

Citizen Dialogue Group (CDG)
Denmark, Copenhagen Visit
June 22 - 24, 2006

Thursday, June 22, 2006

10:10 pm: Departure from Schiphol Airport to Copenhagen, Denmark.

12:30 pm: Lunch with leaders from Denmark's Muslim community at the American Embassy in Denmark, hosted by US Ambassador James P. Cain.

Participants:

- Ambassador James P. Cain and Embassy personnel: Mr. Henrik Jepsen (Pol. Specialist, POLIECON), Mr. Richard M. Johannsen (Public Diplomacy Officer, PAS), and Mr. Thomas M. Leary (Counselor, Public Affairs Officer, P A)
- Members of the delegation
- Ms. Nadia Akbar
- Ministry for Refugees, Immigration and Integration
- Ms. Irem Jabeen Hussain. Consultant, Ministry for Refugees, Immigration and Integration
- Mr. Hamid El Mousti. Councilor, Copenhagen City Council
- Dr. Jamal Al-Shamary. Professor, University of Copenhagen
- Ms. Fane Naja Groes. Student, University of Copenhagen
- Ms. Asmaa Riyad Abdol-Hamid. Co-Host of former TV2 show "Asmaa and Adam."
- Mr. Kasem Said Ahmad. Spokesperson, Islamic Community
- Mr. M. Fatih Alev
- Mr. Ummar Arshed. Formand, Muslimer i Dialog
- Mr. Ismail Gögenur
- Mr. Zubair Butt Hussain. Spokesperson, Muslimer i Dialog
- Mr. Sükrü Ertosun. Chairperson, Council for Ethnic Minorities
- Mr. Mohamed Gelle. Danish Refugee Council
- Ms. Sadia Hussein. Area 9
- Mr. Khurram Jamil. Area 9
- Mr. Ayhan Can. Senior Advisor, Foreningen Nydanske

- 3:15:** Preparation for the Citizen Dialogue event. Room: "Ambassador's Club" at the hotel. Participants: members of the delegation, moderator Mrs. Esma Choho, Karen Enstrom, Tilly de Groot, and Counselor for Public Affairs Gary Keith.
- 5 pm:** Arrival at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Netherland, The Hague. Meeting with:
- A. Ambassador Renee Jones-Bos, Director General of Regional Policy and Consular Affairs.
 - B. Mr. Hans Peter van der Woude, Director of Public Diplomacy.
 - C. Ms. Petra Stienen, Deputy Head, North America Section/Western Hemisphere Department.
- US participants: Members of the delegation, Karen Enstrom, and Gary Keith

Discussion:

- What has been in influence of 9/11 on integration and diversity in the Dutch Society?
- The Dutch Society is an immigrant country. How do you perceive it to be different from Europe?
- Representation of Muslims in the political process.
- Radicalization of certain groups in society.
- Perspectives on diversity.
- Dutch government's new "House of Dialogue" initiative (creation of venues for social and cultural programs that foster integration and appreciation of diversity).

- 6-9 pm:** Town meeting and dialogue at the Societeit de Witte, The Hague. Over 200 Muslim participants of different organization and Islamic centers were present. After serving *Heavy hors d'oeuvres* (halal), the meeting started with words of welcome by Ronald E. Arnall, US Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherland. After brief introduction by the delegate, Mrs. Esma Choho, the moderator, started the dialogue with the audience for a period of ninety minutes. The meeting ended with chat over serving coffee and sweets.

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Program of Dr. Imam Talal Y. Eid and Dr. Yahya M. Basha, MD

Accompanied with Amsterdam program control officers of US Embassy: Michele Bond, Gary Keith, and Ellen Dankelman.

- 8:30 am:** Breakfast meeting at Turkish Restaurant Elite (private room to facilitate conversation) in Amsterdam with group of 12 highly educated young citizens of Turkish and Moroccan descent from *Moslimjongeren Amsterdam* (Amsterdam Muslim Youth, MJA), who are working together to help their mosques and those who attend those mosques, to interact more successfully with local government. Some in the group are employed, and some are still studying. Some were also participants at the Dialogue of yesterday evening in The

Hague. Mr. Joris Rijbroek, of the City of Amsterdam and officer Ahmed Aboutaleb joined the meeting later.

- 10:30 am:** Visit the Montessori School in Amsterdam Oost: brief tour, then 45 minutes with a class of 15 students, eight were Muslims, ages 15-16, that has been studying racism and WWII. Dialogue with the students and the two female teachers, one of them was a Muslim,
- 11:45 am:** Lunch meeting at Café de Ysbreker, Amsterdam, with board of the "Polder Mosque," an organization for young Muslims. The following persons are on the board: Khalid Kasem, Annebregt Dijkman, Mohammed Cheppih, and Samira Boubkari.
- 1 pm:** Visit to Moroccan Mosque Al Kabir, Oost Watergraafsmeer in Amsterdam. Mr. Echarrouti of the United Mosques (UMMON) was the host. Tour of the masjid. Dialogue with Imams of different masajids and administrators. Present were: Dr. Oulad Abdullah Marzouk (UMMON), Mr. Osman Pakoz (Milli Gorus Noord Nederland), Imam Tahier Wagid Hoessein (Wim), Mr. R. Abdumahman (Wim), Imam A. Uysal (Stichting Islamitisch Centrum Nederland, SICN), and Mr. Yassin Hartog.
- 4:30 pm:** Press availability in The Hague at the residence of the Deputy Chief of Mission (Sophialaan 12) for visitors. Roundtable discussions followed by one-on-one interviews.

MORE INFO WILL FOLLOW