

# Imam Khomeini advocates strengthened foreign relations

Imam Khomeini addressed a gathering of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassadors and chargés d'affaires to the continents of Europe and America. The text of the Imam's speech, which followed a report presented to the Imam by Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs, is as follows:

In the Name of Allah the Compassionate, the Merciful.

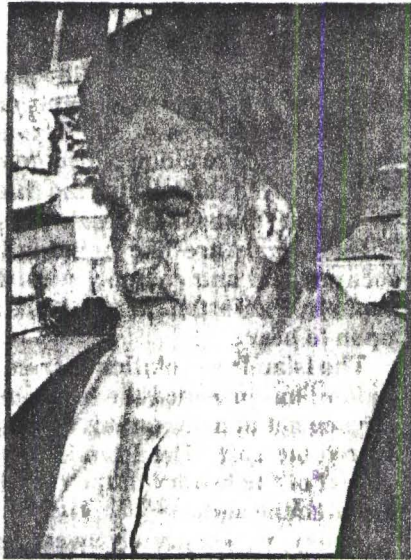
May I thank you all gentlemen for taking the trouble of coming here. May Allah grant you success in serving Islam and this nation which is resisting the pressures exercised by tyrannical foreign governments. We must be watchful of the mischief that is being committed by the super-powers and their agents (against Islam and Muslims). We must not allow ourselves to be influenced by them. Our people must remain alert! For a country which has from the start set out to be independent, and not to be under other countries' domination, nor to seek the advice of foreign counsellors, it is normal to have such problems. It has always been like this.

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*“Through relations, we can attempt to enlighten other governments and nations and guide them towards the truth”.*

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During my stay in Paris, an American came to see me under the guise of a businessman, but was later found to be a con-man. He said that it was not advisable for me to return to Iran. Another group, which included decent people as well as some busybodies came (to me) and asked for the monarchy and the (former) constitution to be preserved, so that the Shah would be able to reign, rather than rule. They were mistaken, too. Then, after the Shah had fled the country, they (the



said group) brought up the subject once again, this time calling for the preservation of Bakhtiar (as the premier) and the Royal Council. Once this plan failed, they began their activities to delay my return to Iran arguing that it was not advisable for me to return to Iran at that time because such-and-such might happen. And then, when I did return to Iran, issues were intensified. For instance, one of the plots hatched by them (the above-mentioned malicious busybodies) was their proposition that the (ex-Shahs) army had to be disbanded and replaced by another army to be formed afresh. Their mischievous hand was yet again exposed, and their conspiracy aborted. Now, as you can see, the army has changed tremendously and all its members, except of course those corrupt individuals who fled the country or were eliminated, are serving (the country). Thank God this did not happen. If it had taken place, we would have been defeated. Now, I hear, they are engaged in another act of mischief. They are now raising the question: “Why should we have relations with other governments? We are dealing with other nations and have nothing to do with their governments.” This is yet another plot recently hatched, and

currently exercised. The super-powers, including the U.S., assumed that Iran, following its post-revolutionary policy of ‘freedom and independence’ (which is considered a novelty and contrary to the policies pursued by other governments) would be doomed to isolation. When this happened, they believed, Iran would not be able to last long. However, the expected isolation of Iran did not materialize and what is more, relations between Iran and foreign countries expanded.

Now, they (the malicious busybodies) are protesting against having any relations with other governments arguing that these governments are oppressive, and therefore we should have relations with other nations (but not with their governments). This is another plot, a carefully conceived scheme, and a very dangerous issue.

At the dawn of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) would send envoys to various parts of the world to establish relations (with the people of those areas): We must do

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the same. We cannot sit back and say we have nothing to do with other governments. This is against both reason as well as religion. We must have relations with all governments excluding a few, with whom we have no ties. We do not advocate the point that we ought not to have relations with any other government because this means defeat and extinction. Rather, we maintain the view that we must establish relations with other governments and nations. Through such relations, we can



attempt to enlighten them and guide them towards the truth. At the same time, we must ensure that we are not punched in the face by those whom we cannot enlighten and guide.

Therefore, my advice to you is that, wherever you are and whichever country you have been sent to as representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, you should try to consolidate your relations with your hosts and keep in touch with them. The fact that the President, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister (of the Islamic Republic) have, quite rightly, paid visits to a number of foreign countries shows that Iran is in touch with the rest of the world.

We totally support the oppressed people wherever they may be. Our wish is for the oppressed to overcome the oppressors. You must make sure that relations with foreign

*“You must make it absolutely clear that we have our own Islamic code of (foreign) relations”.*

countries are not like those before the Islamic Revolution, namely of the one-way master-slave type of relationship that existed during both the Qajar and the Pahlavi periods through to the last moment. You witnessed that the prevailing pattern was that when an ambassador would come from Britain or America, nobody would dare to say a word against their interests. However, this is not the case in Iran today. You cannot find any country like Iran, in that while being the focus of attention of the East and the West, it remains independent and openly says that it has nothing to do with the U.S. or the Soviet Union. When we say that we should have relations with all other governments we mean such relations as between equals, not those between a master and his slave(s). We do not want this (latter) type of relations. If we wish to pre-

serve our independence and lead an honourable life in this world, and forward the message of Islam, such (equal) relations should be increasingly strengthened. You must make it absolutely clear to them (the officials of your host countries) that we do not wish to have (diplomatic) relations similar to those during the Shah's rule, and that we have our own Islamic code of relations. Islam is neither oppressive nor does it allow itself to be oppressed. And this is precisely what we wish to be, namely: neither oppressive nor oppressed.

You must also bear in mind that it was the Divine Power which blessed you with independence and freedom. Furthermore, as long as the Divine Blessing is with us, no earthly power can do us any harm. They (the superpowers) imposed a war upon us and have constantly helped our enemies through every channel. Nonetheless, our youths, and indeed the entirety of our nation are standing firm. We shall maintain our defence through to the end, although as you know there is widespread propaganda against us.

When France delivered those aircraft to Iraq, they (the imperialists) publicised the view that “it is all over now and Saddam will soon destroy the Khark Island completely. That story came to an end (with no good news for our enemies).

Now, they have begun another episode by saying that the newly marketed helicopters and aircraft are capable of hitting targets as far as 500 kilometres, while the distance between Iraqi territory and the Khark Island is only 300 kilometres.

We are certain that if Saddam were able to break the peace within Iran or to endanger the interests of the Islamic Republic, he would not hesitate to do so. The reason why he does not do anything along these lines is that he cannot do it.

At the same time, imperialist radio broadcasts constantly claim that our enemies are capable of striking any target (in our territory). The imperialists want to hoax us into resuming relations with the U.S. and make us leave Saddam alone.

We shall continue our resistance through to the end. We shall not establish relations with the U.S. unless it (the U.S. government) chooses to adopt a humane policy and puts an end to its acts of oppression, such as: stretching its long arms of aggression from the other side of the world over the Lebanon and the Persian Gulf. As long as the U.S. behaves in the way it does and South Africa acts in the manner it does, and as long as Israel exists (as a usurper), we refuse to associate

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with them. Israel will never even begin to follow a humane line. This is the view we have held for the past 20 years during which time we relentlessly cried out warnings calling on Muslims to assess and realize the danger of Israel. Yet, as you see, these devils (our enemies) are accusing us of having relations with Israel and America!

We as a country wish to lead our own life free from any foreign interference. As long as our ties with Almighty Allah remain strong, no one can do us any harm. Do make sure you follow His Line. Also ensure that our embassies abroad are maintained and managed according to Islam, unique and impressive, contrary to what they were in the past (namely: before the Islamic Revolution).

Illuminate your hearts with Divine Light, and Allah Almighty will protect you.

“If you help (the Cause of) Allah, He will help you and make you strong” (Qur'an, 47:7)

May Allah grant you success in serving Islam and the Islamic Revolution. WASSALAMU ALAIKUM WA RAHMATULLAH. ●