



Relationships between Continental Board of Counsellors & NSA
Bahá'u'lláh in Greece 10.
Deepening "Our Unique Bounty" 10.

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

SPECIAL ISSUE

We share with you the following cables received from the historic Continental and Oceanic Conferences held simultaneously in Monrovia, Liberia and Singapore January 1 through January 3, 1971.

Hand of the Cause of God Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm attended the Continental Conference for West and Central Africa at which Hand of the Cause Dr. Rahmatu'lláh Muhájir represented the Universal House of Justice. Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga represented the Universal House of Justice at the South China Seas Oceanic Conference in Singapore and Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone participated intensively.

"...REJOICING PRESENCE DEARLY BELOVED AMATU'L-BAHÁ YOUR REPRESENTATIVE HAND OF THE CAUSE MUHÁJIR SIX COUNSELLORS NINE AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS THIRTY-THREE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES AND ALMOST 300 FRIENDS FROM THIRTY-SEVEN COUNTRIES. CONFERENCE GENERATED SUCH PUBLIC INTEREST THROUGH TELEVISION RADIO PRESS FAITH WELL PROCLAIMED LIBERIA. VICE PRESIDENT ATTENDED CONFERENCE EXPRESSED HIGH ADMIRATION WISHED SUCCESS FAITH. REPRESENTATIVE UNITED NATIONS WEST AFRICA ATTENDED APPRECIATED CONTRIBUTIONS BAHÁ'Í WORLD COMMUNITY HUMAN RIGHTS. RECEPTION HIGH OFFICIALS SUCCESSFUL. MAYOR CITY ATTENDED CONFERENCE CORDIALLY INVITED DELEGATES RECEPTION CITY HALL. SEVEN TRAVELLING TEACHERS. NINE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES PLEDGED COMPLETION PLAN ONE YEAR AHEAD TIME...

(Cable from Continental Conference in Monrovia, Liberia — dated January 3, 1971)

"JOYFULLY INFORM HOUSE CONFERENCE COMMENCED GREATLY INSPIRED SPIRIT GENERATED UNITY FEAST. OVER 500 BAHÁ'ÍS GATHERED 22 COUNTRIES ISLANDS INCLUDING TWO HANDS OF THE CAUSE 5 COUNSELLORS 11 BOARD MEMBERS 35 ASSEMBLY MEMBERS REPRESENTING 14 COUNTRIES..."

(Cable from South China Seas Conference in Singapore — dated January 2, 1971)

"CONFERENCE PLEDGED FAR EXCEED GOALS PLAN. 60 PIONEERS AROSE INCLUDING 13 CHINESE. RESPONSE CALL FUNDS OVERWHELMING. YOUTH RESPONDED MESSAGE HANDS PLEDGING DEVOTION SACRIFICE EXCEED GOALS PLAN."

(Cable from South China Seas Conference in Singapore — dated January 3, 1971)

"YESTERDAY EVENING MOST GRACIOUSLY RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT AND MRS. TUBMAN THIRTY-FIVE MINUTE INTERVIEW HIS EXCELLENCY RECALLED WITH PLEASURE HIS VISIT SHRINE MT. CARMEL STOP COMPLETE PROCLAMATION ACCOMPANYING FRUITFUL ENTHUSIASTIC CONFERENCE CORDIAL RECEPTION HIGHEST OFFICIALS GENERAL FRIENDLINESS LIBERIAN PEOPLE MAKE FIRST AFRICAN CONFERENCE HELD WEST AFRICA MEMORABLE LANDMARK ANNALS FAITH CONTINENT SO DEAR HEART BELOVED GUARDIAN AND ALL BELIEVERS STOP PROCEEDING MONTH TOUR MALI UPPER VOLTA..."

(Cable from Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm — dated January 6, 1971)

"OVERJOYED REPORT CONFERENCE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROFOUNDLY INSPIRED MESSAGE SUPREME BODY STOP LOVE UNITY ENTHUSIASM PREVAILED THROUGHOUT STOP IMPRESSIVE BAHÁ'Í EXHIBITION HEIGHTENED PUBLICITY PROCLAMATION FAITH STOP PRAYING SPIRIT GENERATED MANY ANIMATED LEAD DEDICATED FOLLOWERS BAHÁ'U'LLÁH TOTAL VICTORY..."

(Cable from Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga from South China Seas Conference in Singapore dated January 4, 1971)

"...CONFERENCE AWAKENED NEW SPIRIT HANDS REPRESENTATIVES THIRTY-SEVEN COUNTRIES UNITED STOP REPRESENTATIVE UGANDA CONGOS CENTRAL AFRICA GABON CAMEROON NIGERIA DAHOMEY NIGER TOGO GHANA IVORY COAST LIBERIA SIERRA LEONE UPPERWEST PLEDGE COMPLETE TEACHING GOALS RIDVAN 1971 STOP OVER DOZEN AFRICAN YOUTH AROSE PIONEER OWN COUNTRIES WAVES OF TRAVELLING TEACHERS DISPATCHED ALL DIRECTIONS..."

(Cable from Continental Board of Counsellors for Northwest Africa — dated January 6, 1971)

9th January 1971.

Universal House of Justice

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCE PASSING AGNES ALEXANDER

PROFOUNDLY GRIEVE PASSING ILLUMINED SOUL
HAND CAUSE AGNES ALEXANDER LONGSTANDING
PILLAR CAUSE FAR EAST FIRST BRING FAITH
HAWAIIAN ISLAND STOP HER LONG DEDICATED
EXEMPLARY LIFE SERVICE DEVOTION CAUSE GOD
ANTICIPATED BY CENTRE COVENANT SELECTING
HER SHARE MAY MAXWELL IMPERISHABLE HON-
OUR MENTION TABLETS DIVINE PLAN STOP HER
UNRESTRAINED UNCEASING PURSUIT TEACHING
OBEDIENCE COMMAND BAHÁ'ULLÁH EXHORTA-
TIONS MASTER GUIDANCE BELOVED GUARDIAN
SHINING EXAMPLE ALL FOLLOWERS FAITH STOP
HER PASSING SEVERES ONE MORE LINK HEROIC
AGE STOP ASSURE FAMILY FRIENDS ARDENT
PRAYERS HOLIEST SHRINE PROGRESS RADIANT
SOUL REQUEST ALL NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEM-
BLIES HOLD MEMORIAL MEETINGS AND THOSE
RESPONSIBLE HOLD SERVICES MOTHER TEMPLE
4 JANUARY, 1971.

THE DIFFUSION OF DIVINE FRAGRANCES

Freed from their continental responsibilities and from the organisation of the auxiliary boards, the Hands of the Cause of God have, of recent years, and in all corners of the globe, been fully occupied in fulfilling those tremendous obligations outlined for them in the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Called upon by the Universal House of Justice to visit those places where their wonderful qualities can best serve the Cause, they move from country to country and from continent to continent. Historians of the future will marvel at their record as "... under all conditions, sanctified and detached from earthly things" they "diffuse the Divine Fragrances. News from ever quarter continues to flow in of their epic travels.

Amatu'l-Bahá Rúbíyyih Khánum in Africa, S.America, USA, Canada and back to Africa.

Dr. R. Muhájir in Asia, the Pacific and Africa.

Collis Featherstone in Fiji, Japan, India.

Mr. A. Q. Faizí in Australasia, South Pacific, Hawaii, Japan, Guam, Philippines, Samoa and Africa.

Mr. Khádem in North America.

Mr. Furútan in Philippines, Germany, Austria and other parts of Europe.

Enoch Olinga in Africa, Central and South America, West Indies, North America, South Pacific and Asia.

John Roberts in Europe and North America.

This is not a fully comprehensive list and only briefly can these amazing journeys be reported, but we must start with the truly historic and inspiring visit of Hand of the Cause, John Roberts to the British Isles.

John Roberts.

For very many weeks the British Bahá'í community has been eagerly awaiting the coming of Hand of the Cause John Roberts as it was to be his first official visit since he came to help win the Six Year Plan some twenty years earlier. After spending a few days with his son and family prior to their pioneer move to Thailand, John consulted with the National Spiritual Assembly during their meeting on Saturday 19th September, where plans were finalised for his tour and where he set the pattern for his visit with a truly outstanding meeting for the London friends. On three occasions during that first week-end he met the London Bahá'ís and immediately they began to feel the effect of his deep devotion and sincerity. After London he visited Bristol, Cardiff, Winchester, Exeter, Manchester, Leicester, Birmingham, Leeds and Cambridge in England and Wales and places in N. Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Scotland and wherever he went the results were the same. The friends were inspired to pray as never before and to turn continually to Bahá'u'lláh for confirmation. The keynote of these meetings, large and small, was the utmost reliance on prayer not only for the removal of difficulties but for attraction. Many instances were quoted of the effects of prayer in bringing new people to the Faith where none had come in years; prayer brought enquirers and then confirmed them; teaching and confirmations could win the goals. Some of the letters from the host communities tell their own story.

"A Regional Meeting for Mr. Roberts was held in **Winchester** on Sunday, 4 October, and there were probably about 75 people present that day. Since that Regional Meeting we have found two or three contacts who have not been to our Meetings before, and also have been delighted with news of some declarations. . . .

Friends from nearby Bournemouth and Poole, Portsmouth and Salisbury, Brighton and also London, joined us on 4 October, to let you know of any interesting developments in their activities since that time."

"John Roberts and his charming wife visited **Manchester** on the weekend of October 10th/11th.

There was a meeting on Saturday evening, October 10th, which was extremely well attended, there being about 100 present; then on Sunday afternoon a meeting at 2.30 for Bahá'ís only, followed by a meeting in the evening.

These meetings were very successful, the Bahá'í Centre being packed full to bursting-point. John stressed the importance of prayer, especially the long obligatory prayer which he appeared to favour, and the spiritual help given by reciting the Remover of Difficulties prayer of the Báb 500 times. . . .

The characteristic of John specially noted by many, was his impartiality, his love for everyone present, his tolerance of little babies crying in the audience. . . .

We think we are all better Bahá'ís for John's visit and our only regret is that perhaps it will be a long time before he visits us again."

"On the first evening Oct. 14th, the **Leicester** Community were there with Friends from Nottingham and Oakham to hear John Roberts tell us that he was going to give us two formulae on what to do if we want to spread the Faith and achieve the goals. . . . The first formula was the daily saying by all adult Bahá'ís of the Long Obligatory Prayer, and the second the saying by Communities of the Remover of Difficulties 500 times. . . . Since then many things have happened in Leicester, we had the sudden visit of the American Bahá'í Joanne Gilman and her sister, who lives near Leicester, Sallie Pallett who Declared as a Bahá'í last month, many more enquiries about the Faith from people passing or delivering at the Centre, and our only Bahá'í child, Gareth Lewis aged 13 being asked to give a talk to his form at his school, the Wyggeston Grammar School, about the Bahá'í Faith.

Since the visit in Leicester of John Roberts we have felt that we have become a more united Community. . . ."



"... During the weekend of 17th/18th October, the Baha'i Community of the **Midlands** had the bounty of a visit from Hand of the Cause, John Roberts, in **Birmingham**. With a face that radiated the Love of Bahá'u'lláh to all around him, he related stories of his experiences regarding the Faith over the past thirty years or so. His message was simple, that Bahá'u'lláh is the One who will fulfill our goals, and satisfy our needs, therefore, we must call upon Him sincerely and regularly in Prayer. His two "formulae" as he put it, were the "Remover of Difficulties" said 500 times, "—that haply the Countenance of Glory may be unveiled to their eyes, and tiers of light descend upon them." We were told of the effect this had had in other Communities, especially in Saskatoon Canada. The other "formula" was the saying of the Long Obligatory Prayer. This is something that can really assist us in our daily lives.

Attendance commenced on Saturday morning with about twenty people and grew to thirty three in the evening when we said the 'Remover of Difficulties' 500 times. This included two or three non-Bahá'ís who turned up expecting a Social Evening! To our delight one of them became a Bahá'í on the Sunday. Over sixty people were present in the Sunday afternoon.

The immediate results of the weekend were wonderful. Two declarations on the Saturday, then the one mentioned above on the Sunday, and three more during the following week — in Birmingham. The fervour and enthusiasm of the Community was tremendous and since that time, on Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday two of the Birmingham Community went on to a hill looking over the city and said 500 'Remover of Difficulties' The visit of Hand of the Cause John Roberts to the **Republic of Ireland** commenced in Limerick, where Mr. and Mrs. Roberts spent an evening with the Bahá'ís of Cork and Limerick. This was such a warm and intimate gathering, full of love and spirit that none of us, including the one inquirer who had come along, wished to leave.

The beautiful spirit of that evening in Limerick was further extended and intensified at the Week-End School held in Dublin where John Roberts spoke for hour after hour to a large group of Bahá'ís and friends who were spellbound by the love and happiness generated.

During Saturday night Martin McCullough declared his Faith in Bahá'u'lláh, with what joy and excitement the news was greeted the following morning declarations in the Republic of Ireland are not frequent, and this was the first declaration in the Goal Town of Limerick . . how we thanked Bahá'u'lláh for this, and for sending John Roberts to be among us to diffuse the divine fragrances.

Throughout the Week-End we reached higher and higher in our understanding and experience of unity, we became truly as "one soul in many bodies."

Our comprehension of the power of prayer and unity has been confirmed by incidents since John Roberts' visit — on the Monday following the Week-End School, Paddy Dawson declared in Dublin — more inquirers have been attending firesides in Dublin and Limerick, and two girls arrived at the Hazratu'l-Quds in Dublin to ask about the Faith without previous introduction to any Bahá'í — an incident unprecedented here. . .

The friends of **Northern Ireland** waited patiently on the night of the 20th Oct, as the plane carrying Hand of the Cause John Roberts was late in arrival at Aldergrove. Their wait was well rewarded when the 35-40 of the friends assembled listened to a captivating message from him. Scattered liberally with wonderful illustrations of true happenings, he explained the significance and power of the LONG OBLIGATORY prayer, which he related, many of the western Bahá'ís seem not to have used too often. He succeeded in showing us that great power could be released by the regular use of this prayer, and gave practical results from different countries of the world.

On the second night he spoke of the recommendation of the Blessed Beauty to say the remover of Difficulties 500 times, nay 1000. He then gave us the evidences of other communities and how the regular use of this gave mysterious and wonderful combinations. He gave us all the feeling that despite our very limited material and numerical resources, we can will all the goals ahead of time. . . So inspiring was this that the Derry Bahá'ís, who had turned up in strength found that 500 Remover of Difficulties could be said from Belfast to Derry in the car. Since then it has been said several times this way.

From other communities came glowing reports of Mr. Robert's visit.

Leeds reported a fine new spirit and **Cambridge** wrote ". . . on the whole, 100 Bahá'ís from Aylesbury, Bedford, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Coventry, Colchester, Ipswich, London, Newmarket, Newton, Peterborough, St. Neots, and Watford had attended these meetings which were held at Benson Hall, Magdalene College. A few non-Bahá'ís were also present at our afternoon session. There was a terrific spirit in our meetings and everybody was deeply impressed by his talks.

On the 12 October Mr. Roberts addressed a letter to all the believers in Britain which opened with,

"To be touring these beautiful British Isles again after an absence of twenty years recalls to my mind and heart the happy days and the loving friends of that time. . . ."

and as he and his wife left on the 18th November wrote,

"Our tour is over." Audrey and I loved every moment of it. We recall every meeting, so many friendly faces, and it fills our hearts with joy. We think of our praying, singing, laughing, eating together and of serious moments too when we thought of the challenge we face in winning the very important goals of the Nine Year Plan well ahead of schedule. Those words of the Universal House of Justice come back to us. "Upon our efforts depends in a very large measure the fate of humanity. . . ."

To Mrs. Roberts, whose loving support and wonderful teaching capacities added so much to the tour, and to dear John, we, in Britain wish to assure them both of our heartfelt gratitude for their visit; how eagerly we await their return.



La Paz — The President of the Republic of Bolivia General Alfredo Ovando Candia receives "The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh" from Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum.



Mauritius — (Left to right) Hands of the Cause Mr. Jalál Kházeh, Mr. William Sears, representative of the Universal House of Justice, Dr. Rahmatu'lláh Muhájir and Mr. Roddy Lutchmaya, member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Indian Ocean.

TRAVELS OF HAND OF THE CAUSE DR. RAHMATU'LLÁH MUHÁJIR

Hand of the Cause Dr. Rahmatu'lláh Muhájir has continued his meteoric travel teaching in Asia, the Pacific and Africa.

In late April, in company with Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone, Dr. Muhájir galvanized the nascent national Community of the Fiji Islands at its first Annual Convention; flying to Japan, he provided a great stimulus to the Annual Convention for North-east Asia, flew on to confer with the newly elected National Spiritual Assembly of Korea, thence to the Annual Convention of the Philippines before returning to India. . . .

Going forth again in July, Dr. Muhájir visited Persia for an intensive week prior to consultations in the Holy Land. Proceeding through Africa to teach and to confer with National Assemblies and Continental Boards of Counsellors, he met with the National Spiritual Assemblies of Kenya and Tanzania prior to a long stay in Uganda. . . . Flying to Rwanda and Burundi, to Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, and Swaziland to Mosambique, Rhodesia and Malawi, to Tanzania, Comoro Island and Madagascar, everywhere Dr. Muhájir conferred with the administrative and teaching bodies and participated in a wide range of teaching activities. At the Oceanic Conference in Rose Hill, Mauritius, he conducted the vital discussions on mass conversation in Africa and the Islands, and shared in the many special consultations which made that conference an historic and high point event for long years to come. Returning through Africa to the Holy Land, Dr. Muhájir will teach in Persia before returning home to India.

CONTINENTAL BOARD OF COUNSELLORS IN SOUTH AMERICA REPORTS INCREASE IN TEACHING ACTIVITY

"The South American Bahá'í pulse is quickening and with it the hopes of the friends in the growing blessings and confirmations of the Beloved.

We are beginning to witness the rapid increase in the number of believers... (at the time of writing perhaps 3,000) have enrolled since August."

(Extract from report by Continental Board of Counsellors in South America — dated August/October, 1969)

HAND OF THE CAUSE MR. A. Q. FAIZÍ IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, GUAM, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, SINGAPORE AND INDIA, 1970.

Following the very successful Youth Conference which ended January 2nd in Western Samoa, Mr. Faizí visited the Hawaiian Islands. About 180 friends gathered from January 9 to 11, 1970 at the National Hazíratu'l-Quds in Honolulu for the conference. Mr. Faizí has reported that he was particularly happy to find that the youth participated actively throughout the entire conference, thus adding to the joy and spiritual upliftment at the meetings. .

MR. FAIZÍ IN AFRICA.

The newly formed National Spiritual Assembly of Ghana reported that the highlight of a simultaneous visit of Hands of the Cause Mr. Faizí and Mr. Jalál Kházeh was a fifteen minute television interview at which they appeared together, presenting for the first time on television the universal nature of the Faith. . . . The Cameroon Republic reported that Mr. Faizí spent three days in Victoria where he stressed the necessity of having firm foundations in the Faith, strengthening the Cause so it can support great growth in the future. While in Victoria he was interviewed by a West Cameroon newspaper and thus provided excellent publicity for the Faith there.

He then went to Douala, in East Cameroon and spoke to the friends at length in French, answering questions in both French and English. "This was a very, very special treat for the friends to have the bounty of a Hand of the Cause and to be able to listen and ask questions about their beloved Faith in their own language".

"It is impossible to describe our joy at having Mr. Faizí here for these few days. He has infused all of us with a greater desire to teach and make foundations of the Faith in Cameroon firm. He has given us all a lesson in generosity, selflessness and devotion to the Cause, and our work must surely progress after his wonderful stay here."

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONTINENTAL BOARD OF COUNSELLORS AND NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES.

A number of questions have been raised concerning the work of the Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members, and it has been suggested that Auxiliary Board members be permitted to work regularly with National Spiritual Assemblies and national committees. We have carefully considered again the various factors involved and have decided that we must uphold the principle that such direct consultations should be exceptional rather than the rule.

It is the responsibility of Spiritual Assemblies, assisted by their committees, to organise and direct the teaching work, and in doing so they must, naturally, also do all they can to stimulate and inspire the friends. It is, however, inevitable that the Assemblies and committees, being burdened with the administration of the teaching work as well as with all other aspects of Baha'i community life, will be unable to spend as much time as they would wish on stimulating the believers.

Authority and direction flow from the Assemblies, whereas the power to accomplish the tasks resides primarily in the entire body of believers. It is the principal task of the Auxiliary Boards to assist in arousing and releasing this power. This is a vital activity, and if they are to be able to perform it adequately they must avoid becoming involved in the work of administration. For example, when Auxiliary Board members arouse believers to pioneer, any believer who expresses his desire to do so should be referred to the appropriate committee which will then organise the project. Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members should not, themselves, organise pioneering or travel teaching projects. Thus it is seen that the Auxiliary Boards should work closely with the grass roots of the community: the individual believers, groups and Local Spiritual Assemblies, advising, stimulating and assisting them. The Counsellors are responsible for stimulating, counselling and assisting National Spiritual Assemblies, and also work with individuals, groups and Local Assemblies.

It is always possible, of course, for Counsellors to depute an Auxiliary Board member to meet with a National Spiritual Assembly for a particular purpose, but this should not become a regular practice. Similarly, if the National Spiritual Assembly agrees, it may be advisable for an Auxiliary Board member to meet occasionally with a national committee to clarify the situation in the area and share information and ideas thoroughly. But this also should not become regular. Were it to do so there would be grave danger of inhibiting the proper working of these two institutions. vitiating and undermining the collaboration that must essentially exist between the Continental Boards of Counsellors and National Spiritual Assemblies. It would diffuse the energies and time of the Auxiliary Board members through their becoming involved in the administration of teaching. It could lead to the Auxiliary Board members gradually taking over the direction of the national committee, usurping the function of the National Assembly, or to his becoming merely a travelling teacher sent hither and thither at the direction of the committee or National Assembly.

It is, of course, vital that information be shared fully and promptly, as has been explained in the compilation on the work of Auxiliary Board members that was circulated on March 25, 1969. The ways of ensuring this should be worked out by the Counsellors and National Spiritual Assemblies and methods may vary from area to area.

Reports and recommendations for action, however, are quite different. Auxiliary Board members should send theirs to the Counsellors and not to National Assemblies or national committees directly. It is possible that the Counsellors may reject or modify the recommendation: or, if they accept it and pass it on to the National Spiritual Assembly, the National Assembly may decide to refuse it. For an Auxiliary Board member to make recommendations directly to a national committee would lose the benefit of knowledge and experience in a wider field than that of which the Auxiliary Board member is aware, and would short-circuit and undermine the authority of both the Counsellors and the National Assembly.

Similarly, although an Auxiliary Board member can and should receive information from the National Assemblies and national committees, his primary source of information about the community should be his own direct contacts with Local Spiritual Assemblies, groups and individual believers. In this way the Counsellors as well as the National Spiritual Assemblies have the benefit of two independent sources of information about the community, through the Auxiliary Board members on the one hand, and through the national committees on the other.

Assemblies sometimes misunderstand what is meant by the statement that Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members are concerned with the teaching work and not with administration. It is taken to mean that they may not give advice on administrative matters. This is quite wrong. One of the things that Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members should watch and report on is the proper working of administrative institutions. The statement that they do not have anything to do with administration means, simply, that they do not administer. They do not direct or organise the teaching work nor do they adjudicate in matters of personal conflict or personal problems. All these activities fall within the sphere of responsibility of the Spiritual Assemblies. But if an Auxiliary Board member finds a Local Spiritual Assembly functioning incorrectly he should call its attention to the appropriate Texts: likewise if, in his work with the community, an Auxiliary Board member finds that the teaching work is being held up by inefficiency of national committees, he should report this in detail to the Counsellors who will then decide whether to refer it to the National Spiritual Assembly concerned. Similarly, if the Counsellors find that a National Spiritual Assembly is not functioning properly, they should not hesitate to consult with the National Spiritual Assembly about this in a frank and loving way.

It is the Spiritual Assemblies who plan and direct the work, but these plans should be well known to the Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members, because one of the ways in which they can assist the Assemblies is by urging the believers continually to support the plans of the Assemblies. If a National Spiritual Assembly has adopted one goal as preeminent in a year, the Auxiliary Board members should bear this in mind in all their contacts with the believers and should direct their attention to the plans of the National Assembly, and stimulate them to support them enthusiastically.

The Counsellors in each continental zone have wide latitude in the carrying out of their work. Likewise they should give to each Auxiliary Board member considerable freedom of action within his own allocated area. Although the Counsellors should regularly direct the work of the Auxiliary Board members, the latter should realise that they need not wait for direction; the nature of their work is such that they should be continually engaged in it according to their own best judgement, even if they are given no specific tasks to perform. Above all the Auxiliary Board members should build up a warm and loving relationship between themselves and the believers in their area so that the Local Spiritual Assemblies will spontaneously turn to them for advice and assistance.

We assure you all of our fervent prayers in the Holy Shrines for the blessings of Baha'u'llah upon the strenuous and highly meritorious services that you are performing with such devotion to His path.

October 1, 1969.

The Universal House of Justice.

THE CONTINENTAL BOARD OF COUNSELLORS FOR EUROPE AND THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

In the last issue of the 'Bahá'í Journal', No. 202 a message was printed from the Continental Board of Counsellors for Europe. Since that time the National Spiritual Assembly has had close consultation with the Board and plans were shared. Amongst the many decisions reached were:

- 1 To reproduce in booklet form the functions of the Auxiliary Board members as outlined in the letter from the Universal House of Justice dated 25th March, 1969 and the relationship between the Boards of Counsellors as defined in the letter of 1st October, 1969, printed above.
- 2 To print the same letter of the 1st October in the 'Journal'.
- 3 To share with the friends throughout Britain, through the Newsletter of the National Assembly, the call to daily prayer from the Counsellors to the believers throughout Europe. (This appeared in the issue for the Feast of Sharaf and anticipated a suggestion made at the Teaching Conference that the friends should, at a certain time each day, give thought to the achievement of the goals of the Plan.)
- 4 To give two periods during Teaching Conference to the Counsellors to enable them to explain their relationship to the friends and to the National Assemblies and give them time to answer any questions which may arise on the subject.

The National Assembly also devotes considerable time at each meeting to the already quite extensive correspondence exchanged with the Counsellors and the many reports from the Auxiliary Board members which the Counsellors share with them.

National Spiritual Assembly.

TEACHING CONFERENCE — 1971

Report by Lois Hainsworth

Midland Hotel,
Birmingham,
January 2/3

This year's Teaching Conference will go down in our history as one of the most memorable in the British Isles — the spirit generated throughout was moving and elevating, and resulted in an unprecedented number of pioneer offers — sixty-four — which was about twenty-five per cent of the number attending the conference. In addition, friends who were not able themselves to pioneer either deputised others⁴ or donated sums of money to help the pioneer effort.

After a devotional of great beauty prepared by the Kendal friends, the conference was opened by John Long, the Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly, who introduced Philip Hainsworth as chairman of the conference. Philip, whose dynamic call to use the conference as a spur to complete the remaining goals of the Plan well within the next two years, set a tone of dedication which never once was lost.

The first sessions were given to the goals committees, whose representatives outlined what had already been achieved and what remained to be done. A summing up of these reports by the chairman showed that in the United Kingdom there remain twenty-nine places which are below strength, twenty of them goals and nine assemblies which have fallen below nine. On the other hand, during the last eight months, there have been 160 new believers, and the National Assembly has set a goal of 250 new believers before Ridvan.

Budget Gap Filled

The National Treasurer, Betty Goode, spoke most movingly of the need for every Bahá'í to consider how much more he or she might give to the Fund — donations are the very life blood of the Cause, and its forward movement depended to a great extent on what financial resources were available. She quoted instances where pioneers were gravely in need because there was not money enough to support them, and some of the very difficult places to which pioneers have to go, places where work is often not available even for the most diligent. She specially stressed the need for regular donations, no matter how small and seemingly insignificant. At the end of December the Fund stood as follows:—

Budget up to March 1971	£16,580
By December 1970 the amount reached should have been	£12,400
But the total of donations had reached only	£10,500
Thus leaving a gap of	£ 1,900

By the end of the conference, due very largely to the response of the friends to the call for pioneering help, this gap had been closed.

Publishing Trust

A plea to 'buy more books' came from Derek Cockshutt, speaking on behalf of the Publishing Trust, who also stressed the need for every Bahá'í to possess his own reference library in addition to having books to pass on to enquirers. The greater the turnover of books, the more titles it would be possible to publish.

Proclamation

A review of the progress of Proclamation was led by Patrick Green. Some thirty 'V.I.P.'s have now received the presentation copy of 'The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh', and most of them have also been given 'The Call of Bahá'u'lláh', which gives greater explanation of the Faith for those who have not previously heard about it. Leaders who have received these books include Members of Parliament, Ministers and industrial leaders in Britain and Ireland. It was stressed that the names of the important people to whom these books had been given should not be used in any form of publicity. Mention was also made of the 'New Era' exhibition which is available for use, and of the series of notes issued by the Proclamation Committee for guidance to communities in publicising Holy Days. The number of 'inches' given by the local press to these events was quite significant.

Board of Counsellors

The Saturday evening session was given to the Board of Counsellors, represented by Counsellor Anneliese Bopp, who was supported by the British Auxiliary Board — Dick Backwell, Joan Gregory, Ernest Gregory, Mary Kouchezkadeh and David Lewis.

Counsellor Anneliese Bopp outlined the growth of the Institution of the Hands of the Cause from the time of Bahá'u'lláh, emphasising the need for two pillars — an administrative pillar in the local and national assemblies and a spiritual pillar in the Hands of the Cause, the Boards of Counsellors and the Auxiliary Boards.

The Boards of Counsellors are appointed by the Universal House of Justice to a particular continent, and if for some reason they change their residence, they automatically lose their position. The Institution of the Board of Counsellors came into being after consultation between the Hands of the Cause and the Universal House of Justice and is the solution to the problem of how the spiritual pillar will continue its work into the future. Their function is to help the Hands of the Cause in their work; the Auxiliary Boards form the link between the community and the Counsellors and individuals or local assemblies are at liberty to consult members of the Auxiliary Boards.

A lively period of discussion followed this session, during which the need for prayer was constantly stressed.

The Wellspring of Guidance

On Sunday morning, following a devotional prepared by the Bahá'ís of St. Austell, Charles Macdonald spoke impressively on 'The Wellspring of Guidance', the Universal House of Justice, recalling the day in 1963 when the House came into being and the soaring joy felt by everyone privileged to be present at that moment.

He reminded us that the Guardian had said that the 'Arc that would sail on Carmel' was the Universal House of Justice and stressed the need to study their Messages as fervently as we had studied those of Shoghi Effendi — whatever the Universal House of Justice decided was of God. He spoke of universal participation and quoted the words of the Master — "the secret of universal participation is that the friends should love each other and be as one soul in one body". Every believer can teach, pray and contribute to the Fund. The House of Justice is indeed our 'Well-spring of Guidance' and to it we should always turn, acting upon its messages and being guided by its words.

The Call to Victory

Adib Taherzadeh followed with a call to victory and the achievement of the goals of the Nine Year Plan. He began his talk by saying that we should always consider whether the steps we take are right for the service of the Cause, and that this thought should always dominate our minds. The greatest honour anyone can have in the world today is to be able to call himself a Bahá'í — no Bahá'í should ever consider himself inadequate — anyone who had accepted Bahá'u'lláh could perform great feats in His Name.

He went on to speak of pioneering — that it was not simply for bachelors or people who could move easily; but for anyone, no matter how large their families nor how insurmountable the obstacles might seem — miracles seemed to happen in the removal of these obstacles. He quoted examples of people who had longed to pioneer, but whose family circumstances seemed to make this impossible, and of apparently miraculous changes in circumstances which a steadfast determination to pioneer for the Cause had wrought.

At this point, almost providentially it seemed, the following cable from the Universal House of Justice was received:—

**"PRAYING BOUNTIFUL CONFIRMATIONS EVERY
DEVOTED EFFORT MADE MUCH LOVED BRITISH
BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY ATTAIN ALL GOALS LOCAL
SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES HAVE HIGHEST HOPES
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS VICTORIOUS PAST.
UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE"**

Then Adib called for pioneers to fill the gaps in the Plan and it was at this moment that the atmosphere in the large hall seemed to swell until we were almost overcome — slowly a small trickle of devoted souls arose to offer themselves for pioneering, and the trickle grew into a stream, until sixty-four people had surged forward offering to leave their homes and pioneer for Bahá'u'lláh. Some of these offers were for England Scotland and the islands and others were for faraway Cyprus and Fiji. And the offers did not cease here: friends who could not themselves move, or were already in pioneering posts, deputised others to move, or contributed to the fund for pioneers; local assemblies offered to support friends moving from their areas.

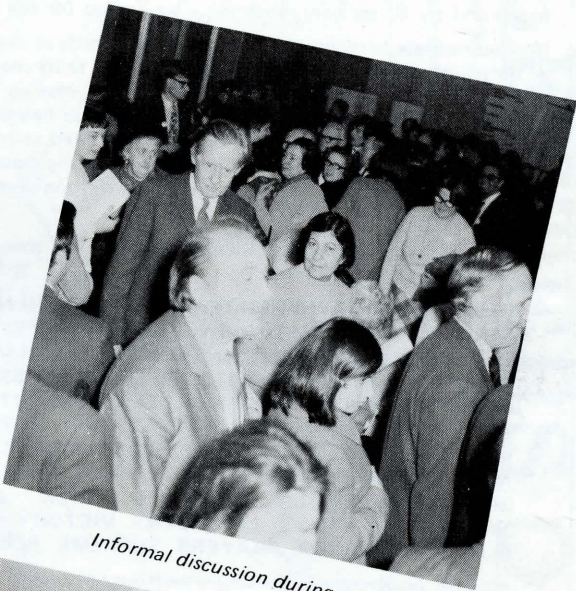
A most unexpected impetus was given when, through some mistake in the Post Office, the cable from the Universal House of Justice was delivered a second time and was read again!



Counsellor Anneliese Bopp, supported by members of the British Auxiliary Board



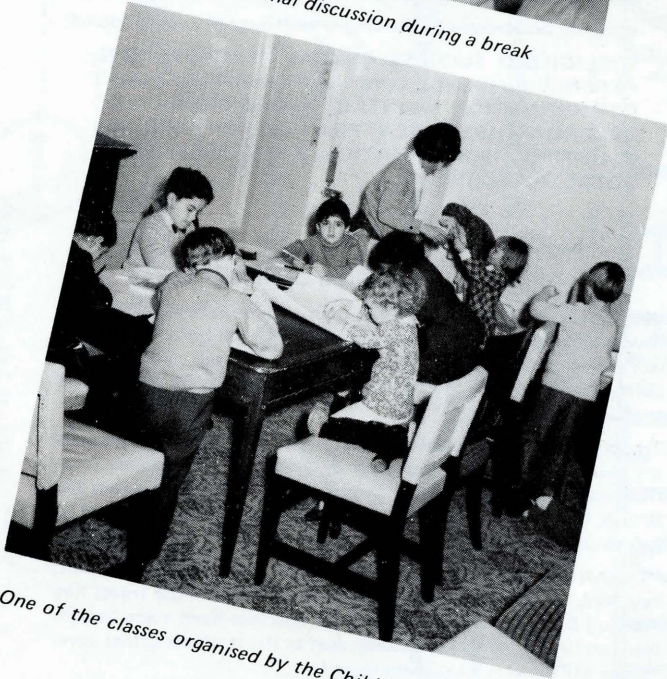
Session on pioneering led by Adib Taherzadeh, and the first pioneer offers.



Informal discussion during a break



Sales Committee table



One of the classes organised by the Child Education Committee.

Song Group

One of the most exciting moments was one of the most unusual—the Proclamation Committee had asked Fiona Dunn, May Hoffman and Charles Pierce (with his guitar) to perform some Bahá'í music, and this they did, with very little rehearsal, to the great joy of the assembled friends. The Proclamation Committee is very anxious to form singing groups in different parts of the country and asks anyone who would like to help to get in touch with Stephen Jenkerson, 96 Bulan Road, Oxford.

Final Moments

We were fortunate on this last day of the conference to have with us Ali Nakhjavani, member of the Universal House of Justice, who spoke to us of the conferences taking place in Liberia and Singapore and of the work of the youth in America. He said that any community which has an active youth committee is a progressive community, and that Shoghi Effendi had once told a youth—“Don't ever be discouraged and don't ever discourage anyone”. Mr. Nakhjavani closed by saying that in two days' time he would be in Haifa and he would pray at the Shrines for the success of the British Bahá'ís.

As always after a conference of this nature, nobody really wanted to go home — long after the conference had been closed by Philip Hainsworth, its chairman, with a summing up of the weekend's activities, the friends lingered in the hall making their last farewells.

Teaching Conference gave us all an opportunity to search our hearts and try to see how much more we can do for the Cause.

It is appropriate here, perhaps, to offer a few words of thanks to all those who did so much to make it a success — to its chairman, whose ability and humour kept the conference moving; to all those who appeared on the platform and filled our hearts with joy by their loving words; to all those who worked behind the scenes, preparing book and other displays, preparing reports and charts and all the work that goes unnoticed so long as nothing goes wrong.....THANK YOU.

During the course of the conference a telegram was sent to the Universal House of Justice:

**“250 FRIENDS GATHERED TEACHING CONFERENCE
SEND LOVING GREETINGS WORLD CENTRE
CONSCIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES IMMENSE TASKS GRATEFUL
INSPIRATION COUNSELLOR BOARD MEMBERS
HEARTENED ENTHUSIASM NEW BELIEVERS INITIATIVE
YOUTH 64 PIONEER OFFERS OVER 25 PER
CENT THOSE PRESENT OVER £2000 CONTRIBUTED
ASSIST SETTLE POSTS STOP CLOSING SESSION
GREATLY INSPIRED PRESENCE TALK ALI
NAKHJAVANI FULLY CONFIDENT VICTORY IM-
PLORE SUSTAINED PRAYERS SUPREME BODY”**

In response, on January 6, the Universal House of Justice cabled:

**“DELIGHTED SUCCESS ANNUAL TEACHING CON-
FERENCE EVIDENCE CONTINUING BRITISH BAHÁ'Í
DETERMINATION MAINTAIN PROUD PIONEERING
RECORD ASSURE ARDENT PRAYERS HOLY SHRINES
BOUNTIFUL CONFIRMATION EFFORTS ACHIEVE
TOTAL VICTORY”**

TRAVEL TEACHING COMMITTEE

We had hoped to have a definite plan to announce regarding our new scheme for travel teaching but it has not yet been completely worked out. Every L.S.A., Goal-Town, Group and Isolated Believer will be required to co-operate and circulars will be sent as soon as possible.

Travel teaching offers are coming in all the time and itineraries are being arranged for February and March when visitors from America and Alaska will be touring as well as friends from the British Community. Reports of these activities will be given in future Journals.

“Teachers must continually travel to all parts of the continent, nay, rather, to all parts of the world, but they must travel like Abdu'l-Bahá He was sanctified and free from every attachment and in the utmost severance. Just as His Holiness Christ says: ‘Shake off the very dust from your feet.’”

Please send travel teaching offers to this committee at:-

63, Hurst Park Avenue,
CAMBRIDGE, CB4 2AA.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FROM VICTORY TO VICTORY

The following extract from a cable from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States thrills the heart of everyone who reads it; when will such a cable originate in Britain?

**“MARCH OF TRIUMPH SINCE BIRTHDAY BLESSED
BEAUTY CONFIRMS REDOUBLED PROCLAMATION
EFFORTS NATIONAL COMMUNITY. SOUTHERN CAM-
PAIGN LEADS FROM VICTORY TO VICTORY SPREAD-
ING ENTHUSIASM FOR TEACHING WAITING MASSES,
RECENT REPORTS INDICATE 3300 LOCALITIES,
130 POTENTIAL ASSEMBLIES, 172 COLLEGE CLUBS,
18 HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS, STEADY FLOW PIONEERS
CONTINUES...”**

Alaska

Largest proclamation effort yet commenced 1st November. National Spiritual Assembly cabled,

“Proclamation team composed Eskimo, Indian, Caucasian, Hawaiian departing 28 day mass proclamation Yukon basin villages dedicated to Bahá'í brothers Iraq...”

Botswana

Shirin Bowman from Western Asia spent eight days in this African territory many people, chiefs, counsellors, some of whom had gathered at 6 a.m. to meet this 'lady from India'; radio publicity was obtained. In **Southern Zambia**, 126 believers enrolled in 12 new centres.

Costa Rica

Mr and Mrs Marvin Dreyer, folk singers of El Salvador included Costa Rica in their 12 country tour. Many highly successful concerts were given and Bahá'í songs and interviews were accepted for the radio. Generally a great new teaching spirit is to be found in this difficult country and nine new Assemblies in addition to the existing 26 are assured for Ridvan.

Denmark

The National Spiritual Assembly cabled Haifa on 11 October, “Thirty-five friends from Denmark and evolving community of Malmo, Sweden concluded two-day conference taught by Adib Faherzadeh...”

El Salvador

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations, the Bahá'ís presented the President of the Republic with the official flag of the United Nations. He spoke most warmly of the Faith. The presentation was on television and was covered by the four major papers of the capital. An 'open letter' to the people of El Salvador stating the reasons for Bahá'í support of the United Nations was published. At one Proclamation meeting the entire audience — 106 people, accepted the Faith!!

Fiji

Nine Bahá'ís signed on as crew of a sugar ship and the whole crew of 90 Fijians were introduced to the Faith through singing and talking.

Guatemala

At an Exposition on September 15th, 18000 pamphlets were distributed and 348 people signed up for the correspondence course.

Laos

Elderly Hossein Avaregan, Persian pioneer to Italy, visited remote villages in Laos and witnessed two whole villages accept the Faith. Young novices and older monks at a large Buddhist temple heard him speak in fluent French on the coming of the fifth Buddha. Later yellow-robed faithfuls came to the local Haziratu'l-Quds to study the Faith.

Taiwan

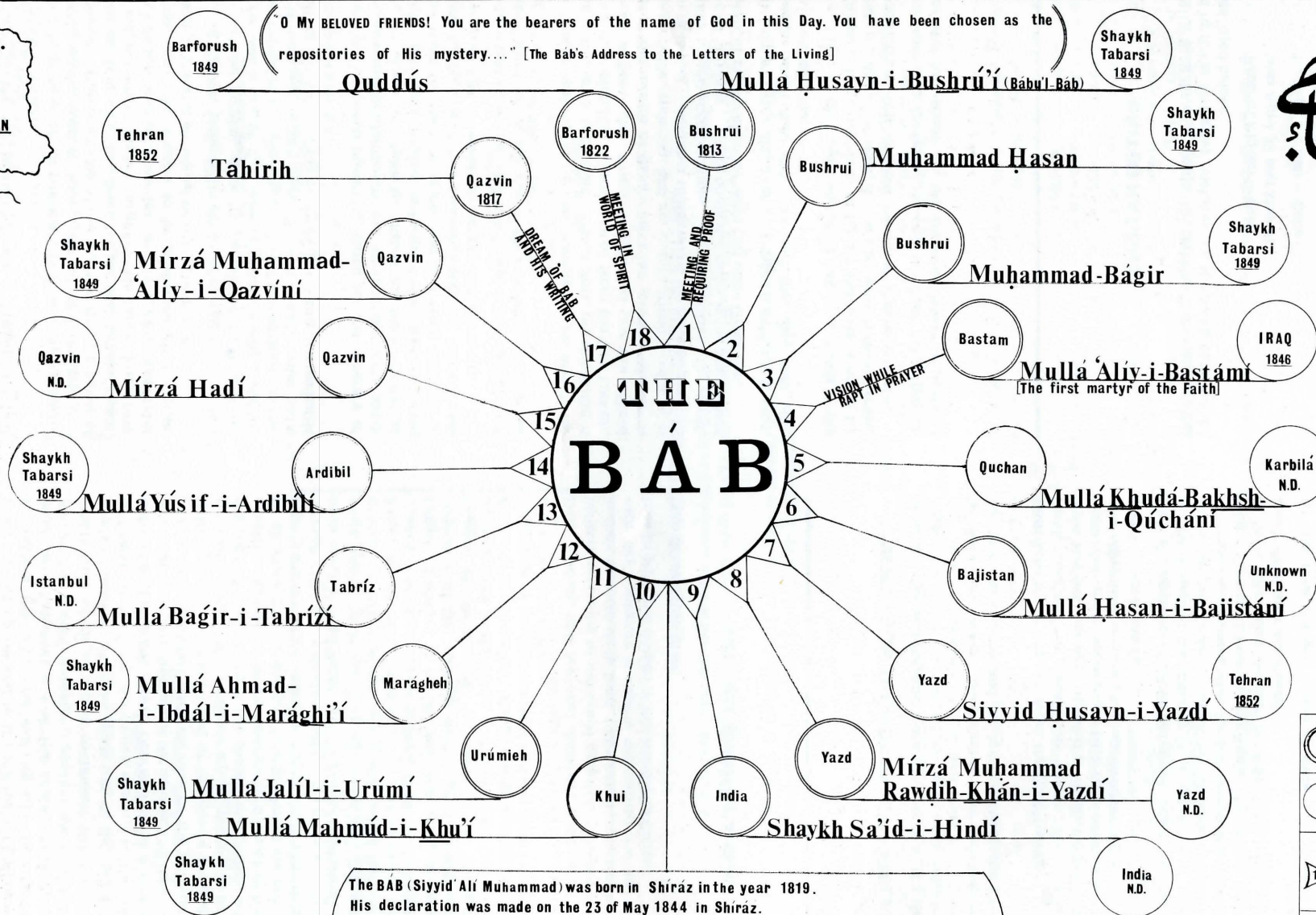
National Spiritual Assembly incorporation achieved.

THE 18 LETTERS OF THE LIVING



بیت الله

"O MY BELOVED FRIENDS! You are the bearers of the name of God in this Day. You have been chosen as the repositories of His mystery...." [The Bab's Address to the Letters of the Living]



The Báb (Siyyid 'Alí Muḥammad) was born in Shiráz in the year 1819. His declaration was made on the 23 of May 1844 in Shiráz.

The Báb himself was the 'Primal Point' and, with the first eighteen believers, called 'the Eighteen Letters of the Living', constituted the 'First Váhid'. The Martyrdom of the Báb took Place in Tabriz on 9th July 1850.

- Places of birth to which, in some cases, they were sent to teach.
- Places of martyrdom or natural death (N.D.).
- The numbers round the circle indicate the order in which the believers accepted the Báb.
- The numbers on the map represent the Places the names of which are in the list.

Ardabíl	1
Bajistan	2
Barforush(Babou)	3
Bastam	4
Bushrui	5
Khui	6
Marághheh	7
Nayríz	8
Quchan	9
Qazvin	10
Shaykh Tabarsi	11
Shiráz	12
Tabríz	13
Tehran	14
Urumieh(Rizaiyeh)	15
Yazd	16

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH IN GREECE

Living relatively close to the route followed by Bahá'u'lláh upon His banishment from Adrianople to 'Akká, one longs to know every possible detail, in preparation — one day — for visiting these holy sites.

While Gallipoli and Smyrna (modern Izmir) are known and are easily located on the map, there is no trace of 'Madelli' (c.f. *God Passes By*, page 182).

Supposing this to be a port intermediary to these known places — and possibly on the coast of Asia Minor (or modern Turkey) — I took the opportunity of one of my students being a native of Lesbos to ask him, returning there for the past summer's vacation, to enquire where 'Madelli' might be. He did not know himself, but was sure that a former teacher of his, who comes from Asia Minor, and who appears to be something of an archaeologist and local historian, would be able to inform him.

To keep his English going, we maintained correspondence over the long summer holiday. After he had located his teacher, his first letter was a request for more information why I wanted this place identified as, following a different orthography, he had been told there was no such place. His teacher had pointed out a 'Mademli' or 'Atzanoz' in the Eliatikos gulf — site of a sea-battle in the Peloponnesian War.

I had previously limited myself to asking for the itinerary of steamers between Constantinople and Alexandria, saying 'some-one very important' had been on that route. Now I explained that Bahá'u'lláh was a religious prisoner of the Turks and, being exiled by them for the third time, was sent from Gallipoli to Alexandria by Austrian Lloyd steamship and that 'Madelli' was an unknown port of call en route, located before Smyrna.

After a fortnight came the reply that it was at the capital town of Lesbos, *Mytilene*, where the Blessed Perfection's ship had touched.

Modern Turkish spelling, in Roman characters, gives 'Midilli' for Mytilene — though as the i's are without dots, pronunciation is something like 'Mudullu'. Transliterated from the Old Turkish, which was written with Arabic letters, and was the official language of the records of Bahá'u'lláh's last journey, 'Madelli' is a highly probable rendering, and my pupil's friend — who is, in addition, a lawyer — said that there was no doubt at all as to the correctness of this identification. The main port of the island, the town of Mytilene — where boats still call — is the place where 'the glances of the All-Merciful' were cast upon Greek soil.

As youth from all over Europe can pass cheap holidays in Greece, it is thought worthwhile informing them that they may visit such a historic spot there.

Mytilene is one of the largest and most beautiful islands in the North Aegean, forty-five minutes by air and sixteen hours by boat (they run daily — at least, during the Season!) from Athens. As a holiday island, it is 'unspoilt' — with all that term implies.

(Editorial note: the foregoing research has been submitted to, and approved for release by, the Universal House of Justice.)

UNITED NATIONS

The UNICEF 1970 wall calendar for children 'featuring Holidays Related to Great Birthdays' includes the following notations on the dates listed below:

April 21 'Feast of Ridván — Bahá'í
(also April 29 and May 2)'

October 20 'Birth of the Báb — Bahá'í'

Some of the dates on the calendar are highlighted. One of those is:

November 12 'Birth of Bahá'u'lláh — Bahá'í'

Attached to the calendar are brief statements regarding the 'Birthdays of special interest around the world'. An article which bears the title, 'November 12 — Birth of Bahá'u'lláh — Bahá'í' begins "Bahá'u'lláh, the Glory of God, was born in 1817 in Persia..."

OUR UNIQUE BOUNTY

"Beloved Friends,

Bahá'u'lláh has given to each one of us, the people of Bahá, a most precious gift, and we in turn must strive to become worthy of so great a bounty. Having recognised Him, the development of our spiritual being depends entirely on our obedience to His Laws and Ordinances and to the spiritual nourishment imparted by reading the Scriptures morning and evening. This is the beginning of wisdom and of the process of deepening in the Cause. The Bahá'í Writings constitute an ocean of immense wealth from which we should continually strive 'to discover the pearls of wisdom which lie hidden in its depths'. But it is not sufficient to read the Scriptures alone, i.e. the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Deprived of the wonderfully clear and enlightening expositions of the beloved Guardian, we should have a most imperfect understanding of the purpose of Bahá'u'lláh's mighty Revelation and of the nature and operation of His World Order. How fortunate are we, the British Bahá'ís, that the Sign of God on earth has chosen the English language, of which he was a master, as the medium for so much of his guidance to all mankind, present and future. Should we not, therefore, eagerly and thankfully make the fullest use of this unique bounty through close and sustained study of his writings? Foremost, the incomparable 'God Passes By', the history of the first hundred years; then 'The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh', that superb compilation of letters which collectively unfold the vision of the Kingdom and the splendours of its coming golden age, and including 'The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh' which Shoghi Effendi himself described as his spiritual testament, an authoritative statement of the essential verities of the Faith which every believer should become immersed in. We can only briefly mention some of the others — 'The Promised Day is Come', 'The Advent of Divine Justice', 'Bahá'í Administration' and the various collections of his precious letters to the Bahá'í World during his thirty-six years' ministry.

Dear Friends, the National Assembly urges each and every believer according to individual capacity, to regard the Writings as their essential daily food, to become hungry for them, so that each day's measure is eagerly approached and assimilated and thus to grow and deepen in this wonderful Cause.

With deepest love to all,

In His Service,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

NEWS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

How uplifted and inspired were the friends in the Republic of Ireland by the visit of Hand of the Cause John Robarts and from that time a new spirit of love and unity has illuminated the believers here. All the communities have been inspired to pray together more often and for longer periods and this is surely bringing results.

Both Martin McCullough, from the Goal Town of Limerick, and Paddy Dawson, from Bray near Dublin, declared at the time John Robarts was with us; what a wonderful confirmation and inspiration those declarations have been to all of us. Since that time many more enquirers have appeared and some have expressed deep interest in the Faith.

Over the weekend of 28/29 November practically every believer in the Republic participated in a weekend of study of the Administrative Order, arranged by the Goals Committee to help to prepare the communities for the formation of the local assemblies of Cork and Limerick next Ridván. The classes took the form of lively discussion, directed by Adib Taherzadeh, and a happy and fruitful time was shared.

At this time the goal towns of Cork and Limerick each have seven believers, but it seems likely that John and Val Morley will now pioneer again to Cork, bringing that group to nine! We ask all of the British believers to join with us in prayer that the gaps in Limerick may be filled through teaching.

Recently we have had visits from Elsie and George Bowers, Ann and Philip Hinton, John Ball and Brian Parsons, all of which were deeply appreciated and enjoyed by Bahá'ís and enquirers alike.

GOALS COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

EDITORIAL

At the time of writing the postal strike is still with us, and if it continues for long some of the dates given may have passed — for this we apologise.

We always welcome photographs of Baha'i occasions; unusual stories and items of permanent value are also much appreciated.

We should be grateful if travel teachers could send their articles to the Travel Teaching Committee — secretary Mrs. Sylvia Benatar, 63 Hurst Park Avenue, Cambridge, who formulates the travel teaching report for the Journal.

Other material should be sent to the Editor:

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

Deadline Date:

2 March 1971

BAHA'I STATISTICS — WORLDWIDE

The following statistics are based on semi-annual statistical reports for the period ending June 15, 1970:

Countries Opened to the Faith:

Independant Countries	134
Significant territories and Islands	179
Total.....	313

Number of localities where Baha'is reside 43,341

Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies 10,318

DIARY

February 26, 27, 28:	Intercalarey Days
March 1 (Sunset)	First day of Fast
March 2	Feast of 'Ala
March 2	Deadline date — Journal material.
March 6/7	Regional Conference—Shrewsbury
March 13/14	Regional Conference—Kendal
March 21	NAWRUZ
March 21	Deadline for annual reports

NINETEEN-DAY FEAST

Joyfully we come together
every nineteen days
to share that love
which knows no boundaries;
launch our prayers
into the air
that they may travel
to the realm of Eternity;
partake of food
as well as
nourishment for the spirit,
and finally
to pour our faith
into a common
reservoir
and so receive it back
one hundredfold.

Jackie James.

THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE FAITH IN BRITAIN.

A most warm and loving welcome is extended to all those who have accepted the Faith in recent weeks as well as to those youth who have, with loyalty and dedication, claimed their voting rights on reaching the age of 21.

The pace is increasing and more and more waiting souls are being attracted to the Cause to receive the blessing of recognising Him Who is God's Manifestation for this day.

ENGLAND.

Youth

Stephen Chaplin — Wandsworth
Lydia Amini (Miss) — Sutton Coldfield
Margot Riddell (Miss) — Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Gaby Maffioli (Miss) — Middleton St George

David Armes — Salford
Annette Bell (Miss) — Stockport
Marion Dunn (Miss) — Southampton
Denise Billen (Miss) — Salisbury

Violet Zamiadi (Miss) — Watford
Robert Kuhr — Burnham
John Brice — Colchester

Adults

Mohamed F. Abov-el-Nadar — Ealing
Emil Maier — Ealing
Stella Maier (Mrs) — Ealing
Dorothy Hunt (Miss) — Nottingham
Erica Frost (Miss) — Oxford
Elaine Garlick (Miss) — Liverpool
Alan Tanner — Hammersmith
Hettie Taylor (Mrs) — Southport
Harold Campbell — Manchester
Clive Robinson — Ryde, I.O.W.
Sheila Rodden (Miss) — Shrewsbury

Jessie Robinson — Ryde, I.O.W.
Muriel Brown (Mrs) — Salford
Carolyn Branson (Miss) — Guildford
Inderjeet Singh Kohli — Aylesbury
Charlotte Simons (Mrs) — Kendal
Curtis W. Smith — Pinner
Leslie Gornall — Stevenage
Margaret Wilcox (Mrs) — Blackpool
Harold Bourne — Westminster
Charmaine Bourne (Mrs) — Westminster
Edith Newton (Mrs) — Birmingham

Wolodzimierz Costazza — Birmingham
Roland Rutland — Croydon
Sally Liddell (Miss) — Richmond
David McIvor — Kensington/Chelsea
Janice McIvor — Kensington/Chelsea
Eugene Dunne — Torbay
Derek G. Green — Exeter
Margaret Hockley (Mrs) — Gt. Bentley
Mavro Bulletti — London N.1
Jean Lintott (Miss) — Guildford
David Thompson — Lincoln

Youth claiming voting rights.

Mojdeh Afsharian (Miss) — Richmond
Quentin Lewis — Harringey

Vivian Lo (Miss) — Liverpool

Riaz Jamshidi — Bradford

SCOTLAND

Adults

Michelle T. Walker (Mrs) — Edinburgh

WALES

Youth

Philip Gregory — Llanfairfechan

Jill Heron (Miss) — Bangor

Corinne Kent (Miss) — Caerphilly

IRELAND

Marilynn Deegan (Miss) — Dublin

Edward F. Clarke — Dublin

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE No.1 A/C. September 21st – December 20th (inclusive)

INCOME

Donations:		
L.S.A.'s and Groups	2121	17 9
Individuals	2296	16 1
	4418	13 10
Less Payments against Covenants	1651	15 1
	2766	18 9
Interest and Dividends	39	17 11
Refunds	494	11 9
Other sources	620	2 11
Tax recovery (Covenants)	1155	7 11
Rent – Endowment land	10	0 0
Excess expenditure over Income	1004	3 1
	6091	2 4

EXPENDITURE

National Spiritual Assembly		
Travel	240	14 0
Office	2082	13 9
Telephone and cables	248	16 1
Post and Stationery	84	19 5
Convention	55	0 0
Journal	180	14 6
Extraordinary	130	18 8
E.G.C.	170	0 0
O.G.C.	419	14 6
Other Goals Committees	517	14 1
Pioneer Committee	370	8 0
Other Committees	272	0 0
Youth Committee Sundry	27	8 9
Trans. to No. 2 A/C for pioneers (adjustment)	328	9 1
Hazratu'l-Quds – Running	796	9 0
Hazratu'l-Quds – Dublin	165	2 6
	6091	2 4

(This will be the last Budget Report before decimalisation)

Donations (Before Teaching Conference)	£10518
Budget for donations	£16680
Gap to be filled by year end	£ 6162
Bank Balance	£ 843 7 2

The National Treasurer wishes to thank most warmly all the friends who have contributed to the Fund. It is regretted that it is not possible to publish the names of the local Spiritual Assemblies who have contributed because the books are already in the hands of the auditors, and it is not possible to get the information from them. However, we should be very encouraged by the fact that the Treasury has grown to such an extent that the auditors are unable to complete the work between March 20th, which is the end of the financial year, and Ridvan, when an annual report must be produced for Convention and therefore ask to receive our accounts as far as possible up to the end of December. It may also interest the friends to know that our auditor specially mentioned that our Treasury is far more complex than many large industrial organisations whose books he handles, and he said what a wonderful thing it was to see such an important organisation as the Baha'is growing in the way it is.

It will be noted there is a 'gap' between the goal set by the National Assembly for the amount of money from donations, and the donations received. But with the wonderful response of the friends at Teaching Conference, this gap was closed, as well as many special offers of monies being promised for pioneers at the same time.

As time goes on it becomes increasingly evident that the value of money lessens each day, and could very well be of no value at all in a few years' time. We Baha'is are carrying civilization forward in our striving to build the World Order of Baha'u'llah which is why it is so important not to hesitate for an instant to give to the Fund as much as we possibly can now, whilst there is time, and while our money still has some value. Let us give joyously every penny we can to Baha'u'llah.

Betty Good, 8 Knowle Road, Stafford.

Removal of Voting Rights

Samuel Neak - Than, also known as Van Thorn, of Laos, has been guilty of most reprehensible conduct and has exploited the good nature and generosity of the friends in several countries for his own ends. The National Spiritual Assembly has therefore been obliged to remove his voting rights.

Voting Rights have also been taken away from the following believers:

Mr Melvin Dean, Exeter.
Amy and Godfrey Mackay, Inverness.
Mr William Evans, Hayling Island.

The following youth have also had their Baha'i privileges removed:

Mr Shahram Tabibi, Liverpool.
Mrs Mary Muir (Nee Machintosh), Folkestone.

The Voting Rights of Mrs. Ayeshe Hauzaree of Hammersmith have been restored.

FIRST EVER SCOTTISH
SUMMER SCHOOL

July 31 – August 14, 1971

ST. ANDREWS

SOUTHGATE – UNIVERSITY HALL OF RESIDENCE.
Ultra modern building with all amenities.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

Posters

The Youth Committee is putting out a general call for ideas for posters which can be used by the youth. Such posters should be informative about the Faith, attractive to youth and able to be used in such places as Universities, Colleges, schools and shops. They should also be adaptable in the sense that there should be space on them for users to include information about meetings and firesides. We hope that both youth and adults who have any ideas on this kind of poster will draft them and send them to: Shahab Fatheazam, Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Youth News

Our committee is concerned that not every youth is seeing Youth News, which is prepared and sent out after each meeting of the committee. Please ask your local assembly for "Youth News" if you have not seen a copy.

Goal Town Projects

In the coming months the National Youth Committee will be mounting a number of Goal Town Projects in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. There will be consultation with the youth on the details of these at York Winter School.

We should like to pass on a message to youth from the English Goals Committee, who ask: "If you are planning your 1971 holiday, why not spend it in a Goal Town?"

Finally, we should like to encourage everybody to write articles to send to the Youth Committee for inclusion in "Youth News".

All articles, enquiries and requests for "Youth News" should be sent to the secretary of the National Youth Committee, Miss Hazel Baller, c/o 11, Cramphorn Walk, Chelmsford, Essex.



International Youth Winter School, Salzburg.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH WINTER SCHOOL

SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, December 25 1970 — January 3 1971

It was a joyous and unforgettable week!

Over 600 Bahá'ís of all ages gathered together from twenty-five countries to attend Europe's first International Youth Winter School. The entire week was undoubtedly highlighted by the presence of our dear Hands of the Cause Adelbert Muhlschlegel and John Roberts, who spoke to us lovingly on numerous issues. How our hearts were moved with joy, and often to tears, by these dedicated souls as they recounted to us their feelings about the Faith with such humility.

There were also some very inspiring talks given by Counsellor Eric Blumenthal, Mrs. Ursula Muhlschlegel and Mr. Adib Taherzadeh.

It was appropriate that this town, famed throughout the world as the birthplace of Mozart, and more recently for the filming of 'The Sound of Music', should set the scene for the final performance of the '1970 Dawnbreakers of Europe Song Group' who sang to a large audience at the Kongress Haus. This performance, together with the presentation of the book 'The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh' to the Mayor of Salzburg and an exhibition held in the town as a follow-up of the school, helped greatly in bringing the Faith to the attention of its citizens.

The final day was devoted entirely to a conference when youth representatives of the European countries arose and shared with us reports of their activities, teaching methods and progress in the Nine Year Plan.

Words cannot express or describe the feelings which moved us on the last evening as a young Italian man, the seventeenth person that week, arose to declare his belief in Bahá'u'lláh — surely there was not a dry eye in the room as 'Sound of Alláh'u' Abhá' echoed throughout Salzburg.

Ronald Taherzadeh—Malmiri

ABERYSTWYTH SUMMER SCHOOL CANCELLED

Would any friends planning to attend the summer school scheduled to take place in Aberystwyth please note that it will not now take place.

HARLECH SUMMER SCHOOL 1970

The Registrar still has some items (mostly clothing) which were left at the school. Please contact Mrs. E. Bowers 65 Sandown Road, Liverpool, if you left anything there.

PROCLAMATION COMMITTEE.

"An unprecedented, a carefully conceived, efficiently co-ordinated nationwide campaign, aiming at the proclamation of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, through speeches, articles in the press, and radio broadcasts should be promptly and vigorously prosecuted."

It is with this direction from the Universal House of Justice in mind that the Proclamation Committee asks all communities to take every opportunity to obtain press coverage for every event.

To encourage you, we would like to report to you on the press coverage obtained as a result of the press release on the occasion of Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday.

From the twenty communities reporting on the results of the release the following statistics were obtained:

Twenty nine reports were distributed.

Twenty newspapers carried reports with space varying from one to thirteen and a half column inches.

In addition six radio spots were obtained giving eighteen minutes broadcasting time.

So we ask you to persevere with the press releases and to add as much local interest to the report as possible, as it is the local interest which is likely to get the report published. As an example of this, Sutton Coldfield, though unsuccessful in obtaining inclusion of the press release, were given space for a wonderful article on the Faith through Miss Emily Eastgate, a member of their community who first heard of the Faith in Australia, and is now a dearly loved member of the British Community.

The main work of the Proclamation Committee at present is preparing a campaign for Northern Ireland and because of the situation there it is thought that every effort should be made to have a highly concentrated programme. The friends in Northern Ireland are very enthusiastic to proceed with the programme arranged and if other friends feel neglected we assure them that it is hoped to follow up with the same programme when we have had the opportunity to judge the effect in Northern Ireland and to improve on the programme as we see how the plan works.

This project, which will include the circulation of a series of four letters to more than 500 clergy as well as more than 1,000 copies of a statement offering the Faith as a solution to current problems, will take place between now and Ridván.

The prayers of the community are earnestly requested for the success of this project.

British Dawnbreakers.

It is hoped to build up a British Dawnbreakers group and to build up similar groups in every part of the country. All members who have a desire to help in this venture please contact Stephen Jenkinson at 96, Bulan Road, Headington, Oxford, and give details of the way in which you are able to assist. If you are aware that someone may be too nervous to volunteer but who has a musical gift please notify Stephen on their behalf.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

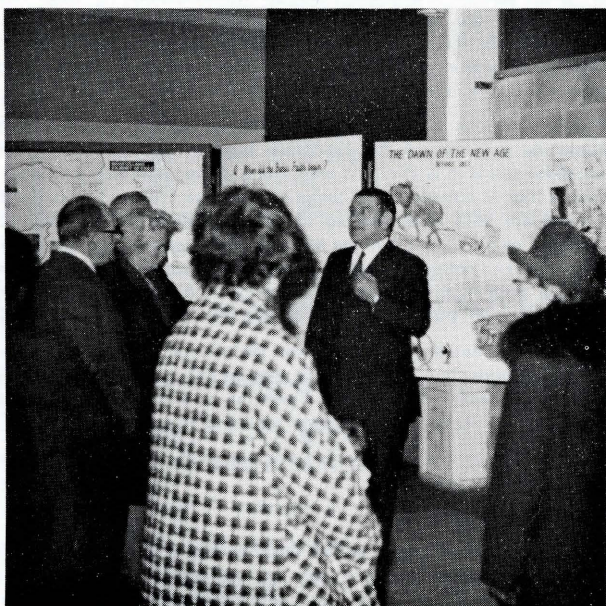
ABERDEEN: 'The Spirit of the Age' was the title of a talk given by Betty Shepherd at a public meeting in Aberdeen on the 20 November. Thirty-two people were present, including seventeen non-Bahá'ís. A weekend school followed on 21/22 November when talks were given by Stan Fox and Peter Fothergill. Our guest speaker, Dr. Mary Esselmont, gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on 'The United Nations', after which she joined in a very happy discussion on subjects including the life of her cousin, the late Dr. John Esselmont. His book 'Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era' was presented to her; she told us that her own copy had been given to someone many years ago and she was very happy to receive another one.

BLACKPOOL: Public meetings are held on the last Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m. at the Bispham Community Centre, and the Blackpool community is very grateful for the support they have received from Kendal, Burnley, Southport and Manchester. As some friends may spend holidays in Blackpool, the community there would be grateful for their support when passing through. Ernest Gregory is to be the speaker for February.

CHEADLE: World Religion Day was selected as the opportunity to hold the first public meeting for a very long time, with Philip Hainsworth speaking to the theme 'Progressive Revelation'. Over thirty people attended this most successful meeting. Philip, using an audience participation technique, inspired the Baha'is and aroused deep interest in the visitors.

DUMBARTON: We have been having considerable difficulty with our teaching programme. At each meeting we would discuss and debate what to do, but the fact remained that we were at a standstill — we had ceased to meet people — those who had already heard of the Faith did not seem interested in learning more — no new faces appeared at our firesides. Then we heard John Robarts speak — he proposed two formulae to help us — pray the Remover of Difficulties 500 times and use the Long Obligatory Prayer. Collectively and individually, we determined to do this. Since then, doors have opened to our teaching our our spirits are soaring.

DUNDEE: This young and youthful community joyously welcomed Miss Beryl Hargreaves, a youth from Burnley, bringing our number to seven adults and two youth. Despite regular advertising and the holding of public meetings, firesides still prove to be the most effective way of teaching the Faith. Ronald Taherzadeh-Malimiri gave a slide-talk on 'Israel — Land of Four World Faiths' to a Young Wives Club and was subsequently asked by them to give a talk on the Faith. A one day school held in November was supported by over fifty Bahá'ís from every major community in Scotland. The next one day school will be held on February 21 at 100 Forthill Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. This is a Bahá'í home — if you let us know beforehand and bring a sleeping bag, you are welcome to stay overnight.



Philip Hainsworth explains a panel of the 'New Era' exhibition to a group in Leeds.

DUNLOGHAIRE: May Bowers writes: 'To all the loving friends both near and far, who were so kind with prayers and letters and cards to me during my stay in hospital after a nasty accident: Please accept my sincere thanks, may Bahá'u'lláh bless you all, thank God I am on the way to recovery. My warmest love and remembrance to you all in my prayers'.

GLASGOW: The Bahá'ís of Glasgow observed World Religion Day at the Andrew Melville House, Glasgow. The meeting started with readings from the Hindu, Jewish, Bhuddist, Christian and Bahá'í Faiths, followed by talks by the Rev. J. Morrow, Chaplain of Glasgow University, and Commander John More-Nesbitt on 'One World — One Nation — One Religion'. Twenty-five of the sixty people who attended were non-Bahá'ís and many have promised to attend future meetings.

KIRKWALL: On 27 December, at a public meeting on the island of Hoy, the speaker was Lambe Fananapazir and the chairman John Morley, of Dublin, who spent some time in Kirkwall in December. Books were presented to three people who attended the meetings. In connection with World Religion Day a meeting was held in Kirkwall with readings from scriptures of the world's religions, and this was followed by meetings in three country districts of the Orkney Mainland.

LEEDS: 'The New Age' exhibition was mounted in a large show-room in a very central location in this city, next to a well-known department store in one of the main thoroughfares. It was opened by the chairman of the Leeds District Council of the United Nations and it is estimated that something like 5000 people stopped to look in the huge windows and 250 came into the exhibition. A large quantity of free literature was given away and a fair number of books sold. Every member of the community who was able threw themselves into building and manning the exhibition and we were grateful for the help of Stephen Jenkinson, of Oxford. There was a report in the press and excellent radio publicity — three advance announcements and an interview of two Bahá'ís during the exhibition. World Religion Day followed the exhibition and a meeting was held in the hall of the Unitarian Church, under the chairmanship of the minister, with an excellent panel of speakers from the Hindu, Jewish, Christian, Moslem and Bahá'í Faiths. We were asked to summarise this meeting for the radio, and one of the Bahá'ís was asked to broadcast the summary. In addition, we have been asked to prepare a thirty minute broadcast solely on the Bahá'í Faith. Speakers continue to give talks on the Faith to Townswomens Guilds and other groups in and around Leeds.

MANCHESTER: On the television programme 'Seven Days' led by Michael Scott, four Bahá'ís, George Bowers, Dr. Ta'eed, Terry Maginsky and Wilma Fairbank, were able to bring Bahá'í principles into the discussion and had at least half of the audience speaking time. Between four and six million people listen to this programme and will have heard of the Faith through the medium of television on this occasion. World Religion Day was celebrated in the Lord Mayor's Parlour of the Town Hall with a panel of speakers on the Hindu, Jewish, Christian, and Moslem Faiths and was attended by about sixty people. There was a declaration at the end of the meeting.

NORTH BERWICK: The first ever one day school will be held in the Hope Rooms, Forth Street, North Berwick on February 13 from 2—8 p.m. There will be talks and a slide show.

RICHMOND: A youth school will be held in Richmond-upon-Thames on February 27/28 at the Richmond Community Centre, beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday and finishing at 6 p.m. on Sunday. The theme will be 'Some Answered Questions'. There will be a social on the Saturday evening from 8—11 p.m.

SWINTON: The public meeting organised for United Nations Day was a stimulating and thought provoking session. Under the charming chairmanship of the Borough Librarian, Mr. Devereux, the Area Officer of the United Nations, Mr. McKinnon painted a despondent and pessimistic picture of this particular stage of the history of mankind. He spoke of the starvation, poverty and pollution facing the world today and of how the United Nations, which could be so effective in combating these evils, was limited by the indifference of 'the man in the street'. Philip Hainsworth, speaking on the Bahá'í Faith, gave an outline of its history and principles, and drew attention to the ways in which the application of the Bahá'í principles could effectively solve the problems of the world.

WIGAN: About four hundred invitations were sent to members of the clergy and headmasters inviting them to participate in our two World Religion meetings, and, in addition, a few thousand leaflets were distributed to the public. Recently Dr. Ta'eed had a very interesting interview with the local newspaper and as a result the Faith is better known in the area.

FIRESIDES AND OTHER MEETINGS

BLACKPOOL	Mrs. S. Noah, 93 Winnipeg Place, Bispham	Fireside	Fridays, 8 p.m.
	Community Centre, Red Bark Road, Bispham	Study Classes	Alternate Wednesdays 8 p.m.
DUNDEE	Mr. Ronald Taherzadeh-Malmiri. Mr. Massoud Tahzib. 100 Forthill Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Scotland	Fireside	Sundays 8 p.m.
READING	Mr. and Mrs. J. Talbot, 84 Waverley Road, Reading RG3 2PY (Tel. 50233)	Fireside	Wednesdays 8 p.m.
ISLE OF WIGHT	Moose Hall, Lind Place, Ryde	Public meetings	First Saturdays 8 p.m.
WIGAN	Mr. and Mrs. R. Coulson, 6 Hanover Road, Hindley.	Firesides	Tuesdays 8 p.m.

MY SOUTH AMERICAN TEACHING TRIP

by Hoomen Momen

When I landed at Georgetown Airport I was little aware of what was going to happen during the next eight months. It was early evening and our rapid descent made the sun appear to set in the twinkling of an eye, so I disembarked in darkness with a background accompaniment of throbbing insect noises which seemed to make everything vibrate.

By now facts and fancies were racing through my mind — it occurred to me that I was thousands of miles from home and I did not know anyone in the entire continent. There was just Jamshid whose name seemed familiar, but whose face I could not place. As I passed through Customs and Immigration my anxiety mounted until a cry of "Hooman" dispelled all my fears. It was Jamshid — now I remembered him!

The next few days were spent getting to know the town and the local Bahá'ís. There were visa problems to sort out and plenty of sleeping to do, as the climate, to those unaccustomed to it, can be extremely tiring at first. Visiting the local friends was a gastronomic delight!

After making local visits, the time came for a trip further afield and I went to the Essequibo. After several unsuccessful attempts we finally contacted a group of seekers and there was one declaration. The next trip was to mining settlements in the interior where I met several devoted Bahá'ís. I returned to Georgetown during the Republic celebrations and visited the East Indian communities on the East Coast. At that time there was only one pioneer living there — Rashid Ali — just over two months later, at the time of the Convention, there were over eighty. The key to this rapid success was undoubtedly the constant stream of Bahá'í visitors.

Convention itself was indescribably glorious, the presence of 'Amat'u'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum and the Counsellors adding to the occasion.

After the departure of the many visitors I left for Suriname where I stayed at the home of Antony Worley with Jamshid. Here for the first time on my trip I came across the language barrier, which curtailed my activities to those times when an interpreter was available, when we visited contacts in the Paramaribo area or the Bush Negroes and Amerindians.

My next visit was to French Guyana where I stayed with Mr. da Silva, who teaches English and who translated for me. We visited Bahá'ís in Cayenne and held a study class where there were two declarations. We also made a teaching trip to some Indians of the Galibi tribe.

From Cayenne I went back to Paramaribo and then to Georgetown. Visits to Trinidad, Venezuela and Colombia followed, all of which were very exciting. The conference in La Paz, Bolivia, was conducted in an emotionally charged atmosphere, the unprecedented publicity and proclamation gave rise to newspaper reports, a radio programme and a television show, culminating in a meeting of Bahá'ís with the President.

After this I left for a teaching project in Brazil and here I witnessed large scale enrolment, saw the sacrificial efforts of the pioneers and met some of the most pure and warm-hearted people that I saw on my trip. The deep love of these people reminded me of the words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá quoted by the Universal House of Justice in their message to the conference: "Should these Indians be educated and properly guided, there can be no doubt that through the Divine Teachings they will become so enlightened that the whole earth will be illumined."

The Brazilian project was an undoubted success, there being over 350 declarations during the first three weeks. Then I had to return to England and say farewell to the many friends I had made.

INSPIRATION TO ACTION

by Elsie Cranmer

Inspiration? What is it? It is the indefinable, inexpressible something that is contained in the Word of God and flows from it. At times it descends upon us like manna from heaven. Because of IT men and women perform deeds of splendid heroism. Mystics, saints, artists, poets, musicians, scientists, the intellectual and the simple, all, according to individual capacity, receive a share of this great bounty. Non-believers, whilst not acknowledging the source, are unconsciously influenced by the teachings of the particular Manifestations in which they have been reared. Hospitals, welfare societies, all humanitarian work would never have come into being were it not for this Holy Word. First inspiration, then resultant action, both of which should proceed hand in hand. Alas, how much easier it is to write of inspiration than to act upon it!

In our particular day we think of the pioneers, especially of those who are the natural 'stay at home' type, whose roots are firmly planted in the dear and familiar, and to whom all change may be anathema. They leave their jobs, their homes, their families. Their sacrifices are known only to Bahá'u'lláh and to God. They give, as Horace Holley points out in one of his books, . . . "bounty, (cosmic payment, as it were) for the bounty received through the continual sacrifice undertaken by the Divine Manifestations."

The right to individual expression is encouraged in our Faith. We need not fear that any originality of thought will open the gate to dangerous unorthodoxy. In any case, the unorthodoxy of today is often the commonplace of tomorrow. We cannot imperil the integrity of the Faith if we give implicit obedience to the Divine Laws. Obedience does not preclude inspiration. On the contrary, it leads us to it.

Of course we cannot accept the wild statements that are so often scattered in our path like forest leaves, and as unsubstantial. Although we may have missed a leaf of gold. Even there.

Within the Administration both rigidity and plasticity can work side by side, each counterbalancing the other. Thus the Bahá'í pattern of unity is preserved.

Bahá'ís know the "dark night of the soul." It is inevitable when one is trying to walk on a spiritual path. We are but human and have our moments of dark despondency, the major contributory factor being the apparent indifference and lethargy with which, by the majority, our Message is received. But this is only a passing cloud that obscures our own little individual suns. In reality, we have been "on the golden road to Samarkand," and we knew it not.

We cannot help but suffer for the sufferings of our time. Evil seems to be more evil than itself, and paradoxically, goodness has never seemed more good. We feel rather like a physician who knows the remedy for a certain disease but is prevented from administering it, because of the obstinacy of the patient. But we know that our Prescription is infallible, and by and by, we hear of results of which we have never dreamed. How could it be otherwise?

"Whoso openeth his lips in this Day and maketh mention of his Lord, the hosts of divine inspiration shall descend upon him, from the heaven of My name, the All-Knowing, the All-Wise. On him shall also descend the Concourse on high, each bearing aloft a chalice of pure light."

ENGLISH GOALS COMMITTEE

Dear Friends,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at Teaching Conference this year and to share with you the wonderful spirit of joy and confidence. Somehow we seemed to come away feeling re-dedicated to the task of achieving the goals of the Nine Year Plan and we know that we are going to see some wonderful things happening during the next few months.

Goal Town Conferences

We are eagerly looking forward to what we hope will be exciting and stimulating weekends at the two Goal Town Conferences which have been arranged. The first will be held in Shrewsbury on the 6/7 March and the second in Kendal on the 13/14 March. These have particularly been arranged to coincide with the period of Fasting in order that we may draw upon the mighty power of Prayer and Fasting. We hope that as many as possible will take this opportunity to share with the friends in the Goal Towns a really inspiring and fruitful weekend. For details of venue and programme, please see your 19 Day Feast Newsletters.

With loving Bahá'í greetings.

English Goals Committee

Latest report on the goals of the Home Front.

To reach Assembly status by Ridván, 1971:

AYLESBURY. We were delighted to hear of the declaration of Mr. Kohli. However, as one of the friends has recently moved from Aylesbury, their number remains at SIX.

CARLISLE. EIGHT Bahá'ís resident.

CHELMSFORD. SIX adult Bahá'ís resident. They have recently had a declaration but the friend unfortunately lives outside the boundary.

DURHAM. We welcome news of the declaration of Mildred Brownless which brings this community to SEVEN. They have recently held a One Day School.

EPSOM (Lapsed Assembly). The latest report from Epsom is that there are now ELEVEN Bahá'ís resident. We welcome their new declaration, Mrs. Edna Hamilton, and feel sure that they will regain their assembly at Ridván.

HEREFORD. This community has SIX adult Bahá'ís resident. They have welcomed a visit from the young Bahá'ís recently arrived from Australia, as did several other of the goal towns, and we feel sure they must have benefited from this spontaneous enthusiasm.

KENDAL. Once again we warmly welcome a new declaration, Mrs. Vera Simons, who brings the number of Bahá'ís in Kendal to TEN. We look forward to meeting this very active community at the Goal Town Conference on the 13/14 March.

LINCOLN. A public meeting was held in Lincoln in January and several more have been arranged. They now number SIX adults.

PETERBOROUGH (Lapsed Assembly). There are now SEVEN adult Bahá'ís resident in Peterborough and they also were visited by the youth from Australia on their teaching trip. This is a wonderful way of teaching the Faith, there are more and more songs being written and the friends in the various communities will have a chance to learn them.

SHREWSBURY. At the moment there are EIGHT adults in Shrewsbury but this number may drop before Ridván owing to moves from the community. We look forward to meeting all the friends at the Goal Town Conference on the 6/7 March.

ST. AUSTELL. This community, which is rather isolated, has FOUR adult Bahá'ís and we were pleased to see two of their number at Teaching Conference. The establishing of the Faith in Cornwall is a mighty task and we ask for your sustained prayers for the friends there.

YORK (Lapsed Assembly). A public meeting was held in York during the week of the York Youth Winter School. There are at present FOUR adult Bahá'ís in this community.

RYDE (Isle of Wight). Goal, to establish a Group of FIVE by Ridván, 1971. Great things have been happening in Ryde, there have been two declarations and we warmly welcome Mr. Bill Barrie and Mr. Clive Robinson. This means that there are FOUR Bahá'ís resident in Ryde (only one more needed to achieve their 1971 Goal of a Group by Ridván). There are now five adult Bahá'ís on the Island.

To reach Assembly status by Ridván, 1971:

BANGOR, North Wales. This community is now THREE adults as one of their youth has reached voting age and we welcome Jill Herron who is a recent youth declaration.

DERBY. Still only ONE Bahá'í resident and pioneers are needed to start the activity in this goal town. Please offer your assistance if you are able: this community must have nine believers by Ridván next year.

KIDDERMINSTER. There are TWO Bahá'ís resident in Kidderminster and pioneer offers would also be welcomed for this goal town.

OAKHAM. With the arrival of Rita Green from Burnley this community now numbers FIVE adults. Please give the friends your active support in their teaching efforts throughout the coming year.

ST. HELIER (Jersey, Channel Islands). Still no movement on this Island and pioneer offers would be welcomed.

NORTHAMPTON (Lapsed Assembly). The two active Bahá'ís in Northampton would welcome the help of anyone who could assist in this town. It was once a very active community and we pray that by Ridván, 1972, it will have a thriving assembly.

GUERNSEY (Channel Islands). Goal: to be re-opened. (Still remains unopened.)

ISLE OF MAN. Goal: to establish a Group. This Committee has had word from Molly Hughes that she has arrived in the Isle of Man and is looking for a job. Please pray that she will be successful and will be able to remain on the Isle of Man and make a start towards the establishment of a group there.

WANTED

**A teacher — helper for Miss Claire Gung;
A lady who would pioneer to Uganda.
The position offers free accommodation
plus a salary of between £50—£60 per month.**

Claire Gung left England to pioneer to Africa so many years ago that many of the friends in England will not know her. But it should be known that after the Guardian had called for pioneers to Africa during the British Two Year Plan in 1951, she was the first to leave for her pioneer post in Africa. Shoghi Effendi called her "The Mother of Africa".

The difficulties and problems she encountered in her pioneering post are too many to be recounted here, but her spirit of dedication and sacrifice is one which continues to be a wonderful example. She went first to Tanganyika, then to Nyasaland (now Malawi) and then to Uganda. She was not afraid to do menial jobs, and her first teaching position was a poorly paid post in an Ismaili nursery school. Eventually she opened her own kindergarten — the very first multi-racial nursery school in Uganda. After many years of real sacrifice and saving, by not using her hard-earned money to go on pilgrimage or to conferences, and by making constant personal economies, Claire eventually built her own school. This is a unique story in itself — she overcame unimaginable difficulties, from the time she bought the land, obtained building permission and through all the stages of building until the school was finally opened.

Claire says that she could only have done this with the help of Bahá'u'lláh and, truly, when one surveys the incredible obstacles which she overcame there can be no doubt of this.

Now she is tired, and desperately needs the help of an experienced and devoted teacher to run the school. Can anyone help her?

Offers should be made to the Overseas Goals Committee, 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7.

VACANCIES.....NATIONAL OFFICE

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to thank all those who applied for the secretarial and housekeeping posts at the national Hazratu'l-Quds, the positions have now been filled. These appointments, in conjunction with further re-adjustments in the National Office, the use of new equipment and some reorganisation of the accommodation, are all contributing to the successful implementation of the long-term plans to provide the British Community with an efficient National Office and a befitting Hazratu'l-Quds.