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt.Gen.H.M.Ershad. In his opening address, he stressed the fact of "giving Islamic unity and solidarity new meaning and new life". On the subject of education and cultural cooperation, he laid emphasis on strengthening the institutions of research established within the framework of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and urged "all islamic countries to involve themselves fully in the work of these institutions in the interest of the Islamic Community as a whole." Tracing the history of Islam in Bangladesh, he said : "Islam came to Bangladesh in the 8th Century (2nd Century Hijra) and spread to the four corners of our country. Its influence was all pervasive. Its impact on our culture, education, and legal system, in sum, our entire way of life has endured to this very day. During these 1100 years, it has shaped and conditioned every sphere of activity. There is evidence of our rich islamic heritage in every corner of Bangladesh. Islamic monuments, mosques, buildings, mad-rassas, caravan-serais abound".

In his speech, H.E. Mr.Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference praised the prominent role of Bangladesh within the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and offered his profound thanks to the Government of Bangladesh for its generous hospitality, outstanding care and warm welcome.

On the subject of cooperation, he opined: "Convinced of the need to promote cultural cooperation among muslims so as to enable them to assert their personality, help one another, consolidate their faith, acquire strength and invulnerability and increase their knowledge and their capacity to defend their homelands and revive the authentic islamic civilization in whose great heritage, they all participate regardless of race, colour and tongue, our organisation has established important institutions in this field such as...The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Heritage, headquartered in Istanbul Despite the fact that, our Organisation has devoted to the political side a considerable part of its efforts and activities in view of the colossal political problems facing the Muslim Ummah."

Meanwhile the Conference accepted the request of the Republic of Benin for membership and Benin was accepted as the 44th member of the O.I.C.

H.E.Mr. Bakary Drame, Assistant Secretary General for the Cultural and Social Affairs and for the Islamic Solidarity Fund, opened the first meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Cultural Committee on 7 December 1983. Mr.Mujibul Haq, member of the Planning Commission of Bangladesh, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee. As regards other members, H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Al-Mubarak from Saudi Arabia and H.E. Haj Foda Soriba Camara from Guinea were elected Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur respectively. H.E. Mr.

Drame, introduced various items on the agenda of the Committee. The Committee discussed each item in a spirit of understanding and Islamic fraternity and the concerned draft resolutions were approved unanimously.

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture was represented by Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre and Mr. Mohammed Tamimi and

Mr. Ahmed Ladjimi. The Committee commended "The genuine and outstanding work of the Centre and its Director General as well as their important achievements in such a short period and with limited means". The work plan of the Centre for 1983/84 was also approved and the member states were called upon to pay their mandatory contributions.

Given below is the full text of the resolution :



-A view form the 14th ICFM-Dhaka.

RESOLUTION No:3./1 4-CS

ON

THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR
ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE
AT ISTANBUL

The 14th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers meeting in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh from 2 to 6 Rabiul Awwal 1404 H.(6-10 December 1983)

Recalling resolution 13/5-C on the Centre, adopted by the Thirteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers:

Having reviewed the report of the Board of Directors of the Centre at its second meeting held at Istanbul in Rajab 1403 H. (April 1983)

Having reviewed the recommendations of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs at its Tenth session held in Jeddah in Zul-Hija 1403 H. (October 1983)

Having examined the annual report of the Director General of the Centre.

1-Approves the recommendations of the Board of Directors of the Centre at its second meeting.

2-Commends the genuine and outstanding work of the Centre and its Director General as well as their important achievements in such a short period and with limited means, particularly in respect of the first stage of the restoration at its new Headquarters in the historically important

palace which the Government of the Republic of Turkey has kindly offered to serve as its permanent seat.

3-Calls upon Member States which have not yet done so to pay their contributions and donations to the budget of the Centre so that the Centre may pursue its activities and achieve the objectives for which it was established.

4-Approves the work plan of the Centre for 1983/84.

The first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage which was held in Istanbul on 8-9 November 1983, was also on the agenda of the Cultural Committee. H.E.Mr. Osman Al Saad, the representative of H.R.H. The Chairman and Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary of the Commission, briefed the members of the Committee on the outcome of the first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage. The report prepared by the Istanbul Centre, executive organ of the Commission, also came under discussion. The members pinpointed the importance of the work assigned to the Commission and assured their full support in the execution of its projects. The first budget of this Commission was also approved by the concerned financial committee of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. Given below is full text of the resolution on the Commission as approved by the Cultural Committee.

FOURTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT,
CASABLANCA-MOROCCO 16-19
JANUARY 1984

RESOLUTION No.4/14-C

ON

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
THE PRESERVATION OF ISLAMIC
CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Fourteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers meeting in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh from 2 to 6 Rabiul Awwal 1404 H. (6-10 December 1983)

Recalling Resolution No. 6/13-C of the Thirteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage

Having examined the report of the Committee on its first meeting held in Istanbul in Safar 1404 H. (November 1983)

Recalling resolutions of the previous Islamic Conferences on the preservation of the historical cities and islamic monuments and cooperation and coordination with the Organisation of Islamic Capital Cities,

1. Endorses the recommendations of the first meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage.

2. Calls upon the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage to coordinate its activities with the plans of Member States and all the cultural organizations and institutions set up by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in res-

pect of Islamic Heritage in a bid to concert Islamic efforts in the same direction.

3. Appeals to Member States to extend financial and moral support to the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage.

4. Commends the measures undertaken by the General Secretariat in coordination with the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture for the completion of the necessary studies, the formulation of a comprehensive scheme for the salvage of the cities of Hamadalla and Timbuctu in the Republic of Mali, the restoration and maintenance of the Mosque of Demak in the Republic of Indonesia, and the despatch of experts to make a field inspection and submit a report to the General Secretariat of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference on the basis of which a very early action can be taken in the matter.

5. Authorises the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage to maintain liaison with the Organisation of the Islamic Capital Cities with a view to improving cooperation and coordination between them in the area of preserving islamic monuments and historical cities.

6. Supports the proposals of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh that the

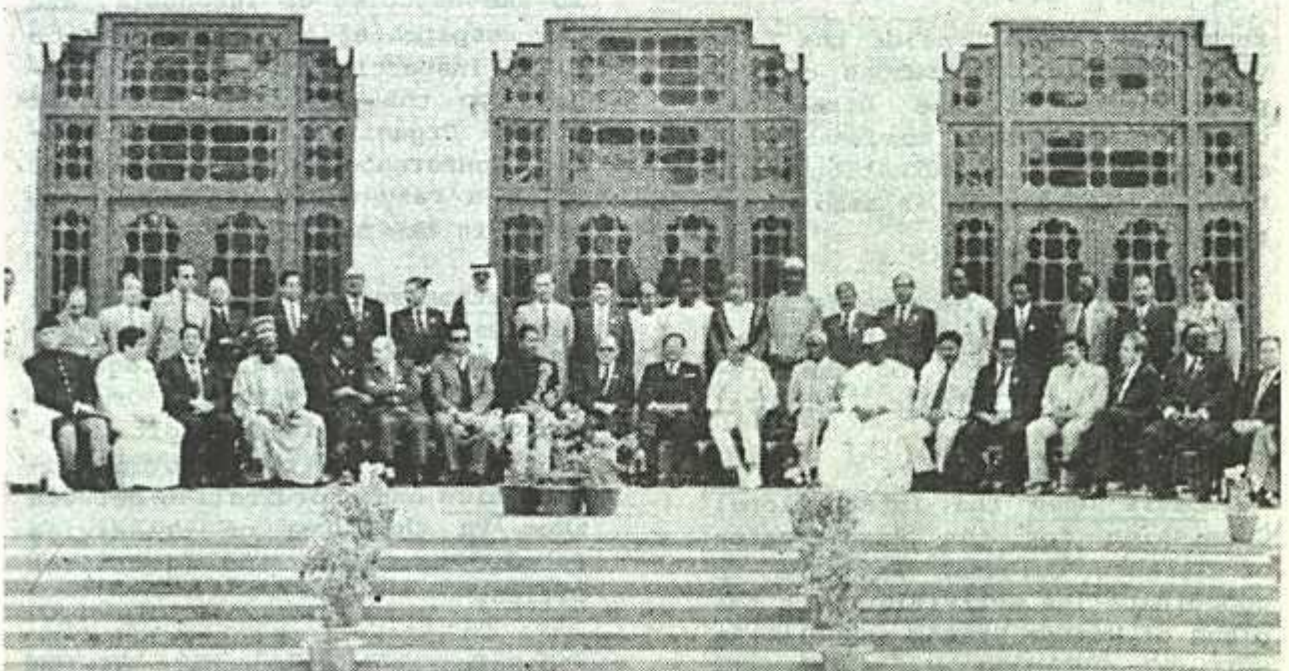
1410 H. may be declared Islamic Heritage Year.

7. Endorses the proposals of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh that elaborate programmes may be drawn up to conduct world-wide survey of the acts of defiling Islamic Heritage and Monuments in various countries specially in non-Muslim countries where the Governments may be urged to give adequate attention for their repair, restoration and preservation.

Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, hummed with cultural activities during the period of the Conference. These included an Islamic Arts and Crafts Exhibition at the

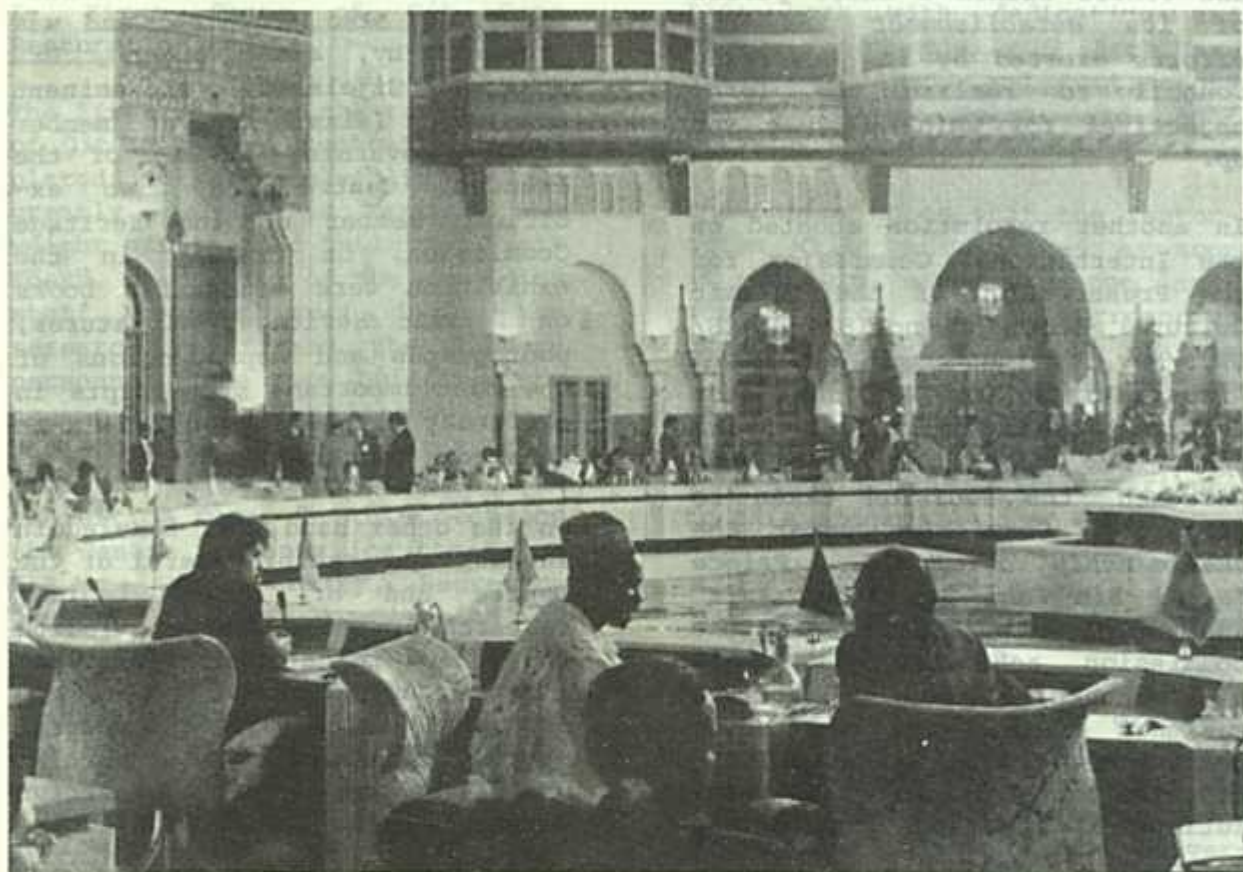
new building of the Bangladesh National Museum, an Islamic Books and Folklore Exhibition at Bangla Academy and Second Biennial Art Exhibition at the Fine Arts Academy (Shilpakala Academy) displaying arts and crafts from 13 participating Asian Countries. In addition, the delegates were also entertained with a cultural show at the Fine Art Academy and a tattoo show by the Bangladesh Rifles.

On Friday, 9th Dec. 1983, the heads of delegations joined the President of Bangladesh at Baitul Mukarram, the famous and largest mosque of Dhaka, for Jumaa prayers.



- Heads of the delegation of the 14th ICFM with President Ahsanuddin Chowdhury at Bangabhaban.

FOURTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT, CASABLANCA-MOROCCO 16-19 JANUARY 1984



-A view from the 4th Islamic Summit meeting.

The 4th Islamic Summit opened on 16 January 1984 at the Royal Palace at Casablanca, Morocco, with H.M. King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, The President of the 3rd Islamic Summit in the chair. The Summit meeting was preceded by a meeting of the Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers (ICFM) on 12 January 1984 at Rabat under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Saud Bin Faisal, Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, which prepared the agenda for the Summit. In addition, the three commissions formed by the O.I.C., in political, economic and cultural fields also held their sessions and prepared the draft resolutions to be presented to the Summit for approval. The newly independent country

Brunei was also unanimously admitted to the O.I.C. as the 45th member.

At Casablanca, after the opening speech of H.M. King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, the outgoing chairman of the 4th Islamic Summit Conference, H.M. King Hasan II was elected President of the 4th Islamic Summit. H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the O.I.C. made a speech in which he reviewed the activities of the Organisation and also briefed the delegates about the stage of implementation of the resolutions adopted and decisions made at the 3rd Summit held at Taif, Saudi Arabia.

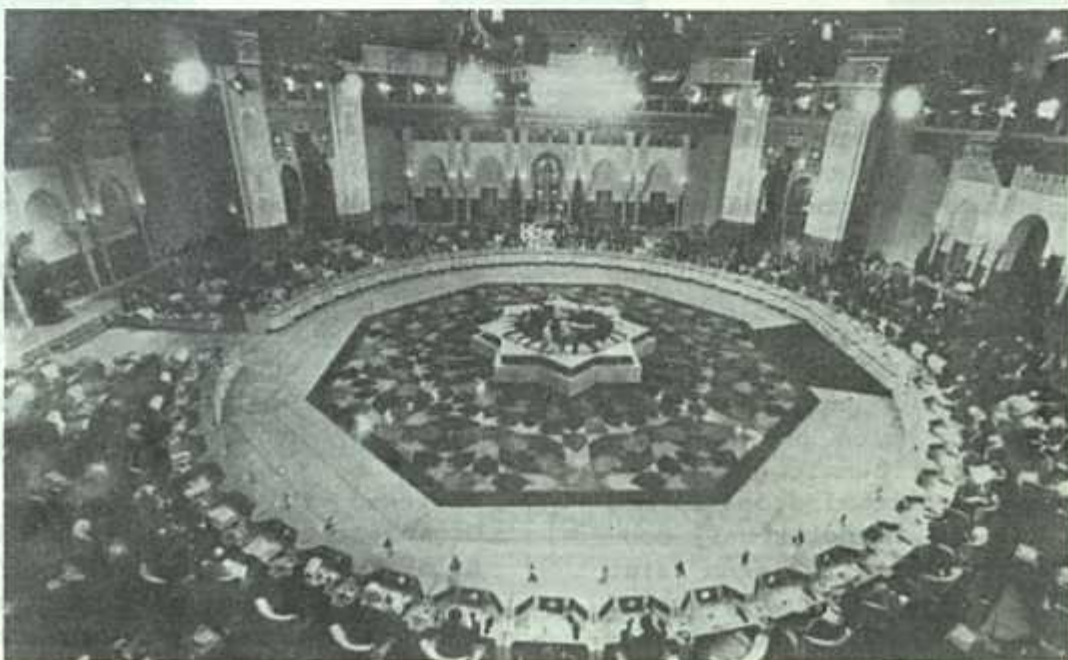
The Summit, in its resolution on the Istanbul Research Centre (no.IS/4-84/DR.2/Rev.3), praised "the valuable achievements of the Centre within a short period of its establishment and the efforts exerted by its Governing Council to realise the lofty objectives for which it was set up."

In another resolution adopted on the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage (no.IS/4-84/CS/DR.3/Rev.3), the Summit expressed "its satisfaction at the fact that the Commission will forthwith start its activities" and also welcomed "the decision taken to place the Commission under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz" and expressed hope "of seeing the Commission achieve, under his chairmanship, the objectives assigned thereto and the noble goals for which it was established". The two afore-mentioned resolutions also called upon member

states to extend moral and material support to these institutions.

During the Summit, an exhibition on "Sciences in Islamic Civilization" was also organised and was prepared by, among others, Dr. Mohammed Sijelmassi, an eminent scholar on Islamic Arts and member of the Governing Council of the Istanbul Centre and also ex-officio member of the Heritage Commission. On display in the exhibition were scientific books on Islamic Heritage, miniatures, photographs and reproductions of the most important manuscripts in different fields on Islamic knowledge and sciences.

On the other hand, Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Director General of the Centre and Mr. Ahmed Lajimi, researcher at the Centre, visited the ISESCO in Rabat. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and H.E. Prof. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, Director General of the Organisation had a cordial discussion about a cooperation between the two institutions.



-Another view from the 4th Islamic Summit meeting .

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

I- First Phase of Çit Qasr Restoration Ends.

The first phase of the restoration of Çit Qasr was successfully completed in June/July 1983. This greatly helped in easing the weight off the old building, Seyir Köşkü, on account of the expanding staff. Besides accommodating the research staff and the library personnel, the new building now houses the compact library, word processor or mini-computer section, a multi purpose hall, an exhibition room. On this occasion the Centre presents its thanks to H.E.Mr. Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the General Secretariat for their unflinching support of the project. The funds were mainly made up of private contributions. The Centre expresses its gratitude to the following for their generous contributions which made the realisation of the project possible within record time.

- 1- Republic of Turkey
- 2- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 3- H.R.H.Prince Hasan Bin Tallal - Crown Prince of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- 4- Arab-Turkish Bank A.Ş. Istanbul
- 5- Call to Islam Society, Tripoli-Libya
- 6- Mr. A.Aydın Bolak, Istanbul
- 7- Mr. Muammer Şahin, Ankara
- 8- Mr. Şarık Tara, Enka Holding A.Ş., Istanbul
- 9- King Faisal Foundation - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The Centre also puts on record its appreciation to all craftsmen who actually carried out the restora-

tion work with dedication and speed, especially Arch.Eng. Mr.Nevzad Ilhan, and contractors Messrs.Erdoğan Tolga and Asaf Çakır.

The Centre hopes that the restoration will be completed as soon as possible, especially the landscaping of the surrounding grounds, the restoration of its entrance and the repairs to its roof. The Centre hopes that all member states, institutions and interested parties will contribute to this project.

II- Visit of Deans and Rectors of Jordan Universities.

A delegation consisting of Deans and Rectors of Jordan Universities visited the Centre on 24 October 1983. Prof.Dr.Abdus Salam Al-Majali, Rector of the University of Jordan, Amman, headed the delegation which also included Prof. Dr. Adnan Badran, Rector of the University of Yarmouk and Prof. Dr. Ali Muhafadhah, Rector of Mut'ah University. Fruitful discussions were held on cooperation between their universities and the Centre. The guests were later shown two documentaries produced by the Centre on the subjects of "calligraphy" and "decorations"- the two arts of the book.

III- Visit of Mayors of Arab Cities and the Members of Arab Town Organisation

This delegation consisting of the Mayors of Arab Cities and the members of Arab Urban Development Institute visited the Centre on

27 October 1983. Talks were held about cooperation. In particular, the proposal of having a joint seminar entitled "Preservation of Islamic Heritage of Architectural Civilization in Islamic Cities" drew a good response from both sides. The details will be discussed in due course of time.

IV-Visit of Delegation from the Academie Diplomatique, Vienna and Students and Teachers of the University of Economics in Vienna-Austria.

A joint delegation of Academie Diplomatique, Vienna, headed by Dr. Heinrich Pfusterschmid-Hardenstein, Director of Academie Diplomatique, Vienna, and students of the University of Economics in Vienna, headed by Prof. Dr. Heinrich Stremitzer, Pro-Rector, visited the Centre on 23 November 1983. They were taken around various departments of the Centre at the end of which a brief question-answer session was held. The Director General of the Centre explained the aims and objectives and research activities of the Centre. They expressed their appreciation of the progress of the Centre within a short period of three and a half years. Recording his impressions of the visit, the Director of Academie Diplomatique, Vienna wrote: "We have seen a very healthy baby on the way to become a grown-up within a very short period. Your task is very important not only within the Islamic World but for all mankind."

V-Visit of a Delegation of the King Faisal Research Centre and Islamic Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

A delegation of the King Faisal Foundation Research Centre for Islamic Studies, Riyadh, visited the Centre on 23-24 November 1983.

Director General, Dr. Zaid Al-Hussaini was accompanied by Dr. Ahmed Al-Twaijri, a staff member of the King Saud University of Riyadh and advisor to the Centre. A meeting of the senior staff members of the Istanbul Centre was arranged with the guests which mainly focused on the issue of cooperation between the two Centres. Dr. Zaid Al-Hussaini briefed the Istanbul Centre staff about their activities. The present priorities of his Centre comprised, among others, compilation of an Islamic Encyclopaedia of Education, collection of Islamic manuscripts (their present collection stands at 4,000), development of a library with a target of half a million books, establishment of a King Faisal Gallery for the display of objects of Islamic Arts and Manuscripts, etc. During the discussion, a consensus emerged that there is a great possibility of cooperation between the two Centres in the field of cataloging of Islamic manuscripts. Only in Turkey, there are reported to be nearly half a million manuscripts which need to be cataloged or "to be given a birth certificate towards their eventual census" as was described by Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of the Istanbul Centre. It was decided in principle to conduct a training course on "Manuscript Cataloging" at the Istanbul Research Centre.

VI- Installation of a Word-Processor/Mini Computer.

A Word-Processor/Mini Computer was recently installed at the Centre. This will help in mechanical processing of the data. The composition of the "Newsletter" and other publications in three official languages of the Centre i.e.

THE CENTRE'S LIBRARY



-Mini-computer staff at work.

English, French and Arabic will be possible. The 4th issue of the Newsletter in English and French was composed in the word processor on an experimental basis. It proved a success.

VII- An Intellectual Evening with Mr. Roger Garaudy - Famous Muslim French Philosopher and Thinker.

Mr. Roger Garaudy, French philosopher and thinker who embraced Islam recently, came to the Centre on November 29, 1983 for an intellectual evening which was attended by distinguished personalities of the city such as professors, members of the Corps of Diplomats, and journalists. The get-together took the form of a question-answer meeting in which the guest scholar answered at length the questions put to him. He also talked about his life story and his conversion to Islam. He compared the dominant modern philosophies with Islam and proved latter's superiority in solving the problems of the afflicted humanity. (A summary of

his talks shall be given in the next issue of our Newsletter.)

VIII- Lecture by Prof. Dr. Abid Reza Bedar.

Dr. Abid Reza Bedar, Director of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, Bihar, India, was the guest speaker of the Centre on the evening of December 7, 1983. He spoke about "Libraries in India with special reference to Khuda Bakhsh Library and its Projects."

It may be recalled that the Khuda Bux Library in India is the most important one which has Arabic and Persian manuscripts. It was established nearly a century ago with the untiring efforts of an Indian Muslim philanthropist Khuda Bux, who was fired with the ambition of acquiring rare manuscripts and preserving them for posterity. The speaker told the audience that projects of the library included, among others, the following:

- (i) Hand-Lists of Manuscripts: (6 Volumes) Three each in Arabic and Persian are already published

and these cover nearly 90% of the Library's collection of manuscripts. These hand-lists contain only the basic information.

(ii) Detailed Descriptive Catalogues of Manuscripts:

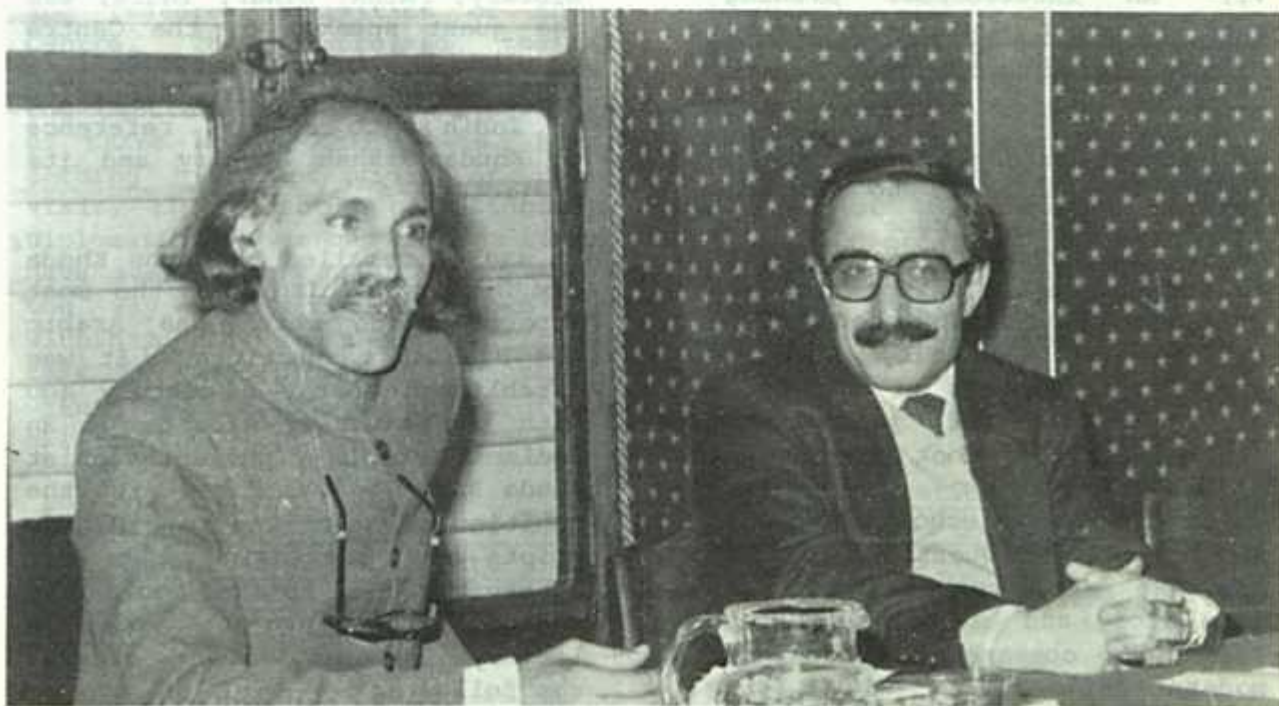
34 volumes are stated to have been published by 1981. These catalogues describe the manuscripts in detail including an analysis of their contents. While the hand-lists are in original languages of the manuscripts, these detailed catalogues are in English.

(iii) Critical Editions of Rare Manuscripts:

20 such manuscripts have been covered pertaining to the Quran, Hadith, History, Literature and Dictionaries. In the words of the speaker, the object is, "to sift

gold from the sand" and introduce the best and the rarest manuscripts. To achieve this, the library plans to hold seminars on the subject of rare manuscripts at three regional centres in India. Scholars from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh will be invited to read papers. As a result of these seminars and discussions, they expect to reach a culmination whereupon the most important manuscripts shall be selected, edited, translated and published for the benefit of the whole world.

He emphasised the need for carrying out similar exercises elsewhere especially in Turkey which is very rich in this field.



- Prof.A.R.Bedar giving his lecture at the Centre. On his left is Dr.H.Nuhoglu from the Centre.

THE CENTRE PARTICIPATES IN THE
18TH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR
CAIRO-EGYPT, JANUARY 26-
FEBRUARY 6, 1984

THE CENTRE'S LIBRARY



- Visiting team of Library experts from Cairo. Right to left: Prof. N. Terazi, Prof. A.M.Isaa, Mr. A.Mustapha and in the middle Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Director General of the Centre.

The development of a good reference library has always been a top priority of the Centre. Until now the attention was mainly focused on new acquisitions which included encyclopaedias, rare books, bibliographies, atlases, albums, monographs, catalogues, maps and other classical reference works. The Centre now also has a good collection of Urdu books. Efforts are being made to acquire books from other member countries as well. The Centre recently bought a compact library with closed shelves. The total number of books reached 10000 in addition to 300 specialised periodicals. While the new acquisitions are continuing, the work on classification and cataloging which started a few months ago is in full swing. Dewey Decimal system is used and the classification of art and reference books is finished. A renown team of library science experts visited the Centre to lay down the foundations for the re-organisation of the library, train its staff, establish its general policy and begin the work of cataloging and classification of its collection. This team consisting of Prof. Ahmed

Isaa, ex-Director General of Libraries of the Cairo University and ex-Prof. of Library Sciences of the Omdurman University in Sudan; Prof. Nasrullah M. Terazi ex-Director of the Department of Oriental Catalogues in the National Library of Egypt and Prof. of Turkish Language in the Ain Shems and Cairo Universities; and Mr. M.Anwar Mustapha, an expert of Library Sciences for ALECSO, came to the Centre in the summer of 1983. The General Administration of the Centre and the staff of the Library take this occasion to extend their thanks and gratitude for their assistance and valuable advise, especially to Prof. Isaa, great scholar, for his voluntary services.

Mr. Ahmed Isaa came to the Istanbul Centre again in February 1984 and stayed for two weeks to oversee the work that was started in the summer and the progress that was made since then.

Professor Necmeddin Sefercioğlu from Ankara University also visited the Centre for a short training programme about "library techniques".

**THE CENTRE PARTICIPATES IN THE
16TH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR.
CAIRO-EGYPT, JANUARY 26-
FEBRUARY 6, 1984**



- Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu with H.E. Dr. Fuad Muhyiddin, Prime Minister of Egypt at the International Book Fair in Cairo.

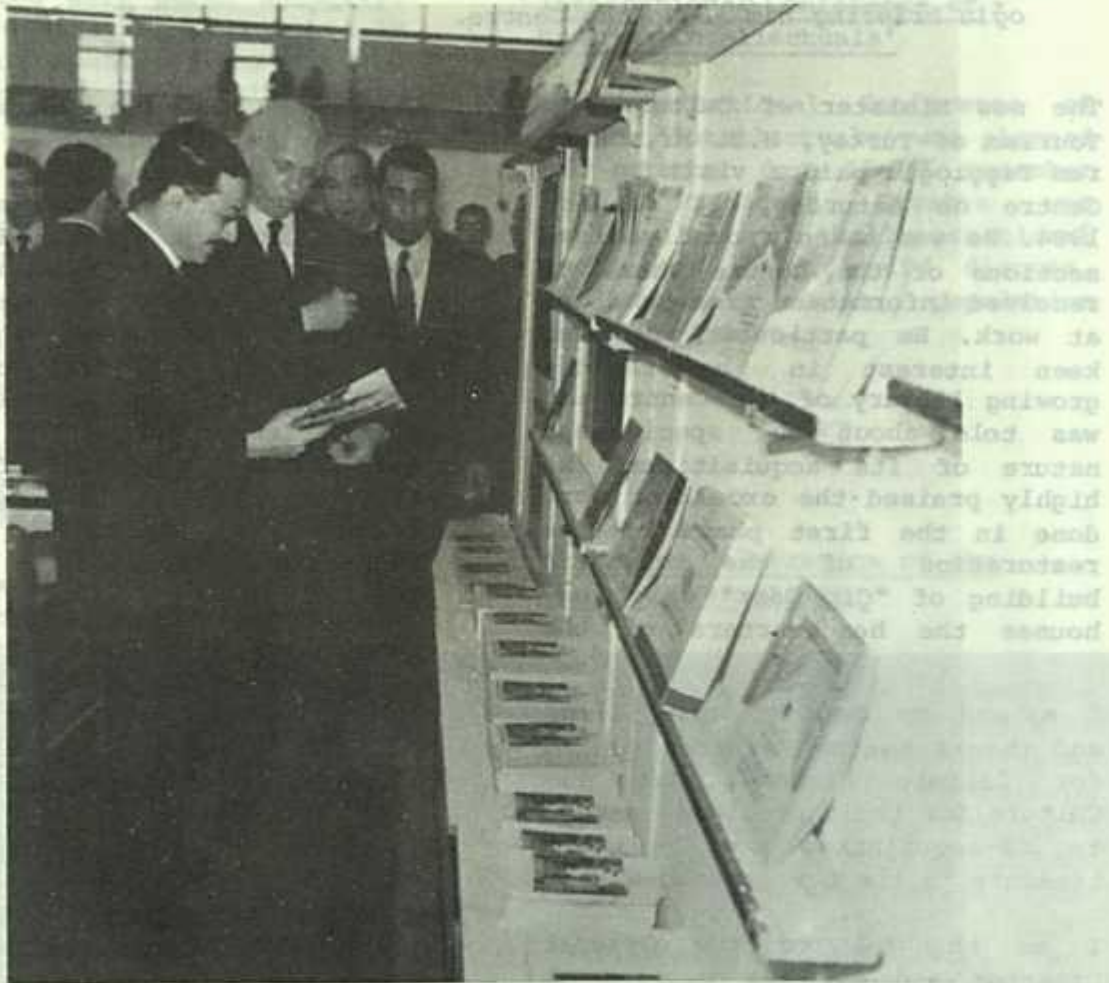
The Centre participated for the first time at the International Book Fair of Cairo. The 16th International Book Fair of Cairo was inaugurated by Dr. Fuad Muhyiddin, Prime Minister of Egypt. The fair is organised every year by the General Egyptian Book Organisation. A book stall was installed inside the exhibition hall where the publications of the Centre were displayed. The stand was decorated with fine specimens

of calligraphic works that highly interested the visitors, especially the scholars and intellectuals. It may be mentioned here that the Centre also has plans to publish a book on the masterpieces of calligraphy in the near future. The eminent scholars of Cairo also showed keen interest in other research publications of the Centre, particularly, "The Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine" and "The World

Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran". As a result of this exposure of Centre's activities at the exhibition, the orders for publications have already started coming in.

Dr. Fuad Muhyiddin, the Prime Minister of Egypt, visited the Centre's stall and talked to Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre who presented him with the publications and briefed him on other projects of the Centre. The Prime Minister showed his appreciation for all the work realised by the Centre. The Egyptian mass-media was much interested in the participation

of the Centre at the Fair. The Prime Minister in the interview that he gave to the Egyptian TV, mentioned, among others, the participation of the Centre at the Fair. This news was also carried by the famous Cairo Newspaper "Al-Ahram" of 27 Jan. 1984. The Fair, one of the best in the Arab World, was visited by more than 1.5 million people. In addition to the Director General the Centre's delegation consisted of Mr. Halit Mollahoseyin and Mr. Zeki Ören, librarian and assistant librarian of the Centre. They also took this opportunity of ordering books for the Centre's library which is growing quite satisfactorily.



- H.E. Dr. Fuad Muhyiddin and Ministry of Culture of Egypt H.E. Mr. M. Abdulhamid Ridwan visiting the Centre's stand in the International Book Fair with Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre.

H.E. MR. MÜKERREM TAŞÇIOĞLU, MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM OF TURKEY VISITS THE CENTRE. 14 JANUARY 1984



- H.E. Mükerrem Taşçioğlu visiting the Centre . Dr. Aslam and Dr. Nuh-oğlu briefing him about the Centre.

The new minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Mükerrem Taşçioğlu paid a visit to the Centre on Saturday, 14 January 1984. He was taken around various sections of the Centre where he received information from scholars at work. He particularly showed keen interest in the rapidly growing library of the Centre and was told about the specialised nature of its acquisitions. He highly praised the excellent work done in the first phase of the restoration of the historic building of "Çit Qasr" which now houses the headquarters of the

Centre. He was also briefed by Dr. M. Aslam, Interim Director General, about the research projects being undertaken at the Centre, some of which had already been published. In his speech, he lauded the work of the Centre and assured the continued support of his Ministry and the Government of Turkey to the Administration of the Centre during its valuable endeavours in the cause of Islamic art, culture and history. Given below is a facsimile of the impressions recorded by him in Turkish.

I extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture for their precious effort in re-acquainting our cultural treasure to the new generations

I am thankful to the General Director and all the members of the Centre who co-operated in this work

Mükerrem Taşçioğlu
Minister of Culture and Tourism

İslam Tarih, Sanat ve Kültür
Merkezinin Kültür Bakanlığı'nın yeni
mükellef İslam Araştırmaları ve Kültür
Kurumu'nun değerli çalışmalarını ilgilendiren
bilgi ve danışmanlık hizmetleri için
Merkezinin tüm üyelerine ve
kurumuna başkanı ve üyelerine
teşekkür eder, saygıları sunarım



Mükerrem Taşçioğlu
Kültür ve Turizm Bakanı
14.1.1984

(M) [Signature]

CULTURAL NEWS DIGEST OF THE MUSLIM WORLD

SAUDI ARABIA

7 million Copies of the Holy Quran

A contract was signed at Jeddah on August 1, 1983 between the Saudi Pilgrimage and Endowments Minister, H.E. Mr. Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasie and a Saudi National firm for the administration and operation of the King Fahd complex for the printing of 7 million copies of the Holy Quran annually. The copies will be distributed in the Islamic Countries through the head-office of the Muslim World League at Jeddah.

New Secretary General of the Muslim World League, Mecca

Dr. Abdullah Omar Nassef has been appointed new Secretary General of the League. He was the Rector of King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, before he took over the League. Dr. Abdullah Nassef is a distinguished muslim intellectual and is widely known in the Islamic world. The Centre takes this opportunity to congratulate him on his new appointment and wish him success. It is hoped that the cooperation between the Centre and MWL shall be further strengthened. Dr. Abdullah Nassef paid a visit to the Centre last year. The post of the Secretary General was vacant, after the sad demise of H.E. Sheikh Mohammad Ali al-Harakan. The late Secretary General was a renowned scholar whose sudden death was mourned throughout the Islamic World. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia recently told the members of the Consti-

tuent Council of the Muslim World League that "the Islamic World counts on the MWL to propagate the principles of Islam, help muslims all over the world and to support them to face all kinds of injustice and oppression."

INDONESIA

International Conference of Muslim 'Intellectuals'

An International Conference of Muslim 'Intellectuals' was planned in Jakarta for 15-19 December 1983. President Suharto was expected to open the International Conference which would discuss, problems of health, population and development.

EGYPT

Millenium Celebration of the Al-Azhar University

Millenium Celebrations of founding of Al-Azhar Al-Sherif University were held last year. The delegates attending the celebrations emphasised the need to implement islamic sharia, introduce islamic education at all levels, and defend Islam against alien cultures and ideologies and lastly to rescue Al-Quds Al-Sherif from occupation. The delegates emphasised the role of Al-Azhar Al-Sherif In the Islamic Culture.

MALAYSIA

International Islamic University of Malaysia Starts Registration.

The newly established Islamic University of Malaysia started registering students for the first academic session starting Sept.-Oct.1983. Until the middle of August 1984, a total of 126 had registered.. 100 were local students. Subjectwise breakdown was, 66 for Faculty of Economics (48 men and 18 women) 60 for Faculty of Law (40 men and 20 women).

TURKEY

Distribution of 2nd Agha Khan Architecture Award

The triennial award was instituted in 1976 by Agha Khan. In the words of its founder 'the award is hoped to inspire a new sense of direction and stimulate fresh thinking and creativity while appreciating the value of historical tradition". The first awards were presented in 1980 in Lahore, Pakistan. The second award-giving ceremony was held in Istanbul on 4 September 1983 at the Topkapı Palace, seat of the Ottoman Sultans and the Caliphs. The President of Turkey, Kenan Evren, speaking on the occasion commended the Agha Khan award for "promoting the preservation of Islamic Heritage through architecture in the face of ever-changing economic and social conditions." This year's winners ranged from a traditional mud mosque in Niono, Mali, to the modern Hajj Terminal in Jeddah, and a Turkish traditional house by Mr.N.Çakıroğlu.

Centennial Celebrations of the Mimar Sinan University (Known as the Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts).

The Centenary was celebrated from 3rd to 23rd March 1983, and the programme included lectures, panel discussions, concerts of classical music, films and a special exhibition on Osman Hamdi Bey, (its founder) and the last one hundred years of Turkish Art.

The Anatolian Civilizations Exhibition, 22 May-30 September 1983, Istanbul

The exhibition was held as part of the Council of Europe's arts exhibitions and was the 8th in the series. The exhibition started simultaneously at various museums such as Saint Irene Museum, Topkapı Palace Museum, Saint Sophia Museum, and the Military Museum. At Topkapı Museum, calligraphic works of the Seljuk and Ottoman periods were displayed.

IRAN

Project to prepare an Encyclopaedia.

Ministry of Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran is undertaking a project of preparing a comprehensive Encyclopaedia of Islam under the direction of Ayatullah Montazeri.

KUWAIT

Islamic Art Museum

A Museum of Islamic Art was opened in Kuwait in the presence of about 600 guests from Europe and the United States. Majority of the Museum's acquisitions are part of the collection of Sheikh

Naser Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, a businessman from the Kuwaiti ruling family and are reported to have been loaned to the Museum for five years. Some of the most outstanding works of art housed in the museum included: the rarest piece of Iranian miniature of the 15th Century, a wooden casket carved with calligraphy and formal patterns, dated 1344 A.D.; an Egyptian bowl of the 15th Century, once the property of Ernst Kofler-Truniger, the famous Swiss collector. It took Sheikh Naser about 8 years to complete this collection. The museum was highly praised by art critics for the quality of its acquisitions. Sheikh Naser also loaned his library of History of Arts to the Museum's Library which now contains books in Arabic and Western languages.

Plan to establish an Arab Gulf University

A project to establish an Arab Gulf University of Sciences is now in the final stage. The idea is sponsored by 19 Arab Gulf Universities. Dr. Abdus Salam of Pakistan, a Nobel Prize winner, has been deputed to prepare the plans. The University is to be based in Bahrain and shall initially "fill the existing gap in scientific and technological fields" among the universities in the Gulf region."

PAKISTAN

Establishment of Hamdard Prize Foundation

The famous Hamdard Foundation of Pakistan has recently instituted the 'Hamdard Prize Foundation'

with a capital of Rs 10 million to be distributed for outstanding contributions in the field of medicine (both Eastern and Western), history, community services, chemistry and Islamiyat. First prizes to be given in 1985 will only be confined to the field of medicine with gradual coverage of other subjects. The necessary formalities will be completed during 1984 and the awards will be announced in 1985. The value of the prizes in 1985 will be Rs 1.25 lakh. A working committee has already been nominated to manage the Prize Foundation.

Exhibition of Quranic Manuscripts

An exhibition of 38 rare facsimiles of Quranic manuscripts and their bindings donated by the World of Islam Festival Trust, London, was held in Karachi in 1983. It was opened by Mr. A.K. Brohi, Chairman of the National 15th Century Hijra Committee of Pakistan in the presence of Mr. Alistair Duncan, Director of the Islamic Trust, who also gave a lecture on "Al-Quds" with the support of 63 slides.

Plan to have a Museum of Islamic Heritage

Pakistan decided to establish a museum of Islamic Heritage in Islamabad. The President of Pakistan recently constituted a six-member committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Planning which will submit a report on the plan of work. The museum will portray the Islamic past of the country.

PALESTINE CHRONICLE

Bait-ul-Maqdis Day:

On the call of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and in memory of the 13th anniversary of the sacrilege and tragedy of Bait-ul-Maqdis, meetings were held throughout the Islamic world on August 21st 1983. The speakers recounted the repeated acts of aggression perpetrated by the Israelis which did not even spare the religious shrines. In this regard, the constant violations of the UN resolutions and disregard for the international public opinion were decried by the speakers. (The Muslim World, 20 August 1983).

Distorted Version of the Holy Quran

The Indonesian Embassy in Beirut reported that Israel has financed the publication of the Holy Quran in Beirut for eventual distribution to various countries. These copies will probably have omitted or misplaced verses with the object of creating confusion and discord among the Muslims. The Indonesian Government has already ordered an inquiry regarding the possibility of their being smuggled into the country. (The Muslim World, July 2, 1983 and June 25, 1983).

Arabs Demand return of Waqf Properties.

The Arabs in Israel have demanded the return of their waqf proper-

ties for self-administration. Their religious trust properties and the custody of private properties were taken over by Israel in 1949. This demand was made at a meeting at Nazareth and it was described as an inalienable right of the community "to administer its trust properties for the religious and cultural purposes for which these waqfs had been actually created." The value of the properties owned by religious trusts run into several billion dollars. (Impact International, 13-26 May 1983).

Repair of the Historic Hasan Bey Mosque in Jaffa.

The minaret of the historical Hasan Bey Mosque in Jaffa had collapsed mysteriously on 2 April 1983. Despite the lapse of one year, no progress is reported to have been made in repairing the damage. It may be mentioned here that the land belongs to the waqf, but the Local Land Department transferred it to the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs. The Ministry had stated that it would return the Mosque to the waqf after the completion of the repairs. The Government of Egypt has already offered to send two architects and donate 10,000 Egyptian pounds for the purpose. It is reported that a similar offer by Jordan was refused by the Israeli Government.

(Impact International. 13-26 May 1983)

TV Documentary "The Battle for Beirut"

On the first anniversary of the Israeli invasion of Beirut, a 50 minutes TV documentary film titled "The Battle for Beirut" was produced by "Blackrod Production", an independent British Company.

The film was made in collaboration with Islamic Council of Europe and consists of three parts. Its commentary was written by Mr. Nigel Maslin and read by Mr. John Tusa, a well-known broadcaster of BBC 2. The documentary gives a historical review of the Israeli invasion of Beirut and massacre of the Palestinians. It presents the grim events and atrocities committed by Israel against the Palestinians and the Lebanese last year.

Plea to Preserve Palestinian Cultural Heritage

Mr. Mac Bride, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Ireland and a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize has issued a passionate plea for safeguarding the Cultural Heritage of Palestine which is in real danger of being completely destroyed by Israel. He has already formed an international organisation to deal with this subject. The name of the said organisation is "The International Association for the Safeguard and Enhancement of Palestinian Cultural Heritage" (PCHA) and was formed in Paris in March 1982. He is also President of the International Peace Bureau at Geneva and had earlier headed an international body which investigated the violations of international

law by Israel in Lebanon. On the issue of preserving the Palestinian Culture, he said: "There was a very good Palestinian Institute in Beirut but it has been destroyed and ransacked by the Israeli forces. When they occupied Beirut, they pulled down its offices and destroyed lots of records there." He also drew attention to the unspeakable conditions of many Palestinian monuments on the West Bank and also stressed the need to preserve their art, costumes, jewellery, books etc., for the time when these people will regain their homeland. (The MWL, Dhul Hijjah 1403)

Islamic Museum Jerusalem-Mysterious Thefts of Cultural Items

Valuable articles worth millions of dollars were reported to have been stolen from the Jerusalem-Islamic Museum during one night in April 1983. The stolen items contained, among other things, ancient watches and clocks, paintings and rare books.

Demand for Return of Cultural Documents Relating to Palestinian Research Centre in Beirut

PLO has appealed to the civilized world to urge Israel to return all the documents of the Palestine Research Centre in Beirut which were taken away by the Israeli occupation forces during their invasion of Beirut last year. (Detailed news on the cultural plunder of Israel in Lebanon and Palestine was carried in the 3rd issue of our Newsletter)

CULTURAL NEWS DIGEST OF THE MUSLIM MINORITIES

CANADA

Muslim Heritage Week:

In appreciation of the important contribution made by the Canadian Muslims to the economic prosperity and welfare of Canada, a Muslim Heritage Week was observed in Ottawa towards the middle of 1983. The Mayor of Ottawa, Mr. Marion Bewar, speaking on the opening ceremony of the Week, said: "The 5 000 Muslims living in the national capital region are an important part of our cultural mosaic and have done much to make this a truly cosmopolitan city."

CHINA

Liberalisation and New Opportunities for Islam:

According to the members of a multi-national Muslim delegation from Hong Kong who visited China recently, the present leadership of China is pursuing a policy of relative tolerance and permitting more religious activity. Chinese Muslims in Canton told the delegation that they are now given more autonomy in conducting religious affairs and performing the religious rites. They told the delegation that they were provided with sacrificial goats and lambs on the occasion of the last Eid-ul-Azha.

The members of the delegation attended prayers in the Canton Mosque which is reported to be the

oldest remaining symbol of Islamic Culture in China. The restoration of the mosque is now being carried out and particular efforts are made to save the 360 feet high and 25 feet wide minaret.

The Islamic Association of China also has plans to construct a guest house in the compound of the Mosque for the Muslim visitors to Canton. The delegation and the Chinese Muslims had discussions about the life of the Holy Prophet and speeches were made on the scope of new opportunities for Islam in China. However, it is difficult to say whether this is a result of a real change of heart or just a tactical liberalisation. Only time will tell this. In any case, the early signs are a welcome departure from the repressive policies of the era of the cultural revolution.

U.K.

The United Kingdom Islamic Mission:

The Birmingham branch, of the U.K. Islamic Mission has recently established a multi-purpose Islamic Centre which houses a mosque, a school for Islamic education, a book shop and a Quran study centre.

The U.K. Islamic Mission (London) was founded in 1962. Its objective was to safeguard the cultural identity of muslims in the U.K. and to promote friendly relations between Muslims and Christians.

The mission now has 70 members and nearly 20 sub-offices.

The mission has a marriage bureau which helps muslim parents in finding suitable mates for their boys and girls. Other projects are an Investment Company, a Muslim employment service, a Muslim Cooperative Housing Society and a Muslim Children's House.

"Arts and the Islamic World" Quarterly

The Islamic Arts Foundation, London, has recently started publishing a new quarterly art magazine titled "Arts and the Islamic World". Mr. Muazzam Ali is the Chairman of the Board of Editors and Mr. Jalaluddin Ahmed is the Executive Editor of the magazine. Its first issue came out in Winter 1982/1983.

Establishment of an Islamic University in London

An organisation named the Islamic Supreme Council for Education in Britain is considering the idea of establishing an Islamic University in London. The preliminary studies are in progress. The British Ministry of Education has already approved the idea, subject to the provision of the necessary academic and administrative staff. The Council has already decided to establish a secondary school for muslim girls in London and funds are raised to purchase a suitable building for the purpose.

The Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Graphic Art

The Graffiti Gallery, London, held an important exhibition of con-

temporary Arab graphics displaying the works of 15 Arab artists. It was the 2nd exhibition in succession on the subject and remained open until August 18, 1983. The exhibition introduced works of young artists to the world of art for the first time. The works which were displayed unmistakably reflected efforts of artists to strike a balance between the need to maintain their cultural identity and the demands of a changing society.

Islamic Art Week at Sotheby's Auction House

Sotheby, one of the most important auction houses of London, held a series of auctions, under the title of Islamic Week, covering a rich variety of artistic pieces from Islamic civilizations. The auctioned items included manuscripts, miniatures, rugs, metalwork, pottery and coins. The Islamic coins sale was described as the best of its kind. Among the rarest coins were, an Umayyad dinar dating back to 103 AH (721 CE) struck in Kairouan mint (old Ifriqiya) in Tunisia. Also on sale was the gold Ayyubid dinar struck by Saladin in Damascus in 583 AH (1187 CE). This was a commemorative coin issued on the recapturing of Jerusalem that year. The Islamic coins are of great political and historical interest and help in tracing down the events that were not otherwise recorded.

MOZAMBIQUE Formation of Mozambique Islamic Congress

A Mozambique Islamic Congress was formed in the first quarter of 1983 representing over 170 Mosque

Committees and associations based in Mozambique. Mr. Mohammad Aboobaker is the co-ordinator of the new organisation. The address of the MIC is : Box No: 572, Maputo, Mozambique (Telex:6474, cable : Congresso). (The Muslim World, September 10, 1983)

YUGOSLAVIA

Bosnia Muslims

Bosnia is one of the 6 Republics of Yugoslavia's Federal State. The population of Muslims in Yugoslavia is around 4 millions, which is the largest Muslim Community in any country outside Asia and Africa. According to official figures, the muslims of Bosnia form about 40% of Bosnia's population. Bosnia muslims are old Croats who converted to Islam during the Ottoman period. Bosnia muslims are complaining of political and economic discrimination and facing other cultural problems such as provision of "halal" food for muslim children in schools, etc.

NEPAL

The Society of "Servants of Muslims" (Khuddamul Muslimeen)

The Society was established in 1960 after the independence of Nepal by a devoted group of Nepalese Muslims. The Society endeavours to realise, among others, the objectives of propagation of Islam in the mountainous regions of Nepal; establishment and maintenance of mosques and madrasas; translation of the Holy Quran into the local language, and promo-

tion of bonds of Islamic brotherhood. The Society is said to have achieved many concrete results and has earned the respect of other religious bodies.

U.S.A.

Muslim Students Association of United States and Canada (M.S.A.)

The MSA was formed in 1962 at the University of Illinois and has now become an effective means of strengthening the roots of Islamic Culture in North America. Its annual conventions now represent the largest Muslim gatherings in North America. The first phase of the construction of the Centre's was made possible by a \$3.3 million donation of His Highness, Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Ruler of Qatar. Islamic Centre of North America has an area of 124 acres near Indianapolis and consists of a mosque, a library and some offices covering an area of 40,000 square feet on three floors. The second phase will feature a conference centre, youth camps, administrative buildings and offices. The third phase will mainly include a cemetery. In its efforts to become self-sufficient, a North American Islamic Trust was formed in 1973, which made a profit of \$ 160,000 on its various activities. Another MSA service organisation, "The Islamic Teaching Centre" formed in 1977, is devoted to Da-wah. Due to an impressive growth, the MSA has recently acquired a new form with the establishment of an overall umbrella organisation known as the Islamic Society of North America.

ITALY

Exhibition at the Islamic Centre

Exhibition at the Islamic Centre, London, 1983. The exhibition was held at the Islamic Centre, London, from 1983 to 1984. It featured a wide range of Islamic art and artifacts, including manuscripts, ceramics, and textiles. The exhibition was organized by the Islamic Centre, London, and was a major success.

The address of MSA is given below :

The Muslim Students Association of the US and Canada
P.O.Box 38, Plainfield, IN, 46168
U.S.A. Tel.: (317)839 8157.

The Islamic Science Foundation Westchester County, New York

The \$5 million building of the foundation (Est.1975) including the mosque will soon be formally opened. The foundation is already holding classes in Arabic, religion and Quran recitation. It also has a microfilm library and is embarking upon an exchange programme for scholars from US and Islamic countries. Despite a great number of churches and synagogues, there was no place for muslim children for instructions in Islamic faith and culture.

Exhibition about the "Heritage of Islam"

An important exhibition on the "Heritage of Islam" was held in July-September 1983 at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, featuring 250 scientific and artistic treasures collected from 25 countries and 60 museums and institutions. Notable contributors were : New York Metropolitan Museum of Art; London's Victoria and Albert Museum; the Louvre Museum, Paris; Museum

Arabic-Urdu Roots of the South African 'Africans' (Dutton)

Arabic-Urdu roots of the South African 'Africans' (Dutton). This book explores the linguistic and cultural connections between Arabic and Urdu in the context of South African history and society. It discusses the influence of these languages on the development of the Afrikaans language and the cultural identity of the South African population.

of Islamic Art, Cairo, Benaki Museum, Athens, and Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon.

Symposium on "Islamic Architecture"

A Symposium on islamic architecture was held in June 1983 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Symposium was sponsored by the Aga Khan Programme for Islamic Architecture and was attended by architects from all over the world.

SOUTH AFRICA

Islamic Centre and Mosque for Chatsworth

A new Mosque in Chatsworth (South Africa) will be built at a cost of 1.5 million rand on a 3 hectare site. This project, larger than Grey Street Juma Mosque of Durban, will also include a medical clinic, legal aid centre and nursery.

Muslim Development Foundation

The Islamic Council of South Africa (ICSA) has launched a "Muslim Development Foundation" for the socio-economic development of the muslims in South-Africa. The Foundation intends to raise a capital fund of 5 million rand with a membership target of 50.000, and mainly to be collected through donations.

Arabic-Urdu Roots of the South African 'Afrikaans' (Dutch) Language.

The Arabic-Urdu roots of the 'Afrikaans' language were established in the mid-1970's, when Dr. Robert Shell, of the South-African Museum of Cultural History, wrote a thesis on the history of early Muslims in South-Africa. He expressed the view that the Muslim exiled to South Africa from Indonesia during the mid 1600s had also brought with them their Hollands-Arab literature which made an important contribution to the development of Afrikaans. This contribution was however never appreciated due to prejudices of the white-race. In the South-African Museum of Cultural History in Cape Town are found a unique collection of 'Hollands-Arab Kitabs' which people conversant with Arabic or Urdu script might read, without of course understanding a single word. Similarly most Dutch or Afrikaans speakers may also appreciate the exotic script without of course recognising their own language.

PHILIPPINES

Publication of an Islamic Da'awah Quarterly 'Majjala'.

An Islamic Da'awah Quarterly in English entitled "Majjala" is published in Manila, Philippines. The first issue of the quarterly appeared in spring 1983 and contained articles by important scholars such as Dr. Abdullah Omar Nassef, Sheikh Ahmad Salah Jamjeon, Dr. M. Ali Kettani and Hon. George Baredy. The address of the journal is as under :

185, Russia Street
Cor Dona Soledad Road
Better living subd. Paranaque, Metro.
Manila - the Philippines

ITALY

Exhibition at the Islamic Cultural Centre, Rome

An exhibition was held at the Islamic Cultural Centre, Rome, Italy. H.H. Prince Amini in his introduction said, "the exhibition was developed to promote a greater awareness and understanding of Islam not just as a religion which is observed by 900 million people throughout the world but also as a civilization which has existed 1400 years ago and is very much alive today". (Impact International 14-27 Oct. 1983)

The Rome Centre also plans to build a big mosque and the municipality of Rome has already granted permission for construction despite three years' opposition by 'Italia Nostra'.

THAILAND

Publication of the Translation of the Holy Quran in Thai Language

Muslim population of Thailand is reported to be over 4 million. Recently, an authentic translation of the Holy Quran in Thai language is said to have been published to answer the needs of the increasing Muslim population. The translation was undertaken on the order of the present King Bhumiboi who also provided special funds for the purpose. (The Muslim World, July 9, 1983)

WEST GERMANY

Islam the Second Religion in West Germany

Islam is now the second religion in West Germany. According to an article titled "Islam in West Deutschland" (Muslim World' No.:50/1983), there are nearly

1.4 million Turks, 120.000 Yugoslavs, 80.000 Arabs, 20.000 Iranians and 1.500 German converts. German Muslims are taking various steps to impart religious instruction to Muslim children born in West Germany with a view to acquainting them with Islamic Culture. (The West German Branch of the World Muslim Congress later informed that the above statistics related to 1978-80. According to their estimates, the exact number is as follows: Turks 1.6 million, Yugoslav muslims 140.000, Arabs 120.000, Germans 1.700 (The Muslim World, Sept. 17, 1983).

BURMA

The Muslim Population is spread all over Burma and almost every township has a mosque and a mad-rassa. (There are nearly 2.500 mosques in Burma). There are also a number of religious waqfs (trusts) administering religious institutions and schools for the welfare of Burmese Muslims. Notable among these are : Variav Trust, Rander Trust, Barbodhan Trust, Mamsa Trust, Imamjan Trust, Mulla Trust, Jeewa Trust, Shirazi Trust and Ebrahim Wali Muhammed Trust. They are established by different communities and have under their administration schools, cemeteries, prayer grounds, medical clinics, orphan-ages, etc. The Cholia, the Panhay and the Arakanese are the main muslim communities found in Burma. About 6 muslim organisations have the consultative status to the Government.

SPAIN

The 5th Centenary of the Fall of Muslim Spain

The 5th Centenary of the fall of Muslim Spain, Andalusia (according to the Gregorian Calendar) will come in the year 1992. This will be the occasion for muslims for retracing the causes of the decline and defeat of muslim power in Spain. The Islamic civilisation in Andalusia produced eminent scholars such as Abu Al-Kasem Al-Zahrawi and Ibn El-Haythem, and the famous philosopher Ibn Rushd, and the Sufi philosopher Ibn Arabi and it has left indelible prints on the socio-cultural fabric of Spain. The influence of Arabic language on Spanish is well known and many Arabic words and phrases are still part of the Spanish language and Culture. (The Muslim World, 4th June 1983).

INDIA

Seminar on "Socio-Economic and Educational Problems of Indian Muslims"

A two-day seminar on "Socio-Economic and Educational problems of Indian Muslims" was held at Aligarh Muslim University, in cooperation with the Business and Employment Bureau of Delhi. The delegates regretted that very little had been done since independence to improve the lot of Indian Muslims. They also suggested to set up technical institutions for muslims and other minorities with a view to eradicating illiteracy and poverty among them. The role of some private trusts and organisations in the spread of education was however appreciated by Prof. Kishwar, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Aligarh University. (The Muslim World, 20 August 1983).

COOPERATION WITH THE CALL TO ISLAM SOCIETY



- Dr. M.H. Sharif of the Call to Islam Society.

The Istanbul Research Centre for Islamic History, Art, and Culture concluded several agreements with organisations engaged in the field of Islamic culture with the aim of promoting cooperation and coordination. The latest of these agreements has been concluded with the Call to Islam Society in Tripoli.

Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, General Director of the Istanbul Centre, met Prof. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Sherif, Secretary General of the Jam'iyet AD'DAWA AL-Islamiya, in the month of March 1984. The secretaries from various departments of the mentioned organisation also attended this meeting, namely the secretaries of the Financial Affairs Office, the Mission Centre of Islamic Teachings (AD'DAWA), the Information and Publications Office, and the Conferences and Organisation Office.

At the end of these sessions, which lasted for three days, there was a mutual agreement setting out

the activities of the two organisations. Among the clauses of this bilateral agreement, the following may be mentioned. The Jam'iyet AD'DAWA AL-Islamiya undertakes to aid the Istanbul Centre with the printing of the Centre's publications. The Istanbul Centre will organise a symposium to be entitled *The Translations of Qur'an Commentaries*. The Jam'iyet AD'DAWA AL-Islamiya will provide audio-visual equipment for the library of the Istanbul Centre. The Istanbul Centre agreed to take the place of the Jam'iyet AD'DAWA AL-Islamiya on the committee which has been charged with correcting the errors concerning Islam and the Islamic civilisation made in the book entitled *The History of Humanity* published by UNESCO.

The Istanbul Centre presents its grateful thanks to the Jam'iyet AD'DAWA AL-Islamiya for its contribution to the cause of Islamic culture and for the spread of the call to Islam (DAWA) over the entire world.

EDITOR'S POST AND COMMENTS

"I am in receipt of the second issue of the Newsletter of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, and I congratulate you for bringing out such an information material on the relevant subjects of Islamic Culture and Civilization. The present number portrays very vividly not only the current news and activities, but also introduces rather at a little length contemporary art and artists, especially the art of calligraphy. This aspect is, to me, interesting as no such Newsletter of this kind has attempted such subjects."

Dr. Ahmed Nabi Khan
 Institute of Islamic History,
 Culture and Civilization, Islamic
 University of Islamabad
 Pakistan.

"I have enjoyed reading the Newsletter and I have found many articles of real interest, like the one on the master calligrapher, the late Mr. Hamid Aytac and the historical review of the earliest Quranic translations, to name just two."

Mr. Jorge Centofanti
 Designer-Craftman
 Langton Green, Kent
 England

"We received the 2nd issue of your Newsletter and were pleased with its contents. I hope that you will send us three copies each of your first and second issue and the consequent issues that will be published in future."

Dr. Abdul Aziz Mohammad Al-Zaid
 Dean of the Library Affairs
 Umm Al-Qura University
 Makkah al-Mukarramah
 Saudi Arabia

"I read this issue of your Newsletter and found in it a lot of useful information about the activities and projects of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul and also news of Islamic Affairs in the Muslim world. I hope that you will continue sending us the Newsletter and other publications of the Centre."

Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed al-Mahmood
 Director, Institute of Religion
 Ministry of Instruction and Education,
 State of Bahrain

"I acknowledge with happiness and thanks the receipt of the 2nd issue of your Newsletter. I found it a voice among the voices calling to the right path and a light of truth. It strives to promote communication between Muslims and

disseminates Islamic thought. I pray to Allah for its further succes and thank you in advance for sending the succeeding issues."

Dr. Ahmed Bahafızallah
General Secretariat
King Abdul Aziz University
Jeddah-Saudi Arabia

"Received with thanks the 2nd issue of the Newsletter published by the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul-an organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. Since the Newsletter gives interesting news and information, I hope that you will send the first issue also to the World Centre for Islamic Education of Umm al-Qura University at Makkah al-Mukarramah and all the succeeding issues too."

Dr. Mohammad Jamil Khayyat
Supervisor/Director
The World Centre for Islamic Education
Umm al-Qura University
Makkah al-Mukarramah
Saudi Arabia

"Although two months passed since your Symposium on Islamic Art, it

is still very fresh in my heart and mind... I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for your wonderful effort, for the magnificent organisation of the Symposium and your warm hospitality. You have indeed set a standard that will be hard for others to keep up with."

Animah Syed Mohammed
11, Jalan Kapur 3/3
Shah Alam Selangor
Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia.

"The publication of 'Newsletter' by Organisation of the Islamic Conference Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture located in Istanbul is a good news for the Islamic Ummah. The Editor General is Dr. Ekmeleddin. We offer him best congratulation and prayers for the success of his 'Newsletter' as well as his Islamic efforts on behalf of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Research Center."

The Firmest Bond, No:9,
Spring Issue
(1403 H) 1983
Geneva, Switzerland

An important magazine calling attention to an overlooked Islamic country

In January 1984 a new magazine went into publication in Istanbul. The name of this three-monthly magazine is "The Voice of Eastern Turkistan". The publisher and editor-in-chief is Isa Yusuf Alptekin, former General Secretary of the Government of Eastern Turkistan. In his introductory editorial, Mr. Alptekin discusses the importance of such publications, the difficulties of magazine publication, and the importance of this publication for the Eastern Turkistan cause. He describes the objectives of the magazine as "consisting of informing the Turkish-Islamic World and the free world of humanity of our cause, by means of a publication which is based on historical and scientific facts. We aim to convince the rest of the world of the righteousness of our cause".

The articles in this magazine, which is being financed by immigrants from Eastern Turkistan, are printed in Turkish, Arabic, and English. With fine quality printing on good quality paper, the first issue of this magazine contains the following articles in three languages:

Foreword, by Isa Alptekin; Let us Know Eastern Turkistan, The Voice of Eastern Turkistan, Why help Turkistan, by Ahmet Güner; Prayer-Time in Kashgar (poem), by Niyazi Yıldırım Gençosmanoğlu; Place Names in Eastern Turkistan, by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Eröz; Episodes in the Conversion to Islam of Eastern Turkistan, by Dr. Emel Esin; Eastern Turkistan in the 1980's by Erkin Alptekin; Notes to the Islamic Conference, by Ahmet Kabaklı; Free Eastern Turkistan, by Ergün Göze; Mourning for My Nation (poem), by Osman Zeki Soyuyğit; A Memorandum, by Isa

Alptekin; A Declaration, by Prof. Dr. Mohammed bin Nâsır el Abudî; Sixty Million Muslims in the Grip of Marxism, by Ali Gümüş; and News.

We wish every success to this new and beneficial publication which deals with every aspect of the past and present of Eastern Turkistan and its problems.

"The Voice of Eastern Turkistan" may be obtained from this address:

Doğu Türkistan Neşriyat Merkezi
Millet Caddesi. 26/3
Küçüksaray Apt.
Aksaray/ISTANBUL

The price in Turkey is 750.- TL. per issue or 3.000.- TL. per annum. The price abroad is \$ 8.- per issue or \$ 30.- per annum.



-Cover of the New Magazine
"Voice of East Turkistan"

SCHOLARSHIPS

Many of the Islamic nations grant scholarships to foreign students at various educational levels, usually within the framework of bilateral cultural exchange treaties. Their objective is to foster knowledge of the countries concerned and close relations between them in the fields of culture and education.

The Istanbul Research Centre, which considers it its duty to promote affinity between the Islamic nations around their common cultural heritage, requested that a certain number of these scholarships be assigned to the Centre by the OIC member nations.

The Turkish Government, the first to respond to our request, has informed us that four grants, two for research studies and two for doctorates, have been allocated to our Centre for the academic year 1984-85. The research scholarships allocated to our Centre by the Turkish government are for a period of eight months each. Candidates must be fluent in either English, Turkish or French. Their acceptance is subject to the approval of their research programme by both the Centre and the appropriate Turkish authorities. For the doctorate-level scholarships too, besides fluency in one

of the above-mentioned languages, the subject and programme have to be submitted for approval. The amounts of the scholarships have been calculated on the basis of the needs of a student in Turkey.

The Istanbul Centre plans to increase the scope of this scholarship programme over the coming years and has already embarked on the necessary steps.

The Call to Islam Society agrees to take charge of five other scholars to undertake doctorate studies or researches at our Centre in the field of Islamic civilisation. Receivers of these scholarships and the duration of studies will be jointly determined by the Jami'yet AD'DAWA AL Islamiya and our Centre at a later date.

Meanwhile, the International Institute of Islamic Thought of the American Temple University has invited the Istanbul Centre to mediate in the selection of candidates for the scholarships they grant in the field of Islamic research.

Interested researchers and students are invited to submit their research programmes to our Centre for consideration.

OBITUARY

Since the printing of our Newsletter No:4, in November 1983, the Islamic world lost several distinguished scholars. In the present issue of our Newsletter, we are presenting their biographies and introducing their work thus to revive their memories.

Among these are Prof. Erol Güngör, Prof. Tawfiq al-Madani, and the Turkish poet and thinker Mr. Necip Fazıl Kısakürek.

May God's blessing be upon them.



Erol GÜNGÖR

He was born in Kırşehir in 1938. He graduated from the Department of Literature of the Istanbul University in 1961. After becoming assistant to the late Prof. Mümtaz Turhan, he received his Ph.D. in 1965, became first an Associate Professor in 1971, then Professor in 1978. In 1982 he was the President of the Selçuk University in Konya.

He concentrated his researches and studies on social problems. He was especially concerned with western-

isation movements in underdeveloped countries, particularly in the Middle East, the damage done to the social structure by materialistic attitudes, and other problems faced today by the Islamic world.

Besides many articles, he was the author of *Cultural Change and Nationalism* (1980), *Current Issues Facing Islam* (1981). He has also several translations from both French and English. He died in 1983.



Ahmed Tawfik AL-MADANI

The Islamic world has suffered the loss of one of its most esteemed personalities, Prof. Ahmed Tawfik Al-Madani, a great scholar, historian, and militant statesman. Prof. Al-Madani was an important figure in Algeria and held a prominent place among the scholars of Islamic Maghreb in the fields of science and literature.

Prof. Al-Madani was renowned especially for the political struggle that he led for the independence of Algeria. He participated in the activities of the provisory government and became its representative in Cairo. Following the proclamation of independence, he was appointed ambassador to several countries and at one time he also occupied the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

He devoted the rest of his life to writing the history of the long struggle which he had led. Three of the four volumes of his memoirs that he entitled *A Life of Struggle* have already been published. The fourth volume was ready for publication just before his death. Other books and historical studies by the same author are: *Algeria; Mohamed Othman Pasha, Dey of Algeria;* and *The Muslims of Sicily and South Italy.* But his book entitled *The 300 Years of War Between Algeria and Spain: 1492-1792* is without doubt the best-known

and the most widely-read of his books. This work has been reprinted.

Prof. Al-Madani was famous particularly for his literary objectivity, his determination to defend his opinions, and his refusal to be aligned with any literary school of whatever nature. He was also among those who believed strongly in Islamic solidarity, and he was a firm supporter of amity between Islamic nations.

He was also known for his objective vision of the role played by the Ottoman State in the protection of the Islamic world against the European colonial invasion.

Throughout his life, Prof. Al-Madani was a defender of scientific impartiality and historical truth. He participated in the creation of the National Centre for Historical Studies in Algeria and became the spiritual father of many scholars in the fields of historical research and documentation.

Our Centre laments the loss of this great historian and renowned scholar. With his death, the entire Islamic world, above-all Algeria, has lost one of its greatest men.

May the Divine Mercy be on his soul.



Necip Fazıl KISAKÜREK

Another esteemed person who went to his Eternal rest in the year 1983 is Necip Fazıl Kısakürek. He was one of the most prominent figures of twentieth century Islamic thought.

Necip Fazıl was born on 26 May 1905 in Istanbul. He started school at an early age and later attended both the Istanbul University and the Sorbonne in Paris. He returned home in the early years of the Turkish Republic. He worked first in banking and later he taught in several educational institutions. During this period, he devoted all of his spare time to his real calling, literature. His poems attracted considerable attention. The technique, the structure, and the content of his poems were far superior to those of his contemporaries. Besides original writing, he was also deeply interested in philosophy.

Originally a poet of the inner world and reflection, he became an Islamic philosopher following his association in 1934 with Abdülhakim Arvasî, a *sufi* teacher. From then onwards, he devoted his writing to attracting adherents to his ideas. He abandoned teaching in 1942 and entered journalism. In 1943, he set up his own newspaper, the *Büyük Doğu* (Great East). Apart from several inter-

vals, he continued to publish this newspaper until his death.

In his hands, art reached a climax of perfection as an instrument of thought, without losing any of its purity or value. Necip Fazıl pursued journalism and philosophical study together with his literary work. His poems, plays, and stories are a life's work in themselves.

Necip Fazıl Kısakürek, who devoted his activities to the creation of a generation which would "champion the causes of religion, language, intellect, science, honour, and homeland" passed a considerable portion of his life after 1943 in prison.

In 1980 he was honoured with the title of *Sultan ũş'-ŕuarâ* (Master of Poets) by the Turkish Literature Wakf. The Ministry of Culture also presented him with an award in the same year.

Many of his works have been published and most of the latest editions of these have been subjected to a meticulous examen to ensure their conformity with God's commandments and practices and words of the Prophet.

His literary works are among the classics of Turkish literature. His philosophical works of note are: *Çöle İnen Nur* (The Light Which Descended on the Desert), *İdeocya Örgüsü* (The Web of Ideology), *Batı Tefekkürü ve İslam Tasavvufu* (Western Philosophy and Islamic Mysticism), *Büyük Doğu'ya Doğru* (Towards the Great East), *Yolumuz, Halimiz, Çaremiz* (Our Path, Our Condition, and Our Deliverance).

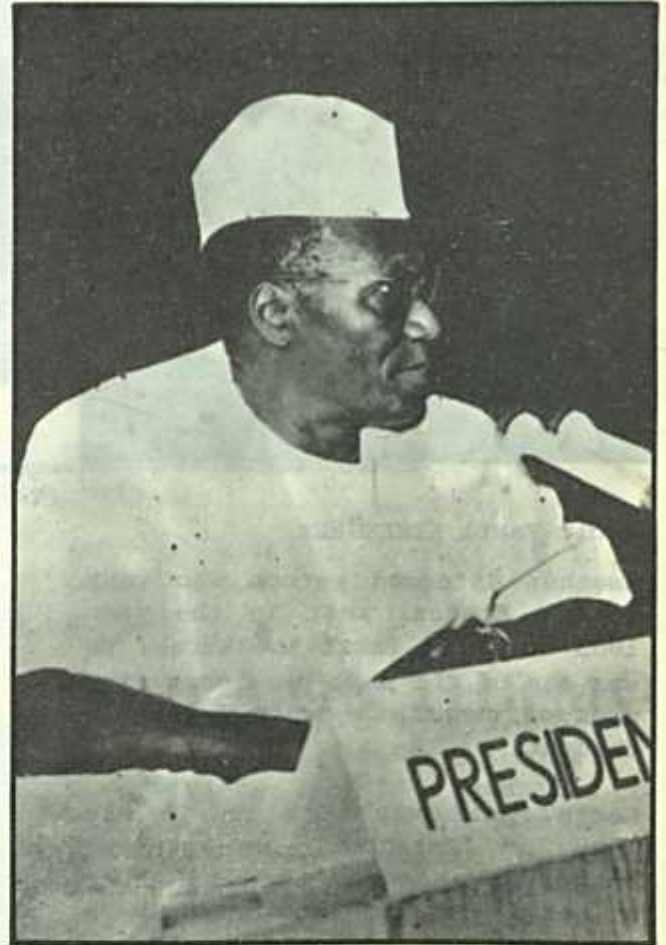
If Turkish were an international language, Necip Fazıl would certainly have made his mark on world literature and world philosophy. May God's compassion and mercy be on this champion of twentieth century Islamic philosophy.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

While this issue was being printed, we learned with great sorrow the demise of H.E. Ahmed Sékou Touré, the President of the Revolutionary Republic of Guinea.

Sékou Touré was born in 1922 in Faranah. He had his first studies at Koranic school, then at primary school. In 1940, at the age of 18, he entered as clerk to the French Niger Company. In 1945, Sékou Touré formed the first Trade-Union of Post and Telecommunication Workers. In 1948, he was elected Secretary General of the Territorial Union of the C.G.T. In 1952, he became Secretary General of the Guinea Democratic Party. In 1956, he was elected deputy to the French National Assembly. In 1957, he became the Vice-President of the first Guinean Cabinet. After the proclamation of independence, he assumed the functions of the Head of State of the Republic of Guinea. Sékou Touré was the decisive African Man in this last period. The continuity of his aims, the rigour of his heroic actions which include tactical flexibility at just the right time, the perspective view of history characterize him. All the time he gave himself a clear goal: "The Independence of his country". This is the goal for which he strove throughout his life. This is obviously what in the final analysis, made him unrivalled in Africa and binds him to the man whose language he speaks and understands.

Beside being a statesman, he was also a great scholar and produced many valuable works. Among them



are: The Green Revolution; Economic Integration of West African States; United States of Africa; Towards a Revolutionary Economy for the People; Revolution and Religion...

With the establishment of the O.I.C., the Republic of Guinea played an important role as a member in the personage of its honourable President. He was especially active as the President at the Peace Committee formed to end the war between two muslim brother countries, Iraq and Iran. Lastly he had attended the 4th Islamic Summit on January 1984 in Casablanca. He passed away on 27 March 1984.

May his soul rest in peace.

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