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*In Adrianople*



*A house where Bahá'u'lláh stayed*

## FRANKFURT CONFERENCE

### TRANSCRIPTION OF OPENING ADDRESS

Transcription of First Talk by Hand of the Cause of God Paul Haney, representative of the Universal House of Justice at the Intercontinental Conference.

As we assemble here, in the second Intercontinental Conference held in the city of Frankfurt, we turn our hearts to Bahá'u'lláh, the supreme Manifestation, the Glory of the Father and the Eternal Beauty of God revealed in all its splendour 100 years ago, when He proclaimed His message to the kings and rulers of the world and summoned them to heed His divine call to unity. The six Hands of the Cause chosen by the Universal House of Justice to represent that Supreme Body at the six Intercontinental Conferences of this centenary year, have come to these gatherings directly from Adrianople, the place of Bahá'u'lláh's banishment, which

was referred to by Him in the Tablet of Ahmad as *'this remote prison'*, and the spot from which He revealed the most significant of the Tablets comprising the proclamation, the one-hundredth anniversary of which the Bahá'ís are commemorating this year as we enter the third phase of the Nine Year Plan.

It is impossible to describe fully in any language the very moving experience which these six Hands have been privileged to share. It is, however, the urgent hope of each one of us that, in the course of these Conferences, we may be able to convey to the Friends, at least in some measure, the spirit of this unique and historic pilgrimage. Our beloved Guardian has told us that one hundred years ago Bahá'u'lláh's proclamation reached its zenith, its highest point, when the divine outpourings flowed in great abundance. It must now be our

firm resolve that the commemoration of that event in this Centenary Year will carry the followers of Bahá'u'lláh to unprecedented victories in the teaching and proclamation of His Faith.

We feel that it is particularly appropriate at this Conference to speak briefly concerning the significance of Bahá'u'lláh's sojourn in Adrianople. This period was associated with some of the greatest vicissitudes and trials of the life of the Blessed Beauty, as well as with the high point of His proclamation, and in this combination we find the pattern so often repeated in the history of the Faith, that of victory following crisis, and triumph following trial and persecution. I am going to depart for a moment from the text and mention in passing that, during the period of Bahá'u'lláh's sojourn in Adrianople, He revealed no less than fourteen of His



greatest Tablets and prayers; these include the *Sūriy-i-Mulūk*—the Tablet to the Kings—addressed collectively to the kings and rulers of the world, the Tablet to Napoleon III, the healing prayer, the great Tablet to the Shah of Persia, and many others. In the days ahead, when we are called upon to proclaim the message of Bahá'u'lláh on a scale never before witnessed, we may expect to see this pattern of victory following crisis and triumph following trial repeated as the Faith emerges from obscurity and moves forward to fulfil its destiny. The Bahá'is of the world look forward expectantly and with courage and assurance to these coming days of trial and triumph, which undoubtedly will usher in a new era in the unfoldment of the Plan of God.

The message from the Universal House of Justice states that "upon our efforts depends in a very large measure the fate of humanity", therefore the responsibility of every Bahá'í is very great. It is very, very significant that the House of Justice has been moved to make this presentation to the heads of state of 140 different countries, this presentation of the Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh and His Divine summons. Bahá'u'lláh directed His Tablet to the Kings to all the kings of the earth, and the majority of the countries of the world at that time were ruled by kings, and to certain specific rulers individually, but now this Proclamation Book is being sent to the head of every important country in the world. Thus the political rulers of the world are having a second chance, and probably their last. We may hope and pray with all our hearts that at least some of them may be touched by this message of Bahá'u'lláh and they may respond in a way which the rulers failed to do one hundred years ago. The prospects, the possibilities of their doing so, however, if we are to be realistic, cannot be considered to be very promising. Therefore the time for the world may be very short before the grievous calamities foretold by Bahá'u'lláh, warned against by the Master and the beloved Guardian, overtake the world. Therefore the Bahá'is must exert the utmost effort to accomplish as much as possible in the fields of proclamation, expansion and consolidation while there is yet time to pursue and attain these goals. If we are truly to fulfil our destiny at this critical moment, we must do a number of things as Bahá'is, as the chosen followers of Bahá'u'lláh in these critical hours: we must first immerse ourselves in the sacred writings of our Faith; then we must study and strive to understand the principles, the interpretations and instructions of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and our beloved Guardian; and then we must follow the guide-lines which are given to us by the Universal House of Justice, that divinely ordained body created in the sacred text of Bahá'u'lláh, which is the infallible source of guidance for the world until the next Manifestation appears.

In the last Ridván message this year, the Universal House of Justice not only

called for a proclamation effort of unprecedented scale, but also strongly emphasised the teaching work and the imperative necessity for the Friends to deepen themselves in knowledge of the Sacred Writings and their significance. At this time, we wish to call attention specifically to one or two of the passages from that message. "As we approach the third phase of the Nine Year Plan there opens before us a prospect of enthralling opportunities such as to thrill the heart of every ardent follower of Bahá'u'lláh. For more than a century we have toiled to teach the Cause; heroic sacrifices, dedicated services, prodigious efforts have been made in order to establish the outposts of the Faith in the chief countries, territories and islands of the earth and to raise the framework of the Administrative Order around the planet. But the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh remains, as yet, unknown to the generality of men. Now, at last, at long last, the world-wide community of the Most Great Name is called upon to launch, on a global scale and to every stratum of human society, an enduring and intensive proclamation of the healing message that the Promised One has come and that the unity and well-being of the human race is the purpose of His Revelation. This long-to-be-sustained campaign, commencing next October in commemoration of the centenary of the sounding of the "opening notes" of Bahá'u'lláh's own proclamation, and gathering momentum throughout the remainder of the Nine Year Plan, may well become the spearhead of other plans to be launched continually until humanity has recognised and gratefully acclaimed its Redeemer and its Lord." "Every effort of proclamation must be sustained by teaching, particularly locally where public announcements should be related to such efforts. This co-ordination is essential, for nothing will be more disheartening than for thousands to hear of the Faith and have nowhere to turn for further information". "This is the theme we must pursue in our efforts to deepen in the Cause. What is Bahá'u'lláh's purpose for the human race? For what ends did He submit to the appalling cruelties and indignities heaped upon Him? What does He mean by "a new race of men"? What are the profound changes which He will bring about? The answers are to be found in the Sacred Writings of our Faith and in their interpretation by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and our beloved Guardian. Let the friends immerse themselves in this ocean, let them organize regular study classes for its constant consideration, and as reinforcement to their effort, let them remember conscientiously the requirements of daily prayer and reading of the Word of God enjoined upon all Bahá'is by Bahá'u'lláh."

On the day before the six Hands of the Cause who were to represent the House of Justice at the six great Inter-Continental Conferences of this great Proclamation Year were to leave for Adrianople, these six Hands met with the Universal House of Justice in the shadow of the

Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh; after visiting that most Holy Spot, we went to the Mansion of Bahá'u'lláh and there had a consultation about these Conferences and the points the House of Justice felt should be stressed in the course of the consultations at these vital and important gatherings. We are going to summarise briefly, this morning, these specific points, both those of a general nature and those directed specifically to the Continent of Europe. First and foremost, of course, the House of Justice hopes that the teaching goals of the Nine Year Plan, both on the home-fronts and abroad, and the imperative necessity of such efforts be stressed. And thirdly, that the meaning of 'universal participation' will be discussed and at the end of the Conference widely understood by all present. Naturally this applies above all to the teaching work, which is the spiritual obligation of every Bahá'í, as we know; also universal participation in contributing to the funds of the Cause, local, national and international, including the specific needs of the Panama Temple. It should be understood and realised fully in making plans and discussing the proclamation of the Faith, upon which we are embarking, that this proclamation effort extends over a five-and-a-half-year period, and the House of Justice suggests that each National Assembly phases its plans accordingly. This does not mean that we should start our proclamation at a very low level now and gradually work up to a climax perhaps by 1973; not at all. The proclamation effort should start at a very high level now, its scope should be broadened and increased as much as possible in the remaining years of the Plan and our efforts intensified. All other programmes and activities should be carried forward vigorously—teaching and consolidation—in order to take advantage of the opportunities created by the proclamation activities.

Points of special emphasis for Europe: The House of Justice has emphasised the need to carry the Faith to every stratum of society. That is not being done now fully either in Europe or any other part of the world, but the Universal House of Justice asks us particularly to stress this on the European Continent and the British Isles. The House of Justice asks that attention be given at this Conference to promoting special teaching efforts directed to the islands surrounding the Continent of Europe; this comment is directed to all national communities, but particularly to that of the British Isles, with special reference to the islands of the North Sea. In our consultation we did not discuss the reasons for the special emphasis placed on these island goals, but each of us is entitled to think about it and speculate; it may be that, at some time in the future, conditions will be so chaotic on the Continent that these islands may become the depositories of the strength of the Faith, who knows, for a brief period of time or a period of time unpredictable. And the last point, the need to take the Faith to the Iron



Curtain countries. This goal of the Nine Year Plan is primarily a responsibility of the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany, but it is shared by at least two other National Assemblies. There are, I believe, eight new territories to be opened—goals which have remained unattained. The National Assembly of Germany is responsible for six of these, the National Assembly of the United States for one, the National Assembly of Finland for one, those are the eight territories.

In concluding this opening address to the Inter-Continental Conference at Frankfurt, I would like to quote briefly from the message of the Hands of the Cause in the Holy Land addressed to the last Inter-Continental Conference which met in this city in 1958, a few months after the passing of our beloved Guardian, because these particular statements are as appropriate now as they were then, if not more so. "The work of Bahá'u'lláh lies before us to be completed. No one generation will do this, a thousand years at least are required to carry out and mature the specific provisions of His Dispensation. But to each man his opportunity, to each generation its tasks". "Great moments in history require great deeds; great men are not necessarily those best qualified to be great, but rather those who see their chance and seize it, with love and courage when it offers itself. The records of our Faith show that its heroes and heroines, its saints and martyrs, sprang mostly from the rank and file, but what they possessed which raised them to the summits of fame and glory, were vision and faith". May Bahá'u'lláh grant that all of us be endowed with both of these qualities, vision and faith, in an abundant degree—vision of the greatness of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and faith within ourselves to arise and fulfil our responsibilities, that we be strengthened and confirmed to serve the Faith as never before in the days that lie ahead of us; and above all that our services may be acceptable at His Threshold.



**Cable from the Universal House of Justice to the Frankfurt Conference.**

HEARTS WARMED AWARENESS  
ATTENDANTS CONFERENCE  
PRESSING RESPONSIBILITIES  
PRESENT HOUR PRAYING  
FERVENTLY HOLY SHRINES  
BOUNTIFUL CONFIRMATIONS  
BAHA'ULLAH EVERY EFFORT  
MADE FIELDS PIONEERING  
TEACHING PROCLAMATION  
CAUSE GOD CRADLE WESTERN  
CIVILIZATION SO URGENTLY IN  
NEED SPIRITUAL AWAKENING  
THROUGH DIVINE MESSAGE.



## National Observance Day



MR. SAMANDARI

By 11 a.m. believers from as far as Wales and Northumberland had begun to assemble at the Royal Commonwealth Society Hall on the 30th September, 1967 for what was to be the largest gathering ever of the British Bahá'ís. Before the Devotional Programme had finished, all corners of the British Isles were represented and in all, some 500 British Bahá'ís assembled to give our Proclamation programme a thrilling start.

After a warm welcome and brief introduction by the Day's Chairman, Joe Jameson, Adib Taherzadeh addressed the gathering on the theme "The Historical Background to Bahá'u'lláh's Proclamation". Betty Reed then spoke on the implications of Proclamation to the individual in his own personal life in her address "A New Race of Men".

Following a break for soft drinks, Philip Hainsworth summarised the origins and objectives of the present Proclamation period and the certain, as well as the possible, effects of our Proclamation efforts to the title "The Unfolding Process of Proclamation."

Though profoundly moved by the wonderful spirit of this meeting and the thoughts presented by the speakers, the friends were carried to a still higher point of dedication by the presentation of the film of the Master taken on one of His visits to America. It was not possible to play the recording of the Master's voice chanting the "Glad Tidings" Tablet but the friends were privileged to pass by a precious fragment of the actual handwriting of Bahá'u'lláh, introduced by Hand of the Cause John Ferraby. Also on view was the presentation copy of the new publication of the Universal House of Justice, "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh".

A Buffet Supper followed when over 400 adults and children broke bread together.

The news that the gathering was to be blessed by a visit from Hand of the Cause Tarazu'lláh Samandari had aroused great excitement and the afternoon's proceedings had been condensed to give the Hand time to address the friends before the evening's Concert. Unknown to the friends, the Hand had collapsed from exhaustion at the airport but when he learned that the friends were waiting he insisted on making the effort to meet and address them. In the meantime it was agreed to ask the artistes to commence their Concert even though it may be necessary to make a break when the Hand arrived.

The performances by Farhang Jahanpour on the Santur; Sylvia Schulman, Pianoforte and Lois Hainsworth, Soprano were of the highest order. Deep regret was expressed by very many of the friends that a concert of such standard should have been curtailed and that these talented artistes were not able to complete the programme for the preparation of which they had given so much time and effort.

From all over Britain reports have come that this was one of the most inspiring gatherings of the British Bahá'ís and it has been repeatedly said that Proclamation has indeed "got off to a good start."

## WEEK-END SCHOOLS

6 Park Terrace, Newcastle, 2,  
on 16th/17th December.

Registration fee 5/- Accommodation will be available for those bringing sleeping bags. For further information write to Doreen Holdsworth, 6 Park Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, 2.

Cragnor House  
Chyangweal  
Carbis Bay

St. Ives, Cornwall  
on 22nd/24th March, 1968.

For further details please send S.A.E. to Mrs. T. Scott at the above address.



# REGIONAL CONFERENCE—GUYANA

The spirit of the Conference was already felt on the Friday evening when the Friends from Brazil, France, Surinam, Cayenne and Guyana met together in the Georgetown Haziratu'l-Quds. The personal representative of the Hand of the Cause in South America, Auxiliary Board Member Margot Worley, was from Brazil; Auxiliary Board Member Anthony Worley, Dr. Nosrat Rabbani (who represented the N.S.A. of Holland) Miss Lygia Vasilda, Miss Alma Stoffel and Mr. Alex Van Dongen were from Surinam; and Dr. and Mrs. Rivadavia da Silva, Mr. Jago, Mr. St. Luce and Mr. Radamothe Eleodore were from Cayenne. Mr. Salim Noonoo, member of the N.S.A. of France, had come from the Panama Conference, and the link through him at the Georgetown Conference with the N.S.A. of France was especially appreciated. This was the first time that the believers from the three Guianas had met together.

The Conference proper began on Saturday morning, October 14th, with about thirty Friends present, which soon swelled to forty-seven as the morning advanced. The opening prayers were said in Persian, French and Dutch. With Mrs. Worley as Conference Chairman, the Friends discussed the goals of the Guianas, the main ones being the overall goal of the formation of the new N.S.A., and the individual goals of the establishment of four L.S.A.'s in Guyana; one L.S.A. and one group in Surinam; and one L.S.A. and one group in French Guiana. The firmness of the foundation of the new N.S.A. would depend upon the spiritual strength of the believers and the degree of consolidation of the Local Assemblies.

Reviewing the progress in Guyana, it was noted that the Friends were now working to establish at least two new L.S.A.'s—which would bring the number to the required four—one in Kitty and one in Plaisance, with the additional possibility of Campbellville also. A Temple site had been chosen on rising ground close to the new road now being laid down between Atkinson International Airport and Mackenzie; negotiations were in hand with the Minister for its acquisition, as it is Crown Land. Two possible pieces of Endowment land had been investigated, but neither had proved suitable and the search was continuing. Recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days had been achieved, but recognition of the Marriage Certificate would depend upon a larger Community. In Surinam, the Friends were working to achieve the incorporation of the L.S.A. of Paramaribo, established in 1966, and it is hoped to register the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate very soon. The six believers in Cayenne were working hard to secure the numbers for the establishment next Ridván of their L.S.A.; when the Assembly was assured,

they would extend the teaching work to the small villages. They felt that to help with all this they needed literature in French; travelling teachers (preferably from France); teaching materials such as tapes, slides, records, visual aids, etc., contact with the Bahá'í world through correspondence, news bulletins and prayers for their development. The financing of the teaching work was discussed, and the Friends were told of some Persian farmers who had marked some of their fruit trees and had given the proceeds from those trees to the Fund, thus illustrating the spirit of true sacrifice. The importance of becoming self-supporting communities was stressed. The Surinam Friends had started a fund for a Bahá'í library; and one of the blind Bahá'ís of Guyana, Jacob Moe, offered to donate his books for the start of a library in Cayenne.

In the afternoon the Friends experienced a solemn moment, when the Tablet in Bahá'u'lláh's Own handwriting, sent for the occasion by the British N.S.A., was unveiled by Mr. Worley. When it had been viewed by the Friends, Mr. Noonoo explained its contents, and Mrs. Hahnfeld, the Chairman of the Georgetown L.S.A. described the similarly touching moment when the photograph of Bahá'u'lláh had been unveiled at the Panama Conference and the wonderful feeling of power which had seemed to pervade the Conference hall. Mr. Monte Agard Secretary of the Georgetown Assembly, welcomed the Friends, and loving messages to the Conference were read.

In the discussion which followed on Proclamation plans, Surinam reported that their Proclamation Committee had already put articles in three newspapers about the letters to Napoleon and the Pope; they were arranging two-day study courses, study picnics, and were investigating the possibility of television programmes. A well-attended Sunday school was being run for Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í children. In Surinam pamphlets were needed in Hindustani and Chinese. The Guyanese Friends reported successful radio broadcasts, articles in the press, and intentions to try to get items from the record "Bahá'í Meditations" included in the radio programme "Morning Devotions"; in addition to this publicity, their plans included concentrated teaching in the goal areas, deepening of the believers, a greater use of prayer and individual self-examination, all vital supporting activities of Proclamation; they had set up a special Proclamation Fund. A special copy of the Universal House of Justice's book, "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh", would be presented to the Governor-General of Guyana on behalf of the Universal House, and plans were in hand for other copies to be presented, also personally, to prominent people in Guyana.

Surinam was also planning to present copies of the book to civic leaders; and similar action would be taken in Cayenne, with the assistance of the N.S.A. of France.

Mr. Henry Dolphin spoke of pioneering experiences in Makouria a Government stone quarry on the Essequibo River, one aspect of which was his effort to improve the deplorable living conditions of its inhabitants. Mr. Prince Warwick of Mackenzie introduced to the Conference Mrs. Iona Moses of Coomacka, the first Amerindian believer in Guyana, telling of her instant acceptance of the Faith, her zeal, and the teaching trips she had already made to Leguan and Herstelling; expansion of the Faith amongst the Amerindians was eagerly hoped for. The Friends of the Mackenzie/Wismar/Christianburg Community planned to hold two firesides every week, with an occasional tea-party in Mackenzie, as well as to concentrate on expansion in the Wismar district. A happy supper at the Centre, with Mr. Noonoo as host, ended a full day.

Sunday morning was devoted to the important task of spreading the Faith among the Amerindians, and Mrs. Worley shared with the Conference experiences of the teaching work amongst Amerindians in other countries of South America, especially Brazil and Bolivia, where the zeal of Bahá'í teachers had brought resounding victories. 'Abdul Bahá had acclaimed the important part the Amerindians would play in the future world civilisation; the beloved Guardian had guided the South American countries on this vital matter of the teaching of the Amerindians, and it was important to study his letters. The time to teach the Amerindians was now. Three of the Surinam Friends spoke of their resolve to undertake such work.

The Conference had already considered the importance of the three Guianas keeping in very close touch with each other, and a News Bulletin was suggested which would include news from the Latin American Bulletin as well as from elsewhere.

At the close of the Regional Conference the thoughts of the Friends turned again to Panama, to the needs of the Panama Temple Fund and to the wonderful Intercontinental Conference.

This eventful weekend ended with the celebration by the Friends of the Guianas of the 19 Day Feast of 'Ilm (Knowledge).

Greetings and Messages: A message was read from Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Grasselly of Paraquay, expressing their regrets at being unable to attend.

The Conference received individual messages from the N.S.A.'s of the British Isles and the Netherlands, and a



joint message sent from the Frankfurt Conference signed by Gt. Britain, France and the Netherlands. The following cable was sent to the Universal House of Justice, the Hand of the Cause of God Jalal Khazéh, and the N.S.A.'s of the British Isles, France and the Netherlands:

"TWO AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE N.S.A. FRANCE 47 BELIEVERS INCLUDING SURINAM FOUR FRENCH GUIANA FIVE STOP FRIENDS GATHERED DELIBERATIONS GUIANAS INSPIRED SPIRIT GENERATED INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCE PANAMA CONCENTRATED JOINT EFFORTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS DETERMINED GOALS BESEECH PRAYERS SPIRITUAL DEEPENING LOVING GREETINGS REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF GUIANAS".

The following reply was received from the Universal House of Justice, through the British N.S.A.:

"PLEASE CONVEY TO THE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGETOWN OUR WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE CABLE WHICH WAS SENT FROM THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE GUIANAS, RECENTLY HELD THERE. WE WILL PRAY IN THE HOLY SHRINES FOR BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS ON THE WORK IN THAT REGION AND THAT THE SPIRIT GENERATED FROM THE PANAMA CONFERENCE MAY ENABLE THEM TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF A NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY WELL BEFORE THE END OF THE NINE YEAR PLAN."

And the following reply from the Hand of the Cause:

"DELIGHTED CABLE REGIONAL CONFERENCE HELD PRESENCE TWO BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVE N.S.A. FRANCE FRIENDS GUYANA SURINAM CAYENNE TOTAL 47 PRAYING ACCOMPLISHMENT GOALS ESTABLISHMENT N.S.A. GUIANAS 1969 INFORMED WORLD CENTRE EFFORTS LOVE KHAZEH".

#### FOR MEDITATION.

"In this day every one must be tested, as the time of the 'chosen ones' to prove their worth is indeed very short. The day of attainment is drawing to a close for them. The 'first fruits' must be ripened in spirit, mellowed in love, and consumed by their self-sacrifice and severance. None other are acceptable as first fruits, and all who fail to attain to the standard through the tests, are relegated to the 'many who are called'."

The more one is severed from the world, from desires, from human affairs, and conditions, the more impervious does one become to the tests of God. Tests are a means by which a soul is measured as to its fitness, and proven out by its own acts. God knows its

## INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCE—PANAMA

Amidst the warm sunshine and cool mountain breezes, in a most exquisite spot high in the mountains just outside Panama City, and visible from all sides, the friends were gathered on Sunday morning, 8th October, for the laying of the foundation stone of the Mother Temple of Latin America. After the devotional programme, Hand of the Cause of God Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánúm, representing the Universal House of Justice, stepped forward to place the small silver box containing earth from the Most Holy Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in the special niche which had been prepared in the stone, and with infinite care proceeded to seal it therein.

Over 700 Bahá'is from five continents of the world were gathered in the City of Panama. Many had gone to great trouble to attend the Conference — one friend had travelled no less than twenty days to reach there—for many, this was the first time in their lives they had set foot outside the villages in which they had been born! Friends had come from as far north as Alaska, and from as far south as Punta Arenas and one-hundred Indian Bahá'is from eleven diversified tribes of Central and South America, wearing their colourful native costumes were present. Included in this unforgettable and historic gathering were twenty-three representatives of National Assemblies, who with so many other friends could not speak together by language, but communicated the love they felt for each other by the joy on their faces. Among the friends from the Guianas were those who were later to attend yet another smaller, but nevertheless very significant conference in Georgetown, Guyana. Together, all these friends were privileged to gaze upon the photograph of Bahá'u'lláh on this momentous occasion.

The conference, which had been preceded by a Unity Feast on the Friday evening previously, was officially opened by the chairman of the N.S.A. of Panama, Mrs. Raqual de Constante,

fitness beforehand, and also its unpreparedness, but man, with an ego, would not believe himself unfit unless proof were given him. Consequently his susceptibility to evil is proven to him when he falls into the tests, and the tests are continued until the soul realizes its own unfitness, then remorse and regret tend to root out the weakness.

The same test comes again in greater degree, until it is shown that a former weakness has become a strength, and the power to overcome evil has been established."

Notes taken by Dr. Getsinger in Haifa.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, "Star of the West", Vol. VI, p. 45.

who explained the three main themes for deliberation: (a) To commemorate the Centenary of the opening of Bahá'u'lláh's Proclamation of His Mission; (b) To proclaim the Divine Message; (c) To deliberate upon the tasks of the remaining years of the Nine Year Plan.

Hand of the Cause of God Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánúm presented the message from the Universal House of Justice, and Hand of the Cause of God, Jalal Khazéh read the message from the Hands in the Western Hemisphere.

Some of the outstanding thoughts given to the Conference by Rúhiyyih Khánúm and recorded by one of our correspondents are quoted here . . . . . On the subject of mass conversion . . . "I believe that at times we forget that Bahá'is believe in conversion, the same as other religions". "Those who work in the mass-conversion field understand that to accept many Bahá'is with superficial knowledge brings problems, but there isn't any remedy. We cannot train Bahá'í teachers without Bahá'is". "We are in a race with time".

On Proclamation . . . "The Proclamation is a crossroads in the Faith. We must bring under the shadow of the Faith the greatest number of persons possible." On deepening . . . "Knowledge results in wisdom only when it is combined with spiritual development. The knowledge of God is the greatest knowledge".

During one of the sessions, the friends were able to view the pictures of the design of the Temple as well as the beautiful model, and the architect, Mr. Peter Tillotson, spoke on the details of the design and construction.

As the friends prepared to depart at the close of the Conference, they were fired with a new spirit, which was, in the words of Rúhiyyih Khánúm . . . "to give the Word of Bahá'u'lláh to people and feed them with spiritual food".

The foregoing Notes have been compiled from letters sent by our pioneers in Belize and Trinidad.

#### Draw Nigh unto Bahá'u'lláh.

O my servants! It behoveth you to refresh and revive your souls through the gracious favours which, in this Divine this soul-stirring Springtime, are being showered upon you. The day Star of His great glory hath shed its radiance upon you, and the clouds of His limitless grace have overshadowed you. How high the reward of him that hath not deprived himself of so great a bounty, nor failed to recognise the beauty of his Best Beloved in this, His new attire.

Bahá'u'lláh.

From the Community Development Committee.



# NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY'S NEWS LETTER

## TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF SHOGHI EFFENDI.

Saturday, November 4th, was the tenth anniversary of the passing of the beloved Guardian. Flowers were laid at his Resting Place on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, the N.S.A. of Persia and the British Community. We can never cease to wonder that the holy remains of he of whom 'Abdu'l-Bahá wrote, "Well is it with him that seeketh the shelter of his shade that shadoweth all mankind", rest in these islands.

The National Assembly met over the weekend 20th/22nd October, and early on the Sunday morning all nine members went to the Grave. The devotional programme began with the prayer revealed by Bahá'u'lláh for the Hands of the Cause; all the Hands appointed by Bahá'u'lláh have passed to the 'Ahhá Kingdom. The Hands of the Cause living to-day, those few wonderful souls who were called by Shoghi Effendi the "Standard Bearers of the Cause of God", were all appointed by the Guardian himself; they are channels for the great love that flows through the institution of the Guardianship, a love that energises continents, countries and islands. The prayer for the Hands can be found on page 172 of "Bahá'í World Faith". The National Assembly's devotional continued with prayers for the work on the Home Front, Overseas, and for the pioneers everywhere.

Flowers were also laid for the N.S.A. of Persia on December 12th, the anniversary of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, in celebration of Proclamation.

## HAND OF THE CAUSE OF GOD PAUL HANEY VISITS LONDON.

After the Frankfurt Conference Mr. Haney visited the Scandinavian countries and then came to London, arriving late on Monday afternoon, October 16th, and staying two nights in the Haziratu'l-Quds. His programme in Europe had been a full one and he had many engagements in London, but when he met and spoke to more than seventy Bahá'ís in the Haziratu'l-Quds on the Tuesday evening, he brought to the meeting a buoyancy of spirit and a great love that refreshed and strengthened everyone there. He went back to the Continent on the Wednesday morning, visiting Brussels and Paris en route to Spain and Portugal, and then went to Italy and the Mediterranean before returning to Haifa. Mr. Haney has made several momentous journeys this year. Earlier in the year the war in Israel had delayed his departure from the Holy Land, but as soon as hostilities there ceased he took off for another theatre of war, Vietnam, which was his first stop on a lightening trip round the world in thirty days. Mr. Haney is one of the Hands of the Cause Residing in Haifa.

## DECLARATIONS.

We are delighted to welcome to the Faith Mrs. Catherine J. and Mr. Archibald T. Verth, Edinburgh; Mrs. Edith Tadman and Miss Patricia M. Tadman (Youth), Blackpool; Mr. James Grimshaw, Burnley; Mr. Melvin S. Dean and Mr. Hossein A. Dowlatsahi (Youth), Exeter; Miss Elizabeth A. Asbury, Hammersmith, London; Mrs. Norah Crossley and Miss Leonorah A. C. Miller, Eastwood, Essex; Mr. Gioacchino Balducci, Dublin; Mr. Michael A. King (Youth), Ringwood, Hants; Mr. Philip A. Thomas and his sister Miss Gaynor E. Thomas (Youth), Newport; Miss Rita H. Green (Youth), Barnoldswick; Miss You Took Choi (now Mrs. Amba Mayaveram) (Youth) Bracebridge Heath; Lincs., Mr. Kevin O'Sullivan (Youth), Southwark, London; and the following Youth who have claimed voting rights—Miss Parirukh Samandani, Croydon; Miss Joyce R. Card, Swansea; Miss Irene Jones, Wokingham R.D.; Mrs. Nika Martin, Liverpool, now in Spain.

## "THE HUNDREDTH YEAR" INTERCONTINENTAL SLIDE SHOW.

Would those Friends who have ordered this material please note that the International Bahá'í Audio-Visual Centre regret that the late arrival of slides, tapes and commentaries from some of the Inter-Continental Conferences has caused an unavoidable delay in their production schedule for this show. They will be fixing a new release date as soon as the Conference materials are in their hands. No further orders can be accepted. The Audio Visual Centre write, "We are excited about the quality of the slides and tapes that have arrived, and we are confident that the show will be well worth waiting for."

## APPROACHES TO INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OR NATIONAL CELEBRITIES.

Now that we are in the first phase of Proclamation, several Bahá'ís have brought up the question of approaches being made to national celebrities, including a number in the entertainment world, and influential people. The National Assembly therefore wants to repeat its previous counsel in this connection: individuals should not approach such people about the Faith unless they have a personal friendship with them or an association with them in a personal capacity. Some Local Assemblies are already beginning to study possible ways of reaching "every stratum of society" as called for by the Universal House of Justice at the Intercontinental Conferences. The National Assembly is also considering this matter carefully and will be giving further guidance about it.

## CORRECTION.

The Universal House of Justice has asked that the last line of the first paragraph of their letter to National Assemblies of July 2nd 1967, be corrected to read, "Throughout the remaining five and a half years of the Plan". This letter appears on page 6 of the July/August 1967 issue (No. 181) of the "Bahá'í Journal"; would everyone please correct their own copies?

## OBITUARIES.

Miss Susan Golden Kilford, our beloved "Killie", at the age of 84, passed to the Abhá Kingdom on 10th Mashíyyat 124 (6th October, 1967) after a very brief illness. Only a few months previously, she had fulfilled her longing to make the pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Killie first heard of the Faith in 1923 and had been a Bahá'í for over forty years. She knew Dr. Esslemont personally and entertained amongst other visitors Martha Root when the latter visited the Bournemouth area. She lived five years at the Nursing Home, named "Rizwan" by Shoghi Effendi, of Sister Grace Challis at Broadstone, and was a member of that early Bournemouth Assembly on which Sister Challis Miss Florence Pinchon, and Miss May Cheesman (now living in Lambeth) also served.

In 1935 Killie spent five months in America and Canada and there met many of the early American believers whose illustrious names are now household words throughout the Bahá'í world. She attended the 2-Day Congress held in the Foundation Hall of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in Wilmette, upon the completion of the clerestory of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár. She was asked to speak on the progress of the Faith in England, and was perhaps the first Bahá'í of Britain to speak in the Mother Temple of the West.

Returning in January 1936, Killie settled in London, became a member of the London Spiritual Assembly and served on various committees. She took her turn to look after the Bahá'í Centre, which in those days was open to receive enquirers and visiting Bahá'ís from 3 to 6 p.m.

In 1954 the beloved Guardian called for Bahá'ís to go and live in Cathedral cities. Here are Killie's own words of her pioneer move to Winchester. "... each time His (the Guardian's) letters were read at Feasts I felt a prod to my conscience, because, although I was over seventy this was something I could do to obey the Guardian—but, I did not want to leave London where I had a very comfortable little flat at a reasonable rent in the house of very nice people. I wriggled for some time, but I knew that I would have to go and I kept asking myself which Cathedral



City should I choose, no one else made a move, and each time I thought about it something seemed to say 'Winchester'—So my furniture was packed and on a pouring wet day, November 29th, 1954, I moved to Winchester feeling very forlorn and lonely. Here I worked alone for some two or three years, cheered and helped by visits from Bahá'is from Reading and Portsmouth'. Gradually other pioneers joined her in Winchester, there were declarations, and in 1962, before the end of the Ten Year Crusade, the L.S.A. of Winchester was formed.

Killie was a source of love and inspiration to everyone. We shall miss her but know that she must be serving even more happily in the Abhá Kingdom.

Mr. Alan Carter, who was visiting the pioneers in the goal town of St. Agnes, passed to the Abhá Kingdom on 15th September 1967, following a cliff accident, and was buried at Par, Cornwall. The radiance of his newly released spirit permeated the whole area, and Alan's family as well as the local Bahá'is, found a new strength and happiness in a wonderful spirit of unity. The words of Bahá'u'lláh, *"I have given death as a messenger of joy to thee"* took on a new meaning with Alan's passing.

Mrs. Doris Morris died in Dublin on 28th October 1967, after many years of loyal service to the Faith. Her presence in the Irish capital was a link with the Six Year Plan, the great concerted effort of the British Community which Shoghi Effendi hailed as a tremendous victory and the turning point in the history of this Community. Doris pioneered at that time from Manchester to Dublin, and remained there until her death. Her service to the Cause in Ireland will always be remembered.

#### PERMISSION TO VISIT PERSIA.

Would everyone please note that if a Bahá'í who is not Persian wishes to visit Iran it is necessary to apply to the Universal House of Justice for permission. Persians visiting or returning to Iran do not need any permission.

#### ADVERTISING THE FAITH.

Many enquiries have been received from local assemblies and individuals concerning the use of car stickers and special stickers on envelopes. The National Assembly asks everyone please to note that the N.S.A. does not consider car stickers to be a dignified way of advertising the Faith and they should not be used; the back window of a car is not an advertising space (advertisements in buses or trains, where advertising space is actually provided, are a different matter and can be used). The use of stickers on envelopes is felt to be not an effective method of advertising the Faith, but those who wish to use a rubber stamp "Bahá'í Faith" with a return address may certainly do so, or similarly a printed envelope with "Bahá'í Faith" or the name of the L.S.A., with a return address may be used; but there should be no decorative matter with such a stamp or printing.

## REGIONAL CONFERENCES

### LEEDS

This Conference was held in a magnificent and centrally situated hall at one of Leed's leading colleges of further Education.

Statistically, the attendance was not highly significant, probably due to the fact that the day was laden with thick fog and the elements were at their worst. Nevertheless about 30 people came, including friends from Newcastle and Billingham.

As the Conference progressed one could sense that the lack of numbers was well compensated for by an abundance of love and spirit of joy.

The Conference began with a devotional prepared by the host community.

Eric Hellicar, as the N.S.A. Representative, conducted the Conference and introduced the two Auxiliary Board Members, Joan and Ernest Gregory, whose participation was very much appreciated. The morning session consisted of an inspiring talk by Ernest on the Central Figures of our Faith. He reminded us of the exalted station of these holy personages and the way in which their personalities exerted marked influence on humanity. Then Eric Hellicar drew a vivid picture of the events and atmosphere of the Frankfurt Conference. For many this was a recapturing of those spiritual moments they had experienced at Frankfurt and for those who had not been to Frankfurt, his presentation evoked a mixed feeling of spiritual joy and humility and an awareness of the weight of responsibility that we carry in our efforts to save mankind. The last item in the mornings session was a lucid exposé given by Peter Fothergill, as Proclamation Committee Representative on what it means to proclaim our Faith and what administrative machinery is available

for this purpose. The afternoon session was devoted to a general Consultation on the goals of the 9 year plan. This was initiated by representatives of A.A.T.C., N.T.T.C. and Pioneer Committee who presented to the Conference the goals of the plan and stressed the Priorities to be achieved by Ridván 1968. The Conference was brought to a close by a short devotional.

### LEICESTER.

This Conference was held at the Leicester Centre on Sunday, November 5th and was attended by 47 friends from Birmingham, Nottingham, Stafford, Sutton Coldfield, Manchester, Stratford, Romford, Lincoln, Cambridge, London Area, Leicester and an overseas friend from Bolivia.

Eric Hellicar took the chair and related his impressions of the recent Frankfurt Conference which were of particular interest to those friends who were unable to attend that great occasion. Joan Gregory as representative of the Hands of the Cause gave us a moving message, and Philip Hainsworth spoke on the subject of Proclamation and stressed the responsibility which lay upon each one of us to make the Faith known to as many people as possible.

The afternoon session was taken up with the subject of Pioneering as Eric Hellicar and Peter Smith explained how each of us could assist in this important work as well as those friends who were pioneering to the various places. Bridgett Ferraby spoke on the need for pioneers required to make up the strength of lapsed Assemblies and to form groups in Home towns by Ridván, and Pat Green gave his report and told us that he had received 3 offers to pioneer.

## National Youth Committee Report

### Next Event. York Winter School.

Don't forget the exciting youth Winter School in York.

Date: 29th December—5th January.  
Place: Youth Hostel, Clifton, York.  
Theme: 'Growth and Maturity'.

There will be interesting talks, plenty of informal discussions and the opportunity of meeting other Bahá'í youth who would love to see you there. So book early. Write to—

Mahnaz Ala'i (Secretary),  
403 Banbury Road,  
Oxford.

### Coming Event. University Week.

The National Youth Committee is organising a one-week school during the Easter vacations for a serious and deep study of the Faith. There will be lectures and plenty of reading assignments. Only the first 25 applications

will be accepted. Details will appear in the next issue of the Journal.

### Other News.

One of the National Youth Committee members will be discussion leader at a conference sponsored by the Council for Education in World Citizenship to be held in London from January 2nd—5th. Over 3,000 young people will attend. If you are between 15 and 19 years of age and would like to attend, you must ask your school master to support your application which should be sent directly to:

The Council for Education in  
World Citizenship,  
93 Albert Embankment,  
London, S.E.1.

A limited number of visitor's tickets at ten shillings a day will also be available for adults who wish to come as observers.



## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

### BATH.

We are happy to have with us the charming Miss Susan Riches, who has pioneered from Walthamstow. The first positive move towards realizing Assembly status which is hoped and prayed for next Ridván.

On October 25th the community held a meeting "Proclaiming Our Faith" at the Guildhall, when Mr. David Lewis spoke to an audience which included six non-Bahá'ís including a part-time clergyman of Anglican persuasion and a Methodist lay-preacher, who is also secretary of the local branch of M.R.A. and vice-chairman of the local U.N.A. Friends came to the meeting from such places as Bristol, Chippenham, Reading and Weston-Super-Mare.

On November 14th a Mayor's Meeting took place in the Banqueting Room of the Guildhall, and the represented organisations, including the Bath Bahá'í Community, each gave a three-minute talk.

### BURNLEY.

A recent week-end school on the broad theme 'Spiritual and social import of the Cause of God' held in Burnley, proved a magnet of attraction for forty-five friends and contacts from Blackpool, Bradford, Nelson, Sheffield, Southport, Stretford and Swinton. Everyone received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from the hosts, Michael and Marion Cleasby and the rest of the Burnley community.

An inspiring talk attended by many non-Bahá'ís titled 'The Release of a New World Spirit' and given by Richard Bury was followed by three declarations, causing great joy among the friends. A seminar led by Brigitte Ferraby on the four questions posed by the Universal House of Justice in their Ridván message, and a talk on Universal Proclamation by Peter Smith stimulated much thought and thorough discussion.

Book sales were exceptionally high—£13 14s. 6d.—a fitting testimony to the great desire to learn and teach caused by the spiritual benefits of this memorable school.

### CROYDON.

A very successful first public meeting was held on Saturday, 21st October, 1967 at "Maple Room", Fairfield Halls, Croydon. Philip Hainsworth and Meherangiz Munsiff spoke on "Building Tomorrow's World", and Mr. David Lewis was the Chairman.

The meeting was well supported by Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís and several questions were asked after each talk.

### LEICESTER.

On September 22nd, John Long gave a talk on the Faith lasting about half an hour, to a class at the Alderman Newton Grammar School for boys. He had been asked by one of the Clergy at the Cathedral to do so. At the end there were quite a few questions.

On September 27th, Jennifer Daws, a recently declared Youth, gave a talk lasting about 40 minutes on the Faith, to about thirty of her schoolmates of varying ages, at the Wiggeston Girls Grammar School. After the talk there was complete silence for a while, which Jennifer says is very unusual as the girls are usually rather rude to one of their classmates giving a talk on Religion. Then followed a number of sensible and lively questions.

### MANCHESTER.

As part of the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, the friends in Manchester and surrounding areas held a Charity concert in aid of Save the Children Fund and the Oxfam project for the Hungry of Bihar, sponsored by the Lord Mayor of Manchester who attended the function with the Lady Mayoress.

The organising Committee were grateful to all who helped to make the event so successful. Alma Gregory, from Exeter, compered the concert and was introduced to the Mayor and was asked to convey thanks to all the entertainers and the audience for the venture. All of the entertainers, many of whom were non-Bahá'ís, freely gave their services.

The evening offered many opportunities for making known the cause of Bahá'u'lláh and establishing good relationships with many people.

### WIGAN.

In the Parish Church Hall of Orrell, near Wigan, a successful meeting was held, organised by Dr. Ta'eed and family, supported by friends from Manchester, Liverpool and further afield. Over 90 people, half of whom were non-Bahá'ís attended. The Vicar opened the meeting and then followed devotional readings, including short passages from the Tablets to the Kings, interspersed with music arranged by John Twinnam from Swinton.

A brief outline of the Faith was given by the newest of the Liverpool Bahá'ís. Peter Fothergill of Burnley was the main speaker and many questions were asked. A social evening, with refreshments followed.

A meeting sponsoring Human Rights Activities has been arranged for 15th December which will be chaired by the Mayor of Wigan.

## IRISH TEACHING COMMITTEE

The Northern Ireland community had a wonderful opportunity to make known the Faith when following a newspaper article on the celebration of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, an invitation was received from the Ulster Television Authority to participate in one of their programmes, "Flash". Charles Macdonald answered questions for five minutes, following an excellent introduction by the interviewer. The programme would reach possibly 300,000 viewers and pictures of the Bahá'í Temples were shown.

The Committee is happy to report the opening of one of their goal towns—Limerick. Lesley Gibson who pioneered to Dun Laoghaire at Ridván—was able to make this move, and she reports that her job is excellent, the people friendly, and the atmosphere happy. To Dublin come two pioneers—Sally Villiers Stewart, and Dennis McKeown, these moves will assist the long-needed consolidation of Dublin, and strengthen the Youth Committee.

Pat Harriwell has moved to Larne R.D. where she brings the numbers to five; she is already organising a regular weekly "fireside". Ireland has recently had a teaching trip by Vivien and Joe Watson, and a trip South from Dick Backwell where he spoke to the Dublin community. In Derry, fortnightly quotations are now appearing in the local paper, books have been accepted in three libraries and a lively "fireside" held in the last month.

I.T.C. is planning a Deepening week-end school in Belfast Castle on 2nd/3rd December—one session which will be devoted to reports from the LSA's and Groups, together with all isolated believers, on the progress of the Study plan which has been in effect in recent months. This is a plan of participation together for all the Bahá'ís of Ireland in the study of the Ridván Message from the Universal House of Justice.

Our Regional Conference takes place in Belfast on Sunday, November 19th.

## DEVALUATION OF THE £

Prices given in the Publishing Trust's printed catalogue for all imported items are CANCELLED as a result of the devaluation of the pound.

Revised prices apply immediately to all undelivered orders and if any customer wishes to cancel an undelivered order for imported items because of the increase in price (approximately 15%) resulting from devaluation will they please inform the Trust immediately (to Oakham address) so that delivery can be stopped.

Revised price lists are being sent as soon as they can be prepared, to all Assemblies and recognised Groups, individuals can obtain a copy by sending a stamped addressed envelope to 2 South Street, OAKHAM, Rutland.





SESSION IN PROGRESS—FRANKFURT CONFERENCE

## ***From the Universal House of Justice*** to the Six Intercontinental Conferences

October, 1967.

Dearly loved Friends,

On this, the hundredth anniversary of the sounding in Adrianople of the opening notes of Bahá'u'lláh's proclamation to the rulers, leaders and peoples of the world, we recall with profound emotion the circumstances surrounding the Faith of God at that time. In a land, termed by Him, the "Land of Mystery", the Bearer of God's Revelation had arisen to carry that Faith a stage further in its divinely-ordained destiny.

Internally, the infant Cause of God was convulsed by a crisis from whose shadows emerged the majestic figure of Bahá'u'lláh, the visible Centre and Head of a newly-established Faith. The first pilgrimages were made to His Residence, a further stage in the transfer of the remains of the Báb was achieved, and above all the first intimations were given of the future station of 'Abdu'l-Bahá as the Centre of the Covenant and of the revelation of the new laws for the New Day. Externally, the full significance of the new Revelation was proclaimed by no one less than its Divine Bearer, His followers began openly to identify themselves with the Most Great Name, the independent character of the Faith became established and its fearless exponents took up their pens in defence of its fair name.

Now, a hundred years later, the friends gathered in the six Intercontinental Conferences to commemorate the events of the past, privileged to gaze upon the portrait of their Beloved, must consider the urgent needs of the Cause today. As the Bahá'í world enters the third phase of the Nine Year Plan we are called upon to proclaim once again that Divine Message to the leaders and masses of the world, to aid the Faith of God to emerge from obscurity into the arena of public attention, to demonstrate through steadfast adherence to its laws the independent character of its mission and to brace ourselves in preparation for the attacks that are bound to be directed against its victorious onward march. Upon our efforts depends in very large measure the fate of humanity. The hundred years' respite having ended, the struggle between the forces of darkness—man's lower nature—and the rising sun of the Divine teachings which draw him on to his true station, intensifies day by day.

The Centenary campaign has been opened by the Universal House of Justice presenting to 140 Heads of State a compilation of Bahá'u'lláh's Own proclamation. The friends must now take the Message to the rest of humanity. The time is ripe and the opportunities illimitable. We are not alone nor

helpless. Sustained by our love for each other and given power through the Administrative Order—so laboriously erected by our beloved Guardian—the Army of Light can achieve such victories as will astonish posterity.

We pray at the Holy Shrines that these Intercontinental Conferences will be centres of spiritual illumination inspiring the friends to redouble their efforts in further expanding and consolidating the Faith of God, to arise to fill the remaining pioneer goals, to undertake travelling teaching projects, and to offer generously of their substance to the various funds, particularly to the vital project of erecting the Panama Temple, the foundation stone of which is being laid by Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum during the course of these Conferences.

As humanity enters the dark heart of this age of transition our course is clear—the achievement of the assigned goals and the proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh's healing Message. It is our ardent hope that from these Conferences valiant souls may arise with noble resolve and in loving service to ensure the successful and early accomplishment of the sacred tasks that lie ahead.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE



## — PROCLAMATION PATTERN —

Television appearance; Exhibitions; Concerts; Dramatised Scripts; Public Meetings; Press reports; University stalls, etc., etc., the reports come in of Proclamation efforts, of positive results and of undreamt-of bounties from Bahá'u'lláh during these opening weeks of the Proclamation Period.

### BAHÁ'Í PUBLICITY SERVICE.

In addition to the regular Press releases and specimen advertisements being issued by this Service, a Handbook on Publicity is now being prepared. This will be made available for all Local Assemblies and Groups. Will isolated believers please note that if they feel they can use any of the material produced by the Publicity Service they can ask to be put on the mailing list. This is not an automatic mailing for everyone in Britain, as the Universal House of Justice emphasised that follow-up of Proclamation efforts is essential and small Groups and isolated believers may not be able to give this essential follow-up to their Proclamation activities.

### BAHÁ'Í CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU.

Reports from the Regional Conferences have shown that whilst many of the friends appreciate the value of having a Bureau to which they as individuals or Groups or Assemblies can turn for articles, letters to Editors, etc., they have not yet started to use or correspond with the Bureau. In order to give to the Community the service it has planned, it is necessary for the friends to feed information to it. A request was made in the August "Journal" for the believers to send to the Bureau the names of the periodicals they currently read and watch for Proclamation opportunities; only a small proportion of the community has responded to this appeal.

### PROCLAMATION OPPORTUNITIES.

Good progress is being made by a Sub-Committee in compiling a list of special "weeks", "days", shows, fairs, etc. in all the towns scheduled to have Assemblies during the Plan, and suggestions on how to make good use of these events in 1968 are being prepared.

### SOUVENIR PROGRAMMES.

It is hoped that every believer including Bahá'í children will want to possess his own copy of the beautiful Souvenir now on sale at Conferences, etc., for 1/- each. These may be obtained direct from Philip Hainsworth for 1/6 each post free, but it will help if Assemblies order them in bulk for their Communities.

### NINE-POINTED STAR LEAFLET.

The new edition on better paper, printed brighter, cut smaller and free from printing mistakes is now on sale. The prices of these, and the first issue are as follows:—

Initial Issue (Subsidised)—10/- per 100 (plus 1/7 postage).

New Issue—Postal ordering, 20/- per 100 post free.

Postal Ordering 3d. each post free. Bought at Conferences, etc., 2d. each (virtually cost price.).

### ADDRESSES.

Proclamation Committee Secretary: Miss Adele Senior, 15 Houghton Lane, Swinton, Lancs.

Proclamation publications: Philip Hainsworth, 'Sharaf', Church Road, Horsforth, Leeds.

Press Officer and Bahá'í Publicity Service: Mrs. Margaret Hellicar, 22 Hallgarth Street, Durham.

Bahá'í Correspondence Bureau: Mrs. Gitta Chaplin, 11 Westminster Road, Ellesmere Park, Eccles, Lancs.

### PROCLAMATION SNIPPETS.

#### DID YOU HEAR

That a representative from Ulster T.V. having seen the Press release that evening in the Belfast Telegraph about the Birthday Celebrations, had gone to the Bahá'í Centre and this resulted in a straight interview for about 6 minutes for a 10.30 p.m. programme, which reaches about half a million viewers? Photographs in the Centre were also presented in close up. This exciting event is sure to have far-reaching effects; the report says "The Hand of Bahá'u'lláh is very apparent as no initiative had been taken by the Bahá'ís . . ."

That one community supported their Bahá'í student in the University in preparing a stand for the fair; though featuring the United Religions Society is was mainly Bahá'í and it won the 1st Prize.

That another community in a very famous University city had a Bahá'í stand and a very important young visitor, of exalted rank in the land, paid it a second visit.

That one pioneer on being asked to write an article for a local paper on his return from Frankfurt wrote in a forthright way that Christ had returned and the paper published all 400 words of it.

That to a one day school held by a Local Assembly, a photographer and reporter came from the local newspaper, took pictures of the school in session, asked many questions and printed a good photograph of the LSA Chairman and guest speaker and a 700 word article of the finest order and headed, "Bahá'ís are very ordinary men and women". The significance of this is that this same paper has given sporadic publicity to the Faith for over 25 years yet the article was treated as though it was news thus underlining the words of the UHJ "...but today there are new rulers, new people . . .".

That one pioneer in a centre noted for its religious intolerance has organised a "Universal Prayer Circle" in the hospital in which he works; people

submit their favourite prayers, all are put together in a folder and the participants select those they wish to use. As the majority of the prayers are Bahá'í it is going to be interesting to see which are selected most frequently.

That by using the unusual, good publicity can often be obtained. One community obtained excellent coverage by featuring an "Actor" who spoke to the title, "The Beginning".

That through his chairmanship of a Human Rights Sub-Committee and membership of the city's H. R. Executive Committee, one Bahá'í has gained access to a vast new field of useful associations.

That one community put on a concert with professional artistes for a charitable organisation which brought a tremendous amount of publicity and established the Bahá'ís as people who really get things done.

That at one national gathering of voluntary associations a certain youth organisation vociferously disrupted the meeting with its complaints that they had not been invited to a concert. Final investigation of the facts revealed that not only had the concert not taken place but neither the soloists nor orchestra had been engaged—who dares to criticise Bahá'í consultation because we ascertain facts first?

That whilst we cannot print all our "Snippets" we have not yet had one from Wales or Scotland and even if we did you would not know which it was. Names and places are not published except in exceptional cases as in the Belfast TV one, but details of any one will be given on request. Yours might be the very one to give an idea to some other community.

### NEWS FROM WALES.

At the Temple of Peace in Cardiff on Sunday, November 12th, 1967, 30 Welsh believers and an equal number of invited guests met at a Unity Feast to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh. The nine readings selected were in groups of three representing, "The manifestations of God" "The Day of God" and "The Message of Bahá'u'lláh". Recorded music introduced each theme and the Devotional concluded with a prayer of 'Abdu'l-Bahá chanted in Persian.

Auxiliary Board member Mr. David Lewis then spoke briefly on the life and mission of Bahá'u'lláh: After which refreshments were served. Many of the guests held animated conversation with the Bahá'ís about their faith during this happy and informal period.

On the previous day Bahá'í Youth had erected in the Vestibule of the Temple of Peace a very effective Bahá'í display in connection with 'Human Rights Year', but, a few days later a bomb intended to damage the Temple, also completely wrecked our display. A vivid example perhaps of the clash of the opposing forces in the world of destruction and restitution.



## Cables from Universal House of Justice

### TO ALL NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES.

"MORROW SIX INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCES INAUGURATING PROCLAMATION PERIOD ANNOUNCE BAHÁ'Í WORLD SIGNIFICANT STEP DEVELOPMENT RELATIONS UNITED NATIONS THROUGH ASSUMPTION BY UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE FUNCTION REPRESENTATION BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AT UNITED NATIONS STOP TAKE THIS OCCASION EXPRESS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UNITED STATES AND MILDRED MOTTAHEDEH GRATEFUL LOVING APPRECIATION MANY YEARS DEVOTED TIRELESS SUCCESSFUL SERVICES AS REPRESENTATIVE AND OBSERVER RESPECTIVELY (SIGNED) UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE".

### TO THE UNITED STATES

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY  
"HEARTS FILLED PROFOUND GRATITUDE REJOICE ANNOUNCE INAUGURATION THIRD PHASE NINE YEAR PLAN THROUGH SUCCESSFUL CONSUMMATION SIX INTERCONTINENTAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY 9,200 BELIEVERS INCLUDING NEARLY ALL HANDS CAUSE LARGE NUMBER BOARD MEMBERS REPRESENTATIVES ALMOST ALL NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES BAHÁ'Í WORLD OVER 140 TERRITORIES AND HOST OF ASIAN AFRICAN AMERINDIAN TRIBES STOP INESTIMABLE PRIVILEGE CONFERRED PARTICIPANTS THROUGH VIEWING PORTRAIT ABHA BEAUTY STOP SPIRIT HOLY LAND AND ADRIANOPLE CONVEYED SIX DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVES HOUSE JUSTICE STOP FIRST PRESENTATIONS BEHALF HOUSE JUSTICE PROCLAMATION BOOK HEADS OF STATE MADE BEFORE AND DURING CONFERENCE STOP FRUITFUL DELIBERATIONS HELD PROCLAMATION EXECUTION REMAINING GOALS PLAN STOP SOLIDARITY BAHÁ'Í WORLD FURTHER EVINCED THROUGH INGENIOUS SCHEME TELEPHONIC EXCHANGE GREETINGS ALL SIX CONFERENCES STOP SPIRITUAL POTENCIES THIS NEW PHASE REINFORCED THROUGH FORMAL LAYING BY AMATUL-BAHA OF CORNERSTONE MOTHER TEMPLE LATIN AMERICA STOP OVER 230 OFFERS MADE AT CONFERENCES JOIN RANKS VALIANT PIONEERS CAUSE STOP RAISE SUPPLIANT HANDS BAHÁ'Í

'U'LLÁH ENDOW FRIENDS EVERY LAND FRESH MEASURE CELESTIAL STRENGTH ENABLE THEM PURSUE WITH INCREASED VISION UNABATED RESOLVE GLORIOUS GOALS AHEAD UNTIL THIS NEW PERIOD PROCLAMATION YIELDS ITS SHARE IN DIVINELY PROPELLED PROCESS ESTABLISHMENT KINGDOM GOD HEARTS MEN".

### THE GREATEST NAME.

A recent letter to the N.S.A. from the Universal House of Justice:

"Dear Bahá'í Friends,

In reply to your letter of November 2nd about the use of the Greatest Name on brooches and other decorations, we quote below the text of a letter which we wrote on this subject in 1964 to another National Spiritual Assembly:

"The ring-stone emblem is one form of the Greatest Name. While the beloved Guardian has called attention to the sacredness of the Greatest Name, and has asked that it should always be placed in a dignified position, we do not find any instruction absolutely prohibiting the use of symbols of the Greatest Name on any particular item such as jewelry, books or pamphlets.

We feel that the friends should exercise the greatest discrimination and good taste in its use".

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

Owen Battrick sends greetings and love to all the friends from the island of Honiara where he arrived on the 15th August. En route he stopped at Wilmette, to visit the Mother Temple, at Fiji to visit Mrs. Bobbie Leedham, our pioneer there; and the New Hebrides to see the Bahá'í School. He gives a colourful description of life on the island. The house in which he lives is on a ridge 300 yards from the sea. The view is quite exotic, with other islands across the water and tall trees and flowering shrubs in the garden. He comments that Honiara is developing most of the time and, although crude in some aspects, has most of what one needs for fairly civilised living.

The Bahá'ís have some two acres and 16 Solomon Islanders. He has visited Malaita, a large island nearby, where there are a large number of Bahá'ís and one whole village, with a Bahá'í School of 75 pupils.

Owen, on a by-election, has been elected a member of the N.S.A. of S. W. Pacific Ocean, and reports the excitement of the N.S.A.'s presentation of a Proclamation Message to the High Commissioner.

Jeanette and family have arrived safely in Auckland, New Zealand and eventually will join Owen in New Caledonia where they hope to settle.

### TRADE COUNTER.

Owing to the illness of the proprietor of C. & A. extreme difficulties have arisen regarding distribution arrangements with the Trust and we ask the forbearance of the friends. Publishing Trust.

### BAHÁ'Í PRAYERS.

A new edition of our 'red' prayer book is now on sale.

This is an event of real significance to all Bahá'ís for it has many alterations as compared with previous editions.

BAHÁ'Í PRAYERS bound in dark red cloth, as previously, 10/-.  
(Quote reference number B9B)

### NEW.

In addition to the normal cloth binding we have had a quantity specially bound in semi-limp deep red imitation leather.

This plastic material is washable and will retain its fresh appearance for many years  
BAHÁ'Í PRAYERS with de luxe binding of semi-limp imitation leather, 14/-.  
(Quote reference number B82)

The lettering on the front and on the spine is *real gold leaf* on both bindings because gold retains its brightness permanently.

The prices include postage in this country but postage is extra on overseas orders.

The alterations which have been made are as follows:—

- 15 items appearing in the previous edition have been deleted as they could not be authenticated; they have been replaced by 14 authenticated prayers.
- 1 prayer previously attributed to 'Abdu'l-Bahá has now been correctly attributed to Bahá'u'lláh.
- 7 items previously using older translations have been changed to translations made by Shoghi Effendi.
- 11 prayers have new corrected texts specially supplied by the Universal House of Justice.

In view of the significance of these 34 alterations *every Bahá'í* will wish to have a copy of this new Prayer Book which can be obtained *either* from your Assembly or Group *or* by post direct by sending a postal order quoting the reference number of whichever of the two bindings is required to the address given below.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 2 South Street, OAKHAM, Rutland, England.



## - N.T.T.C. REPORT -

COUNTY	GOAL TOWN	NUMBER OF BELIEVERS									
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury	■	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
*Somerset	Bath	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
*Bedfordshire	Bedford	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cumberland	Carlisle	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Essex	Chelmsford	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Derbyshire	Derby	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Durham County	Durham	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Herefordshire	Hereford	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
*Suffolk	Ipswich	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Westmorland	Kendal	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Worcestershire	Kidderminster	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Lincolnshire	Lincoln	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Rutland	Oakham	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
*Dorset	Poole	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
*Staffordshire	Stafford	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Cornwall	St. Austell	■	■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Shropshire	Shrewsbury	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Caernarvon	Bangor	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Islands (Assembly Status)—											
Isle of Wight		■	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Jersey		□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□

Islands—

Isle of Man . . . . . to be opened, and brought to group status.

Guernsey . . . . . to be opened (this has been done).

\*To reach Assembly Status by Ridván 1968.

### NEWS OF THE GOAL TOWNS.

**Bath.** Proclamation Meeting held in the Guildhall, Bath, on 25th October; Speaker, Auxiliary Board Member, Mr. David Lewis, and attended by friends from Bristol, Chippenham, Reading and Weston-Super-Mare. Six non-Bahá'is present, including secretary of the local M.R.A. also vice-chairman of local U.N.A.

**Bedford** joyfully announce their numbers have reached 9, Assembly to be formed next Ridván.

**Chelmsford** holding a series of meetings . . . New Force for World Peace . . . supported by the L.S.A. of Romford.

**Ipswich.** Five public meetings arranged between August and December, twelve non-Bahá'is present at the first, six came from the newspaper advertisement to the second. Firesides, Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Children's school on Sundays.

**Kendal.** First official invited Bahá'í activity. November 11th, Unity Feast followed by slides of the Holy Land. November 12th, all day meeting, commencing at 10 a.m. Introductory talk about the Faith by Lou Turner; after lunch either a walk or social gathering depending on the weather.

**Oakham** held its first One-Day school on Sunday, October 15th, supported by the L.S.A. of Leicester.

**St. Austell** have arranged a series of monthly meetings about the Faith.

**Stafford.** First large public meeting to be held on November 12th, speaker, Mrs. Betty Reed, supported by the L.S.A. of Sutton Coldfield, the Bahá'is of Birmingham, the goal town Group of Kidderminster, the friends from Stratford upon Avon, and other isolated friends, was preceded by an evening of slides, and to be followed by a series of evenings of slides, social gatherings and talks, on Thursdays. Plans for holding World Religion Day go forward with religious leaders in the area.

**News from the Isolated friends.** Proclamation activities are taking place in the Wigan area, and we hear of activities taking place in Southend and Christchurch.

**An Appeal.** Friends who are willing to visit a goal town, even if only once during the next six months, either to teach or just to go in Bahá'í fellowship and love, especially to Bedford, Bath, Poole, Stafford and Ipswich, please contact the secretary . . . Mrs. Betty Goode, 8 Knowle Road, Stafford. Tel. 62157.

In one of the Tablets of the Divine Plan, 'Abdu'l-Bahá uttered this cry . . . "Oh, that I could travel, even though on foot and in utmost poverty, to these regions and, raising the call of Ya Bahá'u'l-Abhá in cities, villages, mountains, deserts, and oceans, promote the Divine teachings. This alas, I cannot do. How intensely I deplore it". And he concluded with these heart-rending words . . . "PLEASE GOD, YE MAY ACHIEVE IT".

### WINTER SCHOOL NORWAY.

Place: NESBYEN, Hallingdal, SVENKERUD HOTELL.

Time: January 1968, 27th—31st inclusive  
Prices, plus 10% Service: Bed and full pension:

1 day, room with bath/shower/WC, N.Kr. 42.—

3 days, room with bath/shower/WC, N.Kr. 40.—

7 days, room with bath/shower/WC, N.Kr. 38.—

1 day, room without bath/shower, but with h.c. water, Kr. 35.—

3 days, room without bath/shower, but with h.c. water, Kr. 33.—

7 days, room without bath/shower but with h.c. water, Kr. 31.—

Double rooms.

If single room wanted it would be without bath/shower etc., as only double rooms have these facilities.

Programmes in English will be available.

### SUMMER SCHOOLS, 1968.

July 13—27.

The Hall School, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Eire.

August 10—24

Dalston Hall, Dalston, Nr. Carlisle, Cumberland.

### SPECIAL APPEAL

#### Urgently Needed Now.

1. Four Pioneers for Shetland Island.  
2. Three or four people to spend a period of 3 months in Shetland. These friends to form an initial "Resident Teaching Group".

3. Other such groups to move around the Northern Islands will be formed. This an exciting new project for those who have not yet entered the pioneering field.

### THIS APPEAL

is being made directly to every believer in Britain from your National Spiritual Assembly. If you feel there is any possibility at all that you might be able to respond to this most urgent appeal, please make your offer at once. Consultation can work miracles in removing difficulties.

Write now to the N.S.A.. Secretary.

### THANK YOU.

Joan and Ernest Gregory warmly thank all friends in the Frankfurt party for the many, many kindnesses which made Joan's return journey so comfortable after her mishap.

### DEADLINE :—

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 8th Jan. 1968. to—

Mr. J. Coates, Editor,  
45 Overfield Road,  
Fawdon,

Newcastle upon Tyne, 3