

## The Annual Meeting and Reception of the Chamber Members



The annual meeting and reception of the members of the Irano-British Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines that is usually organized during the last season of the Iranian year was held on 25/10/1385 (16.1.2007) at Homa Hotel, Meraj hall.

At this dinner reception more than 170 members and foreign and domestic guests aside from HE Jeffrey Adams, H.B.M to Iran who is serving the first year of his mission in Iran, Mr. Nick Copin, the British Embassy's

First Secretary and the head of commercial section -- spending his last month in Tehran -- and a number of Iranian and British members were present.

The reception began at 19:30. At the request of Dr. Amini, Mr. Khamoushi, the Chamber's president, took to the podium and welcoming the guests, specially HE J.Adams, who was attending the reception for the first time, expressed appreciation of Dr. Amini's big spending and emphasized that it was

quite appropriate to organize more of such gatherings so that our entrepreneurs who are the main levers for the development of foreign trades relations get more acquainted with one another. It is also appropriate to have a greater growth in exchanging commercial missions of the two countries so that the activists and the investors of the two countries also would have more opportunities to exchange views and prepare for more co-operation.



With a view to the up-coming ICCIM election and after commenting on abolition of government monopolies, on the one hand, and the facilities provided for the entry of the private sector into all spheres of economic activities, on the other hand, Mr. Khamoushi invited all Chamber members to use the historic opportunity everyone has been waiting for to augment further growth and development of our national economy. "I advise all friends to participate in the election of Iran Chamber's Board of Representatives on Wednesday 2nd of Esfand" (21/2/2007). Given the eagerness and the high level of participation in the country's presidential election, it is not acceptable to witness a meager percentage of Iran Chamber members electing the Board of Representatives, I want you all to actively participate in the Chamber's election and elect whoever you favor, and as for those who are for whatever reason absent tonight, you should recommend that they, too, participate in the Iran Chamber

election."

Addressing the British Ambassador, Mr. Khamoushi said: "Your Excellency you may rest assured that we will be able to manage the impacts of the



sanctions. But, considering the implementation policies of the constitution's Article 44 which has smoothed private sectors' entry to all economic fields, and that legally there in no differences between domestic and foreign investors, it is appropriate to encourage British investors to invest in Iran and give them confidence that they will be treated no different from the domestic investors." He restated that Iran is a rich country enjoying an exceptional natural and geographical situation. "Let's

not allow economics to be influenced by politics." For the British investors, it is more profitable to invest in Iran than in any other country.

Then, HE J. Adams was requested to speak even if it be short. However, before he reached the podium, someone from among the guests put a question to him: "Your Excellency what is the situation with sanctions?" Mr. Adam who also speaks Farsi fluently said "I shall answer you only in two words—thank you. Then, starting his speech, he alluded to the importance of the development of economic relations of the two countries, given the historical background of the subject and the particular interest that the government and the people of Britain have in developing mutual economic relations. Addressing a second question concerning sanctions, he said: "a good diplomat talks less and listen more."

The Ambassador finally thanked both Mr. Khamoushi and Dr. Amini for inviting him to the reception and admired the favorable ambience they have provided to meet chamber members.

Afterwards, Dr. Amini invited the guests to dinner who stayed up to 23 hours socializing.

The reception ended at 23 hours.