



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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chers Amis,

Nous avons le plaisir de vous annoncer que nos prochains numéros comporteront un bref résumé du texte anglais à l'intention des Bahá'ís d'Afrique que ne sont pas d'expression anglaise.

Ainsi nous pourrons vous donner les nouvelles et commentaires sur les événements portants sur les développements africains prenant place hors d'Afrique.

Nous faisons ceci surtout pour les Bahá'ís isolés qui seront ainsi plus à même de voir la croissance de notre Foi dans l'action.

Le Comité pour l'Afrique.

THE GUARDIAN

The British Africa Committee was blessed by receiving another letter from the beloved Guardian, dated June 4th, part of which is given below:

"He has read with great interest the reports which your Committee sends him regularly, because as you know the work in Africa is to him one of the most important activities going on in the Bahá'í world, and very close to his heart.

"He was very sorry to hear from the recent cable sent him that there is a question about the Kampala Conference, and whether arrangements can be made for it to be held there. Undoubtedly there is an increasingly negative attitude toward our work growing up amongst the officials, probably due to the lack of racial discrimination they are coming to realize is one of our fundamental teachings, a teaching carried into action, and not merely a pious hope. He wishes you to keep him informed about this and the progress being made.....

"The Guardian is very anxious that, during the coming months, the Africa Committee and the Bahá'ís should concentrate their efforts on establishing an Assembly in Kenya, and hopes that you will be able to direct pioneers to Nairobi as soon as possible.

"The Guardian considers that it is premature at this time to answer your question about consultation at the Africa Conference, between people from territories which will come under the jurisdiction of the East and Central Africa National Spiritual Assembly. He is so overworked and tired at the moment that he has not been able to go into the entire question of the Inter-Continental Conferences, the countries which will come under the jurisdiction of various future national bodies, etc. He hopes that he will be able, during the coming months, to do this, and if he feels it wise, will advise you by cable concerning a consultation such as you suggest, at the Conference.

"He assures all the members of your Committee of his deep appreciation of the work they are doing, and of his loving prayers for their success.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani."

In the Guardian's own hand:

"May the Almighty, whose Cause you and your co-workers are serving with such an exemplary spirit of devotion, fidelity and perseverance, reward you for your meritorious labours, remove all obstacles from your path, and enable you to win great victories in the days to come,

Your true and grateful brother,

SHOGLI."

The following is an extract from a cable from the Guardian dated April 29th, in reply to a cable sent from Convention:

"Owing attainment objectives, advise concentrate Nairobi, aiming establishment Assembly leading promising centre British territories heart East African Continent. Fervently praying still greater victories. Loving gratitude."

In a cable dated April 23rd, addressed to the American National Assembly, the Guardian gives a resumé of the Africa project in the following terms:

"Preliminary measures initiated convocation four inter-continental conferences African, American, European, Asiatic continents, involving participation twelve National Spiritual Assemblies, designed alike befittingly celebrate centenary Year Nine, launch ten year crusade destined culminate Most Great Jubilee.

"Two Year Plan Bahá'í Community British Isles formally launched African Continent through despatch pioneers virgin territories Tanganyika, Uganda, Gold Coast, reinforced assignment Liberia to the American,

Somaliland, Nyasaland, North Rhodesia to the Persian, Zanzibar, Madagascar to the Indian, Libya, Algeria to the Egyptian National Assemblies raising number states, Dependencies already soon to be opened Faith twenty five. First fruits garnered comprise purchase seventeen thousand dollar Harziratu'l-Quds Kampala, settlement Persian, American, British, Egyptian, Portuguese pioneers Liberia, North Rhodesia, Angola, Libya, Spanish Morocco, Mozambique, inauguration teaching classes, public meetings, presides, enrollment several native Africans belonging Teso, Yao, Buganda, Mutoso tribes, formation Spiritual Assemblies Kampala, Dar-es-Salaam."

Further, the British National Assembly has received a letter from the Guardian, which contains passages concerning the Africa project, which are quoted hereunder:

(Through his Secretary)

"As regards the Africa campaign: this enterprise, so enthusiastically carried on, has been throughout this past year the greatest source of joy to the heart of the beloved Guardian. The visits of the dear Bananais and Ted Cardell, the news they brought and the general progress of the work, have made Africa seem right next door to Haifa! The formation of the Dar-es-Salaam and Kampala Assemblies was also a great satisfaction to him.

"He urges you now to concentrate on an Assembly for Nairobi by next April. This should not be too difficult of achievement in view of the devoted efforts of Mr. Cardell and the pioneers eager to go there.

"As regards your question about Somaliland: any one of the three Somalilands may be chosen as a goal territory.

"In this connection, he feels, that Persian pioneers should be accepted for any and all territories; they are arising in large numbers to offer their services, and it is a great pity that these dedicated and eager friends are so restricted as regards settlement. Your Assembly should do all in its power to facilitate placing them.

"The Guardian feels that although the Conference planned for Kampala is primarily a Conference and in no sense a Convention (having no delegates), there is no objection to the representatives of various N.S.A.'s who may attend meeting in separate sessions for more special and concentrated consultation. Any Hands of the Cause attending could also be included in this private discussion.

"He feels that now more than ever the British friends have every reason to feel proud of their accomplishments and happy over the very evident bestowals from the Throne on High. They have found, after a half a century of development, scope for their abilities, and a field large enough to distinguish themselves in, and they are certainly taking advantage of it, much to the delight of the Guardian and their fellow-Bahá'ís."

(In his own hand)

"The potent seeds, a loving and vigilant Master, sowed with His own hands in the course of a twice repeated visit to the homeland of this community, are

now, after having lain dormant for almost a quarter of a century, at long last, sprouting through the length and breadth of the British Isles, and are even revealing the potency of their regenerative power through the instrumentality of those valiant pioneers, who, faithful to His Call and dedicated to His service, are leaving the shores of those islands to settle in territories of a far-away and backward continent. Amidst their arduous labours, in their contact with the heterogeneous tribes and races dwelling in that continent, in their dealings with the civil authorities of divers countries and states within whose jurisdiction they will labour, in their struggle with an inhospitable climate, in the hazards to which they will be inevitably exposed, in the adventures they may experience, in the reverses they may temporarily suffer, in the opposition they will meet with, in the tests and trials they will undergo, His unfailing guidance will be vouchsafed to them in direct proportion to the degree of their consecration to their task, and the perseverance, the courage and fidelity they will display as they discharge their duties.

"The remarkable success that has attended their high endeavours since the initiation of their first collective enterprise within the confines of their native land, the still more notable evidence of God's sustaining grace that has accompanied the opening of the first stage of their Mission overseas, are sufficient proof of the tremendous potency of the forces at work for the purpose of ensuring the unrestricted expansion of their future activities within and beyond the frontiers of their island home, and the ultimate consummation of their magnificent enterprise.

"In the months immediately ahead the translation and publication of pamphlets in the languages already selected must be vigorously pushed forward and completed; the centre in the capital of Kenya must be assiduously expanded, the preparations for the projected inter-continental Conference must be carefully carried out; and all the preparatory steps, required for the effectual collaboration of the members of this community in the global crusade, destined to be launched on the morrow of the world-wide celebrations of the approaching Holy Year, should, to whatever extent possible, be undertaken....."

T H E A F R I C A C O N F E R E N C E

In the letter to the Africa Committee of April 23rd, reference was made to the Africa Conference in the following terms by the Guardian:

"He was very sorry to hear from the recent cable sent him that there is question about the Kampala Conference, and whether arrangements can be made for it to be held there. Undoubtedly there is an increasingly negative attitude toward our work growing up amongst the officials, probably due to the lack of racial discrimination they are coming to realize is one of our fundamental teachings, a teaching carried into action, and not merely a pious hope! He wishes you to keep him informed about this and the progress made."

The latest news of the Conference is that it will not be possible to hold it at Makerere College, as was hoped, but the Uganda Sub-Committee is in the process of booking sufficient hotel accommodation, though a place to hold sessions of the Conference is still in doubt. We hope to make an announcement soon.

The proposed date is February 12th to 18th inclusive.

P I O N E E R S

Mr. and Mrs. Yazdani and their family have arrived in Dar-es-Salaam from Persia, after spending a few days in Kampala on their way. Mr. Yazdani has now obtained a residence permit for himself and his family, and is setting up in business in Dar-es-Salaam.

Mr. Aziz Yazdi, formerly secretary of the Persia Africa Committee, has also arrived in Africa. He went first to Northern Rhodesia and while investigating the possibility of settlement, provided welcome Bahá'í companionship for Eric and Terry Manton. His hopes, however, of getting a residence permit did not materialise, so he has left Northern Rhodesia and will try to settle with his family in Kenya.

Mr. K. Attar with his wife and family have arrived in Algiers with a three months' visa and hope to get permission to settle.

Dr. Collestahen, who went from Egypt to Libya, to investigate the possibilities there, has got employment and reports the declaration of a new believer.

Having completed her contact at Kumasi College of Technology, Mrs. Ethel Stephens, the American pioneer to the Gold Coast, has returned to the United States. She passed through England and besides meeting a number of the London friends she spent some time at a Conference of Craftsmen held at Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon, where she showed specimens of Gold Coast weaving. We hope that soon another pioneer may be able to go to the Gold Coast to replace Mrs. Stephens, and she hopes that she may later on return there.

A M E R I C A N C O N V E N T I O N E X H I B I T

At the American Convention photographs and letters from the friends in Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam were exhibited as well as contributions from Mr. William Porter and Mrs. Ethel Stephens. There was a large map showing the one National Assembly in Egypt, and the five Local Assemblies in the other countries, including the last two formed in Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam. The four pamphlets in African languages hung from a poster describing each one. A large poster showed the other languages, translations of which are being prepared. Books of many kinds were nailed on to a shelf beneath the photographs which were attached to the wall board. The books on display were: "Africa Drums", "Clever Hands of the African Negro", "Focus on Africa", "Attitude to Africa", "Achievements in the Gold Coast",

"Africa Advancing", "Year Book and Guide to East Africa with Maps", "Africa Emergent", "British Information Booklets", and little health books supplied by the British Africa Committee. There was also a chart showing the twenty-five countries in the Africa Crusade.

P R O G R E S S W I T H T R A N S L A T I O N S

Before the Africa Project came into being, Philip Hainsworth, by special arrangement with the Guardian, had translations of a Baha'i pamphlet done in Ki-Swahili, Hausa and ChiNyanja. At the end of the Six Year Plan, in 1950, the Guardian told the British Baha'i Community to publish by Ridván 1953 translations in three further African languages, which he raised to nine languages soon after the Two Year Plan opened in 1951.

So far translations into two of these languages, Twi and Luganda, have been published. Three others, in Acholi, Adanwe and Ewe, are in the hands of printers. Completed translations in Igbo and Yoruba are awaiting their turn for printing, and the remaining two translations, into Kikikuyu and Mende are at the final stage before printing, consideration by the translator of the checker's suggestions for improvement.

Providing the printing of the pamphlets is not delayed by shortage of funds or some unexpected obstacle, it is likely that all nine translations will be published before the Africa Conference, making it possible to display there translations of Baha'i literature into twelve African languages.

N O U V E L L E S

Nous avons faits de grands progrès depuis le lancement du projet africain. Ainsi nous avons déjà établis deux Assemblées, à Kampala (Uganda) et à Dar-es-Salam (Tanganyika), ainsi que des Bahá'is sur la Côte d'Or, la Rhodésie du Nord, le Kenya. A part ceux déjà installés au Congo Belge, en Afrique Portugaise, au Maroc, en Sierra Leone, au Niger et en Afrique du Sud.

Le Gardien bien aimé, Shoghi Effendi, décrivait récemment qu'il envisageait la création d'une Assemblée Nationale de l'Afrique du Centre et de l'Est. Déjà, a sa commande, un Hazirat'ul-Quds, un centre administratif, a été acheté à Kampala et les progrès réalisés par cette Assemblée depuis, au point de vue déclarations et confirmations, s'élèvent à sept Africains. Il est donc indubitable que l'Afrique sera le lieu de plus bel essoi de notre Foi. Quel privilège pour nous de travailler dans toute la mesure de nos capacités et occasions pour contribuer à son développement sous la direction de notre Gardien très aimé.

Nous sommes heureux d'appeler à votre attention le fait que Shoghi Effendi permet maintenant les pèlerinages à les Lieux Saints à Haifa, mais il est nécessaire, toute fois, d'obtenir son autorisation au préalable.