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"WIRE SAFETY LONDON MANCHESTER FRIENDS, CONSTANTLY PRAYING,
LOVING ADMIRATION. SHOGHI RABBANI. "

Dear Friends,

This cable was received on January 1st, and on the 3rd we were able to reply as follows:—
"All friends safe new believers welcomed grateful love."

For the protection of Bahá'u'lláh during the recent heavy raids on London and Manchester we are indeed thankful, as well as for the prayers of our Guardian and friends throughout the world. The Bahá'í Centres in both these towns remain untouched although neighbouring buildings have been damaged.

To add to our bounties a letter has arrived from the Guardian, written at the end of October, and containing the following message:—

"Our anxiety for the safety of the English believers is deepening every day, as it is fully realised how dangerous the situation has become in recent months, and how manifold and pressing are the problems that confront them in the faithful discharge of their sacred and vital responsibilities. The perusal of the reports, minutes and periodicals received lately from that country has served to deepen my sense of admiration and my feelings of gratitude for the wisdom, the staunchness, and fidelity with which the elected representatives of the English believers are conducting, in these critical times, the activities of their Faith. My fervent and constant prayer is that Bahá'u'lláh may ever keep them safe and protected under the shadow of His wings

and aid them to play a worthy and memorable part in these tragic days of the Formative Period of our beloved Cause.—Shoghi."

In addition, this warm and encouraging message has been received from Ruhiyyih Khanum: "I have been reading the recent communications from the British N.S.A. to Shoghi Effendi, with its enclosures, and I cannot resist the desire to write you and tell you how profoundly I admire the wonderful spirit of the English believers at such a time of stress and personal danger. They are truly rising to set the standard of Bahá'u'lláh—to be in this world but not of it—and I am sure they will reap a rich harvest from their sacrifice and devotion to the Faith at such a time, as well as offering a beautiful example of courage and devotion to their fellow believers."

"Please give my very deepest love to the dear friends and tell them that they are often in the prayers of those who beseech at the Holy Threshold, and we are all turning our faces towards that bright and wonderful future promised to us by our Beloved. Indeed their perseverance in the Path of God is bringing it, I feel sure, closer to realisation."

Dear friends, such encouragement and generous praise permits us no rest. It challenges us to rise to the responsibility of Bahá'í life. We all want to achieve this standard, and we therefore urge you to study and re-study, continually, the Guardian's letters, but especially "The Advent of Divine Justice." We have to try and

realise that the laws and ordinances and standards of the Faith are not for some nebulous "mankind," but for us here and now, as the Guardian decides. The Law of Bahá'u'lláh, spiritual and social, is our protection and the protection of the Faith. In the difficult days ahead we shall be preserved through it. It is our guide in personal and collective behaviour and the sure pathway through the false standards and chaos of the present time. May God strengthen us all to fulfil those hopes which the Guardian has for us.

NEWS

We are very happy to welcome three new believers to the Faith. One in Bradford, one in London, and one in Newcastle.

Mr. Louis Rosenfield's appeal against the decision of a local tribunal, refusing him national service in a non-combatant capacity, has been successful. This appeal was supported by statements from the N.S.A. A duplicate set of his statements was sent to him by post prior to the hearing, and the presiding judge accepted a copy of a Bahá'í booklet.

Letters from Australia have been received conveying the loving greetings of the friends, and assuring us of their prayers.

From San Salvador, in South America, a letter has been received from two young Bahá'í men, who have gone down there with the express purpose of establishing the Faith. They have started a Bahá'í Library and "have three who have declared their willingness to form an Assembly next April." They report that there is a Bahá'í in every country of South America now "or on the way."

The friends in Bombay have received with true hospitality Mrs. Joseph and Mr. Farrokh, on their way home to Irán. They too are praying for our protection.

The four leading libraries of the British Isles, the Bodleian, Cambridge University Library, National Library of Scotland, and Trinity College Library, Dublin, have accepted complete sets of Bahá'í publications, and have classified them together with important works by early observers of the Faith such as E. G. Browne and Dr. Cheyne (works which were already in their possession), under the heading "Bahá'í."

ATTACK ON THE FAITH

An attack on the Faith, reprinted in booklet form from "Muslim World," has been widely circulated. The N.S.A. has considered it and is in consultation with the American N.S.A. over any action to be taken. In the meantime the friends are advised to ask the N.S.A. about any matters in connection with it which they would like explained.

ADMINISTRATION

Dear Friends; this section will be very brief, but very important. The N.S.A. wishes everyone to realise that no Spiritual Assembly can discharge its duty of removing misunderstandings, settling grievances and advising in difficulties, unless all such matters are brought to its attention with frankness. It is this principle of Bahá'í Administration which preserves our unity and enables us to grow in mutual understanding. Spiritual Assemblies have the sacred duty of placing matters before the friends, answering questions as to the conduct of affairs, and providing for the ventilation of grievances, but the friends have an equal responsibility of stating their difficulties, doubts or misgivings. While "heckling" is entirely alien to Bahá'í procedure, no genuine misgiving or misunderstanding should be suppressed. Individual believers have the right to ask about national affairs, and should do so through their local secretary, or if isolated direct to the national secretary.

REPORTS FROM SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES

Secretaries of local Spiritual Assemblies have been asked to send a brief report to the National Teaching Committee every two Bahá'í months, beginning on December 12th. They are asked to be very particular about this, as it is very important, especially in these days, for N.S.A. to have news of the communities. The report need only be brief, saying whether meetings are continuing, mentioning new believers, special activities, etc.

IN MEMORIAM

*"I have made death a messenger of joy to thee.
Wherefore dost thou grieve? I made the light to
shed on thee its splendour. Why dost thou veil
thyself therefrom"*

Miss EMILY BUDGELL.

Torquay.

Lord Lamington, who passed away recently, although not a member of the Faith, was a true lover of the Master and a good friend of the Cause. He gave us a recommendation when we applied for incorporation, and a few days before he died he requested Lady Lamington to return to the Faith the gold signet ring which 'Abdu'l-Bahá had given him. The occasion of this gift, and Lord Lamington's association with the Master is described in "The Chosen Highway." We have written to Lady Lamington, expressing the sympathy of the friends.

N.S.A. MEETING

The N.S.A. plans to meet in Torquay during the last week-end in February.

ENROLMENT OF NEW BELIEVERS

The N.S.A. has considered this delicate and vital problem, and has recorded the following points for the guidance of Spiritual Assemblies.

a. Procedure for declaration should not be made too difficult; the new believer is generally "riding the crest of re-birth" and should be so considered.

b. It will be sufficient if intending believers state that they have read the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'lBahá and accept the qualifications of a believer as set out on the registration card.

c. The N.S.A. will accept registration without a photograph; this will still fulfil our obligation to the authorities.

d. Local Spiritual Assemblies should arrange to meet new believers, so as to receive their declaration in person. The obligation rests with the teacher to try and understand when a new friend is ready to declare his or her faith, and to assist them in doing so without exerting undue pressure. The obligations entailed must be known to the intending believer, but it should be remembered that spiritual growth after entering the Cause is more rapid and deep than before.

NEW WORLD ORDER

The N.S.A. has decided to discontinue publication of "New World Order" after the present volume is complete. There are three more numbers to come. In making this decision the N.S.A. has considered the expenditure involved in publication and the needs of the Four Year Plan. It is felt that £60 a year can be used to better purpose at the present time, as the value of the paper to the teaching work does not warrant this expenditure. It is hoped to resume publication later.

Upon completion of the second volume, all back numbers will be given to the Publishing Trust, who will bind a number of complete sets, which will make excellent material for teaching.

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The Publishing Trust has under consideration two manuscripts. An outline of the Administrative Order by H. M. Balyuzi, and an English edition of "Security For a Failing World." Arrangements are being made with Mr. Cobb over the latter book, and he has expressed his pleasure with our intention. Neither publication can be undertaken without further contributions. It should be remembered that the Guardian has made the Publishing Trust for us, the same as the Temple for the Americans. Contributions should be sent to Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

"Advance with your heart toward the Ka'aba of God, the Mighty, the Protector; raise your hands with an enthusiasm which will cause all the creatures to raise theirs also toward the heaven of the mercy of God, the Master of the two worlds: then advance toward Him with such an advancement that all the created beings may be inspired to gaze toward His horizon, the radiant, the luminous, and say: "Oh Lord! Thou beholdest me directing myself toward the heaven of Thy generosity and toward the sea of Thy gifts, and withdrawing myself from aught beside Thee. I ask Thee, by the transfiguration of the star of Thy manifestation at Sinai and by the sunbursts of Thy mercy appearing upon the horizon of Thy name, the Forgiver, to forgive and to bless me. Then, write for me, by Thy Supreme Pen, that which will uplift me by Thy Name in this created world, O Lord! Render me capable of turning unto Thee, and of hearing the proclamation of Thy saints, who are not weakened by the

strength of the world, nor controlled by the power of the nations, and who have continued to advance, saying "God is our Lord, and the Lord of that which is in the heavens and upon the earth." (Bahá'u'lláh; Epistle to the Son of the Wolf. p. 14.)

Beloved Friends,

With these soul-stirring injunctions and powerful prayer of Bahá'u'lláh we greet you at this the beginning of a crucial year in the history of the Faith as of the world at large. May we, with His unfailing help, devote ourselves unreservedly to the promotion of Bahá'í Spiritual Assemblies, to the proclamation throughout our distressed land of the message of salvation for its ills, both of the individual and of the nation, and indeed, of the entire world.

The Committee urge you, dear friends, to spare no effort in the deepening of your knowledge of the Cause in all its aspects; read, study, pray. Turn to the Committee when in any diffi-

culty, send in to them your written answers or articles and the expression of your thoughts and opinions, that they may correct, guide and help you in every way in these dark days when it is almost impossible to meet at all regularly for study and the deep refreshment of intimate communion.

And so we commit you to His keeping, Who never fails one of his seeking children.

We are glad to report activity in fresh centres such as Newcastle, Bath, Cheltenham—this is good—as well as work continued by the various Assemblies. In Newcastle a weekly fireside meeting is held by Miss Jacobs, consisting chiefly of people contacted at meetings of the Theosophical Society. During a teaching visit to this city Mr. L. Rosenfield opened a lively discussion at a fireside meeting and hopes to continue the work by another visit in the near future. The Theosophical Society appears to provide well-prepared ground for our Message, which fulfils the requirement of the founders that A World Teacher was due to appear. Mr. Hurst, in Leeds, has also addressed their meetings, which provide an open platform for the presentation of Truth.

In London the teaching effort has been greatly reinforced by the placing of two Bahá'í books in each of four public libraries, and this work will continue as funds permit. An interesting discussion meeting is planned for February 1st, when three speakers will present their contribution to "New World Order," the last speaker being a Bahá'í. A public meeting is held at the Centre every Sunday afternoon and Feasts and all Bahá'í meetings on Saturdays.

The Manchester Friends are still at the same address, although the Centre is now on the first floor of the building. A very happy occasion recently was the Bahá'í marriage of Harry and Margot Joseph. Nine friends from Bradford came over for the occasion, and Mr. Hall conducted the wedding in the Centre.

The Torquay friends have been meeting regularly and are hoping to move soon into their new Centre, which is in a very good position in the town. It will be remembered that their previous one was requisitioned by the government.

Bradford holds regular meetings which are well attended. The visit of the N.S.A. was utilised to attract larger audiences and two public sessions were held, when the questions and discussion were extremely good. A meeting has been held in Leeds at the home of Peter and Margot Wilkinson. One new believer has been enrolled.

CORRESPONDENCE

Realising the importance of consolidating our activities by means of correspondence, the Committee appends a list of believers who are not in the vicinity of an Assembly, and ask them to make every effort to keep in touch with one another.

Miss Bridget Hill	West Amesbury House, Amesbury, Wilts.
Mrs. Rideout	The Cottage, West Amesbury House, Amesbury, Wilts.
Miss F. Champion	c/o Mrs. Douglas Gordon, Dalraddie, Dalry, Ayrshire.
Miss Eastgate	5 Richmond Road, off Tudor Hill, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
Mr. Marshall	67 Nansen Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham.
Miss Gamble	c/o Dr. Christie, Brow Hill, Bathcaston, Bath.
Miss B. Wilson	94 St. James Street, Brighton.
Mrs. Weeks	60 The Crescent, Henleaze, Bristol.
Miss I. Mittler	Wick House, Sparrow's Hearn, Bushey, Herts.
Mrs. J. Lee	23 John Street, Brecon, S. Wales.
Tpr. J. Lee 7928007	A Squadron, 24th Lancers, Drill Hall, Cannock, Staffs.
Mme. Charlot	53 Painswick Road, Cheltenham.
Miss M. Bonney	Platwell Farm, Clearwell, near Colefield, Glos.
Mrs. Millar	"Melita," St. Dennis, near St. Austel, Cornwall.
Capt. St. B. Baker	The Farmhouse, Puncknoll Manor, nr. Dorchester, Dorset.
Miss U. Newman	1a, Sandrock Cottages, Ditchling, Sussex.
Rev. Geo. Townshend	Ahas Cragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Eire.
Miss U. Townshend	P.O. Box 6, Evesham, Worcester.
Mr. H. M. Balyuzi	29 Mortimer Road, Hereford.
Mr. & Mrs. Cohen	29 Mortimer Road, Hereford.
Miss R. Lee	15 Church Drive, Cotmanhay, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.
Mrs. Lacey	c/o Mr. Bartlett, Swan Green, Lyndhurst, Hants.
Miss G. Kilford	"Epworth," Fernleigh Avenue, Mapperley, Nottingham.
Miss E. Richardson	9 Alexandra Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 2.
Miss D. Jacobs	Mallard's Court, Stokenchurch, Bucks.
Mrs. Slade	19 Harcourt St., East Parade, Heworth, York.
Mr. & Mrs. Pegg	

The subject of the special study this time is
THE NATURE OF MAN
and the references are :

"Some Answered Questions," pages 230, 233, 243.
"Reality of Man," page 15.
"Gleanings," pages 158 to 166.

Mr. Asgarzadeh has been appointed to serve on the Committee.