

AFRICA NEWS

(Issued by the Africa Committee of the
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles)

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May 1951

AFRICA PROJECT EXPANDED

The year 108 has already witnessed a breath-taking expansion of the Africa Project by our beloved Guardian. We learned at Convention that the First All African Teaching Conference is to be convened in 1953, at the Centenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Prophetic Mission. In the first week of May the Guardian called on Egypt to send pioneers promptly to Libya and Algeria, thus "raising number territories opened Faith Africa to nineteen"; on Persia to despatch pioneers to Somaliland, Nyasaland, and Northern Rhodesia; and on India to "arise, lend assistance vast momentous newly-launched historic African enterprise" by sending pioneers to Zanzibar and Madagascar.

Five National Spiritual Assemblies have now been linked by the Guardian in this great crusade, which he so vividly describes in his cable to the British Bahá'í Convention: "Auspicious rays God's dawning Revelation which first struck corner vast dark spiritually decadent continent course Bahá'u'lláh's Ministry, which warmed illuminated its northern southern fringes concluding years Heroic Age Faith, must now penetrate its heart, brighten its jungle fastnesses, envelop it with splendour their radiance course present succeeding epochs Formative Age Bahá'í Dispensation."

OVER TWENTY COUNTRIES

The Guardian informs us that seventeen African territories are "now included pale Faith". These are: Egypt, with eight Local Spiritual Assemblies, Sudan (one Assembly), Tunis (one Assembly), Abyssinia (one Assembly), Eritrea (one Assembly), Morocco, Tripolitania, Nigeria, Belgian Congo, Southern Rhodesia, Union of South Africa, Sierra Leone, Angola, Mozambique, Gold Coast, Tanganyika, and Uganda. There are twelve Local Assemblies in Africa, as shown. With the seven new territories added by the Guardian for pioneer settlement, there are twenty-four African countries opened or soon to be opened to the Faith.

TWELVE AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Early in May the Guardian also cabled the British Bahá'ís to undertake translation of small pamphlets into seven African languages: Acoli, Adanwe, Ewe, Fante, Mende, Yoruba, and Somali. Pamphlets have already been published in Chinyanza and Swahili, and are in process of publication or translation into Hausa, Twi, and Luganda. The Africa Committee has recently completed a new version of an introductory pamphlet which is now being used for nine of the above languages.

RIDVÁN IN
DAR ES SALAAM

The first Bahá'í meetings in Tanganyika were held during Ridván in Dar es Salaam, when the First, Ninth, and Twelfth Days of Ridván, as well as the Nineteen Day Feast, were celebrated by the three Tanganyika Bahá'ís. Claire Gung travelled down from Lushoto to spend fifteen days with her fellow Bahá'ís, Jalal Nakhjawani and Mammen Thomas. We are overjoyed to announce that Mr. Thomas, who was the first new believer in Trivandrum, India, and a member of the first Trivandrum Spiritual Assembly, has settled permanently in Dar es Salaam. A splendid photograph of this happy Bahá'í group has been sent to our Guardian.

PIONEERS Entry permits for Mr. and Mrs. Moussa Banani and Mr. and Mrs. Ali Nakhjawani have been granted, and they expect to fly to Dar es Salaam from London early in June. The announcement of this news at the British Bahá'í Convention, with the entire Banani family present, evoked an expression of delight and appreciation from the assembled delegates.

Hassan and Isobel Sabri have also received the glad news that an engineering position has been found and accepted for Hassan in Dar es Salaam, by our devoted pioneer, Jalal Nakhjawani. They hope to sail for Africa in July or August.

There is every possibility that there will be nine or ten believers in Tanganyika by late summer!

AMERICAN AFRICAN
COMMITTEE

We are delighted to greet, in active collaboration on the Africa Project, our co-workers in America. The American African Committee held its first meeting in Washington, D.C., on April 22nd. Its membership, which may later be expanded, now includes: Miss Elsie Austin, Chairman, Mrs. Marie L. Rice, Secretary, Mrs. Ethel Stevens, Mr. Matthew Bullock, Mr. Alim Rassin Wurie, student from Sierra Leone attending Hampton Institute, Virginia. Our two Committees are already exchanging information and we earnestly hope that our united labours may measure up to the Guardian's wish for our two fortunate communities. "Praying energetic collaboration prosecutors 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan with community believers belonging nation whose destiny been linked fortunes world's backward races..." (Cable to British Bahá'í Convention).

LOCAL ASSEMBLIES
HELP PROJECT

Gifts of Bahá'í books, to be used for establishing lending libraries in the goal towns in Africa, have recently been received from Brighton, Leeds, and Oxford. The Cardiff Baha'i Assembly has been sponsoring a fireside meeting for Africans, which has been attended by five Nigerian students.

AFRICA NEWS

News of teaching and pioneering in Africa, and of plans being developed by the five National Bahá'í Communities for the Africa crusade, will be warmly welcomed for inclusion in future issues of "Africa News", which will now appear regularly every month. Please address letters to: Africa Committee, c/o John Ferraby, Esq., 49 Sandbourne Avenue, London, S.W.19.