

## OFFICIAL STATEMENT • 3

Subject: Message to the Iranian people on the subjects of dealing with strikers, the necessity of a Cultural Revolution, and the role of the press [excerpts]  
The official: Founder and Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini  
The occasion: The beginning of the Iranian New Year  
Date: 22 March 1980  
Source: *Sahifeye-nur* [The Book of Light], Tehran, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, 1982, Volume Twelve, p. 19–24

5. The government is responsible for providing workers, farmers, and laborers with the necessary means and tools of production. In return, they should be aware that strikes and deliberate slow-downs will not only strengthen the superpowers, but will also cause the rising downtrodden people of the world, in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries, to lose heart and hope. Whenever the workers of a plant go on strike in any city, the citizens must immediately meet with them in order to find out what their complaints or demands are. They must identify all anti-revolutionary elements [who incite strikes] and denounce them to the people. The noble people of Iran can no longer pay wages to the godless in their midst [allusion to socialist militants working in factories]. . . .

11. There must be a fundamental [cultural] revolution in all Iranian universities, in order to purge all professors and lecturers who hew to the East or the West. The university must thus become a healthy atmosphere for the teaching of advanced Islamic sciences. We must fully discard the flawed educational policies and programs for higher education created in the pre-revolutionary regime. They have been the main cause of all the calamities that befell Iranian society in that era. Had a principled

university system been in place, we would never have faced a class of intellectuals who, in the most critical hour of our history, were rent by interne-cine dissention and disagreements, alienated from their own people and so oblivious to what was taking place in their country as to seem to be living in another world. Every failure and setback that we have suffered has been caused by the failure of our university-educated intellectuals to correctly understand our Islamic society, a failure that continues to plague us even today. Most of the fatal blows to our society have come from these same intellectuals who have always considered themselves, and still consider themselves, superior and who are engaged in a discourse understandable only to their peers, leaving ordinary Iranians in the dark. What is not important to them is the people of Iran, for these intellectuals are completely self-absorbed. They were raised in the Shah's flawed educational system and have absorbed its false teachings and thus never had any respect for the downtrodden and, unfortunately, still don't. . . .

Seminary and university students must pore over the basic Islamic tenets and abandon the slogans offered by deviant groups and replace all false values and ideas with those of our revered Islam.



They should know that Islam is a rich creed and, therefore, never in need of incorporating alien tenets. All of you must know that eclecticism is tantamount to a grave betrayal of Islam and Muslims. The undesirable consequences of such eclecticism will appear in later years. Unfortunately, as the result of a faulty and inaccurate understanding of Islam, some have combined Islamic principles with Marxist ideas and created an amalgam that is completely alien to the progressive laws of Islam. Dear students! Do not tread the deviant paths chosen by uncommitted [to the Islamic Revolution] university intellectuals, lest you alienate your own people. . . .

12. Another issue concerns the press. . . . Once more, I call upon you, the members of the Iranian press, to unite and write freely, but do not engage in conspiracies. . . . I have repeatedly reiterated [my belief] that the press should be free and independent. Unfortunately, and surprisingly, however, I have noticed that some newspapers have unfairly helped, and are still helping, to realize the evil objectives of the left and the right in Iran. In every country, the press performs an essential task in creating either a healthy or unhealthy atmosphere. I hope that our press will move to serve both God's will and the people's interests.



A newspaper photograph of a pro-Khomeini demonstration on 23 November 1978—  
*Pars News Agency*

