



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

K. Homell

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RIDVÁN MESSAGE OF THE THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Dearly-loved Friends,

The opening of the final year of the Nine Year Plan sees the Bahá'í world community poised for overwhelming victory. With grateful hearts we acknowledge the continuing confirmations which have attended its efforts and the Divine Bounties which have never ceased to rain down upon this blessed, this ever-developing embryonic world order.

The Mashriqu'l-Adhkar of Panama, the Mother Temple of Latin America, will be dedicated this Ridván. Three beloved Hands of the Cause, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum representing the Universal House of Justice, Ugo Giachery and Dhikru'lláh Khádem will attend this historic ceremony. The imaginative and inspiring concept of the architect, Peter Tillotson, has been wonderfully realized and we extend to the National Spiritual Assembly of Panama on behalf of the entire Bahá'í world loving congratulations on their achievement.

Although the dissolution of the National Spiritual Assembly of 'Iraq has, unhappily, resulted from the persecution of the Faith in that land, the thirteen new National Spiritual Assemblies which will come into being this Ridván will bring the total number of these pillars of the Universal House of Justice to 113.

The goals requiring acquisition of properties and establishment of Teaching Institutes are well in hand and, in those countries where legal circumstances permit, incorporation of Assemblies and recognition of Bahá'í marriage and Holy Days are making good progress.

It is the teaching goals which must engage our attention and effort. Although more than 260 territories have achieved their assigned goals of localities where Bahá'ís reside, and in some cases have exceeded them, enabling the Bahá'í world community to rejoice in having outstripped on a world scale the total number of localities envisaged in the Plan, there are still some sixty territories where this goal is yet to be won and where its attainment must be given absolute priority between now and Ridván 1973. It is expected that a large number of new Local Spiritual Assemblies will be established at Ridván and immediately the position of this goal is ascertained a detailed listing of all territories throughout the world which have not yet won their goals for localities and Local Spiritual Assemblies will be sent to every National Spiritual Assembly for urgent release to the friends.

It is hoped that during this last year of the Plan the principle of collaboration between National Spiritual Assemblies will be extended far beyond the special tasks set in the Nine Year Plan. Those communities which have already attained their goals or are in clear sight of them should consider the world picture as disclosed by the listing mentioned above and do everything they can, without jeopardizing their own success, to assist their fellow communities with pioneers and travelling teachers, or in any other way possible. Such a process will greatly consolidate the unity and brotherhood of the Bahá'í world community.

In the meantime we call on all believers everywhere to prayerfully consider their personal circumstances, and to arise while there is yet time, to fill the international pioneer goals of the Plan. There are 267 pioneer needs still to be answered — seventy five in Africa, fifty seven in the Americas, forty in Asia, thirty in Australasia and sixty five in Europe.

The extraordinary advances made since that Ridván of 1964 when the Nine Year Plan was begun, continuing the organized and purposeful process of teaching on a world scale instituted by our beloved Guardian when he launched the Ten Year Crusade, force upon our attention new requirements of this ever-growing world order both for its own organic life and in relation to the disintegrating world society in which it is set. The divergence between the ways of the world and of the Cause of God becomes even wider. And yet the two must come together. The Bahá'í community must demonstrate in ever-increasing measure its ability to redeem the disorderliness, the lack of cohesion, the permissiveness, the godlessness of modern society; the laws, the religious obligations, the observances of Bahá'í life, Bahá'í moral principles and standards of dignity, decency and reverence, must become deeply implanted in Bahá'í consciousness and increasingly inform and characterise this community. Such a process will require a great development in the maturity and effectiveness of Local Spiritual Assemblies. The purposes and standards of the Cause must be more and more understood and courageously upheld. The influence of the Continental Boards of Counsellors and the work of their Auxiliary Boards must develop and spread through the entire fabric of the Bahá'í community. A vast systematic programme for the production of Bahá'í literature must be promoted.

Our immediate and inescapable task, however, is to ensure that every attainable goal of the Nine Year Plan is achieved. This must be done at all costs. No sacrifice, no deferment of cherished plans must be refused in order to discharge this 'most important' of the many 'important' duties facing us. Who can doubt that one last supreme effort will be crowned with success? Even now the national community to bear the laurels of first achieving every task assigned to it, Fiji, leads the procession of rejoicing and victorious communities within the Army of Light. We may well emulate Bahá'í youth whose recent surge forward into the van of proclamation and teaching is one of the most encouraging and significant trends in the Faith, and who storm the gates of heaven for support in their enterprises by long-sustained, precedent and continuing prayer. We are all able to call upon Bahá'u'lláh for his Divine, all-powerful aid, and He will surely help us. For He is the Hearer of prayers, the Answerer.

The Universal House of Justice.

OVERJOYED ANNOUNCE FRIENDS EVERY LAND NUMBER LOCALITIES NOW 56645 EXCEEDING BY OVER 2500 ORIGINAL GOAL NINE YEAR PLAN STOP OFFERING PRAYERS THANKSGIVING SACRED THRESHOLD FOR DIVINE BOUNTIES SURROUNDING SACRIFICIAL EFFORTS LOVE INTOXICATED SUPPORTERS HIS BLESSED NAME STOP URGE BELIEVERS THOSE AREAS WHOSE TEACHING GOALS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING EXERT UTMOST EFFORT COURSE SWIFTLY PASSING REMAINING MONTHS PLAN WIN THEIR GOALS ENABLING THEM JOIN RANKS THEIR VICTORIOUS BRETHREN WHO ARE URGED CONTINUE THEIR VIGOROUS BRILLIANT EXPLOITS IN SERVICE GODS INFINITELY GLORIOUS CAUSE

14 February 1972

The Universal House of Justice

To the Bahá'í Community of Jersey:—

We were delighted to receive your letter of March 3rd and to hear of the wonderful news of the forthcoming establishment of the first local spiritual assembly in Jersey. The dedicated services of the two Knights of Bahá'u'lláh, and of the pioneers who followed them, have indeed borne fruit and you are fully justified in remembering them in your prayers of gratitude. The responsibility now rests upon the new friends to work together as one community for the further spread and establishment of the Faith throughout Jersey, and indeed the other Channel islands. We note with great pleasure your plans to introduce the Faith to schools and youth clubs.

The work in the islands surrounding the mainland of the British Isles was very dear to the heart of the beloved Guardian and he frequently stressed its great importance. It will therefore be a truly historic occasion when your Local Spiritual Assembly is formed.

We send you our most loving greetings and the assurance of our ardent prayers at the Sacred Threshold on behalf of you all.

The Universal House of Justice

8 March 1972

UNIT CONVENTIONS

In reply to your letter of April 10 a full report of this Unit Convention, including all recommendations made, should be sent as soon as possible after termination of the Convention to the National Spiritual Assembly. The National Assembly may act or not on the recommendations as it sees fit, without reference to the National Convention. On the other hand there is nothing to prevent delegates elected at the Unit Convention bringing forward to the National Convention any subjects discussed or recommendations made at the Unit Convention, as they wish. Delegates are always free to put before the National Convention, if they see fit, any proposal which an individual, or indeed a local spiritual assembly, may ask them to present.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

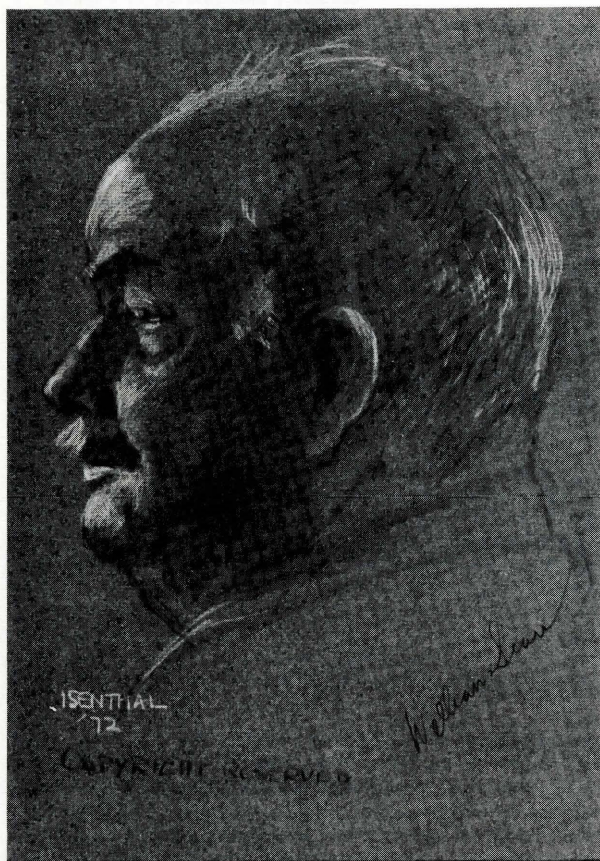
The Universal House of Justice

18 April 1972.

THE TABLET OF PURITY

For many years the friends have been reading the Tablet of Purity, which is on pp. 333—336 of 'Bahá'í World Faith', and in it you will remember 'Abdu'l-Bahá's reference to smoking. He says, after referring to things which are absolutely forbidden by Bahá'u'lláh, "There are other forbidden things which do not cause an immediate evil and of which the pernicious effect is only gradually produced. They are also abhorred, blamed and rejected by God, but their prohibition is not recorded in an absolute way, although cleanliness and sanctity, spotlessness and purity, the preservation of health and independence are required by these interdictions. One of these last prohibitions is the smoking of tobacco, which is unclean, malodorous, disagreeable and vulgar and of which the gradual harmfulness is universally recognised. All clever physicians have judged, and have also shown by experiment, that one of the constituents of tobacco is a mortal poison and that smokers are exposed to different indispositions and maladies. That is why cleanly people have a marked aversion for its use....I wish to say that, in the sight of God, the smoking of tobacco is a thing which is blamed and condemned, very unclean, and of which the result is by degrees injurious. Besides it is a cause of expense and of loss of time and it is a harmful habit. So, for those who are firm in the Covenant, it is a thing reprobated by reason and by tradition, the renouncement of which giveth gradual repose and tranquility, permitteth one to have stainless hands and a clean mouth, and hair which is not pervaded by a bad odour..."

The National Assembly draws the attention of everyone to the Tablet of Purity, and asks everyone to refrain from smoking in Assembly meetings, throughout the whole of the three parts of the 19 Day Feasts, in Holy Day commemorations and other meetings of a devotional character.



A sketch of Head of the Cause William Sears, drawn during Convention by Vivien Isenthal.



The Panama Temple

THE INSTITUTION OF THE MASHRIQU'L-ADHKÁR, THE BAHÁ'Í TEMPLE

The term, Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, means literally, 'Dawning Place of the Praise of God.'

To appreciate the significance of this Bahá'í institution, we must lay aside all customary ideas of the churches and cathedrals of the past. The Bahá'í Temple fulfils the original intention of religion in each dispensation, before that intention had become altered and veiled by human invention and belief.

Its essential purpose is to provide a community meeting place for all who are seeking to worship God, and achieves this purpose by interposing no man-made veils between the worshipper and the Supreme. Thus, the Bahá'í Temple is freely open to people of all Faiths on equal terms. Moreover, since the Bahá'í Faith has no professional clergy, the worshipper entering the Temple hears no sermon and takes part in no ritual, the emotional effect of which is to establish a separate group consciousness.

'The Special Position of Panama' — Shoghi Effendi

'Faithful to the provisions of the Charter laid down by the pen of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, I feel it my duty to draw the special attention of those to whom it has entrusted to the urgent needs of, and the special position enjoyed by, the Republic of Panama, both in view of its relative proximity to the heart and centre of the Faith in North America, and of its geographical position as the link between two continents. *'All the above countries,'* 'Abdu'l-Bahá, referring to the Latin States in one of the Tablets of the Divine Plan, has written, *'have importance, but especially the Republic of Panama, wherein the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans come together through the Panama Canal. It is a centre for travel and passage from America to other continents of the world, and in the future it will gain most great importance.'* 'Likewise,' He again has written, *'ye must give great attention to the Republic of Panama, for in that point the Occident and the Orient find each other united through the Panama Canal, and it is also situated between the two great oceans. That place will become very important in the future. The teachings, once established there, will unite the East and the West, the North and the South.'* So privileged a position surely demands the special and prompt attention of the American Bahá'í community. With the Republic of Mexico already opened up to the Faith, and with a Spiritual Assembly properly constituted in its capital city, the southward penetration of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh into a neighboring country is but a natural and logical step, and should, it is to be hoped, prove to be not a difficult one. No efforts should be spared, and no sacrifice be deemed too great, to establish even though it be a very small group in a Republic occupying, both spiritually and geographically, so strategic a position — a group which, in view of the potency with which the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá have already endowed it, cannot but draw to itself, as soon as it is formed, the out-pouring grace of the Abhá Kingdom, and evolve with such marvellous swiftness as to excite the wonder and the admiration of even those who have already witnessed such stirring evidences of the force and power of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.'

(Taken from 'The Advent of Divine Justice.')

BAHÁ'Í TEMPLES

Existing Temples

- A. MOTHER TEMPLE OF THE WEST — Located at Wilmette (near Chicago) United States of America. Dedicated May 2, 1953.
- B. MOTHER TEMPLE OF AFRICA — Located at Kampala, Uganda. Dedicated January 15, 1961.
- C. MOTHER TEMPLE OF THE ANTIPODES — Located at Sydney, Australia. Dedicated September 16, 1961
- D. MOTHER TEMPLE OF EUROPE — Located at Frankfurt, Germany. Dedicated July 4, 1964.
- E. MOTHER TEMPLE OF LATIN AMERICA — Located at Panama City, Republic of Panamá. Dedicated April 29, 1972.

PANAMA TEMPLE HISTORY

1. Location: Seven miles north of centre of Panama City off the Transisthmian Highway in the area known as Ojo de Agua (Eye of Water), or more specifically, atop of Cerro Sonsonate (Singing Mountain). Its elevation is 225 metres (738 feet) above Panama City.

2. Site Information: The site of 26,804 square metres (6.37 acres) was purchased in 1954 under an assignment in the Guardian's Ten Year World Spiritual Crusade given to the Bahá'í Community of the United States. In 1966, it was determined that this site, because of its high elevation and inaccessibility, was unsuitable for the construction of the Panama Temple, and following extensive negotiations, an exchange was effected for the present site, without any increase in the original cost, for an equal area of land. At the same time, in consideration of the National Spiritual Assembly of Panama advancing the funds to cover the cost of the access road from the Transisthmian Highway to the site, an additional plot of 92,150 square metres, adjacent to the Temple site, was acquired, at a cost based on the original price of the Temple site. This gave the Panama community a total area of 117,964 square metres (28.73 acres).

3. Access Road: A road 1,800 metres (1.11 miles) long from the Transisthmian Highway to the site was constructed in 1967. It was extremely difficult to build as the sides of the Basalt Rock hill had to be excavated and this material had to be used to fill in the interlocking deep ravines. It took almost three months to construct this road. The Contractor was Rolando Arango U. of Panama.

4. Site Preparation: The top of Cerro Sonsonate originally came to a sharp peak. In order to create a flat area large enough for the Temple and surrounding garden area, the hilltop had to be lowered 11 metres (36 feet). Dynamite and heavy earth moving equipment were used as this hill is composed of Basalt Rock. A total of 75,000 cubic yards of material was moved and deposited along one of the slopes to create a level shelf-like area. This area will be used for parking and locating of the Temple. Lodge, public rest rooms and meeting room. The work was done by Rolando Arango U and was completed in five months.

5. Design and Engineering: In 1965, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Republic of Panama, at the request of the Universal House of Justice, solicited architects from all over the world to submit their designs for the Temple. Fifty-four architects responded. After careful deliberation, the design of a young British architect, Peter Tillotson, was selected and a contractual agreement was executed. At the architect's recommendation the firm of Flint & Neill, London, was engaged to do the structural engineering work. Architect Guillermo Palma and Engineer Rolando Arango were selected as their Panamanian representatives. Engineer J.O. Noriega, Panama, was engaged to do the Spanish translations of the Drawings, Specifications and calculations. All of this work was completed in August 1969.

Five of the outstanding contractors in Panama were asked to submit bids for the construction of the Temple. On October 20, 1969, before television cameras, a contract was signed with Diaz y Guardia, S.A. Construction began on December 1, 1969, with a completion date of December, 1971.

Mr. Robert W. McLaughlin, who had served as a member of the technical advisory board for the construction of the interior of the Mother Temple of the West in Wilmette, Illinois, was appointed by the Universal House of Justice as its architectural consultant for the building of the Panama Temple.

Mr. Paul Thiele was engaged by the Panama National Spiritual Assembly as the supervising engineer for the Temple construction.

6. Temple Data: The building is composed of two distinct units. One is the base which is an elongated nine-pointed star in the centre of which is located the auditorium area. Connecting the nine-pointed star at its inner diameter are nine ornamental iron gates which provide nine entrances to the Temple auditorium. A balcony covers the nine-pointed star and also connects the areas in between so that visitors can on the one side, look down on the auditorium and on the other side, enjoy the panoramic view of the surrounding area for considerable distances in every direction.

The second unit is the Parabolic Dome which begins at the balcony level and covers both the auditorium and balcony areas.

The whole Temple, except for the decorations, is constructed of reinforced concrete. The concrete for the dome was applied by the Guniting process; that is, where dry sand and cement are forced through a rubber hose to the nozzle where just enough water is added to get a barely moist concrete mixture. This is the first time that this method has been used in Panama. The advantages over normal concrete casting are that there is no shrinkage, it is extremely strong and compact and minimises the danger of cracks and leaks.

The beauty of the Temple is achieved by two methods — one, through the use of geometric patterns in the design and second, by the application of fabricated materials.

The geometric beauty and harmony is achieved through the curves of the perimeter arches, the curves of the outer balcony balustrades, the angles of the starpoints, inner balcony balustrade, entrance stairs and gates, and outer boundaries of the auditorium. The geometric harmony is again used in the eighteen inter-connecting ribs which rise from the balcony level to a nine-pointed star suspended from the interior dome apex.

The use of a harmonious decorative motive is used in the outer facing of the star points by using exposed Verona Red marble chips to create a relief pattern based on pre-Columbian design. The nine gates again are unique in that a three-dimensional geometric design is used. The underside of the dome will be covered with acoustical plaster while the surface of the outer dome will be covered with mosaic tile. The floor area, both auditorium and balcony, will use a unique cast in place terrazzo design except for the seating area where terrazzo tiles will be used. There will be no windows as all open areas will remain without restrictions of any kind, thereby making the indoor and outdoor one unified complex.

Because of the extreme uniqueness and complicated geometric pattern of the structure, construction was very difficult and it taxed the engineering and construction capacity of the contractors to the utmost. However, they have constructed a building of the highest quality. Mr. Flint of the London engineering firm, after a recent visit, had this to say — "that the contractors have produced work of high quality by any standard."

TEMPLE STATISTICS

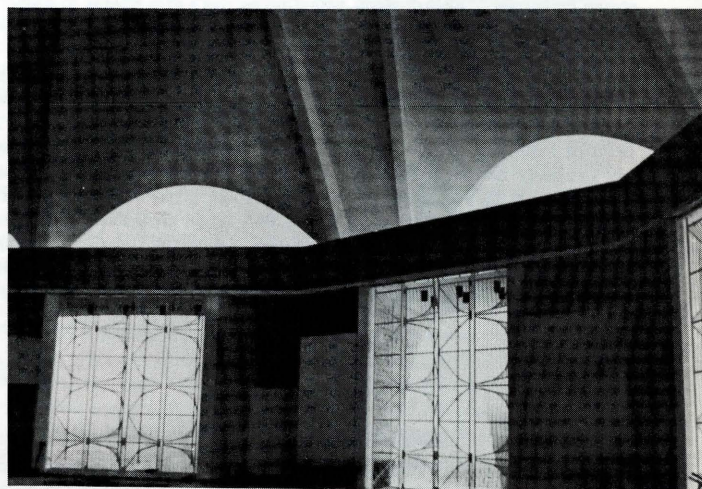
Normal seating capacity	—	550 people
Diameter at base	—	61 metres (200 feet)
Overall height	—	28 metres (92 feet)
Diameter of Auditorium	—	26 metres (85 feet)
Diameter of Dome Base	—	28 metres (92 feet)
Height of Dome	—	20 metres (65 feet)
Height of Balcony	—	5 metres (16 feet)
Opening each of the nine entrances	—	Height 4.8 metres (15 feet) Width 5 metres (16 feet)

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL

20 JUNE 1972

Material should be sent to the Editor:

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



An interior view of the Panama Temple.

NSA SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Formation of the NSA of the Republic of Ireland

The first National Convention of the Republic of Ireland, held in Monkstown near Dublin on April 22/23, was a truly joyous and tremendous experience for everyone privileged to be present. Over 170 entered their names in a book with an inscribed leather cover specially made for the historic occasion, which was doubly graced and blessed by the presence of representative of the Universal House of Justice, Hand of the Cause Bill Sears and the European Board of Counsellors representative Mr. Louis Henuzet. The friends were delighted by the Hand's blending of humour with his inspirational words. Convention gave them both the warmest loving welcome, and Counsellor Henuzet could have been left in no doubt of the friends' gratitude and appreciation, expressed in sustained applause when he left to catch his plane on Sunday afternoon.

The NSA of the British Isles was represented by the Chairman and the Secretary and two other NSA members were also present to take part in consultation during the Convention and also with the newly-elected Irish NSA on Sunday morning, at which time a coach had been arranged to take a party of the friends to visit the grave of Hand of the Cause George Townshend, where flowers were laid on behalf of the British Bahá'í Community.

The Arrangements Committee for this great first Convention had done a really splendid job to ensure its success and the NSA was most grateful, particularly to John Morley who worked unsparingly to the point of exhaustion.

The first NSA of the Republic of Ireland, a new pillar to support Bahá'u'lláh's Universal House of Justice, thus came into being in a manner befitting the greatness of the occasion.

Ridván Goals

The all-out drive to win the LSA Goals was sustained until the very last minute, with special arrangements for each one to intensify the teaching or to move pioneers. Superhuman efforts were made and the result has been the formation of ten new Local Spiritual Assemblies — the three island goals of Lerwick, Ryde and Jersey and also Bangor, Derby, Llanelli, Northampton, Oakham, St. Austell and Southampton. Tremendous work was done at Kidderminster which a few weeks ago only had one believer and now miraculously has seven adults and fourteen youths, and at St. Andrews which also had declarations and where two pioneers arrived a few days after Ridván to raise the number to nine. The other goals which remain to be won by the end of the Nine-Year Plan are Craigavon and North Berwick. All the local spiritual assemblies under numbers were maintained by declarations or pioneer moves, with the exception of Swinton, which has now unfortunately lapsed, and Swansea, through a tragic combination of circumstances. At the last minute it was learnt that a Bahá'í couple who had signed for a house and were to take up a job in Swansea had changed their minds. Two other pioneers had been ready to move in but it was then too late to make the necessary arrangements. However, the number of local spiritual assemblies in the British Isles has now been raised to ninety-seven and the goal of one hundred by the end of the Nine Year Plan will surely be far surpassed.

New Believers

There has been no relaxation in the tempo of teaching work; since Naw-Rúz over one hundred new believers have been welcomed in one month, a rate which if sustained throughout the year would far exceed the record total for last year.

Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga

We have been delighted to learn that after representing the Universal House of Justice at the First National Convention in Iceland, Hand of the Cause Mr. Enoch Olinga will be spending nearly three weeks with us and will be able to visit a number of centres in England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.

Queen's Birthday Greetings

In accordance with custom a telegram of loyal greetings was sent to Her Majesty, whose birthday falls on the First Day of Ridván. A telegram of cordial appreciation was received by the NSA from her secretary on behalf of Her Majesty.

Covenant Breaking

The Continental Board of Counsellors have warned that some of the believers may possibly be contacted by Miss Nancy Carre, daughter of covenant breakers from America, who has already tried to make contact with the Bahá'í community in Belgium. The friends are warned that there should be no contact with her and that any attempt by Miss Carre to get in touch with the Faith should be reported immediately to the NSA.

Guardian's Grave

On the eve of Convention many delegates and friends gathered for prayers at the grave of the beloved Guardian. Hand of the Cause Mr. William Sears placed a beautiful sheaf of nineteen red roses. After the prayers he took one of them, which he said he would lay at the threshold of the Blessed Beauty at Bahjí on behalf of the British Bahá'ís. Flowers were also laid by the NSA from the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom. Later there was a happy gathering at the Hazirat-ul-Quds where the friends were delighted by an unscheduled address by the Hand, at once hilarious and inspiring.

The Editor wishes to apologise to friends whose names were omitted from regional teaching committee reports in the printing of the Annual Report and for one mis-spelling, as follows:

NORTHERN IRELAND: Barry Watson, not Barry Dawson.

SCOTLAND: William Davidson

MIDLANDS: May Hofman, Peter Groves

SOUTH AND WEST ENGLAND: Derek Atkinson, Mary Jahangari, Terry Smith, Peter Smith.

LONDON: B. Grant.

Also omitted were the following:—

CHILD EDUCATION: Ann Hinton, Lina Smithson, Malcolm Lee.

SUMMER SCHOOL STANDING COMMITTEE: Betty Goode, Barbara Darkes, Shahla Haqjoo, Billy Lee, (George Bowers and Shahram Mottahed to be deleted).

TRANSFERS OF IRANIAN AND OTHER OVERSEAS BAHÁ'ÍS

From time to time the National Spiritual Assembly learns that an Iranian Bahá'í, not previously registered, has settled in a community. As it is important that these friends should be registered as members of the British community, credentials and letters of transfer presented by Bahá'ís from overseas should immediately be sent to the National Office with full details, including address and date of birth if under twentyone.

OPERATION 129.....HAND — IN — HAND

New Plans for American Youth Visitors.

Due to a number of reasons, not least being the great need for help in Europe, the National Teaching Committee announces some fundamental changes in the plans for the July campaign and all Regional Teaching Committees have been informed. All Local Assemblies and Regional Committees who have already reached an advanced stage in their planning will find that these new plans will not cause too great a change of direction but are in the best interests of the Cause and will therefore be welcomed with enthusiasm.

Only twenty-one American youth and not forty have been requested and they will travel in teams of either two or three each. At least three local youth will therefore be required for each team.

TO ALL YOUTH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM — Please send your names **now** to your Regional Teaching Committee if you are prepared to dedicate at least ten days in July to working with your American friends; it will be a wonderful experience.

The teams will be going to special "challenge" areas — Northern Ireland, the Scottish Islands; cathedral towns and goal centres. A great welcoming party will be held in London on Saturday afternoon, 1 July and on that same evening and on Sunday, the teams will reach their goal areas. Some teams will even return to help in consolidation after Padova on August 6.

The "Hand — in — Hand" project is now on its way; watch the "Journal", the "19 Day Newsletter" and your regional news sheets for further information. "In Tune" will carry special details for the youth.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Afar and Issa French Territory: Mr. Habib Habibi (of Manchester) visited Djibouti in January, remaining four days and enrolling fourteen new believers. His visit was quickly followed by one from other believers who succeeded in enrolling another twenty waiting souls.

A letter from the National Spiritual Assembly of North East Africa reads, "according to individual reports, we now have fifty new believers in Afar and Issa French Territory. This includes the opening of Tadjoura...this small town surrounded by mosques and churches..."

Australia: While in the Northern Territory Mr. Marco Kappenberger of Switzerland was invited to speak on the radio 'School of the Air', which reaches hundreds of children and their families in remote 'outback' areas. This form of radio school is the only schooling available to the children on the sheep stations in the remote areas of Australia and it is highly likely that many waiting souls were reached through the miracle that permitted a Bahá'í address to be given on the 'School of the Air'.

Brazil: In Bahia it is very common now for strangers to meet in the street or in the bus and during their conversation to be asked: "Oh, are you a Bahá'í? I am a Bahá'í too." Recently two men arrived at the Institute after walking all morning, to ask if the slides could be shown in their locality. On the following day a team visited their locality, spending the day in teaching and showing slides. At the end of this one fruitful day there were 200 new believers.

Chile: The believers of Bio-Bio, Ferbio recently constructed a display for a Fair which was held in that region. Some 5,000 persons were introduced to the faith and there were forty-five new believers enrolled, most of them youth. The enrolments also served to open three new localities to the Faith: Lota, Talcahuano and the Province of Nuble.

India: News of the exceptional victories which have already been achieved by the youth are enhanced by more recent reports. One example, which is somewhat typical of this thrilling youth encounter, comes from Bhopal where the youth report, "The surprise was that at Polytechnic where we were not expecting anyone to hear us, seventyfour students and twelve professors spontaneously accepted the Faith. Altogether over 200 students were enrolled in four colleges."

Following seven days' teaching activities, the youth in Bhopal enrolled over 300 college students and five professors, as well as one Principal of a college. Mysore welcomed 130 students into the Faith, in Hyderabad fifteen were enrolled and in Poona there were twenty who accepted the Message. Dr. Apte, Vice-Chancellor of Poona University, showed keen interest in the Faith and his remarks have encouraged the youth to pursue the matter of establishing a Bahá'í Chair at Poona University.

Newspaper publicity was excellent. The 'Poona Herald' printed an excellent review of the aims and purposes of the Faith, while the 'Poona Daily News' gave the history and story of the Blessed Beauty in great detail and with great reverence. Both newspapers carried articles throughout the week.

One professor of English was so impressed that she inquired if a library could be made available for research so that her students could write papers on the Bahá'í Faith. She was assured that the necessary books would be made available.

Leeward, Windward & Virgin Islands: A West Indian mass teaching team has arisen with a spirit which matches or even surpasses that of the team from the United States who inaugurated teaching the masses in these islands.

A group of new believers from Barbados, who ranged in age from seventeen to twenty years, went as a team to introduce the Cause to the waiting souls on the island of St. Vincent.

Despite heavy downpours of rain, which were anticipated at this season, they went out daily over mountainous terrain, spending from eight to ten hours per day walking and teaching. Daily prayer sessions of two hours each were held by the team members.

In a two and a half week period the team found 570 waiting souls.

Mexico: Every state and territory in Mexico is now open to the Faith, fulfilling another goal of the Nine Year Plan. A teaching team accompanied by Auxiliary Board Member Paul Lucas set out to achieve this goal. They had in their company one non-Bahá'í who became the first to declare on the trip. The primary goal they wished to achieve was to open the three as yet unopened states of Durango, Queretaro and Baja California del Sur. It is significant of the spirit of the team that one of the members is confined to a wheelchair and one is a polio victim who needs special boots to walk.



They arrived in the state of Durango and began to look for a village in which to commence teaching. At a crossroad they turned off the road until they reached the village of Santa Cruz de Guadalupe where the President of the town gave them permission to teach. A team member wrote, "...we were somewhat worried that the town would be too small to produce an Assembly but went ahead anyway — at least we could hope for one declaration, which would open the state of Durango..." They split into teams and began to pass out invitations to a meeting when about half way up the main street of the town they encountered a man who told them that if they were Evangelists the town already had enough of them. They spoke with him and found that he was scheduled to be the incoming President of the town. Both he and his wife later declared. In the two days spent in the town there were forty declarations and a deepening class was held for twenty people. A library of books was left behind and the state of Durango is opened with enough believers to ensure an Assembly.

Panama: A report regarding an Institute held in Boca de Soloy reads, "When we came to the first river we left the car behind and went ahead walking...."

Finally we came to Boca de Soloy when it was beginning to be dark. I was thinking that we had made a great sacrifice, but those feelings disappeared and changed to humility when I saw what our Guaymi friends had gone through in order to attend the Institute. Some had travelled for two days. Others had left their houses where we held the Institute. These houses were so little that we could not stand up or lay down. We could only sit inside. Others, less fortunate, had to find a branch to serve as a roof. These friends were with their families and some had newly born babies.

...we had greeted everyone and distributed the correspondence from the National Spiritual Assembly...and gave emphasis to the representation of the Guaymies at the dedication of the Temple. Our reunion lasted until 1.00 in the morning, a group of those friends went back to their houses...they had to walk for many hours. We were overcome with the dignified impression the teachers gave, who were, for the most part, youth!

Later came the night and with it a terrible storm. I was really impressed to see the friends coming, one by one, in the absolute darkness, beneath the tempest...In a short time there was a meeting in Boca de Soloy — 153 Guaymies — with only a handful protected inside the centre, the rest standing outside covering their heads with a platano leaf because the rain did not lessen. They followed calmly below the tempest. Such is the interest of the Guaymi Indians for the Faith of Bahá'u'llah.

Paraguay: A recently received report reads, in part, "As a result of recent initial teaching trip to Palomito, in the Department of San Pedro, the National Spiritual Assembly has been informed by Mr. Cyrus Tutunchi and Mr. Clyde Johnson that there is a group of about 500, mostly Indians, in that area, who show great promise of entering the Faith in a body, and whose level of culture and comprehension is very high. On this trip fourteen persons enrolled, among them a chief and his son. Another chief has promised that when the Bahá'ís return he will bring all his people to hear this Message and believes that they will become Bahá'ís. Among these people there are a number who read and write, and it seems highly probable that concentrated deepening will provide us with very capable Indian Bahá'í teachers who will later be of incalculable help in extending the teaching among all the indigenous peoples throughout Paraguay."

Philippine Islands: During the Post-Oceanic Conference held in Manila, the Hand of the Cause of God Rahmatu'llah Muhájir made a special appeal to the youth to arise, pray, deepen and carry the Message to their fellow-men. The youth formed teams, calling themselves YOW, or Youth for One World.

Two young believers from Naga City, aided by Auxiliary Board Members and travelling teachers, have been instrumental in bringing into the Cause over 800 believers since September. During the month of September they enrolled 500 believers, opened five schools to the Cause, as well as twentytwo towns and ninety new areas. The Faith was spoken about over three local radio stations and press releases were published in three newspapers. Classroom lectures were given and much literature presented to those who expressed interest.



Participants in the Teaching Institute which was held in Cotonou, Dahomey, for the Bahá'ís of Dahomey, Togo and Niger. There were about thirtyfive young men from the three countries who studied the Administration, The Covenant, The History of the Faith and practical ways of teaching. Some of the lectures were given by members of the Board of Counsellors for West Central Africa, Mr. Kebdani, Mr. Ardekani and Dr. Maxwell.

It was a very lively Institute, the young people from Niger giving a special contribution in the evenings with their 'pieces du theatre' showing practical ways of teaching the Faith.

Switzerland: The waiting masses are responding to the Faith in Switzerland. From January 1970 to January 1971 there were eighteen new believers enrolled in Switzerland. From January 1971 to January 1972 there have been 178 souls embrace the Faith, the majority of whom have enrolled since the Fiesch Youth Conference held in August 1971.

United States: Future editions of the Handbook for United States Army Chaplains will contain an article about the Bahá'í Faith. This is a great achievement and will undoubtedly spread accurate information about the Cause among many religious leaders.

Vietnam: For the eleventh successive year the believers in Vietnam have held successful World Religion Day meetings throughout the country. The event has received excellent publicity and meetings held on 16 January 1972 were covered in more than twenty daily newspapers, on radio and television and news shown in the cinemas.

In Saigon a meeting was held in Thong-Nhat Hall with an audience of several hundred in attendance. Organised and sponsored by the Bahá'ís of Vietnam, the panel of speakers included a Patriarch of the General Buddhist Association, the Catholic Reverend Father Huynh Nghi, highest leader of the Vietnamese Buddhist Mendicants, and Mr. Tran Thang, Member of the National Spiritual Assembly of Vietnam.

A report by a believer who visited Vietnam reads, "...straddling the back of a Honda — bumping along the ribbon of a road cut through the rice padis outside of Bien Thuy, South Vietnam, we made a right angle turn smack onto a road that bisected a village of orderly compact grey dwellings surrounded by well kept vegetation...As I looked to the right and left and right — there it was! Above every door — the Greatest Name. Then we stopped before a house with a sign that indicated it was the Bahá'í Centre for this Cham village. The Chams...had accepted Bahá'u'lláh and were now constructing their world in His pattern.

The suffering of the people is beyond comprehension. Their endurance is also beyond comprehension. Every family and individual is afflicted. But there, in the midst of the chaos of this war-torn country, the hope, the radiance of the Bahá'ís is an invincible shield."

MAURITIUS

The following letter was sent to the Universal House of Justice by the NSA of the Indian Ocean:—

"We have much pleasure to inform you that on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Mauritius, we were among the religious groups who were invited by the Government of Mauritius to present a loyal address to Her Majesty.

The presentation was made at a garden party held in Pamplemousses Garden on Saturday 25th March 1972, on the balcony of the House.

The name of each group was called out and in turn the representatives handed over the address personally to the Queen who had Prince Philip by her side. When the name of our Assembly was called and our representative handed the address, Prince Philip said "Bahá'ís" and our representative replied "yes".

REPORT from NICOSIA, CYPRUS.

It is with great joy that the Bahá'ís of Nicosia, Cyprus, share with the friends of the United Kingdom the news that a Greek Cypriot has recently been accepted into the Faith. This event has great significance since this new Bahá'í is the first Greek Cypriot to declare since the time of the troubles in Cyprus. This event means that both the Turkish and the Greek communities are represented in the Nicosia Bahá'í Group in addition to the pioneers. It must be the fruit of many efforts, but particularly the steadfastness of the Shahmaz family who have remained firm in their faith throughout the troubles and subsequent isolation.

At present our community in Nicosia consists of seven adult believers, four children, and our new Greek Bahá'í who lives just outside the civic limits. We meet frequently with the Famagusta friends. Their group consists of six Turkish adult believers and the recent pioneer, Shiela Fulford. Both groups expect to have new friends joining them by the end of this summer.

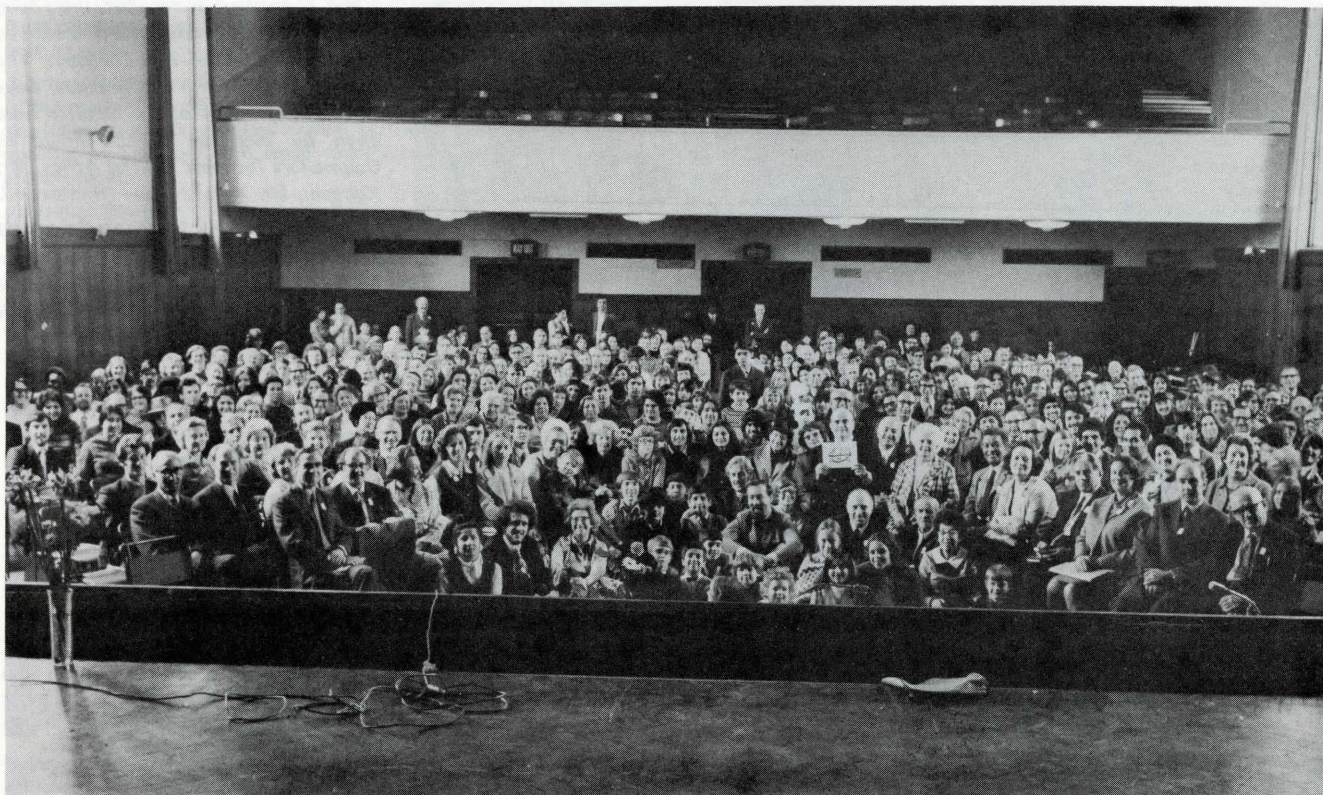
Recently the Bahá'ís of Cyprus established something of a precedent when a representative from each of the two groups went to Haifa to pray at the Holy Shrines for the success of our teaching. Following this trip came a number of bounties including our new Bahá'í, an unexpected pioneer, many more teaching opportunities and promises of pioneers to come.

we would ask to be included in the prayers of the friends in the United Kingdom since there are many problems, not always easy to describe, that beset the Baha'is in this island. We look forward to establishing our LSA, as does the Famagusta group, by Ridvan 1973.

We send our salutations to all and particularly to the NSA of Ireland and to all the newly won Assemblies and other goals.

THE FLAME: by William Sears and Robert Quigley, published by George Ronald, 46 High Street, Kidlington, Oxford.

The immensely moving story of Lua Moore Getsinger, one of the very first American believers, who accepted Bahá'u'lláh in 1894 and served the Bahá'í Faith with unceasing devotion and sacrifice until her death in Egypt in 1916. She visited 'Abdu'l-Bahá in Haifa many times and carried the Faith across America, to Europe, India and Egypt and to the reigning Shah of Persia. She dedicated her life to the service of the Cause of God and her personal beauty and eloquence of speech made her one of the immortal teachers of the Faith. On her death as a martyr 'Abdu'l-Bahá was deeply affected. Here is a story at once poignant and inspiring — a spur to us all.



Assembled friends at Convention

NATIONAL CONVENTION 129

report by Lois Hainsworth

**Acton Town Hall, London
29/30 April 1972**

A wonderful feeling of expectancy permeated the atmosphere in Acton Town Hall as the delegates and visitors assembled for Convention, for this had been a year when the number of new declarants had far exceeded any previous records, a year when only a week previously a new National Spiritual Assembly, that of the Republic of Ireland, had been born within the British Isles, a year when almost all the British goals of the Nine Year Plan had been achieved a year ahead of schedule and a year when a new electoral system embracing all Bahá'ís in the United Kingdom had been introduced.

A sensation rippled through the hall that this Convention, being held one year before the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of a National Spiritual Assembly in these islands in 1923, must surely herald a year of unmatched progress.

After a beautiful devotional prepared by the Ealing community, these thoughts were given voice by the Chairman of the NSA, John Long, when he spoke of the uniqueness of the occasion — never before had there been a Convention of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom; never before had there been so great an increase in the number of friends entering the Cause — something which the beloved Guardian had promised in the last letter received from him in 1957 and just now beginning to happen. Mr. Long reminded the friends that the formation of the new National Assembly of the Republic of Ireland was the third of three for which this National Assembly had been responsible — seventeen years ago the Regional National Spiritual Assembly of Central and East Africa had been formed and three years ago that of Guyana.

John Long introduced Hand of the Cause William Sears, dearly loved by all the British believers, and this wonderful friend was given a standing ovation by all present. Mr. Long also welcomed members of the Auxiliary Board — during the course of Convention Ernest and Joan Gregory, Mary Kouchezkadeh, David Lewis and Beman Khosravi were present. Mr. Khosravi had replaced Dick Backwell who had been unable, through illness, to continue with this task. Convention sent a message of greeting to Dick, whose invaluable services to the British community are much treasured, and a reply was received before the end of the meeting.

After the roll call Convention Officers were elected as follows:—

Chairman	Philip Hainsworth
Secretary	Charles Macdonald
Vice-chairman	Patrick Green

After the presentation of the Supplementary Annual Report, which precedes this article, and consultation upon and adoption of the Annual Report, a messages committee was appointed to reply to communications addressed to Convention, which included the following letter from the newly formed National Assembly of the Republic of Ireland:—

"If only we could communicate to you the love, the joy and the spirit experienced by all of us at the first National Convention of the Republic of Ireland last weekend. The Convention was a truly beautiful occasion, greatly enriched and blessed by the presence of Hand of the Cause, William Sears, Counsellor Louis Henuzet, Board Members Beman Khosravi and Mary Kouchezkadeh and members of your National Assembly.

How happy and thrilled we were to witness the birth of our own National Spiritual Assembly, in the presence of over 170 believers, many of whom came from England and Wales. We will never forget the bonds of love and unity which link us with the community of the United Kingdom. We look forward as a daughter assembly of the NSA of the United Kingdom to many opportunities for close co-operation between our two communities.

We send loving greetings to all assembled at the Convention."

A feeling of joyous anticipation ran through the hall as Hand of the Cause Bill Sears presented the Ridván Message from the Universal House of Justice and told us that the House had asked him to bring each Bahá'í their warm and loving greetings and to thank everyone for their precious services to our beloved Faith. The Ridván Message is printed in full on the front of this issue and as, in the hall, we heard again of the victories achieved during the past year, the fact of the increasing momentum of the progress of the Faith became clearer in our minds.

After lunch a message from the Board of Counsellors was read by Auxiliary Board Member Joan Gregory, which is printed below:—

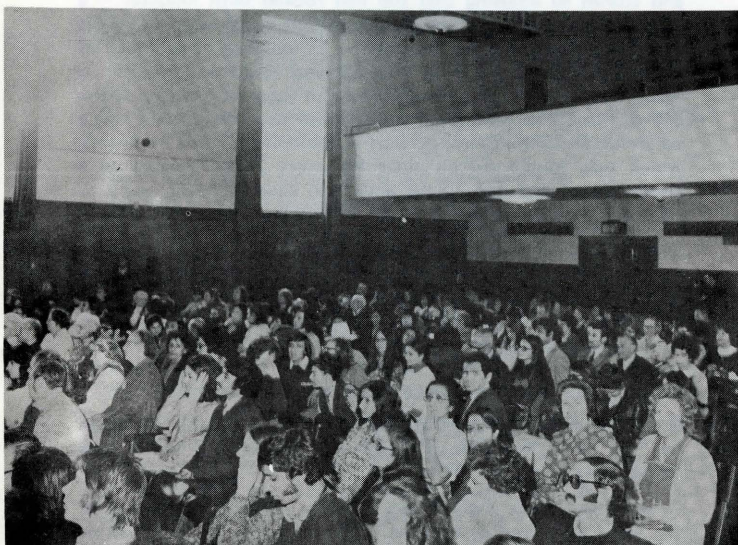
“At this last Convention in the Nine Year Plan, we direct our message not merely to the Convention but to every believer in Europe and we feel we can do no better than to call the attention of everyone to the following paragraphs from one of the beloved Guardian’s messages during the Ten Year Crusade:—

This challenge, so severe and insistent, and yet so glorious, faces no doubt primarily the individual believer on whom, in the last resort, depends the fate of the entire community. He it is who constitutes the warp and woof on which the quality and pattern of the whole fabric must depend. He it is who acts as one of the countless links in the mighty chain that now girdles the globe. He it is who serves as one of the multitude of bricks which support the structure and insure the stability of the administrative edifice now being raised in every part of the world. Without his support, at once whole-hearted, continuous and generous, every measure adopted, and every plan formulated, by the body which acts as the national representative of the community to which he belongs, is foredoomed to failure. The World Centre of the Faith itself is paralysed if such a support on the part of the rank and file of the community is denied it. The Author of the Divine Plan Himself is impeded in His purpose if the proper instruments for the execution of His design are lacking. The sustaining strength of Bahá’u’lláh Himself, the Founder of the Faith, will be withheld from every and each individual who fails in the long run to arise and play his part....

The unseen legions, standing rank upon rank, and eager to pour forth from the Kingdom on high the full measure of their celestial strength on the individual participants of this incomparably glorious Crusade, are powerless unless and until each potential crusader decides for himself, and perseveres in his determination, to rush into the arena of service ready to sacrifice his all for the Cause he is called upon to champion.

(message to America, July 28, 1954)

We repeat again that the Board of Counsellors and the Auxiliary Boards are ready to help in every way we can. If each one of us, whatever his function, will do his share during these last crucial months ahead with devotion and perseverance, there is no doubt that Europe will complete the goals of the Nine Year Plan with really noteworthy victories.”



Then came the election of the new National Assembly: tellers were appointed, prayers read, the election was performed in an atmosphere of prayerful, quiet concentration and then the votes were collected. Of the ninety-five delegates elected by the British community, ninety-four voted, eighty-two being present, with twelve postal votes.

With this important duty fulfilled, delegates and visitors rose to their feet to welcome an address by Hand of the Cause William Sears, which is here printed:—

“What an historic year lies ahead of us! The NINTH year of the glorious NINE YEAR PLAN has already begun! We have already exceeded many of the goals of the NINE YEAR PLAN in many areas of the world. The momentum is steadily increasing, day by day, and gradually is approaching its flood-tide.

These National Communities which have not yet won all of the goals of the NINE YEAR PLAN will discover, during this coming year, countless readymade opportunities which can sweep them on to total victory. These National Communities which have won all of their goals, or stand on the threshold of complete victory, will have equally dramatic opportunities this coming year to accomplish victories far above the goals of the Plan — victories that will astonish both themselves and the entire Bahá’í world, if they will but seize their chances and press on courageously. This is the year of destiny!

This is the NINTH year of the NINE YEAR PLAN. NINE is the number of Bahá. NINE is the number of Perfection. NINE is the number of the Most Great Name. Surely, NINE is the number of victory for the entire Baha’i world.

So unique and so precious are the ‘golden’ opportunities of this coming year, and this present CONVENTION, that it was impossible to allow these hours to pass without writing to each one of you. Who knows when such an extraordinary combination of favourable circumstances for prolific victories may occur again? Already our infallible Universal House of Justice has carried the fame of the Cause of God into every corner of the globe. They have presented Bahá’u’lláh’s world-healing Tablets to the Heads-of-state in all parts of the world. They have raised up well over one hundred Pillars, National Spiritual Assemblies. They have thrown wide the doors of Bahá’u’lláh’s world-healing Faith to the hungering masses of humanity. To cite but one single specific example, the banner ‘Yá Bahá’u’l-Abhá!’ has been planted victoriously in nearly 60,000 centres throughout the earth — perhaps even more by the time this reaches you. What joy, what confidence, what assurance must surge through the hearts of each one of us! How prophetic the stirring words of our beloved Guardian must seem to us now. He told us that when the Universal House of Justice came into existence, it would, by the light of ‘divine inspiration’ proceed to ‘devise and carry out important undertakings, world-wide activities and the establishment of glorious institutions. By this means,’ our beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, promised us, ‘the renown of the Cause of God will become worldwide and its light will illumine the whole earth.

Beloved friends, so much of this promise has already come true, even to the establishment of the first of those glorious Institutions, the Continental Boards of Counsellors. The very earth is throbbing with the ‘world-wide activities’ launched by our Supreme House of Justice. Fellow warriors of the Blessed Beauty, this year, this hour, this very CONVENTION, gives us a unique opportunity to consult upon how we can consecrate our time, our energies, our resources, our lives to our National Spiritual Assemblies so that we may assist these ‘heroic Generals’ of the NINE YEAR PLAN win every last remaining goal of the Plan. During these never-to-return hours, we can consult upon the best way to create a fresh spirit of love and unity, of dedication and determination, of sacrifice and selflessness, so that we may hasten the day envisioned by our beloved Guardian when, under the banner of the Universal House of Justice, ‘The unity of the followers of Bahá’u’lláh will thus be realized and fulfilled from one end of the earth to the other...and the living waters of everlasting life will stream forth from that fountainhead of God’s World Order upon all the warring nations and peoples of the world, to wash away the evils and iniquities of the realm of dust, and heal man’s age-old ills and ailments...Then will be unveiled before our eyes the inauguration of an era the like of which had never been witnessed in past ages.(1)

As we leave this CONVENTION, let us carry into every part of our country and region the ‘spirit’ of this gathering when the very air is throbbing with a potential and undreamed-of victories. Bahá’u’lláh is the ‘Sole Redeemer’ of mankind. His Administrative Order is the ‘one agency’ that can rescue and revive an unshepherded disillusioned and suffering humanity. There is no hope for the world without us.



Hand of the Cause William Sears

Will we seize this priceless opportunity during the coming year? Will we arise like the Dawn Breakers of old? Will we solemnly vow during this CONVENTION that we shall, we shall, make this year, the NINTH year of the NINE YEAR PLAN, this final, fate-laden year so pregnant with possibilities, the time we have all longed for, when, in the words of our beloved Guardian, "...the all-conquering potency of the the grace of God, vouchsafed through the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, will, undoubtedly, mysteriously and surprisingly, enable whoever arises to champion His Cause to win complete and total victory. (2)

May these Words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi send us on our way with courage and conviction, may they be the 'watchword' for everything we do during the next nineteen months, until we meet once again next Ridvan and lay upon the THRESHHOLD of Bahá'u'lláh such victories as will astound the entire world on that one hundredth Anniversary of the Revelation of the Most Holy Book:

O ye servants of the Sacred Threshold! The triumphant Hosts of the Celestial Concourse, arrayed and marshalled in the Realms above, stand ready and expectant to assist and assure victory to that valiant horseman who with confidence spurs his charger into the arena of service. Well is it with that fearless warrior, who armed with the power of true Knowledge, hastens unto the field, disperses the armies of ignorance, and scatters the hosts of error, who holds aloft the Standard of Divine Guidance, and sounds the Clarion of victory. By the righteousness of the Lord! He hath achieved a glorious triumph and obtained the true victory.

With such inspiring words as these are we to remain any longer unmoved and inactive? His trumpet-call resounds on every side, and summons us to service; are we to tarry and hesitate? his voice is calling aloud from every land; let us march on, unfettered and unafraid, and fulfill our glorious Destiny. (3)

With warmest, tenderest love to each one of you, the heroes and heroines of the year 129, the final and NINTH year of the glorious NINE YEAR PLAN, the year of destiny."

It is impossible to put into words the joy and happiness which Mr. Sears generates — he fills us all with a desire to serve the Cause of God and to bring to fruition and surpass the goals we have been set. His wonderful fund of stories, both poignant and hilarious, bring such a warmth of humanity to all his addresses and everyone present must have felt the same gratitude to him for his loving presence with us during Convention, not a moment of which he missed.

General consultation followed upon a variety of subjects — prayers, deepening, assisting other European countries to achieve their goals and consolidation in the islands and remoter areas. Copies of the 252 resolutions, (which had dealt with a multitude of subjects) from the nineteen unit conventions had been distributed to the delegates. It was therefore apparant that delegates were under less pressure to deal with all items on the agenda and were able to spend more time upon subjects about which they felt strongly. So valuable had been the unit conventions that the delegates recommended that these be extended to two-day functions in the future. Considerable time was given to the forthcoming visit, in July, of a group of forty American youth who will be coming to the United Kingdom to help with the teaching work. Appreciation was expressed for this inter-assembly co-operation, with 300 American youth spending time in Europe, and plans were discussed for the reception of the forty allocated to the United Kingdom and the best possible use which could be made of their services.

At 5.15 p.m. concentration upon the consultation became a little difficult, for it was seen that the tellers had presented their report to the Chairman of Convention. When this was read it was noted that the National Assembly members were unchanged, the vacancy created by the loss of Adib Taherzadeh to the Republic of Ireland having been filled by Ted Cardell.

Votes were as follows:	Charles Macdonald	90
	Philip Hainsworth	73
	Betty Goode	71
	John Long	66
	Joe Jameson	63
	Abbas Afnan	57
	Patrick Green	54
	George Bowers	50
	Ted Cardell	19

The chairman voiced the appreciation of the delegates to the tellers for a speedy and efficient report.

In the evening a devotional and entertainment were provided by the Oakham community — a feast of prayer, singing and fruit! And then, quietly, everyone slowly settled down to listen once more to Mr. Sears. This time he told us a host of stories — about service to the Faith in difficult circumstances to grip our hearts and stories so amusing that the hall rocked with laughter — a wealth of anecdotes which left us united in joy and love. This was an evening of great contrasts — of exuberance and joy, of deep love and unity with the beloved Hand and, finally, a wondrous moment of intense prayerful happiness when, at the end of Mr. Sears' talk, from the body of the hall, came a single voice raised in the praise of God — the Alláh'u'Abhá — A voice which was joined on all sides by every Bahá'í, rising to a crescendo of swelling sound and then slowly ebbing away to silence and silent prayer.

Sunday was filled with general consultation and the morning sessions included the presentation of the report of the National Treasurer, Betty Goode — a detailed assessment of the state of the Fund and the use of the lifeblood of the Cause in this country. A realisation of the services rendered by the National Treasurer resulted in a spontaneous vote of thanks to her and to John Morphew for whose assistance she expressed her thanks.

Before breaking for lunch the Convention photograph was taken by 'Sue' Benatar, copies of which are available for those who would like them.

As all three of the Convention Officers had been elected on to the National Assembly and the NSA was having its first meeting through the lunch break, consultation after lunch took place with two deputy officers — Eruch Munsiff as deputy chairman and Lois Hainsworth as deputy secretary — until the return of the officers.

Here it was announced that the officers of the NSA remained the same:—

Chairman	John Long
Vice Chairman	Philip Hainsworth
Secretary	Charles Macdonald
Treasurer	Betty Goode

Subjects discussed during the afternoon were village teaching, the Publishing Trust, child education, regional development and publicity.



Hand of the Cause William Sears addressing Convention

In many ways this was an outstanding Convention — a large proportion of delegates attended all the time, there was a good attentive audience which at peak periods numbered over six hundred, and the Convention Officers ran the proceedings with a quiet competence which was greatly appreciated and admired by delegates and visitors alike.

Convention is a time when one hopes to see old friends and meet new ones, to compare notes on teaching and to watch the growth of other communities. This Convention gave the opportunity for all these things and outside the hall it gave us the chance to see the many new publications produced by the Publishing Trust and the Sales Committee. It is interesting to note that during the first day of Convention more books were sold than during both days of any previous Convention and that the final sales far exceeded those at any other similar gathering.

As always, the friends left the Convention a little sadly, leaving behind them a wondrous spirit of unity and togetherness, but each taking a little of the all enveloping joy in service to the Faith which will carry them through for another year and, assuredly, to return for next Convention with still greater victories won.

Ed. Note

Ed. Note. The quotations contained in Mr. Sears' address are as follows:—

- 1 *Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of Persia, (Nov. 27, 1929; Dec. 13, 1932)*
- 2 *Shoghi Effendi, Citadel of Faith, (p. 149).*
- 3 *Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'í Administration, USA edition (p.43).*

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Continuing the excerpts from "A parent's notebook" published in "The Child's Way", in the United States of America.

WHAT IS A BAHÁ'Í HOME? It is a spiritual home.

- a. A centre of love and warmth !
- b. A centre of hospitality for all, friends and strangers !
- c. A centre of joy and happiness !
- d. A centre of peace and harmony.

If love and agreement are manifest in a single family, that family will advance, become illumined and spiritual.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá (*Bahá'í World Faith*, p. 229)

THE PARENTS

- a. Your attitudes towards each other: Loyalty and love.
- b. You must be well grounded in the Teachings.
- c. You must possess spiritual qualities: *When you possess divine susceptibilities, you will be able to awaken and develop them in others.* — 'Abdu'l-Bahá (*Promulgation of Universal Peace*, Vol. 1 p.5).
- d. Your attitude towards your children: Acceptance and expectance, self-knowledge and understanding, love and firmness (with the Bahá'í standard this is possible, without it there is great confusion).
- e. How does your child know that you love him? What are the signs of your love? *Look at him, listen to him, talk directly to him.* The tone of your voice, the look on your face, affectionate gestures are the non-verbal messages he catches. Playtime together (*be playful not dutiful*) and service-time together (helping with chores, visiting sick and lonely, bearing gifts to others) bring you close to your child.
- f. Some guide lines for parents: Respect your child — he will gain self-respect; love your child — he will become loving; be courteous to your child — he will become courteous; instruct and inform your child — he will have knowledge and wisdom; encourage your child — he will be confident; praise your child — he will become appreciative; recognise your child's efforts — he will learn to have a goal;

be fair with your child — he will learn justice; be honest with your child — he will learn about truth.

O SON OF SPIRIT !

Know thou of a truth: He that biddeth men be just and himself committeth iniquity is not of Me, even though he bear My name.

— Bahá'u'lláh

g. Some questions for parents: Are you sincerely interested in your children? Do you enjoy being with them? Are you daily devising means to escape them? Do they irritate you? Do you demonstrate courtesy, patience, thoughtfulness, love? Are you learning how to do these things?

My prayer for you is that your spiritual faculties and aspirations may daily increase, and that you will never allow the material senses to veil from your eyes the glories of the heavenly illumination..... May all hearts become illumined with the rays of the Sun of Reality; all of them enter the university of God, acquire spiritual virtues and seek for themselves heavenly bounties.

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá (*Reality of Man*, pp. 23, 61)

THE CHILDREN

a. A child is good and pure at birth. *All are in the state of purity at the time of their births.* — 'Abdu'l-Bahá (*BWF*, p. 388)

Man (is) the noblest and most perfect of all created things.....

— Bahá'u'lláh (*Gleanings from the Writings*, p. 179)

O SON OF BEING !

Thou art My lamp and My light is in thee. Get thou from it thy radiance and seek none other than Me. For I have created thee rich and shed My favour upon thee.

— Bahá'u'lláh

b. Dual nature; body and soul, capable of both good and evil. *Not in any other of the species in the world of existence is there such a difference, contrast, contradiction, and opposition, as in the species of man.*

— 'Abdu'l-Bahá (*BWF*, p. 332)



Assembled delegates and visitors at the Irish Convention.

FIRST CONVENTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

22/23 APRIL 1972

Report by Betty Goode

The gentle warm spring sunshine, blue sky, and enchanting glimpses of the sparkling blue sea in the distance were nature's reminder of the most precious time of the year, the Springtime, the Ridvan period, as in twos and threes the Army of Light walked up the hill, or arrived by car to what must now be one of the most historic places in the history of Ireland, the Quaker Hall at Monkstown, Co. Dublin, where the friends gathered to witness the birth of the NSA of the Bahá'ís of the Republic of Ireland, yet another glorious pillar to support the Universal House of Justice!

The air was charged with love, unity, joy and tremendous happiness as the happy 'exiles' — the pioneers from the home country, and from across the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean, the United States of America — not to mention the very dear Irish Baha'is themselves rushed forward to greet the visitors and the friends as they came together on this momentous occasion. It was a poignant as well as a happy time. The creation of another supporting pillar is always one of supreme joy, but it was only natural that many eyes were a little misted with tears at the thought of the severing of the cord between the countries; that although this goal of the Nine Year Plan was to be achieved at last, the ship the new National Assembly, would be launched and set sail on God's mighty spiritual ocean alone and independent.

Representing the Universal House of Justice was our very dearly-loved Hand of the Cause, Bill Sears and for the Board of Counsellors of the Continent of Europe, Louis Henzuet was clearly delighted to be present, as were Board Members Mary Kouchekezadeh and Behman Khosravi. Four members of the British National Assembly, soon to be of the United Kingdom, were present and in addition dear Adib Taherzadeh who was both a member of the British NSA and at the same time a delegate to the Irish Convention.

After the opening devotional, prepared by the Cork Bahá'ís, John Long, Chairman of the British National Assembly, opened Convention welcoming everyone, stressing the importance of the occasion and the part it had to play in the history of Ireland. He outlined the early beginnings of the Faith in Ireland, when in response to a cable from the beloved Guardian for nineteen LSA's in the British Isles, the LSA of Dublin was formed, and again it was emphasised how important it was to have strong local administrative bodies, for without these the national bodies cannot be formed. Reference was made to Hand of the Cause, George Townsend and the wonderful work he had carried out for the Cause, for the whole world, by his books and it was felt that he and others who had passed on in Ireland would be indeed rejoicing at the joy of this occasion.

Hand of the Cause, Bill Sears, clad in his well-worn and much treasured green jacket of Irish tweed, read the message to the Bahá'ís of the Republic of Ireland from the Universal House of Justice. In the message, the 'main task facing the members of this new community' was referred to as the re-awakening of the spirit of true religion in the hearts of the Irish people. It reminded all those gathered there of how more than 1,500 years ago the 'light of Christendom was reflected back from the western outpost of Ireland to the heart of Europe'.

After the message from the Universal House of Justice had been read, Charles Macdonald, Secretary of the British NSA, called the

roll of the nine delegates who were all present, after which followed the election for the Officers of Convention. Adib Taherzadeh and Lesley Gibson were elected Chairman and Secretary of Convention respectively. Immediately after this arrangements were made for the election of the National Assembly, and tellers were appointed by the British National Assembly from friends present from Northern Ireland. Charles reminded all those present in the hall, many very new believers being present, of the very spiritual nature of the occasion and asked everyone to pray quietly together while the delegates made their choice, and as soon as a prayer for the election been read, voting commenced.

This was the occasion when quietly one was able to look round the hall at all the friends gathered there. Perhaps the most interesting and exciting group of people for the friends from the British Isles to meet were the Limerick Bahá'ís. We had heard all about them in reports and Newsletters, now we were meeting them face to face! There they were, lovely young friends looking very much like all young people do today but with such happiness and the light of the love for Bahá'u'lláh shining from their dear faces. There seemed no age barriers here, they came naturally and put their arms round us, greeting us with 'isn't it wonderful' and 'this is the most wonderful thing since St. Patrick himself came here' or simply 'thank you for coming to us!' It seemed sometimes that our hearts would burst, because we could not 'hold' any more joy in them! Another exciting crowd were the Bangor (Wales) Bahá'ís, arriving hot-foot from the formation of their first local assembly, average age, twenty three years. One of the first two pioneers to Ireland was there, Lady Kathleen Hornell, still a Bahá'í youth in spirit, and of course many friends from Northern Ireland and the British Isles, all there to reinforce the occasion with support and love, like the gathering of a great family.

Whilst the tellers were busy in another part of the building many messages to Convention were read. First of all came Louis Henzuet with the message from the Continental Board of Counsellors for Europe, expressing love and sending joyous greetings, and stressing the importance of the moment not only for the Cause but for the destiny of Ireland. A passage from Shoghi Effendi to America, July 28th 1954, was contained in their message, which pin-pointed the part which every individual Bahá'í must play in the establishment of the Faith. The message ended with the joyful anticipation the Counsellors had in working closely with the Bahá'í community of the Republic of Ireland.

Greetings came from all over the globe, from Alaska, Portugal, Argentina, the Congo, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana; from Iran, Kenya, Lysotho, Malasia, Norway, Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands; from Uganda, and from many local Spiritual Assemblies in the United Kingdom. Ursula Samandari (Newman), who was the first pioneer to Dublin, sent a message, and Board Member, Behman Khosravi brought a verbal message from Dick Backwell who was not well enough to be there.

When at last the tellers appeared with news of the Election a ripple of excitement went round the hall, and after another vote for the ninth member because of a tie, the newly elected National Spiritual Assembly of the Republic of Ireland was announced as follows:—

Adib Taherzadeh	—	8 votes
Lesley Gibson	—	8 votes
Joe Watson	—	7 votes
Patrick Dawson	—	7 votes
Margaret Magill	—	6 votes
John Turner (Jr.)	—	5 votes
Zebby Whitehead	—	5 votes
Philip O'Brien	—	5 votes
Eleanor O'Callaghan	—	4 votes

During lunch-time on Saturday the NSA met and elected its Officers as follows:—

Chairman: Adib Taherzadeh; Vice-Chairman: Joe Watson;
Secretary: Lesley Gibson; Treasurer: Philip O'Brien.

The Saturday afternoon session seemed more relaxed now that the more weighty business of the morning had been discharged and the first message from the newly formed NSA was to the NSA of the United Kingdom. It was a message of love and thanks for all the resources which had been poured into the Republic by the British believers. Then followed a specially happy time when numerous presentations were made to the new NSA. Volumes of 'Bahá'í World' from the United Kingdom National Assembly and, very precious, the pen of George Townsend, which had been used to write his books, together with a cheque for £300. From the Universal House of Justice a cheque for \$500 and a volume of 'Bahá'í World.' From the Belfast community two of George Townsend's own books and from the Publishing Trust the offer of one copy of each of the books which the Trust had published..

Again there were many messages sent from all over the world, this time to the new National Assembly, and almost too numerous to mention. From USA, Zambia, Trinidad & Tobago, Swaziland, Switzerland, Paraguay, Samoa, Panama, Peru, N.W.Africa, all European NSA's, Canada and many parts of South America and Arabia. Messages flowed in from many individuals, including our two overseas goal islands of Faroes and Cyprus.

Hand of the Cause, William Sears was introduced by Counsellor Louis Henuzet and brought the love of the Universal House of Justice to each individual believer present. He read a passage written by the beloved Guardian about the special significance of the Universal House of Justice and during his talk told some of the highlights of what was taking place in the Bahá'í world, of the victories being won and of how many countries had surpassed the goals given to them. He made special mention of the vital importance of everyone giving to the Fund, and said how much better it was to have \$100 towards which everyone had contributed, than to have \$3,000 given by a few. He called on Convention to make it a unique occasion by every single soul present placing something in the Fund box, and he told an amusing story to reinforce the bounty of universal participation in giving to the Fund. Later on Saturday night, after the Ridván Feast, the Hand spoke again, this time about the importance of the function of the Continental Boards of Counsellors, demonstrating how, with the passing of the Guardian, no more Hands of the Cause could be appointed, and how the Universal House of Justice had created the Boards of Counsellors gradually to take the place of the Hands.

Louis Henuzet spoke again after the Ridván celebration, this time stressing the importance of the time in which we are living, this

epoch destined to last at least 500,000 years, of how the world which rejected Bahá'u'lláh will now be forced by circumstances into accepting His Teachings. He drew our attention to the importance of living the Bahá'í Life, and of how, if we each one of us put into practice the Laws of Bahá'u'lláh, the whole world would accept the Faith much quicker.

Short talks were given by John Long and Charles Macdonald. John spoke about his experiences in Mexico and painted a vivid picture of the Bahá'ís there and the work they are doing in a part of the world very different from ours. Charles spoke about the bounties to the whole of Ireland, both Bahá'í and non-Bahá'í, of having a National Assembly, and he urged the believers to give the new NSA every support and to try at all times to maintain complete unity.

After this more serious part of Saturday evening came the usual music, but this time with a difference. This was supplied by the Limerick Bahá'ís who came to the front of the hall, sat down on the floor and invited all those who wished to join them to do the same. Many of the well known Bahá'í songs were sung, but in addition several most beautiful new songs which were very sweet and of a spiritual nature, full of the haunting, lilting melodies associated with Ireland. Listening to these young people was an experience few of us will ever forget and on this wonderful note ended a most historic and soul-stirring day.

Consultation by the delegates took place on both Saturday and Sunday but Sunday morning was left free so that two things could take place. Firstly the newly elected National Assembly was holding its second meeting at which members of the NSA of the United Kingdom were invited to be present. Whilst history was being made thus, the rest of the friends and visitors were able to board a coach and visit the resting place of Hand of the Cause, George Townsend.

As Sunday afternoon passed we all knew that the time was coming when we must disperse to our various communities, the visitors back once again to the United Kingdom. Before the Convention drew to a close Lady Hornell was asked to say a few words, and she spoke of her early years pioneering in Belfast and of the joy she was feeling to see the results in the South which had been started in the North. During this period mention was made of Stan Wrouth, the pioneer from the home country who had passed away in Ireland so soon after starting pioneering there.

Thanks were made to the Universal House of Justice, to the Hand of the Cause, Bill Sears, to the Board of Counsellors, to the members of the United Kingdom National Assembly and to all the friends who had supported this glorious occasion. Those of us who were present will never forget this Convention, will never forget the love which was manifested, will never forget the unity and the great joy of the Bahá'ís gathered there. We all prayed that the Convention to be held in London would manifest the same tremendous spirit as this unique Irish one and we left feeling all of these things in our hearts.

Hand of the Cause Bill Sears closed Convention, and all present especially the young new Bahá'ís, listened intently to his last precious words. He spoke of how if each one of us brought one person into the Faith every year this was the true meaning of mass conversion. He said he felt sure the Irish Community would go forward from victory to victory, and he ended with these words..... 'May the Army of Light go forward to win overwhelming victories, with one soul in one body, and conquer the heart of every Irishman in the land which they hold so dear'!



The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Republic of Ireland. Left to right, standing: John Turner, Jr., Joseph Watson (Vice-chairman), Margaret Magill, Patrick Dawson, Zebbie Whitehead; seated: Philip O'Brien (Treasurer), Eleanor O'Callaghan Lesley Gibson (Secretary), Adib Taherzadeh (Chairman).



Irish Convention Officers, Lesley Gibson (Secretary) and Adib Taherzadeh (Chairman), with British NSA representative Charles Macdonald. To the right of the picture, in the audience, can be seen Counsellor Louis Henuzet with Board Members Mary Kouchezkadeh and Beman Khosravi.

SALES COMMITTEE

The following Teaching and Proclamation materials have been made available from stock or on order from overseas since the Stock List of 1971 was printed.

Cassettes, each costing approximately £1.70

Bahá'í History by Firuz Kazemzadeh

Bahá'í Consultation

Deepening & Consolidation by Daniel Jordan

A commentary on the Epistle to the Son of the Wolf by Firuz Kazemzadeh

Dare to be Different; Bahá'í Morality

A commentary on the Epistle to the Son of the Wolf by Firuz Kazemzadeh.

Role of Bahá'í Youth in Today's World by Rúhíyyah Khánum
Pioneering — Challenge to Bahá'í Youth by Rúhíyyah Khánum.
Shoghi Effendi — Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith by Rúhíyyah Khánum

Keys to Harmony — A musical analogy by Daniel Jordan

Words for the World — Prayers and meditations with background music.

Role of Education; Talk by Daniel Jordan.

Education: Where do we go from here: by Dwight Allen.

God's Great Plan/Faith for Freedom — a narration by Jim Beasley.

Hear the Song of the Wind — A Bahá'í Chorus.

Can't you see the New Day, Baha'is in the South, 1970.

Enrolling the Masses — a study course by William Sears in two-cassette pack.

Youth Visiting Cards — 4 for 5p

French-Fold Stationery with picture of Wilmette and envelope — 5 for 7p

Two large colour photos of Wilmette in envelope: set of 2: 50p set.

Four large colour photos of Bahá'í Houses of Worship: set of 4: £1.00 set.

Chart reproduced from the Bahá'í Journal '19 Letters of the Living': 2 p each.

Reproduction of Bahá'í Journal photograph of 'Abdu'l-Bahá B/w 3p each.

Songbook: 'A New Wind blowing' 35p each.

Pendants (from Japan): £1.25 each.

'Greatest Name' enamel badge: 18p each

Tie stauts with enamel badge (from Japan): 60p

Unity in Diversity slide set with cassette (International Audio-Visual Production) approx. £12.00

World Order Blocks (set of 12): £1.10 per set.

Send all orders to:

British Bahá'í Sales Committee
44 Highbank,
Brighton BN1 5GB

RE-BIRTH (The night I became a Baha'i)

It was hard to die, slowly, in Salisbury Cathedral,
My faith pouring out of my soul in tears,
But, strangely, much harder in sweet Caesarea,
Umbilically strangled by torturing fears,
To struggle and wrench from my womb of a prison
And reach for the Sun of the Glorious years.

I died among dozens of wandering people
Admiring the spire or just worshipping stone.
My life trickled slowly, no watchers stood vigil,
I died as they left me, unwanted alone.
I cannot return to the glory of living
Unaided, unloved, with no guide of my own.

(The next day)

As tears,
Flowing down the deathly cheek of morning,
Unchecked, unstaunched,
The sweet pure rain of God's forgiving grace
Falls freely,
Cleansing the guilty mind,
Blessing the struggling, new-born soul,
Healing and annealing
The scars of terror-stricken night

No more alone.

Beside me on Fort Regent's heights

The lover of my soul,

My friend, my brother,

Who plucked me, with God's hand

From out the silvery metal bird

Flying above the endless cloud

That hid the earth

And buried all the errors of my past.

Together, with God's world around,

We stand and stare,

Engulfed in dazzling radiance, silver streaked.

A mist of silver and a sea of mist,

A silver sun, a bright translucent sea,

Glory around us and within.

Alone and yet as one we stand together

Poised against the wind

Like sea-gulls gliding as they sail upon the air.

Our souls, like gulls go sliding on the surface of the deep

Back to the God they serve,

His loving gift returned into His care.

And all the while, the tear-stained earth

Soaks up the Holy tears

And pretty painted homes,

And gently rocking boats,

The new-washed walls,

The roofs and roads and cars,

The jewel-laden leaves

And daisies at our feet

Reflect His glory.

Mary Connell

FARM PICNICS 1972

Only two farm picnics will be held this year, on

Sunday June 6 and

Sunday Sept 3

Please be assured of a warm welcome, bring your own sandwiches — dress how you like — come early in the day and stay late. Free tractor trailer rides for kids (big and small ones). Bring your friends for a day in the country at the home of

Alicia and Ted Cardell
Manor Farm
Gt. Paxton
St. Neots, Hunts.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

Aylesbury: Norman Bailey and Sylvia Benatar gave a most wonderful concert during which the faith was mentioned and explained.

Over 400 invitation cards, accompanied by letters of introduction about Norman and Sylvia were sent to schools, musical clubs and societies as well as prominent local people in Aylesbury and the surrounding areas, and resulted in a good attendance. Reports about the concert, mentioning the Faith appeared in both local papers. Proclamation letters, requesting interviews with headmasters for the formal presentation of the proclamation book 'The Call of Bahá'u'lláh' have so far been sent to thirty of the seventy secondary and grammar schools in Buckinghamshire. Some very encouraging replies were received and at all interviews it was mentioned that Bahá'í speakers were available to speak on 'The Bahá'í Faith' or on 'Comparative Religion'. So far, in addition to the many presentations, talks on 'The Bahá'í Faith' have also been given at two of the schools.

Chester: Unusual publicity was given to the Faith recently when Mauritian Bahá'í Anandah Thaliah won the area heat of a folk rock competition and Anandah mentioned the Faith in articles written about him following his success.



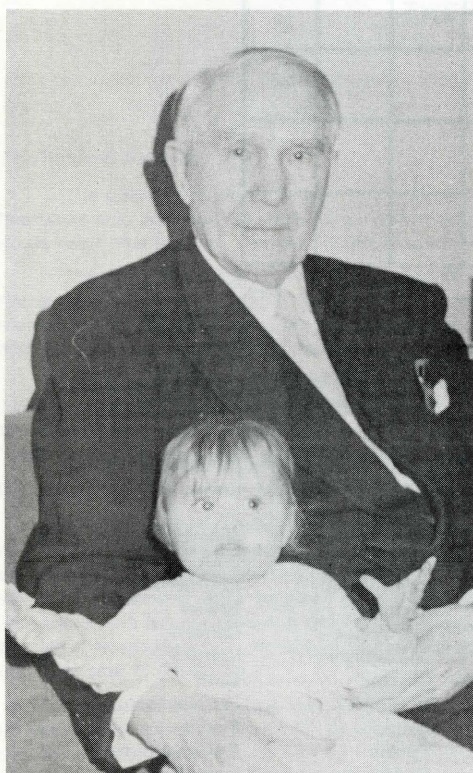
Presentation of 'The Proclamation of Baha'u'llah' to the Mayor of Torbay, Miss A.G. Illingworth with the Mayoress, Mrs. C. Thurley (centre of picture) by members of the Torbay community.

Stornoway: The teaching work in Lewis has taken several new and exciting forms. In order to take the Message of Bahá'u'lláh throughout the length and breadth of Lewis, the youth plan to walk through the villages (approximately seventy), seeking opportunities of meeting the villagers. The island has been divided into four regions, one for each of our youth. This plan is already in operation.

On Friday, 3 March, the Bahá'ís attended Women's World Day of Prayer. It was the first time that Bahá'ís had been welcomed by the local churches and had joined with them in worship. The World Day of Prayer provided an opportunity for a representative of the Spiritual Assembly to meet the minister in whose church the service was held. A request for permission for the Bahá'ís to attend the service resulted in a two hour discussion on many aspects of the Faith, during which the minister produced and read from one of his Bahá'í Prayer books!

WINCHESTER: Extension teaching in Southampton was arranged by the Winchester Bahá'ís just over a year ago and resulted, at Ridgvan, in the formation of the local assembly. Similar extension teaching is now taking place at Romsey. In April, two slide shows were given, one to the Over Sixty Club and the other at a public meeting. In March Norman Bailey and Sylvia Schulman (Benatar) gave a wonderful concert at King Alfred College, the music being preceded by a short history of the Bahá'í Faith and its Principles and Teachings. They were joined at the close of the concert by the audience and a young choir group from Southampton, singing Bahá'í songs and prayers. A very big thank you, Norman and Sylvia.

Winchester is a corporate member of the local branch of the United Nations Association and recently presented the books "The Call of Bahá'u'lláh" and "Tomorrow and Tomorrow" to the chairman and secretary, when the Faith was discussed for over an hour. At a recent general meeting of the United Nations branch, the chairman told the audience of about sixty members that "the Winchester Bahá'ís had presented the local branch officers, and notables of the city, with two Bahá'í books". She held them up and recommended that every member should read them and stated that the members of the Bahá'í Faith and the United Nations must work hand in hand to try to bring about the unity of nations and world peace.



The oldest and the youngest pioneers to the Faroe Islands — Knight of Bahá'u'lláh Eskil Ljungberg and Catherine Hines.

Faroe Islands: Eightyfour years between our youngest and oldest active members in the community! Can any other community beat this record? Anyone wishing to witness this interesting phenomenon at closer range are heartily invited for a short or extended travel teaching period!

The Faroe Islands are situated half way between the North of Scotland and Iceland and enjoy a mild climate due to the proximity of the gulf stream. The islands are very picturesque and are well worth a visit. The Bahá'í community is small but active and is looking forward to youth projects in the summer. More information about the Faroes can be obtained from Mrs. Margaret Hines, Niels Finsensgøta 46, 3800 Torshavn, Faroe Islands, Via Denmark or Telephone (continental services) Faroe Islands 13204 or 13146.

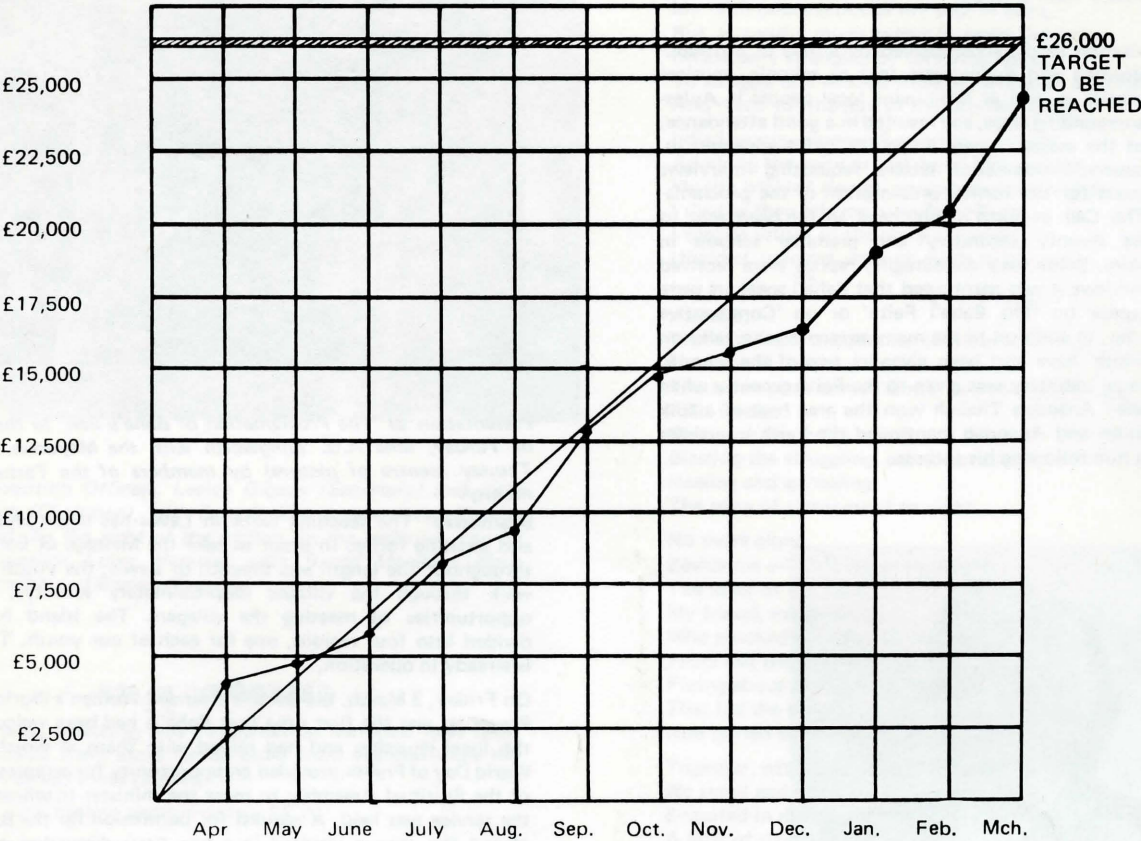
A new air service linking the Scottish islands with the Faroes is now in operation at a very reasonable cost. This means that teachers are now able to travel through Scotland to Kirkwall and thence to Faroes and return.



Friends attending Unit Convention No. 12 held at Bedford.

LIFEBLOOD OF THE CAUSE

Rate of Contributions



THE FUND

There are three ways to make contributions to the FUND

- 1 Directly to the National Treasurer:—

Mrs. Betty Goode
8 Knowle Road,
Stafford.
Tel. Stafford 62157

- 2 By Bank Giro, directly to the Bank, which is

The National Westminster Bank
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3

Our account no. is 18188443

- 3 By Post Office Giro, Our number is 43 301 4008.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- A All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to 'NSA of the Baha'is'; please **NOT** to 'Betty Goode'.
- B They should be crossed.
- C It is not wise to send paper money or any money through the post unless it is registered.
- D Receipts are sent automatically for money sent directly to the National Treasurer, unless the donor specifically requests that one not be sent. With the increasing numbers of friends, it helps the Treasurer if a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for the receipt. It really does save much work and is greatly appreciated. Receipts are not issued for Giro payments.

PAYMENTS BY COVENANT

These are handled by Mr. John Morphew
41 High Street,
Hoddeston,
Herts.

Please contact him directly.

FOR THE PERSIAN FRIENDS

Huqúq'u'lláh payments are handled by

Mr. John Long
2 South Street,
Oakham
Rutland.

Spiritual Assemblies and Groups who have contributed to the Fund.

26th January — 20th March

Aberdeen	Aberystwyth	Aylesbury
Bangor (N.Ireland)	Bangor (Wales)	Bath
Bedford	Birmingham	Bournemouth
Brent	Brighton	Bristol
Burnley	Cambridge	Camden
Carlisle	Canterbury	Cardiff
Cheadle & Gatley	Chester	Cork
Croydon	Dublin	Dumbarton
Durham	Ealing	Eccles
Edinburgh	Epsom	Epsom children
Exeter	Gt.Manchester area	Hamilton
Harringey	Havant	Harrow
Hereford	Hindley	Hove
Hounslow	Inverness	Jersey
Kendal	Kendal Youth	Kensington & Chelsea
Kirkwall	Larne R.D.	Leeds
Leicester	Lerwick	Limerick
Lisburn	Liverpool	Londonderry
Malta	Manchester	Manchester Youth
Motherwell	Motherwell children	Nelson
Nottingham	Oxford	Poole
Portsmouth	Reading	Ryde
Scarisbrick	Sheffield	Shrewsbury
Southampton	Southport	Stafford
Stockport	Stornoway	St. Andrews
St. Austell	Sutton Coldfield	Swansea
Torbay	Wandsworth	Watford
Wokingham R.D.		

National Treasurer,
Betty Goode, 8 Knowle Road, Stafford