

IMAM KHOMEINI AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THE IRANIAN NATION SHOULD BE A MODEL FOR OTHER NATIONS

January 10, 1980. Representatives of the world liberation movements met with Imam Khomeini. In his speech to the visiting members of the liberation movements the Imam said that the super-power depend on the third world countries for much of their needs and that one day, if the countries of the third world would use the weapon which they already have at their disposal the super-powers would be subjugated. The following is the text of the Imam's speech.

In the Name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate

I thank you very much gentlemen for having come here to see at close hand the conditions of the country. I am afraid, however, that you cannot see everything. For more than 50 years our nation has been embroiled in chaotic conditions that were created by two illegal and cruel rulers. One of them, Reza Khan, was imposed upon us by the British, and the second one by the three governments of Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. One cannot enumerate the crimes that were committed against this nation during this past century, since the documents of these criminal acts are not all available. There is not any one person who can claim to be cognizant of all the crimes that were committed in this country. Nobody knows, except for the man who ruled here in the past, and except, perhaps, for their close relatives and the insiders. Therefore, it is impossible for you to witness the whole of the documents pertaining to such crimes. At best, you can only learn by word of mouth, or you may perhaps have seen just a small group of the people who were injured and became invalids in their struggle against the psst regime. But the nations of the east will not reach independence unless they realize that the east is a geographical area like any other place in the world and that they, too, are nations, by no means inferior to any other nation.

The east has long since lost its identity in its confrontation with the west. The people of the east have lost their cultural identity. They have lost the great culture of Islam, which is by far superior to resources, but they have taken everything from you

and above that, they have sowed discord among people. They have also beguiled our youth in two ways: first, they have distorted the culture of the east, and secondly, they have published their own ideologies, which have even failed in their own countries. But due to their widespread propaganda our youth have taken to these ideologies. In still another invasion, they established places for demoralizing our youth; the places which enchanted and attracted our youth and in which they gradually lost their identity. There were more places for moral corruption in Tehran than there were libraries. They deprived and stripped our youth of the power typical of the young people so that by denuding our youth from its necessary faculties, they could better plunder our wealth before the eyes of indifferent people.

This was the situation during the past regime. They had taken our youth to places of corruption. All newspapers and magazines here had devoted their whole effort to preaching corruption and so had our radio and television stations. The whole of our mass media had mobilized themselves for wasting our youth. Another plot for ruling the morality of our people was the spread of narcotics and alcohol in our country. Narcotics and alcohol were long in vogue among our youth for our enemies realized that and by making our youth addicted to such things, they could better continue to plunder our wealth. They did not want our youth to ask who was taking away our oil, or how much of it and why. They did not want our youth to ask why there was suppression in the country and why there was no freedom for the people.

Such were the plans and the conspiracies of imperialism for our country. They had invariably the same conspiracies for your countries. Therefore, it remains your duty as well as the duty of all other people who love their country, who love their nation, and who love Islam to eliminate all these symptoms, which have become the principal problems of our countries. Your immediate concern should be to restore the misled brains to their normal course.

The university should provide proper education to the youth if their administrators have faith in Islam. We must do our best to rid our youth from this spirit which is commonly known here as 'westoxication'.

It is unfortunate that the government seldom shows any concern with these issues. But if they love Islam and their country and their people they should adopt a different attitude in their approach to the issues. The Muslim countries are vast and rich. They all need you. The super-powers need you. If any day you should use the weapons which you have at your disposal, your enemies would yield. But, despite all this, they continue to plunder our wealth while the governments have become subordinate to the super-powers. This situation now necessitates a reform which could elevate the people to virtues typical of the early Islamic period. Already, our people have become, to some extent, similar to the people of the early Islamic period and this same change was responsible for the triumph of our Revolution. The Iranian nation must serve as a model to other nations. If the people should all decide to find shelter under one single cause, that cause is Islam. The Muslims, with all the resources and wealth which they have, are destined to gain prestige in the entire world. But despite all this, the super-powers do not want such a status for Muslims. Therefore, it remains your duty to increase the consciousness of your people.

I pray to God Almighty for His awakening of the Muslim people and for Muslims to close ranks and feel like brothers and abandon all differences. I also hope that the governments will put an end to differences among themselves.

I hope that God Almighty will eliminate these problems and that the Muslim people will be a whole, unified mass throughout the world.

Peace be upon you, and the Mercy and Blessing of God.

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