

Honorable W.D. Muhammad, Temple No. 2 join 10,000 celebrate Eid-ul-fitr

By Munir Um'rani

CHICAGO — The Nation of Islam, led by the Honorable W.D. Muhammad, Chief Minister of the Nation of Islam joined Muslims from all nationalities and colors in the Eid-ul-fitr celebration here Oct. 7.

EID-UL-FITR is observed at the end of Ramadan (month of fasting) by approximately 800 million Muslims world-wide and was held in Chicago at McCormick Place.

The prayer service drew more than 10,000 Muslims here and hundreds of thousands all over America as a result of the Nation of Islam joining in the celebration for the first time.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Eid-ul-fitr emphasizes the congregational aspect of Islam and began with rich and poor alike paying sadaqat-ul-fitr (donation for the needy) before the Eid prayer.

The religious aspect of Eid-ul-fitr was expressed in the form of congregational prayers led by Imam Eltjani Abugideiri.

During this prayer Muslims give thanks to Allah (God) for enabling them to abide by one of His most important commandments; that is the 30 days of fasting and rigorous discipline.

Following the prayer service Muslims took part in the Eid feast. All Muslims take part in this feast regardless of his financial status.

The Honorable W.D. Muhammad made it possible for poor Muslims to enjoy a free meal at the Salaam Restaurant in Chicago.

Others had the Eid feast in their homes or either joined friends.

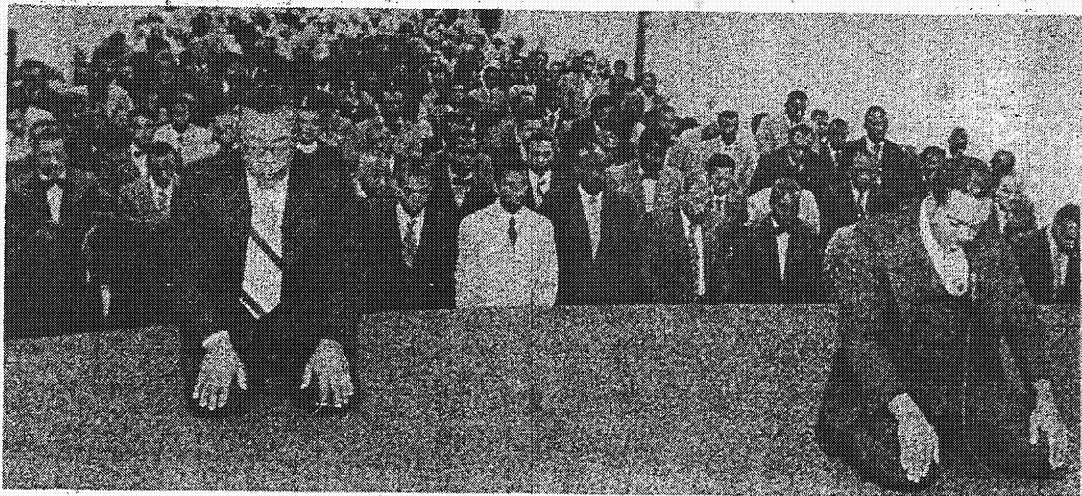
Eid-ul-fitr also has a moral aspect which stresses that Muslims should feel happy with each other and strive to uphold the tradition of Islamic morality.

Socially, Eid-ul-fitr brings together Muslims rich or poor. Bilalian (Black) or Caucasian. Its most prominent feature is bringing together as many Muslims as possible in one place.

In Muslim countries, a vast open field outside the city limits is used to accommodate the entire community.

Muslims employed by the City of Chicago were granted the time off with pay to observe Eid-ul-fitr.

In an executive order to heads of all city departments, Mayor Richard J. Daley ordered that all salaried employees of the Muslim faith be "excused from duty, with full pay" so that they may observe their religious holiday of Eid-ul-fitr.



CHIEF MINISTER of the Nation of Islam, W.D. Muhammad right, leads congregation in the proper way of praying, in preparation to join other Muslims in the Eid-ul-fitr celebration.

Freemasons honor Muslims with Bicentennial Award

By Samuel 17X

BALTIMORE — The Nation of Islam recently received a Bicentennial Award from



Minister Louis Omar accepts award

the Prince Hall Masons, one of America's most powerful organizations. The award was given to the Nation of Islam for its "Service in the interest of mankind."

"We're doing something that should have been done a long time ago; we're saying we thank you for what you're doing and we hope that you will continue," Mr. Leon Holsey said when presenting the award to Minister Louis Omar. Minister Omar, Minister of Muhammad's Temple No. 6, Baltimore, received the award on behalf of the Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad, Chief Minister of the Nation of Islam.

Mr. Holsey is president of the Commander of the Rite 33 Degree of Maryland. The group is part of United Supreme Council 33, the Masonic Shriners' national organization.

The Masons have joined many other organizations in recognizing the Muslims success in helping to build people and communities throughout America.

The Masons have been among the most effective and influential fraternal and social organizations in the United States. A brief look at Masonic contribution to American political life shows their powerful influence.

The United States government holds Masons in such high esteem that it places Masonic emblems and symbols on both the face and back of the American dollar bills. The face of a Mason, President George Washington, is on the one dollar bill. It is reported that every President except John F. Kennedy has been a Mason.

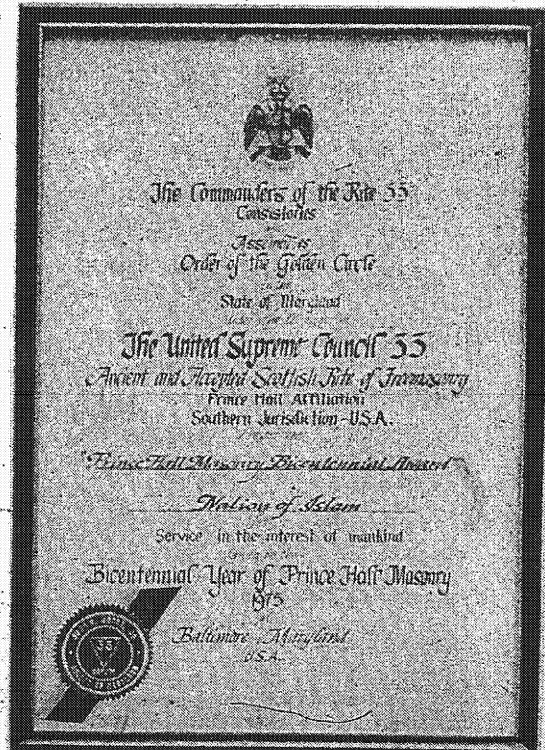
More than 90 per cent of all U.S. governors and mayors are Masons. Virtually all Black elected officials are Masons. To get an idea of what Masons mean to American development, one can observe the high honor which U.S. presidents bestow upon them. Each president consults Masonic leaders before entering office and frequently after entering office.

President Ford recently addressed a large gathering of Masons at a meeting in Shooter Hill, Maryland. The meeting was held at the

George Washington National Masonic Memorial Hall. President Ford is a 33 degree Mason.

The Masons are often

called Shriners, and their kin to Muslims is signified by the Arabian names and symbols which appear on their dress, temples, and in their literature.



THE PRINCE HALL Masonry Bicentennial citation was awarded the Nation of Islam for Service in the interest of mankind.