



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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"Among the Teachings of His Holiness Baha'u'llah is the equality of women and men. The world of humanity has two wings - one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly. Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible. Not until the world of women becomes equal to the world of men in the acquisition of virtues and perfections, can success and prosperity be attained as they ought to be."

- 'Abdu'l-Baha' -

EGYPTIAN In swift confirmation of the valuable services rendered
ELECTIONS last year by the first women elected to the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Egypt, is the news that this Ridvan not only have all but two of Egypt's nine Local Communities elected women to their Spiritual Assemblies, but that in Cairo both the responsible offices of Secretary and Treasurer are held by women, and in Ismailia, Mansourah and Khartoum, Sudan, women are the Treasurers.

Further good news is the election of the second of the two new Local Spiritual Assemblies to be formed within the period of the Egyptian Five Year Plan, which reaches its conclusion at Ridvan 1953. The new Assembly was formed at Mansourah, in the delta land of Lower Egypt. Also indicating the rapid and successful fulfilment of all goals of the Plan is the information that terrain for the Egyptian Baha'i Summer School has now been secured in the vicinity of Ramleh, Alexandria, well-known as the suburb in which the Master lived while in Egypt.

The membership of the newly elected National Spiritual Assembly of Egypt is Badi Bushroui, Chairman; M. Mustafa Suleman, Vice-Chairman; Elsayed M. El Azzaoui, Secretary, P.O.Box 29, Faggala, Cairo, Egypt; Iskandar Hanna, Treasurer; Hussein Amin Bikar, Dr. Roushan Yazdi, Sobhi Elias, Ali H. Ruhi, Abdul Rahim Yazdi, members.

The membership of the Local Spiritual Assembly of Khartoum, Sudan, is M.T. Hamamsi, Chairman; M.M. Mohamed, Vice-Chairman; Zino D. Michael, Secretary; P.O.Box 28, Khartoum, Sudan; Dawlat Hamamsi, Treasurer; El Sayed El Said, Hassan El Said, Bashi Goudah, Awadallah Ahmed, Hamed Ghoneim, members.

News has also reached us of the visit to Egypt and the Sudan during May of Shoa'u'llah Alai, Hand of the Cause of God. His journey and consultation with the friends there followed his pilgrimage to Haifa and was at the direction of our beloved Guardian.

HAZIRA OCCUPIED On June 2nd, the Kampala Spiritual Assembly officially took occupancy of the house which has recently been purchased, under the direction of the Guardian, by Moussa Banani, with the contributions of Baha'is the world over, to be used initially as the local Haziratu'l-Quds of that city. The Assembly asked Rex and Mary Collison, newly arrived American pioneers, to undertake the responsibilities of being resident hosts and caretakers. A Committee of the Assembly is working closely with these two devoted friends in the many and varied aspects of furnishing, equipping and beautifying the new Hazira, which is fortunately in excellent condition and very well situated in the town.

HAIFA VISITED Ever since the return of Ted Cardell from his pilgrimage to Haifa, page after page of fascinating and inspiring descriptions of the beauty and tranquility of the Holy Shrines, of the dynamic pace of life at the World Centre and of the engrossing evening dinner talks at the Guardian's table have poured out from Nairobi to the Communities and isolated believers of East Africa. Ted, who was blessed to have been in Haifa for 19 days at Ridvan, devoted a major portion of that time to taking an infinite variety of photographs of the Holy Places in Akka and Haifa, at the beloved Guardian's direction.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA William Foster, first American Baha'i to volunteer for the African pioneer field, reports the happy news that not only has he secured an excellent teaching post at the University of Liberia, at Monrovia, capital city of that country, but that he has also successfully contacted Mr. Joseph Pereira, a Baha'i formerly of Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., who is now living in Liberia. It was necessary for William to make an eighty mile trek into the bushland in order to bring about this historic meeting.

Gladdening our hearts further still is the news of the acceptance, by the American Africa Committee and National Spiritual Assembly, of the first Liberian believer, Mr. Benjamin Miller. Many letters and cablegrams of greetings have been sent to these three devoted believers, who now form the first Baha'i Community of that country. We join with the American friends in their prayers that "Baha'u'llah will make these three souls a mighty torch to shed the Light of His Teachings across West Africa". William Foster, c/o Univ. of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.

INTRODUCTION: It will assuredly be a source of much happiness to
ARTHUR COLE those Baha'is who knew Arthur Cole in England to learn that he has now joined us here in Africa by returning to his home in Sierra Leone on the West Coast, there to establish himself in his profession as a Barrister-at-Law and to

assist in the vital work of spreading our beloved Faith to his own people. Arthur first heard of and accepted the Faith while studying in England a number of years ago. During the British Six Year Plan, he not only helped to establish one of the newly formed Communities, but also lent the weight of his eloquent and spiritual tongue to the teaching work of the Cause throughout Britain, winning many friends for the Faith wherever he went. Arthur Cole, 19, Westmorland St., Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa.

NEWS FROM ASSEMBLIES COMMITTEES In May, both the Dar-es-Salaam and Kampala Spiritual Assemblies, devoting serious attention to the importance of teaching in the life of their Communities, appointed Teaching Committees, whose work it will be to increase the tempo of teaching, study the local requirements and individual needs of the students, prepare new believers for acceptance by the Assemblies and deepen them as Bahá'ís. Both Communities also appointed Feast Committees to arrange the spiritual and devotional aspects of the Feasts, Anniversaries and Commemorations. In Dar-es-Salaam, a Pioneer Committee has been appointed to study ways and means of assisting pioneers to enter the remaining East African Territories still to be opened within the Two Year Plan.

TEACHING In both Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam, active teaching programmes are being carried out. In Kampala, the classes held before work in the morning and those conducted especially for the African women contacts are noteworthy. In Dar-es-Salaam, a two-fold programme of social gatherings to attract a wide group of contacts of all races and study classes to deepen the interested students is carried on regularly, together with much personal contact teaching done in the homes of the believers.

DECLARATION The Kampala Assembly had the thrilling experience in May of welcoming into their Community Peter M. Mutabazi, of the Mutoro Tribe. Peter was the first person to declare himself before the recently formed Kampala Spiritual Assembly, and we extend to him a warm welcome from all the friends in Africa.

COMMEMORATIONS The Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab and the Commemoration of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah, which took place at 3:A.M. exactly in both Dar-es-Salaam and Kampala, were meetings of exceptional dignity and reverence, marked by the reading of excerpts from "Dawnbreakers" and "God Passes By", and by prayers in English, Persian, Arabic and Luganda.

TRANSLATIONS Both the Kampala and Dar-es-Salaam Spiritual Assemblies have given constructive attention to the Guardian's desire that the literature in Swahili and Luganda be increased. The Dar-es-Salaam Community is particularly fortunate to have amongst its members Mr. Leslie Matola, retired Chief Interpreter of the High Court of Tanganyika, who has taken upon his staunch seventy year old shoulders the giant task of translating the Writings into Swahili. He has already completed one pamphlet and is almost finished with one of the smaller books. The next project will be the translation of some much needed prayers into Swahili.

Excerpts from Mr. Matola's translations are read at each teaching meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, together with the English text. This procedure has proven to be exceptionally effective in helping the contacts to understand the subject for the evening as thoroughly as possible before the discussion in English begins.

In Kampala, a special Translations Committee is working on new translations into Luganda and on the initial translation into Lutoro and Ateso, both languages known and used by several of the new believers in Uganda and by some of their contacts.

LIBYAN The Egyptian National Spiritual Assembly writes of
DECLARATION having received the first declaration from one of the libyan contacts in Behghazi where Dr. Hussein Gollestaneh is diligently exerting himself both to become established in his profession and to spread the Message of Baha'u'llah to its war-wracked and scattered inhabitants. We warmly welcome this first Libyan-Baha'i and express the hope that this tiny new Group of believers will soon be sending us news of their activities. Dr. Hussein Gollestaneh, c/o Vienna Hotel, Benghazi, Libya, N.Africa.

SOUTHERN Having been transferred from his wilderness outpost
TANGANYIKA in Mikindani to the port town of Lindi, southern Province, Tanganyika, our dear friend Mamon Thomas, an Indian Baha'i now resident in Tanganyika, writes of his excellent opportunities to teach the Faith to all sections of the Lindi Community. At a recent party in honour of a departing official, Mamon took the opportunity of speaking informally of the Faith to a number of distinguished guests, most of whom, he was happy to find, had already heard of the Faith before coming to East Africa. One of his closest contacts recently visited Dar-es-Salaam where he received a warm welcome from the Dar-es-Salaam friends.

Mamon plans to spend his holidays making a tour of the Baha'i Communities of East Africa, touching at Dar, Kampala, Nairobi and at the as yet unopened Territory of Zanzibar. Mr. Thomas' new address is c/o Revenue Office, Lindi, Southern Province, Tanganyika.

AFRICA NEWS The British Africa Committee has re-appointed last
COMMITTEE year's Africa News Sub-Committee serving in Dar-es-Salaam; Jalal Nakhjawani, Chairman; Mrs. Isobel Sabri, Secretary; and Hassan Sabri, Treasurer. May we say that we are very grateful for having once again been given this opportunity of serving the Baha'i Community of Africa through the publication of this African Edition of A. News. Please, continue to send your news each month to Mrs. Isobel Sabri, Secretary, P.O. Box 1668, Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika, East Africa.

"By the righteousness of God! Should a man, all alone, arise in the name of Baha and put on the armour of His love, him will the Almighty cause to be victorious, though the forces of heaven and earth be arrayed against him."