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Leader's Speech to the Residents of the Eastern Azarbaijan Province - 17 **/Feb/ 2007**

Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei thanked the Iranian people Saturday for their enthusiastic participation in the annual February 11 rallies and confirmed that the Islamic Revolution chiefly gets momentum from the zeal, courage and revolutionary resolve of the Iranian nation and their solid adherence to the revolution and its religious identity.

"The serving and honest authorities must not relinquish the move forward even for a moment specially taking the huge popular strength and ample human resources into account," Ayatollah Khamenei said in his speech to an audience of people, urging the authorities to head for conquering the high peaks in different fields.

The meeting was held to commemorate the historic public uprising in Tabriz provincial center, northwest Iran on February 18, 1978.

Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the uprising as a fateful move in the history of the Islamic Revolution, adding that the designers of anti-Iranian-people policies have yet to realize the Iranian nation and their ever-lasting realities.

"Even 27 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, as soon as people felt that the enemy had kept a threatening look at the revolution, they poured the scene on February 11 to portray a source of power of the Islamic Revolution, never realized by the enemies," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphatically called February 11 massive turnout a manifestation of the Divine zeal which helped display the might of the Islamic System to the world.

"The popular show of strength demoted enemy threats," the Islamic Revolution Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei hailed the young revolutionary generation as possibly more prepared, courageous and zealous in defending its religious, revolutionary identity than the generation who fought the Sacred Defense (1980-88).

Ayatollah Khamenei underlined a tie between the people's worldly and spiritual prosperity and perseverance in the path of revolution and Islam.

The IR Leader highlighted a profound interest in the Islamic Revolution on the part of people, saying, "Today, the Iranian nation looks more powerful than ever, thank to the serving, truthful, people-driven, honest, competent authorities who exert efforts to resolve public problems, and thank to young talented people who seek to negotiate bumpy roads of knowledge to conquer high apexes."

Ayatollah Khamenei urged the authorities to abandon fear in moving up towards peaks, adding that owing to the existence of ample, talented human resources, wherever the authorities capitalize, they will find it resourceful.

The IR Leader urged the authorities to dispense their efforts to other fields and cherish the ongoing enthusiastic national drive. "At present, no stoppage is allowed in scientific, academic, industrial and religious circles," Ayatollah Khamenei cautioned.

Ayatollah Khamenei urged adopting a strong position towards the enemy adding that any weak stand will further



embolden the enemy. "Unfortunately, certain individuals are emboldening the enemy through their remarks in aggrandizing some problems or complaining about some unreal shortcomings," the IR Leader regretted.

"The aware Iranian nation will keep its regular pace alongside such authorities who are resolving people's problems one after another," Ayatollah Khamenei vowed, urging drawing a real image of the internal situation in the country.

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to add that as a reality on the ground the people are living their normal life and at the same time keep their vigilance.

"An example of the vigilance on the part of the Iranian nation has emerged in nuclear discussion so that as soon as the people felt that the enemy has concentrated on the issue and tries to present it insignificant in the public eyes, they entered the scene and put serious claims to the right," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei called the nuclear energy issue the question of future and destiny of the country and criticized those with superficial and narrow-minded views who hold that considering its cost, the nuclear energy is not a must for the country.

"The oil and gas reserves will not last forever. If any nation fails to mind its prospective need of energy, it is going to remain dependent on the dominance- seeking powers," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the superpowers object the Iranian nation's access to nuclear energy while they themselves enjoy it because they seek to hold fate of global energy.

"Fortunately, the Iranian nation soon realized the scam and stood by its nuclear issue. The authorities for their part are pursuing the issue seriously and have reached favorable points and God willing will reach more favorable points either," Ayatollah Khamenei said.