Islamic countries must cherish potentialities - 3 /Dec/ 2006

Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei noted a visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his accompanying delegation about the religious roots of the Turkish people and their profound belief in Islam and the Islamic values.

"The two countries of Iran and Turkey could further broaden their bilateral relations in light of their common borders and religious and cultural commonalities," Ayatollah Khamenei said, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought to expand ties with Turkey.

Ayatollah Khamenei brought up the expanse of natural and human resources and potentials available to the world of Islam and reckoned that if the world of Islam learnt about the facets of its power and relied on those potenitalities to resolve its sensitive problems the outcome would indeed prove effective.

The IR Leader highlighted the status of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the regional organizations like ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) and D8 (8 Islamic Developing Countries Group), calling on the world of Islam to utilize all the potentials at hand through activation of the mentioned bodies to find solutions to the questions facing the Islamic countries.

Turning to the Iraqi issue, Ayatollah Khamenei said the only solution to settle the ongoing situation in the country is to foster its serving democratic government.

Ayatollah Khamenei cautioned that a disintegrated Iraq poses a colossal threat to the region. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution warned about the activities of the spy bodies of America and the Zionist regime in fomenting insecurity and continued bloodletting of the innocent people in Iraq, adding that the more the Americans linger in Iraq the more they slide into the mire.

"If the current President of America fails to withdraw the country's military from Iraq, its next president will certainly have to withdraw the forces in a scandalous manner like what took place during Vietnam War," Ayatollah Khamenei advised.

Concerning the ongoing developments in Lebanon and the 1948 occupied Palestine, Ayatollah Khamenei tied the situation on the ground to the interventionist policies of America. "The Islamic Republic of Iran upholds the cooperation of the regional countries in resolving the ongoing problems," the IR Leader proclaimed.

In the meeting, also attended by 1st veep Parviz Davoodi, the Turkish Premier pointed to his talks in Tehran held hours earlier and described the two sides' mutual relations as expanding.

"Turkey gives priority to expansion of ties with Iran, particularly in the fields of economy and building refineries and petrochemical plants," Erdogan said.

Erdogan touched on the volume of trade ties between the two countries, currently at seven billion dollars, and expressed hope the figures would reach to ten billion dollars.

Concerning the woeful situation of Iraq and the developments in Lebanon and Palestine, the Turkish Premier called for further cooperation of Islamic countries, especially the regional states.