



إِنَّ الدِّينَ خَدَّ اللَّهُ الْإِسْلَامَ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

The بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ عَمْدًا وَصُورَةً عَلَى سُنَنِ الْمَكْتُمِ وَعَلَى عَقِيدَةِ النَّسَبِ الْمَعْرُوفِ

AHMADIYYA

Publication of the U.S. branch of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam

Gazette

ZAHOOR 1367

MUHARRAM 1409

AUGUST 1988

THE LATEST LIVING SIGN OF THE TRUTH OF AHMADIYYAT

On Friday, June 10, 1988, Hazrat Khalifatul Masiah IV invited the oppononts and enemies of the Jamaat to a Mubahela challenge.

The Foremost addressee of the challenge was General Zia-ul Haq of Pakistan.

Today, on August 17, 1988, the news has been received of the announcement that General Zia-ul Haq along with the representative of his benefactors, the American Ambassador, and several senior Pakistani military officials have been killed in an air crash.

he has thus become forever a sign of humiliation. At the same time, for Ahmadis, this is a miraculous Sign for which we should be grateful.

The real way to show gratitude is to turn in worship to Allah. All members of the Jamaat should be asked to offer two rakaat of Nafil prayer.

Say *Nara-e-Takbir* in meetings and assemblies. Many Ahmadis had been shown such scenes in dreams.

Allah has accepted the prayers and supplications of Hazrat Amir-ul-Momineen, Khalifatul Messiah IV (may Allah bless him and be his Helper) and members of the Jamaat and through this Sign has given His stamp of approval as to the Truth of the Jamaat Ahmadiyya.

It should be kept in mind that our gratitude and thanksgiving should not take the shape of frivolous jubilation but that praise, worship and thanksgiving in Allah should predominate.

Meetings should be arranged on Jamaat level and non-Ahmadis should be invited. Therein, the Mobahala challenge and its background should be explained in detail, and this fact should be repeatedly stated that it is in the interest of our opponents and for their good that they should abstain from mischief against the Jamaat. They should seek forgiveness from Allah, and not invite the wrath of Allah.

On this occasion, children of the Jamaat should gathered together; the background and the reality of this Sign should be clearly explained to them. This is a very good opportunity for the moral education and training of our children, and on this occasion sweets should also be distributed.

On August 17, 1988, at 4:30 p.m., President Zia perished in an air disaster along with 20 of his top military chiefs, including the Chief of the General Staff and the Army Chief of Staff. At least 30 people lost their lives in this wreck including the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan and a U.S. General.

AHMADIYYA CONVENTION HUGE SUCCESS

The 33rd Annual Convention of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association U.K. took place in Islamabad, (formerly Sheephatch School, Tilford, Surrey) from 22nd to 24th July and was attended by more than six thousand people from 54 countries of the world.

Among the notable figures who attended the convention were Dr. Abdus Salaam, the famous Muslim Scientist and Nobel Prize winner in Physics, Deputy Mayor of Waverely, Virginia Bottomley, MP, and senior members of Hounslow Council.

Mrs. Bottomley applauded the efforts made by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to enhance family life and to remind people of the importance of religion. She particularly felt that the message of Ahmadiyyat: *Love For All Hatred For None*, was applicable all over the world.

The principal speaker of the convention was Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmed, the Supreme Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. In his opening address he told the audience that the convention had a special significance in the history of Ahmadiyyat. It happened to be the last convention of the First Century of Ahmadiyyat, the community which was founded in 1889 in Qadian, India, by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah.

He said that since the inception of the community, the opponents have launched a vicious propaganda against it, made false and totally baseless accusation, and have been attributing religious beliefs to it, which it does not hold. He informed the audience that the Government of Pakistan and its ruler was fully involved in this campaign against the peaceful community. Ahmadis living in Pakistan have been stripped of their fundamental human rights.

He recalled that he had thrown a challenge of Mubahila to all opponents involved in the vicious campaign against the Ahmadiyya community 'Thus', he said, 'The whole dispute is now in the Court of Allah, who will decide which party is the truthful and which is the accursed one. He prayed 'may the curse of Allah fall upon the liar within one year, so that the whole world may see as to who is true and who is false. I and all my followers, I and all my followers are praying for God's sign and so should our opponents.'

The supreme head stated that he was accused of abducting and killing a person called Maulana Aslam

Qureshi, who disappeared in February 1983, and for whom the mullahs had staged demonstrations, and meetings and urged the Government of Pakistan to prosecute him.

One of their ringleaders, a notorious mullah, Manzoor Chinioti declared that he was certain that Mirza Tahir Ahmad was involved in the case and that he was prepared to be shot dead in public if he were wrong. The head of Ahmadiyya Muslim community declared that now after approximately five years the said Maulana has appeared all of a sudden. He was brought on the television by police where he stated that he had gone on his own accord and that he had come back on his own. He even stated that he spent some time in Sind, and then went to Iran where he was working in the army. 'This, he said, is the first lie of mullahs exposed by the Will of God consequent to the challenge of Mubahila.

Speaking on the second day, the head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya community Hazrat Mirza Tahir informed the audience that Ahmadiyyat has been firmly established in 117 countries of the world. He said that the community is spreading all over the world, even in Pakistan. Giving an example he said that in one part of Sierraleone, 5764 persons joined the fold of Ahmadiyyat.

He appealed to the Ahmadi professionals, doctors, teachers and businessmen to come forward and offer their services for the uplift of African countries. Africa should be liberated in the real sense, he urged.

On the final day, he spoke on the justice in Islam. In an eloquent speech, he reminded the audience of the Rights and duties of parents and children. Quoting the Quranic teachings and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet of Islam, as well as instances from the early history of Islam he declared that if the West wants to get rid of the evils prevalent in society today, they would have to adopt the Islamic principles and follow the Quranic teachings. Racism which is the major cause of rift and disharmony in all societies today can only be eradicated through Islamic teachings, he said.

Speaking to the exclusive ladies session, he said that men and women have equal rights in Islam. No other religion has granted women the rights which Islam has given. He quoted a saying of the Holy Prophet 'Paradise lies at the feet of your mothers,' and said that Islam has enhanced the status of women.

AHMADIYYA JAMAAT LOCAL NEWS

New York: Tahir Camp July 4-15

The Tahir Camp for Nasirat and Atfal was held from July 4 through 15th. There was record breaking attendance at this Camp. There were 53 Nasirat and 73 Atfal in all. In total it is an increment of 25% over the last year. Alhamdulillah. The tutors for the Camp were. Major Fazl of Philadelphia who was the Principal of the Camp. Hadi Nasir Saheb was In-Charge of all academic programs. North-East Regional Mubaligh, Inamul Haq Kauser Saheb, was the Chief Adviser. Mahmood Ahmed Saheb of Canada was Tutor for the younger age group. Sheikh Nasiruddin Saheb, Sheikh Mohamed Rafiq Saheb and Sister Bushra Butt were the other tutors. Subjects taught were Quran (Yasarnal Quran). Hadith, Salat, History of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. Comparative Studies of religions, understanding Urdu in view of Ahmadiyya literature. There were sessions for documentaries, lectures and discussions. Every day there were outdoor games for the students. The Nasirat Camp was opened by North East Regional Muballigh, Inamul Haq Kauser Saheb. The closing of the Nasirat Camp was done by Mir Mahmood Saheb, Principal of Jamai Ahmadiyya at the Headquarters and ex-Missionary In-Charge U.S.A. and Spain. He also opened the Boys Camp. Alhamdulillah, he carried a very good impression of the Camp and commented that he would give his first hand report to Hazoor. The Camp was organized by the New York Jamaat.

Behind this camp 70 or so members of the Jamaat were working day and night to make it successful. Lajna cooked food under the supervision of Anisa Nasir (Sec. Ziafat). In the Nasirat Camp there were Lajna supervisors for the day and night and other duties for running the camp were under the supervision of the Lajna President, Zakia Mahmood Saheba.

New York Jamaat Annual Picnic, July 17th.

About 100 members of the Jamaat, men, women and children attended this picnic and enjoyed cooking out and playing games. There was boating and horseback riding at the picnic location and the members enjoyed every minute of it. Jazakallah to Nasir Butt and Syed Mohamed Ahmed for the arrangements.

Eidul Azhiya was Celebrated at Baitul Zafar on July 23. Approximately 500 member gathered to offer

Tahir Camp results

Group	Nasirat	Itfal
3	1 Kholah Nasir Nadia Malik (NJ)	Rizwan Alladin
	2 Nabila Ahmad	Irfan Alladin
	3 Mansoorah Malik (Roch)	Fizan Ahmad (PA)
2	1 Rabia Alladin	Mubasher Sohail (NJ)
	2 Amina Qazi	Zia-ul Haq
	3 Sarah Nasir	Nadim Malik
1	1 Nadia Din	Umar Bajwa
	2 Nadia Anwar	Ahmad Bajwa
	3 Sobia Malik	Umar Sayyed (NJ)

Consolation: Alia Latif (NJ)

Special Prizes: Saa Butt and Moeen Salim

Overall Winners: Nasirat — Rabia Alladin

Itfal — Fizan Ahmad (PA)

Tahir Class Annual Awards

Group 3:

(Merits) Zaffar Nasir and Irfan Alladin

(Discipline and Attendance) Asma Ayaz and Sarah Nasir

Group 2:

(Merits, Discipline and Attendance)

Imran Ahmad, Zia-ul-Haq.

Saima Piracha and Umber Ahmed.

Group 1

As in 2; Ali Bajwa and Kamran Ahmed.

the Eid prayers which was led by our Missionary from Washington D.C. Zaffar Sarwar Saheb. We thank all Khuddams who helped under the supervision of Ijaz Sandhu. Nasir Ahmed was In-Charge of the Idd Prayer arrangements.

Participation in the U.K. Jalsa July 22 - 24

This year there were approximately 33 persons who used the travel arrangements which is being arranged annually by the New York Jamaat. Besides these 33 members there were another ten members who made to the Jalsa on their own. Jazakallah to Mr. & Mrs. Butt and Birjis Barakat for travel arrangements.

Tabligh Activites:

By the grace of Allah Brother Abdur-Rahim accepted Ahmadiyyat this month (Alhamdulillah). We pray for him and extend our hearty congratulations to him.

At the Tahir Camp the students took time off to distribute literature and were coached in tabligh affairs.

After Juma Prayers Tahir Khokar has been giving free literature to Jamaat members for distribution.

Italian Holy Quran was presented to Italian Ambassador along with the Italian translation of the Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam.

Italian Quran was presented to an Italian Daily Newspaper for book review and an ad was also put in that newspaper for the sale of the Holy Quran

Russian Quran was presented to the Russian Ambassador at the United Nations and an ad was put in a Russian newspaper for sale of the Holy Quran.

About 200 Holy Qurans are being despatched to Muslim Masajid, Muslim Bookstores and other Muslim Institutes all over U. S. A.

In the above activities we appreciate the efforts of our Publication Sec. Nasir Ahmad. Jazakallah.

Tarbiyat Activities

The foremost important tarbiyat activity was the Tahir Camp reported above.

The New year of the Tahir Class will commence on Sept. 11th. 1988.

On celebration of Amin, at the conclusion of the first reading of the Holy Quran, Hazoor has discouraged the giving of gifts.

Please keep up your attendance at Juma Prayers and do not forget to observe at least one prayer in congregation daily with all the family members.

News flash: Syed Barakat Ahmad Sahib has passed away in New Dehli.

U. K. Jalsa Audio Video tapes are available.

Seattle, WA: A Religious Symposium was held in Seattle on May 28, 1988 on the topic of "The Definition of God", at the University of Washington in Room 309A at the Hub Building, sponsored by the Seattle Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat.

The meeting started at 2 p.m. with Recitation from the Holy Quran by Br. Muzaffar A. Khan, followed by a welcome address by the president, Br. Rashedi. The speakers representing various religions included Ms. Brenden for Judaism, Mr. Tony Devine and Mr. Walfred Erickson for Christianity. Islam was represented by Br. Rashed Latif Rashedi and Br. Anwar Mahmood Khan. The meeting concluded with a question/answer session by the Non-Muslim friends, followed by refreshments. There was an exhibition and sale of books at the end.

Although the meeting was held on Memorial weekend, we had over 50 guests and it was a successful meeting in all respects.

Tucson, AZ: Regular daily prayers. During Jumah (Khutba) all members are urged and reminded, that "Jumah on Friday, is the most important day for Muslims. Our Jamaat Jumah attendance is good; 14 regular brothers and 12 Lajna sisters.

Our Jamaat is trying to have full attendance on Jumah, as our Hazoor has told us "Your children who do not participate in Friday prayers have a dim future in the spiritual realm."

Khilafat day was observed on June 5, 1988 in our Mosque. It was started by recitation of Holy Quran by Brother Abbasi. Opening speech by President of Jamaat, M. Ishaq Q. It was on the four Khalifas of 1400 hundred years ago, and the four Khalifas of the Promised Messiah.

Poem of Promised Messiah, by Brother M. Mubasher Q. The second speech by Brother S. Ali Q. Institution of Khalifat. Third speech, by Brother M. Adram K. in Urdu, from a writing of Promised Messiah. Closing speech by President of Jamaat, in Urdu and English, about the election of Khalifa, chosen by Allah, and that the coming century will be great blessing for those who hold fast to Khilafat.

Salahuddin Ali Qurtaba

Just a couple of days before his demise, The Promised Messiah, peace be on him, wrote a letter to the *Akhbar-i-Aam*, of Lahore in which he stated:

"I affirm, not out of a desire for self-praise, but on the basis of God's grace and His promise, that if the whole world were on one side and I were alone on the other side and a matter were put forward as a criterion for determining the truth of a servant of God, I would be granted supremacy by God in such a contest. God would be with me in every aspect of the contest and would grant me victory in every field..."

(*Ahmadiyyat, the Renaissance of Islam*, p. 183)

SHARIAT ORDINANCE OR MAD MULLAH RULE IN PAKISTAN

On 15 June General Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan promulgated yet another Ordinance that makes SHARIAH (Islamic code) the supreme law of the land.

Addressing the people on the radio and television, he declared it a revolutionary step. He said that under the Ordinance, Shariah would become the key factor in all policies of the government which would now be under obligation to seek guidance from the Shariah.

The General said that he genuinely believed the ordinance would guarantee to bring to logical conclusion the process of 'Islamisation' in the country.

Politicians up and down the country were left wondering at the move. Some hailed the ordinance and asked Zia to become 'President for life', or title him 'Champion of Islam'. But most of them criticised the Ordinance.

Devious

There are many who doubt Zia's intentions. Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, President of the National Democratic Party, said, "It was surprising that Shariat has been imposed through an ordinance, with a stroke of pen, when it could not be done during the eight years of Martial Law and by the National Assembly during its three year tenure."

He expressed the view that 'Islamisation' without giving the right of freedom of conscience and expression is deplorable. He feared that Zia would now brand all those politicians who oppose Shariat Ordinance as Anti-Islam.

"If at all General Zia is sincere in his profession of Shariat, he should submit himself to accountability," he said.

More

Professor Ghafoor Ahmad of Jamaat-i-Islami criticised the ordinance and said that Zia should have enforced the Shariat on himself before deciding to enforce it on the people.

A Muslim leader residing in Britain said that the Pakistani nation has not forgotten the unislamic acts performed by Zia in the past.

Photographs of the General appeared in various newspapers where he was seen shaking hands with women filmstars. During his tours abroad he performed the rites of laying flowers and ringing bells in Buddhist temples etc.

Again, critics say that during Zia's regime the

country's moral fibre has been frayed. They claim that Pakistan, with a population of 95 million, was virtually a stranger to drug abuse when Zia took power, but it now has 1.5 million addicts.

Heroin

Mr. Hakim Ali Zardari, Vice President of Awami National Party, said Zia's motive is to scuttle democracy, perpetuate autocracy and to sabotage the elections, using Islam. He suspected that by imposing Shariat Ordinance, a claim may be made that 'Islamic democracy' had been introduced and that in Islamic democracy there was no place for the political parties or for a western-type democracy.

The Jamiat-ul-Islam has termed the promulgation of Shariat Ordinance as the "last nail in the coffin of the 1973 constitution."

The JUI leader remarked that by talking of gradual implementation of the islamic system the General wanted to stretch his rule further.

Another religio-political organisation called Jamiat-ul-Ulema Pakistan expressed its view that there was no need to promulgate the ordinance. He could have introduced the same by democratic means. The ordinance is not acceptable to them as it does not include Ijma and Ijtehad as sources of guidance along with Qu'ran and Sunnah, which has been recognised as such during the last 14 centuries.

An independent politician and jurist Aitizaz Ahsan has said that the Shariat ordinance is a haphazard and ill-considered piece of legislation. Doubt and uncertainty will surely result from such an ordinance." On Shariat all 72 sects of Islam have different opinions," he said.

Rejected

The Chief of Tehrik-i-Istiqal Pakistan, Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, has said that his party has rejected the Shariat Ordinance. Addressing a news conference, he said all political and religious parties of the country had totally rejected the Shariah Ordinance and other steps announced by President Zia, since they were of the conviction that Shariat or Islamic rule could not be forcibly implemented.

"With the help of this ordinance, Zia is trying to impose a particular brand of mullahs on the nations," he said.

The Chairman of Pakistan Qaumi Mahaz-e-Azadi, Mr. Mairaj Muhammad Khan, a seasoned politician, was very vocal in opposing the Shariat Ordinance. He

appealed to all the democratic forces, particularly the religious leaders of the country to reject the Ordinance and resist its implementation in the same spirit as the great Muslim jurists Imam Hanbal, Imam Malik, Imam Jaafar Sadiq and Imam Abu Hanifa had resisted similar dictates of the rulers of their time and had sacrificed their lives and property for the sake of Truth.

Lawlessness

He said that Shariat Ordinance has nothing to do with Islam. It has been enforced to strengthen his military dictatorship and to enable him either to rig the polls or to cancel elections if he could not get positive results. He also expressed the view that the Ordinance was meant to provoke conflict among Muslims of different sects, in keeping with the 'Divide and Rule' policy.

S. M. Zafar, Ex-President of Lahore High Court Bar Association, said that Shariat Ordinance is indirect conflict with the Constitution. "Lawlessness will prevail as a result", he said.

Allama Syed Arif al-Hussein, the leader of Pakistan's 20 million Shia Muslims, has condemned Zia's move as "incomplete and ambiguous" and warned that his followers would not abide by the new measures.

Two major constituents of Pakistan society who are specially concerned and apprehensive of indiscriminate application of the Ordinance are women and The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The All Pakistan Women Association and representatives of other women's groups have joined hands to oppose the ordinance. They say that it would oppress the already oppressed women folk.

Women Action Forum views this ordinance as a backhand attempt to introduce not only a sectarian but also a anti-female bias into the law of the land during the present political vacuum.

Polygamy

These groups were shocked at the reported move to remove the provision for age limit of marriages and the move to do away with the requirement for registration of marriages and divorces, tending to the facilitation of polygamy. This would lead to child abuse, prostitution and complete breakup of the family as an institution, they maintained.

About two years ago, a well known religious fanatic, alias Maulana Bijli Ghar, had shown his intentions in the following manner: "If I were the head of the State, I would issue orders that every woman

who leaves the four walls of her house be kidnapped. The kidnapper would not be answerable to law, as the women folk could not be imprisoned within the four walls without such a step."

Fruitcake

He further said, "In Iran a hundred thousand people have been put to death and this brought the Islamic revolution in the real sense. The women there began to observe Purdah (veil)."

Maulana announced that the day he would come into power, he would kill ten million people of Pakistan and then Islam would prevail in the country." (Daily Jang Lahore, 23 July, 1986).

"Four million members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have a genuine fear for their lives as the mad mullah rule is being established in Pakistan," said, Mr. Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry, a spokesman of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Murderers

According to the Ordinance Mullahs would be appointed in lower as well as higher courts for the interpretation of Islamic laws. There is a strong apprehension that if we leave the interpretation of Qu'ran and Sunnah to the mullahs, it will open the Pandora's box of sectarian rifts.

The issue is critical as there are different schools of thought in Pakistan and no two mullahs see eye to eye on many fundamental laws of Islam. Moreover the shape of mullahism that has appeared in Pakistan is totally different from the real Islam.

Bigots

It has always been easy for the so-called religious scholars to brand those who differ from their own school of thought as Infidels and apostates, and the penalty for apostasy as described by the mullahs is death.

The Parliament of Pakistan has introduced a new section 295c to The Pakistan Penal Code in 1986, which reads: "Whoever by words, either spoken or written or by visible representation, or by any imputation, innuendo, or insinuation, directly or indirectly, defiles the sacred name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad shall be punished with death, or imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine."

Mass Murder

By a strange logic the words of praise for the Holy Prophet Muhammad uttered by an Ahmadi Muslim are taken as derogatory remarks, and the mullahs are demanding the death penalty for all Ahmadis which

number four million in Pakistan.

General Zia and his government have made known their intentions many a time in the past that their ultimate objective is the extermination of Ahmadis'.

In August 1985 Zia sent a message to a religious conference held in Wembley in which he stated: "In the last few years, in particular, the Government of Pakistan has taken several stringent administrative and legal measures to prevent the Qadianis from masquerading as Muslims, and from practising various (Islamic rites). We will ...persevere in our efforts to ensure that the cancer of Qadianism is exterminated.

On 27th November 1985, Mr. Junejo, the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, addressing a public meeting declared: "The government has taken a number of steps to deal with the (Ahmadiyya) issue and expressed hope that this curse shall be crushed with full force by the Islamic world."

Citizen Kill

The Deputy Attorney General while addressing the Federal Shariat Court stated: "Death is the penalty for those who do not believe in the finality of Prophethood and in Islamic countries it is a heinous crime. It is not necessary that the Government should take action but on the contrary any Muslim can take the law in his own hands."

Similarly a pro-Zia religious scholar Tahir-ul Qadri in a television broadcast urged that those disrespectful to Holy Prophet Muhammad be put to death immediately. In course of his discourse he said that Ahmadis are disrespectful to Muhammad. Tahirul Qadri said that people need not call in authorities but can act on their own and kill those who are disrespectful to the Prophet.

The most obnoxious statement made in this connection is that of a mullah, who until recently was a member of the parliament in the Punjab Provincial Assembly. He stated in a Friday sermon: "Until now we have done no harm to the Qadianis (i.e. Ahmadi Muslims). Whereas Khomeini killed 20,000 Bahais in his country and exterminated them. We, too, shall deal with the Qadianis in accordance with the law of Umar Farooq. Either there will be a massacre or they will have to leave the country".

These public declarations make it abundantly clear what lie ahead. It is painful to see the plight of the Pakistani people suffering at the hands of dictator for over a decade. There seems to be no ray of hope to these masses, apart from the elections, if they are held.

(Hidayat Zamani is Pakistani journalis currently residing in U.K.)

COOLER
High 88
(Details on Page 18 A)

The Columbus Dispatch

CAPITAL
EDITION

OHIO'S GREATEST HOME NEWSPAPER

12 PAGES

THURSDAY, AUG. 18, 1988

35 CENTS

Blast kills Pakistan's leader

U.S. ambassador, general also die as plane explodes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold L. Raphel were killed yesterday in an explosion that destroyed their aircraft shortly after it took off from a remote airport.

Among the 35 others aboard were Brig. Gen. Herbert M. Wassom, chief U.S. defense representative to Pakistan, and several Pakistani army generals. All were reported killed.

Unofficial reports and rumors circulated that the Pakistani air force C-130 had been sabotaged, hit by an anti-aircraft missile or a helicopter, or shot down by India, whose border is 80 miles from the site of the crash.

Zia was a close U.S. ally and ruled Pakistan for 11 years, longest of anyone in the nation's 41-year history. In accordance with the constitution, he was succeeded by Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, who declared a state of emergency and 10 days of national mourning.

"The plane was engulfed in a big ball of fire ... somersaulted and tumbled to the ground," said

Azhar Imam Zaidi, a government spokesman in Bahawalpur, where the crash occurred. He said wreckage was strewn on a sandy plain about six miles from the city's civilian airport.

A U.S. official in Washington said the United States will help Pakistan investigate the crash.

"There is no confirmation of any foul play, but we are not taking anything for granted," he said. "We offered to help and that offer was accepted. An incident like this arouses suspicion."

State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley said Zia and Raphel had flown to Bahawalpur, 330 miles south of Islamabad, for a

field test of the U.S.-made M-1 tank, which Pakistan is considering buying.

Pakistan's official radio said the American-built transport plane exploded about 4:30 p.m. (7:30 a.m. EDT).

At the United Nations in New York, Pakistani Ambassador S. Shah Nawaz said Zia "lost his life today in an airplane crash which followed an explosion on board shortly after takeoff."

When asked whether another aircraft might have collided with it, he declared: "No, no, no. When the president flies, no other planes fly" nearby.

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

STATE FINAL/35A

AUGUST 18, 1988

THURSDAY

GANNETT NEWSPAPER

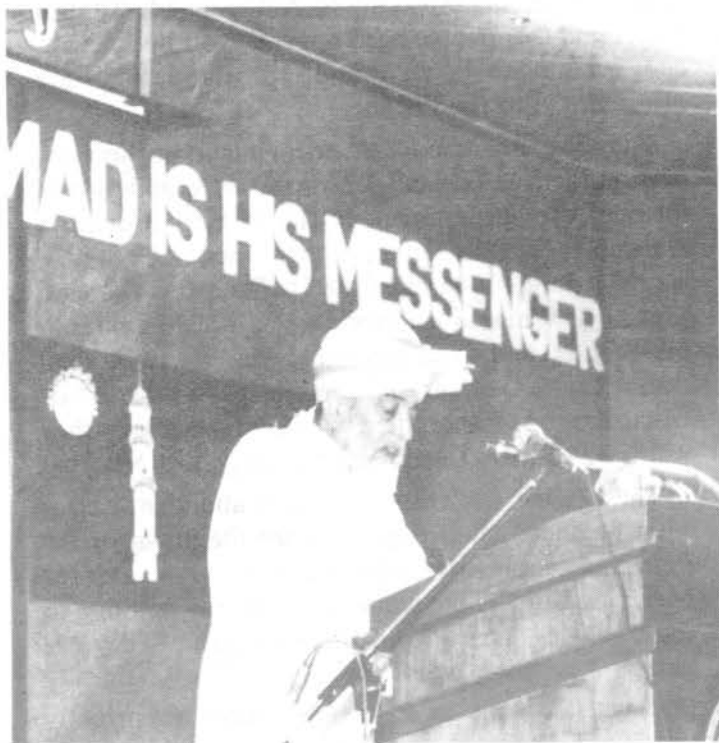
U.S. loses strong ally with Zia's death

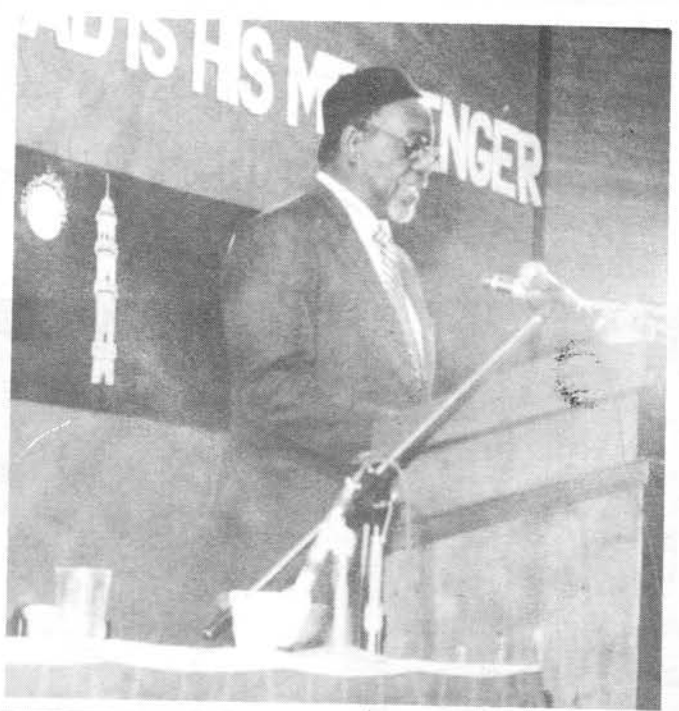
Zia's death could shake

U.S. position

40TH AHMADIYYA ANNUAL CONVENTION USA

SOME OF THE SPEAKERS AT THE CONVENTION





(above and below)
Convention Speakerts
(Left) A section of
the audience.

