

**SPEECH BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
'PRESENTING THE TRUE FACE OF ISLAM TO THE WORLD'
AT STATE INSTITUTE [UNIVERSITY] OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
MOSCOW
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AMBASSADOR ANATOLY V. TORKUNOV
RECTOR OF THE MOSCOW
STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

FIRSTLY, I WISH TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR INVITING ME TO RECEIVE ITS HONORARY DEGREE OF "DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA". I THANK THIS UNIVERSITY FOR GIVING ME THE HONOR OF ASSOCIATION WITH ITS ILLUSTRIOUS NAME AND HIGH REPUTATION. FOR WE ALL KNOW THAT THIS INSTITUTE HAS A LONG TRADITION OF QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE, TRAINING AND NURTURING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF RUSSIA FOR SERVICE IN DIPLOMACY OR AS EXPERTS IN FOREIGN POLICY. RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS ARE WELL-KNOWN FOR THEIR ELOQUENCE IN SEVERAL LANGUAGES AND FOR THEIR TOUGHNESS IN NEGOTIATIONS. ALL OF THEM, I AM TOLD, HAVE WALKED THE CORRIDORS OF THIS FAMOUS INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING AT SOME POINT OR OTHER IN THEIR CAREER.

2. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE BOARD OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER A LECTURE TO MARK THE OCCASION OF MY VISIT. I HUMBLY ACCEPT ALL THESE HONORS AS AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR REGARD NOT ONLY FOR ME BUT ALSO FOR MY COUNTRY. I SHALL ALWAYS REMEMBER MY VISIT HERE, AND I HOPE THIS UNIVERSITY WILL ALSO REMEMBER IT AS AN EXPRESSION OF MY FRIENDSHIP AND THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF RUSSIA.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

3. I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THIS UNIVERSITY WISHES THAT I SPEAK TODAY ON THE SUBJECT OF ISLAM. I AM VERY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MORE MUSLIMS IN RUSSIA THAN THERE ARE MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA, MY COUNTRY. IN BOTH CASES, THEY EXIST AS VERY IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF OUR RESPECTIVE SOCIETIES. IN MALAYSIA, THE MUSLIMS CONSTITUTE THE IMPORTANT MAJORITY. IN RUSSIA, THE MUSLIMS ARE AN IMPORTANT MINORITY.

4. HOWEVER, I FEEL COMFORTABLE SPEAKING ABOUT ISLAM IN RUSSIA BECAUSE THIS GREAT COUNTRY HAS SHOWN MUCH UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSION TOWARDS ISSUES CONFRONTING THE ISLAMIC WORLD. I APPLAUD PRESIDENT PUTIN AND THIS NATION FOR DEMONSTRATING EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP MANY TIMES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON MANY IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. WE NOTE RUSSIA'S PREFERENCE FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THAT POSITION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

5. I PROPOSE TO SPEAK ABOUT THE POSITION OF ISLAM AS A GLOBAL RELIGION, PROFESSED BY ABOUT 1.4 BILLION PEOPLE OR MORE THAN ONE FIFTH OF HUMANITY. I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEBATE ABOUT ISLAM AS AN ISSUE WHICH IS IMPACTING GLOBAL AFFAIRS AND AFFECTING RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS.

6. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE PROPOSITION THAT ISLAM IS A PROBLEM TO THE WORLD, THAT ISLAM IS A RELIGION WHICH PROVIDES REFUGE FOR EXTREMISM. WE HAVE HEARD SUCH ALLEGATIONS MADE BY SPEAKERS IN PUBLIC FORUMS EVEN IN SOME PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, AND WE HAVE READ WRITINGS MAKING SUCH A CASE EVEN IN REPUTABLE JOURNALS. THESE ACCUSERS SAY THAT CONFLICTS INVOLVING MUSLIMS OR MUSLIM COUNTRIES ARE NECESSARILY THE FAULT OF MUSLIMS THEMSELVES. THEY INSIST THAT IF THERE ARE ADJUSTMENTS OR CHANGES TO BE MADE TO ENSURE PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS, IT IS ISLAM WHICH SHOULD MAKE THE ADJUSTMENTS OR CHANGES. IN THE DAILY LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS, WE KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF PROFILING. FOR EXAMPLE, IN MANY WESTERN AIRPORTS, TRAVELERS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO EXTRA CHECKS IF YOU CARRY A PASSPORT BEARING A MUSLIM NAME. THIS WAY OF THINKING AND STATE OF MIND IS WHAT WE CAN DESCRIBE AS ISLAMOPHOBIA.

7. FIRST AND FOREMOST, I MUST POINT OUT THAT IT IS WRONG TO PUT THE BLAME ON RELIGION AS THE CAUSE OF THE EXISTING CONFLICTS BETWEEN PEOPLES AND NATIONS. ALL GENUINE RELIGIONS ADVOCATE PEACE AND HARMONY AMONG PEOPLES AS WELL AS ACCEPTANCE AND TOLERANCE OF OTHERS. THIS IS CERTAINLY THE CASE WITH ISLAM. THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM REQUIRE THE TRUE BELIEVERS TO PRACTISE TOLERANCE, FORGIVENESS AND PEACE. ISLAM ADVOCATES UNIVERSAL HUMAN FRATERNITY AND COEXISTENCE. THE QURAN, WHICH IS THE WRITTEN FOUNDATION OF THE RELIGION OF ISLAM, IS VERY EXPLICIT IN RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE OF RELIGIONS OTHER THAN ISLAM.

8. IN FACT, WE CANNOT FIND EVIDENCE IN HISTORY WHICH POINT TO RELIGION AS THE CAUSE FOR THE CURRENT CONFLICT OR FOR THE RISE OF HOSTILITY BETWEEN WESTERN AND MUSLIM SOCIETIES.

9. I BELIEVE MUCH OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS AGAINST ISLAM IN THE WEST STEMS FROM A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUE NATURE OF ISLAM. FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS BECOME COMMON PLACE TO CHARACTERIZE ANYTHING ISLAMIC AS BEING ANTITHESIS TO EVERYTHING WESTERN, AND THEREFORE PREJUDICIAL TO WESTERN INTERESTS. THIS MISUNDERSTANDING HAS ARISEN BECAUSE THE PLACE RELIGION OCCUPIES IN MODERN CHRISTIAN SOCIETIES IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE ROLE RELIGION PLAYS IN THE DAILY LIVES OF MUSLIMS EVERYWHERE.

10. CHRISTIAN SOCIETIES, ESPECIALLY IN EUROPE, HAVE GENERALLY EMBRACED SECULARISM AS A WAY OF LIFE AND BASIS OF GOVERNANCE. RELIGION HAS BEEN LARGELY REMOVED FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN INTO THE CONFINES OF THE HOME AND FAMILY. THIS IS A NATURAL PROGRESSION OF THE SEPARATION OF THE CHURCH FROM THE STATE.

11. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR MUSLIM SOCIETIES TO EMBRACE SECULARISM BECAUSE ISLAM IS PRACTISED NOT ONLY AS A RELIGION BUT ALSO AS A WHOLE WAY OF LIFE FOR ALL MUSLIMS. THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM SERVE AS THEIR GUIDE FOR DOING ALL THINGS, WHETHER CONDUCTING THEIR AFFAIRS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN OR PRACTISING THE RELIGION IN THE PRIVACY OF THEIR HOMES. IT IS SOMETIMES SAID THAT SOCIETY MIGHT INDEED BENEFIT BY BEING LESS RELIGIOUS. HOWEVER, SUCH AN IDEA CANNOT TAKE ROOT IN MUSLIM COMMUNITIES BECAUSE THE ISLAMIC RELIGION AND THE MUSLIM WAY OF LIFE ARE INDISTINGUISHABLE AND INSEPARABLE.

12. FOR THE MUSLIM FAITHFUL, FROM THE LEADER TO THE LAYMAN, FROM THE PARLIAMENTARIAN TO THE POLICEMAN, HE OR SHE IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A MUSLIM. THEREFORE, WHEN DEALING WITH MUSLIMS, YOU CANNOT ASK THEM TO PUT ASIDE THEIR RELIGION, EVEN MOMENTARILY, BECAUSE THAT IS THEIR WAY OF LIFE. THIS FACT MAY SEEM PUZZLING TO THE SECULARLY ORIENTED WESTERNERS. BUT, THE WESTERNERS NEED TO APPRECIATE THE TRUTH THAT BEING ISLAMIC IS NOT BEING DOGMATIC OR EXTREME. THE MUSLIMS ARE JUST BEING THEMSELVES.

13. THE WEST SHOULD ALSO AVOID JUDGING ISLAM BY THE CONDUCT OF A TINY MINORITY OF MUSLIMS WHO HOLD EXTREME VIEWS AND BEHAVE IN EXTREME WAYS. AS I HAVE SAID EARLIER, THERE ARE 1.4 BILLION MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD. THOSE WHO COMMIT CRIME, AND YET CLAIM THEMSELVES TO BE MUSLIMS, NUMBER AT BEST ONLY IN THE THOUSANDS. THESE EXTREMISTS MAY EVEN CLAIM THAT THEIR ACTIONS ARE MANDATED BY THE RELIGION, THUS GIVING THE ISLAM AS A WHOLE A BAD NAME. BUT IT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE FRINGE ELEMENTS ARE NOT TRUE MUSLIMS. ANY REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THIS FACT WOULD BE VIEWING ISLAM IN A PREJUDICED WAY THAT IS NOT OBJECTIVE, AND WHICH DISTORTS THE REALITY OF ISLAM.

14. THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA MUST SHARE PART OF THE BLAME. THEY HAVE ALLOWED DISPROPORTIONATELY LARGE AMOUNTS OF PUBLICITY TO EXTREMIST VIEWS AND ACTIONS, PROBABLY UNINTENTIONALLY. AND THIS HAS BECOME PART OF THE PROBLEM. IT MUST BE RECTIFIED. EQUAL, IF NOT MORE, AMOUNTS OF SPACE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO PUBLICIZING THE TRUTHS ABOUT ISLAM, INCLUDING THE CONSIDERED AND AUTHENTIC VOICES OF THE RELIGION AS EXPRESSED BY ISLAMIC SCHOLARS AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY.

15. THE PHOBIA AGAINST ISLAM WHICH IS NOW QUITE WIDESPREAD IN THE WEST MUST BE ADDRESSED BEFORE THEY CREATE PERMANENT DIVIDES BETWEEN PEOPLES AND RELIGIONS. THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP INTO UNBRIDGEABLE CHASMS BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE GAPS CAN BE CLOSED AND THE CHASMS CAN BE BRIDGED. BUT IT REQUIRES EFFORTS AND COMMITMENTS BY BOTH SIDES.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

16. ON THEIR PART, MUSLIMS DO HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESENT THE TRUE FACE OF ISLAM TO THE WORLD. WE IN MALAYSIA UNDERSTAND WELL THIS NEED BECAUSE WE ARE A MICROCOSM OF THE DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM WHICH EXIST GLOBALLY. MALAYSIA IS A DIVERSE MULTI-RACIAL, MULTI-CULTURAL AND MULTI-RELIGIOUS COUNTRY.

17. MALAYSIA HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF ADOPTING A CORRECT APPROACH FOR PRACTISING THE ISLAMIC RELIGION IN A DIVERSE AND PLURAL SOCIETY SUCH AS OURS. WE HAVE THEREFORE MADE THE ISLAMIC RELIGION SERVE AS A UNIFYING INSTEAD OF A DIVIDING FACTOR. WE HAVE DECIDED TO URGE THE MUSLIMS IN MALAYSIA TO ADOPT ISLAM HADHARI OR CIVILIZATIONAL ISLAM AS THE CORRECT WAY OF ADHERING TO THE FAITH. AND WE HAVE ASKED THE NON-MUSLIMS IN OUR COUNTRY TO UNDERSTAND IT AS A FORM OF GOVERNANCE WHICH GUARANTEES JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS TO ALL MALAYSIANS WITHOUT DISTINCTION AS TO RACE, CULTURE OR RELIGION.

18. UNDERLYING THE WHOLE MESSAGE OF ISLAM HADHARI IS A CALL FOR TOLERANCE TOWARDS PEOPLE OF OTHERS FAITHS. THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM FORM THE FOUNDATION AND INSPIRATION FOR OUR ACTIONS BUT THE BENEFITS ARE INTENDED FOR EQUITABLE SHARING BY ALL MALAYSIANS, MUSLIMS AS WELL AS NON-MUSLIMS ALIKE.

19. TO ERASE ANY CONFUSION AMONG MUSLIMS, WE HAVE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT ISLAM HADHARI IS NOT A NEW RELIGION OR A NEW MAZHAB. IT IS NOT A NEW SECT OR A NEW SCHOOL OF THOUGHT OF THE ISLAMIC RELIGION. IT IS SIMPLY A GUIDE OR MANHAJ FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT BASED ON AN EXPOSITION OF THE TRUE NATURE OF ISLAM.

20. AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT ISLAM HADHARI AS MALAYSIA'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM BY ALL SIDES IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. ISLAM HADHARI WILL REMIND MUSLIMS, AND REVEAL TO NON MUSLIMS, THAT ISLAM IN REALITY IS A RELIGION WHICH IS TOLERANT, PROGRESSIVE AND PEACE LOVING.

21. WE WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THE MALAYSIAN EXPERIENCE FOR STUDY BY OTHERS. ISLAM HADHARI IS VERY MUCH A PART AND PARCEL OF THE PROCESS OF NATION BUILDING IN OUR MULTI-ETHNIC AND MULTI-RELIGIOUS COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE VALUES WHICH ARE BEING EXPOUNDED THROUGH ISLAM HADHARI ARE UNIVERSAL IN CHARACTER. ISLAM HADHARI IS A DEMONSTRATION THAT THE TEACHINGS OF ISLAM CAN BE USED TO DEVELOP CONTEMPORARY MODELS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE. IT CALLS FOR PUTTING INTO PRACTICE, AMONG OTHERS, JUSTICE, FREEDOM, LOVE OF KNOWLEDGE, BALANCED DEVELOPMENT, A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE, PROTECTION OF MINORITIES AND MORAL INTEGRITY. IT SHOWCASES ISLAM AS A RELIGION OF MODERATION AND MODERNITY. FOR THE MUSLIMS, ISLAM HADHARI IS A CALL TO APPLY THE DEEPEST WISDOM OF ISLAM TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

22. MALAYSIA IS THUS FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF VARIOUS EFFORTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL TO GENERATE GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THOSE OF THE WEST AND THE WORLD OF ISLAM. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT SUCH DIALOGUES WILL EXPOSE AND ESTABLISH THE FACT THAT ISLAM IS A RELIGION WHICH ESPOUSES UNIVERSALISM, NOT EXCLUSIVITY.

23. WE IN MALAYSIA HAVE ACCEPTED THE RACIAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN OUR SOCIETY AS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH, NOT A CAUSE FOR

CONFRONTATION. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST ALSO MAKE DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM ACCEPTABLE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS. EVERYONE HAS AN EQUAL STAKE TO ARREST THE SLIDE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CIVILIZATIONS BECAUSE THE GROWING SCHISM BETWEEN THE CHRISTIAN WEST AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD IS A REAL AND PRESENT DANGER TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. IT HAS THE GREATEST POTENTIAL OF AFFECTING MOST DIRECTLY THE LIVES OF EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE. WE SHOULD CELEBRATE DIVERSITY AND PLURALISM FOR THE POTENTIALS THEY PRESENT, INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THEM TO CREATE FEARS AMONG PEOPLES AND DIVISIONS BETWEEN CULTURES.

24. THIS DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT ALL LEVELS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY SUCH AS BETWEEN SCHOLARS, WRITERS, ACTIVISTS, ACADEMICS, JOURNALISTS. THE GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT CATALYTIC ROLE IN THIS ENDEAVOUR. OVER AND ABOVE THAT, THE DIALOGUE MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS.

25. MALAYSIA BELIEVES THAT A DIALOGUE WHICH CAN EFFECTIVELY BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS IS A DISCOURSE BASED IN THE MULTILATERAL PROCESS. A DIALOGUE INVOLVING GOVERNMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF MULTILATERALISM IS FURTHERMORE THE BEST OPTION FOR SECURING THE WIDER OBJECTIVE OF ESTABLISHING GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY. INDEED, A SUCCESSFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS HAS NOW BECOME AN IMPORTANT CAVEAT FOR ACHIEVING THESE WIDER GLOBAL GOALS.

26. BUT REAL PEACE AND SECURITY CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL AND UNLESS THE CRITICAL POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC ISSUES OF THE DAY BECOME RESOLVED. I AM REFERRING TO THE VESTIGES OF THE REPEATED USE OF FORCE BY THE POWERFUL OVER THE WEAK TO SECURE POLITICAL, STRATEGIC OR TERRITORIAL GAINS. TODAY, THEY PERSIST AS GNAWING PROBLEMS IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, LEBANON, THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. AND TOPPING THIS LIST OF GRIEVANCES IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD IS THE FESTERING SITUATION IN GAZA, THE WEST BANK AND THE CONTINUING INJUSTICES IMPOSED UPON THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE.

27. MALAYSIA IS FULLY COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE PREEMINENCE OF MULTILATERALISM FOR MANAGING WORLD AFFAIRS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS. IN THIS MATTER, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT RUSSIA, AS A PROMINENT AND PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, IS WELL PLACED TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE TO SECURE A COMMITMENT TO MULTILATERALISM BY ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, ESPECIALLY BY THE BIG POWERS. SUCH A COMMITMENT WILL SEND A STRONG SIGNAL TO ALL GOVERNMENTS THAT THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES ENSHRINED IN THE U.N CHARTER SHALL FORM THE PROPER BASIS FOR THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN NATIONS.

28. THE CURRENT CONFLICT BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD BEGAN TO ACQUIRE RELIGIOUS DIMENSIONS ONLY AFTER THE WAR ON TERRORISM PLACED THE BLAME ON ISLAM AS A RELIGION HARBORING EXTREMISM, WHICH OF COURSE IS A COMPLETELY INCORRECT INTERPRETATION. THE SITUATION HAS BECOME CLOUDED BY THE PREVALENCE OF PREJUDICES AND HATRED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE DIVIDE. IN EUROPE, THERE IS GROWING DISTRUST, HOSTILITY AND DEMONIZATION OF MUSLIMS, WHO ARE LOOKED UPON AS "ALIEN" OR WORSE, AS

"AN ENEMY WITHIN". THE MUSLIMS, ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE FENCE, SEE THEIR EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS AS IMMORAL AND SELFISH. A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE AND PERCEPTION, BY BOTH SIDES, IS SORELY NEEDED.

28A. TO MY MUSLIM BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS IS BY OURSELVES. WE MUST REALISE THAT NO ONE IS BETTER PLACED TO SAFEGUARD OUR INTEREST THAN OURSELVES. ONE OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL TEACHINGS OF ISLAM IS TO WORK FOR AND ENSURE UNITY AMONG MUSLIMS. MUSHAWARAH OR DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSIONS MUST BE THE WAY FORWARD FOR FINDING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS AFFECTING MUSLIM SOCIETIES AND COUNTRIES. I HAVE IN MIND IN PARTICULAR THE UNSETTLED CONDITIONS IN IRAQ AND THE FAST DEVELOPING SITUATION IN PALESTINE. I WOULD THEREFORE APPEAL FOR UNITY AMONG MUSLIM LEADERS BOTH AT THE GROUND LEVEL IN DIFFERENT SITUATIONS AND AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL BETWEEN COUNTRIES.

29. BE THAT AS IT MAY, I AM STILL OPTIMISTIC THAT UNIVERSAL HUMAN FRATERNITY AND COEXISTENCE IS ATTAINABLE IF AND WHEN THE CRITICAL POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC ISSUES ARE RESOLVED IN TANDEM WITH THE CLOSING OF THE GAP OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN CULTURES AND CIVILIZATIONS. THE CHOICE IS OURS TO MAKE. AND I HOPE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL MAKE THE CORRECT CHOICE BEFORE THE OPPORTUNITY IS LOST FOREVER.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.