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'EPOCH-MAKING CONFERENCES ...'

The Guardian has sent two cables to the American National Assembly for circulation to all National Assemblies, announcing four Inter-Continental Conferences for the Centenary year. The first cable was received in America on November 30th, 1951.

Convey all National Assemblies Bahá'í World following momentous announcement.

Approaching Great Jubilee commemorating Centenary termination Bábí Dispensation, birth Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation Siyah Chal, Tihiran, as well as imperative necessity adopt effectual measures insure befitting inauguration third concluding phase of initial epoch execution 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, destined culminate hundredth anniversary Declaration Founder Faith Baghdad, impel me summon entire Bahá'í world, through eleven National Assemblies already functioning East, West, bestir itself, arise during sixteen months ahead through supreme concerted sustained effort, prepare for demonstration Bahá'í solidarity unprecedented scope, intensity, entire course Bahá'í history.

Forthcoming celebrations must be signalised through inauguration long anticipated intercontinental stage in administrative evolution Faith, marking its gradual development through successive phases local, regional, national, international Bahá'í activity. Initiation this highly significant measure, further cementing Bahá'í National Assemblies five continents globe, will be acclaimed posterity as counterpart consolidation Faith at its World Centre through recent formation International Bahá'í Council Holy Land.

Centennial festivities Year Nine, continuing throughout Holy Year commencing October 1952, must include, apart from consummation plans initiated various National Assemblies both hemispheres, formal dedication public worship Mother Temple West heart North American Continent and possible termination superstructure Báb's Sepulchre Holy Land, convocation four inter-continental Bahá'í Teaching Conferences to be held successively course historic year continents Africa, America, Europe, Asia.

First Conference convened by British National Spiritual Assembly Kampala, Uganda early spring, representative of British, American, Persian, Egyptian, Indian National Spiritual Assemblies, to which Bahá'ís residing Persia, Indian subcontinent, British Isles, every territory African continent invited attend, aiming planting banner Faith remaining territories, neighbouring islands east, south, west African Continent.

Second Conference convened by United States National Spiritual Assembly Wilmette, Ridvan period, representative chief trustees 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan, their ally and associates United States, Canadian, Latin American National Assemblies, to which Bahá'ís every State American Union, every Province Canada, every Republic Latin America invited attend, designed pave way establishment Faith remaining territories America's neighbouring islands both Atlantic, Pacific Oceans.

Third Conference convened by American European Teaching Committee Stockholm, Sweden, during summer, representative American, British, German National Assemblies, to which Bahá'ís each ten goal countries Europe, England, Scotland, Wales, Eire, France, Germany, Austria, Finland invited attend, for purpose gradual introduction Faith remaining sovereign states European Continent, neighbouring islands Mediterranean, Atlantic Ocean, North Sea.

Fourth Conference convened by National Spiritual Assembly subcontinent India New Delhi, autumn, representative National Assemblies Persia, India subcontinent, Iraq, Australasia, United States, Canada, Central and South America, to which Bahá'ís residing every sovereign state, dependency Asia, North, Central, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, invited attend, in order deliberate measures calculated open Faith remaining Asiatic states, dependencies, particularly south east Asia and islands South Pacific, Indian Oceans.

Address plea particularly convenors above mentioned conferences arise within short time (at their) disposal, prayerfully consider, carefully plan, energetically prosecute, respective sacred delegated tasks, take immediate preliminary steps issue invitations, fix procedure, provide smooth working, accord wide publicity, insure resounding success epoch-making conferences immortalising Centenary memorable year anticipated St. John Divine, foreshadowed Shaykh Ahmad, eulogised Báb, extolled both Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and constituting prelude Most Great Jubilee which will alike commemorate Centenary formal assumption Author Bahá'í Revelation His prophetic office, mark, God willing, worldwide establishment Faith forecast Center Covenant His Tablets, prophesied Daniel his book, thus paving way advent Golden Age destined witness world recognition, universal proclamation, ultimate triumph Cause Bahá'u'lláh.'

The second cable was dated December 3rd:

'Urge your Assembly, European Teaching Committee, British, Indian National Spiritual Assemblies, Convenors four forthcoming international conferences, airmail Holy Land carefully prepared list, each within own sphere, sovereign States, dependencies, American, European, African, Asiatic, Australian continents, still unopened Faith, as well as chief islands Atlantic, Pacific, Indian Oceans, Mediterranean, North Sea. Highly important. Regarded essential preliminary contemplated inauguration series plans East, West

involving co-operation eleven National Assemblies all continents, chief islands globe course decade separating Second from Third Most Great Jubilee. Herculean, epochal, global crusade galvanising entire Bahá'í world into action unprecedented Bahá'í annals, itself preparatory process consolidation structure Administrative Order, establishment local, National Assemblies newly opened sovereign States, dependencies, islands entire planet course succeeding epochs evolution Divine Plan.'

U.N.O. REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Paris, 1951

The British National Assembly sent two delegates, Dorothy and John Ferraby, to the Regional Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations called by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Organisation, held in Paris from October 29th to November 2nd, 1951. Fourteen Bahá'í delegates from eleven countries attended. The following are extracts from the report written by John Ferraby for the Bahá'í delegation.

Officers of the delegation were elected as follows:

Chairman: Ugo Giachery Secretary: John Ferraby

The Bahá'í delegation was the largest at the Conference; one organisation had ten delegates, the others not more than five, and many had only one.

The Bahá'í delegation is highly gratified to report that Ugo Giachery was nominated by the Department of Public Information for Chairman of Committee III on 'Special Problems of United Nations Information in Europe,' and was accepted by the delegates without dissent. As Chairman of one of the four Committees, he became *ex officio* a member of the Steering Committee for the Conference. As such, he was presented to the President of the French Republic, Monsieur Auriol, and also attended a lunch given by the 'Circle de l'Américain Latin.' This appointment was felt both to give publicity to the Faith and to enhance its prestige in the eyes of the delegates.

The Conference was a large one with about 200 delegates; moreover most of those present were experienced conference-goers. The opportunities for Bahá'í delegates to contribute were consequently more limited than at some conferences of non-governmental organisations. Nevertheless, some contribution was made in each Committee, and a number of delegates asked for information about the Faith.

The large Bahá'í delegation rendered the Conference an important Bahá'í international occasion and all felt they had greatly benefited by their contact during the period of this Conference with Bahá'ís from so many countries . . .

The following cable was sent to the Guardian:

'Fourteen delegates, nine countries, to U.N.O. Regional Conference, Paris, send loving greetings beloved Guardian, beg prayers.' (Nine countries was a miscalculation—ten countries were represented, apart from the American International delegate.)

The Bahá'í delegates were very pleased when a reply arrived during the Conference, dated November 1st, 1951: 'Praying success endeavours delegates. . .'

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE

It was established by enquiry from the Department of Public Information (Mr. Orrick) that the Bahá'í delegates from each country were reckoned as a separate delegation with one vote. The Bahá'í delegates agreed that unity in the Bahá'í vote was essential, and that the delegation would take its lead from its Chairman, who would so far as possible ascertain the views of the others. However, no occasion for voting arose, as all resolutions at the plenary sessions were carried by the Chairman asking if there were any objections to the resolution, and the Bahá'í delegation did not wish to object to any . . .

ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE

The Bahá'í delegates were very happy to meet each other and the Paris friends almost every evening. On Sunday, Tuesday and Friday evenings there were meetings at the home of Captain and Mrs. Marengella. At the Tuesday meeting, George Clarke, American pioneer to Luxemburg, showed Bahá'í films and slides which were much appreciated. On Monday, Mme. Dreyfus Barney held a meeting at which the Bahá'í delegates described the work of the Bahá'ís in propagating United Nations Information in their own country, and Mme. Dreyfus Barney explained the various relations it is possible for an international organisation to have with the United Nations Organisation. Wednesday night there was a well-attended public meeting organised by the Paris Bahá'í Community.

On the following Monday, the French National Committee of Non-Governmental Organisations received delegates. Jean Sevin represented the Bahá'ís, but refrained from signing the resolution proposed by this Committee, which pressed for the formation in each country of a Committee of Non-Governmental Organisations having certain defined purposes . . .

DELEGATES' CONCLUSIONS

The Bahá'í delegates wrote a letter to the Bahá'í International Community expressing their gratitude for being appointed delegates: 'Serving in this capacity has been an invaluable experience in international Bahá'í co-operation and in representing the Faith wisely and diplomatically in a large gathering of people of all kinds, interests and nationalities. We feel enriched by our service as delegates and hope to pass on this feeling to our respective communities to the benefit of the Cause as a whole.'

THE AFRICA PROJECT

African Bahá'ís. Our National Spiritual Assembly has just accepted the declarations of Chrispian Kajubi and Frederick Bigabwa, who have been confirmed in Kampala. These two young men, members of the Buganda and Mtoro tribes respectively, are the first African Bahá'ís of our Two Year Plan. This thrilling news has been cabled to our Guardian, and a cable of heartfelt congratulation and loving greeting to our dear African brothers has also been sent. Other declarations are expected very soon from both Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam.

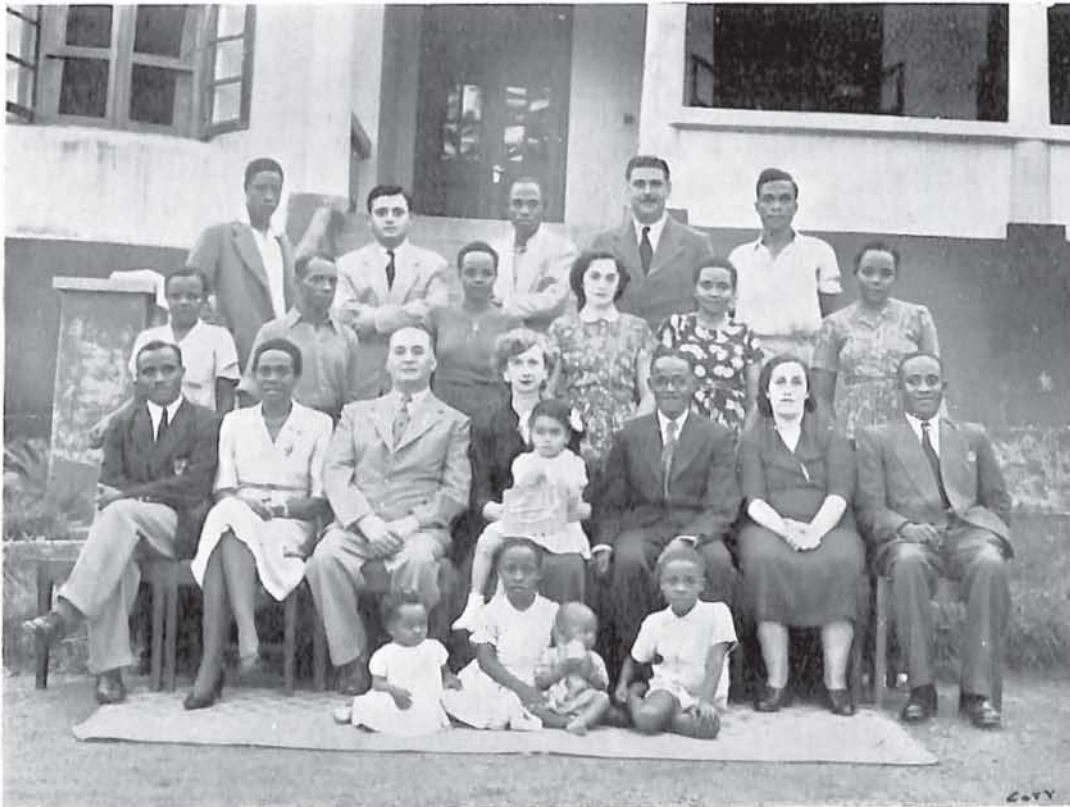
Pioneers. Eric and Terry Manton set sail for Beira, the port of Mozambique, at the end of December in the S.S. *Modasa*, en route for Northern Rhodesia, as the first pioneers to that territory, which the Guardian has assigned to Persia. On arrival they will travel to Lusaka, where Eric will seek work. Ted Cardell has been appointed photographer to an important newspaper in Kenya which owns a chain of papers in East Africa. Philip Hainsworth has been moved to Jinja and will in future be able to function as a full member of the Group at Kampala. Ethel Stephens, the first American pioneer, has been appointed to a post in the College of Technology in Kumasi to teach domestic science to Gold Coast women.

The Africa Committees of Persia, the United States of America, and Britain and the Indian National Assembly have received offers from a large number of volunteers for pioneering in Africa, and thirty-two are receiving active consideration.

There has been a good deal of illness in the Group at Dar-es-Salaam and prayers are asked for our pioneers there.

Africa Conference. In reply to an enquiry by the National Assembly the Guardian cabled on November 23rd that the Conference should be held in Uganda and the Africa Committee has provisionally chosen February 1952, as the date. A sub-committee is studying the details and the plans will be sent to the co-operating National Assemblies and Committees for consultation. The friends in Uganda are being asked to advise on local conditions. In a letter dated November 11th the Guardian wrote that the ideal would be to have at least one Bahá'í from every territory in Africa and that this was the goal to be aimed at.

Literature. The translations of the Bahá'í pamphlets are well advanced. The pamphlet in Twi is ready for publication and the translations in Yoruba, Adanwe, Ewe, Igbo and Luganda have been completed. It is hoped that some of these pamphlets will be ready by Convention.



Memorial
Meeting
for
Louis
Gregory
in
Kampala,
Uganda
Nov. 24th
1951

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

First Row (sitting): Mr. Makombi, Mrs. Mulira, Mr. M. Banani, Mrs. M. Preston, Mr. Mulira, Mrs. S. Banani, Mr. Kawoya.
Second Row (standing): Miss Elizabeth, Mr. Benezet, Mrs. Kawoya, Mrs. V. Nakhjavani, Mrs. Kajubi, Sister of Mrs. Kawoya.
Third Row (standing): Mr. Peter Musoke, Mr. A. Nakhjavani, Mr. Chrispian Kajubi, Mr. P. Hainsworth, Mr. Frederick Bigabwa.

The two new Bahá'ís are on either side of Philip Hainsworth.

'IN THE SOUTH ...'

BRISTOL. A series of public meetings are being held at the Grand Hotel; future dates are January 22nd, February 8th and 19th — supporters welcomed! A hundred posters were displayed for a meeting on January 8th with David Hofman speaking and St. Barbe Baker in the Chair.

CARDIFF. Several new contacts have been made here recently. Hugh McKinley spoke at the Royal Hotel on December 19th, and the friends are planning to use speakers who have visited Bristol for meetings on January 23rd and February 20th. Again supporters from nearby communities would be welcomed!

BRIGHTON. Thanks to the help and support of the London friends this community can plan and carry out more and more activity. Recently depleted by the return to Holland of new believer Geertruida Ankersmit, they are holding a large public meeting on January 24th, where Hasan Balyuzi will speak.

NORWICH. Each member of the community takes part in their two-meetings-a-week programme; their next public meeting is for February 3rd. We are grieved to hear that Sam Scott is again in hospital and pray for his recovery. The visit to London took place with great stimulus and success on December 3rd.

NORTHAMPTON. Their latest public meeting on November 27th with David Hofman speaking and Lady Hornell in the Chair was markedly successful, and the friends are embarking on an ambitious programme in spite of recent ill-health in the community. These friends have proudly seen off their *two pioneers to Africa*: Eric and Terry Manton.

BIRMINGHAM arranged a large public meeting for the evening before Teaching Conference, using the theme 'One God, One Faith, One World' (by kind permission of Northampton L.S.A.). Alma Gregory and Dick Backwell spoke, and Louis Ross-Enfield was Chairman. The public meeting on United Nations Day, at which Marion Hofman spoke, and an invitation meeting on November 22nd, addressed by Hugh McKinley, produced new enquirers.

LONDON has started a 'Contacts only' study-class in addition to their Thursday meeting and bi-monthly meetings at Caxton Hall. The Assembly has also adopted a plan of holding regional meetings in localities where the friends reside all over the Greater London area, as a prelude to Regional Teaching.

BOURNEMOUTH. The Local Youth Committee is extremely active in developing new plans for making contacts. A fireside or study-class is held in one or other of the believer's homes *five nights a week*! A very good write-up in the local press was obtained when Hugh McKinley spoke there on December 9th.

OXFORD. Specialised ability of some members keeps them night and day on Africa Committee work; although this means less in the way of teaching activity, the whole community is one hundred per cent. behind this great service. We ask your prayers for the friends here, so that both national and local work can prosper simultaneously.

SOUTHERN TEACHING COMMITTEE

IRISH NEWS

BELFAST. Believers here have been greatly helped and encouraged by the visit of Lady Hornell, who stayed for almost a month in November speaking at a public meeting on the 18th. New contacts were made and Dublin is still giving a helping hand with meetings. We are hoping very much to hold a 'week-end school for Bahá'ís and close contacts in the spring, near Belfast — more news of this later.

DUBLIN. The friends have been able to continue twice-monthly meetings at an hotel, the highlight of November being Lady Hornell's visit and talk on 'Why Pray?' It is hoped to produce a dramatic script some time during the winter.

Keenly conscious of our 'weighty responsibility,' we send warm and loving greetings to all friends in England, Scotland and Wales at this critical hour in the history of our Beloved Cause.

IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The Wide Circulation of Bahá'í Literature

In one of his recent letters, the Guardian has asked us to increase the dissemination of Bahá'í literature.

The Publishing Trust is keeping its eyes open for all opportunities for a wider sale of books. We are sending suitable books for review and intend to try and distribute any appropriate book through the trade.

Assemblies can help by getting books in public libraries or other libraries.

They can help by making it a routine to exhibit a wide selection of books at all meetings and by studying the catalogue and getting to know exactly what books are available.

They can think of new ways of distributing books.

At present the very elements of Bahá'í history are unknown even to the highly educated, and almost every reference to the Bahá'í Faith in non-Bahá'í literature is inaccurate.

It is up to us to make every effort so that by the Centenary year the Bahá'í Faith will be far more widely known through its literature.

Trade Sales

The Convention delegates asked the Publishing Trust Committee to investigate the proportion of Bahá'í to non-Bahá'í sales with a view to settling when the Trust could be brought more closely into line with normal profit-making practice.

The Committee estimate that five per cent. of sales are made to non-Bahá'ís. Normal business practice indicates that unless there is an existing demand for Bahá'í books, they could be sold in quantity through trade channels only if a great deal of money were spent on organising their sale. Trade sales will develop when the Faith becomes better known to the general public, and people seek out Bahá'í books to find out for themselves more about the Faith. The Committee believes this will occur when progress has been made with the appeal to the masses which the Guardian indicates will be developed in future.