



# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

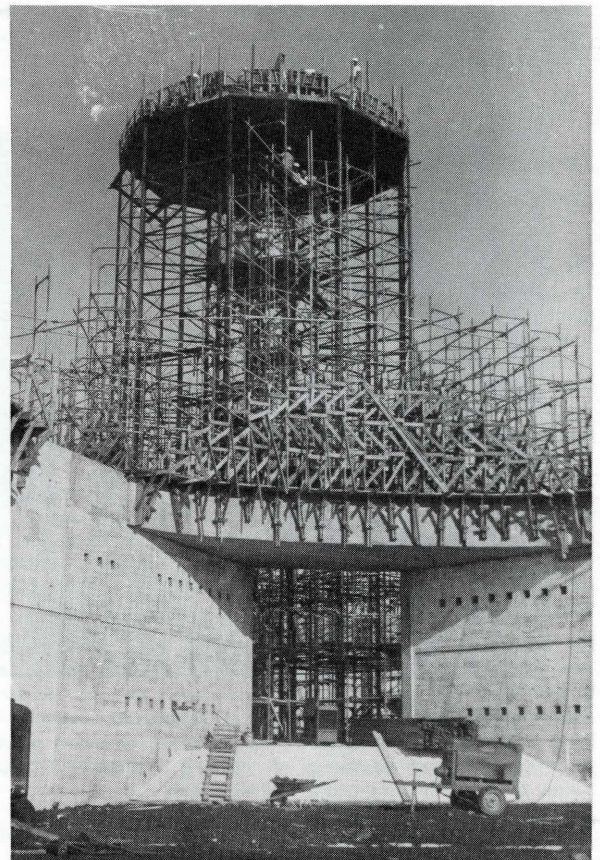
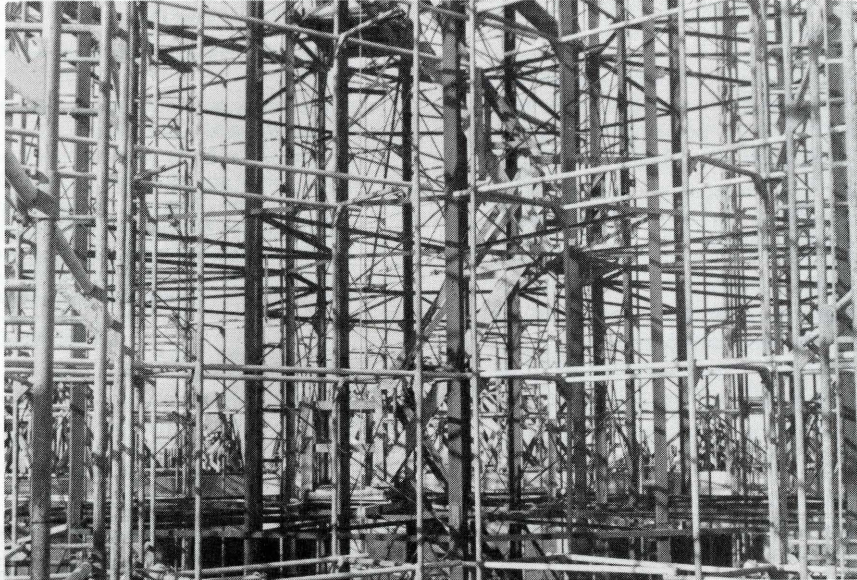
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No. 204

BAHÁ'Í YEAR 127    Jalál 128

April 1971



These photographs show the progress being made in the construction of the *Mashriqu'l-Adhkár* in Panama, one of the most important international goals of the Nine Year Plan, which is to be completed before Ridván, 1972. In mid-1970 the Universal House of Justice made an appeal for funds for the completion of the Panama Temple, which included the following passage:—  
"It is therefore clear that a generous outpouring of contributions must be made without delay by the entire Bahá'í world, in a spirit of universal participation. We appeal to the friends for generous support of this glorious enterprise..."



## 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ'S VOICE

To: All National Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The advent and liberal supply of tape and cassette recorders in the markets of the world have opened new doors and placed in almost every land at the disposal of the friends new methods for the dissemination of Bahá'í material. It is the hope of the Universal House of Justice that the recording of Bahá'í talks, and other audio features, and their wide use among Bahá'ís and non-Bahá'ís alike, will prove to be a powerful new instrument in the teaching and deepening work every where. There is one area, however, where great care must be exercised, and this is in the use of the record of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's voice.

The Guardian, when referring to this record, requested the friends "to exercise restraint and caution." "In my view", he added, "it should only be used on special occasions and be listened to with the utmost reverence. The dignity of the Cause, I am sure, would suffer from too wide and indiscriminate use of one of the most precious relics of our departed Master."

We request you to share the contents of this letter, in any manner you deem advisable, with the friends residing under your jurisdiction. We are confident that all the friends will strictly observe the Guardian's exhortation and will not overstep the bounds of courtesy and moderation in the use of a precious relic so lovingly left to us by the Centre of God's Covenant.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,  
*The Universal House of Justice*

23 February, 1971.

## APPEAL TO ALL YOUTH

1 March, 1971

To: National Spiritual Assemblies in Europe.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

European Youth Campaign

We are greatly interested in the plan of the Continental Board of Counsellors for Europe to promote a Youth Campaign in Europe lasting until the end of the Nine Year Plan. We attach such great importance to this project that we have invited the Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum to attend the International Youth Summer School which is being planned in Fiesch (Switzerland), for the last weekend of July. Beloved Rúhíyyih Khánum has agreed to interrupt her African tour but must return there by August 5th.

We understand that the Counsellors are calling a meeting in Namur (Belgium) over the weekend April 10th/11th when it is hoped that youth representatives of each Bahá'í community in Europe will attend and discuss practical plans for the campaign which will be given its official launching at Fiesch. It is possible that Hand of the Cause William Sears may attend this meeting.

We feel that this project can have a very great effect on the promotion of the Cause in Europe and we write to urge you all to lend your full support to it by encouraging the youth to send their representatives to the meeting in Namur and to attend in large numbers the Conference in Fiesch and do all in their power to promote a great campaign of teaching throughout Europe during the remaining months of the Nine Year Plan.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

*The Universal House of Justice*

The National Spiritual Assembly gives its fullest support to this appeal and urges all Bahá'ís below the age of thirty to make every effort to attend the Summer School in Fiesch.

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES TO REACH 110 IN 1972.

We are delighted to share with you a cable sent from the Universal House of Justice to all National Assemblies. Our own goal in Ireland is mentioned and again our attention is drawn to the vital importance of achieving all the Local Assemblies necessary.

"Rejoice announce all friends formation during Ridván, 1972 nine additional National Spiritual Assemblies raising total number pillars (of the) Universal House Justice to one hundred and ten.

Three in Africa: Malagasy Republic, Reunion, Seychelles.  
Three in Asia: East Pakistan; Nepal, Singapore.  
One in Australasia: Northwest Pacific Ocean, comprising Guam, Carolines, Marianas, Marshalls.  
Two in Europe: Iceland, Republic Ireland.

Four of these — Seychelles, East Pakistan, Singapore (and) Northwest Pacific Ocean constitute supplementary achievements Nine Year Plan.

Urge pioneers scheduled all these areas settle posts without delay.

Call upon respective communities brace themselves, exert supreme effort fast fleeting weeks before coming Ridván, establish as many assemblies as possible thereby broadening (and) strengthening foundations projected national institutions. Praying fervently Holy Shrines followers Most Great Name may seize unique opportunities (this) present hour and spare no effort until Goals Plan are fully accomplished thereby attracting to themselves and their communities inestimable blessings Ancient Beauty".

*(Universal House of Justice)*

February 11, 1971.

## HANDS OF THE CAUSE TO REPRESENT THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE AT FORMATION OF NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

"Happy announce following Hands Cause will represent Universal House Justice first National Conventions coming Ridván.

'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum: Ivory Coast, Upper Volta, Mali.

Dhikru'lláh Khadem: Trinidad, Tobago.

Adelbert Muhlschlegel: Lesotho.

'Alí Muḥammad Varqá: Congo Brazzaville, Gabon.

Enoch Olinga: Both Sudan (and) Chad.

Collis Featherstone: Both Solomon Islands (and) Southwest Pacific Ocean.

Confident presence participation these Standard Bearers Nine Year Plan historic first conventions will attract Divine Blessings, assist new national communities befittingly assume sacred responsibilities.

*Universal House of Justice*

31 January 1971.

## NEW BELIEVERS ENTER THE FAITH BY TROOPS IN THE WEST

"Joyfully announce Bahá'í World process entry by troops (is) rapidly accelerating (in) United States (as) evidenced by enrolment 8000 new believers South Carolina (during) six weeks campaign raising number new believers entire country (to) 13000 since Ridván.

Process gathering momentum. Indications similar development occurring new areas North (and) South America. May valiant workers Faith, toiling throughout world, gain confidence (and) added strength these uplifting victories won in His Name, reap similar harvest homefronts all continents."

*Universal House of Justice*

31 January, 1971.



## THE DIFFUSION OF DIVINE FRAGRANCES

The reports of the travels of the Hands of the Cause of God are continued in this issue of the 'Journal' and so voluminous are the reports which come from the Holy Land of these wonderful souls that it will be some time before we can get really up to date with all their activities.

### HAND OF THE CAUSE MR. A.A. FURÚTAN PAYS HIS FIRST VISIT TO JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

'The sun went down and hid itself behind the mountains when Hand of the Cause Mr. Furútan set foot on the soil of 'the land of the rising sun' but the land humbly...welcomed the arrival of such an honourable guest and such a 'Precious Asset'.'

During his first visit to Japan the press gave excellent publicity to the Faith in Sapporo where Mr. Furútan spoke at a public meeting and in the Tokyo Mainichi Daily News in which an article about the Faith and a large photograph of Mr. Furútan were featured.

He spoke at a number of public meetings in various cities in Japan including one meeting in Iwamizawa.

He addressed a number of students including one group of more than one-hundred students from Osaka University and another of about twenty-five students at Kyoto University.

On October 25 and 26 at the Bahá'í Autumn School in Akashi, more than fifty believers were inspired by the Hand of the Cause. At a public meeting in Akashi, friends from eleven cities in Japan and from Taiwan and the Philippines were in attendance.

At Hiroshima, the last stop in his Japanese tour, thirty-five enquirers attended a public meeting where guests lingered until 10 p.m. asking questions about the Faith.

Following his visit to Japan, Mr. Furútan, accompanied by Mr. Vicente Samaniego, member of the Continental Board of Counsellors in Northeastern Asia, proceeded to Korea, where Mr. Furútan met with the National Spiritual Assembly, then he and Counsellor Samaniego went on to Manila, Philippine Islands.

On April 23rd, Hand of the Cause 'Alí Akbar Furútan departed from the Holy Land to visit European Bahá'í communities. He remained for approximately two months in Germany where he visited nearly all of the Bahá'í communities and participated in two seminars. His visit to Germany was given excellent press coverage.

In mid-June he visited Austria to attend a Seminar there and following this stay in Germany he took part in the Bahá'í Summer Schools in Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands. Good public

meetings and excellent publicity were obtained at the Summer Schools in Finland and Denmark.

On July 29th Mr. Furútan returned to the Holy Land.

### DR. ADELBERT MÜHLSCHLEGEL IN ASIA

Hand of the Cause Dr. Adelbert Mühschlegel arrived in India in mid-October and, in consultation with the National Spiritual Assembly, worked out an eight week itinerary which would allow him to visit a maximum number of the Bahá'í centres in that country.

Early in December he reported 'The great advantages and merits in India are religious freedom and tolerance, religious receptivity, and love and enthusiasm among the Bahá'ís. Speaking of the Hyderabad community which he had just visited he said, 'Hyderabad...has opened 76 villages during the last six months'. The news services of the Hyderabad Station of All-India Radio broadcast a talk by Dr. Mühschlegel, both in Telugu and in English.

From December 2 to 5 he visited the friends in Nepal. While he was in Nepal, without any intervention by the Bahá'ís, he received an invitation from the Panchayat Study Centre, an agency of the national government.

He then visited East Pakistan from December 5 to 16, then returned to India where he consulted with the National Spiritual Assembly, then departed on December 22nd for West Pakistan. On December 27, the following cable was received from the Continental Board of Counsellors in Western Asia:

'WINTER SCHOOL COMMENCED PRESENCE HAND CAUSE DR. MÜHLSCHLEGEL WITH...BOARD MEMBER ELMI...102 BELIEVERS...'

### CONTINENTAL BOARD OF COUNSELLORS IN EUROPE SPONSORS GERMAN-SPEAKING CONFERENCE

'Under the auspices of the European Board of Counsellors and in the presence of the Hands of the Cause of God Dr. Mühschlegel and Mr. Roberts, 60 friends from Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland met on November 28-29, 1970 in Zurich to discuss ways and means to forward the goals of the Nine Year Plan in German-speaking European countries.'



*Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga being introduced to a tribal believer from Thailand, by Counsellor Yan Kee Leong (in bow-tie) at the Unity Feast, Singapore, 31st December, 1970.*

### BRAZIL

### THE GLOBAL TRAVELS OF HAND OF THE CAUSE ENOCH OLINGA

In September, 1969, Mr. Olinga and Hand of the Cause Dr. Muhaji visited Liberia, the former being interviewed on Television on the 21st and Mr. Olinga on Nov 2. Many new believers were enrolled subsequently, and one village chief asked the Bahá'ís to take over the local public school and make it a Bahá'í school.

In 1970 Mr. Olinga was present at the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Ghana and then set off to tour South and Central America, West Indies, North America and Asia.



Regarding his visit to **Brazil** from May 6 through May 12, the National Spiritual Assembly reported that 'It was as if a dear, long expected friend had come'. In **Rio de Janeiro**, where Mr. Olinga remained for only one day, he was interviewed by reporters from three newspapers.

As a result of three news interviews in **Sao Paulo**, two illustrated articles appeared in leading newspapers and one article was published in a chain of illustrated magazines. Mr. Olinga so endeared himself to the director of the magazines that they conversed for more than two hours and parted, embracing and each promising to write to the other...

At a public meeting, attended by about 300 persons, Mr. Olinga spoke 'with such love and good will that many present were overcome by emotion, applauded and some were unable to withhold their tears.'

In **Porto Alegre**, Mr. Olinga's visit had been announced previously by three newspapers, two radio stations and on local television...

Following a newspaper interview which lasted for one hour, Mr. Olinga was taken to the State Legislature where he was received with special cordiality in an official audience by the President of that body.

This audience was filmed and later shown on the local television stations with a commentary eulogizing the Bahá'í Faith. From the State Legislature, Mr. Olinga visited the City Council where he met with six members, including the President. There still remained time for a hasty visit to the newspaper 'Correio do Povo' which published an illustrated article of the visit on the following day.

That night, Mr. Olinga spoke to an audience of 200 persons. Many of the members of that receptive audience asked for an autograph of the distinguished guest. "Mr. Olinga", said the National Spiritual Assembly of Brazil, "touched all hearts and parted, leaving us all richer, happier and poignantly sadder at his leaving".

#### CHILE

In **Chile**, where a successful proclamation program had been inaugurated prior to Mr. Olinga's arrival on May 21st, a news reporter from Radio P. Balmaceda which broadcasts in long wave, two short waves and F.M., together with 34 radio stations throughout the country, broadcast the arrival of Mr. Olinga directly from the airport. That same evening, the national television network gave a five-minute survey of the Bahá'í Faith during the most popular news program. While explaining the spiritual requisites which a Prophet must fulfil, a picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá was kept on the screen. The picture of the Kampala Temple was also shown.

In **Valparaiso**, Chile's major port and second city, an interview with the Hand of the Cause was twice broadcast by one of the two local television channels. He also spoke on radio and an interview was published by the evening newspaper.

When Mr. Olinga descended from the plane in **Temuco**, the heart of the Mapuche area, the news of his arrival was directly transmitted by the most powerful radio station of the South Radio Cooperativa Vitalicia. There, the Governor of the Province received Mr. Olinga and was so impressed that he called a press conference and expressed his appreciation of the great honour of receiving such a distinguished guest. Several articles regarding Mr. Olinga's visit appeared in newspapers. Finally, a crowd of 350 people, most of whom were young, filled the theatre of **Nueva Imperial**, a town next to the Indian reservations, to hear Mr. Olinga speak about the Faith. Our beloved Hand of the Cause was mobbed by people following his talk.

"As a result of his visit...of Chile's 10 million inhabitants, nearly a million people have heard the Name of Bahá'u'lláh."

#### PANAMA

Initial news releases and public invitations for Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga's visit to **Panama** were prepared, delivered to the press, and publication began July 4 and continued through July 14. A total of twenty stories, announcements and numerous pictures appeared in the major Panama dailies.

On the morning of July 5th approximately sixty Bahá'ís and friends gathered at the Temple site for prayers. The excitement aroused by the Temple progress, combined with a particularly hot sun and anticipation of the pending arrival of our beloved Hand were almost unbearable. Most of the friends joined the official welcoming party in the airport where the diplomatic room had been reserved. At this time Mr. Olinga was interviewed and photographed for television transmission.

Mr. Olinga was visibly touched by the warmth and grandeur of his welcome at the airport, but when he arrived at his hotel and glanced up at the marquee, he was quite overcome with emotion. Below the inscription (Hotel Ejecutivo) appeared the following:

"BIENVENIDA AL SEÑOR ENOCH OLINGA  
DIRIGENTE DE LA FE BAHÁ'Í"

On Tuesday a press conference and luncheon were held. Representatives of the local press and television, as well as the International News Service in Panama were present. An amazing thing occurred. The magic enchantment of the spiritual love for which Mr. Olinga is a channel immediately subdued and humbled these guests. In a spirit of respect, sympathy, and agreement they were inspired by Mr. Olinga's tribute to the press and its responsibilities as a new instrument for a New Age...

A warm and cordial interview with the Governor of the **Canal Zone** increased the prestige of Mr. Olinga's visit and afforded further opportunities for publicity. But, perhaps the most exciting moment of all was the reception accorded to Mr. Olinga by the Provisional President of the Republic of Panama, His Excellency Demetrio Lacas. The President confessed his ignorance of the fundamental teachings and precepts of the Bahá'í Faith. He listened attentively as Mr. Olinga briefly summarized the aims, the purposes, and station of the Bahá'í Faith. The President's excitement increased each time Bahá was mentioned. For a moment, it almost appeared that he would quite literally burst if not given a chance to speak. With great emotion he inquired, "What is the meaning of Bahá?" As Mr. Olinga explained it to him, he fumbled in his pocket, pulled forth his wallet, exposed his identification card and exclaimed, "Look at this! My mother's maiden name is Bahá. I have often wondered about its origin and meaning."

Mr. Olinga thrilled him with an exposition of the Bahá'í teachings in regard to the special position of Panama and the prophecies of its spiritual importance. "The eyes of millions of people around the world are focussed on Panama. The Bahá'ís of the world are building a House of Worship in Panama. Contributions come from Bahá'ís all over the world. They have a vested interest in Panama and so they pray for the welfare and progress of your country." Then Mr. Olinga told the story of a certain Bahá'í community in Biafra which had suffered the deprivations and starvations of this tragic country and how upon their first contact with visiting Bahá'ís after the cessation of hostilities, their first request was, "Tell us about the progress of the Panama Temple." They had lost everything; they had nothing. They were suffering from hunger, but they offered two coconuts to the visiting Bahá'í. "Please send these to the Universal House of Justice as our contribution to the Temple in Panama. We have nothing else to give." "Incredible," the President responded in a barely audible whisper.

#### ECUADOR

From **Ecuador**, where there were 11,000 believers at Ridván 1970, a cable dated July 2, 1970 was received at the World Centre:

"TOTAL BELIEVERS NOW 13,000 UNDER INSPIRATION HAND OLINGA..."

#### NICARAGUA

He later visited **Nicaragua** where he spoke at public meetings and spoke for about 25 minutes on "Radio Cultural Carazo" on the subject of Progressive Revelation. Following his successful talk at the National University in **Carazo** which won praise and applause from both students and professors, the Director was so pleased that he informed the Hand of the Cause that at any time he should return to Nicaragua both the University and his own heart would be open to receive him.

"His warm love and pleasant smile captured the hearts of all the young believers" again in **Granada** where he spoke before another audience of more than 200 students and professors.

#### HAND OF THE CAUSE, UGO GIACHERY, TO ATTEND BRITISH CONVENTION

The Convention to be held this year at Acton Town Hall on the 1st and 2nd May will be unique in many ways. Hand of the Cause Ugo Giachery will join the British friends for the first time since the Jubilee Celebrations in 1963. We will have 95 delegates for the first time. We will have had a record year for declarations. We will be at the most crucial stage in the 9 year Plan. It is quite possible that there will be a record attendance.



## CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In Monrovia, atop the Ducor Intercontinental Hotel the tallest building in the city, banners streamed carrying the words, 'Bahá'í Continental Conference of Africa'. The leading newspaper of Monrovia, *The Liberian Star*, gave a brief introduction to the Teachings of the Faith and its history. Publicity built to an exciting climax with an article in the same paper which followed an interview with the Hand of the Cause of God Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm. A press conference with the Hand of the Cause, which was scheduled to last for twenty minutes, stretched out to one and one-half hours, with the fifteen newsmen present asking enlightened questions about the Faith.

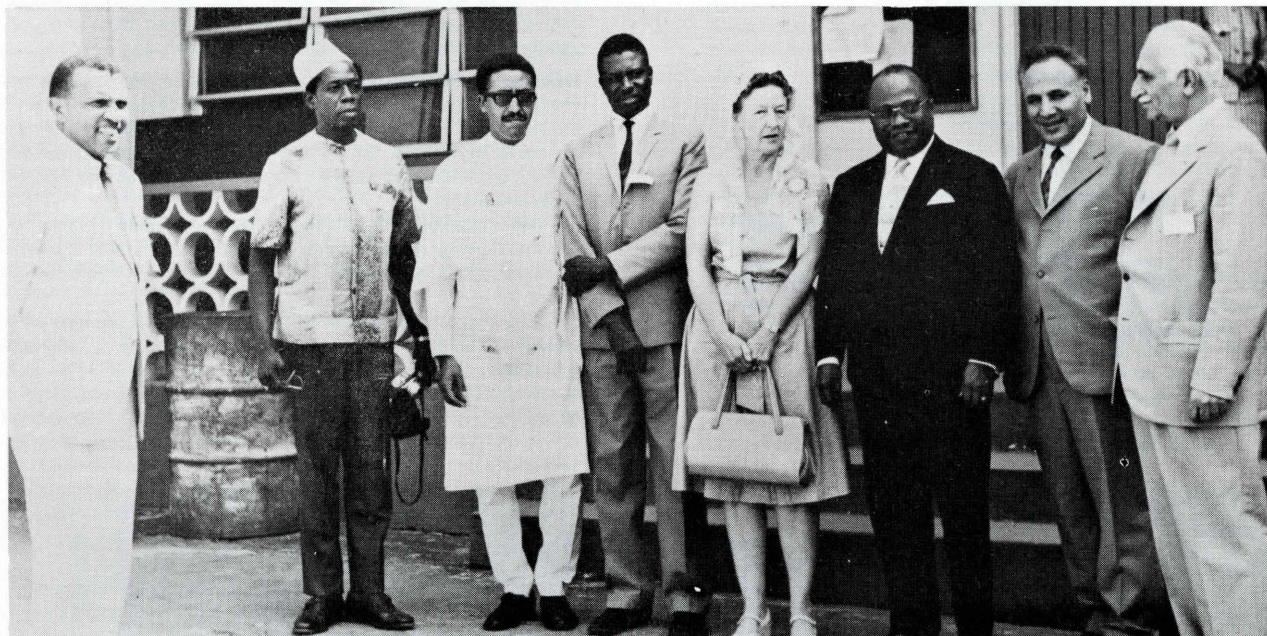
The friends, gathered from 37 countries had the bounty, at the opening of this historic Conference, of joining the friends at the

Oceanic Conference of the South China Seas, being held in Singapore, in prayers; while the members of the Universal House of Justice joined them in prayer at the Holy Shrines.

The Hand of the Cause of God Rahmatu'lláh Muhájir, representing the Universal House of Justice, read to the friends its message directed to the Conference.

The spirit always encountered when so many of the friends gather was infectious.

Following the Conference, Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm had a forty minute audience with His Excellency, the President of Liberia, William V.S. Tubman.



## BAHÁ'Í OCEANIC CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEAS

Hundreds of thousands of pamphlets in Chinese, English and Tamil were printed and distributed throughout the country prior to the beginning of this historic Conference. Buses carried announcements of the Conference and an invitation to the public talk by the Hand of the Cause of God Enoch Olinga, the representative of the Universal House of Justice...

Many communities were able to charter buses to the Conference and they all bore banners which were seen by the people of Singapore. Friends began to gather from distant lands; Arabia, Alaska and Ethiopia and the excitement mounted. A grand unity Feast was held the night before the Conference began and a shy believer from the Meo tribe was lovingly greeted by a member of the Tlingit tribe from Alaska.

The Conference finally opened with the spirit already at a peak of love and unity...

The Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga read the stirring message from the Universal House of Justice to this gathering whose radiant colour was in itself a miracle. The Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone also attended, an additional bounty to those fortunate enough to be present.

Called to the platform were all those who were already pioneering for the Cause. This army of Bahá'u'lláh received a great cheer...Malaysia's only blind believer came forward to serve in Sarawak, where he can make a living by weaving baskets. The Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of Malaysia, the Secretary of the National Youth Council, the Chairman of the National Co-ordinating Committee of Malaysia and an Iban tribal believer all offered to pioneer...

There was a fine representation of aboriginal youth from the jungles of East and West Malaysia; many of them had earned money through part time work to make the journey.

All too soon the historic Conference came to a close and the 600 believers returned to their posts or their homes with a new spirit of dedication.

*Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm (center). To the right is Dr. William R. Tolbert Jr., Vice-President of Liberia who represented President Tubman who was ill, and Hand of the Cause Dr. Rahmatu'lláh Munájir, representative of the Universal House of Justice. At the far left is Counsellor William Maxwell and on Rúhíyyih Khánúm's right is Counsellor Kolonario Oule.*

## URGENT REQUEST FOR TRAVEL TEACHERS FOR EUROPE

March 22, 1971

To All National Spiritual Assemblies in Europe

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

We are calling in our Ridván message for an army of travelling teachers to arise promptly and visit such countries in the Nine Year Plan as are in need of immediate assistance and reinforcement to enable the friends there to win their goals of the Nine Year Plan. All countries in Europe will benefit greatly from visits by travelling teachers from other lands, and we call for a constant flow of travelling teachers throughout the continent, with particular attention to the following countries:

Denmark	Iceland	Norway
Finland	Italy	Portugal
Germany	Luxembourg	Switzerland

We hope and pray fervently, supplicating that the friends will arise to avail themselves of the great opportunity which lies before them in these never-to-be repeated days.

With loving Bahá'í greetings.

*The Universal House of Justice*

All offers to travel in Europe should be made as soon as possible to the National Office with a clear indication as to whether you will be entirely self-supporting; when you can go and the duration of your offer.

National Spiritual Assembly.



## EDITORIAL

A number of friends have requested that the Bahá'í month be included on the title page of the 'Bahá'í Journal' and this has been done in this issue. The Bahá'í month used will be that during which the 'Journal' actually appears.

The Editorial Committee is always grateful to receive articles for publication, but would most earnestly request that these be TYPED (double spaced if possible). It is appreciated that small snippets of 'News from the Communities' cannot always be typed, but we shall most regretfully have to return articles which are not typed.

The deadline date for the next issue of the 'Journal' is

**30 MAY 1971**

and material should be sent to the Editor:—

**Mrs. Lois Hainsworth,  
'Treen'  
Allerton Park,  
Leeds LS7 4ND.**

## BAHÁ'U'LLÁH IN GREECE

by Hugh McKinley

The Editor deeply regrets that acknowledgement was not made to Hugh McKinley for the valuable article entitled "Bahá'u'lláh in Greece" which appeared upon page ten of the last issue of the Bahá'í Journal.

Dearest Friends,

We hope by now that everyone has received a copy of the booklet 'Local Spiritual Assemblies'. From time to time the Universal House of Justice issues compilations, drawn from the Writings, on various aspects of the Faith. These are of immense value for deepening our knowledge and understanding, and the National Spiritual Assembly has decided to reproduce some of them in booklet form and to give a free copy of each to every believer. The second compilation explaining the institution of the Continental Board of Counsellors will soon be ready for issue. All these booklets will be of the same format so you will be able to collect them gradually and keep them together for ready reference.

Have you read and studied your copy of 'Local Spiritual Assemblies'? It is a Goal of the Nine Year Plan that our local assemblies should be 'vigorously functioning', and this happy state can be reached only when most of the members have a sound understanding of their individual and collective responsibilities. If you are not already serving on a local assembly it is likely that you will do so sooner or later, and the National Spiritual Assembly urges everyone, youth included, to study this booklet carefully, either in preparation for service on one of the 'Divinely appointed institutions' or for existing members as a means of deepening their understanding, attaining ever greater harmony with the unifying Spirit of the Faith and so developing the consultative capacity of all our local assemblies as the foundation institutions of the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh.

With deepest love to all.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

## NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

**AYLESBURY:** During the past three months the Aylesbury Community have had several successful meetings and the bounty of two declarations, and we are now seven adults and two youth. Members of the community have spoken at a meeting arranged at the College of Further Education attended by fifteen students and several other meetings organised by non-Bahá'í institutions, including a most successful one, arranged by a village church women's group, on the views of the world's religions on marriage. The Bahá'í view was much discussed and great interest shown in the Faith. A large party was held during the Intercalary Days and two successful meetings at NawRuz. We continue with fortnightly advertisements in the local press, which always attract attention, and several articles have been printed. Plans are being made for an intensive teaching effort in the largest council estate in the town with weekly meetings in the community centre and a large meeting in early April for which 500 invitations are being distributed. Through these means we pray that there may be discovered waiting souls to secure our Assembly this Ridván.

**DUMBARTON:** Very good things continue to happen to the Dumbarton Bahá'ís. Our Monday night prayer sessions are bearing joyous fruits and our contacts are increasing. More opportunities are being found to speak to students and other young people and one of our members has been interviewed about the Faith by a local newspaper.

We were recently very pleased to welcome Joan Gregory to one of our Monday meetings and enjoyed her visit very much, each of us returning home with a greater infusion of Bahá'í love and spirit.

Perhaps the most exciting thing to happen to us has been the adoption by a Bahá'í family of a child of Scottish-Nigerian parentage. She has already become the community's most successful teacher through the constant stream of visitors coming to see her who see Bahá'í principles in action. A very important result of this adoption is that the Glasgow adoption agency now asks every girl who comes to them if she has any objection to the child being adopted by a Bahá'í couple. Most of the girls have not previously heard about the Faith, so the social worker is frequently asked to elaborate — others are doing our teaching for us.

**EDINBURGH:** At the end of February the Edinburgh University Jewish Group invited the Bahá'í Group to participate in a multi-religious meeting at the University Halls of Residence. Speakers representing Judaism, Christianity, Islam, the Bahá'í Faith and the Meditation Society were asked to give their views of life and the way in which their religion made them look upon it. When the meeting was formally closed, coffee was served and groups of eager questioners congregated around the Baha'is. The interest shown, especially by the Jewish Society members, was most encouraging. Of the forty or so people present at the meeting at least half were able to hear about the Faith in greater detail during this discussion over coffee, which only ended when the meeting room closed at midnight.

**NORTH BERWICK:** The 'First Ever One Day School' held on 13 February was a most joyous and memorable day, attended by over fifty people. There was such a wonderful atmosphere, full of love and happiness, that the time passed all too quickly, and the North Berwick Group would like to thank everyone who helped and supported us.

**SHREWSBURY:** The Regional Conference and visit of Mrs Munsiff was a great blessing for the community and brought excellent publicity with photographs in two local newspapers. We also had a NawRuz party with over sixty people attending; one of the non-Bahá'ís present was leaving for Chicago and promised to visit the temple there. There are still only eight Bahá'ís in Shrewsbury and we are praying for the ninth. During the year five of our friends have moved to other towns and five live outside the town boundary, which means that we have had eighteen declarations in less than a year.

**YORK:** The friends in York have been happy to have another declaration in March, the third since an intensive campaign of teaching and newspaper advertising began a year ago. It is interesting to note that all three of these new declarants first heard of the Faith through newspaper advertisement. Public meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Friends Meeting House in Clifford Street and the York friends are most grateful for the support of friends from Leeds, Bradford, and sometimes even Hull.

## FIRESIDES

**EDINBURGH**  
**LIVERPOOL**

Mr. Iain Palin, Ground Flat, 19 Drumdryan Street, 3.  
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Lee, 38 Ribble Road,

Sundays 3 p.m.      Sundays 3 p.m.  
Friday evenings.



## P R O C L A M A T I O N G A I N S M O M E N T U M I N B R I T A I N

Since it was announced in the December issue of the 'Bahá'í Journal' that the Proclamation presentations had started in earnest, the volume of work has increased. A large number of presentations have been made on a national scale and many are being made by local communities. Recent circulars from the Proclamation Committee have shown how all the friends can be actively assisted in their selection of dignitaries for invitation and presentation and from time to time we hope to feature more news items of local presentations.

Whilst the intention of Proclamation is to announce 'to every stratum of human society...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', the immediate purpose of the presentation of the books to leaders of thought, dignitaries, and other people of influence is to let them know of the existence of the Faith and perhaps win their support and sympathy. Publicity for the presentation should therefore be sought with the utmost discretion, and the approval of the one to whom the books are being presented. In seeking the opportunity personally to present a book, reference should not be made to others by name who have already received a book. The point can well be made that this presentation is part of a programme or campaign to acquaint all leaders, dignitaries and so on with some of the aims of the Faith. Once it is found that publicity would be welcomed by the recipient, then the most should be made of it, and assistance can be obtained, if needed, from the Proclamation Committee.

Many other aspects of the Proclamation are being explored, particularly in the fields of music, films, publicity for Bahá'í visitors, etc., as is shown by material now being sent by the Proclamation Committee to all assemblies and groups. Weak areas should proceed with caution, however, for the Universal House of Justice wrote just four years ago:

"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".

### ECCLES PROCLAMATION

After careful preparation seven prominent citizens, selected on account of their selfless voluntary services, were presented with the souvenir edition of the "Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh" at 4 p.m. on March 17. They were the Mayor of Eccles, who had placed his Parlour at the disposal of the Eccles Bahá'ís for the presentation, the Deputy Mayor, the Borough Librarian, an Alderman, who, during a term as Eccles Mayor had chaired a Bahá'í meeting, the Organiser of the Citizens Advice Bureau and two local WVS organisers. Mrs. Meherangiz Munsiff, who made the actual presentation, was accompanied by two members of the Eccles Spiritual Assembly and they were officially welcomed by the Mayor, who then called upon one of the Eccles Bahá'ís to state the significance of the occasion and 'this great honour'. After the presentation, the Mayor called upon the others present to express themselves in their own words and the theme running through the whole of this occasion was that of unity and brotherhood.

An informal reception was held in the evening for thirty-two people, and the Mayor and Mayoress, who had promised to come for ten minutes, stayed for an hour. The Eccles Librarian has taken a greater interest in the Faith; one of the WVS ladies has invited one of the Bahá'ís to hold a fireside in her home to which she will invite her friends, and there has been an official invitation from the Mayor and Mayoress for two Bahá'ís to attend their 'At Home' at the Town Hall on April 21st.



The presentation of the "Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh" to the Mayor of Brent by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Brent. The photograph, which was taken at the suggestion of the Mayor's secretary, shows the Lady Mayoress, the Mayor, Dermot Knox and Hassan Afnan. The presentation took place on March 8 and was the first of the Proclamation presentations currently being organised by Brent.

### SPEAKING TO SCHOOLS

The National Spiritual Assembly has noted that there is an increasing demand for talks about the Bahá'í Faith in schools during normal school hours.

Would any Bahá'í who is interested in giving such service please send their names to the National Secretary, 27 Rutland Gate, London S.W.7. A list will be prepared and submitted to the World Congress of Faiths to which is addressed a large number of requests for speakers on non-Christian Faiths.

### TEACHING IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS THIS SUMMER

The English Goals Committee are looking for people to take part in a residential teaching project in St. Helier, Jersey, this summer. If you would be able to go to the goal town of St. Helier for a period of not less than three weeks from May to August this year, please contact the secretary,

Mrs. Patricia Green,  
1534 Stratford Road,  
Hall Green, Birmingham 28.

You don't need to be an experienced speaker — all you need is the desire to serve the Cause in this isolated goal town.



## CHALLENGE TO VICTORY

### GOAL TOWN CONFERENCES – MARCH 1971

The English Goals Committee felt that it would be of benefit to the British Community to hold during the Fast conferences in two of the goal towns where there has been an upsurge in activity and teaching and where there had been a number of declarations.

The reason for holding the conferences during the Fast was to enable the friends to draw upon the vast spiritual resources of the Fast and to meet together in loving Bahá'í fellowship, converting these spiritual resources into valiant actions for the enlistment of unprecedented numbers of believers into the Cause of God and to the achievement of the goals of the Nine Year Plan.

#### SHREWSBURY

The first conference was held in the goal town of Shrewsbury on 6/7 March and, in spite of the fact that the postal strike had made it very difficult to publicise the event, about forty Bahá'ís gathered at the Abbey Gardens Hotel at 2 p.m. on the Saturday. The conference was opened officially by the chairman, Mrs. Betty Goode, and the first talk was given by Board Member Mary Kouchezkadeh on the subject of 'Achieving the Goals'. The friends from St. Austell then gave a most interesting session which included a display and slides on 'Our Goal Town' which gave us an insight into teaching the Faith in a goal town. Just before seven we met for prayers before breaking the Fast and it was truly wonderful to share, first the prayers, and then our thoughts on the day's proceedings.

The evening was given over to singing and merry-making with quite a number of local contacts present.

The following morning we met for the Dawn Prayer before breakfast and found it a wonderful experience – we have so little time actually to be together without the pressures of the outside world and within twenty-four hours we had begun to benefit from close association with our fellow believers and the bounty of 'drawing on the vast spiritual resources of the period of the Fast.'

The first session on Sunday morning was a slide programme compiled by the Universal House of Justice and presented by Ted Cardell entitled 'Challenge to Victory', which gave a very clear picture of the urgent tasks facing us and showed how all-embracing is this Faith of ours, giving glimpses of its growth in all corners of the world. After a short break, Charles Macdonald spoke to us of the present state of the communities in relation to the achievement of the goals set for Ridván 1971 and gave a very clear picture of what remains to be achieved. Much lively discussion followed and it was with some difficulty that the friends were persuaded to have a break! The last session was given by Mary Kouchezkadeh on 'The Local Spiritual Assembly' who spoke beautifully to the true meaning of the majesty and greatness of this divinely ordained institution, giving a fitting climax

to a truly exciting and stimulating weekend. We came away with our 'batteries recharged' and all the more determined to meet the challenge and achieve the victories.

#### KENDAL

The second conference was held in Kendal, whose assembly is already assured, on the weekend of March 13/14.

Shahram Mottahed was an efficient and charming chairman, and after he had welcomed the assembled friends everyone settled down to listen to a tape prepared by Hand of the Cause William Sears and some American Bahá'ís on the functions and importance of the local Spiritual Assembly. This proved to be a most stimulating experience and the importance of a vigorously functioning local assembly was very strongly stressed and the honour of serving upon this institution was firmly underlined.

Philip Hainsworth, representing the National Spiritual Assembly, gave a detailed and illuminating talk on the tasks which face the British Community, both at home and overseas. This was followed by a talk about the work of the Universal House of Justice by Marion Hofman, who outlined the immense scope of the work of this Supreme Institution and the work undertaken by its members. She left everyone with a feeling of great awe and gratitude to this wonderful Institution and to its members.

For the older Bahá'ís at the conference the presence of Marion and Philip together on a platform gave reminders of the work of these two Bahá'ís during the Six Year Plan, when even more seemingly impossible goals confronted the British Community. Goals which were accomplished, as indeed, everyone present felt with a rising surge of hopefulness, the goals of the present Plan would be achieved.

After breaking the Fast together the friends gathered once more for a social evening, with singing and dancing, a sketch, guitar playing and general jollification.

Early the following morning the friends gathered for the Dawn Prayer and breakfast and the first session was taken by Bahádar Haqjoo, who spoke most movingly on 'The Fire of His Love' and included in his presentation a large selection of writings which were read by other friends. Then came the 'Challenge to Victory' consultation, led by the Conference Chairman who was aided by a panel of representatives of other towns, including three goal towns. At this session, and at other times when there were periods for discussion, there was much lively participation and fruitful consultation.

The final talk was given by Marion Hofman, who once more inspired us all. She laid particular stress upon the work being done by the youth in America and left us all with an urgent desire to go forward and work even harder for this Faith we all love so well.

#### ROYAL NATIONAL WELSH EISTEDDFOD, BANGOR

This year the Eisteddfod is being held in the goal town of Bangor, North Wales, during the first week in August. It is necessary for arrangements to be made to man the Bahá'í Stand and the English Goals Committee would be grateful for any offers of assistance, either for the whole week or part of it. For further details please contact either the secretary,

Mrs. Patricia Green,  
1534 Stratford Road,  
Hall Green, Birmingham 28,

or the secretary of the Welsh Goals Committee,

Mrs. Nora Maude,  
'Talley'  
Penglais Road,  
Aberystwyth, Cards.

#### CORRECTIONS

The Universal House of Justice has advised us that the quotation on Page 4, 'Bahá'í Journal' No: 202 beginning "The Guardian wrote: 'If it seems essential.....community in attendance'." was not in fact a quotation from the Guardian but from the United States National Spiritual Assembly.

No: 203, Page 16, Second Column (Top) should be "Ridván, 1972".

#### HAZÍRATU'L-QUDS, DUBLIN

Due to the pioneer move of John and Val Morley to Cork there is a need for a couple or an individual to live in the Hazíratu'l-Quds in Dublin as caretaker(s).

It has not proved possible to find anyone in the Republic of Ireland to fill this need and we are therefore appealing to the British Community as a whole for an offer to fulfil this important task.

Please write to: Miss L. Gibson,  
6 Alphonsus Terrace,  
Limerick.

Goals Committee of the Republic of Ireland