

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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JULY/AUGUST, 1954

FROM THE GUARDIAN

June 17th, 1954

Mr. John Ferraby, Secretary
National Spiritual Assembly of the
Bahá'ís of the British Isles

Dear Bah'ái Brother,

Your Assembly's letters dated June 10 (2), 17, 22 and 26, July 3, 7, 8, 9 (2), 16 and 24, August 17, 19 (2) and 24, September 17, 21, 24 and 25, October 1, 8, 12, 22 and 28, November 13 (4) and 18 (2), December 10 (2), 12 and 23, 1953, and January 7, 20 (2), 21 and 22, February 17 (3), 19 (3), 21, 23 (2) and 25, March 1, 23, 24 and 25 (3), April 13 and 28, May 12, 21 and 25, June 1 (4) and 15, 1954, with enclosures, have been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He regrets very much the long delays in answering the National Spiritual Assemblies, but is finding it increasingly difficult to keep abreast of his work. He feels sometimes that he will soon be forced to give up correspondence with individuals, although he is reluctant to do so, because so many of the new believers brought in during the present teaching activities in Africa and other far goals are writing to him. However, he has attended to a great many of your questions by cable, and the visits of a number of English pilgrims have enabled him to send you messages and to keep the British Community in contact with the work in the Holy Land.

He greatly appreciated the desire of John and Dorothy Ferraby to go out as pioneers, but considered that it would weaken the work of the National Assembly altogether too much. Important as the pioneer field is, if all the most able workers go out, the campaigns carried on from different national bases will become absolutely unwieldy for lack of adequate able management.

The expression of condolences which your Assembly conveyed to him at the time of the passing of Fred Schopflocher and Dorothy Baker, two dear and trusted Hands of the Cause who could ill be spared from their work at this time, touched him very much. Others must now arise, and through their services seek to fill the gaps which such valuable workers have left in the vanguard of the Bah'ái host.

He would like you to express to the British pioneers on the home-front, whose names you forwarded to him, his sincere thanks. Their arising to protect the goals which have been won by other pioneers at a cost

of such sacrifice and effort was noble and highly meritorious.

Speaking of pioneers, he was very pleased to hear recently that Mrs. Shomais Afnan had succeeded in gaining entry into Ethiopia. Her perseverance in the face of a great deal of opposition is certainly exemplary.

As he already cabled you, he did not approve of the statements you had prepared for circulation amongst the Assemblies regarding Bahá'í marriage. Some of the remarks were incorrect in the first place, and in the second place he is strongly against Statements! He wishes the friends to keep as elastic as possible in administering the affairs of the Faith, while at the same time adhering to fundamentals. He knows that at times this inconveniences the National Bodies and makes their work more detailed, but believes it to be the lesser, so to speak, of two evils.

He was very sorry to learn that dear Mr. Townsend's health is in such a precarious state, and necessitated the return of his daughter from Malta. His devotion is so single-hearted and touching, and his determination to carry on at all costs is exemplary, and should inspire the young people to follow in his footsteps.

When compiling the list of African languages into which the Bahá'í Message should be translated, the Guardian realised that certain changes would probably be necessary — naturally the fewer the better. In this connection, if you feel it advisable and not otherwise, he would like you to convey to Dr. Berry, of the African Department of the School of Oriental and African studies, his personal thanks for the valuable advice he has given your Assembly, and his friendly co-operation. You might also, at your discretion, extend his thanks to any other members of the Staff who have assisted you.

He is very pleased that the Temple land has been bought in Kampala. Mr. and Mrs. Elston are visiting here at the present time; and he has told them he feels that at present the Temple land should merely be held in trust, and all meetings continue in the Haziratu'l-Quds building. Should this eventually prove too small, enlarging one of the rooms to accommodate more of the people at the meetings might be considered as a possibility; but any work carried out must be of a very economical nature, and he does not think it is pressing at present, anyway.

I need not tell you that the work in Africa, and more particularly in Uganda, is very dear to his heart. The

progress made there during the last year has borne him up and encouraged him greatly when he was often weighted down with work. He feels that this country and its peoples, in the very heart of Africa, are a most precious trust. Their receptivity to the Teachings, their great desire to serve their new Faith, the number of them who have arisen to go out as pioneers, mark them as a people apart in the Bahá'í world, at least for the time being. May many others in neighbouring countries prove as worthy, and follow their example . . .

Although the children of Bahá'í parents are considered to be Bahá'ís, there is no objection at the present time, for purposes of keeping a correct census, and also ascertaining whether the young people are, sincerely, believers, and willing to do their share in service to the Faith, to asking them to make a declaration of their intention at the age of fifteen or so. Originally, the Guardian understands, this was adopted in America to enable young Bahá'í men to make certain arrangements in connection with their application for non-combatant status upon their attaining the age of military service. There is really nothing about it in the Teachings or in the Administration. Your Assembly is free to do as it pleases in this matter.

Regarding the publication of a pamphlet on the Bahá'í Teachings on Monarchy, funds and circumstances permitting, the Guardian sees no objection to this whatsoever. It might appeal to a certain type of British mind very much, though he fears there are other minds to which it may not appeal! However, considering Bahá'u'lláh has taught these things, there is no reason why we should not share them with those interested in the subject.

He is very sorry that it has not been possible to purchase the National *Hazíratu'l-Quds* yet. In spite of the fact that he attaches great importance to this, he does not think that the cost should become exorbitant merely in order to accomplish a goal before a certain date. The Bahá'ís, not only in England, but all over the world, have embarked upon a Plan which will involve over a period of years a very heavy expenditure. Undoubtedly they will have to help each other; but they will scarcely have the financial strength to help each other to the tune of extremely expensive buildings, Temple sites, etc., in different parts of the world. He has given instructions to Canada, Germany, Rome, etc., to cut down on the proposals they made to him, because the price of these things in different parts of the world, when added up, would be well beyond the means of the Faith to meet at present. He feels sure that, however painful and toilsome the process may be, you will eventually find a suitable spot in London, and one that your Assembly, with the help of the British believers and other possible contributions from outside as well, can afford.

The remarkable achievements in the pioneer field, a field in which your own Assembly has been far from backward, are a source of great encouragement to all the believers as well as to him. The addition of one hundred countries during one year is certainly history-making.

Now that the back of the foreign pioneering work has been broken, so to speak, a greater measure of attention must be paid to the home fronts. The consolidation work, though far less spectacular, constitutes

a very weighty task, and will require a constant measure of sacrificial effort if the goals are to be fulfilled. He thinks that during the coming year greater attention should be paid to the home front, while at the same time maintaining the pioneer posts at their present standard, at least.

The principle is, and it should be impressed on the minds of all pioneers, to hold their territory at any cost. Just because they have left their homes, and gone out and carried the Faith to one of these virgin areas, does not mean that the task is accomplished. On the contrary, nothing could be sadder than that these newly-won territories should be lost after a few months' effort. He hopes that in your correspondence with the pioneers you will impress this fact upon them and make them realise that to be a 'Knight of Bahá'u'lláh' is not only a very high and pleasant position, but involves a truly tremendous responsibility. To remain at one's post, to undergo sacrifice and hardship, loneliness and, if necessary, persecution, in order to hold aloft the torch of Bahá'u'lláh, is the true function of every pioneer.

Let them remember Marion Jack, who for over twenty years, in a country the language of which she never mastered; during war and bombardment; evacuation and poverty; and at length, serious illness, stuck to her post, and has now blessed the soil of the land she had chosen to serve at such cost with her precious remains, every atom of which was dedicated to Bahá'u'lláh. Perhaps the friends are not aware that the Guardian, himself, during the war on more than one occasion urged her to seek safety in Switzerland rather than remain behind enemy lines and be entirely cut off. Lovingly she pleaded that he would not require her to leave her post, and he acquiesced to her request. Surely the standard of Marion Jack should be borne in mind by every pioneer!

Regarding your question about including the Tablet of the Virgin in a compilation of 'Bahá'í Scriptures' which you wish to publish—the old translation is very poor and has many inaccuracies. However, the Guardian has no time at all to retranslate it or correct it himself.

He leaves it to the discretion of your Assembly as to whether you wish to include it in a compilation or not.

I am returning to you the list you sent with the suggested corrections in relation to the pamphlet your Assembly published last year—'The Bahá'í Faith 1844 1952, Information Statistical and Comparative'. The right-hand column marked 'Suggested' he considers quite acceptable. The places where you have put question marks are correct in the column marked 'As Listed' with very few exceptions, which the Guardian has corrected. (An apparently earlier version, not deleted, reads: with the exception of the transliteration of the name *Shu'á'u'lláh* (Number 12), which the Guardian has corrected.)

Assuring you of the Guardian's loving prayers for the success of your devoted labours.

With warmest greetings,

R. Rabbani

P.S.—July 28th. Your letter of July 7 has likewise been received.

Dear and Valued Co-workers,

The achievements of the members of the tenacious, the valiant and wide-awake British Bahá'í Community, within the borders of their homeland and beyond its confines, in the course of the opening year of the Bahá'í World Crusade, deserve the highest commendation and have considerably heightened its prestige and deepened my own admiration for it as well as that of its sister communities in both hemispheres.

Called into being, through the dispensations of a watchful Providence, in the memorable decade that witnessed the introduction of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh into the western world; sharing with its sister community across the Channel the distinction of being the first to be quickened by the life-giving influences generated by the newly-established Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh in the Holy Land; the recipient of untold blessings showered upon it by the Centre of the Covenant in the days of its infancy; singled out among the newly-fledged communities in both Europe and the North American Continent through the twice repeated visit of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the shores of its homeland; fully equipped with the agencies of a divinely conceived Administrative Order, patiently and laboriously erected by its stalwart members in the years immediately following the setting of the Orb of that same Covenant; enriched by the experience derived from the successful prosecution of two successive nation-wide Plans formulated by its national elected representatives, this community finds itself, on the morrow of the termination of the opening year of the above-mentioned Crusade, simultaneously firmly rooted within the soil of its homeland and vigorously branching out on the first stage of its mission in foreign fields, and exhibiting, both at home and abroad, evidences of a development that bids fair to eclipse any of its collective achievements in the past five decades since its inception.

In both the teaching and administrative sphere of its ever-expanding swiftly unfolding activities, whether in the heart and capital city of the Empire to which it belongs, or in the chief cities recently opened by its pioneering members in the territories comprising its island home, or in the diversified and far-flung dependencies of the British Crown in the African Continent, this virile, forward marching, securely established community has amply demonstrated its capacity to be regarded as one of the chief strongholds of a divinely conceived Faith and one of the principle bastions sustaining the fabric of Bahá'u'lláh's world-encompassing Order.

Standing as it does on the threshold of the second phase of a Crusade with which its immediate destinies are inseparably linked, and to which it has voluntarily and enthusiastically pledged its combined resources, the tasks now confronting it demand a degree of concentration, dedication, co-ordination, resourcefulness and perseverance hitherto unequalled in any period of its career.

The prizes won in recent months, since the launching of the Ten Year Plan to which it stands committed, through the strenuous exertions and the shining example of its pioneers in the islands situated to the North, the West and the South of its homeland, as well as in the far away territories lying in the heart of the African Continent and situated on both its eastern and

western shores, must, however great the sacrifice, be preserved. The acquisition of the national Hazáratu'l-Quds in a centrally located area in a city that ranks as the chief metropolis of a vast Empire is yet another task of the utmost urgency and of the highest significance, the consummation of which should be considered as the chief objective and pre-eminent duty of this Community's elected national representatives, and one which is bound to exert, in the days immediately ahead, a far-reaching and pervasive influence on the growth and unfoldment of the Faith which it is their privilege to serve and promote.

Of no less importance is the responsibility to reinforce the structure of the Administrative Order throughout the British Isles, and particularly in the newly opened territories of Scotland, Wales, Éire and Northern Ireland, through a rapid and unprecedented increase in the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith, and a multiplication of isolated centres, groups and assemblies that constitute the warp and the woof of the fabric of its evolving Order.

A no less urgent task, which will directly reinforce this fabric, and heighten the prestige of the Faith itself, and pave the way for the establishment of the Bahá'í local endowments, is the prompt incorporation of firmly established local assemblies, a process which, as soon as it is initiated, must gather steady momentum throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, and be ultimately reinforced by the incorporation of all local assemblies destined to be established in the virgin territories recently opened in the neighbourhood of the British Isles and in the African territories allotted to your Assembly under the provisions of the Ten Year Plan.

Special attention should, moreover, be paid to the no less vital duty of completing the translation, the publication and the dissemination of Bahá'í literature in the languages assigned to your Assembly, in accordance with that same Plan, an achievement which will greatly stimulate the work to be undertaken in the course of the future phases of this World Spiritual Crusade as it unfolds itself in the African Continent.

Whilst these highly meritorious enterprises are being assiduously carried on, the inescapable and sacred duty of consolidating the nine African territories and the two additional ones in Europe and Asia must be adequately discharged in order to enable the British Bahá'í Community to bring to full fruition the noble mission entrusted so confidently to its care.

The tasks facing this community in the course of this second and future phases of a world-encircling Crusade are admittedly vast, complex and challenging. The resources at the disposal of its doggedly persevering wholly dedicated members are, alas, circumscribed and inadequate. The mission, however, to which its Founder is calling it is unspeakably glorious. Many and diverse will, no doubt, be the tests, the setbacks and trials which teachers and administrators alike within the ranks of its members must necessarily experience. The times during which the opening phase of its Mission overseas is to yield its fairest fruit are fraught with great peril. Both at home and in distant outposts of the Empire the opposition those responsible for its development and consolidation will encounter from those in authority, whether civil or ecclesiastic,

will progressively hamper their efforts. The competition from its own sister communities in various regions of the globe and in the course of the systematic prosecution of the same world-embracing task will, in the meantime, grow keener.

Every ounce of energy its members can muster must unhesitatingly be expended to further the supreme end for which so sacred, so formidable a Plan has been devised. With every sacrifice that is made, with every forward step that is taken along the toilsome and long road that they are destined to tread, with every victory dearly and laboriously won by the champions, the representatives, the vanguard, the spokesmen, as well as the rank and file of this Community, a measure of blessing from on high will undoubtedly be vouchsafed in order to reinforce the exertions, cheer the hearts, and stimulate the march of all those enlisted in the service of so glorious a Cause.

The hour is propitious for a concerted effort which in its scope and intensity will surpass any united action of which the British followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh have proved themselves capable in the past.

That they may ascend from height to height, go forward from victory to victory, is the fervent prayer of one who has invariably followed the course of their exploits with undiminished confidence and admiration, who has cherished the brightest hopes for the ultimate attainment of their mission, and whose love and esteem for them has correspondingly increased with every revelation of the capacities and energies with which they have discharged, and are constantly discharging, their Mission.

Your true brother,
SHOGHI

TO THE EUROPEAN AND ASIAN TEACHING COMMITTEE

May 10th, 1954

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter of the 9th of Núr, 110, was received by the beloved Guardian.

As he has been tremendously busy during the Holy year—and indeed his work is increasing all the time—and there was nothing urgent that required an immediate reply, he has delayed in answering you until he had more time.

He hopes that your Committee will be able to gradually assist in the work allotted to the British National Spiritual Assembly during the Plan.

The most important thing of course is to get the believers out into wholly virgin areas, and keep them there. So far, England has done nobly, and he is proud of their efforts.

The Pacific area is also of great importance. If there is any possibility of British subjects going out to territories that are under the jurisdiction of other National Bodies, but difficult to get into, he feels that they should be referred to the committees concerned, or the National Spiritual Assemblies concerned, because of the importance of achieving all the goals of the Plan, regardless of which Assembly has certain goals under its immediate jurisdiction.

He assures you he will pray, for the success of your devoted labours, in the holy Shrine.

With warmest Bahá'í greeting,

R. RABBANI

Added in the Guardian's handwriting:

'May the Almighty bless your meritorious activities, guide and sustain you always, and enable you to lend a great impetus to the splendid work now being accomplished in Europe and in Asia. Your true brother,

SHOGHI.'

TEACHING

From a letter from the Guardian to one of the new believers in Africa we quote a sentence which must surely apply to teaching the Faith anywhere: 'The love of God, burning in the heart of the teacher, in turn kindles a fire in the hearts of the receptive souls, who are searching for a new way of life.'

An Appeal from the Guardian

In his cable of April 5th appointing the Auxiliary Boards, the Guardian included these words: 'Urge initiation five Continental Bahá'í Funds which as they develop will increasingly facilitate discharge (of the) functions assigned to the Boards. Appeal to twelve National Assemblies and individuals to insure a steady augmentation of Funds through annual assignment in National Budgets and individual contributions.' The Guardian himself transmitted a thousand pounds for the European Fund, describing these Boards as a 'vital and indispensable organ of the embryonic and steadily unfolding Administrative Order.' Invaluable opportunities of promoting the Ten Year Crusade are being opened up to eager, able and active British members of our Auxiliary Board, and for their manifold work funds will continually be needed. As Hand of the Cause in the British Isles, I write to call attention of the British Bahá'ís to the beloved Guardian's strong and urgent appeal for the help of individuals, and trust this will be forthcoming from many according to their ability. The Guardian directs that contributions be sent to Dr. Ugo Giachery, Citta Leonina No. 9, Rome, Italy; they may be transmitted through the Treasurer of the National Assembly.

GEORGE TOWNSEND,

Hand of the Cause of God

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

THE KITAB-I-IQAN

(The Book of Certitude)

Described by the Guardian as 'of unsurpassed pre-eminence among the writings of the Author of the Bahá'í Revelation'. 'This Book alone . . . has laid down a broad and unassailable foundation for the complete and permanent reconciliation' of the followers of the great religions of the world. For a summary of its contents, see *God Passes By*, page 139.

Cloth, 284 pages

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CONVENTION III (1954)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DELEGATES

The World Crusade

1. We humbly accept the challenge of the Spiritual Crusade and we pledge ourselves to devote and dedicate ourselves to the Guardian's objectives, to mobilise the spirit and resources of our Communities for the Crusade and to accept in joyful spirit any sacrifice this may entail. (See *Programme of Action*.)

2. Recommended that the National Assembly release the names of 24 goal-towns and consider, in view of the world's critical situation, seeking to establish pioneers in as many as possible of these towns as soon as possible. (See *Programme of Action*.)

3. The National Teaching Committee is recommended to analyse existing communities to see how many towns and villages are actually embraced by present membership and also to analyse where the isolated believers live, with a view to establishing goals for Assemblies to develop from these resources. (Approved.)

4. Recommended that the National Assembly consider ways of integrating isolated believers more closely with the Community and the Crusade. (The National Teaching Committee have been asked to continue their work in this connection.)

5. Recommended that the National Assembly make a study of the Guardian's statement in a letter to it that the opportunities of this period will never recur and examine what practical application of the statement can be made. (A study is being made.)

6. Suggested that the National Assembly enquire of recent or future pilgrims to the Holy Land whether they would be prepared to visit local communities, in which case the communities should be advised. (Approved.)

7. The National Assembly is asked to recommend that all messages from the Guardian be read at Nineteen-Day Feasts, whether they are circulated to every believer or not. (A circular about treatment of the Guardian's messages has been sent to Local Assemblies.)

Teaching and Public Relations

8. Convention feels that the tempo and volume of teaching activity should be increased throughout the year; this should be given priority by both National and Local Assemblies and take first place in their deliberations. (See *Programme of Action*.)

9. In view of the Guardian's wish that the delegates stimulate an upsurge of activity following Convention, we record our intention to do all we can to urge our Communities to increase the tempo of teaching from the moment of our return to our Communities and we appeal to the National Assembly to ensure that such action receives full support through prompt measures from the Committees concerned. We ask the National Assembly to take steps as soon as possible, by issuing a statement, or by other means, to assist in stimulating all members of the Community to an upsurge of activity. (See *Programme of Action*.)

10. The delegates ask the National Assembly to bring to the attention of all Local Assemblies the advantages and uses of a local Teaching Committee. (The National Teaching Committee has been asked to take this up with Local Assemblies.)

11. Recommended that a suggestion be put in *Bahá'í Journal* that more use be made of such days as World Religion Sunday (January 17th), Woman's Day of Prayer (March 5th), and United Nations Day (March 24th) for spreading the Faith. (The National Teaching Committee has been asked to prepare a paragraph.)

12. The National Assembly should encourage British believers to spend their holidays in Dublin, Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff and the islands around the British Isles, in order to help the teaching work in these places. (Approved for those unable to take their holidays at the time of Summer School.)

13. Recommended that the National Assembly invites all Local Assemblies to notify their Regional Teaching Committees of any competent speakers in their community who are not being sufficiently used in regional teaching. (Referred to Local Assemblies.)

14. Convention believes that each individual believer should be encouraged to share teaching experiences and consult about progress of particular personal teaching projects, in order to help fan the flame of enthusiasm for teaching. (Referred to Local Assemblies.)

15. A number of statements, for use as press releases when occasion arises, should be prepared, reviewed and circulated to Local Assemblies; for example, statements referring to racial questions, etc. (It has not been found possible to do this as the Guardian has instructed concentration on the goals of the Crusade.)

16. The National Assembly should consider the formation of a small Public Relations Committee for dealing with these statements and for obtaining accurate entries in reference books of various kinds. (See previous recommendation.)

Consolidation

17. It is felt that the National Assembly should examine whether a closer or different kind of contact with Local Assemblies is desirable to ensure that they function as divine institutions. (This is being considered.)

18. Recommended that Local Assemblies be invited to study ways of making their address available to anyone wishing to contact them. Telephone numbers should be published in *Bahá'í Journal* as well as addresses. (Referred to Local Assemblies.)

19. Requested that consideration be given to bringing out again the Assembly Development Review. (Referred to National Teaching Committee.)

20. Recommended that the National Assembly put a statement in *Bahá'í Journal* explaining the conditions under which an individual may be recognised as no longer belonging to the Bahá'í Community. (Consideration delayed pending a report from the National Teaching Committee.)

21. Recommended that the National Teaching Committee prepare a circular to suggest to the communities the various practical ways in which it might be

possible to consolidate a community and encourage extension work, at the same time explaining the immediate necessity of this work. (Referred to N.T.C.)

Finance

22. The delegates feel it will be advantageous to issue a statement under a few main heads of expenditure the National Assembly considers necessary to do the work adequately, which can act as an incentive. It should be proclaimed to the Community as a goal and reports made periodically. (Approved.)

23. Recommended that the National Assembly consider instructing its auditors to include all contra payments in the annual accounts. (Approved.)

Publishing, News, etc.

24. Recommended that the National Assembly ask the Publishing Trust Committee to do everything possible to arrange with the American National Assembly for Bahá'í Publishing Trust publications to be as widely available as possible in America and that it also consider sending, say, a dozen copies of each book for distribution in America for purposes of advertisement. (The first part is approved, but it is not considered sending twelve free copies would serve any useful purpose.)

25. Recommended that the National Assembly consider producing a leaflet which gives a list of books as well as information on the Faith, for use in teaching. (It is not considered desirable for the Publishing Trust to produce a leaflet solely for this purpose, but the idea will be borne in mind. Names of books will be printed inside the cover of the next general pamphlet.)

26. Recommended that the National Assembly authorise the preparation of Bahá'í books for children of various age groups or alternatively that use be made of the material already produced in other countries. This work should be done in consultation with the parents. (Referred to Child Education Committee.)

27. Recommended that *Bahá'í Journal* be, apart from a medium of official communication, a medium of instruction. (This has been past policy and will continue to be done. The National Teaching Committee have been asked to suggest articles.)

28. Recommended that the Visual Aids pamphlets being published by the Publishing Trust be sold at one penny each and anything above the amount needed to cover Publishing Trust costs as reckoned in their usual manner be devoted to Visual Aids work. (Approved.)

29. Convention recommends the production of greeting cards which the friends can use to send to non-Bahá'í friends.

30. The National Assembly is asked to find some way in which scripts could be made available to the friends. (A first step has been to ask for the return of scripts borrowed and not returned.)

31. Recommended that, if someone or a number of people will make good the loss on publishing a diary, the National Assembly contemplate producing one and also that it provide Bahá'í calendars. (This is being considered.)

32. Requested that passages from the Kitáb-i-Aqdas available in English translation be identified for the friends. (A list is being prepared.)

33. Recommended that the Persian Committee should circularise news from Persia to the Persian friends in this country. (Referred to Persian Committee.)

Miscellaneous

34. Requested that the National Assembly see that a record appears in *Bahá'í Journal* of the ultimate decisions on recommendations from Convention which are referred to Committees, or upon which a full record of action for some reason does not appear when the resolutions are first published. (It is hoped to do this.)

35. Requested that an up-to-date bulletin be issued about contact with Africans in this country. This should mention the need for caution in speaking of the teaching work being done in Africa. (Referred to Africa Committee.)

36. Recommended that the National Assembly start looking for Summer School accommodation in ample time, i.e. at least a year ahead, or possibly earlier. (Policy regarding next year's Summer School is being considered, but the Assembly agrees in principle.)

37. Recommended that the list of literature in Braille be published in *Bahá'í Journal* so that friends who have blind contacts know of the material and are able to make use of it. Also to give the name of the Assembly in charge of its despatch, at present the Northampton Assembly. (Agreed.)

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

(Omission of a Committee from the list below does not necessarily mean that no such Committee is being appointed this year. The National Assembly has been very busy and has left some of last year's Committees to continue functioning for the time being.)

AFRICA. (1) To carry out the goals of the Ten Year Plan in Africa under the direction of the National Assembly. (2) To obtain translations of Bahá'í literature into African languages and to advise the Publishing Trust regarding their publication.'

Henry Backwell (Chairman), Dorothy Ferraby (Secretary), Joan Benfield, John Ferraby, Joan Giddings, Constance Langdon-Davies, Ian Semple.

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST. 'To be responsible for the policy and direction of the affairs of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly.'

John Shortland (Chairman), John Ferraby (Manager and Secretary), Reginald Coulson (Treasurer and Distribution Manager), Constance Langdon-Davies, Geoffrey Rideout.

CHILD EDUCATION. 'To study, advise and encourage Bahá'í education of children and provide suitable material.'

Terry Dunne, Lilo Jessen, Jean Pitcher, Louis Ross-Enfield, Margaret Shanks.

EUROPEAN AND ASIAN TEACHING COMMITTEE. 'To carry out the goals of the Ten Year Plan in Europe and Asia under the direction of the National Assembly.'

Hasan Balyuzi (Chairman), Barbara Simmonds (Secretary), Jean Campbell, Clarence Clarke, Alma Gregory, Egon Kamming, Marcel Mihaeloff.

HAZIRATU'L-QUDS. '(1) To carry on the search, to send in a surveyor to a building as necessary; no final choice to be made without National Assembly approval. (2) Any application to the authorities for permission, about fire precautions, or anything else, to be made by the Secretary of the National Assembly. (3) If a permit is granted and price approved, to get a builder to give estimates for repairs, alterations and decorations. (4) To consider the needs and uses of the building in consultation with the people who will use it.'

Dorothy Ferraby, John Ferraby, Constance Langdon-Davies, Donald Millar, Eruch Munsiff, Geoffrey Rideout (Secretary).

NATIONAL TEACHING. 'To be in charge of carrying out the objectives of the Ten Year Plan in regard to teaching and consolidation in the areas of the British Isles not included in the European Teaching Plan, and to supervise and direct the work of the Regional Committees.'

Richard Backwell (Chairman), Betty Reed (Secretary), Aileen Beale, Gladys Backwell, Ernest Gregory, Marian Mihaeloff, Olive Sutton.

REGIONAL TEACHING. 'To act as the executive arm of the National Teaching Committee in regard to the maintenance of a high volume of teaching work in their area and in any other matters referred to them by the National Teaching Committee.'

Northern. Stella Farnsworth, Habib Habibi, Joe Lee, Stan Lowe, Ernest Miller, Phyllis Lewis.

Southern. Ethna Archibald, Abdul Banani, Elizabeth Blumer, Robert Cheek, Bobbie Leedham, Sirous Sitarih.

Scottish. George Marshall, John Muirhead, Lilian Muirhead, Marian Mihaeloff, James Robertson.

VISUAL AIDS. Hasan Balyuzi, Vivian Isenthal, Donald Millar, Marina Nazar.

European News

Mr. Eskil Ljungberg, pioneer in the *Faroës*, has been ill in hospital and has had an operation. An English friend of his in the *Faroës* was recently asked to write an article for *New Universal Union* of Tihrán and included in his article sympathetic references to the Faith and its teachings.

A visitor who has just returned from the Northern Islands speaks of our pioneer in the *Orkneys*, Charles Dunning: 'His efforts have been valiant; his courage stands out as an example to pioneers everywhere. He has surely earned the title that our Beloved Guardian has bestowed upon him. Charles and I had many prayers together, and in his times of great loneliness they are his only source of strength.' Of his visit to the *Shetlands* our friend says that like other pioneers,

Brigitte Hasselblatt, the pioneer in Lerwick, feels the great loneliness and need of meeting with other Bahá'ís and any Bahá'í who can make an effort to visit her will be richly rewarded. 'Brigitte has made her presence felt in numerous ways, and by living the Bahá'í life has been a source of strength and healing to many. The smallness of the island community gives its people an unconscious awareness of the need to enrich its life from every possible outside source.' Our pioneer here now has a permanent job in her own profession.

Our friend sums up 'My visit to the North has proved a most stimulating experience, has made me aware of the variety of hazards and bounties that are the lot of pioneers in the World Crusade, and has enabled me to witness and feel the Power of Bahá'u'lláh in a place chosen by our Beloved Guardian to receive the presence of the believers, that the fragrances of God may be diffused among all peoples to the very ends of the earth.'

Geraldine Craney, the pioneer in the *Hebrides*, has now obtained a different job.

Mr. Asgarzadeh, the pioneer in the *Channel Islands*, has been ill, but is now recovering, and eagerly awaiting the return of the Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Miss Baxter, to Jersey.

Dr. John Mitchell has left to pioneer in *Malta*, and will join our other pioneer, Mrs. Olga Mills.

AFRICA

(Second instalment of the account of the journey made by Violette and Ali Nakhjavani across Africa.)

It took us over a week to reach the little port of Matadi, where Madame Molitor, the only woman Bahá'í in the Congo, lived. Although she was ill in bed, Ali and I met her that evening and together we planned to go to Leopoldville as soon as possible, to make arrangements for the settlement of Max in Brazzaville ...

It was September 20th when we arrived in Leopoldville, the capital of the Belgian Congo, the biggest city in East and Central Africa, and probably the most expensive in all Africa.

Before going further a word should be said as to the relationship of Leopoldville and Brazzaville. These two towns face each other across the Congo River ... They are only ten to fifteen minutes distant by boat.

We first discussed the best approach to the problem of getting Max settled. Madame Molitor had a brilliant idea. Being herself an artist, she appreciated the fact that Max, too, had done some painting. She suggested that we contact a French painter in Brazzaville who has a school of art for Africans. His idea is to encourage and develop the native style of painting among Africans with artistic ability. He holds exhibitions of these paintings and in that way finds sale for the pictures, takes part of the proceeds for himself and gives the rest to the artist ...

Madame Molitor first went with us to visit this school and to speak about Max to the French artist. During this very first visit we noticed the great interest of the teacher in having for the first time a student

from East Africa. He suggested that within a few days Max should visit him and show him some samples of his painting.

The next time Max, with his pictures, went with us and fortunately the teacher approved of him and his paintings and agreed to take him into his school. On the strength of this promise we immediately approached the Immigration Office where he was promised a resident permit if he could furnish an immigration bond of 50,000 French francs. All this was immediately cabled to the British Africa Committee and they agreed to give the bond. When filling in the form at the Immigration Office, Max was asked whether he was Protestant or Catholic and he very bravely answered, 'I am a Bahá'í'. This brought further questioning from the official since this was the first time he had ever heard the word Bahá'í. He accepted the assurance that the Bahá'í Faith had nothing whatever to do with any political movements but its teachings were highly spiritual and educated the character of men. So for the first time the name Bahá'í was entered in the official records of French Equatorial Africa. It was about a week since we had taken the first step toward Max's settlement in Brazzaville until he actually moved there, was settled by his art teacher and on September 26th sent a cable to the Guardian, giving the glad tidings of his residence in this virgin territory.

The Law of Consultation

Dear Bahá'í Friend,

We left off at that part of our letter which mentioned the seven objectives of the Law of Consultation, and you will have seen plainly that the blend of individual action, the merging of our individual will with the wills of others, is the first visible fruit of consultation.

In the Bahá'í magazine *World Order*, Marzieh Gail has made a contribution which is of considerable value as we think about the Law of Consultation. She recalls first the qualities which the Guardian has told us fit the individual for consultation: 'unquestioned loyalty, selfless devotion, a well trained mind . . . recognised ability and mature experience'. She then continues, 'True Bahá'í consultation is something to remember. In the moments when we, groping towards the techniques of the future, experience collective harmony, then we become briefly a composite reflection of spiritual light; the world is a lovely place to be in. Perhaps to the amateur, pleasure results when a committee reaches harmony because of the members' similarity to one another, but to the connoisseur, the real joy of harmony is only reached when dissimilarities are at work together, when opposites are reconciled, when tension is balanced, poised, distributed . . . There is a secret it seems to me that makes Bahá'í consultation a very easy thing. It is found in the Visitation Tablet that we chant in the Shrine of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The particular words I am thinking of are, "Make me as dust in the pathway of thy loved ones". Nine persons who are all striving for this goal will experience few administrative difficulties. What it means really is that Assembly members must love one another. If they do not they will poison their community, which will

then become too weak either to attract new members or retain old ones'.

In those simple terms Marzieh Gail focuses our need, and outlines for us a direct approach to successful consultation.

The Bahá'í World is faced with a tremendous task, and its success depends to a large measure on the full implementation of the Law of Consultation. In capital cities and in remote country villages Bahá'í assemblies are consulting; the subject of urgency is the Guardian's call for 'a rapid increase in numbers'. The success of our Ten Year Plan in Great Britain is closely linked with the consultation of our local assemblies. Bahá'u'lláh's words about an assembly's duty are strong and clear. The assembly must consult. Teaching and spreading the Cause must be the core of our purpose throughout. To fail to consult will hamper the Cause, render ineffective the effort and sacrifice of others, and eventually put an extra burden on someone. But true Bahá'í consultation will open new channels and further the spread of the Faith. It is our privilege to serve on local assemblies, and to be amongst the first people in the world to operate the basic Bahá'í Law of Consultation; so let us consult together and then put our decisions into action with the utmost despatch—'There is no more time!'.
With loving greetings,
NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

National Assembly Bye-Election

Thirty-nine valid votes were cast. In addition 2 votes were cast for people already on the Assembly and 4 votes were posted late.

Ernest Gregory	...	...	10 votes
Ian Semple	...	...	10 "
Eruch Munsiff	...	...	5 "
Donald Millar	...	...	2 "

Ethna Archibald, Gladys Backwell, Joan Benfield, Robert Cheek, Alma Gregory, Kathleen Hornell, Vivian Isenthal, Joe Jameson, Ernest Miller, Jean Pitcher, James Robertson, John Shortland—1 each.

At the re-vote, 45 valid votes were cast and 4 were posted late.

Ernest Gregory	...	...	24 votes
Ian Semple	...	...	21 "

Treasury

Treasurer's Address: Ernest Gregory, 51 Herries Drive, Sheffield 5.

International Fund: Contributions should be sent to A. Norton, 41 Cranbourne Road, Chellow Dene, Bradford.