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THE GUARDIAN'S MESSAGES TO THE FOURTH INTER-CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE

Well-beloved Friends,

With high hopes and a joyful heart I acclaim the convocation, in the leading city of the Indian sub-continent, of the fourth and last of the Intercontinental Teaching Conferences of a memorable Holy Year commemorating the centenary of the birth of the Prophetic Mission of Bahá'u'lláh.

On this historic occasion, when the members of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, of the Dominion of Canada, of Central and of South America, of Persia, of the Indian sub-continent and of Burma, of Iraq and of Australasia, as well as representatives of the sovereign states and dependencies of the Asiatic continent, of the Republics of the North, Central and South America, and of Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania are assembled, and are to deliberate on the needs and requirements of the recently launched triple campaign embracing the Asiatic mainland, the Australian continent and the islands of the Pacific Ocean — a campaign which may well be regarded as the most extensive, the most arduous and the most momentous of all the campaigns of a world-girdling crusade, and which, in its scope, is unparalleled in the history of the Faith in the entire Eastern Hemisphere — my thoughts, on such an occasion, go back to the early dawn of our Faith, to those unforgettable scenes of matchless heroism, of dark tragedy, of imperishable glory which heralded its birth, and accompanied the spread of its infant Light, in the heart of the Asiatic continent.

I vividly recall the meteoric rise of the Faith of the Báb in the provinces of Persia and the stirring episodes associated with His cruel incarceration in the mountain-fastnesses of Ádhirbáyján, with the revelation of the laws of His Dispensation, with the proclamation of the independence of His Faith, with the peerless heroism of His disciples, with the fiendish cruelty of His foes — the Chief Magistrate, the civil authorities, the ecclesiastical dignitaries and the masses of the people, of His native land — with the humiliation, the spoliation, the dispersal, the eventual massacre of a vast number of His followers, and, above all, with His own execution in the City of Tabriz.

With a throb of wonder I call to mind the early and sudden fruition of His Dispensation in the capital city of that land, and the dramatic circumstances attending the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation culminating in His precipitate banishment to Iraq.

I am reminded, moreover, of the initial spread of the light of this Revelation, in consequence of the banishment of Bahá'u'lláh, to the adjoining territories of Iraq, and, as far as the western fringes of that continent, to Turkey and the neighbouring territories of Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, and, at a later stage, to the Indian sub-continent and China, situated on the southern and eastern extremities of that continent, as well as to the Caucasus and Russian Turkistan.

Nor can I fail to remember the series of alternating crises and victories — each constituting a landmark in the evolution of the Faith — which it has experienced in some of these territories associated with the distressful withdrawal of its Author to the mountains of Sulaymáníyyih; with the glorious Declaration of His Mission in Baghdád; with his second and third banishments to Constantinople and Adrianople; with the grievous rebellion of His half-brother; with the proclamation of His own Mission; with His fourth banishment to the desolate and far-off penal colony of 'Akká in Syria; with the revelation of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, His Most Holy Book; with His ascension in the Holy Land; with the establishment of His Covenant and the inauguration of the Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, His son and the Exemplar and authorised interpreter of His teachings.

These opening stages in the evolution of His Faith in the Asiatic continent were followed, while the first and Apostolic Age of His Dispensation was drawing to a close, by the opening of the islands situated in the Pacific Ocean, Japan in the north, and the Australian continent in the south. To these memorable chapters of Asian Bahá'í history another was soon added, on the morrow of the ascension of the Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant, and during the initial epoch of the Formative Age of the Faith, distinguished by the rise of the Administrative Order and the erection of its pillars in the cradle of that Faith, in Iraq, in India, Pakistan and Burma and in the Antipodes. This memorable episode in its development in that vast continent was succeeded by the initiation, during the second epoch of that same age, of a series of plans in those same territories in support of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan and as a prelude to the opening of the recently launched world-embracing Spiritual Crusade.

The hour has now struck for this continent on whose soil, more than a century ago, so much sacred blood was shed, in whose very heart deeds of such tragic

heroism were performed, and in many of whose territories such brilliant victories have been won, to contribute, in association with its sister continents, to the progress and ultimate triumph of this global crusade in a manner befitting its unrivalled position in the entire Bahá'í world. (The goals in Asia follow. They may be found in *The Bahá'í Faith, 1844–1952*.)

The Asiatic continent, the cradle of the principal religions of mankind; the home of so many of the oldest and mightiest civilisations which have flourished on this planet; the crossways of so many kindreds and races; the battleground of so many peoples and nations; above whose horizon, in modern times, the suns of two independent Revelations—the promise and consummation of a six thousand-year-old religious cycle—have successively arisen; where the Authors of both of these Revelations suffered banishment and died; within whose confines the Centre of a divinely-appointed Covenant was born, endured a forty-year incarceration and passed away; on whose western extremity the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world has been definitely established; in whose heart the City proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh as the 'Mother of the World' is enshrined; within whose borders another City regarded as the 'Cynosure of an adoring world' and the scene of the greatest and most glorious Revelation the world has witnessed is embosomed; on whose soil so many saints, heroes and martyrs, associated with both of these Revelations, have lived, struggled and died—such a continent, so privileged among its sister continents and and yet so long and so sadly tormented, now stands at the hour of the launching of a world-encompassing crusade, on the threshold of an era that may well recall in its glory and ultimate repercussions the great periods of spiritual revival which, from the dawn of recorded history have, at various stages in the revelation of God's purpose for mankind, illuminated the path of the human race.

Cables

'Occasion conclusion Holy Year overjoyed share following triple announcement attendants fourth, final Intercontinental Teaching Conference marking termination festivities associated Centenary Birth Bahá'u'lláh's Prophetic Mission. Five year old, three-quarter-million-dollar enterprise constituting final stage initial epoch evolution process initiated over sixty years ago (by) Founder Faith (at) heart mountain God consummated. Finishing touches installation stained glass windows Drum, Octagon; removal scaffolding exterior, interior edifice; interior calcimining Dome, Drum, Octagon; tuckpointing, cleaning flood-lighting entire structure completed, synchronising closing weeks glorious twelve-month annals holy Faith. Steadily swelling through visitors far near, many days exceeding thousand, flocking gates leading inner sanctuary majestic mausoleum, paying homage Queen Carmel enthroned God's Mountain crowned glowing gold, robed shimmering white, girdled emerald green, enchanting every eye from air, sea, plain, hill. Moved request attendants Conference hold befitting memorial gathering pay tribute Hand Cause Sutherland Maxwell, immortal architect arcade, super-structure Shrine. Feel moreover acknowledgment be made same gathering (to) unflagging labours, vigilance Hand Cause Ugo Giachery

negotiating contracts, inspecting despatching all materials required construction edifice, as well as assiduous constant care Hand Cause Leroy Ioas supervising construction both Drum, Dome. To two doors Shrine recently named after first two aforementioned Hands, Octagon door now added henceforth associated third Hand who contributed raising stately sacred structure.

Second announcement, world-wide process settlement virgin areas globe accelerated arrival following pioneers respective posts Cora Oliver, British Honduras; Carole Dwight Allen, Greece; Mr. Mrs. Xavier Rodriques, Portuguese Guinea; Brigitte Hasselblatt, Shetlands; Elizabeth Hopper, Ada Schott, Sara Kenny, Mrs. Duffield, Madeira; H. Snider, Key West; Hugh McKinley and Mother, Cyprus; Max Kenyerezi, French Equatorial Africa; Elsa Grossmann, Frisian Islands; Helen Robinson Baranof, Mr. Mrs. Ted Anderson, Yukon; Tabandeh Payman, San Marino; Rolf Haug, Crete; Una Townshend, Malta; swelling roll honour, raising number territories pale faith hundred sixty seven. Two additional pioneers proceeding leper colonies Puerto Rico, French Guiana. Two valiant pioneers India America preparing entry Tibet. Two more members United States National Assembly volunteered pioneer raising number five. United States pioneers departing twenty-four virgin territories ere conclusion Holy Year. Total United States pioneers applications two hundred forty-nine. Feast (of) Names celebrated last August two stalwart crusaders weather station Buchanan Bay, desolate Ellesmere Island, seventy-nine latitude, less seven hundred miles North Pole. Irresistibly unfolding Crusade sanctified death heroic eighty-eight year old Ella Bailey elevating her rank martyrs Faith, shedding further lustre American Bahá'í Community, consecrating soil fast awakening African continent. Third announcement, preliminary steps taken aiming acquisition extensive area head Holy Mountain, scene revelation Tablet Carmel, preparatory purchase site future mother Mashriqu'l-Adhkár Holy Land, made possible munificent hundred thousand dollar donation Hand Cause Amelia Collins, signalling opening second stage enfoldment mighty process set motion Author Faith. Triple bounty vouchsafed Community Most Great Name scattered face planet calls for tremendous, immediate, concerted exertion assembled believers adequately discharge triple responsibility. First, redoubled consecration pioneering task, particularly Pacific area emphasised Tablets Divine Plan, raising thereby ere adjournment Conference number territories opened Faith or assigned pioneers immediate settlement above two hundred. Second, demonstration increasing self-sacrifice through inauguration funds purchase land future Temples Asiatic Continent Antipodes, Baghdád, New Delhi, Sydney. Contributing three thousand pounds furtherance meritorious enterprises. Third, earnest consultation representatives Persian, Iraqi National Assemblies, directly concerned holy task, with assembled Hands Cause ways means conduct thorough investigation, ensure purchase Holy Places, particularly site Siyáh Chál cradle Revelation Author Faith, as well as identification transfer Bahá'í cemeteries relatives Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, constituting vital objectives ten year plan. Ardently hoping, fervently supplicating epochal Conference setting seal

celebration second Bahá'í Jubilee contribute unprecedented degree through character its deliberations, solidity achievements, scope accomplishments, ultimate attainment shining goals World Crusade, destined culminate not far distant Most Great Jubilee associated hundredth anniversary assumption Bahá'u'lláh his Prophetic Office.'

'Eve conclusion festivities commemorating Centenary Birth Bahá'u'lláh's Ministry, moved direct following specific message Hands assembled Conference. In grateful recognition multiple bounties showered rapid succession army Lord Hosts course Holy Year, auspiciously ushered through proclamation objectives World Crusade whose opening months witnessed convocation heart African Continent first Intercontinental Teaching Conference, whose climax signalled simultaneous holding heart North America Intercontinental Conference Western Hemisphere, dedication Mother Temple West, launching Ten Year Plan, whose record been ennobled two additional Intercontinental Gatherings successively convened European, Asiatic Continents, all eleven Hands called upon arise enhance abiding value strenuous exemplary labours last twelve months, constituting initial chapter their steadily unfolding world mission. Hour propitious tomorrow last Intercontinental Conference gird loins yet another, still wider dispersal extending one or two months, embracing Asia, Africa, Australasia, purpose establishing close contact National Assemblies, advising, assisting Local Assemblies, individuals, attain goals globe girdling Plan. Adoption following itinerary recommended. Mason Remey, Dorothy Baker, Horace Holley, India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon; Ugo Giachery, Persia; Valíy'u'lláh Varqá, Shu'áu'lláh Alá'í, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt; Clara Dunn, 'Alí-akbar Furutan, Australia, New Zealand; Zikru'lláh Khadem, Malaya, Japan; Tarázu'lláh Samandarí, Músá Banání, Arabian Peninsula. Contributing three thousand pounds assistance execution meritorious enterprise. Urge Persian, Indian, Australian, Egyptian, Iraqi National Assemblies extend utmost assistance, arrange schedules, publicise Faith wherever advisable, direct Local Assemblies utilise every means their power add momentum most ambitious undertaking embarked followers Bahá'u'lláh hundred ten years Bahá'í history.'

Land for three Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs

The following 'cable' dated 7th December was brought from Haifa to the American National Assembly by Horace Holley:

'Inform National Assemblies East, West, Bahá'í World Crusade — matchless its vastness, unsurpassed its potentialities (in the) spiritual annals mankind, announced eve Holy Year, formally launched climax festivities commemorating Centenary Birth Mission Founder Faith — (is) forging ahead, gathering momentum both its territorial (and) institutional aspects every continent globe, chief islands Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Oceans, Mediterranean, North Seas.

Number sovereign states, dependencies within orbit divinely propelled Order now totals two hundred five. No less seventy-seven territories won over (by) Knights

Bahá'u'lláh during little over half year, representing two-thirds total number virgin areas exclusive Soviet-controlled Republics, Satellites (which) must needs be opened course whole decade. Every single territory, whether island or situated continent, exception above-mentioned Republics, Satellites, definitely assigned.

Out total eleven, eight Funds inaugurated course same year, aggregating approximately two hundred thousand dollars, designed pave way acquisition sites future Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs Carmel, Canada, Panama, Italy, Sweden, Iraq, Australia, India.

Hour propitious all National Assemblies, particularly United States, British, Egyptian, participate befittingly opening three remaining Funds ere first year Ten Year Plan draws close, ensuring thereby early purchase sites future Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs Cairo, Kampala, Johannesburg. Contributing three thousand pounds my initial donation three-fold meritorious purpose.

Preliminary measures adopted (by) German National Spiritual Assembly, projects initiated Tíhrán, calculated hasten construction third, fourth Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs Bahá'í World heart European, Asiatic continents.

Appeal individual believers reinforce whatever extent possible contributions Bahá'í national bodies, called upon this hour unitedly lend impetus unfoldment opening phase Ten Year Plan whose consummation will, God willing, ensure triumphant conclusion initial epoch evolution grand Design conceived Centre Covenant (for) systematic propagation (His) Father's Faith. Advise forward all contributions, whether individual or collective, (to) Egyptian, British (or) United States National Assemblies (which are) primarily invested responsibility eventual erection Bahá'í Houses Worship north, heart, south African continent.'

Death of Three well-known Covenant Breakers

The following cable from the Guardian to the American National Assembly was dated 16th December:

'Following successive blows which fell dramatic swiftness two years ago ring-leaders fast dwindling band old Covenant-breakers (at) World Centre Faith, God's avenging hand struck down last two months Avárih, Faraed, Falah, within Cradle Faith (*i.e.* Persia), North America, Turkey, who demonstrated varying degrees, course over thirty years, faithlessness (to) 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

First above named (will be) condemned (by) posterity (as) most shameless, vicious, relentless apostate annals Faith, who, through ceaseless vitriolic attacks recorded voluminous writings, close alliance its traditional enemies, assiduously schemed blacken its name, subvert foundations its institutions.

Second, history will recognise (as) one (of) most perfidious among kinsmen, interpreters Centre Covenant, who, driven ungovernable cupidity, committed acts causing agonies grief, distress beloved Master culminating open association breakers Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant Holy Land.

Third chiefly remembered pride, obstinacy, insatiable ambition impelling him violate spiritual, administrative precepts Faith.

All three, however blinded perversity, could not have failed perceive as infamous careers approached end, futility opposition (and) measure own loss (by) degree progress, consolidation triumphant Administrative Order magnificently celebrated course festivities recently concluded Holy Year.'

Cables to Britain

On January 12th the Guardian cabled:

'Transmitting five hundred National Fund. Sent through Langdon-Davies rug from Bahá'u'lláh's Shrine and photos for National Hazira.'

On the same date he replied to a cable from Teaching Conference:

'Deeply appreciate noble sentiments dedication attendants Conference. Ardently supplicating fulfilment hopes achievement unprecedented victories. Deepest love.'

The cable from Teaching Conference was:

'Friends in session annual Teaching Conference Adelphi (blessed historic visit Master), hearts brimming love for Blessed Perfection, inspired your prayers and guidance, entirely dedicating themselves Ten Year World Crusade in rare spiritual atmosphere, conscious Divine bounties and Supreme Course, putting on their armour in silence. Devoted love.'

Covenant-Breaker

On December 30th the Guardian cabled the Indian National Assembly:

'Akhtar Khavari spiritually expelled Community. Association believers forbidden.'

THE EUROPEAN GOALS

OLGA MILLS, MALTA. 'I have been very fortunate in contacting Lady B—and am deeply grateful for this bounty. She is indefatigable in trying to find a post for Una . . . Una and I are so happy to have each other here, and we spent the last two Feasts and Bahá'u'lláh's birthday and the Day of the Covenant together in Una's nice little flat not far from where I am.'

CHARLES DUNNING, ORKNEYS. 'I have got two places to go for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. They tell me they are going to make me happy. Things have changed a lot and I get a lot of greetings now when I go out . . . I see in the *Journal* that it is advisable to keep pioneers at their posts and I make a strong appeal to all our Local Assemblies to try to help us pioneers with their ideas or even a letter, as we need it badly.'

GERALDINE CRANEY, HEBRIDES. 'I have some good news at last. I am once more amongst the ranks of the working class. Yes, I have managed at long last to get a decent job. What's more I am quite certain I am going to like it. The job is book-keeping with one of the large mills here, and of course there are a lot of young people there. I of course am highly delighted.'

EVELYN BAXTER, CHANNEL ISLANDS. 'I am relieved to see from the *Journal* that some of the pioneers are

doing better than we are—may they do better still! Our latest effort was to put the Principles in the *Evening Post* and an invitation from Mr. Asgarzadeh for people to come to him to borrow books.'

ESKIL LJUNBERG, FAROES. 'The result of the day—give thanks to the Lord of Might. Instead of two open hearts I found three, and two of them are half Bahá'ís already—it is wonderful how some people have been waiting for the Message for years and are beaming with happiness when they have reached the point when they can get answer to their hearts' desire. These two hearts that found me and invited me to their wonderful home are very fine and honest people and so open for the wisdom that Bahá'u'lláh gives them. I spent a very happy afternoon with them, the first home that has opened to me at Thorshavn, and it was a wonderful experience. From three o'clock to nearly six we talked Bahá'í, and then I had asked a man to dine with me as I had many things to ask him, not thinking to talk about the Faith but to get certain information from him. I am afraid the information I wanted is just as far from me as it was before the man came. We talked Bahá'í from six till half-past nine, then my brain began to be empty. To find the intense interest and understanding amazed me, it was more or less as to talk to a Bahá'í. I hope that this news will make you in some way a bit happy.'

For Meditation

The movement itself from place to place, when undertaken for the sake of God, hath always exerted, and can now exert, its influence in the world. In the Books of old the station of them that have voyaged far and near in order to guide the servants of God hath been set forth and written down.

BAHA'U'LLAH

Thomas Parry

The Liverpool Community have suffered a loss through the death of their oldest member, Mr. Thomas Parry at the age of 87.

Mr. Parry accepted the Bahá'í Faith at the unusually advanced age of 81. He seemed to have a good understanding of the teachings and was especially fond of Stanwood Cobb's book, *Security for a Failing World*, which he would often produce from his pocket to point out a paragraph or a quotation from the Scriptures.

Although his increasing infirmity and deafness occasioned some anxiety to his Bahá'í friends, as well as to his wife and family at home, Mr. Parry continued to make the long journey from Bootle to attend many of the Feasts and other Bahá'í meetings. In fact he attended the public meeting on 20th September only two days before the accident which led to his death in hospital three days later.

Representatives of the Liverpool Bahá'ís were made welcome at the funeral by Mrs. Parry, who is a Unitarian, and the family, and were invited to read a Bahá'í prayer at the graveside.