

# AFRICA NEWS

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

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**PIONEERS** Five pioneers left London by air on June 18th, destination Dar es Salaam. They are Mr. and Mrs. Moussa Banani, Mr. and Mrs. Ali Nakhjawani, and Philip Hainsworth. Travelling in one party they are stopping over in Geneva, Rome, Cairo, and Nairobi to meet the Bahá'ís. Our National Assembly has asked Philip to consult with the Egyptian National Assembly on all aspects of the Africa Project, and we anticipate that the Egyptian friends will arrange a special meeting with the pioneers. The Guardian is being consulted about the permanent settlement of these four Persian pioneers, as they may be needed in one of the virgin territories newly assigned to Persia. The British National Assembly met with all these dear friends on the weekend before their departure, and is indebted to Ali Nakhjawani, youngest member of the Persian National Assembly last year, for his valuable consultation on international aspects of the Africa Project.

Jalal Nakhjawani's wife and two children, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Mr. Farhang Naimi, left Persia by air on June 2nd to join Jalal in Dar es Salaam. We trust they have safely arrived and warmly welcome their addition to this rapidly growing Tanganyika Bahá'í group.

Thomas Hansford, British believer in the Isle of Man and construction engineer, has succeeded in finding employment with an Engineering Company in Dar es Salaam. He leaves Britain on July 1st and hopes to be joined by his family at a later date. We express gratitude to Jalal Nakhjawani who aided Mr. Hansford in making this business contact, and to Mr. Hansford himself for rejecting a business offer in Kenya and persisting in his efforts to settle in one of the territories of the Plan.

Hassan Sabri has obtained his entry permit for Tanganyika and expects to arrive with his wife Isobel, early in September. They will travel by ship and visit the Portuguese Bahá'ís en route, if possible.

**PIONEER  
CONFERENCE** On June 2nd our Africa Committee met with seven pioneers for Tanganyika (all in Britain mentioned above except Mr. Hansford), to consult on various phases of their African teaching work. Mr. Amin Banani shared in the discussion. Thorough consultation resulted, ranging over such subjects as the organization of the Dar es Salaam Bahá'í Group, reports to the Committee, relation with authorities, provision and use of Bahá'í literature, contact between Bahá'ís in Africa, news letters, the observance of Bahá'í Holy Days, and the initial steps in teaching. In a subsequent session the Africa Committee dealt with recommendations made, which were realized to be of the greatest value. Two actions are of general interest: It has been decided to organize the Bahá'í Group in Dar es Salaam as soon as the Sabris arrive, that is, early in September. In considering the Guardian's letter to Philip Hainsworth (previously published) with regard to teaching in Africa, the need for a cautious approach was recognized until a firm foundation is laid. The conference recommended and the

Committee approved that all teaching at present should be on a personal basis and any change of policy should only be made after consultation with the Africa Committee. Other actions resulting from this excellent conference will be reported in future.

#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

We are now actively cooperating with India and Persia on the territories newly assigned to them by the Guardian, and our Africa Committee has sent information and material on their territories. Meanwhile, the Guardian's advice is being sought on the relation which will exist between these territories and our Two Year Plan. We are delighted to report the appointment of an Africa Committee in Persia, with Mr. Aziz Yazdi as Secretary. Other members are: Mr. Hussein Mahbubi (Chairman), Miss Rizwanieh Eghrari (known and loved by British Bahá'is), Mr. Z. Khadem, Mr. M. Eshragi, Mr. J. Munayyem, Dr. Darugar.

The American African Committee has also been expanded to include Mrs. Lowlie Matthews, Mr. David Earl, Mr. Lawrence Hautz, Miss Isabel Silk, Mrs. Bessie Barham. Other members were reported in our last issue.

#### AFRICA FUND

We rejoice to report a further contribution of \$500 from the American National Assembly. Mr. H.F. Backwell, Chairman of our Africa Committee, has also undertaken the duties of Treasurer and will administer the Africa Fund. All contributions to the Africa Project should continue to be sent directly to the Treasurer of the British National Spiritual Assembly.

#### SUMMER SCHOOL

Our Africa Committee has been invited to conduct a study course at the British Bahá'í Summer School, and also to arrange for an Africa Night. The following programme has been adopted, which will be repeated each week:

Africa in History and its significance to-day.

East Africa.

West Africa.

The Africa Project - Background, development, goals.

Light over Africa - Excerpts from the Guardian's messages.

Speakers will include Prof. Zeine of the University of Beirut, Mr. Hasan Balyuzi, and African guest speakers on East and West Africa. The Committee will conduct the last two sessions. Each day will consist of lecture and discussion in equal parts. An attempt is being made to obtain from Bahá'í communities throughout Africa photographs and material which will be shared with the friends on Africa Night.

#### AFRICAN CONTACTS

The Bournemouth Spiritual Assembly arranged an Africa Night on May 26th, when two students from the Gold Coast spoke on life and conditions there. Arthur Cole, British Bahá'í from Sierra Leone, followed with a Bahá'í talk. Much interest was aroused. We are delighted at this new evidence of active work by a Local Assembly in support of the Africa Project.

#### AFRICAN PAMPHLETS

The Africa Committee is vigorously following up recommendations for translators and checkers for the nine African pamphlets, while the Publishing Trust is making arrangements for their publication as soon as ready. The Twi translation has now been completed.