

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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June, 1949.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

OF THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

As foreshadowed in the Annual Report, it has not been possible to achieve all the goals for this year. The prizes newly won during the period of the Six Year Plan have been maintained, one new Assembly has been established in Norwich; in Belfast, Oxford and Liverpool, however, we have failed to establish the assemblies originally planned, and Bournemouth, which has already three times lost Assembly status and been re-established, has again been reduced to a Group.

The last few weeks have been filled with problems for both the National Assembly and the National Teaching Committee. The British Community owes a great deal to the devotion with which the members of the National Teaching Committee have laboured in these last weeks to preserve the prizes so hardly won. So rapidly have events moved and so severe have been the setbacks that although the National Teaching Committee have revised policy and made fresh plans at every meeting and even between meetings, it has still been necessary for the National Assembly at its own meetings to supersede the plans made a week or two earlier by the Committee with new plans to meet new and more desperate situations.

Already at the meeting of the National Assembly at the end of March there was news that three believers would be needed to maintain Edinburgh, which had previously been thought secure; but it still seemed possible that all goal assemblies except Liverpool might be established at Ridvan. There followed a series of grievous blows; declarations were withdrawn, pioneer offers cancelled at the last minute, the way remained barred to those making efforts to move to a goal town. At its last meeting, with but four days to go before the first day of Ridvan, the National Assembly was faced with the obligation of finding two settlers for Edinburgh and one for Cardiff. Acting on the Guardian's instruction that prizes won should be maintained

"at all costs," pioneers in goal towns were asked to move at extremely short notice to these communities to bolster the tottering assemblies. As this is written, it is believed these plans have been successful and the assemblies saved; but the goal towns have thereby been greatly weakened.

To add to the problems faced by the Assembly at its last meeting, it found itself without any money at all. In order to pay necessary expenses in the week preceding the Convention, it has been necessary to borrow £100.

We are grieved that Bournemouth should again have lost its Assembly status so soon after regaining it. The Guardian was in April asked whether its maintenance should be given more or less importance than the establishment of new assemblies, and replied: "Establishment new assemblies more important," so regretfully we let the Bournemouth Assembly go. It is our view that a strong settler is needed in Bournemouth during the coming year.

Several other important decisions have been taken by the Assembly since the Annual Report was written and some of these will be explained to the delegates more fully later in the Convention. Briefly, it has been decided to centre the N.T.C. on Oxford as soon as possible to enable the Committee to carry out its work adequately. The Publishing Trust can no longer proceed without a production manager who can devote more time to the work than is possible for a

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

HASAN BALYUZI	... <i>Chairman</i>
DAVID HOFMAN	... <i>Vice-Chairman</i>
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ALMA GREGORY	
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MARION HOFMAN	
URSULA NEWMAN	

voluntary worker. Further, it is no longer possible for the national secretariat to continue without a full time secretarial assistant and the incoming assembly is being recommended to make provision for this assistance to be given to next year's secretary.

The National Assembly has advised the London Assembly that after the expiration of the present lease at Old Brompton Road it will no longer need more than limited rights in the London Centre, such as the right to put up its name plate and to hold occasional Assembly and committee meetings there. Consequently the contribution of the National Assembly to the rent of the new premises will be considerably reduced. This action was taken on the assumption that whoever may be secretary of the National Assembly next year will be residing outside London by the time the lease expires in December.

There have been several new committees appointed since the Annual Report was written. The Summer School Committee has been entirely re-organised and given powers to co-opt the services of other members of the community in view of the short time left to complete these arrangements. The Committee which organised the Townshend pamphlet project handed over responsibility for dealing with repercussions to a new Committee called the Bahá'í Public

Relations Committee, whose duties were, however, confined to dealing with any repercussions arising from the distribution of the pamphlet. A new Committee has been formed to help the appointed wardens of the schoolchildren from overseas for whom the National Assembly has accepted responsibility—the Committee takes decisions on matters referred to it by the wardens. We have also received a very satisfactory report from the Child Education Committee which indicates that the work of Child Education is at last getting under weigh.

Another piece of good news received by the Assembly at its last meeting was that the translation of the "Bahá'í Faith" pamphlet into Welsh has been completed. Plans have been made for the pamphlet to be first checked and then published.

Dear Friends, we face the coming year with a very great task ahead of us. Fifty believers are needed in the goal towns and inevitably replacements will be required for some of the settlers who have so valiantly transferred their membership to save tottering assemblies. Great efforts and great sacrifices are needed. Let us at this Convention lay the foundation on which an enduring success can be achieved in the testing year ahead.

FROM 'THE GUARDIAN

9th April, 1949.

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letters to our beloved Guardian, with their various enclosures, and dated October 4, 20; November 2, 7, 17, 18, 27; December 19, 22, 25, 28; of 1948, and January 4, 19; February 3, 17; and March 1, 1949, have been received, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

(Three paragraphs of a personal nature have been omitted).

Please assure Mr. Walter Wilkins that the Guardian was aware of his pioneer labours through various reports forwarded to him, and that he deeply appreciates them and is praying for his success.

He considers that Final Phase day must be April 21st, and not in July.

He feels that, although precedence must be given to the new goal assemblies, this does not mean the older assemblies like Bournemouth can afford to be neglected. They must be maintained, but the first call on pioneers must be from the critical goal assemblies who—at least theoretically—need help more urgently! He has just cabled you about this.

He sees no objection to your printing excerpts from his "Dispensation" and "God Passes By" in your compilation on the Covenant. Although

he strongly feels that the Master's writings, the revealed Word of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb, and his own writings should, out of respect for the difference in their relative stations, be published whenever possible in separate volumes, this must not be fanatically adhered to where an educative compilation on a certain subject is conceived.

A vacancy can be recognised, under the circumstances you outlined in your letter of December 22, 1948, and a new assembly member be elected. But of course this in no way implies the retiring member of the Assembly is not a full voting believer, and a member of the Community in good standing.

He deeply sympathizes with the struggles of the British Bahá'ís at present to perform their task, now reaching the crucial stage, in spite of financial difficulties and shortage of pioneers. It would seem as if all of our tasks, all over the world, including here at the World Center, are becoming increasingly more of a challenge to us. As the time approaches for the ending of the various Plans, Six Year ones, Seven Year, Five Year, etc., the obstacles seem to become greater, and the friends are made to realize that very real, hard, often back-breaking effort and sacrifice is involved! The American Bahá'ís here-to-fore so relatively easily victorious (!), are now feeling a very real squeeze on their resources and deter-

mination. The same is true of India, Persia, and the other countries with goals to accomplish within a fixed and rapidly diminishing period! He himself, having undertaken at such a disturbed time to raise at least the first story or arcade of the new part of the Báb's Shrine, finds himself beset with worries, problems and complications which have not only *doubled* his work, but exhaust and harass him all the time. So at least, let the British friends know that when they struggle and feel hard beset, they are not struggling and worrying alone! Far from it!!

We must expect these things: It is becoming evident that the world is not yet through with its labour, the New Age not yet fully born, real Peace not yet right round the corner. We must have no illusions about how much depends on us and our success or failure. All humanity is disturbed and suffering and confused; we cannot expect to not be disturbed and not to suffer—but we don't have to be confused. On the contrary, confidence and assurance, hope and optimism are our prerogative. The successful carrying out of our various Plans is the greatest sign we can give of our faith and inner assurance, and the best way we can help our fellow-men out of their confusion and difficulties.

He assures you he feels that the British Bahá'ís have got what it takes (to be a trifle slangy) to be successful and accomplish their goals. Let them therefore demonstrate it to the rest of the Bahá'í World.

With warmest greetings,

R. RABBANI.

P.S.—Your letter of April 4th has just been received. The Guardian is too busy to undertake at present the revision of Bahá'u'lláh's Tablet to the Christians, but he has no objection to a Committee doing it.

Dear and valued co-workers,

The British Bahá'í Community, now embarked on the final phase of the first historic collective enterprise undertaken in British Bahá'í history, stands at the parting of the ways. Only a brief interval separates it from the fatal date when its first experiment in a collective nation wide effort to achieve a definite goal in the path of service to its beloved Faith will have ended. Five years of stupendous effort, of magnificent self-sacrifice, of marvellous dedication and of splendid co-operation have marked the progressive evolution of the Plan to its present stage. What has been achieved during this short span of years, despite the smallness of numbers, the paucity of resources and the exhaustion resulting from a prolonged and severely devastating conflict, has, beyond the shadow of a doubt, eclipsed the brightest achievements recorded in the course of more than half a century in the annals of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in that country.

The Bahá'í World, in its entirety, is struck

with amazement at the quality of the work performed, at the extent and number of the victories achieved by this community. Its sister community in the great Republic of the West, already laden with many and splendid trophies gathered in distant fields and over a long period of time, cannot regard this resurgence of the Bahá'í spirit, this manifestation of Bahá'í solidarity, the seen ennobling evidences of Bahá'í achievement, amidst so conservative a people, within so short time, under such trying circumstances, and by so small band of workers, except with feelings compounded of envy, of admiration and respect. The sister communities throughout the East, venerable by reason of their age and the sacrifices they have made, and fully aware of the long period of incubation this community has undergone, recall, with feelings of delight, 'Abdu'l-Bahá's prediction, forecasting the germination, at their appointed time, of the potent seeds His loving hands have sown in the course of His twice-repeated visit to that Island, and marvel at the rapidity with which its soil is now manifesting the potentialities with which it has been endowed. He who blessed it with His footsteps, Who called into being and fostered the growth of, the community labouring in that Island, hails from His station on high, the exploits which immortalise the small band of His present-day consecrated and resolute followers, who are carrying on the torch which He, Himself had entrusted to their immediate predecessors. Bahá'u'lláh, Himself, lauds the conspicuous victories being won in His name, in the dawning years of the second Bahá'í century, at the very heart and centre of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, whose sovereign Monarch He Himself had addressed and whose deeds He, with His own pen, had commended.

The one remaining year, ere the present Plan of this blessed, this radiant and spiritually potent community, is scheduled to draw to a close, cannot must not, be allowed to jeopardize the prizes so painstakingly won during five memorable years of British Bahá'í history. The newly enrolled believers, on whom the mantle of the first generation of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's British disciples has now fallen, are now summoned to participate in a Plan, whose scope and potency their predecessors could have never visualised, and whose initial success must thrill and rejoice their souls in the Abhá Kingdom, have a distinct, a sacred, a peculiar and urgent responsibility to discharge in ensuring the consummation of this mighty enterprise. Through active and constant participation with their veteran co-workers, in filling swiftly the still remaining gaps in the pattern of the Plan, now in its concluding stage; in displaying systematic and sustained activity in the pioneer field now stretching before them; in sacrificing in as great a measure as possible, their resources, to facilitate the attainment of

all its goals, they can best discharge their immense debt of gratitude to the Cause of the Most Great Name. Who has singled them out, at so critical an hour, and from among such a vast multitude of their slumbering countrymen, to serve and glorify His Faith.

I entreat them, and plead as well with their older brethren who have set so momentous a Plan in motion, to arise as one soul, to exert one more superhuman effort, to fix steadily their gaze on the pinnacle they are visibly approaching and to disencumber themselves from any burden impeding their arduous climb, in a last determined attempt to scale and conquer the summit, from which alone they can catch a glimpse of the future glory of their destiny.

SHOGHI.

Cables.

On 14th February the National Assembly sent two cables to the Guardian:

(1) Response your appeal pioneers numerically larger Communities London one temporary project three possible some Persian students Manchester nil. Assembly ready continue Plan intensive teaching other Communities designed release known willing pioneers. Involves drastic reduction administrative work free capable teachers. Suspend until Convention A.D.C., Youth, Publishing Trust, reduce Summer School, Townshend Committees delay numerical increase virgin territories new assemblies. Ready operate desperate measure immediately receipt your approval begs prayers guidance.

(2) Marion Hofmans tour highly successful friends response appeal funds very fine Townshend statements being released fifteenth Evelyn Baxter settled Brighton devoted love.

The Guardian replied on 20th February:

Approve drastic measures praying ardently On 28th March, the N.S.A. cabled:

Three declarations received Belfast one Norwich Glasgow Louise Charlot Connie Langdon-Davies Cyril Jenkerson pioneering Oxford. Assembly making desperate plans preserve prizes win new goals seven believers required maintenance eleven for goal assemblies. Appreciate cabled reply our query priority maintenance Bournemouth Loving devotion.

The Guardian replied on 1st April:

Assure newly declared believers welcome prayers. Convey new pioneers deepest loving admiration. Praying richest blessings Assembly's strenuous endeavours. Appeal further sacrifice continued response call pioneers deepest love.

On 18th April we cable:

All assemblies maintained except Bournemouth. Norwich new radiant assembly Belfast Oxford Liverpool not attained Fund in debt by Con-

vention. Please advise date termination Plan instruct whether Assemblies may be formed during coming year. Assembly feels Convention critical fortunes begs prayers release vital energy triumphant conclusion. Assembly tired but confident Community despite grievous setbacks can with united will sustaining grace Bahá'u'lláh yet succeed deepest love.

The Guardian replied on 19th April:

Be not distressed redouble exertions. Perseverance will enable prosecutors Plan attain goal arranging contribution. Termination Plan April. Assemblies may be formed during year. Ardently praying realisation dearest hopes.

From Convention the following cable was sent on 25th April:

Convention deeply grateful your message N.S.A. encouragement hope confidence. Delegates conscious last opportunity express collective determination manifest united will faith successful completion cherished Plan Assemblies urged hold immediate meetings consult delegates plan maximum pioneers funds teachers attendance over 70 including 34 delegates deepening consciousness Covenant impels turn Centre humbly begging guidance prayers way open prosecution overwhelming task loving devotion British Bahá'is.

The Guardian's cable to Convention was dated 27th April:

Acclaim historic occasion participation double number delegates annual British Bahá'í Convention testifying rapid unprecedented highly promising expansion dearly beloved Community followers Faith Bahá'u'lláh British Isles. Though immediate goals unattained amount work achieved standard effort exerted range task performed quality spirit demonstrated since inception Plan have contributed raising stature entire Community enhancing its prestige proclaiming its fame demonstrating its virility establishing beyond shadow doubt its right occupy front rank onward marching army Faith Bahá'u'lláh. Appeal assembled delegates arouse entire Community exert remaining twelve months effort surpassing noblest endeavours as yet made service Plan. Victory within sight intervening period rapidly shrinking. Responsibility every single member Community growing graver hourly. My prayers longing total success likewise increasing intensity. Bahá'u'lláh's sustaining unfailing grace more efficacious readier bless last attempts made save fortunes Plan so inextricably interwoven destiny British Bahá'í Community.

Letters to Individuals.

The following extracts are from a letter written by the Guardian to Dick Backwell, dated January 8th, 1949.

"The only people who are truly free of the dross of self are the Prophets, for to be free of one's ego is a hall-mark of perfection. We humans are *never* going to become perfect, for perfection belongs to a realm we are not destined to enter. However, we must constantly mount higher, seek to be more perfect.

The ego is the animal in us, the heritage of the flesh which is full of *selfish* desires. By obeying the laws of God, seeking to live the life laid down in our teachings, and prayer and struggle, we can subdue our egos. We call people "saints" who have achieved the highest degree of mastery over their ego."

"The Qur'án should be to some extent studied by the Bahá'ís. But they certainly need not seek to acquire a mastery of it, which would take years, unless they really want to. All Divine Revelation seems to have been thrown out in flashes. The Prophets never composed treatises. That is why in the Qur'án and our own writings different subjects are so often included in one Tablet. It pulsates, so to speak. That is why it is 'Revelation'."

"Life is a constant struggle, not only against forces around us, but above all against our own "ego." We can never afford to rest on our

oars, for if we do, we soon see ourselves carried down stream again. Many of those who drift away from the Cause do so for the reason that they had ceased to go on developing. They became complacent, or indifferent, and consequently ceased to draw the spiritual strength and vitality from the Cause which they should have. Sometimes, of course, people fail because of a test they just do not meet, and often our severest tests come from each other. Certainly the believers should try to avert such things, and if they happen, remedy them through love. Generally speaking nine-tenths of the friends' troubles are because they don't do the *Bahá'í* thing, in relation to each other, to the administrative bodies, or in their personal lives."

"No doubt to the degree we Bahá'ís the world over strive to spread the Cause and live up to its teachings, there will be some mitigation of the suffering of the peoples of the world. But it seems apparent that the great failure to respond to Bahá'u'lláh's instructions, appeals and warnings issued in the 19th Century, have now sent the world along a path, and released forces which must culminate in a still more violent upheaval and agony. The thing is out of hand, so to speak, and it is too late to avert catastrophic trials."

Have you bought a book this week?

Not all of us realise the importance of books, nor the part they have to play in the Six Year Plan. We so often associate the Plan only with the achievement of 19 new Assemblies. Whilst this is numerically the goal, we will hardly be able to claim a triumphant close in 1950 if the members of these 19 new communities have very little understanding of the deeper aspects of the Faith, or knowledge of the vast wealth of literature which is now available in our own language.

In 1946, the Guardian wrote to one believer of the very great importance of the dissemination of Bahá'í literature; to that same believer in 1944, he had spoken of the role to be played by the Publishing Trust. One of the most outstanding proofs of the creative power of Bahá'u'lláh is the way in which, during the past 25 years, books have been written about the Faith by believers who wished to share with their fellow human beings some of the joy and wonder which they themselves experienced. At the same time, the prolific pen of Shoghi Effendi has enriched the authoritative literature of the Faith, both by the translation of such gems as "The Dawnbreakers," the collections of "Prayers and Meditations," and "Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh," and his outstanding original works which give a penetrating analysis of world affairs and how these are influenced in both a direct and indirect way by the growth of the Cause itself, such as "Goal of

a New World Order," "World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," "Unfoldment of World Civilisation," "Challenging Requirements of the Present Hour," etc. His declaration of the basic elements of the Faith, in "Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh," and the history of the first hundred years in "God Passes By," bear outstanding testimony to his lucid pen, and are landmarks along the path of this new English literature.

The Publishing Trust our Temple.

We are only just beginning to realise why the Publishing Trust, when formed, was confirmed so strongly by the Guardian and classed as the British counterpart of the American Mashriq'ul-Adkar. Our Temple was to be an institution which would pour out literature for a great part of the English-speaking world. In spite of war-time restrictions, paper shortages, and the fact that the Trust was staffed by voluntary workers, it has quietly and surely been built into an organ of great capacity. Again, it is not often realised that our Publishing Trust has a selection of over 40 books which it can offer from time to time, ranging from a penny to almost 10/- in price.

It is surprising to see the number of people who will pick up a book or a pamphlet and read it, when they would not be prepared to go out of their way to attend a meeting to discuss the same subject. Realising this, then, one of the ways in which we can prepare in a quiet, unobtrusive way for that day in perhaps the very

near future when through the powers of the national press and radio our Faith will be presented to the masses of our fellow-countrymen, is to make every effort to distribute our literature through all possible channels.

If we think along these lines, the achievement of the goals of the Plan assume an even greater significance. They will be the spring-boards, as it were, from which will be launched the attack on the forces of unbelief, and the soldiers in the spearheads of these battles will be armed with eloquent tongues and an ample supply of literature. The book will then come into its own. Bahá'í books will rapidly run out of print; the demand will be great. For that will be the time when, as 'Abdu'l-Bahá promised, we shall be knocked up in the middle of the night by people beseeching us to tell them about the Faith. The bewildered masses will be athirst for knowledge of this redeeming, life-giving Message, and our literature will be avidly sought.

Dignified presentations of the various aspects of the Faith, stories of achievements in other lands, news of the countries where the Faith is overcoming all obstacles, and bulletins and magazines published by institutions of the Cause, will be universally available and read by multitudes.

Our Present Task.

Now what does this mean to us here in 1949? It means two things: first, we are able to gradually build up a comprehensive library of our own, and secondly we can place at strategic points books which can be referred to when the demand commences.

First, our own book stock.

Is it complete? Have we a representative personal library, and what is more, have we read what we own? Do we possess any spare copies which we could give to friends as birthday gifts or to celebrate some special occasion? Do we keep a good supply of the 1d. and 2d. pamphlets to hand to the contact we make on the train or over morning coffee? Do we send our overseas friends the new issues of the Youth Bulletin? Just as we thirst for news of our brothers and sisters in other lands so are they; also, eager to hear from us. Did we, then, buy that extra copy to send to Germany, India, Australia, Egypt?

Secondly, the strategic placing of books.

Have we been to all the libraries in our district? Did we call in the library in the next town when we were visiting friends? Have we tried to sell to the Chief Librarian a copy of one of our more expensive books and if he was interested but not able to pay, did we make him a gift of one? (Your L.S.A. will help you in regard to your City Library, the N.S.A. in your County Library, and the N.T.C. in all the goal towns). And do we remember meeting that contact who asked some very good questions which we felt perhaps we did not answer adequately? He might like

book which would give a fuller answer.

Yes, indeed, there are many ways in which we can increase the circulation of our books, and incidentally help our contacts too: another point which should be borne in mind is that by increasing the sale of our books we are strengthening our Publishing Trust and helping it to grow, so that instead of 5 or 6 new publications per year, it will be able to produce scores.

Have you ever thought of getting the author to autograph your book? Your contact is sure to appreciate it more.

When you speak at a public meeting, do you make sure that there are on display some copies of the book to which you might refer?

It is often found, too, that a Public Devotional Meeting where enquirers have been asked to read a passage of Scripture from, say "Hidden Words," "Pattern of Bahá'í Life," or "Selections from Bahá'í Scripture" has resulted in that friend buying the book because he so liked hearing his own voice read those gems and wanted to try the experiment again.

On examining this subject of books, can we say that the study of our Bahá'í books, and seeking ways to get them moving around, can be quite an adventure. Clubs, reading-rooms, nearly all societies and community centres have their own little libraries and often welcome a gift of a book; in this case, never forget to make sure that somewhere in the book there is an address to which an interested person may write for further information.

It has been said that the vitality of your community may be judged by its book sales.

The time is coming when literature must be available for everyone and will be wanted by everyone, and we must leave no stone unturned to make it available.

NEW PUBLICATION.

A major event in the life of the British Community this year was the appearance of the first British edition of "*Gleanings from the Writings of Baba'u'llah*." The book consists of excerpts from the Books and Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, selected and translated by Shoghi Effendi himself. It has 350 pages of large clear type and is bound in deep red cloth. The price is 7/6d.

National Assembly Meetings.

The National Assembly is scheduled to meet during the following week-ends; the meetings last from 7.30 p.m. on Friday to late Sunday evening, but only the dates of the Saturdays are given:

May 7th	November 19th
May 21st	December 17th
June 18th	January 14th
July 16th	February 18th
August 13th	March 25th
September 24th	April 15th
October 22nd	

A WEIGHTY STATEMENT

Report on an Internationally supported Campaign.

At its Meeting in September, the National Assembly had before it the statement "The Old Churches and the New World Faith," which Mr. Townshend had just completed, to accompany his formal relinquishment of Orders in the Protestant Episcopal Church of America into which he had been ordained in 1906 in the diocese of Utah.

The document was read aloud and the Guardian's words recollected about the "Mighty results" from Mr. Townshend's resignation from Church office. We appreciated that here before us was the weightiest single matter that we had yet had to handle, because of its potential significance throughout Christendom in the West.

A Committee was appointed composed of members of the National Assembly itself and charged with the responsibility of making the best possible use of the Statement, to help Mr. Townshend himself in a personal release of copies to Senior clergy, and to organise a national release to a maximum of some 10,000 leaders of thought in religious, educational, social and cultural fields. It was given a budget of £200 and at the same time copies of the Statement were despatched to all other National Assemblies, inviting their participation in this great project. The Publishing Trust was requested to supply the paper for the printing.

Certain basic principles of distribution and organisation were established and a Distribution Committee, composed of members from the London Community set up to co-ordinate the card-indexing of the names and addresses of recipients, the elimination of duplicates, the addressing of envelopes, and finally the insertion of the statement and covering letter and their despatch on the selected date. February 15th was chosen because it was about half-way between Christmas and Easter, it seemed to be the earliest feasible date, and because a later date might too greatly distract from the achievement of the goal towns of the year.

Various categories of suitable recipients were planned and approved and the work of fixing their names and addresses on cards was farmed out to local assemblies, groups and individuals who were also asked to send in their own selected lists of suitable people. Two categories were otherwise treated: an Agency was employed to prepare addressed envelopes for the Townshend's release to the Senior clergy, and special treatment was accorded the Daily Press and influential periodicals.

In the event certain jobs proved too much for some communities and had to be re-allotted, and most participants overshot the date of completion, but almost everyone contributed lists of their

own selections.

Delays at this stage and the irregularity in style of recorded address led to the decision to adopt the suggestion of the Distribution Committee to do all the envelope addressing in London, although it perhaps entailed foregoing most of the help that friends might have been stimulated to give in contribution of stamps.

Postal difficulties, printing difficulties, despatching difficulties all served to hamper the work. At last, with the assistance of other London friends the despatch was completed. Indeed, the release day became release week, 14th to 19th February, since the release to the Press was delayed till Monday 14th when 319 packets with special contents were sent off from Oxford, and the final posting on Saturday, 19th, of the last package from Dublin, where Mr. Townshend and his helpers were also distracted by postal delays and difficulties.

Altogether some 8,100 copies of the statement were despatched, including one to every registered British Bahá'í. A copy with accompanying letter was sent as token of loyal duty to H.M. the King.

Gross cost of the project, with a printing of 15,650 copies, was approximately £293. The Publishing Trust will have taken over about 7,000 at 3d. per copy, and will resell most of them at 6d. Net cost of the scheme to the British Community will have been less than £100.

Substantial support came from Overseas: \$100 from U.S.A., £50 from Persia, £25 from India, of which £10 was for helping to finance our distribution; and £25 from Egypt, of which £20 was to help with production costs; £5 from Iraq. The Australian National Assembly placed an initial order for 1,000 and a subsequent order for 4,000 copies, while Germany announced their intention to translate.

At the time of writing it is not possible to assess the repercussion. A fine full page article appeared in the Birmingham Sunday Mercury on February 20th, a paragraph in an article by Professor Norman Bentwich, which appeared by coincidence on February 15th in the Manchester Guardian, spoke well of the Faith in Palestine, a bare mention of the Faith was reported made from an Edinburgh pulpit, and enquiry from an author engaged in compiling an encyclopaedia of religious matters, a small number of private letters and many formal acknowledgments passed through the London centre. Mr. Townshend received a "remarkably kind" reply from the Bishop of Utah. He also had questions from the Primate of Ireland, an invitation to speak to a religious society in London with offer to print the address, and a few private letters.

An organisation was set up to cope with a much larger reaction than in fact has taken place. The original Committee was continued, temporarily, as Bahá'í Public Relations Committee, and they appointed a special Bureau to deal with all enquiries, whether personal or by mail that passed through the London Centre, made preparations to assist the friends with any likely degree of response, issued a synopsis of "Some Christian Subjects" prepared by last year's Summer School and offered assistance to Mr. Townshend should he require it.

More might have been done but for the "Drastic measure" of curtailment of administrative work which the Guardian approved.

Bahá'ulláh's Call to Christendom was reiterated; a great project, sponsored by the entire national community, and supported by most of the Sister Bahá'í communities of East and West, was launched; the principal leaders of thought in the British Isles were offered yet another chance to respond at this eleventh hour of humanity's progression towards the final harvest of what it has itself sown; on the canvas of eternity with the brush of the spirit a painting has been begun destined in time to portray a mighty concourse of souls set alight by the torch of faith fanned by the breeze of publicity which cannot ever again wholly be lulled.

"TOWNSHEND PAMPHLET COMMITTEE."

CONVENTION 106

CONVENTION IMPRESSIONS.

by Ursula Newman

For the first time during the Six Year Plan, Convention opened on a serious note, without the general rejoicing and happy faces flushed with victory and news of all goals won. Norwich alone had reached its goal of assembly status and two radiant faces testified to the fact. For the rest, we could only be thankful that last year's prizes were held, that the N.S.A. and N.T.C. members had spared themselves nothing to achieve total victory was apparent from the tired drawn faces and even the broken health of several of their number. Our Chairman, Hasan Balyuzi, was unable to preside over all sessions owing to ill-health but a more robust vice-chairman, Philip Hainsworth, ably took his place.

Bahá'ís never meet in numbers without generating an atmosphere of love, harmony and happiness, and the joy of meeting so many dear friends cheered us, and before Convention drew to a close, the feeling of strain and even sadness gave way to firm resolve and happy determination.

It was impressive to see many delegates present (33 at the peak period) and a quorum was maintained until Monday afternoon, the last day of our first three day Convention. The silent audience won the respect of the participating members, for their patience and endurance. The bottled up emotions were so apparent that on Sunday afternoon the cork was drawn and they were allowed to effervesce for an hour! The release of this tension helped to promote greater harmony and resolve during the remaining periods.

One thing struck me forcibly during all the discussions. Those friends who came from smaller communities and goal towns were keenly aware of the vital need for pioneers, while several of those from the larger communities were wearied by hearing this cry for friends to arise.

Our dear friend, Dr. Lotfullah Hakim helped to raise the spiritual tone of the Convention,

by his beautiful talk on the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh, his contributions to the discussions and his gentle reminder that the Báb, Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá were with us at every gathering.

Convention was held in a large airy hall, kindly lent to us by Jeff Joseph and when a beautiful picture of the Master and a vase of tulips were added, it became indeed a Bahá'í meeting room. The Manchester friends showed their usual hospitality and kindness and many visitors were their guests.

When I left Convention, after the devotional meeting on Monday evening, I felt I had never left one that had been more united in its determination to earn the confidence that the Guardian has expressed in our ability to achieve final victory by Convention 107.

(The cable sent by Convention to the Guardian will be found in the section headed "From the Guardian.").

Resolutions of the Delegates

1.—Ursula Newman and Una Townshend were asked to draft replies to the friends who had sent greetings messages to Convention; the replies to be by letter, not telegram.

2.—Dr. Lotfullah Hakim presented to the Convention a photograph of the Master and the Guardian. The Convention recorded its deep gratitude.

3.—Decided to send a cable of greeting from the Convention to the American Convention.

4.—Agreed to ask Alma Gregory to draw up a report on the most important points arising out of Convention with a recommendation to the incoming N.S.A. that this be sent out to the friends immediately.

5.—Resolved that Convention asks delegates to convey to their local Assemblies a suggestion from the assembled delegates that each Local Assembly hold as soon as possible a special meeting of their Assembly to discuss how their



DELEGATES AND VISITORS TO CONVENTION, RIDVÁN 106

community can increase and improve its participation in the Six Year Plan.. *(The N.S.A. supplemented this with a report for the Feast of 'Azamat on May 17th, and asked for reports from local assemblies).*

6.—Recommended that the Community unite daily in prayer for the success of the Plan and for each other. *(Included in the "Programme of Action").*

7.—Recommended that the N.S.A. ask for volunteers who will promise to give various specified amounts over and above their local donation during the coming year, saying how many volunteers are required to give such specified amount. *(Included in the "Programme of Action").*

8.—Recommended that each Assembly adopt a Goal Town to which to give special attention. *(The N. S. A. welcomes the idea and approves it and has instructed the N.T.C. to work it out for each assembly).*

9.—The delegates believe one important way of contributing to the Bahá'í Fund is to sell belongings. The N.S.A. is asked to circulate this suggestion to the friends, after considering ways in which they could be helped to dispose

of their belongings if they wish it. A further suggestion is to appeal to the friends who have special talents to earn money by them and give the proceeds to the Fund. *(A Committee has been appointed to examine this recommendation and advise the N.S.A. about it).*

10.—The National Assembly is asked to let the friends know again the procedure for making 7-year Covenants for contributions to the Fund. *(The procedure will be found on page 13).*

11.—The National Assembly is asked to arrange for the presentation to the friends of periodical statistical information about progress in the Goal Towns and Local Assemblies, and also a statement of expenditure and financial need. *(This will be reported in the National Assembly letter).*

12.—Resolved not to re-appoint the present auditors. *(Consideration deferred).*

13.—The delegates regard the work of Assembly Development as one of the most important problems facing the British Bahá'í Community. It is felt that the work begins at that time when two or more believers form an administrative nucleus, which should ultimately evolve into a properly functioning assembly. The establish-

ment of initial harmony between the first believers is the foundation upon which the unity of the newly-born assembly must rest. The following are some matters to which it is recommended particular consideration should be given:

(1) Groups and Assemblies should be assisted to learn the basic principles and functioning of the Law of Consultation.

(2) Close personal contact with the members of all Groups and Local Assemblies should be developed, possibly through regional conferences.

(3) Initiative for teaching and enthusiasm for administrative activities should be developed, the knowledge of the essentials of the Faith among the believers deepened.

(4) There should be awakened in the Assemblies a real consciousness of the spiritual significance of Assembly status.

(5) Help should be given to the Assemblies in applying the spiritual principles of Bahá'í administration and correct procedure to practical situations.

(6) More emphasis should be put on the general approach to Assemblies.

(7) Assembly Development should also deal with the awakening in each Local Assembly's consciousness of its place as one member of a single living organism, the National Community, the problems of the part being common to the whole. (*Deferred for further discussion*).

14.—Decided to send letters of greeting to Marion Jack, Mrs. George, Mr. E. T. Hall, Mr. Townshend, Mrs. Slade, Mrs. Basil Hall, Miss Baxter, Mme. Charlot, Mrs. Mills. Lady Hornell and Dr. Hakim were asked to draft the letter.

15.—Agreed to recommend the National Assembly to circulate copies of the cable from the Guardian to the American Community, dated 16th March. (*Action taken*).

16.—The delegates feel that it is right in principle for Local Assemblies to make efforts to own their own stock of books. The N.S.A. is asked to give guidance to Local Assemblies on the relative importance of this and contributions to the National Fund during this final year of the Plan. (*Consideration deferred*).

17.—The Publishing Trust is asked to make increased efforts to promote the sale of Bahá'í books and Local Assemblies should be asked to take immediate steps to increase their sales. (*Referred to the Baha'i Publishing Trust Committee for action*).

18.—A suggestion that the various communications from the N.S.A. and its committees be of uniform size is passed to the National Assembly for its examination. (*Not feasible at present*).

19.—It is recommended that the work of the National Youth Committee should during the coming year be limited to that concerned with the publication of the Bahá'í Youth Bulletin; the preparation and prosecution of youth days at

Summer School, International Youth Day, and Regional Youth Conferences; and limited international correspondence. Also all consultation should take place by correspondence, with the possible exception of consultation at Summer School and Teaching Conference. (*The Assembly recognises the importance of Youth Work but in existing circumstances accepts the recommendation, with the addition that the Youth Committee be instructed not to organise any Regional Youth Conference this year. Youth work should however be given proper attention next year*).

20.—The Convention whole-heartedly supports the Summer School and recommends to the N.S.A. to ask assemblies and groups to encourage their close contacts to attend. Delegates will, on returning to their communities, stress to them that they should book early for Summer School. (*Referred to the Summer School Committee for action and also noted in the Assembly letter*).

NOTES ON THE MONDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, being resolutions worded by the Convention Secretary for submission to a quorum of delegates which never materialised

21.—That the National Assembly consider circulating lists of articles for sale, attached to the Assembly letter. (*Referred to the Committee dealing with Number 9*).

22.—Convention records its thanks to the Leeds Community for placing at the disposal of the Scripts Committee four Bahá'í radio script records which it owns.

23.—That a Scripts Committee that will work should be appointed from the London members. (*Action taken*).

24.—That the N.S.A. establish a uniform policy throughout the country with regard to the date on which Bahá'í anniversaries are held. The N.S.A. is also asked to investigate what is the ruling of the Guardian as to the date of celebration of 19-Day Feasts. (*The Guardian's instructions about celebrating Baha'i Anniversaries are being published in the Journal*).

25.—Inexperienced people should be put on committees with experienced ones in order that the inexperienced may gain experience. (*Agreed*).

26.—That a well printed card bearing Bahá'í quotations be produced to put on walls, etc. (*Referred to the Baha'i Publishing Trust Committee*).

27.—That the National Assembly issue a statement on withdrawals. (*A statement is being prepared*).

28.—That the N.S.A. investigate ways of ensuring that Convention business is more efficient, e.g., by having proposals in advance. (*This will be investigated by a Convention Committee to be approved early in the year*).

29.—Sincere thanks are recorded to Jeff Joseph for giving the Convention the use of a hall in his building and for arranging the catering; also to Reg Coulson, the Convention Registrar.

30.—A cable to the Guardian was approved.

Election of the National Assembly.

Hasan Balyuzi.....	34	votes
John Ferraby	30	"
Richard Backwell	29	"
Dorothy Ferraby	29	"
Philip Hainsworth	25	"
David Hofman	23	"
Alma Gregory	16	"
Marion Hofman	16	"
Ursula Newman	14	"
Connie Langdon-Davies	14	"
Isobel Locke	8	"
George Townshend	8	"
Lotfullah Hakim	7	"
Gladys Backwell	6	"
Reg Coulson	6	"
Louis Ross-Enfield	6	"
Mary Basil Hall	5	"
Hugh McKinley	5	"
Arthur Norton	4	"
Kathleen Hornell, Albert Joseph, Joe Lee, Isobel Slade	each 3	"
Evelyn Baxter, Geraldine Cooper, Muriel Matthews, Donald Millar, Mehrangiz Munsiff	each 2	"
St. Barbe Baker, Robert Cheek, Elsie Cranmer, John Craven, Emily Eastgate, Prudence George, Sam Husdan Vivien Isenthal, George Mabbutt, Marcel Mihaeloff, Ashurdd Nazar, Fred Stahler, Alfred Sugar, Una Townshend, Dora Weeks, Walter Wilkins, Peter Wilkinson	each 1	"
In the re-vote, the voting was as follows :		
Ursula Newman	20	votes
Connie Langdon-Davies	11	"

Baha'i Feasts and Anniversaries.

The Guardian writes as follows : " The Bahá'í day starts and ends at sunset, and consequently the date of the celebration of Bahá'í feasts should be adjusted to conform to the Bahá'í calendar time. For further particulars on this subject you should refer to the section entitled " Bahá'í Calendar " in " The Bahá'í World."

" The Guardian would advise that, if feasible, the friends should commemorate certain of the feasts and anniversaries at the following times :

The first day of Ridván, at about 3.00 p.m. on the 21st April.

The anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Báb on July 9th at about noon.

The anniversary of the Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh on May 29th, at 3.00 a.m.

The Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on November 28th, at 1.00 a.m.

" The other anniversaries the believers are free to gather at any time during the day which they find convenient."

LOCAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIES.

At the time this Journal went to press only 12 of the 14 Local Assemblies had notified the National Assembly of their officers. The addresses of the secretaries so far notified are :—

BIRMINGHAM	Miss E. Eastgate, 5 Richmond Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
BLACKBURN	...Mrs. G. Cooper, Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, nr. Blackburn.
BRISTOL	...Mrs. D. Weeks, 42, Oakwood Road, Henleaze, Bristol.
CARDIFF	...Mrs. J. Giddings, 43, Plasturton Avenue, Canton, Cardiff.
DUBLIN	...Mr. B. Townshend, Ripley, Mt. Anville Road, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
LEEDS	...Mr. M. Mihaeloff, 75, East Parade, Harrogate, Yorks.
LONDON	...Miss V. Isenthal, 95, The Avenue, London, W.13. Mr. H. Balyuzi, 6, Cannon Place, London, N.W.3.
MANCHESTER	...Mrs. P. Senior, 15, Oaklands Road, Swinton, Lancs.
NORTHAMPTON	...Miss V. Rate, 17, Barnwell Rd., Kingsthorpe, Northampton
NORWICH	...Mrs. P. George, 200, Unthank Road, Norwich.
NOTTINGHAM	...Mrs. Hayter, 49, Herbert Road, Sherwood Rise, Nottingham.
TORQUAY	...Mrs. M. Matthews, Ythan Bank, Torwood Gardens, Torquay.

Additions to the Community.

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

Dr. Lotfullah Hakim (from Iran)	Edinburgh
Dennis McArthur (Youth)	Cardiff
Susan McKechnie	Glasgow
Harold Haines	Norwich
George Marshall	Birmingham
Kate Nurse	Nottingham

We regret that we inadvertently omitted from previous lists the name of Sohail Samimi; a youth from Iran, now near Chelmsford.

THE LESSER PEACE.

We pray God—exalted be His glory—and cherish the hope that He may graciously assist the manifestations of affluence and power and the daysprings of sovereignty and glory, the

kings of the earth—may God aid them through his strengthening grace—to establish the lesser Peace. This, indeed, is the greatest means for ensuring the tranquillity of the nations. It is incumbent upon the Sovereigns of the world—may God assist them—unitedly to hold fast unto this Peace, which is the chief instrument for the protection of all mankind. It is Our hope that they will arise to achieve what will be conducive to the well-being of man. It is their duty to convene an all-inclusive assembly, which either they themselves or their ministers will attend, and to enforce whatever measures are required to establish unity and concord amongst men. They must put away the weapons of war, and turn to the instruments of universal reconstruction. Should one king rise up against another, all the other kings must arise to deter him. Arms and armaments will, then, be no more needed beyond that which is necessary to ensure the internal security of their respective countries. If they attain unto this all-surpassing blessing, the people of each nation will pursue, with tranquillity and contentment, their own occupations, and the groanings and lamentations of most men would be silenced. We beseech God to aid them to do His will and pleasure. He, verily, is the Lord of the throne on high and of earth below, and the Lord of this world and of the world to come. It would be preferable and more fitting that the highly honoured kings themselves should attend such an assembly, and proclaim their edicts. Any king who will arise and carry out this task, he, verily will, in the sight of God, become the cynosure of all kings. Happy is he, and great is his blessedness!

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

A MEDITATION.

All-praise be to Thee, O Lord my God! I know not how to sing Thy praise, how to describe Thy glory, how to call upon Thy Name. If I call upon Thee by Thy Name, the All-Possessing, I am compelled to recognise that He Who holdeth in His hand the immediate destinies of all created things is but a vassal dependent upon Thee, and is the creation of but a word proceeding from Thy mouth. And if I proclaim Thee by the name of Him Who is the All-Compelling, I readily discover that He is but a suppliant fallen upon the dust, awe-stricken by Thy dreadful might, Thy sovereignty and power. And if I attempt to describe Thee by glorifying the oneness of Thy Being, I soon realise that such a conception is but a notion which mine own fancy hath woven, and that Thou hast ever been immeasurably exalted above the vain imaginations which the hearts of men have devised.

The glory of Thy might beareth me witness! Whoso claimeth to have known Thee hath, by virtue of such a claim, testified to his own ignorance; and whoso believeth himself to have

attained unto Thee, all the atoms of the earth would attest his powerlessness and proclaim his failure. Thou hast, however, by virtue of Thy mercy that hath surpassed the kingdoms of earth and heaven, deigned to accept from Thy servants the laud and honour they pay to Thine own exalted Self, and hast bidden them celebrate Thy glory, that the ensigns of Thy guidance may be unfurled in Thy cities and the tokens of Thy mercy be spread abroad among the nations, and that each and all may be enabled to attain unto that which Thou hast destined for them by Thy decree, and ordained unto them through Thine irrevocable Will and purpose.

Having testified, therefore, unto mine own impotence and the impotence of Thy servants, I beseech Thee, by the brightness of the light of Thy beauty, not to refuse Thy creatures attainment to the shores of Thy most holy ocean. Draw them, then, O my God, through the Divine sweetness of Thy melodies, towards the throne of Thy glory and the seat of Thine eternal holiness. Thou art, verily, the Most Powerful the Supreme Ruler, the Great Giver, the Most Exalted, the Ever-Desired.

Grant, then, O my God, that Thy servant who hath turned towards Thee, hath fixed his gaze upon Thee, and clung to the cord of Thy mercifulness and favour, may be enabled to partake of the living waters of Thy mercy and grace. Cause him, then, to ascend unto the heights to which he aspireth, and withhold him not from that which Thou dost possess. Thou art, verily, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Bountiful.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

A PRAYER.

Glorified art Thou, O Lord my God! I beseech Thee by Him Who is Thy Most Great Name, Who hath been sorely afflicted by such of Thy creatures as have repudiated Thy truth, and Who hath been hemmed in by sorrows which no tongue can describe, to grant that I may remember Thee and celebrate Thy praise, in these days when all have turned away from Thy beauty, have disputed with Thee, and turned away disdainfully from Him Who is the Revealer of Thy Cause. None is there, O my Lord, to help Thee except Thine own Self, and no power to succour Thee save Thine own power.

I entreat Thee to enable me to cleave steadfastly to Thy Love and Thy remembrance. This is, verily, within my power, and Thou art the One that knoweth all that is in me. Thou, in truth, art knowing, apprised of all. Deprive me not, O my Lord, of the splendours of the light of Thy face, whose brightness hath illuminated the whole world. No God is there beside Thee, the Most Powerful, the All-Glorious, the Ever-Forgiving.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year ending 20th MARCH, 1949.

EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>N.S.A. EXPENSES.</i>							
Travelling Expenses ...	143	18	0				
Secretarial Expenses ...	253	9	6				
Cables, etc.	49	5	6				
London Centre	263	6	9				
Printing and Literature	63	13	11				
Journal	95	1	0				
				868	14	8	
<i>N.T.C. EXPENSES.</i>							
Pioneers	1484	9	2				
Travelling Expenses ...	428	15	5				
Goal Towns	149	1	8				
Local Assemblies.....	120	15	10				
Committee Expenses ...	543	4	8				
Miscellaneous	89	10	6				
				2815	17	3	
Assembly Development Committee				26	6	7	
Youth Committee				79	15	4	
Other Committee				5	0	0	
Bank Charges				11	17	4	
Convention Hotel Expenses				42	3	6	
Audit				26	5	0	
Sundries				1	2	11	
Townshend Pamphlet				110	2	5	
Publishing Trust Donation (Rent, etc.)				77	14	6	
Depreciation—Fixtures				6	0	0	
				£4070	19	6	

INCOME.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Donations</i>							
Donations	2279	17	9				
Guardian's Donation	500	0	0				
Publishing Trust (Proceeds of Books)	28	5	0				
Rent Refund.							
London Centre	103	9	10				
Publishing Trust	79	18	6				
				183	8	4	
<i>Summer School</i>							
(Contributions).....	120	9	3				
Less Cost	119	17	3				
							12 0
Defence Bonds Interest.....				6	0	0	
Loan Repayment (Previously							
Written Off)				5	0	0	
				3003	3	1	
Excess Expenditure for Year	1067	16	5				
				£4070	19	6	

Seven Year Covenants

Friends have asked regarding the suitability of this form of gift for Bahá'í funds. After enquiry there seems no reason why subscriptions to the National Bahá'í Fund should not be made in this way by any believer who is liable to payment of income tax.

To explain the system briefly, a believer signs an agreement to pay a regular sum out of his taxed income for seven years, or the duration of his lifetime, whichever is the shorter period. Each year on receipt of his payment the N.S.A. can claim back from the Income Tax authorities the amount of Income Tax paid on his donation, thus receiving a considerably larger sum than the

contributor nominally gives.

Believers wishing to use this form of donation are reminded that by doing so they enter into a legal obligation to pay the amount for the whole period and should they fail to complete the payments, the tax authorities would probably claim a refund of any tax which they had repaid in respect of that covenant.

A proper form of agreement must be drawn up and signed for each covenant entered into and any friends proposing to enter into such an agreement are asked to communicate with the National Treasurer so that a suitable form of agreement may be arranged.

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. The thirteenth session of the Yerrinbool Bahá'í Summer School at the turn of the year was reported the finest yet held in Australia, with record attendance, and acceptance of the Faith by two youth, two adults, a family with five children and a Moslem family. It seems that Brisbane, Hobart and Perth have achieved their assembly status this

year, thus raising the number of local assemblies in Australia and New Zealand to ten.

CANADA. In the first year of their Five Year Plan the Canadian Community can report 41 new declarations, two new localities opened up, four pioneers and at least seven teaching trips undertaken. They have really got started.

EGYPT. The first year of the Egyptian Five Year Plan saw the establishment of four new Bahá'í Centres in four different districts of Egypt. It is reported that our Hassan Sabri has been elected to be secretary of the Five Year Plan Committee. The Plan in Sudan includes the establishment of an assembly in Port Sudan and three Bahá'í Centres. Communication with the Guardian has been impossible throughout the year.

FRANCE. Two more declarations are reported from France, one in Paris and one at Brives.

GERMANY. Part of the Headquarters at Frankfurt will have been ready for use at Convention. A summary of the German Five Year Plan is printed below.

PERSIA. Tihran Assembly's 30 committees include some of special interest—A *School Education Committee* supervises the education and welfare of 240 needy Bahá'í children in Tihran, helping them with clothing, books, stationery, medical treatment, school fees. The *Rural District Committee* undertook 126 visits to villages around Tihran, contacted 50 persons of whom 5 accepted the Faith; they also gave free medical treatment to 700 patients and rendered pioneering services "which led to the formation of 2 assemblies, 3 groups and several new centres round Tihran and enabled 3 other groups to attain assembly status." The *Bahá'í Cemetery Committee* acquired a hearse, placed 50 engraved tombstones, secured a fine funeral pall, made all necessary arrangements for 80 Bahá'í funerals which took place in Tihran between April and December, 1948. The *Assistance Committee* helped 118 unemployed friends to get jobs and gave financial aid to the needy. The *Orphanage Committee* administers the affairs and ensures the upkeep of the institutions where 14 Bahá'í children are cared for. The *Teaching Committee*, organised in 14 sub-committees each in charge of a section of the city, operates through 65 teaching centres regularly visited by experienced teachers. Of 560 contacts made thus in nine months, 26 have so far embraced the Cause. The *Health Committee* during nine months provided free medical attention and treatment to 225 needy patients, rendering a service indispensable in a country entirely lacking public welfare organisations and health insurance schemes.

UNITED STATES. Newly declared believers in all the goal countries of Europe were reported as numbering 162 in March, just 2½ years since the first pioneers landed there. The total of visitors to the Temple from May to the end of January was about 23,600. In high summer they numbered about 1,000 persons a week.

Of a total number of 179 established assemblies in the United States, 51 have now been legally incorporated.

The International Relief Committee put \$1,600 into CARE orders to help pay workers restoring the building bought by the German N.S.A. for the National Headquarters in Frankfurt. In addition 125 food packages and 65 packages of other kinds have been sent and a further 199 parcels have been sent by individual Bahá'ís to addresses supplied by the Committee.

To meet an estimated need of \$1,100,000 in two years, of which \$800,000 is to complete the Temple and \$300,000 for other purposes, and which averages about \$200 per believer, nearly \$224,000 had been promised at the end of March. The American Community also faces a supreme challenge.

Five Year Plan of the Bahá'ís of Germany (Drawn up in October, 1948).

- 1.—The strengthening of the understanding of Bahá'í Administration.
- 2.—Expansion and consolidation of the Bahá'í work in Germany and Austria.
- 3.—Deeper understanding of the Faith.
- 4.—Establishment of the Haziratu'l-Quds at Frankfurt.

By 1951 nuclei are to be established in 7 circuits which between them cover some 45 localities. Other nuclei are to be formed in 9 further regions by 1953. The number of established communities is to be doubled (from 14 to 28) and already the most promising localities have been selected.

An ambitious publishing programme is planned to develop at the same time. This includes 32 publications, among them some 17 or so major works, some of them in 10,000 copies. Many of these will appear simultaneously in their periodical "The Sun of Truth."

Youth activities and publications, Summer Schools and schools for teachers and children's activity, the development of literature in Esperanto and connections with many different kinds of organisation, educational, religious, social, cultural, temperance, etc., are all to be co-ordinated in this plan and fully integrated by 1953.

A specially interesting project is to enlarge an existing institution at Neckargemünde to serve as an institute for Religion and Science and "carry Bahá'í ideas into the world of science and ensure scientific growth through the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh."

EUROPEAN TEACHING CONFERENCE.

The second European Teaching Conference is being held in Brussels from August 5th to 7th. Members of the British Bahá'í "Community who expect to attend are advised to get in touch" with the Geneva Office of the European Teaching Committee at 37, Quai Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland, asking for further particulars to be sent them when available.

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