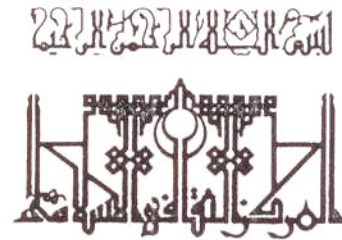


THE LONDON CENTRAL MOSQUE TRUST LIMITED  
THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE

146, PARK ROAD, LONDON NW8 7RG TEL: (01) 724 3363-7



MINUTES OF THE MEETING THE RU'YATUL HILAL COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 2ND  
APRIL 1989 AT 1.30 P.M AT THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE, 146 PARK ROAD,  
LONDON NW8 7RG.

The meeting began by an historical outline by Shaikh Gmaal Manna'a of the methodology prevailing on the question of moonsighting and determination of the festival celebrations since he joined the centre in 1971.

This briefing on the subject was for the benefit of the representatives present, in order for them to appreciate the efforts that have gone into this exercise and for the need to establish a far more permanent structure. The chairman then asked for the reading of the minutes of the last meeting.

ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

The meeting called for the reports of Shaikh Gamal and Mufti Aslam who were supposed to have contacted and enquire from the Mufti of Egypt and the Saudi Arabian Authorities respectively, as to the beginning of the month of Shabaan.

Shaikh Gamal confirmed that he had been in touch with the Mufti of Egypt who had informed him that there had been a sighting of the hilal of Sha'baan in Aswan by three reliable people and that he had ascertained from the Governor of the area that these people who claimed sighting were responsible and the Mufti therefore declared that the month of Sha'baan had officially started on the 8th of March 1989. Mufti Aslam was unable to report contact with Dar-ul-Ifta but merely stated that Sha'baan had started in Saudi Arabia on the 8th of

March 1989.

M. Yakoub Miftah however declared that he had on his recent visit to Saudi Arabia ascertained from the deputy Minister of Awqaf that the month of Sha'baan had indeed started on the 8th of March, but he had not confirmed from Ifta whether this was based on actual sighting and was unaware of how this date was arrived at. Since this date derives from an unauthenticated source the meeting upheld that it could not be accepted. Mufti Aslam then brought to the notice of the meeting that a solution had been arrived at in Birmingham which he advanced, was a permanent formula to the perennial problem of moonsighting but unfortunately this was violated by many organizations who had overall support in these districts. However, members who were present at the meeting did not agree that the formula adopted at Birmingham was meant to be a permanent formula but had been decided on to bring about unity for that year only. In any case it was pointed out that even that did not achieve the desired results. For many people after having signed the resolution quite brazenly reneged on it when the time for it's implementation came. Maulana Yakub Miftah presented the members with a lot of pamphlets emanating from religious authority in Saudi Arabia and together with Jamaitul Ulema Britain argued the case for abandonment of all previous decisions and the absolute following of decisions from Saudi Arabia. But these pamphlets were not taken into consideration and a long debate ensued as to what formula is going to be accepted for the beginning of the month of Ramadan.

The chairman then suggested that the Birmingham formula could be adopted with an amendment to the third part of the resolution by

adding a third independent country from which authentication can be acceptable. The meeting decided that it would not be possible for them to accept yet another country added to the Birmingham resolution since the Birmingham resolution was violated by several sections of the community in the United Kingdom.

The majority of those present then agreed that the formula to be adopted should be that of the International Seminar held at the Islamic Cultural Centre in 1984 and that the Committee should attempt a sighting on **Thursday April 6th 1989** after sunset. If no sighting is observed we would implement the Seminar formula i.e; News of a sighting will be accepted only if the moon is in the horizon of the U.K. according to the astronomical data received from Greenwich Observatory, at the time of reported sighting. Several speakers then pleaded with those who felt that they would accept, regardless of any decision reached by the committee, news of a sighting from Saudi Arabia even though the moon was not in the horizon at the time of reported sighting.

After impassioned pleas for the unity of Muslims in the U.K. at a most crucial time for the community the meeting decided to agree to disagree and members may follow their their own consciences as regards to the festivals such as Ramadan and Eidain. The meeting was then ended with considerable disagreement and with a call from Hizbul Ulema and Jamiatul Ulema (Britain) for another seminar to be held to thrash out a formula for national concensus.