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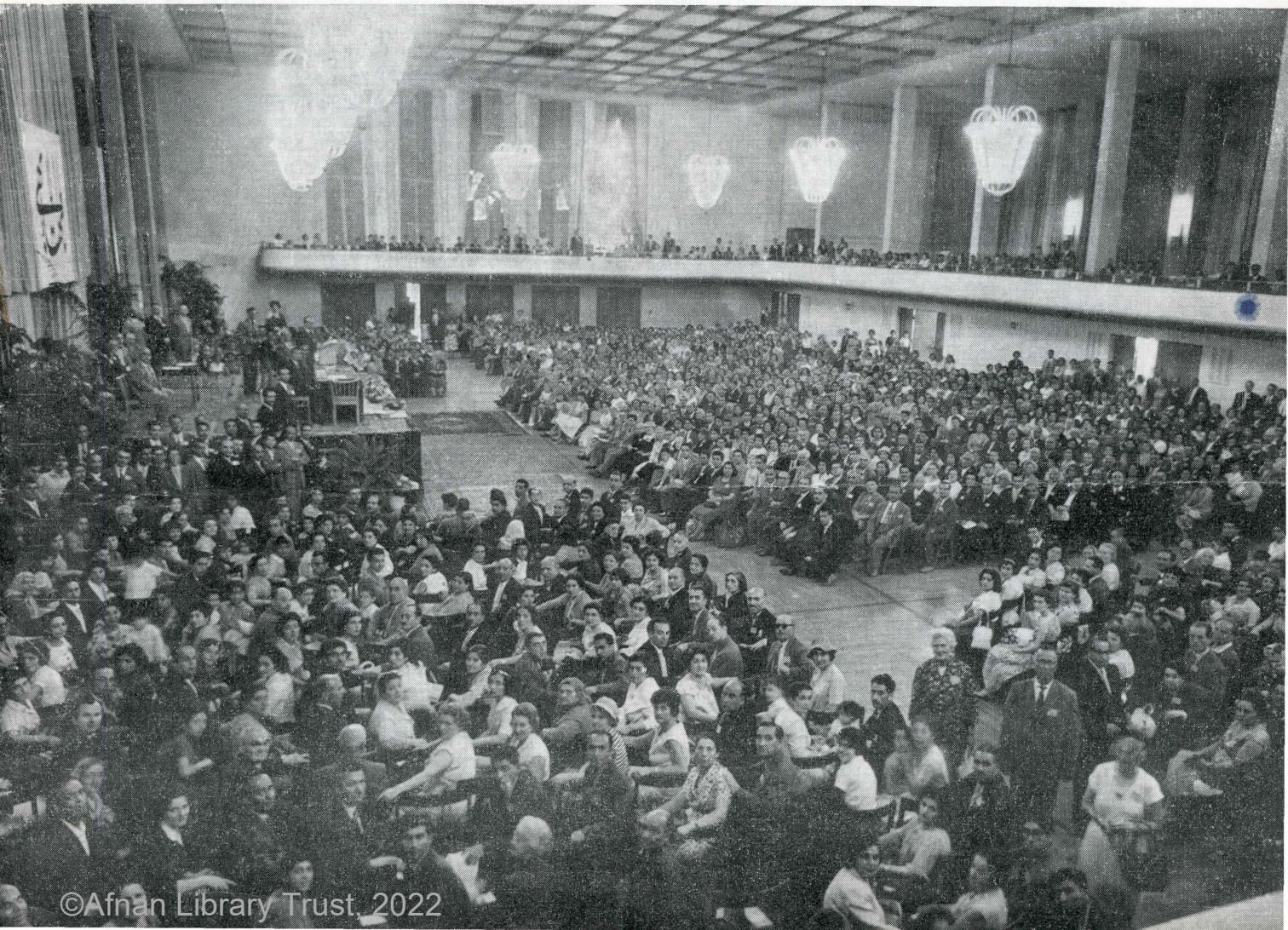
THE FOURTH INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCE

(Extracts from a report prepared by the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria in collaboration with Amelia Bowman and Ian Semple.)

The fourth of the five Bahá'í Intercontinental Conferences requested by the beloved Guardian was visibly under his guiding and inspiring influence, and greatly blessed by the presence of his special representative, the revered Hand of the Cause of God, Mrs. Amelia

Collins, vice-president of the International Bahá'í Council; and by ten other Hands of the Cause. 2,259 believers, more than half of them from Irán, gave a deeply stirring manifestation of the unity of the East and the West, as foretold by the Master.

This historic conference was held at the Congress Hall, in Messegelende, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, from July 25th-29th, 1958. Dominating the interior of



the hall the Greatest Name, magnified many times, hung against the grey-curtained wall behind the platform; many beautiful Persian rugs were on the floor, as well as on the long table across the front of it, the floor surrounding it, and the stairs leading up to the platform. Here the Hands of the Cause were seated during all the sessions.

The Conference was convened by Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel, who announced that the Guardian's representative was about to enter the Hall, whereupon the great assemblage arose in silent homage as Mrs. Amelia Collins ascended the platform, escorted by Dr. Ugo Giachery and Dr. Hermann Grossmann. A period of eloquent silence was followed by a memorial service for the Guardian.

Mrs. Collins then addressed the friends. From her voice and from her face, emanated a love that reached the heart of each one present.

'How can I ever find words to bring to you what is in my heart about our divine Guardian?' she asked. 'I feel we must all fill ourselves at this time, so that his spirit and his wishes will carry us through the next five years of the Global Crusade he initiated, and enable us to consummate his every hope and wish! This, the fulfilment of his own plan, is the loving memorial we must build for him. . . . He loved the progress that came with the goals of the Global Crusade; it lifted him up. How can I ever describe to you his eyes when he came over to the Pilgrim House and spoke of a new achievement! His beautiful face would be all smiles. . . . I feel it would be no exaggeration to say that it was the progress of the Ten-Year Plan that gave him the encouragement to go on working so hard.' Mrs. Collins then reviewed some of the manifold services which the Guardian had rendered the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. 'It was his hand in everything', she said, 'from the littlest to the biggest thing. . . . The work of the Cause went on uninterruptedly until the last night of his life!'

In conclusion she said: 'He made each believer feel that he had a part to play; that he was precious to the Faith and had deeds to discharge and enjoyed privileges because he was a member of the community of the Most Great Name. Let us never lose sight of this. . . . His work in this world is done—ours is not! We are in a way Shoghi Effendi's heirs. We have inherited this work. His plan is completed, ours is the task to fulfil it. We must each of us complete our share of the World Crusade. This is the memorial we must build to our beloved Shoghi Effendi. Let us love him now more than ever before, and through the power of our love attract his love to us and bring his blessings on our labours. Let us not fail him, for he never failed us! Let us never forget him, for he never forgot us!'

In opening the afternoon session, Dr. Mühlischlegel, on behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria, which had been given the honour of organising the conference, extended a hearty greeting of welcome to all, and then announced that the message from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land would be read first by Mrs. Collins, followed by a German translation by Dr. Hermann Grossmann, and a Persian translation by Jalál Kházeh.

The introduction of the Hands of the Cause of God followed, and each spoke a brief message of greeting; Mrs. Amelia Collins, Jalál Kházeh, Dr. Ugo Giachery, Dhikru'lláh Khádem, Enoch Olinga, Hasan Balyuzi,

John Ferraby, Dr. Hermann Grossmann, Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel, and John Robarts. Ethel Revel, a member of the International Bahá'í Council, also spoke.

REVIEW OF WORLD CRUSADE PROGRESS

The second day of the Conference was given over to a review of progress. John Ferraby began with a commentary on the Guardian's map of achievements on which he had worked on the very last day of his life. 'He made of it a work of art, a thing of beauty which we can carry in our hearts as a memorial.'

This visual review of achievements was followed by the living review when nineteen members of the Auxiliary Boards were called to the platform: in all, thirteen from Europe, three from Asia, two from Africa and one from America. Fifteen Regional and National Spiritual Assemblies were represented, namely: Germany and Austria, the British Isles, Italy and Switzerland, United States, Irán, Arabian Peninsula, Páki-stán, India and Burma, Northeast Africa, Northwest Africa, 'Irág, Northeast Asia, Benelux, Scandinavia and Finland, Iberian Peninsula, and France. 'This review of representatives is the greatest memorial to our Guardian', cried Ugo Giachery. 'For thirty-six years he prepared what we are witnessing now!'

The afternoon session began with the reading of the messages which had been received from all over the world. Then, as a further 'living review' of achievements, the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh were called to the platform and each one was introduced by Dr. Giachery. Forty-eight were present from twenty-seven goal countries and islands of the Crusade.

The evening session was reserved for 'The Mother Temple of Europe'. Dr. Eugen Schmidt, the chairman of this session, first gave an impressive address about the spiritual significance of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár.

He introduced the architect, Teuto Rochell, who explained some of the architectural matters regarding his plan. Ruprecht Kruger spoke of the struggle to secure the permission of the local, regional, and national governments to build the Temple.

VIEWING OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S PORTRAIT

Sunday, July 27th, the high point of the Conference, came when the friends gathered to enjoy the great privilege of beholding the portrait of Bahá'u'lláh while standing near the blessed earth from the Holy Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh and viewing a lock of His precious hair, which Mrs. Collins had brought to the Conference as requested by the Guardian.

As the believers filed by, Mrs. Collins, with a radiant smile, anointed the hand of each with attar of rose from a vial used by the Guardian for that purpose, and repeated the Greatest Name, 'Alláh-u-Abhá!' It was a holy atmosphere of purification and dedication that pervaded the Congress Hall that morning. For more than four hours the believers passed by, and each one had the same loving, radiant greeting from Mrs. Collins, who at the advanced age of 85 years was enabled to perform this sacred mission, the crowning act of a lifetime of service to our beloved Guardian.

At the Unity Feast that evening the hearts turned in humble thanksgiving to Bahá'u'lláh.

DONATIONS FOR THE TEMPLE

On Monday morning two long prayers were chanted in Persian, and it was explained that the Guardian had

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COMPLETION OF NINE MONTHS MOURNING

The following letter, dated August 8th, has been received from the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land on the occasion of the completion of the nine months mourning for the beloved Guardian:

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh:

It is nine months since our world was shaken and hearts broken by the passing of our beloved Guardian. Those poignant words which he wrote after the ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá now echo in our ears with a personal meaning to our generation: 'the shock has been too terrible and sudden for us all to recover from in so short a time, but whenever we recall His Sayings and read His Writings, hope springs in our hearts and gives us peace that no other material comfort can give'. Although the official period of mourning has now ended, we know that inwardly each Bahá'í will always grieve deeply for the loss of that priceless embodiment of loving kindness and divine wisdom.

The spontaneous declarations of love for our beloved Guardian and loyalty to the Hands of the Cause raised up by his sacred pen to be the 'Chief Stewards of the embryonic world commonwealth of Bahá'u'lláh', which have been received from all parts of the world, many of them voiced in terms of surpassing beauty, have been a source of great comfort and strength to us.

The Hands of the Cause serving in the Holy Land, as well as the members of the International Bahá'í Council, have felt particularly the terrible physical absence of our beloved Guardian in this place most closely associated with him, where every object our eyes fall on recalls to us his labour, his perseverance, his final sacrifice. The great waves of prayer and of loving confidence which have come pouring in to us from the National Spiritual Assemblies and the believers all over the world have reassured and sustained us, and have given us strength and courage as we labour to protect the World Centre and maintain it as the unifying hub of the great wheel of the Cause our Guardian so carefully built up and set in motion. This has given us assurance that our Guardian himself is aiding us to aid him. We thank all the friends for the support and assistance they have given, for the wonderful spirit of steadfastness they have shown and the many deeds they have performed in the beloved Guardian's name since his passing. This united action which has resulted in so many victories, is, in the words of the beloved Guardian himself: 'an added proof to the world that there is a mighty spirit that animates the friends, that there is nothing impossible to them'.

The Custodians, the group of Hands serving at the World Centre on behalf of the Hands of the Cause

throughout the world, have had to meet and surmount many problems. Some of the permanently appointed Custodians, because of attendance at various conferences to which they were sent by the beloved Guardian, and for reasons of health, have been unable to be in residence at Haifa at all times. We have been fortunate however in having their places filled temporarily by the following Hands, who have acted as substitute Custodians: Ugo Giachery, John Ferraby, Shu'a u'llah 'Alai, Adelbert Muhlschlegel, Ali Muhammad Varqa, and William Sears. This arrangement has been most fortunate as it has brought us first-hand reports of the status of the Faith in various areas and enabled these temporary Custodians to better sense the overall needs of the Faith as seen from the World Centre.

Beloved friends, we are now, together, embarked upon the most important work which human beings have ever done in the history of our planet. Ours is the priceless privilege and the grave, inescapable responsibility of raising up that sacred institution, the Universal House of Justice. This can be done only after the complete triumph of His Ten Year Plan, which is designed to lay the necessary foundation for that weighty and supreme Edifice of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

The measure of divine protection already accorded our precious Cause at the World Centre, in the cradle of the Faith, and throughout the world, since the beloved Guardian's passing, has been truly miraculous. Surely this is that same divine protection spoken of by the Master in His letter to the entire Bahá'í world following the passing of Bahá'u'lláh. His words to-day bring us not only solace in our bereavement, but a firm and undying resolve to fulfil our high destiny.

'O ye beloved of the Lord! . . . To-day is the day for steadfastness and constancy. Blessed are they that stand fast and firm and immovable as the rock, and brave the storm and stress of this tempestuous hour. They, verily, shall receive His divine assistance and shall be truly victorious. . . . In His Most Holy Book He calleth the firm and steadfast of His friends. 'O people of the world! Should the radiance of My Beauty be veiled, and the temple of My body be hidden, feel not perturbed, nay arise and bestir yourselves, that My Cause may triumph, and My Word be heard by all mankind.'

With warm Bahá'í love,

In the service of the beloved Guardian,

RUHIYIH	A. FURUTAN
A. Q. FAIZI	PAUL HANEY
A. VARGHA	WILLIAM SEARS

To the Hands of the Cause, members of their Auxiliary Boards, members of Regional and National Spiritual Assemblies, pioneers, resident believers, and visitors attending the Intercontinental Conference in Frankfurt, July, 1958.

Beloved Friends,

More than nine months have passed since that heart-breaking day when, according to the inscrutable decrees of God, our most beloved and precious Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, passed to the realms on high. Though our sorrow is still fresh in our hearts we cannot but marvel, as we witness the vast number of friends gathered at the opening of this fourth great Intercontinental Conference being held in the very heart of the European continent, at the protection vouchsafed this holy Faith by the Almighty; at the tender wisdom which inspired our Guardian to provide us, during this first year of cruel and bitter separation, with these five great rallying points; at his forethought when he urged the believers to make every effort to attend them; and at the vigilance which moved him, so shortly before his passing and in his last great message to the Bahá'í world, to reinforce the institution of the Hands of the Faith through the appointment of eight more of these 'Chief Stewards of Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic World Commonwealth'. This designation, never before applied to them by him, appears to have been calculated to enable them, with the loving support of the National Assemblies and the believers, to carry the Cause of God forward through this exceedingly difficult and stormy strait in the history of mankind to the calmer waters which lie ahead as the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh begins to take shape and the administrative bodies of the Faith multiply and gain in stature and experience.

We, in spite of the load of grief we still bear in our hearts—a grief which has bowed our heads and humbled our spirits—can nevertheless lift up our voices in thanksgiving to Bahá'u'lláh. We thank Him now not only, as was the Guardian's expressed wish, for the bounties bestowed during the first five years of this World Crusade, but for the measure of sure protection, of merciful grace, poured upon us since the beloved Guardian's passing. The Bahá'ís have everywhere stood firm in the Covenant of God; tested, tried, bereft and filled with longing for their so deeply loved guide and leader, they have demonstrated how great has been the effect of his life and its works by their steadfastness, by the renewed dedication they have shown to the plans he laid down for them, by an unprecedented degree of unity amongst themselves, by a deeper determination to gladden Shoghi Effendi's heart than when he was with them physically in this world. They have arisen, East and West, to go forth and pioneer on both the Home Fronts and in the newly opened territories; they have supported the Bahá'í Funds from hearts that were loyal and overflowed with tenderness for their religion in its hour of need; they have rallied round the Hands of the Faith,

the Custodians at the World Center, and the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies, they have gathered in large numbers at these great Intercontinental Conferences they have comforted each other in their loneliness and they have arisen to spread the Word of God abroad with new zeal and dedication. Can there be any doubt that all this is the result of Shoghi Effendi's sacrifice—the over a-third-of-a-century-long sacrifice of his life, the sudden end, when his spirit in one breath freed itself from his tired and overlaid heart? You all are gathered here to-day because of Shoghi Effendi, according to Shoghi Effendi's wish, Shoghi Effendi's Plan, Shoghi Effendi's hope!

Before turning our thoughts to what he desired should be considered at these great conferences, let us recall the purpose of this vast globe-encircling Crusade. It is a step in the unfoldment of the Divine Plan laid down for us by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and whose execution He entrusted primarily to the people of the 'Great Republic of the West', the most promising child of European civilisation. It has already, in five short years, carried us well on the way towards the accomplishment of our primary objective, which the Guardian said is no less than the spiritual conquest of the entire planet. Led by our beloved Commander-in-Chief, we have opened nearly all the independent sovereign states, the chief dependencies, the most important islands and territories of the world to our glorious Faith; even the wintry island of Spitzbergen has been settled, leaving only a few states inside the Soviet Union or within its orbit, still unopened. Of the forty-nine National Hazíratu'l-Quds to be purchased as part of the Ten-Year Plan, forty-eight have been acquired; of the fifty-one National Endowments, all have been acquired; of the eleven Temple sites specifically mentioned by our beloved Guardian, all eleven have been acquired; the mighty task of translating and publishing the literature of the Faith, as called for in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, is now nearing completion; the Bahá'í Publishing Trusts, except for those in Islamic countries where the believers are still oppressed, ignored and proscribed, have all been founded; and the task of incorporating National and Local Spiritual Assemblies is well on its way to fulfilment. Even the Home Fronts—the most challenging perhaps of all the tasks allotted to us by the beloved Guardian under the terms of this World Crusade—are, in many countries, meeting, nay surpassing, his expectations. Two of the three mighty Mother Temples are already being constructed; namely, those of Africa and the Antipodes. It was this over-all pattern of marked success, of surging spiritual vitality which characterises the activities of the World Bahá'í Community, that undoubtedly caused our Guardian to unite us in these five Intercontinental Conferences, not only to humbly thank Bahá'u'lláh for mercies received, not only to deliberate on ways and means of accomplishing the next five years' work, but as a reward for having served faithfully, with enthusiasm and consecration, this blessed Cause of God, and, as we now see, as a mercy in the hour of separation, a

tender enfolding of us, his 'dearly beloved co-workers' in the arms of that one who, in his modesty and purity of heart, called himself only 'your true brother'.

The work of Bahá'u'lláh lies before us to be completed. No one generation will do this; a thousand years at least are required to carry out and mature the specific provisions of His Dispensation. But to each man his opportunity, to each generation its tasks. Shoghi Effendi has laid down for us in clear and unmistakable terms our next five years work. To the degree to which we scrupulously adhere to his plan, obey his words, comprehend the implications of his perfect design, to that degree only will our affairs prosper, our work attract the blessings from On High, and the foundation of the World Order be solidly and lastingly laid.

The beloved Guardian in his last message to us all, made clear that the fourth phase of our Ten-Year Plan which we have, with the holding of these great conferences all over the world, now embarked upon, 'must be immortalised, on the one hand, by an unprecedented increase in the number of avowed supporters of the Faith, in all the continents of the globe, of every race, clime, creed and colour, and from every stratum of present-day society, coupled with a corresponding increase in the number of Bahá'í centres, and, on the other, by a swift progress in the erection of the Mother Temples of Africa and Australia, as well as by the initiation of the construction of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Europe.'

The commencement of the work on the Temple to be erected in Germany is long over-due. We know from the Words of the Master that these Houses of Worship are the greatest silent teachers of the Faith. How infinitely precious is any building erected in the love of God and for the mention of His Name. How much more so these first continental 'Mother Temples', being raised to the glory of Bahá'u'lláh. How infinitely so the Temples for whose construction the Guardian himself is responsible, whose location he has specified, whose design he himself has approved. It was one of his most cherished desires to have these Temples built. He himself pledged he would supply one third of their estimated cost. We must now carry on his work, see that the budget, now being expended monthly for the construction of the Sydney Temple is met, and that at least the major part of the sum required for the European Mashriqu'l-Adhkar is raised, in anticipation of the early commencement of actual building operations. Time is flying. We do not know what the future world situation will be. What we do know is our immediate duty to the work specified for us by our Guardian.

The other half of the main task confronting us is the 'unprecedented increase' in the number of believers throughout the world. Pioneers are needed everywhere, in all continents, in all the islands opened to the Faith, on the Home Fronts, and in the goal territories. Two things are required to get a pioneer to his post, an en-

kindled, consecrated soul, willing and ready to go out in the teaching field and, if he cannot supply them himself the material means necessary to get him to his post and often to enable him to remain at it. This type of service to the Faith offers a wonderful opportunity for partnership between those who have some worldly means at their disposal, but feel for some reason unable to go forth themselves, and those who yearn to respond to the call for pioneering, but are prevented from fulfilling their heart's desire because of lack of material resources.

Let us recall our Guardian's words, at the opening of the World Crusade, to the entire body of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh:

'... I direct my appeal to arise and, in the course of these fast fleeting years, in every phase of the campaigns that are to be fought in all the continents of the globe, prove their worth as gallant warriors battling for the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh. Indeed, from this very hour until the eve of the Most Great Jubilee, each and every one of those enrolled in the Army of Light must seek no rest, must take no thought of self, must sacrifice to the uttermost, must allow nothing whatsoever to deflect him or her from meeting the pressing, the manifold, the paramount needs of this pre-eminent Crusade.

'Light as the spirit', 'pure as air', 'blazing as fire', 'unrestrained as the wind'—for such is Bahá'u'lláh's own admonition to His loved ones in His Tablets, and directed not to a select few but to the entire congregation of the faithful—let them scatter far and wide, proclaim the glory of God's Revelation in this Day, quicken the souls of men and ignite in their hearts the love of the One Who alone is their omnipotent and divinely appointed Redeemer.'

At this time surely nothing is impossible to us. We have passed through nine months of fire since our beloved Guardian left us, but we have burned together. We have seen, and felt deeply in our hearts, our unity as a world community, as followers of the Most Great Name. We have neither been separated nor paralysed through this great shock and grief. The World Centre of the Faith which he so assiduously built up and consolidated, the heart of the Bahá'í World Community, has not ceased to beat. The communion between the hearts of the friends and the great heart enshrining the Quiblib of the Bahá'í World, continues to gather strength. This has been a shining evidence to us all that Bahá'u'lláh's mercies have not ceased to be showered upon us; that what the Guardian built endures and will endure, a living organism, throughout the stages in the evolution of our Faith which lie ahead.

After this ordeal by fire which we have passed through, can we doubt that, with this fresh sense of oneness, with our purified hearts, we will not receive, if we arise now to serve as we should, an extraordinary measure of the bounty of almighty God? Great moments in history require great deeds; great men are not

necessarily those best qualified to be great, but rather those who see their chance and seize it, with love and courage, when it offers itself. The records of our Faith show that its heroes and heroines, its saints and martyrs, sprang mostly from the rank and file, but what they possessed, which raised them to the summits of fame and glory, were vision and faith. Let the friends now follow the path of Shoghi Effendi, let them arise to complete his work as set forth in the Ten-Year Plan, let them labour as he did, steadily, patiently, consecratedly, day after day, week after

week, year after year, until his tasks are completed. The world now marvels at what this one man did in thirty-six years. Let his lovers arise and put their shoulder to the wheel and move this blessed Faith forward on the path of its destiny until, God willing, their hearts stop as did his, from the excess of their labours in the path of God.

(Signed) RUHIYIH
AMELIA COLLINS
A. FURUTAN

WILLIAM SEARS
A. Q. FAIZI
JALAL KHAZEH

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especially requested these prayers for the inauguration of the Temple in Wilmette. 'These prayers have been used this morning', Jalál Kházeḥ explained, 'because we must now approach the task of securing donations for the Temple.'

Habíb Sabet spoke of a Bahá'í who had asked the Guardian about the Crusade and had received the reply that he had measured the power and capacity of the friends around the world and had then made the Ten-Year Crusade.

He then announced a donation of \$50,000 from Mrs. Collins. He continued to announce contributions that were sent to him on the platform, while the ushers distributed pledge forms in Persian, English, and German. 915,917 D.M. were contributed in cash, which sum was later raised to a million marks.

CALL FOR PIONEERS

Joel Marangella, chairman of the afternoon session on pioneering, pointed out that the goals that took priority were the countries not yet open to the Faith, and the islands where there is just one Bahá'í pioneer at this time. Mimeographed forms in the different languages were distributed to those wishing to pioneer as Marion Hofman forcefully and dynamically spoke. The pioneers who now lived on an island alone were asked to come to the platform so that the friends could better understand how many there were who needed help. Then in response to this call for pioneers seventy-five believers arose, and were introduced to the friends.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Congress Hall, which was filled, and many Bahá'ís stood in the balcony. Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel spoke in German on the subject 'The Earth is but One Country', and Hasan Balyuzi spoke in English on 'Religion is a Radiant Light'.

The last day of this great conference was devoted to a consideration of the remaining teaching needs of the Crusade, and Musa Banání, the Hand of the Cause of Africa, was able to be present.

At twelve o'clock there was a pause, and David Hofman explained that 'at this very moment the friends in England are laying flowers on the most sacred and blessed spot in Europe, the grave of our beloved Guardian'. He then read the excerpts with reference to Shoghi Effendi from the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Charles Wolcott then gave a brief review of the remaining goals. Jalál Kházeḥ explained that 'our principal aim is to establish the International House of Justice, and this matter needs great work and sacrifice. 'The important thing', Mr. Wolcott reminded the

friends, 'is to keep this goal in front of you and take back to your homeland the thrilling news, and entreat all of the believers at home to become a part of this Crusade while there is yet time!'

The session then turned to a consideration of the teaching needs of the European countries. New pioneers arose, bringing the total to 133, which meant that both tasks laid before the conference—financial and pioneering—had been achieved.

The Hands of the Cause then one by one approached the microphone and said farewell to the friends. In particular, the hearts of the audience were touched with these precious words of Mrs. Collins, which closed the sessions:

'Beloved friends, you have all become so dear to me in these days. You have all brought the Guardian nearer to me. There is little more to say, but I would like to add to what has been said to-day to those who have offered to go pioneering. To win one smile from the Guardian is enough to take you through a whole year of pioneering, and I am sure you won the first smile to-day!'

'I am going to say something very personal. . . . For six weeks before I came to Frankfurt I practised almost every day to see how long I could stand—knowing that I had a very sacred mission to perform. I never could endure over one half-hour, and I was completely exhausted! You all know what happened: I stood for over four hours! That was what the Guardian gave me and I am sharing it with you. Because that will happen to every one of you if you will just do what the Guardian wishes you to do. You have the key here, and don't lose it! We must each become a magnet, a magnet to attract the Holy Spirit—and I have felt that here every hour I have been with you, so precious and sacred!'

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS COMMITTEE

The National Audio-Visual Aids Committee wishes to make it known that the first three British made tape recordings are now available to all friends for the usual small hiring fee of 5/- per tape.

1. Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Sugar, the oldest living British Bahá'ís, and a talk by Mr. Sugar entitled 'Bahá'u'lláh'.
2. Talk by Ian Semple 'Gathered at Thy Table of Bounty'.
3. A mixed tape with Dick Backwell reading prayers and a talk by Ian Semple, based on 'Selections from the Hidden Words'.

All tapes are on 5 in. spools and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in p.s. speed.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT

The last few months have been very full ones for the British Bahá'ís, and at the time of writing, the activity shows signs of increasing even more, with preparations for a week-end school in Oxford on October 4th-5th, and for two more in Chester and Edinburgh on the 11th and 12th.

The great event of this summer was, of course, the Frankfurt Conference, which was attended by over 170 believers from these Islands, going by train, in cars, and even by bicycle. Immediately following the Conference a stream of believers began to pour into London to visit the grave of our beloved Guardian. For night after night the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds was packed to capacity and for several weeks Bahá'ís from East and West demonstrated a unity and devotion which cannot but have stirred those who witnessed it. Indeed many stories are told of those whose interest was awakened by these visitors. Now the London Assembly is planning a Public Meeting in East Barnet Urban District to enlighten those whose curiosity has been aroused.

Among the pioneers who volunteered during the Frankfurt Conference twelve were for our Home Front and the Islands and the E.A.T.C. and N.T.C. are in touch with all of these believers. Also, following the Conference, Dr. and Mrs. Firoozmand with their two sons have come to settle for a time in Edinburgh. These dear Friends were formerly in Istanbul and have been trying for some time to pioneer to Britain.

Visiting Bahá'ís have also helped teaching, both before and after the Conference. There were Soheil Samandari, William Smits and Firooz Kazemzadeh, also Col. and Mrs. John McHenry from France with their son, John, on leave from Korea, and Jerry Bagley from Sicily; also Hugh McKinley whom we warmly welcomed back among us during a brief but most fruitful visit to Canterbury, Chester and the North-west before returning to Cyprus.

Dick and Veda Backwell, who have been spending their leave in this country, have been a tremendous help in Canterbury—not to mention Dick's marathon tour of the North and Scotland immediately he set foot on British soil. Indeed, he visited all the British Communities bar eight, and these he promises to visit on his next leave, together with the other new ones which will be formed by then!

So much has been happening, that it cannot all be mentioned here, but we can pick out one or two highlights:

BRISTOL opened its Centre on September 13th at 60 St. Paul's Road.

CHEADLE held its first public meeting on September 11th. There are now seven believers in this Goal Town, including Marjorie Lucas who pioneered there in June following the inspiring week-end School which the North-West R.T.C. organised at Lyme Hall.

CANTERBURY: Dick Backwell addressed a meeting of 64 Rotarians there on Tuesday, August 12th, and was asked if he could speak to other Rotary Clubs on the Bahá'í Faith.

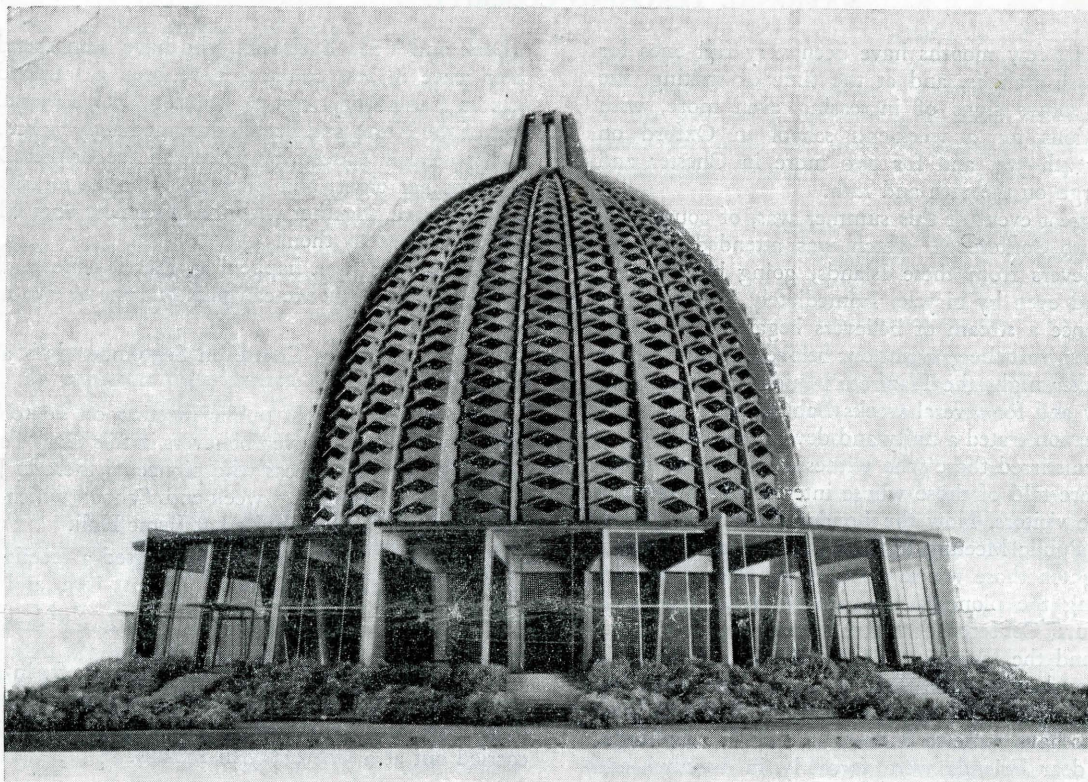
CAMBRIDGE has been offered a stall, 6 sq. ft. in size, for an exhibit on the Faith at the University Societies' Fair. This will be the first project of this sort ever carried out at a University in Britain.

BANGOR in County Down has rendered valuable service to the Cause throughout the country this summer. Kathleen Hornell, the pioneer there, made a mammoth-size teaching tour round communities in the South-west on her way to Frankfurt, and within three weeks of the end of the Conference the Bangor Friends were hosts to the Summer School, which was held from August 16th to 27th at the Brooklyn Hotel in Ballyholme. It was an inspiring ten days, for which the Northern Irish Friends deserve our deep gratitude.

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY

BIRMINGHAM. Our weekly study course at the centre has been resumed and continues until December 22nd. Public meetings will be held every three weeks; the first one will be held on Saturday, October 30th. Six of these meetings will take place at the Centre before Christmas. We welcome the following new members to our community. Margaret and Fuad Majzub who were married in July and held their Bahá'í ceremony at the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in Frankfurt during their visit to the Conference, Miss Visseh Meshkinnapien from Persia, who is a student nurse at the Birmingham General Hospital, Miss Ninnoosh Vahdat from Persia, and Pari, and Faribory Varjavandi who are the nephew and niece of our Mr. Janshad Varjavandi and will attend school in the City. Ten Bahá'ís from Birmingham attended the Frankfurt Conference.

BLACKPOOL. Our only representative to the Frankfurt Conference, Mr. Richard Lancaster returned to inspire us all with the spirit that had pervaded there, and he gave us a day to day report. August brought a surprise visit from Norwich Bahá'ís Bob and Donna Check. We also had two overseas visitors, Dorothy Howells (whose mother had just come to live in Blackpool) and Myra Haggity, both from Detroit, Mich. Later the same week we met Mrs. Howells who had Ada Williams (Glasgow) staying with her for a few days. Our feasts are well attended and we have weekly firesides planned. We were able to get two insertions in our local paper *re* the Frankfurt Conference, and judging by the people who have commented on them we feel it has been good publicity.



THE MOTHER TEMPLE OF EUROPE TO BE ERECTED NEAR FRANKFURT

ECCLES. When the Bahá'í Centre was opened in Eccles in May, a Dedication Service was held to celebrate both this event and the newly achieved Assembly. The Eccles friends now number 11 souls. This number has been achieved within two years. The ceremony was attended by 44 visitors, ten of whom were non-Bahá'ís. After a warm welcome by the Chaiman, Gitta Chaplin, a most inspiring service followed, which included some excerpts from the American Bahá'í recording 'Words for the World'. The service was completed by speeches from the National Assembly representative, Ernest Gregory, Mr. Alfred Sugar, the oldest believer in the British Isles who is 93 years old, and various other friends. The evening ended with refreshments which everyone enjoyed, and so another cornerstone was laid in our Bahá'í history.

NOTTINGHAM. The Nottingham Cosmopolitan Debating Society, one of the oldest in the country has agreed to have a Bahá'í speaker on its winter programme. More details will be given later.

Subjects in our display window over the past month have been the Bahá'í position with regard to evolution, and progressive revelation. Apart from our discussion and study groups there have been three meetings, the first on July 13th was addressed by Ian Sinclair, who took as his subject "Religion for To-day", the second by Mr. James of the S.P.G.B. gave an address on Religion and Socialism, this meeting attracted 12 non-Bahá'ís. The last meeting was addressed by Dr. C. C. Price, Head of the Chemistry Department of the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

PORTSMOUTH. We have just completed a study course on 'The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh aided by many visiting Bahá'í speakers. Out of this has come the desire to further teaching activity by holding firesides several evenings each week in different parts of the city. It has been suggested that friends visit each fireside if they so wish to assist in teaching. A youth meeting has been planned to discuss future activities. The People to People week sponsored by the I.F.L. has opened a door to three Bahá'í homes for the visit of students with the hope of attracting I.F.L. members and interested friends to our firesides. Prudence George had an opportunity to speak of her holiday in Northern Ireland at a meeting of the Townswomen's Guild, and indirectly introduced the Summer School as part of her holiday.

NEW POLICY FOR BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

The National Spiritual Assembly recently called the *Bahá'í Journal* Committee for consultation, and as a result a new policy has been formed. For the time being we are to produce an eight page *Journal* every two months.

We propose to publish during the first weeks of November (this one) January, March, May, July. In order to do this the deadline for material is the 5th of the previous month, i.e. December 5th, February 5th, etc. No material received after this date can be included in the forthcoming issue.

We seek the co-operation of all Committee, Local Assemblies and others who have items for the *Journal* to send them in ON TIME to John and Valery Morley, 15 Langley Hill Close, Calcot, Reading.