

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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## THE GUARDIAN'S CABLE TO CONVENTION

Heart flooded joy striking evidence bountiful grace Bahá'u'lláh enabling valorous dearly loved Bahá'í Community British Isles triumphantly conclude first historic Plan half-century British Bahá'í history. Herald Author Faith Centre Covenant Concourse on High acclaim superb collective achievement immortalising opening decade second Bahá'í Century unprecedented history Faith British Isles Unrivalled annals any Bahá'í Community European Continent unparalleled percentage members community responding pioneer call throughout Bahá'í world since termination Apostolic Age Bahá'í Dispensation. Historic pledge British Bahá'í Community nobly redeemed. Tribute memory Martyr Prophet Faith worthily paid. Spiritual potentialities prosecute subsequent stage unfolding mission fully acquired. Triumphant Community now standing threshold catching first glimpse still dimly outlined future enterprises overseas.

Hour propitious galvanised firmly knit body believers brace itself embark after one year respite yet another historic undertaking marking formal inauguration Two Year Plan constituting prelude initiation systematic campaign designed carry torch Faith territories Dark Continent whose northern southern fringes were successively illuminated course ministries Bahá'u'lláh 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Hour struck undertake preliminary steps implant banner Faith amidst African tribes mentioned Tablet Centre Covenant signalling association victorious British Bahá'í Com-

munity with sister Communities United States Egypt designed lay structural basis Bahá'í Administrative Order scale comparable foundation already established North South American European Australian continents. Projected Plan itself prelude double task to be undertaken course future Plans destined simultaneously broaden base operations home front and prosecute systematic campaign dependencies British Isles.

First objective Two Year Plan consolidation nineteen assemblies painstakingly established England Scotland Wales North Ireland Eire. Second objective formation nuclei three dependencies British Crown either East West Africa. Third objective translation publication dissemination Bahá'í literature through Publishing Trust three African languages addition three already undertaken course first Plan.

Successful prosecution contemplated Plan will pave way large-scale operations calculated lay foundation promised Kingdom Earth through establishment Administrative Order infinitely more glorious Empire built rulers British Isles throughout that continent and will enable British Bahá'í Community share honour sister Community across Atlantic prosecuting successfully two successive Plans registering double victory laying twice repeated sacrifice altar Faith anticipation approaching celebrations commemorating Centenary birth Bahá'u'lláh's Prophetic Mission. Contributing one thousand pounds first contribution furtherance noble purpose.

## THE VICTORY IN CABLES

The story of the last month of the Six Year Plan is graphically told in cables to and from the Guardian during that period. From its meeting at the end of March the National Assembly cabled on 28th March:

'John Robarts here for fortnight's tour sent by Canadian Assembly help complete our Plan. Three declarations Glasgow one Brighton. Sam Scott aged 84 Mehrangiz Munsiff Rizwanieh Eghrari settled. 26 gaps remain loving devotion.'

The Guardian replied 30th March:

'Deeply appreciate participation John Robarts splendid action Scott and other pioneers. Appeal

further sacrifice greater heroism firmer resolve nobler consecration ensure total success Plan now hanging balance. For my part utmost can do is stretch period Plan to July ninth date commemoration Martyrdom. Last remaining chance offered hardly pressed yet gloriously striving Community should be instantly seized ere it is irretrievably lost.'

But the information available to the National Assembly at its March meeting had already become out of date by the time the cable was sent. On 31st March it was possible to cable the Guardian:

'Confirmations pioneers have reduced gaps to 14 straining utmost complete Plan by Ridván.'



He replied on 4th April:

'Delighted news praying added fervour total success deepest loving appreciation.'

A few days later on 10th April it became possible to cable:

'Joyfully transmit Teaching Committee report arrangements made complete Plan by Ridván earnestly entreat prayers Bahá'u'lláh seal victory.'

To which the Guardian replied on 12th April:

'Rejoice evidences approaching victory praying increasing fervour.'

The National Assembly met on the 15th-16th April and the following cable was sent on 17th April:

'Total victory assured loving gratitude bounties beloved Guardian assistance whole Bahá'í world.'

The Guardian's reply on 19th April read:

'Overjoyed deeply grateful immensely proud signal victory achieved Bahá'í Community British Isles

shedding lustre opening years second Bahá'í Century. Airmail list Groups isolated believers also map British Isles showing same.'

A further cable from the National Assembly on 19th April announced:

'Joyous Ridván greetings beloved Guardian from National Assembly and 24 local assemblies British Isles.'

And the Guardian replied on 21st April:

'Share joy reciprocate noble sentiments. Heartily congratulate national elected representatives triumphant Community indefatigable National Teaching Committee all subsidiary agencies particularly self-sacrificing pioneers who so outstandingly contributed signal victory reverberating Bahá'í World.'

This series of cables culminated on 26th April in the Guardian's wonderful message to Convention which appears above.

## CONVENTION CABLES

News of Convention was conveyed to the Guardian in two cables, one on April 29th:

'Opening session Convention deeply moved your supreme message. Sessions arranged enable full faithful consultation every detail assurance loving devotion.'

The other on May 1st:

'All sessions unique Convention characterised by calm deliberation unparalleled enthusiasm demonstrating new potentialities. Over 120 participants from all assemblies included 34 delegates. Work respite year embodied far-reaching recommendations covering intense campaign consolidation expansion existing Communities preliminary steps African project broadening base Publishing Trust development regional organisation stabilising Bahá'í Fund equip Summer School meet new developments. Convention deeply grateful your generous contribution initiating new phase. Humbly aware new force world released progress completion Shrine offering loving prayers furtherance this all other Plans deep devotion abiding loyalty.'

The Guardian's reply came on May 3rd:

'Delighted success sessions praying mighty victories.'

Convention heard many cables and telegrams from friends at home and overseas congratulating the British Bahá'í Community on the success of their Plan, including the following message from the American Convention:

'Congratulations thrilling victories profoundly impressed inspired emulate glowing example loving greetings delegates annual Convention.'

Many messages of congratulation were also received by letter.

The National Assembly adds its own warm thanks to those of the Convention delegates, printed below.

## THANK YOU

Many assemblies and individual friends at home and overseas sent telegrams, cables or letters expressing their joy at the successful completion of our Six Year Plan. These messages, whether addressed to the Convention or to the National Assembly, added inspiration to a wonderful gathering. The delegates asked that this notice be inserted in *Bahá'í Journal* to thank all who sent these delightful messages.

## OTHER CONVENTION CABLES

Convention also cabled the Guardian news of the passing of Parvine (Mary Basil Hall):

'Parvine gloried in success Plan passed to Abha Kingdom morning 28th.'

The Guardian's reply is given on page 5 of this Journal.

A cable was also sent to India:

'British Convention Bahá'ís greet Indian Bahá'í Community happy news your amazing progress pray full success crown efforts July 9th. Can we help in any way.'

The Indian National Assembly replied by asking our continued prayers. All local assemblies have been requested to ask their Community to pray for the success of the Indian Teaching Plan.

## FOR MEDITATION

He Who is your Lord, the All-Merciful, cherisheth in His heart the desire of beholding the entire human race as one soul and one body. Haste ye to win your share of God's good grace and mercy in this day that eclipseth all other created Days. How great the felicity that awaiteth the man that forsaketh all he hath in a desire to obtain the things of God! Such a man, we testify, is among God's blessed ones.

BAHA'U'LLAH



## CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

1. Agreed to send the following cables: One to the Guardian at the beginning of Convention and one towards the end; one to the Guardian telling him of the passing of Parvine Basil Hall; one to India in reply to theirs saying their goals were not yet achieved.

2. The delegates resolved to record their appreciation of the work done by the National Spiritual Assembly and the National Teaching Committee during the Six Year Plan.

3. It was decided to send from the Convention to the Guardian copy number 19 of the special edition of Ruhyyah Khanum's book, *Prescription for Living*. All present at Convention were invited to subscribe to the cost and money received in excess of £1 would be sent to the Guardian for the work on the Shrine of the Báb, if a way could be found of transmitting it. (*Means are being investigated of transmitting the £9 subscribed in excess of the cost of the book*.)

4. Taking into account the views expressed at Convention, the delegates recognised that Regional Teaching Committees have an important role to play in the consolidation of the nineteen new assemblies. It was agreed to ask the National Assembly to re-examine the structure and functions of the regional committees and to consider the possibility of their sharing the responsibility for assembly development as well as teaching. (*Acted on.*)

5. Recommended that an analysis be made of John Robart's tour in order to discover whether there are improvements which can be made in our approach to the confirmation of new believers. (*Referred to Consolidation Committee.*)

6. Agreed to ask the National Assembly to consider the various suggestions made at Convention regarding the establishment of public relations work, including the suggestion that public relations officers be appointed in every community or in every region. (*To be considered.*)

7. The National Assembly was asked to consider sending a member of the British Bahá'í Community, for example Richard Backwell, to help the Indian Bahá'í Community complete their plan. (*Not considered feasible.*)

8. The National Assembly was asked to study the structure of national committees afresh, with a view to carrying out the three objectives mentioned in the Guardian's cable. (*Acted on.*)

9. Recommended to the National Assembly that in its review of the structure of national committees it consider the possibility of appointing two chief national committees—Consolidation and Africa. (*Acted on.*)

10. The delegates felt that local assemblies should try, when appointing their committees, to use as fully as possible new believers and that the National Assembly should also do this in appointing national committees. (*The National Assembly is taking it into consideration and is referring it to local assemblies.*)

11. Resolved to ask the National Assembly to give to Mr. Munsiff's journalist friend, who is going to Israel, a letter of introduction to the Guardian.

12. The delegates expressed the resolution of the British Bahá'í Community to liquidate the overdraft

in the coming year. (*The National Assembly fully concurs.*)

13. The National Assembly was recommended to institute a special Thanksgiving Fund this year. (*Adopted.*)

14. Recommended that a booklet be produced on the work of the Six Year Plan, the proceeds to go towards liquidating the overdraft. (*Will be considered again after production of the report for Summer School, which is being prepared for study of the Six Year Plan.*)

15. The National Assembly was asked to notify the friends as quickly as possible of the budget for the work of consolidation in the British Isles this year, relating it to the administrative reorganisation previously recommended by the Convention. (*Accepted.*)

16. Recommended that a Finance Advisory Committee be appointed. (*To be considered.*)

17. The National Assembly was asked to investigate afresh the whole set-up, position, importance and future of the Publishing Trust and to attempt to organise it now on an enduring and firm basis. (*Acted on. A statement will be published.*)

18. The National Assembly was asked to investigate how the Publishing Trust could welcome the small investor, i.e. £1 or smaller. (*Referred to the Publishing Trust Committee for investigation.*)

19. Recommended that the Publishing Trust issue Bahá'í book tokens for the purchase of Bahá'í books in this country. (*Referred to the Publishing Trust Committee for investigation.*)

20. A vote of thanks was passed to Philip Hainsworth, who through his initiative has achieved the first publication of a Bahá'í pamphlet in three African languages, thus bringing distinction to the British Bahá'í Community and paving the way for our greater responsibilities regarding African literature. (*Endorsed.*)

21. The National Assembly was requested to consider the recommendations made by Mr. St. Barbe Baker about developing literature for Africa and in particular to consider the possibility of using recorded stories about the Faith. (*Passed to the African Committee.*)

22. The delegates expressed their deep appreciation of Mr. St. Barbe Baker's offer of help for the work in Africa and asked the National Assembly to take full advantage of such knowledge and experience. (*Passed to the African Committee.*)

23. Recommended that everything possible be done to establish contact with, welcome and help Africans in the towns of the British Isles having Bahá'í Communities. (*Passed to the African Committee.*)

24. Recommended that the Summer School Committee consider giving a few scholarships for Africans recommended to them by Bahá'í Communities. (*Local Assemblies will be asked if they have any close African contacts from British dependencies in East and West Africa they would like to suggest to the National Assembly.*)

25. Recommended that a Committee on the publication of African literature be established and that it



make use of expert knowledge in the Bahá'í Community. (*Referred to African Committee.*)

26. Recommended that the National Assembly consider the advisability of holding a Teaching Conference during Summer School. (*Not considered feasible.*)

27. The National Assembly was asked to make a statement in general terms regarding leaving instructions about one's funeral. (*A statement will be published in the Journal.*)

28. Recommended that all overseas students should be advised to pursue their investigations regarding study through the Committee for Overseas University Students. Further that the Committee be thanked for initiating work of the utmost value, which concerns a most important aspect of our Community life. (*Approved. Overseas students please note.*)

29. A vote of thanks was recorded to the Youth Committee for having laboured on in spite of all difficulties. (*Endorsed.*)

30. Recommended that when the National Assembly considers reorganising the administrative work of the Cause in the British Isles, it gives a fresh impetus to the work of the youth and a fresh directive. (*Approved for action.*)

31. Recommended that a news service be instituted to get the news of the Cause more quickly to the friends. (*Acted on.*)

32. Recommended that the National Assembly educate the believers in the study of Scripture. (*Referred to the Consolidation Committee. This provides one of the Committee's terms of reference.*)

33. Recommended that the National Assembly educate the believers in their spiritual and administrative obligations. (*As above. The Consolidation Committee will carry this out through the Regional Committees.*)

34. Recommended that the National Assembly give full information in the *Journal* about the present stage of the construction of the Shrine of the Báb. (*Approved. A statement for the Journal is being prepared.*)

## AN IMPRESSION OF CONVENTION

by Ursula Newman

With faces beaming with joy, Bahá'ís from all parts of the British Isles began to converge towards the Bonnington Hotel as early as Friday afternoon. The warm hospitality of the London friends was extended to these early arrivals and they were invited to attend the Nineteen Day Feast of Jamál, which was held in Mrs. Slade's home. Her large drawing room was packed and the spirit of love and harmony, which was so evident at the Feast, pervaded the whole of Convention. We learned at this gathering of the passing that morning, April 28th, of our beloved Parvine (Mary Basil Hall). Many of us were conscious of Mary's new freedom and felt that she was more truly with us in spirit than when she lay sick at home.

Having been told by John Ferraby (as Chairman of the London Assembly) that he had received a long cable from the Guardian (as Secretary of the N.S.A.), we were impatient for the morning to arrive so that we might hear it.

The Convention Committee and the London friends had made all arrangements with the maximum efficiency and comfort. A very real effort was made to start

all sessions on time. These were held in the morning, afternoon and early evening, but from 7.30 p.m. the friends were free and greatly enjoyed this opportunity for association.

In the ante-room a bookstall was set up and everyone was handed a copy of the eagerly awaited cable from our beloved Guardian on passing into the meeting room. This was beautifully decorated with white lilac and tulips. After a short devotional meeting, the Convention opened with the election of officers, and the Chairman, our dear, perennial Hasan Balyuzi, read the cable, and so the whole tone of Convention was set. Greetings and congratulations from all parts of the Bahá'í world, from N.S.A.s and individuals, were read, demonstrating the solidarity of the Community of the Greatest Name.

Out of the 38 delegates, 34 were present for at least part of the time. Each of the 24 assemblies were represented by one or more believers, either as delegates or audience. About 100 people were present at the peak period and about 120 attended some part of Convention. Many of the friends who had come to Britain from overseas to help win the Six Year Plan were with us. Persia, having contributed so richly, was very well represented.

All the discussions were constructive and based upon the fine reports given by the various committees and direction given, the whole time, by the Guardian's cable. Thus it was Consolidation, Africa and the Publishing Trust which evoked the most animated discussions. The general feeling being that the 'year of respite' should be one of active preparation for the future Plans.

The election of the new National Assembly, which resulted in the re-election of the old one, demonstrated confidence rather than originality!

Many people were reminded of the warm 'family' relationship that characterised Summer School, 1949, as the friends seemed bound even closer together by the joy of success, the expressions of love and commendation from all over the world and, above all, by the praise, love and trust conveyed in the Guardian's inspiring cable.

'The happiest Convention ever' was the general opinion.

## NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Hasan Balyuzi (*Chairman*)  
David Hofman (*Vice-Chairman*)  
John Ferraby (*Secretary*)  
Richard Backwell (*Treasurer*)  
Dorothy Ferraby (*Recording Secretary*)  
Alma Gregory  
Philip Hainsworth  
Constance Langdon-Davies  
Ursula Newman

### National Assembly Meetings

The National Assembly's schedule of meetings for the year is given below. Meetings normally last from Friday evening to Sunday evening.

May 12-14th	November 17-19th
June 9-11th	December 15-17th
July 14-16th	January 20-22nd
August 25-27th	February 17-19th
September 22-24th	March 23-25th
October 20-22nd	April 13-15th



# SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

## OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

The Six Year Plan is completed. Total victory has been won. Its fame, the Guardian has indicated, is reverberating throughout the Bahá'í world. 'Tired but blissful,' we assemble at this Convention to review the past and make proposals for the future.

During the last month the British Bahá'í Community has surely witnessed one of the miracles of the age. Forty days before Ridván there were 33 gaps to be filled—about as many as were filled during the whole of the crucial year of the Plan. So far had we still to go that the Guardian offered to allow us to July 9th, the anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Báb, to fulfil our task. This offer became a challenge to the Community. Through declarations of Faith in Bahá'u'lláh, through settlers from overseas, and through pioneers arising from the British Community, the Plan has been completed, so that on the first day of Ridván, 24 assemblies formed in the British Isles. On that day the British Bahá'í Community had 340 voting members. The Guardian has hailed our victory as 'shedding lustre opening years second Bahá'í Century.'

The story of the last month of the Plan was one of almost uninterrupted excitement. The wonderful contribution of the Canadian Bahá'í Community will never be forgotten. It has been reported that the Canadian National Assembly sent John Robarts, its Chairman, at its own expense on a fortnight's tour of the British Isles. (He gave up most of his annual holiday to this trip.) John Robarts was instrumental in bringing about the final confirmation of about three-quarters of the 22 people who, after full study of the Faith over a period, made their declaration of Faith in the last month of the Plan.

Already on April 10th, the Teaching Committee were able to advise that arrangements had been made to complete the Plan by Ridván, but there were several minor setbacks after that date before the National Assembly was able to cable the Guardian on April 17th that total victory was assured.

In accordance with the Guardian's permission for local assemblies to form any time during the last year of the Plan, new assemblies came into being right up to the end of the administrative year. Oxford, Newcastle and Stockport have been reported already as having formed during the year. Belfast, Blackpool, Bournemouth, Brighton and Liverpool came into being in the last month of the administrative year.

### MARY BASIL HALL (PARVINE)

*'Grieve passing dear distinguished promoter Faith her services unforgettable praying progress soul  
Abha Kingdom.—SHOGHI.'*

AN APPRECIATION BY ISOBEL SLADE

With the passing on April 28th, 1950, of Mary Basil Hall, or Parvine, the name given to her by 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His visit to Britain, we have lost one more visible link with the early days of the Faith in this country.

Her name will always be associated with those of her mother and sister and Miss Platt as preserving the record in English of the Master's visits to Paris and this country. During those momentous days of His stay in Cadogan Gardens, she assisted in the duties and

The spurt which completed the Plan was necessarily expensive. Many pioneers needed budgets and there was much travelling teaching. The National Assembly found it essential to ask for still further loans and guarantees of overdraft from certain friends, who responded nobly to the situation. It cannot be too strongly stressed that the achievement of total victory leaves us heavily in debt, and that the task of paying for the Plan is by no means completed.

The National Assembly has spent little of its meeting time on routine work during its last two meetings, for the completion of the Plan has taken most of its attention. Plans of the July 9th Committee for organising the commemoration of the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb have been approved. Contact has been made with the Festival of Britain authorities. Various urgent matters of less importance have been dealt with. But major items on the agenda not directly concerned with the Plan have had to be referred to the incoming Assembly.

The lack of a London Bahá'í Centre, which continues, has meant finding some other place at which to hold National Assembly meetings. Mr. and Mrs. Backwell have nobly filled the breach by providing not only a room in their house for the Assembly to meet in, but refreshments at various times during the day as well. Their generous hospitality has solved for the Assembly what would otherwise have been a severe problem.

In previous years, it has been usual for the National Assembly to present to Convention some indication of the lines along which it was hoped to work in the following year. This year no such plans have been laid; a phase in the development of the Cause in Britain has ended, a new phase will start. That phase is as yet uncharted; we do not know in what direction our future lies. Our immediate task is consolidation of the victory won, and Convention will no doubt have much to say on this. The Teaching Committee is planning to take advantage of the present impetus in teaching, to organise teaching on a permanent basis, to replace short-time pioneers by resident believers before July 9th, and to help the Assembly Development Committee by provision of teachers. Other steps will need to be taken to ensure adequate consolidation of what has been achieved. One of the most important tasks of this year's Convention is to assist the National Assembly to plan the future.

privileges of ministering to His comfort and the needs of all those who sought His Presence; and she had many precious memories to give of incidents in that wonderful time.

During her married life she was much occupied with her husband's interests and worked and planned for many humanitarian projects; but her great devotion to her mother made her always ready to help her in her work for the Cause.

She was in the Auxiliary Territorial Service during



the recent war and it was only after demobilisation that she was able to give her full energy to the Bahá'í Cause; then she rendered devoted service on the National Assembly and National Teaching Committee of which she was Chairman, though she never allowed those depending on her to suffer neglect.

Her failing health prevented her from continuing this work, but when debarred from active life, she used her undoubted literary and dramatic gifts in preparing plays and scripts, which she believed would be valuable as a means of introducing the Cause to the public. She has left many of them which it is hoped may be useful.

So much for her public life, but we may perhaps find even more inspiration in her selfless private life. As daughter and wife, she was already to subordinate her own interests to furthering those of others. Her warm and enthusiastic nature was ready to support all humanitarian causes and to spend itself in loving service to those who depended on her. Her uncompromising fairness and honesty pervaded her whole outlook on life, yet she always saw the good in others.

During these last months of illness, her cheerfulness and patience were marvellous and her level sense of humour was unfailing to the end. We may trust that her brave spirit may continue to inspire us in our work.

#### SOME NOTES BY LOTFULLAH HAKIM

Sitarih Khanum (Lady Blomfield), Vardiyyih (Miss Platt), Parvine (Mary), Nouri (Eleanor) and I were at the Master's service from early in the morning till very late at night on both of His two never-to-be-forgotten visits to Britain. Those names were given by the Master to them on His first visit to England.

I always found dear Parvine in those days very happy and so cheerful. All the time she was ready to give a helping hand to whoever needed it, no matter how tired she was. She was ready to sacrifice her own leisure and comfort to make others happy.

The Master used to speak of her and her sister Nouri as His children. She had an untiring zeal and everybody was so happy to work with her. I personally miss her very much. Now that she has left us, I feel she is much nearer to us and much happier and far more able to help us in every way. God bless her.

#### An open letter to the National Teaching Committee

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The National Assembly has recorded its deep appreciation and gratitude to the National Teaching Committee for piloting the Six Year Plan to a successful conclusion.

We regard the period of the Six Year Plan, during which the N.T.C. played a major part, as having been the most important one in the history of the British Bahá'í Community. It was the first occasion on which we developed a powerful instrument of action. During this period the number of Assemblies in the British Isles was multiplied by five and the membership of the Community was trebled. The experience of the Community was greatly enriched and it developed the spiritual potentialities for the future services indicated by the Guardian.

For the part they played in helping the British Bahá'í Community to achieve these things, we extend

to all who served on the National Teaching Committee during the Six Year Plan our warmest thanks.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

9th JULY, 1950

Some months ago a Committee was formed to make all arrangements for a befitting and dignified Commemoration of the Centenary of the Martyrdom of the Báb on July 9th. This Committee presented its plans to the N.S.A. for approval, and again to Convention, when they were welcomed by the delegates. Here is a brief summary for the information of all the friends.

July 9th, 1950, is a day of great importance to the whole Bahá'í world because of it being the hundredth anniversary of the martyrdom of the Báb, but it is of especial interest and significance to the British Bahá'í Community.

The Six Year Plan which was launched in 1944 at the Centenary of the Declaration of the Báb, has been closely linked with the Ministry of the Báb, and whilst the Plan was triumphantly concluded with the formation of 24 Assemblies in Britain on April 21st, July 9th has been accepted as the date when the formal celebrations of this victory will be made. Thus, July 9th will be the date when, on the one hand, there is the solemn commemoration of the Báb's martyrdom, and on the other will be the triumphant celebration of the successful termination of the Six Year Plan. The task of the '9th July Committee' was therefore to divide the day's activities so that both aspects could be truly appreciated.

The broad plan is that the whole Community will be sub-divided into a number of regions comprising two or more Local Assemblies. On July 9th each region will congregate in one of the Assemblies who will act as hosts for a programme lasting from 12 noon until approximately 5 p.m. All the Bahá'ís in that region, and including isolated believers and selected close students of the Faith, would be invited to attend the full celebration, and certain publicity is to be sought. The occasion, however, is not public and attendance will be by invitation only. The '9th July Committee' will ascertain from Assemblies the number of participants likely to attend and will issue some dignified invitation cards.

Friends and visitors will gather at about 12 noon in the place appointed by the Host Assembly and will be welcomed and received by that Assembly. Promptly at 12.25 a brief Devotional Programme should commence. At 12.30 a Dramatic Script will be presented, which will cover the story of the Báb, the importance of His mission, and the events associated with His Martyrdom, and carefully timed so as to terminate with two minutes silence at 1 p.m. — the exact hour at which the Báb died, i.e. noon, G.M.T. A Devotional Programme will form part of the Script.

From 1.30 to 2.30 those present will have lunch. In the afternoon from 2.45 to 3.45, there will be a review entitled 'The Bahá'í World Community,' and this will be a survey of the work of the Six Year Plan, the progress of the Divine Plan throughout the world, and the story of the Temple at Wilmette, and the work now proceeding on the Shrine of the Báb. At 3.45 the Host Assembly will have a Unity Feast.

The Host Assembly will be able to call upon any believer in its particular region for use in the actual



presentation of the Script, but as a number of rehearsals will be necessary, it will be preferable to draw those taking part in the Script solely from that Assembly. The Devotional part which will follow after the two minutes silence will have readers from the visiting Assemblies.

Whilst the session up to lunch will give the story of the Martyrdom, and will be presented with due solemnity and dignity, the desired atmosphere after lunch will be one of rejoicing and enthusiasm for the Plans which are going on all over the world.

The three aspects of the afternoon review can be taken either in script form, or in straight talks by any experts who happen to be in the region. More information about this will be worked out by the Committee, and the suggested regions and the Host Assemblies are being approached. The Host Assemblies are in italics in the list below:

- |                  |                    |                 |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Dublin        | 4. Blackpool       | 6. Cardiff      |
| <i>Belfast</i>   | <i>Blackburn</i>   | <i>Bristol</i>  |
| 2. Glasgow       | Liverpool          | 7. Norwich(?)   |
| <i>Edinburgh</i> | Stockport          | <i>Brighton</i> |
| Newcastle(?)     | <i>Manchester</i>  | <i>London</i>   |
| 3. Bradford      | 5. Oxford          | ISOLATED        |
| <i>Sheffield</i> | <i>Northampton</i> | ASSEMBLIES      |
| <i>Leeds</i>     | Nottingham         | Bournemouth     |
| Newcastle(?)     | <i>Birmingham</i>  | Newcastle(?)    |
|                  |                    | Norwich(?)      |
|                  |                    | Torquay         |

These Assemblies may find difficulty in attending the nearest Host Assembly, Newcastle having the choice of Edinburgh or Leeds. Therefore, there will have to be a modified programme to be used locally. Norwich, however, may possibly join London.

The Committee is investigating the whole question of publicity and it is thought that in addition to a general Press Release, some magazine articles with pictures may also be used.

This, in brief, is a description of the plans for July 9th, and in closing, we would ask all Assemblies and individuals to co-operate as rapidly as possible with the Committee as the time now remaining is very short indeed. We deliberately withheld any earlier release of information in order that there would be no distraction from the Six Year Plan. In view of the Guardian's instructions with regard to this day, we trust that as many of the friends as possible will travel to the Host Assembly, so that not only will fitting tribute be paid to the Martyr Prophet of our Faith, but that the friends may gather together for the joyous celebration of victory.

### Election of the National Assembly

	Votes		Votes
Hasan Balyuzi	34	Hugh McKinley	3
Philip Hainsworth	33	Louis Ross Enfield	3
John Ferraby	33	Geraldine Cooper	2
Richard Backwell	32	Kathleen Hornell	2
David Hofman	28	Albert Joseph	2
Dorothy Ferraby	23	Joe Lee	2
Alma Gregory	20	Muriel Matthews	2
Ursula Newman	19	Donald Millar	2
Constance Langdon-		Marion Burgess-Norton	2
Davies	13	Isobel Slade	2
Isobel Locke	12	George Townshend	2
Arthur Norton	10	Ziaollah Asgarzadeh	1
Henry Backwell	7	Evelyn Baxter	1
Gladys Backwell	6	Robert Cheek	1
Lotfullah Hakim	6	Rizvanieh Eghrari	1

Hassan Sabri	5	Prudence George	1
Eruch Munsiff	4	Pauline Senior	1
John Shortland	4	Mehdi Samandari	1
Reginald Coulson	3	Brian Townshend	1
Marion Hofman	3	Una Townshend	1
Vivian Isenthal	3	Walter Wilkins	1

### THANKSGIVING

'Glorified art Thou, O my God! I yield Thee thanks that Thou hast made known unto me Him Who is the Dayspring of Thy mercy, and the Dawning Place of Thy grace, and the Repository of Thy Cause.'

The successful completion of the Six Year Plan, but for which we could never have attained the right of participation in promised world-wide campaigns or even have continued in being ourselves as a healthy organism, calls for a practical expression of gratitude from all. It is in a way our good fortune that it still remains open to everyone to make a tangible contribution as measure of the reality of their gratitude through giving some donation, either in the form of continuing contribution or once for all gift, to defray the cost of that Plan. After all, as with so much in the realm of example, if the Bahá'ís don't, who will?

Our needs this year, in addition to the budgeted expenditure for the year, which we are determined shall be of manageable proportions, are of the order of £1,430 (i.e.  $\frac{2}{3}$  of our total debt of £2,150) in order to release those generous guarantors who have underwritten our overdraft.

Every individual believer should give serious thought to this problem and consider whether he or she has not been enriched beyond measure in his consciousness of partnership in the work of a steadily growing, more and more dynamic, member of Bahá'u'lláh's World Order.

Few though we be in these isles who have chosen the path of unity, of recognition of the Daystar of guidance in this day and obedience to His laws, the very fact of fewness surely enhances the privilege of giving—the central active principle of the Cause—for it is the very function of living that the life principle, the blood, should circulate readily in the organism and keep it active.

'Verbal thanksgiving is fruitless. Thanksgiving is rendered in two effective ways. First, through the realisation of spiritual susceptibilities which illumine the court of the hearts with the bright stars of happiness and rejoice the heart by the glad-tidings of the Merciful. Second, through deeds, i.e. living in accord with the good pleasure of the Lord, adorning our being with His heavenly attributes and trying to alleviate the suffering and misery of mankind.' ('Abdul-Bahá.)

### NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

#### Treasurer's Address

The address of the Treasurer of the National Assembly this year is:

R. H. Backwell  
18 Hutchison Drive,  
Bearsden,  
Glasgow.



## LOCAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES

BELFAST: George Marshall, 76 Clifton Park Ave., Belfast, Northern Ireland.  
 BIRMINGHAM: Miss Emily Eastgate, 5 Richmond Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.  
 BLACKBURN: Mrs. Geraldine Cooper, Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, nr. Blackburn, Lancs.  
 BLACKPOOL: Dennis McArthur, 14 Burwood Drive, Blackpool, Lancs.  
 BOURNEMOUTH: Mrs. Muriel Hayter, 4 Derby Road, Bournemouth, Hants.  
 BRADFORD: Mrs. Helen Akeroyd, 230 Tong Street, Bradford, Yorks.  
 BRIGHTON: Miss Vivian Isenthal, 17 Brunswick Square, Hove 2, Sussex.  
 BRISTOL: Mrs. Dora Weeks, The Tynings, Easton in Gordano, Bristol, Glos.  
 CARDIFF: Mrs. Joan Giddings, 43 Plasturton Ave., Canton, Cardiff, Wales.  
 DUBLIN: Miss Olive Sutton, Glengesh, Mt. Anville Road, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, Ireland.  
 EDINBURGH: Miss Vera Rate, 6 Westhall Gdns., Edinburgh 10, Scotland.  
 GLASGOW: Miss Ada Williams, c/o Mrs. Macpherson, 5 Nith Street, Riddrie, Glasgow, Scotland.  
 LEEDS: Marcel Michaeloff, 75 East Parade, Harrogate, Yorks.  
 LIVERPOOL: Mrs. Alma Gregory, 19 Canning Street, Liverpool 8, Lancs.  
 LONDON: Eruch Munsiff, 50 West Kensington Mansions, Beaumont Crescent, London, W.14.  
 MANCHESTER: Mrs. Pauline Senior, 15 Oaklands Road, Swinton, Lancs.  
 NEWCASTLE: Miss Hilda Strong, c/o Smith, Lennox & Stewart, 6 Nixon St., Newcastle-on-Tyne 1, Northumberland.  
 NORTHAMPTON: Mrs. Betty Reed, 20 Derby Road, Northampton.  
 NORWICH: Robert Cheek, 190 Dereham Road, Norwich, Norfolk.  
 NOTTINGHAM: Lady Kathleen Hornell, 15 Lenton Rd., The Park, Nottingham.  
 OXFORD: Philip Hainsworth, 179 Woodstock Road, Oxford.  
 SHEFFIELD: Arthur Norton, 74 Norfolk Road, Sheffield 2, Yorks.  
 STOCKPORT: Miss Jessica Young, Ashfield, Beech Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire.  
 TORQUAY: Mrs. Muriel Matthews, Ythan Bank, Torwood Gdns., Torquay, Devonshire.

### Consolidation Committee Address

The work of the N.T.C. and A.D.C. is now handled by the Consolidation Committee whose secretary is Philip Hainsworth. His address from July 1st will be:  
 243 Woodstock Road,  
 Oxford.

### A Letter of Appreciation

Some time ago it was announced in the *Teaching News Bulletin* that Margaret Sullivan was in hospital and would welcome correspondence from the Bahá'í world. The response was such that it became impossible for her to acknowledge each letter individually, and as the *Teaching News Bulletin* is no longer issued, we publish her open letter of thanks in the neighbouring column.

## ADDITIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

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

Ian Semple, Oxford  
 Edward Rudd, Newcastle  
 Joseph Jameson, Newcastle  
 John Mitchison, Newcastle  
 Ermelinda Gradil (Youth from Portugal), London  
 John McGinley, Belfast  
 Mehdi Samandari (From Iran), Belfast  
 Mary Shaw, Oxford  
 Patricia George (Youth), Norwich  
 Elsie Howard, Brighton  
 Arthur Sinclair (From Australia), Edinburgh  
 Rizwanieh Eghrari (From Iran), Edinburgh  
 Clifford Lovell, Bristol  
 William Boden, Blackpool  
 Florrie Boden, Blackpool  
 Kathleen Hyett, Blackpool  
 Mary Jacob, Blackpool  
 Mary Hanna, Belfast  
 Anna Lamont, Belfast  
 Oliver McKenzie, Belfast  
 Jean Beattie, Belfast  
 Claus Bartels (Youth), Birmingham  
 Netty Rijnenberg (From Holland), Norwich  
 Mary Beeby, Liverpool  
 Eileen Eastham, Blackburn  
 Anna Nielsen, Sheffield  
 Catherine McLean, Glasgow  
 David Elrod, Sheffield  
 Zarin Taherzadeh, Glasgow  
 Sydney Price, Dublin  
 Olive Sutton, Dublin  
 Frankie Johnston, Dublin  
 Habibullah Hazari (From Iran), Sheffield  
 Lily Ramcharan (From Canada), London  
 Stanley Lowe, Blackpool

We regret that the following were omitted from previous lists:

Iraj Hakim (Youth from Iran), Edinburgh  
 Jack Banani (Youth from Iran), Street  
 Abdol-Hossein Banani (Youth from Iran), Street  
 Edward Cardell (From Canada), Brighton  
 Florence Kamming (From Denmark), London  
 Egon Kamming, London  
 Helen Akeroyd, Bradford

'Dear Bahá'í Friends,

So many of you have written to me since I came to the sanatorium that I would dearly love to reply to your letters as they come along. But the routine here is such that we have little time for writing. So I would like to thank you all through the medium of the "News Letter" for your very kind letters and for the magazines some of you so kindly sent. Your letters, which have kept me in touch with the Bahá'í world, and your kind thoughts and prayers have done much to assist my recovery and I am deeply grateful to all.

Loving Bahá'í Greetings,

MARGARET SULLIVAN.'

B.3, Cheshire Joint San.,  
 Market Drayton, Salop.