

A F R I C A N E W S

(Issued by the Africa Committee of the National Spiritual Assembly
of the Baha'is of the British Isles)

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WHAT AND WHY

By asking the American and Persian Baha'i Communities to help the British believers with their Africa project, the Guardian has instituted a new kind of international campaign. For the first time, three Baha'i national communities will be working jointly on a Baha'i teaching project - four when the Egyptian project in Africa is included. New problems of international Baha'i organisation will have to be solved and new techniques of co-operation evolved. New ties will bind more closely the participating Communities.

The Africa Committee of the British National Assembly considers it can contribute to the smooth evolution of these techniques by providing a flow of information about the progress of the project and about decisions that will direct its course. To this end its National Assembly has permitted it to issue this bulletin, which will appear at irregular intervals when there is something to communicate. The bulletin will also keep pioneers in Africa informed of what is being done, what is planned and what has been achieved. It will constitute a means of general communication between this Committee and pioneers in Africa.

We will gladly consider for inclusion suitable items from co-operating committees overseas and we look forward to publishing before long news of intending pioneers from America and Persia.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

We are very happy to co-operate with the Persian Pioneering Committee, who have already been instructed by their National Assembly to help Persian pioneers wishing to go to Africa. Mr. Aziz Yazdi is their Liaison Officer.

PIONEERS

We hope that the first two pioneers, Philip Hainsworth and Hassan Sabri, will leave for Africa in January. Passages are being provisionally booked for them - necessary because of the long waiting list for berths on ships sailing for Africa. Philip is going as agent for a textile firm owned by two Baha'is and will seek other agencies. Hassan has been told by the Guardian to seek a job in Africa and hopes to find one in the motor trade so that he may use his high qualifications in motor engineering.

The Committee is also in touch with several other prospective pioneers, some of whom are already seeking African jobs. These include a family in Persia and the Pioneering Committee there tells us that others are eager to go.

TEACHING CENTRES The following have been chosen as goal countries of the British Two Year Plan. Work is to be centred in the towns named.

GOLD COAST	-	Akkra
TANGANYIKA	-	Dar es Salaam
UGANDA	-	Kampala

In the course of the work opportunities may arise to foster contacts in African countries outside the Two Year Plan. We hope to take advantage of such opportunities so far as resources permit; for example, teachers visiting countries of the Plan may be able also to visit Kenya or Nigeria where there are Baha'is already.

AUTHORITIES The British National Assembly has placed before the government authorities in each of the three chosen territories our intention to introduce the Baha'i Faith into their country. We have asked for guidance on obtaining entry permits for Baha'i pioneers, both from Britain and overseas. Such permits are required before anyone can reside in a British African dependency and the answers of the governments to our enquiry are eagerly awaited. Pioneers who procure an African job will no doubt find they can obtain an entry permit to do the job without mentioning teaching the Faith as part of the purpose of their sojourn.

LITERATURE Baha'i pamphlets, consisting mostly of extracts from the Holy Writings, have been translated into SWAHILI - the most widely used East African language, HAUSA - a widely used West African language, and Chinyanja - spoken in Nyasaland. The ones in Swahili and Chinyanja have already been published.

One of the goals of the British Two Year Plan is publication in three further African languages. To date LUGANDA - the language of the important Buganda tribe in Uganda, and TWI - one of the three chief languages of the Gold Coast, have been chosen. We intend to have as many of the pamphlets as possible ready by April 21st, 1951.

We are starting now to search for suitable translators, who will not be missionaries, by whom most translations are made. Each future translation will be checked by a second expert. Publication will be undertaken by the Baha'i Publishing Trust with advice from the Africa Committee. In spite of current printing delays in Britain, it is thought a printer has been found who can make a good job of printing in African languages and who will take no more than two months or so to complete production of a 5,000 word pamphlet.