

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION

September, 1964

To the Bahá'ís of the World.
Dearly loved Friends:

In our message to you of April, 1964, announcing the Nine Year Plan, we called attention to two major themes of that Plan, namely "...a huge expansion of the Cause of God and universal participation by all believers in the life of that Cause."

The enthusiastic vigour with which the believers throughout the world, under the devoted guidance of their National Spiritual Assemblies, have arisen to meet the challenge of the Plan, augurs well for the huge expansion called for. We now ask you to bend your efforts and thoughts, with equal enthusiasm, to the requirements of universal participation.

In that same message we indicated the meaning of universal participation: "...the dedicated effort of every believer in teaching, in living the Bahá'í life, in contributing to the Fund, and particularly to the persistent effort to understand more and more the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation. In the words of our beloved Guardian, 'One thing and only one thing will unfailingly and alone secure the undoubted triumph of this sacred Cause, namely, the extent to which our own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the splendour of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh.'"

"Regard the world as the human body" wrote Bahá'u'lláh to Queen Victoria. We can surely regard the Bahá'í world, the army of God, in the same way. In the human body, every cell, every organ, every nerve has its part to play. When all do so the body is healthy, vigorous, radiant, ready for every call made upon it. No cell, however humble, lives apart from the body, whether in serving it or receiving from it. This is true of the body of mankind in which God 'has endowed each humble being with ability and

talent," and is supremely true of the body of the Bahá'í World Community, for this body is already an organism, united in its aspirations, unified in its methods, seeking assistance and confirmation from the same Source, and illumined with the conscious knowledge of its unity. Therefore, in this organic, divinely guided, blessed and illuminated body the participation of every believer is of the utmost importance, and is a source of power and vitality as yet unknown to us. For extensive and deep as has been the sharing in the glorious work of the Cause, who would claim that every single believer has succeeded in finding his or her fullest satisfaction in the life of the Cause? The Bahá'í World Community, growing like a healthy new body, develops new cells, new organs, new functions and powers as it presses on to its maturity, when every soul, living for the Cause of God, will receive from that Cause, health, assurance and the overflowing bounties of Bahá'u'lláh which are diffused through His divinely-ordained order.

In addition to teaching every believer can pray. Every believer can strive to make his "own inner life and private character mirror forth in their manifold aspects the

splendour of those eternal principles proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh." Every believer can contribute to the Fund. Not all believers can give public talks, not all are called upon to serve on administrative institutions. But all can pray, fight their own spiritual battles, and contribute to the Fund. If every believer will carry out these sacred duties, we shall be astonished at the accession of power which will result to the whole body, and which in its turn will give rise to further growth and the showering of greater blessings on all of us.

The real secret of universal participation lies in the Master's oft expressed wish that the friends should love each other, constantly encourage each other, work together, be as one soul in one body, and in so doing become a true, organic, healthy body animated and illumined by the spirit. In such a body all will receive spiritual health and vitality from the organism itself, and the most perfect flowers and fruits will be brought forth.

Our prayers for the happiness and success of the friends everywhere are constantly offered at the Holy Shrines.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
(Signed and Sealed)

The Universal House of Justice

DUBLIN

A GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY

for

A PIONEER FAMILY

to develop the seeds sown by devoted Pioneers and
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National Spiritual Assembly of the Irish Republic

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NEWS from the World Centre

DEDICATION OF MOTHER TEMPLE OF EUROPE

This historic and significant event took place on July 4th 1964, at ceremonies attended by some 1,500 Bahá'ís, their friends and a number of notables. It was eminently fitting that the dedication completing a project initiated by the beloved Guardian in the Ten Year Crusade and dear to his heart, should be made by Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánum.

This mother Temple, rising in the heart of a continent historically torn by all the traditional prejudices which scourge the human race, but most tragically by religious fanaticism, is at once the symbol of the oneness of mankind, a focal point for the aspirations of the European believers, an embodiment of the unifying principles of their Faith and a sign of the creative power which impelled its construction. It is the fifth of the great "silent teachers," the Houses of Worship which bear witness to the irresistible development of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

In addition to a message from the Universal House of Justice to the European Teaching Conference, held on the days immediately following the dedication of the Temple, the following cable was sent for the occasion by the Hands of the Cause of God residing in the Holy Land:—

**"Occasion historic dedication
Mother Temple Europe join
assembled friends prayers praise
thanksgiving achievement highly
significant objective beloved
Guardian's world redeeming
Plan stop Accordance divine
promises sacred edifice consec-
rated everlasting glory Most
Great Name will become point
of light radiating spirit
Baháullah's Teachings and
hasten fulfilment spiritual
destiny entire continent
(signed) Handsfaith."**

PROGRESS OF THE NINE YEAR PLAN

Convention messages, and reports reaching the World Centre, indicate that in all parts of the world the Plan has evoked an enthusiastic response from the believers and a spirit of dedication and determination to achieve its goals. The realistic, mature and dedicated manner in which National Spiritual Assemblies have approached their tasks bears eloquent testimony to the training which our beloved Guardian's plans, and particularly

his Ten Year Crusade, have given to the Bahá'í world. A wide variety of methods has been adopted by the different National Spiritual Assemblies — the Generals of the Plan — some choosing to phase their work in three or more stages, others to lay the basic foundation for their total tasks this year and then to build on that, and some National Spiritual Assemblies even have informed the Houses of Justice that it may be possible to achieve most of their objectives of expansion and consolidation within the next two or three years.

The Convention of the Philippines recommended a goal for 1973 of one million believers, and the National Spiritual Assembly of Korea has adopted, as the goal for the first year of the Plan, the raising of the number of Assemblies to 100, the total number called for under the Plan. Everywhere the army of God is on the move.

Goals already achieved

The National Spiritual Assembly of Mexico reports that the goal island of Las Mujeres has been opened with the declaration of two believers on that island, and a Mayan pioneer has opened the island of Cozumel in the goal territory of Quintana Roo.

The first Institute called for under the Nine Year Plan has been established in Muna, Yacatán (Mexico).

The building of the Hazíratu'l-Quds in Aden has been accomplished.

Of the 14 new National Assemblies formed last Ridván, the first to be incorporated is the National Spiritual Assembly of the Hawaiian Islands, on June 5, 1964.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Philippine Islands has established its National Endowment by accepting a gift of 400 square metres of land in Quezon City, a suburb of Manila.

In the South Pacific, a new language, Marshalese, has been added to the list of Bahá'í literature.

In the South West Pacific Ocean the National Hazíratu'l-Quds has been acquired in Noumea.

The National Spiritual Assembly of Columbia reports that in Valencia and Tarrasa, local Hazíratu'l-Quds have been acquired, and the local Spiritual Assembly of Bogotá has been incorporated.

Two virgin territories in Africa have been opened: Gabon and Mali.

The incorporation of the National Spiritual Assembly of Argentina has now been accomplished.

A selection of news items from the Universal House of Justice and the Hand of the Cause in the Holy Land.

In Finland an additional National Endowment has been established by purchase of a new property in Tervalampi village.

Two Assemblies have been formed on the Island of Grenada thereby attaining its goal under the Nine Year Plan.

The Group called for in the Marshall Islands has been established.

NEWS FROM PERSIA

The Ministry of Health and Education of Irán has permitted the establishment of a Nursing School attached to the Bahá'í Hospital in Tíhrán. This is a highly significant step in the evolution of the Faith in Persia. For

LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

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

16th August, 1964

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

We have just received copies of your circular letters to the friends, of August, informing them of your budget requirements, your plans for achieving the goals of the Nine Year Plan and setting out the goals for the first year on your Homefront. We write to say how very delighted we are with all this material, which indicates the high spiritual understanding of your Assembly and a very realistic and mature approach to your work. We feel sure that it is this type of deliberation and action which will bring to your community the realization of that glorious destiny envisioned for it by our beloved Guardian.

We were particularly impressed by the second paragraph of your letter headed "URGENT AND IMPORTANT financial Needs this Year," which beautifully sets out the nature of Bahá'í giving. We have taken the liberty of sending this passage to the Editors of "Bahá'í News" with the request that they publish it.

We send our warm love to all the British friends and assure you of our prayers for the success of this much loved Bahá'í community.

(Signed and sealed)

The Universal House of Justice

the first time since the closing of Tarbiat School an officially recognised Bahá'í educational institution in Persia is able to operate under Bahá'í jurisdiction.

The remaining shares of the Shop of the Báb in Shiráz, being one third of the total shares, have been purchased by the Bahá'í community and the whole property is now owned by the Faith.

The National Assembly of Persia reports that the repairs to the House of the Báb and to that of His uncle, as well as to other Holy Places in Shiráz have all been completed.

AMATU'L-BAHA RUHIYYIH KHANUM VISITS INDIA

The visit of Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum to India has been most successful. Accompanied by Mrs. Violette Nakhjaváni, she has met with thousands of believers in hundreds of localities. Travelling to the heart of the forests, crossing the mountain fortresses of Nepal and Sikkim, reaching unfrequented villages, associating with the untouchables, she has, during five months, visited on the average twenty different places a month, carrying the Faith to new virgin areas of India.

In addition to her travels Rúhiyyih Khánum consulted with the National Spiritual Assembly on a number of occasions, the National Teaching Committee, and various local Assemblies. She was a source of inspiration to the friends, the pioneers and the administrators. She raised the call of Bahá'u'lláh from coast to coast of that mighty sub-continent, and summoned the illiterate and the learned to lend their support and win unprecedented victories in the furtherance of the Nine Year Plan.

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL VISITS THE WORLD CENTRE

His Excellency, Zalman Shazar, President of Israel, accompanied by Mrs. Shazar, the Mayor of Haifa and Mrs. Khoushy and officials of the State of Israel, paid an official visit to the Bahá'í World Centre on April 7th, 1964. The President was received by the members of the Universal House of Justice and the Hands of the Cause of God resident in the Holy Land, and visited the Gardens of the Shrine of the Báb. On this occasion the President sent his greetings and best wishes to the Bahá'ís throughout the world. In memory of his visit the Universal House of Justice later presented him with a photographic album showing, among others, photographs taken on the occasion of his visit to the World Centre. The beautiful album has a lace-like

pattern on its cover with an enamelled centrepiece of Persian miniature. In a written message the President expressed his warm thanks for this gift and again sent a message of goodwill to the world Bahá'í community.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL AGAIN

At a memorial service in honour of the late Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, attended by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and members of his cabinet, by diplomats and representatives of heads of states, Bahá'í prayers were read by a member of the British Bahá'í community.

HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD TO HOLD GATHERING IN THE HOLY LAND

In London at the time of the World Congress the Hands of the Cause of God decided to hold the next meeting of the entire body of the Hands in October of this year, after the launching of the new Plan. In accordance with this decision the Hands will gather in the sacred precincts of the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in Bahjí for nine days beginning October 26, 1964.

The Universal House of Justice will take advantage of the occasion of the presence in the Holy Land of the entire company of the Hands of the Cause of God to hold joint consultations with them on matters affecting the teaching and protection of the Faith, and particularly on ways and means of achieving the glorious objectives of the Nine Year Plan.

In view of the rôle which the Hands of the Cause are called upon to fulfill as the Standard-Bearers of the Plan, their meeting this year assumes great importance and significance in the future development of the Faith. We are confident that the friends everywhere will turn their hearts to the World Centre during those days, joining the Hands of the Cause and the members of the Universal House of Justice in their supplications for divine assistance.

THE UNFOLDMENT OF GOD'S MIGHTY PLAN

There have been many inquiries concerning the reference in the Ridvân message of the Universal House of Justice to the tenth and last part of the majestic process which began six thousand years ago at the dawn of the Adamic cycle.

The ten stages in question are described by Shoghi Effendi in his historic message to the 1953 Inter-Continental Conference in Chicago, at which the Ten Year Crusade was

officially launched by him. The relevant passages are reprinted below, and the whole letter may be read in "The Bahá'í World," vol. XII, pp. 133-138.

"Then, and only then, will the vast, the majestic process, set in motion at the dawn of the Adamic cycle, attain its consummation—a process which commenced six thousand years ago, with the planting, in the soil of the Divine Will, of the Tree of Divine Revelation, and which has already passed through certain stages and must needs pass through still others ere it attains its final consummation. The first part of this process was the slow and steady growth of this Tree of Divine Revelation, successively putting forth its branches, shoots and offshoots, and revealing its leaves, buds and blossoms, as a direct consequence of the light and warmth, imparted to it by a series of progressive Dispensations associated with Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad and other Prophets, and of the vernal showers of blood shed by countless martyrs in their path. The second part of this process was the fruition of this Tree, "that belongeth neither to the East nor to the West," when the Báb appeared as the Perfect Fruit and declared His Mission in the Year Sixty in the City of Shiráz. The third part was the grinding of this sacred Seed, of infinite preciousness and potency, in the mill of adversity causing it to yield its oil six years later, in the City of Tabriz. The fourth part was the ignition of this oil by the Hand of Providence in the depths and amidst the darkness of the Siyáh-Chál of Tihrán a hundred years ago. The fifth, was the clothing of that flickering Light, which had scarcely penetrated the adjoining territory of 'Irâq, in the lamp of Revelation, after an eclipse lasting no less than ten years, in the City of Baghdád. The sixth, was the spread of the radiance of that Light, shining with added brilliancy in its crystal globe in Adrianople, and later on in the fortress-town of 'Akká, to thirteen countries in the Asiatic and African continents. The seventh was its projection, from the Most Great Prison, in the course of the Ministry of the Centre of the Covenant, across the seas and the shedding of its illumination upon twenty sovereign states and dependencies in the American, the European, and Australian continents. The eighth part of that process was the diffusion of that same Light in the course of the first, and the opening years of the second, epoch of the Formative Age of the Faith, over ninety-four sovereign states, de-

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Dedication of the Mother Temple in Europe

Two Dedication Services were held in the morning of the 4th July, 1964; one at 8-30 and another at 11 a.m., both these being for Bahá'ís only, and a third service was held in the afternoon for invited guests and the general public.

The Temple is situated about 25 kilometres out of Frankfurt, at the village of Langenhain. On the journey out to the Temple from Frankfurt the scenery becomes more beautiful as one approaches the Temple. The level of the land rises and the road passes through pine forests, which slope down to the valleys below. Whichever way one comes, the final ascent is through cornfields, rippling like a sea of gold, its waves lapping at the foot of the Temple.

From the outside the Temple seemed high and full of light and it commanded a fine view over woodlands to the distant forested slopes of the mountains. Walking up a shallow flight of steps we passed over a simple terrace bordering the glass walls and then we were in the entrance hall. This encircles the whole building.

Deep blue and mauve curtains screened the centre of the Temple, directly beneath the dome itself, and for a moment we hesitated here. We stepped inside and the whole world was filled with light; we looked up

and up, higher and higher, to the top of the dome. It was a generous building — light and space were the overwhelming impressions. The white light was soft, there was no glare as the windows were protected from it by overhanging plates outside; inside, these were lined to absorb sound. To one side of the Temple, where the speakers stood, there was a beautiful display of flowers in red, yellow and white. Hundreds of Bahá'ís, waiting for the Dedication Service to begin, filled the rest of the interior.

The Dedication Service was beautiful though simple. Passages were read or sung, in various languages, from the Old and New Testaments, the Qu'rán, the Bahá'í writings and the Bhagavadgita. The vast concourse was hushed as the "holy ecstasy of prayer filled our souls, rising above words and letters, transcending the murmur of syllables and sounds." The unaccompanied singing soared crystal-clear, pure as the light that poured in from the lofty tracery of more than five hundred windows, that rose in nineteen tiers to the lantern above, enshrining the Greatest Holy Name at the apex of the building.

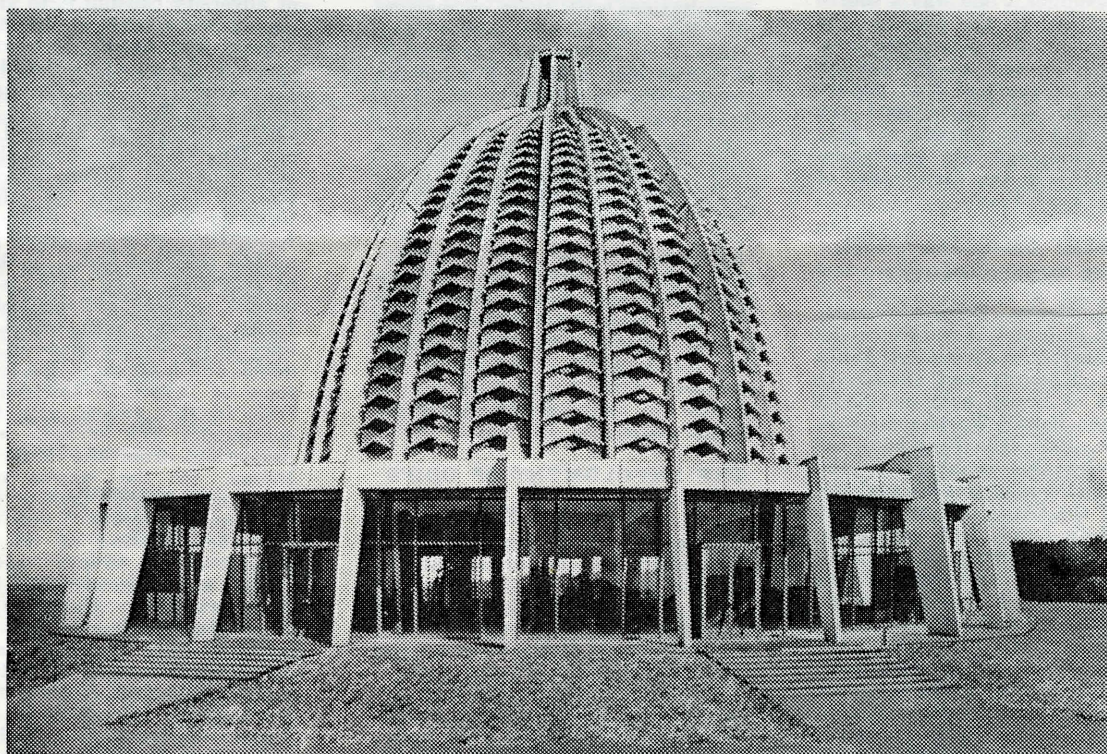
Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum then dedicated the Temple in the German language on behalf of the Universal House of Justice.

After the dedication Rúhíyyih Khánum anointed the friends with attar of roses as they waited to pass before the portraits of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. During the service these had been veiled but now every believer was privileged to gaze lovingly on the faces of the manifestations of God. With a deep sense of gratitude we stood for a moment, each soul with its own thoughts, close to God, and then with tranquil hearts moved out of the Temple into the sunshine.

Here it seemed were all the two thousand and more Bahá'ís from Europe who had come to Frankfurt for the Dedication ceremonies, and the scenes were the same as they always are when the Bahá'í family of God meets together.

Local interest in the 'Bahá'í Haus der Andacht' was wide and services in the Temple were held throughout the day for the public. They too flocked to see the Temple, and the time came when there was no room inside for the Bahá'ís, so we walked down to the nearby village.

Those who attended the Dedication must have felt how truly privileged they were to have been present at such a wonderful event.



Mother Temple of Europe.

EUROPEAN TEACHING CONFERENCE

5th and 6th July, 1964

On the first day of the conference, after the Devotional and the reading of the message from the Universal House of Justice, representatives of the European National Spiritual Assemblies gave their reports on the subject, "How to meet the requirements of the Nine Year Plan." The National Spiritual Assemblies represented were Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, British Isles, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. The representatives of the N.S.A.'s outlined the goals, both Home Front and abroad, set for them by the Nine Year Plan, and also reported on the steps taken so far to help to attain these goals. Some of the interesting points which came out of these reports are as follows.

In Sweden an important author has become a Bahá'í and has begun to write Bahá'í books.

In Denmark a Persian Bahá'í had met the Crown Princess of Denmark and talked to her about the Faith. On her request he had sent her some Bahá'í literature.

In Italy there was a chance that the Bahá'ís might be able to consult with a council which the Pope is setting up to know more about non-Christian religions.

The representative of the Portuguese N.S.A. met with much sympathy from the Bahá'ís when he described the hardships which the Portuguese Bahá'ís were undergoing. Contact between Bahá'ís is very difficult as many letters and telegrams do not arrive at their destination. Most letters going to Bahá'ís are opened by the authorities. The police have confiscated all books, pictures and documents concerning the Faith, and Bahá'ís have been warned that they will have to leave the country if they continue to hold meetings. All this happened at a time when teaching the Faith was going very well. Ninety-five per cent. of Bahá'ís in Portugal are native believers. Before the persecution began Bahá'í public meetings were being attended by as many as 60 and 70 people, and one night there were 9 declarations.

The Spanish representative told us a moving episode which took place at the time of the recent flood disaster in Spain. After the waters had subsided the Bahá'í Centre was the only building in its area left standing.

In Switzerland the Bahá'ís are concentrating on village teaching and using the simple approach. They also have no National Youth Committee, as they try to integrate the Youth with the rest of the community.

TALK BY AMATU'L-BAHA RUHIYYIH KHANUM ON 'MASS TEACHING'

Rúhiyyih Khánúm spoke of the mass conversion now taking place in India, and whether the teaching methods used there would be successful in the West. There is no doubt that the conversion of the illiterate in India is genuine. It seems as if an uncorrupted mind can react to truth instinctively as the Western mind reacts to intellectual argument and understands it. The Bahá'í Faith is the truth, a truth which is a living reality. It becomes an organic part of the person, and grows with the person.

The Hindus in India seemed more tolerant than people anywhere in the world. Krishna said, 'I will come again and again when the world is in darkness.' Also most Easterners recognise that religion is the strongest force in the world and therefore to get world peace the world religions must be united. In India teaching in symbolic form is very successful. Rúhiyyih Khánúm used the symbol of the wheel. The rim of the wheel was humanity, the spokes the different races and religions, and the hub of the wheel was the Bahá'í Faith. The Guardian said teach as the Master taught and He taught with symbols, but we do not do this enough in the West. We must try to teach the young delinquents. We must offer them something greater than space travel, something with world dimensions. We must always show the vastness of the Faith.

Rúhiyyih Khánúm warned us against adding customs to the Faith which are nowhere laid down in the Writings. A Bahá'í is not obliged to greet other Bahá'ís by saying Alláh'u'Abhá. Also it is nowhere in the Administration that you cannot be a Bahá'í until you are 15., nor that you must be registered at this age. Bahá'í parents must follow the commands of Bahá'u'lláh and instruct their children in the Faith of God, which is the Bahá'í Faith. The child of Bahá'í parents is a Bahá'í in the mother's womb, and Bahá'u'lláh revealed prayers to be said by a pregnant woman for her unborn child.

Rúhiyyih Khánúm ended by saying that we in the West do not use enough prayer.

MONDAY 6th JULY

We heard reports from 6 committees which had met earlier that morning. Points of interest are listed below.

We must put over to new believers the great bounty which contributing to the fund will bring. We must all deepen ourselves in the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation. A new believer must recognise the great station of Bahá'u'lláh, this will unlock the key to further understanding. The importance was stressed of the bounties gained from Bahá'ís meeting together.

Europe must now realise that it has entered on a completely new era. More sacrifices will now be needed both in pioneers and money. We must all be inspired with the confidence of the power of Bahá'u'lláh. Various goals mentioned in the Nine Year Plan will require European co-operation. Travelling teachers will be needed for the whole of Europe. N.S.A.'s are asked to ask friends who are travelling in Europe to help the Bahá'ís wherever they go.

A great deal of our teaching work depends on the spread of good literature. Now there are to be four trusts in Europe, in England, Germany, Belgium and Italy. Each trust will depend upon the support of its own people and they must be encouraged to buy more books, as the sooner books are sold, the sooner will new ones be available.

It was considered important for the N.S.A.'s and L.S.A.'s to make the press agent their friend. In some countries declarations had resulted from publicity.

Bahá'ís must remember that the Bahá'í News is for Bahá'ís only. Two countries publish news for contacts, Switzerland, La Pensee Bahá'í, and Germany, Der Bahá'í Briefe. The possibility was suggested of having a European news letter.

The last subject to be dealt with was finance. To complete everything the Frankfurt Temple still needs £50,000, and maintenance expenses on completion will amount to 2 to 3,000 D.M's. per month. All European N.S.A.'s must help to keep the mother Temple of Europe. The Temple cannot be opened for public services until it is finished and passed by the government. Generally it was thought that a new approach was needed in the West in connection with finance. People must realise the great spiritual bounty which will come from giving to the Fund. The desire must be developed of spending on God's work instead of private luxuries.

At the conclusion of the Conference it was stated that articles about the Temple had appeared in 5 Frankfurt newspapers, and there had been programmes on the radio and TV.

Hand of the Cause of God, John Ferraby, now spoke. He said that the dedication of the Temple was a great thing for all people and not

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SCOTTISH TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT**'O CREATOR, WE ARE POOR'**

The resources of a scattered community of about 60 Bahá'ís, with over 1,000 square miles to each one and hundreds of miles of water separating them in places, will be fully stretched by the goals of the Nine Year Plan for Scotland and the islands.

The immediate goals for this first year of the Plan are:—

1. To re-establish Aberdeen Assembly.
2. Maintain the weak Assemblies of Glasgow and Inverness.
3. To start teaching in the goal towns of Hamilton and North Berwick.
4. To open the Inner Hebrides, (Skye).
5. To send another pioneer to Lewis as a first step towards the building of an Assembly there.
6. To increase teaching in Orkney and Shetland so that the Assembly in Shetland can be built as soon as possible and produce the rewards promised us by the Guardian.

It is sad that we start with one Assembly lost and two others very weak, for this saps our energies for the new work and we want to remove this bad start as soon as possible. After Aberdeen was reduced to three members, the work of rebuilding has proceeded well. Two youth are moving there to study and two others are trying to find housing there and regular meetings are planned.

We already have Bahá'ís in the two goal towns of Hamilton and North Berwick, and the communities of Motherwell and Edinburgh will be supplying teachers for these towns. Hamilton is being developed as a new centre for council services and industry while North Berwick is a small seaside resort. Perth and Dundee have been chosen as goal towns in which work will begin later on.

The one arena where there has been great activity is the islands of Skye, Lewis, Harris, Orkney and Shetland. Sixteen people in all have made tours in these islands and our warm thanks for this immediate response to the appeal for work to be started here. The problems in some of these islands are more challenging than in any other part of the British Isles, but we are confident that effort here will be richly repaid. All 19 inhabited islands of the Orkneys have now been visited and friends made there. A week-end school in Shetland or Orkney is being planned for Easter to consolidate this work and inspire more. We want to open Skye this

year, if it is at all possible.

One declaration in the Orkneys has been a great spur, and there has been one more in Edinburgh and one youth in Inverness. However, four Bahá'ís have found it necessary to accompany the drift of population to the South.

In face of these great tasks the Scottish Teaching Committee are asking the community to concentrate on personal teaching, to take the fullest opportunity of week-end schools to deepen our faith and to help one another, and to make much greater use of prayer. Too great a reliance on pioneers, who have not been able to stay for long in places where employment and housing are not easy to find, has taken its toll, and the need is now for greater teaching to bring those Scots who are seeking to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and for pioneers who can remain until the Assembly they help build will not be depleted by their going.

We are at the beginning of the Nine Year Plan and this is a time to honestly look at ourselves and take stock of what we have. In Scotland we have a lot of weaknesses left over from the Ten Year Crusade, we have a small number of believers. Before us we have a great task that will require a greater depth in personal faith in every believer. We also now know that the Church is more likely to rise in direct opposition in many places here (there has been one more sermon against the Faith recently) than in other areas. We also have the promise of the great rewards that teaching in the islands will bring. And we have the unstoppable power of Bahá'u'lláh whenever we open ourselves to its influence.

Meditation

I beg of Thee, O my God, by Thy most exalted Word which Thou hast ordained as the Divine Elixir unto all who are in Thy realm, the Elixir through whose potency the crude metal of human life hath been transmuted into purest gold, O Thou in Whose hands are both the visible and invisible kingdoms, to ordain that my choice be conformed to Thy choice and my wish to Thy wish, that I may be entirely content with that which Thou didst desire, and be wholly satisfied with what Thou didst destine for me by Thy bounteousness and favour. Potent art Thou to do as Thou wilt. Thou, in very truth, art the All-Glorious, the All-Wise.

IRISH CONFERENCE

The Irish Teaching Committee was overjoyed to find, on reading the latest memorable message from the Universal House of Justice, that they had arranged an Area Consultative Meeting for the whole of Ireland the very next day in the Belfast Bahá'í Centre, on September 13th.

The consultation was based on the Nine Year Plan — how to open new areas and where, and how to develop and support the already opened ones — a new declaration Jean Ham having created a group in the Larne Area and another, Alex. Shields, a group in the Castlereagh Area. Stress was laid throughout the consultation on the vital need for both prayers and pioneers for the Republic of Ireland.

One of the goals, obtaining a Haziratu'l-Quds in Dublin, is already accomplished.

Ways and means of supporting our new pioneer Ethel De Coster in her lonely post in Londonderry were discussed, and also of helping our pioneer, Olive Sutton, in Sligo.

The meeting ended with a devotional and we came away full of enthusiasm to face, with dedicated hearts and minds, the very great task before us.

A week-end school in the Belfast Castle followed soon after, on 10th and 11th October, before which a Public Meeting was held in the Kensington Hotel, attended by many Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís, numbering about sixty.

Irish Teaching Committee

CHESHIRE SHOW

The Cheshire County Show at Hooton Park, Nr. Chester, has been held for 126 years, for it was founded in 1838. This year it had a difference, for as well as the usual trade and agricultural stands there was a Bahá'í Rest Corner. A site hired by the Chester Local Spiritual Assembly and furnished as a retreat where visitors to the show could sit and rest. The Chester friends arranged a display of Bahá'í books and photographs and a large number of people stopped and talked about the Faith to the Bahá'ís who manned the Show continually throughout the two days, and took away pamphlets.

Congratulations to the Chester Assembly for a really original way of teaching the Faith, and warm thanks to the friends from surrounding communities who helped the Chester L.S.A. with this project.

PIONEERING WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Last year, some of the Welsh Bahá'ís arranged a summer picnic and coach trip, and enjoyed a day together in Gloucestershire and the Wye Valley. Although numbers were small on that occasion, the idea was popular and this summer's event was well supported, with twice as many people turning-up, from Bahá'í communities in Caerphilly, Cardiff, Pontypridd and Swansea. This year's outing, however, was much more important. It was more than a coach trip, more than a picnic, for the day closed with a meeting in Brecon, one of the towns to be opened to the Faith in the Nine Year Plan.

About forty Bahá'ís and friends gathered together in the city, and in a hotel room they held a short service of prayer and readings from the Bahá'í Scriptures.

For a couple of weeks before this event, quotations from Bahá'í writings had been sent to the local paper. In the week following, a report of the meeting with a short account of the Faith, was printed in the Brecon and Radnor Express, and we have it on good authority that people are discussing it in Brecon.

It may not yet be time for mass conversion, but the Bahá'ís of Wales see nothing wrong with mass pioneering!

Cardiff L.S.A.

BRITISH GUIANA

There are 35 Bahá'ís in 20 localities outside the capital, Georgetown, where there is an incorporated Assembly. They have 3 more Assemblies and 15 more localities to secure in the Nine Year Plan in addition to the acquisition of a Temple site, a Haziratu'l-Quds, a National Endowment and, in conjunction with Surinam where there are but four believers and French Guiana where there is none, the formation of a National Spiritual Assembly. They are also charged with obtaining official recognition of Bahá'í marriage certificates and Bahá'í Holy Days.

At present, the country is a battlefield, where racial and political differences have wrought havoc and a state of emergency has been declared.

In spite of this, two recent teaching trips have taken place. Valerie Griffith travelled to Mackenzie—the bauxite town—where a fireside was held, and Eileen Hill and Sheila Dolphin to Bartica in Essequibo, where house to house visits led to the playing of a William Sears Ridvan message on a tape machine in several cases, with further interest expressed.

Central and South American Committee

News from the World Centre

(Continued from Page 3)

pendencies and islands of the planet, as a result of the prosecution of a series of national Plans, initiated by eleven National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the Bahá'í world, utilizing the agencies of a newly emerged, divinely appointed Administrative Order, and which has now culminated in the One Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Mission. The ninth part of this process — the stage we are now entering — is the further diffusion of that same Light over one hundred and thirty-one additional territories and islands in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, through the operation of a decade-long world spiritual crusade whose termination will, God willing, coincide with the Most Great Jubilee commemorating the centenary of the Declaration of Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdad. And finally the tenth part of this mighty process must be the penetration of that Light, in the course of numerous Crusades and of successive epochs of both the Formative and Golden Ages of the Faith, into all the remaining territories of the globe through the erection of the entire machine of Bahá'u'lláh's Administrative Order in all territories, both East and West, the stage at which the Light of God's triumphant Faith shining in all its power and glory will have suffused and enveloped the entire planet.

"This present Crusade, on the threshold of which we now stand, will, moreover, by virtue of the dynamic forces it will release and its wide repercussions over the entire surface of the globe, contribute effectually to the acceleration of yet another process of tremendous significance which will carry the steadily evolving Faith of Bahá'u'lláh through its present stages of obscurity, of repression, of emancipation and of recognition — stages one or another of which Bahá'í national communities in various parts of the world now find themselves in, to the stage of establishment, the stage at which the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh will be recognised by the civil authorities as the State Religion, similar to that which Christianity entered in the years following the death of the Emperor Constantine, a stage which must later be followed by the emergence of the Bahá'í state itself, functioning, in all religious and civil matters, in strict accordance with the Laws and Ordinances of the Kitáb i'Aqdas, the Most Holy, the Mother-Book of the Bahá'í Revelation, a stage which,

European Teaching

(Continued from Page 5)

just Bahá'ís It is a symbol of the unity of Europe and mankind. In the Temple one is in the presence of Bahá'u'lláh and it is the nearest one will get to Him except in the Shrines. The Guardian spoke of the Temple as The Silent Teacher, and from it the spirit of the Faith will radiate in every direction.

In working for the Nine Year Plan if one acts in accordance with the Administration one will be guided by 'Abdu'l Bahá and the power of the Covenant will flow through the believers. A Bahá'í must be in tune with the forces of truth, and he must be so united with the spirit of Bahá'u'lláh that Bahá'u'lláh acts through him. We must realise that the outward achievement of goals in the Nine Year Plan is only the outer sign of our inner spiritual state. Our success in the Plan will cause more people to act in accordance with the will of Bahá'u'lláh and promote peace.

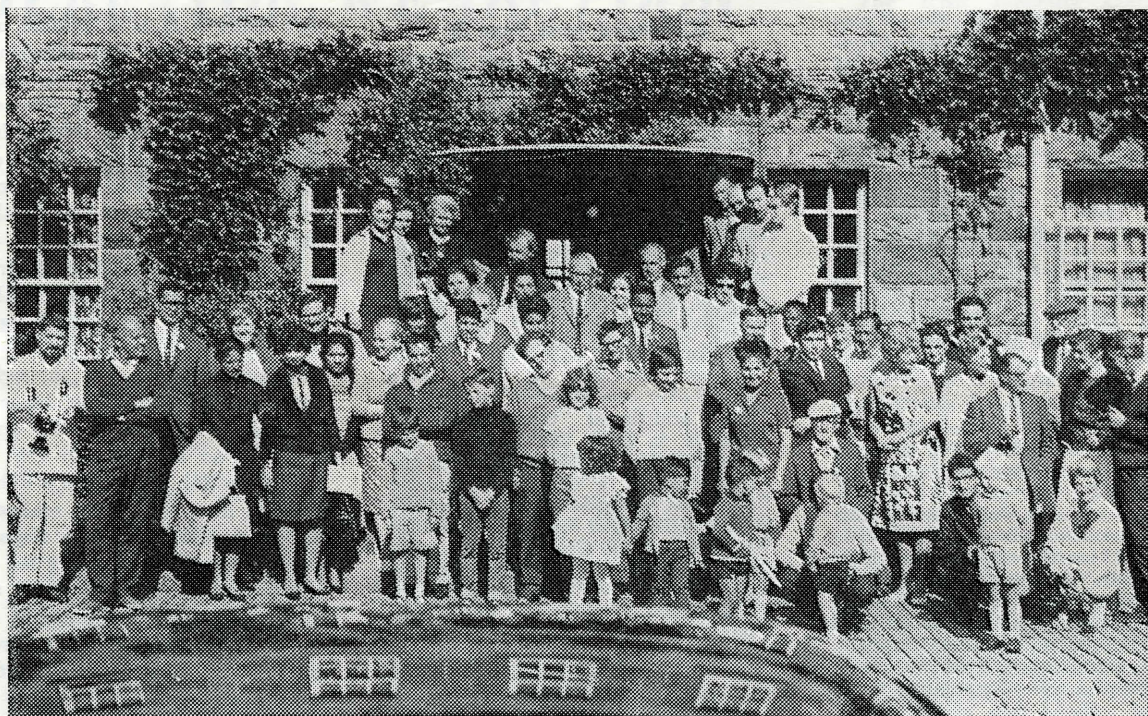
To close the Conference, Rúhiyyih Khánúm stressed the obligation which went with the privilege of having the Temple, in Frankfurt. The Bahá'ís must make sure that all services in the Temple are well attended as from now on they will be watched intently by all manner of people.

Christine Beer.

in the fullness of time, will culminate in the establishment of the World Bahá'í Commonwealth, functioning in the plenitude of its powers, and which will signalize the long-awaited advent of the Christ-promised Kingdom of God on earth — the Kingdom of Bahá'u'lláh — mirroring however faintly upon this humble handful of dust the glories of the Abhá Kingdom.

"This final and crowning stage in the evolution of the Plan wrought by God Himself for humanity will, in turn, prove to be the signal for the birth of a world civilization, incomparable in its range, its character and potency, in the history of mankind, — a civilization which posterity will, with one voice, acclaim as the fairest fruit of the Golden Age of the Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh, and whose rich harvest will be garnered during future Dispensations destined to succeed one another in the course of the five thousand century Bahá'í Cycle."

HARLECH SUMMER SCHOOL, 1964



Bahá'í Summer School in Harlech, 1964.

Because of the large number of major Bahá'í events this summer, the dedication of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkar at Frankfurt in particular, this year's Summer School at Harlech was smaller than in 1963.

The average attendance was between sixty and seventy over the whole of the two weeks with the usual peak at the middle week-end of over 100. A good sized youth contingent, about 30 in fact, helped to ensure the balance of the generations. The relative smallness and extremely good weather combined, however, to make it a very intimate and integrated school, a family spirit pervading.

'The thing that impressed me most was the unselfconscious expression of friendship and love Bahá'ís showed towards one another and even more towards a new Bahá'í like myself.' This remark from someone who attended the school perhaps best sums up the whole atmosphere of a summer school from beginning to end and none more than Harlech 1964. The Unity Feast on the first night brought together the 45 Bahá'ís present and after the opening devotional the theme of the school, "For the faith of no man can be conditioned by anyone except himself" was discussed and it was also agreed to put on "The Eternal Springtime," a play written

by John and Valerie Morley on the theme of progressive revelation, at the public meeting on the Wednesday of the first week. A youth committee, suggested from last year's school, was appointed.

Lectures, followed by study discussion, filled our mornings and were attended by an average of about 30 in the first week and 55 in the second, quite good when one considers the inevitable pull of the sunshine outside and the nearby beach not forgetting the need to sleep off the previous night's activities, especially among the youth. The splitting up of the audience into groups to discuss points arising from each lecture, was particularly beneficial, especially for those younger in the Faith, as it encouraged them to speak their mind while providing an invaluable source of guidance and instruction. These morning sessions represented the sum total of formal study, a fact welcomed by some and deplored by others.

It was recognised by the Summer School Committee as a thorny problem. It is of interest here to note that a resolution was agreed upon at the last session of the school, in which both committee and participants dissected the fortnight's activities, that more formal study of the Faith should be provided in the late afternoon

or evening. Even if no-one came, or only a handful, at least the opportunity would be there for such study.

The afternoons were, as usual, free; the beach and the village proving the most popular locations, though the monotony of this routine was offset in both weeks for a number of us by having to rehearse, in the first week for "The Eternal Springtime," and in the second, for Rúhíyyih Khánum's play, "A Spiritual Assembly's Growing Pains," both under the expert direction and unflagging patience of John Morley, the summer school chairman.

The two public meetings, on the Wednesday of each week, were much better attended than in previous years, attracting as they did 18 and 15 non-Bahá'ís respectively. This may have been because they were more widely publicised, though most of the enquirers seemed to be personal contacts. The performance of "The Eternal Springtime" proved most effective and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, almost as much as the players themselves. The following week slides of the Holy Land, accompanied by readings, introduced the theme of "The Unity of Mankind." This was followed immediately by a panel who answered questions on

the Faith, put to them by the public.

Other evening meetings ranged from the almost formal to the almost ridiculous: "Words and Music," "Speaking," "Reading," Rúhiyyih Khánúm's play, an international evening which produced much of interest and variety from the 15 nationalities represented at the school, unusual slides of the Holy Land, a short Irish Play, a hurriedly organised youth evening with a hilarious panel game, a barbecue among the sand-dunes and two 'American' auctions which yielded over £36 for the funds. Worthy of note also was the childrens' 'Peep-show,' the product of many hours of hard work during the excellently run children's classes. It also produced a sizable contribution to the National Fund.

We were privileged to have amongst us Hand of the Cause John Ferraby, who arrived on the first Thursday to stay for a week. Mr. Ferraby delivered two inspiring and wonderfully illuminating talks, one on "The Spiritual Aspects of Bahá'í Administration" and the other on "The Attributes of God." He also conducted sessions late at night on the general theme, "Science and Religion," these being more on the lines of a discussion. Adib Taberzadeh also conducted a few late night sessions on the Tablet of the Holy Mariner.

Mr. Ferraby was always available to discuss with individuals any point or problem about which they wanted clarification or guidance.

This constant availability of spiritual advice and practical guidance, through the Hands of the Cause themselves and their Auxiliary Board members, is a great gift and bounty to the individual believer and a privilege we perhaps do not as yet fully appreciate.

N.S.A. sessions on the Nine Year Plan, both for the world as a whole and specifically for the British Community, were of the greatest value in enabling the N.S.A., through its representatives each week, to acquaint a good cross-section of the national community with their plans, wishes and ideas. The enormous increase needed in our financial resources in order to achieve our goals at home and overseas meant that there was great emphasis on contributions to the National Fund from each and every one of the believers and each and every one of the spiritual assemblies. Most exciting was the holding of a N.S.A. monthly meeting on the premises during the middle week-end. The school, already raised to a more mature level by the arrival of Hand of the Cause John Ferraby, was assured of an even more

responsible attitude towards its affairs by the presence of our elected national representatives meeting and discussing the business of the community in the same building as ourselves. It is of interest that this was the first time that the N.S.A. had held a meeting outside England.

The final Friday session was, as

usual, a sad one, though it was some consolation to learn that there had been a local declaration at the school. The analogy of parting from one's own family illustrates exactly what one feels at the end of a summer school when saying good-bye to all those with whom one has been as 'one soul in one body.'

THE ENGLISH TEACHING COMMITTEE REPORT

Now is the Golden Opportunity

There is evidence of a dedicated response, by individuals and communities to the exciting, action-quickening letter of July, 1964, from the Universal House of Justice. Effort already shows result. The goal towns of Bath, Ipswich, Stafford and Poole are opened and the youthful and enthusiastic Group in Carlisle have the fruits of further declarations. Assemblies called upon by the N.S.A. to assist Goal Towns have responded by offering practical help such as providing books for the local library, providing speakers, helping with press advertisements and organising a Unity Feast in the Goal Town.

Exciting as the present picture is, it is not complete. At the time of writing, the plans of all the Assemblies called upon to assist Goal Towns are not known and only fragmentary reports of Group activities and individual teaching work have been received. We still eagerly await the results of all Assembly consultations requested by the N.S.A. and news of group participation and individual contribution, so that we may share with you all, the total picture of progress.

Everyone—every single one—can share in the building up of the new Assemblies. By prayer for the success of the work now being undertaken in the goal towns opened; by making mention of the Faith to friends, relatives and acquaintances who live in these places. For as we speak of the Faith and bend our energies to serve in the prosecution of the goals of our immediate locality, in mysterious and wonderful ways, confirmation and bounties descend. Mention of His Name in the Islands could have confirmation in the quickened awareness of a next door neighbour, in the person met in the railway station, in the street, in the school, hospital, restaurant, the place of work. An anniversary, a birthday remembered, a sharing of

news, a gift of an appropriate book, there are so many ways in which we each personally can build up good will for the Faith, and interest in it, as we proceed with purity of motive, with love and understanding.

Week-end Schools have an exciting "new look," and there are many planned already:—

Nottingham	27th Sept.
Canterbury	11th Oct.
Torbay	10/11th Oct.
York	17/18th Oct.
Bristol	25th Oct.
Winchester	1st Nov.
Leicester	21/22nd Nov.
Dalston Hall	27/28th Feb.

Week-end and One Day Schools afford opportunity for the coming together of the friends to refresh and reinvigorate themselves spiritually in loving Bahá'í fellowship, and in their study to deepen their knowledge of the many aspects of the Faith. There is also opportunity for contacts to gain a wider knowledge of the Faith by meeting Bahá'ís from other communities. And now a third and vitally important aspect of Week-end and One Day Schools, following N.S.A. consultation on the letter from the Universal House of Justice, is the setting aside of a special session for Bahá'ís only. This session will give the opportunity for Bahá'ís to study together a variety of topics suggested from time to time by the Universal House of Justice, the National Assembly or the Teaching Committee.

This session will help and encourage each and everyone towards a personal identification with the goals of the Nine Year Plan and enthusiasm for the work of achieving them; and a strengthening of the links which bind us to the World Centre of our Cause.

There is evidence already of a growing awareness of the urgency of responding, at once, to the needs of the present hour. And there is something for everyone to do.

Dalston Hall Summer School, 1964



Dalston Hall Summer School, 1964.

Once again, Dalston Hall and environs over-spilled happiness, love and laughter. Two weeks evinced a timelessness as the friends assembled, and in prayer, meditation and activity "welded themselves into one heart." It could be truly said we were in the place, 'Therein no toil shall reach us, and therein no weariness shall touch us;' 'no vain discourse shall they hear therein, nor any falsehood, but only the cry, "Peace! Peace!"'

The theme of the School was, "The Day that shall not be followed by Night," and lectures, seminars and discussion groups afforded opportunity for all "to obtain a more adequate understanding of the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's stupendous Revelation."

So tremendous was the fellowship and love that prevailed that all were deeply refreshed as attention was directed to the needs of the Nine Year Plan. Mention cannot be made of all, nor is there space to detail, the many highlights of what was a predominantly youthful gathering—such as the joy and happiness of the planned and spontaneous social evenings, the informal get-togethers, indoors and outdoors. Indoors, when Adib Taherzadeh or Marion Hofman sat at our feet and gave us memorable fragments of history and experience in the Cause. Out-doors were the barbecues under starlight, with campfire jollification and consultation! The unforgettable preview of the World Congress slides and sound track which evoked heart-felt memories for us all. "Lights out" was always made with reluctance!

The following message was sent

by the friends to the Universal House of Justice.

"Friends Dalston Summer School send devoted loving greetings to Universal House Justice. Predominantly youthful gathering. Gaining deeper understanding, spiritual, administrative verities. Heartfelt awareness, quickened consciousness your guidance prosecution Nine Year Plan. Four declarations young persons."

The Universal House of Justice cabled a reply.

"Convey friends Dalston School

loving appreciation message. Delight growing interest activity youth.

Universal House Justice.

At the close of the School the number of declarations had risen to seven and the joy and happiness which ensued can well be imagined.

One final comment—Carlisle is a jewel of the North, and during the two weeks the sun shone brightly, making pleasurable the excursions to lakeland and fell!

Summer School Committee.

Funeral of George Bowers (Sen.)

On a beautiful sunny day, Friday July 3rd 1964, our dear Bahá'í brother, George Bowers, was laid to rest in the Waventree Cemetery, Liverpool.

It was a unique, probably historic, occasion, for George was one of a large Catholic Family and his death had been the occasion of considerable, marked opposition to the Bahá'í faith.

Priests and family had brought pressure to bear on his wife that he should die a Catholic.

But May, his wife, and George, his son, were adamant and the Bahá'í funeral, attended by Bahá'ís from Barrow-on-Furness, Chester, Elles-

mere, Pontefract, Manchester, Southport, etc., was a dignified and impressive occasion.

The first prayers were partially drowned by the sobs and faint protests of the Catholic relatives, but at the first line of "From the sweet scented streams" first one protesting voice then all were silenced and the beautiful prayer spread its peace over the whole assembly.

We were all so proud of May who moved with great dignity among the large assembly which tended to separate into two groups, Bahá'í and Catholic. As we took our leave we felt a sense of unity had been attained.

Terry Dunne.

NATIONAL FUND STATEMENT

So far this year income has been running well behind expenditure and some of the friends have thought that the gap represents overdraft at the Bank. This is not so as we started the year with a large credit balance which the National Spiritual Assembly has budgetted to spend along with income this year. But what is important is that income from donations is much less than the budgetted figure and unless we do better we shall be in the "red" before the end of the year. So from now on the monthly account will compare the budgetted income from donations with the amount actually received so that we can all see the gap (see page 12) which must be closed if we are to carry out the tasks entrusted to us by the Universal House of Justice. Full details of income from all other sources as well as expenditure will be shown as before. Here are the figures for the period 16 August—19 September:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 A/C. 16.8.64—19.9.64 (incl.)

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
Donations:—				N.S.A.			
L.S.A.'s & Groups	...	...	£207 13 8 (39)*	Travel	...	...	£54 8 0
Individuals	...	...	384 16 2 (80)*	Office	...	...	62 3 6
			£592 9 10	Tel. & Cables	...	...	5 0 0
				Post & Stat.	...	...	7 19 2
Less: Payments against				Convention			
Covenants	...	...	44 3 3	E.T.C.	...	...	78 11 8
			£548 6 7	Other Home Committees	...	...	10 11 0
Interest and Dividends	...	...	74 5 5	Overseas Committees	...	...	7 9 6
Refunds to us:—				Youth Committees	...	...	12 10 0
Loans	...	...	16 6 6	Pioneer Committee	...	...	113 9 6
Incorporation Exps.	...	...	30 5 6				
Sundry	...	...	30 13 2	Monthly transfers:—			
Bahá'í News account	...	...	21 2 6	H.Q.—Rprs. & Dec.	...	...	35 0 0
Sale of gift items	...	...		H.Q.—Running	...	...	120 0 0
				Donations	...	...	48 0 0

*Communities contributing—Bangor, Belfast, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Barrow Children, Brighton, Brighton Children, Brize Norton, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Carlisle, Channel Isles, Chester, Cheadle & Gatley, Eccles, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Inverness, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Motherwell & Bellshill, Nelson, Newcastle, N. Berwick, Norwich, Oxford, Oxford Youth, Peterboro, Reading, Romford, Salisbury, Southport, Sutton Coldfield, Swansea, Winchester.

REPORT OF OXFORD YOUTH SCHOOL

25th/26th July

The Oxford Bahá'í Youth School, which was considered by all those attending most successful, was the second in a series which was initiated by the S.Y.C. to strengthen the bonds and unite the Youth of the various communities in the South of England.

Could it be that the rays of the Nine Year Plan were shining on us and giving the whole atmosphere of the school such a spiritual warmth or could it be that we were standing under the shadow of the newly dedicated Mother Temple of Europe? Whatever it was it was strongly felt throughout the weekend, guiding the Friends. The proceedings were further enhanced by the most perfect weather, which allowed us to hold the sessions outdoors in beautiful surroundings of the home of Mr. and Mrs. McCallum.

The school was opened at 2 p.m. on Saturday with its theme—"The Practical Application of the Spiritual Life." Saturday's two

speakers, Jyoti Munsiff and May Hoffman, spoke on this subject with a beautiful sincerity and a maturity which showed a wide and deep knowledge of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

On Sunday morning Roger Prentice delivered a most comprehensive and refreshing talk which included a number of quotations from a variety of books.

During the second part of Sunday morning a narrative of the Bab's martyrdom was performed by three of the Oxford youth. It was a most moving experience for all, and it left its mark deeply on all Bahá'ís and enquirers present.

The afternoon was passed with intensive discussion on the general theme of the School.

Summing up, the Oxford Community are to be congratulated on organising the event most effectively. One might look at the School as a sort of pace-setter for future Youth Schools. There were many countries represented making it truly a world gathering.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuela

The N.S.A. of Venezuela has translated certain books and pamphlets into the language of some Indian peoples in the area who are receptive to the Faith. During the months of December 1963 and January 1964, 351 new declarations were received from the villages of Guajiro, Carmera and Punta Vovito.

Mexico

In November 1963, three pioneers went to Merida the capital of the Yucatan Peninsula. After a short time six Maya Indians declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh. Now there are 18 groups, several L.S.A.s and more than 300 Bahá'ís in that region.

Uganda

The Convention held in Kampala adopted goals for 1964 of increasing the number of Bahá'ís in the region from 70,000 to 100,000 and to have 1,300 L.S.A.s. The N.S.A. of Uganda however has asked the Friends to intensify their efforts and surpass these figures.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

Hands Of The Cause Of God

In a letter dated August 11th 1964, the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land wrote, "We continue to be greatly encouraged by the reports received regarding the progress of the Faith in the British Isles, and we assure you and the members of your Assembly of our prayers for the expansion and consolidation of the Faith throughout the British Isles."

All the Hands of the Cause of God will shortly be meeting at the World Centre, and as we write this some of them are already travelling across the world on their way to Haifa. Those who can do so come through London to visit the grave of the Beloved Guardian, and we then have the privilege of welcoming them at the Haziratu'l-Quds. During Mr. William Sears' flying visit on the week-end of October 3rd/4th, he was able to address Friends from the London area at a hastily called meeting at the London Centre, and everyone joyously welcomed him. We are looking forward to seeing Mr. Collis Featherstone, who is travelling from Australia via Fiji (South Pacific), Wilmette (U.S.A.) and Toronto (Canada), and will touch down to see the Friends in Glasgow and Edinburgh before coming on to London for one night, Saturday, October 17. Mr. Featherstone attended the Convention last Ridván in Fiji at which the N.S.A. of the South Pacific was elected, and he is closely associated with the work in that area, so our Pacific Committee is looking forward to meeting him in London and to receive his counsel and guidance in connection with our goals in that area and the development of the work out there. We also hope that the Bahá'í Youth will be able to meet Mr. Featherstone on the Saturday evening.

Declarations

We are very happy to welcome to the Faith Mr. Calum M. Grant of Edinburgh; Ann Shepherd (Youth) of Inverness; Mark Trewartha (Youth) of St. Agnes, Cornwall; Mrs. Margaret Dougan of Dunmurry and Mr. Alexander Shields of Gilnahirk (both near Belfast); Miss Beryl E. Fretwell of Folkestone; Jill Brereton (Youth) of Hull; Joyce Longrigg (Youth) and Miss Maureen Brown, both of Carlisle; Charlton Errington-Dodds (Youth) of Wetheral, Nr. Carlisle; and Miss Patricia B. Curry of Grange Place, Devon, as well as Mr. Keith Munro of Belfast and Miss Elizabeth Morley from Reading, both Bahá'í Youth claiming voting rights.

Slides, Tapes and L.P. Records of the Haifa Convention and the World Congress, Ridván, 1963

The Prince family of Leicester — Miss Mary Prince, Miss Gwen Prince and Mr. Bill Prince — have been appointed as the Committee for the distribution of these slides, tapes and records. All orders should be sent to Miss Mary Prince, 12 Elms Road, Leicester. Please let Mary know exactly what you want and send the correct money with your order; cheques and postal orders should be made payable to "N.S.A. of the Bahá'ís." The cost is as follows:—

1. Set of 82 Coloured Slides, with Narration Booklet, £2 15s 0d.
2. Set of 82 Coloured Slides, with Narration Booklet and 12" L.P. Record, £4 10s 0d.
3. Set of 82 Coloured Slides, with Narration Booklet and Magnetic Tape, £4 10s 0d.

This material is specially packed and slides cannot be supplied without the Narration Booklet. When you write to Mary Prince to place your order, please be sure to put in BLOCK LETTERS your name and the exact address to which you want the material sent.

Local Assemblies, as well as individuals, will find these sets not only a worthy record of the Most Great Jubilee, but also excellent teaching material for Bahá'ís.

National Calendar

The National Assembly will meet on November 6th/8th, Dec. 4th/6th, Jan. 8th/10th, Feb. 12th/14th, March 26th/28th, April 17th/18th (to be confirmed later). Teaching Conference will be held on the week-end Jan. 2nd/3rd, and Convention May 1st/2nd. World Religion Day is Sunday, January 7th.

"Bahá'í News" Subscription

Orders for Bahá'í News are taken twice a year, and now is the time to place your order with Mrs. Jean Pitcher, Ger-y-Nant, Talybont, Merioneth, Wales, if you are not already a subscriber. The cost is 12/6d a year, for twelve issues, post free.

Strengthening of Overseas Link

The Nine Year Plan called for close association and co-operation between National Assemblies, and we are happy to report that old links with our sister N.S.A.'s are being strengthened and new ones forged with the National Assemblies established last Ridván. In two of our own overseas goal territories, our Bahá'í brothers and sisters are living under very difficult conditions, they are the Bahá'ís in British Guiana and in Cyprus, and the National Assembly asks everyone please to remember these members of the Bahá'í Family continually in your prayers.

Among recent visitors to the British Isles have been Mr. & Mrs. Ian Semple and baby Michael, from Haifa; Miss Irene Bennett, who has left Switzerland to pioneer again in Africa; Dr. John Fozdar of the N.S.A. of Malaysia; and Mr. Keith de Folo of the N.S.A. of Ceylon. Greetings have been received from the N.S.A.'s of the Philippines; the Indian Ocean; Central and East Africa; West Central Africa; Costa Rica; Guatemala; Denmark; Spain and Iran, as well as from Dr. Mehdi and Mrs. Ursula Samandari in Mogadiscio, Mrs. Jan Mughrabi (née Coppen) her husband and new baby daughter in Cameroon, and Tom and Feri McArthur now settled in Panchgani, India.

Bahá'í Marriage

If you are going to be married, please consult your local assembly well in advance about the requirements of Bahá'í marriage, or if you are an isolated believer, please contact the National Assembly, as failure to keep Bahá'u'lláh's Laws concerning marriage is a very serious thing and could lead to loss of voting rights.

Loss of Voting Rights

The National Assembly announces with regret the withdrawal of the voting rights of Mrs. Marjorie Naylor of Bradford and Mr. Tom Wilkinson of Bradford.

Income from Donations

Budget		Actual To Date
£7,000		£7,000
£6,000		£6,000
£5,000		£5,000
£4,000		£4,000
£3,500		£3,000
£3,000		£2,786
£2,000		£2,000
£1,000		£1,000
Gap £714		

Frankfurt Temple Fund

Contributions sent to the German NSA this year:—

from British NSA—	
National Fund ...	£500
from British Assemblies and Individuals ...	250
	£750

These totals for the first six months of the year compare with the budgetted donations for the whole year of:—

from British NSA	£500
from Assemblies, etc.	1000

£1500