

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Our beloved Guardian, who contributed so often and so much to the Six Year Plan, has now demonstrated his profound interest in the Africa project. Cables to the Persian and American Bahá'í communities, published in this issue, are a clarion call for pioneers to aid our work and thus ensure an immediate attack in force to open the East and West gates of this vast continent.

The first action on the Persian cable came from our devoted Persian brothers, who set up a pioneer committee with a liaison member, and wrote to us the glad news that the first pioneers awaited our instructions. At the same time, a pioneer offer was received by air from the Nakhjawani family, and we are now consulting with the Persian committee to settle them in Dar Es Salaam, where we envision their co-operation with Philip Hainsworth in Tanganyika. We are indeed grateful for such swift action by our Persian brothers and we look forward to long and fruitful collaboration under the guidance of our Guardian.

The American cable evokes heart-kindling possibilities of service and promises support to the Africa project from those who are perhaps the best equipped and qualified. We have seized on this opportunity and have proposed to the American National Assembly, through our own N.S.A., a plan for action. While the selection of pioneer posts and the supervision of teaching in Africa will remain a primary function of our own Africa committee, we see a necessary field open to an American committee, in the selection of pioneers, the completion of travel arrangements, and the financing of projects. This plan, together with information on the three territories and points for immediate consultation, have been sent off; and at the same time we have made similar suggestions to the Persian committee.

Our N.S.A. is already in touch with Egypt to work out assistance to Hassan Sabri, as the Guardian has advised him to pioneer in Africa and to consult both National Assemblies. Our Egyptian brothers have also shown a spirit of warm and loving help in the great tasks confronting us in Africa, and their prior and long experience in this field is of great value. We look forward to teaching visits from Egyptian friends and much sound consultation.

Africa News, an overseas bulletin to be issued by our committee, will co-ordinate this far-flung activity which is destined, our Guardian writes, to bring us 'into closer and more concrete association' with our sister Communities. It is a thrilling prospect that opens before our eyes, and the working out of these inter-continental tasks is in itself a new kind of pioneering in the unfoldment of the World Order of Bahá'u'llah.

AFRICA COMMITTEE

'AFRICA NEWS'

The Africa Committee is planning to produce at somewhat irregular intervals a bulletin under the title *Africa News*, which will give news of the progress of the Africa project and of important policy decisions regarding it.

The bulletin will be sent free to overseas collaborators, all National Assemblies, Local Assemblies in the British Isles and certain individuals. Others may subscribe by sending 5/- for the first twelve issues to John Ferraby, 49 Sandbourne Avenue, London, S.W.19.

COMPETITION

A prize of a copy of the first two translations of Bahá'í literature into African languages is offered for the best design for a heading for *Africa News*.

The bulletin will be issued under the title:

'Africa News—Issued by the Africa Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles.'

The heading will be printed on coloured sheets of quarto duplicating paper, 8 inches wide. It will be about 2½ inches deep. In the first place, designs should be about twice this size to allow for accurate reproduction. Entries should be sent to the above address before November 23rd.

CABLES FROM THE GUARDIAN

To the United States

Dated July 5th, 1950

Feel moved appeal gallant great-hearted American Bahá'í Community arise eve launching far-reaching historic campaign by sister Community British Isles lend valued assistance meritorious enterprise undertaken primarily illumination tribes East West Africa envisaged Tablets Centre the Covenant revealed darkest hour His ministry. Appeal particularly its dearly-beloved members belonging Negro race participate contemplated project marking significant milestone world-unfoldment Faith supplementing work initiated fifty years ago North American Continent forging fresh links binding American British Egyptian Communities providing prelude full-scale operations destined be launched later period unfoldment Divine Plan aiming conversion backward oppressed masses swiftly-awakening continent. Though such participation outside scope Second Seven Year Plan feel strongly assumption this added responsibility distant vital field this crucial challenging hour when world events moving steadily towards climax and Centenary birth Bahá'u'lláh's Mission fast approaching will further ennoble record world-embracing tasks valiantly

undertaken American Bahá'í Community constitute worthy response 'Abdu'l-Bahá's insistent call raised behalf race He repeatedly blessed loved so dearly for whose illumination He ardently prayed for whose future He cherished brightest hopes.

To Persia

Dated 4th August, 1950

Urge self-sacrificing members oldest numerically leading Community Bahá'í world lend utmost assistance historic campaign soon to be launched East West Africa by sister Community British Isles. Encouraged by recent victories achieved believers Iran territories Arabian peninsular Afghanistan valued pioneer activity British Isles India Switzerland appeal extension help from cradle Faith designed promote significant campaign undertaken newest field pioneer labours fulfilment Master's prophecy forecasting illumination African continent.

To Britain

Dated 15th September

Approve sending pioneers Africa immediately also seek assistance Persia America.

BOOKS ON AFRICA

As a general introduction to Africa and its problems the Africa Committee recommends:

Africa Emergent, by W. M. Macmillan, published by Pelican Books, price 2/-.

For individual territories, the official Annual Reports are recommended as reference books.

Other books of interest are:

The African Witch and *Mr. Johnson*, two novels by Joyce Cary. (Gollancz.)

The Gold Coast; Yesterday and To-day—Paul Redmayne (mostly photographs). (Chatto & Windus.)

Africa View—Julian Huxley. (Chatto & Windus.)

East Africa—Elspeth Huxley.

The African To-day and To-morrow—D. Westermann. (International Institute of African Languages and Culture.)

Practical Suggestions for Learning an African Language in the Field—Ida C. Ward. (International Institute of African Languages and Culture.)

Britain's Third Empire.

Books by L. S. B. Leakey.

Hassan Sabri

Our loving sympathy is offered to our dear friend Hassan Sabri, who has had to spend several weeks in hospital. He is hoping that this misfortune will not delay the start of his pioneer project in Africa.

For Meditation

Thy glory beareth me witness, O my Beloved! My pen is powerless to describe what their hands have wrought against Him Who is the Manifestation of Thy Cause, and the Day-Spring of Thy Revelation, and the Dawning-Place of Thine inspiration. For all this I give praise to Thee. I swear by Thy glory, O my God! My heart yearneth after the things ordained by Thee in the heaven of Thy decree and the kingdom of Thine appointment. For whatsoever befalleth me in Thy path is the beloved of my soul and the goal of my desire. This, verily, is to be ascribed to naught except Thy power and Thy might.

BAHA'U'LLAH.

I am so carried away by the sweetness of Thine utterances, and so inebriated with the wine of Thy tender mercies, that my voice can never be stilled, nor can my suppliant hands any longer desist from being stretched out towards Thee. Thou seest, O my Lord, how mine eyes are fixed in the direction of Thy grace, and mine ears inclined towards the kingdom of Thine utterance, and my tongue unloosed to celebrate Thy praise, and my face set towards Thy face that surviveth all that hath been created by Thy word, and my hands raised up towards the heaven of Thy bounty and favour.

BAHA'U'LLAH.

STEPPING RESOLUTELY FORWARD

As the Six Year Plan progressed, the work of the National Teaching Committee increased to such an extent that during its final year it needed a full-time paid Secretary working an average of sixteen hours a day, and a stenographer working thirty hours per week. Over seventy letters per week were received, and some 120 were sent out, in addition to reports, circulars, packets, etc. It was obvious that this highly organised hard-working Secretariat, though essential during the last year of the Plan, should be cut down, and the work de-centralised as much as possible. Naturally, with over twenty pioneers trying to get settled in jobs and homes, and nineteen new Assemblies just attempting to find their feet, it was no easy job to suddenly make sweeping changes.

The change over was a quiet and steady one and a survey of what has actually been done should now be made, for it will indicate how successful this administrative pattern has been.

PIONEERS

The Plan ended with twenty-two pioneers receiving financial assistance because they had either been uprooted from their normal way of life and had not had time to find new jobs or were pioneering in towns where a new job was impossible to obtain. The N.S.A. told us to help all these to be self-supporting by the beginning of October. Of the twenty-two, fourteen are off the budget, one has left the country, and six out of the remaining seven have reasonable prospects of financial independence.

Rizvanieh Eghrari, who was not permitted to take employment here, has now sailed to New Delhi to a post with All-India Radio, to our deeply felt loss; six pioneers have moved to towns where their chances of employment are better — with marked success.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

These Committees have had to shoulder a great deal of the work which was handled at national level by the N.T.C. Secretariat, and so successful have they been that the Committee Secretary is now able to cope with the work on a voluntary basis, with considerably reduced stenographic assistance. Teaching has been maintained; some very promising, but inexpensive, Regional Conferences have been arranged; Regional News Sheets are keeping the believers in the regions closely in touch with each other; Assemblies have been helped by consultation; the National Assembly itself has been relieved of detail work. From every quarter comes evidence that the Regional organisation is

An Invitation

Eileen Eastham and Dennis McArthur are getting married at the Blackburn Bahá'í Centre, 20 Mincing Lane, Blackburn, at 3.15 p.m. on Tuesday, November 14th. They cordially invite all members of the British Bahá'í Community to attend the wedding.

saving time and money and spreading the work so that a few individuals alone do not stagger along under too heavy a burden.

TEACHING

Meanwhile, steady teaching has been yielding most encouraging results. The twenty-one declarations received since Convention have been coming in on an average of one per week. The first five months of any of the Six Year Plan years have not witnessed such an amount of progress—here is the picture to date.

Belfast	...	...	...	2
Birmingham	...	...	...	1
Blackpool	...	...	...	1
Blackburn	...	...	...	1
Brighton	...	...	...	1
Cardiff	...	...	...	1
Edinburgh	...	...	...	3
Isolated	...	...	...	1
Liverpool	...	...	...	1
London	...	...	...	2
Manchester	...	...	...	2
Northampton	...	...	...	2
Norwich	...	...	...	1
Oxford	...	...	...	1
Torquay	...	...	...	1
				—
				21
				—

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Local Assemblies have also been making great strides in their own development. They have been assuming such responsibilities as helping their pioneers by consulting with them on their needs; encouraging more individual fireside work; organising local teaching committees; concerning themselves more with the general happiness of their Community; seeing that their Assembly meetings enjoy full loving consultation, and ensuring that their Feasts are really joyous occasions.

Yes, much progress has been made, expenses have been cut to a minimum, and yet a considerable amount of teaching has been carried out. Even so, there remains much more to be done before we are anything like ready for our Two Year Plan.

Let us, therefore, 'gird up afresh (our) loins . . . step resolutely forward . . . undeflected in (our) purpose, and undimmed in (our) vision . . . confident that a fresh outpouring of Divine grace will reinforce and guide (our) march on the highroad of (our) destiny.'

CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

Consolidation Committee Secretary

The expected early departure of Philip Hainsworth to a pioneering post in Africa has made necessary a new secretary for the Consolidation Committee. Hugh McKinley has been appointed to the Committee and will take over the secretarial work soon. He and his mother are now living in London.

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

UNITED STATES. The Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb on July 9th was celebrated by the Bahá'ís when the portrait of the Báb was viewed in the Foundation Hall of the Temple, after which there was a programme from Scripture in the Main Temple. A public meeting was held later in the Foundation Hall with three speakers speaking on 'A Century of World Crisis,' 'The Martyr-Prophet of the New World Faith' and 'A Century of Spiritual Revival.' A film showing progress in the construction of the Shrine and gardens on Mount Carmel was also shown. A broadcast release on this soul-stirring event made the public aware of its significance.

EUROPE. The third successful Teaching Conference was held at the International School at Elsinore, Denmark, with an attendance of 170 from twenty-two countries. The intrepid early believer Mrs. Corinne True with her three talented daughters all took part. A Summer School, the first under the auspices of the European Teaching Committee, followed.

BRUSSELS. Brussels has a new Centre at 38 Rue Bosquet. Special social and public meetings are arranged in connection with the two months' visit of Mrs. Arna True Perron.

INDIA. A private letter tells of remarkable publicity in connection with the centenary celebrations of the Martyrdom of the Báb, particularly with people holding important public positions. News of the functions was broadcast by All-India Radio. Fruits and sweets were given on behalf of the Indian National Assembly and the Delhi Local Assembly to children in orphanages and to the blind of all religious groups. Reports and articles appeared in all the papers of Delhi. Karachi also had successful publicity of this 'soul-stirring' event and published an illustrated booklet *The Martyr-Prophet of the World Faith*. We rejoice to hear of the foundation of three assemblies in Pakistan and two in Burma.

EGYPT. Forty eminent non-Bahá'ís attended the centenary celebrations in Cairo and good publicity was obtained in many daily papers. Only one published a critical article.

The Shrine Fund

Mr. Norton reports that the amount received to the end of September is £108 3s. 0d. from ten contributors, including one gift of £100.

A Sign of Expansion

The National Assembly is distributing to the friends a printed brochure setting out plans for a Three-Tier campaign. The brochure was printed and not duplicated partly because it was found printing was cheaper. The increased size of the British Bahá'í Community means that printing is now sometimes the cheaper method. This is one of the signs of the expansion which has taken place.

Additions to the Community

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

Andrew McArthur, Cardiff.
Rouben Shamia (from Iraq), London.
Anne Pallant, Edinburgh.

The following were omitted from previous lists:

Siri Bischoff (from Norway), Cardiff.
Alexander McKechnie, Glasgow.
Tom McKechnie, Glasgow.

Visitors from Overseas

During the months of August and September we were happy to welcome the following visitors from overseas Bahá'í Communities: Mrs. Marion Little from Italy; Mr. and Mrs. Haghshenas and Mr. Noonoo from Persia; Mr. and Mrs. Johnston and Miss Thelma Perks from Australia, and Mr. Afnan and Mr. Mesbah from Paris. Marion Little unfortunately spent most of her stay in this country in hospital as a result of acute pains in her arm which required an operation. Our loving sympathy went out to her and we were very sorry that her radiant personality was missing from Summer School.

The National Treasurer

As the National Treasurer finds that he is apt to change his address quite frequently, it has been arranged that his official address should be that of his parents. In future, the address of the National Treasurer will therefore be:

R. H. Backwell, 279 Sheen Lane, London, S.W.14.

Letters sent to this address will be forwarded at once.

Sir William Hornell

Bahá'ís will hear with great regret of the death of Sir William Hornell on September 22nd. He was a good friend to the Bahá'í Faith. While Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University he entertained Martha Root during her Eastern journey. In 1944 he spoke at our Centenary Celebrations at Denison House. He was well known and loved by many British Bahá'ís and we shall miss his cheery humour in the interludes of Bahá'í gatherings.

For Meditation

Souls are like unto mirrors, and the bounty of God is like unto the sun. When the mirrors pass beyond all colouring and attain purity and polish, and are confronted with the sun, they will reflect in full perfection its light and glory. In this condition one should not consider the mirror, but the power of the light of the sun, which hath penetrated the mirror, making it a reflector of the heavenly glory.

—
'ABDU'L-BAHA.