

years. Beef, lamb, eggs, poultry, milk, fruit and vegetables are produced on the land and distributed throughout the country by Muslim-owned trucks and airplanes. The meat is packed and stored in a huge packing plant in Chicago, the vegetables are canned in a Muslim cannery in Georgia, and the food is sold in Muslim grocery stores from coast to coast. In addition, the Nation owns bakeries, clothing stores and factories, a chain of restaurants barber shops, cleaners, apartment complexes and blocks of commercial and residential property in a number of cities. The newspaper Muhammad Speaks now has a circulation of more than one million readers and is housed in a \$1.5 million plant just south of Chicago's Loop. As a result of their financial success, the Muslims have been given an extremely high credit rating by the country's leading financial institutions.

The Nation also has extensive non-commercial holdings. Chief among these are the 75 temples throughout the country and in Jamaica, Bermuda, and British Honduras. They also have schools, called Universities of Islam, in 46 cities. Of the temples, the most impressive is Muhammad's Temple Number 2 in Chicago. Formerly a Greek Orthodox church, the imposing structure was purchased and renovated at a cost of \$4 million. Equally impressive is the family compound the Nation built for Elijah Muhammad and his family. Located in the Hyde Park area of South Chicago, the compound consists of a 19-room mansion, distinguished by its high stained-glass windows and Moorish-style dome, and four luxurious but smaller townhouses. Stretching for two blocks, the compound was constructed at a cost of \$2 million.

The success of the Muslim nation inevitably brought the respect of those outside the nation. Last year, as if to stamp this growing sentiment with official approval, Chicago's Mayor Richard J. Daley and Illinois Gov. Dan Walker, proclaimed March 29 as "Hon. Elijah Muhammad Day."

**P**ERHAPS, however, the ultimate acknowledgment of Muhammad's legitimate importance came after his death. There were more than 100 newsmen and women at the Saviors' Day program on the day following his death. Though certainly curious about who would succeed Muhammad, the news people were there primarily because the nation as a whole was suddenly awake to the impact of the little man from Sandersville, Ga. The news of his passing had given the American public an opportunity to pause



**Muhammad Ali**, one of the Muslim VIPs attending Savior's Day observations, huddles with Abass Rasoul, national secretary for the Nation of Islam.

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