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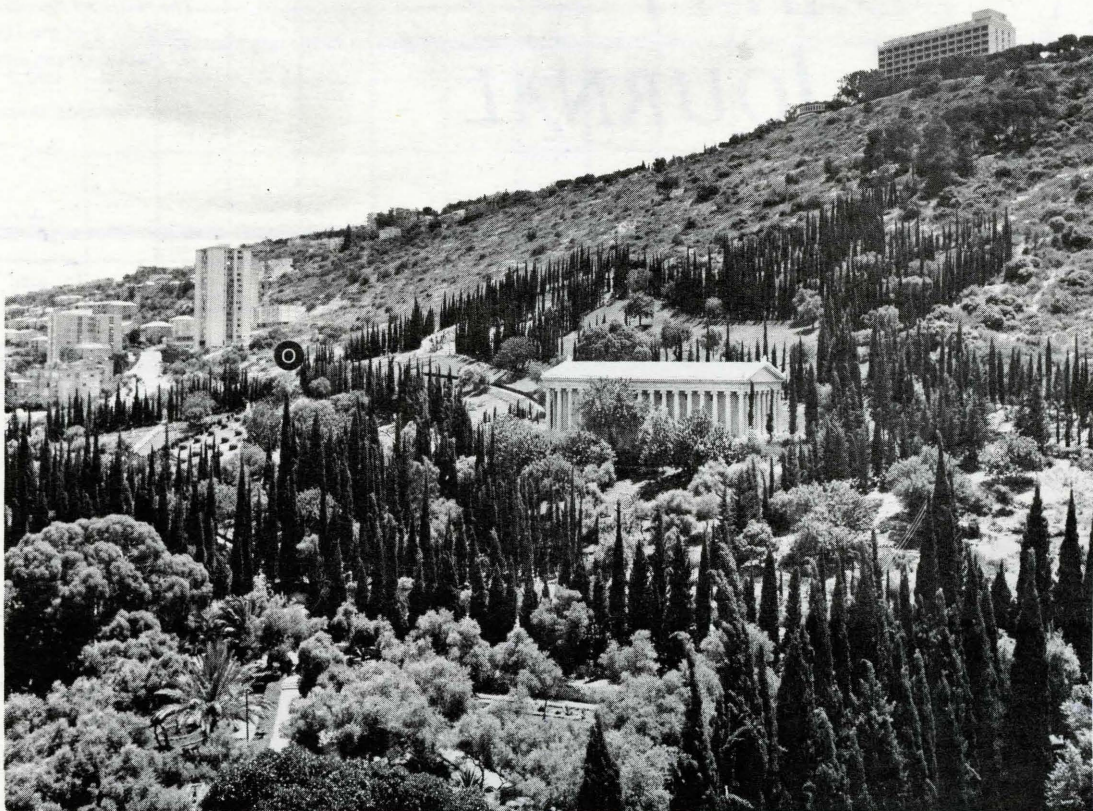


MAJOR DEVELOPMENT AT WORLD CENTRE

"JOYFULLY INFORM BAHÁ'Í WORLD RANGE AND ACCELERATION GROWTH CAUSE BAHÁ'U'LLÁH LOCAL NATIONAL LEVELS AND RESULTANT EXPANSION ACTIVITIES WORLD CENTRE IMPEL US NOW ANNOUNCE ERE COMPLETION NINE YEAR PLAN DECISION INITIATE PROCEDURE SELECT ARCHITECT DESIGN BUILDING FOR SEAT UNIVERSAL HOUSE JUSTICE ENVISAGED BELOVED GUARDIAN ON FAR FLUNG ARC HEART MOUNT CARMEL CENTERING SPOT CONSECRATED RESTING PLACES SISTER BROTHER MOTHER BELOVED MASTER STOP CONSTRUCTION THIS CENTRE LEGISLATION GOD'S WORLD REDEEMING ORDER WILL CONSTITUTE FIRST MAJOR STEP DEVELOPMENT AREA SURROUNDING HOLY SHRINE SINCE COMPLETION INTERNATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING STOP MOVED PAY TRIBUTE EXPRESS HEARTFELT GRATITUDE OUTSTANDING SERVICES ROBERT MCLAUGHLIN IN PREPARATION FOR THIS HISTORIC UNDERTAKING STOP FERVENTLY PRAYING PROJECT NOW INITIATED MAY DURING YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD PROGRESS UNINTERRUPTEDLY SPEEDILY ATTAIN MAJESTIC CONSUMMATION"

7 June 1972

With loving Bahá'í greetings
The Universal House of Justice



The spot on Mount Carmel where the building for the Universal House of Justice is to be erected is marked by a ring.

GOALS NOT YET WON

As announced in our Ridván message we are now releasing the attached list of territories throughout the world in which the teaching goals have not yet been won and which are in need of pioneer support or visits by travelling teachers.

We now call on all believers in every land to arise and help as their circumstances permit in the winning of these goals. It would be helpful if all prospective pioneers or teachers would contact the NSAs of the territories to which they wish to go and seek guidance in the implementation of their projects, before embarking upon them. The friends should also be encouraged to keep the respective Continental Pioneer Committee informed for any assistance and guidance these Committees might give.

We are praying at the Holy Shrines that the bountiful blessings of Bahá'u'lláh may surround all those who will arise at this eleventh hour in the fortunes of the Plan to help in ensuring complete victory in the vital teaching field.

With loving Bahá'í greetings.
31 May 1972

The Universal House of Justice

NSA FOOTNOTE:

All offers immediately to National Office.

NAMES OF TERRITORIES WHICH ARE IN NEED OF PIONEERS AND TRAVELLING TEACHERS

(Territories with the greatest need are marked with an asterisk)

Name of Territory (Alphabetically)	Name of National Assembly Responsible	Type of Help Wanted
AFRICA		
Afar and Isa Fr. Territory	North East Africa	Travelling Teachers
* Cameroon Republic	Cameroon Republic	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Chad	Chad	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Corisco Island	Cameroon Republic	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Equitorial Guinea	Cameroon Republic	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Fernando Po Island	Cameroon Republic	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Kenya	Kenya	Travelling Teachers
Mali	Ivory Coast, Mali and Upper Volta	Travelling Teachers
Rwanda	Rwanda	Travelling Teachers
* Sao Tome and Principe I.	Cameroon Republic	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Somalia	North East Africa	Pioneers
* St. Helena	South and West Africa	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Swaziland	Swaziland and Mozambique	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Tanzania	Tanzania	Travelling Teachers
* Uganda	Uganda	Travelling Teachers
Upper Volta	Ivory Coast, Mali and Upper Volta	Travelling Teachers
ASIA		
* Macao	North East Asia	Pioneers
Taiwan	Taiwan	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers

AUSTRALASIA

* Cocos Island	Australia	Pioneers
* Cook Islands	Tonga and Cook Islands	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
Loyalty Islands	South West Pacific Ocean	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers

EUROPE

* Azores	Portugal	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
Balearic Islands	Spain	Pioneers
Belgium	Belgium	Travelling Teachers
* Canary Islands	Spain	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
Corsica	France	Travelling Teachers
Cyprus	United Kingdom	Travelling Teachers
* Denmark	Denmark	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Faroes	United Kingdom	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Finland	Finland	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Germany	Germany	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
Greece	Germany	Pioneers
* Madeira	Portugal	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Malta	United Kingdom	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
Netherlands	Netherlands	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Norway	Norway	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Portugal	Portugal	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers
* Switzerland	Switzerland	Pioneers and Travelling Teachers

CONTINENTAL BOARDS OF COUNSELLORS

Recently we have received queries from several sources about the nature of the Institution of the Continental Boards of Counsellors and its relationship to the Institution of the Hands of the Cause, and we feel it is timely for us to give further elucidation.

As with so many aspects of the Administrative Order, understanding of this subject will develop and clarify with the passage of time as that Order grows organically in response to the power and guidance of Almighty God and in accordance with the needs of a rapidly developing world-wide community. However, certain aspects are already so clear as to require a proper understanding by the friends.

In the Kitab-i-'Ahd (the Book of His Covenant)—Bahá'u'lláh wrote "Blessed are the rulers and the learned in el-Bahá", and referring to this very passage the beloved Guardian wrote on 4 November 1931:

"In this holy cycle the 'learned' are, on the one hand, the Hands of the Cause of God, and, on the other, the teachers and diffusers of His teachings who do not rank as Hands, but who have attained an eminent position in the teaching work. As to the 'rulers' they refer to the members of the Local, National and International Houses of Justice. The duties of each of these souls will be determined in the future." (Translated from the Persian).

The Hands of the Cause of God, the Counsellors and the members of the Auxiliary Boards fall within the definition of the 'learned' given by the beloved Guardian. Thus they are all intimately interrelated and it is not correct to refer to the three ranks collectively as one institution.

However, each is also a separate institution in itself. This institution of the Hands of the Cause of God was brought into existence in the time of Bahá'u'lláh and when the Administrative Order was proclaimed and formally established by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His Will, it became an auxiliary institution of the Guardianship. The Auxiliary Boards, in their turn, were brought into being by Shoghi Effendi as an auxiliary institution of the Hands of the Cause.

When, following the passing of Shoghi Effendi, the Universal House of Justice decided that it could not legislate to make possible the appointment of further Hands of the Cause, it became necessary for it to create a new institution, appointed by itself to extend into the future the functions of protection and propagation vested in the Hands of the Cause and, with that in view, so to develop the Institution of the Hands that it could nurture the new institution and function in close collaboration with it as long as possible. It was also vital so to arrange matters as to make the most effective use of the unique services of the Hands themselves.

The first step in this development was taken in November 1964 when the Universal House of Justice formally related the Institution of the Hands to itself by stating that 'Responsibility for decisions on matters of general policy affecting the institution of the Hands of the Cause, which was formerly exercised by the beloved Guardian, now devolves upon the Universal House of Justice as the supreme and central institution of the Faith to which all must turn'. At that time the number of members of

the Auxiliary Boards was increased from seventy-two to 135, and the Hands of the Cause in each continent were called upon to appoint one or more members of their Auxiliary Boards to act in an executive capacity on behalf of and in the name of each Hand, thereby assisting him in carrying out his work.

In June, 1968 the Institution of the Continental Boards of Counsellors was brought into being, fulfilling the goal of extending the aforementioned functions of the Hands into the future, and this momentous decision was accompanied by the next step in the development of the Institution of the Hands of the Cause: the continental Hands were to serve henceforth on a world-wide basis and operate individually in direct relationship to the Universal House of Justice; the Hands ceased to be responsible for the direction of the Auxiliary Boards, which became an auxiliary institution of the Continental Boards of Counsellors; the Hands of the Cause residing in the Holy Land were given the task of acting as liaison between the Universal House of Justice and the Boards of Counsellors; and the working inter-relationship between the Hands and the Boards of Counsellors were established. Reference was also made to the future establishment by the Universal House of Justice, with the assistance of the Hands residing in the Holy Land, of an international teaching centre in the Holy Land.

In July 1969 and at Ridván 1970 further increases in the numbers of Counsellors and Auxiliary Board members were made.

Other developments in the Institution of the Hands of the Cause and the Institution of the Continental Boards of Counsellors will no doubt take place in future as the international teaching centre comes into being and as the work of the Counsellors expands.

We have noted that the Hands, the Counsellors and the Auxiliary Boards are sometimes referred to by the friends as the 'appointive' arm of the Administrative Order in contradistinction to the Universal House of Justice and the National and Local Assemblies which constitute the 'elective arm'. While there is truth in this description as it applies to the method used in the creation of these institutions, the friends should understand that it is not only the fact of appointment that particularly distinguishes the institutions of the Hands, Counsellors and Auxiliary Boards. There are, for instance, many more believers appointed to committees in the 'elective arm' than are serving in the so-called 'appointive arm'. A more striking distinction is that whereas the 'rulers' in the Cause function as corporate bodies, the 'learned' operate primarily as individuals.

In a letter written on 14 March 1927 to the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Istanbul, the Guardian's Secretary explained, on his behalf, the principle in the Cause of action by majority vote. He pointed out how, in the past, it was certain individuals who 'accounted themselves as superior in knowledge and elevated in position' who caused division, and that it was those 'who pretended to be the most distinguished of all' who 'always proved themselves to be the source of contention'. "But praise be to God" he continued, "that the Pen of Glory has done away with the unyielding and dictatorial views of the learned and the wise, dismissed the assertions of individuals as an authoritative criterion,

even though they were recognised as the most accomplished and learned among men and ordained that all matters be referred to authorised centres and specified assemblies. Even so, no assembly has been invested with the absolute authority to deal with such general matters as affect the interests of nations. Nay rather, He has brought all the assemblies together under the shadow of one House of Justice; one divinely-appointed Centre, so that there would be only one Centre and all the rest integrated into a single body, revolving around one expressly-designated Pivot, thus making them all proof against schism and division." (Translated from the Persian.)

Having permanently excluded the evils admittedly inherent in the institutions of the 'learned' in past dispensations, Bahá'u'lláh has nevertheless embodied in His Administrative Order the beneficent elements which exist in such institutions, elements which are of fundamental value for the progress of the Cause, as can be gauged from even a cursory reading of the Guardian's message of 4 June 1957.

The existence of institutions of such exalted rank, comprising individuals who play such a vital role, who yet have no legislative administrative or judicial authority, and are entirely devoid of priestly functions or the right to make authoritative interpretations, is a feature of Bahá'í administration unparalleled in the religions of the past. The newness and uniqueness of this concept make it difficult to grasp; only as the Bahá'í Community grows and the believers are increasingly able to contemplate its administrative structure uninfluenced by concepts from past ages, will the vital inter-dependence of the 'rulers' and 'learned' in the Faith be properly understood, and the inestimable value of their interaction be fully recognised.

25 April 1972

The Universal House of Justice

TO ALL STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS

An important phenomenon is developing in the Bahá'í community of India — the enrolment of university students and faculty members in large numbers wherever and whenever a coherent programme of teaching is undertaken. In the universities of that country the Faith is not only enthusiastically received, but many declare themselves even upon first hearing, and in such numbers as to stagger and delight those teachers who have undertaken these programmes. The ensuing tasks of consolidation and expansion on the campuses are, of course, challenging. To confirm and mobilise these promising new adherents, to establish dynamic Bahá'í student organisations, to induct these new believers into local and national Bahá'í community life and into Bahá'í administrative work will require special effort and study. But the opportunity to recruit future workers and leaders of the Faith in India cannot be missed.

The present success in these Indian colleges is due mainly to the efforts of a handful of Persian Bahá'í students who have pioneered to India as university students. We hope that a number of western Bahá'í students, undergraduate or postgraduate, may find it possible to enrol in Indian universities, for short or long periods of study, if policies of Indian higher education permit. Indeed, student pioneers from many lands may well supply that continuing effective teaching and consolidation which is so greatly needed.

There is another step which promises to be very productive, namely, travel teaching by persons of specialised training and usually of academic position. You may wish to contact mature believers of professional stature and achievement, informing them of the special needs and opportunities of India, so that they may plan to visit that country for useful periods of time, for example during sabbatical leaves, or in connection with international meetings, research projects, or other. In India it is perfectly feasible and proper for such persons to combine direct Bahá'í teaching with professional duties, since India does not view religious fervour as incompatible with formal learning. Indeed, it may even be helpful in teaching the Cause for a travelling Bahá'í to move in his or her professional circles in India while intensively and publicly presenting the Faith as a declared Bahá'í.

We are aware that it will take time to bring such self-supporting travelling teachers to India, and therefore this appeal is not related to the Nine Year Plan. However, we urge you to make the need known and to do all you can to enlist volunteers, making sure that the necessary co-ordination with the NSA of India is arranged in every case. There is a golden opportunity for wonderful services to the Faith and we urge you to do your utmost to take advantage of it.

ASSEMBLIES MAY BE FORMED IMMEDIATELY

In order to stimulate the teaching work in every land and encourage the friends during this last year of the Nine Year Plan we have decided that as soon as the number of adult believers in any locality reaches or exceeds nine they are permitted to form their LSA immediately, rather than wait until 21 April 1973.

We hope moreover that, especially in the areas where the people are entering the Cause in troupes, the implementation of this decision will increase the number of those communities which will, without the need for outside assistance, re-elect their Assemblies on the first day of Ridván in 1973 and in succeeding years.

It is our prayer at the Sacred Threshold that during the months ahead the steadily mounting number of these divine institutions will tremendously reinforce the labours of the valiant servants of the Blessed Beauty in every clime.

28 May 1972

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

28 May 1972

The Universal House of Justice

NSA FOOTNOTE

When nine or more adult believers are registered in any area where an assembly was not formed last Ridván the group or secretary should notify the National Office. The steps that are necessary for the formation of the new Assembly will then be explained.

Please feel free to use any portions of this letter which you may see fit in carrying out its intent. We shall pray at the Holy Shrines that a stream of devoted believers will arise to serve, both as pioneers and as travelling teachers, in this great sub-continent where such wonderful strides forward have already been made and where there is such great need for educated Indians to act as leaven among the large numbers of uneducated people already enrolled there.

6 April 1972

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

The Universal House of Justice

NSA FOOTNOTE — All offers to National Office.



'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum at the dedication of the Panama Temple.

DEDICATION OF THE MOTHER TEMPLE OF LATIN AMERICA IN PANAMA



Bahá'ís from over forty countries attending the dedication of the Panama Temple.

Youth converged, arriving by land, sea and air to assist with the last-minute preparations necessary prior to the Dedication of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in Latin America. The youth not only prepared the grounds of the Temple site and aided in the many tasks which they were called upon to perform but they, with teachers who have had wide experience in teaching the masses, spread out in teaching teams and enlisted 2,400 waiting souls under the banner of Bahá'u'lláh in the four weeks prior to and during the Dedication and the Conference which followed.

The Universal House of Justice sent a beautiful and priceless Persian carpet from the Holy Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. It hangs just to one side of the lectern, which is, of course, placed so that the worshippers in the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár face 'Akka. Vials of attar of rose were sent to 'Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum to anoint the friends when viewing the priceless portraits of Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb.

The National Spiritual Assembly of Germany, as a token of love, sent a bronze plaque of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The plaque is a replica of the one originally erected in the park of Bad Mergentheim to commemorate 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit to that town. The original plaque was destroyed during World War II and it was only recently that a plaster cast was found in the home of the late Hand of the Cause Hermann Grossman.

Only three replicas of the plaque were made; one for the Universal House of Justice, one for the German Bahá'í Community and one for the grounds of the world's newest Temple in Panama.

The Panamanian Government made arrangements to facilitate the entry of the believers into Panama. Many of the usual and tiring immigration and customs formalities were laid aside for the Bahá'ís and the Nuevo Panama Gymnasium was put at the disposal of the attendees for the huge meetings which would have crowded the Temple beyond capacity.

On Friday night, 26 May 1972, the friends gathered for a Unity Feast at the Gymnasium. They were welcomed by the Hand of the Cause of God 'Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhiyyih Khánum, official representative of the Universal House of Justice, who laid the cornerstone of the Temple when she visited Panama in 1967. The Hands of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery and Dhikru'lláh Khādem were also present to add greater lustre to this historic event. The architect of the Temple, Mr Peter Tillotson, was presented and spoke to the assembled friends; Mr Robert McLaughlin, Consultative Architect appointed by the Universal House of Justice, was introduced and all were saddened that Mr Paul Thiele, Project Engineer for the National Spiritual Assembly of Panama, was too ill to share the honour which he so well deserved on this occasion.

On the following day, Saturday, the believers who had gathered from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australasia, North America, Central America and South America took part in the Dedication ceremonies. Some 4,000 participants from many countries of the world came in groups to enter and pray in the House of Worship and to view the portraits of the Twin Manifestations of God for this Day. One blind Guaymí Indian believer, a devoted teacher of the Cause, approached the portraits and beloved Hand of the Cause Ruhiyyih Khánum lifted the portraits to him, that he might touch them.

On Saturday evening a youth conference was held and talented Bahá'í youth from over the world enjoyed meeting and sharing tales of their endeavours.

On Sunday morning a Public Dedication was held and the beautiful Temple was crowded with seekers. The same afternoon another Dedication was held for invited dignitaries and their families. The officials and dignitaries were also invited to a dinner which was attended by over 200 eminent personalities.

Later in the same evening all gathered again in the Gymnasium for festivities and a joyous evening of meeting new friends and greeting older friends.

Press coverage was excellent and the Panama American carried on the front page of the paper a photograph of 'Amatu'l-Bahá and an excellent article about the Temple and the Conference.

Dr Giachery wrote..."until the end of the Conference, everyone enjoyed a true spirit of fellowship and supreme happiness. Receptions, press conferences, the Dedication of the Temple, the addresses delivered during the Conference, the diligent and joyful attendance of some 4,000 believers, the outstanding and colourful presence of hundreds of native Indians in their gay costumes — was a succession of lifting spiritual moments dedicated with enthusiasm to the glorification of the Blessed Beauty! During my life I have taken part in many similar activities, but none so inspiring, so rewarding and beautiful..."

Another believer wrote, "The Temple itself is exquisite like a jewel set in a perfect mount and after sunset it competes with the moon..."

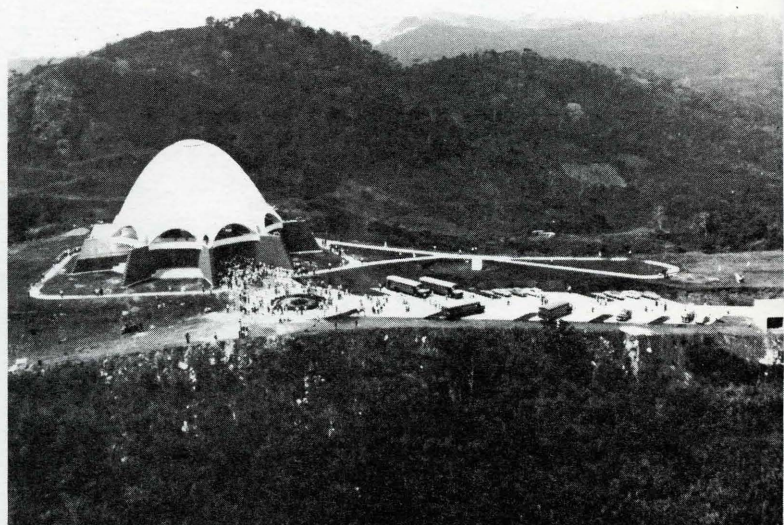
Another wrote, "My reaction to the Temple itself: Something ethereal, IMPOSSIBLY made from things of this earth. Seeing the beauty and spiritual power growing stronger and stronger moment by moment as people filed by the photographs. The luminous faces of our Bahá'í brothers and sisters... "She also wrote of " ..the happiness of the hotel personnel at being treated like 'people' instead of inanimate objects."

On Monday and Tuesday a Conference was held in the Gymnasium. The Hand of the Cause Dr Giachery spoke movingly and with great tenderness of the Beloved Guardian and moved all to new heights of dedication. He then spoke of proclamation and closed with the remark that he fervently hoped that all who were there would return to their homes and impart to their fellow believers the urge to proclaim the Cause as never before.

The Hand of the Cause Dhikru'lláh Khádem spoke of sacrifice, moving those present until they wished to respond to every call of the Universal House of Justice in the same spirit which moved Badi' as he responded to the task he assumed for the love of Bahá'u'lláh.

Beloved Rúhiyyih Khánum spoke to the friends of service. She emphasised that we must tell everyone of the Cause, not stopping to attempt to judge the depth of their understanding, if they accept, not judging but simply carrying far and wide the Message with which we have been entrusted. She told the friends that teaching and pioneering take infinite patience and she concluded by stating that the friends do not devote enough thought and prayer to gaining unity; that if we had real unity within our Bahá'í communities, the people in the world would break our doors down in their attempt to join our ranks. She concluded her remarks by stating that a wonderful period is open before us.

A cable from the Conference reads, "announce 106 friends residing 14 countries arose pioneer call Dedication Mother Temple Latin America."



*Believers leaving the Mother Temple of Latin America
View from the Air.*

LETTERS FROM HANDS OF THE CAUSE OF GOD TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

From Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga, dated June 14, 1972.

Beloved Bahá'í Friends,

Recently Bahá'u'lláh, the Blessed Perfection, blessed me with the opportunity to offer prayers at the sacred resting place of the beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi. There, the faces of the dear pioneers scattered throughout the countries and islands of the world, came to mind and prayers were offered for their support in achieving the mighty Plan of God for this day.

Although I had the bounty, together with my wife, Elizabeth, of visiting some communities in Great Britain, there are many areas which I hope the future will grant me an opportunity to visit.

Until that time, my prayers will be directed towards your land and I will look forward to hearing further news of your victories in the Path of God.

We are living in wonderful times, those days mentioned by the seers, prophets and Holy Manifestations of past ages. We all know that the Blessed Beauty, Bahá'u'lláh, is the Lord of Hosts, the Everlasting Father. We are too close to appreciate this full splendour. In the future when millions accept Him, then the full glory of His Faith and Majesty will be revealed before the eyes of men.

We are indeed fortunate to have been enabled to recognise Him and the greatness of His Cause. He has singled us out as His servants and our duty, each moment, is to seek His Will. We have to arrange our lives to conform with His holy purpose.

Let us become familiar with the Holy Writings of our beloved Faith, and we shall find that in the Writings and Messages by the Universal House of Justice, the Will of God is enshrined.

Therefore, let us support the supreme Institution with our prayers, and be the source of joy to it through our victorious response to the Nine Year Plan.

May the Blessed Perfection and the Exalted Báb guide each one of you in the service of the Holy Cause, and bring you safely to reunion with Them.

Elizabeth joins me in deepest Abhá loving greetings to you all.

Enoch Olinga

From Hand of the Cause William Sears, dated July 1, 1972.

There are 295 days left until Ridván 1973! Every beat of our hearts brings us closer to the hour of our glorious triumph. It also marks another second gone, a time that will never return! How precious are these moments which are dedicated to Bahá'u'lláh.

This letter is sent to express our loving, grateful appreciation for the wonderful victories which your Assembly and National Community won during the past year . . . victories that herald that approaching Ridván, 1973, when you flash to the entire Bahá'í world the thrilling news: ALL EUROPEAN GOALS NINE YEAR PLAN WON !!!

In just a short time, the Bahá'í Youth will be gathering at Padova, Italy. They will rejoice in the tremendous accomplishments of the first eight years of the PLAN; and they will consult earnestly upon how to win all the goals that still remain. Following Padova these victorious "onward marching legions" of Bahá'u'lláh will turn northward, and move through Switzerland, Germany and other countries of Europe, enroute to Plön, Germany. The hearts of all the Bahá'ís in the entire Continent of Europe will be with them. The single, avowed, and all-consuming purpose of these Bahá'í Youth will be to assure that "every attainable" goal of the NINE YEAR PLAN in Europe is won as quickly as possible, and that the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh is proclaimed to the European masses on a scale unprecedented by anything we have done in the past.

It is our hope that your National Bahá'í Community will support this effort with your constant prayers during the entire month of August, and with an intensity and fervour unequalled by any prayers we have yet offered for the total victory in Europe. We need those "...sustained and precedent" prayers, as our Supreme House of Justice described them, prayers that virtually "storm the gates of heaven" for support.

The progress already made in Europe, a continent depicted by the beloved Guardian as the "darkest, most severely tested, spiritually depleted continent of the globe" has been awe-inspiring since those words were written. The courageous spirit which your Assembly, and the soldiers of the army of Light under your jurisdiction, have demonstrated has gradually begun to alter the spiritual face of Europe. Those beginning days are long past. The "vanguard" of those "torch-bearers" of Bahá'u'lláh's "resistless, world-redeeming Order" has carried the Message to "despairing" souls among many of those "diversified races" and "conflicting

nationalities" which he mentioned, NSAs, such as your own, have been raised up and solidly anchored in the soil of that famished continent. That same spirit of resounding success has reached even greater heights under the infallible guidance of our Supreme Universal House of Justice.

We now stand at the threshold of our greatest victory to date in Europe. One "last surge" is all that is needed to carry this long-suffering continent forward to that "overwhelming victory" for which our Universal House of Justice promises us we are now "poised"!

Let us begin this final, dramatic "surge" throughout Europe during the fruitful days and hours when our youthful, spiritual, "radiant army of Bahá'u'lláh" is on the march from Padova to Plön. Let us be a part of it through our prayers, recited and chanted by every community, group and isolated Bahá'í in Europe. How to accomplish that, we leave up to your Assembly.

May the following words of guidance from our Supreme House of Justice ignite such a fire in the hearts of each one of us, that we, too, like the Dawnbreakers of old, will spontaneously rush forward to join the "victorious Legions" of Bahá'u'lláh who are released to conquer following the two, successive, historic Youth Conferences in Padova and Plön.

"As humanity enters the dark heart of this age of transition our course is clear - - the achievement of the assigned goals and the proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh's healing Message. It is our ardent hope that from these Conferences (1967) valiant souls may arise with noble resolve and in loving service assure the successful and early accomplishment of the sacred tasks that lie ahead." (Well-spring of Guidance, p.121.)

295 days until Ridván 1973! With warmest, grateful love.

William Sears

ABOUT DRUGS

"O friends of God! Experience hath shown how much the renouncing of tobacco, wine and opium, giveth health, strength and intellectual enjoyments, penetration of judgment and physical vigour." (Abdu'l-Bahá in Bahá'í World Faith, p. 336).

In reply to your request that we issue a statement concerning "the use of marijuana, LSD and other psychedelic products," we have already informed the NSA of the United States that Baha'is should not use hallucinogenic agents, including LSD, peyote and similar substances, except when prescribed for medical treatment. Neither should they become involved in experiments with such substances.

Although we have found no direct reference to marijuana in the Bahá'í writings, since this substance is derived from what is considered to be a milder form of cannabis, the species used to produce hashish, we can share with you a translation from the Persian of a Tablet of 'Abdu'l-Bahá on hashish:

"Regarding hashish, you had pointed out that some Persians have become habituated to its use. Gracious God! This is the worst of all intoxicants, and its prohibition is explicitly revealed. Its use causeth the disintegration of thought and the complete torpor of the soul. How could anyone seek this fruit of the infernal tree, and by partaking of it, be led to exemplify the qualities of a monster? How could one use this forbidden drug, and thus deprive himself of the blessings of the All-Merciful?

"Alcohol consumeth the mind and causeth man to commit acts of absurdity, but ... this wicked hashish extinguisheth the mind, freezeth the spirit, petrifieth the soul, wasteth the body and leaveth man frustrated and lost."

The Universal House of Justice

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

In its consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Bahá'í International Community continued during 1971 to expand its activities in support of the economic and social goals of the United Nations. At the United Nations Headquarters in New York, Dr Victor de Araujo and Mrs Annamie Hennold, respectively United Nations Representative and Alternate Representative for the Bahá'í International Community, participated in the sessions of the Economic and Social Development and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. At the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, the Bahá'í International Community Permanent Representative Mrs Janet Lindstrom covered the session of the Commission on Human Rights and the summer session of the Economic and Social Council. These meetings offered many opportunities for formal and informal contacts with members of the United Nations Secretariat and delegates of United Nations Missions, in which the Baha'í presence was made known and Bahá'í views expressed when appropriate.

The Baha'í International Community was invited to send representatives to special seminars for member-states held by the United Nations in observance of International Year for Action to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The first was held in Yaounde, Cameroon, June 16-29. Dr Aziz Navidi, the representative for the Continent of Africa, was the official observer. He was assisted by Counsellor Mehdi Samandari...Both Dr Navidi and Dr Samandari had many opportunities to visit representatives from other countries and to acquaint them with the Bahá'í Faith. In his opening remarks, the Chairman, Mr Emanuel Egbe Tabi, said, "This Conference is of the greatest importance; we cannot realise how important it is. I am reminded of the words of Bahá'u'lláh 'Ye we are the leaves of one tree and the fruits of one branch', and 'The earth is one country and mankind its citizens' and 'Glory is not his who loves his native land; but glory is his who loves his kind'. "In his closing address, Mr Tabi said, "I am ending my talk with the words of Bahá'u'lláh which I mentioned at the opening of this seminar." At a later meeting with Dr Navidi and Dr Samandari, Mr Tabi told them that he could never forget the words of Bahá'u'lláh and felt compelled to quote His Words...He then said that he had been taught the Faith by the Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga and, in turn, had taught Mr Dickson who is now treasurer of the National Spiritual



Dr. Victor de Araujo, Accredited Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations and recently re-elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organisations, is shown presiding at the recent Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Those pictured above are (left to right) David Exley, Chief of the NGO Section, Office of Public Information; F. Bradford Morse, Under-Secretary-General for Political and General Assembly Affairs; Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim; Dr. de Araujo.

Assembly of Cameroon. He indicated his desire to study the Faith and welcomed an invitation from Dr Navidi and Dr Samandari to attend a reception and meet other Bahá'ís.

The second special United Nations governmental seminar was held in Nice on August 24 – September 6, 1971. The Hand of the Cause Ugo Giachery, assisted by Mr Al Lincoln and Miss Guilda Navidi, represented the Bahá'í International Community. Twice the Bahá'í representatives were given an opportunity to present the viewpoint of the Faith on specific subjects being discussed. A great deal of attention was given to both presentations and favourable comments were made for the Faith while at the same time effective and durable friendships were established. The press, too, seemed favourably impressed with the Bahá'í delegation, devoting a special article to the Faith. No other NGO or government representative received any acknowledgement from the press.

Bahá'í communities throughout the world gave assistance to the United Nations and many of these events have resulted in widespread recognition for the Faith.

ALASKA: A cable received 31 May reads, "Massive Encounter Anchorage launched. Forty-one gathered with Board Members Caldwell and Pettit..."

On 14 June another cable was received which reads, "Thrilled report over 300 new believers Anchorage area. Several days Massive Encounter remaining..."

AUSTRALIA: "Joyfully announce declaration Catherine Dwyer presumed first Australian nun embrace Faith Bahá'u'lláh." (Cable received from Australia dated 4 June 1972.)

BANGLA DESH: From the first historic Convention of Bangla Desh comes this message: "Bahá'í Message broadcast on 1st day Ridván. Bahá'í delegation with Counsellor Shirin Boman presented Proclamation Books President Bangla Desh also Law Minister. Both reciprocated well. Thirty minutes conversation President..."

BOLIVIA: Two years ago, at Ridván 1970, the Bolivian Community, which has a goal to raise 600 LSAs, had succeeded in raising only 365 of these. A cable recently received reads, "...Overjoyed inform surpassed 600 LSAs. Over 3,200 enrolments...Special effort deepen LSAs, believers. Mass Expansion coming year..."

CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE) AND GABON: "...Six representatives from newly formed LSAs, of whom one was a Pygmy and many friends gathered Convention. Total localities fifty. Sixteen LSAs including one Pygmy Assembly..."

NIGER: Dr. Aziz Navidi, who has been travelling to various African countries, at the request of the Universal House of Justice, to help the friends obtain legal recognition from the civil authorities for the Bahá'í Community, recently visited Niger. On 8 March he was invited to accompany the Minister of the Interior of Niger to the palace of the President where, after an interview, the President decided to sign the official decree granting recognition to the Cause in Niger. Photographs were taken, the decree was publicized on the radio, and favourable articles appeared in the press.

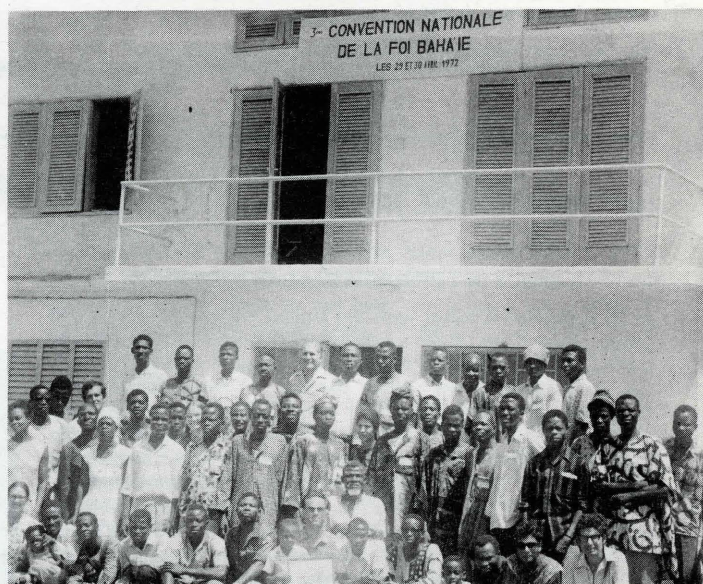
PAKISTAN: Last year at Ridván Pakistan, which then included what is now the independent State of Bangla Desh, had raised sixty-two LSAs. During the past few months teaching teams have been taking the Faith to waiting souls with phenomenal results. Teams have reported as many as 105 enrolments in a single trip. Most exciting are reports stating that entire small villages have become Bahá'í! This affords the NSA the unique opportunity of deepening these souls until they become examples within their all-Bahá'í villages of what we hope to achieve on a global scale.

A cable from the NSA of Pakistan informs us that there are now, in Pakistan alone, ninety-eight LSAs and that 189 localities have been opened to the Faith.

A teaching team, which was blessed with the presence of an Auxiliary Board Member and a member of the NSA, recently sent a report on a teaching, deepening trip in Sind. The group visited fourteen villages and cities. Some of the villages visited are already entirely Bahá'í and here the friends were deepened and advised about the holding of an election for the LSA.

Sixty-three souls embraced the Faith in the various villages visited and the report states that thirty new LSAs will be formed at Ridván. It is stated in the letter that, "In these places, people are living in almost inhuman conditions, yet the Faith has kindled a spark of hope in them."

Another exciting report from Pakistan informs us that seven Bhils, worshippers of Ramdeva Peer and Pidgeons have accepted the Faith. Mr. Joshi, who sent the report of his visit to Tando Allahyar where the Bhils enrolled, has written that he is assured that on his next visit to the area there will be a gathering of some 200 souls to hear of the Message.



Third National Convention of the Bahá'ís of Dahomey, Togo and Niger held in Cotonou, April 29–30, 1972 with Mr Ardekani of the Board of Counsellors for West & Central Africa. This photograph is taken in front of the newly built National Bahá'í Centre in Cotonou.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: The United States was assigned the goal of raising 596 LSAs at the beginning of the Nine Year Plan.

New teaching methods were introduced and the Message taken to the waiting masses and they have now exceeded that goal by 359 LSAs.

A cable was recently received which reads, "Preliminary reports goals achieved homefront 955 LSAs, 4,862 localities. Bahama Islands four Assemblies, five localities, Bermuda two Assemblies, ten localities..."

VIETNAM: "Despite serious wars Bahá'u'lláh blessed Convention ...All Nine Year Plan goals fulfilled except purchase Temple site in process. Total 659 Assemblies..." Vietnam was assigned the goal of raising 400 LSAs.

ZAIRE: Zaire was opened to the Faith in the days of the beloved Guardian, and, as 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum told us, he travelled through that country from south to north. There are now some 60,000 believers in Zaire, but Bahá'í Institutions had never been granted recognition there, until just recently when the President of the Republic signed a decree recognising the Faith as one of the few officially registered religious communities of the country. May this signal victory open the door to great future achievements.



First National Convention of Bangla Desh, Ridván 129 (Apr. 1972)



*First National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Iceland
Front row from left to right: Liesel Becker, Svana Einarsdottir,
Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga, Barbara Thinat, Carl John
Spencer. Back Row: Patur Magnusson, Johannes Stefansson,
Roger Lutley, Baldur Bregasson, Larry Clarke.*

CYPRUS ! FAROES ! MALTA !

These are top priority for the believers in the United Kingdom. Have you still time to arrange a holiday? Better still — settle there for good? Even a year or two would be a great service.

The Guardian and even the Master before him stressed the importance of island groups and today, adding urgency to the call, the Universal House of Justice has said:

It is the teaching goals which must engage our attention and effort...Our immediate and inescapable task...is to ensure that every attainable goal of the Nine Year Plan is achieved. This must be done at all cost. No sacrifice, no deferment of cherished plans must be refused in order to discharge this "most important" of the many "important" duties facing us.

Direct from the Faroes comes the following plea:—

We need HELP. Visitors and travel teachers are needed for mass teaching or to help in any way they can. Faroe community plan an intensive teaching and proclamation effort scheduled for early September designed to reach every household in Torshavn (12,000 people) through a specially delivered information/reply leaflet in Faroese backed by intensive proclamation activities over a short period by friends from Britain, Iceland, and possibly other Scandinavian countries.

By this method we plan to get possibly hundreds of addresses of interested people who can be "followed up" with the winter activities. BEFORE THIS TIME we aspire to have Faroese speaking believers to help with teaching and deepening, therefore WE

NEED, especially from now until 25 July — and after 18 August (directly after Scottish Summer school) forward through the autumn, visitors and travel teachers who can stay as long as possible.

Anyone intending to come should write to the secretary, Mrs Margaret Hines, Brattabrekka 5, 3800 Torshavn, giving details of their stay.

There is a new air service (especially to assist new travel teachers this year!) To Faroes from Kirkwall, Orkney, **Friday**; from Faroes to Kirkwall: **Tuesdays**. Return fare at £25. From/to Orkneys to mainland Scotland by air or much cheaper by ferry to Thurso or Aberdeen and thence by train. Full details of travel arrangements, accommodation, costs, etc. sent on request.

For those using Scottish Summer school as a jumping off place for the islands — a Bahá'í 'Welcome to Faroes' audio-visual programme will be shown at the school, made by a new audio-visual service being operated by the community. (This new service making proclamation handouts and slide programmes will soon be available to the friends at summer schools and through the Sales committees).

Torshavn community, small but dynamic, has only five adults, and a Spiritual Assembly must be established by Ríðvín 1973. We pray that all efforts will be rewarded.

"Therefore, O ye believers of God! Show ye an effort and... spread ye the synopsis of the divine teachings in...Faroe Islands."
(‘Abdu’l-Bahá. Tablets of the Divine Plan — pp14/15).

ENTRY BY TROOPS

WHAT IS "ENTRY BY TROOPS"?

"Now this mass conversion or mass teaching ... I personally don't like any of these terms, I like the term of 'ENTERING THE CAUSE IN TROOPS', which is the term of the Master ('Abdu'l-Bahá) and is a wonderful, wonderful term ..."

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 26)

"Ruhiyyih Khánum explained to the friends what mass conversion meant to the beloved Guardian and said that the religion of God comes for all the people in the world and hence it was our paramount duty to teach and take the name of Bahá'u'lláh to the waiting, thirsty masses ... we have 900 years more to consolidate but we do not know how many more years we will have to teach the Cause ... So let us teach and teach until the whole world becomes Bahá'í."

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 60)

WHY THE NEED FOR "ENTRY BY TROOPS"?

"When the masses of mankind are awakened and enter into the Faith of God, a new process is set in motion and the growth of a new civilisation begins. Witness the emergence of Christianity and Islám. These masses are the rank and file, steeped in traditions of their own, but receptive to the word of God, by which, when they truly respond to it, they become so influenced as to transform those who come in contact with them."

(Wellspring of Guidance, p.31)

"It is not only new spiritual laws which Bahá'u'lláh has brought ... it is a new social order, a divine polity ... Let us ask ourselves how this World Order of our Faith is to be established, how its educational, social, economic as well as spiritual programmes are to be put into practice, unless the material — vast masses of human beings calling themselves Bahá'is — is available?"

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 12)

IS THE SOIL READY?

"Today there is an extraordinary receptivity ... (maybe more than we realise) to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh — like the soil waiting, dry and breathless with longing, for the monsoon, for the rains that will generate life and bring forth the new crop. This is our opportunity, our challenge, our terrible responsibility ... for the sake of suffering humanity, we cannot afford to fail in seizing this hour ..."

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 13)

"The destiny of the human race is to accept Bahá'u'lláh, we know that as Bahá'is. Now it has to start sometime and it is a little late in starting, because this Cause is over 120 years old and we are only beginning to get the entrance of people by troops into the Faith. We cannot say it is too soon, we must say that it is too late. We are in a hurry ... We want it to go faster every day no matter what kind of problems arise from its going faster. Everything in the world goes by its own time ... no one on this planet can tell you how long this time is going to last."

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 27)

WHO SHOULD BE REACHED?

"God's standards are different from those of men. According to men's standards, the acceptance of any cause by people of distinction, of recognised fame and status, determines the value and greatness of that cause. But in the words of Bahá'u'lláh: 'The summons and Message which We gave were never intended to reach or to benefit one land or one people only. Mankind in its entirety must firmly adhere to whatsoever has been revealed and vouchsafed unto it.' Or again, 'He has endowed every soul with the capacity to recognise the signs of God. How could He, otherwise have fulfilled His testimony unto men, if ye be of them that ponder His Cause in their hearts.' In countries where teaching the masses has succeeded, the Bahá'is have poured out their time and effort in village areas to the same extent as they had formerly done in cities and towns. The results indicate how unwise it is to concentrate solely on one section of the population. Each national assembly therefore should so balance its resources and harmonise its efforts that the Faith of God is taught not only to those who are readily accessible but to all sections of society, however remote they may be."

"No effort must be spared to ensure that the healing Word of God reaches the rich and the poor, the learned and the illiterate, the old and the young, the devout and the atheist, the dweller in the remote hills and islands, the inhabitant of the teeming cities, the suburban business man, the labourer in the slums, the nomadic tribesman, the farmer, the university student; all must be brought consciously within the teaching plans of the Bahá'í community."

(Wellspring of Guidance, p. 124)

LET THE PEOPLE COME IN !

"Let the people come in. The law of averages decrees that everything has a scale of percentages. Every milk has its percentage of cream: high or low, it is there. For every hundred new Bahá'is there is invariably going to be a percentage of people with great

capacity both intellectually and spiritually; this group will take care of the increase in less mature and understanding, but no less sincere souls who comprise the rest of the hundred. In other words you get your rank and file, your foot soldiers, as well as your officers, ... at the same time. Just teach. Trust more in the power of Bahá'u'lláh to work His own miracles if you but let Him, and march on to conquer, while there is still the opportunity to do so, the hearts of the people ..."

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 12)

"How can one do entirely contradictory things at the same time; require of people that they be mature, understanding, well-informed Bahá'is before letting them into the Faith, and, at the same time, have enough Bahá'is inside it to put into effect this great, dynamic Order of Bahá'u'lláh? It is like asking that kindergarten children should first sit for entrance examinations to the university before they can begin their primary education!"

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 12)

WHAT CAN I DO?

"In our message to you of April, 1964, announcing the Nine Year Plan, we called attention to two major themes ... '... a huge expansion of the Cause of God and universal participation by all believers in the life of that Cause,' ... in this organic, divinely guided, blessed; and illumined body (the Bahá'í world community) the participation of every believer is of the utmost importance, and is a source of power and vitality as yet unknown to us ..."

"...In addition to teaching ... all can pray, fight their own spiritual battles, and contribute to the Fund. If every believer will carry out these sacred duties, we shall be astonished at the accession of power which will result to the whole body and which in turn will give rise to further growth and the showering of greater blessings on all of us."

"The real secret of universal participation lies in the Master's oft-expressed wish that the friends should love each other, work together, be as one soul in one body, and in so doing become a true, organic, healthy body animated and illumined by the spirit."

(Wellspring of Guidance, p. 38)

TEACH OR CONSOLIDATE?

"Expansion and consolidation are twin processes that must go hand in hand. The friends must not stop expansion in the name of consolidation. Deepening the newly enrolled believers generates tremendous stimulus which results in further expansion. The enrolment of new believers, on the other hand, creates a new spirit in the community and provides additional potential manpower that will reinforce the consolidation work."

(Wellspring of Guidance, p. 33)

"The guidance of our beloved Guardian in this vital matter is, as ever, clear and unambiguous: 'Every outward thrust into new fields, every multiplication of Bahá'í institutions, must be paralleled by a deeper thrust of the roots which sustain the spiritual life of the community and ensure its sound development. From this vital, this ever-present need, attention must at no time be diverted, nor must it be under any circumstances neglected, or subordinated to the no less vital and urgent task of ensuring the outer expansion of Bahá'í administrative institutions.' A proper balance between these two essential aspects of its development must, from now on, as we enter the era of large-scale conversion, be maintained by the Bahá'í community."

(Wellspring of Guidance, p. 77—78)

"Teaching is a command of Bahá'u'lláh to every believer. Nowhere do we read that we should stop teaching. Consolidation is a natural process which follows teaching. As we teach we consolidate, and as we consolidate we teach."

(Amatu'l-Bahá Visits India, p. 20)

WHAT ABOUT DEEPENING?

"Those who declare themselves as Bahá'is should become enchanted by the beauty of the teachings, and touched by the love of Bahá'u'lláh. The declarants need not know all the proofs, history, laws and principles of the Faith, but in the process of declaring themselves they must, in addition to catching the spark of faith, become basically informed about the Central Figures of the Faith, as well as existence of laws they must follow and an administration they must obey."

"After declaration, the new believers must not be left to their own devices. Through correspondence and dispatch of visitors, through conferences and training courses, these friends must be patiently strengthened and lovingly helped to develop into full Bahá'í maturity. The beloved Guardian, referring to the duties of Bahá'í assemblies in assisting the newly declared believer has written: 'the members of each and every assembly should endeavour, by their patience, their love, their tact and their wisdom, to nurse, subsequent to their admission, the newcomer into Bahá'í maturity, and to win him over gradually to the unreserved acceptance of whatever has been ordained in the teachings.'"

(Wellspring of Guidance, p. 32)

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE (UNITED KINGDOM)

To further the development of the National Teaching structure as anticipated in the concluding paragraphs of our Annual Report, the NSA accepted the recommendations of the NTC, and this year set up a smaller committee. They also appointed a strong Youth Department of the NTC with one member common to both committees. Whilst fully under the jurisdiction of the NTC, as are the Regional Teaching Committees, the Youth Department has the duty of stimulating and encouraging the youth at local, regional and national levels and will, amongst other things, be organising national youth events. These will be announced from time to time in their magazine, "In Tune".

Regional Committees have been given much more responsibility by the NSA, for they have to accept and welcome new believers who are not living within the jurisdiction of a local assembly and they maintain a card index with full records of every believer in their region. The RTCs will also set up machinery for catering for the special needs of their youth members, which may be either the whole committee; a youth department or a youth member, which will be in direct contact with the Youth Department of the NTC.

Liaison members have been appointed to keep closely in touch with each RTC and so improve communications between all committees.

Travel teaching, both within the regions and inter-regionally, is to be stimulated and special study is being given to the subject. The NTC secretary will be the focal point for all the visitors from outside the country and for inter-regional travel.

Deepening is to be given great attention and a special Department of the NTC is being set up similar in status to the Youth Department with a member common to both committees. New material and techniques are already in production.

The American youth visitors are already in their respective areas and, with the local members of their teams, giving devoted service. Of course conditions are different from the USA and also differ from county to county, but this makes the project all the more challenging and worthwhile. Throughout the country waves of prayer are going out in an effort to follow the words of the Universal House of Justice in their Ridván message and "storm the gates of heaven"; great victories are just around the corner and the NTC is geared to try to take full advantage of any significant movement. Our original planning was for forty youth but then when we learned of the demands on the USA we cut our request to twenty-one and planned accordingly. Finally fourteen arrived and we had to re-arrange our plans at the last moment. Wherever there is some great success and, if possible, to those areas which did not receive their quota of visitors, we will send some of the American youth after the Padova Conference as they will all return to London. Here is their present programme:

N. Ireland	BANGOR)	Joe Hartnett
	CRAIGAVON)	Rick Lowcock
	LONDONDERRY)	Brad Calrow (Leader)
	LARNE)	Frank Kinder (Leader)
Scotland	LERWICK/KIRKWALL		John Adler (Leader)
			Helen Grogan
	HEBRIDES		Dale Onsum (Leader)
Northern England			Patrick Bird
	YORK (July 2-15)		John Bell (Leader)
	KENDAL (July 16-29)		Richmond McCluer
Midlands	KIDDERMINSTER	(July 2-8)	
	HEREFORD	" 9-15)	Sue Irby (Leader)
	OAKHAM	" 16-22)	Fariborz Goharriz
	AYLESBURY	" 23-29)	
London & East	CHELMSFORD	(July 1-15)	Karla Jamir (Leader)
	CANTERBURY	" 15-29)	David Mackill
South West England	POOLE	(From July 1)	Danny Herring
	READING	(From July 10)	
	BRISTOL	(From July 19)	

The Ridván message from the Universal House of Justice is being repeatedly studied and we are sure the local assemblies will be sending some interesting conclusions after their consultations, particularly on the eighth and final paragraphs. It seems that, for the first time in Bahá'í history, the Bahá'í community as it begins to emerge from obscurity is able to exert a marked influence on the affairs of the world. Does not the Universal House of Justice say that the "extraordinary advances" made since the launching of the Nine Year Plan ".....force upon our attention new requirements"? These requirements "of this ever-growing world order" are essential for "both its own organic life and in relation to the disintegrating world society". "The Bahá'í community, "write the Universal House of Justice, "must demonstrate,... its ability to redeem the disorderliness, the lack of cohesion, the permissiveness, the godlessness of modern society". How this redemption will begin is then set out in clear unmistakable terms, by "the laws, the religious obligations, the observances of Bahá'í life, Bahá'í moral principles and standards of dignity, decency and reverence" which "must become deeply implanted in Bahá'í consciousness and increasingly inform and characterise this community". The whole community is challenged by the implication of these words; the National Teaching Committee will do all in its power to help in meeting that challenge.

Philip Hainsworth, Chairman: North England Liaison.
Kathleen Hyett, Secretary: Travel Teaching Sub-Committee.
Terry Smith, Vice Chairman: Wales Liaison.
Kenneth Goode, Treasurer: Scotland Liaison.
Derek Cockshut, Northern Ireland and Midlands Liaison.
Barbara Lewis, South West Liaison: Deepening member.
David Rose, Youth Department member: London East Liaison:
Travel Teaching sub. cte.

Next meetings: 19/20 August: 23/24 September.

EDITORIAL

DEADLINE DATE for the next issue of the Journal is 5 September 1972. Material should be sent to the Editor:

Mrs Lois Hainsworth
Treen
Allerton Park, Leeds LS7 4ND

FIRESIDES AND OTHER MEETINGS. There have been many changes since the last fireside list was published and we plan to compile and print an insert giving as complete a list as possible of all types of regular meetings. Would communities please send to the editor details of regular meetings held in their area, whether they be firesides, study groups or public meetings, as under:

Town; Name of Host; Address; Telephone (if any); Day of Week or Month; Time.

This list can then be kept for reference if anyone is travelling to another town and is able to visit other Bahá'ís.

ST ANDREWS SUMMER SCHOOL

There are still vacancies for this summer school and the committee would be most grateful to have bookings from those intending to go as soon as possible.

GEORGE RONALD

A new edition of 'Heart of the Gospel' was available from the first week in July and a new edition of 'The Promise of all Ages' will be available in November. These and all other books published by George Ronald are available from the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 2 South Street, Oakham, Rutland.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Teaching Conference: 30/31 December 1972
Unit Conventions: 3/4 February 1973
Details will be given later.

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

Leaflet: BAHÁ'Í FAITH

A new four colour, threefold leaflet is now available. It is a beautifully coloured introduction to the Faith setting out in a concise form the Bahá'í principles; it includes quotations from the Hidden Words and photographs of two of the Temples. As an aid to teaching there are two varieties of this leaflet:

- L75 which gives the NSA address as that from which further information can be obtained and
 L76 which leaves this space blank so that any community can insert a local address for enquiries.

Both L75 and L76 come at the same remarkably low price: 10 for 15p; 20 for 25p. Special prices for larger quantities reduce the price per copy even more. (Illustrated) —

Booklet: LOVE OF GOD

This new miniature prayer book contains a selection of prayers specially chosen to make it an ideal gift to new declarants in order to introduce them to the rich treasury of Bahá'í prayers. Tastefully printed in two colours with twenty four pages plus a quality cover there are eight different combinations of cover/print colours available and it is in a convenient size for pocket or handbag. Every Bahá'í will want to carry one or two of these with them wherever they go. They are available at the remarkably low price of:

20 copies for £1; post free in the British Isles — this is only 5p each! Quote P91. Price for less than 20 is 6p each, if only one or two copies required please send also S.A.E.

Book: PARIS TALKS by 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

This compilation of Talks given by 'Abdu'l-Bahá when He was in Paris covers many varied and interesting subjects such as "The Need for Prayer", "Beauty and Harmony in Diversity" and "Four Kinds of Love" to name but a few. He devoted many of these talks to explaining the fundamental principles of the Faith and so this provides an enlightening as well as instructive book essential for use in the work of teaching.

188 pages. Paperback: 45p. Clothback: 63p. Quote B5.

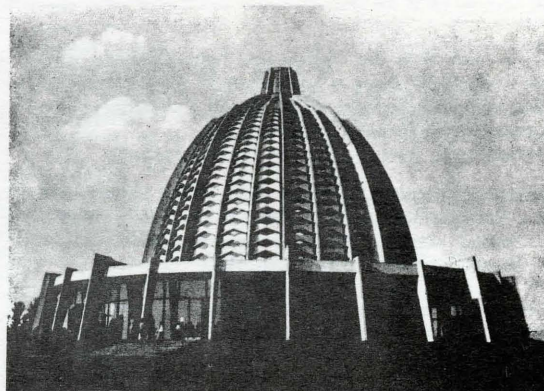
Get all these from your assembly or group if possible as this enables them to buy at the quantity rates and get further discounts for the benefit of your local fund. Direct orders to B.P.T., 2 South Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HY.

BAHÁ'Í FAITH

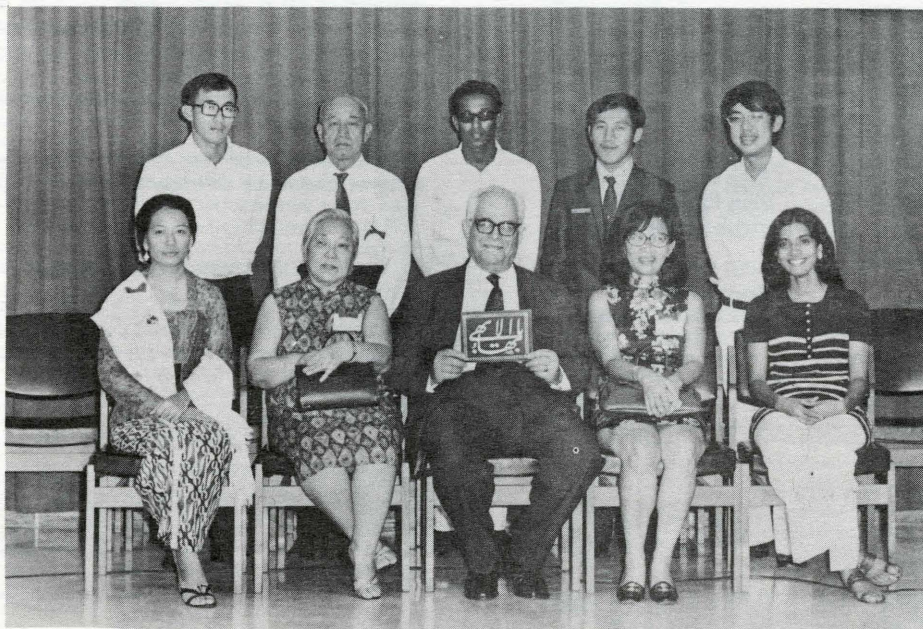
"O ye children of men !

"The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race, and to foster the spirit of love and fellowship amongst men."

—BAHÁ'U'LLÁH



Bahá'í House of Worship, near Frankfurt, Germany



National Spiritual Assembly of Singapore, Seated (left to right): Mrs. Lena Tan; Mrs. George Lee; the Hand of the Cause Jalal Khazeh; Mrs. Rose Ong, Chairman; Miss Nevanita Sundram, Secretary; Standing (left to right), Mr. Kenneth Mak; Mr. Teo Geork Leng, Treasurer; Mr. G. Machambo, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Edward Teo; and Mr. Henry Ong.

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

PRAYER AND WORSHIP IN THE HOME

"Intone, O My servant, the verses of God that have been received by thee, that the sweetness of thy melody may kindle thine own soul, and attract the hearts of all men"

Bahá'u'lláh (Gleanings, p.294)

- There are no rules or regulations, each family must work this out. Since this is so does it indicate doing nothing about prayers and worship at home?
- The obligatory prayers. How can we use them?
- Use of special prayers: Prayer for expectant mother, for one's husband, for children, for youth, etc.

For expectant mother

"O my Lord. I dedicate that which is in my womb unto Thee. Then cause it to be a praiseworthy child in Thy Kingdom and a fortunate one by Thy favour and Thy generosity; to develop and grow up under the charge of Thine education. Verily, Thou art the Gracious! Verily, Thou art the Lord of Great Favour."

Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p.139

For one's husband:

"Oh God, my God! This Thy maidservant supplicates to Thee, trusts in Thee and directs herself unto Thee asking Thee to shed Thy dying Mercies upon her, to manifest Thy spiritual Mysteries and to show forth Thy Majesty unto her. O Lord, O Lord! Illumine the sight of my husband, cheer his breast by the light of knowing Thee, attract his heart unto Thy manifest Beauty and gladden his spirit by the manifestation of Thy radiant light. O Lord, O Lord! withdraw the veil from his sight, grant him Thy compassion, exhilarate him with the wine of Thy love among the people, make him an angel of Thine walking upon the earth, let his spirit soar into heaven and make him a lamp glistening with the light of Thy knowledge in the community. Verily, Thou art the Generous, the Precious, the Bestower."

Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p.95

For children:

"O God! Educate these children. These children are the plants of Thine orchard, the flowers of Thy meadow, the roses of Thy garden. Let Thy rain fall upon them; let the Sun of Reality shine upon them with Thy love. Let Thy breeze refresh them in order that they may be trained, grow and develop and appear in the utmost beauty. Thou art the Giver! Thou art the Compassionate!"

'Abdu'l-Bahá (Bahá'í Prayers, p.16)

For youth:

"O God, Make this youth illumined and this weak one strong! Bestow upon him knowledge and give unto him an added strength at every dawn. Thus may he be protected and sheltered in Thy protection from every sin to serve Thy Cause, to guide those who are led astray, to lead those who are poor or weak, to free those who are in captivity or bondage, to awaken those who are in lethargy and to be happy with Thy remembrance and thought. Thou art the Powerful, the Wise!"

'Abdu'l-Bahá (Communion with God, p.24).

IMPORTANCE OF MEMORISING PRAYERS AND SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS.

"Teach your children what hath been revealed through the Pen of Glory. Instruct them in what hath descended from the heaven of greatness and power. Let them memorise the Tablets of the Merciful and chant them with the most melodious voices in the halls of the Mashriqu'l-Adhikár." Bahá'u'lláh (Star of the West, Vol. IX).

"The Prophets of God are the great educators of mankind, and their counsels and the story of their lives should be instilled in the child's mind as soon as he is able to grasp them"

J.E. Esslemont in *Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era*, p.188.

Some suggestions: Learn all of the Hidden Words, the Báb's farewell message to the Letters of the Living, inscriptions inside and outside of the House of Worship. *Words of Wisdom*, Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh on page 285 of *Gleanings*.

Some single line quotations:

Be most loving one to another (Gl. p.316)
Let truthfulness and courtesy be your adorning (Gl. p.305)
Nothing is or can ever be hidden from God (Gl. p.9)
Let the flame of the love of God burn brightly within your radiant hearts (Gl. p.3).
Blessed is he who minglenth with all men in the spirit of utmost kindness (Gl. p.334).
Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship (Gl. p.95).
Blessed is the man that hath turned his face towards God and walked steadfastly in His love (Gl. p.170).
He, verily, loveth the one that turneth towards Him. (Gl. p.291).
Let your vision be world-embracing, rather than confined to your own self (Gl. p.94).
Know that every created thing is a sign of the revelation of God (Gl. p.184).
Be patient under all conditions and place your whole trust and confidence in God (Gl. p.296).
Set all thy hope in God, and cleave tenaciously to His unfailing mercy (Gl. p.323).
Blessed is he who prefers his brother before himself.

(Gl. = Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh)

THE SEARCH IS YOURS

How many times have you been told
 By men of old
 Of every nation, faith and age
 That life would turn the final page
 Wherein all men would reach the stage
 Of one great fold?

When came 'the latter days', 'the end',
 when God would send
 The mighty Shepherd who would be
 For everyone with eyes to see,
 His Messenger of unity
 Our world to blend?

Who can deny the signs are here
 That must appear?

The world is sick, so many killed
 By racial wars with hatred filled,
 And prejudice so long instilled
 Breeds mutual fear.

Materialistic thought prevails —
 Religion fails,
 With all its fossilised man-made
 Accretions to the Message laid
 Before mankind, to bring the aid
 Which peace entails.

Youth wishes to destroy the past
 With pace too fast,
 And searches for some other way
 With violent action and affray
 But cannot yet discern the Day
 So long forecast.

And yet a few there are who sense —
 They know not whence —
 A spirit permeate the earth,
 Ideas of promise 'midst the dearth
 Of love, thus slowly giving birth
 To change immense.

Search then and you perchance may find
 What lies behind —
 The reason why some people feel
 The Son of Man has come to heal
 The present ills, the books unseal
 For all mankind.

Evelyn Jerrard (July 1970)

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

BANGOR (Northern Ireland): A weekend school was held on May 27/28 to the theme "What Kind of World do you want?" which was attended by friends from many communities in Northern Ireland and from the Republic, as well as from London and Sheffield. The friends were particularly pleased that Dick Backwell was well enough to attend.

BRENT: The assembly decided to take advantage of the "Festivals of London" to put on an Exhibition in Harlesden Central Library on May 27. This is a part of the borough where no teaching has previously been carried out and we took the opportunity to distribute about 300 small hand-outs to people shopping in the High Street. These, on the whole, were favourably received although the result was only a handful of people coming in to see the Exhibition. Nevertheless we felt that many more people in that area knew of the Bahá'ís than had previously done so, both from the wide distribution of literature and from the notices which the Branch Librarian allowed us to display prominently on the Library premises.

We had a successful musical presentation in the evening, given by the London area musical group, and a slide show of religious places in the Holy Land. Fruit juice and biscuits were offered to visitors during the day, and we were especially happy to welcome Eve Boswell, the singing star, during the afternoon. She seemed to like the exhibition and said she agreed with every word of it!

In general, this was a cheerful occasion and a happy introduction of the Faith into a mixed-race area of our Borough.

BURNLEY: There has recently been much activity in Burnley, where only a few months ago the community, although still ticking over as regards Feast and LSA meetings, was almost totally inactive in the teaching of the Faith. What brought about this sudden and long-awaited change? The assembly, feeling that they could not ask the community to make an effort unless it did so itself, decided that there should be visits made to members of the community at least once a week, and that the assembly members should meet, and spend some time in prayer before going out to see whoever they chose on that particular night. This has so far been done for three weeks and has been a great success. The friends are asking continually when will they see someone again, and a great burst of activity has followed. The LSA members do not visit the same people each time they go out, but consider after praying who they would like to see most. This always seems to result in their seeing someone who really wants to be cheered up — and as well as helping those who are visited it helps the LSA itself to know what the friends are thinking and feeling. This was thought to be a great help, especially for those friends who are not often able to get to the Feasts and do not always know what is going on in the community.

Fireside-type meetings are planned for the last Friday in each month, starting on Friday July 28, at the Spiritualist Church Hall, Hammerton Street, Burnley. These will be in addition to our regular firesides. For information about any of these meetings ring Carol Pollitt at Burnley 24356. Starting on Saturday July 1 and following on the first Saturday in each month we are holding classes for the younger children, split into two groups — those under three and those aged three to five. If anyone nearby wishes to bring their children to these classes, please again telephone Carol Pollitt for details of time and venue. These classes will be made really interesting for the children, including making models, painting, drawing, and the last half of each class will be for free play to allow the children to get to know each other and the older Bahá'ís present. Also under consideration is a community outing some time in August or September. This will help to unite the community as friends, when they can spend time getting to know one another. As our community has twenty adults and ten under fifteens it is not always possible for us all to find time to visit each other and talk and it is felt that such an outing could prove very enjoyable. In particular, many of the older Bahá'ís rarely see the Bahá'í children, especially the younger ones.

We have mentioned all these things mainly with the idea that perhaps some of them could be useful to other communities which are feeling a little "worn at the edges". When so much is happening in the teaching field, and there are so many new Bahá'ís, it is up to all the friends in every community to do their utmost to help. But most of all, this is a way in which any assembly can re-vivify and re-energise the community into active and creative teaching. It can even be a help to LSA members, who although they are in touch with all the planning of events, do not always have the time to spend in just being friendly — here our weekly LSA meeting is so busy that we rarely complete the agenda in one session and have to hold continuation meetings to do so. The second "going out" meeting is a means by which we all have time to meet each other as friends and concentrate on that instead of details of business. We can only say "Look out Bahá'ís — Burnley is on the move!"

ECCLES: Nearly a hundred people attended the weekend school held in May and as usual they came from many different places — even as far away as Southampton, Winchester and Lovestock. Refreshment consumption reached hitherto unknown proportions and the school had a happy atmosphere throughout. We are especially indebted to all our speakers— Philip Hainsworth, George Bowers, Shahram Mottahed, Joan and Ernest Gregory; to the worthy chairmen and to all the friends who helped behind the scenes.

The performance given by "The Valley of Love" was something to be remembered — it was polished and inspiring and, as one Bahá'í remarked, "pure, undiluted spirituality". The slide show and the quiz were also much appreciated.

The school once again brought the friends together, helped us to get to know each other a little better, cemented friendships and taught us all just that little bit more.

If all goes well a similar school will be held on the same weekend next year, so please keep the date free.

EPSOM: The Bahá'ís of Epsom & Ewell have, for the past year, been conducting an extensive Proclamation programme, divided into four phases and covering all aspects of the society surrounding them. Phase 1 included such persons as the Bishop of the diocese, the Mayor, the local M.P. and Mr. G. Woodcock. Phase 2 was addressed, among others, to the Chief Superintendent of Police, education, youth and probation officers, and Head Librarian, and international organisations. Phase 3 is an approach to all religious personnel, and Phase 4 the Heads of all schools.



First LSA of Bangor, Wales: Kevin Beint, Fuad Ta'eed, Phil Gregory, John Netherwood, Sue Bates, Mehri Mahboubien, Neil Morgan, Mina Beint, Terry Noon.



Bahá'ís attending the weekend school at Bangor, Northern Ireland

This programme is now, almost completed and by next Ridván, the end of the current Nine Year Plan, approximately ninety individuals and organisations will have been approached. Every member of the community has been involved, usually two or three representatives visit, by appointment, the person accepting the Proclamation Book or booklet. It was hoped to follow each phase through before commencing the next, but this was not always possible and so necessarily they have overlapped. Because of this, and other commitments, it was only recently possible for two of the friends to visit their local M.P. at the House of Commons to present him with the Proclamation Book. He was very interested in the principles of peace and unity in the Bahá'í Faith. This marks an event for the Faith in the U.K. — as the M.P. for Epsom & Ewell is Sir Peter Rawlinson, the Attorney General to the Crown who is currently very closely engaged in the settlement of the Northern Ireland crisis.

GLASGOW: About ninety Bahá'ís from all over Scotland attended the meeting arranged for Mr. Olinga's visit, which was held at the Turnbull Hall. Nuri Sabet kindly accepted a last minute invitation to speak to the gathering and we are all most grateful to him.

Regular firesides and deepening classes are held.

HAMILTON: A successful public meeting was held in April supported by Bahá'ís from Motherwell, Glasgow, Dumbarton and even further North. The day before the friends had circumnavigated the town, praying at intervals. In May we were fortunate to have a visit from Mrs. Violette Nakhjavani, who told us of her travels with 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánum. Two members of our community went to Germany to help the group at Gelsenkirchen to form their LSA. Although this was not achieved, measures were initiated which, it is hoped, will lead to the establishment of an assembly there next Ridván.

LEICESTER: An InterFaith Service was held in Leicester in June to which the Bahá'ís were asked to contribute. It was arranged by a committee of members of most of Leicester's places of worship for 'People to People Week' and Gitty Momen read a chapter from the Gleanings.

LEEDS: Even to the last day we were not sure if Hand of the Cause Enoch Olinga was coming to Leeds, but all the neighbouring communities were alerted and several buses cancelled when no news arrived. A large gathering was held, however, to hear Philip Hainsworth speak of Mr. Olinga, the early days of the Faith in Uganda and thrilling stories which brought to life so many of the names of people and places which hitherto had seemed remote.

We do not often have the privilege of hearing Philip in a reminiscent mood and every one of the friends present felt the evening slip by too quickly. Frequently we look on the immediate future and realise the importance of the goals yet to be won, but all too rarely do we hear of the recent past when history was made.

OBITUARY

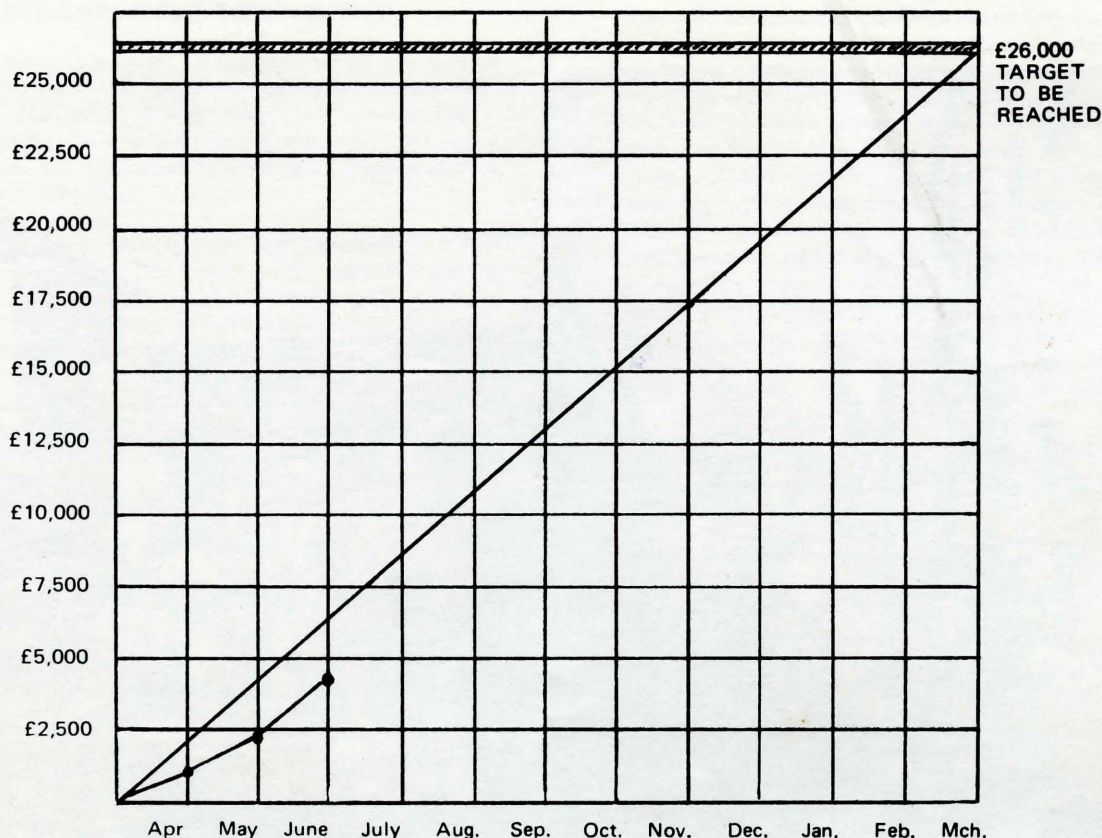
Mr. Lemi Varai was born of Bahá'í parents in the town of Khorramshahr (Iran) on the 2 Rahmat 111 (25 June, 1954). He was devoted to the Cause of God, very much on fire with the love of God, and spent much of his time in teaching the Faith among youth of his age. He was an active participant in local youth activities.

Owing to an illness he came to Britain and was admitted to Glasgow Royal Infirmary on 14 April, 1972 but treatment was not effective and he passed to the Abhá Kingdom in his youth on Wednesday 1 Azamat 129 (17 May, 1972).

His funeral was attended by many Bahá'ís and other friends. He was buried in accordance with Bahá'í rites in Linn Park Cemetery, Glasgow.

LIFEBLOOD OF THE CAUSE

Rate of Contributions



Amount required from DONATIONS for the year 129	£26,650
Amount required for the period March 21 – June 20	£ 6,660
Amount donated for the period March 21 – June 20	£ 3,743

DONATION DEFICIT **£2,917**

IMPORTANT

If this Journal does not reach you before AUGUST, the money needed by the end of August will be £11,000

COVENANTS

Change of Address – Will all the Friends who are making contributions by Deed of Covenant, please notify the National Treasurer, and John Morpew immediately if they change their address. This is important.

VOTING RIGHTS

The voting rights of Mr. Louis Ross-Enfield have been restored.

THE FUND

There are three ways to make contributions to the FUND

1 Directly to the National Treasurer:—

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

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

The National Westminster Bank
186 Brompton Road,
London SW3

Our account no. is 18188443

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

POINTS TO REMEMBER

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

PAYMENTS BY COVENANT

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

Please contact him directly.

FOR THE PERSIAN FRIENDS

Huquq'u'llah payments are handled by

Mr. John Long
2 South Street,
Oakham
Rutland.