

Y A D O L L A H F A W Q A A Y D E E H I M

Haffah (SWT) (A)

THE HAND OF GOD IS ABOVE THEIR HANDS

Reporting on the recent aborted hostage rescue attempt by the Americans in Iran, the Newsweek of 5.5.80 described how the operation equipped with six large C-130 transport planes and six powerful helicopters carrying some 90 well-trained including fluent Persian speaking commandoes had failed after landing at a pre-planned and well-tested desert base near Tabas some 250 miles east of Tehran.

When the helicopters were preparing for their final target, the American Embassy in Tehran, one of them mysteriously goes out of action while another suffers severe hydraulic malfunction. Another explanation for the failure given is a sudden sand storm and the expert American pilots of the helicopters suffer vertigo (whirling and dizziness) and disorientation (lack of sense of direction).

The above incidence aroused profound astonishment throughout the world with questions being asked as to how come the rescue operation fails after six months of minute and careful preparations by one of the most technologically advanced nations of the world. The Nairobi Times editorial of April 27th-80 comments:

"The truth is American technology failed at a critical time in a rescue mission. The question which now ought to be asked is whether their technology would be any more reliable in a more strategically important moment".

Whilst research and debates on the failure of the mission continue, one may logically like to ask if no provision for contingencies was made for such a delicate mission. If one or two helicopters had suddenly developed some trouble, surely there were others ready available to carry on the mission. Could it not be that the pilots suddenly suffered from some sort of psychological fear, lack of confidence and courage to proceed further with their plan? Do not the suffering from vertigo and disorientation by the pilots point to something miraculous and unimaginable to have happened? Perhaps we shall come to know more of this strange incidence when facts are published by those who were involved in the mission.

It is however worth noting that the reaction of the otherwise highly emotional Iranian masses was surprisingly of restrained calm. Instead of reacting sharply, they perhaps were awe-stricken and overtaken with wonder as to how they were again favoured with divine help. Newsweek reports that a large poster was seen erected in the American Embassy of Tehran proclaiming:

"THE HAND OF GOD IS ABOVE THEIR HANDS" (a quotation of the Quranic verse 10- Sura Alfath)

What was meant by erecting this poster? No wonder the Iranians aimed at proclaiming to the world and particularly to the Americans of their staunch and undaunted faith in Allah, without whose Hand of Help, their revolution against their oppressors would not have succeeded, and the American rescue mission would not have failed.

That no human power on earth, however massive and strong it may be, can overcome the spiritual power of the people boosted up by the divine help of Allah, when it works to save an oppressed and tortured people is also amply proved in this case.