



# AFRICA NEWS

Issued by The Africa Committee of the National  
Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of  
the British Isles.

*"The earth is but one country, and  
mankind its citizens."*—Bahá'u'lláh.

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ENGLISH EDITION

## THE GUARDIAN

As the result of recent enquiries by the National Assembly regarding the building up of a community in Kenya, the establishment of Assemblies in Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam, and consultation between National Assembly representatives at the Africa Conference, the Guardian replied on February 29th, "Advise build up Kenya. Urge formation Assemblies Kampala, Dar-es-Salaam. Approve special sessions for National Assembly representatives attend Conference".

The following extracts from cablegrams addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States of America by the Guardian dated March 3rd and 16th give thrilling news of future developments in Africa. In the cablegram of March 3rd after announcing that Mr. Moussa Banani had been nominated as Hand of the Cause for Africa, the Guardian continued: "Instructions given appointed Hand Africa, course just concluded pilgrimage, acquisition property Kampala serve local Haziratu'l-Qudo, synchronise formation first Assembly heart Africa, be regarded nucleus national Administrative Headquarters Faith destined arise morrow formation National Spiritual Assembly Central, Eastern territories African continent."

On March 16th the Guardian cabled: "Inform United States, British, Persian, Egyptian, Indian National Assemblies imminent purchase Haziratu'l-Qudo Central Africa. Have forwarded my contribution \$6,000 towards historic enterprise. Appeal five co-operating National Assemblies participate through contributions meritorious purchase. Purchase price £5,500. Advise forward contributions Banani, Kampala." The British National Assembly has opened a special fund, to which Bahá'ís in the British Isles are invited to send contributions, and Mrs. Langdon-Davies has kindly consented to be treasurer of this fund. Her address is: "Gorselands", Boars Hill, Oxford. Bahá'ís in Africa can also send their contributions direct to Mr. Moussa Banani, Pioneering, Private Bag, Kampala, Uganda.

## COLONIAL OFFICE DELEGATION

A delegation, composed of three members of the Africa Committee, viz. the Chairman, Secretary and the Secretary of the National Assembly were received at the Colonial Office

on January 11th. The meeting was most friendly and courteous. Immigration difficulties in the African territories were discussed with special reference to non-British applicants; and it was agreed that, where possible, our Committee would vouch for Bahá'í pioneers applying for entry into British African territories. The Colonial Office would write to all the Governments concerned, telling them of the interview, and make it clear that Baha'is carrying such credentials have no connection with "The Caravan". Regarding the proposal to hold the Africa Conference at Kampala in the Spring of 1953, the Colonial Office would write to the Uganda authorities and obtain their views. The question of financial deposits by prospective immigrants was raised, but, as these deposits are controlled by local legislation, exceptions could not be made in favour of Bahá'is. It was, however, suggested that the authorities might be prepared to accept a guarantee by a Bank or Insurance Company in lieu of an actual cash deposit.

THE AFRICA CONFERENCE It has been decided to adopt the names "Committee for the Bahá'í Africa Conference" and "Uganda Committee for the Bahá'í Africa Conference" for the sub-Committees dealing with the Conference in England and Uganda respectively. A draft programme has been prepared and is being circulated to the participating National Spiritual Assemblies for their comments. Correspondence should at present be addressed to the sub-Committee in England at: 49 Sandbourne Avenue, London, S.W.19.

#### PIONEERS

Marguerite Preston The funeral of Marguerite Preston, whose tragic death, while returning as a pioneer to Africa with her little son Adrian, was a shock to all, was attended by the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee, and flowers were sent by the Committee, the N.S.A. and Bahá'í friends. She was laid to rest in a quiet little cemetery near Guildford on February 21st. A memorial service was held at the London Centre on the afternoon of Saturday, March 15th.

Eric Manton Eric writes to say that he has obtained employment with the Government and has moved to Livingstone. His address is: P.O. Box 7, Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia. He would appreciate some letters.

Philip Hainsworth Philip has accepted a contract with the Health Service in Uganda, and the contract is now signed.

Professor and Mrs. R. Collison The Collisons arrived in Southampton from America on March 15th and left for Kampala by the Kenya Castle on the 31st. A number of the friends assembled at St. Pancras Station to see them off, as well as an American

Bahá'í, Mrs. Lemmon, and her husband who were in Europe on business, and happened to be staying at the same hotel. They consulted with the Africa Committee the day before they sailed.

LIBERIA The United States Africa Committee has sent a copy of a report from William Foster received on February 5th, stating that he has accepted a post with the University of Liberia as head of Plumbing and Sanitation instruction. He is also serving on several Committees for the Public Works Department of the University. Mrs. Foster and their children are planning to join him. He also reported the declaration by cable of Benjamin Miller, Liberian, as the first fruits of his Bahá'í activities.

INTERNATIONAL There has been some correspondence with the European Teaching Committee in relation to pioneers volunteering for Africa from the goal countries of Europe. No question arises of collective action such as an organised appeal to European believers, but, if any believer in Europe felt the urge to volunteer for Africa, the E.T.C. would consider it to be a matter for individual decision.

TWO NEW LOCAL ASSEMBLIES In addition to the two African declarations, Crispian Kajubi and Frederick Bigabwa, whose confirmation was reported in the African Edition of Africa News (No.3), two further declarations, Enoch Oltnga and Peter Musoke have been received from Kampala. From Dar-es-Salaam too, two African declarations, Leslie Matela and Eustace K. Mwalimu, have been received, bringing the numbers of this Group also to nine. All these declarations have been accepted. Both communities formed local Assemblies at Ridván.

AFRICAN LITERATURE Two of the languages quoted in Africa News British Edition No.4., Fanti and Somali, have been changed and Igbo and Kikuyu substituted. We are happy to report that printing facilities are now available and the pamphlets in Twi and Luganda have just been delivered. Some of the translation work has been done without payment, and warm letters of thanks and gifts of Bahá'í books have been sent to Mr. Ekpunobi for checking the Igbo translation, Mr. Ochongrara and Mr. Ologa for translating and checking the Acholi pamphlet, and also to Mr. Mulira. Future developments in the translation of African literature were mentioned in a letter from the Guardian dated December 6th 1951, in the following extract: "The Guardian feels that the next step in Bahá'í literature might well be the publication of a more comprehensive work in Luganda and Swahili. However, he would like the Africa Committee to undertake pamphlets in other languages as well: let him know what language the Committee proposes.

"He attaches, as you know, the greatest importance to the work of your Committee; and is tremendously impressed by the progress being made in

Africa, and by the capacity, tenacity and enthusiasm the British Africa Committee is showing in handling its share of this most important campaign. His prayers are frequently offered on your behalf."

AFRICA David and Marion Hofman have had to resign from the Africa  
COMMITTEE Committee in order to give all their time to David's business,  
and Dorothy Ferraby has now taken over the secretarial work.  
This has involved some inevitable delay, and is also the cause of the  
lengthy gap in the issue of the British edition of Africa News.

The National Assembly has decided that the Africa Committee should become the focal point in this country for Bahá'ís in the territories under the jurisdiction of the British National Assembly. In future the Committee will accept new believers, and write the welcoming letters. The Committee will also supervise new Assemblies in these territories as formed on behalf of the National Assembly, but the Committee is free to invoke the aid of the National Assembly whenever the necessity arises. The membership of the Committee is now:

Henry Backwell, (Chairman and Treasurer of the Africa Fund)  
Dorothy Ferraby, (Secretary)  
John Ferraby, Constance Langdon-Davies, Rustom Sabit and  
Mehdi Samandari.

All communications should be addressed to Mrs. D. Ferraby,  
49, Sandbourne Avenue, London, S.W.19.