

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

For circulation among Bahá'ís only

27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7

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

No. 169

July, 1965

THE UNERRING GUIDANCE OF THE ONE TRUE LORD

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Bahá'í World Centre
Haifa, Israel

The National Spiritual Assembly of
the Bahá'ís of the Netherlands
Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We are glad that you have brought to our attention the questions perplexing some of the believers. It is much better for these questions to be put freely and openly than to have them, unexpressed, burdening the hearts of devoted believers. Once one grasps certain basic principles of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh such uncertainties are easily dispelled. This is not to say that the Cause of God contains no mysteries. Mysteries there are indeed, but they are not of a kind to shake one's faith once the essential tenets of the Cause and the indisputable facts of any situation are clearly understood.

The questions put by the various believers fall into three groups. The first group centres upon the following queries: Why were steps taken to elect a Universal House of Justice with the foreknowledge that there would be no Guardian? Was the time ripe for such an action? Could not the International Bahá'í Council have carried on the work?

RIGHTNESS OF TIME FOR ELECTION

At the time of our beloved Shoghi Effendi's death it was evident, from the circumstances and from the explicit requirements of the Holy Texts, that it had been impossible for him to appoint a successor in accordance with the provisions of the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This situation, in which the Guardian died without being able to appoint a successor, presented an obscure question not covered by the explicit Holy Text, and had to be referred to the Universal House of Justice. The friends should clearly

understand that before the election of the Universal House of Justice there was no knowledge that there would be no Guardian. There could not have been any such foreknowledge, whatever opinions individual believers may have held. Neither the Hands of the Cause of God, nor the International Bahá'í Council, nor any other existing body could make a decision upon this all-important matter. Only the House of Justice had authority to pronounce upon it. This was one urgent reason for calling the election of the Universal House of Justice as soon as possible.

Following the passing of Shoghi Effendi the international administration of the Faith was carried on by the Hands of the Cause of God with the complete agreement and loyalty of the National Spiritual Assemblies and the body of the believers. This was in accordance with

At the request of the
Universal House of Justice,
we print their letter to the
National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of the
Netherlands.

the Guardian's designation of the Hands as the "Chief Stewards of Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic World Commonwealth."

LOYALTY BEYOND COMPARE

From the very outset of their custodianship of the Cause of God the Hands realised that since they had no certainty of divine guidance such as is incontrovertibly assured to the Guardian and to the Universal House of Justice, their one safe course was to follow with undeviating firmness the instructions and policies of Shoghi Effendi. The entire history of religion shows no comparable record of such strict self-discipline, such absolute loyalty and such complete self-abnegation by the leaders of a religion finding themselves suddenly deprived of their divinely inspired guide. The debt of gratitude which mankind for generations, nay, ages to come, owes to

this handful of grief-stricken, steadfast, heroic souls is beyond estimation.

The Guardian had given the Bahá'í world explicit and detailed plans covering the period until Ridván 1963, the end of the Ten Year Crusade. From that point onward, unless the Faith were to be endangered, further divine guidance was essential. This was the second pressing reason for the calling of the election of the Universal House of Justice. The rightness of the time was further confirmed by references in Shoghi Effendi's letters to the Ten Year Crusade's being followed by other plans under the direction of the Universal House of Justice. One such reference is the following passage from a letter addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles on 25th February 1951, concerning its Two Year Plan which immediately preceded the Ten Year Crusade:

"On the success of this enterprise, unprecedented in its scope, unique in its character and immense in its spiritual potentialities, must depend the initiation, at a later period in the Formative Age of the Faith, of undertakings embracing within their range all National Assemblies functioning throughout the Bahá'í world, undertakings constituting in themselves a prelude to the launching of world-wide enterprises destined to be embarked upon, in future epochs of that same Age, by the Universal House of Justice, that will symbolise the unity and co-ordinate and unify the activities of these National Assemblies."

Having been in charge of the Cause of God for six years, the Hands, with absolute faith in the Holy Writings, called upon the believers to elect the Universal House of Justice, and even went so far as to ask that they themselves be not voted for. The sole, sad instance of anyone succumbing to the allurements of power was the attempt of Charles Mason Remey to usurp the Guardianship.

BASIS FOR ELECTION

The following excerpts from a Tablet of 'Abdu'l-Bahá state clearly and emphatically the principles with which the friends are already familiar from the Will and Testament of the Master and the various letters of Shoghi Effendi, and explain the basis for the election of the Universal House of Justice. This Tablet was sent to Persia by the beloved Guardian himself, in the early years of his ministry, for circulation among the believers.

"... for 'Abdu'l-Bahá is in a tempest of dangers and infinitely abhors differences of opinion... Praise be to God, there are no grounds for differences.

"The Báb, the Exalted One, is the Morn of Truth, the splendour of Whose light shineth through all regions. He is also the Harbinger of the Most Great Light, the Abhá Luminary. The Blessed Beauty is the One promised by the sacred books of the past, the revelation of the Source of light that shone upon Mount Sinai, Whose fire glowed in the midst of the Burning Bush. We are, one and all, servants of Their threshold, and stand each as a lowly keeper at Their door."

"My purpose is this, that ere the expiration of a thousand years, no one has the right to utter a single word, even to claim the station of Guardianship. The Most Holy Book is the Book to which all peoples shall refer, and in it the Laws of God have been revealed. Laws not mentioned in the Book should be referred to the decision of the Universal House of Justice. There will be no grounds for difference... Beware, beware lest anyone create a rift or stir up sedition. Should there be differences of opinion, the Supreme House of Justice would immediately resolve the problems. Whatever will be its decision, by majority vote, shall be the real truth, inasmuch as that House is under the protection, unerring guidance and care of the One True Lord. He shall guard it from error and will protect it under the wing of His sanctity and infallibility. He who opposes it is cast out and will eventually be of the defeated.

"The Supreme House of Justice should be elected according to the system followed in the election of the parliaments of Europe. And when the countries would be guided the Houses of Justice of the various countries would elect the Supreme House of Justice.

"At whatever time all the beloved of God in each country appoint their delegates, and

these in turn elect their representatives, and these representatives elect a body, that body shall be regarded as the Supreme House of Justice.

"The establishment of that House is not dependent upon the conversion of all the nations of the world. For example, if conditions were favourable and no disturbances would be caused, the friends in Persia would elect their representatives, and likewise the friends in America, in India and other areas would also elect their representatives, and these would elect a House of Justice. That House of Justice would be the Supreme House of Justice. That is all." (Persian and Arabic Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Vol. III pp. 499-501).

The friends should realise that there is nothing in the Texts to indicate that the election of the Universal House of Justice could be called only by the Guardian. On the contrary, 'Abdu'l-Bahá envisaged the calling of its election in His own life-time. At a time described by the Guardian as "The darkest moments of His (the Master's) life, under 'Abdu'l-Hamíd's régime, when He stood to be deported to the most inhospitable regions of Northern Africa," and when even His life was threatened, 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote to Hájí Mirzá Táqí Afnán, the cousin of the Báb and chief builder of the Ishqábád Temple, commanding him to arrange for the election of the Universal House of Justice should the threats against the Master materialise. The second part of the Master's Will is also relevant to such a situation and should be studied by the friends.

THE INFALLIBILITY

The second series of problems vexing some of the friends centres on the question of the infallibility of the Universal House of Justice and its ability to function without the presence of the Guardian. Particular difficulty has been experienced in understanding the implications of the following statement by the beloved Guardian:

"Divorced from the institution of the Guardianship the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh would be mutilated and permanently deprived of that hereditary principle which, as 'Abdu'l-Bahá has written, has been invariably upheld by the Law of God. 'In all the Divine Dispensations,' He states, in a Tablet addressed to a follower of the Faith in Persia, 'the eldest son hath been given extraordinary distinctions. Even the station of prophethood hath been his birthright.' Without such an institution the integrity of the Faith would be imperiled, and the stability of the

entire fabric would be gravely endangered. Its prestige would suffer, the means required to enable it to take a long, an uninterrupted view over a series of generations would be completely lacking, and the necessary guidance to define the sphere of the legislative action of its elected representatives would be totally withdrawn."

("The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh," "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 148).

Let the friends who wish for a clearer understanding of this passage at the present time consider it in the light of the many other texts which deal with the same subjects, for example the following passages gleaned from the letters of Shoghi Effendi:

"They have also, in unequivocal and emphatic language, appointed those twin institutions of the House of Justice and of the Guardianship as their chosen Successors, destined to apply the principles, promulgate the laws, protect the institutions, adapt loyally and intelligently the Faith to the requirements of progressive society, and consummate the incorruptible inheritance which the Founders of the Faith have bequeathed to the world."

(Letter dated 21st March, 1930, "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 20).

"It must be also clearly understood by every believer that the institution of Guardianship does not under any circumstances abrogate, or even in the slightest degree detract from the powers granted to the Universal House of Justice by Bahá'u'lláh in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, and repeatedly and solemnly confirmed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His Will. It does not constitute in any manner a contradiction to the Will and Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, nor does it nullify any of His revealed instructions. It enhances the prestige of that exalted assembly, stabilizes its supreme position, safeguards its unity, assures the continuity of its labours, without presuming in the slightest to infringe upon the inviolability of its clearly-defined sphere of jurisdiction. We stand indeed too close to so monumental a document to claim for ourselves a complete understanding of all its implications, or to presume to have grasped the manifold mysteries it undoubtedly contains."

(Letter dated 27th February, 1929, "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 8).

"From these statements it is made indubitably clear and evi-

dent that the Guardian of the Faith has been made the Interpreter of the Word and that the Universal House of Justice has been invested with the function of legislating on matters not expressly revealed in the teachings. The interpretation of the Guardian, functioning within his own sphere, is as authoritative and binding as the enactments of the International House of Justice, whose exclusive right and prerogative is to pronounce upon and deliver the final judgment on such laws and ordinances as Bahá'u'lláh has not expressly revealed. Neither can, nor will ever, infringe upon the sacred and prescribed domain of the other. Neither will seek to curtail the specific and undoubted authority with which both have been divinely invested."

("The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh," "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 150).

"Each exercises, within the limitations imposed upon it, its powers, its authority, its rights and prerogatives. These are neither contradictory nor detract in the slightest degree from the position which each of these institutions occupies."

("The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh," "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 148).

"Though the Guardian of the Faith has been made the permanent head of so august a body he can never, even temporarily, assume the right of exclusive legislation. He cannot override the decision of the majority of his fellow-members."

("The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh," "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 150). Above all, let the hearts of the friends be assured by these words of Bahá'u'lláh:

"The Hand of Omnipotence hath established His Revelation upon an unassailable, an enduring foundation. Storms of human strife are powerless to undermine its basis, nor will men's fanciful theories succeed in damaging its structure."

(Quoted on p. 109 of "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh") and these of 'Abdu'l-Bahá:

"Verily, God effecteth that which He pleaseth; naught can annul His Covenant; naught can obstruct His favour nor oppose His Cause: He doeth with His Will that which pleaseth Him and He is powerful over all things."

(Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Vol. III p. 598).

Interpretation and Elucidation

It should be understood by the friends that before legislating upon any matter the Universal House of

Justice studies carefully and exhaustively both the Sacred Texts and the writings of Shoghi Effendi on the subject. The interpretations written by the beloved Guardian cover a vast range of subjects and are equally as binding as the Text itself.

There is a profound difference between the interpretations of the Guardian and the elucidations of the House of Justice in exercise of its function to "deliberate upon all problems which have caused difference, questions that are obscure, and matters that are not expressly recorded in the Book." The Guardian reveals what the Scripture means; his interpretation is a statement of truth which cannot be varied. Upon the Universal House of Justice, in the words of the Guardian, "has been conferred the exclusive right of legislating on matters not expressly revealed in the Bahá'í writings." Its pronouncements, which are susceptible of amendment or abrogation by the House of Justice itself, serve to supplement and apply the Law of God. Although not invested with the function of interpretation, the House of Justice is in a position to do everything necessary to establish the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh on this earth. Unity of doctrine is maintained by the existence of the authentic texts of Scripture and the voluminous interpretations of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi, together with the absolute prohibition against anyone propounding "authoritative" or "inspired" interpretations or usurping the function of Guardian. Unity of administration is assured by the authority of the Universal House of Justice.

"Such", in the words of Shoghi Effendi, "is the immutability of His revealed Word. Such is the elasticity which characterises the functions of His appointed ministers. The first preserves the identity of His Faith, and guards the integrity of His law. The second enables it, even as a living organism, to expand and adapt itself to the needs and requirements of an ever-changing society."

(Letter dated 21st March, 1930. "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 23).

Faith and Humility

Every true believer, if he is to deepen in his understanding of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, must needs combine profound faith in the unfailing efficacy of His Message and His Covenant, with the humility of recognising that no one of this generation can claim to have embraced the vastness of His Cause nor to have comprehended the manifold mysteries and potentialities it contains. The words of Shoghi Effendi bear ample testimony to this fact:

"How vast is the Revelation

of Bahá'u'lláh. How great the magnitude of His blessings showered upon humanity in this day. And yet, how poor, how inadequate our conception of their significance and glory. This generation stands too close to so colossal a Revelation to appreciate, in their full measure, the infinite possibilities of His Faith, the unprecedented character of His Cause, and the mysterious dispensations of His Providence."

(Letter dated 21st March, 1930, "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh," p. 24).

"We are called upon by our beloved Master in His Will and Testament not only to adopt it (Bahá'u'lláh's new world order) unreservedly, but to unveil its merit to all the world. To attempt to estimate its full value, and grasp its exact significance after so short a time since its inception would be premature and presumptuous on our part. We must trust to time, and the guidance of God's Universal House of Justice, to obtain a clearer and fuller understanding of its provisions and implications."

(Letter dated 23rd February, 1924, "Bahá'í Administration," p. 62).

"As to the order and the management of the spiritual affairs of the friends, that which is very important now is the consolidation of the spiritual assemblies in every centre, because, on these fortified and unshakable foundations, God's Supreme House of Justice shall be erected and firmly established in the days to come. When this most great Edifice shall be reared on such an immovable foundation, God's purpose, wisdom, universal truths, mysteries and realities of the Kingdom, which the mystic revelation of Bahá'u'lláh has deposited within the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, shall gradually be revealed and made manifest."

(Letter in Persian, dated 19th December, 1922).

Statements such as these indicate that the full meaning of the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, as well as an understanding of the implications of the World Order ushered in by that remarkable Document can be revealed only gradually to men's eyes, and after the Universal House of Justice has come into being. The friends are called upon to trust to time and to await the guidance of the Universal House of Justice, which, as circumstances require, will make pronouncements that will resolve and clarify obscure matters,

EXPULSION FROM MEMBERSHIP

The third group of queries raised by the friends concerns details of functioning of the Universal House of Justice in the absence of the Guardian, particularly the matter of expulsion of members of the House of Justice. Such questions will be clarified in the Constitution of the House of Justice, the formulation of which is a goal of the Nine Year Plan. Meanwhile the friends are informed that any member committing a "sin injurious to the common weal," may be expelled from membership of the House of Justice by a majority vote of the House itself. Should any member, God forbid, be guilty of breaking the Covenant, the matter would be investigated by the Hands of the Cause of God, and the Covenant-breaker would be expelled by decision of the Hands of the Cause of God residing in the Holy Land, subject to the approval of

the House of Justice, as in the case of any other believer. The decision of the Hands in such a case would be announced to the Bahá'í world by the Universal House of Justice.

We are certain that when you share this letter with the friends and they have these quotations from the Scriptures and the Writings of the Guardian drawn to their attention, their doubts and misgivings will be dispelled and they will be able to devote their every effort to spreading the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, serenely confident in the power of His Covenant to overcome whatever tests an inscrutable Providence may shower upon it, thus demonstrating its ability to redeem a travailing world and to upraise the Standard of the Kingdom of God on earth.

With loving greetings,
(Signed and Sealed)
THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE
OF JUSTICE

MAY BECOME WORTHY OF SERVING HIS CAUSE

Finland

MOVED WONDERFUL MESSAGE HUMBLY PRAYING BE WORTHY TRULY ARISE ACHIEVE VICTORY SACRED PLAN

France

NATIONAL CONVENTION JOYFULLY OPENED PRESENCE HONOURED HAND FAITH MR FERRABY AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS MR NAVIDI MLE MIGETTE ASSURE UNITED PRAYERFUL DETERMINATION PURSUE IMMEDIATE TASKS OUTLINED YOUR STIRRING MESSAGE LOVE SALUTATIONS HOUSE JUSTICE HANDS FAITH SUPPLICATE PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES INSPIRATION HASTEN FILM OUR RESPONSIBILITIES PROFOUND DEVOTION

Germany

POWERFUL IMPULSE RIDVAN MESSAGE GRATEFULLY FELT BY ABOUT 150 DELEGATES BELIEVERS ATTENDING JOYFULLY ANNOUNCE FORMATION LOCAL ASSEMBLIES DORTMUND BADGODESBERG FUERTH

Italy

FOURTH ITALIAN CONVENTION GATHERED HAZIRATULQUDS ROME GREATLY INSPIRED BY YOUR MOMENTOUS MESSAGE SUPPLICATE PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES ASSURING FIRM DETERMINATION CARRY OUT TASKS AHEAD

Luxembourg (Letter)

"The delegates and friends assembled at the Fourth National Luxembourg Convention want to thank you for your inspiring message, giving us the news of the thrilling progress of the Faith throughout the world.

"We have studied the message together, deriving fresh impetus from the evident successes of our beloved Faith and are determined to fulfil the goals expected of us under the Global Plan.

"May we assure you of our constant and loving prayers, and our deep gratitude for your wise and loving guidance."

Netherlands (Letter)

"All 19 delegates and 60 friends present at the fourth annual convention of the Bahá'ís of the Netherlands at the Hague listened with feelings of profound gratitude and joy to your detailed and thrilling message.

"This message inspired us to renew our dedication, so that

Annex to News from the World Centre

AUSTRALASIA

New Zealand

LOVING GREETINGS FRIENDS ASSEMBLED LARGEST CONVENTION GRATEFUL INSPIRING MESSAGE RECEIVED PRIOR CONVENTION STIMULATING PRESENCE BOARD MEMBERS CONFIDENT ATTAINING GOALS.

South Pacific Ocean

HEARTFELT APPRECIATION INSPIRING MESSAGE ASSURE REDEDICATION ACHIEVEMENT SIGNIFICANT OBJECTIVES SPIRITUAL DESTINY ENTIRE CONVENTION MESSAGE INSPIRED PIONEER OFFER NIUE TOKELAU.

South West Pacific Ocean

BOARD MEMBER HOEHNKE EIGHTY DELEGATES FRIENDS ASSEMBLED CONVENTION STOP LOVING GREETINGS STOP APPRECIATE PRAYERS FILM GOALS

EUROPE

Austria

DEEPLY STIRRED BY MESSAGE HEARTS RESPOND CHALLENGE FILM GOALS PRAYERFULLY UNITED WITH BAHAI WORLD

Belgium (Letter)

"Be assured that all the friends in Belgium, comforted by the

excellent news contained in your Message and strengthened by the resolutions adopted by each one of us in the course of our deliberations and work in the past few days, are prepared to meet any and all difficulties in order to attain the goals that you have assigned to us. In a spirit of consecration we embark upon our work with more courage and perseverance than ever before in the path prescribed by Bahá'u'lláh. We request your prayers and assure you of our warmest gratitude."

British Isles

EIGHT GOAL TOWNS OPENED THIS YEAR 48 ASSEMBLIES HELD 2 REESTABLISHED STOP SUPPLICATE PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES OCCASION BRITISH CONVENTION MAY 1st 2nd BE FITTINGLY RESPOND CHALLENGE NEW TASKS

Denmark

WITH HEARTS FILLED WITH JOY GRATEFUL TO BAHAUILLAH THANKFUL HIS BOUNTIES INSPIRED BY THE MESSAGE OF UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE WE HUMBLY SEND THANKSGIVING FOR HAPPY OCCASION OF DANISH NATIONAL CONVENTION RIDVAN 122 STOP THE PRESENCE OF HAND CAUSE DR MUHLSCHLEGEL AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBER JOHANNE HOEG TRANSFERRING SPIRIT OF HOLY SHRINES STOP WE SINCERELY BEG PRAYERS FOR SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF IMMEDIATE GOALS IN 9 YEAR PLAN AND THAT WE

through deeper understanding, greater unity and constant courageous action we may fulfil our goals and match the victories in other countries in bringing to these crucial times the so-urgently-needed divine remedy of Bahá'u'lláh.

"We are happy to inform you that at this convention . . . one friend spontaneously offered to pioneer in Surinam; for the Temple ground in the Hague gifts were received totalling f 1008.

"Please pray at the Holy Shrines for our Cause in this country. With feelings of love and devotion."

Norway

NINETEEN PRESENT 4th CONVENTION GRATEFUL PRESENCE BOARD MEMBERS REINSPIRED ACCOMPLISHMENT L O F O T E N BLESSED PRAYERS SHRINES STOP BESEECHING PRAYERS CAPACITY FULFIL CLEAR CONCISE PLANS MESSAGE

Portugal

DELIGHTED SHARE GOOD NEWS FRIENDS UNITED REDEDICATED ACHIEVE GODS WILL DEVOTED LOVE ALL

Sweden

DEEPLY MOVED STIRRING RIDVAN MESSAGE TO SPIRIT OF DEDICATION GRATITUDE PIONEER GOTLAND ASSURED BEG ARDENT PRAYERS THRESHOLD HOLY SHRINES ACCOMPLISHMENT GOALS CONFIDENT HEARTS JOYOUS LOVING GREETINGS FROM FORTY ASSEMBLED FOURTH SWEDISH CONVENTION

Switzerland

IMPRESSIVE MESSAGE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED BY SIXTEEN DELEGATES EIGHTY FRIENDS PRESENT STOP ALL DEEPLY STIRRED STOP ASSURE EAGERNESS FULFIL SACRED OBLIGATIONS STOP APPRECIATE PRESENCE HAND OF THE CAUSE JOHN FERRABY AND THREE AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS STOP SUPPLICATING PRAYERS CONFIRMATIONS SWITZERLAND STOP SWISS COUPLE PLANNING SETTLE LIECHTENSTEIN

VISION MANIFESTLY BRIGHT

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Bahá'í World Centre,
Haifa, Israel

6th June, 1965.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Our hearts have been uplifted by the picture of your Convention conveyed to us in various reports. It seems to have been a truly wonderful occasion, full of spiritual vitality and practical dedication.

The vision of the "glorious des-

tiny" promised to the British believers, both for themselves and for their country, by our beloved Guardian is manifestly bright before them, and we are assured that they will achieve the very heavy goals assigned to them as their share of the Nine Year Plan. We have been delighted to welcome a good number of friends from the British Isles, including a Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, during the recent pilgrimage season and we look forward to welcoming many more in the future

Please assure all the dear friends of our warm love and admiration for their steady and devoted labours.

With loving greetings,
(Signed and Sealed)

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

LONDON BOROUGHS TO FORM ASSEMBLIES

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Bahá'í World Centre,
Haifa, Israel

4th June, 1965.

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

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 1965, enclosing an analysis of the Bahá'í population of the new London boroughs.

We are happy to inform you that the Universal House of Justice has decided that you should make arrangements to form local Spiritual Assemblies next Ridván in as many of the boroughs as shall have nine adult believers at that time.

Believers outside London should not move into Greater London for the purpose of forming Assemblies in these boroughs. Neither should believers in the Greater London area be deterred from moving out of London to assist in the teaching or consolidation work in other areas of your country. However, believers living in the London area are free to move from one borough to another for the purpose of forming as many local Assemblies as possible.

Please convey our warm greetings to the believers in London on the occasion of the announcement of this project and assure them of our prayers at the Holy Shrines for its success.

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

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSEL FROM THE WORLD CENTRE

The National Assembly shares with you all several important letters recently received from the World Centre. One of these is the

letter of March 9th 1965, sent by the Universal House of Justice to the N.S.A. of the Netherlands. This letter, as many will have seen, was published in the May 1965 edition of "Bahá'í News," but parts of the original letter were inadvertently missed out of that reprint; the full text is given in the "Bahá'í Journal."

FORMATION OF NEW SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES IN LONDON, RIDVAN 1966

The Bahá'í Community of London numbers more than 250, they are spread over a wide area, and suggestions have been made from time to time of how they might be split up into smaller units. The regrouping for purposes of local government of some of the London Boroughs and the formation of the Greater London area provided a sound background for the whole situation of London to be reconsidered, and the National Assembly is happy to share with the whole Community the news which has already been announced to the London Spiritual Assembly and through them to the London Friends, that the Universal House of Justice has decided that local Spiritual Assemblies should be formed next Ridván in as many of the London Boroughs as shall have nine adult believers at that time. The House of Justice's letter of 4th June 1965, which contains this good news, also makes it clear that believers should not "pioneer" into London to form these assemblies, and those in London should still move out to assist in the teaching and consolidation work in other parts of the country. This project of forming new assemblies next Ridván is a great challenge to the Friends who are forced by circumstances beyond their control to live in London. The splitting up of the largest and most venerable of the Bahá'í Communities in the British Isles, is an historic landmark in the development of the Faith here. We shall all await with eager anticipation next Ridván the news of how many assemblies have been formed in the London Boroughs.

BAHA'Í LAWS CONCERNING MARRIAGE

The Universal House of Justice, in a letter to the National Assembly dated 15th June 1965, has again emphasised the importance of observing the Bahá'í laws concerning marriage. Any Bahá'í who is planning to get married should consult with your local assembly about the Bahá'í marriage laws. Those Bahá'ís who are isolated believers should contact the National Assembly well before the plans for your marriage are finalised. This is very important.



Mr. Samandari at Manhattan

Interrupting his tour of Africa for medical treatment in England, the Hand of the Cause, Mr. Samandari, bearing lightly his 90 years, yet found the energy to visit a number of Bahá'í centres in Britain. Reports indicate that the friends were fully conscious of his unique position, and eager to seize this opportunity to meet the last living link with Bahá'u'lláh.

His first call was Belfast "where the Irish friends converged from all sides to meet the Hand of the Cause, in an atmosphere charged with expectancy, and none was disappointed. The combination of power and simplicity, of humility and authority held them rapt throughout the evening and eager to prolong his stay with them. When one friend who is blind told him that doors had been opened for her that evening for the first time, he lovingly assured her that when the eyes of the spirit are opened physical blindness is of little importance. While in Ireland careless of fatigue, he visited also Greenisland and Bangor so that almost the entire Irish Community were able to meet him."

At Manchester where the friends came from all over the North West — "he talked of Bahá'u'lláh, of his meetings with Him, of His great

teachings, personal details of His life. Humbly, beautifully, expressively, he talked and no one noticed the heat or discomfort of the room, for all were carried by the spirit. How remarkable that he should talk for two hours standing up, with only an occasional sip of water, and that it should seem as if only a few minutes had passed"...

"An amusing incident occurred when in translating his grandson Soheil missed the Czar of Russia. Mr. Samandari had mentioned in connection with Bahá'u'lláh's letters to the world rulers. Mr. Samandari interrupted and again gave the name to the accompaniment of much bowing and smiling by both. One wondered how much English he understood."

His itinerary included one public meeting in the Town Hall at Oxford. "For the non-Bahá'ís present his talk created an atmosphere of majesty, dignity and sincerity totally unfamiliar to them. The seemingly unending supply of energy, despite his years, manifested in his firm, loud and vibrant voice, as well as the unchallengeable certainty, sincerity and power which his words conveyed, astonished the audience. To the Bahá'ís, his talk had multiple significance. Not only did they

listen with deep respect to a Hand of the Cause, but also to one who had steadfastly served in turn Bahá'u'lláh, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Shoghi Effendi, and now the Universal House of Justice. Not only were they witnessing the last remnant of the Apostolic Age, but they were also reminded how simple and yet effective a presentation of the Faith can and should be." The Principal of Manchester College, Oxford, where 'Abdu'l-Bahá had in 1911 addressed a "large and deeply interested audience," himself showed him the library where 'Abdu'l-Bahá had spoken. Mr. Samandari was received also by the Dean of Ballinol where Shoghi Effendi had studied in 1920. In the chapel while the Dean was present, he chanted a prayer, after one of Bahá'u'lláh's prayers had been said in English.

No report has been received of his final meeting in London, but this too was attended by Bahá'ís from many centres and was a moving and memorable occasion.

The impact of his visit has clearly been very great and will be seen as yet another important milestone in the history of the Faith in these islands.

MR. JOHN FERRABY'S VISIT TO SWITZER- LAND, MALTA AND FRANCE

In a 4½ week tour from 21st April to 24th May, 1965 Hand of the Cause, Mr. John Ferraby, attended the Swiss National Convention, spent three days in Malta and an evening in Monaco, attended the French National Convention and visited 9 towns or cities in France. For most of the time he was accompanied by his wife, Dorothy.

Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Mrs. Olga Mills, now over eighty, was in hospital at the time of his visit to Malta. He learned that the three pioneers in Malta had made friends but have almost no enquirers since they felt the need to exercise great caution over mentioning the Faith. Although the church in Malta still dominates the physical and spiritual horizon, there are signs of a more enterprising attitude among the young islanders.

After more than a week in Paris where he was able to attend two meetings in the city and one in St. Cloud as well as the French National Convention and also to meet the French N.S.A., Mr. Ferraby travelled to Orleans, Chateauroux, Toulouse, Montpellier, Marseilles, Nice, Lyons and Monte Carlo. There had been a number of declarations, several of them Spanish, in Paris since the visit of Ruhíyyih Khánum last year and indeed six declarations since Ridván. One of the new believers had offered to pioneer to French Guiana.



Hand of the Cause of God,
Mr. Samandari



Mr. Samandari at Balliol College, Oxford

HAIFA AT DUSK

Now shadow creeps down
Over sunlit Carmel's bright gardens,
The gold-crowned glory of the lovely
shrine
Fades into deepening twilight.
Soon Carmel's stark outline is sharp
and clear
Against the faint glowing sky,
One by one the lights of Haifa shine
forth
To challenge the swift darkness.
Suddenly, in the midst of the dark
mountain
A blaze of glory and, floodlit,
The brilliant Queen of Carmel is
revealed
In heart-rending loveliness,
Proud and dominant above her sub-
ject city. C.R.M.

NEWS of the Communities



YOUTH WEEK-END SCHOOL AT BANGOR

A Bahá'í Youth Week-end School was held in the Bahá'í Centre, Bangor, on the 24th and 25th of April. There was an unusually high attendance at this, the second Youth Week-end School to be held in Ireland—at least 25 people were present at each session, and at one point 40 people were packed into the small room.

The talks given by May Hofman and Iain Macdonald, and the lengthy discussions which followed, were intensely rewarding and significant. The serious side of the school was, however, tempered by a very successful party on the Saturday evening, the 30 people present having to be firmly expelled at midnight to prevent them going on until dawn.

The number of new enquirers present exceeded all expectations and it is felt that teaching among the youth of Ireland is gaining in intensity in response to the tremendous requirements of the Nine Year Plan.

SALISBURY

CO-OPERATION FROM THE SALISBURY AND SOUTH WILTSHIRE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

The Bahá'ís of Salisbury, as I feel sure the Bahá'ís of many other communities, have, for some time past, been seeking for a Centre, or at least somewhere to hold regular meetings to which the public can be invited. Some two months ago

Toni Coopér, one of our believers, visited the Salisbury and South Wiltshire College of Further Education, and discovered that the Governors of the College were willing to rent rooms to groups, and/or bodies who could satisfy them that the rooms would be put to a good use.

This news together with application forms, she passed on to the Assembly, and, after careful consideration, the Secretary was asked to apply for a room to hold approximately 20 people, to be used for studying the Bahá'í World Faith and its teachings, and the practical application of these teachings to everyday life.

The Principal of the College asked to meet one of the Assembly members, so that he could find out a little more about the Faith and its objects. A week later the Assembly received permission to use a room in the college on Friday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., and as we were accepted as a religious and educational body the charge for the use of the room would be nil.

Four talks have been given by local members, to which the public were invited, and we have had good write-ups in the local paper on each one. Unfortunately, there was no response from the public in the form of support, but it has been noticeable that many people saw and commented on the press coverage.

Having now come to the end of the College term, it has been decided to apply for use of the room again next term, to enable us to continue our studies.

SWINTON

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

(1) We are sending out every week a few postcards to selected residents as follows:— "Are you a progressive and positive thinker, if so we suggest you read 'All Things made New' by John Ferraby which you can obtain from the local library. If you are interested you will be welcome at our discussion group which meets at 207 Manchester Road, Swinton, every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. This will involve you in no obligation whatever." This is sent without signature. We have only just started so cannot assess, if any results, as yet.

(2) Our youth are very anxious to get a youth group going in the area, but as we have only 5 members available for this work, the scope is very limited.

(3) Our chairman was invited by the Civic Trust to act as delegate for the Swinton branch of the "Men of the Trees" and accompanied by Mrs. Chaplin attended a one day Convention which was later televised. Mrs. Chaplin has also been invited by the Lord Mayor of Manchester to attend an important Conference to find ways and means of organising the youth in Manchester and surrounding areas for voluntary work. We have in mind now that these last two ideas can link up and our Swinton Youth can lead a Youth Campaign in Swinton, not primarily as Bahá'ís but in this work which is of vital public relations importance, they will have the opportunity to meet youth who are prepared to give service to mankind, and who are not attached to churches or other organisations.

It seems to us at this stage, that our greatest service to the Bahá'í Faith is to build up our public relations in all spheres, so that our circles are widening all the time, and a lot of ground work will have been done for the Great Pronouncement. As we do not seem to have much success in inducing people to come to us, we must go out into their fields and try to link up somewhere.

(4) Mrs. Senior has been asked to act as secretary for the International Year Committee. This seems a very important work — Swinton Council are twinning with a German town Lunen and many exchange visits with schoolchildren will be organised. The committee is a permanent one working in conjunction with the Town Clerk, and the Council; and also as representative of the local Townswomen's Guild which is an excellent medium for getting in some indirect Teaching by the introduction of speakers, panels, etc. Mrs. Senior is making quite a lot of progress in this sphere, and is now busy arranging

a panel in November on which there will be two Bahá'í speakers on "Emancipation of Women."

(5) We have in mind also to form a junior branch of the Society of the Men of the Trees. Here again we can possibly link up by using our youth as leaders in this work.

We do strongly recommend our Bahá'ís to keep in touch with the International Year work which is being inaugurated by all civic authorities and which give us unequalled opportunities for building up our public relations both here and abroad in preparation for the future.

First Public Meeting in the Faeroes

The prayers of the friends are asked for the success of the first public meeting ever to be held in the Faeroes when Mrs. Jeannette Battrick will be giving an introductory address on the Faith on 11th August. She will be supported by a believer from Norway and the meeting is to be chaired by Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Mr. Eskil Ljungberg.

Home Front Goals, Second Phase; Pioneer Needs at Home and Overseas

The National Assembly is happy to announce that the following places have been chosen as further goal towns to achieve assembly status: Newport (Monmouthshire), Kidderminster (Worcestershire), St. Neots (Huntingdonshire), Derby (Derbyshire), Hereford (Herefordshire), Shrewsbury (Shropshire), Durham (Co. Durham), Kendal (Westmorland). A goal town still has to be chosen for the County of Cornwall.

Our pioneer requirements this year reach a new high, 100 pioneers are needed, some for overseas, some for opening new goal towns, some for helping to develop goal towns already opened, and a few for consolidation in numerically weak assemblies. This is a glorious opportunity for a hundred people to start a new life, a life dedicated completely to the service of Bahá'u'lláh. Some will be going to the Shetland Isles, others to Hebrides, others to Orkney; some will move to Ireland, others to

Wales, some to Scotland, others to needy places in England; some will go to the Mediterranean and some to Faroes; one is needed for Ceylon. Where will you go? What part will you play in this exciting drama of the spiritual conquest of the world? If you are a Bahá'í Youth and not able to think of volunteering right away to pioneer, please plan your studies with pioneering in mind — teachers, doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, radiotherapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, civil engineers, mechanical engineers, chemical engineers, constructional engineers, electrical engineers, radio engineers, agricultural experts are all needed overseas, as well as in the British Isles. Everyone who would like to consult on this most precious of all Bahá'í privileges, pioneering in service of the Faith, should please contact the Pioneer Committee immediately. Their Secretary is Mrs. Rose Wade, 14 Northumberland Road, New Barnet, Herts ('phone BARnet 4232).

OUR GOALS IN AFRICA THIS YEAR

AS shown by the table below, the Universal House of Justice has called upon us to help in 8 African territories this year. We must send out at least 9 pioneers and assist financially in 4 territories.

Pioneers need jobs and research has shown that Africa to-day is offering a very wide assortment of jobs for qualified people. Any such pioneers will see plenty of positions advertised in such newspapers as the Tuesday and Friday Telegraph. To help them the Africa Committee is keeping a detailed file of cuttings

and information.

Here is a small sample of jobs offered—Agriculture, Lands Officers, Teachers, Bankers, Water Engineers, Surveyors, Architects, Draughtsmen, Air Traffic Controllers, Income Tax Assessors, Marine Officers, Statisticians.

Single women are required as secretaries and most promising of all is a call for large numbers of young people to go out for short periods for Volunteer Work. Here almost no qualification is required. It is a call to young people to offer their

services in whatever needs doing and working alongside the local people. What a marvellous opportunity for Bahá'ís who are school leavers, graduates or qualified young people.

In matters which seem difficult at first sight, Bahá'í consultation frequently works miracles; if you have even a small chance of filling one of these goals the Africa Committee is most eager to consult with you to try and find a way. Please contact us through the National Office, or through any Committee member.

OUR GOALS IN AFRICA NOW

Place	Our goals last year		Our goals this year	
	Goal	Achievements last year	Pioneers required	Funds required
Rodriguez Is.	To be opened	2 pioneers sent from Mauritius	—	—
Sierra Leone	Help consolidate	—	2	£ needed
Dahomey	Help consolidate	—	2	£ needed
S.W. Africa	Help consolidate	1st L.S.A. formed April, 1965 £200 sent	1	£ needed
Malawi (Nyasaland)	Help acquire Haziratu'l-Quds	—	—	—
Swaziland	—	—	2	—
Ghana	—	—	2	£ needed
Cameroon Republic	Help acquire Haziratu'l-Quds	£200 sent	—	—

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Alaska: The Matanuska Valley Bahá'í Assembly again this year presented the Bahá'í message through an attractive booth during the Alaska State Fair in Palmer over Labor Day week-end. The Bahá'í booth was in the main Snodgrass building, headquarters for the prodigious displays of farm produce and flowers which make the Valley famous. The Bahá'í exhibit received high praise from Governor Egan, who stopped to shake hands with the Bahá'í representatives in the booth.

The centre of attraction in the booth was a black and white painting done by a professional artist, depicting the stages of progress of the human race through the guidance of the successive Messengers of God. The Wilmette Temple model and displays on Progressive Revelation and the oneness of mankind were also on view. Literature on the Faith was available and much of it was distributed to interested persons.

Australia (excerpt from the report on a teaching trip by Goro Jorgic): "I went to a village, Nasilai—the first and only Fijian native Bahá'í community. This is just something out of heaven—happy and healthy looking people amid the thick range of rich vegetation, extending a loving welcome to a bewildered stranger from the West. I met with the villagers adjacent to this. Once again I was impressed by the charm, warmth and hospitality of these people.

At the L.S.A. meeting it was decided by the Assembly that a Bahá'í youth group would be formed on the declarations of some boys and that it would spread the teachings among the numerous young people of that area. It was decided that a hut in course of erection would be used as a Bahá'í Youth Centre. All five youths went up to finish it and I was very much impressed by the skill, initiative and determination of this group.

In the evening, a fireside was held at Sekove's home, and the Faith was discussed in a most eloquent way, the spirit of Bahá'u'lláh having stirred the hearts and minds of these sincere servants of His Threshold. At times it was a mutual exchange of our common experiences as Bahá'ís dealing with trials and difficulties of self—and glories and happiness of the victories of the spirit."

Burma: Over 300 Buddhists have recently embraced the Faith from three villages near Rangoon. More are expected to join as this is the first instance of Buddhists joining in groups.

Ethiopia: The Bahá'í community of Addis Ababa benefited from the

visit of Mrs. Beth McGinty who had just returned from her pilgrimage to the Holy Land. She attended many meetings and firesides in Addis Ababa and surrounding areas and inspired the friends with her loving presentation of the Faith. On 17th January the Youth Committee arranged a Bahá'í picnic in one of the loveliest public parks on the outskirts of Addis Ababa. The road leading to the spot where the picnic was held was a few hundred metres away from the main road to Ambo. At the junction of the two roads a placard was placed reading "Bahá'í Picnic" to guide the friends who did not know the place. The placard aroused the curiosity of hundreds of passers-by who lingered to read it. A happy time was had by all. Auxiliary Board Member Mrs. Beth McGinty conveyed to the friends her moving experiences in the Holy Land and answered many questions.

Nigeria: The N.S.A. of West Central Africa report the re-establishment of the L.S.A. of Ibadan (the University town of Nigeria) at Ridván. They feel that this news will be of particular delight to the British Bahá'ís as it was achieved through the help and energy of Dr. Soheil and Mrs. Mary Bushrui who spent three years with us while Soheil was studying at Southampton University.

Vietnam: Mr. Le Loe made a teaching trip to the various communities of Binh-Thuan province and during this trip distributed assistance to the Bahá'í victims in Hiep-Hoa village who have now taken refuge in Binh-Tuy chief town due to their village having been bombed out, also the Bahá'ís in Phan Rang have built houses for flood victims who are non-Bahá'ís. This has been greatly appreciated, and teaching work is going well there.

In spite of the war teaching work progresses in North Central Vietnam and where possible public meetings are being held.

NEWS FROM WALES

Several Bahá'ís from the Welsh communities were at convention and in all areas the friends look forward to an active year, with enthusiasm generated at the national gathering.

Two pilgrims brought back from the Holy Land their never-to-be-forgotten memories of the spirit of prayer and love, service and sacrifice experienced at the World Centre.

A car-load of friends went from South Wales to the meeting arranged in Oxford for Mr. Samandari; it was indeed a great bounty to meet this dearly-loved friend.

A vigorous programme of fireside and public meetings continues

throughout Wales, and the first teaching tour since Ridván was conducted by Mr. Zebbie Whitehead from Dublin, when he visited five communities to meet the Bahá'ís and friends.

The Pontypridd Youth, an active and energetic group, arranged a coach trip and picnic on the Gower Coast, and about 50 Bahá'ís and friends enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship.

Cardiff welcomes two new declarations since Ridván.

A public meeting is being arranged in Brecon for 12th September to start off the autumn programme of the Cardiff Bahá'ís.

Throughout the summer the main teaching activity of the communities is to support the WTC's village-teaching plans, and the project is just getting off the ground. On July 25 a coach load of friends from South Wales will travel to Borth, near Aberystwyth, for a picnic and a fireside meeting. It is hoped that when all the friends meet at the Harlech Summer School some further contribution may be made to village-teaching in Wales. We are "finding our way" in this scheme and pray that the right pattern will emerge, as we move forward towards the opening up of all the counties of Wales.

WELSH TEACHING COMMITTEE

NEWS FROM IRELAND

We are very glad to report lots of planned activity for the furthering of the Cause in Ireland. Bangor community have planned a week-end School commencing Friday, 30th July, at 8 p.m. until 1st August. Bangor is a very pleasant seaside town and an ideal setting for a school at this time of year. The programme is also attractive, as it not only provides lecture and discussion sessions but has also catered for the lighter side of life with social events etc. It is hoped all who can will support it.

In the coming weeks the I.T.C. plan to consult with the groups already established in goal areas and the different communities in Ireland, with a view to consolidating and co-ordinating activity into a forceful unified effort in achieving the formidable goals of the Nine Year Plan. We would earnestly ask your prayers at this time for it will take colossal effort on the part of the slim little Irish community to achieve them all.

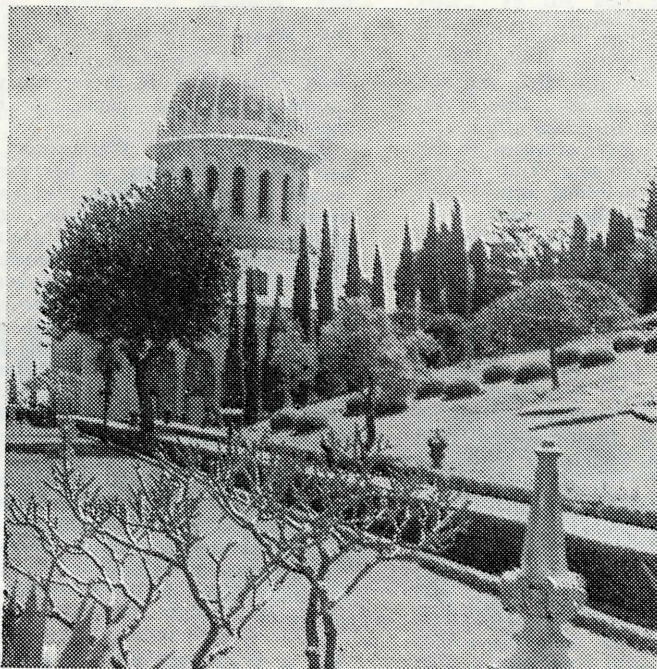
To date three goal areas have been opened in N.I.—Larne Rural District, Castlereagh Rural District and Londonderry. The latter desperately needs another pioneer for reinforcement. In Eire only one of the goal areas has as yet been opened—Sligo—and we now have a group there. Two more goal areas have yet to be opened.

A few weeks ago it was our great blessing to receive a visit from Hand of the Cause, Mr. Samandari, and a historic occasion it proved to be indeed for not only was it his first visit here but the four corners of Ireland, North, East, South and West, were represented for the first time in many years. Ireland has ever been a divided country and we feel this is a sign of things to come and a proof of the unity message Bahá'u'lláh has brought.

We would like to take this opportunity in welcoming our American Bahá'í, Mr. Z. Whitehead, back to Dublin.

Ireland is an ideal spot for holidays of all sorts. Dun Laoghaire is a seaside town and a goal as yet unopened. Sligo is a goal area and has some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. If you do plan to visit, the I.T.C. would be grateful if you would let them know.

IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE



PILGRIMAGE 1965

"There it is!" Excited, we both spoke at the same moment as the gleaming dome of the Shrine of the Báb came into view above the white houses of Haifa. Our bus from Tel Aviv was rattling along the Israeli coastal road and as we drove across the Plain of Sharon towards Haifa we were waiting eagerly for our first glimpse of the Shrine, seen so many times before in photographs and slides.

Now we were actually in Haifa at last, and whenever we looked up, there it was, a pearl in a gold setting, high up on Mount Carmel, nestling into the mountainside and dominating the city.

Nearby was the red-roofed Pilgrim House and as we stepped over the threshold to be greeted by the Hand of the Cause (Mr. Faizi) our joy knew no bounds; we had come home, and our pilgrimage had begun; we had reached the Sacred Shrines.

On the first couple of days we were overwhelmed by the spirit of love that surrounded us — the love and power we felt as we knelt in prayer at the threshold of the Resting Place of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and the Báb; the love and sacrifice of the beloved souls who serve the Cause at the World Centre; the love and fellowship of the other pilgrims from Persia, Germany, Switzerland, New York and the Virgin Islands.

On a very hot, still morning, we visited the Monument Gardens and from the steps of the Archives

Building saw the smooth green curve of the Arc of Carmel. We walked between the dark trees and the geraniums to the memorials of the Holy Family, small but quite exquisite. Here at the resting place of The Greatest Holy Leaf, and the Purest Branch, and of the wife of Bahá'u'lláh and the wife of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, we stopped and read prayers and Tablets addressed to these pure souls. The song of brightly coloured birds in the nearby branches was the only other sound.

With each hour came more happiness, and when it seemed we had no room in our hearts to hold any more, we were taken to Bahjí, where the greatest bounty of all awaited us. To circumambulate these most beautiful gardens and enter the Holy Shrine of the Resting Place of Bahá'u'lláh was the supreme bounty. There truly was nothing else, no other place in the whole world, that mattered. This was the Most Holy Place on earth, and it gave "peace to the soul and hope to the heart."

We were taken to 'Akká, and the history of the Faith sprang to life again before our eyes. We passed the sea-gate, we stood on the sea-wall and gazed at the distant window as so many devoted pilgrims had done in the time of Bahá'u'lláh; we entered the Most Great Prison.

In the House of Abbud we prayed in the room where the Aqdas had been revealed; we heard more stories of the life of Bahá'u'lláh

and His family, and it was in the very room where Abdu'l-Bahá was married that we had lunch.

From here we drove through the narrow streets of the bustling, colourful Arab town, past the white-domed Mosque and the Caravanserai where early pilgrims and members of Bahá'u'lláh's family had stayed, down to the harbour, where we counted the waves on the shores of 'Akká! The heat was dazzling, and the sunlight striking back from the dusty white buildings and the sandy-coloured ramparts was blinding in its intensity. The fountains and the cool green of the Ridván Garden were indeed a paradise after the town, as was the house at Mazra, overlooking a wide fertile plain. What a joy these places must have been to the Beloved after the incarceration in that grim and ancient fortress, where He "had not gazed on verdure for 9 years." Most beautiful of all was the Mansion at Bahjí, where Bahá'u'lláh went after two years at Mazra, and stayed for the rest of His life. This Mansion, built years before, has an inscription above the entrance, on a stone built into the wall. "O Mansion! Upon thee be greetings and peace; the days will shed their light upon you throughout the ages in this Mansion, through strange and wonderful things, which the pens of the world are at a loss to describe."

Back in Haifa we spent a fascinating afternoon in the Archives Building. Here was the story, page by page, of the love and devotion of the Bahá'ís at

every stage of the history of the Faith. There are many precious treasures and relics collected here, the Letters of the Báb to the Letters of the Living; the Tablet from the Báb to Bahá'u'lláh, "I am glad that I have attained to the height of recognising You. May My Life be a Sacrifice unto You;" the seals of Bahá'u'lláh; the Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh contained in eight beautiful wall panels; letters from 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the Greatest Holy Leaf; personal, family letters; precious relics saved by the wise vision of the Greatest Holy Leaf; personal belongings of the Greatest Holy Leaf herself; notes and books of the Beloved Guardian, found on his desk after his passing. And there are the portraits and the photographs.

Every item and its authenticity is recorded, and the records are kept locked away. Everything in the Archives Building, archives and ornaments alike, are arranged and presented with exquisite taste, and the interior of the building, a long room of beautiful proportions with a magnificent stained glass window at one end, is a superb setting for the treasures it holds.

One gusty, sunny afternoon we all visited the Temple Land, a lovely site high on the mountain with the sea on three sides. Here we read prayers and the Tablet of Carmel, "Call out to Zion, O Carmel, and announce the joyful tidings: He that was hidden from mortal eyes is come . . . O how I long to announce unto every spot on the surface of the earth, and to carry to each one of its cities, the glad tidings of this Revelation."

We met the House of Justice for tea early in our Pilgrimage, and they explained to us something of the magnitude of their work, and how it was arranged between the members. It was a great privilege to meet them socially in this way, but in a few days' time we had the greatest bounty of going to the Shrines for prayer with them. It was a truly great moment as we walked along the path and entered the Shrine with the Universal House of Justice to read together the Tablet of Visitation and other prayers.

Often, in the mornings, we would help with guiding at the Shrine of the Báb. It was a great blessing to spend hours in the sheltering arcade, so near to the Shrines, talking with the people who flocked in each day, telling them the wonderful story. The first man we spoke to was from North London, and he knew of the Guardian's Memorial which was near his home; another day all the women from an Arab village came, 50 or so of them, colourful and beautiful in their long robes, shyly veiling their

faces from the clicking cameras of the Western tourists. We were surprised at the large numbers — once while we were there nearly a thousand visitors came in one morning.

Throughout our Pilgrimage we had the opportunity of hearing a wealth of stories about the early history of the Faith, the early pilgrims, the family of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the life of the Guardian, life in 'Akká and Haifa; we heard of the triumphs of the Cause, in the present as well as the past, and the plans for the future in the fast accelerating progress of our beloved Faith.

On the last day of our Pilgrimage we were greatly privileged to return to Bahjí to celebrate the Ridván Feast and hear the Ridván Message. Once more we experienced the supreme bounty and joy of prayers at the Most Holy Shrine.

When we left Haifa we visited Galilee, Nazareth and Jerusalem, places that recall the glory of the

past in a Holy Land and exhibit the hope of the present in a newly-born nation.

But nothing of what we saw stands out in our memory so dearly as that last long look at the Shrine of the Báb, in the heart of the Bahá'í Gardens, with its nine terraces sloping down to the sea. When the nine terraces above the Shrine are completed, the Gardens will indeed look like a "woven Persian carpet spread down the mountainside from top to bottom."

Our Pilgrimage was over, and we returned with a new humility derived from the spirit of service, sacrifice and obedience that we had seen. We brought back with us a new inspiration and strength, that could be drawn from nowhere else in the world, from that atmosphere of pure spirit that permeated this Blessed Spot.

BARBARA LEWIS,
July, 1965.

* "Israel" by Joan Comay.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

GREETINGS FROM THE HANDS IN THE HOLY LAND

We are happy to share with you parts of a letter of June 7th 1965, from the Hands of the Cause Residing in the Holy Land: "We deeply appreciate the message of loving greetings from the British Bahá'í Convention. This is a community particularly dear to our hearts because we know how pleased the beloved Guardian was with both the spirit and activity of the British Bahá'ís. We were very happy to note the victories which have been won during the past year. All reports indicate the determination, devotion and enthusiasm that animates this old and tried Community. We would like to send our loving greetings to all those who were present at Convention, as well as to all the dear Friends in the British Isles. We will pray when we visit the Holy Shrines for the success of their work during the coming year."

HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD, DR. R. MOHAJER AND MR. A. Q. FAIZI

We were happy to welcome to the Haziratu'l-Quds a few days ago the Hand of the Cause of God, Dr. R. Mohajer, who was on his way to Haifa after making a tour of South and Central America and visits to the United States and Canada. Dr. Mohajer shared with us many details of the work in British Guiana, and brought the good news of declarations in Surinam, as well as loving greetings to the British Friends from all the Communities he had visited. Mr. A. Q. Faizi is

making a personal visit of a few days only in the British Isles as this News Letter goes to press; he will return to this country after he has visited the Continent, and plans will then be made for him to meet as many of the friends as possible.

HANDS CONFERENCE IN BERNE, SWITZERLAND

The first Conference to be called by the Hands of the Cause in Europe since the launching of the Nine Year Plan, was held in Berne over the week-end June 12th/13th. Seven members of the British National Assembly went, four making the journey by car and three others travelling overnight by train. The following cable was sent by the European Hands to the Hands in the Holy Land: "About seventy Hands Board National Assembly members fourteen countries met Berne became conscious effect progress Bahá'í Administrative Order on destiny Europe aware both similarities differences influences affecting countries or groups countries. Attendants greatly enthused urged stress need pioneering both within Europe overseas. Love all World Centre." The Hands in the Holy Land had meanwhile sent the following message to the Conference: "Confident your conference will release new impetus European work expedite all phases present stage divine plan guided Universal House Justice stop Please share loving greetings attendants assure prayers great victories all fields. Handsfaith."

The Hands of the Cause Dr. Herman Grossman, Dr. Adelbert Muhlschegel and Mr. John Ferraby presided over the Conference, with

Mr. Ferraby acting as Chairman. The goals of each country were read out before the representative of that particular National Assembly reported on developments on their Home Front, in goal islands and in overseas territories, and on translation goals. Two new local assemblies achieved last Ridvan were specially important, the one in Lofoten Island (Norwegian goal) is the most northerly L.S.A. in the world; and the one in Iceland (goal of Canada assisted by Denmark) is the first step towards the formation in the Nine Year Plan of the N.S.A. of Iceland. Many countries are working hard on translation goals, and French-speaking countries are collaborating more closely together on translations into that language. The translation of Bahá'í literature is vital to the success of the teaching work, and every country has some new translation in hand; we in the British Isles are receiving help in getting the first booklet translated into Faeroese.

The German N.S.A. reported that the European Temple is overshadowing the work and activities in Germany; it is giving protection and helping very much with teaching. There are up to 3,000 visitors during a week-end. This involves guiding and giving information, and everyone who comes receives a pamphlet of basic information, printed in English and German. There is, however, still the amount of D.M. 125,000 (£10,450) to be paid for the construction, as approved by the Universal House of Justice, and this needs urgently to be cleared. Until the debt is finally paid, the German friends are doing all the cleaning in the Temple, but eventually there will have to be a full-time caretaker. The dedication of the Temple was publicised by radio and television and appeared in about 150 newspapers. This report brought the European Temple very close to us all. The British Community is part of Europe and it is our Temple, so we must help to clear this debt and relieve our German brothers and sisters of this financial burden, which to some extent limits their other activities.

As well as the official sessions of the Conference, it was possible for National Assembly members to have many valuable consultations with other N.S.A. members who are concerned about the same goals. Our National Assembly consulted with N.S.A. representatives from France and Holland about the work in the Guianas and Surinam, and were delighted to learn of a pioneer from Holland, who is going to Surinam in the autumn, and a young French Bahá'í who has volunteered for French Guiana. We consulted with Denmark on the work in Faeroes, and welcomed also the excellent co-operation of Norway in this work. Representatives of the N.S.A. of Italy consulted with us

about Rhodes and Sardinia; and representatives from Germany discussed with us Cyclades and Crete. It was a busy and valuable week-end.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman of the Conference said, "We should act as channels through which the underlying forces of the universe can influence mankind, so that all men may be caused to act in accordance with these underlying forces which come from the will and purpose of God. When we leave here, Hands, Board Members and National Assembly Members, we should be able to act as channels through which Bahá'u'lláh will cause these underlying forces to guide mankind, so that the Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís can act more according to these underlying forces, more according to the law and purpose of God, so that the Bahá'ís in every country may act according to the will and purpose of God, and the non-Bahá'ís in that country will be influenced to act according to the will and purpose of God."

CONGRESS IN BRITISH GUIANA; NATIONAL SECRETARY TO ATTEND

The Hands of the Faith in the Western Hemisphere (South America) have called four Congresses, one to be held in Lima, Peru, one in Bogota, Colombia, one in Georgetown, British Guiana, and one in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Congress in Georgetown will be held on August 20th, 21st and 22nd, 1965. Its purpose is "to consult and find out the ways and means to approach the goals assigned by the Universal House of Justice for forming a new N.S.A. as soon as possible. Members of the Auxiliary Boards, N.S.A. and N.T.C. members of Venezuela and Brazil, and the believers in British Guiana, French Guiana, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, have all been invited by the Hands to attend, as well as a representative of the British N.S.A.

Mrs. Betty Reed, who will be going to represent the National Assembly, will have the responsibility also of consulting with the local friends and with their help of going thoroughly into the questions of acquiring a Hazíratu'l-Quds in Georgetown, Temple Land near to Georgetown and an Endowment in British Guiana. The Universal House of Justice has stressed the importance of acquiring properties this year, and the purchase of a Hazíratu'l-Quds is urgent, so that it is ready as the seat of the new National Spiritual Assembly as soon as the N.S.A. out there is formed. Betty Reed will also take the opportunity to visit Trinidad, where there is already one British Bahá'í family, Mr. and Mrs. John Firman, and to which island the Universal House of Justice has directed that we send an additional pioneer this

year. In his last letter to the British Community, written on August 30th, 1957, Shoghi Effendi urged that the Community "... associate itself more closely through the body of its elected representatives and its future Hands, with the National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies on the European mainland and in all the other continents of the globe, and particularly with the Hands already appointed in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres." On the way back, Betty will make a personal visit to Chicago, to go to the Temple, and we hope that it will be possible for her then to see representatives of the N.S.A. of the United States at Wilmette, of the N.S.A. of Canada in Toronto, and at least one of the Hands of the Cause in New York. After the consultation in Toronto, she hopes to return home via Iceland, where the N.S.A. of Canada has the goal of establishing a new National Spiritual Assembly, and where a Bahá'í family from Canada, who came originally from Liverpool, have recently gone as pioneers. Betty will be away from London for thirty days from August 16th. You can see that the tour will be a busy one; it fits in between the August and September meetings of the National Assembly.

DECLARATIONS

We are very happy to welcome to the Faith Miss Vivienne Youde (Youth) of Pontypridd; Miss Jacqueline Woodhouse of Brighton; Miss Dorothy E. Cowgill (Youth) of Nelson; Mrs. Lydia Johns of Cardiff; Mr. Ronald C. Roe of London; and Mr. Taras Manavi (Youth claiming voting rights) of Sheffield.

PRAYERS FOR THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF FRIENDS OVERSEAS

We have received news that all the Friends in the Dominican Republic, the seat of major disturbances recently, are safe, but all activities are paralysed; the believers of El Salvador, a country recently ravaged by a disastrous earthquake, are all safe, although the homes of many of them were destroyed; the friends in Vietnam are continuing to do wonderful work in a country ravaged by fighting. The National Assembly asks for your continued prayers for the friends in all these countries until conditions are normal for them again.

BELIEVERS WISHING TO VISIT PERSIA

Bahá'ís who wish for any reason to visit Persia need to obtain permission from the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran. Letters to that N.S.A. applying for permission should be sent to the British National Assembly at 27 Rutland Gate, London, S.W.7., to be endorsed identifying you as a Bahá'í and sent on to Persia.

KNOW YOUR BAHÁ'Í LITERATURE

THE WORLD ORDER OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

BOOK REVIEW by MARION HOFMAN

"The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh" is a legacy to the Bahá'ís and to the world which our generation can but dimly appreciate. This series of essays, written by Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, from 1929 to 1936, embody in bold, vast, and certain outline the pattern and the evolving momentum of World Order.

It is a unique book, the first and only one of its kind, for its appearance depended upon a fitting climax in history and upon the assured knowledge which only the Guardian of God's Faith could bring. Here is no tentative approach to the events of our time, no deduction of trend based upon reasonable observation and subject to all the limitations of the human mind. Here, rather, is the consummate revelation of a process, divine and irresistible, which today is surrounding and motivating the actions of humanity on the threshold of its mightiest age—the epoch of world civilization.

PATHETIC EFFORTS OF WORLD LEADERS

The seven years which produced these essays can be seen in retrospect as a critical but stagnant time, when beneath a relative calm the roots of disintegration were fastening on every social institution. In the experience of nations they represent the culmination of that period of respite and fatuous security between two wars, which in reality was a breeding-ground of superficial panaceas obscuring the true and bitter situation. While some sixty governments renounced war as an instrument of national policy, through their indifference, visionlessness, or unscrupulous acts they were preparing the most frightful war in recorded history. They believed or professed to believe, that peace could be had for no price but a promise and the ink on a piece of paper. The intricate and solemn responsibilities of interdependence, and the sacrifices and labours which the building of a peaceful international society would require were passed by with a thoughtlessness nothing short of suicidal. Barely-repressed hostilities, warning signals of economic disruption, the introduction of shameless philosophies of government, and finally the outbreak of conquest in two widely-separated areas—all were neglected and glossed over by a world unwilling to abandon its traditional divisions for the dynamic task of universal reconstruction. "How pathetic

indeed," came the Guardian's penetrating judgment in 1931, "are the efforts of those leaders of human institutions who, in utter disregard of the spirit of the age, are striving to adjust national processes, suited to the ancient days of self-contained nations, to an age which must either achieve the unity of the world, as adumbrated by Bahá'u'lláh, or perish."

FOR BAHÁ'IS A SEED-TIME

For the Bahá'ís these seven years will also be remembered as a seed-time of relative quiet, not of evil but of vigorous and fruitful days. For these were the years immediately preceding the opening of the greatest collective enterprise in the first century of the Faith, the inception of that Divine Plan which is so intimately entwined with the world's destiny. They were, moreover, in the most literal sense the last stretch of calm before the Judgment Day. And it was precisely through the influence of the Guardian's writings, which poured in a continuous flow from Haifa, that the tiny community of followers of Bahá'u'lláh was quickened and trained to take up its role in the world-shaking events so soon to be unleashed upon an unsuspecting generation.

A VISION OF PERSUASIVE POWER

As humanity neared its zero-hour and the clash of irreconcilable forces loomed ahead, upon the very eve of that final and universal struggle for the destruction of outworn systems, which is still raging and can only end with the emergence of a world society, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith raised a clear and unequivocal call summoning men of all nations, races, classes, and beliefs to a single and a sacred goal. "It is towards this goal—the goal of a new World Order, Divine in origin, all-embracing in scope, equitable in principle, challenging in its features—that a harassed humanity must strive."

In some such terms as these, sweeping and irresistible as the movement of nations at their crucial hour, we who support the life-germ of a potent Faith must seek the meaning of this remarkable guide-book, "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh." Toward it Bahá'ís have a special responsibility, for here are contained the indispensable truths which will clarify and invigorate our every activity. Above all, here is a vision of persuasive power

—the vision of a world in birth—whose dynamic impact is certain to unlock the convictions of masses of men who, in the not distant future, will rally to the standard of Bahá'u'lláh.

ALL THE FUNDAMENTALS OF WORLD ORDER

To study this book is to realize that, within its scope, are all the fundamentals of World Order. Why world civilization must be spiritually based, the unique fusion of Bahá'u'lláh's "regenerating Spirit" with His "supreme instrument for the establishment of the Most Great Peace," the social principles which will buttress world society, its root in the organic oneness of mankind, its structure and key institutions, the distinction of this Divine Economy from all other religious and political systems, the authentic sources and explicit safeguards of world unity, the significance and function of World Order as the consummation of "man's collective life on this planet," the challenge of its inevitable unfoldment to all resistant institutions, America's predominant role as its "champion-builder," the "fire of ordeal" through which humanity is bound to pass with its assured outcome in the gradual welding together of discordant elements into one all-encompassing world commonwealth, and finally the entrancing vista of a "Day when the kingdoms of this world shall have become the Kingdom of Bahá'u'lláh"—these are but some of the themes which the Guardian unfolds in seven matchless essays.

NO SINGLE WORD DISPENSABLE

These are pages so packed with meaning that they cannot by any effort be truly summarized. In the writings of Shoghi Effendi no single word is dispensable. Nothing less than his own two hundred pages can encompass the essence of World Order which he portrays. Nor is one essay to be preferred above another, for like the World Order itself, they are organic and progressive; each supplements and evolves the Guardian's thought with its own individual purpose and use. So compact are these chapters, so revealing, inexhaustible, and often astonishing, even to Bahá'ís, that they exercise a constant claim and bestow an ever-renewing stimulus and joy.

PARTICULAR ESSAYS FOR PRIOR ATTENTION

Perhaps for those approaching the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh for the first time, it is wise to point out two sections in particular, "The Goal of a New World Order" (1931) and "The

Unfoldment of World Civilization" (1936). The first is a classic statement, perfect and irrefutable, of the world's plight, its travail, and the promise and foundation of the coming Order. It is a statement which grows more valid with every passing day, and ought to be known by the intelligent citizenry of this and every land. Both essays are without doubt the creative source of concepts which even now are transforming and elevating the currents of contemporary thought to a recognition of humanity's coming of age and the steady unfoldment of world commonwealth.

Still a third section indispensable to students is "The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh" (1934), giving definitive form to the essentials of Bahá'í belief which are requisite to membership. Yet basic as this chapter is for students, it has a thousand-fold interest for Bahá'ís themselves whose "first obligation" is "to strive to obtain a more adequate understanding of the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's stupendous Revelation." Here is the Guardian's own explanation and measuring-rod of "certain fundamental verities . . . which lie at the basis of our Faith and the integrity of which it is our first duty to safe-guard." The marvellous virility of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh is vividly glimpsed in this description of its source and development, for "the bedrock on which this Administrative Order is founded is God's immutable Purpose for mankind in this day."

IMPACT ON FIRST RECIPIENTS

Those who open "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh" for the first time will always have in store a vital and lasting experience. Yet it is something to have lived through the impact of these messages as published from year to year, absorbing them with passionate concentration, and discovering within one's inmost nature the traces of their steadily-maturing effect. With consummate wisdom and skill the Guardian led out the small band of Bahá'u'lláh's followers, expanding their wisdom, deepening their understanding, rousing their energies, until no longer immersed in the processes of a dying civilization they stood, ready and poised for their task, upon the threshold of that new World Order which is the chief object of Divine Revelation in our age.

TRANSMUTING POTENCY

The fulfilment of Bahá'u'lláh's great remedy for society requires the instrumentality of conscious and willing lives who, recognizing in the daily struggles of our time the birth-pangs of World Order, will become its first and loyal citizens. This book contains the potency to transmute all those who respond to its import

into men and women for whom "the earth is but one country and mankind its citizens." In "The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh" the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith has unloosed in his readers such energies and hopes as shall never be stilled until the wondrous edifice of the Most Great Peace has been forever reared.

FINANCE

In a letter to the N.S.A. dated 14th June, 1965, the Universal House of Justice said:

"We are most grateful for the contributions made by the N.S.A. and also the L.S.A.'s groups and individuals in the British Isles. The burdens which the International Fund has to bear are continually increasing and it is most encouraging to see how some N.S.A.'s are responding to the needs, and are making every effort they can to budget the maximum possible for the world-wide work of the Faith."

This is timely encouragement as our community is now called on for greater efforts in support of the Funds than ever before. The pioneers for our overseas goals must reach their posts this year, and the Universal House of Justice has urged us to acquire the buildings and lands assigned to us as quickly as possible so as to release our energies for the intensification of teaching leading up to world proclamation. All this needs a lot of money for which the N.S.A. has adopted a record budget, nearly £23,000, including £10,000 from donations. Already we have fallen about £800 behind the level needed to reach the target. The friends will be kept informed of the position in the Journal and the N.S.A. appeals to L.S.A.s and groups as well as to every individual believer to make the necessary and sustained sacrifice.

SOME THOUGHTS ON GIVING? (Continued)

By Ruhíyyih Khánum

"What do we feel when we give to the Cause of God? That money, small or a lot, we know is truly well-spent. It flows out to bring good to the world through enabling the Faith to carry on its work, execute its plans, publish its literature, erect its edifices which are beacons of idealism to despairing humanity.

"Our institutions, the Hands, Auxiliary Board Members, the Universal House of Justice are a protection and love for all the

world. When we contribute to these institutions in love and unity in our local assemblies we reflect the Light of the Faith even as a mirror reflects the sun.

"Of the many wonderful teachings in our Faith, one that is overlooked is that through our prayers we can change and even revolutionize our characters. We should take hold of this strong rope of prayer and haul ourselves up higher. Therefore, we can, through prayer, give more to the Cause. Not only can we give more to the Cause, not only can we pray for greater means in order to give more but also to have the things change in us, in our characters, which prevent us from giving—fear of the future, worry, greed, selfishness or self-indulgence—transmitted into the opposite—trust in God, reliance on Him, generosity, unselfishness, self-sacrifice.

"This is our Cause, the ocean that has bathed us with its healing waters. Back into that ocean should go some token of our love, however small, that will enable it to spread out further and reach other souls and quicken them with its waters of eternal life."

Frankfurt Temple Fund

END OF YEAR TOTALS

Community contributions ...	£741
N.S.A. donation ...	1025
Grand total for year ...	£1766

Income from Donations

Budget	Actual To Date
£10,000	£10,000
£9,000	£9,000
£8,000	£8,000
£7,000	£7,000
£6,000	£6,000
£5,000	£5,000
£4,000	£4,000
£3,000	£3,000
£2,500	£2,000
£2,000	£1,692
£1,000	£1,000
Gap £808	

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is of the British Isles
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGETS FOR THE YEAR 122 (1965/6)

INCOME BUDGET				EXPENDITURE BUDGET			
From Donations	...	...	£10,000	National Spiritual Assembly, including Salaries, Cables and Telephone, Travelling, Audit and Bank Charges, Legal Charges, Postage and Stationery, Journal and Annual Report, Convention, Incorporation Costs	...	...	£5,500
Refund of Income Tax	...	...	3,400	English Teaching Committee	...	...	185
Interest and Dividends	...	...	600	New Territories Committee	...	...	650
Transfer of Bequests	...	...	1,300	Assembly Assistance Committee	...	...	500
Sundry	...	...	150	Irish Teaching Committee	...	...	300
Capital Projects Fund	...	...	2,450	Scottish Teaching Committee	...	...	650
Capital	...	...	2,210	Welsh Teaching Committee	...	...	300
In hand at beginning of year	...	...	2,150	Pioneer Committee (£3,000 Home, £1,500 Overseas)	...	...	4,500
			<u>£22,260</u>	Youth Committees (£100 each)	...	...	400
				Consultative Committee	...	...	75
				Proclamation Committee	...	...	100
				Public Relations Committee	...	...	250
				Publicity Committee	...	...	100
				Haziratu'l-Quds Running Expenses	...	...	1,200
				Haziratu'l-Quds Repairs and Maintenance	...	...	540
				Dublin Haziratu'l-Quds	...	...	300
				Donations to:			
				International Fund	...	...	500
				European Continental Fund	...	...	100
				African Continental Fund	...	...	50
				South American Continental Fund	...	...	50
				Frankfurt Temple Fund	...	...	60
				Special Donation to International Fund	...	...	500
				European and S. American Committee	...	...	800
				Africa and Pacific Committee	...	...	400
				Audio Visual Aids Committee	...	...	100
				International Pioneer Committee for Africa	...	...	50
				Capital Projects:			
				British Guiana Haziratu'l-Quds	...	...	1,500
				Temple Land	...	...	1,000
				Endowments in Eire and B. Guiana	...	...	200
				Haziratu'l-Quds in Malawi and Cameroon	...	...	400
				Irish Temple Land	...	...	1,000
							<u>£22,260</u>

FEASTS AND COMING EVENTS

August 1—Kamál (Perfection).

August 20—Asmä' (Names).

September 8—'Izzat (Might).

A one-day School will be held in Northampton on 15th August. The theme of the School is "Universal Love" and it will be held at the Bahá'í Centre, 13 Wood Street, starting at 10.45 a.m. All Bahá'is and their friends welcome.

Week-end School at Bangor on 30th/31st July and 1st August.

Week-end School at Brentwood, Coniston—15th/17th October. Details to be announced later.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No. 1 ACCOUNT

14th May, 1965 to 18th June, 1965 (inclusive)

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
Donations:—				N.S.A.			
L.S.A.'s and Groups	...	...	£156 13 0 (37)*	Travel	...	...	£57 19 0
Individuals	...	...	713 0 6 (56)	Office	...	...	228 16 10
			<u>£869 13 6</u>	Postage and Stationery	...	...	12 16 0
Less Payments against Covenants			19 18 9	Convention	...	...	4 1 4
			<u>£849 14 9</u>	Annual Report and Journal	...	...	147 0 9
Interest and Dividends	...	...	69 10 11	Auditors	...	...	59 17 0
Refunds to us:—				E.T.C.	...	...	100 15 2
Loans	...	...	15 0 0	Other Home Committees	...	...	55 15 9
Sundry	...	...	1 7 10	Overseas Committees	...	...	59 5 9
Excess Expenditure over Income	...	...	316 11 4	Pioneer Committees	...	...	255 18 0
			<u>£1,251 4 10</u>	Other Committees	...	...	22 2 6
				Sundry	...	...	6 3
				Extraordinary	...	...	40 4 6
				Income Tax	...	...	9 6 0
				Monthly Transfers:			
				H.Q.—Rprs. and Dec.	...	...	100 0 0
				—Running	...	...	35 0 0
				Donations	...	...	62 0 0
							<u>£1,251 4 10</u>

* **Communities contributing:** Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Brighton Children, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Cheadle, Dublin, Eccles, Epsom, Exeter, Glasgow, Inverness, Jersey, Leicester, Liverpool, London, Malta, Manchester, Motherwell, Nelson, Newcastle, Norwich, N. Berwick, Oxford, Pontypridd, Portsmouth, Romford, Salisbury, Southport, Sutton Coldfield, Swansea, Watford, Winchester, Workingham R.D.