

## ISLAMIC REVIEW

### THE EMIR FEISUL AT THE SHAH JEHAN MOSQUE, WOKING

By S. A. TOTO

The Muslim Society in Great Britain had an auspicious day on Sunday, the 19th February 1939, in having been honoured by the gracious visit of His Royal Highness the Viceroy of Hedjaz.

This was not the first occasion that the Society had the honour of a visit from His Royal Highness, but the occasion was singularly noteworthy because his presence in this country was of representing the Saudi Arabia at the Palestine Conference—on the outcome of which rests the fate of our co-religionists in Palestine. Social engagements beset personages on their visit to England, and His Royal Highness would have been quite justified in keeping Sundays apart as days for respite. But he consented to come down to Woking in order to be among English and other Muslims.

Over two hundred persons assembled in the marquees in the lawn to await the arrival of the Princes. Punctually at 3-30 p.m. the Royal car drove up to the front entrance. The press photographers rushed forward. Cameras clicked as the Princes stepped out of the car. The Imam conducted the Royal guests into the marquees.

Many of the guests were introduced to His Royal Highness, whose simplicity, friendliness and lack of ceremony deeply impressed all those who were presented. When they were seated, Mr. Ismail de-Yorke, Chairman of the Muslim Society in Great Britain, read out the address of welcome. Speaking on behalf of the members of the Society, the chairman said how honoured all the Muslims felt at having His Royal Highness again in their midst. The Chairman stressed the deep appreciation of the Society for the numerous services rendered by his illustrious father, H. M. the King Ibn Saud, how the

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Society and the Woking Muslim Mission have been repeatedly encouraged in their social and religious work by his and the Crown Prince's visits.

Finally, the members wished for a favourable outcome to the Palestine Conference and the fulfilment in letter and spirit of the Arab demands in Palestine.

In reply, through the Saudi Arabian Minister, His Royal Highness Emir Feisul said that whatever his father had done and was doing for Islam and the Muslim world, he considered it as a part of his duty as a Muslim. They were trying to make the Hajj easy and comfortable to the best of their ability so that all Muslims, rich and poor, could carry out this holy duty with minimum discomfort. His Highness thanked the Society and the Woking Muslim Mission, and expressed great sympathy for the work they were carrying on.

Among those present were: His Excellency General Nuri-al-Said, the Prime Minister of Iraq; Sir Feroz Khan Noon; Lady Headley; Dr. and Mrs. Saeed Mohamedi; and Nawab Zain Yar Jung.

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## ADDRESS OF WELCOME

TO

*His Royal Highness The Emir Feisul, Viceroy of Hedjaz*

AND

*His Royal Highness The Emir Khalid of the Saudi Arabia*  
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,

Although this is not the first time that this country and this Mosque have had the honour of a visit from Your Royal Highnesses, it is the first time that we, the members of the Muslim Society in Great Britain, have also had the honour of welcoming Your Royal Highnesses on such an auspicious occasion, and have had the opportunity of expressing our feelings towards you and your august family.

Let us assure you, to begin with, that as a body actively engaged in the advancement of Islam, we deeply appreciate the valuable services His Majesty, your father, has rendered in the cause of Islam, by his devotion to the sacred traditions of our beloved religion and his ceaseless anxiety to make Hajj, so essential in Islam, as attractive and as safe as possible for the Muslims of the world. We take this opportunity of humbly offering, through your Royal Highnesses, to His Majesty King

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Ibn Saud our heartfelt thanks for this valuable contribution to the dignity of Islam. Nor do we fail to realise that as Viceroy of the Hedjaz part of this credit also goes to you. May Allah reward you amply, both father and son, on this account.

As it may have already appeared to you, this appreciation of ours in Great Britain of the facilities of Hajj has got a special meaning nowadays, in that the British nation has been contributing its quota, however small, of representatives to this sacred congregation. All those English Ladies and Gentlemen who have made the Pilgrimage to the sacred cities invariably speak very highly of the initial aid afforded them by your Legation here, followed by the helpfulness of the Government on reaching your country.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,

Humble though our resources are, we have been doing something in the same cause that your august father has at heart, which we hope and pray will result, in the no distant future, in changing the whole relationship of the West with Islam. It is only 25 years ago that the illustrious British Muslim peer, the late lamented Al-Haj Al-Faruque Lord Headley, founded this Society in collaboration with the late lamented Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, the founder of the Woking Muslim Mission. The social and religious work done in these 25 years by the Society in co-operation with this mosque and the Mission has more than justified its existence, as is very well known to the Muslim world. May it please Allah that our humble services may always receive encouragement and support from the Government of your august father. We should be failing in our duty if we did not mention how grateful we have felt for the repeated encouragement we have received from your worthy brother, His Royal Highness Prince Saud, on the occasions that he has visited this country.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,

We fully realize the gravity of the occasion that has brought you here. As we extend to you our warmest welcome in this auspicious visit of yours to this country, we also share the deep anxieties which must be yours along with the whole Muslim world, from the extreme West to the extreme East, on the possible results of the ensuing Conference on the question of Palestine.

In conclusion, therefore, we fervently pray to Almighty Allah to enable you to so steer the course of the coming discussion as to make the justice and reason of the Arab demands evident even to the most hostile section of the British politicians and incline the Palestine question to a solution satisfying to the Arab World, of which your august father is a leading figure, and therefore, for the whole world of Islam.

Assuring Your Royal Highnesses of our sincerest good wishes in all your admirable efforts in the cause of Islam.

We have the honour to remain, Your Royal Highnesses' brethren-in-Islam.

*The Members of the Muslim Society in Great Britain,*  
THE SHAH JEHAN MOSQUE, WOKING.

February 19, 1939