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NEWS LETTER

ISSUED FROM THE WORLD CENTRE
BY THE INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL

Dear Friends,

Last autumn, in Europe, there began the two-year-long series of celebrations commemorating 'Abdu'l-Bahá's historic journeys in the western world, a feat acclaimed by Shoghi Effendi as "a service of such heroic proportions that no parallel to it is to be found in the annals of the first Bahá'í century."

Now it is the turn of the American believers to celebrate this epoch-making voyage. Starting on April 11th, the fiftieth anniversary of the Master's arrival in New York, the City of the Covenant, in 1912, meetings are being held across the entire continent. Just as 'Abdu'l-Bahá went to the West to proclaim the Faith of His Father, so this programme of meetings emphasizes that the Promised Day of all Faiths has come and relates 'Abdu'l-Bahá's mission to the subsequent development of the Divine Plan and the formation of the Universal House of Justice in 1963. Already notable results have been forthcoming. Letters and telegrams of greeting and congratulation were received from the Governors of the States of Wisconsin and Illinois and the Mayors of the cities of Madison and Milwaukee upon the anniversary of the dedication of the Wilmette Temple-site by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Fourteen hundred people attended the commemoration meeting.

In those early days 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote: "When the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár is completed, when the lights are emanating therefrom, the prayers are performed with supplication towards the Mysterious Kingdom, the voice of glorification is raised to the Lord, the Supreme; then the believers shall rejoice, the hearts be dilated and overflow with the love of the All-living and Self-existent. The people shall hasten to worship in the heavenly Temple, the Fragrance of God will be elevated; the Divine Teachings will be established in the hearts like the establishment of the Spirit in mankind; the people will then stand firm in the Cause of our Lord, the Merciful. Whosoever arises for the service of this building shall be assisted with great power from His Supreme Kingdom and upon him spiritual and heavenly blessings shall descend which shall fill his heart with wonderful consolation and enlighten his eyes by beholding the Glorious and Eternal God."

Now, not from one but from three Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs praises rise to the Lord of Mankind, and one more Temple is approaching completion in the heart of the European continent. The 27 ribs of its dome are now in place together

with the concrete ring which binds them together at the apex, forming the base of the lantern; the 540 elements of the surface of the dome are being placed in position at a rate of six to eight a day.

These great achievements already completed, have heralded a tide of victory which is sweeping across the world, in every field of Bahá'í activity.

On 28th June, a historic event of singular importance took place in Haifa when President Tubman of Liberia visited the Shrine of the Báb. This is the second official visit of the Head of a Sovereign State, the first having been that of President Ben Zvi of Israel during the lifetime of Shoghi Effendi. It is surely much more than mere coincidence that the first head of a sovereign state from abroad to visit the Holy Shrines should be not only President of an African republic but of the first black African republic of that continent. President Tubman was received by 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum, Mr. Ferraby, Mr. Furútan and Mr. Haney on behalf of the Hands of the Cause, and Mr. Wolcott and Miss Jessie Revell representing the International Council. This event must have given great joy to the heart of our beloved Guardian, who had laboured so painstakingly to win for the Faith the recognition it merits, and which was denied its long-suffering Founder, with such baneful results for the present generations of mankind.

Another distinguished visitor was Mr. Olaf Telefson, the first resident Ambassador from Norway, who visited the Shrine in March, accompanied by Mrs. Telefson and the Norwegian Honorary Consul. On another occasion the Cultural Attaches of all the Embassies in Israel visited the Shrine.

A significant step in the process of the emancipation of the Faith has been the official recognition by the Shari'ah Court in Kuwait of a Bahá'í marriage performed by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Qatar.

In the teaching field the advances are now so rapid that any statistics are surpassed as soon as they are recorded. The Japanese Bahá'ís have won a signal victory through the introduction of the Faith to the Ainu tribes, the aboriginal inhabitants of Japan, who now live in the northern island of Hokkaido. The first contact with the Ainus was made in 1932 when the Hand of the Cause, Miss Agnes Alexander, visited Hokkaido and spoke about the Faith in several gatherings; then, on 3rd June, 1957, encouraged by the

Hand of the Cause, Mr. Jalál Kházeh, a Japanese and a Persian believer visited the island for 19 days, and the contacts made then were renewed on 22nd November of the same year following a message from the beloved Guardian, written on 20th October, drawing the attention of the National Spiritual Assembly to the importance of teaching this race. After a fourth visit this winter three Ainu chiefs accepted Bahá'u'lláh, and now we hear that more than 20 Ainus have embraced the Faith and a great receptivity is being shown in many villages.

In Korea two new Assemblies were formed last year, one of them on an off-shore island.

In New Zealand Mr. Fred Wharerau, a Maori, accepted the Faith in January, and was followed on April 2nd by Chief Te Paa of Kaitaia in the northern district who first heard of the Faith from the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Enoch Olinga.

In the Mentawai Islands, off Sumatra, eight new villages have accepted the Cause. In the Philippines from August to January declarations were being accepted at a rate of 30 to 50 per month; by April the declarations in one month totalled 350.

In Vietnam the Faith has received a quite extraordinary amount of publicity in the press, and in Bangkok, Thailand, since the 31st May, the Bahá'is have been allowed half an hour free radio time every week.

A cable has just been received from India announcing the joyous news that the number of believers now totals 20,000 and that at 1st July there were 300 Local Spiritual Assemblies and 826 localities.

A most exciting development has taken place in Africa. A couple of years ago extension teaching was conducted by the Bahá'is of Usumbura, Ruanda Urundi, along the then Belgian Congo border. The response was warm and immediate, and after one year the number of Bahá'is rose to several hundreds. Intensified teaching followed, which resulted during the past year in the increase of the number of believers and the enrolment of the first hundred pygmies, one of whom attended the recent Annual Convention of Central and East Africa. The teaching work in the Congo is concentrated so far in the Kivu Province. Since Convention, Mr. Max Kenyerezi and Mr. Oloro Epyeru, two of the African members of the Regional National Spiritual Assembly who are also members of the Auxiliary Board, visited the area. Their report, just received, states that the number of believers in the Congo has risen to nearly 15,000, with 141 Local Spiritual Assemblies, and that the Bahá'is now have 101 centres which serve as their meeting places.

The Hand of the Cause, Mr. Enoch Olinga, who is on a tour of the North-East and Central and East African territories, will soon be visiting the Congo. Mr. Olinga's visit to his home district in Teso, Uganda, has been a great success. At his first meeting in Teso, on June 16th, 100 out of the 1,000 attendants at the meeting declared immediately. According to the latest statistics there are now almost 39,000 believers throughout the Central and East African Region.

The work among the Indians of the Western Hemisphere is progressing at such a speed that a number of the National Spiritual Assemblies, on the basis of current developments, have adopted revised goals far in excess of those originally set by the beloved Guardian.

On 2nd and 3rd June, on the Indian Reservation at Pine Springs in Arizona, a Conference was held entitled "Different Races coming Together with Prayer." The Conference was attended by Indians from many tribes, including Aleut, Oneida, Choctow, Chippewa, Navajo, Washoe, Shoshone, Taos, San Domingo, Crow and Cherokee, and also Eskimos, and over 100 Bahá'is from Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Europe and the Islands of the Pacific, drawn from the black, brown, red, white and yellow races. A complete report has not yet been received, but the news so far shows that the Conference was a magnificent success. One attendant writes "Mr. Khádem's loving spirit touched the hearts of all of the more than one thousand who were present. Indescribable is the feeling generated by the memories of the sight of the patriarch of the clan, Mr. John Hale, the wearer of the lion-skin, eagle-feathered hat (crown), symbol of strength and wisdom, as he embraced with tenderness and love the Hand of the Cause, Zikru'lláh Khádem, and poured out his heart."

In Bolivia, the scene of the first mass conversions in Latin America, there are now nearly 4,000 Bahá'is in 321 localities, with 62 Spiritual Assemblies.

In Colombia four new Spiritual Assemblies were formed at Riqván, one of them entirely Indian.

In Costa Rica some thirty Indians were enrolled in the month before Riqván.

In Mexico, where the number of believers was doubled last year, two extra Assemblies have been formed since Riqván, and two native Mexican pioneers are in process of taking the Faith to the Province of Yucatán, the site of the ancient Maya civilization.

Nicaragua almost quadrupled the number of its believers last year.

The swelling of the ranks of the Faithful has leapt ahead in Panama: In January the Council of Ustupo in the San Blas Islands, Panama, unanimously resolved to approve the introduction of the Faith and make public their recognition of it. Now we hear that during the last three weeks of May approximately 700 Kuna Indian believers declared. A teacher training school has been held in Ustupo at which thirteen Kuna Indians arose to become travelling teachers. They have left their island in groups of about three to carry the Faith to many other islands. The first cacique (head chief) of all the San Blas islands has entered the Cause with his entire Island, Tuala, which has about 500 inhabitants. All 87 inhabitants of the island of Wuichihuala have entered the Faith, and some 100 Indians have declared on the island of Nalunega. The Faith has now been taken to nine new island localities, and six lesser chiefs have declared. In the Guaymí area of the province of Chiriquí the pioneers penetrated four days into the Cordilleras and formed a new Bahá'í community at Hato Jobo, the administrative seat of a new Indian district, where the mayor and his entire family became Bahá'is.

How unimaginable would these victories have been but a few short years ago; what joy fills the heart of every faithful believer as he contemplates the successive triumphs of God's Cause and witnesses with astonishment the peoples of the world beginning to flock to the Divine Standard in one country after another; nor can we yet

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Supplementary Report presented to Convention 119

by the National Spiritual Assembly

Welcome of Hand of the Cause, John Ferraby,
to Convention

We are specially happy to welcome to this Convention the Hand of the Cause, John Ferraby, who for many years was an integral part of the British Bahá'í Community. It is specially befitting that John and Dorothy Ferraby, who were working with us when the Ten-Year Crusade began, should be with us on this occasion when we rejoice together at the fulfilment of our major Homefront goals.

WINNING OF LOCAL ASSEMBLY GOALS.

On April 21st we were able to cable the Hands in Haifa : "12 Assembly goals formed 36 maintained Beloved Guardians' goal 48 Assemblies achieved Cardiff, Cheadle, Norwich, incorporated Loving Ridván greetings Bahá'í London."

The final weeks before Ridván were weeks of intense activity as the gaps in the goal towns and weak Assemblies were gradually filled, either by declaration of new believers, or by pioneers. Our warm thanks go to friends in Holland, who by releasing Mr. and Mrs. Sana from Rotterdam helped to maintain both the Oxford and Wokingham Rural District Assemblies, and by releasing Olive Sutton at the last moment from Leiden helped us to form the first local Spiritual Assembly of Winchester.

We thank especially the National Teaching Committee whose members have borne the brunt of the work in the final push to achieve these goals and all those pioneers and teachers who have so successfully accomplished the work in the field.

On April 24th we received from the Hands in Haifa the following cable : "CONFIDENT OUTSTANDING VICTORY WON THROUGH DEVOTION FAITHFULNESS BRITISH BAHÁ'ÍS BELOVED GUARDIAN PRESAGES OPENING NEW EPOCH FAITH COMMUNITY HE GREATLY ADMIRER LOVED HANDSFAITH."

We are delighted to be able to report another 50 declarations since the Annual Report itself went to press. The total of the new declarations from Convention last year to today is 183, of whom 23 were youth, i.e., under the age of 21. There are now Bahá'ís in 161 different places in the British Isles and in some of these there are flourishing groups which may well reach Assembly status during the course of the next year.

NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY.

In the field of press publicity steady progress has also been made. The Faith has had space in the "London Evening News" and the "Daily Express" and has been mentioned several times in the "Observer," the "Times" and the "Sunday Times." Total press coverage in local papers has exceeded 450", excluding the large $\frac{1}{2}$ page and $\frac{1}{4}$ page advertisements in the Kentish Gazette in connection with the intensive teaching carried out in Canterbury.

FINANCES.

We are also happy to report a great victory in the financial field, for the £9,000 which was set last year as the target of our income from all sources has been exceeded. We can

well recall the words of the beloved Guardian in his last letter to the British Bahá'í Community, in which he stressed the need for us to become "definitely self-supporting" as one of the "prime requisites" for the fulfilment of our future destiny.

TEACHING PLAN.

Turning to the teaching field, plans have been made for the spear-head movements to achieve the "unprecedented increase in the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith" which Shoghi Effendi called for. The preliminary steps have been taken in the campaign to take the Faith to the people of Cardiff and the nearby Welsh valleys and the campaign itself opens on April 30th. This campaign lasting four months will be followed by a similar campaign in Northern Ireland. The torch will then be handed to the Bahá'ís in Scotland and their campaign will culminate in the Scottish National Celebrations in January 1963, of the 50th Anniversary of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to Scotland. The focal point of this intensive activity will be the pivotal centres of Cardiff, Belfast, and Edinburgh, but the Welsh campaign will extend to Pontypridd and Caerphilly; the campaign in Northern Ireland will include Bangor and surrounding places where there are Bahá'í groups; and in Scotland the campaign will, as already mentioned, culminate in celebrations throughout Scotland of the Anniversary of the Master's visit. The islands of the Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland will also receive special attention next year and the Bahá'í Youth will be able to play a particularly important part in spreading the Faith through these Northern Islands.

ACQUISITION OF NEW BURIAL GROUND.

Through the generosity of a devoted believer in Bristol we can add a supplementary achievement to our Crusade Goals, for in the last few days we have had the news that ground has been secured in the Bristol Cemetery for the exclusive use of the Bristol Bahá'í Community.

PILGRIMS TO HAIFA AND VISITORS TO THE BRITISH ISLES.

An unprecedented number of friends from the British Isles have this year made the pilgrimage to Haifa. Some of these pilgrimages have been historic; Dermot Knox was the first Irish Bahá'í to make the pilgrimage and Beatrice and Florence Newman were the first Welsh Bahá'ís. During the year pilgrims have also gone from Scotland and England, and the spirit flowing out from the World Centre has been brought back by these friends to all parts of the British Isles.

We have been privileged to have many visitors from overseas and have been particularly glad to welcome the members of the World Congress Committee, whose Chairman, Mrs. Mildred Mottahedeh, is a member of the International Bahá'í Council.

1963 WORLD CONGRESS.

April 2nd was a particularly exciting day at the Ḥaẓiratu'l-Quds for on that day the contract was signed for the holding

of the 1963 World Congress—the Celebration of the Most Great Jubilee—in the Royal Albert Hall. The agreement is in the name of the British National Spiritual Assembly which has had the privilege of acting in this matter for the Hands in Haifa and the International Bahá'í Council.

AFRICAN TRANSLATIONS.

We have been in communication with the Hands in Haifa concerning the completion of our goal of the translation of Bahá'í literature into 31 African languages. Three or four of the languages which are still outstanding have proved to be virtually impossible and permission has been received to substitute others for those, following the precedent set by the Beloved Guardian. Twenty-three have been fully completed and published, and four are definitely in hand. The fulfilment of this goal is within sight and we are confident that it will be achieved during the coming year.

TO FINAL VICTORY.

The year which has just passed has been a year of high endeavour, and outstanding achievements have been accomplished. The National Spiritual Assembly expresses its heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to this wonderful year. We are specially appreciative of the constant prayers and the support of the friends. As we turn our thoughts now to the coming year—the last eleven months of the Beloved Guardian's Crusade—the final words of his letter to us of July 11th, 1956, seem to hold particular portent.

“The annals of the British Bahá'í community, small in numbers, yet unconquerable in spirit, tenacious in belief, undeviating in purpose, alert and vigilant in the discharge of its manifold duties and responsibilities, have in consequence of its epoch-making achievements been vastly enriched. The process set in motion and greatly accelerated through the successive formulation of the Six-year Plan, the Two-Year plan, and the Ten-Year Plan, must continue unabated and unimpaired. Nay with every passing day

it must gather momentum. Every individual must, henceforth, encouraged and inspired by all that has been already achieved, contribute to its future and speedy unfoldment. That the entire community may befittingly respond to the call of the Mission with which it has been entrusted is the deepest yearning of my heart and the object of my unceasing prayers.”

The National Assembly is deeply glad to be able to announce the publication of a compilation of some of Shoghi Effendi's letters and cables to us all since 1944. This document, “The Unfolding Destiny of The British Bahá'í Community,” will be an unfailing source of inspiration as we go forward together to final victory and the celebration of the Most Great Jubilee, here in London at Riqván 1963.

Important Dates

The Campaign in Wales—
April—September.

The Opening of the Scottish Campaign—
September 2nd, which runs four months and culminates with World Religion Day on January 6th, 1963.

The Opening of the Irish Campaign—
August 26th, to run four months.

The prayers of the whole British Bahá'í Community are needed to continually support and further the work of these campaigns.

“O people of God ! Be not occupied with yourselves. Be intent on the betterment of the world and the training of nations. The betterment of the world can be accomplished through pure and excellent deeds and well-approved and agreeable conduct.” — ‘Abdu'l-Bahá.



DELEGATES ASSEMBLED IN LONDON FOR CONVENTION 119

National Teaching Committee Supplementary Report

We are deeply grateful for all the bounties which have enabled us to achieve our goals, the establishment of twelve new local Spiritual Assemblies in England and Wales, and the re-establishment of nineteen local Assemblies which fell below numbers during the year. These tasks could not have been completed without the full co-operation of the whole of the British Bahá'í Community, who gave liberally of their time, money, and energy to ensure success. Let our achievement this year urge us to further heights, to the achievement of the remaining goals of consolidation, so that we arrive at Rídván, 1963, with our tasks accomplished with the highest standard of perfection, our local Assemblies vigorously functioning, and strengthened in numbers by local believers.

All difficulties in the goal towns were overcome with faith and determination. During the year we received ninety-eight Pioneer offers, seventy-five moved to their posts before Rídván. These figures, we believe, constitute a record, of which we can be justly proud.

Eighteen of these pioneers came from fourteen countries overseas.

Fifty-seven arose from the ranks of the British Bahá'í Community, twelve of whom were isolated believers. We are grateful for their loving self-sacrifice, the responsibilities they have assumed are great, and we assure them of our prayerful concern on their behalf, and our willingness to be ready to assist them at all times. We were pledged not to use 'short-term three-month pioneer projects.' Therefore all pioneers who have moved to Goal Towns, or weak Assemblies, and are now members of local Assemblies, are urged to stay at their posts *until they are re-placed*. Should it be necessary for anyone to move, he should not do so without first consulting the National Teaching Committee. This is vital if the work of consolidation is to go forward.



The Local Spiritual Assembly of
The Bahá'ís of Inverness

European and Asian Teaching Committee

Supplementary Report

Arrangements have been made for Hand of The Cause John Ferraby, to visit Orkney and Shetland, and Mrs. Dorothy Ferraby to visit Hebrides.

Early in March it was reported that the Nicosia Spiritual Assembly, which is incorporated, was below strength due to Fred Parry's return to the U.S.A. Replacement proved to be a very difficult problem, but we are pleased to be able to report that a few days before Rídván the vacancy was filled by the re-declaration of a Turkish-Cypriot believer.

The declaration of Miss Nezaket Salahi, youth, of Nicosia, has recently been accepted.

NEWS LETTER—continued

conceive those things which will come to pass in the months which still separate us from the Most Great Jubilee. We can but throw ourselves with renewed strength and exuberant confidence into the tasks which lie to our hand, and echo with awe and gratitude the words uttered by our beloved Master fifty years ago when He saw the first victories of the Cause in the West: "O Bahá'u'lláh! What hast Thou done? O Bahá'u'lláh! May my life be sacrificed for Thee! O Bahá'u'lláh! May my soul be offered up for Thy sake! How full were Thy days with trials and tribulations! How severe the ordeals Thou didst endure! How solid the foundations Thou hast finally laid, and how glorious the banner Thou didst hoist!"

INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL

World Centre of the Faith,
16th July, 1962.



The Northern Ireland Youth Committee

SUMMER SCHOOL

Some 158 Bahá'ís and friends attended part or all of the fortnight at Bahá'í Summer School at Coleg Harlech in July; they came from all over the British Isles, and from Germany, Switzerland, Algeria, Monaco, Spitzbergen, Holland, Persia, Sweden, Canada and U.S.A. 36 British Communities were represented.

We were very blessed by the presence of the Hand of The Cause, Dr. Adelbert Mühlischlegel, who is visiting all the European Summer Schools in turn, and whose depth of knowledge and spiritual wisdom were an inspiration to us, both publicly in lectures and privately in conversation.

The programme was well arranged and carried out, a credit to the experience, foresight, patience and co-operation of members of the Summer School Committee.

There were two morning sessions. During the first lecture the children had classes in two groups according to age, and during the second session they were looked after by volunteers. This gave a wonderful opportunity to their parents to attend the lectures with a free mind.

As the days passed, the plan of the first session began to take shape, and we had our minds stretched in all directions — back into the past, forward into the future, outward into the world around us, and upward into the things of the spirit—and one became increasingly aware of the vastness of the Faith, and how tremendous is the spiritual power which lies within it, from whatever angle one approaches it, whether prophetic, historic, social, economic, administrative or spiritual. We felt very humble and deeply moved, as the speakers revealed to us the unfolding of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

There was a choice of lectures for the second session. Either a study course upon "The fundamental Verities of the Faith" based upon "The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh" in the first week, and "A Study of Six Fundamental Bahá'í Books" in the second, the other on "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh" continued through both weeks, and reached its climax in the last two days with a brilliant survey of the Ten-year Crusade. Many hearts were touched, including the speakers, and many were over-come when she mentioned the passing of the Beloved Guardian.

Perhaps the most moving point of the whole fortnight was the commemoration of the Martyrdom of the Bab at noon on July 9th. As that tragic and glorious story unfolded itself, some fifty or sixty Bahá'ís stood facing the Qiblih in silent devotion, our thoughts were carried by Nabil's narrative to that barrack square in Tabriz, and were struck with sudden intensity by the enormity of the occasion.

The afternoons were free, and most of them were spent on the beach in various international groups. In the intervals between bathing and picnicing many more detailed and valuable discussions took place.

The National Teaching Committee had a "workshop" project between tea and supper; the aim was to help individuals to be concise, lucid, and integrated in their personal teaching, and fully assured of the fundamental requisites and problems involved in consolidating Assemblies.

The evening sessions were mostly of a light nature, and varied from concerts by local Welsh singers to a debate "Tea-bags or not?!" The original singers being prevented from coming by haymaking, the music master from the "School in the Valley" came with his choir and gave an excellent programme. The girls sang a number of traditional songs with great radiance, love and beauty, it was a highlight of the week.

Of the two Public Meetings, the second one was better attended and quite a number of local people came. After five years the people of Harlech are beginning to take notice of the Bahá'ís—quite a lot of personal teaching is done in the village during the fortnight, as the Bahá'ís go in and out of the shops, and visit the castle!

There were two sessions for Bahá'ís only in which the National Spiritual Assembly members spoke of matters important to the winning of the Crusade Goals, and various 'domestic affairs' were discussed.

Dr. Mühlischlegel showed some slides, Bernard Leach gave a most interesting talk covering art, Japan, Buddhism, which provoked a good discussion. There was a Fancy Dress Dance, and a Youth Evening, as well as the celebration of the Feast of Kalimát. Informal discussions late in the evening on passages from the writings of Bahá'u'lláh, often continued into the early hours of the morning!

Intellectual stimulus and congenial fellowship, worship together, and light-hearted enjoyment would describe Summer School, combined with the spirit which cannot easily be described, but can only be experienced. It is this spirit of Bahá'u'lláh which pervading Bahá'í gatherings provides the attracting power which draws people to the Faith. There were three declarations during the fortnight, and the impression made upon one non-Bahá'í mother of three young children was such that she writes "after a week back at the grindstone the glory of the vision hasn't faded—if anything it is stronger!"

"All the peoples of the world are powerless to resist its force."
(From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh)

Letter from the Hands in Haifa to the Harlech Summer School, 1962

August 5th, 1962

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We have your letter of July 24th and were delighted to hear of the success of the Summer School held at Harlech this year. Summer Schools are very important events in the life of a Bahá'í Community and it is particularly gratifying that so many young new believers were able to attend and to obtain the benefit both of the teaching of older and more experienced believers and of living for a time the Bahá'í life with other Bahá'ís.

We hope this Summer School will be found to have provided a great stimulus to the teaching work and that before long news of still greater victories will reach us from the British Isles.

With loving greetings,

In the service of the beloved Guardian,

HANDS OF THE CAUSE IN THE HOLY LAND.

BAHÁ'Í YOUTH

The needs and aspirations of the fast-growing, and lively heart of the British Bahá'í Community.

It was evident at Convention by the representations of the Youth Committees that the Bahá'í Youth has a tremendous potential, it was evident, also, that there is a need for this potential to be constantly inspired and sustained, that the individual desire to serve the Cause was not lacking, but concerted effort in consultation with their Youth Committees was not, as yet, firmly grounded. Tony MacCarthy, who spoke on behalf of Northern Ireland Youth Committee urged the body of Bahá'í Youth to use their committees, and to be present at their youth gatherings in spirit as well as in person. He reminded them of the compilation of some of the words of Shoghi Effendi to youth all over the world, a compilation which we have all been studying at this time. Opportunity to hear fully the needs of youth in fulfilling their aspirations was not given to Convention owing to pressure of time, and the consultation in the time allotted was disappointing, and dissatisfying to the youth. The desire of the adult members of the community to incorporate youth in the whole plan for the completion of the Ten Year Crusade, to use them as the spear head of all endeavour to bring about the 'unprecedented increase in numbers, the wish to listen to the voice of youth in consultation by including their representation on all National Committees, to make their activities an integral and central part of all weekend schools, and conferences, was continually stressed, and is now being put into practice.

Youth methods of teaching are their own, contact in coffee bar, and dance hall forms a large part of it. When fresh methods are used it is more than ever necessary to refresh the spirit from the source. In public speaking they have excellent young speakers, who understand very well other young people who are so greatly in need of the light of Bahá'u'lláh, they can sympathise with the apathy on the one hand, and the intense interest in World Peace, built, usually upon a political foundation (which is the point upon which most young people first show interest in the Faith), on the other. To re-channel this political foundation into a spiritual one the Bahá'í Youth need to re-fresh themselves in abundance with the strengthening and deepening power of the prayers and writings of The Báb, Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the beloved Guardian, and they need to be upheld by the constant and loving prayers of the entire Bahá'í Community.

Students have a unique problem in living the Bahá'í life, in Training College and University, there they are under the increasing pressure of competition and rising standards in education in which they must ably equip themselves if they are to play their part as well-trained world citizens in whatever profession they enter. This means that their studies must perforce occupy a large part of their lives, and restrict their activities in the teaching field. In this ever-present problem the wise and loving words of Shoghi Effendi can best guide their energies.

"The Bahá'í youth throughout the world must not only strive to spread the knowledge of the teachings, but also and above all to live them as completely as circumstances permit. They should attract people to the Cause not so much through the exposition of its principles and teachings but through the power of their individual lives. The Bahá'í youth must indeed exemplify through their lives, both as individuals and

as conscious and active members of the Bahá'í community, the purity, the effectiveness and sublime character of their Faith. They can teach best when they live up to the standard inculcated by Bahá'u'lláh."

Those who go direct from school to office or factory are plunged at once into the very challenging task of living the Bahá'í life in the hard, materialistic adult world, for which sometimes they are ill-prepared. This thought lays an increasing responsibility upon the shoulders of Bahá'í parents, in the early guidance of their children in building their lives upon a spiritual foundation. In his letters Shoghi Effendi spoke of the question of attaining spirituality as being one to which every young man or woman must sooner or later find a satisfactory answer.

"... this is the reason why Bahá'u'lláh has so much stressed the importance of worship. It is not sufficient merely to accept and observe the teachings. He should, in addition, cultivate the sense of spirituality which he can acquire chiefly by means of prayer. The Bahá'í Faith is thus fundamentally mystic in character. Its chief goal is the development of the individual and society, through the acquisition of spiritual virtues and powers. It is the soul of man which has first to be fed. And this spiritual nourishment prayer can best provide. Laws and institutions, as viewed by Bahá'u'lláh can become really effective only when our inner spiritual life has been perfected and transformed. Otherwise religion will degenerate into a mere organisation, and become a dead thing."

We must, however, be ever-mindful that the Beloved Guardian never wishes to see a puritanical body of young people in the Cause of God.

"The standard inculcated by Bahá'u'lláh seeks, under no circumstances to deny any one the legitimate right and privilege to derive the fullest advantage and benefit from the manifold joys, beauties, and pleasures with which the world has been so plentifully enriched by an All-loving Creator. "Should a man," Bahá'u'lláh Himself reassures us, "wish to adorn himself with the ornaments of the earth, to wear its apparels, or partake of the benefits it can bestow, no harm can befall him, if he alloweth nothing whatever to intervene between him and God, for God hath ordained every good thing, whether created in the heavens or in the earth, for such of His servants as truly believe in Him. Eat ye, O people, of the good things which God hath allowed you, and deprive not yourselves from His wondrous bounties. Render thanks and praise unto Him, and be of them that are truly thankful."

There have been a great many youth gatherings and activities throughout the British Isles in the last few months, records of some of them have come to hand, many more have taken place of which we have not received an account. There has been great activity in Northern Ireland, news of World Religion Day, and a Weekend School in Dublin, sponsored by the Youth of Belfast showed what a challenge to their strength and perspicacity this part of their teaching is likely to be. From Scotland and England come reports of youth activity—a week-end School was held in April in Salisbury, to which forty-five youth came and in Reading, in July, a Youth Day, held as the central part of a week-end school, was attended by forty youth, during the stay there was a Public Meeting and a Youth Forum. There have been

a number of Youth Declarations in Oxford, followed by plenty of activity.

A week-end was held in Torquay recently when a public meeting, a picnic, and a barbecue were held on the beach, and attracted a great deal of interest from the general public.

Bahá'í Youth should be aware always that they have the opportunity of being great ambassadors for the Faith, as much in the way they behave in hotels, hostels, or when accepting private hospitality during their week-ends and conferences, as when they are actively engaged in talking of The Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

"Shoghi Effendi's greatest hope, and his prayer, is that they (Bahá'í Youth) may so distinguish themselves in the eyes of their fellow-countrymen that it will become increasingly evident what a Bahá'í is, and what he stands for. How wonderful it would be to witness the time when the actions and words of the Bahá'ís will have become so well-known that people will say :—

"Ah ! That must be a Bahá'í—they are like that !" and mean it as a compliment.

As we go to press we receive the first news of the Youth Conference held at the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds on Sunday, August 12th. The report follows.

REPORT from THE SOUTHERN REGION YOUTH COMMITTEE on THE YOUTH CONFERENCE held on SUNDAY, AUGUST 12th at The Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds. Altogether twenty-six youth attended the conference called by the Southern Region Youth Committee to consult together and draw up a positive programme of action so that the Youth could participate actively more than ever before during the remaining months of the Ten Year Crusade. Youth had come from Torquay, Oxford, Salisbury, Watford and London. Suggestions of any new forms of teaching were not forthcoming, perhaps because of short notice, which had prevented the youth consulting together before coming to the conference. Certainly from the reports read at the Conference the Youth in the South have not been idle, notably in Torquay and Oxford. The Torquay

youth are already engaged upon visits to their surrounding towns and villages and in teaching the Cause in the most original way. Mr. John Wade at the invitation of the youth committee talked to the conference in the afternoon of the tremendous challenge which faces the youth of Great Britain at present, and more so in the very near future. The memorable part of the conference was the fact that at the end of the day, a non-Bahá'í girl who had come to the conference was so impressed that she declared her desire to become a Bahá'í.

All of us who were present went away from the meeting with renewed enthusiasm, confident that with the blessings and everlasting love of Bahá'u'lláh, we will unfurl the banner of Ya Bahá'u'l-Abhá, come what may !

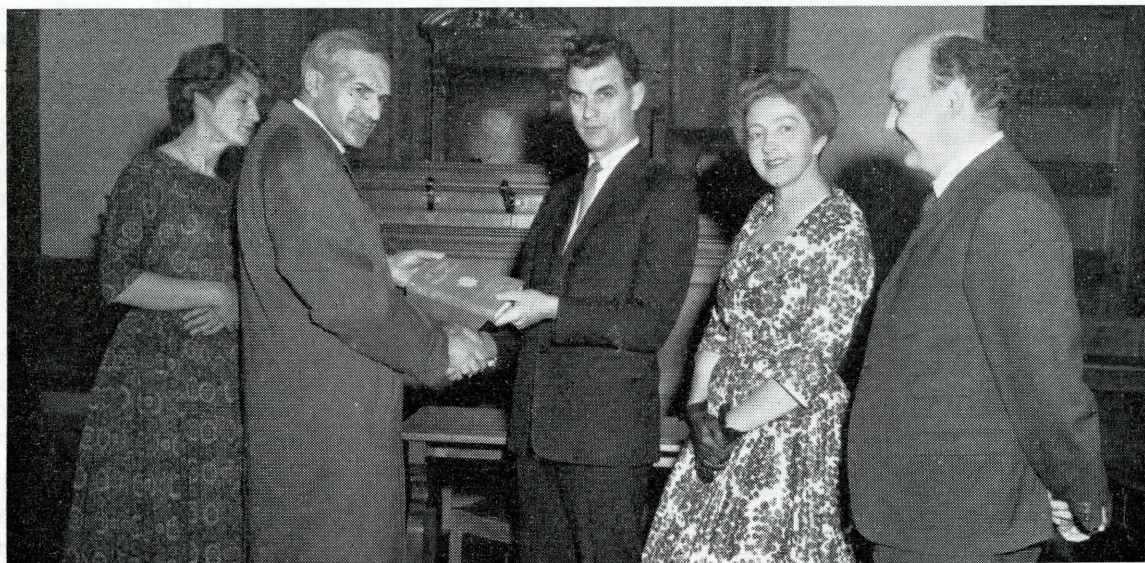
Lyme Park Weekend School

At Lyme Park week-end school the actual over-all numbers were between ninety and a hundred, which included some very new Bahá'ís, close contacts, and enquirers. The school was inspired with a new confidence and joy won through the successful team work of the past year. On the general theme of "The Advent of Divine Justice" Joan and Ernest Gregory, Jeanette Battrick, Iraj Zamini, and Tom MacArthur gave addresses of such a standard, we wished that thousands might have heard them. The beauty of the countryside, and the distractions of the deer in Lyme Park did not prevent the sessions being filled on every occasion. In our discussions our thoughts were turned to Australian horizons, the prospect of dispersion drew the friends into a closer unity. Never are we more united than when we disperse for the love of Bahá'u'lláh.

"Bring them together again, O Lord, by the power of Thy Covenant, and gather their dispersion by the might of Thy promise, and unite their hearts by the dominion of Thy love : and make them love each other, so that they may sacrifice their spirits, expend their money, and scatter themselves for the love of one another"

(Abdu'l-Bahá)

AN HISTORIC OCCASION.



Hand of The Cause, John Ferraby presenting a copy of his book "All Things Made New" to the Mayor of Peterborough L to R. The Mayoress, Hand of The Cause John Ferraby, The Mayor, Mrs. Beatrice Smith, Mr. Ray Humphries.

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