

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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MESSAGE TO PALERMO FIRST OCEANIC CONFERENCE

August, 1968.

Dearly-loved Friends,

The event which we commemorate at this first Bahá'í Oceanic Conference is unique. Neither the migration of Abraham from Ur of the Chaldees to the region of Aleppo, nor the journey of Moses towards the Promised Land, nor the flight into Egypt of Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus, nor yet the Hegira of Muhammad can compare with the voyage made by God's Supreme Manifestation one hundred years ago from Gallipoli to the Most Great Prison. Bahá'u'lláh's voyage was forced upon Him by the two despots who were His chief adversaries in a determined attempt to extirpate once and for all His Cause, and the decree of His fourth banishment came when the tide of His prophetic utterance was in full flood. The proclamation of His Message to mankind had begun; the sun of His majesty had reached its zenith and, as attested by the devotion of His followers, the respect of the population and the esteem of officials and the representatives of foreign powers, His ascendancy had become manifest. At such a time He was confronted with the decree of final exile to a remote, obscure and pestilential outpost of the decrepit Turkish Empire.

Bahá'u'lláh knew, better than His royal persecutors, the magnitude of the crisis, with all its potentiality for disaster, which confronted Him. Consigned to a prison cell, debarred from access to those to whom His Message must be addressed, cut off from His followers save for the handful who were to accompany Him, and deprived even of association with them, it was apparent that by all earthly standards the ship of His Cause must founder, His mission wither and die.

But it was the Lord of Hosts with Whom they were dealing. Knowing the sufferings which faced Him His one thought was to instil confidence and fortitude into His followers, to whom He immediately despatched sublime Tablets asserting the power of His Cause to overcome all opposition. "Should they attempt to conceal its light on the continent," is one of His most powerful utterances on this theme, "it will assuredly rear its head in the midmost heart of the ocean, and raising its voice, proclaim: I am the lifegiver of the world" All the afflictions which

men could heap upon Him were thrown back from the rock of His adamantine will like spray from the ocean, His patient submission to the affronts of men, His fortitude, His divine genius transformed the sombre notes of disaster into the diapason of triumph. At the nadir of His worldly fortunes He raised His standard of victory above the Prison City and poured forth upon mankind the healing balm of His laws and ordinances revealed in His Most Holy Book. "Until our time", comments 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "no such thing has ever occurred."

Contemplating this awe-inspiring, supernal episode, we may obtain a clearer understanding of our own times, a more confident view of their outcome and a deeper apprehension of the part we are called upon to play. That the violent disruption which has seized the entire planet is beyond the ability of men to assuage, unaided by God's revelation, is a truth repeatedly and forcibly set forth in our Writings. The old order cannot be repaired; it is being rolled up before our eyes. The moral decay and disorder convulsing human society must run their course; we can neither arrest nor divert them.

Our task is to build the Order of Bahá'u'lláh. Undeflected by the desperate expedients of those who seek to subdue the storm convulsing human life by political, economic, social or educational programmes, let us, with single-minded devotion and concentrating all our efforts on our objective, raise His Divine System and sheltered within its impregnable stronghold, safe from the darts of doubtfulness, demonstrate the Bahá'í way of life. Wherever a Bahá'í community exists, whether large or small, let it be distinguished for its abiding sense of security and faith, its high standard of rectitude, its complete freedom from all forms of prejudice, the spirit of love among its members and for the closely knit fabric of its social life. The acute distinction between this and present day society will inevitably arouse the interest of the more enlightened, and as the world's gloom deepens the light of Bahá'í life will shine brighter and brighter until its brilliance must eventually attract the disillusioned masses and cause them to enter the haven of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh, Who alone can bring them peace and justice and an ordered life.

The great sea, on one of whose chief islands you are now gathered, within whose hinterland and islands have flourished the Jewish, the Christian and Islámic civilisations is a befitting scene for the first Oceanic Bahá'í Conference. Two milleniums ago, in this arena, the disciples of Christ performed such deeds of heroism and self-sacrifice as are remembered to this day and are forever enshrined in the annals of His Cause. A thousand years later the lands bordering the southern and western shores of this sea witnessed the glory of Islam's Golden Age.

In the day of the Promised One this same sea achieved eternal fame through its association with the Heroic and Formative Ages of His Cause. It bore upon its bosom the King of Kings Himself; the Centre of His Covenant crossed and recrossed it in the course of His epoch-making journeys to the West, during which He left the indelible imprint of His presence upon European and African lands; the Sign of God on earth frequently journeyed upon it. It enshrines within its depths the mortal remains of the Hand of the Cause of God Dorothy Baker and around its shores lies the dust of apostles, martyrs and pioneers. Forty-six Knights of Bahá'u'lláh are identified with seven of its islands and five of its territories. Through such and many other episodes, Mediterranean lands—ancient home of civilisations—have been endowed with spiritual potentiality to dissolve the encrustations of those once glorious but now moribund social orders and to radiate once again the light of Divine guidance.

Through dedicated, heroic and sacrificial deeds during the course of the beloved Guardian's ministry, the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh was established in this area. Eight pillars of the Universal House of Justice were raised, the first of an even larger number to be established now and during the course of future plans, to include, as envisioned by Shoghi Effendi, National Spiritual Assemblies in major islands of that historic sea.

The timing of such exciting developments is dependent upon the outcome of the Nine Year Plan. At this midway point of that Plan, although great strides have been made, more than half the goals are still to be won. The

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greatest deficiencies are in the opening of new centres where Bahá'ís reside and the formation of Local Spiritual Assemblies, which inevitably affects the ability to establish National Spiritual Assemblies. A dramatic upsurge of teaching—effective teaching—is necessary to make up the leeway; pioneers are needed, teachers must travel, funds must be provided. It is our hope that there will be engendered at this Conference, through your enthusiasm, prayers and spirit of devotion, a great spiritual dynamic to reinforce that grand momentum which, mounting steadily during the next four years, must carry the community of the Most Great Name to overwhelming victory in 1973.

Dear Friends; within a few short days the observance of the Centenary of Bahá'u'lláh's arrival in the Holy Land will take place. The hearts and minds of the entire Bahá'í world will be focussed on the Most Holy Shrine, where those privileged to attend this commemoration will circumambulate that Holy Spot and raise their prayers to the Lord of the Age. Let them remember their fellow-believers at home and supplicate from the depths of their souls for such bounties and favours to descend upon the friends of God everywhere as to cause them to rise as one man to demonstrate their love for Him Who suffered for them, by such deeds of sacrifice and devotion as shall outshine the deeds of the past and sweep away every obstacle from the onward march of the Cause of God.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

FOR MEDITATION.

"To see the joy of divine gladness on your faces is the cause of my happiness for when I see you happy, I am happy also. The divine Messengers come to bring joy to this earth, for this is the planet of tribulation and torment and the mission of the great masters is to turn men away from these anxieties and to infuse life with infinite joy.

When the divine message is understood all troubles will vanish. Shadows disappear when the universal lamp is lighted, for whosoever becomes illumined thereby no longer knows grief. He realises that his stay on this planet is temporary and that life is eternal. When once he has found reality he will no longer retreat into darkness.

The world needs more happiness and illumination. The star of happiness is in every heart, we must remove the clouds so that it may twinkle radiantly. Happiness is an eternal condition. When it is once established, man will ascend to the supreme heights of bliss. A truly happy man will not be subject to the shifting eventualities of time. Like unto an eternal king he will sit upon the throne of fixed realities. He will be impervious to outward, changing circumstances, and through his deeds and actions impart happiness to others. 'Abdu'l-Bahá: Star of the West, Vol 13, No. 6.

BAHÁ'Í HOLY DAYS

In the celebration of the Bahá'í Holy Days the British Bahá'í Community can do much more to ensure that these days are adequately commemorated. Particularly the celebration of Naw Rúz, and the Birthdays of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh should be occasions for whole-day rejoicing and happy activity. It may be difficult to have a day away from work, to have a meeting on the right day at the right time, to get away from involvement in this world's affairs and joyously celebrate the special days in the calendar of the new world. Yet it is a law of Bahá'u'lláh that we do this, and does he not say about His Laws, "*Think not that We have revealed unto you a mere code of Laws, Nay, Rather We have unsealed the Choice Wine with the fingers of might and power*". These Laws are, said Bahá'u'lláh, "... *the lamps of My loving providence and "the keys of My mercy.*" We therefore obey them as being the very best good for ourselves.

The Universal House of Justice has drawn our attention in the following letter to all National Spiritual Assemblies to another reason why we should obey the laws, particularly those relating to the Holy Days. As the Bahá'ís realize the importance of obedience to these laws, and seek to follow them, they will pave the way to the ultimate recognition of these Holy Days by the civil authorities, thereby contributing towards the acceptance of the Faith as an independent world religion.

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

From time to time questions have arisen about the application of the law of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas on the observance of Bahá'í Holy Days. As you know, the recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days in at least ninety-five countries of the world is an important and highly significant objective of the Nine Year Plan, and is directly linked with the recognition of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh by the civil authorities as an independent religion enjoying its own rights and privileges.

The attainment of this objective will be facilitated and enhanced if the friends, motivated by their own realization of the importance of the laws of Bahá'u'lláh, are obedient to them. For the guidance of believers we repeat the instructions of the beloved Guardian:—

"He wishes also to stress the fact that, according to our Bahá'í laws, work is forbidden on our Nine Holy Days. Believers who have independent businesses or shops should refrain from working on these days. Those who are in government employ, should, on religious grounds, make an effort to be excused from work; all believers, whoever their employers, should do likewise. If the government, or other employers refuse to grant them these days off, they are not required to forfeit their employ-

ment, but they should make every effort to have the independent status of their Faith recognized and their right to hold their own religious Holy Days acknowledged." (From letter written on behalf of the Guardian to the American National Spiritual Assembly, dated July 7th, 1947—"Bahá'í News" No. 198, page 3).

"This distinction between institutions that are under full or partial Bahá'í control is of a fundamental importance. Institutions that are entirely managed by Bahá'ís are, for reasons that are only too obvious under the obligation of enforcing all the laws and ordinances of the Faith, especially those whose observance constitutes a matter of conscience. There is no reason, no justification whatever, that they should act otherwise... The point which should be always remembered is that the issue in question is essentially a matter of conscience, and as such is of a binding effect upon all believers".

(From a letter written on behalf of the Guardian to the American National Spiritual Assembly, dated October 2nd, 1935—"Bahá'í News" No. 97, page 9).

In addition, steps should be taken to have Bahá'í children excused, on religious grounds, from attending school on Bahá'í Holy Days wherever possible. The Guardian has said:

"Regarding children: at fifteen a Bahá'í is of age as far as keeping the laws of the Aqdas is concerned—prayer, fasting, etc. But children under fifteen should certainly observe the Bahá'í Holy Days, and not go to school, if this can be arranged on these nine days." (From a letter written on behalf of the Guardian, dated October 25th, 1947, to the American National Spiritual Assembly).

National Assemblies should give this subject their careful consideration, and should provide ways and means for bringing this matter to the attention of the believers under their jurisdiction so that, as a matter of conscience, the mass of believers will uphold these laws and observe them.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.
(signed).

WEEKEND SCHOOLS.

Burnley/Nelson 15/16th February, 1969.

At the Nelson and Colne College of Further Education. Enquiries to Mrs. C. A. Pollitt, 98 Briercliffe Road, Burnley.

Newcastle 22nd/23rd February.

At 13 Lily Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle, 2.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Breakfast.

The youth breakfast with Hand of the Cause William Sears was a great success. Dozens of youth filled to overflowing the Cherry Pie restaurant in London—opened two hours early for the event. The youth were tremendously moved as the Hand of the Cause proceeded from table to table informally chatting with each one of us. The food was delicious too. Altogether it was a perfect beginning to a very inspiring and informative day for all the Bahá'is able to attend.

Consultation with the Hand of the Cause.

Following the youth breakfast on October 27th, the youth were invited to the London Centre for a joint session with Hand of the Cause William Sears. In this session, Mr. Sears asked the youth about their activities and was especially interested in problems or suggestions. The large meeting room of the Centre was packed with intensely interested youth eager to seriously discuss their ideas. A list of suggestions was drawn up and presented to the N.Y.C. for further action.

The following is a report from the N.Y.C. of the action taken on these matters.

One of the youth felt that overseas students should have more Bahá'í literature available to them. This is indeed true. Bahá'í literature in English is of course available through the L.S.A.s and the Publishing Trust. Literature in other languages is available from respective N.S.A.s. The N.Y.C. hopes that some overseas students get together and make joint orders for any literature required in English or other languages.

The importance of priorities was discussed. The N.Y.C. feels that this is of course a very crucial basic part of being a Bahá'í. This is why priorities are always included in the programming of the Youth Schools. Beyond referring the youth to the Writings, the job is not that of the N.Y.C., but of each individual. Mr. Sears suggested that the Youth should have national gatherings at which the map of the goals could be displayed. In response to this suggestion, the N.Y.C. would like to announce that part of the Spring Conference will be changed to a National Youth Convention and will be set aside for delegates following the lines of the National Convention. This will be an ideal place for such a display.

Some of the youth expressed a desire to purchase a Mini-bus for travel teaching. The N.Y.C. feels that this idea, although original and exciting, could not be carried out practicably. The N.Y.C. discussed other alternatives and decided to offer financial help toward hiring transport to any group of youth who submit concrete plans for their travel teaching. At the

youth meeting several contributions were made towards the Mini-bus with the understanding that if the committee decided against the bus, the money would go to the National Fund for travel teaching. The treasurer has submitted the contributions. Some youth have already made such trips. When these projects are planned in the future, will the youth please inform the N.Y.C. of any spare seats available? This would enable the committee to help find suitable people willing to fill the vacancy.

At the session a list was taken of volunteers to go travel teaching. This list has been sent to the English Goals Committee. Will all those youth who do go travel teaching as a result of this action please share with us a report of their experiences and activities.

Several youth expressed concern over the general need for deepening among Bahá'í youth. Of course this is an important matter for all Bahá'is. All youth interested in an exciting way to help fulfill this need, please read the section on "University Week" in this article.

One youth brought up the point that there is a severe lack of Bahá'í literature aimed at, and suitable for introducing the Faith to the atheist or agnostic; and that most youth contacts are in these categories. This matter was referred by the N.Y.C. to the Publishing Trust.

One of the youth wondered how to get the addresses of other youth in the British Isles. In reply to this the N.Y.C. points out that the N.S.A. does send to every L.S.A. a list of all the secretaries of Assemblies, groups and goal towns. Some copies of these lists will be made available at youth gatherings and at York where the youth can also compile a list of local youth committee secretaries.

A request was made by the youth for an up-to-date youth newsletter. The N.Y.C. has decided to include all news that can not wait for the Journal in the N.S.A.s "19 day Feast" letters. The main youth news, however, will continue to be inserted in the Journal.

This completes the list of the main topics discussed by the youth at the joint session with Mr. Sears and the action taken by the N.Y.C. on these matters.

"Youth University Week."

Between the dates of April 12th and 19th, a tremendous opportunity will be given for any Bahá'í youth (age 15-25) of the British Isles. Held at Manchester Bahá'í Centre, and set up along the lines of University classes, one week of intense study of the Faith will take place. This study will consist of lectures and seminars. Each participant will be expected to do assignments. It is

amazing how much one can learn in a week of guided study of the Writings! There is only room for 25 participants—so apply soon to Irene Jones, Bulmershe College of Education, Reading. The first 10 to apply will be provided with hospitality in Bahá'í homes if they so indicate in their applications. The rest will stay in a Youth hostel. This week provides an invaluable and unique opportunity to help you lay the foundation for a life of dedicated service.

National Youth Convention.

The first National Youth Convention of the Bahá'is of the British Isles will be held from April 3rd to 8th, 1969. Make note of this date and try to attend. It may well prove to be a conference which will affect the course of our lives and our future services to the Cause. Further details and the location will be announced in your next Journal and N.S.A. News letters.

Bahá'í Penfriends needed.

A beautiful loving letter has been received from a Bahá'í youth of Mauritius urgently requesting the names, ages, and addresses of many Bahá'í youth of the British Isles wishing to correspond with him and his Bahá'í friends. All those wishing to have the privilege of corresponding with these radiant souls please write to:

Mr. Tulasingham Curpen
65A Coriolis Avenue, Rose Hill
Quatres-Barnes, Mauritius.

Another similar request was received from India. A young Bahá'í there, living in an area remote from other Bahá'is, very much needs correspondence to fortify and sustain him. How could anyone refuse to be a penfriend with this valiant youth.

Mr. Pradeep Chowdharry
House 270
Vill. Lower Shamnager
P.O. Dharamsala
Dist. Kangra H.P., India.

Local Youth Committees. Bedford College, London.

Helene Momtaz has initiated open Bahá'í discussions at Bedford college, Baker Street. They will be held every Tuesday at 5.30 in room REID 32 and Helene invites all the friends in London, who are able, to please come and help her answer questions. This effort by single Bahá'í youth certainly deserves support! Helene also encourages all other students to undertake similar projects in their colleges—a very good idea!!

University of Southampton.

This University has requested Riaz Khadem to organize a series of open lectures including one or more on the Bahá'í Faith. This series of six lectures is one of four that every first year undergraduate at the University is required to attend. All other students are invited.

Permission has been granted by the University Union to Linda Khadem to use publicity facilities and meeting rooms for Bahá'í discussions. A series is being planned by the University

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Bahá'í Group (Riaz and Linda) for next term. Ten weekly public meetings will be held on Fridays at the Union. Each following Monday, firesides will be held at their flat. The Union has even offered to make the publicity posters for the public meetings free of charge.

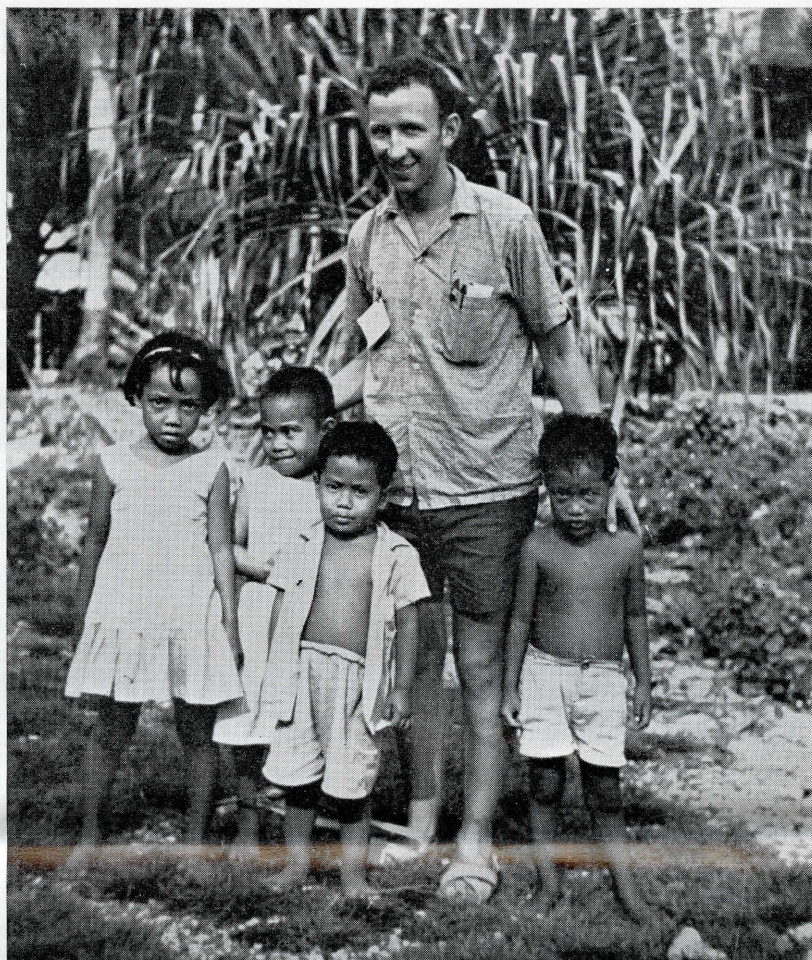
Reports for the Journal.

Send articles, reports of local youth activities, notices of week-end schools to:

Dr. Riaz Khadem
Department of Mathematics
The University, Southampton.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS.

A Bahá'í visits **Antarctica**, maybe the first Bahá'í ever there. Bahá'í children let off school in parts of **Argentina** for Holy Days. **Australia** hold major meeting on the "Unfolding Role of Women in Modern Society". **Belize** holds first real Teacher Training Institute, and success is apparent from the number of declarations afterwards. "Teaching in the villages has met with great success, they just seem to be waiting for Bahá'u'lláh". Three Bahá'í books were in a display in St. Paul's Cathedral, **London** until Christmas. **Canada** reports first registered declaration of Eskimo in Franklin District, and first native believers of the **Magdalen Islands**. First Eskimo recently appointed to a National Committee. **Chad**, where there were eleven believers last Ridván reported in October that there are now 256 believers in eleven localities. The Bahá'í community of **Equatorial Guinea** has been officially registered, and the Government of **Fiji** has approved the appointment of a Bahá'í marriage officer. Two Bahá'ís doing a Proclamation tour of **Finland** had 19 articles published in local papers, reaching about one million readers, and on September 24th, a 20 minute radio programme about the Faith was presented. In **India** a new tribe, the Gujjar, have joined the Faith. A recent circular to their 19 day Feasts mentioned over 600 new believers in three new areas. **Nicaragua** had their first teaching institute, and six new believers from Public Meetings afterwards. Two new hamlets have joined the Faith in North East Africa, all the residents (31 in one and 20 in another) accepting the Faith, and now spreading the news to nearby hamlets. After a large youth convention in **Iran** courses were announced which would train youth in useful pioneer skills, from electrical repairs to painting. Youth have been given special goals in all the major centres. Further declarations have been received from **Sicily**. Three declarations from the **Swiss Summer School**, and an exhibition has visited five towns, and over 1,000 saw it. It is also reported that it helped give a "new impulse to some Bahá'ís who had lost the glow of the Faith." The U.S.A. cable "First Seating Representative Indian American consequent enlightenment far reaching expectations Master for this down trodden people, localities increased to 2,371.



GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS

This charming picture shows our pioneer to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, David L. Hopper with some of the Gilbertese children.

David became a Bahá'í in Nottingham before returning to his home in Southport to become a member of that community. It was not long, however, before he answered the pioneer call and in January 1967 left for his pioneer post, 13,000 miles away in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

A qualified school master, David travels from Island to Island visiting and inspecting schools in the Colony. In the evenings young people will gather together and David teaches them English and speaks to them of the Bahá'í Faith.

Earlier this year David helped in the building of the "maneaba"—a large thatched meeting house in a magnificent setting and lit only by lanterns. It was here that the Gilbert and Ellice Islands convention was held this year.

Formation of the N.S.A. of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, a goal of the 9 year plan, was achieved at Ridván 1967 and we are now proud to learn of David's election as its secretary.

David's sister, Sylvia, lives in South-

port and shares David's news with us. In describing the beauty of the Islands he leaves the impression that there can be few places in the world where the merging of land and sea has created such colourful beauty. There are hardships, of course, bacteria thrive and droughts are common (during a recent one David's water tank developed a leak!). Food is very simple compared with ours—coconut, rice and fish being the main diet. Nevertheless, Sylvia says that David is happy there and enjoying his work.

Loving congratulations, David, from all of us in the British Isles. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and all the dear Island friends.

FIRESIDES.

Please note the following amendment to the list of "Firesides" previously published:

Bath. First and Third Tuesdays in each month. 40, Sheridan Road, Tiverton, Bath.

Croydon—each Friday at 8 p.m. 45 Riddlesdown Road, Purley.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BELFAST.

The high-light of many activities during recent weeks was the visit of Hand of the Cause Bill Sears. It was possible to arrange a press conference which was followed by an article on the Faith in the "City News", with a write-up on Charles Macdonald.

The Community supported all the activities of United Nations Week and Farhang Jahanpour gave a lecture at a Human Rights meeting. A visit by George and Elsie Bowers, during a "deepening weekend" was greatly appreciated as was also a visit from Zebbie Whitehead who was playing in the "Seagull" at the New Lyric Theatre, when there was opportunity for interest to be shown in the Faith and a little publicity.

CROYDON.

The one hundred and fifty first anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's Birth was well commemorated and the Community was grateful to their youth for the organization and presentation of the programme which was held at Mrs. Shakibai's flat at 381 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon, and later continued at Mrs. Suzanne Ahmed's flat at the same address. The house was beautifully decorated with paper ribbons, a welcome notice, balloons, etc., and as the guests arrived they were presented with a lovely rosebud, as a token of the flower so loved by Bahá'u'lláh. There were over thirty persons present, Bahá'is from neighbouring Communities and some non-Bahá'is. The programme commenced with a devotional and two short talks prepared and delivered by two of the youth members. Appropriate background music was played while the talks were given. When this part of the programme finished the light was turned off and a large birthday cake with 151 very small lit candles was brought in. These were blown out by those present amidst cheers and clapping. Then Mrs. Shakibai treated all the friends to some very delicious Persian food prepared by her. A very lively and joyful party of games and dancing followed, at Mrs. Suzanne Ahmed's flat downstairs. This very successful and lovely celebration of Bahá'u'lláh's Birth Anniversary finished shortly before midnight, when the birthday cake was cut and tea served to all those present.

SHEFFIELD.

The Community responded to an invitation to provide a speaker for a meeting arranged by the Free Church Society of the University of Sheffield. Eric Hellicar spoke at the meeting which was attended by sixty-four students and the Minister of the Wesley Church. A lively and interesting question time continued after the formal closing of the meeting.

WANDSWORTH.

On the 15th November the Community held a ball in commemoration of Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday attended by

225 guests, 40% of whom were non-Bahá'is. The chief guests were Sir Robert Birley, Chairman, and Mr. Gordon Evans, General Secretary, of the U.K. Human Rights Committee, with their wives.

The occasion commenced with a short prayer for unity followed by an address by the Assembly Chairman explaining the nature of the event and then introducing Sir Robert Birley, who spoke for a short while, and John Ferraby, Hand of the Cause, who presented Sir Robert with a copy of his book "All things Made New".

Excellent buffet arrangements and music for the dancing, provided by a discotheque team ensured a gay and happy evening.

Friends attended from many communities outside London as well as from many of the London Boroughs and several letters were received, after the event, commenting on the joyful atmosphere and the standard of presentation which the Bahá'is upheld.

Mr. Gordon Evans wrote thanking the Assembly for its invitation and expressed his great pleasure at the spiritual vitality of the Bahá'is. Many personal anecdotes attested to the success of a well planned evening, such as the comment by the professional photographer experienced in attending embassy and diplomatic functions, who said that she had "never known such a pure atmosphere" or the sophisticated Londoner who had often been told that he would not need artificial stimulants if he were spiritually alive and who had not until the ball experienced this truth, and declared.

WINCHESTER.

We are very happy to welcome to our community, pioneers from Kent, Sandra and Peter Jenkins and their two small children. Our numbers are again up to nine and all being well we look forward to the re-establishment of our Local Spiritual Assembly at Ridván.

The Misses Newman have now returned from visits as far afield as the Orkneys and Uganda, where they have helped with teaching.

In the autumn we held a One Day School, followed by a Public Meeting linked with Human Rights. We thank all those who took part to make this such a memorable occasion—Mrs. Munsiff,

Roger Prentice, Farhang Jahanpur, Riaz Khadem and Jim Talbot. The interesting and informative talks on the theme of complete obedience to God's laws, for the individual and for society, were challenging and stimulating, and introduced good discussion. At the end of the School, Board Member David Lewis summed up the content of the sessions, and lovingly conveyed the spirit of the day's fellowship.

We are very grateful for the overwhelming, warm-hearted support of so many of the Bahá'is and their friends,

who came such long distances to be with us. There were 95 present, and this in itself was indeed a great bountiful for our community and for the city of Winchester. Who knows what blessings this may bring?

Reports of our activities and our Fireside Discussions are printed regularly in the Press, and we hope that amongst the 25,000 or so who may read them, some hearts may respond. Please friends, join us in prayers, that we may be guided to those who are seeking the peace and refuge our Beloved Faith offers. Ya Bahá'ul'Abhá, Winchester.

MANCHESTER WEEKEND SCHOOL

November 15th, 1968

The Attendants at the Week-end School in Manchester, September 14/15th, 1968. Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We were so happy to receive your round-robin letter with its expression of love and loyalty to the Institutions of the Faith. This spontaneous expression of your devotion to the Cause has touched us deeply and we assure you of our ardent prayers in the Holy Shrines for divine confirmations on all your efforts to serve Bahá'u'lláh.

You were certainly blessed by the attendance at your School of Hand of the Cause William Sears. His recent visit to the British Isles and his sacrificial work during his arduous tour will undoubtedly have further endeared him to the British believers and we eagerly anticipate that the spirit which he has aroused among you will urge you all forward to achieve the goals assigned to you in the Nine Year Plan.

The British Community, so dear to the beloved Guardian's heart, is often in our thoughts and prayers.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE.

BAHÁ'Í MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN:

"THE LITTLE JOURNAL".

Would all subscribers and all those friends interested in receiving this magazine note that the subscriptions run from May to the next month of April inclusive and so it will soon be time for the renewal of the May 1969/70 subscription of five shillings (5s. 0d.) per year for six issues. Please send your remittance to the Treasurer, Mrs. May Moore, 19 South Primrose Hill, Chelmsford, Essex.

The Committee will be very interested in receiving from adults and children written contributions to the magazine in the form of short stories, plays, articles, drawings, etc., for publication. Kindly send these to the Secretary Mrs. Lina Smithson, 92 Beechwood Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 0AB.

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

WORLD WIDE PROCLAMATION

ADDRESS BY HAND OF THE CAUSE PAUL E. HANEY

MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE — AUGUST 24th 1968

The Community of the Most Great Name is now well launched on that "unknown sea" of world-wide proclamation of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh—that divine call for the unification of the nations and peoples of the earth raised by the Supreme Manifestation of God more than one hundred years ago.

This new dimension in proclaiming the true purpose of the mission of Bahá'u'lláh was called for by the Universal House of Justice in a series of messages preparing the Bahá'ís for the stupendous task of making their fellow men aware of God's purpose for humanity in this Day of Fulfilment and Age of Maturity.

"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."

(Message of Universal House of Justice, Ridván 1967).

"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 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."

(Message of Universal House of Justice to the six Intercontinental Conferences, October, 1967)

Presentation of Proclamation Book to Heads of State.

The Proclamation Book compiled by the Universal House of Justice has now been presented either directly or indirectly to 109 of the 140 Heads of State selected by the House of Justice to receive it. This is the total as of August 18th, just a few days ago.

Although the reception accorded these presentations was in many cases polite, and in some even cordial, it is evident that at this juncture of history one hundred years after Bahá'u'lláh's summons to the kings, rulers and ecclesiastics of His time—the world's present political and religious leaders are not going to bring their people into the New World Order foreshadowed in the writings of Bahá'u'lláh. The Bahá'ís themselves are the ones who are called upon to discharge this weighty responsibility in the course of the proclamation campaigns which are to gather momentum progressively from now until 1973 and beyond. It is the Bahá'ís who now have their rendezvous with destiny one hundred years after the Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh, and not the religious and temporal leaders and rulers who have had their chance once again and have failed to grasp it.

In a recent news letter of one of the National Assemblies represented on our programme this morning, there appeared the following quotation from the writings of Goethe, the great German poet and philosopher:

"If you have any faith, give me, for heaven's sake, a share of it! Your doubts you may keep to yourself, for I have plenty of my own . . ."

We must endeavour to find hundreds of thousands and indeed millions of people, at every level of society, who are in this state of mind.

These days most people seem to have doubts about practically everything and faith in nothing, and perhaps this is one of the factors contributing to those "illimitable opportunities" which lie ahead to take the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to the rest of humanity.

The Most Important Elements of Proclamation.

In pursuing this goal and in waging this battle it seems evident that we must endeavour to understand at least four essential points, which may be stated as follows:—

1. What powerful weapons Bahá'u'lláh has placed in our hands to wage the campaigns which lie ahead.
2. The consequences of mankind's failure to heed the call of God—not only at the time it was first raised by Bahá'u'lláh, but also in the intervening period, and especially now when the world is faced with such grave dangers that many people fear humanity may not survive at all.
3. The ultimate goals toward which we are working.
4. The guidance given to us by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Guardian, and currently by the Supreme Institution of the Universal House of Justice in fulfilling our destinies as Bahá'ís and in achieving our goals.

The Writings of Bahá'u'lláh Proclaiming His Message.

The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh contains words of both warning and promise, and we must strive to understand both. Surely this has been the effort of all of us in the months since the Proclamation Campaign was so auspiciously launched at the six Intercontinental Conferences in October of last year. However, a few of these powerful utterances will be quoted here, in order that together we may gain from them renewed strength and inspiration on this historic occasion.

First, a few passages from the Súriy-i-Mulúk (the Tablet to the Kings) revealed by Bahá'u'lláh in Adrianople, and described by the beloved Guardian as the most momentous of all the Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh. These will be followed by other brief passages from the words of Bahá'u'lláh included in the Proclamation Book compiled by the Universal House of Justice, and then by the description of the Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh and its significance by Shoghi Effendi in "The Promised Day is Come."

(Quotations from "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh")

"O Kings of earth! Give ear unto the voice of God, calling from this sublime, this fruit-laden tree, that hath sprung out of the Crimson Hill, upon the Holy Plain, intoning the words: 'There is none other God but He, the Mighty, the All-Powerful, the All-Wise' . . . Fear God, O concourse of Kings, and suffer not yourselves to be deprived of this most sublime grade. Fling away, then, the things ye possess, and take fast hold on the Handle of God, the Exalted, the Great. Set your hearts towards the Face of

God, and abandon that which your desires have bidden you to follow, and be not of those who perish." (p. 7).

"If ye pay no heed unto the counsels which, in peerless and unequivocal language, We have revealed in this Tablet, Divine chastisement shall assail you from every direction, and the sentence of His justice shall be pronounced against you. On that day ye shall have no power to resist him, and shall recognize your own impotence." (p. 9).

"God hath committed into your Hands the reigns of the government of the people, that ye may rule with justice over them, safeguard the rights of the down-trodden, and punish the wrong-doers. If ye neglect the duty prescribed unto you by God in His Book, your names shall be numbered with those of the unjust in His sight. Grievous, indeed, will be your error . . . Cast away the things ye possess, and cling to that which God hath bidden you observe." (p. 11).

"O King of Paris! Tell the priest to ring the bells no longer. By God, the True One! The Most Mighty Bell hath appeared in the form of Him Who is the Most Great Name, and the fingers of the will of Thy Lord, the Most Exalted, the Most High, toll it out in the heaven of Immortality, in His Name, the All-glorious." (p. 17).

"Hearken ye, O Rulers of America, and the Presidents of the Republics therein, unto that which the Dove is warbling on the Branch of Eternity. There is none other God but Me, the Ever-abiding, the Forgiving, the All-Bountiful. Adorn ye the temple of dominion with the ornament of justice and of the fear of God, and its head with the crown of the remembrance of your Lord, the Creator of the heavens. Thus counselleth you He Who is the Dayspring of Names, as bidden by Him Who is the All-Knowing, the All-Wise." (p. 63).

"O Concourse of divines! When My verses were sent down, and my clear tokens were revealed, We found you behind the veils. This, verily, is a strange thing . . . We have rent the veils asunder. Beware lest ye shut out the people by yet another veil. Pluck asunder the chains of vain imaginings, in the name of the Lord of all Men, and be not of the deceitful . . . Fear God and be not of the heedless." (p. 74-75).

(Quotation from "The Promised Day is Come.")

"Episodes, at once moving and marvellous, at various stages of His ministry, are recounted, and the transitoriness of wordly pomp, fame, riches and sovereignty, repeatedly and categorically asserted. Appeals for the application of the highest principles in human and international relations

are forcibly and insistently made, and the abandonment of discreditable practices and conventions, detrimental to the happiness, the growth, the prosperity and the unity of the human race, enjoined. Kings are censured, ecclesiastical dignitaries arraigned, ministers and plenipotentiaries condemned, and the identification of His advent with the coming of the Father Himself unequivocally admitted and repeatedly announced. The violent downfall of a few of these kings and emperors is prophesied, two of them are definitely challenged, most are warned, all are appealed to and exhorted." (Shoghi Effendi—pp. 45-46).

The Consequences of Mankind's Heedlessness.

We are now passing through what our Guardian once termed "a dark age of transition". Since Bahá'u'lláh sent forth His Proclamation and His divine summons, the world has witnessed the downfall of most of the kings, rulers and ecclesiastics who chose to ignore the words of Bahá'u'lláh and the dire warnings conveyed by them; also either the extinction or the progressive weakening of the political and religious institutions identified with them.

Here we shall quote from the words of Bahá'u'lláh Himself, appearing in "The Promised Day is Come", as well as a few of the explanations and observations made by the beloved Guardian in this most wonderful book, written by him nearly thirty years ago and which undoubtedly is one of our most valuable sources of knowledge and understanding of the true meaning of The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh. We shall also refer to brief passages from that remarkably prophetic and perceptive work of Shoghi Effendi published under the title "The Unfoldment of World Civilisation".

(Quotations from "The Promised Day is Come")

"The time for the destruction of the world and its peoples hath arrived. The hour is approaching when the most great convulsion will have appeared." "The promised day is come, the day when tormenting trials will have surged above your heads, and beneath your feet, saying: Taste ye what your hands have wrought" . . . "We have fixed a time for you, O people! If ye fail, at the appointed hour, to turn towards God, He, verily, will lay violent hold on you, and will cause grievous afflictions to assail you from every direction. (Bahá'u'lláh—pp. 1-3).

"The colossal events that have heralded the dissolution of so many kingdoms and empires have almost synchronized with the crumbling of the seemingly inviolable strongholds of religious orthodoxy. The same process which, swiftly and tragically, sealed the doom of kings and emperors, and extin-

guished their dynasties, has operated in the case of the ecclesiastical leaders of both Christianity and Islam, damaging their prestige, and in some cases, overthrowing their highest institutions. 'Power hath been seized' indeed, from both 'kings and ecclesiastics'. The glory of the former has been eclipsed, the power of the latter irretrievably lost. This process of deterioration, however, startling in its initial manifestations, is still operating with undiminished force, and will, as the opposition to the Faith of God, from various sources and in distant fields gathers momentum, be further accelerated and reveal still more remarkable evidences of its devastating power." (Shoghi Effendi pp. 76-77).

The present world situation, which is indeed, if anything, more serious and more dangerous than at the time the Guardian gave us "The Promised Day is Come", clearly indicates that we are still witnessing the operation of that two-fold process described by Shoghi Effendi in "The Unfoldment of World Civilisation". A clear understanding of this process, as described by our Guardian, is essential if we are to realise the true purpose and significance of the proclamation campaigns which the Bahá'is are now called upon to wage with increasing vigour and dauntless courage.

(Quotation from "The Unfoldment of World Civilization")

"As we view the world around us, we are compelled to observe the manifold evidences of that universal fermentation which, in every continent of the globe and in every department of human life, be it religious, social, economic or political, is purging and reshaping humanity in anticipation of the Day when the wholeness of the human race will have been recognised and its unity established. A twofold process, however, can be distinguished, each tending, in its own way and with an accelerated momentum, to bring to a climax the forces that are transforming the face of our planet. The first is essentially an integrating process, while the second is fundamentally disruptive. The former, as it steadily evolves, unfolds a System which may well serve as a pattern for that world polity towards which a strangely disordered world is continually advancing; while the latter, as its disintegrating influence deepens, tends to tear down, with increasing violence, the antiquated barriers that seek to block humanity's progress towards its destined goal. The constructive process stands associated with the nascent Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and is the harbinger of the New World Order that Faith must ere long establish. The destructive forces that characterize the other should be identified

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with a civilisation that has refused to answer to the expectation of a new age, and is consequently falling into chaos and decline. A titanic, a spiritual struggle, unparalleled in its magnitude yet unspeakably glorious in its ultimate consequences, is being waged as a result of these opposing tendencies, in this age of transition through which the organised community of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh and mankind as a whole are passing." (Shoghi Effendi.—p.10).

God's Purpose and the Ultimate Goal: Guidance from the Sacred Writings and from the Guardian and the Universal House of Justice.

As every Bahá'í knows, the unification of mankind in all aspects of its life must be the distinguishing feature of the stage of its development which human society has now reached or is rapidly approaching.

Bahá'u'lláh Himself stated that the essential purpose of His Teachings was "to endow all men with righteousness and understanding, so that peace and tranquility may be established amongst them" He also explained that:

"A new life is, in this age, stirring within all the peoples of the earth" and yet none hath discovered its cause, or perceived its motive." "O children of men, the fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race . . . This is the straight path, the fixed and immovable foundation. Whatsoever is raised on this foundation, the changes and chances of the world can never impair its strength, nor will the revolution of countless centuries undermine its structure." "The well-being of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established." "So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth." (Bahá'u'lláh—Quoted in "Unfoldment of World Civilization," pp. 42-43).

The underlying purpose of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings, we know, is a spiritual one, far removed from political considerations. However, we also know that these teachings furnish a broad outline of the specific channels through which man's activities must be directed to bring them into harmony and agreement with the basic principle of unity enunciated by Bahá'u'lláh. These aspects of our Faith should also be stressed in the world-wide campaigns of Proclamation now under way.

It is the inescapable duty of the Bahá'ís in every land to assist our fellow-men to find Bahá'u'lláh, to turn to Him, and to seek their salvation through Him. We must strive to make them aware of the true significance of words of Bahá'u'lláh such as these:

"Soon will the present day Order be rolled up, and a new one spread

out in its stead. Verily, thy Lord speaketh the truth and is the Knower of things unseen." "By Myself, the day is approaching when We will have rolled up the world and all that is therein, and spread out a new Order in its stead. He, verily, is powerful over all things." "The world's equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of the Most Great, this new World Order. Mankind's ordered life hath been revolutionised through the agency of this unique, this wondrous System, the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed." (Bahá'u'lláh—Quoted in "Unfoldment of World Civilization," pp. 1-2).

We should also endeavour to understand the writings of the beloved Guardian explaining the significance of the Administrative Order which the believers are building and expanding. The following statements made by Shoghi Effendi in "The Unfoldment of World Civilization" seem to bring into clear focus our goal and the relationship of our teaching and administrative activities to the ultimate attainment of this objective:

"Dearly-beloved friends! This New World Order, whose promise is enshrined in the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, whose fundamental principles have been enunciated in the writings of the Centre of His Covenant, involves no less than the complete unification of the entire human race. This unification should conform to such principles as would directly harmonize with the spirit that animates, and the laws that govern the operation of, the institutions that already constitute the structural basis of the Administrative Order of His Faith (p. 2).

"Who else can be the blissful if not the community of the Most Great Name, whose world-embracing, continually consolidating activities constitute the one integrating process in a world whose institutions, secular as well as religious, are for the most part dissolving? They indeed are 'the people of the right' whose 'noble habitation' is fixed on the foundations of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh—the Ark of everlasting salvation in this most grievous Day. Of all the kindreds of the earth they alone can recognize, amidst the welter of a tempestuous age, the Hand of the Divine Redeemer that traces its course and controls its destinies Conscious of their high calling, confident in the society-building power which their Faith possesses, they press forward, undeterred and undismayed, in their efforts to fashion and perfect the necessary instruments wherein the embryonic World Order of Bahá'u'lláh can mature and develop. It is this building process, slow and unobtrusive, to which the life of the world-wide Bahá'í Community is wholly consecrated, that constitutes

the one hope of a stricken society. For this process is actuated by the generating influence of God's changeless Purpose, and is evolving within the framework of the Administrative Order of His Faith". (pp. 34-35).

The Universal House of Justice in its Ridván Message of 1967, referring to the proclamation campaigns which the Bahá'ís would soon be called upon to undertake, gave us a clear indication of the relationship of these campaigns to our other activities in teaching the Faith:

"World-wide proclamation, the unknown sea on which we must soon sail, will add another dimension to our work, a dimension which will, as it develops, complement and reinforce the twin processes of expansion and consolidation. This pattern of teaching, emerging so soon after the completion of the framework of the Administrative Order, may well be the means of advancing the vital work of consolidation and of rendering more effective the teaching wisdom which has been gained in a hundred years, and more particularly since the beloved Guardian called us to systematic and planned activities . . . 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."

Thus the proclamation campaigns must go hand in hand with and be co-ordinated with teaching programmes at the national and local levels, and the teaching efforts of every individual Bahá'í.

It may not be too much to hope for that the proclamation campaigns, at least in the so-called free and developed countries, may be the key which will unlock and open the doors to the beginning of that mass conversion which the friends in these lands have awaited so long and for which they yearn so ardently.

The Promises of Divine Assistance for the Believers.

As we view the unparalleled challenge and the awesome tasks which lie ahead, in the remaining years of the Nine Year Plan and beyond, we must derive our comfort and our strength from the Divine Promises enshrined in our Teachings and the power of accomplishment inherent in them.

'Abdu'l-Bahá told the believers in Paris that "No capacity is limited when led by the spirit of God" (Paris Talks, p. 169). He also once told a group of the friends that "As nothing can prevent the fall of rain from heaven to give life to the gardens of earth, so no human power is able to prevent the fulfilment of the word of God" (Chosen Highway, p.144).

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Bahá'í stand at Brent show

THE DAWNING OF THE GLORY

The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh may still
be in its infancy
but like a sturdy child 'twill grow
in strength and buoyancy.
His wondrous work profound and wise
are 'Tablets' for the free.
O Blest are ye with ears to hear
and ye with eyes to see.
With fervent zeal His pen has flowed
and o'er His pages spread
like molten gold His words of flame
seeped into souls He led.
O may the blood of the martyrs shed
reveal much spiritual gain;
we know the manner of their deaths
brought rapture after pain.
The Báb, 'the Gate' and promised One
opened the portals wide,
prepared the path for Bahá'u'lláh,
for His beloved One died.
The shining hosts in heavenly spheres
are dimmed by these brave souls
who sought His Grace and His alone
forsaking earthly goals.

Elise Ham.

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Therefore we need have no fears and no doubts about the future if we respond as we should to those powerful words and weapons placed in our hands by Bahá'u'lláh and by the chosen expounders of His Mighty Covenant.

If we all arise with determination, fix our gaze undeviatingly on the goals set for us by the House of Justice, and resolve to demonstrate the quality of our faith in heroic acts and selfless service, the Blessed Beauty will undoubtedly sustain us, and enable us to perform such deeds as will cause all men to bow down in awe and admiration before the name of Bahá'u'lláh.

OBITUARY

Major Wellesley Tudor-Pole

Major Tudor Pole passed away on September 13th 1968. The National Assembly was represented at his funeral in Brighton by the Officers of the Brighton Spiritual Assembly and their presence was welcomed by his family.

Major Tudor Pole was personally acquainted with the Master; the part he played in safeguarding 'Abdu'l-Bahá and His family during the Palestine campaign in 1918 is well known to all those who have read, "The Chosen Highway". He continued to hold throughout the whole of his life a deep and most respectful regard for the Master and referred to Him in his books "The Silent Road" and "Writing on the Ground." In the latter, published only a short while before his death, he emphasized the role of the Faith in establishing a world-wide community, and closed the book by saying, "...Bahá'is believe that the Local and National Assemblies, and the Universal House of Justice now formed, is the divinely appointed framework for building World Unity and peace, prophesied by Jesus, The Christ, when He said, 'and there shall be One Fold and One Shepherd.'" Major Tudor Pole kept in touch with the National Assembly over many years. Those Bahá'is who visited or had contact with him in the months before his passing will remember his happiness when he mentioned 'Abdu'l-Bahá, his humility and his warm, kindly welcome. Through his pen many people have learned of the Faith and will do so in the future. The Universal House of Justice cabled to the family their sympathy at his death.

• IRISH GOALS COMMITTEE •

The Committee, deeply inspired by the visit of Hand of the Cause Bill Sears, are considering every resource which can serve the Cause in the winning of the goals of the Nine Year Plan. Offers for travel teaching and visiting are increasing and already each week in January is filled on our chart. We hope to extend our efforts to involve every believer in Ireland, and to this end we are holding a special meeting on January 27th/28th to plan the utilisation of every talent.

During this month we had a visit from Khazeh Fananapazir from Oxford who arrived in Dublin, and then travelled south to Cork and Limerick, returned to visit Dun Laoghaire, and then travelled north to the goal town of Derry before going to Bangor and the York Winter School. Sally Villiers Stuart has visited Dublin and Dun Laoghaire, and Kamran Mansurie from Iran seeking a pioneer post, has been in Dublin to consult with the Committee and then to visit Limerick. The Cork and Limerick friends have visited Dublin. The Limerick friends were in the Hazirat'ul-Quds for the consultative meeting with George Bowers who visited Ireland on behalf of the N.S.A. 100 new believers by Ridván, how many shall we find in Ireland?

This Committee has appointed the first Field Workers—the Committee members, each one to visit a community or goal town, to consult on the winning of the goals. Many ideas have come from these consultations, which will be incorporated in the teaching programme during the next few months. The Committee asks each L.S.A. to assist a goal town, and to encourage the isolated believers to become fully involved with them.

The friends are meeting together for prayers, remembering the goal towns. Deepening classes and study groups are being held. There has been continued co-operation between the Bahá'í communities and the organisers of Human Rights year, making a stronger link with the United Nations Association. There has been excellent press coverage for meetings and Holy Days, and personal interviews, in the North.

In the South where activity is quieter, the friends, nevertheless find increasing opportunities to mention the Faith, and find the attitude more open to discussion. The Public Meetings in Dublin are better attended.

Dublin Community has been strengthened by the arrival of John Bohlig, and by the temporary stay of Reginald Newport. Philip and Jane O'Brien have purchased a house, thus providing another home in the pivotal centre.

Dun Laoghaire, where an L.S.A. is to be formed at Ridván, is pressing forward with its teaching efforts, holding a deepening class every week.

The Summer School in Ireland will be held from July 5th-16th at the Hall School, Monkstown.

ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE

GOAL TOWN WEEKS.

The 9 Week Campaign, which will culminate in the special Goal Town Weeks, in Bath, Bedford, Ipswich, Poole and Stafford, is now fully under way, and we share with you the following details of plans taking place in these special Weeks.

Bath. 11th-18th January.

Saturday 11th Reception 7 p.m. (by invitation) York House Hotel.
 Sunday 12th Unity Feast. Peoples Mission, Corn Street.
 Monday 13th Public Meeting, Concert Room, Pump Room.
 Speaker: David Lewis. Subject: "What is a Bahá'í."
 Tuesday 14th Coffee Evening. Grosvenor Hotel, North Parade.
 Wednesday 15th Slide Show. International Club, Technical College.
 Thursday 16th Unity Feast. Grosvenor Hotel, North Parade.
 Friday 17th Coffee Evening, Grosvenor Hotel, North Parade.
 Saturday, 18th Public Meeting—Concert Room, Pump Room.
 Speaker: Betty Reed. Subject: "The Bahá'í Faith—Sole
 Remaining Refuge for a Tottering World."

Bedford. 18th January—25th January.

Saturday 18th Reception 8 p.m. Embankment Hotel, The Embankment.
 Sunday 19th Unity Feast. 29 Aspen Road.
 Monday 20th Public Meeting 8 p.m. Friends Meeting House, 5 Lansdowne
 Road.
 Speaker: Derek Cockshut. Subject: "What is a Bahá'í?"
 Tuesday 21st Fireside.
 Wednesday 22nd Slide Show 8 pm.. "Israel—Focal Point of Four Cultures."
 Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill.
 Thursday 23rd Fireside 8 p.m.
 Friday 24th Coffee Evening. 8 p.m.
 Saturday 25th Public Meeting 8 p.m. Swan Hotel, Market Place, Bedford.
 Speaker: Mrs. Betty Reed. Subject: The Bahá'í Faith—
 Sole Remaining Refuge for a Tottering World."

Stafford. 18th January—25th January.

Saturday 18th Reception and Presentation (by invitation) 3 p.m., Station
 Hotel.
 Sunday 19th Unity Feast. "All Faiths Devotional" 3 p.m. Station Hotel.
 Monday 20th Public Meeting 7.45 p.m. Station Hotel.
 Speaker: Mr. J. Long. Subject: What is a Bahá'í?"
 Tuesday 21st Fireside Meeting. 7.45 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. K. Goode,
 8 Knowle Road.
 Wednesday 22nd Slide Show and Talk. 7 p.m. Public Library. "The Earth
 —One Country" Mrs. Betty Goode.
 Thursday 23rd Fireside Meeting. 7.45 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. K. Goode,
 8 Knowle Road.
 Friday 24th Station Hotel. 7.30 p.m. "Meet the Bahá'ís" Coffee and Chat.
 Sunday 26th Public Meeting. 3 p.m. The Swan Hotel (Greengate Room)
 Speaker: Mr. Philip Hainsworth. Subject: "The Bahá'í
 Faith—Sole Remaining Refuge for a Tottering World."

Poole. 25th January—1st February.

Saturday, 25th Reception 3.30 p.m. Dolphin Hotel.
 Sunday 26th Unity Feast.
 Monday 27th Public Meeting. 7.30 p.m. Dolphin Hotel.
 Speaker: Mr. David Lewis. Subject: "What is a Bahá'í?"
 Tuesday 28th Fireside Meeting. Dolphin Hotel.
 Thursday 29th Slide Show. Ted Cardell. Dolphin Hotel.
 Wednesday 30th Panel of Speakers—Dolphin Hotel.
 Friday 31st Social Evening. Dolphin Hotel.
 Saturday 1st February... Public Meeting 7 30 p.m. Dolphin Hotel, Poole.
 Speaker: Mr. P. Hainsworth. Subject: "The Bahá'í Faith—
 Sole Remaining Refuge for a Tottering World."

Where times or places are not given—information has not yet been received. We are sorry not to have included the goal town of Ipswich, but information has not yet been received, but for details please contact: Mrs. M. Bachrich, 63 Nelson Road, Ipswich.

The committee is confident that all the Friends will find these "Weeks" exciting and stimulating, and that they will wish to give them all the support they can. It is possible that contacts from other towns would welcome the chance to be present at some of these

gatherings.

Plans are already going forward for "follow-up" teaching for the 73 remaining days before Ridván, after the close of the last Bahá'í Week. Please be ready to help out in all these towns.

Already Stafford are planning a Study Course, requested by their contacts. **Help which has been already promised!** Sutton Coldfield have circulated the whole of the Midland Region, inviting all the believers to join them in special prayers every night at 10.30 p.m. for the success of these campaigns!

Brent and Peterborough. have written their willingness to give assistance. **Cambridge** are already helping in a major way in the goal towns of Bedford and Ipswich.

Edward Richards of Sutton Coldfield is spending a week to help in Stafford and Bath.

Marina Bridle and Mike Brooks of Peterborough are going to Bedford for the whole of the Bahá'í Week.

Bill and Madeline Hellaby of Kendal have expressed their willingness to help in Stafford. Offers of help have been received from several of the Bahá'í Youth.

News of the other goal towns!

Chelmsford will be 4 in number when Len and Pat Nelson of Romford arrive.

Hereford is giving Gloria Faizi excellent publicity in the local newspaper. The local education authority have agreed that Gloria may hold a class for teaching Persian.

Kendal, Chester and Carlisle received visits from Leslie Gibson of Ireland on a travel teaching trip.

Oakham received front page publicity following their One-day school, resulting in an enquiry for some Bahá'í pamphlets, and a telephone call from a lady requesting a slide of the Kampala Temple.

Since the wonderful Oceanic Conference in Palermo followed by the momentous gathering of so many believers at the World Centre followed so closely by the visit to these shores of dearly loved Hand of the Cause, William Sears, there has been a feeling of "quickening" in the air. Let us be as brilliant stars distinguishing ourselves for our "abiding sense of security and faith" and "high standard of rectitude"; for our "complete freedom from all forms of prejudice" and "spirit of love among all of us".

When we strive together to cultivate land which has lain barren for so many years, it can be a slow process, and the seeds we sow seem so long in germinating. Let us never forget that many things are taking place in the soil which are not visible to the eye, so that often, on the darkest, coldest day of the year, the tiny spike of green we see appearing, makes us realize that life indeed is "quickening" in the earth!

Let us remember the words of the Universal House of Justice that as the world's gloom deepens, the light of Bahá'í life will shine brighter and brighter until its brilliance must eventually attract the disillusioned masses and cause them to enter the haven of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh, Who alone can bring peace and justice and an ordered life." Let us make our "deeds of sacrifice and devotion" "outshine the deeds of the past and sweep away every obstacle from the onward march of the Cause of God."

National Spiritual Assembly's News Letter

DECLARATIONS.

We are delighted to welcome to the Faith Mr. Iqbal Virdee, Mrs. Sandra Braine, Kensington and Chelsea; Miss Patricia Farrow (Youth), Burnley; Mr. Roger Butler (Youth), Mrs. Jeanne Jensen, Brighton; Mr. James Russell, Mr. Robert Watkins, Barnet; Mrs. Yvonne Buckley, Miss Ruth Dollman, Newmarket; Mr. Charles and Mrs. Hylda McDonald, Abingdon; Miss Vida Taherzadeh-Malmiri (Youth), Ashford, Kent; Mr. Colin and Mrs. Anita Lee, St. Austell; Mr. James Elliott (Youth), Ringwood, Hants.; Miss Brenda Butler (Youth), London, E.6; Mr. Brian Parsons, Chester; Mr. Louis Harrowell, Larne R.D.; Mr. Ernest and Mrs. Violet Bertram, Orkney; Miss Sandra Wilcox, Blackpool; Mr. Terence Mayers, Mr. Alexander Boyle, Leicester; Mr. Nigel Young (Youth), Oxford; Miss Sandra Hardy (Youth), Canterbury; Mr. Peter Trundell (Youth), Peterborough; Miss E. Mary Woodthorpe (Youth), Manchester; Miss Tanya Hill (Youth), Worthing; Miss Margaret Evans, Carmarthen; Mr. Russi Mistry, Wandsworth; Mr. George O. Davson, Mr. Ivor Billings, McDoom, E. Bank, Guyana. We are also happy to announce that the following Bahá'í Youth have claimed their voting rights: Miss Isobel Walters, Cardiff; Miss Vida Astani, Bath; Miss Elisabeth Wiggins, Oxford; Mrs. Carol Pollitt, Miss Margaret Cleasby, Burnley; Mr. Brian Moore, Stafford; Mr. Barry Watson Craigavon; Miss Geraldine Haldane, Edinburgh; Miss Mina Mehrnoosh, Watford.

HAND OF THE CAUSE WILLIAM SEARS.

Everybody will be delighted to know that dear Hand of the Cause Bill Sears continues to take part enthusiastically and energetically in the winning of our Nine Year Plan goals. Do you remember his last week-end in London and the public talk he gave at the Kensington Library Theatre on the Saturday evening, when the Theatre was full and brimming over and everyone enjoyed it so much? The title of that talk was, "A religion for this Atomic Age." When he got back to California, Mr. Sears went over the tape-recording of the talk and sent it quickly back to us for copying; the English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh Goals Committees now have one copy each for use in the teaching work in their areas, and there is an extra copy for use in Eire and another extra one for the Scottish Islands, two most vital goals on the Home Front. These six tapes are a gift from the Hands of the Cause of God, and through them we shall still have dear Bill's special personal help with our teaching work.

In a letter dated December 14th, Mr. Sears said, "You are all always in my thoughts and prayers. I was delighted to read the letter of the challenge to the National Community to gain 100 new

Bahá'ís . . .". He is still praying every day for each of our goal towns, and has now added to those 40 names the prayer, "One hundred new Bahá'ís in the British Isles by Naw Rúz, Ya Bahá'ul'Abhá."

Not only is Mr. Sears praying himself, he has asked the National Assembly of Uganda and Central Africa to do so and also the Friends in that Community. Here is an extract from a letter from that very dear National Assembly: "We consider it a privilege and an honour to be able to do this for our parent Community and we assure you of our loving prayers and sincere support for anything we can do to help the British Bahá'í Community in its endeavours to achieve its goals and maintain its distinguished record of service and earn more praise from the Universal House of Justice and the entire Bahá'í World Community." They go on to say that one service every month at the Bahá'í House of Worship at Kikaya Hill will be dedicated to victory for the goals of the Nine Year Plan all over the world and particularly in Britain and Uganda and Central Africa.

OUR OTHER HOME FRONT: GUYANA.

The friends in Guyana have held two "Goal Town Weeks", the first was associated with the Birthday of the Báb and held in the goal town of Kitty; and the second, associated with the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, was in the goal town of Campbellville. The N.S.A. has sent as a gift to the Area Teaching Committee a copy of Mr. Sears' talk at the Kensington Library Theatre to help in the teaching work, and the friends in Guyana have a new challenge too; to search for and find 9 new believers by Naw Rúz. The search will be intensified in Kitty and Campbellville, which each need two new believers to bring them up to nine. The response in Guyana could be very rapid, and as soon as the 9 new believers have been found the target can be raised to 19, or even 99. The Board of Counsellors for South America is planning for one of their members soon to visit Guyana. Board Member Anthony Worley, who has been in the United States for some months, is returning now to Surinam and will be in close touch again with Guyana. Pioneers are urgently needed and three are trying to get there, two from the United States and one from the British Isles. The goal in Guyana is as important as that in Eire, to establish a new National Assembly, so please remember Guyana in your prayers, especially the goal towns of Kitty and Campbellville, "Ya Bahá'ul'Abhá."

KNIGHT OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH CHARLES DUNNING.

Charles Dunning, the spiritual conqueror of the Orkney Islands, is buried in the Cardiff Cemetery, and the Cardiff Assembly is supervising the erection of a kerb and headstone on his

grave. Some friends have already contributed to the cost. Although a special fund is not being launched for this purpose, others—especially those who knew him—may wish to send additional donations to the National Fund in memory of the Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, and the N.S.A. wanted you to know that such donations would be warmly welcomed. This is a particularly happy time to think of Charles, for the first Spiritual Assembly in the Orkneys will be formed next Ridván, a crowning achievement not only to Charles' labours there but also to the wonderful services of the pioneers who followed in his footsteps and all the Bahá'í teachers and visitors who have gone there.

N.S.A. MEETINGS.

There has been so much work to do that the National Assembly met three times in five weeks. N.S.A. meetings begin at 8.00 p.m. on the Friday evening and continue for twelve hours on Saturday and eight hours or more on Sunday. On each Saturday morning there is a carefully prepared devotional programme, all the pioneers are remembered especially in prayers and the N.S.A. supplicates Bahá'u'lláh's confirmations on every sphere of the work at home and overseas.

There has been a change in the dates of future N.S.A. meetings, which will now be held on 10th/12th January, 21st/23rd February and 28th/30th March

SUMMER SCHOOLS 1969

Following the very successful Summer School held in Eire this year, the Hall School, Monkstown, has been booked again, the dates being 5th/16th July. Dalston Hall has been booked for 9th/16th August. Other venues are being explored in the south of England. Coleg Harlech has again been booked for next year, the dates being 23rd August/2nd September.

EARTHQUAKES IN PERSIA.

At its August meeting, the N.S.A. went to the Resting Place of the beloved Guardian and in praying there remembered especially the earthquake victims in Persia. We wrote immediately to our sister National Assembly and were very relieved to receive for our December meeting a letter of reassurance from them, and are sure that you will also be glad to know that the Iranian friends are not in need of any relief-assistance,

WORLD RELIGION DAY JANUARY 19th.

World Religion Day is an annual event inaugurated by the N.S.A. of the United States and now celebrated by Bahá'í Communities all over the world. It falls on the third Sunday in January, and is an excellent opportunity for us to hold well organised, joyous meetings extending fellowship to other Faiths and emphasising the oneness of humanity and the oneness of religion. There is no particular form that such meetings must follow, and we know that some

continued from page eleven

communities are becoming quite adventurous in their World Religion Day programmes.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Sara Kenny, valiant pioneer from the United States to Europe, passed to the Abhá Kingdom on September 21st in a London Hospital and is buried in the Great Northern London Cemetery. Whilst Mrs. Kenny's name will always be associated with the development of the Faith in Madeira, she will be especially remembered for her strength in the Covenant and for her services to the Faith in France.

WHAT IS A COVENANT-BREAKER?

A Local Assembly has asked the N.S.A. to explain the term "Covenant-breaker." A Covenant-breaker is a Bahá'í who, conscious of what he is doing, disobeys and works against the Covenant of God. Examples are those who turned away from and worked against Bahá'u'lláh, or 'Abdu'l-Bahá, or Shoghi Effendi, or were to do the same against the Universal House of Justice. No Local or National Assembly can pronounce a Bahá'í a Covenant-breaker, only the Universal House of Justice, on the recommendation at the present time of the Hands of the Cause of God, can do such a thing. Covenant-breakers must be shunned entirely, this is explicit guidance from 'Abdu'l-Bahá in no less a document than His Will and Testament as well as in other Tablets.

REMOVAL OF VOTING RIGHTS.

The National Assembly announces the removal of the voting rights of Mrs. Ayesha Hauzaree, now of Hammer-smith, who failed to comply with the Bahá'í marriage laws.

Shoghi Effendi's guidance concerning the effect of the removal of voting rights is clearly set out in "Principles of Bahá'í Administration", and the N.S.A. urges that everyone studies those two paragraphs; you will see the very serious nature of the removal of voting rights, but will understand that such believers are not to be shunned.

RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS.

We report that voting rights have been restored to Graham Rouhani.

DRAW NIGH UNTO BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Through the power of the words He hath uttered, the whole of the human race can be illumined with the light of unity, and the remembrance of His Name is able to set on fire the hearts of all men, and burn away the veils that intervene between them and His glory. One righteous act is endowed with a potency that can so elevate the dust as to cause it to pass beyond the heaven of heavens. It can tear every bond asunder, and hath the power to restore the force that hath spent itself and vanished . . . Bahá'u'lláh

NUMBER OF BELIEVERS IN THE GOAL TOWNS AND ISLANDS.

FRIDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1968.

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										
Isle of Man		□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
St. Helier, Jersey		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Guernsey		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Isle of Wight		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

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AUTHORS.

The Publishing Trust is anxious to hear from any person in the Community able and willing to assist in our publishing programme by writing articles, leaflets, pamphlets or books.

Please write to our Secretary, Mr. Geoff Bridle, 114 Lincoln Road, Peterborough.

INDIAN BOOKS.

As a consequence of last year's devaluation of the pound together with a heavy increase in the cost of carriage from India, we are now forced to increase the prices of the following publications except P.37.

B44 The New Garden—Now 5/6.

L14 Bahá'í Message—10 for 1/3.

L31 Remembrance of God—1/-.

L32 A Spiritual Assembly's Growing Pains—1/9.

L35 World Government and Collective Security—4d.

P34 Buddha and Amitabha—8d.

P36 Reincarnation—1/9.

P37 This Radiant Age—Unchanged at 1/3.

The Pattern of BAHÁ'Í LIFE

A COMPILATION



The new edition of this excellent compilation from Bahá'í scripture together with some passages from the writings of the Guardian is now available. Previously this pamphlet cost 3/6 a copy but we are now able to sell a much improved version for only 2/-. We highly recommend this valuable work to everyone particularly now with the new attractive cover, the high quality of the publication and the rich contents of this fine compilation.

DEADLINE:—

Material for the next issue of the Journal to be in by 3rd Mar., 1969, to—Mr. J. Coates, Editor, 45 Overfield Rd., Fawdon, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3AJ