



Oh I see

Gulam

14/9/04

VISIONARY *IL Nation*

ivilisations have a tendency to grow fat thus triggering the process of decay to set the same time they also pose capability to rejuvenate. Examples in front of us are of China, Japan and Iraq. China as an entity from the verge of opium eaters has emerged as a major player on the world stage with one of the highest growth rates for the last 15 years. Iraq from being crippled after the bombing and Nagasaki's devastation by Atom bombs has emerged as a major player in the financial/Industrial and technological power house. Iraq has and over again shown its resilience in the face of adversity. Callaghan very aptly pointed out that Iraq does not need any foreign country to bring it back to its original state being one of the oldest civilisations in the world is capable of doing it on its own.

re-developed after the ransacking by Mongol herds, Iraq under the leadership of a country whose citizens participated in building the

amongst students from various Muslim countries.

The standard from primary to secondary to university level will be prepared, implemented and monitored by a collective OIC body. This does not mean that we stop going to universities in the west. But it is the west which is making it difficult for Muslim students to get admissions, especially in the fields of Chemical Engineering, Metallurgy, Hydrology, Nano-Technology and others of the like.

It would stand us in good stead to emulate the Malay example. A lot of students after 9/11 are looking at Malaysia as a replacement for further studies. The Cyber Jaya and Putra Jaya are excellent examples which provide an ideal atmosphere of East and West along with a secure environment and an all around well being of progressive growth.

The Cairo University in Egypt, Ghulam Ishaq Institute, UET Lahore and the Institutes of Aircraft and Shipbuilding in Bandung, Indonesia, are some names that come

ate a cohesive bonding among the developed regions. The USSR and Yugoslavia have been balkanised and the first casualty of Indonesian

balkanisation is East Timor with trouble brewing in Aceh and Salawasi. Where this serpent of Balkanisation raises its head next is anybody's guess, mine is Iraq.

On the other hand, Europe is bonding under the banner of EEC. To avoid further balkanisation and being labelled as failed states we would have to immediately bond. By taking such a step we get cohesive and at par with future world players in the Big Game. The way world events are forming up, they would be negotiated amongst the following: European Union "EEC", China, NAPTA, India, ASEAN and if we get our act together fast enough OIC "Organisation of Islamic Countries".

To achieve the above in the special meeting taking place in the near future, these issues will have to be tabled: Single Currency "The Islamic Dinar"; Education/Research and Technology; Commerce/Trade and Industrialisation; and Foreign Policy and Defence.

The single step of a common currency would achieve a level of cohesiveness which no other move will. It will foster unity and free trade amongst the Muslim countries. It will give a clear message on the International forum of the seriousness of our endeavour and it will create a structure of equilibrium in dealing with the Dollar, the Euro, the Yuan and ultimately the Rand and the Rupia.

Then our literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world. Our education system is in decay and where the physical form is in place our teaching methods and curriculum are nevertheless medieval. Our emphasis on research can be gauged by the funds allocated to this impotent facet of our development. It may sound like I am talking about the past but this is true

are or can provide excellent environment for students.

its authorised capital three fold from Islamic dinar 2 billion to ID 6 billion. Then being active in International Trade, I was aware that limits given by

the IDB for trade within Muslim countries went mostly unutilised. To avoid such situations an executive committee should be created that would put in effect the following policies:

1. Enhancement of Trade within the Muslim countries

2. Enhancement of Trade between Muslim countries and other Third world countries.

3. Enhancement of Trade with the West and the rest.

4. Evaluating each Muslim country's capability in the industrial sector, reviving it and creating OIC products for marketing to the rest of the world or economic groupings like EEC, ASEAN, and China.

5. Take stock of its natural assets or whatever remains of it and create a policy for its marketing and value addition.

6. Once the west develops alternative energy "fuel cell technology" which I foresee happening within the next two decades maximum, then most products would convert to that and the oil producers will end up sitting in their respective holes. The need to assimilate maximum profits and carry out our research into alternative energy is of utmost importance.

7. Oil is not the only valuable asset. Cotton, tea, palm oil, Rice and natural minerals are also found in abundance, the need is to add value through industrialisation and export.

Lastly, it goes without saying that once the above mentioned points are adhered to, the Defence and Foreign policy per force will have to come within the ambit of the OIC. How have CENTO, NATO, SEATO or the Warsaw pact benefited any Muslim country? If anything we have ended up being the testing grounds for their newly developed weapons, may it be the Intifada in Palestine, war between

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BY VISIONARY

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Civilisations have a tendency to grow fat thus triggering the process of decay to set in, at the same time they also possess the capability to rejuvenate. Classic examples in front of us are those of China, Japan and Iraq.

China as an entity from the verge of being opium eaters has emerged as a major player on the world forum with one of the highest growth rates for the last 15 years. Japan from being crippled after Hiroshima and Nagasaki's devastation by Atom bombs has emerged as a Financial/Industrial and technological power house. Iraq has over and over again shown its resilience in the face of adversity. Lord Callaghan very aptly pointed out that Iraq does not need any other country to bring it back to its feet. Iraq being one of the oldest civilisations in the world is capable of doing it on its own.

It re-developed after the ransacking by Mongol herds, Iraq under Faisal I was a country whose citizens participated in building the nation, no matter one's denomination or affiliation, whether Shiite or Sunni, Chaldean or Sabaeen, Arab or Kurd, Circassian or Turkman. Little wonder, then, that Iraq was the first Arab country to join the League of Nations. It became a model for other emerging nation states in the Middle East and beyond.

If we read the recent events of the world and the insinuation in Mr. Tofflers writings, the world in general and the Muslim world in particular has to watch out for the tilt in world events which seem to be moving towards Balkanisation of large and some unwieldy states, while at the same time trying to cre-

amongst students from various Muslim countries.

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The Cairo University in Egypt, Ghulam Ishaq Institute, UET Lahore and the Institutes of Aircraft and Shipbuilding in Bandung, Indonesia, are some names that come to mind. If proper research is done we will find numerous other institutions in other Muslim countries that are or can provide excellent environment for students.

Another area of importance is Commerce/Trade and Industrialisation. I remember a decade ago attending a workshop in Jakarta on "Trade cooperation, export promotion and complementarity in Cotton and Textile Industry among

OIC member countries".

The Islamic Development Bank's President Mr. Osama Jaafar Faquih said, to foster economic development and social progress amongst member countries, the bank had tripled

players in the Big Game. The way world events are forming up, they would be negotiated amongst the following: European Union "EEC", China, NAFTA, India, ASEAN and if we get our act together fast enough OIC "Organisation of Islamic Countries".

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Then our literacy rate is one of the lowest in the world. Our education system is in decay and where the physical form is in place our teaching methods and curriculum are nevertheless medieval. Our emphasis on research can be gauged by the funds allocated to this impotent facet of our development. It may sound like I am talking about Pakistan but this is true for most of the Muslim countries in the world. We need to formulate a collective education policy, a policy based on universal education which has heavy emphasis on technical vocation and is research oriented.

All centres of excellence are to be highlighted and spheres of expertise to be spread in a manner whereby every country develops an expertise in a certain vocation. These institutions will be replenished with faculty which will be chosen on merit and the only students on merit would be sent there. The scholarships are to be provided from the OIC pool thus creating not only centres of excellence but also harmony and interaction

the West and the rest.

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Lastly, it goes without saying that once the above mentioned points are adhered to, the Defence and Foreign policy per force will have to come within the ambit of the OIC. How have CENTO, NATO, SEATO or the Warsaw pact benefited any Muslim country? If anything we have ended up being the testing grounds for their newly developed weapons, may it be the Intefada in Palestine, war between Iraq and Iran, Iraq and Kuwait, the recent excursion of US and allied forces into Iraq, the on-going operation in Afghanistan, or the conflict between Russia and Chechnya.

The creation of an OIC Defence Treaty is imperative, the force would be used to solve skirmishes within the Islamic world and at the same time act as a deterrent to maverick states looking for adventure. This forum would also create alliances with other world players to maintain the balance of power, avoid misadventure by uni-polar elements and give the Muslim nations their due place in the comity of nations.

For a good cause "when man is willing and eager, God joins in".

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