



BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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June 1976

CONVENTION 133



Delegates and visitors gathered outside the Ellen Wilkinson School, Ealing, during Convention

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE – MESSAGE TO ALL NATIONAL CONVENTIONS – NAW-RUZ, 1976

ANNOUNCE DELEGATES ASSEMBLED NATIONAL
CONVENTIONS GLAD TIDINGS COMPLETION
EXCAVATION MOUNT CARMEL PREPARATORY
RAISING MAJESTIC CENTRE LEGISLATION GOD'S FAITH
THAT SACRED SPOT, SIGNATURE ITALY FIVE AND HALF
MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR SUPPLYING OVER
TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED CUBIC METRES
PENTELIKON MARBLE FROM GREECE AND FASHIONING
THEREFROM THE COLUMNS FACINGS ORNAMENTATION
BEFITTING MONUMENTAL BUILDING. DEEPLY MOVED
ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE BELIEVERS ALL PARTS
WORLD THIS CHALLENGING GLORIOUS TASK.
DEVELOPMENTS WORLD CENTRE PARALLELED
FURTHER UNFOLDMENT ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

CONTINENTAL NATIONAL LEVELS THROUGH RAISING
NUMBER CONTINENTAL COUNSELLORS TO SIXTY-ONE
BY APPOINTMENT THELMA KHELGHATI WESTERN
AFRICA, WILLIAM MASEHLA SOUTHERN AFRICA,
BURHANI'D-DIN AFSHIN SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA, HIDEYA
SUZUKI NORTH-EASTERN ASIA, OWEN BATTRICK
AUSTRALASIA AND ADIB TAHERZADEH EUROPE,
AUTHORIZATION BOARDS COUNSELLORS APPOINT
NINETY MORE MEMBERS AUXILIARY BOARDS, AND
CALL FOR ELECTION AT RIDVÁN 1977 OF SEVEN NEW
NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES: TWO IN AFRICA,
MALI WITH ITS SEAT IN BAMAKO AND UPPER VOLTA
WITH ITS SEAT IN OUAGADOUGOU, TWO IN THE
AMERICAS, THE FRENCH ANTILLES WITH ITS SEAT IN

POINTE-A-PITRE AND SURINAM AND FRENCH GUIANA WITH ITS SEAT IN PARAMARIBO, ONE IN EUROPE, GREECE WITH ITS SEAT IN ATHENS, AND TWO IN THE PACIFIC, THE NEW HEBRIDES WITH ITS SEAT IN PORT VILA AND THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WITH ITS SEAT IN MAJURO, THE LATTER BEING SUPPLEMENTARY ACHIEVEMENT OF PLAN. NUMBER NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES THUS RAISED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR FOLLOWING DISSOLUTION ACCOUNT LOCAL RESTRICTIONS NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES EQUATORIAL GUINEA NEPAL. OF NINE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE PIONEERS CALLED FOR SPECIFIC POSTS FOUR HUNDRED NINETY TWO ALREADY SETTLED. ALSO FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY SEVEN OTHER PIONEERS PROCEEDED GOAL COUNTRIES. GREAT OUTFLOW INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLING TEACHERS RECORDED. MOVED PAY TRIBUTE INDEFATIGABLE SERVICES HANDS CAUSE GOD PAST YEAR IN PROMOTING ABOVE SUCCESSES AND IN FIELDS TEACHING PROTECTION PRESERVATION PROCLAMATION AND LITERATURE FAITH AS WELL AS SIGNAL SERVICES INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CENTRE CONSTITUTING GREAT ACCESSION STRENGTH WORLD CENTRE RELIEF BURDENS RESTING UNIVFRSAL HOUSE JUSTICE. MIDDLE YEAR FIVE YEAR

PLAN NOW OPENING WILL WITNESS GATHERING FOLLOWERS BAHÁ'U'LLÁH EIGHT INTERNATIONAL TEACHING CONFERENCES DESIGNED GENERATE TREMENDOUS IMPETUS PROGRESS PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENT WHOSE GOALS NOW LAGGING SERIOUSLY BEHIND. MOST PRESSING NEED FAITH THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE ITS MISSION REDEEM MANKIND IS FOR EVERY BELIEVER ALL ASSEMBLIES NATIONAL LOCAL CONCENTRATE ATTAINMENT GOALS PLACED BEFORE BAHÁ'Í WORLD, PROMOTE PROCESS ENTRY BY TROOPS, ACHIEVE VAST INCREASE SIZE COMMUNITY, INCREASE NUMBER STEADFAST SELFSACRIFICING BELIEVERS DEDICATED CONFORM EVERY ASPECT THEIR LIVES HIGH STANDARDS SET SACRED TEXTS. THE FIELD IS VAST THE TIME SHORT THE LABOURERS LAMENTABLY FEW BUT ON THE EFFORTS WE FOLLOWERS OF THE BLESSED BEAUTY NOW EXERT, ON THE DEGREE TO WHICH WE SUCCESSFULLY AND SPEEDILY PROCLAIM AND TEACH HIS MESSAGE TO OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS, DEPENDS IN GREAT MEASURE THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY IN THE DECADES IMMEDIATELY AHEAD.

(SIGNED) THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

NAW-RÚZ

As it was not clear from "Principles of Bahá'í Administration" when Naw-Rúz should be celebrated and the Fast ended in those years when the vernal equinox falls before sunset on 20 March, advice was sought from the Universal House of Justice. The following letter, addressed to the United States National Assembly, was shared with us:

"Dear Bahá'í Friends,

This will confirm our cable of October 19, 1971,

stating that Naw-Rúz should be observed on March 21 regardless of the date and hour of the vernal equinox.

It has been decided that until the Universal House of Justice fixes the meridian, the friends in the West should observe Naw-Rúz on the 21st day of March each year according to the Gregorian calendar.

With warm and loving Bahá'í greetings,

October 28, 1971 UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE"

INVOLVEMENT OF BAHÁ'ÍS IN THE SALE OF ALCOHOL

The European Board of Counsellors recently asked advice from the International Teaching Centre regarding a case of a Bahá'í working in a place which sold alcoholic drinks. They consulted the Universal House of Justice and have now given the following points of principle, including quotations from letters from the beloved Guardian.

(1) Businesses entirely owned and managed by Bahá'ís

The issue in such cases is quite clear as is evident from the following quotations from letters written on behalf of the beloved Guardian:

"Institutions that are entirely managed by Bahá'ís are, for reasons that are only too obvious, under the obligation of enforcing all the laws and ordinances of the Faith, especially those whose observance constitutes a matter of conscience. There is no reason, no justification whatsoever, that they should act otherwise. . ."

"Concerning the third question (sale of alcoholic drinks in Bahá'í owned premises and restaurants), the beloved Guardian has asked me to point out that this practice is highly improper and reprehensible and would be tantamount to encouraging acts that are forbidden in the Faith. It is indeed the conscientious duty of every true Bahá'í to abandon such practices." (Translated from the Persian)

(2) Businesses carried on in premises owned by Bahá'ís

This is covered in the following extract from a letter written on behalf of the beloved Guardian:

"However, should a Bahá'í owner rent his property without himself taking any part whatever in the business, or giving aid to the tenant, then he would incur no responsibility. The landlord should, nevertheless, resort to every possible

means to rid his premises of the defilement of this degrading business; and how far more injurious it would be if he himself were engaged in such repugnant activities." (Translated from the Persian — this is a continuation of the letter quoted above).

(3) Bahá'ís who are in the employment of non-Bahá'ís and whose employment involves the serving or selling of alcoholic beverages

The House of Justice points out that such employments cover a very large degree of involvement; therefore it is left to the individual to decide whether or not he feels his employment violates the spirit of the Bahá'í law. In cases of doubt he should, of course, consult the Spiritual Assembly for advice.

(4) The sale of alcoholic beverages by a business in which a Bahá'í is a partner with non-Bahá'ís

The House of Justice has found no explicit text or instruction of the beloved Guardian covering such a situation, and feels that it is one in which no hard and fast rules should be drawn at the present time. It is the view of the House of Justice that this is a matter which needs to be decided in each case in the light of the spirit of the Teachings and the circumstances of the case, and unless the situation is one which is endangering the good name of the Faith, or is obviously a ruse on the part of a believer to evade the Bahá'í law, it should be left to the conscience of the believer concerned, who should of course be informed of the Bahá'í teachings concerning alcohol and should make every effort to dissociate himself from such an activity.

The above comment relates to Bahá'ís who are already in partnerships dealing in such matters. It is, however, obvious that a Bahá'í who is not in such a situation should not enter into it.



IMPORTANT CAPITAL PROJECTS GOAL — NEW PREMISES AT KETTON FOR BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

Just at the time when planning permission for the improvement at Ryhall was known to be dependent upon the expenditure of many thousands of pounds more than had been anticipated, and would still not solve the long-term needs of the Trust, a property came on the market at Ketton, near Oakham, which, after keen negotiation, was purchased for £18,000.

£9,000 was put down and the balance raised by a private mortgage which will have to be paid off during the plan.

The property is a very substantial stone building with over 10,000 sq ft of floor space on three floors, the land to the left of the photograph falls away so that the bottom floor is at ground level on the side seen in the photograph. The approach is by the righthand side of the photograph and as one turns the corner and sees the stone buttresses the building inevitably makes one think of a church. Built as a maltings, the floors are very strong indeed, so necessary as a store for books as these are very heavy when stacked in bulk. The building materials seen are some being used by the building firm currently making the adaptations needed to enable it to be used for our purpose, some renovating and equipping which, when completed, will make it an ideal warehouse for the Trust.

Rather than continuing to patch up the roof, a new roof has been added, the heating system is to be improved, toilets and other facilities and a hoist for raising pallets of books from the loading bay to the storage floors must be installed. Pallets and other essential storage materials have to be purchased and then all the

book stock, presently held in Leicester, Manchester, Welwyn Garden City, Norfolk and Nottingham will have to be transferred to the new warehouse. All these alterations, purchases and movements could well absorb £30,000 of that allowed in the Capital Projects Fund. But what an exciting project this is. What a wonderful acquisition we have in this Ketton Property. When all is done the final cost will be well under half that which warehousing is fetching in the nearby Leicester area — and a building of such solidity will be standing long after many of the more modern warehouses have ended their days.

Bahá'u'lláh no doubt guided us to this property. All those who know the present scope, the needs and the potential, of our "Temple", our Publishing Trust, have been impressed by this purchase.

This, however, has to be financed from our direct contributions. We cannot pay these bills by borrowing from the Universal House of Justice.

If we are to complete this work on schedule and develop fully the property we have been guided to purchase, there needs to be a rapid increase in the amount given to the Capital Projects Fund. We are sure that many believers would like to feel that they were associated in the purchase of this old "Maltings" and in its transformation to its new function as the central warehouse for all our Bahá'í book stock.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

THE ONWARD MARCH OF THE FAITH

We warmly welcome to the community the following new believers, recorded in the National Office from 1 April, 1976:

ENGLAND — Youth

Patricia Barry (Miss) — Carlisle
Christopher Craig Robinson — Cambridge
Helen Woodfield (Miss) — Lewes

Susan Patricia Hill (Miss) — Slough
Joanna Shaw (Miss) — Dacorum

Jane Keen (Miss) — Beaconsfield
Elizabeth Wilkinson (Miss) — S. Lakeland

Adults

Richard Evans (Dr) — Banstead & Reigate
Eugene MacDonald — Tunbridge Wells
Sara Parsons (Miss) — Dacorum
Pauline F. Turvey (Mrs) — Winchester

Joyce Liddington (Mrs) — Banstead & Reigate
Hilary MacDonald (Mrs) — Tunbridge Wells
Robert Puleston — Bournemouth
Jean Woodfield (Mrs) — Charnwood

Christopher Kerr — Winchester
Krishna Naidoo — Portsmouth
Roger Anthony Smith — Henley
Nanan Eugene — Ken/Chel

SCOTLAND — Youth

M. B. Bell (Miss) — Moray

C. MacDonald (Miss) — Moray

Adults

William Farmer — Glasgow

Richard John Knight — Western Isles

John Neville — Mull

N. IRELAND — Adults

Marie McCreanor (Mrs) — Castlereagh

CHANNEL ISLANDS — Adults

Raymond Richings — Jersey

INTERNATIONAL BAHÁ'Í CONFERENCES OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN

The first three International Bahá'í Conferences called for in the Five Year Plan are scheduled for July and early August this year. The first Conference will be held in Helsinki, Finland on 5 July, when the Hand of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery will be the representative of the Universal House of Justice.

The second of the Arctic Conferences will follow in Anchorage, Alaska on 23 July, when the Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone will represent the Universal House of Justice. Both Conferences will feature discussions on teaching the native peoples of the Arctic—the Lapps, the Eskimos, the Indians and Aleuts, and also the Gipsies.

Paris, blessed by the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá during His travels to the West, will be host to the next International Conference which begins on 3 August. The participation of Amatu'l-Bahá Ruhíyyih Khánúm as representative of the Universal House of Justice will revive thoughts of her distinguished mother's association with that city at the turn of the century. Large

delegations from Europe, America, North Africa and Persia are expected to attend.

TRAVEL TEACHING

Those interested in travel teaching before or after any of the Conferences are urged to contact their respective National Spiritual Assemblies or the appropriate Continental Pioneer Committee well in advance. To be effective, travel teaching projects should be scheduled as soon as possible. It is very difficult to process last-minute offers.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

A list of national conferences associated with these three Conferences is given below. Friends travelling to and from the International Conferences may wish to participate in these subsidiary gatherings, perhaps in conjunction with travel teaching in these areas. Summer and Winter Schools are also listed.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES, SUMMER AND WINTER SCHOOLS SCHEDULED IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF HELSINKI, FINLAND 5-8 JULY 1976, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 23-25 JULY 1976 AND PARIS, FRANCE 3-6 AUGUST 1976

Date	Location	Event
9-11 July 1976	Ghana, Abijan	International Youth Conference
10 July 1976 and 8 August 1976	Denmark, Copenhagen	National Teaching Conferences
10-24 July 1976	Finland	Teaching Trips in Three Areas
10-17 July 1976	United Kingdom, Inverness	Summer School
10-31 July 1976	Germany, Keil - Trier	Teaching Project
16-18 July 1976	Sweden, Gothenburg	National Teaching Conference
22-24 July 1976	Norway, Bodø	National Teaching Conference (North of Arctic Circle)
1 July - 7 September 1976	France	Extended Teaching Campaigns
24-25 July 1976	Germany, Langenhain	Teaching Conference
25-31 July 1976	Denmark, Uldum, Jylland	Scandinavian Summer School
24-31 July 1976	Holland	Summer School
Following Alaska Conference	Alaska	Native Council to plan Conference
Prior to Paris Conference	Italy	Summer School and camping session
7-15 August 1976	Austria, Innsbruck	Summer School and Teaching Conference
8 August 1976	Denmark, Copenhagen	National Teaching Conference
8 August 1976	Luxembourg, Luxembourg City	National Teaching Conference followed by two-week teaching campaign
7-9 August 1976	Switzerland, Lenzburg	National Teaching Conference
8-24 August 1976	Belgium	Teaching Campaign
10-15 August 1976	Switzerland, Lenzburg	Summer School
14 August 1976	United Kingdom, London	Conference
14-15 August 1976	Spain, Barcelona	National Teaching Conference
26-30 August 1976	Belgium	Summer School
21-29 August 1976	Ireland	Summer School and National Teaching Conference
22 August 1976	Holland, Amsterdam	National Teaching Conference
24-29 August 1976	Luxembourg, Ansembourg Castle	Summer School
Beginning 27 August 1976	Iceland	Summer School
Following Paris Conference	Canada, Toronto, Vancouver	National Teaching Conferences
28 December 1976 - 3 January 1977	United Kingdom	Winter School (includes Teaching Conference 1-2 January 1977)
25 December 1976 - 2 January 1977	Switzerland, Innsbruck	Winter School

THE FIRST PIONEERS

It is necessary to correct, for historical purposes, the statement about pioneers made on Page Six, column one, of Journal No. 231.

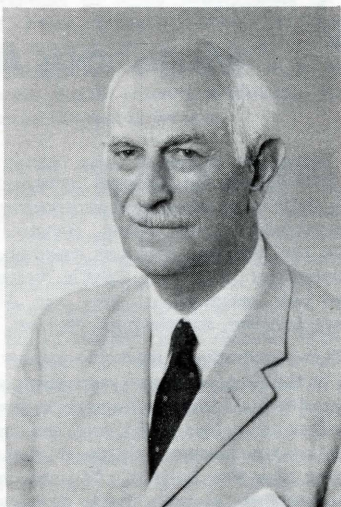
Up to Teaching Conference, 1946 (Manchester 2/3 February), Jessica Young, Kathleen Brown and Ursula Newman had pioneered and by the Teaching Conference in 1947 (Manchester) mentioned, Walter Wilkins, Alma Gregory, Una Townshend, Robert Cheek, David Hofman, Marion Hofman, Philip Hainsworth, Claire Gung, Isobel Locke, Prudence George, Richard Backwell and Sheila Worrall had pioneered, raising the total number of pioneers to fifteen.

A PRAYER FOR A TEACHER

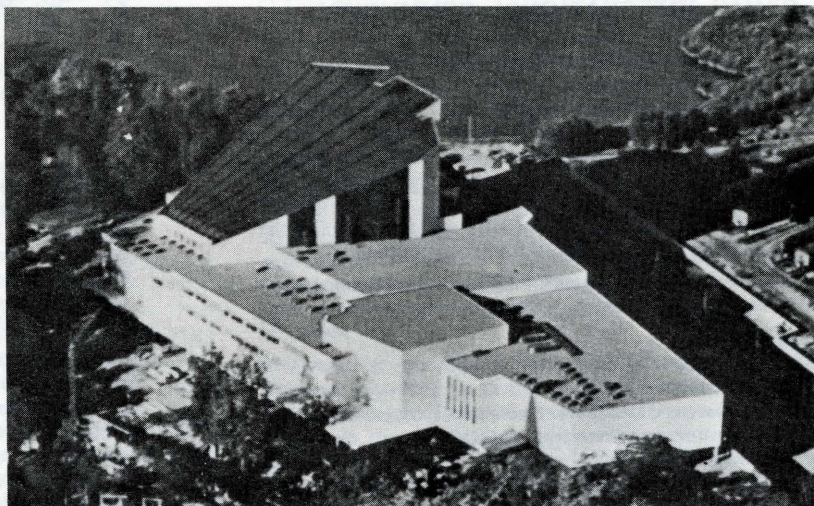
This prayer, reputed to be by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, cannot be verified. It is being used in some European communities, but according to the World Centre, it cannot be regarded as authentic. Questions have also been asked about it by some of the believers in the United Kingdom. It is the prayer which begins:

"O God! Make me a teacher in Thy Cause. Cause my mouth to utter the wisdom of Thy ways. Make me wise, kind, good, and understanding. . ."

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY



The Hand of the Cause Dr Ugo Giachery who will represent the Universal House of Justice at the International Conference in Helsinki, July 5–8, 1976.



Helsinki—Finlandia Hall in Helsinki, Finland, where the International Bahá'í Conference will be held on July 5–8, 1976.



The Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum who will represent the Universal House of Justice at the International Conference in Paris, August 3–6, 1976.



Paris—Scene of the International Bahá'í Conference to be held on August 3–6, 1976 in the Palais des Congrès, right foreground.



The Hand of the Cause Collis Featherstone who will represent the Universal House of Justice at the International Conference in Anchorage, July 23–25, 1976.



Anchorage—General view of Anchorage, Alaska, site of the International Bahá'í Conference to be held on July 23–25, 1976.

BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Experts needed at International Level

It will no doubt come as a most pleasant surprise to most believers to learn of the many areas in which the Bahá'í International Community is cooperating with the United Nations through its having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It should be of real interest to a number of believers to hear that names of those with professional expertise in many fields are urgently required for such cooperation.

The areas in which the Bahá'í International Community is presently cooperating are:

Human Rights
Status of Women
Youth and Children
Control of Narcotic Drugs and Prevention of Alcoholism
Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders
Human Settlements
Literacy
World Food Problem
Economic and Social Development
Population
Environment
Science and Technology in Development

The special fields of expertise for which names are now required include:

Anthropologists
Communications experts/radio and television engineers
Criminologists/criminal lawyers
Demographers/population experts
Ecologists/natural resource scientists/water-use experts
Economists
Education specialists
Health specialists: Public health education/nutrition/mother and child care/medical research/medical doctors/psychiatrists
Horticulturalist/Agriculturalist
International lawyers
Labour relations experts
Psychologists
Public Relations experts/Journalists/Photographers
Scientists/Development Technologists
Sociologists/Social Psychologists/Rural and Urban Planners

Characteristics desirable for the experts now being sought:

1. A thorough knowledge of the Bahá'í Teachings, and the implications of these teachings in solving world problems.
2. A high degree of mastery in a particular field, so that this Bahá'í may be able to see and express how the Bahá'í teachings answer a specific problem the UN is concerned with in his area.
3. An ability to make an honest attempt to understand the issues being dealt with and to get at the thinking of delegates when presenting the Bahá'í solution.
4. Alertness to opportunities for teaching the Faith directly and indirectly, as appropriate.

The Bahá'ís whose names we will submit must, therefore, be not only well-grounded in the Teachings, but must, in the words of the Universal House of Justice, "have attained eminence or distinction in their fields of endeavour". These experts would not only help in planning Bahá'í participation in regular meetings of the UN bodies concerned in economic and social affairs, conferences and seminars, but also in helping to decide which issues would be best for presenting a Bahá'í statement and in drafting such a statement. He or she would help write Bahá'í pamphlets on specific subjects for wide distribution in UN circles and may be called upon from time to time to represent the Community at meetings dealing with the subject matter in which he or she is an expert.

This is a most wonderful opportunity for some Bahá'ís from the United Kingdom to serve the Cause at international level and, in the words of the Bahá'í International Community, "... we must present clear and knowledgeable answers to specific issues being discussed at UN meetings. Only with this approach will the contribution we make be considered of value in furthering the work of the UN towards peace and the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the peoples of the world."

Please submit your names in the first instance to the National Office.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: On National Independence Day, December 1, 1975, Bahá'ís for the second consecutive year participated in a large parade in the capital, Bangui. With adequate advance notice the National Spiritual Assembly was able to make full preparations and forty Bahá'ís, twice the number participating last year, were able to take part. All the friends contributed to buy dignified, coordinated costumes.

Mrs Meherangiz Munsiff, an international travelling teacher who was visiting the country at the time, requested permission of the National Assembly to join with the African believers and pioneers in the marching group. Dressed in her native sari, she walked alongside the Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly beneath a banner reading "La Foi Bahá'íe". "In this way", the National Assembly commented, "we were able to demonstrate not only the unity of mankind, but also the equality of men and women."

Following the Independence Day celebrations all participating organisations were called to the Presidency at the first of the new year to present greetings to the President. This year, for the first time, the Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly presented greetings, as did representatives of five other religions. In his remarks on behalf of the National Assembly the Chairman congratulated the President on his success in putting into effect a number of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, notably the recognition of the oneness of mankind, the equality of men and women, universal education for all, and the equality of all religions.

As a result of the appeal by a representative of another religious group for extension of radio time for all religions the President in his answering speech invited the Minister of Information to proceed immediately to extend from fifteen to thirty minutes the radio time allotted to each religion. In addition, he asked the Minister to see that each religion received time on national television.

The Bahá'í community, which for three years has enjoyed regular weekly fifteen minute programmes, thus received an extension to thirty minutes of broadcast time for each programme. In the more than 150 programmes already broadcast the Bahá'í community has been able to discuss Bahá'í topics of various kinds, utilise a series of talks on Progressive Revelation and Bahá'í History and make announcements of Nineteen Day Feasts, Holy Days and offer instructions for the election of local Spiritual Assemblies.

Within a week of the President's decision to extend broadcast time, the Bahá'ís were asked, with only forty-eight hours' notice, to produce a fifteen minute television programme.

"Our National Proclamation Committee held an emergency meeting", it was reported, "and organised a programme involving the children's chorus and two Bahá'í speakers who spoke of the unity of God, religion and mankind, employing visual aids. In spite of a few technical difficulties and the fact that we were totally inexperienced in this field, our first television programme was definitely successful. The following week we were informed that the four major religions were each to have one-half hour of television time every other Sunday evening. Thus the Bahá'í Faith is presently responsible for a one-half hour radio programme every Sunday morning at 7 am and a one-half hour television programme every other Sunday evening at 7 pm.

"An interesting note is that this country was one of the few African nations to have proclamation by means of television as a Five Year Plan goal, and the goal has now been achieved without the slightest effort on our part. We have all we can do to simply keep abreast of the numerous blessings that continue to fall upon our community."

ECUADOR: In a recent progress report the National Radio Committee of Ecuador states that it has been functioning full time from the Bahá'í Institute in Otavalo for nearly three years, writing and recording radio programmes for use in commercial stations all over the country. At present Bahá'í programmes are being broadcast on six stations, giving Ecuador nearly nationwide coverage. Despite cutbacks in length of broadcasts necessitated because of increasing costs, thirteen hours of broadcast time are utilised each week.

In addition to many programmes on general aspects of the Bahá'í Faith, Ecuador's library of programmes includes single scripts or series on such topics as children's education, literacy, the development of the Bahá'í Faith among the Indians of the Americas, Bahá'í answers to Christian questions and programmes of special interest to women.

SURINAM AND FRENCH GUIANA: An intensive teaching campaign was inaugurated recently in Surinam, a project undertaken by the National Spiritual Assembly in collaboration with the Continental Board of Counsellors in South America. Following a one-day planning conference held in Paramaribo on 14 December, three teams of teachers set out for areas to the east, south and west for a full week of teaching activities.

The Bahá'í teachers were received with exclamations of joy by the believers in the Bush Negro village of Kamaloea and surrounding areas, where the Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum made her historic visit last March and formed the first Local Spiritual Assembly in that zone. Not only were many new believers accepted during the December trip, but the local Spiritual Assembly of Kamaloea acquired a local endowment and an additional piece of land for the construction of their local Hazíratu'l-Quds. It is expected that construction of the building can begin in April. In two nearby villages new local Spiritual Assemblies were formed.

Surinam, a former Dutch colony, achieved independence on 25 November, 1975. The celebrations marking this event offered an unusually fine opportunity for proclaiming the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. Full advantage of this opportunity was taken by the Bahá'ís of Surinam, who arranged for a Bahá'í booth in the three-week Trade Fair held at the time of independence. They also obtained permission to march in the Independence Day Parade.

Believers throughout Surinam, and especially the friends in the capital city, Paramaribo, made feverish preparations for the Trade Fair.

People from all parts of Surinam, and many international visitors, came to Paramaribo for the celebrations. An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people visited the Bahá'í booth, many expressing interest in the Teachings and eagerly accepting literature. Already the first fruits of this effort have been harvested in the form of new believers, and many others are studying the Faith.

Surinam has an unusually varied population. On Independence Day most of the many groups that marched in the parade were identified by their religious, racial or national backgrounds. But the fully integrated Bahá'í marching group, including people from many different backgrounds, was a colourful demonstration of the oneness and unity of mankind. Three East Indian youth, attracted by the uniqueness of the Bahá'í group, spontaneously asked if they might march with the Bahá'ís and were permitted to do so.

It was reported that more than 100,000 spectators — approximately one-third of the entire population of Surinam — witnessed the parade.

INDIA, Calcutta: A public meeting designed to proclaim the Bahá'í Faith and organised entirely by sympathetic residents of the Belaghata Trikon Park locality of Calcutta was recently held in the park and attracted an audience of more than 500. "The hall was full and many people were seen standing outside and sitting on adjoining house-tops", it was reported. "This was perhaps the first Bahá'í public meeting ever held in an open space in this area and organised entirely by non-Bahá'ís."

The meeting was presided over by Mr Manik Banerji, Headmaster of Belaghata Deshabandhu High School. In his address of welcome he spoke with appreciation of the high ideals of the Faith and said that he was very fortunate to learn of the Faith. He thanked those who had organised the meeting and assured them "of every assistance for the propagation of its glorious teachings which meet the need of the day."

IRAN: Recently a teacher of literature in a Kirman high school assigned to his class the writing of a composition on various religions. One group of non-Bahá'í students were to write about the Bahá'í Faith. The group went to the local Spiritual Assembly for consultation and guidance, and with the help of a local believer, they wrote and presented an article on the Faith. Another teacher asked a Bahá'í girl in her class to describe to her fellow students the Bahá'í teachings, following which the teacher suggested to the class that they should ask their parents to investigate the Bahá'í Faith.

A considerable receptivity to the Faith has been reported among the Bakhtiari, Lur and Arab tribes of Khuzistan province in southern Persia. With the approval of the National Spiritual Assembly, the local Spiritual Assemblies in the area acceded to the request of tribal chiefs by preparing tape recordings in the local languages for use in conjunction with Bahá'í filmstrips.

KOREA:

Korea Ablaze with New Spirit: The December visit of the Hand of the Cause Dr Rahmatu'llah Muhajir, the National Spiritual Assembly reported, infused a new spirit into the community and resulted in a plan of action which has been inaugurated with considerable success. The plan calls for teams of travelling teachers from Japan to spend varying periods of time teaching in Korea.

The value of the visits of the travelling teachers is typified, the National Assembly commented, by the experience of Miss Yoko Ishihara and Miss Mary Goeble in Shinch'onri village where they spent two days, following up the visit made a fortnight before by a previous team. A women's club in the village had been addressed by the first visitors, considered the message in the meantime and twenty-two of its members accepted the Faith, presenting their enrolment cards to the second team through the secretary of the local Spiritual Assembly.

When Miss Ishihara spoke of this experience at a subsequent National Teaching Conference in Korea, the National Assembly stated, her eyes filled with tears as she described the love shown to her by an eighty-two year old village woman who in accepting Bahá'u'lláh said that she had found great peace and happiness and expressed her desire soon to meet Him in the Abhá Kingdom.

UNITED STATES, Texas: "Books Constituting the Authoritative Text of the Bahá'í Faith" is the title of a book collection which won the first place award in the Third Annual Book Collectors' Contest at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University, College City, Texas. The collection, submitted by David Songer, a Bahá'í, consisted of twenty-five books and was attractively and prominently displayed in the main area of the University library for two weeks. The award was presented at a lovely programme attended by a number of respected dignitaries and citizens as well as officials of the University, including the President of the Board of Regents, the Dean of the Faculty and the director of a prestigious international publishing institution.

All collections submitted consisted of twenty-five titles relating to the topic selected by the student. An annotated bibliography was presented containing a description of each book and an explanation as to why it belonged in the collection. The twenty-nine finalists were invited to submit the actual collections for review by the judges.

A collection entitled "Books on the History of the Bahá'í Faith", submitted by Nancy Songer, also won an award and was displayed in the library.

It was reported that during the award programme the only collections commented upon by the announcer were those submitted by the Bahá'ís. "I wish you could see those books!" he exclaimed to the audience with admiration. The Bahá'ís were also approached individually by each of the judges who commented upon the breadth of the collection and the high standard of quality of the publications.



Meherangiz Munsiff and Sabone Pierre leading the Bahá'í contingent in the Central African Republic Independence Day celebrations

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

SUPPLEMENTARY ANNUAL REPORT

In this Supplementary Report the National Assembly is not following the pattern of previous years. It has become customary to report upon victories won, then to draw the attention of Convention to the major issues facing the community and finally to take a look forward to the year ahead.

This year we will briefly look at the position of the community as it is today. After the message of the Universal House of Justice has been presented, a brief statement will be made on behalf of the National Assembly. Hopefully, the results of the election of the Assembly will be announced in time for its first meeting to be held during this evening while the other friends attend the "Green Light Expedition" film. The National Assembly will then be able to present its broad plans for the coming year to Convention when it reassembles tomorrow morning.

THE HOME FRONT

Of the thirty Phase "A" goals to be achieved by Ridván, all were realised except that the Spiritual Assembly of **Chester** lapsed, **Knowsley** was not re-established and the groups of **Newtonabbey**, **Rugby** and **Carrick** did not reach assembly status.

Last year we recognised 106 local assemblies, and nine new assemblies were formed during the year. Three lapsed assemblies were re-formed, four new assemblies came into being at Ridván and another was formed on 27 April. Seventeen new assemblies have, therefore, been formed since last Convention, bringing our total number of assemblies to 122.

OVERSEAS

Still suffering from the aftermath of the trouble in **Cyprus**, the teaching work there has not made any significant progress and no assembly could be formed this Ridván. The numbers in **Malta** have not increased and there are only three active believers towards the total of eighteen which are essential for the two assemblies which have to be formed by the end of the Plan.

Iceland: When it was decided, after approval by the Universal House of Justice, to offer a post as assistant to the Publishing Trust Manager to Harper Pettypiece, Chairman of the National Assembly of Iceland, the other National Assemblies involved — Iceland and Canada — asked if we could help to replace Mr and Mrs Pettypiece with pioneers, and we made some appeals for young men and later for nurses. So far, only Michael Cooper (Northampton) has responded, and he was able to reach his goal town in time to help save one of the four Icelandic assemblies. Harper will settle in Oakham at the beginning of June and will be working full-time for the Faith, mainly for the Publishing Trust and part-time for the National Teaching Committee.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

As will be seen from the schedule placed before every delegate, a total estimate of £145,000 has been accepted for the whole Plan. The amount given or pledged to date is less than £40,000 and we have just been obliged to request the Universal House of Justice to lend us the 150,000 Danish Kroner needed immediately to help to purchase the Faroes *Hajiratu'l-Quds*. When the decision was taken this was little more than £13,500, but had we been obliged to transfer it from this country, it would have cost us £1,000 more a week later. The House, by using dollar funds, has helped us greatly in this commitment. It does illustrate, however, the prescience of the Universal House of Justice in urging the friends to purchase their properties early in the Plan.

In happier vein, however, we are delighted to be able to announce that agreements have been reached for the purchase of the Temple and Endowment lands in **Cyprus** for less than half the amounts estimated earlier. The legal work connected with these important goals is currently in progress and the moneys are already available. This has been made possible largely through a very substantial contribution made specifically for the Cyprus Temple land. Once again, the Hand of Bahá'u'lláh seems to have been guiding us in these projects. Every goal achieved so far — the Barbados, New Hebrides and Cyprus Temple lands, the Cyprus Endowment, the Malta *Hajiratu'l-Quds* and the new Publishing Trust property at Ketton, have been better than expected and have cost less than the budget estimate.

INCREASED RECOGNITION FOR THE FAITH

The **Reading** and **Henley** Bahá'ís, after having had representatives on a Thames Valley radio programme, have been asked to provide a two-hour programme for the future; **Plymouth** have an opportunity to present a plan for a half-hour television programme on BBC 1 Southwest, entitled "Platform"; **Orkney** Assembly has been placed on the Council Education Committee for Religious Education and the Bahá'í Statement on Religious Education was largely responsible for this significant achievement.

BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The long-awaited "Teaching and Consolidation Manual", originally produced by the National Teaching Committee, has been brought up to date by the National Assembly, published by the Trust, and is now on sale at this Convention. This is another of those valuable handbooks which are published here and could well be bought in preference to the much more expensive publications from America. Due to the sinking value of the pound, books from the United States will have to carry a 30% surcharge and before long this might well go to 35% against the 15% of a few weeks ago.

The Last Weeks of Phase "A"

The National Assembly would like to pay tribute to the excellent work of the National Teaching Committee and the National Pioneer Committee who, through their closely co-operating liaison members, did so much to achieve the victories won. We would also like to pay particular tribute to Abbas Mehrnough who, during the past few weeks, has contributed so much to the formation of four local assemblies and the maintenance of two existing assemblies which would have lapsed without his efforts.

The pattern of declarations is at last beginning to change, as will be seen in future Journals when the names of new believers will again be published.

We are moving forward towards victory in the Phase "B" goals which demand, for complete success, more than twice as many new assemblies in the year ahead than were achieved in the year that has now passed.

CAPITAL PROJECTS' BUDGETS

The following Tables show the year-by-year revisions with explanatory notes*

ITEMS	DETAILS	"A" AUGUST '74 ESTIMATES	"B" REVISED '75 ESTIMATES	"C" NEW ESTIMATES FOR 1976/77
1.	Temple site in Barbadoes — (Windward Isles — assist)	£2,400	£2,400	£2,110 (Actual)
2.	Temple site in New Hebrides — (SW Pacific — assist)	20,000	22,000	4,200 (Actual)
3.	Temple site in Cyprus	10,000	10,000	5,000 *
4.	Endowment in Cyprus	1,000	1,000	500 *
5.	Hazíratu'l-Quds in Nicosia	10,000	10,000	15,000
6.	Hazíratu'l-Quds in Torshavn	8,000	10,700	15,000 *
7.	Hazíratu'l-Quds in Malta — (Iran to assist)	NIL	NIL	3,000 *
8.	LOCAL Hazíratu'l-Quds in UK (4 @ £11,250)	40,000	44,000	45,000
9.	Expansion of Publishing Trust — Building conversions, textbooks for schools & colleges (part assistance), etc.	40,000 4,000	49,600) 4,500)	55,000 *
10.	Incorporate NSA of Cyprus	100	100	100
11.	Incorporate 34 more LSAs in UK	2,500	2,700	200 *
		<u>£138,000</u>	<u>£157,000</u>	<u>£145,110</u>
	Margin available for inflation	12,000	—	—
		<u>£150,000</u>		<u>£145,000</u>

NOTES:

1. (3) The price for a fine **temple site in Cyprus** has been agreed at slightly less than £5,000, to be paid partly in UK and partly in Cyprus and only the legal formalities need completing. The whole of this amount has been promised by one believer when the deal is finalised.
2. (4) The **Endowment land** has been selected, the price agreed, the money transferred and only legal formalities need completing.
3. (6) The **Faroës Building** cannot be bought until a deposit is paid. We are providing that deposit of up to £15,000. It will be transferred as soon as the continued existence of the Torshavn LSA is confirmed. Unfortunately, we do not have this in our fund and we must try to borrow from the Universal House of Justice.
4. (7) The **property in Malta** has been purchased by a non-resident family. It will soon be completed and the budget represents the difference between the actual cost and the amounts contributed by the cooperating National Assembly (Persia) and the purchasing family. When the matter is finalised our total contribution will be less than one third the total amount.
5. (9) The budget-items of 1974 and 1975 for the **Publishing Trust** treated the expansion of the building programme in relation to the property of Ryhall, now being sold, and the new budget covers the purchase of the new property of Ketton, its conversion, the expansion and improvement of the premises at Mount Pleasant, Oakham and part assistance for text books for schools, etc.
6. (11) The substantial reduction in this estimate for **local incorporation** is based on the assumption that after one assembly is "Processed" with its revised Articles, the other can be dealt with through the National Office and mainly financed by the incorporating Assembly or from the current National Budget rather than from a Capital Projects item.
7. No further item has been included for inflation.

SUMMARY At least **£145,000** will be needed for the Five Year Plan commitments. Nearly **£40,000** has been contributed or promised and two fifths of the Plan have passed.

CONVENTION 133

1/2 May, 1976

Ellen Wilkinson School, Ealing.

This year we were once again blessed with a bright, sunny day for the opening of Convention and the same arrangements for the running of the sessions, which were so successful last year, were followed. There was a particularly beautiful devotional, one of readings being taken from the compilation by the Universal House of Justice on "Meetings", which will be given to every believer when it is published.

In his opening address, the Chairman of the outgoing National Assembly, John Long, welcomed the delegates and visitors, and gave a particularly warm welcome to Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh, who had for so many years attended our Convention as a delegate and served on our National Assembly before the formation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Ireland. Our close links with our sister National Assembly were emphasised and Zebbie Whitehead was attending our Convention as their representative. These two very dear friends were accorded an overwhelming ovation by Convention. John Long also reminded the friends of another Bahá'í who had served on our National Assembly before pioneering and who had now been appointed a Counsellor for the South Pacific — Owen Battrick. The Board Members were welcomed and were, as usual, invited to take part in the proceedings. The roll was called and it was found that seventy-two of our ninety-five delegates had already arrived.

Convention Officers were very quickly elected:

Chairman:	John Long
Secretary:	Philip Hainsworth
Vice Chairman:	Ted Cardell

A suggestion from one delegate that the time limit imposed in these new arrangements would not be sufficient to allow some people adequately to express themselves was made, but the delegates voted overwhelmingly for the same arrangements which had proved so successful last year, to continue. Even with this limit there were, at the end of the consultation sessions, some delegates waiting to put forward resolutions.

Messages were presented from the British Bahá'ís serving in the Holy Land, the Cyprus community, Charles and Yvonne Macdonald and John Coates and a Messages Committee was appointed consisting of Habib Hazari, Peter Stratton, Hazel Mosafaie and Margaret Watkins. Delegates expressed their great regret that the Hand of the Cause Hasan Balyuzi, who had contributed so very much to the growth of the Faith in this country, could no longer be with us and it was decided that a letter should be sent to him. During the course of Convention messages were approved as follows:—

a) **Universal House of Justice (Cable)**

LOVING RIDVÁN GREETINGS DELEGATES FRIENDS ASSEMBLED CONVENTION DEEPLY INSPIRED PRAYERS GREETINGS HOUSE GALVANIZING COMMUNITY ACHIEVE GOALS. REJOICE JOYOUS NEWS COMPLETION EXCAVATION MOUNT CARMEL APPOINTMENT COUNSELLORS. PRIVILEGED PARTICIPATION COUNSELLOR ADIB TAHERZADEH AUXILIARY BOARDS. OVER 500 FRIENDS ASSEMBLED REDEDICATED PROMOTE ENTRY BY TROOPS INCREASE STEADFASTNESS BELIEVERS HUMBLY BESEECH PRAYERS SACRED THRESHOLD.

b) **International Teaching Centre (Cable)**

LOVING RIDVÁN GREETINGS DELEGATES ASSEMBLED UK CONVENTION DETERMINED ACHIEVE VAST INCREASE SIZE COMMUNITY GREATER PERSONAL TEACHING AUGMENTING NUMBERS PIONEERS TRAVEL TEACHERS HOME FRONT AND OVERSEAS. BESEECH PRAYERS UP-SURGE TEACHING EFFORTS.

c) **British Friends Haifa (Cable)**

LOVING RIDVÁN GREETINGS DELEGATES FRIENDS DEEPLY APPRECIATE MESSAGE GREETINGS PRAYERS. OUR PRAYERS YOUR CONTINUED PRECIOUS SERVICE. REQUEST CONTINUED PRAYERS SUCCESS FIVE YEAR PLAN.

d) **Charles and Yvonne Macdonald (Cable)**

LOVING RIDVÁN GREETINGS DELEGATES FRIENDS CONVENTION. YOUR PRESENCE ALSO GREATLY MISSED. OUR PRAYERS YOUR SUCCESS NEW FIELD SERVICE. DEEPEST LOVE FROM ALL.

e) **Letter to the Hand of the Cause, H. M. Balyuzi**

"Loving Ridván greetings dear Hand of the Cause, Hasan Balyuzi. May we send you our love from all the delegates and over 500 friends assembled at the United Kingdom Convention.

Your presence is greatly missed, although we constantly remember with deep gratitude the past and present services to the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, particularly in this community.

Though not here in body you are present in every Bahá'í home by way of your many scholarly and spiritual books.

You are specially remembered in our prayers at this Convention. May God bless, sustain and enable you to continue your meritorious services to the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

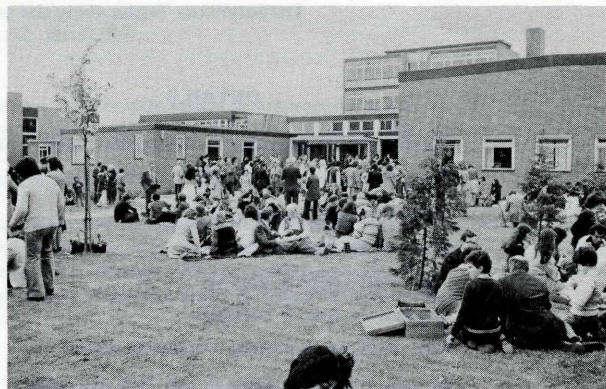
Deepest Bahá'í love."

f) **Air letter to Cyprus**

"Loving Ridván greetings delegates friends Convention. Sadness shared joy anticipated determined re-establish LSA's victory goals Five Year Plan. Confident overcome all difficulties united in love Bahá'u'lláh.

Deepest love."

The Supplementary Annual report of the National Assembly was presented and, after consultation upon this and the Annual Report which had been previously circulated, both were accepted by Convention.



Visitors to Convention picnicing on the lawns of the school.

In presenting the Treasurer's report, the National Treasurer, Betty Goode, said that for the first time since she could remember, donations had dropped. To measure up to last year the total donations should have been more than £38,000 whereas in fact they had reached just over £35,000. She asked that believers who submit expense claims should do so very carefully as the National Assembly receives back all those items subject to Value Added Tax.

She praised the youth who, during the first year of the Three Year Youth Campaign, had achieved their goal; this second year they had not quite achieved the goal, but for the third year they had already reached £1,000 towards their goal of £3,000.

Betty went on to say that Bahá'ís living in the old world order were in a very interesting position. They had to pay rates and taxes in the old order and had absolutely no choice in what was done with their money — but they did have a choice in what they contributed to the Faith and it was up to us to decide what part of the old order we could sacrifice to help to build the new world order. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh then read the Message from the Universal House of Justice and this was followed by a statement from the National Assembly on the Message, presented by Mary Hardy.

Immediately after lunch there was a devotional and then the election took place. This year the Tellers were Eruj Munsiff, Peter Trundle, Paul Jenkerson, Irene Momtaz, Kaff Conroy, Dot Gisler, Terry Pickles, Shahbaz Fathe'Azam; the National Secretary had prepared a streamlined system of operation for the Tellers and they returned in the record time of one and a half hours with the following result:

Philip Hainsworth	78 votes
Keith Munro	70
John Long	69
Mary Hardy	69
Betty Goode	65
Ted Cardell	60
Barbara Lewis	55
Enayat Rawhani	53
Joe Foster	50

Ninety-four votes were cast at Convention, nine of them postal and all were valid. The ninety-fifth vote was found in the post the following morning. Eighty-five delegates were present. The National Assembly met during the evening and elected their officers as follows:

John Long:	Chairman
Keith Munro:	Vice Chairman
Philip Hainsworth:	Secretary
Betty Goode:	Treasurer

Immediately after the voting had taken place Counsellor Adib Taherzadeh addressed Convention. He began by mentioning his new role, and said that "the greatest station is that of service". He said that in reflecting upon the Message from the Universal House of Justice "the believers should arise to serve with dedication the few remaining years of the Plan, knowing how far behind we are — one might say that this is the most vital Convention that we are having in the Five Year Plan — we must see that the situation changes — radically changes. We must not be satisfied with seeing a few assemblies coming into being, but we must have a greater and greater number of assemblies coming into being". He quoted the following paragraph from the Message:



A Convention session — Adib Taherzadeh speaking.

"Most pressing need Faith this critical juncture its mission redeem mankind is for every believer, all assemblies, national local concentrate attainment goals placed before Bahá'í world; promote process entry by troops, achieve vast increase size community, increase number steadfast self-sacrificing believers dedicated conform every aspect their lives high standards set sacred texts."

Key to Victory

Then he said: "There must be a key that will bring us close to the implementation of these words of the Universal House of Justice". He asked us to remember how we make our very good friends — first there is something that attracts us, and then we are constantly in touch, and as a result of this the heart becomes touched and the bonds of friendship become strong. "It is the same with Bahá'u'lláh", said the Counsellor, and went on to speak of the great need for Obligatory Prayer, saying that this law, together with that of Fasting should stand as the king of laws. He believed that these were the two major things for a Bahá'í who wished to obey the Laws of Bahá'u'lláh, and that if we do not say our obligatory prayers we are not fulfilling the Law of Bahá'u'lláh. He said that if every member of every local assembly and every individual were to dedicate themselves to saying the long obligatory prayer every day, the community would "go forward like wildfire".

During the whole of Convention consultation centred very largely around this new Message from the Universal House of Justice, and upon the "Programme for Victory" which had been enthusiastically acclaimed throughout the community. Time and time again delegates arose to speak on points raised in these two documents and the need for 'every stratum of society' to be reached by the healing Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

Delegates and visitors to Convention this year were accorded a very special privilege. The film made of 'Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhiyyih Khánúm's Amazon trip — "The Green Light Expedition" was shown on Saturday evening while the new National Assembly was in session. This was a tremendous experience and this is a film which can compete with the best of documentaries in any field. For the Bahá'ís, though, it is something much more — close personal glimpses of a lady who is so very much loved by everyone who has met her and those who have not had that pleasure, on a hazardous journey undertaken with a team of devoted Bahá'ís. She has said so often that we must hurry to reach the people of the Amazon before it is too late and this film will surely inspire anyone who has the means to travel to go to this distant region.

On Sunday morning, after a devotional, the National Secretary made a number of announcements following the National Assembly meeting the night before. A special plea was made to the friends to pray for the National Assembly during their meetings, which were listed as follows:—

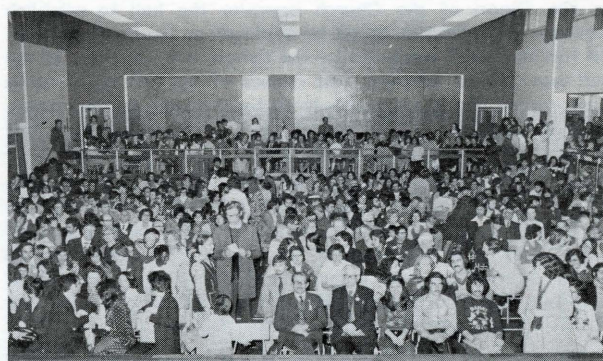
14/16 May, 18/20 June, 20/22 August, 24/26 September, 5/7 November, 10/12 December, 14/16 January, 26/28 February, 1/3 April, 13/15 May. Area Conventions would be held on 5/6 February and Convention on 30 April/1 May.

Consultation continued as usual and a total of forty-two major resolutions were made.

At the conclusion of consultation a Riqván Feast was preceded by a programme prepared by the thirty or so children present, which was a really moving event as even very little children took part. Counsellor Taherzadeh gave the closing address which must surely have inspired the friends to return to their homes and work for the speedy completion of the goals of the Five Year Plan.



Adib Taherzadeh addressing Convention.



Friends awaiting the beginning of "The Green Light Expedition" film.

An innovation this year was the provision, by the Barnet Youth, of salad lunches which were sold. Profits amounted to about £100 for the Fund and those who took advantage of this facility were very grateful indeed.

Books to the value of £1,511 were sold and sales materials, happily once again available, realised £621.

Susan Grimshaw, with a team of helpers, once more took charge of the children, who were given classes, taken out and shown films. Our thanks, once more, to the Ealing Assembly, who were in charge of the physical arrangements.

Over 500 Bahá'ís attended the sessions and about 800 saw the film. After Convention, the following cable was received from the Universal House of Justice:

WARMLY WELCOME NEWS CONVENTION VERY
LARGE ATTENDANCE PRESENCE COUNSELLOR
TAHERZADEH DELIGHTED REMARKABLE
ACHIEVEMENTS PAST SIX MONTHS. URGE ENTIRE
COMMUNITY PONDER PRAYERFULLY UNFOLD-
MENT GLORIOUS DESTINY ARISE ENTIRE
DEDICATION BAHÁ'U'LLÁH ACHIEVE SUCH
VICTORIES AS WILL AGAIN ASTONISH BAHÁ'Í
WORLD CARRY UNIFIED DEDICATED COMMUNITY
SUBLIME HEIGHTS ENVISIONED FOR IT BELOVED
GUARDIAN. ASSURE PRAYERS SACRED
THRESHOLD BOUNTIFUL CONFIRMATIONS
BLESSED BEAUTY.

UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE

Report by Lois Hainsworth

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TEACHING COMMITTEE

The British Bahá'í Community has so far made a very good response to the new programme of International Travel teaching launched by the Universal House of Justice. We were all pleased to read in the January Bahá'í Journal their letter which mentioned the 'excellent start' made to the programme.

However, we still need to receive many more offers if we are going to be able to keep up and increase the present number of travel teachers going to our Goal countries.

Many of you will not have been able to go travel teaching yet and others who have been travel teaching in the United Kingdom have not had the chance to go abroad. If you think you would like to go travel teaching, why not write to us?

Our present Goal countries are:—

BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, MALAWI, NIGERIA, RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA, THE GAMBIA, CANADA, GUYANA, TRINIDAD and TOBAGO, FINLAND, FRANCE, ICELAND, IRELAND, LUXEMBOURG, NORWAY, PORTUGAL and SWEDEN.

When we receive offers the committee consults upon them and then details of travel arrangements with National Assemblies and the Continental Pioneering Committees are dealt with by the member of the committee responsible for that Continent. They will put you in touch with the community you are going to visit and advise you where possible on methods of travel and what to take with you.

When you want to go travel teaching remember:—

- ★ Write to the ITTC as soon as possible. Travel Teaching programmes to other countries take a LONG time to arrange.
- ★ It is always preferable if you can be self-supporting.
- ★ If you are a youth perhaps you could work one holiday in order to finance a travel teaching trip in another holiday.
- ★ Even if you do not have enough money to be self-supporting, still write to the ITTC as sometimes help can be given with travelling costs.

Please send your offers to: Peter Stratton, 14 Bloomfield Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITIES

ASHFORD: A day's teaching event in this urgent "A" goal was arranged by the Canterbury Assembly on Saturday 3 April, and excellently supported by Bahá'ís from Brighton, Hove, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Broadstairs, Dover, Henley and Southwark. An exhibition with slides of the Holy Land presented in a Hall in the centre of the town drew a fair amount of interest, an attack from a person living nearby who demanded that the posters outside the Hall be removed and then triumphantly tore down a nine pointed star, hurling it into the gutter. He insisted that the Secretary of the Canterbury Assembly accompany him to the Canon of the Church opposite the hall to establish whether the exhibition could be displayed on the building itself. "A just decision" was given by the Canon, who said that as the hall was Council property, the renters of the hall could do as they wished and the Church could have no say in the matter. A letter of thanks and a book has subsequently been sent to this Canon.

Street-teaching by bands of young Bahá'ís brought in some enquirers and the two most interested came just before the exhibition closed, but returned to hear an excellent introductory talk by Stephen Lambden in the evening. Leaving with an armful of books and pamphlets, one young lady announced that she intended to write a lecture on the Faith to present at the Ashford Army Barracks where she is stationed!

Canterbury wishes to thank all the friends who rallied round for their excellent support and for helping to make the day so successful and rewarding.

CHELMSFORD: After a very long period of patiently sending the reports prepared by the Public Information Committee to our local newspapers we have at last achieved success. A few days before Naw-Rúz our local paper rang to ask if they could send someone to photograph us during our New Year celebrations. As we had arranged to have our Nineteen Day Feast separately almost half our community had promised to support other communities on the day we had our Naw-Rúz party, but three friends from Hornchurch came to our party and the family of one of our young Persian Bahá'ís arrived unexpectedly, so it turned out to be a very enjoyable party. The photograph on this page was taken by the press and printed with an accompanying caption based on the PIC folder which had been presented a year before. The message comes through clearly — continue to persevere with approaches to the Press, even though there is no initial success.

EDINBURGH: This year we were able to have the most adventurous Naw-Rúz in the history of Edinburgh.

We held an extremely successful party which was attended by more than twenty non-Bahá'ís. It included sharing a meal, to which most of the friends had contributed, reading from the Bahá'í scriptures, music and a slide show of Haifa. The gathering was blessed by the presence of Jim and Betty Kelly, two Bahá'ís from Vancouver Island who had just returned from pilgrimage.

On the morning of Naw-Rúz, — the local radio station, Radio Forth, broadcast an interview with Dr Lameh Fananapazir on the significance of the Intercalary Days, the Fast and Naw-Rúz to the Bahá'ís. The interviewer, who was the University Catholic Chaplain, announced the Faith as "the religion whose aim and purpose is the unification of mankind", and at the end of the programme all Bahá'í listeners were wished a happy New Year.

This is the second occasion on which Radio Forth has been useful for proclamation purposes.

As a further effort in its proclamation campaign, the Spiritual Assembly of Edinburgh has been successful in its endeavour to have a Bahá'í pamphlet inserted in each of the 1,500 copies of a local newspaper.



Chelmsford Naw-Rúz party.

INVERNESS: Since the start of the Five Year Plan, and even before, there have been attempts made to teach the Bahá'í Faith in the district of Moray, and particularly its capital town Elgin. The most ambitious event so far held took place from 6 to 14 March with a 'Meet the Bahá'ís' week, held in the town by the Inverness friends, with help from other communities in Scotland. For the week the Museum Hall on Elgin's High Street was open twelve hours a day for the public to view a special exhibition prepared in Inverness and transported through by van. The exhibition showed in graphic and colourful form the problems that at present face mankind, and what the Bahá'í Faith offers as a solution. A book display was also put on, and the week advertised by posters, and by advertisements in the local press as well as invitations being sent to all local schools and dignitaries. Councillor J. Anderson, Chairman of Moray District Council, kindly agreed to open the exhibition to the public and in his address spoke highly of the Bahá'í commitment to world unity, as well as commenting that 'anybody that stands firm for moral standards and family life in this day deserves our full support'. Two slide presentations were put on during the week and several public talks were given by outside speakers, including Dr L. Fananapazir, of Edinburgh, Mr R. Jelly of Perth, and Dr I. Palin of Inverness. A total of 135 non-Bahá'ís attended over the period of the exhibition and two young people declared their faith in Bahá'u'lláh. A great deal of public interest was aroused, press coverage gained, and several pounds' worth of books sold. A number of people have given their names and addresses for invitations to further Bahá'í events, and it is felt that a firm foundation has now been laid on which the continued teaching in this district, scheduled for raising to Assembly status by the end of the Plan, can be built.

Special guest speaker at a recent Inverness fireside was the chief officer of the local branch of the Salvation Army, Captain Cawkwell. The Captain gave an account of the basic beliefs of Salvationists, which are of course evangelical Christian, and explained how this formed the basis for the charitable work for which the Salvation Army is so famous. He commented that he was often asked to speak at societies who wanted to hear about their charitable activities, but the Bahá'ís were the first group to whom he had spoken who were more interested in the Salvation Army's underlying religious beliefs, and this he appreciated very much. An enjoyable discussion was had by all and the Captain was glad to accept a book on the Faith, presented to him by the Assembly, which he said he would read with interest.

MULL: At Ridván 1975, the first local Spiritual Assembly in the Inner Hebrides was formed, Mull, one of the only three goals mentioned specifically by name as required to have its assembly in the United Kingdom Five Year Plan.

The Inner Hebrides was first opened in 1965 when a Bahá'í established herself in Skye. They were later re-opened in 1968 by the establishment of a pioneer family in Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

The Assembly was eventually formed by one local school teacher who declared on the island and by a number of pioneers settling both in Mull and the Isle of Ulva, including one who was previously taught the Faith while working on Mull.

Now, at Ridván 1976, the Mull Assembly has been maintained. Perhaps its most historic act to date was to consult with its members following the NSA's 'Programme for Victory' and to call on them to find one or two souls among its eleven adults to pioneer before Ridván to help save two assemblies on the mainland. After full consultation two left, each to become the ninth adult in their respective goals. John Neville, a newly declared believer, went to East Lothian, and Andy McCafferty to Motherwell.



Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Mull

"INTERCOM-BAHÁ'Í"

A national Bahá'í newspaper has been launched in the United Kingdom. Called "Intercom-Bahá'í", it is now six issues old. The four-page paper appears every calendar month and contains all the latest news of events in Britain. There is also an international section and a diary announcing forthcoming activities.

The newspaper is available on subscription only and at present almost 600 have subscribed. Would you like to receive this newspaper?

For those living in the United Kingdom, the annual rate, including postage, is £3. For those overseas, the charge is £2.25 plus postage. Make your cheques and postal orders payable to the NSA of the Bahá'ís of the UK and please pay in sterling only. The address to write to is:

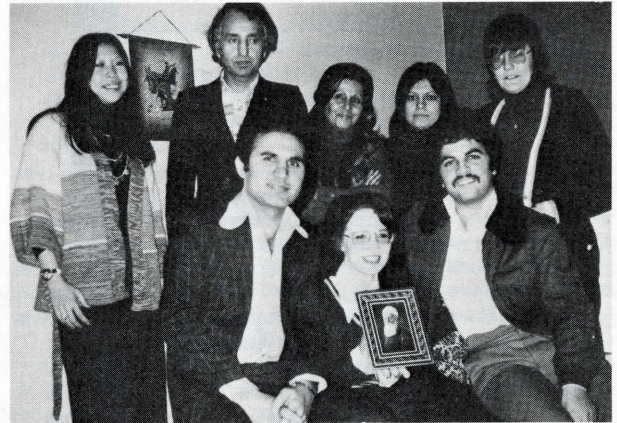
Intercom-Bahá'í, 69 St. Marks Road, Henley, Oxfordshire.

Don't forget to include your address!

However, it is not only your money that is needed — send in your news as well. We are particularly anxious to hear from the pioneers overseas. Write and tell us how things are going in your part of the world. Black and white pictures would also be appreciated. The address for editorial material is:

Intercom-Bahá'í, Clerdoun, Epsom Road,
Ewell, Surrey. (01-393-3574)

This means there are now two assemblies in the Hebrides, mentioned by 'Abdu'l-Bahá Himself in the Tablets of the Divine Plan in His call for pioneers. They also form one of those islands bordering the British Isles mentioned by the Guardian, upon which he laid such stress, calling for a "flow of pioneers and a concentration of material resources unexampled in British Bahá'í history" (July, 1956), and from which he promised such rich results.



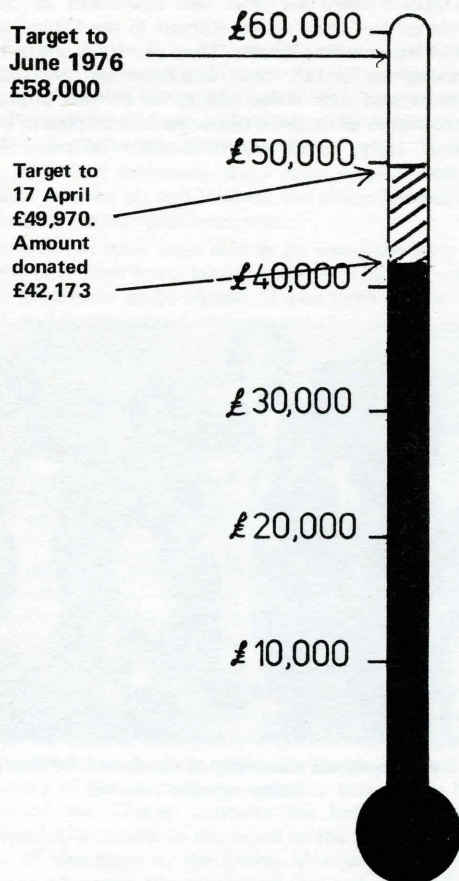
*First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Greenwich
(One member missing)*



*First Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Teignbridge
(One member missing)*



The "Intercom-Bahá'í" team preparing an issue.



HUQUQU'LLAH

در لوح علی قبل من مینماید

از جمله حقوق الله نازل و اگر ناس با دای آن موفق شوند البته حق
 جل و غر برکت غایت فرماید و هم آن مال نصیب خود آن شخص و ذریه او شود
 چنانچه مشاهده میانی کثیری از اموال ناس نصیب ایشان شده و نمیشود
 اختیار را حق بر آن تسلط مینماید و یا وراثتی که اختیار برایشان ترجیح دارد حکمت یافته
 الهی فوق ذکر و بیان است آن اتناس میشد و تم نیکرون و یعرفون تم

» ۱۴ «

یکمکون .

EDITORIAL

Copies of the Convention photograph taken by Sue Benatar, which appears on the front page may be obtained from him, price 25p for size 8" x 5½", 40p for size 10" x 8". A stamped addressed envelope **MUST** be sent with the money. All receipts will be sent to the National Fund.

BIRTHS

13 April 1976:

DEATHS

6 April 1976: Harold Wills, in Beckford.

22 April 1976: Alfred Butler, in Torbay.

11 March 1976: Thomas Magnus Abad, a son to Erica and Barney Leith, in Shetland.

Please send all material for the next issue by **30 June 1976** to the Editor: Lois Hainsworth (Mrs), 27 Rutland Gate, London SW7.

When the Annual Report of the National Assembly went to press it was known that donations for the eleven month period (21 March 1975 – 20 February 1976) were falling below target; however, since that time a sad situation revealed itself, being that the donation rate has dropped below that of last year. In all the treasury records to hand (seven years) this has not happened either before or for a very long time.

The target set for donations, on which the work of winning the goals has been planned, is **£58,000**. There is **STILL** time, therefore, to reach this target and remedy the situation which has developed of donations **FALLING**.

Only a relatively small sacrifice on the part of every single believer is required to bring donations on to target, on top of usual donations, and about £2 – £5 from everyone will close that "chilly" gap which has persisted throughout this year. **IT SURELY CAN BE DONE...**

The beloved Guardian, Shoghi Effendi, wrote through his secretary to the British Bahá'ís:—

"He hopes that the friends will display a certain amount of faith and courage and not fear present economic conditions. We should not let financial considerations hamper our work and discourage us in rendering our services. Giving lavishly during days of plenty cannot be termed sacrifice. It applies only to our activities when depression and economic difficulties seem to block the way. . . Whatever we sacrifice at present is to assure the welfare of humanity and ourselves as members of it in the future."

STOP PRESS: Did you know? The cost of this Journal has risen from about 10p per copy to about 20–25p, i.e. the cost of the printing of a sixteen page Journal is 15p, and the handling, packaging, posting, sending free copies to our overseas pioneers, and one each to every other National Assembly, have together added almost an additional 10p to each copy. Who is prepared to contribute towards the cost?

THE FUND

Ways of making contributions to the Funds.

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

Mrs Betty Goode,
8 Knowle Road,
Stafford ST17 0DN
Tel: Stafford 62157

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'ÍS" (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.

SEVENTEEN THOUSAND ARKS

"Make thee an ark of gopher wood":¹

"And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation."²

Millions of people throughout the world are familiar with the story of Noah, but how many know that in this new "Day of God", man has once again been commanded through God's chosen Manifestation, to build not one, but thousands of arks. In the Most Holy Book, the "Pen of the Most High" has written:

"The Lord hath ordained that in every city a House of Justice be established wherein shall gather counsellors to the number of Bahá (nine) . . . It behoveth them to be the trusted ones of the Merciful among men and to regard themselves as the guardians appointed of God for all that dwell on earth."³

Whereas Noah's Ark housed only eight people — his family — the "arks" being built today are to house the entire family of man, for as already stated above; the elected Members of the local Houses of Justice are to "regard themselves as the guardians appointed of God for all that dwell on earth."

In the Naw-Rúz Message (B.E.131) in which the Universal House of Justice summoned the Bahá'í community to the opening campaign of the Five Year Plan, we read: "Strengthening and development of local Spiritual Assemblies is a vital objective of the Five Year Plan." The Message then goes on to say that "success in this one goal" will offer "a refuge to the leaderless and hapless millions of the spiritually bankrupt, moribund present order".⁴

By June 1975, seventeen thousand local spiritual assemblies had been established throughout the world⁵ and we realise how vital it is to maintain and strengthen these divinely ordained institutions when we recall the words of the Beloved Guardian: ". . . The importance, nay the absolute necessity of these local assemblies is manifest when we realise that in the days to come they will evolve into the local House of Justice. . ."⁶

Our only refuge is to enter these "Arks" which have to float above the floods of decadence as the "present day order" is "rolled up", and nothing can stop this "vast and irresistible process, unexampled in the spiritual history of mankind, which will synchronise with two no less significant developments — the establishment of the Lesser Peace and the evolution of Bahá'í national and local institutions — the one outside and the other within the Bahá'í world —"⁷

The synchronisation of the Lesser Peace and the evolution of Bahá'í institutions is very significant and is mentioned by the Guardian in another passage upon which we could well meditate and act:

"The various assemblies, local and national, constitute today the bedrock upon the strength of which the Universal House of Justice is in future to be firmly established and raised. Not until these function vigorously and harmoniously can the hope for the termination of this period of transition be realised."⁸

Not only are the "Lesser Peace" and the "termination of this period of transition" dependent on the establishment of the New World Order, but also the Guardian writes:

". . . the Spirit breathed by Bahá'u'lláh upon the world. . . can never permeate and exercise an abiding influence upon mankind unless and until it incarnates itself in a visible Order, which would bear His name, wholly identify itself with His principles, and function in conformity with His laws."⁹

Nine members make an assembly, but it is the whole community that make it function "vigorously and harmoniously" by participating in its election, by supporting and obeying it. Success in our endeavours depends upon our loyalty to Bahá'u'lláh and His Administrative Order. Following their outstanding victories in their Six Year Plan, the Guardian wrote these words to the Bahá'ís of India, which we may well remember:

"The believers in India have set an inspiring example to their fellow believers throughout the East, and even to the great mass of their co-religionists in Bahá'u'lláh's native land, and have abundantly demonstrated to them all, what organised activity, boldly conceived and soundly and energetically conducted can achieve when directed and animated by the ennobling influences and the generative spirit of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh."¹⁰

Arthur Weinberg

References

- 1 Genesis 6.14
- 2 Genesis 7.1
- 3 Kitáb-i-Aqdas. Synopsis and Codification: page 13.
- 4 Bahá'í Journal No. 222, April 1974, page 3.
- 5 Bahá'í Journal No. 229, September 1975, page 2.
- 6 Bahá'í Administration: page 37.
- 7 Words of Shoghi Effendi, cited in letter from the Universal House of Justice. Bahá'í Journal No. 229, September 1975; page 2.
- 8 Principles of Bahá'í Administration: page 53.
- 9 The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh: page 156.
- 10 Dawn of a New Day: page 113.

LET US STUDY ESPERANTO

by A. A. Milani

As you know, one of the basic principles of the Bahá'í Faith is the adoption of an auxiliary universal language. 'Abdu'l-Bahá, on 13 February 1912, at the Paris Esperantists' Society, said:

". . . therefore a universal language is one of the greatest aids for the advancement of mankind . . . Thank God, Dr Zamenhof has invented Esperanto and we all should be most grateful and appreciative of it. For it is possible that it may become a universal language. Therefore, everyone should study it so that people will become conversant with it. It should be taught in schools and people should speak it at every gathering so that the peoples of the world need not to know more than two languages; one their mother tongue and the other, the common language of the world."

At the Esperanto Society's meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, 'Abdu'l-Bahá has further said,

". . . The greatest aid to the unity of mankind is the unity of language. For it makes mankind as one family and all the different countries as one . . . Now, thanks to God, that Esperanto has been invented, I hope every effort will be made so that people will study and promote it."

In 'The Priceless Pearl' (page 207), Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánúm, writing about the life of Shoghi Effendi states:—

"In addition to this, he devoted much attention, during the early years of his Guardianship, when Esperanto was rapidly spreading, particularly in Europe, to encouraging the publication of the Bahá'í Esperanto Gazette, explaining to its editor that his interest was due to 'my great desire to

promote in such parts of the Bahá'í world as present circumstances permit, the study of an international language."

In accordance with the instructions of the beloved Guardian, the Bahá'í Magazine "LA NOVA TAGO" was published in Germany and also Esperanto was included in the curriculum of the Bahá'í schools in Persia and Ishq'bad (Soviet Turkistan).

With inspiration Dr Ludvick L. Zamenhof in 1895 had invented a very simple language and called it Esperanto. It is so simple that if one studies its rules for only two hours a day, the language can be mastered in one month. Due to its very simple construction, it was welcomed by a great number of people throughout the world. Its popularity is such, that every year a World Esperanto Congress is held in different parts of the world. In addition, numerous national conferences are also held. The last International Esperanto Congress was held in Copenhagen in 1975 with over 2,000 people attending. The British Esperanto Conference this year was held in the Royal Leamington Spa with an attendance of 350. Next year, the International Esperanto Congress will be held in Athens, Greece, and the British Conference in Chester. The British Esperanto Society has at the moment a membership of 1,300 and it holds regular meetings and classes both in London and elsewhere.

Further information about the courses is available from the following addresses: (please write your name and address in capital letters)

1. Bahá'í Esperanto League,
Post Box 289,
6000 Fortaleza Ceara,
Brazil, South America.
2. Mr A. A. Milani,
278 Eastern Avenue,
Ilford, Essex.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust

2 South Street,
Oakham, Rutland,
Leics. LE15 6HY
England



THE UNFOLDING DESTINY OF THE BRITISH BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY

This is a compilation of some of the letters and cables of the beloved Guardian addressed to the British Bahá'í community since 1944. With the exception of the cables, the messages printed are those portions of his letters which were actually written in his own hand and cover three periods in the history of the British Bahá'í Community — The Six Year Plan (1944-1950), The Two Year Plan (1951-1953) and The Ten Year Crusade (1953-1963) at the mid-point of which, to the shock and sorrow of the Bahá'í World, beloved Shoghi Effendi passed away.

A complete collection of ALL the Guardian's messages to the British community, including selected passages to individuals, was scheduled for publication originally in 1962, but the time came and went and this monumental work is still not published. When it became clear that there was no hope of immediate publication, the Universal House of Justice advised the National Assembly to reprint this compilation, for many years out of print. The National Assembly instantly initiated a reprint and made a gift of a copy to every family in the United Kingdom — it was felt that the inspiration to be derived from these messages was such as would inspire the friends to do their utmost to fulfil the goals of the Five Year Plan, with its challenging demands to complete our tasks overseas and fulfil the "Programme for Victory" at home.

This book is only a taste of what is to come. The complete compilation will be a wonderful volume and will carry the title "The Unfolding Destiny. . ." but, alas, it is not possible to give a firm publication date — all that can be said is that the major work is complete and ready for the printer, and there remains only a comparatively short task before the work can go ahead.

LH
75p

P109

STORIES FOR CHILDREN by Jacqueline Mehrabi

This delightful little book has now been translated into French. It is written very simply so that it can be read by young readers or used as a story book by parents. It starts with mini-histories of the Three Central Figures of the Faith and continues with stories particularly designed to give the Teachings of Bahá'u'lláh to children in a very simple way. On alternate pages there are attractive illustrations which add to its interest and make it a perfect present for young children, be they Bahá'ís or not.

LH
40p

B93

ADVANCE NOTICE

THE EARTH IS BUT ONE COUNTRY

by John Huddleston

If you have ever wondered which book you could give to an Agnostic or an Atheist or one of those very clever young university students, here is an answer for you. John Huddleston, an Englishman presently working in America, was himself an Agnostic and remembers trying unsuccessfully to find a book directed to this sort of reader when he was a 'seeker'. When he became a Bahá'í several years ago, he set out to produce such a book and the result, 'The Earth is but One Country', covers a great deal of ground, dealing with current affairs and the present world situation; outlining the history, principles and teachings of the Faith and setting these together to provide an answer to the world's problems.

Details of publication and a review will appear in the next Journal.

LH

TEACHING AND CONSOLIDATION MANUAL (2nd revised edition, 1976)

At a time when the energies of the British Bahá'í community are being focused on the need for practical, sustained, in-the-field teaching, it might be thought strange to encourage the friends to read and study 'yet more written matter' about it. After all, we have the "Programme for Victory", we have the many Aids to Teaching available from the National Teaching Committee for any community or individual who seeks them; we have, above all, the Writings themselves and our own copies of the beloved Guardian's inspiring messages to this country's Bahá'ís in 'The Unfolding Destiny of the British Bahá'í Community'. Yet the TEACHING AND CONSOLIDATION MANUAL, whose second revised edition is now available after a gap of several years, is no ordinary written matter. Rather it is the distillate of the experience of untold numbers of Bahá'í teachers, who sought to put into practice the guidance given by the Central Figures of our Faith and the beloved Guardian, in their attempts to spread the word of Bahá'u'lláh throughout these islands. It provides the inspiration, and then, mindful of Shoghi Effendi's injunction that "Wealth of sentiment, abundance of goodwill and effort, will prove of little avail if we should . . . neglect to direct their flow along the most profitable channels"¹, it gives a wealth of practical advice.

As the name implies, the twin processes of deepening and consolidation are recognised and acknowledged for what they are, aspects of one and the same ongoing process that affects both individuals and communities. Here is a book that does NOT belong on every Bahá'í bookshelf, but rather belongs on every Bahá'í's desk, in his or her briefcase, car, or pocket. It belongs on the Spiritual Assembly's table. Read and studied, it will yield a wealth of inspiring and practical advice in answer to that perennial question 'But HOW do I teach? What do I do?'. Taken in conjunction with the wealth of material that has become available in the last year it is one of the weapons we shall use to win the Five Year Plan for Bahá'u'lláh. The National Teaching Committee recommends this Manual to each individual believer, group, and assembly in the country.

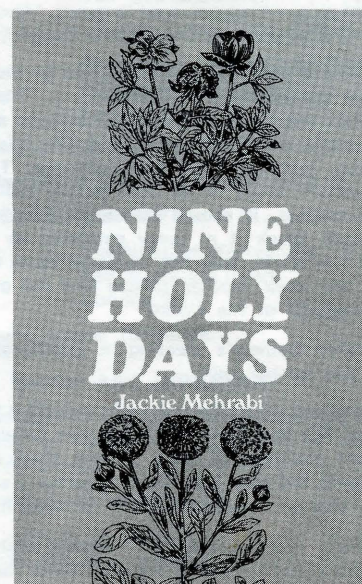
ISP

Reference

¹ Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'í Administration, p.87.

P33

£1.00



NINE HOLY DAYS by Jacqueline Mehrabi
B129

85p