

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

# Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

(ESTABLISHED 1914)

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## PRESS RELEASE

14<sup>th</sup> October 2003

For immediate release

### **More than 600 guests participated in the opening ceremony of the Baitul Futuh Mosque**

The opening ceremony of the Baitul Futuh Mosque was held last weekend in the spacious multipurpose hall of the Baitul Futuh complex in which more than 600 guests participated. According to the organiser Salim Ahmad Malik, High Commissioners, Deputy High Commissioners, ambassadors, and representatives of 17 countries including India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Senegal, Columbia were present. Also present were Members of Parliament, Members of European Parliament, Lord Avebury, Deputy leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, Mayors of all boroughs of London and the Mayors of Croydon and leamington Spa, councillors, police officers, university Lecturers, representatives of academia, and business executives.

The Mayor of Merton madam Maxine Martin addressed the audience and said, "It is an absolute honour and privilege for me to be here this evening. I am amazed that during my mayoral year the dream of this mosque has come true. I am also glad that so many people of different faiths are gathered here joining in and sharing this wonderful inaugural evening."

Mr. Rafiq Ahmad Hayat, the national president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Britain, said that the purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah was to bring people closer to God. Britain was the first country where an Ahmadiyya Muslim Missionary was sent and the first country outside India where a mosque was built in 1926. Today we have 80 branches in the UK and more than 20,000 followers from all walks of life." "If we can pass the message of peace to the whole world from this mosque, Baitul Futuh would have served its purpose," he added.

The Member of Parliament from Wimbledon, Hon. Roger Casale said, "With the completion of this mosque a new chapter has been opened not only in the life of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community but for all of us." He also told the audience: "The persecuted members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community especially in Pakistan are in the forefront of our mind. I and my colleagues will continue to raise the matter with government ministers on your behalf."

Hon Kobina Tahir Hammond deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Ghana participated as a representative to His Excellency the Vice President of Ghana. He said that the Holy Prophet of Islam, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, had allowed a Christian delegation to worship in his own mosque therefore a mosque is not only for the worship of Allah by Muslims alone but for adherents of all religions of the world. It symbolizes the unity of Allah and the equality of man. It is a place of peace and security. He said, "In my country the Ahmadiyya Muslim community is at the forefront of advocacy for peace, national unity, academic and moral excellence. I hope and pray that the slogan "Love for All hatred for none" be always raised from Baitul Futuh.

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Hon. Jim Karygiannis Member of Canadian Parliament commented, “The government of Pakistan has changed the name of Rabwah but for the Ahmadi Muslims all over the world it will always be Rabwah.” According to him the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the 73rd sect of Islam. “Those who object to calling Baitul Futuh a mosque are unaware of the teachings of Islam,” he said.

He brought a message from Rt. Hon Paul Martin, Prime Minister Designate, which stated,

“Over the years I have been delighted to participate in the events organised by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in their mosque at Maple, Canada. I understand that the Baitul Futuh mosque is magnificent and the largest mosque in Western Europe. My best wishes to all of you.”

Hon. Dominic Grieve Member of British Parliament said, “The Baitul Futuh mosque is remarkable in its architecture and all the more remarkable for the atmosphere that pervades in it. I bring you the greetings of the leader of my party Ian Duncan Smith and his appreciation of the role of your community in our national life. The message reads: “Your role in the national life as a religious community is one that has brought nothing but benefits to my country. It is therefore an exceptionally important event that this mosque be opened and that it should reflect the strength of your community and the diversity of our country. I would like to thank you for laying down the foundations of a common heritage that can be shared by our children and grandchildren in years to come.”

Lord Avebury said, “I believe that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has an important role to play in conveying the values not only to the people here in this community in Merton or even to Britain alone but to those countries where Ahmadiyyat is continuously growing.”

“The mosque complex which is the largest in Europe, not only provides the unique facilities for the expanding community of the Ahmadiyya Muslims but it reminds the rest of us of the civilized and humane values of Islam which Ahmadi Muslims propagate. We thank the whole community for the outstanding contributions that they have made towards the enrichment of our society and the society of the world as a whole.”

The supreme Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad thanked all guests and said, “Islam teaches us to be mindful towards God Who is our Creator and to keep His memory fresh in our hearts. It requires us to deal with His creation with love, affection, harmony and tolerance. A Muslim can never show hatred against his fellow citizens nor for that matter against the ruling authority or government of the time. It is the responsibility of the true Muslim that he should remain loyal and fully abide by the laws of the land.” He read out a statement of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad who stated: “A true Muslim who is aware of the teachings of his faith will always remain sincere in obedience to the government under whose benign shadow he lives.”

The Ahmadiyya leader said that the Ahmadi Muslims have always stayed away from evils, crimes or anything that breaches the law. They have always taken care that their actions should not cause harm to God’s creation. He continued, “In order to achieve

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the objectives of worshipping the One and only True God and to treat His creation kindly, mosques are built.” He said that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has built mosques in all corners of the world. These mosques are symbols of peace. The Ahmadiyya leader closed his address by reading from the writings of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which stated: “The mission for which I have been appointed is to remove the growing gap between God and His creation and to replace it once again with the relationship of love and sincerity, and by allowing the Truth to manifest itself and lay down the foundations of peace, to disclose such religious Truths that have become hidden from the eyes of the world, and through my example rather than by my words, I should show God’s Power which enters man and re-emerges as meditation or Prayer.”

End of Press Release

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Secretary Ahmadiyya Muslim Press & Media Desk International  
Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry