

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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CABLES FROM THE GUARDIAN

The Guardian cabled the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States on 16th March:—

'Inform United States, British, Persian, Egyptian, Indian National Assemblies imminent purchase Haziratu'l-Quds Central Africa. Have forwarded my contribution 6,000 dollars towards historic enterprise. Appeal five co-operating National Assemblies participate through contributions meritorious purchase. Purchase price 5,500 pounds. Advise forward contributions Banani, Kampala.'

The Guardian cabled the American National Assembly on 26th March:

'With sorrowful heart announce through National Assemblies Hand Cause Bahá'u'lláh, highly esteemed, dearly beloved Sutherland Maxwell, gathered glory Abha Kingdom. Sainly life, extending well-nigh four score years, enriched course 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ministry services Dominion Canada, ennobled Formative Age Faith decade services Holy Land, during darkest days my life, doubly honoured through association crown martyrdom won May Maxwell, incomparable honour bestowed his daughter, attained consummation through his appointment architect Arcade, Superstructure Báb's Sepulchre, as well as elevation front rank Hands Cause God. Advise all National Assemblies hold befitting memorial gatherings, particularly Mashriqu'l-Adhkar, Wilmette, Haziratu'l-Quds, Tihiran.

Instructed Hands Cause United States, Canada, Horace Holley, Fred Schopflocher, attend my representatives funeral Montreal. Moved name after him southern door Báb's Tomb, tribute his services second holiest Shrine Bahá'í World. Mantle Hand Cause now falls shoulders his distinguished daughter, Amatulbaha Ruhyyah, who already rendered, still rendering, manifold, no less meritorious, self-sacrificing services World Center Faith Bahá'u'lláh.'

To the American National Assembly, 3rd April, 1951

Announce National Assemblies East, West, joyful news final implementation agreement Israel authorities, involving acquisition against payment hundred eighteen thousand dollars, eighteen plots, approximately six acres, precincts Báb's Sepulchre. Historic process establishment international Bahá'í endowments Mount Carmel, inevitably held abeyance fifty years after inception Faith, initiated morrow Bahá'u'lláh's Ascension

through purchase, course 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Ministry, limited number plots immediate surroundings newly erected Tomb heart Mountain of God, greatly accelerated through purchase extensive properties following Master's passing, necessitated unprecedented influx immigrants Holy Land, now further reinforced, raising total area owned slopes Holy Mountain almost fifty acres. Desire acknowledge indefatigable efforts exerted first western Bahá'í pilgrim since opening door pilgrimage, Lawrence Hautz, in hastening successful termination protracted negotiations civil authorities Holy Land.'

To the British National Assembly

The British National Assembly cabled the Guardian on 14th April:

'Kampala, Dar-es-Salaam now nine, Assemblies assured. Believe maintenance assured all assemblies except Blackpool where two gaps remain. Beg special prayers.'

The Guardian replied on 16th April:

'Overjoyed. Praying success Blackpool. Love.'

The Guardian cabled on 29th April, 1952:

'Deeply touched pledge British Bahá'í Community. Congratulate valiant members marvellous progress African Campaign, consolidation home front. Owing attainment objectives, advise concentrate Nairobi, aiming establishment Assembly leading, promising center British territories heart East African Continent. Fervently praying still greater victories. Loving gratitude.'

This was in reply to the cable sent from Convention:

'Convention expresses gratitude, pledges humble loyalty beloved Guardian, seeks prayers that British Bahá'í Community, in dealing with tasks confronting it, especially Africa, Consolidation, may with ever deepening unity, detachment, go forward under his indomitable leadership.'

Earlier the Guardian had replied on 22nd April:

'Delighted. Appreciate services pioneers.'

to a cable sent on 19th April:

'Joyfully report maintenance all assemblies assured by valiant effort last minute short term pioneers, including Mrs. Alai, Mrs. Yazdi recently arrived Persia.'

CONVENTION

Supplementary Reports, Ridvan, 109 (1952)

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

We have again succeeded by the narrowest of margins in maintaining all Assemblies in the British Isles. This has been achieved only by the sacrifices of several pioneers who have gone for a short time to weak communities. These have included two friends from Persia, Mrs. Alai and Mrs. Yazdi, who went pioneering within a few days of their arrival in the British Isles. We owe a debt of the deepest gratitude to all these pioneers, and it must be our first aim during the coming year to ensure that no such last-minute calls will be needed at the end of the Two Year Plan.

On the other hand, we are happy to report that Assemblies have been formed in both Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam this Ridvan, following the acceptance of two more African believers in each centre. Of the three original goal territories in Africa, only the Gold Coast now remains without an Assembly.

These are the outstanding national events since the Assembly's Annual Report was written; but international developments have been even more thrilling. The number of living Hands of the Cause has been raised to nineteen; the International Council has been enlarged, its membership and officers announced, and a Secretary-General appointed; great progress in the construction of the Shrine of the Báb and the purchase of further land on Mount Carmel has been reported; and the Guardian has indicated that an Italo-Swiss National Assembly should be formed next Ridvan.

Amongst the new Hands of the Cause is our dear friend Mr. Moussa Banani, whom the Guardian has instructed to arrange the purchase of a Haziratu'l-Quds for the Kampala Assembly, later to act as administrative headquarters for the future East and Central African National Assembly.

Some progress has been made in the complex negotiations with authorities concerning procedure for pioneers overseas applying for entry into British African territories. So complicated is the problem that a single application may involve co-ordination by two Ministries in Britain, an African Government, and a British Consulate overseas.

An important action taken by the National Assembly has been to assign the Africa Committee as focus for all communications with Bahá'ís in the African territories under British jurisdiction, so that the believers there will not be confused by receiving letters from two bodies in the British Isles. Even welcoming letters to new believers come now from the Africa Committee.

Further progress has been made with plans for celebration of the Holy Year, and particularly for the National Celebration in London next Ridvan. Suggestions have also been made to the European Teaching Committee about the programme for the European Inter-continental Conference. It is hoped suitable accommodation has been obtained for the African Conference, but final confirmation awaits the approval of the Uganda Government. Plans are being made to celebrate this August the Centenary of the Martyrdom of Tahirih.

In March, Marion Hofman gave up her National Bahá'í activities with the approval of the Guardian in order to work with David Hofman in his publishing business. No by-election was held, as there was only one more meeting of the Assembly before Convention. Her services will be greatly missed.

A new system for superintending the affairs of the younger schoolchildren from overseas has been made possible by Alma Gregory agreeing to undertake this work on a part-time basis. The increasing number of children sent to be educated here, some of whom were quite young, made it impossible to extend the system of voluntary wardens further, and the Assembly feels the new system should satisfy all concerned.

The first year of the Two Year Plan closes with much achieved, and much still to be achieved. We cannot afford to slacken for even an instant if the goal of consolidation is to be reached by next Convention. Bigger, more active, better administered communities are the goal. This Convention can do much to give the needed impetus which will enable the British Bahá'í Community to complete the Two Year Plan secure in the knowledge that all communities have been securely consolidated.

AFRICA COMMITTEE

Local Assemblies. The highlight of the last months of this year has been the achievement of Local Assemblies in two of the goal territories, at Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam. Both these assemblies formed at Ridvan and they were in each case made possible by the declaration of two further African believers.

Uganda. Besides the formation of the Kampala Assembly, recent events here have been the pilgrimage of Mr. and Mrs. Banani to Haifa, the subsequent announcement that Mr. Banani had been appointed a Hand of the Cause, and the purchase by instruction of the Guardian of premises in Kampala for a Haziratu'l-Quds. Kampala is obviously going to be a very important centre in the development of the Faith in Africa. The Guardian's choice of it as the site for the Africa Conference also emphasises this role, also his statement that it will be the centre for a future East and Central African N.S.A. Two American pioneers, Professor and Mrs. Collison, are now on their way to Kampala and will arrive sometime this week. With the Assembly now formed with four African members, the Collisons will constitute 'the community' until further new believers come to join them.

Tanganyika. Their new assembly at Dar-es-Salaam is noteworthy for consisting of Persian, Egyptian, British, African and Indian members. We feel it would be a good thing if an American pioneer could also be routed there and are making efforts in this direction. They report quite a few close contacts besides the recent declarations, and they are reaching various races, African, European and Indian.

Kenya. The tragic death of Marguerite Preston in February on her way back to her pioneer post in Kenya was a severe loss to this territory, for having lived there six years she had many friends and valuable know-

ledge or local conditions and possibilities. The Guardian has since advised us to build up Kenya, which thus becomes in effect another goal territory and we are hoping to send further pioneers. The one pioneer at present, Ted Cardell, is working hard and making many friends, though he feels the need of reinforcement and help. His work as a press photographer takes him on visits to various parts of East Africa and he has just visited Zanzibar, which is one of India's goals, and called at Dar-es-Salaam on his way back. Most important, Ted has just received permission to leave this week (23rd April) on a pilgrimage to Haifa. Thus the visit of another pioneer to the Holy Shrines and the Guardian will enrich the community and the work in Africa.

Gold Coast. Ethel Stephens, the American pioneer, is still the only one there and we are giving priority to this territory in an endeavour to build it up. Ethel is doing valuable work in breaking the ground, in spite of a lot of difficulties.

Somaliland. The Guardian has now advised that French and Italian territory as well as British may count for this goal and we are making enquiries about the first two areas on behalf of our Persian friends whose goal it is.

Liberia. William Foster, the American pioneer to this territory, which is America's goal in Africa, has been able to get a satisfactory job and was very fortunate in finding in the country another American Bahá'í already resident there. There is, moreover, one new believer, who has already been accepted, so that Liberia has a group of three, who are working hard to expand.

Northern Rhodesia. The British pioneers to this Persian goal, Eric and Terry Manton, have moved to Livingstone in the far south of the territory, where Eric has got a government job as an electrician. This job has the special value of providing living quarters. There is hope that one Persian family may be able to get permission to enter N. Rhodesia soon.

Persian Pioneers. Though a good many Persian believers have volunteered for Africa, they are having a lot of difficulty in getting there and none have succeeded in getting into the Persian goal territories so far. One has been definitely refused a visa and we are trying to find out from here in the name of the British N.S.A. the reason for this, in an endeavour to put the matter right and to ease the path for others.

We hope very soon to have an opportunity to consult on this problem and other matters connected with the Africa project, when Mr. Zikrullah Khadem, one of the recently appointed Hands of the Cause, who is a member of the Persian N.S.A. and Africa Committee, comes to this country, in the course of his tour of Europe at the Guardian's instruction.

Africa Conference. We had hoped by now to be able to announce definitely the premises and date of the Conference. We are trying to obtain the use of college premises in Kampala, but up to now we have not had final confirmation, though the people in charge are willing. The Committee in Uganda are keeping closely in touch and doing all they can to get the matter settled. Meanwhile the Committee here has prepared a draft programme which has been sent to the participating N.S.A.s and Africa Committees for comment.

The Guardian has told us that we may call on the Hands of the Cause who attend as his representatives to take part in the programme. Meanwhile we are investigating travel facilities and costs and hope soon to produce an estimated budget for the Conference.

Literature. The pamphlet in Twi, a Gold Coast language, and one in Luganda, a language of Uganda, are now ready. The translations into Kikuyu and Mende are now being checked and the translator of the Ewe version is considering the checker's comments. Our next step, following the Guardian's instructions, will be to investigate the possibility of other books in the most-used languages and also further languages for an initial pamphlet.

There has unfortunately been some delay in the appearance of *Africa News* from this country, due to the changeover in the Committee organisation, but an issue is now at the duplicators.

Committee Organisation. During February the Committee had unfortunately to lose its secretary and assistant-secretary, when David and Marion Hofman had to give up Bahá'í activity on account of their business. The Committee owes them a great debt for much devoted service. Dorothy Ferraby was added to the Committee to take up the secretaryship. The loss of two members resident in Oxford necessitated new emergency and pioneering sub-committees chosen from members living in London.

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

Final maintenance of Assemblies was achieved in the following manner.

Dr. and Mrs. Hakim moved from East Grinstead into Brighton, releasing Evelyn Baxter to pioneer to Cardiff. Elizabeth Gorvett, an original member of the first Assembly of Wales, returned there as a pioneer from London. Dr. Mostaqimi, from Persia, went to Edinburgh to take a post-graduate course. Lady Hornell, of London, accepted the pioneer post of Belfast. Mrs. Alai, newly arrived from the Holy Land, unhesitatingly agreed to fill the gap in Oxford. Mrs. Yazdi, arriving with her three young daughters from Persia, accepted the invitation to complete the Assembly in Nottingham. John Smith, on 18th April, agreed to pioneer to Blackpool from Blackburn and John Mitchell, of the Northampton Community, at the last moment arose to fill the remaining gap in Blackpool, thus completing our plan for this year.

Our list of pioneers would not be complete without mention of the gallant offer of dear Olga Mills to leave her excellent situation in Bournemouth and go out once more to pioneer anywhere she was needed. One of our student nurses from Persia, Nora Khaze, offered to sacrifice sixteen months of her nursing training in order to pioneer for the British Community. The Committee felt unable to accept either of these fine offers which entailed such tremendous sacrifice and possible hardship.

The goal for this year has been maintained with great difficulty and the Community is, once again, indebted to believers from Persia for help in many ways in saving our Assemblies.

Something which the Committee undertook during the course of the year was a consultation meeting with the three Yorkshire Communities. It is our hope that it may serve as a pilot model for future conferences of a like nature. The Committee invites the delegates to

this Convention to discuss the principle of consultation visits to Communities by the Consolidation Committee, either on a local or regional basis.

Another thing which the delegates might care to discuss is our recommendation that consideration be given to the use of a new terminology in order to enable both the Teaching Committees and the Consolidation Committee to get a more true picture from Local Communities. Often reports on the number of contacts at particular functions have given rise to over-optimism with regard to possible expansion in Communities. Confusion could be avoided, we think, by clearer definition in reports and we suggest that some term, such as Students of the Faith, might be used for those we now call close contacts, retaining the word contacts for all others barring the casual visitor who attends the occasional social activity and never develops further.

With regard to the financial aspect of the Committee's work, frugality in use of funds has been its policy and resulted in slightly less than fifty per cent. of the Committee's budget being used in nine and a half months.

In conclusion the Committee pleads with all our Communities to ensure that the progress which has been achieved with such great effort and sacrifice, and blessed by the fervent prayers of our beloved Guardian, may be continued without interruption right through the coming months, for then we shall, in truth, be able to report that effective consolidation has, at last, begun.

This Year's National Assembly

The following were elected:

Hasan Balyuzi, *Chairman*
Richard Backwell, *Vice-Chairman*
John Ferraby, *Secretary*
John Mitchell, *Treasurer*
Dorothy Ferraby, *Recording Secretary*
Alma Gregory
Constance Langdon-Davies
Louis Ross-Enfield
Ursula Samandari

Election of the National Assembly

All delegates voted, but as Bournemouth elected only one delegate, instead of the two allotted to them, only 56 votes were cast.

	Votes		Votes
Richard Backwell	54	Kathleen Hornell	10
Hasan Balyuzi	54	Betty Reed	9
John Ferraby	53	Gladys Backwell	8
Dorothy Ferraby	43	Henry Backwell	7
Alma Gregory	41	Donald Millar	7
Louis Ross-Enfield	36	John Shortland	7
Constance Langdon-		Habib Hazari	6
Davies	31	Joe Jameson	4
Ursula Samandari	28	Joe Lee	4
John Mitchell	20	Ernest Miller	4
Hugh McKinley	15	Mehdi Samandari	4
George Townshend	13	Marcel Mihaeloff	3
Ernest Gregory	12	Rustom Sabit	3

Richard St. Barbe Baker, Evelyn Baxter, Jean Campbell, Prudence George, George Marshall, Muriel Matthews, Jean Pitcher — 2 each.

Iraj Ayman, Reginald Coulson, Abbas Dehkan, Vivian Isenthal, Albert Joseph, Jeffery Joseph, Egon Kamming, Susan Kilford, Marion Burgess Norton, Florence Pinchon, Mahmoud Ramzi, Shamsi Sedaghat, Ian Semple, Nancy Townshend, Peter Wilkinson — 1 each.

National Assembly Meetings

The National Assembly has fixed dates for its meetings up to 3rd January. Dates after that will be fixed when arrangements for the Africa Conference have proceeded further. Meetings so far arranged are:

6th-8th June; 4th-6th July; 1st-3rd August;
12th-14th September; 10th-12th October; 7th-9th November; 5th-7th December; 2nd-4th January.

The London Assembly has kindly agreed to transfer its monthly Sunday meeting from the first to the last Sunday in the month to make this schedule possible.

Donation of Ring

The Convention delegates wish to express their appreciation to the donor of a Bahá'í ring which was sold at Convention in aid of Bahá'í Funds.

'THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD'

The collection of material for this biennial work has been put on a permanent footing by the appointment by the National Assembly of a collector or representative who will continually gather photographs, articles and other material for regular dispatch to the Editorial Committee in America.

Such items as appreciations of the Faith by prominent non-Bahá'ís, accounts of teaching projects, photographs of youth or adult Bahá'í gatherings, historical matter about the establishment of the Faith anywhere, human interest stories about the Bahá'ís, individuals or groups: all these would be gratefully received by the *Bahá'í World* representative for the British Isles: Hugh McKinley, 37 Brunswick Road, Hove, Sussex.

Please send *two copies* each of photographs, glossy face.

Any articles submitted should be typed double space, two copies, and not over 5,000 or less than 3,000 words long.

It is understood that all material is offered free for possible inclusion.

To Bahá'í Authors

A request has been received from Persia for contributions in English suitable for translation and publication in the Bahá'í magazine for women published there. Any article of a general nature dealing with scientific, historical, educational topics, or on methods of housekeeping is suitable. Articles on Bahá'í topics will also be appreciated. Contributions should be sent to Mrs. Ramzi, 19 Phillimore Gardens, London, W.8.

Additions to the Community

Since the last list was published in the *Journal*, registration cards have been received from the following:

Elsie Sharp, Bradford
Daryoosh Mehrabi (from Iran), London
Bettina Knights, Norwich
Elizabeth Cofman (from Italy), Eastbourne
Skaierite Krivans, London

CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

PROCEDURAL

1. The following Committee drafted a cable from Convention to the Guardian, which was subsequently sent: Mrs. B. Goode, H. Hazari, G. Townshend.

2. The following Committee was appointed to reply to those who had sent greetings to Convention: Mrs. H. Akeroyd, Mrs. B. Kamming, S. Lowe, G. Marshall, H. McKinley.

3. Messages to certain friends prevented from attending Convention were signed by those present and despatched.

4. Greetings on air letters were signed by those present and sent to the British pioneers in Africa.

5. A letter and a small gift of a book or flowers were sent to Olive Stockley. Lady Hornell and W. Wilkins were appointed to arrange this.

ADMINISTRATION

6. In view of the shortage of administrative manpower mentioned in the N.S.A. report, it was recommended that the National Assembly examine whether Bahá'í administrators could be trained by appointing inexperienced assistants to experienced administrators, thereby eventually increasing the trained administrative manpower available.

7. Recommended that the National Assembly try to establish closer contact with Local Assemblies.

8. The National Assembly is asked to study the possibility of organising workshops on administration at Summer School or at special Regional Conferences.

9. Recommended that the National Assembly take care not to appoint unnecessary committees; and in particular that they make sure expert teachers are not prevented from teaching because of their concentration on the administration of teaching and consolidation.

10. The N.S.A. is asked when appointing committees as far as possible to appoint believers in the same locality.

THE FUND

11. Recommended that a further statement be put in the *Journal* about Seven Year Covenants.

12. Requested that appreciation be expressed in *Bahá'í Journal* to the donor of the ring offered for sale at Convention.

AFRICA

13. Convention would like both to see more Assemblies established in Africa at the end of the Two-Year Plan and also to see British pioneers established in territories under the jurisdiction of other National Assemblies.

14. Recommended that the Africa Committee give attention to consolidating the Assemblies formed in Africa.

15. Requested that the Africa Committee this year give special attention to assisting the friends to contact Africans in this country, and organisations concerned with Africans.

16. Recommended that the letters to Convention from the Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam friends be published in the *Journal* and in *Africa News*.

CONSOLIDATION AND TEACHING

17. In order to prepare for the future inter-continental stage of the development of the Faith, when

we shall be co-operating with the European Bahá'ís, it is recommended that the National Assembly make every effort during the coming year to establish closer relations with them and takes advantage of any opportunity that may arise for teachers from Europe to serve in Britain or teachers from this country to serve in Europe.

18. Convention recommends that the Stockport Community place their recommendation concerning the formation of two Manchester Assemblies in place of a Manchester and a Stockport Assembly before the National Assembly.

19. Convention recommends that the Dublin Community pass directly to the National Assembly their proposal that three months' study be required before declarations of Faith are accepted.

20. Recommended that the National Assembly recognise the importance of visual aids to teaching and adopt such measures as are necessary to provide and make full use of them.

21. Alert to its responsibilities at this critical stage in the evolution of mankind on the eve of the Holy Centenary Year, and determined that the fruits of the Six Year Plan should never again stand in jeopardy, the British Bahá'í Community as represented at Convention enjoins the N.S.A. to call upon every community to establish a suitable goal directly related to the successful culmination of the Two Year Plan and tenders the following recommendations: (1) A fresh impetus should be given to the personal teaching campaign. (2) Each community should be called upon to hold an inaugural teaching meeting in a devotional setting specially prepared and appropriate to the significance of the occasion, i.e. (a) the believers' duty to teach; (b) unfoldment of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh; (c) Centenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Prophetic Mission. The purpose of the meeting would be to crystallise individual objectives, to organise its own teaching work and to provide for the continual review of its progress. At this meeting, suggested goals could include such things as (a) increase in numbers; (b) complete participation of all members; (c) enhancement of the prestige of Cause in the locality. (3) The place of the individual and the community, local and national, in the global development of the Cause as set forth in communications of the Guardian and the deliberations of the N.S.A. be kept constantly before the believers through regular contact, preferably personal. It is believed that in this way the 'three magnets' — (a) the faith of the individual Bahá'í expressed in action; (b) the Administrative Order in action; (c) the implementation of a Plan — will effectively be brought to bear to attract, confirm and deepen. We pledge ourselves to support all measures which will enable our Community to become fully equipped to occupy the privileged position promised to us by our beloved Guardian during the years that lie ahead.

22. The delegates will tell their communities about the above resolution when they return and will try to carry to their communities the spirit expressed in it.

23. The National Assembly is recommended to consider as part of consolidation integrating the Scottish

and Irish Bahá'í Communities more fully into the British Bahá'í Community.

24. The delegates regret the slow rate at which teaching and consolidation were organised after Convention last year and feel that the N.S.A. should make every effort to appoint committees as early as possible in the new administrative year. It is recognised that a committee acts until either it is dissolved by the N.S.A. or until its successor is appointed, which will normally be about mid-June.

25. The delegates would like to stress to Local Assemblies the need to observe the Bahá'í principle of visiting the sick which is an important part of looking after the welfare of the community and one of the cardinal duties of the Assembly mentioned by the Guardian.

26. It is suggested that Local Assemblies should, where suitable, keep in touch with the relatives of pioneers so that these relatives will not experience a sudden severance from the local Bahá'ís.

27. Recommended that an attempt be made to integrate the isolated believers into the national community by showing them Bahá'í love.

CENTENARY

28. The National Assembly is recommended to employ the services of a publicity agent for the Centenary.

29. Recommended that the Centenary Committee and the Public Relations Committee be combined this year.

SUMMER SCHOOL

30. The delegates approve the policy of the Summer School Committee in keeping down the number of long talks to a minimum.

31. Recommended that the proposal made at the Youth Conference about classes for 'under 20s' at Summer School be passed to the Summer School Committee with the recommendation that they make provision for these if they can.

32. The Summer School Committee is strongly recommended to arrange classes for the children and also to urge parents to make full use of these classes.

YOUTH

33. The Convention heard a special report on the Youth Conference held at Nottingham. Recognising the value of the contribution that the youth can make to the life of the national community, and that the tempo of youth work during the last two years has unavoidably been slow, the delegates would like to express their appreciation to the National Youth Committee for organising this conference and to the youth present for the spirit shown there. It asks that the report be passed to the National Assembly and recommends that the Assembly very carefully consider the points raised therein.

PUBLISHING TRUST

34. The Publishing Trust Committee is recommended to try to find means of training local communities in how to display and sell Bahá'í books.

35. Recommended that it be investigated whether the consolidation of any Local Assembly can be helped by placing their book sales accounts on a firm basis, either by their being given help in paying off the debt

to the Publishing Trust or by their being helped in the way in which they handle book sales accounts.

36. Requested that the National Assembly use money from the National Fund to make possible the printing of a Bahá'í diary for 1953; and that they go ahead with publication of the diary in any case if the offer mentioned by a delegate materialises and a few Bahá'ís guarantee the Assembly against loss on the diary.

CHILD EDUCATION

37. Recommended that a Child Education Committee be appointed which will study the American Bahá'í children's books and any other material available; and also meet Bahá'í parents at Summer School and discuss with them questions relating to child education and on the basis of this make recommendations to all Bahá'í parents about child education.

38. Recommended that the Publishing Trust be asked to have available at Summer School a specimen of each American Bahá'í children's book and to book orders for them.

'BAHA'I JOURNAL'

39. Recommended that the National Assembly ask the Persian National Assembly to send news for publication in *Bahá'í Journal*.

40. Recommended that more world Bahá'í news be included in the *Journal*.

MISCELLANEOUS

41. Recommended that Local Assemblies keep a copy of each *Journal* and other circular of the N.S.A. for their archives, so far as is practicable, and appoint a suitable member of the Assembly to store and look after these archives.

42. The Convention records its appreciation of the work done by the Persian Committee and of the help given to Consolidation this year.

43. The Convention records its thanks to the Officers of Convention, and to Betty Belevitch and Olive Sutton for taking shorthand notes of the resolutions passed.

A Prayer for every soul who wishes to carry it for Protection

O my Lord! Thou knowest that the souls are surrounded by misfortune and danger and encompassed by calamities and affliction. Every calamity hovers around man and every black ordeal attacks him like the overpowering serpent. He has no shelter or refuge save Thy Protection, Thy Watchfulness, Thy Preservation and Thy Safety, O Thou Merciful.

O my Lord! Make Thy Protection my armour, Thy Watchfulness my shield, the threshold of the Door of Thy Singleness my fortress, Thy care and Thy Watchfulness my refuge and asylum. Protect me from the danger of myself and my desire and guard me from every suffering, disease, affliction and difficulty.

Verily, Thou art the Protector, the Watchful, the Preserver, the Perfect, and verily Thou art the Merciful, the Compassionate.

'Abdu'l-Bahá Abbas

(Prayer specially written by the Master in response to a request by a group of Bahá'í students at Beirut in 1917.)

From *Bahá'í News Bulletin of Australia*
November, 1950

STATION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

II

Through all the Ages, in all the Revelations, this crowning Day of Days, and its Supreme Prophet, now known as 'The Glory of God,' 'Bahá'u'lláh,' have been in view. The Cause of God has always been one, 'exalted above the veils of plurality and the exigencies of number' (*Íqán*, p. 153), but it has been set forth according to the capacity of different times. No Revelation has ever been absolute; all have been fitted to the mentality of the people to whom they were addressed. Even to-day when 'He who is the Quintessence of truth, the inmost Reality of all things, the Source of all light is made manifest' (*Íqán*, p. 92), when 'the favour is complete the argument fulfilled, the proof manifest and the evidence established' (*H.W. epilogue*), when God says to man 'I have wafted unto thee all the fragrances of holiness, have fully revealed to thee My Word, have perfected through thee My Country,' even in this 'King of Days' all that the Supreme Pen has written has been in accordance with man's capacity and understanding, not with God's state and the melody of His voice (*A.H.W.*, 67 and 70). Even in the fulness of His declaration Bahá'u'lláh testifies that 'We sent forth while still wrapt within a myriad veils, an infinitesimal glimmer of the effulgent Glory enveloping the Face of the youth . . . He hath verily manifested a glory such as none in the whole creation hath witnessed inasmuch as He hath arisen to proclaim in His own person His Cause unto all who are in the heavens and all who are in the earth' (*Gleanings*, p. 75).

The Báb was acclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh as the 'Point round Whom the realities of the Prophets and Messengers revolve' as excelling in rank all the Prophets and the Author of a Revelation which transcended the comprehension and understanding of all their chosen ones. The Báb described Himself as 'the Primal Point from which have been generated all created things,' 'one of the sustaining pillars of the Primal Word of God,' 'the Remembrance of God' concerning Whom 'a separate Covenant hath been established with each and every Prophet.' He had cleansed the sanctuary of the abomination of desolation to which Daniel and Jesus Christ had referred in their predictions and ushered in the Time of the End.

(To be continued)

Yet the Báb, as the Guardian points out, regarded Himself as the humble precursor of the incomparably greater Revelation that was so soon to follow His own (*World Order of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 100). He was but a 'letter' of that 'Most Mighty Book' only a 'leaf' among 'the leaves of His Paradise' only a 'ring upon the hand of Him Whom God shall make manifest,' 'Who turneth it as He pleaseth' (*God Passes By*, p. 98). In one of His prayers He thus communes with Bahá'u'lláh. 'Exalted art Thou, O my Lord the Omnipotent! How puny and contemptible my word and all that pertaineth unto me appear unless they be related to Thy great glory. Grant that through the assistance of Thy grace, whatsoever pertaineth unto me may be acceptable in Thy sight.'

Bahá'u'lláh Himself, writing of His Own station in 'The Most Holy Tablet' makes the following pronouncement to the Christians.

'Followers of the Gospel,' Bahá'u'lláh addressing the whole of Christendom exclaims, 'behold the gates of heaven are flung open. He that had ascended unto it is now come. Give ear to His voice calling aloud over land and sea, announcing to all mankind the advent of this Revelation — a Revelation through the agency of which the Tongue of Grandeur is now proclaiming: "Lo, the sacred Pledge hath been fulfilled, for He, the Promised One, is come!" The voice of the Son of Man is calling aloud from the sacred vale: "Here am I, here am I, O God my God!" . . . whilst from the Burning Bush breaketh forth the cry: "Lo, the Desire of the world is made manifest in His transcendent glory!" The Father hath come. That which ye were promised in the Kingdom of God is fulfilled. This is the Word which the Son veiled when He said to those around Him that at that time they could not bear it . . . Verily the Spirit of Truth is come to guide you unto all truth . . . He is the One Who glorified the Son and exalted His Cause . . . The Comforter Whose advent all the scriptures have promised is now come that He may reveal unto you all knowledge and wisdom. Seek Him over the entire surface of the earth, haply ye may find Him' (*Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 104-5).

GEORGE TOWNSEND

YOUTH CONFERENCE, NAWRUZ 1969

This well-supported conference (with an attendance averaging about 26 at each session) was held in Nottingham on 22nd and 23rd March.

The enthusiasm and family spirit among participants bore fruit in many valuable suggestions for youth work in the immediate future.

In the programme were included a 'television script,' a Bahá'í drama (open to the public), music, dancing, talks, discussion and a quiz.

Thanks are due to all who supported the Conference in any way, and apologies for the error by which Ridván was announced (in the February *Journal*) as the date of the Conference.

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BAHÁ'Í WORLD

The following letters were addressed to the delegates at Convention from the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam.

21st April, 1952

Through the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles,

To the Delegates of the Bahá'í Convention,

From Kampala, Uganda, the scene of the first forthcoming inter-continental Conference, the residence of the Hand of the Cause for Africa, the town already witnessing the formation of one of the first two African Spiritual Assemblies under the Two Year Plan, the site of the first Haziratu'l-Quds in the heart of this Continent, and the future seat of the contemplated Central and East African National Assembly, we, a handful of Bahá'u'lláh's servants, unworthily instrumental in the establishment of the first Bahá'í administrative cornerstone in Uganda, wish to send through your N.S.A. and each one of you, to all the rank and file of believers in that land, our infinite gratitude for all the co-operation and contributions they have been making in these passing months, without which what has been achieved could hardly have been accomplished, towards the speedy development of the African Project.

May we request you all to have special prayers for the successful discharge of our tasks, the consolidation and extension of our work, and the winning of the good pleasure of our dearly-beloved, our cherished and revered Guardian's heart.

With loving Ridvan greetings,

MOUSSA BANANI
SAMIHEH BANANI
FRED BIGABWA
ENOCH OLINGA
CHRISPIAN KAJUBI
VIOLETTE NAKHJAVANI
PHILIP HAINSWORTH
PETER MUSOKE
ALI NAKHJAVANI

We print below a letter received by Joan Giddings from Faizi, beloved by many of our Persian friends, which describes a memorable meeting with Joan's husband, Second Officer Brian Giddings.

My very dear Bahá'í Sister,

Words fail me to express to you the depths of our spiritual happiness at having your dear husband with us for about nine days. They were indeed memorable days. When he came to our house, I thought he was one of the English people who usually come to me to have Arabic or Persian lessons, but when he handed me a letter and said 'That will explain everything' from behind the letter, I saw the word 'Spiritual' and when I opened it, I saw Mr. Ferraby's signature.

Then I knew that he was a Bahá'í and with tears in my eyes I could hardly finish uttering Allaho Abha and ran to the room and informed my wife that we had the most precious gift of God, the visit of an English Bahá'í to our humble abode. She ran and embraced her brother and we three were standing for a few minutes before we could say anything. The mysterious power of love emanated by God's new Faith was working inside. It didn't take us long before the friends knew about him and they all came and each had his or her own way of expressing love and devotion to their brother. Such unity of hearts and souls the world has never witnessed. In some minutes we were such fast friends that we could talk on any topic. All were interested in the conversation and extremely familiar. If he spoke to us of the Bahá'ís of America, or the friends in England, all of us had heard of them and with thirsty souls, we would absorb his news and glad tidings.

His mere presence was a great help to us. The English people in this part of the world live in a world by themselves. They are absolutely right in doing so, because there is no common factor to bring the Eastern people close to the English people. They do not go to Orientals' houses and scarcely eat with them at a table. Suddenly they witnessed by their own eyes that an English Officer lives in the houses of the friends, eats with them, takes pictures and goes picnics with them and when he sees one of them in the streets he stops, talks and even gives him a good hug. Well their eyes would open and ask us and then, they know that the power of Bahá'u'lláh has brought such a love and has created such an unbreakable unity. We went together to all the houses of the friends, to their shops and even to the shops of many merchants and everywhere we said that he is a Bahá'í from England. No night he stayed in our house without some seekers after truth. We gained a lot of information, knowledge and above all zeal from him. Whenever we were together, he would invariably speak to us about you. He told us how very bravely you taught him the Cause of God during seven years and how extremely grateful he is now. Enclosed I send you some photos we have taken during his memorable sojourn in Bahrein. He said that he would come to us every now and then. It is now one month and he has not returned. We hope to have him with us in the Feast of Ridvan.

My wife and our daughter May (eight years old) our son Naysau (three years old) send their love to you and dearest David.

Please be kind and convey our love and devotion to each and all the friends in your place. I very much hope to receive your letters and your good news. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do for you from here.

Awaiting most eagerly for your precious news I remain

Yours in His Love,

FAIZI