

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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MESSAGES FROM THE GUARDIAN

A SPIRITUAL OBLIGATION

The Guardian cabled the American National Assembly on April 24th:

'Emergence independent sovereign State Holy Land, synchronizing rise consolidation Administrative Center World Faith Bahá'u'lláh of which establishment International Bahá'í Council, construction superstructure Báb's Sepulchre, constitute initial major evidences; as well as projected acquisition extensive properties close neighbourhood Most Holy Tomb Bahá and precincts Shrine Mount Carmel, Haifa, essential their preservation, resulting far-reaching changes newly-established State, demand henceforth reorientation, necessitate increasing financial support, by Bahá'í National Communities East West through curtailment national, local budgets. Extent appropriations national, local budgets, communities both hemispheres, regarded spiritual obligation, left discretion elected representatives believers. Moreover, participation individual believers through contributions directly transmitted Holy Land imperative and beyond scope jurisdiction National Local Assemblies. Upon response privileged builders World Order Bahá'u'lláh depends nature, rapidity evolution World Administrative Center designed culminate erection last unit crowning structure embryonic World Order Bahá'u'lláh.

Distinguished co-worker Millie Collins, Vice-Chairman International Council, acquainting you pressing problems, projected plans, contracts afoot designed accelerate process initiated Holy Land furtherance supreme, momentous, highly meritorious objectives. Communicate message all National Assemblies.'

Progress at the World Centre

The Guardian cabled the American National Assembly on April 2nd.

'Announce friends East West completion two additional terraces marking termination scheme initiated quarter century ago designed fulfil Master's cherished desire connect directly, through series nine terraces, Báb's Sepulchre with Templar Colony foot Mount Carmel. Machinations Covenant-breakers, who succeeded shelving project more than decade, foiled.

Hail success enterprise, presaging day destined witness, as envisaged by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, pilgrim kings ascending this route pay humble tribute Martyr-Herald Faith Bahá'u'lláh.'

NEW TASKS

The Guardian cabled on May 4th:

'Owing recent instructions Persian Egyptian Assemblies to despatch pioneers five additional African territories advise undertake translation small pamphlets into Acoli Adanwe Ewe Fanta Mende Yoruba.'

He added on May 5th:

'Add Somali to languages already cabled.'

Lotfullah Hakim has sent us at the Guardian's request copies of the cables referred to above:

'Delighted news your letter urge your assembly imperative necessity despatch pioneers Libya Algeria promptly thereby raising number territories opened Faith Africa to nineteen. Eagerly awaiting news realization dearest hopes.' (To the Egyptian National Assembly on May 2nd).

'Announce friends number territories African continent where believers reside seventeen. Urging Egyptian Assembly settle pioneers Libya Algeria. Appeal friends Iran arise enrich splendid historic services Afghanistan Arabian Peninsula through despatch pioneers virgin territories preferably Somaliland Nyasaland Northern Rhodesia. Praying fulfilment Master's hopes illumination tribes dark continent.' (To the Persian National Assembly on May 3rd.)

Also of the following cable to the Indian National Assembly, handed him by the Guardian on May 5th:

'Appeal community valiant followers Faith Indian subcontinent arise lend assistance vast momentous newly launched historic African enterprise involving participation British American Persian Egyptian Bahá'í National Assemblies. Number territories African continent already settled course settlement over twenty. Bahá'í literature translated process translation twelve African languages. Urge despatch pioneers virgin territories preferably Zanzibar Madagascar. Praying great African victories expansion international

tasks already initiated dearly beloved self-sacrificing Indian friends south east Asia.'

Other Messages

The Guardian cabled on April 23rd:

'Deepest appreciation greetings loving remembrance Shrines delighted success.'

This was in reply to a cable from the National Assembly dated April 21st:

'British Community sends loving Ridván greetings all assemblies maintained.'

CONVENTION CABLES

The Guardian cabled convention on April 25th as follows:

Rejoice, thankful, proud sterling qualities fidelity, tenacity, intrepidity, British followers Faith Bahá'u'lláh conspicuously demonstrated course interval successful conclusion Six Year, formal inauguration Two Year Plan. Heartily congratulate delegates assembled occasion historic, numerically enlarged, epoch-making Convention. One year respite regarded breathing spell designed enable toiling, triumphant, valorous, high-minded, community recruit forces, witnessed unexpected display vigorous activity resulting first victories African field, preservation laboriously established assemblies length breadth British Isles. Two Year Plan now officially launched demands continuous unstinted, systematic support national elected representatives, all local assemblies, rank file entire community. Auspicious rays God's dawning Revelation which first struck corner vast dark spiritually decadent continent course Bahá'u'lláh's Ministry, which warmed illuminated its northern southern fringes concluding years Heroic Age Faith must now penetrate its heart, brighten its jungle fastnesses, envelop it with splendour their radiance course present succeeding epochs Formative Age Bahá'í Dispensation. Confident British Bahá'í Community will arise befittingly meet challenge now confronting it, achieve three-fold purpose Plan. Praying energetic collaboration prosecutors 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan with community believers belonging nation whose destiny been linked fortunes world's backward races, reinforced assistance sister community cradle Faith, national elected representatives leading community African continent, may ensure success crusade constituting spiritual landmark process: awakening African peoples, marking opening glorious chapter evolution World Faith Bahá'u'lláh, signalizing initial phase unfoldment mission community. His followers British Isles midst dominions colonies protectorates British Crown. May projected Centenary Birth Prophetic Mission Bahá'u'lláh befittingly celebrated convocation First All African Teaching Conference, representative black white races, embracing seventeen African territories now included pale Faith. Arranging transmission one thousand pounds contribution furtherance glorious objectives.

Convention sent the following cable on April 30th to the Guardian:

'Convention 108 inspired opening glory Shrine Báb by moving cable most generous gift offers humble

gratitude devotion beloved Guardian. Thrilled unfolding vision international activities. Acknowledges high responsibility committed entire British Community joyfully anticipate close consultation collaboration three sister National Communities in enthusiastic determined prosecution immense task Africa. We shoulder in mature consideration work consolidation homeland 48 delegates representing 23 Communities over 130 attendants including 17 nationalities send loving greetings ask your prayers.'

The Guardian replied on May 2nd:

'Deeply appreciate greetings high resolve attendants Convention delighted success sessions praying signal victories.'

TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION

'Heart filled thankfulness contemplation chain swiftly succeeding epoch-making events transpiring course fifth year second Seven Year Plan, rendered memorable through association Centenary Martyrdom Prophet Herald Bahá'í Dispensation, testifying God's unfailing protection, manifold blessings, vouchsafed Community Most Great Name, alike its World Centre, all continents globe. Divine retributive justice strikingly demonstrated through series sudden rapid devastating blows sweeping over leaders, henchmen, breakers Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant, foiling schemes, levelling hopes, well nigh extinguishing remnants conspiring crew which dared challenge authority, succeeded inflicting untold sorrow, assiduously plotted disrupt Will Testament, its appointed Centre.

Triumphant, resistlessly expanding, Bahá'í Administrative Order now embraces hundred six sovereign states, dependencies, constituting addition no less twenty seven countries since Centenary celebrations Declaration Mission Holy Báb. Number languages Bahá'í literature, translated, process translation, over eighty. Number incorporated Assemblies, Local, National, hundred ten. Centenary Martyrdom Herald Faith befittingly commemorated, synchronizing completion arcade, parapet, His sepulchre Mount Carmel marking termination two year, quarter million dollar, enterprise. Preliminaries erection two additional pillars Universal House Justice, culminating formation National Assemblies Central America, Mexico, Antilles; South America; successfully concluded following raising similar pillar Dominion Canada. Interior ornamentation mother Temple West virtually completed, paving way provision accessories, landscaping, preparation public dedication destined coincide twin celebrations consummation fifty year old enterprise, birth Bahá'u'lláh's prophetic mission. Prelude historic African campaign, foremost objective Two Year Plan Bahá'í Community British Isles, linking in formal association four National Assemblies, marked by departure first pioneer Tanganyika, plans settlement Gold Coast, Uganda. Contracts amounting over two hundred ten thousand dollars successively placed stones, window frames, railing steel, cement required erection octagon, cylinder, dome Báb's Sepulchre, raising sixteen hundred tons total tonnage ordered Italy. Quarter century old project terminated through

construction last two terraces connecting same edifice Templar Colony foot Carmel. Four Year Plan initiated Persian National Assembly promotion interests women members Community successfully concluded, despite increasing disabilities resulting recrudescence religious fanaticism afflicting sore pressed homeland Bahá'u'lláh. Notable step progress Bahá'í women Middle East taken through extension right membership Local Assemblies women believers Egypt. Third European Teaching Conference Summer School held Copenhagen attended hundred seventy seven representing twenty two countries. Second all Swiss Conference convened Zurich, foreshadowing closer integration ten goal countries European Continent through eventual formation regional National Assemblies Scandinavia, Benelux countries, Switzerland, Italian, Iberian Peninsulas. Bahá'í literature Greenlandic, previously disseminated as far Thule Etah beyond Arctic Circle, despatched radio station Brondlunds Fjord, Peary Land—eighty second latitude, northernmost outpost globe. Ties linking World Centre Faith newly emerged, rapidly consolidating, sovereign state Holy Land reinforced through delivery Ministry Religious Affairs Mazraa Mansion Bahá'í custody, recognition Bahá'í Holy Days Ministry Education Culture, following exemption granted Bahá'í international endowments, recognition accorded Bahá'í marriage certificate. Bahá'u'lláh's residence 'Akka, scene severe crises course ministries Founder Faith, Centre Covenant, renovated, furnished, added Holy Places already opened steadily swelling number visitors both local, foreign. Significant step taken City Governorate Cairo presaging eventual recognition state authorities Bahá'í laws personal status, already codified, submitted central Government, Egyptian National Assembly. Bonds binding Bahá'í World Community United Nations strengthened Bahá'í participation Regional Conference non-governmental organizations Geneva, Istanbul. Preliminary steps taken preparation final design Mashriqu'l Adhkár Mount Carmel by President International Bahá'í Council, specifically appointed 'Abdu'l-Bahá its architect. Process unfoldment ever advancing Administrative Order accelerated formation International Bahá'í Council, designed assist erection superstructure Báb's Sepulchre, cement ties uniting budding World Administrative Centre with recently established State, pave way formation Bahá'í Court essential prelude institution Universal House Justice. Hail particularly brilliant victory won American Bahá'í Community meeting financial requirements completion interior ornamentation Temple, eliminating deficit Victory Fund, exploits doubly meritorious owing added responsibilities courageously assumed assist enterprise African field, construction Báb's Sepulchre Holy Land. Thrilled multiple evidences simultaneous prosecution Bahá'í national Plans East, West; rise, steady consolidation, World Centre Faith, constituting distinguishing features second epoch Formative Age whose inception morrow second world war coincided inauguration second Bahá'í Century and which bids fair eclipse splendours preceding epoch, which posterity will associate with birth, rise embryonic World Order Bahá'u'lláh.'

THE HEART AND CENTRE OF OUR PLANET

The following is an extract from a letter from the Guardian to the United States National Assembly, dated March 29th, 1951, of which a copy was sent us by Lotfullah Hakim. After speaking of the contracts recently signed for continuing the work on the Shrine of the Báb and for ensuring supplies of the materials needed, the Guardian continues:

'... A drastic reduction in national and local budgets; the allocation of substantial sums by all national assemblies; the participation of individuals through sustained and direct donations to this first international and incomparably holy enterprise synchronizing with the birth of the International Bahá'í Council at the very heart and centre of a world-encircling Faith, can alone ensure the uninterrupted progress of an undertaking which, coupled with the completion of the Mother Temple of the West, cannot fail to produce tremendous repercussions in the Holy Land, in the North American continent and throughout the world. A period of austerity covering the two year interval separating us from the Centenary celebrations of the Year Nine, prolonging so unexpectedly the austerity period already traversed by the American Bahá'í Community, and now extended to embrace its sister communities throughout the Bahá'í world, is evidently not only essential for the attainment of so transcendent a goal, but also supremely befitting when we recall the nature and dimensions of the holocaust which a hundred years ago crimson-dyed the annals of our Faith, which posterity will recognize as the bloodiest episode of the most tragic period of the Heroic Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation which involved the martyrdom of that incomparable heroine Táhirih, which was immediately preceded by the imprisonment of Bahá'u'lláh in the subterranean dungeon of Tíhrán, and which sealed the fate of thousands of men, women and children in circumstances of unspeakable savagery and on a scale unapproached throughout subsequent stages of Bahá'í history.

No sacrifice can be deemed too great, no expenditure of material resources, no degree of renunciation of worldly benefits, comforts and pleasures, can be regarded as excessive when we recall the precious blood that flowed, the many lives that were snuffed out, the wealth of material possessions that was plundered during those most tumultuous and cataclysmic years of the Heroic Age of our Faith.

Nor will the sacrifices willingly and universally accepted by the followers of the Faith in East and West for the sake of so noble a Cause, so transcendent an enterprise, fail to contribute their share towards the upbuilding of the World Administrative Center of that Faith, and the reinforcement of the ties already linking this Center with the recognized authorities of a State under the jurisdiction of which it is now functioning, ties which the newly formed International Bahá'í Council is so assiduously striving to cement.

Already the completion of the construction of the Arcade of this majestic Sepulchre and of its ornamental Parapet has excited the admiration, stimulated the

interest, and enlisted the support, of both the local authorities and of the central government, as evidenced by the series of acts which, ever since the emergence of that State, have proclaimed the good will shown and the recognition extended by the various departments of that State to, the multiplying international institutions, endowments, laws and ordinances of a steadily rising Faith.

The recognition of the sacred nature of the twin holy Shrines, situated in the Plain of 'Akká and on the slopes of Mount Carmel; the exemption from state and civic taxes, granted to the Mansion of Bahjí adjoining the Most Holy Shrine, to the twin Houses, that of Bahá'u'lláh in 'Akká, and of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Haifa, to the twin Archives, adjoining the Shrine of the Báb and the resting-place of the Greatest Holy Leaf, and the twin Pilgrim Houses constructed respectively in the neighbourhood of that Shrine, and of the residence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá: the delivery of the Mansion of Mazra'ih by the authorities of that same State to the Bahá'í Community and its occupation after a lapse of more than fifty years; the setting apart, through government action, of the room occupied by Bahá'u'lláh in the Barracks of 'Akká, as a place of pilgrimage; the recognition of the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate by the District Commissioner of Haifa; the recognition of the Bahá'í Holy Days, in an official circular published by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the exemption from duty accorded by the Customs Department to all furniture received for Bahá'í Holy Places as well as for all material imported for the construction of the Báb's Sepulchre, the exemption from taxes similarly extended to all international Bahá'í endowments surrounding the Holy Tomb on Mount Carmel, stretching from the ridge of the mountain to the Templar Colony at its foot, as well as to the holdings in the immediate vicinity of the Resting-Place of the Greatest Holy Leaf and her kinsmen—all these establish beyond the shadow of a doubt, the high status enjoyed by the international institutions of a world Faith, in the eyes of this new-born State.

The construction of the Mausoleum of the Báb, synchronizing with the birth of that State, and the progress of which has been accompanied by these successive manifestations of the good will and support of the civil authorities will, if steadily maintained, greatly reinforce, and lend a tremendous impetus to, this process of recognition which constitutes a historic landmark in the evolution of the world centre of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh—a process which the newly formed Council, now established at its very heart, is designed to foster, which will gather momentum, with the emergence, in the course of time, of a properly recognized and independently functioning Bahá'í court, which will attain its consummation in the institution of the Universal House of Justice and the emergence of the auxiliary administrative Agencies, revolving around this Highest Legislative Body, and which will reveal the plenitude of its potentialities with the sailing of the Divine Ark as promised in the Tablet of Carmel.

I cannot, at this juncture, over-emphasize the sacredness of that Holy Dust embosomed in the heart

of the Vineyard of God, or overrate the unimaginable potencies of this mighty institution founded sixty years ago, through the operation of the Will of, and the definite selection made by, the Founder of our Faith, on the occasion of His historic visit to that Holy Mountain, nor can I lay too much stress on the role which this institution, to which the construction of the superstructure of this Edifice is bound to lend an unprecedented impetus, is destined to play in the unfoldment of the World Administrative Centre of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and in the efflorescence of its highest institutions constituting the embryo of its future World Order.

For just as, in the realm of the spirit, the reality of the Báb has been hailed by the Author of the Bahá'í Revelation as 'the Point round Whom the realities of the prophets and Messengers revolve,' so, on this visible plane, His sacred remains constitute the heart and centre of what may be regarded as nine concentric circles, paralleling thereby, and adding further emphasis to, the central position accorded by the Founder of our Faith to One 'from Whom God hath caused to proceed the knowledge of all that was and shall be,' 'the Primal Point from which have been generated all created things.'

The outermost circle in this vast system, the visible counterpart of the pivotal position conferred on the Herald of our Faith, is none other than the entire planet. Within the heart of this planet lies the 'Most Holy Land,' acclaimed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá as 'the Nest of the Prophets' and which must be regarded as the centre of the world and the Kiblah of the nations. Within this Most Holy Land rises the Mountain of God of immemorial sanctity, the Vineyard of the Lord, the Retreat of Elijah, Whose Return the Báb Himself symbolizes. Reposing on the breast of this holy mountain are the extensive properties permanently dedicated to, and constituting the sacred precincts of the Báb's holy Sepulchre. In the midst of these properties, recognized as the international endowments of the Faith, is situated the Most Holy Court, an enclosure comprising gardens and terraces which at once embellish, and lend a peculiar charm to, these Sacred Precincts. Embosomed in these lovely and verdant surroundings stands in all its exquisite beauty the Mausoleum of the Báb, the Shell designed to preserve and adorn the original structure raised by 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Tomb of the Martyr Herald of our Faith. Within this shell is enshrined that Pearl of Great Price, the Holy of Holies, those chambers which constitute the Tomb itself, and which were constructed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Within the heart of this Holy of Holies is the Tabernacle, the Vault wherein reposes the Most Holy Casket. Within this Vault rests the alabaster Sarcophagus in which is deposited that inestimable Jewel, the Báb's Holy Dust. So precious is this Dust that the very earth surrounding the Edifice enshrining this Dust has been extolled by the Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant, in one of His Tablets, in which He named the five doors belonging to the six chambers which he originally erected after five of the believers associated with the construction of the Shrine, as being endowed with such potency as to have

inspired Him in bestowing these names, whilst the Tomb itself housing this Dust, He acclaimed as the Spot round which the Concourse on high circle in adoration.

To participate in the erection of the superstructure of an Edifice at once so precious, so holy; consecrated to the memory of so heroic a Soul; whose site no one less than the Founder of our Faith has selected; whose inner chambers were erected by the Center of His Covenant with such infinite care and anguish; embosomed in so sacred a mountain, on the soil of so holy a Land; occupying such a unique position; facing on the one hand, the silver-white city of 'Akká, the Qiblih of the Bahá'í World; flanked on its right by the hills of Galilee, the home of Jesus Christ, and on its left, by the Cave of Elijah; and backed by the plain of Sharon and, beyond it, Jerusalem and the Aqsá Mosque, the third holiest Shrine in Islam—to participate in the erection of such an Edifice is a privilege offered to this generation at once unique and priceless, a privilege which only posterity will be able to correctly appraise . . .

FOR MEDITATION

Such things have appeared in this Revelation that there is no recourse for either the exponents of science and knowledge or the manifestations of justice and equity other than to recognise them. It is incumbent upon thee, in this day, to arise with celestial power and dissipate, with the aid of knowledge, the doubts of the peoples of the world, so that all men may be sanctified, and direct their steps towards the Most Great Ocean and cleave fast unto that which God hath purposed.

BAHA'U'LLAH

Shrine of the Báb

Mr. Norton reports that the Shrine of the Báb Fund had received up to May 16th £686 9s. 10d., of which £108 18s. 4d. came from Assemblies and £577 11s. 6d. from individuals.

SPRING CLEANING

Why not sell all those things that are neither ornamental nor useful and give the proceeds to the Fund?

Vida Backwell and Mickey Mihaeloff will be glad to sell them for you. Send your parcels to:

MRS. BACKWELL,
23 Cardigan Road,
Leeds 6.

P.S.—Remember the Funds are below danger point and the deficit must be paid by October.

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL

May 5th, 1951

To the Bahá'ís of the British Isles

Dear Friends,

The greeting coming to the members of the International Bahá'í Council here in Haifa, from the Convention of the year 108 Bahá'í friends gathered in London, was appreciated most deeply by the beloved Guardian of the Bahá'í Cause, and by us members of the Council.

Frequently the Guardian expresses his happiness and satisfaction at the pioneer work done in Great Britain, and now by the assiduous way in which the Bahá'ís of the British Isles are carrying on the pioneer work in Africa. Although at a long distance from the fields of Bahá'í work in different parts of the world, Shoghi Effendi is intimately in touch with the services of the friends, and the progress of the Cause in those distant parts.

Here in Israel, our Guardian is carrying on many works in connection with the completing and the maintenance of the two most sacred Bahá'í Shrines—the Holy Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh at Bahji, and the Sacred Tomb of the Báb on Mount Carmel; and in the improvements around these places of worship. In addition to this, he is improving and enlarging the gardens surrounding the Shrines; and has within the past few months restored and redecored the House where Bahá'u'lláh lived so many years in 'Akka.

These works, and other activities, the Guardian has been carrying on under great local difficulties, many of which arise from former Bahá'ís, who have now broken the Covenant established by the Master, and are, in reality, enemies of the Cause, thus causing Shoghi Effendi great difficulties and much suffering both to the progress of the Cause and to himself, personally.

The one great solace that Shoghi Effendi has comes through the growth and spiritual weight of the Cause, and the good news of the progress of the Faith in many parts of the world. We assure you that the good news coming to the Guardian from the activities of the friends of the British Isles brings him happiness and relief from many of his burdens that at times seem to us, who are here with him, to be almost unbearable.

With greeting to the Communities of Bahá'ís in the British Isles, we are,

Most faithfully yours in El Bahá,

INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL

By Charles Mason Remey,
President.

World Development of the Faith

Members of the Community are advised to keep all documents they receive concerning the world development of the Faith and of its World Centre, as these will be needed for a Conference that it is planned to hold at Summer School.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

We are very glad to be able to report that the status of all Assemblies has been maintained and that we enter the Two Year Plan with the twenty-four Assemblies intact with which we closed the Six Year Plan. Whether this could be achieved was uncertain right up to the eve of the first day of Ridván, when it became possible to send telegrams to the five Assemblies whose maintenance had been in doubt that they were assured of nine members. Moreover this has been achieved at the expense only of assistance to a few people to move and one additional budget until the pioneer finds a job. The thanks of the Community are due especially to the newly married couples who have made it possible for all assemblies to be maintained, Vida and Dick Backwell by Vida's move to Blackpool without Dick, and Isobel and Hassan Sabri by their move to Bristol after finding by great effort a suitable flat in Cardiff.

The Assembly has recorded its view that a new assembly is a new creation and must therefore be nursed along with a very lenient application of the laws of Bahá'í administration at first. With this in view the Assembly decided that it would this year accept a statement from the secretary of the local assembly giving the names of nine adult believers resident in the locality as a notification of maintenance of that assembly, and not insist that the ability or willingness of the nine members be first confirmed.

The number of voting members of the Community on the first day of Ridván was 274, of whom 55 were of Persian origin.

Since the Annual Report of the Assembly was written, some progress has been made with getting pioneers to Africa. It had been hoped that it would be possible to announce by Convention that a passage had been booked for another pioneer, but news has not yet been received that the necessary entry permit has been granted. Further, proposals regarding the organisation of the international aspects of the Africa project have been made to the co-operating Assemblies and the Guardian has been approached for guidance concerning the nature of the collaboration between the British and Egyptian National Assemblies, which has been less clearly specified than that with the other Assemblies in previous communications. Meanwhile a proposal has been sent to the Egyptian National Assembly and the Persian Pioneering Committee about how the Egyptian Assembly could help Persian pioneers to Africa passing through Egypt.

The National Assembly has decided to separate from the work of the National Treasury the handling of money held for the overseas schoolchildren whose finances we manage. Dorothy Ferraby will get the work of this Children's Treasury going. This extends the system inaugurated a year ago when the money held for these children was placed in a separate bank account. The National Assembly is also examining to what extent it is possible for the National Assembly to become the legal Guardian of children, should

members of the Community wish to name the Assembly guardian in their will.

Since the Annual Report of the Assembly was written, two very important communications from the Guardian have been received, one through the American National Assembly. That one announced the Guardian's decision to place a hundred and thirty thousand dollar contract, for the stonework of both cylinder and dome of the Shrine of the Báb, and called for an austerity period embracing the whole Bahá'í world, so that National and Local Assemblies, as well as individuals, may, through curtailment of expenditure, contribute adequately to this project. The National Assembly wishes to explain to the friends that it has this year been concentrating upon carrying out an austerity campaign by reducing its own expenditure in every way possible, and that consequently any new austerity can come only from reduction of local assembly and individual expenditure. There will be new calls on the National Fund during the Two Year Plan and the Assembly feels that the greatest effort will be required from all members of the community to fulfil our obligations in regard to both the National Fund and the Shrine Fund. Contributions to the Shrine Fund should be in addition to and not in place of contributions to the National and Local Funds.

The other important communication has been the letter from the Guardian dated February 25th, in which, among other things, the Guardian sets out in two concise paragraphs what our programme of work should be for the next two years. These paragraphs show us the lines along which the Two Year Plan should develop and a sheet containing these paragraphs and a summary of the goals they indicate is being circulated to delegates at the Convention.

The respite year is at an end and we now start upon the tremendous tasks, at home and overseas, which the Guardian has set us. Great efforts by every member of the Community will be needed, whether as pioneer, teacher, administrator, as a supplier of the money which is the lifeblood of the Plan or in all these ways. We can at this Convention inaugurate a campaign which will continue from this day with ever-increasing momentum until that great hour in 1953 when we again taste the fruits of victory in His Cause. Let us resolve here and now that the Two Year Plan shall receive such an impetus from this Convention that victory will from the start be assured; and having resolved, let us carry our resolve into effect.

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Hasan Balyuzi, Chairman.
Marion Hofman, Vice-Chairman.
John Ferraby, Secretary.
Richard Backwell, Treasurer.
Dorothy Ferraby, Recording Secretary.
Philip Hainsworth.
David Hofman.
Constance Langdon-Davies.
Zeine Zeine.

THE AFRICA COMMITTEE

That the conduct of the Africa project during this respite year has 'immensely pleased' our beloved Guardian and 'set an example worthy of emulation by the members of Bahá'í communities in both the East and the West' is the most joyful and significant aspect of this report. Particularly, he has approved the early launching of the project, and our 'zeal in enlisting the collaboration' of the three co-operating National Assemblies.

The direction of policy and action during the Two Year Plan has been clearly shown by the Guardian in the following passage, and this will be used as a framework for future reports to the four national communities carrying forward the Africa work. We quote:

'To labour assiduously for the despatch, in the coming year marking the official opening of the Two Year Plan, of pioneers to the chosen Territories of the African continent; to ensure that its three sister national assemblies will steadily reinforce its work through financial assistance as well as through the increase in the number of pioneers; to expedite the translation, publication and dissemination of Bahá'í literature in the three selected languages throughout these Territories; to enlarge the scope of the contacts established with representatives of the African peoples and with institutions designed to foster their interests; to cultivate cordial relations with and secure the good will and support of the civil authorities in the goal countries where the pioneers will reside; to maintain steady correspondence with, fan the zeal, seek the counsel and secure the assistance of the budding and scattered communities in the North, in South and the Heart of that vast but promising and slowly awakening continent; to prepare for the eventual convocation, under its own auspices and following the example set, and the procedure adopted, by its sister American Assembly on the European Continent, of the First African Teaching Conference, representative of both the white and black races, constituting an epoch-making landmark in the evolution of the Faith among the African races and possibly synchronising with the centenary celebrations of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Mission, and adding another victor's crown to the laurels already won by the British followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in their own homeland—these stand out as the paramount and inescapable duties confronting the British National Spiritual Assembly as it stands on the threshold of a new and glorious epoch in British Bahá'í history.'

TEACHING IN AFRICA. Ridván has been celebrated in Tanganyika by our two Bahá'í pioneers, Claire Gung and Jalal Nakhjawani, who have come together in Dar es Salaam for this precious time. A cable of greeting was sent by our N.S.A. We understand, although this is not yet confirmed, that Mr. Nakhjawani is being granted his permit to remain in Tanganyika. His intense and devoted effort to help all those who are trying to pioneer in Africa has been warmly appreciated by the N.S.A. and this Committee.

It is of interest that his father visited Britain in 1915 by order of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Claire's affairs are prospering and through an unexpected salary increment she has been enabled to make a substantial return to the Fund of budget advanced for her journey. These words from a recent letter bring assurance of her welfare: 'I am quite happy here. I am grateful to God that He has granted me a contented mind and a happy heart. I feel happiness is a great teacher of the Cause. No wonder 'Abdu'l-Bahá always said, "Be happy, be happy." Happiness has great magnetic powers . . . I can't explain in words, but I do feel quite a changed person since I left England; it was real agony, but I have come through it. I am not sorry now I had to come here. I am sure it is for a purpose. If only God will grant me grace to be a worthy servant in the end.'

The Guardian has answered several questions concerning African teaching policy in his February letter, which we feel should be included in this report. We quote:

'He feels that, although it is preferable that the three pioneers to each virgin country should be in one town or at least as near each other as possible, it should not be considered the essential point at this juncture.

'The most important thing of all is to get the pioneers out there and established if possible in some self-supporting work. Once this has been done, the work within the country itself can be gradually organised and plans made to consolidate it in a more practical manner.

'He used the word "tribes" loosely to mean the peoples of Africa and not necessarily individuals still living under tribal system.'

PIONEERING. During the respite year thirty-two believers have offered to pioneer in Africa. They have included twelve Persian Bahá'ís, two American, one Egyptian, and seventeen from the British Isles. The committee has had personal consultation with fourteen of these friends. As we know, two have succeeded in reaching Africa, and there is real hope of a number of new pioneers to Africa soon. The Guardian has said that we are 'to labour assiduously' for their despatch in the coming year.

To the pioneers already included in our Annual Report we are able to add these names: Dr. Abbas Afnan and Thomas Hansford, who consulted the Committee at the last meeting and are taking all possible steps to settle in East Africa. Dr. Afnan may have to return to Persia to settle certain matters with the help of the Persian Committee. Both these pioneers have the Guardian's blessing on their endeavours. In Persia there are a number of believers pushing ahead with their plans: Mr. and Mrs. Mohammad Yazdani and family expect to establish a business in Kampala, and he has recently been granted a passport which required the Persian Prime Minister's authority. The Doctors Farhoumand, two brothers, and their families, also plan to settle in Uganda. Mr. Faizollah Namdar is investigating business possibilities in Dar es Salaam. In America we understand that Mr. and Mrs. William

Foster and their family have volunteered and we eagerly await further details.

We also report that Mr. and Mrs. Moussa Banani and Mr. and Mrs. Ali Nakhjawani, strengthened by the Guardian's approval and prayers, have obtained visas and will travel from London to Dar es Salaam as soon as possible. They will settle in Tanganyika or Uganda in accordance with conditions they find there.

Prospects for Philip Hainsworth have also improved and his project awaits only the obtaining of an entry permit, for which we have good hope.

That the doorway to Africa will speedily open for all these and other Bahá'í pioneers is the Committee's earnest hope, and we ask the delegates to focus the spiritual power of this Convention upon this vital and urgent objective.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION. The most significant development is in America. Immediately upon receipt of the Guardian's cablegram of January 17th, clarifying their part in the Africa work, the American N.S.A. issued in *Bahá'í News* (No. 241) a call to the believers, setting forth basic policy. 'American efforts,' they wrote, 'are to be directed toward assistance of and co-operation with the British Campaign.' A contribution of \$750 was sent to our National Fund. A strong U.S. Africa Committee has been appointed, with whom we hope soon to be in active consultation, and as a basis for co-operation their N.S.A. approved the plan put forward by our Committee through the British N.S.A. News of the first American pioneers is awaited, as mentioned above.

We have already reported the active and fruitful co-operation which the Persian N.S.A. and Pioneering Committee has been extending to the project for many months, which has 'delighted' the Guardian. Their pioneers are taking the lead, especially in plans to settle in East Africa. The Persian N.S.A. has contributed £125 to our National Fund, and the willingness of Persian believers to co-operate in a financial way has been demonstrated. We are grateful to have had personal consultation with Mr. Noonoo, member of the Persian Pioneering Committee, before his departure.

Egypt has also contributed financially to the Africa project and stands ready with further backing for Hassan Sabri if needed. A further development is our proposal that the Egyptian N.S.A. arrange to meet and assist all Persian pioneers, who must travel via Egypt to East Africa, and we are confident of their co-operation.

For the warm and spontaneous interest of the Persian, American, and Egyptian communities, and for the valuable help they have already given, we express the deepest gratitude.

The Guardian's approval of *Africa News* has also heartened us. Its development as an organ of international news and co-operation seems now assured and necessary.

LITERATURE. The brochure entitled *Some Excerpts from the Writings for Bahá'ís in Africa* has been produced and is on display. It was sent to the three other National Assemblies in time for their Conven-

tions. It contains all references to the Africa project made by the Guardian, as well as some valuable quotations on the 'most challenging issue' of the oneness of mankind.

An English version of the pamphlet to be translated into three African languages has at last been completed, and this comment has been received from Mr. Barry, of the School of Oriental Studies: 'I have shown your draft pamphlet to several Africans and we have all read it with interest. I like it very much and it should go easily into Twi or Ga for the most part.'

The N.S.A. has requested the Committee to study the production of gramophone records in Swahili.

Let us bear in mind the Guardian's latest instruction: 'to expedite the translation, publication and dissemination of Bahá'í literature in the three selected languages throughout these Territories.'

CONTACT WITH AFRICANS AND INSTITUTIONS. A number of L.S.A.s are initiating contacts with Africans, especially through the East and West Friendship Council. The Cardiff Assembly has been holding fireside meetings attended by five Nigerian students. As mentioned in our Annual Report, there is great scope for activity in Britain to fulfil the Guardian's assignment of enlarging 'the scope of contacts established with representatives of the African peoples and with institutions designed to foster their interests,' and we hope that many Assemblies and believers will serve the Africa project in this way.

RELATIONS WITH CIVIL AUTHORITIES. There is nothing to add to the Annual Report, but it would seem that the groundwork undertaken should give a firm basis for carrying forward the development of cordial relations with civil authorities in the goal countries.

CONTACT WITH BAHÁ'ÍS ALL OVER AFRICA. The Guardian recently supplied our N.S.A. with a list of believers in Africa and we have written to one in the Gold Coast. His Convention cable now tells us that Bahá'ís live in seventeen African countries.

FIRST TEACHING CONFERENCE. The Committee at its last meeting envisioned the early appointment of a committee to study and make recommendations for the holding of the First African Teaching Conference, as it was realised there will be many preparations needed. Now the Guardian has confirmed our hope that this be held in 1953. The prospect is a bright beacon for the Two Year Plan.

There is opportunity for every believer to share in the Africa project and thus contribute directly to its success. These are some concrete suggestions:

- (1) Pray. The Guardian has written: 'The main thing is that the Bahá'ís should pray for its success.'
- (2) Contribute financially. The Guardian asks for 'the allocation of substantial sums for its prosecution,' and tells us that 'the chief responsibility . . . of contributing to the resources' of the crusade will fall on Britain.

- (3) Make friendly contact with Africans in Britain, and with institutions fostering their welfare, and teach individuals when possible.
- (4) Write regularly to the African pioneers and thus cheer them in a lonely task.
- (5) Donate Bahá'í books to be used for establishing Bahá'í libraries in Africa.

In addition, there is continuing need for pioneer offers, and believers possessing qualifications of training, experience, and age which may enable them to find employment in Africa would stand an excellent chance of getting to the goal territories in the coming year. The Committee invites consultation with all who may be seriously contemplating this step.

On the British Bahá'í community, the Guardian has written, 'will devolve the chief responsibility of guiding the destinies, of supplying the motive power, and of contributing to the resources of a crusade which, for the first time in Bahá'í history involves the collaboration, and affects the fortunes, of no less than four National Assemblies, in both hemispheres and within four continents of the globe . . . To be singled out as the chief agency in the prosecution of a task of such dimensions, such significance, and the harbinger of events so glorious, is indeed at once an inestimable blessing and a staggering responsibility with which the British Bahá'í Community . . . has been honoured at so critical and challenging an hour in the fortunes of mankind.'

FINANCIAL STATEMENT. The income and expense of the Africa project for the year, to April 26th, 1951, may be summarised as follows:—

<i>Income</i>			<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Egyptian N.S.A. ...	...	...	25	0	0*
Persian N.S.A. ...	...	...	125	0	0
American N.S.A. ...	...	...	267	5	6
British N.S.A. ...	...	...	146	8	5
Reimbursement, Claire Gung			24	15	6
Individual gift ...	...	...	2	0	0
Total ...			£590	9	5
<i>Expenses</i>			<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Pioneers ...	...	...	185	17	3
Literature (teaching) ...	...	...	20	13	8
Pamphlets (work initiated by Philip Hainsworth)			87	10	0
Committee Expense ...	...	...	49	11	0
Total ...			£343	11	11

Balance in Africa Account £246 17s. 6d.

* The Egyptian N.S.A. has also budgeted £80 os. od., if needed, for travel expenses of Hassan Sabri.

Wedding Gifts

It may be of interest to those who recently contributed towards wedding gifts for Dick and Vida Backwell, and Hassan and Isobel Sabri, that in both cases the gift was donated to the Bahá'í Fund and the Shrine Fund by the recipients.

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

The foundations for victory in the Two Year Plan have been secured!

The twenty-four assemblies with which we completed and won the Six Year Plan have been preserved intact. Thanks to the bounty of Bahá'u'lláh we enter this next and international phase of our service to His Cause a complete community with a year-old and thriving Regional Administrative structure firmly based on four or five local assembly pillars in each region; able to embark on the 'twofold obligation' of consolidating still further the local assemblies and expanding our teaching activities here at home, in addition to our new overseas adventure.

Six declarations and twelve pioneer projects since early March are responsible for this happy condition, and are distributed as follows in the nine weak assemblies, where twelve places had to be filled five and a half weeks before April 21st:

Declarations

Sheffield, 2: Mrs. Oates and Mr. Gregory.
Edinburgh, 1: Mr. Muirhead.
Cardiff, 2: Mr. and Mrs. Roberts.
Nottingham, 1: Miss Bourne.

Pioneers

Nottingham, 2: Evelyn Baxter and Brian Townshend.
Newcastle, 2: Margaret and Pat Carey.
Blackburn, 2: Philip Hainsworth and Bob Cheek.
Cardiff, 2: Hassan and Isobel Sabri.
Belfast, 1: Ursula Newman.
Blackpool, 1: Vida Backwell.
Bristol, 2: Hassan and Isobel Sabri.

The move to Cardiff of Dennis and Eileen McArthur and the two declarations enabled Hassan and Isobel Sabri to move the second time.

To all these pioneers we can find no words to express our admiration and gratitude; not one of them came from a community that could freely or easily spare them. As the friends will have seen in the last bulletin, the four final moves do not take place until after Convention, though residence was established as from April 20th.

The Committee's plans to complete these assemblies were somewhat different from the final work-out—as plans usually are! On March 15th a letter was sent to every member of the community putting the position of these weak assemblies in relation to the world march of the Faith, asking for prayers from all and pioneer offers from those who felt free to make them. This was followed by a weekly bulletin called 'Securing the Foundations,' giving the day-to-day numerical changes and news of pioneer offers and of declarations. We were constantly in touch with the Persian Committee about the settlement of several expected arrivals from overseas; unfortunately in the end none of them could arrive in time.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Prof. Zeine, who generously gave his time to make last-minute visits to Belfast and to Nottingham, imbuing all he met with the spirit of unflagging and untiring service.

It was not known how successful we had been, nor whether complete victory would be attained, until 11 p.m. on April 19th—just thirty-six hours in advance. It was then possible to draft the final bulletin next day showing that in spite of all the uncertainty, God had given us the victory.

To date twenty-one communities have consulted with the Committee's representatives on the Personal Teaching Campaign. Looking ahead it appears that this will be one of the mainsprings of our work at home during the next two years.

Consolidation during the Two Year Plan

In reviewing this question, the Committee recorded the following as being some of the major ingredients:

1. Building up communities by local confirmations—perhaps with definite numerical goals for each community (9, 12, 15, 19).
2. Fuctioning administrative quorum and understanding of the Administrative Order, including suitable choice of chairman, secretary, treasurer.
3. Establishment of Bahá'í home, household or family—of Bahá'í centre.
4. Consciousness of Local, National and Shrine Funds.
5. Ownership of own book stock (for resale) and of lending library.
6. Neighbourhood relations, contacts, firesides, personal teaching.
7. Relations with other organisations, with the press, etc. Status of Bahá'í Faith in locality—publicity and participation.
8. Activity of Youth and of Children.
9. Mutual loving appreciation, to promote harmony and attract people.
10. Deepening in the Cause and in the Covenant.
11. Correspondence with other Bahá'ís—in this country and overseas.
12. Appointment of committees for detail work, training them and giving them responsibility.
13. Planned and sustained Public Teaching.
14. Vigorous Personal Teaching.
15. Particular development of each community.
16. Fulfilment of personal Bahá'í obligations.

The Committee is looking forward, now that the foundations for the future have, by the united labours of every member of the community, been laid, to more activity by everybody and every institution of our Cause in this country, till not only is our vision of our future fulfilled, but the greater hopes and the prayers of the Guardian for what we may achieve in the path of service are fulfilled too. It seems fitting to close this report with the words that ended our last bulletin, words used by Mullá Husayn to lead his companions to victory over this world, to victory in the field of eternity:

'Mount your steeds, heroes of God!'

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The Publishing Trust has this year made a loss of £120. This has been due entirely to a fall in turnover from £1,497 last year to £723 this year. In spite of the fall in teaching tempo following the end of the Six Year Plan, home sales have not appreciably fallen off—the decrease has been entirely in overseas sales. Orders from one country alone fell off by £550, although a further order for £150 was received a fortnight after the end of the financial year, which would have reduced the year's loss by about a half. Orders from our five biggest overseas customers decreased by almost £800. There is no obvious explanation for this, except that the orders the year before were abnormally large, and consequently large stocks were held at the beginning of the year. Over the last three years combined the Trust has made a profit of £54. A turnover of about £1,000 is needed to cover current expenses at our present margin.

The Publishing Trust Committee has met once since the Annual Report was written. A satisfactory estimate has been received for the *Dawnbreakers*, and its production now waits only upon the investment in the Trust of sufficient money to publish it and the procuring of paper supplies—this last may prove very difficult, and cannot be attempted until money is available with which to pay for the paper if procured. Additional investments of about £1,000 are needed to make it possible to produce this book.

Progress has been made with the printing of the new prayer books and *Paris Talks*. It is hoped that specimen photographs of the Master, taken from existing photographs by Ted Cardell for the Publishing Trust, will be on view at Convention, when orders will be booked. The Committee has available a selection from the Guardian's writings which will be published as soon as sufficient money is available. The Trust has already supplies of paper suitable for this book.

The Committee is undertaking the circulation of the Publishing Trust Catalogue to a number of public libraries recommended by Local Assemblies and to some other libraries. Overseas Assemblies have been asked whether they would consider holding stocks of books in case it should be impossible to buy or transport them overseas when the cataclysm of which the Guardian warns us comes.

The Committee has as yet had little to do with the publication of Africa pamphlets, as no manuscript has yet been supplied by the Africa Committee. However, good knowledge of printing facilities has been acquired, and an estimate obtained for printing the Hausa pamphlet which Philip Hainsworth had prepared. Subject to confirmation by the Committees concerned, it seems likely that the publication of this pamphlet will be handled by the Publishing Trust, in view of the possibility of Philip going to Africa before publication is completed.

The Committee has examined the possibility of having books printed in Egypt, but it was found that there would be insufficient saving in money to warrant embarking upon the risk and difficulties of production there.

By instruction of the National Assembly, three books were exhibited in the book display at the Ideal Homes Exhibition. It is not yet known what actual sales were made at the Exhibition, but it seems clear that the benefit obtained came chiefly from the impact of the books on passers-by.

The chief problems before the Trust at the present time are to increase turnover without too greatly increasing expenditure, to obtain paper when needed, and to finance additional publications. These are to some extent interdependent, for additional investments need additional turnover to pay the interest on the loans, and paper cannot be sought without the money to pay for it. The most urgent of these problems is perhaps to increase turnover, for we owe it to those who have invested in the Trust to see that it does not run for long at a loss.

Election of the National Assembly

Fifty-five delegates voted, casting 495 votes as follows:

Hasan Balyuzi	...	...	...	52
Richard Backwell	...	...	...	46
John Ferraby	...	...	...	45
Dorothy Ferraby	...	...	...	35
David Hofman	...	...	...	25
Constance Langdon-Davies	...	...	...	25
Marion Hofman	...	...	...	24
Philip Hainsworth	...	...	...	23
Zeine Zeine	...	...	...	20
Ursula Newman	...	...	...	19
Alma Gregory	...	...	...	16
Hugh McKinley	...	...	...	14
Arthur Norton	...	...	...	13
John Shortland	...	...	...	13
Isobel Sabri	...	...	...	10
Joseph Lee	...	...	...	8
Rustom Sabit	...	...	...	7
Isobel Slade	...	...	...	7
John Mitchell	...	...	...	6
Eruch Munsiff	...	...	...	6
Louis Ross-Enfield	...	...	...	6
Hassan Sabri	...	...	...	6
Gladys Backwell	...	...	...	5
Joseph Jameson	...	...	...	5
Muriel Matthews	...	...	...	5
Donald Millar	...	...	...	4
Mehdi Samandari	...	...	...	4
Henry Backwell	...	...	...	3
Edward Cardell	...	...	...	3
Kathleen Hornell	...	...	...	3
Betty Reed	...	...	...	3

Evelyn Baxter, Prudence George, Albert Joseph, Jeffery Joseph, Marion Norton, Brian Townshend, George Townshend, Peter Wilkinson: 2 each.

St. Barbe Baker, Robert Cheek, Reginald Coulson, Una Coward, Elsie Cranmer, John Craven, Emily Eastgate, Joan Giddings, Habib Hazari, Annie Hofman, Vivian Isenthal, Violet McKinley, Jean Pitcher, James Robertson, Alfred Sugar, Adib Taherzadeh, Una Townshend, Ada Williams: 1 each.

Local Assembly Secretaries

- Belfast.* Mrs. Beattie, 27 Rockland Street, Belfast, N. Ireland.
- Birmingham.* Mrs. Goode, 29 Robert Road, Birmingham 20.
- Bournemouth.* Mrs. George, 17 Carlton Street, Boscombe, Bournemouth.
- Blackburn.* R. Cheek, 20 Mincing Lane, Blackburn.
- Blackpool.* Mrs. Lowe, 6 Mansfield Road West, Blackpool.
- Brighton.* Miss V. Isenthal, 40 Cannon Place, Brighton.
- Bradford.* A. Norton, 41 Cranbourne Road, Chellow Dene, Bradford.
- Bristol.* Mrs. Weeks, The Tynings, Easton in Gordano, Bristol.
- Cardiff.* Mrs. Giddings, 43 Plasterston Ave., Canton, Cardiff.
- Edinburgh.* Miss V. Rate, Reception, North British Hotel, Edinburgh 2.
- Dublin.* Miss O. Sutton, Glengesh, Mt. Anville Road, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.
- Glasgow.* Miss A. Williams, 285 Bellshill Road, Motherwell, Lanarkshire.
- Leeds.* P. Wilkinson, 24 Roxholme Avenue, Leeds 7.
- Liverpool.* Miss S. Farnsworth, 15 Canning Street, Liverpool 8.
- London.* H. McKinley, 122 Tooting Bec Road, London, S.W.17.
- Manchester.* Mrs. Senior, 15 Oaklands Road, Swinton, Lancashire.
- Newcastle.* Miss H. Strong, c/o Smith, Lemon & Stewart, 6 Nixon Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne 1.
- Northampton.* Mrs. Reed, 20 Derby Road, Northampton.
- Nottingham.* Mrs. Keery, 11 Park Ave., Woodthorpe, Nottingham.
- Norwich.* W. Wilkins, 192 Dereham Road, Norwich.
- Oxford.* I. Semple, Pembroke College, Oxford.
- Sheffield.* Miss U. Coward, Hallam Lodge, Tapton Crescent Road, Sheffield 10.
- Stockport.* Miss B. Yool, 55 Councillor Lane, Cheadle, Cheshire.
- Torquay.* Mrs. Matthews, Ythan Bank, Torwood Gardens, Torquay.

NORTHAMPTON BAHÁ'Í CENTRE

The Northampton Spiritual Assembly wishes to bring to the attention of National Committees that the Northampton Bahá'í Centre, 274 Wellingborough Road, Northampton, is available for committee meetings. If any national committee would like to make use of this Centre, will they please get in touch with the secretary of the Northampton Assembly in good time before the date of the proposed meeting. Comfortable hotel accommodation can be obtained at the St. Giles Hotel, St. Giles Square, Northampton, at 10/6d. for bed and breakfast.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

20/3/50	EXPENDITURE	20/3/51
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	<i>N.S.A. Expenses:</i>	
249 17 7	Travelling Expenses	252 14 9
193 1 3	Secretarial Expenses	649 13 3
44 9 10	Cables, etc. ...	42 0 3
218 14 6	London Centre ...	— — —
— — —	Meeting Room Expenses	42 15 7
— — —	Printing and Literature	111 14 9
107 4 10	Journal ...	121 7 6
78 6 2	Shrine of the Báb ...	9 0 0
— — —		1229 6 1
	<i>N.T.C. and Consolidation Committee Expenses:</i>	
1761 3 8	Pioneers ...	2462 8 3
1001 0 3	Travelling Expenses	196 16 3
315 17 9	Goal Towns ...	87 3 3
136 2 6	Local Assemblies ...	89 4 10
533 13 6	Other Committee Expenses ...	640 16 9
118 5 2	Miscellaneous ...	9 11 3
34 8 5	Printing and Literature	— — —
— — —		3486 0 7
59 15 3	Assembly Development Committee ...	3 5 2
— — —	Africa Committee (British Contribution) ...	73 0 3
18 6 6	Youth Committee ...	28 15 0
6 0 0	Other Committee ...	— — —
10 0 0	Child Education Committee ...	12 0 0
35 10 0	Convention ...	34 8 5
18 0 6	Bank Charges ...	68 17 6
27 5 0	Audit and Legal Costs ...	79 14 6
1 1 0	Sundries ...	64 17 11
12 16 0	Townshend Pamphlet ...	— — —
15 10 4	Summer School ...	2 8 11
— — —	Advertising ...	2 10 0
— — —	Subscription ...	2 0 0
79 18 6	Rent Donation — Publishing Trust ...	64 18 9
66 15 0	Relief Fund ...	— — —
7 19 0	Depreciation—Fixtures ...	6 6 0
£5151 2 6		£5158 9 1

20/3/50	INCOME	20/3/51
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
2290 14 3	Donations ...	1813 13 10
1800 0 0	Guardian's Donation ...	1700 0 0
— — —	Donation—Thanksgiving ...	47 7 6
122 14 6	Income Tax Repaid, under Deed of Covenant ...	195 15 11
158 4 4	Rent Refunds ...	— — —
4 9 5	Interest—Defence Bonds ...	3 0 0
1 0 2	Interest—Deposit Account ...	— — —
100 0 0	Transfer from Building Fund (Sale Defence Bonds) ...	— — —
673 19 10	Excess of Expenditure over Income ...	1398 11 10

Gravestone Inscriptions

Members of the Bahá'í Community are advised, if they wish for a Bahá'í inscription on their gravestones, to make certain that their relatives know of this wish, either by mentioning it in their will or in some other way.

Additions to the Community

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

Jean Gibbs (Youth), Newcastle.
 John Muirhead, Edinburgh.
 Margaret Seabrook, Stockport.
 Adriana Kranen (from Holland), London.
 Sidney Roberts, Cardiff.
 Kathleen Roberts, Cardiff.
 Brian Giddings, Cardiff.
 Mary Sykes, Stockport.
 Manouchehre Esphehane (from Iran), Birmingham.
 Maria Nermi-Egounoff, London.

Holiday Accommodation

Prudence George and Brigitte Hasselblatt, of 17 Carlton Road, Bournemouth, are willing to accept Bahá'í visitors in their house in Bournemouth at 10/6d. per night, bed and breakfast, or 8/6d. each for a double room. Anyone interested should write to Mrs. George at the above address.

National Assembly Meetings

The National Assembly has scheduled meetings on the following dates (the meetings start Friday evening):

June 15th—17th
 July 13th—15th
 August 3rd—5th
 September 14th—16th
 October 12th—14th
 November 16th—18th
 December 14th—16th
 January 11th—13th
 February 15th—17th
 March 21st—23rd
 April 11th—13th

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'IS OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

"Act speedily, resolutely"

The Guardian has cabled on 22nd June, 1951:

"Newly launched, highly momentous African campaign, chief auxiliary manifold agencies operating furtherance 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan American, European continents, irresistible unfolding, gathering momentum, through added participation Indian Bahá'í Community, assignment specific supplementary functions Persian Egyptian National Assemblies, contemplated translation Bahá'í literature additional African languages, multiplication territories Northern, Eastern, Western fringes vast awakening Continent. Brief span two years destined witness first fruits historic continent-wide crusade will ere long terminate. Valorous British Bahá'í Community, central pivot machinery now set in motion, chief agency prosecution mighty, Divinely propelled enterprise, must, aware urgency task, act speedily, resolutely, dispatch without delay volunteers, settle pioneers, disseminate literature, initiate teaching activities, establish fruitful contacts, ensure steady enrolment fresh recruits amongst tribes, races far-flung virgin territories. Transmitting additional contribution thousand pounds ensure vigorous prosecution colossal sacred task enabling well tried followers Faith Bahá'u'lláh British Isles write worthily first page history memorable undertaking constituting opening phase their glorious spiritual mission overseas".