

Monday, June 3rd, 2019

Dear Chris,

It is a beautiful, spring day here in London's Regents Park, with some sunshine and a slight breeze. Though, as I walk to the park, my senses are bombarded with the sights, sounds, and smells of American power. On the nearby streets are the unusual sights of heavily armed police, two black presidential Cadillacs and a bevy of black-tinted Suburban Chevy 4x4s and Ford trucks. Above me is the continuous sound of helicopters, whose hum is interrupted by the thunderous roar of the twin blade Marine Ospreys that rattle the surroundings. Finally, the petrol fumes from the cavalcade of American cars leave a distinctly, and disturbingly fond smell of unleaded American gasoline. The residence of the American Ambassador in Regents Park, Winfield House, is preparing for the arrival of the President.

100 yards across the street from the Ambassador's home is the Regents Park Mosque. This building was originally funded by the Nizam of Hyderabad in the 1930s and was completed under the Raja of Mahmudabad. It now serves as an important centre for key religious functions, such as the Eid prayers marking the end of the month Ramadan that will occur tomorrow. Thousands of worshippers are set to arrive to offer prayers at varying times during the day. It is always a lively day with everyone, especially kids, wearing new and colourful clothes, all ready to indulge in a bit of over-eating.

The sight of traditionally clad worshippers interacting with the armed US security presence is dripping in allegory.

Christopher Andrew

Clarmond Wealth

1 Holbein Place

London, SW1W 8NS



And if I continue to stroll another 200 yards from the Regents Park Mosque, I arrive at another place of worship, Lord's Cricket ground. With the start of the Cricket World Cup there are already some teams practicing at the nets on the adjacent field. The World Cup has over 1.5 billion disciples with teams from all the places that the British once ruled. There are an abundance of Indians, Pakistanis, Bengalis, and Sri Lankan fans gathered at the gates taking 'selfies'.

The common denominator that links these three rather distinct forms of power - Politics, Faith and Sport - is the Old British Empire. The reign of the British Empire was ended by the USA and that same American power is now on full display. The Mosque was built by the retainers of the Old Empire, and cricket, left by the British in each colony, is today a global game, with each nation bringing its own interpretation and sense of fair play.

The President has now gone to have lunch with the old Empress of India, whose allure remains undiminished amongst those craving celebrity and legitimacy; this nation still is the master of pomp and ceremony. It now has a visitor that truly lusts after these trappings yet clearly does not understand the etiquette of cricket. See you this afternoon - Mustafa