

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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THE BAHÁ'Í TEMPLE IN KAMPALA

THE MOTHER TEMPLE OF AFRICA

Work has now started on the dome of the Kampala Temple and, with the ribs in place, it is possible to see the general shape of the building.

The dome, structurally designed in the form of a steel basket is being cast *in situ*; it will be covered in tiny, pale green glass mosaic, which will shimmer in the African sunlight, and the roofs will carry glazed pantiles of a similar colour. From the dome down to the higher of the two roofs the finish of the building will be in smooth, precast stone, but below that the finish will be of plaster. This has been arranged in order to obviate the erection of expensive scaffolding in the future, which would have been necessary had a rougher, cheaper finish, requiring frequent cleaning, been used on the upper part of the building. The cleaning of the Temple below the roofs will be a much simpler operation.

Below the dome, the solid concrete shell, reinforced with steel, with solid block in-filling, is complete. No wood is used anywhere in the structure, even the tiles being laid in mortar on the reinforced concrete roofs.

Concealed electrical conduit has been installed throughout for future lighting when electricity is available.

Plans are progressing on the caretaker's house and service buildings, which are situated quite close to the Temple. These auxiliary buildings will not be visible from the Temple for they will be surrounded by trees and hedging.

Plans have been set in motion of the landscaping of the Temple grounds which, when finished, will be extremely beautiful. A great deal of work and consultation has gone into the preparation of these plans and an expert has been consulted. The Temple is to be surrounded by a thirty-foot swathe of grass, unbroken by paths or flower beds, and around which will be built a low wall upon which people may sit. In the future it is envisaged that, beyond the wall, avenues of trees and shrubs will ray out from the nine entrances, each treated in a different way, with particular attention being paid to that facing towards Haifa.

The rest of the plot will be treated as parkland, with shady trees and lovely flowering shrubs, so that the Temple and its surroundings will be a place of beauty for the joy of all who visit it.

CUSTODIANS

The following cable was passed on by the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States on June 15th:

‘Announce with profound gratitude fulfilment (of) one (of the) most difficult goals (of) beloved Guardian’s World Crusade: identification (of) remains (of) cousin (of the) Báb (and) successful transfer (to) cemetery—evidence (of) unfailing grace (of) Bahá’u’lláh vouchsafed (to) His faithful followers. Share joyful news (with) Hands (and) National Assemblies.’

PROGRESS OF THE FAITH

The following cable for general circulation was sent by the Hands of the Faith in the Holy Land to the American National Assembly on 8.6.59:

‘Grateful remarkable response believers appeal Ridván Message (for) second army (of) pioneers new impetus teaching activity home-fronts.

Strong evidence Bahá’u’lláh’s invincible hosts gathering forces preparation conquest remaining goals beloved Guardian’s Crusade.

Persian American deputization plan receiving enthusiastic response long-suffering, dedicated, self-sacrificing friends Cradle Faith whose initial pledge will assist many pioneers proceed posts vital goal areas Europe, Latin America.

Encouraging news received World Centre impels us share following highlights continuous progress global Crusade. Over three score new local assemblies formed Persian home-front, surpassing all previous records. In Central East African territories alone over twenty-three hundred new believers enrolled past year, total now nearly sixty-five hundred. Seventy-seven new local assemblies formed Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda; total entire area now exceeds two hundred fifty (assemblies). In Indonesia number centres increased from thirty to one hundred fifty, in brief span one year. In Java alone ninety-seven centres now established, compared only eight (a) year ago; number adherents Faith that country now over nine hundred, representing nine-fold increase past year.

Call upon believers east (and) west arise, shoulder God-given responsibilities support present plans for successful completion precious unique history-making Crusade being undertaken (by) thirty-one national (and) regional assemblies created by beloved Guardian. Confident total victory within reach if all hearts turn (to) Bahá’u’lláh supplicating His unfailing assistance united, whole-hearted, dedicated effort fulfil present phase ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Divine Plan.

Share message Hands (and) national assemblies.’

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DELEGATES

Home Front

1. That a copy of the excerpts from *The Advent of Divine Justice* (The Earth is God's) be circulated to every member of the community.

(This has already been circulated to every member of the community.)

2. That in order to secure rapid results in this crucial year those appointed to both N.T.C. and R.T.C.s should be selected primarily for their ability to initiate, organise and maintain drive rather than for their teaching abilities and so also to enable the teaching resources to be deployed to maximum advantage.

(In appointing this year's teaching committees, this was borne in mind.)

3. That the N.S.A. be asked to review more widely the available personnel when appointing national committees.

(The available people are always widely reviewed when committees are appointed.)

4. That the Hands of the Cause and the Board Members be asked to arrange a series of meetings to meet the friends in various parts of the country.

(This has been passed to the Hands of the Cause in Europe. We feel it can be very valuable in bringing the Institution of the Hands to the Home Front and we have offered the services of the National Teaching Committee to co-ordinate any meetings the Hands decide on with the schedules of Week-end Schools.)

5. That the N.S.A. ask the believers if they have any friends or relatives in the goal towns who might be of assistance to the pioneering there.

(This is to be announced in the 'Newsletter'.)

National Treasurer

6. That the accounts be simplified, and the moneys belonging to the N.S.A. and to other people, be shown separately.

(We have asked a small sub-committee of the treasurer and another member of the N.S.A. to draw up the suggested simplified accounts for the N.S.A. to see.)

7. That the N.S.A. suggest to Local Assemblies and Groups to reconsider the distribution of their expenses for local activities, bearing in mind the grave need for contributions to the National Fund and, if possible, eliminate certain expenditure in favour of contribution to the National Fund, advising the National Assembly accordingly.

(The N.S.A. does not feel that it would like to advise local Assemblies in detail regarding the distribution of their expenses, but we have written to all local Assemblies asking them to keep in frequent review the relation of their contributions to the National Fund with their local expenses, having in mind the very great need of the National Fund. We feel that most communities do their best to keep their expenses as low as possible.)

Bahá'í Youth

8. Convention wishes to place on record that the efforts made by the N.Y.C. during the past year and their achievements during this period are exemplary, that these are highly appreciated and that it wishes them success in their future greater endeavours.

(Passed to the National Youth Committee.)

9. That Local Assemblies encourage youth to form groups in their local communities.

(Passed to the National Youth Committee asking for recommendations. This resolution has also been passed on to Local Assemblies.)

10. That the youth be recommended to use as material for their week-end schools a study of the 'rock bottom requirements' outlined by the beloved Guardian.

(Passed to the National Youth Committee with our endorsement.)

11. That the N.Y.C. be asked to consider the age-group 11-15, and to take them under their wing.

(We feel that the Youth Committee should be flexible in its application of the lower age limit, and where there are children younger than 15 who are sufficiently mature to take part in youth activity, they should invite them.)

12. That the N.S.A. ask the N.Y.C. to prepare a list of young speakers and encourage their teaching efforts by giving financial support, if required, with the object of injecting new blood into our teaching activities.

(We have told the National Teaching Committee we hope they will give young speakers every encouragement to ensure their being used in a wise way commensurate with their experience, and we are asking the National Youth Committee for a list of possible youth speakers not already being used.)

13. That the N.S.A. encourage the Summer School Committee and any other committees to consider placing more responsibility upon the shoulders of the youth in carrying out their work.

(We agree with this resolution. There is one youth amongst the five members of the Summer School Committee this year. We are asking the Youth Committee to review the youth of the country and to suggest to us activities in which they could help.)

Public Relations

14. That at least a fortnight before a Bahá'í Holy Day or other important function, the Public Relations Committee be asked to circulate a draft press release, which could be adapted to local conditions, to L.S.A.s, groups and isolated believers so that they will make efforts to have this published locally, and that the Committee see that national newspapers have the release in its original form.

(Passed to Public Relations Committee.)

15. That prominent people be sent copies of Bahá'í books and asked for their opinions, which could later be quoted, but that permission should be sought before such opinions are published.
(*Passed to Public Relations Committee.*)

16. That the Public Relations Committee should prepare and publish a statement or small pamphlet on the same lines as the Guardian's introduction to 'The Promised Day is Come', so that whenever the opportunity arises or conditions allow, this could be distributed to prominent people.
(*Passed to Public Relations Committee.*)

17. That they consider making an attempt to have the names of the British Hands of the Cause included in *Who's Who*, asking the assistance of Bernard Leach—whose name already appears in this publication—for this purpose.
(*Passed to Public Relations Committee.*)

Publishing Trust

18. That the Trust be asked to consider sending a well-produced catalogue to schools and universities.
(*The last Publishing Trust catalogue was circulated to university libraries, but it is not thought that it would serve any useful purpose to circulate it to schools.*)

19. That the Trust import the small Prayer Book from India.
(*Copies of this Prayer Book were, in fact, on sale at Convention, and a further stock has been ordered.*)

20. That the Trust explain in the *Bahá'í Journal* the loan scheme that is in operation.
(*Approved. The Publishing Trust to take action.*)
Child Education

21. Recommend that the budget of the Child Education Committee be increased.
(*We will allot the Committee as much money as we can afford.*)

Bahá'í Journal

22. That consideration be given to either increasing the size of the Journal or producing it more frequently.
(*The Journal is now appearing at two monthly intervals. Moreover, the Home Front is to appear more frequently and this should help the dissemination of news.*)

23. That the N.S.A. should investigate the possibility of producing the Journal by rotary printing (offset litho) and the possibility of purchasing a second hand machine. Also that doing the Journal by ordinary printing be put out to tender again to several printers and costs compared.
(*Enquiries about this process are being made. We are also asking for quotations from several ordinary printers for comparison.*)

24. That the N.S.A. be recommended to increase the budget of the Journal Committee.
(*The N.S.A. has allotted as much as it can afford to the Journal Committee.*)

25. Recommended that the N.S.A.:

(a) Makes sure that news not suitable for the Journal reaches the believers in some other way such as the Home Front or Regional bulletins.

(b) Arrange for the Journal to carry foreign news.

(*We will ask the Journal Committee to hand over to Regional Committees any news which they cannot publish themselves, and also to provide more foreign news in the Journal.*)

26. Recommend that the Journal Committee be asked to give the communities guidance as to what kind of news is wanted and the best way in which to give it.

(*Passed to the Journal Committee.*)

Summer School

27. That we investigate the possibility of having two Summer Schools per year as soon as possible for the benefit of people in the north and south respectively.
(*We have already asked the Scottish Regional Teaching Committee to look for premises for a Scottish School next year.*)

28. That the Summer School Committee be asked to get a supply of sheet music suitable for singing. Dan Jordan's setting of the 'Hidden Words' being specially mentioned.

(*The Assembly considered the whole question of the use of music and has appointed a small sub-committee to consider the matter.*)

29. Recommend that the Summer School Committee be asked to appoint a sub-committee to make all necessary arrangements for the children.
(*Already in hand.*)

30. That the N.S.A. take steps to make Summer School more popular with a view to having increased participation of the community.
(*We will make a campaign for 1960 and 1961 Summer Schools.*)

Audio Visual Aids

31. That the Audio Visual Aids Committee be asked to get together a box of suitable exhibition material which can be sent round for meetings, special shows, etc.

(*Passed to the Audio Visual Aids Committee for a report on what they consider should go in such a box, and for an estimate of cost.*)

Hazíratu'l-Quds

32. That the N.S.A. consider improving the cleaning and maintenance of the Hazíratu'l-Quds and providing suitable equipment.
(*Passed to Hazíratu'l-Quds Committee.*)

33. To draw the attention of the Hazíratu'l-Quds Committee to the need of notices in a more permanent form.
(*Passed to Hazíratu'l-Quds Committee.*)

34. To ask the N.S.A. to consider as a matter of urgency the establishment of a Bahá'í housekeeper.
(*Passed to Hazíratu'l-Quds Committee.*)
General

35. That an approach to the Queen be considered in view of the fact that her birthday falls on 21st April.
(*We have sent greetings to the Monarch on appropriate occasions such as accession, coronation, etc., for many years, and we shall continue this. The N.S.A. does not think, however, that the Queen's birthday should be one of these occasions.*)

36. That next year Convention start on Friday evening so that the friends may come and pay homage at the grave of the beloved Guardian before deliberations are begun.

(*Agreed that the Friday before next Convention we will invite the friends to visit the Guardian's grave in the late afternoon and for a Unity Feast at the Hazíra in the evening.*)

37. That the N.S.A. be asked to give particular attention to the Guardian's instructions regarding the dissemination of literature and especially to putting books in public libraries on a larger scale.

(*Passed to the Public Relations, Publishing Trust and National Teaching Committee's asking for a report in three months time.*)

38. Recommend to the N.S.A. that an *ad hoc* committee be appointed by the N.S.A. to consider recommendations from past Conventions since the beginning of the Crusade and see if any of those not then adopted are now suitable.

(*A small sub-committee has been appointed.*)

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES—YEAR 116

The list of committee members published in the July issue of *Bahá'í Journal* was taken from the end of the National Assembly's report to Convention, and was, in fact, the list of members of *last year's* committees.

We give below the membership of *this year's* committees with terms of reference of the committees.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

Ernest Gregory, Chairman; John Wade, Secretary; Marina Nazar, Assistant Secretary; Owen Battrick, Joan Gregory.

Terms of reference:

'To be responsible under the National Spiritual Assembly for the achievement of the Home Front Teaching Goals of the Ten-Year Crusade, namely:

- (a) the establishment of 46 Local Spiritual Assemblies;
- (b) the incorporation of 16 Local Spiritual Assemblies;
- (c) the multiplication of groups and centres through the unprecedented increase in numbers required by the Fourth Phase;
- (d) to facilitate the service of the believers to the Crusade by helping them to overcome any hindrances that stand in the way of their service.

To stimulate an increasing volume of teaching activity.

To keep the whole community constantly informed about the progress of the Crusade.

To direct the work of the R.T.C.s

To work in close collaboration with the E.A.T.C. and the P.R.C.'

REGIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEES

Northern England. Brian Dillworth, Kianoush Kouchekezadeh, Vera Long, Marion Mihaeloff, Mickie Mihaeloff, Bahadur Hagjoo.

Southern England. Gladys Backwell, Edgar Boyett, Kathleen Hyett, Joe Lee, Bobbie Leedham, Evelyn Rouse.

Scotland and Border Counties (including Northumberland, Durham and Cumberland). Molly Hughes, Joe Jameson, Svend Kamming, Elizabeth Laidlaw.

Wales. Eric Kent, Barbara Lewis, David Lewis, Beatrice Newman.

Northern Ireland. David Brown, Billy Glass, Lizbeth Greeves, Sheila McCarthy, Charles Macdonald.

Terms of reference:

'To act as advisory and executive arms of the N.T.C. as directed by that body.

To promote teaching activities on a regional basis by:

- (a) organising Week-end Schools;
- (b) issuing a regular bulletin of news;
- (c) arranging for continuous circulation of teachers;
- (d) helping communities to co-ordinate their teaching activities by making best possible use of teachers in their area;
- (e) seeing that numerous fireside meetings are held throughout the region.

To support declarations of any new believers not in the area of jurisdiction of a Local Assembly.

To maintain contact with isolated believers in their area.'

EUROPEAN AND ASIAN TEACHING COMMITTEE

Jeannette Battrick, Jean Campbell, Egon Kamming, Betty Reed, Adib Taherzadeh.

Terms of reference:

'To be responsible under the National Spiritual Assembly for the achievement of the European and Asian Teaching goals of the Ten-Year Crusade, namely:

- (a) the opening of the following territories: Faroe Islands, Malta, Cyprus, Shetlands, Orkneys and the Hebrides, and the reinforcement of the pioneers settled in these places;
- (b) the consolidation of the Faith in the Republic of Ireland through the incorporation of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Dublin, the establishment of a Spiritual Assembly in Cork, and the multiplication of groups and isolated centres;
- (c) to bear in mind the moral responsibility for Hong Kong and to take advantage of any opportunity to assist.'

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Janet Coppen, Habib Habibi, Eruch Munsiff, Donald Millar, Louis Ross-Enfield.

Terms of reference:

'To be responsible under the National Spiritual Assembly for aiding the prosecution of the goals of the Ten-Year Crusade, namely:

(a) *Publicity*

1. Planning and carrying out projects for publicising the Faith at National level.
2. Suggesting ways in which Assemblies, Groups and individual believers can economically and beneficially publicise the Faith.
3. Stimulating and guiding Assemblies, Groups and individual believers to secure local publicity.
4. Providing publicity material, e.g. press releases, handouts, posters, etc., for national and local use.

(b) *Public Relations*

1. Considering the steps which can be taken to widen the circle of friends and sympathisers of the Faith among people prominent in academic, professional, social, religious and political spheres. Implementing such of these steps as are approved by the National Spiritual Assembly.
2. Ensuring that correct information about the Faith is provided for all encyclopaedias and similar reference books.
3. Recording, and where desirable correcting, inaccurate references to the Faith made by non-Bahá'ís. In some cases the National Assembly may already have taken action and the P.R.C. should keep in touch with the National Secretary in order to be aware of this and also to refer appropriate items to the National Assembly.

To collect and act as an exchange centre for information regarding the publicity and public relations activities of the British Isles.

To work in close collaboration with the N.T.C. and the Audio Visual Aids Committee.'

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST COMMITTEE

Ronald Bates, Reg. Coulson, John Ferraby, Manager; Marian Mihaeloff, Rustam Sabit, John Shortland.

Terms of reference:

'To be responsible for the policy and direction of the affairs of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly.'

AUDIO VISUAL AIDS COMMITTEE

Gitta Chaplin, Clifford Johnson, Dorothy Morrissey, Nuri Sabit, Robert Ellwand.

Terms of reference:

'To assist in the achievement of the goals of the Ten-Year Crusade by:

- (a) producing audio and visual aids which will assist the believers in their teaching work (e.g. slides, films, photographs, charts, tape recordings, etc.), but EXCLUDING pamphlets or posters and other publicity material, as these fall within the terms of reference of the Publishing Trust and the Public Relations Committee respectively;

- (b) collecting information about audio and visual aids produced by individuals or by similar committees abroad;

- (c) building up a 'library' of audio and visual aids;
- (d) educating the believers in the use of these by periodically:

- i. circulating particulars of those available;
- ii. advising on ways in which they may be used, and
- iii. arranging for the sale of those produced by the Committee and the hiring out of those in the 'library';

- (e) enabling the N.T.C. and the P.R.C. to encourage the use of all such material by keeping these two Committees fully informed of the activities of this Committee by sending to their secretaries copies of the Audio Visual Aids Committee's circulars.'

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Hasan Balyuzi, Dorothy Ferraby, Joan Gregory, Olive Sutton.

Terms of reference:

'To take charge, to assemble, classify and catalogue Bahá'í archives.

To arrange for a display of the more valuable items from time to time at some of the large gatherings.

To vary the display at the Házíra from time to time.'

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

John Morley and Valerie Morley (Editors), Geoffrey Bridle, David Hofman, consultant on behalf of N.S.A.

HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS COMMITTEE

Gladys Backwell, Dorothy Ferraby, John Ferraby, Bobbie Kamming, David Lewis, Donald Millar, Marjorie Parker.

Terms of reference:

'To be responsible for the physical maintenance and day to day care of the building and to see how the building can be developed in use along the lines laid down by the Guardian and providing such facilities as are necessary for this.'

REVIEWING COMMITTEE

Henry Backwell, Isobel Slade, Walter Wilkins.

Terms of reference:

'To pass on the accuracy of manuscripts and to decide whether they are presented in a way which is suitable to the dignity of the Faith.'

BAHÁ'Í WORLD REPRESENTATIVE

Jean Pitcher.

BAHÁ'Í NEWS

Evelyn Bowman to write up interesting British news and send to U.S.

AD-HOC COMMITTEES

To advise on the use of music on Bahá'í occasions: Leonard Chapman, Gethin Jones, Mary Prince.

To review recommendations from past Conventions since the beginning of the Ten-Year Crusade, and report to the N.S.A.: Eruch Munsiff and Meherangez Munsiff.

O kind Lord! Thou art generous and merciful! We are the sup-bearers of Thy threshold and are under the protection of Thy mercy. The sun of Thy providence is shining upon all, and the clouds of Thy mercy shower upon all. Thy gifts encompass all; Thy providence sustains all; Thy protection over-shadows all; the glances of Thy favour illumine all. O Lord! Grant us Thine infinite bestowals and let the light of Thy guidance shine. Illumine our eyes, make joyous our souls and confer a new spirit upon all hearts. Give us eternal life. Open the doors of our knowledge; and let the light of Faith shine forth. Unite and bring mankind under one shelter, beneath the banner of Thy protection, so that they may become united as waves of one sea, as leaves and branches of one tree, assembled beneath the shadow of the same tent. May they drink from the same fountain. May they be refreshed by the same breezes. May they obtain illumination from the same source of light and life. Thou art the Giver, the Merciful.

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

AFRICA

RUANDA URUNDI: A shining light from the French-speaking territories is Usumbura, where the African community have carried on the work of the Faith without any pioneer assistance for some two years. Strong foundations were established here when Rex and Mary Collison lived for some time in Usumbura and their work has borne wonderful fruit in the firm and devoted believers who now form the Usumbura Community. The Usumbura Local Assembly has felt for a long time that the progress of the work has been severely handicapped by the lack of government recognition and the fact that they have no centre. In an effort to rectify this state of affairs, the National Spiritual Assembly Secretary, Philip Hainsworth, was sent to Usumbura to appeal to the authorities for recognition and for permission to purchase a *Haziratu'l-Quds*. Accompanied by his family, he drove to Usumbura and was there given a wonderful welcome by the community. During the course of a four-day visit, many interviews were held with various government officials, including the Head of Native Affairs and the Director of African Housing. The result of all this consultation was that a letter was drafted, and approved by the Governor of the territory, which recognised the Bahá'í Community in Usumbura. In addition, the Director of Housing proved most co-operative and went out of his way to help the Bahá'ís to locate a suitable house.

During the course of the Hainsworths's visit a public meeting, meetings with the community and several consultations with the Local Assembly took place, all

of which were highly successful and very happy. Great love and kindness was shown to them during their visit, which they will always remember with gratitude.

On the way back to Kampala they visited Astrida, where Joseph Kebe, a former member of the Usumbura Local Assembly, is doing magnificent teaching work and has brought several new believers into the Faith.

The Hainsworths feel that this visit was blessed by Bahá'u'lláh and are grateful for its success and for the opportunity to meet so many truly wonderful Bahá'ís.

From the *Bahá'í Gazette*, produced by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central East Africa.

CYPRUS

We visited Nicosia first in September 1953, a few days after coming to Cyprus. Streets full of people, cars and bicycles; an Armenian who spoke French, and who showed some interest in the Faith, more with the idea of converting us from it to the Armenian brand of Christianity . . . by taxi through the old town seeing little or nothing.

A year and more later came the American pioneers, they came definitely to teach the Faith, and made no secret that this was their avowed purpose. They told many people, and made the Faith known . . . this was very important, and despite the ever-advancing shadows of the emergency, bomb throwings, ambushes, shootings-in-the-back, accepted the declarations of two local natives before they were forced by circumstance to return to the States in 1956.

Nicosia is a large village, or at best, a small market town, by European standards, but Famagusta is a village by comparison. (Now I go on rare occasions to Nicosia, with the excitement of one going to the vortex of civilisation and modernity.) It is a village with a harbour . . . as this is the only harbour in the whole of Cyprus, it is very important, and gives Famagusta superiority over everywhere else on the coast where goods have to be discharged by lighters.

From *The Islander*, issued by the European and Asian Teaching Com. of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles.

Reprinted from the August Newsletter.

CYPRUS. We have just received the sad news that Mrs. Violet McKinley, Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, passed away on Sunday, August 16th, at Famagusta, Cyprus. Mrs. McKinley was a believer in this country for many years, first as an isolated believer, then a member for Torquay, Cardiff, and Brighton Assemblies before she went, with her son Hugh, to help open Cyprus. The whole British Community will mourn her passing, and deeply sympathise with Hugh.



PEOPLE AND PLACES

Mehrangez Munsiff with the Mayor of Stockport on her extreme left and Louis Ross-Enfield on her right and other friends

A CONDENSED REPORT FROM NORTH-WEST REGIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

THIS COMMITTEE IS NOW SUPERCEDED BY THE NORTHERN TEACHING COMMITTEE

This report tells us in full of all that led up to the historic occasion, when our beloved Faith was mentioned on television for the first time.

At our Regional gathering we realised that the date of our Week-end School coincided with the Declaration of the Báb, 23rd May, and we thought such an occasion required a special effort. We decided that having heard of the successful Indian dinners which Meherangez organises in London to help the London fund, might be a way of getting some publicity for the Faith in the North. Possibly there may be an opportunity, a very remote one, of getting publicity on the television or B.B.C., and we resolved to ask Meherangez if she would do this for the Northern area. Naturally, Meherangez was most helpful, as usual, and suggested that as she had had a wide publicity in America, and been awarded the Award of the American Red Cross, we might use this in our publicity efforts, which we did. She suggested we arrange a Costume Display of national costumes from all countries. We did just this. The British Council was most helpful and we contacted various models. Then we invited the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport, the adjoining town and they kindly accepted our invitation, we wrote to all sorts of people in Granada, and eventually on Wednesday—almost 'D' day—we received a letter asking us to contact the producer of 'Peoples and Places'

and they asked us to try to organise to have the Costume Display included on the Thursday programme. Frantic 'phoning to Meherangez who had not even met the models and who was in London 3 p.m. Wednesday. She gathered together the ingredients for the Indian dinner which was to be cooked for Lyme Hall, caught the 5.30 trains and was in Manchester 8.30 p.m. the same evening.

How Bahá'u'lláh worked for us in this was fantastic! Everything worked out without a hitch, even to the fact that the previous act scheduled for the programme did not come up to the producer's expectations, and was cancelled at the last moment and Meherangez was allowed 4½ minutes instead of the 3 minutes originally planned. *Even the fact that the Persian costume was not completed in time and Golrokh Sabet not able to attend, gave Meherangez opportunities to mention the Faith; was not the hand of Bahá'u'lláh in this?* Meherangez told me she spent the morning of Thursday in most humble Prayer and Supplication for help and inspiration, and even complete strangers have told me how impressed they were by her presentation. This—our first opportunity to present the Faith on Granada was dignified, humorous, and very effective! We went

on to Lyme Hall with confidence and rejoicing. But greater things were to come in this memorable week-end—historic events—the Mayor and Mayoress in their address told us how thrilled they were with our work. They had worked all their life for Moral Re-armament and were keenly interested in every type of International work. When they found our work had a spiritual basis as well, they were delighted and we feel a wonderful foundation has been laid for our Public Relations work.

The dinner, thanks to Meherangez and some of the Persian ladies who helped, was a huge success (the Mayor had three helpings). Following this we had an International Costume Display, with some 130 guests present. It was in fact 'standing room' only, the room was packed. After this we had the reception with the Mayor and Mayoress, and a Social, with some entertainment arranged and performed by members of the Blind Institute, a voluntary collection was taken for this Institute.

The Press photographers attended and photographs taken; they are in the Stockport papers this week-end, and one paper asked for a written report of our Week-end School which we have sent. To date I have no knowledge whether this has been published or not.

The whole week-end was a huge success. We had decided to devote the sessions to learning about different Faiths and we studied Judaism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism (having Meherangez was a wonderful opportunity for this), Christianity, Islam and the knowledge we gained from these sessions was very valuable for our teaching work.

We had an N.T.C. session on Sunday morning, and Meherangez enthralled us with stories of her American experiences, and gave us many ideas. Everyone concerned with the venture worked so hard and in a harmonious and happy unity that this fact alone is worthy of special mention because it was the major factor in our achievement, and I would like to record the thanks of this Committee to each and every one concerned for this help.

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY REGIONAL NEWS

POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST DRAWN FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND REGIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE
LONG WEEK-END SCHOOL, 12TH-15TH JUNE, 1959

This School was held at the Redcliff Hotel, Bangor, Co. Down, which proved a most excellent house for such a function. The management and staff showed us kindly consideration, and were very willing and obliging.

The friends from overseas and Eire were all so happy to be with the N. Ireland friends. It was like one long Unity Feast. The ages ranged from babyhood to over 80. The group of youth between 15 and 25 was a live element, that took part in the discussion on the lectures very ably. There were no youth or children's classes—the school was too short to allow for such, the lectures were of a high standard, yet simple to follow. This was the desire of the Northern Ireland Community.

Mr. and Mrs. Villiers Stuart organised a wonderful trip for the friends who were free to take advantage of it. One afternoon, in glorious sunshine, they went to Greenisland. Half the party sailed in the yacht *Winifred*

across the Belfast Lough, the others going by car, returning *vice versa*. There were also car runs into the country, bathing, and rowing during free time.

On the third day a Teaching Conference of two sessions was held. The teaching in both Northern Ireland and Eire was discussed. It was pointed out by our Board Member Marion Hofman that Eire and Northern Ireland were spiritually one and the North should help the South to gain its goals in the ten year Crusade. Dublin had to be built up with Irish-born believers and become incorporated. Cork had to be raised to Assembly status. The work in Eire was different from Northern Ireland. The Cause needed guarding, and protecting, and not proclamation at this time. Personal teaching, and small firesides were possible. Marion Hofman affirmed that the E.A.T.C. and the N.S.A. need to be in constant touch with the work in Eire.

FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

LEICESTER

Heavenly confirmations have followed the departure on fresh pioneering of Pat and Ian Sinclair from the Leicester community!

Although going with their full backing the Leicester Assembly was keenly aware that this reduced the community to less than 9, while not all of those remaining were able to be active.

Since the approval by the N.T.C. of the Sinclairs moving to Loughborough to support the two youth pioneers there, there have been two declarations in Leicester restoring its numbers.

Is this not an example of how the heavenly confirmations flow from pioneering?

LIVERPOOL

Since our World Religion Day meeting in January, when 125 people were present, we have entered upon a period of considerable activity. In April we had a follow-up meeting at the Adelphi Hotel (dear to us because of its associations with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to Liverpool in 1913). David Hofman spoke on the Bahá'í Faith to about 65 people, most of whom were not Bahá'ís, which was very encouraging.

We have lost one of our members in Terry Dunne, who volunteered to pioneer to Cork at Teaching Conference and has now established herself there. Our prayers go with her. In her place we have a new declaration from Mrs. Ursula Pullen, whom we are

delighted to welcome into our community, particularly because she is German. Shomais Afnan, with her two little children, has also joined her husband since our last report, and we are so happy for them that they are a united family once more. The Afnans have got themselves a very nice flat and are now holding regular firesides on Sunday evenings.

Our members go over to Southport regularly to help and support Margaret Shanks and ten of us attended the memorable Service of Three Faiths (Jewish, Christian and Bahá'í) held in the Unitarian Church on 24th May, in which Margaret took part. No doubt she herself has reported on this, but it was an inspiring occasion for all concerned and an expression of the desire for mutual understanding between religions.

At the moment we are glad to have Aldy Robarts amongst us, on leave from Africa until July. We have also had a visit from Ernest Miller, who left us to pioneer to Cardiff a few years ago. Ian Semple has recently paid us a visit and we were glad of the opportunity to discuss our plans and problems with our Board Member. Ian also gave us an extremely interesting talk at the Centre the following evening on the Search for Truth. In spite of short notice, we managed to collect a number of friends to hear him, and all found his lucid, sympathetic approach very helpful.

As this goes to press we expect a visit from the representatives of the newly-appointed Northern England Regional Teaching Committee to discuss teaching plans for the future. Conscious of the great task that devolves upon all of us in the remaining years of the Crusade, we look forward to a period of unprecedented activity and expansion in Liverpool as a result of this conference. To this end, each month one of our regular Wednesday evening 'public' meetings will be devoted to prayer and meditation.

LONDON

London continues to hold Thursday public meetings which are well attended and at which lively discussion takes place, but the most memorable recent occasion was when we were addressed by Mrs. Loulie Matthews from the United States. In her ninetieth year she gave a most stimulating talk on 'East and West', largely drawing upon her own experiences over three decades—her early days in Paris when she received a Tablet from 'Abdu'l-Bahá in which He said 'Do thou go home and be humble and by and by thou wilt become 'Abdu'l-Bahá's lion and roar across the seven seas'. This in fact she is still doing and spreading the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. Her book *Not Every Sea Hath Pearls* is obtainable from America and should be well worth reading.

There are three firesides held each week in and around London, and two other areas have been selected for study classes to be held weekly where there are sufficient Bahá'ís in one area.

On 9th June Mr. Egon Kamming, who has recently been on pilgrimage to Haifa, showed slides he had taken in the Holy Land and told friends of his experiences. Hand of the Cause of God Mr. John Ferraby

explained in some detail the work which has to be done at the World Centre.

Several London Bahá'ís went to a gathering in the home of Mr. Torrey Pilgrim and his wife where, among forty guests we discovered there were fifteen different nationalities and many of them were told of some of the basic teachings of our Faith.

The Environs of Reading Committee

Some of the members of the above Committee decided to visit the Guardian's Memorial in North London, at a time when some of the Reading Assembly could join us—from a distance—to pray for the Pioneers.

Those of us who were there on August 13th carried a sheaf of deep red roses to lay at the foot of the marble steps, we did not lay them *on* the steps for fear of staining the marble, but after a night of heavy rain there was a pool of water on the path, into which we laid the stems of the roses. One of us had not stood upon that spot since the day we laid Shogi Effendi to rest—when the most beautiful Persian woman knelt, like Niobi—all tears, and had then flung herself weeping upon the Guardian's flower-laden casket. Then we had been a little conscious of the significance of that blessed spot—now, as we gazed up, and up the slender white column to the lightly poised eagle on the top of the world, we could not think of it as a grave. It seemed to us like a beacon, a lantern, filled with the blessed light of Truth.

The whole cemetery garden was deserted that morning, and the warmth of the red walls of the Bahá'í sanctuary glowed through the light mist, giving an added beauty to the gateway, and as we mounted the steps to the inner court to pray, a gentle noon-day sun struck golden fire from the Eagle's wings.

'O Beloved of All Hearts.'

Everywhere the pioneers are going out to their posts, in joyful anticipation, in humble loneliness, returning to a vast and deserted outpost, or facing the antagonisms of the big city. Overseas, or on the Home Front, we prayed for them, the Knights and the Pioneers—'. . . in the wilderness, the mountain, the valley, the forests, the prairies, and the seas, be Thou their confidant . . .'

And for those who are but now arising, and making ready to leave their homes, those who are receiving the tests which are the bounty of all pioneers—for it is necessary they become as tempered steel if they are to bear the Knightly sword of Truth.

'. . . Thou whose tests are the healing medicine to such as are nigh unto Thee, whose sword is the ardent desire of all them that love Thee . . .'

For those who remain at home, we prayed that we might with loyalty serve the Pioneers, and in serving them, serve God.

'O God! O God! Cause us to drink from the cup of Thy bestowal. Illumine our faces with the light of guidance; make us firm in Thine ancient Covenant. Suffer us to become Thy sincere servants . . .'

MANCHESTER

We have just presented to the Manchester City Library, three new copies of *Portals to Freedom*. These are to be donated on our behalf, to the libraries of three of the largest hospitals in this area. Together with these books we sent along quite a number of good fiction books (second-hand copies which the friends could spare) as we felt that such a gift should have a general appeal, but should include the key to real freedom. We are allowed to leave a slip in the books, indicating the identity of the donors.

Our Bahá'í Youths are very active and are hoping to form a Bahá'í Society at the University during next term. They recently arranged a picnic in Chester, with several contacts. It was most enjoyable and blessed as they were fortunate in having with them Paul Adams, the Knight of Bahá'u'lláh to Spitzbergen. (Later on Paul dispensed to everyone spiritual exhilaration and good humour in rich quantities.)

We feel that picnics of this kind, arranged from time to time, in the districts of small groups or isolated believers, can become, both good aids to teaching, and provide relaxation at the same time during the summer months.

Furthermore, this community is trying to 'bridge the gap' for non-Bahá'í friends who may shy away from an invitation to 'firesides'. We have arranged, therefore, once a month so far, informal evenings of play and poetry readings, and musical programmes, at which direct teaching does not take place, but at which non-Bahá'ís may meet believers and at a later stage, through personal acquaintanceship may be asked, with some confidence to 'come along to a fireside'. So far we have had only two such evenings, but they have brought forth several interested people who wish to attend such informal gatherings. A couple who had previously been very reserved, now felt so welcome, and attracted, they offered to hold a fireside at their home with the help of some Bahá'ís.

NOTTINGHAM

When Afagh gave a party recently, to celebrate her birthday, some nurses who were present showed a great interest in the Bahá'í pictures on the walls of the temporary Bahá'í Centre, where the party was being held. Brian Dilworth—another guest—gave them an introduction to the Faith.

At the Centre recently, Marion Hofman paid us a visit, and spoke on 'The Path to Peace'.

PONTYPRIDD

On Saturday, 14th July, Pontypridd Bahá'ís held their first social function at Wig-Fash, Porthcawl. A picnic was arranged, but, indifferent weather necessitated an indoor tea. A bungalow had been loaned by good friends Mr. and Mrs. Williams, and they gave everyone a warm and generous welcome.

Twenty-seven people were present, seven of these were minors. We were given that wonderful feeling one gets on greeting old and new friends. A new one, when Paul Adams came, and fitted immediately into our circle. He gave an interesting and enjoyable talk

on his recent journeys. Old friends, when Alma Gregory and her daughter from Bristol, and John and Greta Fozdar came from Gloucester. John and Greta held a very special place in Pontypridd as they gave us all instruction in the Faith, and followed it up with a great deal of encouragement, and a great example.

PORTSMOUTH

Despite the illness of several members, this Assembly is planning the Teaching Programme for the Ninth Session. It is our hope that World Religion Day will attract many seekers and with the co-operation of the various representatives of many religions, the unity of the Bahá'í Faith will be demonstrated to all. Several groups are opening doors to Bahá'í speakers. Invitations have already been accepted from the Secretary of Toc H, and the Community Centre of Portsmouth. In August Prudence George has been invited to speak for a Theosophist group at Bognor.

Sohul Bushun from Khartoum has been accepted by the University of Southampton in October, where, for the next three years he will study for his Doctorate in English Literature. Sohul will be of valuable assistance to the Faith in this area, we hope to introduce him to many groups and clubs. His knowledge of conditions in the Middle East may help introduce the Faith. We had several Bahá'ís visiting recently, Irene Bennett from Nairobi gave an excellent talk and an intimate picture of the work in Kenya. Paul Adams was greatly appreciated, all those who met him, realised the courage, and deepened Faith of this splendid Bahá'í, who spoke with a maturity gained by his service in an isolated part of the world.

WOKINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT GROUP

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to attend Bahá'í schools are aware of the tremendous feeling of loving unity that pervades such gatherings. Wokingham R.D. Group held a one-day school, which we believe to be unique for a group in this country, on July 19th.

The importance of visibly demonstrating to our contacts that we *can* enjoy ourselves besides busily teaching the Faith is not always sufficiently emphasised, and yet it is a teaching medium in itself. To this end the 'school' commenced on the Saturday evening with a barbecue.

The weather was glorious and the pungent smell of burning charcoal in our home-made barbecue of old bricks, with two shelves from the kitchen oven on top, from which drifted a tantalising aroma of sizzling sausages, encouraged an air of complete informality. Here was indeed a human herbaceous border of 'harmony in diversity' set in a village garden. Many contacts who had shyly agreed to attend the barbecue, but made 'no promises' for the following day, were so moved by the atmosphere, that they not only came to the school, but they stayed longer than they intended.

The success of this week-end is due in on small part to the wonderful support from the Bahá'ís who attended from London, Gloucester, Oxford, Salisbury, Reading, and Wraybury, and the team work of the

three groups who make up the Rural T.C. and the Wokingham group is extremely grateful to them all.

The talks on the Sunday, all given by members of the groups, were most successful. The youth, amongst whom were two very recent declarations, not only spoke well in their session on the Youth Forum, but their knowledge and sincerity greatly impressed non-Bahá'ís. The total attending the school, 21 non-Bahá'ís and 18 Bahá'ís.

THE CRUSADE IN EUROPE

On June 20/21st the Hands of the Cause in Europe called a Conference in Copenhagen, to which were invited the members of the Auxiliary Boards for Protection and Propagation, and a representative from each National Assembly in Europe. The Conference was, moreover, much honoured by the presence of Amatu'l-Baha Ruhiyyih Khanum, representing the Custodians in Haifa. At the request of the four European Hands present (Ugo Giachery, John Ferraby, Hermann Grossmann, Adelbert Muhlschlegel) she was asked to act as chairman and during the two days she guided the friends present in a very precise and careful assessment of the goals of the Crusade still to be achieved in Europe and the resources and plans and needs. Above all, she wanted to obtain for the Custodians the exact situation in each country and what the Custodians could do to help. The emphasis throughout the Conference was on the terrible shortness of time left—each day past is one less in which to achieve the goals, and on the need to concentrate on the Crusade goals and not to be diverted to anything else, however important or attractive it may seem.

The four Regional Spiritual Assemblies in Europe have, as goals of the Crusade, to be developed into National Spiritual Assemblies for each component country, and for the goals to be fully achieved by 1963, these new N.S.A.s must be formed in 1962 so that they can during the ensuing year become incorporated. That means that the local Assemblies on which they will be based must be formed at Ridván 1961, less than two years from now. This is a tremendous task and there are ways in which Britain can help, in spite of our own tremendous task, because we do not have to achieve all our local Assemblies quite so quickly.

Some British teachers will be asked to visit Europe from time to time.

All the British friends are asked to pray for the work in Europe, both individually and at each 19-Day Feast.

Any British friends going abroad for holidays or business are asked to get in touch with the N.S.A. before going, as they can probably help in the country they are going to.

The situation in the various countries is as follows—

BENELUX

Belgium Goal ...	4 L.S.A.s	Have 2	Need 2 + 7 centres
Holland Goal ...	8 L.S.A.s	Have 2	Need 6
Luxembourg ...	4 L.S.A.s	Have 1	Need 3

SCANDINAVIA/FINLAND

Sweden Goal ...	4 L.S.A.s	Have 2	Need 2 + 15 centres
Norway Goal ...	4 L.S.A.s	Have 2	Need 2 + 12 centres
Finland ...	4 L.S.A.s	Have 1	Need 3
Denmark ...	4 L.S.A.s	Have 2	Need 2

IBERIAN PENINSULA

Spain Goal ...	8 L.S.A.s	Have 9	
Portugal Goal ...	8 L.S.A.s	Have 3	Need 5

ITALO-SWISS

Switzerland Goal	12 L.S.A.s	Have 5	Need 7
Italy Goal ...	12 L.S.A.s	Have 5	Need 7
FRANCE Goal ...	8 L.S.A.s	Have 7	Need 1
GERMANY Goal ...	30 L.S.A.s	Have 18	Need 12
BRITISH ISLES Goal	48 L.S.A.s	Have 26	Need 22

Anyone who can attend any of the European Summer Schools will also be helping the work over there.

We give a list below of those known to us:

Scandinavia. Fana, near Bergen, Norway. July 26/31.

Benelux. Vianden, Luxemburg. July 25/Aug. 2.

International Youth School. Echternach, Luxemburg. Aug. 1/10.

France. Beaulieu-sur-Mer (Alpes Maritimes). Aug. 29/Sept. 3.

Austria. Srjach, Kärnten. Aug. 23/31.

Germany. Bad Arolsen (Waldeck). Sept. 13/20.

Italo/Swiss. Bex-les-Bains. Sept. 19/26.

We have re-printed the above report already issued by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles, so that the friends in all Communities can meditate and discuss the importance of the Crusade in Europe, of which the British Isles is a part, consider the part the British Bahá'ís must play in it, and pray for its ultimate victory.

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