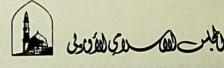
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES In non-Muslim states



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Almost one-third of the total population of Muslims in the world today lives as a "minority" in lands where people of other faiths, creeds and ideologies have administrative, political and legislative control. In some of the countries, a variety of political, economic, social and cultural factors and circumstances tend to impede their harmonious progress and development, and drastically curtail or limit the avenues open to them for making a fuller contribution to the country to which they belong and where they have been living for centuries.

It was to examine the problems faced by the Muslim communities in the non-Muslim states that the Organization of the Islamic Conference sponsored an international seminar which was organised in London by the Islamic Council of Europe in July, 1978. Muslim scholars and representatives of Muslim minorities were invited to this seminar from all over the world, and some of the papers which were presented at this seminar are included in this volume.

One of the ideas that prominently figured in the studies and discussions concerned the provision of Islamic education to the Muslim minorities. The requirements differ from region to region. The most challenging situation is of course faced by Muslims in the Communist countries. For instance in the USSR, the Muslim population has to be educated afresh in the basic teachings of Islam. In some of the developing countries, especially in Africa, Muslim minorities will only be able to retain their identity if the Muslim world provides significant assistance for their education.

In the Western world, the problem is how to combine religious instruction with