

MOSQUE FOR MOSLEMS IN LONDON

GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT A SITE

In a written answer to Mr. A. Creech Jones in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr. G. H. Hall, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, said that Moslems in this country had long felt the need for a central place of worship in London, and a committee of distinguished Moslems had recently been engaged in the preparation of plans for the establishment of a mosque and Islamic cultural centre on an adequate scale.

His Majesty's Government were approached by the committee with the suggestion that they should present a site for the building, and they had now decided to mark their sympathy with, and interest in, this important project by affording assistance to it in this manner. An early opportunity would be taken to invite Parliament to vote the necessary funds, the limit of which had been fixed at £100,000.

RECEPTION BY THE KING

The chairman of the committee is H.E. Hassan Nashaat Pasha, the Egyptian Ambassador in London, to whose active interest the project is largely due. Its treasurer is Sir Firoz Khan Noon, High Commissioner for India, and its secretary Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, Adviser to the Secretary of State for India. Sheikh Hafiz Wahba, the Saudi Arabian Minister, is also a member of the committee, as are Ata Amin Beg, the Iraqi Chargé d'Affaires, and Rauf Chadirji Beg, formerly Iraqi Minister in London.

The first four members of the committee were received at Buckingham Palace yesterday, where they were presented by Lord Lloyd to the King, to whom they expressed their grateful appreciation of the gift.

It will be remembered that in 1935 the Muslim Society of London supported a project for the construction of a mosque in London, and a site was bought in Mornington Square, W., owing to the munificence of the Nizam of Hyderabad. The foundation-stone was laid on June 4, 1937, but nothing further came of the scheme. The project which has now taken shape with the support of the British Government was first mooted early this year by the Egyptian Ambassador. He said at a meeting of the Royal Central Asian Society's Dinner Club that it had then received the approval of Lord Halifax, Lord Zetland, and Lord Lloyd, and that the King of Egypt had promised it his patronage.