

3,000 AT MUSLIM FESTIVAL

"ALL MANKIND ONE"

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

WOKING, SURREY, JUNE 5

Only the pine trees seemed out of place as families in the colourful dress of eastern countries spread their lunches of curry on the grass in the grounds of the Shah Jehan Mosque at Woking today. The domed mosque and the marquee which was decorated with the flags of many Muslim countries seemed more suited to the Orient than to Surrey heathland.

Nearly 3,000 people represented the biggest attendance so far at an ordinary Muslim festival in this country. This was the Id al-Adha, which commemorates the sacrifice of the lamb by Abraham. True to the custom which is popularly associated with Muslim rites, shoes were piled outside the marquee, where prayers were led and an address given by the Imam, Mr. S. Muhammad Tufail. The remainder of the day was a social occasion.

There are reckoned to be 200,000 Muslims in this country and 2,000 of them in the Muslim Society of Great Britain. The Imam spoke of the rate of conversion in Britain and said that every week two people became Muslims. "This rate of progress is not at all satisfactory", he said. "Let every one of you contact at least two persons during the coming year for the sake of Islam."

Islam had succeeded in obliterating all distinctions of race, colour, and rank and was teaching the world the most needed lesson that all mankind was one, he continued. Because of this Islam was making the most progress in the battle for the minds and hearts of Africa's uncommitted millions.

"Buddha, Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ, Mahomet, and all the divine teachers of the world never taught that man was superior to man by virtue of his race, colour, or nationality", declared the Imam.
