



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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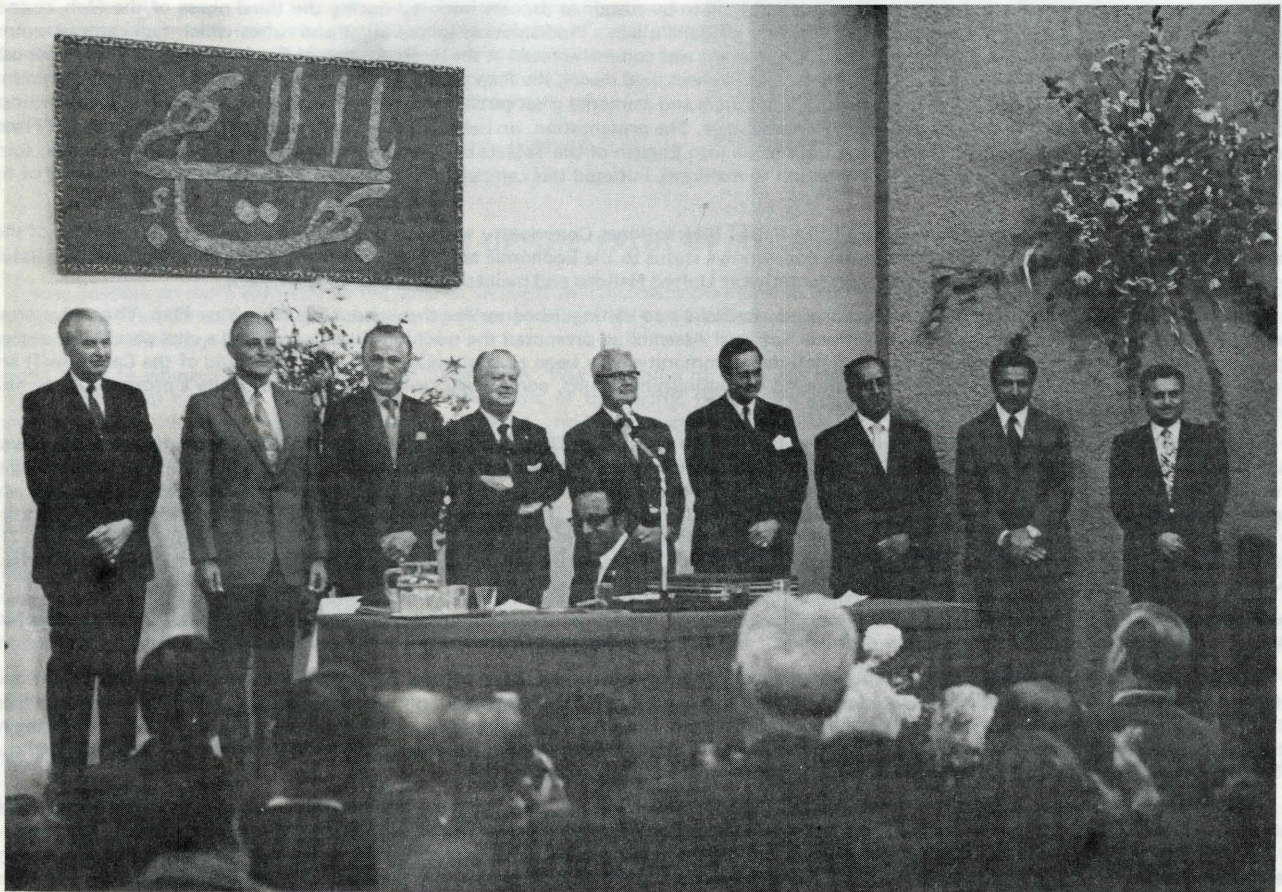
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Rahmat 130

June 1973

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE



Members of the Universal House of Justice. Left to right: Hugh E. Chance, David S. Ruhe, H. Borrah Kavelin, Charles Wolcott, David Hofman, Ian Semple, Amoz Gibson, Hushmand Fatheazam and 'Alí Nakhjavani.

RIDVÁN MESSAGE

We announce with joyful and thankful hearts the completion in overwhelming victory of the world-encircling Nine Year Plan. The Army of Light has won its second global campaign; it has surpassed the goals set for expansion and has achieved a truly impressive degree of universal participation, the twin objectives of the Plan. With gratitude and love we testify to the unceasing confirmations which Bahá'u'lláh has showered upon His servants, enabling each and every one of us to offer Him some part of the labour, the devotion, the sacrifice, the supplication which He has so bountifully rewarded. At this Centenary of the Revelation of the Most Holy Book, the Community of the Most Great Name lays its tribute of victory at His feet, acknowledging that it is He Who has bestowed it.

The Cause of God at the end of the Nine Year Plan is immensely more widespread, more firmly founded, and its own international relations more closely knit than in 1964 when the Plan was launched. Ninety-five new territories have been opened to the Faith; the 69 National Spiritual Assemblies which shouldered the world community's task have become 113, 5 more than called for. These embryonic secondary Houses of Justice are supported by more than 17,000 Local Spiritual Assemblies, 3,000 in excess of the goal and 12,000 more than at the beginning of the Plan. Bahá'ís reside in 69,500 localities, 15,000 more than called for, and 54,000 more than in 1964. Bahá'í literature has been translated into 225 more languages bringing the total number to 571; 63 Temple sites, 56 National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, and 62 National Endowments have been acquired bringing the total numbers of these properties to 98, 112 and 104 respectively; 50 Teaching Institutes and Summer and Winter Schools are playing their part in Bahá'í education and 15 Publishing Trusts produce Bahá'í literature in major languages of the world. The Mother Temple of Latin America has been built and dedicated. Among those goals whose achievement is dependent on favourable circumstances outside our control are the incorporation of Assemblies and recognition of Bahá'í Holy Days. It is gratifying to record that 90 National Spiritual Assemblies and 1,556 Local Spiritual Assemblies — 181 more than the total number called for — are incorporated, while Bahá'í Holy Days are recognized in 64 countries and Bahá'í certification of marriage in 40.

This great expansion of the Faith required an army of international pioneers. Two major calls were raised, for 461 and 733, which together with others for particular posts made an overall total of 1,344. The Community of the Most Great Name responded with 3,553 who actually left their homes, 2,265 of whom are still at their posts.

At the World Centre of the Faith the collation and classification of the Bahá'í Sacred Scriptures and of the writings of Shoghi Effendi have been carried forward in ever increasing volume, a task supported and enriched by the labours of a special committee appointed by the Persian National Spiritual Assembly. The material at the World Centre includes some 2,600 original Tablets by Bahá'u'lláh, 6,000 by 'Abdu'l-Bahá and 2,300 letters of Shoghi Effendi. There are in addition some 18,000 authenticated copies of other such Tablets and letters. All these have been studied, important passages from them excerpted and classified, and the subject matter indexed under 400 general headings.

A Synopsis and Codification of the Laws and Ordinances of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas — completing the considerable progress made by the beloved Guardian in this task — is being published on the Centenary of the Revelation of the Most Holy Book, which, as already announced, is to be celebrated both in the Holy Land and throughout the Bahá'í world during this Ridván.

The Constitution of the Universal House of Justice, hailed by Shoghi Effendi as the Most Great Law of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, has been formulated and published.

The gardens in Bahjí and on Mount Carmel have been significantly extended and plans have been approved for the befitting development and beautification of the entire area of Bahá'í property surrounding the Holy Shrines in Bahjí and Haifa.

The world-wide proclamation of the Faith, an intensive and long-to-be-sustained process initiated during the third phase of the Plan, opened in October 1967 with the commemoration of the Centenary of Bahá'u'lláh's Proclamation to the kings and rulers which had centred around His revelation of the Súriy-i-Mulúk in Adrianople. This historic event was commemorated at six Intercontinental Conferences held simultaneously around the planet. A further nine Oceanic and Continental Conferences held during the Plan gave great impetus to this proclamation programme. The fifteen Conferences were attended by nearly 17,000 believers and attracted great publicity by press and radio and were made the occasion of acquainting dignitaries and notabilities with the Divine Message. The presentation, on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, to 142 Heads of State, of a specially produced book containing the translation into English of the Tablets and passages of Scripture in which Bahá'u'lláh, some hundred years before, had issued His mighty Proclamation to mankind, initiated this campaign, which will continue long beyond the end of the Nine Year Plan.

The outstanding development in the relationship of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations was the accreditation of that Community as a non-governmental organization with consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The Bahá'í International Community now has a permanent representative at United Nations and maintains an office in New York.

The loved and revered Hands of the Cause have rendered sacrificial and distinguished service throughout the Nine Year Plan. They have, in all parts of the world, inspired the friends, assisted National Spiritual Assemblies, promoted the teaching work and played a vital part in the success of the Plan. The lagging fortunes of more than one national community have been revolutionized by a visit of a Hand of the Cause; swift and energetic action, inspired by the Hand, has been followed by astonishing results, completely reversing that community's prospects. They have added distinguished works to the literature of the Faith.

The goal of the Plan to develop "The institution of the Hands of the Cause of God, in consultation with the body of the Hands of the Cause, with a view to the extension into the future of its appointed functions of protection and propagation", was accomplished in stages, leading to the establishment of eleven Continental Boards of Counsellors, whose members were appointed by the Universal House of Justice and who assumed responsibility for the Auxiliary Boards for protection and propagation. The beloved Hands no longer remained individually identified with any particular continent — except insofar as their residence was concerned — but extended their sphere of action to the whole planet. The Continental Boards of Counsellors, advised and guided by the Hands of the Cause of God and working in close collaboration with them, have already, in their brief period of office, performed outstanding and distinguished services.

Three highly portentous developments have taken place during the Nine Year Plan, namely, the advance of youth to the forefront of the teaching work, a great increase in the financial resources of the Faith, and an astonishing proliferation of inter-National Assembly assistance projects.

The first, the heartwarming upsurge of Bahá'í youth, has changed the face of the teaching work; impenetrable barriers have been broken or over-passed by eager teams of young Bahá'ís, dedicated and prayerful, presenting the Divine Message in ways acceptable to their own generation from which it has spread and is spreading throughout the social structure. The entire Bahá'í world has been thrilled by this development. Having rejected the values and standards of the old world, Bahá'í youth are eager to learn and adapt themselves to the standards of Bahá'u'lláh and so to offer the Divine Programme to fill the gap left by the abandonment of the old order.

The vast increase in the financial resources of the Faith called for under the Plan has evoked a heartwarming response from the entire Bahá'í community. Not only the Bahá'í International Fund but the local, national and continental Funds of the Faith have been sacrificially supported. This practical proof of the love which the friends bear for the Faith has enabled all the work to go forward — the support of pioneers and travelling teachers, the raising of Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs and acquisition of Bahá'í properties, the purchase of Holy Places in the Cradle of the Faith and at the World Centre, the development of educational institutions and all the multifarious activities of a vigorous, onward-marching, constructive world community. It is of interest that sixty percent of the international funds of the Faith is used to assist the work of National Spiritual Assemblies, to promote the teaching work and to defend the Cause against attacks in many parts of the world. Without such help from the Bahá'í world community many National Assemblies would be paralyzed in their efforts of expansion and deepening. The administration of Huququ'lláh has been strengthened in preparation for its extension to other parts of the world. An International Deputization Fund was established at the World Centre to assist pioneers and travelling teachers who were ready to serve but unable to provide their own expenses, and this Fund was later extended to the support of projects on national homefronts. Contribution to the Fund is a service which will never cease to be open to all believers; the growth of the Faith and the rise of its Administrative Order require an ever-increasing outpouring of our substance, commensurate in however small a measure with the bounty and liberality of the outpouring confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh.

When the Plan was launched 219 assistance projects were specified whereby national communities would render financial, pioneering or teaching aid to others, generally remote from them geographically. The intention was to strengthen the bonds of unity between distant parts of the Bahá'í world with different social, cultural and historical backgrounds. At the end of the Plan more than 600 such projects had been carried out. Inter-community co-operation has been further developed in the field of publishing Bahá'í literature, notably in Spanish and French and the languages of Africa. A vast field of fruitful endeavour lies open in this respect.

In some countries due to lack of freedom, to actual repression in others, to legal and physical obstacles in yet others, certain particular goals — mainly those requiring incorporation or recognition — could not be won. Foreseeing this, the Universal House of Justice called upon national communities in lands where there is freedom to practise and promote the Faith, to exceed their own goals and thus ensure that the overall goals would be won. It has proved still impossible to begin work on the erection of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in Tíhrán, but contracts have been signed for the preparation of detailed drawings, geological surveys are being made, and everything made ready for immediate action whenever the situation in Persia becomes propitious.

During the period of the Nine Year Plan a number of important and interesting events, not directly associated with it, have taken place. First and foremost was the commemoration, in the precincts of the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world, of the centenary of the arrival at the prison-city of 'Akka, as foretold in former Scriptures, of the Promised One of all ages.

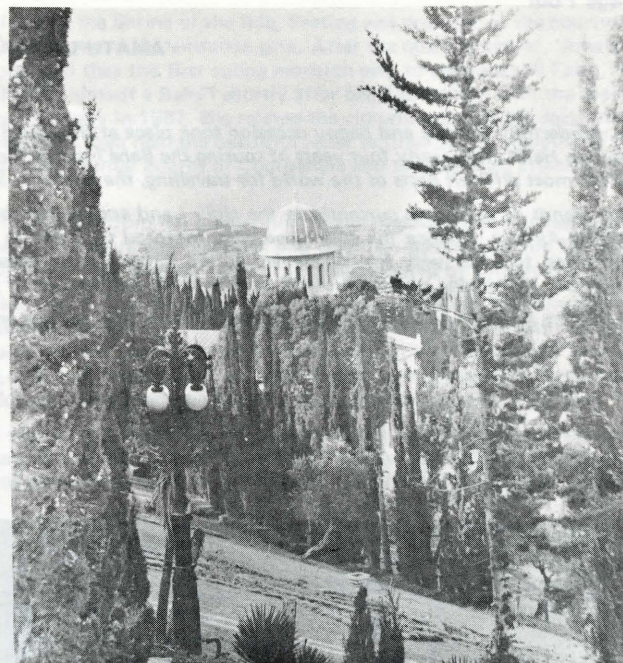
The Mansion of Mazra'ih, often referred to by the beloved Guardian as one of the "twin mansions" in which the Blessed Beauty resided after nine years within the walled prison-city of 'Akka, and dear to the hearts of the believers by reason of its associations with their Lord, has at last been purchased together with 24,000 square metres of land extending into the plain on its eastward side.

The raising of the obelisk, marking the site of the future Mashriqu'l-Adhkár on Mount Carmel, completes a project initiated by the beloved Guardian.

The decision has been made and announced to the Bahá'í world, and the initial steps have been taken for the erection on Mount Carmel, at a site on the Arc as purposed by Shoghi Effendi, of the building which shall serve as the Seat of the Universal House of Justice.

The progress of the Cause of God gathers increasing momentum and we may with confidence look forward to the day when this Community, in God's good time, shall have traversed the stages predicated for it by its Guardian, and shall have raised on this tormented planet the fair mansions of God's Own Kingdom wherein humanity may find surcease from its self-induced confusion and chaos and ruin, and the hatreds and violence of this time shall be transmuted into an abiding sense of world brotherhood and peace. All this shall be accomplished within the Covenant of the everlasting Father, the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh.

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE



A new picture of the Shrine of the Báb

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FAITH BY REIGNING MONARCH

It is now possible to share with you all the news of an event which crowns the victories with which Bahá'u'lláh has blessed His followers during the Nine Year Plan, an event of which the true significance will be fully understood only in the course of centuries to come: a reigning monarch has accepted the Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

Among those to whom "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh" was presented in 1967 was His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II, the Head of State of the independent nation of Western Samoa in the heart of the Pacific Ocean. His Highness, who had already heard of the Faith, showed immediately that the sacred Words had touched his heart, and the Universal House of Justice thereupon asked the Hand of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery, who had presented the book to him, to return to Western Samoa for further audiences with His Highness. Following this visit the Malietoa conveyed his acceptance of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh to the Universal House of Justice and became the first reigning sovereign to enter beneath the shade of this Cause.

His Highness decided, with the full agreement of the Universal House of Justice, that it was not propitious to make his declaration public at that time. He has been visited from time to time by Hands of the Cause and other believers, and continual touch with His Highness has been maintained by the House of Justice through Mr Suhayl 'Ala'i, a member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for Australasia. Gradually the Malietoa has let it be known to those around him that he has accepted Bahá'u'lláh. Now he has judged the time ripe to share this wondrous news with his fellow-believers in all parts of the world, by addressing to the International Bahá'í Convention the gracious and inspiring message of which a copy is enclosed with this letter.

The friends everywhere are asked to strictly avoid any publicity to non-Bahá'ís in connection with this historic event. If any publicity is to be given to this most joyous news, it will be given by National Spiritual Assemblies after they have received appropriate instructions from the Universal House of Justice.

7 May 1973

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

NSA NOTE:

Under no circumstances is this information to be made public or used for publicity until clearance is received from The Universal House of Justice.

Letter from His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II:

GOVERNMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF WESTERN SAMOA

Office of the Head of State
Vailima,
Western Samoa
March 31, 1973

Greatly esteemed members of the Universal House of Justice,
much admired Hands of the Cause of God, respected Counsellors,
and honoured delegates attending the Third International Convention

My spiritual Brethren:

It is a joy for me and for my fellow Bahá'ís of the Samoan Islands in the heart of the Pacific, to be with you in spirit and with the friends of God throughout the world, in celebrating this most significant first century of the revelation of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Most Holy Book of Bahá'u'lláh.

We pray for the success of the historic convention now being held in the shadow of the Mountain of God in the Holy Land. Although we are unable to be with you in person on this memorable occasion, our hearts share with you these never to be forgotten days and the knowledge of the tremendous victories won for the Faith of God.

To the north, to the south, to the east and to the west, to the most populous and to the most remote places, we send our fond greetings and cherished love. May the spirit created by your gathering at the Holy Shrines pave the way for the rapid establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth and the unity of all the peoples of the world.

Alofa tele atu lava matou uma-i Samoa nei.

Malietoa Tanumafili II

'AMATU'L-BAHÁ RÚHÍYYIH KHÁNÚM RETURNS HOME

A wonderfully moving and happy occasion took place at the World Centre on Tuesday evening, 3 April, when beloved Rúhíyyih Khánúm came back to Haifa after nearly four years of touring the Bahá'í world. Her great teaching journeys, as the friends know, have taken her through some of the most difficult parts of the world for travelling, the Andes of South America and most lately through thirty-four countries of Africa.

The Hands of the Cause currently in the Holy Land and all members of the Universal House of Justice met 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm at Lod Airport, whence the entire company motored to Haifa. In the Pilgrim House an expectant and happy group of pilgrims from fifteen countries, together with friends serving at the World Centre, awaited the distinguished traveller. Her arrival was greeted with spontaneous applause, the singing of Alláh-u-Abhá and manifest expressions of delight and love.

Rúhíyyih Khánúm lovingly greeted the friends and then led the entire group to the Sacred Shrines.



THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Sixteen Hands of the Cause of God, thirty-eight members of Continental Boards of Counsellors and 412 members of National Spiritual Assemblies from the far corners of the earth gathered in the Holy Land during the Riqvân Festival to attend the Third International Bahá'í Convention. It was a thrilling sight to see the wide diversity of nations and races represented. Many were heard to comment that this was, perhaps, one of the most representative gatherings of believers ever held.

The three days immediately preceding the Ninth Day of Riqvân were set aside to give the friends an opportunity to visit the Shrines, the other Holy Places and the International Archives. They were taken by bus in small groups to the Prison in 'Akká and then to Bahjí where they visited the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh and the Mansion. The Shrines of the Báb and the Master were kept open during the morning, afternoon and evening of each day so that delegates might have the opportunity to meditate and pray as much as they wished in preparation for the discharge of their most important duty: the casting of their ballots in the election of the members of the Universal House of Justice.

During this same period the Universal House of Justice and the Hands of the Cause of God held important meetings concerning the affairs of the Cause, including consideration of new institutions to deal with the anticipated rapid expansion of the Faith in the years immediately ahead. The three-day Convention period was officially opened on the morning of the Ninth Day of Riqvân when the delegates assembled at Beit Harofe in Haifa to cast their ballots in the election of the Universal House of Justice. 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm presided. Prayers were recited or chanted in several languages. Silently, deliberately and prayerfully the ballots were marked and sealed in their envelopes. When all had finished, the roll was called by name of National Spiritual Assembly — one hundred and thirteen of them.

Circumstances beyond their control prevented fourteen National Spiritual Assemblies from being represented in person, but there was at least one delegate from each of the remaining ninety-nine, and the entire membership of five National Spiritual Assemblies — Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom — was present. It required approximately one hour and thirty minutes for the chief tellers to call the names of the one thousand seventeen members of National Spiritual Assemblies — a process which was frequently punctuated with spontaneous applause in recognition of some special fact or circumstance attaching to a particular delegation. Ballots sent by mail were cast by the tellers during the roll call. Finally the last ballot was placed in the box and the nineteen tellers retired to the Master's House to begin the long process of counting the votes — a task which lasted through the night into the early hours of the following morning.

The Feast in observance of the Ninth Day of Riḡvān was held in the precincts of the Shrine of the Báb. Seating was provided in the courtyard in front of the Pilgrim House, extending more than half-way up the long drive toward the entrance gate. After the opening prayer, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum, on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, announced that the first ruling monarch ever to embrace the Faith, His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II, Head of State of Western Samoa, had declared himself a Bahá'í shortly after being presented with the special edition of "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh" by the Hand of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery in 1967. She related the circumstances of his declaration and spoke of its historic significance, citing several passages from the Writings. She then read the beautiful letter written by the Malietoa to the Universal House of Justice, the Hands of the Cause of God, the members of Continental Boards of Counsellors and the delegates attending the Third International Convention.

A committee was appointed by the Universal House of Justice to draft an official reply from the Convention to His Highness, and this was signed by the members of the Universal House of Justice, the Hands of the Cause, Counsellors and delegates and given to members of the National Spiritual Assembly of Samoa for presentation to the Malietoa when they returned to their country which has been favoured by this great bounty.

In the evening following the Feast the friends reassembled in the Convention hall to hear the Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga read the Riḡvān Message of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World — a Message recounting the victories of the Nine Year Plan which had just been concluded. A slide programme entitled "Entry by Troops" produced by the Audio-Visual Department for the Convention visually supplemented the written report on the Nine Year Plan. That same evening copies of "A Synopsis and Codification of the Laws and Ordinances of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas" and of "The Constitution of the Universal House of Justice" were made available to those attending the Convention.

The proceedings for the second day of the Convention were opened by a visit to the site above the Arc on Mount Carmel where the building for the Seat of the Universal House of Justice is to be erected in the near future. Prayers were said on that spot, 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum spoke of the significance of the developments on the Arc, and the Tablet of Carmel was read. Just before the friends departed for Beit Harofe, the official Convention photograph was taken.

Rúhíyyih Khánum addressed the Convention on the theme of the Convention: "What are the major challenges to the Bahá'í world during the next decade and how are they to be met?" She spoke of the paramount importance of unity in promoting the growth of the Faith, of the need for the feeling of oneness at all levels and in the relationship of the institutions of the Faith to each other. She drew frequently from her experiences in travelling and teaching in Africa, speaking of her meetings with heads of state and other important people, and stating that during the latter part of her trip she had begun to speak much more directly to them about the spiritual aspects of the Cause but at the same time avoiding a direct confrontation in presenting the teachings.

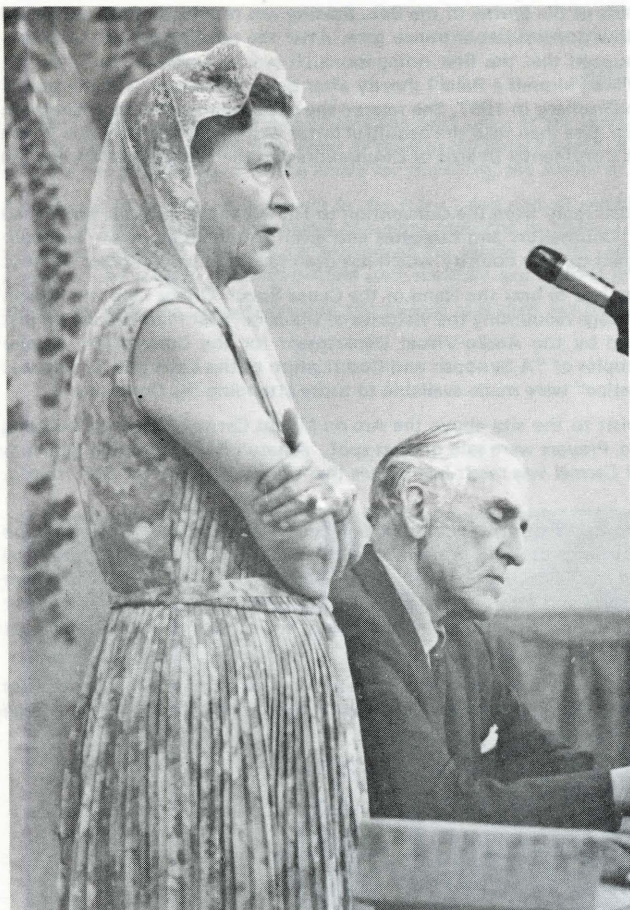
At the conclusion of Rúhíyyih Khánum's talk, the chief tellers were called to the platform to announce the results of the election for the members of the Universal House of Justice. One by one, as their names were called, the newly elected members went forward and stood before the huge assembly:

'Ali Nakhjavani
Hushmand Fatheazam
Amoz Gibson
Ian Semple
David Hofman
Charles Wolcott
Borrah Kavelin
David Ruhe
Hugh Chance

During the afternoon and evening hours the delegates were divided into groups to discuss the theme of the Convention: "What are the major challenges to the Bahá'í world during the next decade and how are they to be met?" Reports were assembled, condensed and correlated so that all the friends could be provided with an overview of all the discussions, and during the last day of the Convention two plenary sessions were held, providing the delegates with a further opportunity to consult on the Convention theme.



Third International Bahá'í Convention — The friends gathered at the site of the building to be erected for the seat of the Universal House of Justice on Monday morning, 30 April 1973. Prayers were recited: 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum spoke about the significance of the project, and the Tablet of Carmel was read.



'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum addresses the first consultative session of the Third International Bahá'í Convention on Monday 30 April 1973. Hand of the Cause John Roberts chaired the session.



Ninth Day of Ridván Feast



Devotional in the gardens at Bahjí for the Twelfth Day of Ridván. 450 people sat in two rows of chairs along almost a quarter of the circle around the Shrine.

Opening the final session the Hand of the Cause Ugo Giachery alluded to the great celebration of the Centenary of the Revelation of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas which was to be held the following day. He introduced the Hand of the Cause William Sears who closed the Convention with an eloquent and inspiring address on the need for co-operative effort in the advancement of the Cause. He said that frequently he had travelled great distances just to meet with one Continental Board of Counsellors or a National Spiritual Assembly, but that most of them were represented here and he could address them all at once. He spoke of the great need for these two exalted institutions to combine their efforts.

To the strains of "Alláh-u-Abhá" the friends slowly dispersed from the hall, remembering what the Hand of the Cause John Roberts had said earlier, "None of us will ever be the same again. We must take all of the blessings to our own communities. If we do, the Faith will go ahead as never before".

The Twelfth Day of Ridván was entirely given over to the celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh's Most Holy Book — the Kitáb-i-Aqdas. The friends visited the very room in the House of 'Abbud where it was revealed, and in the afternoon assembled in the Ḥaram-i-Aqdas at Bahjí for the Feast. The Hands of the Cause and the members of the Universal House of Justice were the last to visit the House of 'Abbud and to offer prayers in that holy spot, and then they joined the believers at Bahjí. The final act of the observance was the visitation to the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.



Hand of the Cause William Sears delivering the closing address of the International Convention. (Beit Harofe, Haifa, 1 May 1973)

NON-BAHÁ'Í CHARITIES

The following guidance from The Universal House of Justice has recently been given to a local Assembly:

Your letter of 14 February, 1973, raises a number of related subjects.

First there is the principle that any believer may sell personal services or property to anyone and do with the proceeds as he wishes, including giving any or all of them to Bahá'í purposes. Thus if a Bahá'í concert artist gives a concert to which admission is charged, he is free, if he so wishes, to give the money so earned to the Fund or to any charity of his choice. In giving the concert, however, he should not represent to non-Bahá'ís that the concert is for the benefit of the Bahá'í Fund or is given on behalf of Bahá'ís for a charity, which brings us to the second principle; that it is improper for Bahá'ís to solicit funds from non-Bahá'ís in the name of the Faith for any purpose. If a non-Bahá'í insists on making a monetary contribution it may be accepted with the express understanding that it will be used only for charitable or philanthropic purposes, but such contributions should be discouraged, not encouraged.

The third principle concerns contributions made to charity by Bahá'ís themselves. Spiritual Assemblies are, of course, permitted to make contributions to charity — indeed care of the poor and needy is one of the duties assigned to them in the Bahá'í Writings — but they must weigh their responsibilities very carefully and remember that in a highly organised country like the United Kingdom the poor are helped by a multitude of agencies, both governmental and private, whereas only the Bahá'ís can contribute towards the building of the Kingdom of God on earth. This, clearly, is a matter for wise moderation. Assemblies, moreover, should perform their charitable works with a pure motive, and not with the thought of propagandizing for the Faith.

An individual Bahá'í is, of course, free to contribute to charity from his own resources if he wishes, but as a Bahá'í he should bear in mind the needs of the Bahá'í Fund, which only believers can support.

19 March, 1973 THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

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 Bahá'ís; 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**
19a 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.

BAHÁ'Í HOSPITALITY

With the ever increasing numbers in the Bahá'í Community, and stepped up travel and activity, it is time to examine the limits of Bahá'í hospitality.

Bahá'u'lláh has told us to "... be a home for the stranger. ... be a treasure to the poor. ... an answerer to the cry of the needy. ..." This is a direct command to each of us as much as the command against fault finding; and similarly our obedience to it is only between ourselves and God — to fulfil it each in our own way, according to our understanding, in a variety of methods and means at our disposal. We see how vitally it serves to nourish and strengthen the love between the friends.

So that none shall presume that others' hospitality is his due, Bahá'u'lláh has tempered the command to the giver with one to the receiver: 'No man shall enter the house of his friend save at his friend's pleasure, nor lay hands upon his treasure, nor prefer his own will to his friend's, and in no wise to seek advantage over him. ...' Thus we see that hospitality is made the prerogative of the host and not of the guest; for each to give but for none to demand nor in the least way expect for himself.

Common courtesy would dictate that an individual would not impose himself upon anyone without prior invitation, and in view of Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings, Bahá'ís should be far more courteous than others.

In a wider sense hospitality can be seen to be not only a sharing of one's home and material goods, but also of one's self, one's time, energy, love; and in this day and age, a sharing of the knowledge of God revealed by Bahá'u'lláh. Indeed, is it not more important to give spiritual food to the spiritually poor; divine guidance to the morally and intellectually needy; the shelter of Bahá'u'lláh's love to every searching, wandering stranger?

To be truly hospitable let us strive foremost to share our treasure of faith with all who are yet deprived and seek in every way to advance the Divine Kingdom and Promulgate the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh?

Reprinted from the Alaska Bahá'í News, No. 50.

WARNING — COVENANT BREAKER

John Falk, of Costa Rica, who is an Esperantist, is presenting himself as a Bahá'í representative to various Esperantist Associations. He is a Covenant breaker and must be completely shunned and avoided by all Bahá'ís.

NATIONAL CONVENTION – 130

report by Lois Hainsworth

St. George's Hall
Liverpool

19/20 May 1973

This most joyous Convention, whose relaxed atmosphere throughout was similar to that of a teaching conference, was held for the first time in Liverpool in a most beautiful hall which had been built especially for the performance of music, and whose design incorporated the numbers nine, nineteen and ninety-five. Indeed, so closely did the hall radiate the feelings of fellowship felt by the Bahá'ís that the Convention Chairman at one point remarked that the Liverpool Bahá'ís should consider acquiring it as a Bahá'í Centre!! It was even said that the Master, during His visit to Liverpool, spoke in that same building.

Those present who had been at the Convention in 1963, when the goals of the Ten Year Crusade had been achieved, could not but compare the difference between the two Conventions. Despite the victories and the joy in 1963 of having the very first Universal House of Justice, there was the overshadowing deep sadness of having lost, only six years before, our beloved Guardian, and no joyful elation could ever assuage that loss. In 1973, this loss lies yet ten years further behind us, and the joy of the achievement of the goals set by the Universal House of Justice in their very first Nine Year Plan was not choked by a too near sadness of bereavement.

Convention was opened by John Long, Chairman of the outgoing National Assembly, who welcomed the assembled delegates, Board Members and visitors, with an especial welcome for Counsellors Betty Reed of Europe and Aziz Yazdi of Central and East Africa. He said that this was the first time for ten years that we were not concerned with achieving goals and that we should marshal ourselves so that we would be ready to meet the challenges of the Plan which would be given to us in 1974.

The roll was called of the ninety-five delegates from twenty units, not all of whom were present at that time, and Convention Officers were elected as follows:—

Convention Chairman:	Patrick Green
Convention Vice-Chairman:	Philip Hainsworth
Convention Secretary:	Charles Macdonald

The Supplementary Annual Report, a copy of which follows this report, was read by Charles Macdonald and consultation upon the Annual Report followed. It was noted that no Treasurer's Report had been included in the printed report and it was made clear that this had been submitted by Betty Goode but had not been printed. A copy of this follows the Supplementary Annual Report. A question was also raised about the numbering of items in the National Plan and a correction to pages three and four of the Annual Report appears on Page Eleven of this Journal.

The session for the Counsellors was opened by Counsellor Betty Reed, who spoke most movingly of the International Convention and compared it with those held five and ten years ago. At the first of these, only fifty-six National Assemblies were in existence — now there are 113. She said that she felt the point at which humanity was united was in 1963, when the Universal House of Justice was elected and the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh received its crown, and Bahá'ís of all races and backgrounds gathered together in London — that was the point when world unity was called into being; after that, it was just a matter of expanding.

She spoke of the perfect setting in which the Convention took place, of the lovely gardens of the Haram-i-Aqdas and of the added landscaping which had increased the beauty of the site; she gave details of the visit of the delegates and visitors to the site where the Universal House of Justice building is to be erected, of the very short service of dedication and the recitation of the Tablet of Carmel, and expressed the hope that many British Bahá'ís will make the pilgrimage, especially young people, who could take advantage of the cheap travel facilities accorded to students. It is a great blessing, not only for those who make the pilgrimage, but for the communities from which they come and to which they return. In Haifa, the Counsellor told us, all were deeply conscious that the world is one and that their consultations ranged over the entire globe; the Bahá'í world has grown up, there is now a maturity and understanding, a certitude that is beyond belief, and she said that one of the most important things we must realise during the next year is that the world for the Bahá'ís is the entire planet. Betty held the friends spell-bound during this talk, when she created for us all the wonder and the joy of that momentous occasion.

Counsellor Betty Reed also read a letter which had been prepared in Haifa by the Counsellors, the text of which follows:—

This letter has been prepared in the Holy Land after consultation together during our stay there. We have prayed and meditated in the Holy Shrines about the situation of the Faith in Europe and the needs of the work there now that the goals of the Nine Year Plan have been joyfully won. In every national community there was triumph and all the local Assembly and locality goals were achieved or exceeded.

During our time together, when we had an opportunity to consult with two members of the Universal House of Justice and several of the Hands about our continent, it has been clear that in the short year ahead we must prepare ourselves for the next Plan. This will demand from each individual believer, young and old, devotion and sacrifice, closer adherence to the principles governing the Bahá'í life, and a deepening of knowledge of the teachings of the Faith.

Although all the local Assemblies were won many, both new and old, are still weak and this interim year gives us an opportunity which must not be missed to strengthen them and make them secure. Through intensive teaching we must find new believers not only to build up the communities but also to form a reservoir of manpower with which to begin the new plan next year.

Moreover the new believers we have already and those who come in during the year must be helped to improve their knowledge, to understand the fundamental teachings and laws of the Faith, and to deepen their spiritual life. Indeed we all need to do this, in order to increase our capacity for service. For, when the new plan begins, pioneers will be needed to go out quickly, teachers will be in great demand and also we must have a firm foundation of well-established and properly functioning local Assemblies, so that no weakness holds us back.

Therefore let us all resolve to spend this year in deepening our spiritual life and our knowledge of the Faith, in helping the new believers to do this also, and in fulfilling our obligation and privilege to teach the Faith. Teaching must never stop, for in carrying out this requirement of Bahá'u'lláh we shall attract the divine bounties and we shall be preparing ourselves and our communities for greater service in the new plan when it begins. At that time we must all be ready to rush out and start work right away, losing no time. There is much for everyone to do if we are to be standing ready: knowledgeable, mature believers, eager for further effort and sacrifice in the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

In the happy expectation that we and the Auxiliary Board Members will be working closely together with you, we send our deep Bahá'í love to you all.

Betty Reed then introduced the Board Members present. First, Beman Khosravi, who had the privilege of giving the news of the acceptance of the Faith by the first reigning monarch, whose letter he read.

(This letter, and a communication referring to it from the Universal House of Justice, appear together on Page Three. At a later session, the National Assembly emphasised the need for this news to be kept within the Faith only; it is not to be used as a publicity item. As soon as any public announcement can be made, guidance will be given to the NSA by the Universal House of Justice and then the friends will be notified.)

Beman also spoke most movingly of the work of the friends in Northern Ireland and their difficulties.

Mary Kouchekezadeh spoke about the early believers, of their enormous sacrifices and of the many miles which they often had to walk just to hear a travelling teacher.

David Lewis was the last Board Member to speak and he said that we should constantly remind ourselves who we are — we are the ones who have been chosen: we have been born twice, the second time when we accepted the Faith, and this has given us spiritual life. "Many are called but few are chosen" was David's theme and he said that the very least we could do was to tell our friends about it.

The Counsellors' session finished with a musical setting of 'Amatu'l-Bahá's poem "This is Faith", beautifully performed to her own guitar accompaniment by Fiona Dunne, whose help in the teaching work in Europe was warmly praised by Betty Reed. The text of 'Amatu'l-Bahá's poem is as follows:—

To walk where there is no path,
To breathe where there is no air,
To see where there is no light,
This is faith.

To cry out in the silence,
The silence of the night,
And hearing no echo, believe,
And believe again and again,
This is faith.

To hold pebbles and see jewels,
To raise sticks and see forests,
To smile with weeping eyes,
This is faith.

To say "God I believe", where others deny,
"I hear", where there is no answer,
"I see", though naught is seen,
This is faith.

And the fierce love in the heart,
The savage love that cries,
Hidden thou art, yet there,
Veil thy face and mute thy tongue,
Yet I see and hear thee, love.
Beat me down to the bare earth
Yet I rise and love thee, love.
This is faith.

And then came the real purpose of Convention, the election of the National Assembly. Hassan Afnan, Sue Benatar, Carl Card, Clive Collins, Shahram Firoozmand, Robert Lewis, Louis Ross Enfield and Ann Vickers were appointed as Tellers and the voting took place in prayerful silence. The result, announced later, was that the same members were elected, and at a short NSA meeting held during the Sunday lunch break, Officers were elected, so that our National Assembly for the coming year is as follows:—

Chairman:	John Long
Vice-Chairman:	Patrick Green
Secretary:	Charles Macdonald
Treasurer:	Betty Goode
Members:	Abbas Afnan
	George Bowers
	Edward Cardell
	Philip Hainsworth
	Barbara Lewis

Presenting the Accounts, copies of which had been circulated to delegates, National Treasurer Betty Goode congratulated the friends on exceeding the budget for the year, £26,650, and donating over £29,000. Having said this, she struck a more serious note and told us that in the early part of the year the work of the Cause had been strangled for lack of funds. Often only 50% of what was required each month, sometimes less, had been contributed and the situation became so severe that it had been necessary to sell securities at a time when the market was not yielding a good price. Now we do not have these securities nor do we have the income from them — it was terrible that the ninth year of the Nine Year Plan had been hindered by lack of funds. The friends, particularly the local Assemblies, had responded magnificently when this dire situation had been put before them with the result that the budget had been reached and passed, but, sadly, she told us that the situation was much the same this year, and the contributions were not coming in as they had during the latter part of last year.

There was very lively consultation throughout this session, Betty's presentation even being interrupted and consultation taking place before she had finished the report.

Saturday evening's session was a very exciting one. It started with a most interesting talk given by Counsellor Betty Reed starting with details of connections which British people had had with the Central Figures of the Faith, from the English doctor who attended the Báb shortly before his execution, the British Consul General in Baghdad who offered Bahá'u'lláh sanctuary anywhere within the then British Empire, to Professor Browne, whose description of his meeting with Bahá'u'lláh is so well known. She gave an account of the visits of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to this country and the strong connections of Shoghi Effendi with England and the English language. She pointed out the importance of the English language, in that Shoghi Effendi had said that the Writings of the Faith must be translated into other languages from English where they had first been translated into



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Malta

English; and that it was now the official language of the Universal House of Justice, their communications being written first in English and then translated into other languages.

She then drew a sketch of the development of the Faith in the British Isles, briefly mentioning the Six Year Plan and the Ten Year Crusade, telling the friends of the sacrifices made during the early years and making special mention of the debt of gratitude owed by the British community to Marion Hofman for her work during the Six Year Plan and subsequently. The work done by the believers in the early years had been the foundation upon which had been built the expansion in the numbers of believers and LSAs, the work in Africa and the establishment of three daughter NSAs, Central and East Africa (which itself has a number of daughter NSAs), Guyana and the Irish Republic, one of whose members we were privileged to have with us.

When she mentioned the work in Africa, Betty referred to Philip Hainsworth's mother, who was, at Convention 1950, the first to volunteer to pioneer to Africa, and then brought forward Claire Gung, whom the Guardian had called "The Mother of Africa" because she had been the first to move to Africa at the beginning of the Plan. The friends rose to applaud Claire and, while they were on their feet, Hand of the Cause John Robarts appeared at the door of the hall and the assembled friends gave him a welcome which must have shown him very clearly how dear he is to all our hearts. He spoke for a few moments and then Betty Reed called her fellow Counsellor forward — Aziz Yazdi of Central and East Africa — who also addressed the friends.

After this deeply moving session, the delegates continued once more with their consultation.

Throughout Convention consultation, which covered a wide variety of subjects, was always lively and showed the growing maturity of this community, now almost fifty years old, for the first British National Assembly held its first meeting in October of 1923, although a Spiritual Council had been formed in June 1922.

Towards the end of Sunday morning, time was made for a talk by John Robarts and once more he drew our attention to the need for a greater emphasis on prayer. He said that Rúhíyyih Khánúm had told the International Convention in Haifa that we do not call often enough upon the friends in the next world — they are there, ready to help us if only we will ask them: she herself called upon her own mother, the Greatest Holy Leaf and Martha Root for help. Quoting figures issued at the International Convention, he drew our attention to the number of LSAs established in the last twenty years:

1953:	611	LSAs
1963:	3,551	LSAs
1973:	16,465	LSAs

He said that he foresaw a tremendous growth during the next ten years and that the unity of the Bahá'ís was the only thing that is holding us back — we must serve the Cause and love each other and become more and more united. Then he spoke again of prayer, that he was still receiving great numbers of letters from the friends telling of the successes they had achieved after saying the Remover of Difficulties 500 times.

The Hand then gave us the news of a new International Teaching Centre which the Universal House of Justice will be developing — a new institution which will guide the teaching work throughout the entire world.

He spoke of the Most Holy Book, the Aqdas, the Synopsis of which we now have in our hands, and of the International Convention, and gave us a particularly colourful recollection of his own about the celebration in Haifa of the Ninth Day of Riqvân when, after a Persian chant, hundreds of birds joined the singing of praise.

During Convention a Messages Committee was appointed and the following telegrams were sent:—

To the Universal House of Justice:—

LOVING GREETINGS UNIVERSAL HOUSE JUSTICE BRITISH CONVENTION 50TH ANNIVERSARY NSA UPLIFTED PRESENCE ESTEEMED HAND CAUSE JOHN ROBERTS COUNSELLORS AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS STOP CONSCIOUS HISTORIC OCCASION DESCRIBED RIQVÂN MESSAGE EXPRESS GRATEFUL THANKS PRAYERS UNIVERSAL HOUSE HELPING COMPLETION PLAN UK ACKNOWLEDGE SUPREME ACHIEVEMENT AQDAS CONSTITUTION ACCEPTANCE MALIETOA WESTERN SAMOA STOP CONVENTION DEDICATED EXPANSION CONSOLIDATION EMANATING SPIRIT UNITY ATTRACTING WAITING SOULS YEAR 130 PLEDGE LOYALTY PREPARATION NEXT GLOBAL PLAN BESEECH PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES.

To the Hands of the Cause of God:—

LOVING JOYOUS GREETINGS HANDS CAUSE GOD NATIONAL CONVENTION 50TH ANNIVERSARY NSA UPLIFTED PRESENCE DEARLY LOVED JOHN ROBERTS TWO COUNSELLORS EUROPE CENTRAL EAST AFRICA THREE BOARD MEMBERS STOP DEEP GRATITUDE STANDARD BEARERS NINE YEAR PLAN SACRIFICIAL EFFORTS INITIATING SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT STRONG FOUNDATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS ENRICHMENT BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY LIFE PREPARATION GLORIOUS DESTINY ENVISAGED BELOVED GUARDIAN STOP APPEAL PRAYERS CONTINUED EXPANSION CONSOLIDATION.

To the European Continental Board of Counsellors:—

FRIENDS DELEGATES ASSEMBLED LIVERPOOL OVERJOYED UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL HAND CAUSE JOHN ROBERTS INSPIRING PRESENCE COUNSELLOR BETTY REED VISITING COUNSELLOR AZIZ YAZDI THREE MEMBERS AUXILIARY BOARD STOP HISTORIC CONVENTION MARKING TRIUMPHANT CLOSE NINE YEAR PLAN WHICH WITNESSED ESTABLISHMENT GLORIOUS INSTITUTION CONTINENTAL BOARDS COUNSELLORS EXPRESSES DEEP APPRECIATION ASSISTANCE GUIDANCE PLEDGES SUPPORT VITAL EXPANSION CONSOLIDATION YEAR SENDS LOVING GREETINGS PRAYERS.

Greetings were also sent to the Assemblies in Malta, Faroes, and Nicosia and Famagusta in Cyprus.



Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Nicosia, re-established by joint declaration on 4 April 1973

Galway LSA had cabled Convention:—

TENDED BY YOUR LOVE THE ROSE HAS SPREAD ITS ROOTS TO EIRE'S WEST"

to which the following reply was sent:—

OVERJOYED MESSAGE LOVE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATED GREAT LUMINARY GEORGE TOWNSHEND LOVING GREETINGS BAHÁ'Í CONVENTION.

Subsequently replies were received from Haifa as follows:—

LOVING CONGRATULATIONS FIFTY YEARS UNFOLDMENT BRITISH NSA GUIDING SERVING COMMUNITY GREATLY LOVED BELOVED GUARDIAN INVESTED BY HIM BRILLIANT DESTINY STOP ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS SACRED THRESHOLD RAPID PROGRESS VIGOROUS DEDICATED COMMUNITY.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

DEEPLY APPRECIATE HEARTWARMING MESSAGE ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS EARLY FULFILMENT GLORIOUS DESTINY BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY LOVING GREETINGS.

HANDSFAITH

Many of the friends had gathered on Friday evening at St. George's Hall for a concert and film show to which non-Bahá'ís had been invited. Compèred by Philip Hainsworth, the musical part of the programme consisted of songs with guitar music by Ed Povey, Adrian Byron Burns and Hugh Blythe, music played by Hushang Jahanpur on the Persian Tar and Santur and finished with some beautiful duet singing with guitar by May Hofman and Fiona Dunne. Sue Benatar then showed two films, one of the Caribbean Conference and the other of the Panama Temple dedication.

Mention must also be made of the work done outside the conference hall, of the many helpers who deprived themselves of attendance at sessions to sell books for the Publishing Trust and various items for the Sales Committee; of the preparatory work done by the Child Education Advisory Committee before the event and their care of children of different age groups during the sessions, and of Philip Hinton and his team of sound experts who made the concert and the conference audible.

Most of all, our thanks go to the Liverpool LSA, whose organisation of the Convention led to its smooth running.

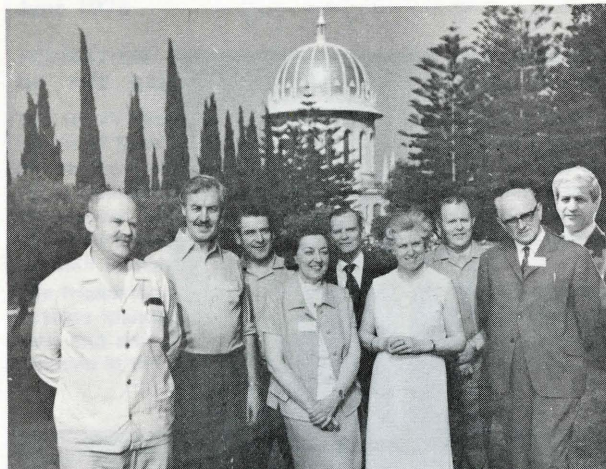
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Riqvân 130

Confidence was expressed in the Annual Report that all the goals of the Nine Year Plan would be achieved and that we would hold all the existing LSAs. By the grace of Bahá'u'lláh this hope was fulfilled; the number of local Assemblies in the British Isles was raised to 106 (six more than the assigned goal). This number included six in the Republic of Ireland where the LSAs of Bray and Galway were formed just before Riqvân, a splendid achievement by our daughter National Assembly. As Riqvân approached the National Office became, as usual, like an operations room, with the phone in constant use with news of changes in many centres and for the direction of late pioneer moves. The last of these on April 20 was Terry Dunne's move to maintain the LSA in Aberystwyth, but immediately afterwards crises developed in Stornoway and St. Andrews with a gap in each which were nobly and promptly filled by Ernest Gregory, and Pari Firoozmand. As Ernest is a member of the Auxiliary Board he will have to be relieved without delay. All these three movements are bridging operations only and pioneers must arise to replace them. This is the first call during this year of preparation and the need for pioneers has not diminished with the completion of the Nine Year Plan.

TEACHING PROJECT IN WALES

Inspired by the Alaskan musical group, the Windflower, the friends in Epsom arranged a weekend of intensive prayer and study of the Writings as a prelude to mounting a teaching expedition into Wales just before Riqvân, with visits to Llanelli, Aberystwyth and Bangor. During the tour there were six declarations but by all accounts this was no measure of the success of the venture. For all who took part in it it seems to have been a tremendous spiritual experience and a pattern for future teaching projects. Convention may like to hear some first-hand impressions from some of the friends who participated.



Members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, photographed in Haifa.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

All nine members of the NSA were privileged to attend the Third International Bahá'í Convention in Haifa at Ridván and travelled from London with a party of forty-four, including the nine members of the Irish NSA, nine from Iceland and others from Alaska, Belize, British Honduras, Brunei, and West Africa to join the great gathering in the Holy Land. The world has not seen the like of this representative blending of all races and nations, united in an enduring spirit of love and harmony. No shadow of estrangement marred the joy of the experience throughout the entire period, which included conducted visits to the Holy Places in Haifa and 'Akká, where at both Mount Carmel and Bahjí the beauty of the Shrine Gardens has been enhanced by extensive new developments. The staff at the World Centre had spared no effort in preparation and were ever ready with loving service to meet every need of the hundreds of delegates. For these the mini-pilgrimage, with ample opportunity for prayer in the Holy Shrines, was an essential prelude to the election of the Universal House of Justice and the International Convention which followed. On the morning of the election all the members of our NSA were able to meet at the Shrine of the Báb to pray for guidance and for all the dear friends and communities at home. All nine members of the Universal House of Justice were re-elected by an overwhelming vote and the Supreme Body now advances into the next phase of its world-conquering mission with the continued assurance of the loving confidence and devotion of the entire Bahá'í world community.

This brief account can give only a few inadequate glimpses of an experience which none of us can ever forget, and can mention briefly only some of the highlights — the address by 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum at the site on Mount Carmel where the building for the Universal House of Justice is to be erected; the celebration of the Ninth Day of Ridván in the vicinity of the Shrine of the Báb and of the Twelfth Day Ridván at Bahjí. There all were seated along the perimeter of the gardens of the Ḥaram-i-Aqdas. The House of Justice had been meeting beforehand but a few minutes before 4.00 p.m., the appointed time for the celebration, they appeared from behind the Shrine with the Hands and walked down to join the assembled friends. At precisely 4.00 p.m. Mr Faizi rose to open the programme, a wonderful demonstration of punctuality which indeed was evident at every session and event — surely a lesson to us all which we could perhaps emulate at this National Convention and in all Bahá'í gatherings. Finally the plenary sessions of the International Convention which followed group consultations on "The greatest challenge facing the Bahá'í world". From these it was clear that the Bahá'í community is well prepared to seize the tremendous opportunities throughout the world and that this year can and must bring astonishing victories. The enormous power generated by this great gathering, in contact with the Source of all power, must now find an outlet through the re-dedicated efforts of the friends everywhere. May this National Convention be energised by the same dynamic spirit and give tremendous inspiration and backing to the incoming NSA which must then lead the cohorts of Bahá'u'lláh to great new victories in these islands.

ANNUAL REPORT: Amendment

Page 3, Column 2: "Expansion"

The whole of this section, paragraphs (a) to (i) inclusive should be moved to follow after "(g) Development of Bahá'í Children" which appears on Page 4, and "3. Consolidation of particular areas." should be renumbered 4.

FINANCE

The Ninth year of the Nine Year Plan proved to be an exciting one so far as the finances of the Faith were concerned.

Taking into account the difficult but important goal islands of Malta and Faroes, where it is almost impossible to get work, it was necessary to increase the Budget of the Overseas Goals Committee very substantially to enable support to be given to the valiant souls who were to arise and pioneer to these places. With the expected necessary rise in the tempo of teaching the overall budget set for the year 129 was the highest ever and totalled more than £40,000. Of this, nearly £27,000 was to come from donations.

By the end of June the flow of "lifeblood" was only half the amount required to meet our commitments and a number of emergency steps had to be taken. These included the sale of some securities, an urgent appeal to local Spiritual Assemblies and individual Bahá'ís to increase their donations to the Fund, and a special insert was placed in the Journal appealing to the Friends to respond to the serious financial crisis. All committees were reminded of the necessity for careful costing of all activities and many economies had to be made, including a reduction in the size of the Journal.

By the end of September the position remained serious and the National Assembly drew the attention of the community to the letter from the Universal House of Justice referring to the need to abandon "cherished plans" in favour of essentials, and all committees were instructed that money was to be used for achieving the goals of the Plan only. In addition, a direct appeal was made to all local Spiritual Assemblies and groups to empty the coffers and send all monies in excess of £10 to the National Fund. The NSA was aware that some of the Assemblies already emptied the coffers, leaving much less than £10, but it became evident that a great deal of precious money had been lying stagnant, and as the LSAs began to respond to the appeal, the "water" began to flow, and the "fountain" to refill, and gradually the position improved.

By the end of November the gap of £3,000 had been reduced to £1,000.

Slowly but surely the situation continued to improve and by the end of the year, (20 March) with the help of a single large donation, the Treasurer was able to report that the target for donations (£26,650) had been passed and that more than £28,000 had been received, a really wonderful response at this very special time.

Thus the financial year ended in a real blaze of glory!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with regret we have to announce that after the wonderful flow of precious "lifeblood" into the Fund, which caused such a triumphant end to the financial year, there has now been a dramatic drop in donations to the National Fund. The work of the Cause never stops and support of the Fund must always be maintained. That extra money donated at the end of the year has already been swallowed up. Please pray and search your hearts, and in the words of the Universal House of Justice — "give until it hurts".

The Treasurer,
Mrs Betty Goode,
8 Knowle Road,
Stafford ST17 0DN

SPECIAL NOTICE

UNITED KINGDOM SUMMER SCHOOLS AFTER ALL

- 7-18 July:** Carbisdale Castle, Scotland
(54 miles north of Inverness)
Beautiful surroundings: near Bonar Bridge.
- 4-11 August:** Grange Farm Camping and Sporting Centre,
Chigwell, Essex.
(Epping Forest, 40 minutes from Oxford Circus)
Camping, caravan site, swimming and children's pools — the lot!

Both schools: Approximately £2 per day inclusive, children less. No longer just teacher training institutes for those who are going to the Islands, these holiday schools are widened in scope to give all the friends a chance to enjoy the wonderful stimulus of a full Bahá'í summer school, either in North Scotland or South East England, at rock bottom cost.

Booking forms from your local Spiritual Assembly or the National Secretary. Please book immediately.

OBITUARY — Walter Wilkins, 30 June 1883 — 29 March 1973

"Be . . . a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility."

This is how we can remember him, those of us who had the privilege of knowing him. His whole life was spent trying to live by the precepts of his chosen Faith, the Faith which eventually became his whole life. He wanted and had nothing else.

From his youth a seeker of truth and a believer in the Unity of Mankind, he first discovered the Faith through his interest in Esperanto. A Bahá'í for nearly fifty years, his one regret was that he had missed the unique and never to be repeated opportunity of meeting his beloved Master, as he only investigated and became a Bahá'í after 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to this country.

He served on the London Assembly for a number of years and also served on one of the earliest National Assemblies. In 1939 when the NSA decided to issue membership cards to all the British believers, Walter's was the seventh card to be registered.

Following the Guardian's call for pioneers in the Six Year Plan, he was one of the first to respond, following Ursula Newman (Samandari) and Kathleen Brown (Lady Hornell). In three years he made three important pioneer moves: July 1946, London to Birmingham; April 1947, Birmingham to Blackburn; August 1948, Blackburn to Norwich.

Although past retirement age when he moved to Norwich, to Walter, "work was worship" and he continued doing lithography and printing for a firm noted for its excellent colour work. For over twelve years he remained a respected and well-loved member of the Norwich LSA and remains fondly remembered by that community.

In 1961, at the age of 78, he made his final pioneer move to help form the first LSA of Canterbury. Approaching the last years of the Ten-Year Crusade, Hand of the Cause Hasan M. Balyuzi, in his message to Convention 118, wrote: "Just before leaving for Quito I was given some very good news — wonderful and soul-uplifting. I was told there was every reason to hope that all the existing Assemblies would be maintained, and, in addition to those Assemblies scheduled to be formed this year, Canterbury would also attain Assembly status".

Now well past the age of retirement, Walter still could not rest and, at the age of 79, registered at the Art College where, with teenage students, he spent his afternoons drawing and painting. Always creative, besides art, he was an accomplished pianist and he continued to enjoy these leisure activities until ill-health began to hinder him.

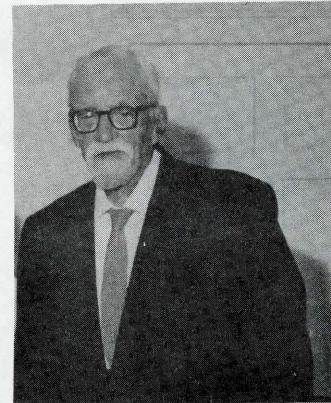
At the age of 82 he took a small flat in an old people's home and happily stated that this was the first time in his life that he had had his own home where he could entertain the friends and hold Feasts. Having never married, he had always lived in lodgings in other people's homes. It was in this room that he was able to perform his final service as a member of the LSA. An Assembly meeting was held there as he was needed to make a quorum in order to accept the declaration of a Canterbury youth. On that occasion he remarked that he did not mind being confined to his room as he had as much joy remembering the places he had known, as looking forward to things he might still do. To the end his mind remained active and alert and his days were passed reading not only new books on the Faith, but also keeping up to date with new scientific publications and world events.

Following a fall, he was taken to the hospital to have his broken leg set, but after complications a second operation proved fatal. Though in great pain, his forbearance and consideration endeared him to the hospital staff, and he was also sadly missed by his colleagues and staff at the old people's home where he was regarded as "always a perfect gentleman".

Today when we see the glorious victories of the Nine Year Plan so recently completed, let us think back to the handful of early believers, of whom Walter was one, who, with their courage and foresight, laid the foundations and helped shape the destiny of the British Community, and will always be remembered with gratitude and love.

Arthur Weinberg

(Grateful thanks to Bob Cheek for the "pre-Canterbury" dates and details)



Walter Wilkins

محقق اله

سواد مکتوب بیت المل اعظم مورخ ۲۵ اکتبر ۱۹۷۰

بعضی از یاران عزیز که به تقدیم محقق اله موفق از این بهت
پرسیده اند که ابداء تبری است بصدوق و رابریه با اراء محقق اله
چه رابطه و نسبتی دارد و اگر کسی به نیت اراء محقق اله تبری
نخیر به جهت تبری است سوره پر از آیه از تقدیم محقق اله
موقف است یا آنکه علم دیگر دارد. با آنکه نصوص الهیه در این
مورد صریح دارد ولیکن چون این سوال مقرر شده مقدر
نماید که توضیحی جهت اطلاع یاران عزیزان مرقوم شود که اراء
محقق اله از خرافات دینیته اهل بهت چه که حکم شرک است
مستطاب قدس مخصوص است و بین نشر در الواح شتی متعین
و مذکور هیچ مؤمن مخلصی که واجد شرائط متعینه باشد از اراء
محقق اله مستثنی نیست حتی بنظر آنکه بامتناع از اراء
محقق اله بمنزله خیانت محسوب و بخطاب «من ضل اله
نجان بالعدل» در حق این نفوس مکتوب بغرموده مرنمیشد
«محضر الطاف بپایان حضرت نیرزان به تعیین محقق اله بعد
نویز منف گذشت والا حق مستغنی از کمالات بوده
این حکم محکم به شهرت قلم اعلی دارا بر صالح و حکم لائحه
است سبب تطهیر اموال است و دافع مضران و وبال بهت
نعمت و عزت است و علمت غیر و برکت. انفاقی است که
نسبتش الی اله است و ضمتش است که ممدار ترفع امر اله اعظم
محقق بغرموده مرنمیشد برابر امتیاز مؤمنان است و سبب
ثبوت و تسخیر ایشان در ایمان و ایقان =

DEADLINE DATE: 10 July 1973

Please send material for the next issue of the Journal to the

Editor:

Lois Hainsworth,

Treen,

Allerton Park,

Leeds LS7 4ND

FORMATION OF THE FIRST SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF TORSHAVN, FAROE ISLANDS

The Bahá'í Group of Torshavn met together at the home of Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Eskil Ljungberg, for the historic occasion of the formation of the first Spiritual Assembly of Torshavn, Faroe Islands. This was made possible by the movement of the last pioneer, Mr Artin Dixon, and was the apex of a long and persistent effort which started in 1953 when the first pioneer, Mr Eskil Ljungberg, came to Torshavn.

The friends now look forward to consolidation and expansion in these islands and have laid plans of activity for the coming year, and also look forward to the possibility of Faroes being included in the Northern Islands teaching project.



The first Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Torshavn, Faroe Islands. Left to right, standing: Richard Bury, Illona Rodgers, Artin Dixon, Roy Philbrow; seated: David Hines, Margaret Hines, Emma Reinert (first Faroese Bahá'í), Sue Philbrow, Eskil Ljungberg, Knight of Bahá'u'lláh.

TEACHING PROJECTS

It has been a source of great joy and encouragement to the National Spiritual Assembly to learn of the many teaching projects now getting under way throughout the United Kingdom. This indicates an enthusiasm and dedication which, as it grows, may well lead to an unprecedented increase in the number of new believers.

The NSA would, however, remind the friends of the absolute necessity, as spelled out by the Guardian, for any teaching activity in a community to be under the direction of the Spiritual Assembly. It is therefore essential that any Assembly, group of people, or individual planning a teaching project away from their own community should keep closely in touch with the LSA or RTC of the area to which they are going.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BANGOR (North Wales): The Bangor community was joined by the Epsom and Ewell Bahá'ís during their three day teaching trip to Wales, on Monday 16 April. After a harrowing journey made difficult by carbon monoxide fumes from their van, the Epsom friends arrived in Bangor at 6 p.m. and, although many of them were feeling the worse for wear, they immediately began to teach the local people in the streets.

A public fireside was arranged at the Gwynedd Hotel, Bangor, and was attended by about nine young non-Bahá'ís who seemed to be very much caught up with the happiness and joy that emanated from everyone present. There were two declarations from youth that night and as a result of the meeting two more were subsequently received.

The Bangor community would like to give grateful thanks to all the Epsom and Ewell friends for the wonderful spirit they brought and the help they gave and, also, appreciation to Bahá'ís from Manchester, Bristol, Liverpool, Chester and Henley who lovingly gave their assistance during this period.

As a result of sending a press release to the Welsh weekly national newspaper, *Y Cymro* (The Welshman), a reporter visited Bangor with a request for more information about the Faith as they wished to print an article rather than just the release. The following week (10 May) a lengthy article which covered a quarter of a page appeared, entitled: 'Is Wales turning to Bahá'í?' As it is written in Welsh most of the Bahá'ís cannot read it, but in due course it will be translated into English!

BRISTOL: Persistent writing to the local publicity media yielded a valuable result in Terry Smith's interview in the TV programme 'Points West' on 2 May. The interview lasted about four minutes and an important feature was the full screen showing of a portrait of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Terry gave an attractive presentation in the brief time available, stressing the growth of the Faith in recent years and its appeal to youth seeking solutions to problems.

EDINBURGH: Members of the community have been re-decorating the Bahá'í Centre, and the result has been a much lighter and airier appearance. We hope to take advantage of the pleasant surroundings for more events in the future. A Naw-Rúz party was held in one of the Bahá'í homes and about forty people attended, of whom some twenty-five were non-Bahá'ís. An offer to present a Proclamation booklet to the head of the University's Department of Persian resulted in two members of the LSA having an interview not only with him but one of his lecturing staff as well, both of whom knew something about the Faith, but were glad to receive some up-to-date information (and to have one or two of their misconceptions cleared up).

GUILDFORD: In January we registered the Bahá'í Society at Surrey University, and our first meeting was held on World Religion Day, when Tony Purkiss gave a very lively talk.

In February and March we held a series of Friday evening discussions on the principles of the Bahá'í Faith at the International centre in Guildford. Tony Perkiss, Philip and Ann Hinton, Sidney Barratt and Barbara and David Lewis came to speak to us and the meetings were quite well attended, resulting in fifty declarations. Street teaching has not yet proved very successful, but we are still trying.

All these meetings received very good Press coverage, following press releases and we have booked meetings in June and July at the University, planning one-day schools around these.

On Wednesday, 18 April, we declared the first local Spiritual Assembly of Guildford making a bonus goal in a difficult cathedral/university town.

HEYWOOD: Three Bahá'ís from Swinton and two from Heywood visited the Evergreen Club at Alkrington when over 120 members were entertained with Persian songs and a Bahá'í chant by Mrs Fahim Noorgostar, and a talk on the history of the Faith by Mrs Terry Maginsky. There were many enquiries, leaflets were requested and distributed. This was an introduction to the Faith in a new area, and will be followed by further visits from Bahá'í speakers.

On 30 June we are planning a Proclamation event to include a public talk, presentations to our Mayor and the Agent of the M.P., a slide show, a panel and a concert — all to take place at the Civic Hall, commencing at 2 p.m. We shall be most grateful for your support.

LEEDS: Our community was recently given time on a local radio programme called "Home from Home", ostensibly for four of the friends to be interviewed about their interests and background. Needless to say, the teachings of the Faith were brought in many times during the thirty minute programme, both obliquely and directly, and for the last five minutes a straight talk on the Faith was given in connection with his imminent departure for the International Convention by Philip Hainsworth. We have also been fortunate in having some very well attended meetings, there being some seventy people at the last one, a Holy Day celebration. Our University Society is, for the time being, quiescent, this being the time for final examinations.



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North Berwick

NORTH BERWICK: The teaching work in the important goal of North Berwick has included weekend teaching visits by Bahá'ís from Edinburgh, Dundee, Newcastle and other places. In an attempt to evaluate the success of this work, and perhaps to gain an opportunity for more, a public opinion survey was arranged by the Youth Committee of Edinburgh and carried out in the streets of North Berwick by Bahá'ís from a number of places. The results were of interest, and included these findings:

Number interviewed: 52 (of whom 28 were from North Berwick)

Do you believe in the equality of men and women?

Yes: 37. No: 13. Don't know: 2 (i.e. over 70% believe in it)

Is the establishment of a world government possible?

Yes: 15. No: 35. Don't know: 2 (i.e. less than 30% say yes)

Will world peace ever be achieved?

Yes: 15. (Just under 30%)

Could a single universal faith offer a solution to mankind's problems?

Yes: 33. (67%)

Would a world language be beneficial to mankind?

Yes: 39 (86%)

Have you heard of the Bahá'í Faith?

Yes: 31 (63%)

PRESCOT AND ST HELENS: We have written 150 letters to local writers and editors and have received a few dozen encouraging replies; the BBC has promised us a programme about the Faith.

STORNOWAY: Since Ridván 129, in Lewis nineteen people have recognised Bahá'u'lláh — one adult, thirteen youth, three aged fourteen and two under thirteen years of age. Four new localities have been opened to the Faith.

During the year several Bahá'ís have been granted release from work on the Holy Days including the pupils at the Nicholson Institute. At Naw-Rúz these pupils presented the Rector with three Bahá'í books for the school library.

For the first time in the history of the Faith in Lewis the Bahá'ís have been granted the use of publicly owned premises, namely the Retirement Centre. Several successful meetings have been held there, and as many as fifty-six people attended the Naw-Rúz celebration. Plans are now going forward to try and hold regular Bahá'í evenings at the Retirement Centre.

In addition to weekly quotations and spasmodic press releases inserted in the Stornoway Gazette during the first half of the year, wonderful publicity was given to the Faith during the period January to March, from letters attacking and defending the Faith, an article by Charles Macdonald and several press releases.

During the past year we have been pleased to welcome many Bahá'í visitors, including Auxiliary Board member, Joan Gregory, and Charles Macdonald, and, of course, our dear Ernest Gregory who has pioneered here until he can be replaced.

NOTICES

MARRIAGES

- 17 February: Peter Smith to Samirih Anvar, at Bristol.
 31 March: Mehrdad Akbar-Ghalebi to Denise Anne Birt, at Stafford.
 14 April: Ridván Moqbel to Ann MacLeod, in London,
 14 April: Peter Oldzieh to Katharine Gilbert (who is not a Bahá'í), this being the first Bahá'í wedding in Colchester.
 28 April: Dennis Toms (not a Bahá'í) to Lynne Billing, in St Austell.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT NOTICES

Scandinavia Conference, Jokkmock, North Sweden — 27-30 June

For further information write to:

Swedish Youth Committee,
 Bahá'í Centre,
 Matilda Jungstedtsv. 27,
 S-122 35 Enskede, Sweden

Junior Youth Weekend: 25/27 August: Treen, Allerton Park, Leeds 7.

National Youth Event: Kelston Hall Training Centre, near Bath — 21-23 September:

"An intensive study of the Synopsis and Codification of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas".

Approximate cost of whole weekend with full board: £3.50.

National Winter School, Wiston Lodge, Wiston, Scotland — 21-29 December 1973.

Approximate cost for full board for eight nights: £14.50.

Inter-regional Arts Festival, Wiston Lodge, Wiston, Scotland — 21-22 December 1973.

People wishing to make contributions in the form of entries to the festival should get in touch with their RTC and NOT with the Youth Department of the NTC.

FARM WEEKEND: 26/28 May

The first and, it is hoped, not the last, national activity especially for junior youth was a resounding success. Few present had previously experienced the exceptional spirit of unity and co-operation felt during the entire school. The glorious weather allowed most of the sessions to be held informally on the beautiful lawns. The thirty-seven people welcomed at Manor Farm enjoyed a particularly active, as well as a deepening weekend, for the hour of rising was 6 a.m. An exhausting game of dodge-ball preceded a dance, after which breakfast was served at 8 a.m. The sessions then followed as planned.

These were all marked by very lively and full discussion and those taken by the junior youth themselves, together with an amusing quiz, increased the feeling of universal participation. It became clear during the sessions, and a talent contest, that here there were people who would contribute greatly, in future years, to Bahá'í life.

At the farewell session many thanks went to Shahram Mottahed as chairman, to Margaret Grant and the Youth Department who had organised the school and to those who worked tirelessly in the kitchen. Our most grateful thanks went to Ted and Alicia Cardell, whose warm hospitality and kindness must surely have contributed to the unity in the school, as well as making the whole occasion possible.

RNH

STOP PRESS: Because of the great success of this weekend and the requests by so many of the young people for another such school, it has been decided to hold a similar one on:

25/26/27 August 1973

at the home of the Hainsworth family:

Treen, Allerton Park, Leeds.

This is an advance notice so that you may keep the weekend free — it is intended primarily for youth of the thirteen to fifteen age group, but other youth are welcome. Booking forms will be sent out as soon as possible and you should book immediately you receive them as places are limited. The registrar will be Richard Hainsworth, of the above address.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT



Groups of young people gathered at the Farm Weekend

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

2 South Street
Oakham
Rutland



APPEAL

There is still a long way to go to meet the target for additional for the Trust to enable it to continue its expansion.

LOANS can be made in any multiple of £25 for fixed periods of 10 or 20 years bearing interest at the rate of:

7½% p.a. on a 10 year loan
and 8% p.a. on a 20 year loan.

Application for loan forms and further information from:

The Publishing Trust,
2 South Street,
Oakham,
Rutland.

'IN THE GARMENT OF BREVITY'

"The Messenger of God among us conveys, in terms which we understand — through His life and teachings — the boundless love of God for His creation. He comes at a time when we need Him most, though we in our ignorance are seldom aware of our need, and He is prepared to suffer the indignities we heap upon Him in return for the love He showers on us and the guidance

1) He freely gives for our happiness."

Precision, concision, rigorous accuracy of fact, an endearing universality of perspective — all these elements complement one another in a new teaching instrument of the most powerful simplicity, whose values may penetrate readers' sympathies the more deeply for beauty of style in which it is composed.

'A book' implies 'a reader'; so the uses of this volume are, to that degree, limited to those with the temperament that does not shy from print. But so briefly and so simply — once more let it be stressed — is the Cause of God presented here that we may — after studying and imbibing its radiance for ourselves first of all; beautifying ourselves with its beauty — offer it with supreme confidence to the casually-met, exchange it with 'night-passing ships', as well as with those whom we meet regularly and know well. It is an instrument of tremendous power for mass-conversion — and the subsequent, vital, mass-deepening as well — throughout the English-reading section of the human race.

Emphatically, it will add to the understanding of all who read it: veteran, contact, or neophyte.

THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH — An Introduction, by Gloria Faizi, compasses the history of the Faith, the Teachings, the Covenant, and the Administrative Order, in the completest necessary form of any work the present writer has yet seen. The balance between essential fact and absorbing narrative has been so well struck that we have the implications of a comprehensive — even an encyclopaedic — review, within the space of a seminar check-list.

How has the author been able to achieve this? By using the living Word of God's Supreme Manifestation.

'OUT OF UTTER NOTHINGNESS'

No assumptions of prior knowledge are made. Yet how many *believers* will have their attention riveted, their imagination fired anew, by an introductory miniature-in-depth of the World Congress:

"... I could see that every nation, every colour and religious background was represented. . . But the most wonderful thing about it was that all these people were united in their views, and were working towards the same goal — the unity of the human race.

"For the first time in the history of mankind, people had come together from every part of this planet, not to solve their differences, but to work in complete agreement."

2) Could any phrase be better calculated to stir the curiosity of any mind than the subtle use, there, of the negative?

The first part deals directly, graphically and clearly with the History of the Cause: from the evening of the Báb's declaration to the consummation of the Guardianship. Drama is highlighted by the use of brief narrative quotations, including Professor Browne's immortal word-portrait of:

"The face of Him on whom I gazed I can never forget, though I cannot describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul. . ."

3) Part Two presents the Teachings in sharp yet spare perspective; brief introductory paragraphs are illuminated by apt quotations.

Each separate section is brought to full focus, raised up to the full stature of any individual reader's level of comprehension by a passage of the Word, *'Selections from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh'*. And it is here that the author's intercontinental experience, culture and profound learning are so strikingly manifested. One is spellbound by the inevitability with which each brief passage links together, embodies the essence of the formerly-sketched ideas, and extends the consequences of its vision — from the individual to the race, from the home to the planet, from the family to the divine Family.

'PROOF OF HIS REALITY'

Part Three, Bahá'í Administration, is clear upon the method and purpose, unambiguous upon the all-essential sources of Authority, of Bahá'í Institutions.

The infallibility of the Universal House of Justice; the station of the Hands of the Cause of God; the spiritual obligation, voluntary character, and confidential nature of Bahá'í Funds; the nature of Covenant Breakers and necessity for non-association with them — all are cogently and trenchantly stated, with an economy of easily-understood words one is grateful to draw attention to: in a field where we so often get bogged down under minutiae.

The Custodianship of the Hands is not treated of, as it has no dogmatic significance. All similarly specialist subjects: the particulars of progressive Revelation, details of Prophecy, and of comparative religion, are likewise, and for the same good reason, deferred. All those growth-making crises "*out of which the hand of an inscrutable Providence has chosen to form the pattern of the Faith*", are left for ~~the~~ *believers* to study.

For all practical purposes, this little book of 125 pages is a complete self-teacher. It contains the material, and is charged with spiritual fuel, sufficient to attract the attention of any kind of person, ignite her or his love of God, and supply all information needful for mature and conscientious declaration of belief.

In her language and choice of words, the author makes no concession to either learned or illiterate. Such ease of phrase, such non-tendentious style, is perfectly understandable by those with minimum learning grades. Such simplicity is informed with those highest standards of expression to which all linguistic studies strive. It is a mighty testimony to the power of the Cause of God that such a work of independent high literary merit can be written in a language utterly different from the author's native tongue. By its own nature, her book will promote unity — by bridging those gaps that are widening, in some parts of the world, between the simple mass of humankind and the defenders of an intellectual elitism.

In the study of these pages all can and may come together, drawn by the compassionate sincerity of a dedicated mind and heart; here, around the goal of all our earthly strivings, the meeting with God. And in this, the Iron Age of the Cause, after the earthly setting of the Sun of Truth, such a meeting remains possible through the existence of an original, a divinely revealed, an authenticated, and an infallibly interpreted Scripture:

"He hath established the words He hath revealed as Proof of His reality and truth." (Bahá'u'lláh)

References:—

- 1) Text, page 28
- 2) Text, page 1
- 3) Text, page 18
- 4) God Passes By — Shoghi Effendi (U.S.Ed.): p. xiii.
Hugh McKinley

"THE COUNTENANCE OF GOD"

"...when, as decreed by Thee, all Thy previous Revelations culminated in Him Whom Thou hast appointed as the Lord of all who are in the heaven of revelation and the kingdom of creation, Him Whom Thou hast established as the Sovereign Lord of all who are in the heavens and all who are on the earth. He it was Whom Thou hast determined to be the Herald of Thy Most Great Revelation and the Announcer of Thy Most Ancient Splendour."¹

Bahá'u'lláh

"...the youthful glory of the Báb, infinite in His tenderness, irresistible in His charm, unsurpassed in His heroism, matchless in the dramatic circumstances of His short yet eventful life."²

Shoghi Effendi

The Bahá'í world shall rejoice for ever at the unique literary historicism of Hand of the Cause of God **Hasan Balyuzi**. Though one reads with excitement in the notice that he is presently engaged upon a Life of the Friend of God, the Prophet Muhammad, it may be safe to say no work of his pen may exceed this justly-proportioned biography of his most illustrious Kinsman, THE BÁB.*

It is a book from which eulogy and asseveration have alike been excluded; one in which copious use is made — and for the first time to date in any historical exposition of the Bahá'í Faith — of official documents, government papers and state records.

Here is a book for the reflective mind; for those who, like Mullá Husayn and Vahíd, would first of all question, consider and weigh the facts of a situation, the warp of all argument. It stands as a small model of correct, formal historical presentation: original documents and sources, supported by rare and invaluable photographs of the same (and including unforgettable views of the places and buildings associated with the Martyr-Prophet of Shíráz, His companions and followers); a well-backgrounded chronological presentation of the early life, mission, incarcerations and passion of the Báb Himself; finally, a succinct account of those three major holocausts (at Tabarsí, Nayríz and Zanján respectively) where the flower of His disciples was hemmed in, attacked and, finally, most bloodily butchered by the representatives of that degenerate order whom their Lord had summoned to Judgement.

A series of appendices brings together historical and political events of the time, the statements of British representatives and others in their dispatches about the happenings in Gilan and Tíhrán, and a most salutary conflation of 'various misinformations' these same officials as well as sundry other western travellers, authors and enquirers recorded and perpetuated about the Faith of the Báb; errors that continued, until the recent past, to confuse any casual investigators at a distance.

Notes, index and immaculate bibliography make Mr Balyuzi's masterwork a Bábí directory, from which extensive detail and exposition may be located in Bahá'í Scripture, in the literature of the Faith, and in those general historical works and memoirs he has so closely studied and so clearly interpreted.

Most moving and even more immediate is the personal note of recollection the author may bring through his family, believers in this Revelation from the time of its inception — for example, of the assault upon and interrogation of his maternal great-grandfather in Shíráz at the time of the Báb's departure for Isfáhán.

Using the accounts of participants for exposition, mostly cited from his fellow-historian, Nabil'i A'zam, Mr Balyuzi's utter self-effacement yet enshrines a number of dazzling miniatures, where his spiritual cognition and most cultivated wit present a whole personality in half a line:

"Haji Allah-Yar used such means as he knew best to take the bodies (of the Báb and Mirza Muhammad-'Aliy-i-Zunuzi) away from under the eyes of the soldiers."

"Mullá Husayn was a man of profound scholarship and unbending will. Nothing daunted him."

On Tahírih:

"The Báb described... Quarratu'l-'Ayn... as Tahírih, the Pure, and Siddiqih, the Truthful, and laid an injunction on His followers in 'Iráq to accept without question whatever she might pronounce, for they were not in a position to understand and appreciate her station."

The 'remarkable incident' that occurred when the Báb sojourned at Kulayn on His journey to Ágharbáyján is cited, but not elucidated; if one may venture a regret, it is that the dramatic recognition of Quddús' spiritual pre-eminence by Mullá Husayn is given but one line also — yet this concentration of emphases only upon the most exalted Subject of this biography is of artistic no less than of spiritual rightness. He it is of Whom the Lord of Hosts, Bahá'u'lláh Himself, has made these decisive statements — and such Word shall be final in making ownership of this book a treasure and its perusal a constant delight.

Hugh McKinley

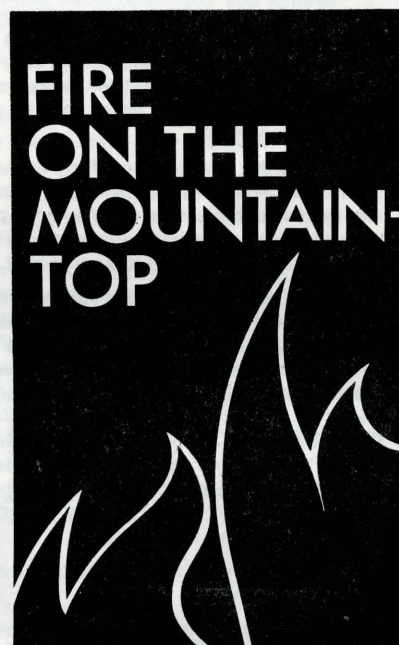
* THE BÁB : H. M. Balyuzi

£1.60p & \$5.25

George Ronald, Oxford and Bahá'í Publishing Trust

References:

- ¹ Bahá'u'lláh: Prayers & Meditations (U.S. Edition) No 128, pp 128/129.
- ² Shoghi Effendi: Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh (British Edition) p 5.



FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP by Gloria Faizi

A collection of stories about the early days of the Faith, based on accounts gathered in Persia by Mr Sulaymani and written in Gloria Faizi's inimitable style.

Here at last, in print, are some of the stories such as we have often been told at summer schools by Persian Bahá'ís whose families have served the Faith for several generations.

For the most part they are stories about quite ordinary people, people like us, but people who suffered indignities, trials and humiliations and untold hardships for the Faith they loved, and at a time when they had no inkling of the world uniting vision which is a part of the Faith we know today.

These stories show us very clearly the difficulties under which the early believers spread their Faith, but they also give a colourful picture of life in Persia in the last century. This book should be in every Bahá'í library.

LH

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

20p

THE ETERNAL COVENANT by Counsellor Betty Reed

This eight page booklet, accompanied by some colourful diagrams, is a useful additional to all our libraries, but especially for new believers and for those who find difficulty in explaining the Covenant to their friends.

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

25p

CONTINENTAL BOARDS OF COUNSELLORS

This compilation prepared by the Universal House of Justice has been reprinted. An additional four page letter from the House has been incorporated.

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

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