



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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Bahá 136

March 1979

NAW-RÚZ IS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

The doors burst open, armed men rushed in, looting began and another family lost everything they had, except their Faith. Had they lost that, everything else would have been saved. The choice was simple — deny your Faith and save your worldly possessions.

By mid-January this year seven hundred families in Írán had made their choice and were homeless; their fellow-believers gave them food and shelter and were themselves daily threatened that their turn was coming. Many took refuge in a local Bahá'í centre until in March it, too, was occupied, its records seized and its occupants evicted.

Businesses were burned, shops were looted, and as the properties burned, the fire-brigade stood by. Struggling children were held while fathers were dragged to the mosque and forcibly told to recant. Employers were told that if they did not dismiss their Bahá'í employees their premises too would be destroyed and these employees killed.

Throughout Írán tension grows and on 6 March the daily newspaper implied that all Bahá'í Centres throughout the country should be seized and all documents confiscated. An eminent religious leader proclaimed that the Bahá'ís were spies of hated foreign powers; the feelings of the masses, long denied the right to hear the truth, were further inflamed and the fears of the whole Bahá'í world were deepened.

Measures are being taken in many countries to convince the Iranian Government and the "Revolutionary Council" of the falsity of the charges and of the concern of the world-wide Bahá'í community. Even if they were convinced, could the masses easily change the beliefs of a lifetime — could the armed gangs now apparently out of control be halted?

The prayers of the friends in every land are focussed upon these ends, but the growing band of homeless needs material help, and it is for this reason that money is being sent to a special fund established by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Írán. The Universal House of Justice contributed \$135,000 and the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom were strongly moved at the last meeting to follow this example. It was felt that, in addition to the wonderful response already made by many believers individually, we should contribute a token amount on behalf of the whole community.

The United Kingdom has 489 Districts, each of which must be opened as a basis for further action in the new Plan, so on your behalf a contribution was made to the Iranian Relief Fund on the basis of £9 for each District, a total of £4,401 from the National Fund. This will not even provide blankets and a day's food for those already homeless — much, much more is needed. This money needs also to be replaced in our own National Fund so that our goals may be won.

Our contribution to God's Cause might then in some way equate with that made by some of our brethren in Írán, who have given all they materially possess. This giving, really to be effective, needs to be from all of us as a demonstration of our united will to respond to the heart-felt appeal of the Universal House of Justice as they call upon the believers the world over to

"...offer of their substance at this hour of need to help their tormented brethren in the Cradle of the Faith."

Iranian Relief Fund

Contributions should be made as follows:

- 1) Direct from this country to be sent marked "Iranian Relief Fund" to Mr John Long, 2 South Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HY with cheques/P.O's made payable to "NSA of the Bahá'ís".
- 2) By transfer in Írán from funds held there marked "Iranian Relief Fund" to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Iran. The friends in Írán will know best how to make these payments when so instructed from the Bahá'ís in this country.
- 3) To help replace the £4,401 from the National Fund, send as a normal donation to the National Treasurer.

LAST SUPREME EFFORT

CALL UPON STALWART BELIEVERS UK MAKE SUPREME
EFFORT ACHIEVE GOALS LOCALITIES ASSEMBLIES
ESTABLISH WIDESPREAD FOUNDATION UNPRECEDENTED
PROGRESS NEW PLAN, ASSURE LOVING PRAYERS
SACRED THRESHOLD BOUNTIFUL CONFIRMATIONS
EVERY EFFORT.

8 February 1979

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

SITUATION IN IRÁN

From reports in the news media you have no doubt learned of the disturbances in Irán. The followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh have in the land of its birth once again been subjected to severe persecution and active repression.

The National Spiritual Assembly compiled during the month of October 1978 a list of 93 cases dealing with personal injuries inflicted upon individual believers and of damages to houses, shops, crops and livestock, as well as to local Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds. During the month of December organised mobs attacked Bahá'ís and their properties in Shíraz and its environs. As a result of these attacks over 300 homes were either burned or destroyed, and some 200 looted. In these events fifteen believers were beaten and wounded, and two were killed. Fortunately the intention of the attackers to destroy the Holy House of the Báb was not carried out, but the spirit of aggressive animosity towards the Bahá'ís spread to several centres throughout the province of Fars, including the town of Marvdasht, where thirty-one Bahá'í homes were looted and the imposing structure of the local Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds reared by that community was razed to the ground.

Following these events, the wave of persecution spread to the north of the country. In several towns and villages of Adhirbáyján, and particularly in Miyán-du-Áb, the onslaught was severe. In the latter town the first target was the local Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, which was totally destroyed, and this was followed by the burning or looting of eighty homes and the brutal murder of two believers, a father and his son, whose bodies were then dragged through the streets, cut in pieces, and consigned to the flames.

The organised and violent assaults on Bahá'í lives and properties have emboldened and incited hooligans all over the country, and the oppressed Bahá'ís are constantly under threat of mass aggression and assault.

These acts of hostility against the Bahá'ís have so far cost four lives, millions of dollars in loss of property, and the displacement of some 700 individuals who have become homeless. The spirit of the Bahá'ís, however, is very high, and acts of heroism and magnanimity have been reported, which historians will record for posterity.

The National Spiritual Assembly of Irán has instituted a special fund for the relief of the needy and suffering from among the believers in that country. The House of Justice has already contributed a sum of \$135,000.00 to this fund, and it calls upon all friends in every land to offer of their substance, at this hour of need, to help their tormented brethren in the Cradle of the Faith. All contributions should preferably be sent to the Universal House of Justice, which will ensure that the contributions are transmitted safely to the National Spiritual Assembly of Irán.

The House of Justice further calls on the friends the world over to join it in fervent prayers for the protection of the Faith and the Holy Places and for the relief and deliverance of the beloved and steadfast friends in Irán. It particularly invites the friends to pray daily during the period of the Fast, supplicating Bahá'u'lláh that the distressing plight of the Persian Community may be mitigated and that their sorrows and deprivations may be transmuted into comfort and joy through His grace and bounty.

12 January 1979

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Our National Assembly writes:

Throughout the history of the Faith in Irán, the believers have been subjected to opposition, calumny, threats, and lack of freedom openly to refute the statements made against them, or publicly announce the true teachings of the Faith. Periodically this opposition flares up into prominence and sometimes, as in 1955, makes some headlines in some of the newspapers in the outside world. In this latest crisis the focus of the world media has frequently been on Irán because of the unique position in international politics and as a major supplier of oil. Only brief references have been made to the position of the Bahá'ís in Irán in the world's press, but a considerable amount has been said in France and the United States of America due mainly to the respective rôles of these two countries in the current Iranian situation.

Down through the years the official attitude of the Shí'á Muslim leaders has been to treat the Bahá'ís as "heretics" or "wayward". In the present situation, however, the Bahá'ís have been described as being more political than religious and "supporters

of the Sháh". For this, it was said, they would have to be punished. Incidents began to take place in Irán towards the end of September 1978, and by mid January 1979 there were 123 separate cases which resulted in four deaths and 700 families being made homeless. Employers were advised that they must dismiss Bahá'í employees; houses and businesses were burnt and looted and rarely did the emergency services come to the aid of the Bahá'ís who were suffering in this way. Official delegations from Bahá'í administrative bodies submitted reports to Government but it became clear that they themselves were in danger of prosecution and imprisonment.

Immediately following the establishment of the new Government and the setting up of the "Revolutionary Council", armed gangs began occupying Bahá'í Holy Places and administrative buildings and the campaign of harassment, intimidation and threats to employers was intensified. At the time of writing this report the situation is far from clear but the Bahá'ís throughout Irán, and all the Holy Places and Bahá'í institutions are in grave danger.

On 10 November 1978, the Bahá'í International Community in New York issued a press release to all the news media and we were asked to do the same in this country, and an appropriate statement was sent to all national and regional press and to the radio and television news services. It appeared to make very little impact on the media. On 13 December 1978, the Universal House of Justice requested our National Assembly to "pursue a well organised campaign of approaching editors of newspapers and those responsible for other news media". To implement the guidance given in this letter the National Spiritual Assembly set up a "Bahá'í Information Committee". On 11 January 1979 the Universal House of Justice set up special committees, responsible to itself, in the United States, France and the United Kingdom. Great emphasis was to be paid in France and the United States on publicity in the media, but publicity in the United Kingdom would be left to the new Bahá'í Information Committee and the special committee should concentrate on making the contact with Government and Civil Service Officials and people who were prominent in Iranian affairs.

On 12 January 1979 a letter was sent to all National Assemblies from the Universal House of Justice summarising the situation, calling on the friends to join the House in prayers and announcing the setting up of a special Relief Fund (printed on p 2).

The Universal House of Justice called upon Philip Hainsworth to be Chairman of its special committee in the United Kingdom and the National Spiritual Assembly appointed Philip as Chairman of the Bahá'í Information Committee and as liaison member between the two committees.

For the first meeting of the special committee a representative of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Iran was sent specially to this country to report at considerable length. As a result of the initial meeting, a set of briefing notes was drawn up and a booklet prepared to be given to officials and to newspapers as background material. A short press release, meant to be handed to newspapers exactly as written, was sent out on 12 February 1979 along with a two-page summary of essential material for any news editor who wished to enlarge on the press release. A second release with guidance notes on how it should

be used, and relating the situation to Naw-Rúz, was sent out with the Naw-Rúz 19 Day Feast Newsletter.

During February and March the situation in Iran further deteriorated as it seemed difficult to maintain law and order. Some assurances from members of the new Government that the Bahá'ís had nothing to fear seemed not only contradictory to public statements made by representatives of the Revolutionary Council in the United States but were also at variance with actions taken by groups of armed men whose actions were later ratified by certain religious leaders. On 22 February news was received that some Bahá'í Holy Places and institutions in Tehran and other provinces, and Nawnahalan Company had all been occupied by armed men claiming to belong to the Revolutionary Council and a large number of documents had been removed. Less than twenty-four hours later it was learnt that most of these properties had been handed back in a very courteous way, but by 9 March 1979 more properties had been seized, documents had been removed from local and national buildings and twenty-eight Bahá'í houses in Mashad had been raided. Two important religious leaders in Mashad had publicly declared in the daily newspaper of 6 March that these actions were officially ratified and implied that all such Bahá'í centres should be occupied and all documents confiscated. One of them even stated that the Bahá'ís had been spies for the British, Russian, American and Israeli Governments!! The special committee therefore decided immediately to convey this information to important officials in Government, in the Home Office and the Foreign Office and to the various individuals and organisations that had already been contacted. It is in the middle of this intense activity that this initial report is being written. No-one can visualise the outcome in detail, but we do know that whatever lies in store for our long suffering fellow-believers in Iran, the ultimate result must redound to the glory of our Faith. They can be sure that our loving thoughts and our prayers are with them at all times, and in this country we are pledged to do all we can to help arouse public opinion in their favour. Perhaps it will eventually reach the present leaders in Iran and gradually permeate the Iranian people as a whole, that the greatest friends of the beloved country of Iran are those very Bahá'ís who have been persecuted so unjustly, with such fervour and for such a long time.

SEVEN YEAR PLAN

ANNOUNCE WITH UTMOST JOY DECISION TO LAUNCH DURING FORTHCOMING RIDVÁN FESTIVITIES A SEVEN YEAR GLOBAL PLAN CONSTITUTING NEXT STAGE MASTER'S STEADILY UNFOLDING DIVINE PLAN. CONFIDENT MOMENTOUS DECISION TAKEN IN MIDST SEVERE CRISIS SHAKING CRADLE FAITH AND WHILE EFFORTS BAHÁ'Í WORLD COMMUNITY ARE STRENUOUSLY BENT UPON FULFILMENT GOALS FIVE YEAR PLAN WILL RELEASE OUTPOURING SPIRITUAL ENERGY ACCELERATE DESTINED PROGRESS BAHÁ'Í WORLD COMMUNITY NOW GRADUALLY APPEARING IN SHARPER RELIEF BEFORE EYES OF A BEWILDERED HUMANITY FLOUNDERING IN DEPTHS OF CONFLICT AND MORAL DEGRADATION.

DETAILS PLANS NATIONAL COMMUNITIES FOR INITIAL TWO YEAR PHASE NEW PLAN NOW BEING EVOLVED IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CENTRE WILL SHORTLY BE ANNOUNCED TO EACH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THIS INITIAL PHASE WILL CALL FOR GREATER PROCLAMATION, CONTINUED CONSOLIDATION AND WIDER EXPANSION. NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES ARE THEREFORE URGED ENSURE THAT TEACHING ACTIVITIES ARE PURSUED WITH CONTINUING VIGOUR INTO OPENING YEARS NEW PLAN, THAT PIONEERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REMAIN AT THEIR POSTS, THAT PROCESS DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY LIFE IS UNINTERRUPTEDLY SUSTAINED, AND THAT MOMENTUM NOW IMPELLING BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY FORWARD IS MAINTAINED.

URGE ALL NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES SHARE THIS MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY WITH FRIENDS UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION INVITING THEM MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS NEXT RIDVÁN CELEBRATE VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION FIVE YEAR PLAN SIMULTANEOUSLY INAUGURATE SEVEN YEAR PLAN.

OWING IMPORTANCE NEXT CONVENTION REQUEST NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES CONSIDER EXTENDING WHEREVER PRACTICABLE ITS DURATION BY ONE OR TWO DAYS. WE ARE CALLING ON COUNSELLORS IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN PARTICIPATION TO ENCOURAGE AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND THESE PORTENTOUS CONVENTIONS.

AS THE TURMOIL OF AN AGITATED WORLD SURGES ABOUT THEM THE SUPPORTERS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S MAJESTICALLY RISING FAITH MUST, AS THE BELOVED GUARDIAN SO CLEARLY INDICATED, SCALE NOBLER HEIGHTS OF HEROISM, SERENELY CONFIDENT THAT THE HOUR OF THEIR MIGHTIEST EXERTIONS MUST COINCIDE WITH THE LOWEST EBB OF MANKIND'S FAST DECLINING FORTUNES.

FERVENTLY SUPPLICATING BAHÁ'U'LLÁH BOUNTIFULLY BLESS STRENUOUS EFFORTS HIS DEVOTED SERVANTS EVERY LAND WIN EVERY GOAL FIVE YEAR PLAN ENSURE FIRM FOUNDATION NEXT STAGE WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENT GOD'S HOLY CAUSE.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS AT THE WORLD CENTRE

From time to time there are personnel requirements at the World Centre which must be filled and the Universal House of Justice wishes to build up its file of individuals or couples who possess specific skills and who would be willing and able to serve in the Holy Land, either on a temporary or permanent basis. Following is a list of job classifications of special interest:

Archivist/Conservator	Janitor	Secretary — Typist — Clerk
Construction and Maintenance	Librarian	<i>Dictaphone Secretary</i>
<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>Librarian Assistant</i>	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
<i>Chief Maintenance Engineer</i>		<i>Persian/English Secretary</i>
<i>Electrician</i>	Mail Clerk	<i>Receptionist/Switchboard Operator</i>
<i>Mason</i>		<i>Records Analyst</i>
<i>Painter</i>	Night Watchman	<i>Statistical Records Clerk</i>
<i>Plumber</i>		<i>Typist</i>
Custodian	Publishing	Translator
Finance	<i>Editor/Writer</i>	From English into
<i>Accountant</i>	<i>Proofreader</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
<i>Bookkeeper</i>		<i>French</i>
		<i>Persian</i>
Indexer	Printer — Offset	Persian/English Office Assistant

Bahá'ís interested in being considered when such openings occur should submit information about themselves, their qualifications and experience to their National Spiritual Assembly for forwarding to the World Centre.

BAHÁ'Í MARRIAGES IN SCOTLAND

The House of Justice acknowledges receipt of your very interesting letter of August 18, 1978 detailing the happy outcome of the consultation between your representatives and the Registrar-General for Scotland. The House of Justice extends its loving congratulations to you for this accomplishment and instructs us to say that your report will be studied in detail before filing in our various records at the World Centre.

5 November, 1978

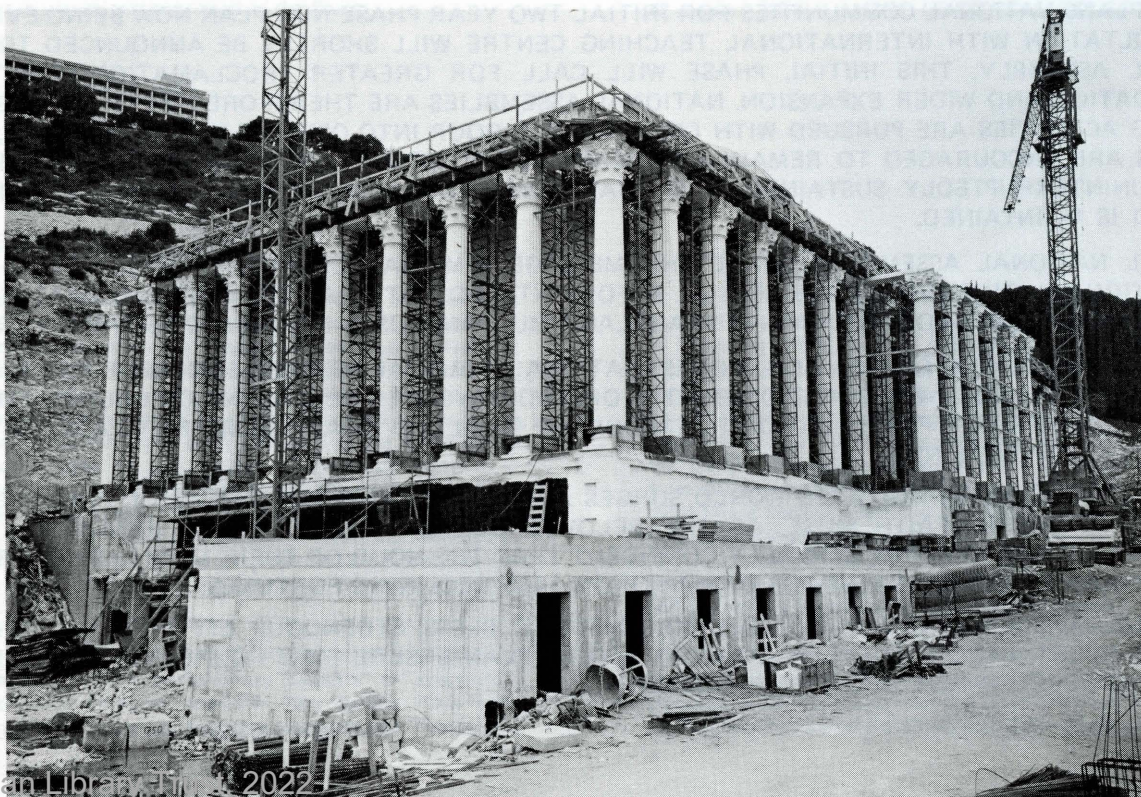
UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

MUSIC, POETRY AND ESSAYS SOUGHT BY WORLD CENTRE

The Department of Publishing at the World Centre has been requested to gather original poetry, essays and music with or inspired by Bahá'í themes for consideration by the Editorial Committee in compiling the volumes of "The Bahá'í World". Believers who have composed poetry, essays or music which they feel has merit are invited to submit their compositions whether or not they have been published previously, together with a letter consenting to their publication by the World Centre if they are selected for inclusion. Copyright clearance should be obtained where necessary. Submission of material to the World Centre

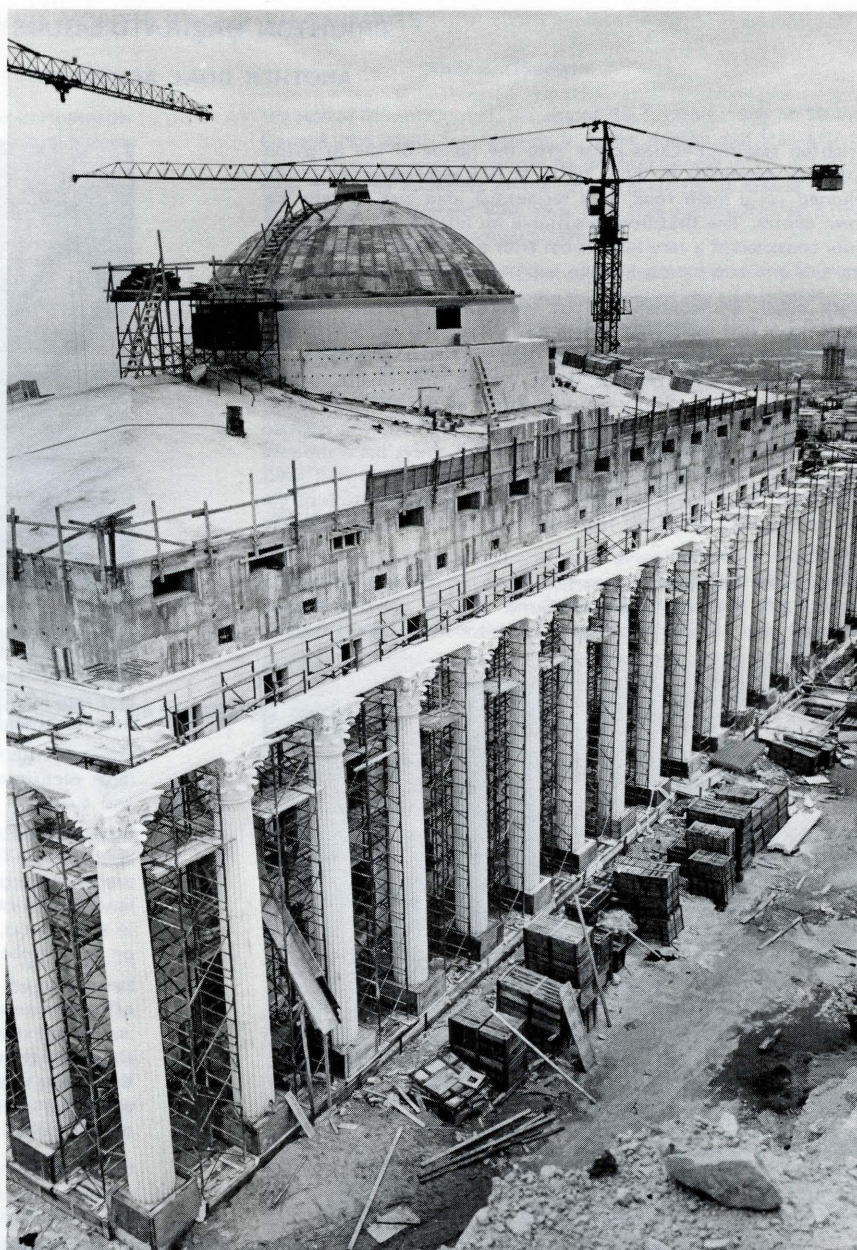
does not preclude submission of the same material to other sources of publication, Bahá'í or non-Bahá'í. Although only a small selection can be used, a necessity dictated by the limited size of the international record, all material will be considered and its receipt acknowledged. Kindly address submissions to:

Department of Publishing
Bahá'í World Centre
P.O. Box 155
Haifa 31 000, Israel.



THE SEAT OF THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

The new building for the Seat of the Universal House of Justice, as photographed on 24 January 1979. All of the 58 columns have been erected, and work is proceeding at a rapid pace as workmen complete the installation of the marble exterior of the new building. In the vertical photograph, taken from slightly above roof level from the southwest corner of the building, portions of the marble entablature can be seen installed on top of the Corinthian capitals of the columns. Reinforced concrete beams — some fabricated nearby and the others poured in place — will tie the columns together and to the building itself, as is shown in the other photograph, taken from the northeast corner. The marble facing for the drum of the dome is being installed, as is that for the outside wall of the upper basement level.



THE MESSAGES OF SHOGHI EFFENDI

As the vital world-wide Five Year Plan draws to a close, and the shadows of the swiftly disintegrating world contrast sharply with the light of Bahá'u'lláh's steadily advancing New World Order, the National Spiritual Assembly shares with the community an exciting decision, and appeals for help in fulfilling the last home front capital project goal.

As appeals for funds were made for our various Ḥaẓratu'l-Quds capital goals, so the friends have arisen courageously to meet these financial requirements.

One of the capital goals of the Five Year Plan is the development of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, and this has proceeded steadily with the acquisition and the development of the warehousing facilities at Ketton. The messages from the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, to the Bahá'ís of the British Isles have been prepared for publication, and the National Assembly has decided that this publication would be a most memorable achievement at this time, as part of the development of the Publishing Trust.

Friends everywhere, young and old, our overseas pioneers and so many more throughout the world have been eagerly awaiting the time when the collection of the Guardian's messages to the British Isles would be made available, and so the National Assembly appeals to each and everyone for funds to support this exciting project and so bring to a fitting conclusion this last remaining capital goal of the Five Year Plan.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

CONVENTION 1979

As will be seen from the letter from the Universal House of Justice of 26 December 1978 the Convention should be of longer duration than usual and every believer is called upon to make a special effort to attend. To find a suitable hall for a large number of visitors for three full days was very difficult but finally a place was located.

The Southport Theatre and Floral Hall Complex, on the Promenade, Southport (overlooking the Marine Lake) will therefore witness the historic gathering which will commemorate the completion of the Five Year Plan and the launching of the First Phase of the Seven Year Plan. A printed guide to Hotels and Guest Houses has been sent to every isolated believer, group and community; more copies are available on request (SAE) from the National Office.

Convention will begin early in the morning of Friday 27 April and will continue to early evening Sunday 29 April.

The evidences of deterioration in the outside world are so overwhelming that we can confidently assume that this new Plan will witness an unprecedented period of growth in the Faith. How we are equipped to meet the changes and challenges of this period and collectively take the fullest advantage of every new opportunity, could well be influenced by the deliberations of the delegates and the spirit generated by friends gathered together in Southport.

The call for an extended Convention and a large attendance is most unusual; it must therefore be a Convention we cannot miss. If your accommodation is not yet booked please do not delay.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

BRIGHTON ḤAẒĪRATU'L-QUDS

ANOTHER GOAL ACHIEVED

Brighton Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds came into the hands of the Brighton Spiritual Assembly in July 1977. It is a semi-detached house situated on a main road, in a residential area just outside the town centre. The first floor is suitable for letting and the ground floor consisted of a very large room with a sliding-door divider on one side and two rooms, kitchen and bathroom on the other.

Work began immediately to put everything in order. First to come down was the divider which left a very long room with two magnificent mahogany fireplaces. Then the re-painting began; all hands came to paint ceilings, doors, and skirting boards, polish brass hinge plates and door handles, and in all but the main room the walls were painted if necessary. New Vinyl flooring was laid in the kitchen, bathroom and part of the hall. Next the wallpaper was chosen for the main room and hung professionally, followed soon after by an Egyptian design carpet. With the addition of the gift of two very attractive lighting fittings the room was ready for use.

A bring and buy sale for our goal-town of Hastings brought a special gift for the Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds. About seventy friends gathered and during an auction sale someone offered some



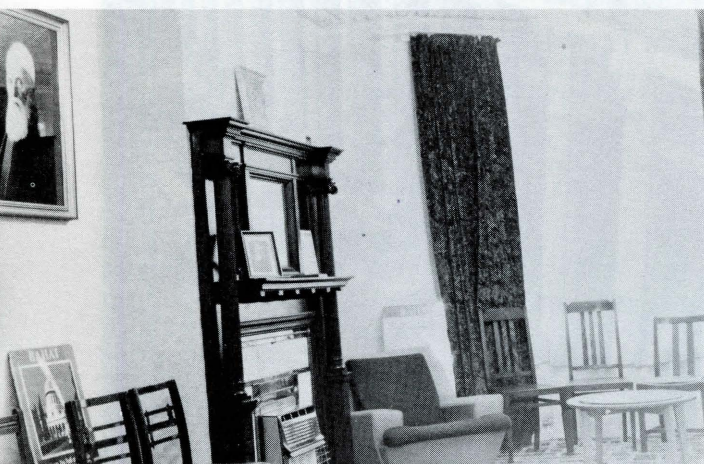
The Brighton Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds

leaves and bark from an orange tree planted by the Báb. The new owner of this precious gift donated it to be kept in the Ḥaẓīratu'l-Quds. The result is a very attractive montage which now hangs above the hearth in the main room.

Other friends have donated pictures of the Shrines in Haifa and a large picture of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Other gifts include a large tea-set and a desk.

Further activity was halted pending the result of our planning application. The first was refused. So, undaunted, a second was prepared in greater detail, offering certain concessions — i.e. limiting the number of adults to be present and dispersing cars in side streets. Official permission to use the centre was received on 4 November 1978.

We registered as a charity and at the Feast on 23 November the official document which gave the house into our hands was signed and sealed in the presence of the friends. Then we ordered thirty chairs which made meetings more comfortable, prepared one of the downstairs' rooms for a tenant/caretaker and rented the flat upstairs to provide some income. Although we are not allowed to hold public meetings here, the address may be advertised.



The main meeting room

AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS' CONFERENCES

A series of Conferences which we called in Manchester, Shrewsbury, Lincoln, Hartlepool and Hull between the end of September and the middle of January convinced us of the value of holding them in five different places. The northern half of England is a large area and we felt that more of the friends would be able to attend in this way than if only one had been held in a central position. From the numbers who came we are sure that this was indeed what happened.

The programme was the same in each case. It was fascinating to see, with an identical programme, how different each conference was, with varying physical surroundings and a new set of people every time: diversity in unity!

On the Saturday, after "Arrival and coffee", there was a devotional, and then the morning session dealt with "The Functions of the Auxiliary Boards". This included a history of the development of the Institution of the Hands, Counsellors and Auxiliary Board Members, and also our understanding of the function of the two Auxiliary Boards. After lunch there were two sessions on the Covenant, one "From The Propagation Angle" and one "From The Protection Angle". These were followed by workshops led by some of our Assistants. At a social in the evening, everyone relaxed with dances, games, songs and entertainment according to the talent available. In one case, a jumble sale raised £25 for the National Fund.

On the Sunday, after the opening devotional, there was a session which was purposely left open, so that we could share with the friends anything from the Universal House of Justice, the

Counsellors or the National Assembly which had been brought to our notice. Over the months, as well as certain general things which are always relevant, we were able to talk about the letter from the Universal House of Justice to the Langenhain Conference, and at the last one, to share with the friends the exciting cable about the next Plan. After lunch there was a session on "Sacrifice and Suffering"¹, and then a very practical session with a large chart of the area, at which information about goals was brought up to date in each locality and the friends encouraged to teach as never before. Half an hour of prayer closed each conference.

There was a wonderful spirit at all the conferences, which built up to something very inspiring and powerful by the Sunday afternoon. As well as meals, there were breaks for tea and coffee and time-keeping was excellent! We were delighted that so many isolated believers came along, because they, of all people, need this sort of inspiration and fellowship to keep their spirits up. We ourselves also derived tremendous benefit from these conferences: quite apart from anything else they have made it possible for us to meet and get to know better a large number of the friends in our area. Our grateful thanks go to all those local assemblies and groups who took care of the physical arrangements on our behalf, provided refreshments and looked after the children, enabling us to concentrate on the actual conferences. We hope that everyone enjoyed them as much as we did.

Madeline Hellaby and Joe Foster

¹ Printed in the January Bahá'í Journal.

THIRD YOUTH GROUP PILGRIMAGE

Andrew Goodwin

On 24 December 1978 a group of fifteen Bahá'ís met in Heathrow airport; our destination was Haifa, Israel — our 'spiritual home'. After arriving and spending the night in Tel Aviv we made our way in a hired bus to Haifa. It was a perfect sunny day as we drove to our hotel, all eagerly looking out of the windows to see our first, never to be forgotten, breathtaking view of the Shrine of the Báb, its golden dome shining in the sun. We were warmly welcomed and the same afternoon, accompanied by Hand of the Cause Paul Haney, we visited the Shrines of the Báb and 'Abdu'l-Bahá, an experience I wish every Bahá'í could have.

From that moment until the end of our pilgrimage nine days later (although it seemed more like nine minutes), we were given a nine day feast. We saw items from the Faith's history in the Archives building, the actual writing of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh, and Mullah Husayn's sword and many other wonderful things. In Akká, where Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned with about seventy followers and where He revealed the Most Holy Book, the Kitáb-i-Aqdas. We saw the Faith today in the beauty of the gardens, the members of the Universal House of Justice, the Hands of the Cause of God, and all the other friends from all over the world that we met there. Then we saw the future of the Faith in the seat of the Universal House of Justice which is being constructed on

the side of Mount Carmel, the site of the future temple on Mount Carmel, the plans for temples in India, Samoa and Írán and to top it all we were privileged to be the first people in the world to hear from the members of the Universal House of Justice that at the end of the present Five Year Plan this coming Ridván a new Seven Year Plan will be inaugurated.

In the evenings we had the bounty of meeting either Hand of the Cause Mr Furutan, or one of the members of the Universal House of Justice, who would talk about many varied and diverse subjects, but their main message was always to encourage us all to teach, teach, then to teach some more; in fact one evening we came up with the sobering thought that if just the fifteen of us from England started as 'Abdu'l-Bahá suggested, to bring one soul into the Faith each year, and those embracing the Cause did the same, the world could become 100% Bahá'í in only about twenty-five years! (If the whole Bahá'í population of the world did the same starting now it would only take about eleven years!).

The overall feelings and experience of every individual is different so I won't try to explain them, but as one member of our party said, "Although we may have physically left Haifa, I'm sure we will spiritually remain there for a long time."

TRAVEL TEACHING IN NORWAY

Zarin Hainsworth

Half a year has elapsed since Vinstva's wooded slopes welcomed the travel teachers from England. They journeyed through summer's blazing glory from Tromsø, 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle, to the verdant green of Hurum in the south, near Oslo.

The months spent in that country will be forever remembered by those who, together with native Bahá'ís, endeavoured to spread abroad the name of Bahá. How sweet is the memory of those times! Now, in a latitude even further distant from home, I remember the faces of my friends in Norway and feel unequal to the task of rendering in black ink on virgin paper the immensity of the travel teaching experience, and in particular its expression in Norway.

To watch a sunset and see a rapturous orchestration of colour in the skies above, so exquisite that it hurts, is an incredible phenomenon. To watch a countryside change its garb and from bright lighted summer see winter's frosty hand grasp the trees and clothe the land in a white blanket of tranquility, is strange. To note with an incomparable astonishment the glory that is autumn — golden and glowing; reflected embodiment of the sun's lusty life-giving strength, — while living and laughing with people dedicated to this oh so wondrous religion, is an experience short in duration, but always intense.

Perhaps most spectacular is the lasting effect of that which is most subtle; that is the accumulated memories of people and things, of places and events. For gradually over the months a love for the country and its Bahá'í community grew in me and its strength was only realised when the time came to say goodbye.

Yes — we know that within the Bahá'í community there can never be a farewell for the world is ever too small. Nevertheless,



Norwegian Bahá'í Community Convention 1978

it is inevitable that a certain sadness floats over one for a short time: — until one reads again the Writings and realises again the incalculable urgency of this Day and the invigorating truth of this Faith.

"Should any man, in this Day, arise and, with absolute detachment from all that is in the heavens . . . set his affections on Him Who is the Day Spring of God's holy Revelation, he will . . . be empowered to subdue all created things . . . Let the light of His glory, O people, shine upon you, and be not of the negligent. . ." (Bahá'í Revelation p.95 'Gleanings')

SERVICE FOR THE BLIND

New Arrangements for Tape Library

At the last meeting of the Service for the Blind Committee it was decided, in order to secure a unified service to library users, that the Braille and tape libraries should be amalgamated.

Previously the tape library has been held by Bob Smith in Purley, Surrey and the Braille library by Oliver Christopherson in Stevenage, Herts.

Under the new arrangements Bob Smith will continue as tape co-ordinator to commission books from our volunteer readers,

check recordings and make copies for the library. Oliver, as librarian, will be responsible for the supply of books to readers (Braille and tape), as well as for the preparation of Braille material.

Further information from the secretary of the Committee, Oliver Christopherson, 68 Briardale, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 1TR, tel. (0438) 55983.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE

THE TABLETS OF THE DIVINE PLAN

The tablets of the Divine Plan are a series of letters of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the North American Bahá'ís, revealed during 1916 and 1917. Not only do they give detailed instructions for the spread of the Cause of God throughout the world, but their advice on the requirements of the Bahá'í teacher, and how he should undertake his task, is timeless.

For this reason the National Teaching Committee has selected certain quotations from these Tablets. The first extracts were published in February and April 1977. It is hoped that the friends will gain from these quotations the inspiration not only to teach as never before, but also to study further the Divinely-given guidance about the duties and requirements of the Bahá'í teacher.

Page references given are to the U.S. Publishing Trust edition, 1959 (1971).

Amongst other things is the holding of the meetings for teaching so that blessed souls and the old ones from amongst the believers may gather together the youths of the love of God in schools in instruction and teach them all the divine proofs and irrefragable arguments, explain and elucidate the history of the Cause, and interpret also the prophecies and proofs which are recorded and are extant in the divine Books and Epistles regarding the Manifestation of the Promised One, so that the young ones may go in perfect knowledge in all these degrees. . . TDP p 20

In short, in all the meetings, whether public or private, nothing should be discussed save that which is under consideration, and all the articles be centred around the Cause of God. . . TDP p 21

Hence the intention must be purified, the effort ennobled and exalted, so that you may establish affinity between the hearts of the world of humanity. This glorious aim will not become realised save through the promotion of divine teachings which are the foundations of the holy religions. . . TDP p 26

This phenomenal world will not remain in an unchanging condition even for a short while. Second after second it undergoes change and transformation. Every foundation will finally become collapsed; every glory and splendour will at last vanish and disappear, but the Kingdom of God is eternal and the heavenly sovereignty and majesty will stand firm, everlasting. Hence in the estimation of a wise man the mat in the Kingdom of God is preferable to the throne of the government of the world. . . TDP p 42

Praise be to God that through the divine bounty and providence, in that region the field of service is vast, the minds are in the utmost degree of intelligence and progress, science and arts are being promoted, the hearts like unto mirrors are in the utmost state of purity and translucency, and the friends of God are in perfect attraction. Therefore it is hoped that meetings for teaching will be organised and instituted, and for the diffusion of the fragrances of God wise teachers may be sent to cities, even to villages. . . TDP p 48

Oh ye believers of God! Do ye not look upon the smallness of your number and the multitudes of the nations. Five grains of wheat will be endued with heavenly blessing, whereas a thousand tons of tares will yield no results or effect. One fruitful tree will be conducive to the life of society, whereas a thousand forests of wild trees offer no fruits. The plain is covered with pebbles, but precious stones are rare. One pearl is better than a thousand wildernesses of sand, especially this pearl of great price, which is endowed with divine blessing. Ere long thousands of other pearls will be born from it. . . TDP p 52

APOLOGY

In the article on page three of the January Journal the name of Counsellor Anneliese Bopp was inadvertently omitted. Counsellor Bopp's vital contribution to the conference was immense and the editor wishes to apologise for this omission.



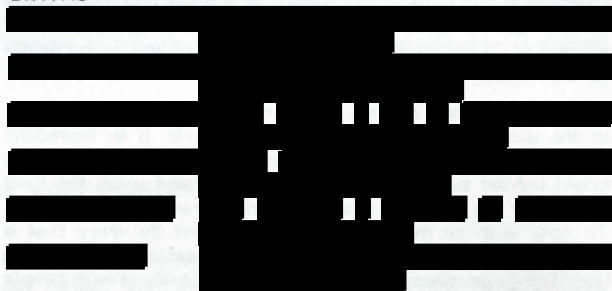
His Highness Malietoa Tanumafili II and the Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm lead a procession to the site of the Mother Temple of the Pacific Islands near Apia, Western Samoa. Behind them are members of the Malietoa's family, government officials, and other distinguished guests who attended the ceremony at which the Foundation Stone of the new Bahá'í House of Worship was laid. (Full report in the next Bahá'í Journal.)

NOTICES

DEATH

February 1979: John Turner, in a tragic car accident, in Colwyn.

BIRTHS



MARRIAGES

6 January 1979: Marilyn Gough (of Harrow) to John Schmidt, in Louisville, USA.
12 January 1979: Jessie Noor (of Capetown) to Mark Benatar, in Godalming.
24 March 1979: Taraneh Afnan to Richard Holmes.

DEADLINE: As the Bahá'í Journal must now await distribution with other National Assembly material, would the friends please observe the regular deadline dates — six weeks before the first day of the month in which it is scheduled for publication — as follows:

January issue	— deadline	— 15 December
March		15 February
May		15 April
July		15 June
September		15 August
November		15 October

Please send TYPEWRITTEN copy (PLEASE) and black and white glossy photographs to the Editor:—

Lois Hainsworth (Mrs)
136 Thurlow Park Road,
West Dulwich,
London SE21.

Please note that if local and committee events are to be published in the Bahá'í Journal, reports must be sent DIRECT to the Editor.

THE FUND

Ways of making contributions to the Funds.

1. Directly (by cheque or postal order) to the National Treasurer:—

Mrs Betty Goode
1 Loddington Lane,
Belton,
Uppingham, LE15 9LA.

2. By Bank Giro directly to the bank which is:—

The National Westminster Bank Ltd.,
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3

Our account number is **18188443**

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

4. The Capital Projects Fund is in a separate account:—

The National Westminster Bank Ltd.,
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3

Account number **18188648**

POINTS WHICH ARE IMPORTANT

- A All cheques no matter for which Fund should be made payable to "NSA OF THE BAHÁ'IS" (please NOT to Betty Goode).
- B They should be 'crossed'.
- C It is unwise to send paper money or any money through the post unless it is registered.
- D Receipts are only sent if the donation is accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.
- E It is still cheaper to make Post Office Giro payments than to buy postal orders.
- F Friends wishing to donate by Deed of Covenant, please write directly about it to the National Treasurer.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CANADA: A non-Bahá'í who serves as social services director for 122 Indian bands in Ontario was worried because the spirit at Curve Lake Reserve had begun to decline when Bahá'í activities ended. One day she found herself praying that the Bahá'ís would return to the Reserve again.

That very day, she answered a knock at her door to find a group of Bahá'ís, coming to ask assistance in arranging a joint celebration of Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday with the Curve Lake community and the Tyendinage Reserve Bahá'ís.

The five Bahá'ís still living at Curve Lake—plus three more persons who wanted to become Bahá'ís—joined in the moving ceremony, which included prayers in the Ojibway, Cree, and English languages. The chief of the Reserve has offered the community hall for further Bahá'í firesides and children's classes, and the Curve Lake Bahá'ís have planned a series of activities which will include visits to other reserves and active participation in the teaching work in the area.

CHILE: Chile attained its Five Year Plan goal of establishing a local Assembly in every province in December when a new Assembly was established on Robinson Crusoe Island in the Juan Fernandez group in the Pacific Ocean. That victory, together with the re-establishment of the two Assemblies on Chiloe Island in the Southern Archipelago and a new Assembly in Puerto Aysen, were the result of a determined programme of travel teaching.

EL SALVADOR: A month-long teaching effort during September by four travelling teams resulted in the enrolment of eighty-five new believers and the opening of two new localities to the Faith.

On 23 September, the new local Ḥaẓratu'l-Quds in Caluco, in the western part of the country, was dedicated at a ceremony attended by over 100 persons.

HUQÚQU'LLÁH

حضرت ولی امرالله ارواحنا لمرسل الطاهر العلاء در توقع بافتخار بادی امرالله و امین حقوق

حضرت ولی الله خان در قافیه میفرمایند:

این نفوس خالصه فاصله زکمه منقطعه که بصرافت طبع قستی از متممات خویش

بعضی در ایام حیات و بعضی دیگر حسب الوصیه وقف امرالله نموده اند و بتأدیه

حقوق الله موقوف و منقذ گشته اند اجرشان عند الله عظیم است از قبل این عبد

تقدیم کنندگان و بازماندگان آن متصاعدین الی الله را طمینان و بند این اقدامات

و تبرعات جالب تأیید الهی و برکت سماوی و فیض نامتناهی است و مروج مصالح

متوجه جامع بن المللی بهائی نغیاً لهم با و فقه الله علی امر ترتفع به مقامات

فی الدنیا و الآخرة . استی



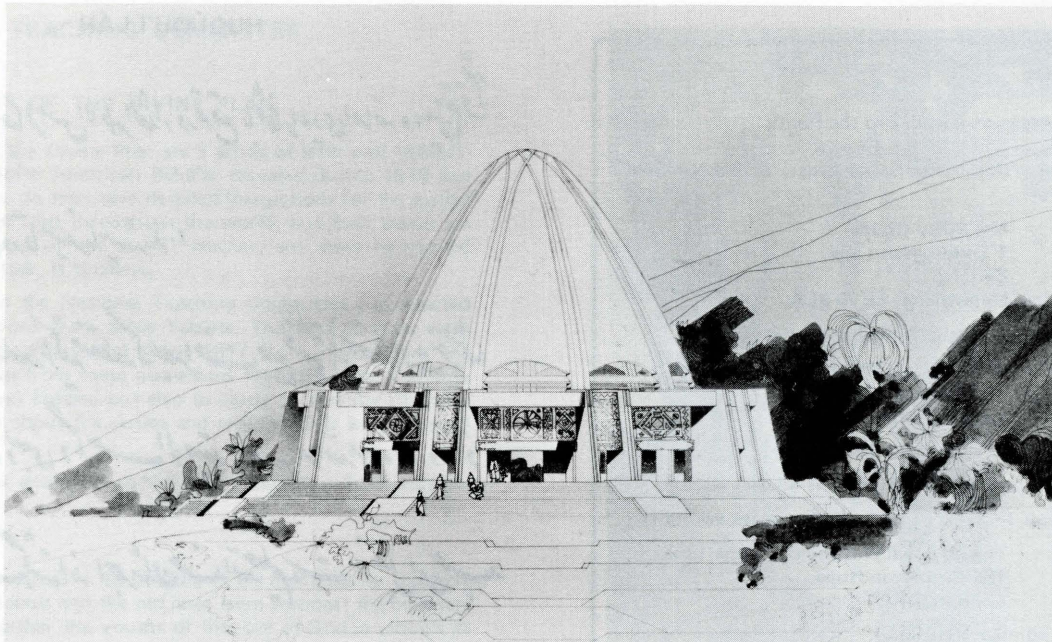
GUYANA: Special teaching efforts in Guyana during the summer resulted in the enrolment of 558 new Bahá'ís, the formation of seven local Spiritual Assemblies, the opening of two new localities to the Faith, and the formation of one Bahá'í youth group. The effort was assisted by teams of travelling teachers from the United States and the United Kingdom.

The teams visited at least eighteen different villages, spending at least one week and as much as three weeks in each, which contributed greatly to the success of their efforts as the people of the villages tended to feel closer to the Bahá'ís who actually stayed with them.

"Most of the teams found that a lot of the people they met had heard of the Faith through the radio programmes on Sundays," the National Teaching Committee pointed out in its report, adding: "All of the teams reported that the response of the people to the Faith was really encouraging. The new believers were very anxious to see more Bahá'ís soon, as they want to learn more about the Bahá'í Faith."

INDIA: Hundreds of inquiries from all over India have been received as a result of the broadcast of a series of radio programmes every Sunday evening on Radio Sri Lanka. The programmes are part of a series prepared by Mrs Gloria Faizi.

The comments of some of those who wrote for further information are interesting: "Your views on unity have been my dreams. . ."; "I was touched immensely by the profound teachings of the Bahá'ís; this is essential in a world drifting away from God. . ."; "We have heard your wonderful broadcasts. Kindly send us all your literature, as we are deeply interested. . ."; "Was enchanted with your songs, am intrigued at your aims. Could you let me know more? . . ."; "I was really overwhelmed with joy when I perchance came across your broadcast. Kindly enlighten me further on the Bahá'í Faith and also the procedure to become a follower. . ."



Photograph of the architect's rendering of the design for the new Bahá'í House of Worship for Samoa, which will be erected on a site near Apia, Western Samoa. Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum represented the Universal House of Justice at a groundbreaking and cornerstone dedication ceremony on the weekend of 27 January, 1979. Initiation of construction of the building is a goal of the Five Year Plan. Architect Husayn Amánat, who also designed the building for the Seat of the Universal House of Justice, created the Samoan Temple.

SPAIN: A special effort by the Bahá'ís of Spain to increase the amount of radio programming about the Faith has had significant results, according to a recent report of the Radio Department of the National Audio-Visual Committee.

In six months, the station in Fuengirola-Marbella has transmitted 813 minutes of Bahá'í material; Tarragona-Reus 154 minutes; Madrid 120 minutes; Cartagena 87 minutes; Tenerife 50 minutes; Valencia 44 minutes; and various other stations a total of 45 minutes. Further, a programme called "Spiritual Vibrations" continues to be broadcast over Radio Bilbao every Thursday at 8.45 p.m., and selections from *The Hidden Words* are heard every morning. In Sabadell, a series of Bahá'í spot announcements of thirty and sixty seconds will begin soon.

SURINAM AND FRENCH GUIANA: Because seventeen Local Spiritual Assemblies have been established among the villages of the Saramaccaners—one of the four principal Bush Negro tribes of Surinam—the National Spiritual Assembly had been seeking an opportunity to meet with the Granman, or chief, of the tribe.

In November, through the efforts of Mr Alibe Mimba—a member of the tribe and also a member of the National Assembly—a meeting was arranged with Granman Aboikoni at his residence and seat at Assidohoppo, far up the Surinam River.

At the audience with the Granman he told the Assembly that they were most welcome, and then pointed out that he had instructed his people that when they accept a new religion, they must also accept its tenets and laws without clinging to any of their old religious ideas. He then asked for an explanation of the principles and laws of the Bahá'í Faith, and after it was given indicated that he was content with what he had heard.

UNITED STATES: Over 300 Local Spiritual Assemblies were formed—105 of them in just seven days—during an intensive eight-week teaching effort in the United States which ended 26 November 1978, the Day of the Covenant.

The campaign was organised by the National Spiritual Assembly and its National Teaching Committee, using the services of Dr Hidáyatu'lláh Ahmadiyyih, a member of the Continental Board of Counsellors for Central America. He has helped organise similar large-scale programmes in many Central and South American and Caribbean areas.

The effort began in California in late September, where six teaching projects were organised involving over 150 Bahá'ís. Although receptivity to the Faith was not high among the public, the California believers nevertheless succeeded in establishing twenty Assemblies. Many of those participating intend to spend much of their time in the teaching work through next Riqdán.

At a general meeting in Rochester, forty-two Bahá'ís volunteered to participate in special teaching teams. Arrangements were made to hold meetings in northern and southern Georgia, South Carolina, eastern Texas, and Springfield and Wilmette, Illinois.

The activity in the southern states also revitalised the Bahá'ís in other states, as many who came to assist for short periods returned home and organised plans of their own. Since the local Assembly goal of 1,400 was reached in November, efforts are being concentrated on consolidation of those gains and in fulfilling the goal of establishing 7,000 localities where Bahá'ís reside.

THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE FAITH

We warmly welcome to the community the following new believers, recorded in the National Office between 1 December 1978 and 31 January 1979.

ADULTS:

Ronald Anderson (Banbridge); Mrs Susan A. S. Barratt (Caradon); Richard Barratt (Caradon); Stewart Bell (Antrim); Matthew Edwards (Arun); Karu Lakshman (Wycombe); Mrs Dorothy Milsted (Worthing); Laurence Sutherland (Orkney); William Todd (Banbridge); Mrs Pat Trethowan (Hammersmith); Adrian Darnenia (Malta); Michael Dowd (Bexley); Dennis Roy Dyer (Llanelli); John Alexander Fraser (Tonbridge & Malling); Peter Maguire (S. Oxfordshire); L. David Paul (Craigavon); Mrs Marion Turner (Norwich).

YOUTH:

Andrew Hadley Shepherd (Penwith); Bahram Honari (Macclesfield); Miss Barbara L. McLennon (Middlesbrough); Shahram Eshraqi-Yazdi (Bexley); Miss Shiva Eshraqi-Yazdi (Bexley); Miss Meryl Ann Evans (Newport); Cameron Ford (Brighton); Miss Deborah Hathway (Newport); Miss Susan Hughes (Brent); Homayon Karimi (Greenwich); Siamak Mirafteb (Barnet); Miss Bahieh Mondavi (Milton Keynes); Miss Faranak Monshizadeh (Plymouth); Shahriyar Saeb-Noori (Welwyn Hatfield).

CORRECTION: Georgina Ivory, of Winchester, was incorrectly listed in the January issue as a Youth — she is over twenty-one.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

FELIXSTOWE: A one-day school was held in December at the Red Cross Centre in Felixstowe, organised jointly by the Spiritual Assembly of Ipswich in our goal area of Suffolk Coastal.

The organisers of the school took an enterprising step in planning separate programmes for adults and for the youth and children, so that the children would enjoy the day and benefit from the experience.

The theme of the adults' programme was 'Local Spiritual Assemblies'. The school was led by Betty Goode, National Treasurer. She started the day with a talk about the significance of local Spiritual Assemblies in Bahá'u'lláh's World Order and spoke about the functioning of spiritual assemblies — what makes them work, and the qualifications for membership.

After lunch, we watched the comic filmstrip 'Birds of Diverse Feather' — with much amusement! We then divided into three groups holding mock assembly meetings, consulting on items which had actually been on the agenda of the National Assembly. Those who took part agreed that it was a very useful exercise in the functioning of assembly meetings.

The school ended with the children singing the songs which they had learnt during the day, to the accompaniment of a guitar.

Altogether twenty-four adults and sixteen children came to the school, from all over East Anglia. The day was a great success, from which everyone gained a great deal. It is hoped a similar event will be held in the near future.

The children report their meeting as follows:

"We had a slide show 'Some meaning to life' which several children watched with rapt attention. We all had plenty of time to get to know our fellow Bahá'ís. We had made flower cards before as souvenirs for the day and occasion with a prayer written on them which we gave to each child for everyone else to sign.

We went on the beach, where we had games, and learned several Bahá'í songs, so we could sing them together with our parents and other Bahá'ís at the end of the day.

We came from Norwich, Waveney, Chelmsford, Babergh and Suffolk Coastal districts and it was the first time that most of us had been to, or helped arrange, a proper programme for the children and youth.

The parents were as happy with the whole day as we were, as they were able to enjoy their own programme as much as we did ours.

Can we suggest that you ask your Spiritual Assembly when they arrange their programme to ask your help in arranging something for you to help with as well."

ISLE OF MAN: Since the election of the first Spiritual Assembly at the beginning of last year, the Island community has undergone a number of changes resulting in the reduction of the nine members to five. Teaching activities have continued nevertheless with comparatively little interruption. In July last year, while the Island's Government, Tynwald, was being ceremoniously sworn in at the Tynwald Day Fair, the Bahá'ís busied themselves with an outdoor Exhibition. This met with a reasonable amount of success in terms of Proclamation and was followed by a similar Exhibition at the Southern Agricultural Show a month later, but this time the constant rain disrupted the display. In September a very successful informal weekend school was held and visitors came from Ireland and England to attend. We are very grateful for their support.

On 12 November a party was held to celebrate the birthday of Bahá'u'lláh and was attended by a number of people with a definite interest in the Faith. That same week a great deal of contact was made with various people through the help of a travel teacher whose interests coincided with theirs: a Reflexologist by profession, Margaret Watkins found it easy to introduce the Faith and explain her profession at the same time.

Falariva and Irene Tafaaki made a good follow-up team after Margaret's visit bringing with them slides of the new era school in India.

In the next few weeks that followed we received a visit from John Lord and Steve Bullock who drove hundreds of miles in snow-bound conditions during a rail strike from the National Centre to the Island.

In conclusion we would like to thank those hard working administrators of the NTC who have done so much to keep the



Participants at the National Winter School in Aberdeen.

life force flowing to the Island, and anyone else that we may not have mentioned for their support over the last year.

Ed. Note: (Since this report was submitted travel teacher Habib Habibi—pioneer from Malta—spent two weeks travel teaching and was largely instrumental in witnessing four declarations, thereby assuring the assembly. Subsequently, a long-planned pioneer project has materialised, and two more believers are able to move in, releasing a pioneer from the Isle of Man to open a district in the United Kingdom.)

NORTH DOWN: Over sixty people attended the dedication of the new Háziratu'l-Quds on Sunday 7 January which marked the attainment of an important goal of the Five Year Plan. Despite adverse weather conditions, and a petrol shortage, most of the Northern Ireland communities were represented. Dr Keith Munro was present on behalf of the National Spiritual Assembly and also conducted the afternoon session which was attended by several non-Bahá'ís. The editor of the local newspaper, The County Down Spectator, was present for the devotional programme and later took a photograph on the steps of the centre. This photograph, accompanied by an article of over 400 words, was published in the paper on 12 January.

On the previous Friday, to mark the occasion, a meeting took place between the Mayor of North Down and Robert Watkins, representing the National Spiritual Assembly, a member of the local Spiritual Assembly and a youth from the North Down community, at which Mr Watkins presented the Mayor with the book — 'The Earth is but One Country!'



First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of St. Helens, Merseyside. Since St. Helens was opened eighteen months ago, there have been three declarations as well as several pioneer moves. The members of the Assembly consist of Persian, American, Scottish and English believers.

2 South Street
Oakham
Rutland
Leicester LE15 6HY



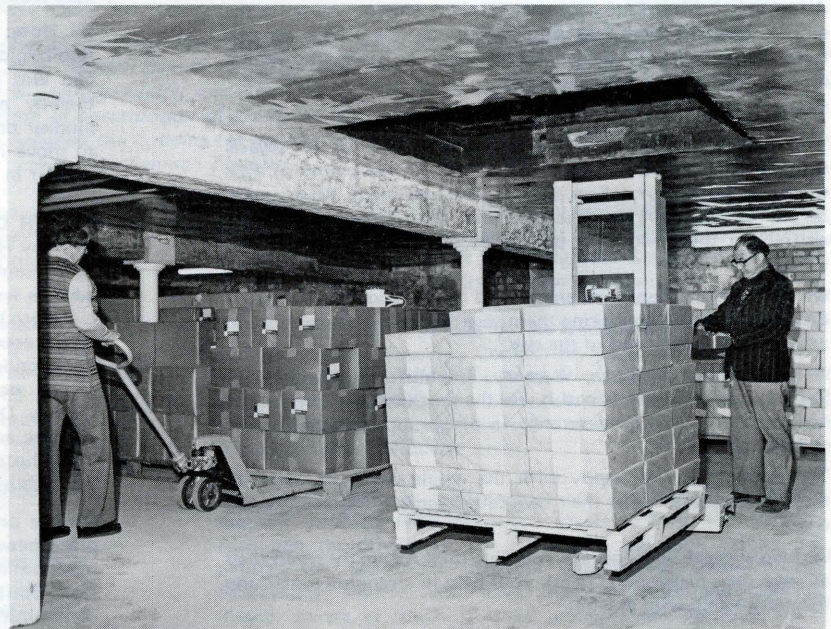
THE WAREHOUSE AT KETTON IN RUTLAND

In Bahá'í Journal No.243 dated February 1978 an aerial view of the large warehousing facilities at Ketton was shown and readers would find it helpful to refer to this issue so that the photographs of the interior of the warehouse can be related to the building environs and the descriptive matter previously given.

With the ground and lower-ground floors fully stocked with over £100,000 worth of the Trust's own publications, the upper floor is gradually being brought into use. As previously described the delivery of large quantity editions are made on pallets and these can now be unloaded with the Walkie-Stacker Truck which can pass through the rear doors at "J" and then the loaded pallets are brought into the building and transferred to lower ground storage on pallet trucks. The photograph in this edition shows the Walkie-Stacker loaded and in position to raise the load through the trap doors to the ground floor above. The stacker truck is electrically operated through batteries which can be charged from the standard electrical supply which, when fully charged, is automatically switched off. This obviates the need for close attendance. The temperature in the lower-ground floor keeps very constant and although one would expect this from a thermostatically controlled system, the need to keep costs to a minimum makes it necessary to use the cheapest rate of current supply during the seven-hour period ie 12.00 pm to 7.00 am. With only a short boost during the early afternoon the temperature remains within very close limits and the instrument shown in both photographs records the temperature continuously in graphical form. The black heating elements installed in the ceilings can be just seen in the photograph of the ground floor.

The top floor, which is coming into use, can now be stocked using the endless-belt elevator shown clearly in the picture. This elevator was specially designed to meet our requirements by a firm of farm-equipment manufacturers. It is very robust and can move parcels of up to 1 cwt in weight. It is electrically operated from the normal electrical supply and the elevation of the boom into the required position is hydraulically effected by hand to deliver through the trap door on the top floor.

Personnel access to the top floor is made by internal ladder steps seen on the right of the picture or by external staircase at the rear of the building near the entrance "H". The audio-visual material now being handled by the Publishing Trust is stored on the top floor on racks constructed from materials removed from the former warehouse at Ryhall.



Although all despatches are currently being made from the premises at Mount Pleasant at Oakham, it is envisaged that large consignments will be packed and despatched directly from the Ketton warehouse at some future date, and facilities are in hand to meet this development. The elevator, shown, can operate in a horizontal position and can be used to load parcels for despatch from the rear entrance "H".

The two ladies seen in the photograph are non-Bahá'ís employed by the Publishing Trust and, as can be seen, they turn their hands to a variety of activities in addition to the preparation of invoices and advice notes, and the packing and despatch of orders for books etc. The Trust is very fortunate in having such willing employees.