

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7

Published by the National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles

No. 156

August, 1963

IMPORTANT CHANGES AT THE WORLD CENTRE

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Bahá'í World Centre,
Haifa, Israel.
16th June, 1963.

To All National Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Friends,

The Universal House of Justice has been deeply moved and its hopes have been raised high by the many messages of love, devotion and eager anticipation which have been received from National Conventions and National Spiritual Assemblies.

Two decisions have been taken by the Universal House of Justice involving a further development of the institutions at the World Centre. The former offices of the International Bahá'í Council at 10 Haparsim Street being inadequate for the far greater volume of work facing the Universal House of Justice, it has been decided to take over the whole of this building (until now called the Western Pilgrim House) as the seat, for the present time, of the Universal House of Justice.

This decision made it necessary to find other accommodation for the western pilgrims and led directly to the second decision. After careful consideration of the alternatives the House of Justice has decided that the time has come to take the significant step, anticipated by our beloved Guardian, of housing all pilgrims in one place. It was found possible, by slight alterations, to accommodate all pilgrims, without lessening the number, in the former Eastern Pilgrim House and its adjacent buildings. We have therefore established one Pilgrim House, at the Bahá'í Gardens on Mount Carmel. The friends should note that this is where they should go on arrival.

All friends whose pilgrimages have been confirmed for 1963-64 are therefore expected. There are still vacancies after December 1963, but only a very few before that date.

We have asked the Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land to continue to be responsible for the programme of the pilgrims while they are here, but letters requesting permission to come should be addressed to the Universal House of Justice.

With loving greetings,

In His Service,

(Signed) THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

The two interrelated decisions of the Universal House of Justice referred to in the accompanying letter, to establish the temporary seat of the Universal House of Justice at the premises formerly occupied by the International Bahá'í Council and to house all pilgrims at the one Pilgrim House, illustrate once again the way the Cause grows and the excellence of the foundations laid by the beloved Guardian.

The building formerly known as the Oriental Pilgrim House was erected near the Báb's Shrine by a believer from Ishqabad soon after the entombment of the Báb's remains and was the first Bahá'í property in the Holy Land to be granted tax exemption by the civil authorities. It was later extended in order to accommodate, in addition to the pilgrims, a number of believers who fulfilled certain duties and functions at the World Centre.

The building formerly used as the Western Pilgrim House was erected for this purpose by American believers soon after the passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and was largely rebuilt when the International Bahá'í Council was formed by the Guardian in 1951. Since then it has accommodated both the pilgrims from the west and the offices of the International

Bahá'í Council.

The election of the Universal House of Justice has finally united East and West in a way which is, incidentally, signified by the composition of its first membership. As a body it constitutes the unrestricted choice, by the members of the National Spiritual Assemblies exercising jurisdiction over the Bahá'ís of all territories of the planet, of the choicest members of the entire Bahá'í World Community. How appropriate, then, the action to combine into one dwelling the accommodation of pilgrims from East and West alike, and how fit and proper it is that the building selected should be that which stands adjacent to the Bahá'í Gardens and the Holy Shrines and that it should be of a size to hold them all! How wonderfully convenient, too, that the other building should be suitable and adequate for the present time to accommodate the supreme institution of the Administrative Order. Eventually it will be moved to its destined position on the great arc on the slopes of Mt. Carmel, where, along with the International Archives Building, it will face across the bay towards the Holy Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, the Qiblih of the Bahá'í World.

Supplementary Report of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles, Convention 120, March 30th to May 24th, 1963

From the National Assembly we welcome to Convention Hand of the Cause of God, Mr. A. Q. Faizi. Mr. Faizi is one of the five Hands of the Cause who will be residing at the World Centre and we are very happy indeed to have him with us on this important occasion.

We are also happy to welcome back to this country Hand of the Cause Mr. John Ferraby, and his wife, Mrs. Dorothy Ferraby, who will be residing permanently in the British Isles.

The Annual Report of the National Assembly took us to March 29th and this Supplementary Report attempts to fill in the picture from the end of March until Convention. The first crowded weeks of April saw the final heroic efforts of the British Community to achieve all its Home Front Goals. During those weeks immediately before Riqván, 27 gaps which had arisen in Local Assemblies were filled, publication of the outstanding translations into African languages were completed and the total of 31 translations required by Shoghi Effendi was realised; the final Incorporations were completed bringing the total to the required number of 19 Incorporated Local Spiritual Assemblies; in our Island territories, the Incorporated Assembly of Nicosia, Cyprus, was maintained and each of our Islands in the North Sea and the Mediterranean was manned; and finally the Supplementary Goal of the acquisition of a token Temple site on the Banks of the Thames was achieved when legal contracts for land in the Sonning area were signed and exchanged on April 18th. By April 19th, the day on which the National Spiritual Assembly members flew to Haifa for the election of the Universal House of Justice, it was clearly evident that all our goals had been achieved and the formation of the first Local Spiritual Assembly of Nelson promised to bring the number of Local Assemblies up to fifty.

HAIFA CONVENTION.

We were particularly glad that all nine members of the National Assembly were able to attend the Convention in Haifa and take part personally in the election of the Universal House of Justice, the supreme administrative body of the Bahá'í World. This was an experience which none present will ever forget. The whole story of the pilgrimage, the preparation for the election and the election itself, the wonderful Riqván Feast in the Ḥaram-i-Aqdas at Bahjí, the announcement of the results of the election and the presentation of the Universal House of Justice is told pictorially in the photographs displayed in the foyer. Copies of these photographs have been sent at the request of the Hands of the Cause to the National Assemblies throughout the Bahá'í World.

Following the election of the Universal House of Justice the assembled delegates had the privilege of taking part in the first Bahá'í World Conference ever to be held. For two days N.S.A. members of the Bahá'í World consulted together in the presence of the Hands of the Cause on vitally important issues.

BAHÁ'Í WORLD CONGRESS.

The hundreds of National Assembly members who attended the Convention in Haifa flew to London during the two days April 18th and 19th and in London joined the thousands of Bahá'ís who were gathering for the opening of the World Congress on April 28th and the celebration of the Most Great Jubilee. It is impossible to describe in words the tremendous experiences of the five memorable days at the Royal Albert Hall; the promise of the Prophet Daniel "Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days" was fulfilled: those meetings were truly blessed. With a great sense of humility at the privilege conferred upon us, but also with joy and thanksgiving, the British Bahá'í Community filled the responsibilities which rested upon it as the Host Community to the Bahá'í World on this unique and peerless occasion, and the National Assembly adds its thanks to the thanks of the Hands of the Cause of God and the World Congress Arrangements Committee for the excellent way in which the Friends discharged the duties entrusted to them. A special commemorative edition of the "Bahá'í Journal" is already being prepared; the highlights of the sessions at the Royal Albert Hall were extracted by Mr. Quigley, and edited by Hand of the Cause, Mr. William Sears from the word-by-word recording made of the entire Congress and this edited version of the tape-recordings has been despatched to the National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the world; and a set of 25 photographs telling the full story of the Jubilee Celebrations is already available and can be seen in the foyer. A Committee set up by the British N.S.A. at the request of the Hands of the Cause is already engaged on the production of a thirty-minute cine-film of the Haifa Convention and the Most Great Jubilee Celebrations, and we eagerly look forward to this cine-film being available for purchase throughout the Bahá'í World by mid-summer.

Never before has there been such a great outpouring of spiritual bounty in these Islands and the response of the British people far from diminishing seems to be accelerating as the days pass by. At the Ḥazíratu'l-Quds there is a steady stream of enquiries by telephone, letter and personal callers. There is every sign that the coming year will see rapid developments throughout the British Isles and when we turn at this Convention to consideration of the position of the British Home Front we should do so with a consciousness of the spiritual potential released into the world during those twelve momentous days of Riqván, 120.

MEETINGS AT THE ḤAZÍRATU'L-QUDS.

Immediately following the World Congress the Universal House of Justice met at the Ḥazíratu'l-Quds and we were deeply moved by the fact that the first message from the Universal House to the Bahá'í World was formulated in London.

The Conclave of the Hands of the Cause, which began in Haifa on April 9th, was concluded in the British Ḥazíratu'l-Quds in the week following the World Congress and for

several days we had the unique privilege of the Universal House of Justice and the Hands of the Cause meeting separately and sometimes jointly at 27, Rutland Gate.

VISITORS AFTER THE CONGRESS.

Also to the Ḥaẓratu'l-Quds in the days following the Congress came a constant stream of Bahá'í visitors from all over the world. Many local communities throughout the British Isles also had the privilege of visits from overseas Bahá'ís and news of wonderful meetings and fireside gatherings came to us from far and near. Meetings at the London Centre have inevitably overflowed out of the Meeting Room to all other parts of the Ḥaẓratu'l-Quds.

The National Assembly wishes to express its warm thanks to all the friends who came to help at the Ḥaẓira during the weeks immediately before and after the World Congress and to mention particularly Jan Coppen, British pioneer first to Portugal and lately to Luxembourg who came from the Continent, and Mr. Sh. Sana who came from Oxford, specially to help at the Ḥaẓira.

A very special Bahá'í family has been entrusted to our care by the Hands of the Cause: Mrs. Tahan, wife of Fuad Tahan, the Syrian Bahá'í who is one of the three Bahá'ís condemned to death last December in Morocco, and her two young sons are remaining with us in London whilst the older boy has medical attention. Assan Tahan goes into hospital tomorrow for two weeks for exhaustive tests to be carried out and we earnestly ask for the prayers of the whole Community that the outcome of the treatment here may be entirely satisfactory.

There is no further news of the Moroccan case, the Appeal has not yet been heard by the Supreme Court and the situation in Morocco leads us to feel that there may well be a further delay. The whole Bahá'í World turns with deep admiration and love to the nine prisoners in Morocco and to their families, who share in this long drawn-out test of Faith and endurance.

BRITISH HOME FRONT.

Pausing for a moment to consider the current position on the Home Front, the National Assembly is conscious that at least seventeen Local Assemblies are numerically unstable and there is a very grave need for consolidation.

From April 22nd, 1962 to April 21st, 1963 there were 115 adult declarations and 44 youth declarations, making a total of 159 declarations during the year. From April 22nd to May 24th there have been a further 8 adult and 2 youth declarations. When we remember that there were 183 new believers in the previous year we can begin to understand what Shoghi Effendi meant when he anticipated an unprecedented increase in numbers in the British Isles towards the end of the World Crusade, over one third of the present British Bahá'í Community are Bahá'ís who have come to the Faith in the last two years. This is a tremendous step forward and the National Assembly is confident that the coming year will see even greater expansion.

One of the declarations received towards the end of this year was that of an isolated believer in North Wales, the first Bahá'í to come to the Faith through the tireless work of the British Correspondence Service. This Correspondence

Service is operated effectively for the N.S.A. by Madeline Hellaby, herself an isolated believer.

The consolidation of Eire was a matter of grave concern a year ago; steps taken in the last months of the Crusade led to two pioneers of Irish origin going to Dublin and we then had the good news immediately after the World Congress that a Bahá'í from the United States, Mr. Zebbie Whitehead, who has Irish ancestry, wished to pioneer to Southern Ireland. So great was his desire to serve the Cause in the Irish Republic that Mr. Whitehead cancelled his return flight to New York and went instead to Dublin, where he has already settled. With a much stronger Community now in Dublin and individual Bahá'ís in three other places in Eire the National Assembly feels able to report that a very reasonable measure of consolidation has indeed been effected in Eire.

On May 20th Derrick and Doreen Watkins of Nottingham and their two children sailed for Australia and Margaret Bourke of Christchurch expects to leave in the early Summer. With the departure of these friends, nine adults and five children will have pioneered to Australia from the British Isles in response to the appeal made by the Hands of the Cause through Mr. John Ferraby in this very hall a year ago. We are delighted to report that the Australian Bahá'í Community ended the Crusade with 31 Local Spiritual Assemblies, three more than their Crusade Goal of 28 L.S.As—this was a mighty achievement.

YOUTH CONFERENCE.

The National Assembly is very conscious of the importance of the contribution made to the growth of the Faith by the Bahá'í Youth and has this year offered to the Youth of the British Community the opportunity of holding a special Youth Conference during this first session of Convention so that they may consult themselves on the important matter of taking the Faith to the Youth of Britain. This Youth Conference is currently in progress at the Ḥaẓratu'l-Quds and we hope that the Youth will feel able to make a report to Convention delegates when Convention itself consults on this vital aspect of Youth work. We should here apologise for the very late announcement of this Youth Conference, which was unfortunately unavoidable.

FINANCES.

A full report on the financial position will be given by the National Treasurer at a later session but the National Assembly wishes to express its deep gratitude to all those friends whose contributions made it possible for the British Community to achieve the highest target yet aimed at, a total of £10,000 from contributions.

We cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing also the deep thanks of the National Assembly to all our local spiritual assemblies for their splendid achievements over the last year, to our Committees for the devoted and energetic way in which they worked to ensure the final achievement of the Crusade Goals, to the pioneers who responded so magnificently to the appeal to arise and maintain Assemblies, and to all those individual Bahá'ís who have responded enthusiastically and energetically to the call to intensify personal teaching.

A new century lies before us. The establishment of the Universal House of Justice ushers in a new era and fulfills another prophecy—that this is the Day which shall not be followed by night. The power and great glory of this Cause is as yet only dimly discerned but gradually the peoples of the world are awakening to the great healing Message of Bahá'u'lláh. We cannot yet see what the future of the British Bahá'í Community will be, but the beloved Guardian himself in his last letter to us, written on August 30th, 1957, spoke of the British Community being "... charged by Destiny and by virtue of the enviable position they occupy, with so glorious a responsibility for the future awakening of the great masses, living under the shadow of, or whose governments are directly associated with, the British

Crown . . . " This Convention at which we are gathered is the first Convention of the new Century; it sees us confronted by a mighty challenge—the need to prepare ourselves, individually and collectively, so that, when the time comes, we may go forward to meet our Destiny.

OVERJOYED.

The following cable, dated April 23rd, 1963, was received from the Hands in Haifa in reply to the news that the British Bahá'í Community had fulfilled its Crusade goals:

"Overjoyed news praying sacred threshold fulfillment every goal and consolidation foundation future destiny."

(Signed) HANDSFAITH.

RESULTS of the ELECTION of the NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY Convention 120, May 25th/26th, 1963

Betty Reed	70 votes
John Long	69 votes
Charles Macdonald	63 votes
John Wade	57 votes
Adib Taherzadeh	55 votes
Owen Batrick	54 votes
Dorothy Ferraby	36 votes
Robert Semple	33 votes

(Mr. Semple regretfully felt unable to serve and was replaced by Richard Backwell in a postal By-Election, see below).

Elizabeth Chapman	22 votes
-------------------	----------

Other votes received: John Morley, 18; Gloria Faizi, 16; Dick Backwell, 15; Meherangiz Munsiff, 12; Joe Jameson, 12; Jeanette Batrick, 11; Eruch Munsiff, 10; Abbas Afan, Louis Ross-Enfield, 9 each; Valerie Morley, 8; John Shortland, Bill Hellaby, 7 each; Bob Beattie, Eric Hellicar, 5 each; Habib Naha'o, 4; Bahdur Haqjoo, Harry Charles, Tom McArthur, Elizabeth Greaves, Jane Wendon, Farhang Jahanpur, 3 each; Rose Wade, Marion Hofman, Donald Millar, David Lewis, Madeline Hellaby, Shomais Afnan, Aldie Robarts, Ernest Gregory, Jean Campbell, Ted Cardell, Marian

Mihaeloff, 2 each; Frankie Long, Mr. Sh. Sana, Mrs. M. Kouчек-zadeh, Abbass Mehrnoosh, Alma Gregory, Eric Kent, Joe Lee, Audrie Rogers, Gitta Chaplin, Dermot Knox, Robert Stiles, Habib Habibi, Malcolm Lee, Ian Semple, Vera Long, Sheila Cooper, Rustom Sabit, Irij Mottahedin, Farhang Afnan, A. Nazar, Barbara Lewis, Dorothy Wiggington, Hassan Afnan, Bob Cheek, Harold Shepherd, Philip Harvey, 1 vote each.

RESULTS OF BY-ELECTION, conducted by post, votes counted on June 5th, 1963, to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Robert Semple being unable to serve:

Dick Backwell 13 votes

Louis Ross-Enfield 6 votes

Joe Jameson, John Morley and Abbas Afnan 5 votes each

Eruch Munsiff 4 votes

Tom McArthur and Gloria Faizi 3 votes each

Meherangiz Munsiff 2 votes

Shomais Afnan, Bob Beattie, Jeanette Batrick, Ted Cardell, Dr. M. Firoozmand, Alma Gregory, Philip Harvey, Bahadur Haqjoo, Bill Hellaby, Vera Long, Donald Millar, Valerie Morley, Aldie Robarts, Mr. Sh. Sana and John Shortland 1 vote each.

Cables at Convention

Cable from Convention to the Universal House of Justice, sent 27/5/63.

"Universal House of Justice Care Handsfaith Haifa.

Cognisant beginning new era convention pledges loyalty Universal House Justice stop Deeply grateful stimulating message stop Resolved draw on vast spiritual power released dedicate utmost support implement plans teaching consolidation Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá British Convention"

Cable from the Universal House of Justice, received June 3rd, 1963.

Bahá'í London

"Greatly appreciate message convention assurance loyalty praying Divine assistance devoted efforts British believers * Universal House of Justice"

Cable from Convention to the Hands and their reply: Sent 27/5/63

"Handsfaith Haifa * Loving greetings heartfelt gratitude beloved Hands tremendous burden undertaken leading Bahá'í world under guidance beloved Guardian into new era Universal House Justice stop Fresh impetus given Convention joyous news Hands decision now able prosecute global teaching stop Convention greatly blessed presence treasured Hand Faizi stop Beseech prayers Holy Shrines increased dedication entire community assuring devotion British convention"

Received May 31st, 1963

Lt Convention Care Bahá'í London.

"Deeply touched heartwarming message grateful inspiration presence Hand Cause Faizi praying Sacred Shrines unprecedented success expansion consolidation faith British Isles coming year loving greetings * Handsfaith"

N.T.C. Supplementary Report to Convention 120

It seems almost an anticlimax, after all the festivities of our Most Great Jubilee, to report on the final weeks of the Ten Year Crusade—but it is very necessary that we review our situation and soberly assess the needs of the present hour.

We should also remember with what sacrifices the final goals on the Home Front were achieved. Three weeks before Ridván, 27 gaps still remained to be filled. Gradually the pioneers came forward and by April 20, 1963, all the pioneers had moved into their places. Inevitably some of them are short term pioneer projects and need to be replaced.

One bright gem was the formation by declaration of the Nelson Local Spiritual Assembly just one week before Ridván—making the 50th Assembly of the British Isles and another “fully native” Assembly, formed without pioneer aid.

While we are deeply grateful that we were enabled to achieve these goals, we are very conscious that much still needs to be done to strengthen and consolidate even further our Local Spiritual Assemblies. The N.T.C. immediately reviewed the position and it seems that in the general movement of the Bahá'í population since the World Congress 34 gaps could appear in the Local Assemblies within the next three months—some of them would certainly be caused by short term pioneers having to return to their homes before they are replaced. We feel very strongly that none of the existing Assemblies must again be allowed to fall below numbers. Our aim must be so to increase our numbers that movement from one community to another of the believers will not weaken any Assembly—in fact that every-

one must remain at their posts until a replacement is found. This is vital if the necessary support is to be given to our much treasured and honoured Universal House of Justice.

The following Assemblies, representing one-third of the total number of Assemblies in the British Isles particularly need strengthening numerically:—

ABERDEEN, BLACKPOOL, CHESTER, EPSOM, EXETER, GLASGOW, HOVE, INVERNESS, MOTHERWELL, NORTHAMPTON, NOTTINGHAM, PORTSMOUTH, SALISBURY, SWINTON, WINCHESTER, WOKINGHAM R.D. and YORK.

In its report to the delegates at this Convention, the N.T.C. has dealt with the progress made during the last year towards the consolidation of the Assemblies and their development as vigorously functioning divine institutions of the Faith. We have been greatly encouraged by the sign of this vigour manifested by the great surge of teaching following the World Congress. Advantage has been taken of publicity afforded the Congress on Television and in the National Press, and of the many visitors from overseas, to bring this same publicity to the local level and to provide opportunities to make contact with many new enquirers. These visitors have helped too in the teaching work by their enthusiastic aid at firesides and encouragement to the Bahá'ís themselves. Thus the spirit of the Cause, generated to such heights at the World Congress, has been carried back by the friends to their own home towns.

Continued on page 8



Delegates and friends at Convention, May 1963

Annual Report of the Publishing Trust 1962/63

The Publishing Trust regrets that owing to the vast amount of work incurred with the arrangements for book sales at the World Congress, it has not been possible to prepare for Convention the usual Annual Accounts. In some ways it has been a disappointing year for the Trust, as sales have dropped to £2,300. Comparative figures are as follows:—

	<i>Home Sales</i>	<i>Export Sales</i>	<i>Total</i>
1961/62	£2,004—68%	£924—32%	£2,928
1962/63	£1,267—55%	£1,033—45%	£2,300

Home sales, therefore, have dropped by £737; on the other hand, we are encouraged by the fact that Export sales have increased by £109. The Publishing Trust views with some concern this drop in Home Sales, for from previous experience we have found book sales to be a barometer of activity in local communities; where sales in communities have dropped, in many cases so does the activity.

At last year's Convention a resolution was passed (No. 55) to the effect that all communities would be encouraged to reduce their debt to the Publishing Trust to enable us to print books for the World Congress. The results have not been encouraging from this appeal for the debtors have now increased to the all-time record sum of £2,032. Comparative figures are as follows:—

	<i>Debtors</i>	<i>Sales for Year</i>	<i>Months Credit Represented by Debtors</i>
1961	£1,229	£2,011	7
1962	£1,919	£2,928	8
1963	£2,032	£2,300	10

We feel that even at the expense of incurring the wrath of the National Treasurer, we should point out to the friends that the Bahá'í teachings are that one should pay one's debts before contributing to the Funds, and we cannot but believe that this applies to Assemblies as well as to individuals. It was as a result of the resolution passed at Convention last year that the Publishing Trust called a meeting of our National Secretary, the Manager and the Chairman of the Publishing Trust together with a director of the firm of printers with whom we deal and also a director of our book binders, and the position was put to them that we wished to publish books but would not be able to pay for them until after Congress. Their response was magnificent and we would like to record our thanks for their co-operation. Now all that remains to be done is to pay them to fulfil our side of the promise. This is made extremely difficult, if not impossible, by the large debts which are outstanding to the Trust. The Publishing Trust cannot afford such long credits. It is holding up our printing programme, and two points should be made: (i) as we borrow money and pay interest on it, it is costing us between £80/90 per year in loan interest on the money

which is due to us. This is a misuse of the Trust's money; the loans were made to publish books, not to lend it in effect to other Bahá'ís; and (ii) as a result of this hold-up in our printing programme we are losing ground in our role of major publishers of Bahá'í books in this country, which will be seen from the new catalogue of the thirty-nine books listed only twenty-two are published by the Trust, the other seventeen are from other publishers; it will also be noted that the Publishing Trust is left to carry the burden of the less profitable pamphlets. The new catalogue, which by now no doubt most of the friends have seen, contains on the inside of the front cover new trade terms, three points of which the Trust would like to emphasise: (i) all postage will be paid by the Trust on British inland post; (ii) discount is available to Trade Buyers, Bahá'í Groups and Assemblies only, and not to individuals; and (iii) orders from individuals must be accompanied by payment. Also the Trust will discontinue sending out statements from time to time, Assemblies and Groups are requested to pay on invoice.

For technical reasons it has not been possible in this year to place our Home Sales in the hands of a Trade Counter; as these difficulties have now been resolved we visualise that it should be possible to put this into operation early in the coming year, this should greatly speed up the dispatch of books to the friends.

Early in the year the Publishing Trust was entrusted with the responsibility of organising the book sales for the World Congress. This has occupied a great amount of time during the past year, but was a privilege which we greatly appreciated, and although officially the Congress does not fall within the year under review we feel that the friends would like to know that the sales at Congress on books from all the different countries amounted to the colossal sum of £5,800 and thus justified the costly display required to do justice to the greatest collection of Bahá'í books ever to be assembled in one place. The Publishing Trust would like to offer its thanks to the small band of helpers that came along and helped to make this magnificent effort possible; although it is not our policy to mention individuals an exception should be made in the case of Robert Semple, the Manager of the Trust, on whose shoulders the main burden of Congress organisation fell and who did a really marvellous job.

The feeling of many of the members of the Publishing Trust was that our books on display were unsurpassed in quality but although our covers and jackets were in good taste they were perhaps a little drab by comparison with the books of other publishers and countries, and this should receive consideration from the incoming Committee.



Lyme Park 1963

(Report on week-end school held at Lyme Hall, Disley, 7th, 8th, 9th June, 1963)

Our annual week-end school in Lyme Park has become, over the years, an established and much loved highlight of our Northern activities. Again we enjoyed glorious weather—in fact our attendance there leads even the staff of Lyme Park to refer to this week-end as likely to produce “Bahá’i weather”—so lucky have we been at every school we have held in this beautiful spot.

Lyme Park itself is really outstanding in its setting and combined with the atmosphere of the beloved friends one feels a tranquility and happiness permeating one’s being. Surprise of the week-end was the last minute and unexpected visit of two Hands of the Cause—our very much loved Mr. Faizi and Mr. Ferraby. Together with the attendance of two members of the Auxiliary Board, Ernest and Joan Gregory, the custodian of the Shrine at Bahjí Mrs. Ward, and four pioneers from Africa, Philip and Lois Hainsworth and family, and Ted and Mrs. Cardell and family, our anticipation of an outstanding and memorable experience was fully justified.

The theme “Emergence of a World Society” was set to the tone of this particular period in Bahá’i history and all the speakers geared up to this so that we followed a pattern of development and achievement.

Another outstanding feature of the school was the artistic exhibition designed and prepared by Rúhi Chekibai. Many visitors, as well as our residents, were thrilled and interested by the display of Persian art and culture, and the committee would like to place on record their deep appreciation of the work done by Rúhi in preparing and producing this exhibition. A spotlight was also focussed on this and it was seen by visitors to Lyme Park itself, whose curiosity was stimulated as they observed through the windows, both an exhibition of books and “objets d’Art.”

The school was opened by Mr. Ferraby and Mr. Faizi gave an introductory talk explaining to us some interesting facts about life in Persia at the beginning of the Bahá’i era, and also explaining about the Persian pottery and various other handicrafts.

It was intended that Mrs. Faizi should speak about the early days of the Faith in Persia, but she was unable to come and Mr. Faizi came instead. As he had travelled from Ireland that day he was very tired and asked if he might be excused from speaking at our Friday meeting, so at the very last moment our dear Farhang Jahanpur came along and gave a magnificent talk which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. This was followed by Ted Cardell who built up for us a picture of the influence of the Faith as it actually encircled the World, as promised by Bahá’u’lláh. He told us of the great work done by the devoted band of pioneers at their various posts.

On Saturday morning Philip Hainsworth spoke of “The Need for a World Plan,” and then Mr. Faizi spoke on “The Dawn of a World Plan.” The children’s programme on the Saturday afternoon was a great thrill for everyone concerned. A simple play written and produced by Pouri Habibi and Gitta Chaplin with co-operation from many

friends, and at very short notice, was given by the various children in a most effective and moving way, as was evinced by the hush from the audience who did not want to miss one word of this. Afterwards the children gave us of their talents, and we are proud of the talent amongst our children! The Hellaby boys with violin, piano and vocal items made a great hit, as did also the other children who took part in various entertainments. Afterwards some games rounded up a very enjoyable and moving session.

For the evening another unusual feature was the Panel of Speakers for a Public Meeting, where representatives from U.N.O. and Oxfam joined with our N.T.C. representatives Valerie Morley, and chairman Louis Ross-Enfield in a most exciting event, as each spoke of his or her movement’s contribution “Towards World Unity.” A lively discussion followed.

A Social rounded up this very happy day, followed by a midnight ramble in the still of the night, for those who were not tired enough or were too excited to go to sleep in the ordinary way.

Sunday brought “Education for a World Society” by Madeline Hellaby and an N.T.C. session for Bahá’is only which provided a sum of £20, subscribed by the friends for the purchase of a beautiful shawl presented by the friends of Winchester in aid of the funds. While this was going on guests were invited to see the slides of Haifa shewn by Audrie Rogers.

The final session was “Youth at the Helm,” and Dorothy Green and John Twynam thrilled us by their optimism and courage as they spoke on retrospect and prospect.

Mr. Faizi spoke at the close of the school.

No record of this kind would be complete without mention of the most beautiful devotional sessions arranged and organised by Gitta Chaplin and Louis Ross-Enfield. These combined Scriptures of different Faiths, music and lastly the singing of Lois Hainsworth. She sang on two occasions, and each time the audience was moved and filled with ecstasy at this experience. Her rendering of the “Sweet Scented Streams” without accompaniment was so beautiful that there are no words to describe it. Thank you, Lois, for sharing your gift with us.

So many people co-operated in making the school the outstanding success which it certainly was, that it is impossible to name them all, but the committee would like to express their deep appreciation for the help given and the wonderful spirit of happiness which pervaded the school the whole of the time.

In addition they would like to place on record the outstanding team spirit amongst all members of the committee. All jobs had been allocated at the beginning of the planning for the school, and every member pulled his weight and contributed to the success. The committee feel that this was one of the major factors in ensuring the consummation of their task to so satisfactory a conclusion.

PAULINE SENIOR.

E.A.T.C. Supplementary Report to Convention 120

ORKNEY.

On 23 April Daryoush Mehrabi wrote that, following prayers on his behalf said at the Holy Shrine, he felt "noticeable improvement." He, Jackie and Vahid, the new baby born on the First Day of Ridván, attended the last session of Congress.

Dr. Ernest Miller was requested to undertake medical work in Orkney and gave up his chance of attending the Bahá'í World Congress in order to serve the Faith there.

CYPRUS.

We report with great pleasure the offer of Mr. Zia Aldpaver and his wife Pari to pioneer in Nicosia.

CONGRESS was attended by pioneers from Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland, Cyprus and Hong Kong.

NORTHERN ISLANDS.

We appeal to the Bahá'í Youth to go to Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland for their holidays as they so successfully did last year. In Hebrides the Faith is now openly discussed.

N.T.C. SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

In this way the Assemblies have shown their strength—strength which will be tried in many ways during the coming year following this same publicity, and the added responsibility which we now have with the Faith emerging from obscurity—to present an ever glowing picture to the outside world—to prosecute the teaching plans with vigour and determination—to meet the criticisms which will inevitably follow. Let us remember therefore the injunction given to us repeatedly during the most memorable World Congress, to stay at our posts, to increase continually the tempo of teaching—to attract by our own Bahá'í lives an ever increasing number to the ranks of Bahá'u'lláh—so that the crown of our achievement at Ridván 1963 shall not be tarnished.

OWEN BATTRICK
GLORIA FAIZI
JOAN GREGORY
BAHADUR HAQJOO

MALCOLM LEE
VALERIE MORLEY
ELIZABETH CHAPMAN

THE APPLICATION OF LOVE AND JUSTICE

"He, like the Master before him, is so anxious to see the believers united in serving the Faith. If between the friends, true love, based on the love of God, could become manifest, the Cause would spread very rapidly. Love is the standard which must govern the conduct of one believer towards another. The administrative order does not change this, but unfortunately sometimes the friends confuse the two, and try to be a whole spiritual assembly to each other, with the discipline and justice and impartiality that body must show, instead of being forgiving, loving and patient to each other as individuals."

The Guardian, through his secretary, to an American believer—18.7.1950.