

Canada's Part in the Ten Year World Spiritual Crusade 1953–1957

Shoghi Effendi

Original English



Canada's Part in the Ten Year World Spiritual Crusade 1953–1957

Letter of 19 April 1953

[From the Guardian:]

19 April 1953

To the Canadian Convention

OVERJOYED GRATEFUL TRIUMPHANT CONCLUSION FIVE YEAR PLAN MOST MOMENTOUS ENTERPRISE LAUNCHED CANADIAN BAHÁ'Í HISTORY INITIATED MORROW EMERGENCE INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE CANADIAN BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY CULMINATING CENTENARY BIRTH BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S MISSION CONSTITUTING PRELUDE MIGHTIER UNDERTAKING DESIGNED CONSOLIDATE MAGNIFICENT VICTORIES ACHIEVED HOMEFRONT INAUGURATE COMMUNITY'S HISTORIC MISSION BEYOND CONFINES DOMINION. TEN YEAR PLAN ITS VALIANT MEMBERS NOW EMBARKING UPON ENABLING THEM PUSH OUTPOSTS FAITH NORTHERNMOST TERRITORIES WESTERN HEMISPHERE ASSOCIATING THEM MEMBERS SEVEN OTHER SISTER COMMUNITIES RAISING ALOFT BANNER FAITH PACIFIC ISLANDS INVOLVES FIRST OPENING FOLLOWING VIRGIN TERRITORIES ELEVEN NORTH AMERICA ANTICOSTI ISLAND BARANOF ISLAND CAPE BRETON ISLAND FRANKLIN GRAND MANAN ISLAND KEEWATIN LABRADOR MAGDALEN ISLANDS MIQUELON ISLAND AND ST PIERRE ISLAND QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS YUKON¹ TWO ASIA MARQUESAS ISLANDS SAMOA ISLANDS SECOND CONSOLIDATION FAITH ICELAND GREENLAND MACKENZIE NEWFOUNDLAND THIRD PURCHASE LAND TORONTO ANTICIPATION CONSTRUCTION FIRST MASHRIQU'L-ADHKÁR CANADA FOURTH ESTABLISHMENT NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í ENDOWMENTS FIFTH DOUBLING NUMBER LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES SIXTH RAISING NUMBER INCORPORATED SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES NINETEEN SEVENTH FORMATION ISRAEL BRANCH CANADIAN NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY EIGHTH ESTABLISHMENT AMERICAN ASIAN TEACHING COMMITTEES ENTRUSTED TASK STIMULATE COORDINATE TEACHING ACTIVITIES INITIATED PLAN. APPEAL MEMBERS ENTIRE COMMUNITY WORTHY ALLIES CHIEF EXECUTORS DIVINE PLAN DEDICATE THEMSELVES IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENTS STEADILY UNFOLDING MISSION DISCHARGE NOBLY SACRED STRENUOUS TASKS AHEAD CONTRIBUTE MEMORABLE SHARE PROSECUTION DECADE LONG WORLD SPIRITUAL CRUSADE PAY BEFITTING TRIBUTE

1. Although Yukon had been visited by Susan Rice (1916), Marion Jack and Emogene Hoagg (1919), and Orcella Rexford (1922), no one resident there had outwardly responded to the Faith.



ORIGINAL



AUDIO

THROUGH FUTURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS MEMORY FOUNDER FAITH OCCASION MOST GREAT
JUBILEE COMMEMORATING CENTENARY DECLARATION HIS MISSION CITY BAGHDÁD.

SHOGHI



Letter of 22 April 1953

[From the Guardian:]

22 April 1953

To the National Spiritual Assembly

PROFOUNDLY IMPRESSED MAGNIFICENT VICTORIES LOVE.

SHOGHI



Letter of 1 May 1953

[From the Guardian:]

1 May 1953

To the National Convention

DEEPLY TOUCHED MESSAGE FERVENTLY SUPPLICATING SIGNAL VICTORIES LOVING
REMEMBRANCE SHRINES.

SHOGHI



Letter of 9 [May] 1953

[From the Guardian:]

9 [May] 1953

To the Montreal Assembly

OCCASION VISIT² MONTREAL ADVISE ALL FRIENDS GATHER GRAVE HAND CAUSE
SUTHERLAND MAXWELL³ PAY TRIBUTE HIS IMMORTAL SERVICES WORLD CENTRE FAITH.
INSTRUCTING MILLY⁴ PLACE BLOSSOMS SHRINE AND FRESH FLOWERS MY BEHALF.
APPRECIATE PHOTOGRAPH FRIENDS ASSEMBLED GRAVE LOVE.

SHOGHI



Letter of 23 May 1953

23 May 1953

To Fred Schopflocher⁵

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

The Beloved Guardian sends his loving greetings to you.

Shoghi Effendi asked me to send you with his love the enclosed photograph, which shows the new Gates which have been installed facing the entrance door of the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh. The Guardian wanted you to know he has used some of the gold you have sent on this Gate, which is clearly visible, and greatly enhances its beauty.

Now that the Ten Year Crusade has been so auspiciously launched, and the confirming spirit of Bahá'u'lláh released in such volume, he hopes the Friends everywhere will arise, and with a superhuman effort, quickly start the initial phase of the Crusade, which is to get their pioneers into the fields assigned to them, and to initiate strong teaching methods at home. Of particular moment now is entering the virgin areas, assigned to each Assembly. He is sure Canada will respond to this urgent need, and lay the firm foundation for its successful prosecution.

The Guardian will pray for the Friends, and for your guidance and confirmation; that the blessings of Bahá'u'lláh may reach you in rich abundance.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



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3. His "saintly life" is described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 657–662, In Memoriam.

4. Amelia Collins — an American believer appointed by the Guardian as Hand of the Cause in 1951, whose outstanding contributions and services are described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XIII, 834–841, In Memoriam.

5. For a review of his "numerous, magnificent services" see The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 664–666, In Memoriam.

Letter of 8 June 1953

8 June 1953

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Our Beloved Guardian has been greatly encouraged by reports reaching him from all parts of the Bahá'í world; of the victories already gained, and the plans being laid for the prosecution of the Ten Year Crusade.

They have evoked his awe-inspiring, and soul-stirring cablegram of May 28th, calling for the immediate settlement of all the 131 virgin areas of the Plan, just as quickly as possible. He is convinced, that the Friends will arise and translate their enthusiasm into Action, because the Keynote of the Crusade must be Action, Action, Action!

The Beloved Guardian has directed me to write your Assembly to amplify some of the aspects of his dynamic message.

The settlement of these virgin areas is of such an emergency nature, that he feels pioneering in one of them takes precedence over every other type of Bahá'í service — whether it be in the teaching or administrative fields of the Faith. So important is it that the National Assembly may delay initiation of steps to fulfil other phases of the Plan, until all these areas are conquered for the Faith. Nothing, absolutely nothing, must be allowed to interfere with the placing of pioneers in each of the 131 goal countries.

In the United States some 150 people have volunteered for pioneer service, and some of them already are preparing to leave for their posts. The Beloved Guardian fully expects the dear Friends in Canada, to follow this example, and quickly settle the areas allotted to them.

Because of it being the Chief Executor of the Divine Plan, and having so many pioneers available, the Guardian has given permission to the United States to send pioneers into any area of the Globe regardless of whom it may be assigned to. Thus pioneers from the United States may ask permission to settle in one of the Areas assigned to your Assembly. If this is done, you should assist them in every way possible.

There are some general observations which the Guardian shares with you, and then some specific suggestions which are enumerated below.

1. Every individual who has offered to pioneer must be encouraged in every way by the National Assembly.
1. The National Assembly should assist each pioneer, so they may be placed in their post just as quickly as possible.
1. The handling of each application for pioneering service must be expedited, and not allowed to be bogged down for any reason, or in the hands of Committees.

1. The National Assembly should make it their first order of business to follow up actively this most important task. They must make it the first order of business at each Assembly meeting, to see that each application is being processed rapidly. This does not mean the special committees should not handle the details; but it does mean the Assembly itself must review each application at each meeting; and see that the pioneer gets into the field as soon as possible.
1. A large number of pioneers should not be sent to any one country. One, or even two, will be sufficient for the time being. Later on, if supplementary assistance is needed, that of course can be taken care of. The all important thing now is to get at least one pioneer in each of the 131 virgin areas.
1. The National Assembly may exercise its prerogatives and suggest to applicants where their services are most needed. This, of course, applies particularly to pioneers, where a large number wish to go to the same place.

The specific suggestions of the Guardian are:

- a. Areas close at hand and easy of settlement should be filled first. Then the areas more difficult, and finally, those which will be difficult.
- b. Whenever a pioneer enters a new territory, a cable should be sent at once to the Guardian, giving the name, place, and any pertinent information.
- c. A monthly report of progress is to be sent by your Assembly to the Secretary-General of the International Bahá'í Council. Special matters of [a] report nature, for the Guardian, in connection with the plan of settling these 131 areas, should be sent to the Secretary-General of the Council also.
- d. This does not mean that any administrative matters in connection with the settlement of pioneers should be handled with the Council. These should continue to be handled with the Guardian direct. The Council is simply to coordinate reports, consolidate them, keep maps up to date, etc. for the Guardian, and your reports will enable them to do this.
- e. The Guardian feels the following areas should be easily settled, and he would appreciate your early cable advice of such new victories: Anticosti Island, Baranof Island, Cape Breton Island, Magdalen Islands, Miquelon Island, and St. Pierre Island, followed by other areas in the American Continent. Precedence should, however, be given to those listed above, as they appear the easiest of accomplishment, at the moment.
- f. As his dramatic cable indicates, the Guardian will have prepared an illuminated "Roll of Honour" on which will be inscribed the names of the "Knights of Bahá'u'lláh", who first enter these 131 virgin areas. This "Roll of Honour" will be placed inside the entrance door of the Inner Sanctuary of the Tomb of Bahá'u'lláh.

From time to time, the Guardian will announce to the Bahá'í world the names of those Holy Souls who arise under the conditions outlined in his message, and settle these areas and conquer them for Bahá'u'lláh.

Now is the time for the Bahá'ís of the world to demonstrate the spiritual vitality of the Faith, and to arise as one soul to spread the Glory of the Lord over the face of the Earth. The Guardian is sure that the Bahá'ís of Canada who have served and sacrificed so long for the Faith, will continue their glorious record by winning many new victories for the Faith.

The Guardian will pray fervently for the Bahá'ís of Canada, and for the success of their efforts.

The Guardian will pray for the members of the Assembly, whose sacrificial efforts he greatly values.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Ioas



Letter of 20 June 1953

20 June 1953

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letters of August 18, September 16, October 17, November 17, 1952, and January 19, March 12, 13 and 18 and April 22, 1953 have been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He regrets very much the delay in answering your letters. Unfortunately he has had to delay in replying to all national bodies during the last year, because of the pressure of work here, which has steadily increased during this Holy Year.

The purchase of your national headquarters,⁶ he feels, was an important milestone in the history of the Faith in Canada, and he hopes that it will be put to good use, during the coming years, by your Assembly. To this institution you will soon be adding the Maxwell Home⁷ in Montreal, which should be viewed in the nature of a national Shrine, because of its association with the beloved Master, during His visit to Montreal. He sees no objection to having one room in the house being used as a little museum associated with Mr.⁸ and Mrs. Maxwell.⁹

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7. It was given to the Canadian Bahá'í community by Hand of the Cause Rúhíyyih Khánum in 1953.

8. His "saintly life" is described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 657–662, In Memoriam.

9. For a review of the vast range of her contributions to the Faith in Europe and America, see The Bahá'í World Vol. VIII, 631–642, In Memoriam.

He was most happy to hear that all of your goals were achieved. This augurs well for the future of your activities, especially during the Ten Year Plan just launched. He wishes through your body to thank all the pioneers, teachers and Bahá'ís who helped achieve this great victory. They have every reason to feel proud of themselves, and grateful to Bahá'u'lláh. Undoubtedly His divine assistance, combined with their determination and faith, enabled them to fulfil their objectives.

He was very happy to know that Charlottetown not only achieved Assembly status, but that the believers there are mostly self-supporting, as this is a sound basis for the expansion of the work in any place, especially in such a difficult one.

The Bahá'í Exhibit held at the Canadian National Exhibition was an excellent means of obtaining publicity. He hopes that advantage will be taken of similar opportunities in the future.

He urges your Assembly to press for recognition of the Bahá'í marriage in Ontario,¹⁰ and, gradually, where the Cause is strong enough, in other Provinces.

Regarding the question you asked him about one of the believers who seems to be flagrantly a homosexual — although to a certain extent we must be forbearing in the matter of people's moral conduct because of the terrible deterioration in society in general, this does not mean that we can put up indefinitely with conduct which is disgracing the Cause. This person should have it brought to his attention that such acts are condemned by Bahá'u'lláh, and that he must mend his ways, if necessary consult doctors, and make every effort to overcome this affliction, which is corruptive for him and bad for the Cause. If after a period of probation you do not see an improvement, he should have his voting rights taken away. The Guardian does not think, however, that a Bahá'í body should take it upon itself to denounce him to the Authorities unless his conduct borders on insanity.

The Guardian attaches the greatest importance, during this opening year of the Ten Year Campaign, to settling the virgin areas with pioneers. He has informed, or is informing, the other National Assemblies that there is no reason why believers from one country should not fill the goals in other countries. In other words, Canada could receive foreign pioneers for her goals, who would operate under her jurisdiction; likewise, Canadians could go forth and pioneer in other countries' goal territories if the way opened for them to do so. Naturally, they must feel their first responsibility should be toward the Canadian part of the Plan, as they are Canadians, but sometimes health, business openings or family connections might take people into other goal countries.

He realizes that the objectives in the far north are perhaps the hardest. On the other hand, the harder the task, the more glorious the victory.

You may be sure that he is praying for your success, and, what is more, he is confident that this young, virile Canadian Community can and will succeed in carrying out its share of the World Spiritual Crusade, so vast and challenging, upon which we are now launched.

With warmest Bahá'í love,

¹⁰.

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R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Dear and valued co-workers:

The brilliant success achieved by the Canadian Bahá'í Community, marking the triumphant conclusion of the Plan formulated on the morrow of the emergence of the community as an independent member of the international Bahá'í Family, is to be regarded as a milestone of far-reaching importance in the evolution of the Faith not only in the Dominion of Canada but throughout the entire Western Hemisphere. The vitality displayed so strikingly by this youthful community, the exemplary fidelity demonstrated by its members to the spiritual as well as administrative principles of the Faith in the conduct of their manifold activities; the splendid co-operation with their national and local elected representatives which they have invariably shown, at every stage in the development of the Plan; the sacrifices they have repeatedly made; the vigilance and care which they have exercised while discharging their sacred and weighty responsibilities; the soundness of judgement, the enthusiasm and perseverance that have distinguished them in the pursuance of their tasks — all these have, in recent years, contributed, in no small measure, to the raising of the prestige of this community in the eyes of its sister communities in both the East and the West, and in evoking feelings of profound admiration in the hearts of the followers of the Faith in every continent of the globe.

I myself am deeply touched, and feel a profound gratitude for the superb contribution made by this community, still in the early years of its development, to the world-wide progress of the Faith achieved since the inception of the successive Plans undertaken by various National Assemblies for the systematic propagation of the Faith throughout the world.

The great strides which this virile and highly promising community has made in so short a period, over so vast a continent, despite such formidable obstacles, and in the service of so glorious a Cause, fill my heart with confidence that the tasks it has now assumed, on the morrow of the successful termination of the first collective enterprise undertaken in Canadian Bahá'í history, will be consummated in a manner that will redound to the glory of the Faith to which its members are so wholly dedicated.

The Ten Year Plan which your Assembly has now launched, in its capacity as the elected representatives of the Canadian Bahá'í Community — the recognized allies of the chief executors of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan — and which constitutes so important a phase of the Global Spiritual Crusade on which the followers of the Faith have embarked, marks the inauguration of the initial stage in the unfoldment of the glorious Mission of this community, a Mission which will enable it to implant, in collaboration with its sister-community in the Great Republic of the West, and with the support of the Latin American Bahá'í Communities associated in the execution of the Divine Plan, the standard of the Faith in all continents of the Globe.

Of all the objectives of this momentous Ten Year Plan, with which the immediate destinies of this firmly-grounded, fully consecrated, high-minded, spiritually quickened community are so

closely linked, the purchase of the site of the Mother Temple¹¹ of the Dominion of Canada and the settlement of pioneers in the thirteen virgin territories and islands, eleven of which are situated in North America and two in the South Pacific Ocean, may be regarded as the most important.

Prompt and effective measures must, no matter how great the sacrifice involved, be taken to ensure that, ere the termination of the first two years of the Plan, these two paramount objectives, which constitute the opening phase of the Plan, will have been fully attained. The entire Community must arise, as it has never risen before, to meet the challenge of the present hour. The time fixed for the achievement of the initial victories of the Plan is admittedly brief. The prizes to be won in distant fields, under the most trying circumstances, by the members of a community so youthful, so circumscribed in number and resources, are so precious that none of them can as yet even dimly imagine their transcendent glory. On the homefront, as well as in the far-off islands of the Pacific Ocean, in both the teaching and administrative fields, the Canadian Bahá'í Community must labour incessantly in anticipation of the fulfilment of the inspiring prophecies made by the Centre of the Covenant Who, repeatedly and in unmistakable language, promised to this Community a glorious future, and predicted both the material and spiritual advancement of the nation of which it forms a part.

On the success of this initial stage in the unfoldment of its Mission in foreign fields — a stage which will witness the departure of the Canadian pioneers from their homeland, in the northern regions of the Western Hemisphere, to the South Sea Islands — must depend the degree to which they will be active in days to come in other continents of the globe and their neighbouring islands. As the chosen allies of the chief executors of the Master's Divine Plan, they shoulder a responsibility which is at once staggering, sacred and inescapable. The greater their exertions, the more abundant will be the outpouring of celestial grace vouchsafed to them by the Author of the Plan Himself, Who in His immortal Tablets has more than once assured of His unfailing aid all who arise to serve His Father's Cause.

Now is the hour to demonstrate to the entire Bahá'í world those qualities which the heroes of God, unfurling in the Western Hemisphere the banners of a World Crusade destined to be carried over the entire surface of the globe, must possess in order to accomplish their exalted Mission. The Canadian Bahá'í Community must stand in the vanguard of this conquering army of Bahá'u'lláh. They must prove themselves increasingly worthy of their high calling as this momentous Crusade steadily unfolds. They must put their entire trust in Him Who guides its destinies from His station on high. They must dedicate themselves heart and soul to the fulfilment of all its objectives without delay, without any exception.

That they may acquit themselves of their task, as befits their high station in this great spiritual adventure, that they may enrich their heritage, and noise abroad the fame of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh through a whole-hearted and valiant participation in this world-girdling spiritual Crusade, is the object of my constant prayer and one of my most cherished hopes.

Shoghi

¹¹.



Letter of 3 July 1953

[From the Guardian:]

3 July 1953

To the National Spiritual Assembly

APPROVE PROVIDED CONSTRUCTION NOT DELAYED CABLE WHENEVER TEMPLE SITE
CHOSEN DESIRE PARTICIPATE PURCHASE.

SHOGHI



Letter of 15 July 1953

[From the Guardian:]

15 July 1953

To the National Spiritual Assembly

ADVISE HOLD MAXWELL HOME BEFITTING MEMORIAL GATHERING EDDIE ELLIOT¹² FIRST
NEGRO CANADIAN BAHÁ'Í.

SHOGHI



Letter of 26 July 1953

26 July 1953

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has received your loving letter of June 26th, enclosing contributions from
Assemblies and individuals, for the Shrine of the Báb Fund, and has asked me to acknowledge it
on his behalf.

^{12.}

He greatly appreciates the devotion which these contributions represent. Enclosed are receipts for them. The Guardian asks that you send them to the contributors, with his loving appreciation.

The reports which are being received in connection with the Ten Year Crusade indicate splendid results. The Guardian has been pleased with the cable which has been received from the Inter-Territorial Committee, telling of the progress of the settlement of the Canadian pioneers. He greatly values the sacrifices and the devotion of the Canadian believers. They have great responsibilities, but he knows they will fulfil all of the tasks assigned to them.

He certainly will pray at the Shrines for the guidance and confirmation of the Canadian Bahá'í Community as a whole, and the Bahá'ís, individually.

The Shrine of the Báb is progressing very rapidly at this time. The golden tiles are more than half laid on the dome, adding to the splendour of the Shrine each day.

The Guardian sends his loving greetings to all of you.

With warm Bahá'í love,

Leroy Loas



Letter of 30 July 1953

[From the Guardian:]

30 July 1953

To the National Spiritual Assembly

PROFOUNDLY GRIEVED PASSING DEARLY LOVED OUTSTANDINGLY STAUNCH HAND CAUSE FRED SCHOPFLOCHER.¹³ NUMEROUS MAGNIFICENT SERVICES EXTENDING OVER THIRTY YEARS ADMINISTRATIVE TEACHING SPHERES UNITED STATES CANADA INSTITUTIONS BAHÁ'Í WORLD CENTRE GREATLY ENRICHED ANNALS FORMATIVE AGE FAITH. ABUNDANT REWARD ASSURED ABHA KINGDOM. ADVISING AMERICAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HOLD BEFITTING MEMORIAL GATHERING TEMPLE HE GENEROUSLY HELPED RAISE. ADVISE HOLD MEMORIAL GATHERING MAXWELL HOME COMMEMORATE HIS EMINENT PART RISE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FAITH CANADA. URGE ENSURE BURIAL CLOSE NEIGHBOURHOOD RESTING PLACE DISTINGUISHED HAND CAUSE SUTHERLAND MAXWELL.¹⁴

SHOGHI

¹³. For a review of his "numerous, magnificent services" see The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 664–666, In Memoriam.

¹⁴. His "saintly life" is described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 657–662, In Memoriam.



Letter of 14 August 1953

14 August 1953

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of June 19th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

The Guardian was indeed happy to hear of the visit made to you recently by dear Fred Schopflocher,¹⁵ and of the warm love he carried to you from the Guardian, and of the happiness and inspiration he brought you in his own loving spirit.

Perhaps you have been informed by this time that this dear brother and devoted Hand of the Cause has just recently passed to the Abhá Kingdom. Now he will reap the reward of his years of ceaseless and outstanding services to our beloved Faith. He was truly a dedicated soul, and his physical presence will be sadly missed by all the friends. You should be very happy that you have such precious memories to cherish, of his visit; which will always be a source of joy and help to you. No doubt from the invisible worlds, he will continue to assist you in your work.

If it is not possible for you to be among the pioneers who go forth to virgin areas, you must not feel disheartened, but must remember that there must be a strong home-front, as this will aid those who go forth to foreign fields, in their teaching work. The Guardian urges you to redouble your efforts in the teaching of the Cause, as teaching is of the greatest importance in this day, and it is the power which attracts to the believers the bounties of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Guardian sends you and your dear husband his loving greetings, and assures you of his prayers on your behalf.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless, guide and sustain you, and enable you to promote the best interests of His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



¹⁵. For a review of his “numerous, magnificent services” see The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 664–666, In Memoriam.

Letter of 20 August 1953

20 August 1953

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your letter of October 5th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

Regarding your questions: As you know, each Manifestation of God brings secondary laws, suitable for the age in which He appears. The laws of divorce, as given by Christ and Muhammad, have been changed by Bahá'u'lláh.

Divorced people can remarry either other divorced people, or people who have never been divorced; but divorce is strongly condemned in the Teachings, even though it is permitted.

In the Bahá'í Faith, concubinage is not permitted. It is only permitted to have sexual relations with one's own wife or husband.

With Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 18 September 1953

[From the Guardian:]

18 September 1953

To the National Spiritual Assembly

SETTLEMENT VIRGIN AREAS PREFERABLE CURRENT YEAR.

SHOGHI



Letter of 28 December 1953

28 December 1953

To Rosemary Sala¹⁶

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of December 10th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He was very happy to learn that you and your dear husband are planning to go to the Comoro Islands. This is a very difficult goal area, to which he attaches the greatest importance.

The Guardian feels you should be very, very wise and discreet in teaching the Faith in that virgin area; otherwise, you may find you have been asked to leave the country, after having, with such difficulty, succeeded in getting into it....

The best thing would be to make friends, and, through your liberality and tolerance of their point of view, ... win over the hearts of the people, and then gradually, when you find those who have faith and are receptive, to teach them quietly in your home.

You should not give any publicity to your work at all. You should keep in touch with the Guardian, and also with the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pakistan and Burma.

Your services are very, very deeply appreciated; and the Guardian is very happy indeed that the Canadian National Assembly has had a part through its members in carrying out the work of the great Crusade.

He will pray for your success in your historic venture.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless, guide and sustain you, and enable you to promote, at all times, the vital interests of His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi

¹⁶. During the first and second Seven Year Plans, they pioneered to Venezuela (1940–41) and travelled throughout Latin America. In 1953 they pioneered to South Africa, and returned to Canada in 1968. In 1971 they pioneered to Mexico, where Rosemary died in 1980. Emeric passed away in 1990. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 713–715, and Vol. XX, In Memoriam.



Letter of 2 January 1954

2 January 1954

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friend:

The Beloved Guardian greatly appreciated your loving letter of November 5th, enclosing contribution for various funds on behalf of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly, as well as various Local Assemblies and individuals. Receipt cards are enclosed herewith.

Will you please send the receipts to the Assemblies and individuals, and express to them the Guardian's appreciation.

The Beloved Guardian is very happy with the development of the teaching work in the virgin areas of the Ten Year Crusade. Over seventy of the countries have now been settled, bringing the number of countries within the pale of the Faith to over two hundred. All the areas have either been settled, or assigned to pioneers, with the exception of the Iron Curtain countries.

The Ten Year Crusade is dual in nature. Teaching in foreign fields, and teaching on the home front. Now that the work is going ahead nicely abroad, the Guardian is hoping the Friends at home will arise with the same spirit of sacrifice and determination as the pioneers abroad have evinced. The reservoir at home must be kept filled to overflowing, if the work abroad is to prosper. More Bahá'ís, more Groups, more Assemblies is the immediate goal before the friends at home. The Guardian feels sure all the Friends will arise as never before, and filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, quicken the seeking souls, and lead many to the bourne of Immortality.

Dedication to the heavenly task, complete consecration to the noble mission, and living the Life, are the requirements for success in the teaching field. May we all be confirmed in achieving this glorious goal, so the hosts of heaven may be able to confirm the souls through our humble efforts.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Ioas



Letter of 7 February 1954

7 February 1954

To the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of St. Lambert

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of January 24th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

The sudden passing of the honoured and greatly confirmed Hand of the Cause of God, dear Dorothy Baker,¹⁷ is a great loss to the work of the Faith, particularly in the teaching field, where she rendered such tireless and invaluable services, and where the need for such dedicated Bahá'ís is at the present time so great. However, we can be sure that her pure spirit can reinforce the work of the believers on this plane, and that she is now receiving her reward.

Such happenings must serve to spur the friends on to ever greater efforts toward the accomplishment of the goals placed before the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in all lands for the historic Ten Year Crusade, which this precious soul was, herself, pursuing.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success in the service of our beloved Faith and of its divinely-appointed institutions,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 8 February 1954

8 February 1954

To Rosemary Sala¹⁸

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of January 15th has been received, and, as the beloved Guardian has been very busy, that is why you have not heard from him before, about your plans.

He is very happy to hear that there seems a prospect of useful occupation for your dear husband, once you reach the Comoro Islands. To get settled permanently on a sound basis is certainly one of the most important aspects of pioneering.

¹⁷. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 670–674, In Memoriam.

¹⁸. During the first and second Seven Year Plans, they pioneered to Venezuela (1940–41) and travelled throughout Latin America. In 1953 they pioneered to South Africa, and returned to Canada in 1968. In 1971 they pioneered to Mexico, where Rosemary died in 1980. Emeric passed away in 1990. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 713–715, and Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

He has been deeply moved by this self-sacrificing response you have both made to the demands of the Ten Year Plan; and he feels sure that this will be in the end a great bounty and blessing to both of you, as well as to the work of the Cause.

He feels that if it is at all possible for you to arrive in the Comoro Islands before the end of this Bahá'í year, which is the first year of the Ten Year Plan, that this would be highly meritorious. He hopes that all of the goals, outside those of the Soviet and satellite countries, will be filled, and thus establish a glorious record at the beginning of this great World Campaign; but, if all are not feasible, then he is hoping that most of the posts will be filled by their pioneers.

No doubt the Canadian Bahá'ís will feel your absence keenly. On the other hand, it will force others to arise and take your place; and this is always stimulating in the Community life.

You may be sure that his loving prayers will surround you both, and that he will supplicate in the Holy Shrines that your way may be smooth, and your services meet with speedy success.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless, guide and sustain you and your dear husband in your high endeavours, guide every step you take, and enable you to win great and memorable victories in the days to come,

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 19 March 1954

[From the Guardian:]

19 March 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

PROPOSED AREA¹⁹ TOO FAR TOO EXPENSIVE LOVE.

SHOGHI



¹⁹.

Letter of 22 March 1954

22 March 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

GUARDIAN ANXIOUS ALL AFRICAN AREAS SETTLED RIDVÁN. URGES SALAS²⁰ SETTLE COMORO BY THEN LOVING GREETINGS.

IOAS



Letter of 27 March 1954

[From the Guardian:]

27 March 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

ENTRY PIONEER ANTICOSTI LABRADOR BEFORE RIDVÁN. ESSENTIAL GREAT VICTORY.

SHOGHI



Letter of 29 March 1954

29 March 1954

To the New Territories Committee

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of March 15th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is very sorry to hear that Anticosti is proving so extremely difficult to get into. Perhaps if Mr. Rakovsky²¹ succeeds in going on a hunting trip there (providing his recent flight there has not shown him some other way of ingress to the land, or one of the other friends), he will find some means of contact and a possible opening.

²⁰. During the first and second Seven Year Plans, they pioneered to Venezuela (1940–41) and travelled throughout Latin America. In 1953 they pioneered to South Africa, and returned to Canada in 1968. In 1971 they pioneered to Mexico, where Rosemary died in 1980. Emeric passed away in 1990. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 713–715, and Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

²¹.

1.

There is no doubt that a few of the islands and territories embodied in the Plan are extremely difficult “nuts to crack”. As he attaches great importance to filling all the goals as soon as possible, he feels sure your Committee will continue to do its utmost.

He was very happy to hear of the pioneers who are going to Labrador and Magdalen Islands. The Canadian Bahá’ís are certainly pushing their Plan forward successfully and effectively.

He assures you of his loving prayers for your success, and his appreciation of your unflagging efforts.

With warm Bahá’í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved bless, guide and sustain you in your meritorious activities, and aid you to promote, at all times, the vital interests of His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 12 April 1954

12 April 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

MY MESSAGE SETTLEMENT VIRGIN AREAS UTMOST IMPORTANCE ANTICOSTI BE SETTLED PROMPTLY. CAN YOU NOT DELEGATE ONE MEMBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WORK EXCLUSIVELY THIS MATTER AND SECURE PERMIT ENTRY. UNDERSTAND RAKOVSKY²² HAS CONTACTS ADVISE.

IOAS



Letter of 12 April 1954

12 April 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

^{22.}

1.

BELOVED GUARDIAN FEELS UTMOST IMPORTANCE ALL VIRGIN AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE BE SETTLED BEFORE END RIDVÁN. NINETY-EIGHT AREAS SETTLED. TEN OF REMAINING EIGHTEEN OUTSIDE IRON CURTAIN CAN SHOULD BE SETTLED DURING FIRST YEAR CRUSADE GUARDIAN URGES YOU CONSIDER SETTLEMENT FOLLOWING AREAS MOST IMPORTANT TASK NEXT THREE WEEKS ADMIRALTY ANTICOSTI CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO COCOS COMORO HAINAN LOYALTY MARIANA MARSHALL PORTUGUESE TIMOR. IN ORDER ASSURE SPIRITUAL VICTORY GUARDIAN EXTENDING SETTLEMENT PRIOR TO END RIDVÁN. THIS EMERGENCY SHOULD BE FOLLOWED VIGOROUSLY DAILY BY ASSEMBLY IN CONJUNCTION APPROPRIATE TEACHING COMMITTEE. CABLE PROGRESS FULFILLMENT STRATEGIC GOALS THIS CABLE SENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES AMERICA CANADA AUSTRALIA INDIA.

IOAS



Letter of 18 April 1954

18 April 1954

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your loving letter of March 9th to the beloved Guardian has been received by him. He has directed me to answer you on his behalf.

The contributions which have been made by the National Assembly of Canada, various Assemblies and individuals are deeply appreciated by the Guardian. Receipts are enclosed herewith. Will you please pass them on to each Assembly or individual concerned.

As previously advised, the Shrine of the Báb Fund does not exist any longer, inasmuch as the Shrine has been finished. However, these contributions have been placed in the International Fund, which is being used for the development of the Faith at the World Centre.

The beloved Guardian has been greatly pleased with the results of the first year of the Ten Year Crusade. He feels that even greater victories will be achieved as the Crusade is underway.

Now that the initial task of introducing the Faith in the virgin areas has been virtually concluded, he feels the friends one and all must turn their attention to teaching on the home front, and consolidating the victories won in the virgin areas. He feels sure the friends will arise to the opportunity afforded them, and achieve even greater victories in this second phase of our work.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 2 May 1954

[From the Guardian:]

2 May 1954

To the National Convention

DEEPLY APPRECIATE SENTIMENTS DELEGATES FERVENTLY SUPPLICATING MIGHTY VICTORIES URGE REDOUBLE EFFORTS ATTAINMENT GOALS DEEPEST LOVE.

SHOGHI



Letter of 4 May 1954

[From the Guardian:]

4 May 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

PRAYING FERVENTLY SUCCESS NEW ASSEMBLY URGE REDOUBLE EFFORTS PROSECUTE VIGOROUSLY PLAN DEEPEST LOVE.

SHOGHI



Letter of 5 May 1954

5 May 1954

To Emeric and Rosemary Sala²³

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letters, one from Mrs. Sala, dated February 20th, and two from Mr. Sala, dated March 25th and April 15th, have been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

²³. During the first and second Seven Year Plans, they pioneered to Venezuela (1940–41) and travelled throughout Latin America. In 1953 they pioneered to South Africa, and returned to Canada in 1968. In 1971 they pioneered to Mexico, where Rosemary died in 1980. Emeric passed away in 1990. See *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XVIII, 713–715, and Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

He fully realizes how deep your disappointment has been that you are not able to secure your visa for the Comoro Islands. He himself was deeply disappointed also. However, some of these places are extremely difficult to enter; and he hopes that where you have failed, at least for the time being, someone else will prove successful at a later date.

He urges you, upon your arrival in Zululand, to find out the status of the Cause in neighbouring places, and, if it is possible for you to settle in one of the neighbouring countries where the Centre is much weaker, and where it is more difficult for people to get established, and there is a better possibility for people like yourselves to build up a business and remain, that you by all means go to the weaker Centre, in preference to Zululand, which now has a certain number of pioneers.

He assures you that the example that you and the Robarts²⁴ have shown has moved him very deeply, and he hopes it will stir the Canadian Community, and impress upon them the advisability of answering the pioneer call now, while the field is open, and the opportunities and the rewards so glorious.

You are often remembered in his prayers in the Holy Shrines, and he is supplicating that you may be richly blessed, and meet with success in both your teaching efforts and in your personal affairs.

With warmest Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved bless your constant endeavours, remove all obstacles from your path, and enable you to enrich the record of your meritorious services to His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 6 May 1954

6 May 1954

To the New Territories Committee

Dear Bahá'í Friend:

²⁴. In 1953 they became Knights of Bahá'u'lláh when they pioneered to Bechuanaland. In 1957 John Robarts was appointed a Hand of the Cause of God. He passed away in Rawdon, Quebec in 1991. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

Thank you for your loving letter of April 26th, giving a detailed report concerning the settlement work carried forward so efficiently by your important committee.

The Guardian wishes to have a street address in all of the countries where Bahá'ís are located; and for that reason, he would appreciate it if it is possible for you to give him the street address or Post Office address in Labrador of Mr. Gilliland.²⁵ Of course, being in the military service, this may be impossible. On the other hand, perhaps you can give the exact location of Bruce Matthew,²⁶ who is in Goose Bay.

The Guardian has been hoping that Mr. Rakovsky²⁷ might be able to achieve success in connection with the location of someone in Anticosti. He realizes that this is a very difficult assignment, but feels that the hand of Bahá'u'lláh will assist those who arise to carry on this work, and that the doors will open, somehow or other. He hopes your committee and the National Assembly will realize the great importance of someone being settled in Anticosti, and will continue to press the matter.

With regard to the plan of Miss Edythe MacArthur²⁸ to leave the Queen Charlotte Islands in order to settle in some more distant area, it appears that Miss MacArthur is the only Bahá'í in the Queen Charlotte Islands and, inasmuch as this is one of the virgin areas of the Crusade, it would seem inadvisable for her to leave unless of course there are other pioneers who could enter it, or unless she has confirmed two or three of the people living permanently in that island.

As I have written all National Assemblies, the Guardian attaches the greatest importance to the teaching work in these newly-settled virgin areas, and has written every National Assembly to see that the pioneers do not leave unless there is some emergency involved.

So far as Africa is concerned, the countries are now fairly well settled on an initial basis. The only area not settled is Spanish Guinea, and if Miss MacArthur could settle there, and your committee can send another pioneer to the Queen Charlotte Islands, he feels that would be permissible and highly meritorious.

As you know, the Guardian attaches the utmost importance to Greenland, and he therefore hopes that if Mr. Palle Bischoff²⁹ does leave Greenland this summer, that your committee will undertake to have a new pioneer there before he leaves. The teaching work in that important country must go forward, and the Guardian is hopeful that nothing whatsoever will prevent this being done.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

²⁵. Howard Gilliland — Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for Labrador (1954).

²⁶. Bruce Matthew — Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for Labrador (1954).

²⁷.

1.

²⁸. See her obituary in *The Bahá'í World* 1993–94, 321.

²⁹. Palle Bischoff — Danish believer, the first pioneer to Greenland (1951–54).

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 14 May 1954

14 May 1954

To Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Estall³⁰

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of March 17th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He deeply appreciates your desire to pioneer, and your unrestricted offer to do whatever you can in whatever field he advises.

He will be very happy to see you in the pioneer field. However, he considers that at the present time the national work in Canada has been weakened through Freddie's³¹ death, Rosemary and Emeric Sala's³² departure and that of John Robarts³³ and his family.

In view of this, he advises you to continue living where you are and helping with the national work, which, if weakened to too great an extent through the departure of all the most active members of the National Assembly, will suffer spiritually, and even endanger, he fears, the success of their part of the Ten Year Plan. Perhaps, at a later date, when the national work is in a stronger position, it will be possible for you to enter the pioneering field.

As to your investments, he does not feel this is a subject on which he is qualified to give you advice. You should consult financial experts there, and act wisely.

James and Melba Loft, Tyendinaga Reserve, Ontario, 1960

³⁰.

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³¹. For a review of his "numerous, magnificent services" see The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 664–666, In Memoriam.

³². During the first and second Seven Year Plans, they pioneered to Venezuela (1940–41) and travelled throughout Latin America. In 1953 they pioneered to South Africa, and returned to Canada in 1968. In 1971 they pioneered to Mexico, where Rosemary died in 1980. Emeric passed away in 1990. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 713–715, and Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

³³. In 1953 they became Knights of Bahá'u'lláh when they pioneered to Bechuanaland. In 1957 John Robarts was appointed a Hand of the Cause of God. He passed away in Rawdon, Quebec in 1991. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

Allan Raynor, c.1954

First incorporated Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North York, Ontario, 1956

Seated: Emily Roberts, Doreen Willis, Gisele Muhlschlegel Liedtke, Evelyn Raynor, Margaret Roberts

Standing: Klaus (Harry) Liedtke, George Spendlove, Allan Raynor, Charles Roberts, Jr.

Western Canada Conference, Banff, Alberta, 1954

Bahá'ís of Forest, Ontario on the occasion of the visit of Hand of the Cause Zikrullah Khadem (seated, centre), 1957 (Charles Willey, Photographer)

First incorporated Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Vernon, British Columbia, 1957

Seated: Alice Mann, Knute Westman, Elizabeth Varley, Helen Worth

Standing: Atha MacLean, William MacLean, Catherine Saunders, Austin Collin, Edna Montfort

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada, 1957

Seated: Rowland Estall, Hartwell Bowsfield, Lloyd Gardner, Allan Raynor

Standing: Harold Moscrop, Audrey Westheuser, Peggy Ross, Winnifred Harvey, Fred Graham

Bruce Matthew in his pioneer post, Labrador City, during the Ten Year Crusade

Clifford and Catherine Huxtable, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, 1967

Joan and Ted Anderson with sons Chris and Mark, Whitehorse, Yukon, 1958

188 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario, first for national Hazíratu'l-Quds, 1952

274 Huron Street, Toronto, Ontario second property used as national Hazíratu'l-Quds, 1956

15 Lola Road, Toronto, Ontario, third national Hazíratu'l-Quds, acquired September 1957

First land acquired for the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, Cummer Ave. at Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ontario, 1958

Act of Parliament incorporating the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada, 1949

Your tireless and devoted services to our beloved Faith are very deeply appreciated, and he will remember you and your family in his prayers in the Holy Shrines.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and for the realization of every hope you cherish for the promotion of our beloved Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 21 May 1954

21 May 1954

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of April 19th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is very happy to have this opportunity of welcoming you personally into the service of our Faith; and hopes that, both in your professional career as a social worker, and in your life as a Bahá'í, you will be able to help many needy and troubled souls.

Amongst the many other evils afflicting society in this spiritual low water mark in history, is the question of immorality, and overemphasis of sex. Homosexuality, according to the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, is spiritually condemned. This does not mean that people so afflicted must not be helped and advised and sympathized with. It does mean that we do not believe it is a permissible way of life; which, alas, is all too often the accepted attitude nowadays.

We must struggle against the evils in society by spiritual means, and medical and social ones as well. We must be tolerant but uncompromising, understanding but immovable in our point of view.

The thing people need to meet this type of trouble, as well as every other type, is greater spiritual understanding and stability; and of course we Bahá'ís believe that ultimately this can only be given to mankind through the Teachings of the Manifestation of God for this Day.

He will pray that you may be successful in your services to mankind as a Bahá'í.

With kind regards,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 23 May 1954

23 May 1954

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your letter of May 13th with enclosures has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

The Bahá'í rosary has no significance, whatsoever, except to enable the person who is repeating something a set number of times to concentrate on the meaning of the words, and not have to count at the same time.

It does not matter in the least how the rosaries are made up, or whether one uses one or not. Some people seem to be able to concentrate, and at the same time remember the number, without any difficulty.

If you like to make rosaries and share them with your friends, that is your privilege. He certainly, however, does not see why it should in any way be a bone of contention.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 4 June 1954

4 June 1954

To Mr. and Mrs. Ted Anderson³⁴

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

³⁴.

Your loving letter of May 18th, giving your permanent postal address, has just come to hand.

The Beloved Guardian was very happy to learn of the recovery of Ted, and of your happiness, and feeling of being at "home" in the far north country.

The Guardian assures you of his prayers in your behalf; that every obstacle may be overcome, and you win new and fresh victories for the Faith. The Guardian welcomed advice of the teaching work you are doing. He urges you to concentrate on the native population, as it is for that reason that we have opened new countries to the Faith. After all, Europeans, Americans, etc., can become Bahá'ís in their home lands. We have entered new fields all over the world, to bring the light of Divine Guidance, to the native populations; who have thus far been deprived of the spiritual teachings of Bahá'u'lláh.

May you be confirmed in this teaching effort among the natives. The great goal would be an Assembly in Whitehorse, made up of native Bahá'ís, or at least the majority natives.

The Guardian sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Loas



Letter of 5 June 1954

5 June 1954

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your loving letter of April 26th, enclosing contribution to the International Fund of \$14. 00, which included contributions from the Assemblies of Ottawa and Hamilton, and gifts from Miss ..., and Mr. ..., has been received by the Beloved Guardian, and he has directed me to acknowledge it on his behalf. The contributions to the International Fund are deeply appreciated. Receipts are enclosed herewith. Will you please send them on to the donors, with the Guardian's appreciation.

The Friends in Canada have acquitted themselves marvellously during the First Year of the Ten Year Crusade, which has given the Guardian much happiness. He is looking expectantly to Canada, and the Canadian friends to carry the Banner of the Faith, to new heights, during the second phase of the Crusade, now opening. The keynote of this second phase, is more Assemblies, more Groups, more Isolated Centres. A rapid multiplication of Bahá'í Centres is most important. The peoples of the world are now prepared for the Message. It remains for the Bahá'ís

to arise with determination, consecration, and devotion, to zealously teach the Faith and quicken the souls.

The Guardian will pray for the success of the sacrificing efforts of the Friends. He sends the members of the National Assembly, his loving greetings.

Leroy loas



Letter of 15 June 1954

15 June 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

The letters of your Assembly dated June 1, July 1 and 29, August 7 and 31, October 4 and 19 and November 27, 1953, and January 27, March 25 and 29, April 2 and 22 and May 8, and May 18, May 25 (two), 1954, with enclosures, have all been safely received, and the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

Although a number of the matters raised in your various letters have been attended to by cable, he is sorry that he has not been able to answer the letters of your Assembly sooner. It is becoming increasingly difficult for him to get around to National Assembly letters at all.

During the past year, the Canadian Bahá'í Community has gone through a great many experiences of both a sad nature and a pleasant one.

The loss of the dear Hand of the Cause, Freddie Schopflocher,³⁵ is going to be much felt. He was so intensely loyal, so vigilant in watching over the interests of the Faith, so steadfast and tenacious in serving it, that he will be much missed in the national work. For over thirty years, he promoted, not only the interests of the Faith, but those of the Canadian Bahá'í Community, and rendered on a national and an international scale, through contributions and many teaching trips, valuable services to the Cause of God.

The Guardian was very happy that dear Fred could be buried so close to Sutherland Maxwell.³⁶ Montreal has indeed been blessed in more ways than one; and, as the Mother Community of Canada, should become increasingly active and united, and live up to the high expectations the Master cherished for her future, and prove herself worthy of the many blessings she has already received....

³⁵. For a review of his "numerous, magnificent services" see The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 664–666, In Memoriam.

³⁶. His "saintly life" is described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 657–662, In Memoriam.

Another thing which your community has had to pass through this year — both a blessing and a calamity — is the departure of so many active members³⁷³⁸ of your National Body for pioneer fields abroad. It should be a source of great pride that one-third of the membership of your Body set sail for such distant goals, and will render services during the Ten Year Crusade, of such a nature, he feels sure, as to bestow honour upon the entire Canadian Community.

He likewise feels that you have every reason to be satisfied over the progress which has been made during the first year of the Plan in settling the goals entrusted to your care. It is very unfortunate that Anticosti should prove such a hard nut to crack. He appreciates very much the determined efforts which your Body, and particularly Mr. Rakovsky,³⁹ made to get a pioneer into it before last Ridván. No doubt eventually your efforts will be crowned with success; but you will have to be very tactful and careful in order not to arouse a permanently resistant attitude on the part of the Company that owns the Island.

In regard to the question you asked about jurisdiction, the area of jurisdiction is related to the National Spiritual Assembly responsible for the teaching work in the goal country in question, and has nothing to do with what nation the territory belongs to. All Canadian goals are therefore under the jurisdiction of your National Body, and their pioneers must report to you, and people, whose declarations are accepted, should be registered by your National Body, or the Committee in charge of the work, as the case may be.

Regarding the question as to whether your Assembly need do anything about its Israel Branch here: this is a matter which concerns entirely local legal procedures. Your Canadian Branch has now been legally established, and is entitled to hold property in this country; and he is planning at an early date to register a piece of land in its name. He will send you the title deed as soon as all formalities have been carried out.

As he has already informed you by cable, he feels that the land which you proposed as a Temple and National Hazíratu'l-Quds site was altogether too large, too expensive, and above all, too far from the city limits. He has given similar instructions to a number of other national bodies who were pursuing their investigations in a direction much the same as your own. He realizes that it is difficult, and much more expensive, to find a plot close to the heart of the city. On the other hand, he feels that even a small plot, near to town, is much more reasonable from every standpoint than a large plot way out in the country. The friends must remember that they have to be able to get out to their National Centre and their National Temple and use them; and, as Bahá'ís are all busy, hardworking people for the most part, the time involved must inevitably

³⁷. During the first and second Seven Year Plans, they pioneered to Venezuela (1940–41) and travelled throughout Latin America. In 1953 they pioneered to South Africa, and returned to Canada in 1968. In 1971 they pioneered to Mexico, where Rosemary died in 1980. Emeric passed away in 1990. See *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XVIII, 713–715, and Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

³⁸. In 1953 they became Knights of Bahá'u'lláh when they pioneered to Bechuanaland. In 1957 John Robarts was appointed a Hand of the Cause of God. He passed away in Rawdon, Quebec in 1991. See *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

³⁹.

influence their attendance at Bahá'í meetings in the Hazíratu'l-Quds, and later, Bahá'í services in the Temple.

If the filling of the goals and the purchase of the Temple site can be accomplished before the lapse of two years from the inception of the Plan, he feels you will have carried out his instructions to the letter, and he will indeed be very happy.

He thinks that it is very befitting that your Body, as representatives of the Canadian Bahá'ís, should be responsible for the erection of a tombstone over dear Fred Schopflocher's grave.⁴⁰

As you no doubt are aware, he cherishes the very brightest hopes for the future of the Canadian Bahá'ís. They are a fortunate people, possessing many of the virtues and few of the faults of both the new and old worlds. He remembers them in his prayers in the Holy Shrines, and prays that they may speedily advance in the service of the Cause, and accomplish the tasks outlined in the Ten Year Plan as their particular portion of the work.

He would like to call your attention, and indeed the attention of all the friends, to the fact that it is time for the Bahá'ís everywhere, including Canada, to devote themselves to the consolidation work. The goals on the homefront are going to be, in some ways, even harder to achieve than those abroad. They will require an increase of membership in the community, which means patient and devoted teaching, the multiplication of both Assemblies and groups, the incorporation of many Spiritual Assemblies, etc. They now have nine years in which to do it, but the sooner they get some of the work finished and behind them, the better! We can never tell what the situation may be at a later date, and whether we will not have to carry on our labours under much more difficult circumstances than those prevailing at present.

With warmest Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

P.S. — Regarding the contribution which Mrs. ... wishes to make to the Faith, the Guardian is deeply touched by the spirit which has motivated her; and he feels that she could spend it in no better way than to give it to the British National Spiritual Assembly for their National Hazíratu'l-Quds. They are much in need of money, and it would be of real help in purchasing this important and historic institution.

Please assure her of his admiration for her services, and his loving prayers.

I notice that I have neglected to answer your question concerning Mrs. ... consent to her daughter's marriage: this must be given in order to be a Bahá'í Marriage. Bahá'u'lláh requires this and makes no provision about a parent changing his or her mind. So they are free to do so. Once the written consent is given and the marriage takes place, the parents have no right to interfere any more.

⁴⁰. For a review of his "numerous, magnificent services" see The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 664–666, In Memoriam.

P.S. — The Guardian was very pleased about the publications in Ukrainian and will place copies in the Mansion Library. Please thank the dear believer⁴¹ responsible for this work on behalf of the Guardian.

[From the Guardian:]

Dear and valued co-workers:

The Canadian Bahá'í Community, having recently entered the second phase of the World Spiritual Crusade so auspiciously launched by the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, on the morrow of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of His prophetic Mission, may well pride itself on the quality as well as the number of achievements which, in both the teaching and administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity, have distinguished its stewardship to His Cause ever since its emergence as an independent national entity in the world-encompassing Bahá'í Brotherhood. Its mission in foreign lands has been befittingly inaugurated in the course of the opening phase of this world-girdling Crusade. The expansion and consolidation of its activities on the homefront have kept pace with the progress of the work initiated by its pioneers beyond the borders of its homeland in both the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific Islands. It has, moreover, launched upon its twofold historic enterprise aiming at the acquisition of its new national administrative Headquarters and the purchase of the site of its future Temple. It has, in addition, been enriched through the donation and legal transfer of a House⁴² uniquely associated with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's historic visit to the Dominion of Canada, and destined to be regarded as the foremost Bahá'í Shrine throughout that Dominion.

The years immediately ahead must witness an intensification of effort, on the part of all of its members, as well as its elected national representatives, which will at once safeguard the prizes won in distant fields, and lend a notable impetus to the consolidation of its administrative institutions within its borders.

The selection of the site for the national Hazíratu'l-Quds and for the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár in Canada must be made with the utmost care and promptitude. Measures must, without delay, be taken for the construction of the administrative Headquarters of its National Assembly. The process of multiplication of isolated centres, groups and Assemblies must gather momentum in the course of the current year. The incorporation of firmly established Local Spiritual Assemblies must simultaneously be accelerated, in order to strengthen the structure of these newly established institutions, and pave the way for the establishment of local Bahá'í endowments. The one remaining virgin territory assigned to it must be speedily opened, and every precaution taken to ensure its preservation in the future. Particular attention should be directed to Iceland and Greenland, as the two foremost objectives of this community in connection with the work of consolidation assigned to its members. The meritorious effort exerted so devotedly and patiently by its national elected representatives for the purpose of obtaining official recognition by the Civil Authorities for the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate⁴³ should be pursued with the utmost diligence, vigilance and caution.

⁴¹. Peter Pihichyn — a believer of Ukrainian descent.

⁴². It was given to the Canadian Bahá'í community by Hand of the Cause Rúhíyyih Khánum in 1953.

While the members of this valiant, this highly gifted, forward marching and deeply consecrated community, and particularly its alert and zealous national representatives, labour to attain these immediate goals, that constitute the distinguishing features and the prime objectives of this newly opened phase of the Crusade, the measures initiated recently in the Holy Land to transfer eventually part of the international Bahá'í endowments on Mount Carmel to the name of the newly-established Branch of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly will be steadily and energetically pursued, as a mark of abiding appreciation of the magnificent and exemplary achievements of this Community in recent years in the service of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

A Community, whose founder⁴⁴ has conferred upon it such splendid benefits and whose dust now lies on the far-off shores of the South American continent; which has been exalted by reason of the eminent services which two other members⁴⁵ of her family have rendered, in the Holy Land, to the world Bahá'í community; which can, moreover boast of the enduring and historic achievements of yet another Hand of the Cause⁴⁶ the third nominated from the ranks of its members; and which, in the course of the past year, has set a further example of steadfastness and devotion through the action of outstanding members^{47 48} of its National Assembly who have forsaken their homes to settle in the African continent — such a community can well assert its capacity and determination to consummate, within the allotted time, the laborious and mighty task it has risen to shoulder.

The rapidity of its expansion, its sound development, the steadiness, the single-mindedness, the tenacity, the enthusiasm, the unity and staunchness of its members, augur well for the remarkable material and spiritual progress which the nation to which it belongs must achieve in the years to come, in accordance with the explicit promise enshrined in the Tablets of the Divine Plan by the Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant.

43.

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44. For a review of the vast range of her contributions to the Faith in Europe and America, see *The Bahá'í World* Vol. VIII, 631–642, *In Memoriam*.

45. William Sutherland Maxwell — architect of the Shrine of the Báb, appointed a Hand of the Cause of God in 1951, died in Montreal in 1952. His “saintly life” is described in *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XII, 657–662, *In Memoriam*.

Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih Khánum Rabbani (Mary Maxwell)—daughter of May and Sutherland Maxwell, became the wife of Shoghi Effendi in 1937, appointed a Hand of the Cause of God in 1952.

46. For a review of his “numerous, magnificent services” see *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XII, 664–666, *In Memoriam*.

47. During the first and second Seven Year Plans, they pioneered to Venezuela (1940–41) and travelled throughout Latin America. In 1953 they pioneered to South Africa, and returned to Canada in 1968. In 1971 they pioneered to Mexico, where Rosemary died in 1980. Emeric passed away in 1990. See *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XVIII, 713–715, and Vol. XX, *In Memoriam*.

48. In 1953 they became Knights of Bahá'u'lláh when they pioneered to Bechuanaland. In 1957 John Robarts was appointed a Hand of the Cause of God. He passed away in Rawdon, Quebec in 1991. See *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XX, *In Memoriam*.

May this community march forward on its destined path with renewed vigour, with undimmed vision, with complete unity, with utter consecration, and be enabled to play an immortal part in the execution of the great tasks ahead, and worthily contribute to the prodigious efforts now being collectively exerted by the followers of the Most Great Name, in every continent of the globe, for the world-wide establishment and ultimate triumph of a long-persecuted, divinely impelled, world-redeeming Faith.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 30 June 1954

30 June 1954

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of June 14th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has directed me to answer it on his behalf.

Your contribution to the International Interests of the Faith, made in memory of your mother, is deeply appreciated. Receipt is enclosed. This gift will certainly help your dear one to progress in the realms beyond.

The Guardian is very happy with the results of the first year of the Ten Year Crusade. 101 virgin areas have been settled, bringing the number of countries within the Faith up to

The second year of the Crusade calls for the rapid growth and expansion of the Faith in the consolidation areas, and on the home fronts. Each person must arise with renewed vigour to teach the Cause of God. Everyone who possibly can should disperse to one of the goal cities, either on the home front or in the consolidation areas abroad. If the friends everywhere arise with the same spirit of devotion, sacrifice and dedication as the pioneers in the virgin areas, then victory will surely be achieved in many fields during the coming year.

The beloved Guardian assures you of prayers in your behalf. He will pray that every obstacle may be removed from your path, so that you may be able to serve the Cause diligently and effectively.

The true goal for an individual to seek is to become so filled with the spirit that it radiates through him at all times. Dedication and consecration are necessary. As one applies himself, gradually what is hard at first becomes a habit, and then it becomes a simple matter to carry on with good deeds and good service.

You should not become discouraged in any way, but you should each day endeavour to become more centred in the Faith; and as you become more centred, you will find it becomes a part of your life, and thus there will be no difficulty because of outside distractions.

The Guardian will pray for the progress of the soul of your dear mother in the realms beyond.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 5 September 1954

5 September 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your loving letter of August 3rd came duly to hand, and the questions which you have raised were presented to our beloved Guardian.

About a year ago, there was some correspondence with your Assembly with regard to the Bahá'ís who are in the virgin territories of the Ten Year Crusade, etc.

The Guardian renews the advice given at that time, that all pioneers in virgin areas, or new Bahá'ís who are confirmed in those virgin areas, are not part of the National Canadian Bahá'í Community, and cannot vote in elections.

The virgin areas are separate, administratively, and under the jurisdiction of the National Spiritual Assembly responsible for their development. The same ruling applies to any Assemblies which might develop in these virgin areas. They do not become part of the National Canadian Bahá'í Community.

The Guardian was distressed to learn of the problems which arose concerning the election of the Spiritual Assembly of ... However, the ruling is quite definite, that an Assembly must be elected on the first day of Ridván, April 21st. Regretful as it is, ... must now be considered a Group, until the elections which take place April 21,

The beloved Guardian assures you all of his prayers in your behalf. He sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 19 September 1954

[From the Guardian:]

19 September 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

DISAPPROVE OWING EXPENSE INVOLVED CONTINUE SEARCH⁴⁹ PRAYING SUCCESS LOVE.

SHOGHI



Letter of 22 October 1954

22 October 1954

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of September 17th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He considers it will be excellent if you go to Windhoek, as much help is needed there.

On your arrival, you should exert every effort to secure some sort of employment and establish yourself, so that you may be in a position to lend your assistance to the work there, and help to confirm in the Faith a number of native believers.

His loving prayers will surround you as you go forth on your noble mission.

The Guardian urges you to use great caution and tact in making contacts in this new field, to proceed with your teaching work with great wisdom; but, at the same time, with persistence and perseverance. You should have complete confidence in the power of Bahá'u'lláh, regardless of whatever difficulties may be encountered.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

⁴⁹.

May the Almighty bless, guide and sustain you, and enable you to fulfil your heart's desire, and to promote the vital interests of His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 27 October 1954

[From the Guardian:]

27 October 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

ADVISE SUGGESTED TEMPLE SITE ABOUT NINE MILES FROM HEART TORONTO AREA ABOUT THREE ACRES.

SHOGHI



Letter of 1 November 1954

1 November 1954

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of August 31st has been received by the beloved Guardian, enclosing contributions from the National Assembly, various Local Assemblies and individuals, to the International Bahá'í Fund.

These contributions are deeply appreciated by the beloved Guardian. Receipts are enclosed herewith. Will you please send them on to the donors, expressing to them the Guardian's appreciation?

The beloved Guardian greatly values the devoted services of the Canadian Bahá'ís, and the remarkable manner in which they are arising to fulfil their many obligations under the Ten Year Plan.

As you know, the time is ripe for the wide-spread diffusion of the Faith throughout the homeland. The Guardian is looking forward to reports from you of many great victories being won. He sends each of you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Ioas



Letter of 24 November 1954

24 November 1954

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your letter of October 28th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

The Guardian would advise that you endeavour to secure a position in Canada, in a town or city where you will be strengthening a weak centre, or opening up a new centre to the Faith.

He hopes that, by the time your school term is ended, you will have found a location where you can earn your livelihood and at the same time serve the Cause of God.

He assures you of his prayers.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 4 December 1954

4 December 1954

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has directed me to write you in connection with a recent communication you submitted to him, in which you stated that you were pleased to note that the Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada was to be established, and land on Mount Carmel registered in your name.

In the Guardian's Ridván Message of April, 1954, you will note he has advised that the Israel Branch of the Bahá'ís of Canada was formed. The actual date of the formation was November 20,

The land on Mount Carmel, which the Guardian had instructed be registered in the name of the Israel Branch of the Canadian Assembly, was transferred to the title of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada, Israel Branch, on October 1,

I am attaching hereto, for preservation in your files, the title deed covering this particular piece of land, which is Parcel No. 304, Block 10811, Mount Carmel, Haifa.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 4 December 1954

4 December 1954

To the New Territories Committee

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

In your letter of November 16, 1954, giving the record of the settlement of various virgin areas, it is noted that Miss Mary Zabolotny,⁵⁰ of Verdun, Quebec, is making arrangements to go to Anticosti Island as the guest of a family living there.

The beloved Guardian is anxious to know if this represents permanent settlement of the Anticosti Islands by Miss Zabolotny, or if this arrangement simply contemplates a short stay in the Islands.

If it consists of permanent settlement, the Guardian would appreciate definite advice to that effect.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas

⁵⁰.



Letter of 22 February 1955

22 February 1955

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of January 8th with enclosures has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to acknowledge it on his behalf.

He deeply appreciates the various contributions to the International Interests of the Faith. Receipts are enclosed herewith. Will you please send to each one of the donors his receipt, with the Guardian's appreciation.

The beloved Guardian has been greatly encouraged by the reports reaching him from all parts of the world in connection with the various goals of the Ten Year Crusade. The one remaining area of service which is lagging is teaching on the home front. He sincerely hopes that all the friends will arise as never before and, while there is yet time, actively carry the banner of the Faith to new heights.

The Bahá'ís of Canada have shown great strength in their teaching work. He feels that the spiritual future of Canada is very bright. The degree to which the friends disperse and teach is the degree to which the spirit of Bahá'u'lláh will quicken all of Canada. This is the hour of dispersal, and the Guardian hopes your Assembly will be able to encourage the friends everywhere to open up new cities, towns and villages.

He will pray for the success of your work, and sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 23 February 1955

23 February 1955

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of January 16th with enclosure has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He assures you that he will pray for your health and for the success of your devoted and constant services to the Faith.

With warmest Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 3 March 1955

3 March 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Our beloved Guardian has instructed me to write you on his behalf and bring to your attention a certain matter.

He has heard from a number of sources that some of the Canadian believers have been deprived of their voting rights; and he feels that all National Spiritual Assemblies should bear in mind that this is the heaviest sanction we possess at present in the Faith, short of excommunication, which lies within the powers of the Guardian alone; and is consequently a very weighty weapon to wield.

He considers that under no circumstances should any Bahá'í ever be suspended from the voting list and deprived of his administrative privileges for a matter which is not of the utmost gravity. By that he means breaking of laws, such as the consent of parents to marriage etc., or acts of such an immoral character as to damage the good name of the Faith.

He has informed, some years ago, the American National Spiritual Assembly that, before anyone is deprived of their voting rights, they should be consulted with and lovingly admonished at first, given repeated warnings if they do not mend their immoral ways, or whatever other extremely serious misdemeanour they are committing, and finally, after these repeated warnings, be deprived of their voting rights.

He feels that a great many problems within the Communities would be solved if the believers would more constructively devote their attention to the teaching work and carrying out the provisions of the Ten Year Plan as they affect Canada. The leadership of your Assembly in these

matters will no doubt be of great help and inspiration to the friends; and he on his part will reinforce you with his prayers.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani



Letter of 11 March 1955

11 March 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dearly beloved co-workers:

The beloved Guardian is anxious to learn the exact status of the translation and publication of Bahá'í literature into various languages; the work of which was begun before the Ten Year Crusade.

The Guardian has been informed by the American National Spiritual Assembly that your Assembly has undertaken the translation of some literature into Mohawk. Will you please give me by return airmail a detailed report for the beloved Guardian?

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Loas



Letter of 20 March 1955

20 March 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has been very anxious indeed, as you know, to see the purchase of the Hazíratu'l-Quds and Temple Land in Toronto concluded at the earliest possible date. He certainly felt that both of these transactions would be concluded before the close of the present Bahá'í year. The Guardian feels the Faith will be harmed if they are not consummated promptly. He feels the prestige of the Cause is at stake.

The Guardian requests that the National Spiritual Assembly itself consider these projects the most important of any of their responsibilities at the present time, and devote such time as is necessary to their conclusions.

The Guardian has written to the American National Spiritual Assembly as per attached copy of letter, asking that they arrange to assist in every way possible in the attainment of these goals, either through advice, or the assistance of one of their expert real estate operators.

The Guardian assures you of his prayers in your behalf. He sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 20 March 1955

20 March 1955

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States
c/o Mr. Horace Holley, Secretary

Dear Horace:

The beloved Guardian has been greatly concerned over the delay in the purchase of an Hazíratu'l-Quds and the Temple land in Toronto.

The Canadian National Spiritual Assembly has the funds for these projects, but for some reason, the goals are not attained.

The Guardian has requested your Assembly to render the Canadian Assembly every assistance, either through advice or through the visit of one of your members, particularly one who has real estate experience, so that these projects can be concluded at an early date. He has been hoping they would have been concluded quite some time ago, and certainly during the present Bahá'í year. At this late date that seems very difficult; but action should be taken to conclude them as quickly as possible.

The Guardian sends his loving greetings to the members of the American National Spiritual Assembly, and assures them of his prayers in their behalf.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 5 April 1955

[From the Guardian:]

5 April 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

URGE TRANSLATE WITHOUT DELAY ARTICLE MESSAGE TO INDIANS INTO BLACKFOOT AND IROQUOIS.

SHOGHI



Letter of 23 April 1955

23 April 1955

To individual believers

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of April 10th has been received, and the beloved Guardian was very touched by the sentiments you expressed in it, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He suggests that you get in touch with Mr. John Robarts,⁵¹ and discuss with him the possibility of ... getting a job in Bechuanaland, a difficult territory, and where there are only the Robarts pioneering at present.

If the way opened, and this seemed the right move for you to take, it might lead to greater service to the Faith throughout the African area, at least the southern part of it.

If it is not possible to secure a job in Bechuanaland or neighbouring territories needing pioneers, he certainly approves of your moving to Calgary, and helping to reestablish the Assembly there.

You may be sure he will pray that your services to the Faith may be richly blessed wherever you are, and that the way may open for you to render ever greater service as time goes by. Wherever you are, you can all be of help to the Cause, in Canada with the Indians, or if possible in Africa with the Negroes.

With warmest Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

⁵¹. In 1953 they became Knights of Bahá'u'lláh when they pioneered to Bechuanaland. In 1957 John Robarts was appointed a Hand of the Cause of God. He passed away in Rawdon, Quebec in 1991. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 26 April 1955

[From the Guardian:]

26 April 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

CABLE IMMEDIATELY NAMES NEW CANADIAN ASSEMBLIES.

SHOGHI



Letter of 1 May 1955

[From the Guardian:]

1 May 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

DEEPLY APPRECIATE MESSAGE DELEGATES. URGE ENTIRE COMMUNITY EXERT SUPREME EFFORT LAST YEAR SECOND PHASE PLAN MULTIPLICATION LOCALITIES ASSEMBLIES INTENSIFICATION TEACHING ACTIVITIES PURCHASE LAND TEMPLE HAZÍRÁ INCORPORATION ASSEMBLIES TRANSLATION LITERATURE INDIAN LANGUAGES CONSOLIDATION ALLOTTED NEWLY OPENED TERRITORIES. CALL URGENT TIME SHORT RESPONSIBILITIES GREAT.

SHOGHI



Letter of 3 May 1955

3 May 1955

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of April 21st with photographs enclosed has been received, and, in spite of the fact that he is extremely busy, the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He was very happy to see that you and your husband are united in serving the Faith in Prince Edward Island, a centre which is very important, as it has been very hard to establish the Assembly there and maintain it. He hopes that you both will be instrumental in bringing in new souls, and in promoting unity amongst the believers, as this is the basis of all healthy Bahá'í community life.

He will pray for you both, for your daughter, and for your success in the teaching work.

With Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 24 May 1955

24 May 1955

To the Treasurer of the National Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your loving letter of April 27th has been received by the beloved Guardian, together with enclosures; and he has asked me to thank you for the contributions which have been made by the National Spiritual Assembly to the National Fund, likewise from various individuals, Groups and Assemblies, all of which are deeply appreciated by him. Receipts are enclosed herewith. He would appreciate your sending the receipts to the various contributors.

The entire world is saddened by the reports that have been received of the persecutions of the firm believers in Persia, the Cradle of the Faith. Certainly these persecutions will release a very strong spiritual influence throughout the world; and the Bahá'ís everywhere, outside of Persia, should arise with renewed effort, in order to take advantage of this spiritual power, and teach the Cause very vigorously. If the Faith spreads rapidly in all other parts of the world, then it will mean that the Persian believers will not have suffered in vain.

The Guardian hopes that the believers who have relative freedom will realize under what difficulties the main body of believers are serving in Persia, and will therefore arise, in

accordance with the spirit of the time, to disperse to new centres, to establish Spiritual Assemblies and to increase the Bahá'í fold.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 16 July 1955

16 July 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letters of July 12, August 15 with enclosures, October 5, 11 (two) and 26, and December 15, 1954, and February 18 (two), March 23, 31, April 6, May 3, 25, 26 1955, have been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He considers the revised criteria you sent him for the Temple and Hazíratu'l-Quds land, as outlined in your letter of December 15, satisfactory.

He is extremely anxious to have these properties purchased, either together in one place, or if this is not feasible, then in two separate places, as he has already informed you. Eight of the eleven Temple sites have been purchased, and many of them in very difficult places; and he feels very strongly that it is a great pity that Canada should be behind-hand in this matter, in view of the fact that she is one of the oldest Bahá'í Communities in the western world. No doubt the problem is more difficult for you to solve, owing to special conditions in Toronto and vicinity; but we know that all problems are solvable for the Bahá'ís, with the power of God to help them; and he is eagerly awaiting news of your success.

As regards your question about the nature of the endowment, which is one of the objectives of your part of the Ten Year Crusade: although the Maxwell house⁵² in Montreal is really a national endowment he feels in conformity to the policy being pursued in other countries Canada should acquire one also at this time. This may be a small piece of land purchased for Two Thousand Dollars or even less, or for that matter, given to the National Assembly as a gift. The important point is that Canada should have its own National Endowment, as distinguished from the school property.

The Guardian does not feel that it is possible or right to change Anticosti and to substitute another goal in its place. He fully realizes the difficulties involved; but feels convinced that sooner or later, through perseverance and prayer, a way will open and a believer will be able to get into the Island on a more-or-less permanent basis.

⁵². It was given to the Canadian Bahá'í community by Hand of the Cause Rúhíyyih Khánum in 1953.

As regards the money you have received on account of the estate of dear Fred Schopflocher:⁵³ this your Body is free to use for the purposes of the Faith, at its discretion.

He hopes that the National Assembly, through its love, wisdom, patience and leadership, will carry the members of the Canadian Community forward during the coming year on the difficult road leading to the achievement of their goals. The spirit of enthusiasm and consecration which animates the Canadian Bahá'ís will, he feels sure, bring forth a warm and generous response to all the plans made by your Assembly for obtaining your objectives.

He assures you, and through you all the members of the Canadian Community, that the work in Canada is very dear to his heart, and that he will remember you all in his loving prayers in the Holy Shrines.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

P.S. — He is very happy to see you are expediting building Mr. Schopflocher's grave. The details he leaves to the discretion of your Assembly, as he is too busy to go into such matters. The most suitable passages should be chosen from his cable regarding Freddie at the time of his death, and engraved on the tombstone of this distinguished Hand of the Cause.

As regards building the grave of Mr. Maxwell,⁵⁴ this has already been taken care of by his family. However, he thanks you for the loving offer.

He approves of your taking steps right away to erect a worthy monument on the grave of dear and heroic Marion Jack.⁵⁵

[From the Guardian:]

Dear and valued co-workers:

The steady progress of the manifold activities in which the Canadian Bahá'í Community is now so devotedly and unflaggingly engaged is a source of great joy and satisfaction to all who have, in recent years, observed its growth and noted its consolidation throughout that vast and promising Dominion.

Though some of its most capable and active members have, urged by a compelling force to forsake their homes and settle in distant fields, ceased to lend to the members of this brave and greatly consecrated community their valued support, and though a few others to be reckoned among its oldest and most distinguished supporters have passed to the Abhá Kingdom, leaving a gap difficult indeed to fill, yet the body of the Canadian believers, far from flinching or relaxing in its noble endeavours, has amply demonstrated its capacity to assume and discharge its heavy

⁵³. For a review of his "numerous, magnificent services" see The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 664–666, In Memoriam.

⁵⁴. His "saintly life" is described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 657–662, In Memoriam.

⁵⁵. Her imperishable services are recorded in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 674–677, In Memoriam.

and multiple responsibilities, has steadily enlarged the scope of its achievements, has preserved its unity, and coherence, and set an inspiring example to Bahá'í communities, both young and old, throughout all the continents of the globe.

The superb feats achieved by this community's indomitable pioneers far beyond the Arctic Circle, in neighbouring islands of both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, as well as in far off isolated territories; the incorporation of the elected body of its national representatives; the notable increase in the number of its members; its response to the urgent needs of the National Fund; and the rapid enlargement in the scope of its teaching and administrative activities, are all evidences of the intense vitality of the faith which animates it, and of the firm attachment of its members to the Cause which it has espoused.

Though much has been achieved in various fields, the work that still remains unaccomplished is so vital and urgent that none of its members can afford to relax for a moment, or to lose sight of the significance and sacredness of the immediate tasks now confronting it.

The virgin areas, so laboriously opened, must, under no circumstances, be neglected; nay rather constant attention must be focused upon them in order to consolidate the glorious historic work initiated in those areas. The island of Anticosti, the one remaining goal as yet unattained, and the only island in the Atlantic Ocean as yet unopened in pursuance of the Ten Year Plan, should continue to be the object of the special solicitude of the national elected representatives of this community. The purchase of the site of the Mother Temple of the Dominion of Canada and the establishment of the national Hazíratu'l-Quds constitute a double task that can brook no further delay, as the entire Bahá'í world, having hailed the erection of such an indispensable institution in no less than eighteen countries scattered throughout the continents and oceans of the Globe, is now intently fixing its eyes on this community, so richly blessed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, eager to witness this twofold consummation destined to considerably enrich the record of the services rendered by its members. The acceleration in the process of incorporating firmly established Local Assemblies is yet another objective to which the closest attention must be paid — a task which will, to a very great extent, contribute, from a legal standpoint, to the consolidation of these Assemblies. No less important and vital is the multiplication of isolated centres and groups, the rapid increase in the number of Local Assemblies, and the steady numerical growth of the community — the one enduring foundation on which the security and future prosperity of the community must ultimately rest.

The sudden and indeed tragic turn of events in the land of the birth of our Faith⁵⁶ must act as an unprecedented and powerful stimulus to the spirit which animates the members of the Canadian Bahá'í Community. It must not, indeed it cannot for a moment, dampen their ardour, deflect them from their purpose, or weaken their resolve to accomplish the tasks assigned to them under the Ten Year Plan.

Conscious of their inescapable, their sacred and multiple responsibilities; spurred on by the realization of the great and varied sacrifices being made, and the vicissitudes experienced, by the great mass of their long-suffering brethren in Bahá'u'lláh's native land; mindful of the prophecies made by the Centre of the Covenant regarding the spiritual and material destiny of

⁵⁶. The resurgence of persecution of the Bahá'í community in Írán during 1955 is described in *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XIII, 291–296

their country; following the noble and immortal example set by the founder⁵⁷ of their community and by the two Hands of the Cause⁵⁸ ranking among its foremost members; encouraged by their own splendid achievements in recent years; thankful for the unrestricted freedom enabling them to proclaim, unreservedly and far and wide, the fundamental verities of their Faith; and fully aware of the shortness of the time allotted to them for the performance of their arduous and mighty task, the members of the Canadian Bahá'í Community must arise, at this very hour, and evince such a wholehearted dedication to the mission they have pledged themselves to carry out as to astonish the entire Bahá'í world, and bring everlasting consolation to the hearts of the persecuted followers of the Faith in the land of its birth.

That this community may rise to this occasion, and may befittingly fulfil this glorious mission, and enrich immeasurably the record of its splendid and unforgettable achievements is the object of my constant prayer and the dearest wish of my heart.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 3 September 1955

3 September 1955

To individual believers

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has received your letter of August 8th, and has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He urges you to strive in every possible way to arrange to settle in Bechuanaland. This country should be given preference, as it is most important to place pioneers there now.

If you find, after making every effort, that you cannot accomplish this, then you should bend all your energies toward settling in one of the Rhodesias.

He deeply appreciates your devotion to the Faith, and will remember you in his ardent prayers, that you may be guided and assisted in the accomplishment of this noble undertaking.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

⁵⁷. For a review of the vast range of her contributions to the Faith in Europe and America, see The Bahá'í World Vol. VIII, 631–642, In Memoriam.

⁵⁸. Sutherland Maxwell and Siegfried Schopflocher.

May the Almighty guide your steps, remove all obstacles from your path, and enable you to fulfil your heart's desire in the service of His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 14 September 1955

14 September 1955

To the New Territories Committee

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of August 21st came duly to hand.

In the meantime the Guardian had cabled to the Bonds⁵⁹ that their return to Franklin was essential, and that his fervent prayers would accompany them.

I take it there is no further comment to be made concerning the matter, as it has been decided and determined by the Guardian.

We hope that the Bonds will have no difficulty in carrying out the Guardian's wishes in the matter. Surely with his prayers, every obstacle will be removed from their path.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 7 October 1955

7 October 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of September 16th came duly to hand with regard to the books published by the Rotary Club of the city of Akka.

⁵⁹.

I find that the dispatch of these books from Haifa was delayed, through a series of mishaps.

They have now gone forward; and I hope will reach you in good shape in due course, and be helpful to you.

With every good wish to you and all the members of the National Assembly, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 19 October 1955

19 October 1955

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your loving letter of September 21st has come duly to hand, with contributions totalling \$15. The receipts for the money are enclosed herewith. Will you please send them on to each individual, Assembly or Group, expressing the Guardian's appreciation of their gift to the International Fund.

The beloved Guardian is hopeful that all of the friends in Canada will redouble or even treble their efforts to spread the Faith promptly throughout Canada, and to build up the key cities, so that all of the goals of the Ten Year Crusade may easily be won.

He assures the National Spiritual Assembly and the Canadian Bahá'ís of his prayers in their behalf. He sends them his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas

P.S. — It is entirely satisfactory for contributions to be made to the International Fund by bank cheque.



Letter of 20 October 1955

[From the Guardian:]

20 October 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

ADVISE USE SCHOPFLOCHER FUND SEND PIONEERS GOAL AREAS PARTICULARLY ICELAND
MARQUESAS.

SHOGHI



Letter of 21 October 1955

21 October 1955

To Arthur Irwin⁶⁰

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

The beloved Guardian has received your letter of September 25th, and has instructed me to
answer you on his behalf.

As he has already cabled you, he approves of your moving to Calgary, from which point you will
be working with the Indians in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and at the same time reinforcing the
efforts of the friends in Calgary.

The teaching of the Indians is of the utmost importance. Although much contact work has been
done, yet the Red Indian believers are very few in number. The Guardian would be very happy
indeed to see a large number of the Indian race become Bahá'ís, so that the Indians may be
properly represented within the Faith.

He is most happy that you will be engaged in this work, for which you are evidently so well
qualified.

He deeply appreciates your spirit of devotion, and assures you of his prayers for the abundant
success of your labours for the Faith.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved bless, guide and sustain you, and enable you to promote the vital interests of
His Faith,

Your true brother,

⁶⁰.



Letter of 10 November 1955

10 November 1955

To the New Territories Committee

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of October 19th came duly to hand, and its contents were presented to the beloved Guardian. The Guardian has instructed me to give you the following answers to the questions which you raised:

1. Special situations exist in Alaska, in consideration of which the Guardian permitted individuals living in military establishments situated close to cities with Bahá'ís to be included in the area of the Assembly of that city.

He feels the same situation does not exist in the Yukon, and therefore does not approve of this principle for the Yukon Territory. He feels that the Bahá'ís must be resident in any city in order to be members of that Assembly.

1. The Guardian instructs that in Samoa all of the Holy Days should be celebrated in accordance with the Solar calendar, in accordance with the practice of the Western Bahá'ís. The Guardian of course has in mind that the Bahá'ís in the East follow the Lunar calendar, for certain of the Holy Days. He has in mind especially the instructions in the Aqdas with regard to the Twin Festivals. However as the Faith develops around the world there are many problems involved in the observance of certain of the Holy Days, particularly the Twin Festivals according to the Lunar Calendar.

In the future, no doubt all of the Holy Days will follow the Solar calendar, and provisions be made as to how the Twin Festivals will be celebrated universally.

As indicated above, there are many problems involved in the application of the statements concerning the Twin Festivals, which will have to be worked out by the House of Justice.

Thus for the present, in all of the western world, and in all of the virgin areas as they become settled, even if by pioneers from the East and the West, the Solar or Western calendar should be observed.

The Guardian sends you and the members of your distinguished committee his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 14 December 1955

14 December 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dearly beloved Friends:

The beloved Guardian is very anxious that the purchase of the Temple land and the Hazíratu'l-Quds be concluded at an early date.

Canada is the only country which has had funds available for both of these important projects. Eleven Temple lands were to be purchased during the Ten Year Crusade; and while funds were not available for the other Temple lands, yet nine of them have been purchased, and the tenth one is under negotiation at the present time.

The entire Bahá'í world is waiting for word that the Temple Lands goal of the Ten Year Crusade has been won — and therefore he hopes your Assembly itself will look upon this project as its most important task at the present time.

Will you please write me for the Guardian just what the present status is, and what the National Spiritual Assembly itself can do to bring these matters to a successful conclusion — both the purchase of the Temple Land — and the Hazírá.

The Guardian will pray for the success of your efforts.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 15 December 1955

15 December 1955

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has directed me to communicate with you with regard to the incorporation of Local Assemblies.

Notwithstanding three years of the Ten Year Crusade have passed, there has only been one additional Assembly incorporated.

The Guardian sees little reason why many Assemblies should not be incorporated in Canada; and hopes your Assembly will be able to deal with this matter specifically, so that the Local Assemblies may be encouraged to incorporate as rapidly as possible.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 13 January 1956

13 January 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has instructed me to write you the following:

He was sorry to hear that the piece of plaster from the walls of the Prison of Máh-kú had not been placed in the grave of Mr. Maxwell;⁶¹ and he would like the National Assembly, with the greatest of care, to see that somehow or other in the foundation of the monument this piece of plaster is carefully inserted and preserved; if necessary, the head-stone can be removed, and it can be put under it, and the head-stone rebuilt in such a way as not to damage the head-stone.

He has decided that, in view of the fact that Anticosti is so extremely difficult to get into, the Canadian Assembly can choose some other goal as substitute for Anticosti. In other words, a territory or an island in the vicinity of Canada, which has never been opened to the Faith, may be opened in the place of Anticosti, and thus the goals of the Ten Year Plan will not be decreased.⁶² On the other hand, Anticosti should be maintained as an objective; and every effort be made to get a Bahá'í in there.

At present, Mr. Allan Raynor⁶³ of your Assembly is visiting here, and, although unfortunately he has been laid up with a cold, it has been a great pleasure to have a Canadian Assembly member here.

With warmest Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani



⁶¹. His "saintly life" is described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 657–662, In Memoriam.

⁶². The Gulf Islands were later selected as a substitute for Anticosti Island, and opened by Cliff and Catherine Huxtable (1960–66).

⁶³. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 696–698, In Memoriam.

Letter of 30 January 1956

30 January 1956

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your loving letters of January 14th have been received by the Beloved Guardian, and he has directed me to respond in his behalf. The contributions made to the International Fund are greatly appreciated. Receipts are enclosed herewith. Will you please send these receipts to the donors, with a note of his appreciation.

The Cause of God is moving rapidly everywhere, especially in the foreign fields. The goals in the new countries are rapidly being won. On the home fronts, however, the Teaching work seems not to go forward, and the Guardian therefore hopes everyone at home will arise with renewed effort to teach the Faith and convey the message. Dedication, consecration, and perseverance are essential. Until the Friends become reeds through which the confirming power of the Holy Spirit may flow, the victories will not be won.

The Guardian assures you of his prayers in your behalf, and in behalf of all the Friends. He hopes they will be guided and confirmed in their work. He sends each and all his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 2 February 1956

2 February 1956

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Our beloved Guardian wishes me to thank you on his behalf for your note of January 19th and the material on teaching which you sent. It was delivered through the kindness of dear Mr. Spendlove⁶⁴ who is here at present.

He hopes that this book, which you have worked so hard to produce, will be of great help in the teaching work.

With warmest Bahá'í love,

⁶⁴. F. St. George Spendlove — a Montreal believer who served on the National Spiritual Assembly of the British Isles (1935–36), and settled in Toronto. His many services and accomplishments are described in The Bahá'í World Vol. XIII, 895–899, In Memoriam.

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 24 February 1956

[From the Guardian:]

24 February 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

APPROVE DESIGN JACK'S⁶⁵ GRAVE ALSO STAR.

SHOGHI



Letter of 10 March 1956

10 March 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has been reviewing the progress of the teaching work, particularly in the goal areas during the Ten Year Crusade.

Tremendous progress has been achieved. If the few remaining virgin goals of the Ten Year Crusade could be promptly settled, and those which were settled and again became virgin areas, could again be settled, it would be a great victory at this time.

The virgin areas coming under the jurisdiction of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly are Anticosti and Marquesas Islands. Likewise he feels it important that Greenland, Newfoundland, Mackenzie and the Yukon be reinforced.

It will be appreciated if you will let me know as promptly as possible what can be done to establish the Faith solidly in these areas.

⁶⁵. Her imperishable services are recorded in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 674 — 677, In Memoriam.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 20 March 1956

20 March 1956

To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Irwin⁶⁶

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of March 6th has been received by the beloved Guardian; and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is very happy to hear that you are going to be able to assist in the re-establishment of the Calgary Assembly, which is certainly one of the important ones of Canada.

He hopes that your presence in that city will be a means of attracting many new souls to the Faith and of founding the Community on a firmer and wider basis.

He assures you of his prayers for your success and his deep appreciation of the spirit which animates you.

With loving Naw-Rúz greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for the success of your meritorious efforts for the promotion of our beloved Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 23 March 1956

23 March 1956

To the Bahá'ís of Forest, Ontario

⁶⁶.

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian thanks you for your loving Naw-Rúz greetings, which he reciprocates.

He trusts that God will bless your efforts to teach His Cause, so that the number of the believers in your vicinity may be greatly augmented during this year.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 28 April 1956

[From the Guardian:]

28 April 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

DEEPLY APPRECIATE MESSAGE WELCOME REDEDICATION TASKS FERVENTLY SUPPLICATING
ABUNDANT BLESSINGS.

SHOGHI



Letter of 3 May 1956

3 May 1956

To Allan F. Raynor⁶⁷

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your letter of January 25th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf....

⁶⁷. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 696–698, In Memoriam.

He was very happy to have you here as his guest and as a member of the Canadian National Assembly. As you know, he cherishes bright hopes for the future of the work in Canada, and is proud of the achievements of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly to date, a young but virile body.

He hopes that you have entirely recovered from the effects of the cold you had when you were here; and he sends you and your dear family his loving greetings and his appreciation of your tireless services.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless your high endeavours, guide your steps, and aid you to promote the vital interests of His Faith and of its institutions,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 6 May 1956

6 May 1956

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of April 20th enclosing contributions from individuals, Groups and Local Assemblies in Canada was duly received. The beloved Guardian has instructed me to acknowledge it on his behalf.

Receipts are enclosed herewith. He asks that you send each individual, Group or Assembly the receipt for them.

The beloved Guardian greatly values the devoted services of the Canadian believers. With little resources they have undertaken great responsibilities and are carrying them through to a glorious victory in an exemplary manner. This is only due to their devotion and sacrifice for the Cause of God.

The Guardian assures you of his prayers in your behalf. He sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 10 June 1956

10 June 1956

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friend:

Your loving letter of May 30th was received by the Beloved Guardian, and he has directed me to acknowledge it on his behalf. Your contributions sent by Mr. ..., Mr. ..., Mr. ..., the Magdalen Islands Group and the Ottawa Local Spiritual Assembly, are greatly appreciated. Receipts are enclosed.

The spirit of the hour is teaching on the Home Fronts. Its goal can only be won by a new spirit of dedication and consecration on the part of the Friends at home. Miraculous victories are being won, in the difficult virgin areas, because the pioneers have consecrated their lives to the Noble Mission they have embarked upon. The Friends at home must display this same consecration and dedication. Never must they let a day pass, without teaching some soul, hoping that Bahá'u'lláh will cause each seed to grow. The Friends should seek pure souls, gain their confidence and then teach that person carefully until he becomes a Bahá'í — and then nurture him until he becomes a firm and active supporter of the Faith.

The Guardian assures each of you of his prayers in your behalf; that you may become a channel for the Holy Spirit, so it may quicken many souls through you.

The Guardian asks that you express his appreciation of the devotion of the Friends making these contributions. Above all he values the spirit that animates them. This spirit is the basis of true Bahá'í service. He will pray for them and the success of their work.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Loas



Letter of 26 June 1956

26 June 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your communications with their enclosures and material sent under separate cover have all been safely received by the beloved Guardian; and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf, and to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated: June 1 and 29, July 5, August 5,

September 1, October 6 (two), November 29 and December 2 (three), 1955, and January 30, February 11 and 29, May 1 (two).

The recent news that Anticosti had at last received a pioneer⁶⁸ was immensely welcome, and enabled the Guardian to take off his list one of the few remaining virgin territories (aside from those under Soviet domination) on the list of countries to be opened to the Faith under the Ten Year Plan.

The remarkable achievements of the friends during the last three years in opening the virgin areas no doubt will be looked back upon by posterity with astonishment and admiration; and the Canadian friends have certainly played an active part in this process and forged ahead in carrying out their own Plan.

He is particularly eager that Iceland should have a Bahá'í nucleus formed, a country which has for many years had the blessing of knowing about the Faith,⁶⁹ but never the blessing of resident local Bahá'ís. It deserves particular attention at this time.

The achievement of the friends in the far northern territories is a source of great pride to him; and his warm admiration surrounds the valiant pioneers who, forgetful of self, have arisen to follow 'Abdu'l-Bahá's expressed wishes.

Another achievement during the past year of the Canadian friends has been the publication of literature in Ukrainian and in some of the Indian languages. He feels sure that this will speed up their teaching work immensely amongst both of these minorities; and he hopes that more of the Bahá'ís will make a special effort to get jobs in the reservations or amongst Indian people, so that they can carry to them the Message of Bahá'u'lláh.

He was glad to know that a number of Spiritual Assemblies have been incorporated, and hopes that this process will also be accelerated during the coming months, and that all of the Assemblies that seem to have a firm foundation, however small the community may be, will take out their incorporation papers.

He hopes that it has been possible to make the arrangements to have Miss Jack's⁷⁰ grave built. This is a task which is indeed a precious trust for your Assembly. When the friends realize that her grave will become in the future a place of visitation, they will appreciate the bounty bestowed upon the Canadian Community through being able to claim one of the most distinguished of all pioneers as a member of their Community.

⁶⁸.

1.

⁶⁹. Martha Root spent a month in Iceland in 1935.

⁷⁰. Her imperishable services are recorded in The Bahá'í World Vol. XII, 674–677, In Memoriam.

It was a great pleasure to him to have Mr. Raynor,⁷¹ a member of your Assembly, as his guest here in the Holy Land, and he feels sure that this contact has forged yet another link between the Canadian Bahá'ís and the World Centre.

Regarding various matters raised in your letters: there is nothing in the Teachings to prevent a Bahá'í from willing his body for medical research after death. However, it should be made clear that the remains must be buried eventually and not cremated, as this is according to Bahá'í law.

He was very sorry to hear of the prolonged inharmony in the ... Bahá'í Community.... Some of the younger believers, from letters and reports received here, seem to lack a firm grounding on such matters as the Will and Testament and the deeper spiritual teachings of the Faith. Whenever the grasp of these fundamentals is weak, the friends are almost sure to pay undue attention to secondary procedures, to quibble over details, to lose themselves in personalities, and to founder in a sea of unnecessary inharmony. This has nothing to do with their devotion, their loyalty, their zeal, their eagerness to serve. It is merely a question of not having received, perhaps through lack of sufficient teachers to carry on the all-important work of deepening the friends in their own faith, a strong enough education in the Covenant before the duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Order were thrust upon them.

He has the greatest confidence in the abilities, and the loyalty and devotion of the Canadian friends. They have proved themselves over and over again, and distinguished their community through acts of great sacrifice, vision, courage and devotion. He hopes that, during the coming year, your Assembly will be able to send out more teachers, to assist the friends in grasping the fundamentals of the Faith, in uniting them, and stimulating their desire to do more in the teaching field. If the supply of teachers is limited in Canada — and the area to be covered is certainly vast! — perhaps your Sister Assembly in the United States can help through lending visiting teachers.

He assures all the members of the National Assembly of his loving prayers for the success of your indefatigable labours.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

P.S. — As regards the question about a person who is mentally ill attending the Feasts, anybody who is well enough mentally to attend a Bahá'í Feast and understand what it is all about is certainly well enough to be a voting member. Only people who are very seriously deranged mentally and confined to institutions or under constant supervision should be deprived of their voting rights.

Regarding your question of applying the sanction of suspension of voting rights to people who marry without the consent of parents, this should be done from now on. The law of the Aqdas is explicit and not open to any ambiguity at all. As long as the parents are alive, the consent must be obtained; it is not conditioned on their relationship to their children. If the whereabouts of the parents is not known legally, in other words, if they are legally dead, then it is not necessary for

⁷¹. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 696–698, In Memoriam.

the children to obtain their consent, obviously. It is not a question of the child not knowing the present whereabouts of its parents, it is a question of a legal thing — if the parents are alive, they must be asked.

As regards the question of alcohol, the Guardian explained this to Mr. Raynor,⁷² and he feels that his understanding of it is quite correct. The Assemblies must be wise and gentle in dealing with such cases, but at the same time must not tolerate a prolonged and flagrant disregard of the Bahá'í Teachings as regards alcohol.

[From the Guardian:]

Dear and valued co-workers:

The Canadian Bahá'í Community, whose members are so valiantly participating in the furtherance of the World Spiritual Crusade, now claiming the attention of the entire body of followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in all continents of the globe, has ever since the inception of this world-embracing enterprise, proved itself capable of carrying its share of responsibility in the accomplishment of this collective, colossal task, and has rendered services that have enriched the annals of the Faith, not only in a land so dear to the heart of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, but in far-off islands and territories which it is the mission of this Community to illuminate and conquer.

Ever since the emergence of this progressive, youthful and dynamic community, as an independent entity, and particularly since the inception of the Ten Year Plan, it has demonstrated, on several occasions, those qualities which alone can provide the guarantee of success in carrying out, as a worthy ally of her sister community in the Great Republic of the West, the sacred and historic Mission assigned to it by the Author of the Tablets of the Divine Plan. The staunchness of the faith of its members, their unyielding resolve, their ceaseless efforts, their willingness to sacrifice, their exemplary loyalty, their steadfast courage, have, time and again, been strikingly displayed, and served to fortify the hopes which I have always cherished for their future destiny.

The vastness of the field in which this firmly knit, irresistibly advancing, steadily consolidating community now operates, stretching as it does from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard, and touching, on the one hand, the fringes of the Arctic Region, and extending, on the other, as far as the islands of the South Pacific, contrasts with the extremely restricted area, in which, for so many years, and until recently, the administrative activities of this community were confined. The diversity and multiplicity of the enterprises in which it finds itself now engaged, the manner in which it is consolidating its strength, enlarging its membership, safeguarding the unity of its members, and noising abroad its fame, may be regarded as additional evidences of its spiritual vigour, and of its rapid rise to maturity at so significant a period in the evolution of the Faith throughout the Western Hemisphere.

At this crucial hour, when the Plan to which this highly promising community stands committed is entering on the third phase in its unfoldment, the responsibilities confronting its members are at once manifold, pressing and inescapable. The situation on the homefront, so

⁷². See The Bahá'í World Vol. XVIII, 696–698, In Memoriam.

extensive and so varied in character, calls for careful consideration and energetic action on the part of your Assembly. The steady increase in the number of those enlisted under the banner of the Faith must be paralleled by a multiplication of Assemblies, groups and isolated centres. The incorporation of all firmly established Assemblies must simultaneously be accelerated. The virgin areas now opened, and particularly Anticosti, Greenland, Iceland and Franklin, as well as those territories deprived recently of the benefits of a resident pioneer, must be made the object of the special attention and solicitude of your Assembly, for upon the preservation of these hard-won prizes must depend the ultimate triumph of this community's collective and historic task, and the enhancement of the prestige it has deservedly won in recent years throughout the Bahá'í world.

Of equal importance is the strenuous yet highly meritorious obligation to add, steadily and rapidly, to the number of the American Indian and Eskimo adherents of the Faith, and to ensure their active participation in both the teaching and administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity — a task so clearly emphasized by the Pen of the Centre of the Covenant, and in the consummation of which the Canadian Bahá'í Community is destined to play so conspicuous a part.

Above all, the utmost endeavour should be exerted by your Assembly to familiarize the newly enrolled believers with the fundamental and spiritual verities of the Faith, and with the origins, the aims and purposes, as well as the processes of a divinely appointed Administrative Order, to acquaint them more fully with the history of the Faith, to instil in them a deeper understanding of the Covenants of both Bahá'u'lláh and of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, to enrich their spiritual life, to rouse them to a greater effort and a closer participation in both the teaching of the Faith and the administration of its activities, and to inspire them to make the necessary sacrifices for the furtherance of its vital interests. For as the body of the avowed supporters of the Faith is enlarged, and the basis of the structure of its Administrative Order is broadened, and the fame of the rising community spreads far and wide, a parallel progress must be achieved, if the fruits already garnered are to endure, in the spiritual quickening of its members and the deepening of their inner life.

The duties incumbent upon this community, and particularly its elected national representatives, multiply with every passing day. Heavy is the burden they carry. Rich and immense are the possibilities stretching before them. Priceless are the rewards which a befitting discharge of their multiple responsibilities must bring in its wake. Boundless are the favours and bestowals which a loving and watchful Providence is ready to confer upon those who will arise to meet the challenge of the present hour.

May the members of this community, as well as its elected representatives, consecrate themselves anew to the mission which 'Abdu'l-Bahá has conferred upon them, and immortalize their stewardship to the Faith of His Father through acts which future generations will unanimously acclaim and for which they will feel eternally grateful.

Shoghi



Letter of 1 July 1956

1 July 1956

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of June 20th has come to hand, and the Guardian has directed me to acknowledge it on his behalf. The contributions to the International Fund are greatly appreciated. Receipts are enclosed herewith, which please send to the donors with the appreciation of the Guardian; especially the pioneers in the Magdalen Islands, and in Newfoundland. He has written a letter directly to Mr. Harrison,⁷³ in which he has acknowledged the gift made in behalf of his wife, for the work in Africa.

The work of the Canadian Bahá'ís is exemplary, and through their sacrificial devotion, many victories are being won for the Faith. He is hopeful, that the new Bahá'í Year we are entering will see rapid spread of the Faith in Canada, with Groups being developed into Assemblies, Isolated Centres into Groups, and many new Centres opened.

The Guardian assures you of his prayers in your behalf. He sends loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Ioas



Letter of 1 July 1956

1 July 1956

To Ernest Harrison⁷⁴

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

The Beloved Guardian has received your kind gift to be used for the progress of the Faith in Africa. He has directed me to acknowledge it on his behalf, and to inform you that it will be used as you wish, in memory of your dear wife. Receipt is enclosed herewith.

The Beloved Guardian wishes you to know how deeply he cherishes and values your long and devoted services to the Cause of God. You are one of the pioneers of the Faith in Canada, in the days of the Beloved Master. Now you are pioneering in a virgin area, in the days of the Guardian,

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who is striving so diligently to fulfil all the Master's instructions; especially in the teaching field. Well is it with you, that you have arisen to win the goals the Master has set before us. The Guardian is sure the Master will both guide and confirm you in this noble mission.

The Guardian assures you of his prayers in your behalf; that every obstacle will be overcome, and you win many souls to the Water of Life, and Eternal Salvation, through the Outpourings of the Holy Spirit, through Bahá'u'lláh. He sends you his loving Greetings.

The Guardian feels this gift for the African work, made in the name of your wife, will give her great happiness in the realms beyond. It will be a means for the progress of her soul in the Abhá Kingdom. He assures you of his prayers in her behalf, and for the progress of her soul.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Loas



Letter of 30 July 1956

30 July 1956

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of June 25 has been received, and the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

As regards the questions you have asked:

We should try not to introduce any set patterns into our teaching methods; however, if this form of group meditation produces unity and a deeper understanding of the teachings, he sees no reason why it should be not used at least in the beginning of a teaching class — providing the people want to, like it, and fully understand it has nothing to do with the teachings of the Faith, but is a method which sometimes proves helpful.

Fruitless sciences is what Bahá'u'lláh refers to, like metaphysical hair splittings, and other abstract things carried to the extreme.

The friends should be encouraged not to waste time on such things as astrology, etc., which you mention. They cannot be forbidden to do so. The exercise of our free will to choose to do the right thing is much more important.

There is no "grace" in the Bahá'í teachings; the Guardian doubts if the words are those of the Báb, they may be, but, unless he saw the source in the original, he could not be sure.

You should try to reactivate those you taught, but if there continues to be no response you had better concentrate on more receptive souls. He thinks your teaching efforts have been very fruitful, and you should be very happy.

He feels you should consult with the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly as to whether you could do more good by pioneering or remaining where you are, presenting to them your situation in detail, as they best know the needs of the Faith in Canada at the present time.

He will certainly pray that your labours may continue to be blessed, and you may confirm many more people in our beloved Faith.

With warmest Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved aid you to deepen your understanding of the essential verities of His Faith, remove every obstacle from your path, and enable you to win great victories in the service of His glorious Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 25 August 1956

25 August 1956

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of August 16th has been received by the beloved Guardian. He has asked me to acknowledge it on his behalf. The contribution you have made to the International Fund is greatly appreciated. Receipt is enclosed.

The Guardian has been following your teaching activities in Canada with interest, through reports being received. It is most encouraging to get your word of the confirmation of six souls, and great interest on the part of others, who may also become Bahá'ís. This indicates the wisdom of visiting teachers, who will settle for a time in a goal city or area, so the fruits of their labours are developed. Too often our teachers enter a city, assist the local friends, stir up interest, and then leave, before the results are known. The Guardian hopes more teachers may be able to remain in a city, until the fruit is garnered.

The Guardian is happy also that you are to devote time now in the southern States, which are so pregnant with the clamour of interracial unity. If properly taught to the seeking Negro, many

souls will enter the Faith. The Guardian hopes you will be most successful, so a new movement may take place in the teaching work in the South, which has lagged so badly of late.

The Guardian will pray for the success of your work, that many seeking souls may find eternal life through your sacrificial and devoted services.

The Guardian sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Loas



Letter of 16 September 1956

16 September 1956

To Ernest V. Harrison⁷⁵

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

The beloved Guardian has received your letter of August 11th, and has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He wants you to know he deeply appreciates your services and your example as an old Bahá'í in going forth to pioneer and settle and labour for the Faith in such an important and difficult Province.

The work of the pioneers is very close to his heart, and he remembers you in his loving prayers, that Bahá'u'lláh may strengthen and guide you, and enable you to meet and teach those of His servants in that land whose hearts will be receptive to the news of His appearance.

With warmest Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani



Letter of 10 October 1956

10 October 1956

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

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Your loving letter of September 1st has been received by the Beloved Guardian, and he has directed me to acknowledge it on his behalf. The contribution of the National Assembly, and various Assemblies, Groups, and Individuals, to the International Fund is greatly appreciated. Receipts are enclosed. Will you please send them on to the dear friends, etc.

The Guardian is urgently anticipating word of the renewed teaching efforts of the Friends on the "Home Front", where a stirring impetus is needed. The world is today seeking; the Faith is the goal of their search; the Friends are the light bearers, showing the way to the Kingdom. If the Friends do not arise with enthusiasm and vigour and their light is not burning brightly; then the world suffers, and the Faith as well.

The Guardian assures the Assembly of his prayers in their behalf. He sends to each, his loving Greeting.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 20 October 1956

20 October 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

In reading the minutes of the June National Spiritual Assembly meeting which the Guardian recently received he noticed something which he wishes to call to the attention of the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly.

He feels that to distribute Bahá'í pamphlets from door to door, as prepared by [a Local Spiritual Assembly], is undignified and might create a bad impression of the Faith. No doubt, it is the eagerness and devotion of the friends there that led them to make this proposal, but he does not think the best interests of the Cause are served by such a method. Please inform them of this in a loving way.

With the assurance of his prayers for the success of the Assembly's work,

Yours in His service,

R. Rabbani



Letter of 3 December 1956

3 December 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

The Beloved Guardian has directed me to write you concerning the Temple Land for the Temple in Canada.

He would like you to send me a report just as quickly as possible, of the present status of this important matter.

Has the land been purchased, and if so when, and what is the cost.

If it has not been purchased, when will it be accomplished.

Your early full advice will be appreciated by him.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 14 December 1956

14 December 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

The Beloved Guardian has directed me to write you, that he feels it is time for the Canadian Bahá'ís, in their teaching work, to concentrate, to the extent possible, on bringing Catholics into the Faith.

There are the vast number of French Canadians who are of Catholic persuasion. They would make fine Bahá'ís, and if representative members could be brought into the Faith, it will add prestige to the Faith, and help solidify its institutions.

Thus, to the extent possible, the friends should do what they can to attract Catholics and then confirm them in the Faith.

He sends the members of the National Assembly his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Ioas



Letter of 20 December 1956

20 December 1956

To individual believers

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian was pleased to see the work is going well in the new territories, and particularly to see the post mark "Saint Pierre & Miquelon" on your post card of October 22nd.

He is happy to know that Mrs. Pawlowska⁷⁶ is continuing her valuable pioneer service there, to which he attaches great importance.

He assures you both of his loving prayers for the success of your devoted labours.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved, Whose Cause you promote with such splendid devotion, constancy and vigilance, reward you for your past achievements, and enable you to enrich the record of your meritorious services to His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 22 December 1956

22 December 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

⁷⁶ Ola Pawlowska — Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands (1953–58), later pioneered to Luxembourg, Poland and Congo (Zaire).

I have been instructed on behalf of our beloved Guardian to answer the questions raised in your recent letter.

There are two things which he wishes to impress upon you. The first is that depriving people of their voting rights is the heaviest sanction which can be imposed at the present time (with the exception of excommunication, which is a right the Guardian has never permitted anyone else to exercise). Therefore, the greatest care should be exerted to try and remedy a situation before depriving anybody of their voting rights, and the action itself should only be taken if absolutely necessary.

The other point is that the Guardian is very anxious that no more rules and regulations should be introduced by any National Spiritual Assemblies. He has continually impressed this upon the American, the British and other National Bodies. The spirit of the Cause will be stifled, the initiative of the friends killed, and the teaching work come to a stand-still if the friends are continually hemmed in by instructions. In view of this, he has instructed the National Bodies to deal with each case as it arises.

The understanding conveyed in the quotation from Principles of Bahá'í Administration is correct; also people who are deprived of their voting rights should not receive Bahá'í News or Bulletins, as they are no longer active in the administrative affairs of the Faith.

He is very happy at present to have a member⁷⁷ of your Assembly visiting Haifa, and hopes that Miss Harvey will carry back to you a fresh impetus from the Holy Land, which will assist the Canadian Assembly members in carrying on their many heavy burdens in the service of the Faith.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani



Letter of 27 December 1956

27 December 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The Beloved Guardian has directed me to write you concerning the important matter of teaching the minorities of Canada.

He has spoken in some detail to Miss Harvey⁷⁸ concerning the subject, and she can and will amplify this communication.

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He feels it most important that active work be done in connection with the French Canadians, Eskimos, and Indians. You are also now actively in touch with the Poles and Ukrainians in your country.

In order to intensify this work, the Guardian feels you should establish a Minorities Teaching Committee, with sub-committees to specialize in the teaching of the French Canadians, Eskimos, and Indians. As the work spreads, you can add other sub-committees, such as one for Eastern Europe, or the countries under active consideration. In other words, sub-committees might be formed for regional areas of the globe, where their people form a goodly number of inhabitants of Canada.

Thus you would now have a Minorities Committee, with sub-committees to specialize in the teaching work of the Eskimos, another sub-committee for the Indians, another for the French Canadians, and another one for the Poles and Ukrainians.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Loas



Letter of 27 December 1956

27 December 1956

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The Beloved Guardian has directed me to write you concerning the manner of reporting information to him of the Bahá'í population of Canada.

In such reports sent him of the Assemblies, Groups, and Isolated Centres, as well as the number of Bahá'ís, in Canada, you should not include data concerning the virgin areas without Canada such as Baranof Island, Greenland, etc. These should be kept separately, and reported separately to him.

Later, it will be decided just what National Bodies these virgin areas will report to, but for the present, they are to be considered independent administrative units, under the direction of the appropriate national body set up in the Ten Year Crusade, but not a part of the Bahá'í population of Canada.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 15 January 1957

15 January 1957

To individual believers

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of December 31st with enclosure has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He was very happy to see what you have been able to achieve on your recent teaching trip.

He feels that the work in Canada is certainly very urgent, and hopes that you will be able to assist on the Home Front. However, if you have to make a choice between teaching at a summer school or going to Austria and helping with the work there, he would certainly recommend Austria. The prospects are good in many towns there at present; and the help of a German-speaking Bahá'í, who can give a lecture and who has the added attraction of coming from far away, would undoubtedly lend an impetus to the work at this time.

He does not advise your trying to get into any of the Iron Curtain countries at this point, owing to the international situation.

Assuring you of his loving prayers and his deep appreciation of your united and tireless services to the Faith,

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved of our hearts, Whose Cause you promote with such assiduous care, exemplary devotion and perseverance, reward you for your meritorious labours, and enable you to enrich the record of your various accomplishments in the service of His glorious Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 26 January 1957

26 January 1957

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of January 7th was duly received by the Guardian, and he has directed me to acknowledge it in his behalf. The contributions of the Friends in Canada are greatly appreciated. Receipts are enclosed, which please send on to the individuals, groups, and Assemblies, with the Guardian's appreciation.

The Guardian is ever hopeful the Friends "at home" will arise with the same ardour, dedication, and selflessness as those in the pioneering fields. When this is done, the Faith will grow on the home front, to the same extent as in the virgin areas.

He hopes your Assembly will be able to stimulate the Friends to loftier goals, and more dedicated service; so the reservoir of the home front may be richly replenished with new souls anxious to carry the Faith to new horizons.

The Guardian will pray for you, and for the success of your work. He sends loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Ioas



Letter of 2 February 1957

2 February 1957

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of January 17th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is very sorry that it will not be possible to have you make the pilgrimage in August or September; and hopes that, at some future date, if you see your way to coming during the winter months you will let him know, and he will put your name on the list. Let him know however well in advance, as there are many friends waiting to come.

He was very happy to know that you are in Labrador, and hopes you are able to teach the Faith there.

Assuring you of his loving prayers for your success,

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved bless, guide and sustain you, and enable you to promote the vital interests of His Faith, and win memorable victories in its service,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 7 February 1957

7 February 1957

To the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Ottawa

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of January 26th has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He was very happy to hear of the response of the Ottawa Community to the messages which Miss Winnifred Harvey⁷⁹ conveyed to them. It makes a great difference to make the personal contact of a returning pilgrim, and the Guardian feels sure that many of the friends would arise and do pioneer work if they grasped the privilege and the importance of it. The contact with a visitor from Haifa is naturally a vivid experience, and he feels sure will be a great stimulation to not only the Ottawa friends but others.

He appreciates very deeply your sending him the maps, and will be happy to receive them.

Please convey to those who have responded to the teaching call his sincere appreciation.

He assures you one and all of his loving prayers for the success of your devoted labours.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless your efforts, guide your steps, and aid you and your co-workers to win great victories in the service of His Faith,

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Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 30 March 1957

30 March 1957

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer certain matters raised in your recent correspondence with him.

He is delighted to see that substantial progress is being made in Samoa. It is too early for him to say under whose administrative jurisdiction the Samoan Bahá'ís will come in the future. It will probably be Australia, but at the present time, these things have not been definitely settled.

People who have withdrawn from the Cause because they no longer feel that they can support its Teachings and Institutions sincerely are not Covenant-breakers — they are non-Bahá'ís and should just be treated as such. Only those who ally themselves actively with known enemies of the Faith who are Covenant-breakers, and who attack the Faith in the same spirit as these people, can be considered, themselves, to be Covenant-breakers. As you know, up to the present time, no one has been permitted to pronounce anybody a Covenant-breaker but the Guardian himself.

With warm Bahá'í greetings, and assuring you all of his prayers for the success of your important work,

R. Rabbani



Letter of 30 April 1957

30 April 1957

To the friends who were present on the first day of Ridván in Hamilton

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The Beloved Guardian thanks you for your loving Ridván greetings, which he heartily reciprocates.

He hopes that the work in Hamilton and its vicinity will advance rapidly during the coming year, and that, through the efforts of the Hamilton Bahá'ís, a new Spiritual Assembly in that region will come into existence by next Ridván. This might well be your private one year plan!

He will pray for your success in the Holy Shrines.

With loving greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved bless, guide and sustain you, aid you to extend the range of your valued services, and win great victories in the days to come,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 17 May 1957

17 May 1957

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of May 2nd, was duly received by the Beloved Guardian and he has directed me to acknowledge it in his behalf.

Enclosed are receipts for the contributions made to the International Fund. Will you please send these on to the donors with the Guardian's appreciation.

The Guardian is well pleased with the active teaching work of the Canadian Believers. He hopes that they will redouble their efforts however because the world is being shaken to its foundations and the people are seeking. If the Bahá'ís will arise as never before to teach the Cause they will find many listeners and many will find eternal life through their sacrificial efforts.

The Guardian will pray for you, for the members of the National Assembly and for the success of the teaching work throughout Canada.

He sends his loving greetings to you.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy Ioas



Letter of 21 May 1957

21 May 1957

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter dated May 9, 1957, with enclosures, has been received, and the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He has read your letter and the sheets of correspondence with the European Teaching Committee which you enclosed, and he feels that you are not seeing the situation in a clear light; according to the Administrative Order laid down by the Master it is the bodies responsible for the work who bear the full responsibility. Now that you have in full detail acquainted the European Teaching Committee — and through them the American National Spiritual Assembly — with the situation as you see it, your duty is done, and you should stop worrying over the Cause there and leave the entire matter to the new National Spiritual Assembly for Scandinavia and Finland. In fact, as this entire situation has upset you so deeply, he advises you to pioneer elsewhere, if not in Europe then on the Home Front in Canada, where the need is also great. As the European Teaching Committee is willing to pay your fare home he thinks this may be the best plan for you. As I said, Canada needs workers very much at this time.

Of course, if you get a favourable reply regarding Spitsbergen that would have first priority as far as your future plans go. However, as it is exceedingly difficult to get in there, particularly, he understands for a woman, to return to Canada will probably be your wisest course of action.

He deeply appreciates the spirit of service which animates you, and will pray for the success of your future work for our beloved Faith.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Beloved bless your efforts, guide your steps, and aid you to promote the vital interests of His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 4 June 1957

4 June 1957

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The Beloved Guardian has noted your letter of February 15th, addressed to the National Teaching Committee, other committees and Local Assemblies giving advice concerning Teaching methods in Canada.

The Beloved Guardian noted that in paragraph 3 you mention that no teachers have the authority to interpret more accurately than others: that every teacher is bound to interpret to some degree but the more he appreciates the Faith, the less will he be inclined to be dogmatic, etc.

The Guardian feels that this paragraph will cause great confusion amongst the friends.

The Will and Testament of Bahá'u'lláh and the Will and Testament of the Master clearly and explicitly indicate that the Interpreter of the Word was the Centre of the Covenant and now is the Guardian. There are no other Interpreters whatsoever and no individual may interpret. This is strictly forbidden.

No doubt the intent of this paragraph was to indicate that the Bahá'í teachers in making explanation of Divine Truths must give their understanding of the Divine Truths: explanations that have been clarified for them in study classes, summer schools, etc.

Divine Truth is relative and that is why we are enjoined to constantly refer the seeker to the Word itself — and why any explanations we make to ease the journey of the soul of any individual must be based on the Word and the Word alone.

If there is a wide divergence in the understandings of the Friends of the Teachings then the National Assembly should arrange for study classes on such points — and particularly the Summer Schools.

The Guardian feels the letter of February 15th should be withdrawn.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 7 July 1957

7 July 1957

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your letter of June 10th has been received, and the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He advises you not to make a teaching trip around the world, as the results of such a trip would not justify the expense it would entail.

He feels you should concentrate on northern European countries and Austria, staying longer, and visiting the small places as well as the larger ones where Bahá'ís reside.

Those Bahá'ís who have not yet made the pilgrimage have priority. However, he hopes at a future date it will be possible for you to come.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless your noble endeavours, guide and sustain you in your meritorious and constant activities, and enable you to extend the range of your splendid services and accomplishments,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 18 July 1957

18 July 1957

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your Assembly's communications with their enclosures have all arrived safely, and the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf, and to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated: June 28, August 26, September 25 and December 7, 14 and 17, 1956, and February 15, March 19 and 21, May 15 and

As many of the questions mentioned in your letters have been answered, I will not repeat them here.

It is a pity that the Canadian believers are having so much difficulty settling the question of both their Temple land and their National Headquarters. He was very surprised and distressed to learn that the Temple site you had chosen has entirely fallen through, and that you have to begin all over again looking for a Temple site. He feels that your Assembly should appreciate the fact that the important thing at this time is to acquire a Temple site. It does not have to be a very large piece of land, and, if the worst comes to the worst, at a future date, when the time comes to build a Temple in Canada, it can be exchanged or sold and a better site procured; but the question for this present National Body to settle once and for all is the purchase of a Temple plot as a beginning in order to remove from the Ten Year Plan one of its most important goals, and one the accomplishment of which has been dragging too long. He feels that your Assembly should also look around for a suitable and permanent Hazíratu'l-Quds in Toronto, and try and dispose of the one you have without loss, if possible, in order to enable you to acquire the new and he hopes permanent one at once.

As regards the matter of those who have withdrawn from the Faith on the west coast: as you know, no one has the right to excommunicate anybody except the Guardian of the Faith, himself. Those people who have withdrawn from the Faith, though critical of it and disgruntled, are not necessarily Covenant-breakers. If they were associating with Ahmad Sohrab⁸⁰ and upholding his claims actively, then they would come into an entirely different category. If this is the case, you should inform the Guardian, but otherwise the friends should be advised to just leave these people alone, for their influence can be nothing but negative and destructive, and the less they breathe the breath, so to speak, of those who have turned their back on the light of this Faith, the better.

It is not enough to bring people into the Faith, one must educate them and deepen their love for it and their knowledge of its teachings, after they declare themselves. As the Bahá'ís are few in number, especially the active teachers, and there is a great deal of work to be done, the education of these new believers is often sadly neglected, and then results are seen such as the resignations you have had recently. In this respect, the Summer Schools can be of the greatest help to the friends, new and old Bahá'ís alike, for in them they can study, and enjoy the feeling of Bahá'í companionship which is, alas, usually lacking in their home communities, owing to the smallness of their numbers.

He is very happy to see that the friends are making every effort to execute the provisions of the Ten Year Plan, as they apply to the Canadian Community. The most urgent of all tasks facing them in connection with the execution of their part of the Ten Year Plan is to increase the number of Spiritual Assemblies.

The Bahá'ís should realize that today's intensely materialistic civilization, alas, most perfectly exemplified by the United States, has far exceeded the bounds of moderation, and, as Bahá'u'lláh has pointed out in His Writings, civilization itself, when carried to extremes, leads to destruction. The Canadian friends should be on their guard against this deadly influence to which they are so constantly exposed, and which we can see is undermining the moral strength of not only America, but indeed of Europe and other parts of the world to which it is rapidly spreading.

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The fortuitous combination of British solidity and good judgement and American get-up-and-go and enthusiasm, which has characterized Canada, must not be lost in the Canadian Bahá'í Community. Its members must demonstrate their outstanding abilities, and, through a greater vision, more consecration and renewed self-sacrifice, arise and attain their goals.

He is very happy over the work in the Pacific region in general, and was glad to receive word recently of the formation of the Samoan Assembly, a feat of which your Assembly can be duly proud. However, the situation in the Marquesas needs immediate attention, and every effort should be exerted to reinforce the work initiated there, at the cost of much self-sacrifice, by the first pioneer.⁸¹

The work in the north should likewise be consolidated, and every effort made to get more pioneers to join those heroic souls already labouring in such an infertile field. This applies equally to Labrador and Greenland, where Bill Carr,⁸² the lone Canadian pioneer, is demonstrating the Bahá'í spirit in such an exemplary manner. It is hard for the friends to appreciate, when they are isolated in one of these goal territories, and see that they are making no progress in teaching others, are living in inhospitable climes for the most part, and are lonesome for Bahá'í companionship and activity, that they represent a force for good, that they are like a light-house of Bahá'u'lláh shining at a strategic point and casting its beam out into the darkness. This is why he so consistently urges these pioneers not to abandon their posts. Apropos of this, he hopes that it will again be possible in the near future to get someone into Anticosti. It is a great pity that the friend⁸³ who went there could not remain.

The beloved Guardian sends all the members of your Assembly his loving greetings and assures you all of his ardent prayers for your success.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Dear and valued co-workers:

The opening of the second year of the third phase of the Ten Year Bahá'í spiritual Crusade presents the entire Canadian Bahá'í Community, and, particularly, its elected representatives, with an opportunity, and brings them face to face with a challenge, unique since its inception over half a century ago.

The achievements that have distinguished the record of its stewardship, ever since its founding, and particularly since the launching of the World Bahá'í Crusade, both on the homefront and

⁸¹. Greta Jankko — Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for the Marquesas Islands (1954). See *The Bahá'í World* Vol. XV, 543–545, In Memoriam.

⁸². From 1958 to 1963 Mrs. Kaya Holck, a Danish believer, pioneered among the Greenlanders.

⁸³.

beyond its confines, have been such as to ennoble the annals of the Faith to which it is so wholeheartedly dedicated, and to arouse in the hearts of all those who have watched, throughout succeeding decades, its rise, its emergence into independent existence, and its rapid consolidation, feelings of profound admiration, of pride and of thankfulness.

The distance that has been traversed, in the course of the four brief years since the inauguration of the Ten Year Plan, by a community, still highly restricted in numbers and circumscribed in resources, and faced with tremendous responsibilities, as a result of the colossal task it has willingly shouldered, is admittedly great, and augurs well for its further advancement along the path traced for it by the pen of the Centre of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant in His immortal Tablets.⁸⁴

The utmost care and vigilance, however, should be exercised by this youthful and dynamic community, so richly laden with the prizes it has so deservedly won, lest the momentum, so painstakingly gained in recent years, in both the teaching and administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity, be lost or reduced. The standard of dedication and of efficiency, attained, while pursuing the goals it has pledged itself to achieve, must never be allowed, through apathy, neglect or faint-heartedness, to be lowered. The vision that has fired its members, on the occasion of the centenary celebrations which witnessed the launching of the Ten Year Plan must, no matter how prolonged or arduous the task, never grow dim. Their unswerving fidelity to the Covenant established by the Author of their Faith, and their attachment to the ideals and precepts enshrined in His Revelation, should, under no circumstances, no matter how active and subtle the machinations of its enemies, both within and without, be weakened. The momentous and highly exacting task, initiated far beyond the confines of their homeland — a task which posterity will recognize as the opening chapter of their glorious Mission overseas — must be pursued with undiminished diligence, nay with redoubled zeal, and renewed determination and dedication. The no less vital obligation to expand, and consolidate the manifold activities conducted on the homefront, from the Atlantic to the Pacific seaboard, and from the northern confines of the Great Republic of the West to the fringes of the Arctic Ocean, must be faithfully discharged. The setbacks and difficulties that have, unexpectedly and most unfortunately, been recently experienced in connection with the acquisition of both the national Hazíratu'l-Quds and the site of the future Mother Temple of Canada, must be faced with resolution and vigour, and a definite and permanent solution be found which will ensure the full attainment of these twofold primary objectives. The long overdue conversion of the American Indians, the Eskimos and French Canadians, as well as the representatives of other minorities permanently residing within the borders of that vast Dominion, must receive, in the months immediately ahead, such an impetus as to astonish and stimulate the members of all Bahá'í communities throughout the length and breadth of the Western Hemisphere. The independent character of the Faith they profess and champion must, moreover, be fully vindicated through a closer adherence, on the part of the rank and file of the believers, to its distinguishing tenets and precepts, as well as through a fuller recognition by the civil authorities⁸⁵ concerned of the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate and of the Bahá'í Holy Days. The integrity of the fundamental teachings of the Faith, its security,

⁸⁴. The Tablets of the Divine Plan, revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in 1916–17, and addressed severally to the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada, constitute the authority for the successive Plans inaugurated by the Guardian for the spread of the Faith and the establishment of its Institutions throughout the world.

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the healthy and steady development, and ultimate fruition, of its nascent institutions, must, above all, be ensured and safeguarded, for upon these will depend the consummation of the Mission with which the Author of the Tablets of the Divine Plan has chosen to entrust them.

The few remaining years, separating the steadfast and high-minded members of the Canadian Bahá'í Community, striving so assiduously to achieve their goals, from the time fixed for the termination of a swiftly unfolding Crusade, are rapidly slipping by. A community which, ever since its inception, has, through the instrumentality of its most distinguished members, and particularly its founder⁸⁶ and those nearest to her, as well as a number of her spiritual children and associates, won such prizes at the World Centre of the Faith, in Latin America, in Europe, in Africa and in the Pacific area — such a community, at this crucial hour, cannot afford to either stand still, falter or hesitate. As this World Crusade sweeps majestically forward and draws nearer to its close, exploits, as superb as those its sons and daughters have successively achieved in widely scattered areas of the globe, must continue to distinguish and ennoble the imperishable record of its services.

'Abdu'l-Bahá's prophetic words regarding the future of its homeland, spiritually as well as materially — the initial evidences of which are becoming more apparent every day, must not be lost sight of for a moment, however exacting and all-absorbing the strenuous task ahead, however complex the problems its prosecution involves, however burdensome the preoccupations which it must needs engender.

Afire with that same love that burned so brightly in the hearts of its earliest pioneers, holding fast to the strong cord of the spiritual precepts and administrative principles of the Faith it has so whole-heartedly espoused, confident of its ability to achieve, in its entirety, the Mission entrusted to it by the Author of the Tablets of the Divine Plan, this community must forge ahead, with undeviating loyalty, with indomitable courage, with unbreakable unity, and exemplary consecration, striving to scale loftier heights, and widening constantly the range of its operations, on the American mainland as well as in neighbouring and distant islands, until each and every objective of its allotted task has been triumphantly attained.

Shoghi



Letter of 2 September 1957

[From the Guardian:]

2 September 1957

To the Western Canadian Conference

ASSURE LOVING FERVENT PRAYERS SUCCESS DELIBERATIONS.

⁸⁶. For a review of the vast range of her contributions to the Faith in Europe and America, see *The Bahá'í World* Vol. VIII, 631–642, *In Memoriam*.

SHOGHI



Letter of 9 September 1957

9 September 1957

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

The beloved Guardian is very anxious to secure information as to the Indian tribes (native) and Eskimos, which have been contacted by any of the Believers in your area; or of course if there are any Believers from these Tribes, that would be even more interesting.

Can you prepare a list showing the number of Tribes that have been contacted and, of these Tribes, the number who have become Believers. This would be very interesting information.

Can you secure it at an early date and send it on to me for the Beloved Guardian.

With loving Bahá'í greetings, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 18 September 1957

18 September 1957

To Amy E.V. Putnam⁸⁷

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of July 31st with enclosures has been received by the beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

The services you have rendered the Faith since leaving Haifa are deeply appreciated by him, you may be sure.

He feels the Laurentian School is an important institution and serves a wide area. He was most happy to know that this year's Conference was so successful.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

⁸⁷. Amy Putnam — one of the earliest believers to enrol in the Bahá'í Faith in Hamilton, later pioneered to St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands.

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 18 September 1957

18 September 1957

To David D. Bowie⁸⁸

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

The beloved Guardian has received your letter of July 9th, and has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He was happy to learn that you experienced such spiritual joy and exhilaration from the visit of the honored Hand of the Cause, Mr. Khadem.⁸⁹

The Guardian hopes you will exert your utmost endeavour toward the establishment of a strong Community in Niagara Falls. He will pray that you may receive Divine assistance in your efforts towards this goal.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless your efforts, guide your steps, and enable you to win great victories in the days to come,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



⁸⁸. David Bowie — a believer who has served, in Canada and overseas, as a local and travelling teacher.

⁸⁹. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

Letter of 22 September 1957

22 September 1957

To the National Spiritual Assembly

GUARDIAN ADVISES PAWLOWSKA⁹⁰ REMAIN MIQUELON UNTIL REPLACEMENT ARRIVES HE SENDS HER LOVING APPRECIATION.

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Letter of 26 September 1957

26 September 1957

To an individual believer

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

The beloved Guardian has received your letter of August 25th, and has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

Because Bahá'u'lláh lived in the Middle East, and addressed himself mostly to Moslems, Christians and Jews, His proofs had reference mostly to these Faiths.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success and spiritual advancement,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 3 October 1957

3 October 1957

To an individual believer

⁹⁰. Ola Pawlowska — Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands (1953–58), later pioneered to Luxembourg, Poland and Congo (Zaire).

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

The beloved Guardian has received your recent letter with greeting card enclosed from the children, which he appreciated.

He was happy to learn that you and your wife are teaching the children. This is most important. He hopes you will encourage them, in addition to acquiring a knowledge of the Teachings, to endeavour to fit themselves for future Bahá'í work, either in their homeland or on foreign soil. The Faith will need many workers in all countries as time goes on, and it will be the children of today who will carry forward the Torch of Bahá'u'lláh in the days to come.

Your Committee was fortunate indeed to have had a visit from the revered Hand of the Cause, Mr. Khadem.⁹¹ He is truly one who kindles a new flame of love and longing to serve the Cause in the hearts of the believers wherever he goes.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbani

[From the Guardian:]

May the Almighty bless, guide and sustain you, and enable you to promote effectively the vital interests of His Faith,

Your true brother,

Shoghi



Letter of 19 October 1957

19 October 1957

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your loving letter of October 5th was duly received and its contents have been presented to the Beloved Guardian.

He was very happy indeed to learn of the very active manner in which the Canadian Bahá'ís have taken hold of this most important subject of teaching the Indians.

He attaches the greatest importance to this matter as the Master has spoken of the latent strength of character of these people and feels that when the Spirit of the Faith has a chance to work in their midst, it will produce remarkable results.

⁹¹. See The Bahá'í World Vol. XX, In Memoriam.

You⁹² yourself are to be congratulated on the very wonderful work you have been doing with the Indians on the Tyendinaga Reserve. The Guardian greatly appreciates this service, and wishes you to know that he values it very highly. He hopes nothing will interfere with your carrying it forward to the fine conclusion which you hope will be the establishment of an Assembly on this reserve. It would be a distinct victory for the Faith if that is accomplished.

The Guardian will pray for you and for the success of your work.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas



Letter of 7 November 1957

7 November 1957

To the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your loving letter of October 12th was duly received by the Beloved Guardian and he has directed me to acknowledge it in his behalf. The contributions which were made by various Assemblies, Groups and individuals to the International Fund are greatly appreciated. Receipts are enclosed herewith.

Will you please send these receipts to each Assembly, Group or individual concerned expressing the Guardian's appreciation to them.

The Beloved Guardian is directing exclusive attention at this time to the great importance of teaching the Cause of God. The Divine confirmations are descending in torrents, particularly on those who arise to teach the Faith. He is hoping there will be a new movement amongst the Friends in Canada so that many thirsty souls may find eternal life through the selfless deeds of the Canadian Bahá'ís.

He will pray for you, for the Believers and for the success of their work. He sends you his loving greetings.

Faithfully yours,

Leroy loas

P.S. This is one of the few letters I received instruction from the Guardian to write shortly before his Ascension.



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Letter of 5 November 1957

5 November 1957

To all National Assemblies (via Haifa)

SHOGHI EFFENDI BELOVED OF ALL HEARTS SACRED TRUST GIVEN BELIEVERS BY MASTER PASSED AWAY SUDDEN HEART ATTACK IN SLEEP FOLLOWING ASIATIC FLU. URGE BELIEVERS REMAIN STEADFAST CLING INSTITUTION HANDS LOVINGLY REARED RECENTLY REINFORCED EMPHASIZED BY BELOVED GUARDIAN. ONLY ONENESS HEART ONENESS PURPOSE CAN BEFITTINGLY TESTIFY LOYALTY ALL NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES BELIEVERS DEPARTED GUARDIAN WHO SACRIFICED SELF UTTERLY FOR SERVICE FAITH.

RÚHÍYYIH



Appendix: Knights of Bahá'u'lláh

Shoghi Effendi announced in May 1953⁹³ that those believers who arose to pioneer to goals outlined in the Ten Year Crusade, would be designated “Knights of Bahá'u'lláh”, and would have their names inscribed on a “Roll of Honour”. This Roll was placed at the entrance door of the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in 1992, as instructed by the Guardian and noted in the 8 June 1953 letter in this book. Several of these Knights were Canadian, and others fulfilled Canadian goals.

Knights	of	Canadian	origin
Ile d'Anticosti:		Mary Zabolotny	McCulloch
Bechuanaland (now Botswana):		Audrey, John and Patrick	Robarts
Cape Breton Island:		Fred and Jean Allen, Grace and Irving	Geary
District of Franklin:		Gale and Jameson	Bond
District of Keewatin:		Richard	Stanton
Grand Manan Island:		Doris	Richardson
Gulf Islands:		Cliff and Catherine	Huxtable
Iles de la Madeleine (Magdalen Islands):		Kathy Weston	McLeod
Iles Marquises (Marquesas Islands):		Greta	Jankko
Labrador:		Bruce	Matthew
Saint-Pierre et Miquelon:		Ola	Pawlowska
Queen Charlotte Islands:		Edythe	MacArthur
Yukon:		Joan Anderson	

Knights who pioneered to Canadian goals from other national communities	
Iles de la Madeleine (Magdalen Islands):	Kay Zinky
Labrador:	Howard Gilliland
Samoa:	Lillian Wyss 'Alá'í
Yukon:	Ted Anderson

⁹³. Messages to The Bahá'í World, p. 49



