

# Messages to the Bahá'í World

Shoghi Effendi

Original English



Messages to the Bahá'í World<sup>1</sup>

1950-1957

Shoghi Effendi



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Messages to the Bahá'í World 1950-1957

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Review of World Progress of the Faith

Cablegram, April 25, 1950

Hail valiant acts [pg 3] course last twelve months members firmly knit world embracing divinely propelled Bahá'í Community singly collectively both sexes all ages laboring near distant fields Eastern Western hemispheres gathered diverse classes creeds colors administrators in respective home lands or settlers itinerant teachers overseas whether serving private capacity or official association authorities.

Second half opening decade second Bahá'í century befittingly ushered in.

Recent exploits virgin territories Western hemisphere Arabian Peninsula South East Asia raised one hundred number sovereign states dependencies enrolled under banner Faith.

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1. In this latest edition, the US Baha'i Publishing Trust refer to "an ad hoc committee appointed by the Universal House of Justice in 1973 at the Bahá'í World Center to check the texts of the cablegrams in the original edition." A selection of numerous cables found to be missing from the first edition was added to the second, and the Publisher's Foreword to this latest edition states:



ORIGINAL



AUDIO

Forthcoming celebrations commemorating Hundredth Anniversary Martyrdom Herald Faith doubly glorious association this historic victory representing increase no less than twenty-two countries brief span six years since Centennial Declaration His Mission.

Number centers Australasia now exceeds sixty Canadian Community nearing ninety centers already established Alaskan territory eleven centers European goal countries thirty-five number newly declared believers almost doubled course past year.

Bahá'í literature enriched translation Welsh Eskimo Swahili Hausa Chinyanja raising total number languages sixty-three. Languages process translation eleven.

Official recognition constituting unique victory annals Faith East West extending newly formed National Spiritual Assembly Dominion Canada through granting act Parliament enabling National elected representatives incorporate religious organization.

Additional contract placed for construction parapet crowning Arcade Báb's Mausoleum Mount Carmel raising total tonnage ordered almost eight hundred.

Erection ornamental columns Temple interior commenced ventilation heating systems installed number visitors since opening edifice public over four hundred thousand.

Six year plan British Bahá'í Community triumphantly concluded almost quintupled number Assemblies British Isles laid basis administrative structure Faith capital Eire chief cities North Ireland Scotland.

Plan initiated Persian Bahá'í Community consummated 31 Assemblies 17 Groups 11 Isolated Centers formed beyond prescribed objectives.

Recognition long last accorded 'Iráqí authorities all marriages solemnized Bahá'í Assemblies 'Iráq through official registration marriage certificate by court first instance setting momentous precedent throughout Muslim East constituting significant landmark process emancipation Oriental followers Faith fetters religious orthodoxy.

Certificate authorizing celebration Bahá'í marriages issued District Columbia court. Eight islands Hawaii granted authority recognize Bahá'í marriages. Bahá'í marriage contract legalized attorney general throughout territory Alaska.

Bahá'í Holy Days recognized Educational Department State Victoria Australia.

Second European Teaching Conference convened capital city Belgium attended hundred thirty representatives nineteen countries.

Historic first all-Swiss Bahá'í Conference latest most promising fruit transatlantic enterprise initiated American Bahá'í Community held Swiss capital presaging acquisition by goal countries independent status within family Bahá'í national Communities.

Process extension Bahá'í endowments accelerated donation twenty acre property near Anchorage Alaska purchase twenty-two acres neighborhood Auckland site projected New

Zealand summer school grant burial ground by Egyptian authorities Port Sa'íd Bahá'í Community.

Ties binding Bahá'í International Community United Nations reinforced through participation European Regional[pg 5] Conference nongovernmental organizations Geneva Latin American Conferences Chile Uruguay similar conferences Kansas Lake Success submission response request UNO Committee statement Bahá'í concept method community worship subsequently transmitted Secretariat responsible for planning permanent headquarters United Nations.

Last not least nay crowning achievement year just concluded stupendous exertions vanguard resistlessly advancing Bahá'í World Community resulting raising half million dollars virtually attaining objective set for two-year drive ensure completion interior ornamentation Mother Temple West anticipation its approaching jubilee.

First stage austerity period resolutely embarked upon, successfully traversed.

Resolution no less grim self abnegation no less heroic solidarity in sacrifice no less striking must needs distinguish final phase stern struggle still facing dauntless highminded spartan-souled American Bahá'í Community designed liquidate deficit General Fund marring otherwise spotless record collective achievement as well as provide financial support imperatively required meet through prompt despatch substantial number competent pioneers emergency existing Central South America thereby ensuring glorious consummation thirteen-year-old enterprise through formation projected twin National Assemblies Latin America.

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## An Enterprise Transcending Any National Institution

Cablegram, July 8, 1950

Announce believers through all National Assemblies termination initial stage construction domed structure designed embellish preserve Báb's sepulcher Mount Carmel.

Two year enterprise launched eve gravest turmoil rocking Holy Land modern times involving expenditure quarter million dollars necessitating transportation placing almost eight hundred tons stone marble mosaic consummated eve Centenary His martyrdom. Soul thrilled contemplation rising edifice beauty its design majesty proportions loveliness

surroundings historic associations site it occupies sacredness Sanctuary it envelops transcendent holiness Treasure it enshrines.

Gratitude deepened by miraculous recovery its gifted architect Sutherland Maxwell illness pronounced hopeless physicians. Acknowledge valuable service rendered Ugo Giachery through supervision work shipment consignments Haifa.

Hour ripe undertake preliminaries erection octagonal first unit superstructure another milestone process set motion sixty years ago Bahá'u'lláh's visit Mount Carmel. This process which gathered momentum transportation His Holiness Báb's remains Holy Land after fifty years' concealment through erection sanctuary 'Abdu'l-Bahá darkest years His Ministry through entombment remains by Him morrow forty year incarceration through commencement construction arcade fortieth anniversary interment Holy Dust through termination parapet eve Centenary Báb's martyrdom must be accelerated through erection dome attaining consummation through emergence institutions world administrative center Faith vicinity its world spiritual Center signaling sailing Divine Ark God's Mountain prophesied Tablet Carmel.

Appeal entire body believers seize priceless opportunity stimulate unfoldment this process through generous sustained contributions furtherance enterprise transcending any national institution whether Ḥaḏíras or Maṣhriqu'l-Adhkár reared past or process construction. Hour propitious particularly during three year interval separating Centennials Báb's martyrdom birth Bahá'u'lláh's Mission coinciding hundredth anniversary greatest holocaust history Faith repay part infinite debt gratitude owed martyrs hastening conclusion holiest enterprise since dawn Revelation interwoven ministries Bahá'u'lláh 'Abdu'l-Bahá linking Heroic Formative Ages Bahá'í Dispensation cementing ties binding communities East West World Center Faith shedding imperishable luster first second centuries Bahá'í Era which posterity will hail most befitting tribute One who made most precious sacrifice sake most sublime Faith mankind's spiritual history.

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## Opening Door to Pilgrimage

Cablegram, December 16, 1950

Announce friends delivery after more than fifty years key Qaṣr Mazra'ih by Israel authorities. Historic dwelling place Bahá'u'lláh after leaving Prison City 'Akká now being furnished anticipation opening door pilgrimage.

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## Formation of First International Bahá'í Council

Cablegram, January 9, 1951

Proclaim National Assemblies East West weighty epoch-making decision formation first International Bahá'í Council forerunner supreme administrative institution destined emerge fullness time within precincts beneath shadow World Spiritual Center Faith already established twin cities 'Akká Haifa. Fulfillment prophecies uttered Founder Faith Center His Covenant culminating establishment Jewish State, signaling birth after lapse two thousand years independent nation Holy Land, swift unfoldment historic undertaking associated construction superstructure Báb's Sepulcher Mount Carmel present adequate maturity nine vigorously functioning national administrative institutions throughout Bahá'í World combine induce me arrive this historic decision marking most significant milestone evolution Administrative Order Faith Bahá'u'lláh course last thirty years. Nascent Institution now created invested threefold function first forge link authorities newly emerged State second assist me discharge responsibilities involved erection mighty superstructure Báb's Holy Shrine third conduct negotiations related matters personal status civil authorities. To these added further functions course evolution this first embryonic International Institution marking development into officially recognized Bahá'í Court transformation into duly elected body efflorescence into Universal House Justice final fruition through erection manifold auxiliary institutions constituting World Administrative Center destined arise function remain permanently established close neighborhood Twin Holy Shrines. Hail thankful joyous heart long last constitution International Council history will acclaim greatest event shedding luster second epoch Formative Age Bahá'í Dispensation potentially unsurpassed any enterprise undertaken since inception Administrative Order Faith morrow 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Ascension ranking second only glorious immortal events associated Ministries Three Central Figures Faith course First Age most glorious Dispensation five thousand century Bahá'í Cycle. Advise publicize announcement through Public Relations Committee.

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## Spiritual and Administrative World Center

Cablegram, March 2, 1951

Announce friends East West following furnishing Mazra'ih completion restoration historic house Bahá'u'lláh Acre scene prolonged afflictions sustained Founder Faith as well as

supreme crisis suffered 'Abdu'l-Bahá hands Covenant-breakers. Greatly enhanced international endowments Holy Land twin cities Acre Haifa now include twin Holy Shrines situated plain Acre slope Mount Carmel twin Mansions Bahjí Mazra'ih twin historic Houses inhabited Bahá'u'lláh 'Abdu'l-Bahá twin International Archives adjoining Báb's Sepulcher resting-place Greatest Holy Leaf twin Pilgrim Houses constructed Oriental Occidental pilgrims twin Gardens Ridván Firdaws associated memory Author Bahá'í Dispensation.

Greatly welcome assistance newly-formed International Council particularly President Mason Remey Vice-President Amelia Collins contact authorities designed spread fame consolidate foundations widen scope influence emanating twin spiritual administrative World Centers permanently fixed Holy Land constituting midmost heart entire planet.

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## Transcending in Sacredness

Cablegram, March 21, 1951

On occasion celebration Naw-Rúz Festival announce followers Faith Bahá'u'lláh East West through National Assemblies completion excavation foundations eight piers designed support mighty dome Báb's Sepulcher as well as momentous decision place hundred thirty thousand dollar contract stone work both cylinder dome.

Approaching Centenary birth prophetic Mission Founder Faith virtual consummation fifty year project culminating termination interior ornamentation Mother Temple West risks involved any delay owing threatening international situation necessity insure increasing support reinforce newly-forged ties with civil authorities recently emerged State Holy Land through formation International Bahá'í Council considerable saving effected through signature contract for entire stone work required erect superstructure edifice impel me take major step development swiftly progressing irresistibly advancing enterprise transcending sacredness any collective undertaking launched course history hundred year old Faith.

Moved renew fervent plea addressed all national local Assemblies believers all continents globe arise determinedly gird up loins to contribute through curtailment budgets adequate appropriations national local funds direct sustained individual donations to insure uninterrupted financial support however great sacrifice involved however heavy burdens however distracting successive crises present critical hour. Austerity period previously affecting fortunes American Bahá'í community unavoidably prolonged now extended embrace entire Bahá'í world recognition pressing needs paramount importance glorious international task.[pg 10]

Urge followers Most Great Name demonstrate still nobler spirit self-  
abnegation course swiftly diminishing interval separating us hundredth  
anniversary birth Mission Author Revelation commemorating Centenary blood bath  
constituting most tragic episode Bahá'í history associated martyrdom immortal Ṭáhirih  
subjection Bahá'u'lláh rigors Síyáh-Ḥál Ṭihrán barbarous execution unnumbered  
heroes saints Apostolic Age Bahá'í Dispensation.

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## Pilgrim Kings to Pay Humble Tribute

Cablegram, April 2, 1951

Announce friends East West completion two additional terraces marking  
termination scheme initiated quarter century ago designed fulfill Master's cherished  
desire connect directly through series nine terraces Báb's Sepulcher Templar  
Colony foot Mount Carmel. Machinations Covenant-breakers who succeeded shelving  
project more than decade foiled. Hail success enterprise presaging day destined to witness  
envisaged 'Abdu'l-Bahá, pilgrim kings ascending route pay humble tribute Martyr-  
Herald Faith Bahá'u'lláh.

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## Epoch-Making Events

Cablegram, April 25, 1951

Heart filled thankfulness contemplation chain swiftly succeeding epoch-making events  
transpiring course fifth year second Seven Year Plan rendered  
memorable association Centenary Martyrdom Prophet-Herald Bahá'í Dispensation  
testifying God's unfailing protection manifold blessings vouchsafed Community Most Great  
Name alike its World Center all continents globe.

Divine retributive justice strikingly demonstrated through series sudden rapid devastating  
blows sweeping over leaders henchmen breakers Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant foiling schemes  
levelling hopes well-nigh extinguishing remnants conspiring crew which dared  
challenge authority succeeded inflicting untold sorrow assiduously  
plotted disrupt Will Testament its appointed Center.

Triumphant resistlessly expanding Bahá'í Administrative Order now embraces hundred six sovereign states dependencies constituting addition no less than twenty-seven countries since Centenary celebration Declaration Mission Holy Báb.

Number languages Bahá'í literature translated process translation over eighty.

Number incorporated Assemblies local national one hundred ten.

Centenary Martyrdom Herald Faith befittingly commemorated  
synchronizing completion Arcade Parapet His Sepulcher Mount Carmel  
marking termination two-year, quarter million dollar enterprise.

Preliminaries erection two additional Pillars Universal House Justice  
culminating formation National Assemblies Central America Mexico Antilles South  
America successfully concluded, following raising similar Pillar Dominion Canada.

Interior ornamentation Mother Temple West virtually completed,  
paving way provision accessories landscaping preparation public dedication  
destined coincide twin celebrations consummation fifty year old  
enterprise Birth Bahá'u'lláh's prophetic mission.

Prelude historic African campaign, foremost objective two year plan Bahá'í  
Community British Isles linking in formal association four National  
Assemblies marked departure first pioneer Tanganyika plans settlement Gold  
Coast, Uganda.

Contracts amounting over two hundred ten thousand dollars successively placed stones  
window frames railing steel cement required erection Octagon Cylinder Dome Báb's  
Sepulcher raising sixteen hundred tons total tonnage ordered Italy.

Quarter-century old project terminated through construction last two terraces  
connecting same edifice Templar Colony foot Carmel.[pg 12]

Four year plan initiated Persian National Assembly promotion interests women  
members community successfully concluded despite increasing disabilities  
resulting recrudescence religious fanaticism afflicting sore-pressed homeland Bahá'u'lláh.

Notable step progress Bahá'í women Middle East taken extension right membership local  
Assemblies women believers Egypt.

Third European Teaching Conference Summer School held Copenhagen attended one  
hundred seventy-seven persons representing twenty-two countries.

Second All-Swiss Conference convened Zurich foreshadowing closer integration ten goal  
countries European continent through eventual formation regional National  
Assemblies Scandinavia Benelux countries Switzerland Italian Iberian peninsulas.



Bahá'í literature Greenlandic previously disseminated as far Thule Etah beyond Arctic Circle dispatched radio station Brondlundsfiord Peary Land eighty-second latitude northernmost outpost globe.

Ties linking World Center Faith newly-emerged rapidly consolidating sovereign state Holy Land reinforced through delivery Ministry Religious Affairs Mazra'ih Mansion Bahá'í custody recognition Bahá'í Holy Days Ministry Education Culture following exemption granted Bahá'í international endowments recognition accorded Bahá'í marriage certificate.

Bahá'u'lláh's residence 'Akká scene severe crises course ministries Founder Faith Center Covenant renovated furnished added Holy Places already opened steadily swelling number visitors both local foreign.

Significant step taken City Governorate Cairo presaging eventual recognition state authorities Bahá'í laws personal status already codified submitted central government Egyptian National Assembly.

Bonds binding Bahá'í world community United Nations strengthened Bahá'í participation regional conference Non-Governmental Organizations Geneva Istanbul.

Preliminary steps taken preparation final design Maṣhriqu'l-Aḍhkár Mount Carmel by President International Bahá'í Council specifically appointed 'Abdu'l-Bahá its architect.

Process unfoldment ever-advancing Administrative Order accelerated formation International Bahá'í Council designed assist erection superstructure Báb's Sepulcher cement ties uniting budding World Administrative Center with recently established state pave way formation Bahá'í Court essential prelude institution Universal House Justice.

Hail particularly brilliant victory won American Bahá'í Community meeting financial requirements completion interior ornamentation Temple eliminating deficit Victory Fund exploits doubly meritorious owing added responsibilities courageously assumed assist enterprise African field construction Báb's Sepulcher Holy Land.

Thrilled multiple evidences simultaneous prosecution Bahá'í national plans, East West, rise steady consolidation World Center Faith constituting distinguishing features second epoch Formative Age whose inception morrow Second World War coincided inauguration second Bahá'í century and which bids fair eclipse splendors preceding epoch which posterity will associate with birth rise embryonic World Order Bahá'u'lláh.

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## Reorientation

Cablegram, April 25, 1951

Emergence independent sovereign state Holy Land  
synchronizing rise consolidation Administrative Center World Faith Bahá'u'lláh of  
which establishment International Bahá'í Council construction superstructure Báb's  
Sepulcher constitute initial major evidences as well as projected acquisition extensive  
properties close neighborhood Most Holy Tomb Bahá and precincts Shrine Mount Carmel  
Haifa essential their preservation resulting far-reaching changes newly-established state  
demand henceforth reorientation necessitate increasing financial support by Bahá'í National  
Communities East West through curtailment national local  
budgets. Extent appropriations national local budgets communities both  
hemispheres regarded spiritual obligation left discretion elected representatives believers.  
Moreover, participation individual believers through contributions directly transmitted Holy  
Land imperative beyond scope jurisdiction National local Assemblies.  
Upon response privileged builders World Order Bahá'u'lláh  
depend nature rapidity evolution World Administrative Center  
designed culminate erection last unit crowning structure embryonic World  
Order Bahá'u'lláh.

Distinguished co-worker Millie Collins Vice-Chairman International Council acquainting  
you pressing problems projected plans contracts afoot designed accelerate process  
initiated Holy Land for furtherance supreme momentous highly meritorious objectives.  
Communicate message all National Assemblies.

Shoghi



## Invite Valiant Co-Sharers in Holy Enterprise to Join Me in Prayers

Cablegram, August 24, 1951

Announce National Assemblies East West hallowed historic enterprise posterity will  
hail most befitting tribute by present generation builders embryonic World  
Order Bahá'u'lláh memory Prophet-Herald Bahá'í Dispensation now entering new  
stage development presaging approaching year final consummation.

Owing magnitude task undertaken manifold responsibilities already shouldered Bahá'í  
communities East West no further step beyond construction Arcade erection crowning  
Parapet originally envisaged. Sudden unexpected worsening international situation

necessity effect economy exigencies attending rise World Administrative Center Faith impelled me subsequently place contract Italy provision stones required both Octagon Dome leaving resumption construction work indefinite future date.

Am now encouraged owing response recent call take eagerly anticipated decision commence Octagon first major unit superstructure sacred stately Edifice designed support Drum pave way erection Dome last remaining unit entire enterprise. Contract approximately thirty thousand dollars just placed Holy Land for construction Octagon including eight Pinnacles following completion structural work commenced last June.

Further consignment hundred twenty tons comprising lower part Octagon Pinnacles four completed Facades Door Window Frames arrived Port Haifa.

Invite valiant co-sharers Holy Enterprise join me prayers its uninterrupted prosecution speedy fulfilment hopes cherished both Bahá'u'lláh 'Abdu'l-Bahá glorification eternal resting-place Primal Point bosom God's Holy Mountain.

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## Acquisition of Area on Mount Carmel

Cablegram, September 24, 1951

Announce National Assemblies Bahá'í world prolonged delicate negotiations involving Ministries Finance Religious Affairs Haifa Municipality culminated agreement in principle purchase approximately twenty-two thousand meter area estimated value hundred eighteen thousand dollars situated slope Mount Carmel overlooking resting-place Greatest Holy Leaf eastern approaches Báb's Sepulcher.

Acquisition area extending from heart to ridge mountain safeguards precincts sacred Mausoleum now process erection broadens basis administrative structure rising World Center Faith Holy Land may induce civil authorities abandon project construction arterial road crossing diagonally Bahá'í international endowments facilitates extension terraces ultimately stretching from foot to crown of God's Holy Mountain.

Contemplating transfer part title deeds land in question Israel branches American Indian National Assemblies reserving remainder future transfer other National Assemblies following incorporation respective branches soil Holy Land.

Shoghi



## Old and New Covenant-Breakers

Cablegram, December 13, 1951

With feeling profound concern grief indignation am compelled disclose Bahá'í world recent developments Holy Land furnishing further incontestable proof relationship established old new Covenant-breakers demonstrating increasing boldness marked tragic decline character spiritual condition grandchildren 'Abdu'l-Bahá. Their shameful attitude conduct receiving approbation their elders. Evidences multiplying attesting Rúhí's increasing rebelliousness efforts exerted my eldest sister pave way fourth alliance members family Siyyid 'Alí involving marriage his granddaughter with Rúhí's son personal contact recently established my own treacherous despicable brother Ríyáz with Majdi'd-Dín redoubtable enemy Faith former henchman Muḥammad-'Alí, Archbreaker Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant. Convey information all National Assemblies.

Shoghi



## Jubilee Centenary

Cablegram, November 30, 1951

Convey all National Assemblies Bahá'í world following momentous announcement.

Approaching Great Jubilee commemorating Centenary termination Bábí Dispensation birth Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation Síyáh-Ḥál Ṭíhrán as well as imperative necessity adopt effectual measures insure befitting inauguration third concluding phase initial epoch execution 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan destined culminate hundredth anniversary Declaration Founder Faith Baghdád impel me summon entire Bahá'í world eleven National Assemblies already functioning East West bestir itself arise during sixteen months ahead through supreme concerted sustained effort prepare demonstration Bahá'í solidarity unprecedented scope intensity entire course Bahá'í history.

Forthcoming celebrations must be signalized through inauguration long anticipated intercontinental stage administrative evolution Faith marking gradual development successive phases local regional national international Bahá'í activity. Initiation highly significant measure further cementing Bahá'í National Assemblies five continents globe acclaimed posterity as counterpart consolidation Faith World Center through recent formation International Bahá'í Council Holy Land.

Centennial festivities Year Nine continuing throughout Holy Year commencing October 1952 must include apart from consummation plans initiated various National Assemblies both hemispheres formal dedication public worship Mother Temple West heart North American continent possible termination superstructure Báb's Sepulcher Holy Land convocation four intercontinental Bahá'í Teaching Conferences held successively course historic Year continents Africa America Europe Asia.

First conference convened by British National Spiritual Assembly Kampala Uganda early spring representative British American Persian Egyptian Indian National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'ís residing America Persia Indian subcontinent British Isles every territory African continent invited attend planting banner Faith remaining territories neighboring islands east south west African continent.

Second conference convened by United States National Spiritual Assembly Wilmette Ridván period representative chief trustees 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan ally associates United States Canadian Latin American National Assemblies Bahá'ís every State American Union every Province Canada every Republic Latin America invited attend designed pave way establishment Faith remaining territories Americas neighboring islands both Atlantic Pacific oceans.

Third conference convened by American European Teaching Committee Stockholm Sweden summer representative American British German National Assemblies Bahá'ís ten goal countries Europe and England Scotland Wales Eire France Germany Austria Finland invited attend, purpose gradual introduction Faith remaining sovereign states European continent neighboring islands Mediterranean Atlantic Ocean North Sea.

Fourth conference convened by National Spiritual Assembly subcontinent India New Delhi autumn representative National Assemblies Persia Indian subcontinent 'Irāq Australasia United States Canada Central South America Bahá'ís residing every sovereign state dependency Asia North Central South America Australia New Zealand Tasmania invited attend deliberate measures calculated open Faith remaining Asiatic states dependencies particularly South East Asia islands South Pacific Indian Oceans.

Address plea particularly convenors above mentioned conferences to arise within short time at their disposal prayerfully consider carefully plan energetically prosecute respective sacred delegated tasks take immediate preliminary steps issue invitations fix procedure provide smooth working accord wide publicity insure resounding success epoch-making conferences immortalizing Centenary memorable Year, anticipated St. John Divine foreshadowed Shaykh Aḥmad eulogized by Báb extolled by both Bahá'u'lláh 'Abdu'l-Bahá constituting prelude Most Great Jubilee which will alike commemorate Centenary formal assumption by Author Bahá'í Revelation His Prophetic Office mark God willing worldwide establishment Faith forecast by Center Covenant His Tablets prophesied by Daniel his book paving way advent Golden Age destined witness world recognition universal proclamation ultimate triumph Cause Bahá'u'lláh.

Shoghi



## The Guardian Announces Appointment of Hands of the Cause

Cablegram, December 24, 1951

Recall feelings profound thankfulness joy chain recent historic events heralding long anticipated rise establishment World Administrative Center Faith Bahá'u'lláh Holy Land regarded third most momentous epoch-making development since inception Formative Age morrow 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Ascension.

Quarter century constituting opening epoch age signalized successively by erection consolidation over period no less sixteen years local, national institutions Bahá'í Administrative Order five continents globe conformity with provisions Will Center Covenant initiation first Seven Year Plan American Bahá'í Community marking inauguration first epoch execution 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan unavoidably held abeyance over two decades pending creation divinely-appointed administrative agencies designed its Author for its effective prosecution.

Opening years second epoch Formative Age now witnessing long last commencement third vast majestic fate-laden process following two above-mentioned developments destined gradual emergence manifold institutions World Center Faith crown administrative structure Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic World Order. Gigantic process now set in motion opening decade second Bahá'í Century synchronizing with deriving notable impetus through birth sovereign State Holy Land greatly accelerated through series swiftly succeeding events originated World Center Faith.

First inauguration most holy worldwide enterprise unprecedented annals Faith construction heart Mount Carmel superstructure Báb's Sepulcher. Second creation International Bahá'í Council precincts Holy Shrine forerunner International House Justice supreme legislative organ nascent divinely-conceived world-encircling Bahá'í Administrative Order. Third acquisition, restoration and embellishment historic sites associated incarceration Bahá'u'lláh 'Abdu'l-Bahá recognition their sacred character exemption taxes newly formed State accessibility to appreciative general public. Fourth initiation formal negotiation central municipal authorities same State with twofold purpose preserve posterity immediate directly threatened neighborhood Most Holy Tomb Founder Faith outskirts 'Akká acquire extensive sorely needed properties vicinity Báb's Sepulcher destined serve site future edifices envisaged 'Abdu'l-Bahá house auxiliary agencies revolving around twin institutions Guardianship House Justice. Fifth preparation design future Mashriqu'l-Adhkár Mount Carmel outstanding indispensable feature unfoldment rising World Administrative Order. Sixth forthcoming convocation four conferences embracing eleven National Assemblies all continents globe marking inauguration beyond limits World Center Faith intercontinental stage Bahá'í activity precursor final step summoning assemblage representative communities all sovereign states chief dependencies, islands entire planet.

Hour now ripe take long inevitably deferred step conformity provisions 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament in conjunction six above-mentioned steps appointment first contingent Hands Cause God twelve in number equally allocated Holy Land Asiatic American European continents. Initial step now taken regarded preparatory full development institution provided 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Will paralleled preliminary measure formation International Council destined culminate emergence Universal House Justice. Nascent institution forging fresh links binding rising World Center Faith consolidating World Community followers Most Great Name paving way adoption supplementary measures calculated reinforce foundations structure Bahá'í Administrative Order.

Nominated Hands comprise Holy Land Sutherland Maxwell Mason Remey Amelia Collins President Vice-President International Bahá'í Council cradle Faith Valíyu'lláh Varqá Ṭarāẓu'lláh Samandarí 'Alí-Akbar Furútan American continent Horace Holley Dorothy Baker Leroy loas European continent George Townshend Hermann Grossmann Ugo Giachery. Nine elevated rank Hand three continents outside Holy Land advised remain present posts continue discharge vital administrative teaching duties pending assignment specific functions as need arises. Urge all nine attend as my representatives all four forthcoming intercontinental conferences as well as discharge whatever responsibilities incumbent upon them at time as elected representatives national Bahá'í communities.

Communicate text announcement all National Assemblies.

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## Second Appointment of Hands of the Cause

Cablegram, February 29, 1952

Announce friends East West through National Assemblies following nominations raising number present Hands Cause God nineteen. Dominion Canada United States Fred Schopflocher Corinne True respectively. Cradle Faith Dhikru'lláh Khádem Shu'á'u'lláh 'Alá'í. Germany Africa Australia Adelbert Mühlischlegel Músá Banání Clara Dunn respectively. Members august body invested conformity 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament twofold sacred function propagation preservation unity Faith Bahá'u'lláh destined assume individually course time direction institutions paralleling those revolving around Universal House Justice supreme legislative body Bahá'í world now recruited all five continents globe representative three principal world religions mankind. Recently urged newly-appointed Hand Canada occasion his pilgrimage Holy Land undertake preliminary measures in conjunction Canadian National Assembly establishment national Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds similar those already founded Ṭíhrán Wilmette Baghdád Sydney Frankfurt Cairo New Delhi. Identical instructions given appointed Hand Africa course his just concluded pilgrimage acquisition property Kampala serve as local Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds synchronize formation first

Assembly heart Africa be regarded nucleus national administrative headquarters Faith destined arise morrow formation National Spiritual Assembly Central Eastern Territories African continent.

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## Triple Announcement

Cablegram, March 8, 1952

Occasion approaching celebration ninth Naw-Rúz second Bahá'í century desire share following triple announcement Bahá'í world through National Assemblies East West. First Safe arrival Holy Land course last six months successive consignments stones remaining facades Octagon Pinnacles eighteen window frames belonging Drum one hundred tons cement thirty-five tons timber, fifteen tons steel eight wrought iron balustrades stones lower section Drum as well as completion construction Octagon erection fifteen feet Pinnacles constituting with ornamental balustrades central adornment Holy Edifice. Leaded glass required twenty-four windows Octagon eighteen lancet windows Drum ordered. Investigations initiated fabrication gilded tiles final material necessary construction Sepulcher.

Recall feelings humble thankfulness intense joy series historic landmarks progress sacred enterprise associated first formal entombment Naw-Rúz 1909 sixty lunar years after Báb's martyrdom His dust vault Shrine second laying forty years later Naw-Rúz 1949 first threshold stones Arcade Sepulcher third completion two years later Naw-Rúz 1951 excavation eight piers, designed to support Dome followed placing year later eve Naw-Rúz 1952 second crown same Edifice. Way now prepared for erection Drum including eighteen windows symbolizing eighteen Letters Living appointed transmitters dawning Light Author Bábí Dispensation as well as rearing golden Dome constituting third final unit triple crown destined irradiate its splendor heart God's Holy Mountain. Moved pay warm loving tribute Shrine's immortal architect Hand Cause Sutherland Maxwell services Ugo Giachery UNO Representative International Bahá'í Community recently elevated rank Hand Cause newly-appointed member International Bahá'í Council ably discharging manifold responsibilities connected mighty undertaking.

Second announcement enlargement International Bahá'í Council. Present membership now comprises Amatu'l-Bahá Rúhíyyih chosen liaison between me Council. Hands Caus Mason Remey Amelia Collins Ugo Giachery Leroy Ioas President Vice-President member at large, Secretary-General respectively. Jessie Revell Ethel Revell Luṭfu'lláh Ḥakím Treasurer, Western Eastern assistant Secretaries.

Third announcement Following upon missions entrusted Hands Cause connection establishment Ḥaẓratu'l-Quds Dominion Canada Central Africa instructed Ugo Giachery take conjunction European Teaching Committee



immediate steps after conclusion pilgrimage aiming formation ere termination American Community's second Seven Year Plan first National Spiritual Assembly Bahá'ís Italy Switzerland. Advise United States National Assembly arrange, through European Teaching Committee, election occasion Naw-Rúz 1953 nineteen delegates by all local Assemblies already established both countries. Urge convocation Ridván same year city of Florence occasion festivities Bahá'í Holy Year first Convention express purpose electing through delegates projected National Assembly. Appeal American Bahá'í community particularly Bahá'ís residing Italy Switzerland exert utmost insure course coming year multiplication Spiritual Assemblies both countries thereby broadening basis projected pillar future Universal House of Justice. Advise European Teaching Committee consummation the glorious enterprise issue formal invitation their spiritual offspring newly-emerged National Assembly participate together its sister National Assemblies United States, British Isles, Germany, Intercontinental Conference August same year capital city Sweden. Anticipate entrusting youngest among twelve National Assemblies Bahá'í World specific plan enabling it, conjunction sister National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í World promote course ten years separating second Most Great Jubilee Global Crusade designed hoist standard Bahá'u'lláh remaining states, dependencies islands whole planet. Invite attendants third Bahá'í Intercontinental Conference befittingly commemorate undreamt-of climax brilliant victories won course second Seven Year Plan eclipsing feats accomplished Latin American field course first Seven Year Plan presaging tremendous triumph won course third Seven Year Plan African Asiatic Australian continents.

With throbbing heart call to mind solemn affirmations glowing promises recorded Tablets Divine Plan envisioning evidences everlasting dominion destined signalize inauguration accompany triumphal progress mission vanguard Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders champion builders His world order European Asiatic African Australian continents islands Pacific Ocean. Advise European Teaching Committee cable text third announcement Assemblies capital cities Italy Switzerland urge on my behalf participation Swiss believers first teaching conference Rome eve Naw-Rúz this year for consultation with Italian collaborators prosecution soul-uplifting fateful undertaking heart south European continent.

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## The Historic Process

Cablegram, April 3, 1952

Announce National Assemblies East West joyful news final implementation agreement Israel authorities involving acquisition against payment hundred eighteen thousand dollars eighteen plots approximately six acres precincts Báb's Sepulcher.

Historic process establishment international Bahá'í endowments Mount Carmel, inevitably held abeyance fifty years after inception Faith, initiated morrow Bahá'u'lláh's Ascension, through purchase, course 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ministry, limited number plots immediate surroundings newly erected Tomb heart Mountain of God, greatly accelerated through purchase extensive properties following Master's passing, necessitated unprecedented influx immigrants Holy Land, now further reinforced, raising total area owned slopes Holy Mountain almost fifty acres.

Desire acknowledge indefatigable efforts exerted first western Bahá'í pilgrim since opening door pilgrimage Lawrence Hautz in hastening successful termination protracted negotiations civil authorities Holy Land.

Shoghi



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## God's Avenging Wrath

Cablegram, April 5, 1952

Inform National Assemblies God's avenging wrath having afflicted rapid succession recent years two sons brother sister-in-law Archbreaker Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant now struck down second son Siyyid 'Alí Nayer Afván pivot machinations connecting link old new Covenant-breakers.[pg 25] Time alone will reveal extent havoc wreaked this virus violation injected fostered over two decades 'Abdu'l-Bahá's family. History will brand him one whose grandmother wife Bahá'u'lláh joined breakers of His Covenant morrow His passing whose parents lent her undivided support whose father openly accused 'Abdu'l-Bahá one deserving capital punishment who broke promise Báb's wife escort her Holy Land precipitating thereby her death who was repeatedly denounced by Center Covenant His chief enemy whose eldest brother through deliberate misrepresentation facts inflicted humiliation defenders House Bahá'u'lláh Baghdád whose sister-in-law championing cause declared enemies Faith whose brothers supported him attributing 'Abdu'l-Bahá responsibility fatal disease afflicted their mother who himself in retaliation first succeeded winning over through marriage my eldest sister subsequently paved way marriage his brothers two other grandchildren Master who was planning fourth marriage his daughter grandson 'Abdu'l-Bahá thereby involving shameful marriages three branches His family who over twenty years schemed undermine position Center Faith through association representatives traditional enemies Faith Persia Muslim Arab communities notables civil authorities Holy Land who lately was scheduled appear star witness behalf daughter Badí'u'lláh recent lawsuit challenging authority conferred Guardian Faith 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament.

Shoghi



## Irresistible March of the Faith

Cablegram, April 23, 1952

Soul stirred heart uplifted recollection events signaling twelve month period preceding fateful year destined witness consummation series plans formulated Bahá'í National Assemblies five continents as well as inauguration second glorious Jubilee Bahá'í Dispensation. Irresistible march Faith marked simultaneously steady consolidation its administrative institutions rapid enlargement limits. No less eighteen countries enrolled, raising total number its orbit one hundred[pg 26] twenty-four. Languages Bahá'í literature printed being translated now ninety including twelve African languages. Vast process rise establishment World Center Faith accelerated. Contingents Hands Cause successively appointed every continent globe five whom shouldering responsibilities Holy Land. International Bahá'í Council enlarged officers designated.

Interview accorded literature presented Israel Prime Minister course American visit representatives American National Assembly. Eighteen plots twenty-two thousand square meter area added International Bahá'í endowments slopes Carmel. Government survey concluded paving way acquisition over one hundred forty thousand square meters property precincts Most Holy Tomb Bahjí. Design Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár Carmel conceived President International Bahá'í Council completed. Privileges exemption already accorded Bahá'í Holy Places Israel Ministry Finance extended 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Home Eastern Western Pilgrim Houses. Pilgrimages World Center Faith resumed following decade external hostilities internal disturbances agitating Holy Land. Eight piers designed support thousand ton superstructure Báb's Sepulcher constructed. Successive contracts totalling approximately forty-seven thousand dollars construction structural work erection Octagon signed culminating completion first unit superstructure raising eight pinnacles constituting second crown Holy Edifice. Preparations build Drum foundation unit golden Dome Sepulcher, commenced.

Twin pillars future House Justice erected Central South America additional pillar projected Europe uniting heart south continent.

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

Two year plan Bahá'í community British Isles formally launched African continent dispatch pioneers virgin territories Tanganyika Uganda Gold Coast[pg 27] reinforced assignment Liberia American Somaliland Nyasaland North Rhodesia Persian Zanzibar Madagascar Indian Libya Algeria Egyptian National Assemblies raising number States Dependencies already soon opened Faith twenty-five.

First fruits garnered comprise purchase seventeen thousand dollar Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds Kampala settlement Persian American British, Egyptian Portuguese pioneers Liberia North Rhodesia Angola Libya Spanish Morocco Mozambique inauguration teaching classes public meetings firesides enrollment several native Africans belonging Teso Yao Buganda Mutoco tribes formation Spiritual Assemblies Kampala Dar-es-Salaam.

European Teaching campaign, exceeding fondest hopes, stimulated successively convocation fourth European Teaching Conference Scheveningen representative twenty-one countries first Iberian Conference Madrid third Swiss Conference Bern first Italian Conference Rome first Benelux Conference Brussels establishment headquarters Amsterdam Brussel Luxembourg-Ville Bern Lisbon.

Process consolidation Faith stimulated recognition Bahá'í Holy Days Superintendent Public Schools Kenosha Superintendent School Milwaukee Rhode Island State Department Civil Service Bahá'í marriage certificate civil authorities Indianapolis authorization Adjutant General Bahá'í identification believers serving U.S. Armed Forces.

Bahá'í administrative centers steadily multiplying Ḥijáz Yemen Baḥrayn Aḥsá Kuwait Qatar Dubai Masqaṭ Aden heralding convocation historic Bahá'í Convention Arabian Peninsula destined culminate erection pillar Universal House Justice midmost heart Islámic world.

Nineteen month plan, formulated National Spiritual Assembly Indian subcontinent Burma aiming among other things introduction consolidation Faith capital cities Nepal Siam Indo-China Malaya Indonesia Sarawak.

Ties binding International Bahá'í Community United Nations reinforced official participation Bahá'í delegates regional Non-Governmental Conferences Istanbul Managua, Den[pg 28] Passar Paris Lawrence Kansas. Historic site House occupied Bahá'u'lláh Istanbul partly purchased, investigations conducted acquisition similar sites associated exile Founder Faith Adrianople.

Northern outposts Faith reinforced settlement pioneers Edgedes Minde Greenland Yellowknife Canadian North Western Territories.

Last not least internal ornamentation Mother Temple West terminated design adopted funds allocated Temple Trustees landscaping its immediate surroundings constituting final step for its approaching Jubilee. Appeal American Bahá'í community standing threshold concluding year second Seven Year Plan traversing last stage austerity period confronted approaching centenary darkest bloodiest episode Bahá'í history associated nation-wide holocaust Ṭáhirih's martyrdom Bahá'u'lláh's imprisonment Siyáh-Ḥál Ṭíhrán arise scale still loftier heights self-sacrifice efface deficit National Fund. Address in particular fervent plea brace itself play preponderating role impending world crusade which world community utilizing agencies divinely-appointed world administrative order preparing launch amidst deepening shadows world crisis execution 'Abdu'l-Bahá's world-encircling plan subsequent unfoldment world civilization ultimate attainment supreme objective illumination redemption whole world.

Advise share message National Assemblies East West.

Shoghi



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## Rapid Progress of a World Center — Decline in Fortunes of Covenant-Breakers

Cablegram, June 11, 1952

morrow sixtieth anniversary Bahá'u'lláh's Ascension share double announcement Bahá'í world through all National Assemblies. Rapid progress enterprise majestically unfolding heart God's Holy Mountain steady decline fortunes remnant old Covenant-breakers still defiantly challenging combined strength Bahá'í world community.[pg 29]

Termination Octagon setting second crown Holy Edifice synchronizing last Naw-Rúz Festival followed erection gilding balustrade course succeeding Rıdván period. Preliminary investigations

culminated erection scaffolding commencement construction Drum estimated cost thirteen thousand pounds constituting third unit Edifice preparatory raising golden Dome. Experiments prior placing contract gilded tiles Dome concluded. Confidently anticipate completion all preliminaries enabling builders mighty sacred Structure start construction Dome morrow opening fast approaching Holy Year paving way fulfilment 'Abdu'l-Bahá's prophecy uttered dark days First World War envisaging glory resplendent Dome greeting devout gaze future pilgrims drawing nigh shores Holy Land.

Old Covenant-breakers untaught lessons past sixty years reverses suffered connection restitution keys Shrine, evacuation restoration Mansion devastating loss rapid succession outstanding leaders spokesmen backed support perfidious Sohrab engaging services clever hostile lawyer unitedly challenged authority conferred 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament instituted legal proceedings against Guardian Faith questioned right demolish dilapidated house situated precincts constituting affront Most Holy Shrine Bahá'í World were rebuffed through intervention Israel government denying competence civil court adjudicate matter subsequently threatened appeal government decision Supreme Court provoked authorities who consequence my representations both Prime Minister Minister Foreign Affairs issued authorization demolish ruins.

Short-sighted action prompted blind uncontrollable animosity resulted irretrievable curtailment long-standing privileges extended Covenant-breakers course six decades occasion celebration Bahá'í Holy Days.

Signal success removal ruins immediately followed landscaping approaches Shrine, erection gate embellishment surroundings Tomb Bahá'u'lláh long denied befitting entrance through deliberate[pg

30] obstruction enemies Faith. Public access heart Qiblah Bahá'í World now made possible through traversing sacred precincts leading successively Holy Court outer inner sanctuaries Blessed Threshold Holy of Holies. Recent events prelude acquisition development over thirty acres property surrounding Bahá'u'lláh's resting place paving way erection course future decades befitting Mausoleum destined enshrine Dust Founder God's Most Holy Faith.

Shoghi



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## The Summons of the Lord of Hosts

June 30, 1952

The steady expansion of the activities conducted so devotedly and so efficiently, during the last twelve months, by the members of the valiant and exemplary American Bahá'í Community, under the aegis of their elected national representatives, is such as to evoke feelings of deep and sincere admiration in my heart, and will serve to heighten the esteem in which they are held by their brethren in every continent of the globe.

The completion of the interior ornamentation of the holiest House of Worship ever to be raised by the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, the initiation of the landscaping of the immediate approaches of this sacred and majestic Edifice, the actual launching of the highly promising, profoundly significant African Campaign, through the arrival and settlement of American pioneers in both East and West Africa; the energetic efforts exerted for the multiplication of Bahá'í administrative institutions and the stimulation and consolidation of the all-important teaching work throughout the States of the American Union; the generous, the unhesitating and effectual support extended to the newly fledged communities in Latin America in their efforts for the consolidation of the administrative structure so laboriously erected in recent years; the ready and enthusiastic response to the world-wide call for a befitting celebration by the entire Bahá'í world of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's prophetic Mission; the magnificent services already rendered by the recently elevated American Hands of the Cause of God, in diversified spheres of Bahá'í activity, at the World Center of the Faith, in the triple function of hastening the[pg 31] construction of the Báb's Sepulcher, of consolidating the ties binding the International Bahá'í Council to the civil authorities of Israel, and of completing the design of the projected Mashriqu'l-Adhikár on Mt. Carmel, as well as in Latin America; the repeated contributions made for the erection of that Sepulcher, for the extension of Bahá'í international endowments and the institution of the Ḥaḏíratu'l-Quds in Kampala; the marvellous loyalty demonstrated in connection with the repeated defection of members of the Holy Family and the nefarious activities of Covenant-breakers, both old and new; as well as the share a number of these Hands have had in administering a stunning defeat to the enemies of the Faith who, so boldly and shamelessly sought, through legal action, to challenge the authority of the Guardian of the Faith, and to publicly humiliate, the institution created through the provisions of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament; the further unfoldment of the European project

through the initiation of the two historic Conferences held in the Low Countries and in the Iberian Peninsula, and the convocation of the fateful Conference in Rome, heralding the formation of the Italo-Swiss National Assembly — the fairest fruit of that mighty Project — these stand out as the distinctive, the unforgettable, the infinitely meritorious achievements which posterity will record as the noblest exploits immortalizing the concluding years of the Second Seven Year Plan, and conferring untold benefits on its executors throughout the length and breadth of the Great Republic of the West.

So notable a record, such splendid achievements, investing, as they inevitably must, the American Bahá'í Community, with the potentialities so essential for the adequate conduct of the impending Ten Year Plan, that will constitute the third and last stage in the initial epoch, in the unfoldment of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan, and auguring well for the triumphant conclusion of the present Seven Year Plan, can, and must, if the star of this enviable community is to continue to rise, rapidly and uninterruptedly, to its meridian, be converted into a stepping-stone for the achievements of such feats as will not only outshine the splendor of the services already enumerated, but constitute a befitting termination to the second collective enterprise undertaken in American Bahá'í history, in the service of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, and for the execution of the grand Design conceived by the Center of His Covenant.

The support extended by a self-sacrificing, high-minded, ever alert community, for the erection of the Drum of the Sepulcher of [pg 32] the Báb and the raising of its crowning unit — the Dome itself — must, in the course of this current year, be consistently maintained, both by the individual members of this community, and the body of its elected representatives. The assistance required for the acquisition of extensive properties, comprising both lands and houses, in the immediate neighborhood of the Most Holy Tomb in Bahjí, and for the embellishment of the approaches of that hallowed Shrine — the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world — as a necessary prelude to the ultimate erection of a befitting Mausoleum to enshrine the remains of God's Supreme Manifestation on earth, must be generously and systematically extended. The scheme of landscaping the area surrounding the recently completed Mother Temple of the West, in time for its consecration and formal opening for public Bahá'í worship, must be rapidly and carefully carried out. The subsidiary Plan, formulated for the intensification of the Campaign of internal expansion and consolidation in every State of the American Republic, must be assiduously executed, and under no circumstances, be allowed to deteriorate or to fall into abeyance. The flow of pioneers to the African continent, to Liberia, North Africa, West and East Africa, must, at whatever cost, and while there is yet time, be substantially accelerated, as the essential prerequisite to the Ten Year crusade to be launched by no less than five National Assemblies in the African continent, on the morrow of the celebrations of the impending Holy Year. The process of multiplication of Bahá'í local Assemblies in the ten goal countries of Europe, and particularly in Italy and Switzerland, and the preparatory measures required to ensure the success of the twin historic assemblages destined to commemorate the last year of the Seven Year enterprise launched in the European continent — the European Teaching Conference in Luxemburg and the Italo-Swiss Convention in Florence — must be pushed forward with extreme care, vigilance and vigor. The utmost help and the necessary guidance must be vouchsafed to the newly emerged sister communities, in both Central and South America, to enable them to consummate their spontaneously undertaken Plans, so vital to their future association with the organized communities, in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, in



the prosecution of the world-wide undertaking destined to be launched on the morrow of the celebration of the approaching Great Jubilee. Above all, the most careful, prayerful, concentrated attention should be given by your Assembly, in conjunction with the several national committees, appointed for this purpose, to the adequate celebration of the fast approaching Holy[pg 33] Year, both locally, nationally and internationally, with particular emphasis on the three outstanding functions which the members of this Assembly must discharge, namely, the solemn consecration of the completed House of Worship and the commemoration of its Jubilee, the formal convocation of the Inter-continental Conference, and the holding of the Annual Convention in Wilmette, and the effective participation of the members of the American Bahá'í Community, both officially and unofficially, in the three other historic Inter-continental Conferences to be convened successively in Kampala, Stockholm and New Delhi.

The tasks ahead, calling for the expenditure of every ounce of energy on the part of the members of the indefatigable irresistably advancing, majestically unfolding American Bahá'í community and for the unrelaxing vigilance of its national elected representatives, are immense, highly diversified, truly challenging, sacred in character, undreamt of in their potentialities, urgent by their very nature, and inescapable in the responsibilities they involve. At the World Center of the Faith, where, at long last the machinery of its highest institutions has been erected, and around whose most holy shrines the supreme organs of its unfolding Order, are, in their embryonic form, unfolding; amidst the diversified tribes and races, peopling the Dependencies and Principalities of the Dark Continent of Africa; in the far-flung territories of Central and South America so alien in culture, temperament, habits, language and outlook; in the capital cities and traditional strongholds of a materially highly advanced yet spiritually famished, much tormented, fear-ridden, hopelessly-sundered, heterogeneous conglomeration of races, nations, sects and classes overspreading the continent of Europe; in the heart of the African continent, in the capital city of the Indian sub-continent; in one of the leading capitals of the Scandinavian countries in Northern Europe; in the very heart of the leading Republic of the Western Hemisphere, the standard-bearers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, the champion-builders of the Administrative Order, the vanguard of the Heralds of His World Order, and the Chief and appointed executors of the Master Plan of the Center of His Covenant, have, in the course of the few, fast-fleeting months ahead, separating them from the grandest crusade thus far launched in Bahá'í history, been assigned tasks, obligations and responsibilities that they can afford to neither minimize, neglect or shirk for a moment.

Within only a few weeks the Bahá'í World will enter upon[pg 34] the centenary of that fateful day of August the fifteenth, when a dastardly act, fraught with such terrible consequences, unleashed a series of tragic events that stained the annals of the Faith, that precipitated calamities on a scale unprecedented since its inception and unsurpassed in their tragic character by any event except the martyrdom of its Herald, which culminated in a holocaust reminiscent of the direst tribulations undergone by the persecuted followers of any previous religion, and which, in turn, paved the way, even as the darkest hour of the night precedes the dawn, for the first glimmerings that were to proclaim, to an unsuspecting world, and amidst the gloom and stench of the Siyáh-Chál of Tīhrán, the birth of the Mission of the Founder of our Faith. Less than four months separate us from the centenary celebrations designed to befittingly commemorate that glorious event in Bahá'í history, an event even more potent in its



implications than the birth of the Bábí Dispensation, and yielding in sacredness to none other except the memorable occasion when the Founder of the Faith Himself ascended the throne of His spiritual sovereignty and formally assumed in the City of Baghdád, His Prophetic Office. The radiance of God's infant light shining within the walls of that pestilential Pit — a radiance, an infinitesimal glimmer of which, as the Founder of the Faith, Himself, later testified, caused the dwellers of Sinai to swoon away — seemed, as it were, to be intermingled, whilst Bahá'u'lláh lay in chains and fetters in that subterranean dungeon, and, for many months after, with the somberness of the tragedy which enveloped the members of a persecuted community in almost every province of that hapless land. The dawning-light of the Revelation promised and lauded by the Báb marks the termination of the second and darker crisis in the annals of the Bábí Dispensation, and signalizes the commencement of a ten-year long crisis, the first of the three successive ones that left their lasting imprint on His Ministry.

Little wonder that, in the months immediately ahead, when our thoughts are fixed upon those days which heralded the outbreak of this reign of unprecedented terror, and the outburst of a light of such inconceivable brightness, and in the twelve-month period immediately following when we commemorate the centenary of that reign of terror as well as throughout the succeeding decade, constituting the hundredth anniversary of the period following the birth of so glorious a Mission — little wonder that the followers of the Author of such a Revelation should be called upon to pour forth, as a [pg 35] ransom for so much suffering, and in thanksgiving for such priceless benefits conferred upon mankind, their substance, exert themselves to the utmost, scale the summits of self-sacrifice, accomplish the most valorous feats, and, through a concerted, determined, consecrated ten-year-long effort, achieve their greatest victories in honor of the Founder of their Faith, in grateful memory of His unnumbered slaughtered servants, and for the world establishment, and ultimate triumph, of His embryonic World Order.

The four inter-continental Conferences, constituting the highlights of the centenary celebrations commemorating this unique period in Bahá'í history, commingling so much tragedy and glory, as well as the public consecration of the Most Holy House of Worship ever to be raised for the glory of the Most Great Name, must alike proclaim, in no uncertain voice, the significance of the happenings which, a hundred years ago, endowed mankind with a potency unapproached at any period in the world's spiritual history, and signalize the inauguration of what may yet come to be regarded as a period of collective administrative and teaching accomplishments distinguishing the Formative Age of our Faith and endowed with a fertility comparable to that which marked the spiritual feats of the dawn-breakers of the Heroic Age which preceded it.

To the members of the valorous American Bahá'í Community, the chosen trustees and principal executors of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, who, by virtue of the mission entrusted to them by the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant, have been empowered, and are fully qualified, to assume a preponderating role in the conduct of this world-encompassing crusade; to the long-suffering, the unflinching, the much loved and steadfast members of the venerable and still persecuted community of Bahá'u'lláh's followers laboring in His native land, whose spiritual ancestors have left a legacy of unsurpassed heroism and saintliness to the rising generation in both the East and the West; to the members of the small, yet intensely alive, community dwelling in the heart and center of the far-flung British Commonwealth of Nations, whose destiny is to lend a notable impetus to the progress of this world Crusade; through awakening the vast and heterogeneous

multitudes that owe allegiance to the British Crown, and are dispersed throughout the five continents of the globe; to the members of the equally small yet virile and highly promising community, planted in the heart of the European continent, whose mission is to spread the light of the Faith throughout the regions that lie in its neighborhood and project[pg 36] its radiance as far as the heart of the Asiatic continent; to the members of the newly emerged yet swiftly advancing community established in the Dominion of Canada, worthy allies of the American Bahá'í Community in the furtherance of the Grand Design delineated in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's immortal Tablets; to the members of the loyal, the assiduously laboring and highly diversified community in the Indian sub-continent, whose geographic position entitles them to extend substantial assistance to the prodigious task of awakening the peoples of South East Asia to the redemptive Message of Bahá'u'lláh; to the members of the second most persecuted yet resolute community established in the heart of both the Arab and Muslim worlds, who, by virtue of the position they occupy, must play a distinctive part in the emancipation of a proscribed Faith from the fetters of religious orthodoxy; to the members of the youthful yet vigorously functioning community, championing the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh in the Antipodes who, by reason of their close proximity, are expected to contribute a substantial share to the establishment of the institutions of the Faith in the numerous and widely scattered islands and archipelagos of the South Pacific Ocean; to the members of a long-established yet still persecuted community dwelling in a territory which may well rank, next to the Holy Land and the Cradle of our Faith, as the most holy in the entire Bahá'í world, who are destined to share with their brethren in Persia, Egypt and Páistán in the task of achieving the recognition of a down-trodden Faith, by the ecclesiastical leaders of Islám; to the newly-fledged, spiritually alert communities of Central and South America, who, by virtue of the responsibilities invested in the inhabitants of the Western Hemisphere through the ringing call of Bahá'u'lláh in the Aqdas and the utterances of the Center of His Covenant, are expected by their brethren, in both the East and the West, to worthily play their part as associates of the chief executors of the Plan bequeathed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá; to the members of the communities in Italy and Switzerland, as yet in the embryonic stage of their development, and who will soon take their place as an independent entity in the international Bahá'í community, and must assume their share in planting the banner of a triumphant Faith in the heart of a continent regarded as the cradle of Western civilization as well as in the stronghold and nerve-center of the most powerful church in Christendom; indeed, to each and every believer, whether isolated, or associated with any local Assembly or group, who, though as yet unidentified with any specific national Plan for the[pg 37] systematic prosecution of this Crusade, can still, and indeed must, lend his particular assistance in this gigantic enterprise — to all, without distinction of race, nation, class, color, age or sex, I feel moved, as the fateful hour of a memorable centenary approaches, to address my plea, with all the fervor that my soul can command and all the love that my heart contains, to rededicate themselves, collectively, and individually, to the task that lies ahead of them.

Under whatever conditions, the dearly loved, the divinely sustained, the onward marching legions of the army of Bahá'u'lláh may be laboring, in whatever theatre they may operate, in whatever climes they may struggle, whether in the cold and inhospitable territories beyond the Arctic Circle, or in the torrid zones of both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres; on the borders of the jungles of Burma, Malaya and India; on the fringes of the deserts of Africa and of the Arabian Peninsula; in the lonely, far-away, backward and sparsely populated islands dotting the

Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian Oceans and the North Sea; amidst the diversified tribes of the Negroes of Africa, the Eskimos and the Lapps of the Arctic regions, the Mongolians of East and South East Asia, the Polynesians of the South Pacific Islands, the reservations of the Red Indians in both American continents, the Maoris of New Zealand, and the aborigines of Australia; within the time-honored strongholds of both Christianity and Islám, whether it be in Mecca, Rome, Cairo, Najaf or Karbilá; or in towns and cities whose inhabitants are either immersed in crass materialism, or breathe the fetid air of an aggressive racialism, or find themselves bound by the chains and fetters of a haughty intellectualism, or have fallen a prey to the forces of a blind and militant nationalism, or are steeped in the atmosphere of a narrow and intolerant ecclesiasticism — [pg 38] to them all, as well as to those who, as the fortunes of this fate-laden Crusade prosper, will be called upon to unfurl the standard of an all-conquering Faith in the strongholds of Hinduism, and assist in the breaking up of a rigid age-long caste system, who will replace the seminaries and monasteries acting as the nurseries of the Buddhist Faith with the divinely-ordained institutions of Bahá'u'lláh's victorious Order, who will penetrate the jungles of the Amazon, scale the mountain-fastnesses of Tibet, establish direct contact with the teeming and hapless multitudes in the interior of China, Mongolia and Japan, sit with the leprous, consort with the outcasts in their penal colonies, traverse the steppes of Russia or scatter throughout the wastes of Siberia, I direct my impassioned appeal to obey, as befits His warriors, the summons of the Lord of Hosts, and prepare for that Day of Days when His victorious battalions will, to the accompaniment of hozannas from the invisible angels in the Abhá Kingdom, celebrate the hour of final victory.

"O, that I could travel," 'Abdu'l-Bahá, crying out from the depths of His soul, gives utterance to His longing, in a memorable passage, in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, addressed to the North American believers, "even though on foot and in the utmost poverty, to these regions, and raising the call of 'Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá' in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans, promote the Divine teachings! This, alas, I cannot do. How intensely I deplore it! Please God, ye may achieve it!"

"Teach ye the Cause of God, O people of Bahá," the Author of our Faith, Himself, admonishes His followers, "....for God hath prescribed unto every one the duty of proclaiming His Message, and regardeth it as the most meritorious of all deeds.... Should any one arise for the triumph of Our Cause, him will God render victorious though tens of thousands of enemies be leagued against him." "They that have forsaken their country," He assures them, "for the purpose of teaching Our Cause — these shall the Faithful Spirit strengthen through its power.... Such a service is, indeed, the prince of all goodly deeds, and the ornament of every goodly act." "When the hour cometh that this wronged and broken-winged bird will have taken its flight unto the celestial Concourse," is 'Abdu'l-Bahá's last poignant call to the entire body of the followers of His Father's Faith, as recorded in His Will and Testament, "it is incumbent upon ... the friends and loved ones, one and all, to bestir themselves and arise, with heart and soul, and in one accord ... to teach His Cause and promote His Faith. It behoveth them not to rest for a moment.... They must disperse themselves in every land ... and travel throughout all regions. Bestirred, without rest, and steadfast to the end, they must raise in every land the cry of 'Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá' ... that throughout the East and the West a vast concourse may gather under the shadow of the Word of God, that the sweet savors of holiness may be wafted, that men's faces may be illumined, that their hearts may be filled with the Divine Spirit and their souls become heavenly."

No matter how long the period that separates them from ultimate victory; however arduous the task; however formidable the exertions demanded of them; however dark the days which mankind,[pg 39] perplexed and sorely-tried, must, in its hour of travail, traverse; however severe the tests with which they who are to redeem its fortunes will be confronted; however afflictive the darts which their present enemies, as well as those whom Providence, will, through His mysterious dispensations raise up from within or from without, may rain upon them, however grievous the ordeal of temporary separation from the heart and nerve-center of their Faith which future unforeseeable disturbances may impose upon them, I adjure them, by the precious blood that flowed in such great profusion, by the lives of the unnumbered saints and heroes who were immolated, by the supreme, the glorious sacrifice of the Prophet-Herald of our Faith, by the tribulations which its Founder, Himself, willingly underwent, so that His Cause might live, His Order might redeem a shattered world and its glory might suffuse the entire planet — I adjure them, as this solemn hour draws nigh, to resolve never to flinch, never to hesitate, never to relax, until each and every objective in the Plans to be proclaimed, at a later date, has been fully consummated.

Your true brother,  
Shoghi



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## Fulfilment of National Teaching Plans

Cablegram, August 5, 1952

Recall feelings profound emotion as mid-August approaches distressing circumstances attending dastardly act which one hundred years ago precipitated chain calamitous events unparalleled scope severity annals Faith Bahá'u'lláh constituting next martyrdom its Herald darkest bloodiest most tragic episode Heroic Age Bahá'í Dispensation. Invite members all communities Bahá'í World standing threshold Holy Year call mind manifold tribulations afflicting God's infant Faith immediately preceding accompanying following imprisonment Author Bahá'í Revelation Síyáh-Chál Tíhrán somber scene birth His glorious mission. Urge them remember multitude barbarous acts in which king government people ecclesiastics participated ponder ferocious character persecutions meditate vastness range as well as far-reaching consequences. [pg 40] Request them dwell particularly seeming helplessness God's struggling Faith direct special attention ordeals undergone Bahá'u'lláh its sole surviving pillar subsequent birth His Mission His ultimate banishment culminating His incarceration Holy Land fulfilment age-long prophecies.

Address them as well as their national representatives my last appeal here commencement forthcoming Centenary Celebrations exert course critical fleeting months ahead one final supreme effort ensure complete total success all plans formulated by

National Assemblies every continent globe culminating Riḍván period  
falling middle marking central features celebrations Holy Year.

Supplicating God's bountiful blessings each every national enterprise triumphant  
consummation regarded posterity befitting tribute paid participants immortal  
memory unexampled heroism dawn-breakers Apostolic Age Dispensation Bahá'u'lláh will  
crown festivities commemorating centenary birth His Mission constitute worthy  
prelude launching global spiritual crusade destined culminate one hundredth  
anniversary formal assumption Author Bahá'í Revelation His Prophetic Office  
diffuse radiance His Faith face entire planet.

Share message all National Assemblies.

Shoghi



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## Launching the World-Embracing Spiritual Crusade

Cablegram, October 8, 1952

Hail feelings humble thankfulness unbounded joy opening Holy Year  
commemorating centenary rise Orb Bahá'u'lláh's most sublime Revelation  
marking consummation six thousand year cycle ushered in Adam glorified all past  
prophets sealed blood Author Bábí Dispensation. Evoke auspicious occasion glorious  
memory acclaim immortal exploits Dawn-Breakers Apostolic Age Bahá'í  
Dispensation cradle Faith mighty feats champion builders [pg 41] its rising World  
Order Western Hemisphere as well as multitude valorous achievements past present  
generations brethren European Asiatic African Australian continents whose combined  
accomplishments one hundred nine years its existence contributed survival God's struggling  
Faith reinforcement its infant strength safeguarding unity its supporters  
preservation integrity its teachings enrichment lives its followers rise institutions its  
administrative order fashioning agencies for systematic diffusion its  
light broadening consolidation its foundations. Moved express confident hope centenary  
celebrations now commencing, attain climax during approaching Riḍván period plans  
formulated valiant members World Bahá'í Community five continents may each all through  
their victorious consummation add distinct fresh luster world-wide festivities  
constituting collective tribute paid followers Most Great Name memory august  
Founder Faith honor centenary birth His Mission eternal glory His embryonic majestically  
unfolding World Order.

Feel hour propitious proclaim entire Bahá'í world projected  
launching occasion convocation approaching Intercontinental Conferences four  
continents globe fate-laden soul-stirring decade-long world-embracing Spiritual Crusade  
involving simultaneous initiation twelve national Ten Year Plans concerted participation all

National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í world aiming immediate extension Bahá'u'lláh's spiritual dominion as well as eventual establishment structure His administrative order all remaining Sovereign States Principal Dependencies comprising Principalities Sultanates Emirates Shaykhdoms Protectorates Trust Territories Crown Colonies scattered surface entire planet. Entire body avowed supporters Bahá'u'lláh's all-conquering Faith now summoned achieve single decade feats eclipsing totality achievements which course eleven preceding decades illuminated annals Bahá'í pioneering.

Four-fold objectives forthcoming Crusade marking third last phase initial epoch evolution 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan destined culminate world-wide[pg 42] festivities commemorating fast-approaching Most Great Jubilee. First development institutions World Center Faith Holy Land. Second consolidation through carefully devised measures home front twelve territories destined serve administrative bases operations twelve National Plans. Third consolidation all territories already opened Faith. Fourth opening remaining chief virgin territories planet specific allotments each National Assembly functioning Bahá'í world.

Projected historic spiritual venture at once arduous audacious challenging unprecedented scope character entire field Bahá'í history soon to be set motion involves:

Adoption preliminary measures construction Bahá'u'lláh's Sepulcher Holy Land.

Doubling number countries within pale Faith planting its banner remaining Sovereign States planet as well as remaining virgin Territories mentioned 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Tablets Divine Plan involving opening forty-one countries Asiatic thirty-three African thirty European twenty-seven American continents. Over twofold increase number languages Bahá'í literature translated printed or process translation — forty Asia thirty-one Africa ten each Europe America allocated American British Indian Australian Bahá'í communities including most part those Gospels already translated. Doubling number Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍḥkár initiation construction one Asiatic other European continent. Acquisition site future Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍḥkár Mount Carmel. Purchase land eleven future Temples three American three African two Asiatic two European one Australian continents. Erection first dependency Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍḥkár Wilmette. Development functions institution Hands Cause. Establishment Bahá'í Court Holy Land preliminary emergence Universal House Justice.

Codification laws ordinances Kitáb-i-Aqdas Mother Book Bahá'í Revelation. Establishment six national Bahá'í Courts chief cities Islámic East — Ṭihrán Cairo Baghdád New Delhi Karachi Kabul. Extension international Bahá'í endowments Holy Land, plain[pg 43] 'Akká slopes Mount Carmel. Construction international Bahá'í Archives neighborhood Báb's Sepulcher. Construction tomb wife Báb Shíráz. Identification resting places father Bahá'u'lláh mother cousin Báb reburial Bahá'í cemetery vicinity Most Great House. Acquisition Garden Riḍván Baghdád site Síyáh-Chál Ṭihrán site martyrdom Báb Tabríz His incarceration Chihríq.

More than quadruple number National Spiritual Assemblies — twenty-one American thirteen European ten Asiatic three African one Australian continents. Multiply seven-fold national Ḥazíratu'l-Quds their establishment capital cities chief Sovereign States chief



cities principal Dependencies planet — twenty-one America fifteen Europe nine Asia three Africa one New Zealand. Framing national Bahá'í constitutions establishment national Bahá'í endowments same capitals cities same States Dependencies.

More than quintuple number incorporated National Assemblies — twenty-one America thirteen Europe twelve Asia three Africa one Australasia. Establishment six national Bahá'í Publishing Trusts — two America two Asia one Africa one Europe.

Participation women Persia membership national local Assemblies. Establishment seven Israel branches National Spiritual Assemblies — two Europe two Asia one each America Africa Australia. Establishment national Bahá'í printing press Tíhrán.

Reinforcement ties binding Bahá'í World Community United Nations. Inclusion circumstances permitting eleven Republics comprised within Union Soviet Socialist Republics two European Soviet-controlled States within orbit Administrative Order Faith. Convocation World Bahá'í Congress vicinity Garden Ridván Baghdád third holiest city Bahá'í world occasion world-wide celebrations Most Great Jubilee commemorating Centenary Ascension Bahá'u'lláh Throne His Sovereignty.

Current Bahá'í history must henceforth as second decade second Bahá'í century opens move rapidly majestically as never moved before since inception Faith over [pg 44] century ago. Earthly symbols Bahá'u'lláh's unearthly Sovereignty must needs ere decade separating two memorable Jubilees draws close be raised as far north as Franklin beyond Arctic Circle as far south as Falkland Islands marking southern extremity western hemisphere amidst remote lonely inhospitable islands archipelagos South Pacific Indian Atlantic oceans mountain fastnesses Tibet jungles Africa deserts Arabia steppes Russia Indian Reservations North America wastelands Siberia Mongolia amongst Eskimos Greenland Alaska Negroes Africa Buddhist strongholds heart Asia amongst Lapps Finland Polynesians South Sea Islands Negritos archipelagos South Pacific Ocean.

Broad outlines world-encircling plan divinely revealed. Course charted 'Abdu'l-Bahá's infallible Pen. Shining goals set. Requisite administrative machinery created. Signal given Author Plan Supreme Commander. Lord Hosts King Kings pledged unfailing aid every crusader battling for His Cause. Invisible battalions mustered rank upon rank ready pour forth reinforcements from on high. Bahá'u'lláh's army light standing threshold Holy Year. Let them as they enter it vow one voice one heart one soul never turn back entire course fateful decade ahead until each every one will have contributed share laying world-wide scale unassailable administrative foundation Bahá'u'lláh's Christ-promised Kingdom earth swelling thereby chorus universal jubilation wherein earth heaven will join prophesied Daniel echoed 'Abdu'l-Bahá, "on that day will faithful rejoice with exceeding gladness."

Call upon fifteen Hands five continents virtue supreme function chosen instruments propagation Faith inaugurate historic mission appointment Ridván 1954 four auxiliary boards one each continent nine members each who will as adjuncts deputies working conjunction various National Assemblies functioning each continent assist through periodic systematic visits Bahá'í centers efficient prompt execution twelve projected National

Plans. Moreover request communities observing Bahá'í Holy Days solar calendar celebrate befitting solemnity [pg 45] approaching anniversary Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday falling middle two month period during which hundred years ago Author Faith received first intimation His glorious Mission.

Advise American Bahá'í community commemorate occasion special gathering Temple Wilmette urge attendance as many believers possible invite Hands Cause United States Canada participate as my representatives.

Shoghi



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## Acquisition of Vitally-Needed Property

Cablegram, November 12, 1952

Announce Bahá'í communities East West joyous occasion hundred thirty-fifth Anniversary Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday successful termination protracted negotiations initiated two years ago culminating signature contract providing eventual formal transfer Development Authority State Israel to Palestine Branch American National Spiritual Assembly extensive long-desired vitally-needed property surrounding safeguarding for posterity Most Holy Tomb Founder Faith as well as adjoining Mansion.

Acquired area raising Bahá'í holdings holy plain 'Akká from four thousand to one hundred and fifty-five thousand square meters exchanged against property donated by children Dhikru'lláh, grandchildren Mírzá Muḥammad Qulí, Bahá'u'lláh's faithful half-brother companion exile.

Spontaneous offer contrasts shameful action family sale non-Bahá'ís property neighborhood Jordan valley purchased instrumentality 'Abdu'l-Bahá during Bahá'u'lláh's lifetime pursuant His instructions alluded His writings.

Forty acre property acquired single transaction almost equals entire Bahá'í international endowments purchased course sixty years vicinity Báb's Sepulcher slope Mount Carmel.

Exchange said property, including land houses made possible precipitate flight former Arab owners traditional supporters old Covenant-breakers descendants [pg 46] notorious enemy 'Abdu'l-Bahá who placed his residence disposal Committee Investigation.

Signature agreement signaled commencement large-scale landscaping aiming beautification immediate precincts holiest spot entire Bahá'í world itself prelude eventual erection happened case Báb's Sepulcher befitting Mausoleum enshrining precious Dust Most Great Name.



Desire acknowledge indefatigable efforts exerted both Larry Hautz Leroy loas  
enabling consummation initial stage enterprise destined eclipse its final  
phase splendor magnificence Báb's resting-place Mount Carmel.

Shoghi



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## Representatives for Intercontinental Conferences

### Cablegram, December 15, 1952

occasion Centenary Bahá'u'lláh's release oppressive imprisonment Síyáh-Çhál Ṭíhrán  
synchronizing termination epoch-making two-month period associated Birth His Revelation  
unsurpassed with sole exception Declaration His mission any episode world's spiritual history  
call upon Bahá'í communities East West ponder unique significance focus  
attention imperative requirements respond worthily challenge offered each four fate-laden  
fast-approaching Intercontinental Conferences constituting highlights recently ushered-in  
Holy Year.

Desire announce appointment Hands Cause honored direct association newly-initiated  
enterprises world center Faith act addition their individual  
participation deliberations forthcoming Conferences my special representatives  
entrusted four-fold mission bear for edification attendants, a precious remembrance Co-  
founder Faith deliver official message assembled believers  
elucidate character purposes impending decade-long spiritual World  
Crusade rally participants energetic sustained enthusiastic prosecution colossal tasks ahead.

Instructing President International Bahá'í Council[pg 47] Mason Remey, Member at Large  
Ugo Giachery Secretary-General Leroy loas discharge these functions course New Delhi  
Stockholm Kampala Conferences respectively.

Delegating Amatu'l-Bahá accompanied Vice-President International Council Amelia Collins  
fulfil three of above mentioned functions as well as carry my behalf  
unveil occasion completion construction Mother Temple West privileged  
attendants Wilmette Conference most prized remembrance Author Faith never before  
left shores Holy Land to be placed beneath dome consecrated edifice. Moreover assigning  
her task act as my deputy historic ceremony marking official Dedication holiest Maṣḥriqu'l-  
Aḡhkár Bahá'í world reared everlasting glory honor Most Great Name heart North American  
continent.

Shoghi



## Twofold Victory in Holy Land

Cablegram, March 21, 1953

occasion Naw-Rúz Holy Year convey twin joyful tidings National Assemblies Bahá'í world. Building operations final unit Báb's Sepulcher commenced. Recall this hour successive landmarks each coinciding Naw-Rúz Festival in history sixty year old enterprise founded Author Bahá'í Revelation. First, Naw-Rúz 1909 witnessed entombment within Holy of Holies Shrine constructed 'Abdu'l-Bahá dust Martyr-Prophet Faith. Second Naw-Rúz, 1949 coincided laying first threshold stones arcade. Third Naw-Rúz 1951 synchronized termination excavation within Shrine foundations eight piers designed support weight three story superstructure. Fourth Naw-Rúz 1952 associated completion octagon setting second crown holy Edifice.

Celebrations Naw-Rúz Holy Year heightened placing first stones encircling base dome. Anticipating as climax world-wide rejoicings Holy Year draw near placing gilded tiles fourth last unit majestic Edifice. Fervently hoping greatest enterprise undertaken World Center Faith consummated ere conclusion festivities Holy Year.

International endowments surrounding tomb Prophet-Herald Faith bosom God's Holy Mountain considerably extended through acquisition after thirty years' effort wooded area of over twenty-three thousand square meters including building overlooking sacred spot made possible through estate bequeathed Faith by herald Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant Roy Wilhelm raising total area within precincts permanently dedicated Báb's Sepulcher almost quarter million square meters.

Heart filled humble gratitude double victory Faith adding great joyousness Bahá'í New Year's Day presaging still greater triumphs as Bahá'í World approaches high water mark world-wide celebrations memorable year commemorating hundredth anniversary birth Mission Bahá'u'lláh.

Shoghi



## Treacherous Rúhí Afnán

Cablegram, May 17, 1953

Treacherous Rúhí Afnán not content previous disobedience correspondence Aḥmad Sohrab contact old Covenant-breakers sale conjunction other members family sacred property purchased Founder Faith allowing his sister marry son 'Abdu'l-Bahá's enemy now openly

lecturing Bahá'í movement claiming be its exponent misrepresenting teachings deliberately causing confusion minds authorities local population. Inform National Assemblies.

Shoghi



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## The Paramount Issue

Cablegram, May 28, 1953

occasion sixty-first Anniversary Ascension Bahá'u'lláh morrow opening initial phase momentous World Crusade call His followers all continents allow no slackening nay insure acceleration marvelous momentum generated historic celebrations climaxing [pg 49] festivities Holy Year. Dispersal immediate determined sustained universal throughout unopened territories planet paramount issue challenging spirit resources privileged prosecutors Ten-Year Plan course current year.

All National Assemblies urged give it priority assignments national budgets. Chief executors 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan virtue primacy conferred His Tablets accorded prerogative stimulate vital process dispersal through dispatch in addition their allotted tasks pioneers virgin territories allocated sister communities East West.

Once again appeal members all communities arise enlist ere present opportunity irretrievably lost army Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders. Hour ripe disencumber themselves worldly vanities mount steed steadfastness unfurl banner renunciation don armor utter consecration God's Cause gird themselves girdle chaste holy life unsheathe sword Bahá'u'lláh's utterance buckle on shield His love carry as sole provision implicit trust His promise flee homelands scatter far wide capture unsundered territories entire planet.

Would to God Bahá'í warriors six score ten number required fill gaps still unconquered territories globe promptly arise enroll themselves achieve goals ere conclusion opening year decade-long greatest collective enterprise since memorable episodes associated Dawn-Breakers Heroic Age.

Planning inscribe chronological order names spiritual conquerors illuminated Roll Honor to be deposited entrance door inner Sanctuary Tomb Bahá'u'lláh permanent memorial contribution champions His Faith victorious conclusion opening campaign Global Crusade destined attain consummation Most Great Jubilee commemorating Centenary Declaration His Mission. Anticipate making periodic announcements names valiant knights upon arrival posts discharge historic missions.

Share message National Assemblies Bahá'í World.[pg 50]

Shoghi



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## Sealing the Triumphant Festivities of Holy Year

Cablegram, August 19, 1953

Transmit National Assemblies Bahá'í world joyous news placing gilded tiles entire surface dome Báb's Sepulcher terminated. Last stones crown surrounding base dome laid marking conclusion stonework superstructure holy edifice. Shuttering interior dome removed. Frames lancet windows drum installed. Placing frames octagon windows plastering interior dome approaching completion. Electric cables designed illumination majestic structure placed position. Anticipate early removal scaffolding prior placing eighteen stained glass lancet windows.

Feel assured consummation sixty year old enterprise will synchronize holding forthcoming New Delhi Intercontinental Teaching Conference sealing triumphant world-wide festivities Holy Year commemorating centenary birth Mission Bahá'u'lláh.

Shoghi



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## Roll of Honor

Cablegram, September 20, 1953

Transmit following joyful tidings National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í world. World spiritual crusade mightiest agency yet conceived systematic execution 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan befittingly ushered in through successive magnificent victories won Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders virgin territories every continent globe.

Four months elapsed since its glorious inauguration amidst climax festivities commemorating Centenary inception His Mission immortalized opening no less twenty-eight territories islands nine Europe eight America six Africa five Asia constituting dispersal unprecedented its rapidity scope eleven decades Bahá'í history.

Number pioneers responded call settlement open unopened territories planet passed three hundred mark over hundred fifty America over[pg 51] fifty Europe over forty Africa over forty Asia. Number prospective pioneers virgin areas over forty. All Western Hemisphere

African<sup>2</sup> areas allocated United States National Assembly, as well as all European areas allocated various National Assemblies assigned.

Roll Honor designed perpetuate memory exploits spiritual conquerors already inscribed names following pioneers together respective territories amounting almost fourth number required attainment paramount objective opening phase ten year plan. Mihdi Samandari *Italian Somaliland* Mary Rex Collison Dunduzu Chisizwa *Ruanda-Urundi* Izzatu'lláh Zahrai *Southern Rhodesia* Ghulamal Kurlawala *Daman Gail Jameson Bond Franklin Roshan Aftabi Feroza Yaganagi Goa Rose Perkal Jack Huffman Kodiak Island* Mr. Mrs. Arthur Crane *Key West* Saeed Nahvi Shyan Behrarilal *Pondicherry* Udainarayan Singh *Sikkim* Fred Schechter *French Somaliland* Virginia Orbison *Balearic Islands* Mr. Mrs. Amín Banání *Greece* 'Abbás Vakíl *Cyprus* Gertrude Eisenberg *Canary Islands* Dick Stanton *Keewatin* Mr. Mrs. Jenabe Caldwell *Aleutian Islands* Edith MacArthur *Queen Charlotte Islands* Hushmand Manuchihri *Liechtenstein* Eskil Ljungberg *Faroe Islands* Mildred Clark Loyse Lawrence *Lofoten Islands* Salisa Kirmani Shirin Nurani *Karikal* Zia'u'lláh Asgarzadeh Evelyn Baxter *Channel Islands* Kay Weston *Magdalen Islands* Julius Edwards *Northern Territories Protectorate* Doris Richardson, *Grand Manon Island* Charles Dunning *Orkneys Islands*; Nellie French *Monaco*.

Countries Bahá'ís reside now aggregate over hundred fifty. Over seventy added course nine years separating first second Jubilees.

Festivities Holy Year so splendidly inaugurated attaining high water mark occasion Ninetieth Anniversary declaration Mission Founder Faith approaching end. Appeal entire body His followers exert concerted superhuman effort celebrate through acceleration dispersal conclusion world-wide rejoicings pay worthy tribute His memory through as close approach two hundred mark as possible total number sovereign States Dependencies Islands comprised orbit His irresistibly expanding Faith achieving thereby [pg 52] a feat paralleling eyes posterity triumphant completion superstructure Sepulcher its Co-Founder Bahá'í World Center Holy Land.

Shoghi



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## Twenty-One Virgin Areas

Cablegram, November 11, 1953

Announce National Assemblies Bahá'í world three week interval since close Holy Year witnessed planting banner God's triumphant Cause no less twenty-one virgin areas globe raising total number territories opened Faith two hundred representing well nigh sixty per

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2. The original cablegram omits the word "African" here; however the printed versions include it. This needs further clarification.

cent increase course little over half year number sovereign States Dependencies included its pale during one hundred nine years its existence.

Seventy virgin areas brought within orbit swiftly expanding Bahá'í administrative order since launching World Crusade include twenty-one Americas nineteen Africa nineteen Europe thirteen Asia.

Following pioneers inscribed Roll Honor since last announcement Gerald, Gail Leeanna Curwin *Bahamas* Enoch Olinga *British Cameroons* Malcolm King *British Guiana* Peggy George True *Canaries* Shirley Warde *British Honduras* Irving Geary *Cape Breton Island* Zunilda Palacios *Chiloe* Edith Danielson *Cook Islands* Himatlal Bhatt *Diu* Elinor Robert Wolff *Dutch Guiana* Eberhard Friedland *French Guiana* Labib Išfahání *French West Africa* Adela Salvador Tormo *Juan Fernandez* Gladys Benjamin Weeden *Leeward Islands* Frances Heller *Macao* Lionel Peraji *Mahe* Ola Pawlowska *Miquelon* St. Pierre Elsie Austin Nosrat Shayesteh 'Abbás Muḥammad-'Alí Jaláli Rowhani Ardekani Ḥasanzadeh Rafii *Morocco International Zone* Bertha Dobbins *New Hebrides* Opal Leland Jensen *Reunion* Marie Ciocca *Sardinia* 'Abbás Kamil *Seychelles* Emma Rice Mr. Mrs. Bagley *Sicily* Greta Lamprill Glad Parke *Society Islands* Mr. Mrs. McKay Mr. Mrs. Fleming Miss Jenssen *Spanish Morocco* Muḥammad Mostafa *Spanish Sahara* Lillian Middlemast Esther M. Evans *Windward Islands*. [pg 53]

As few as two territories of Europe six Americas fourteen Africa twenty-two Asia still remain unopened excluding Republics satellites Soviet Union. May opening year decade-long spiritual Crusade be victoriously concluded befittingly celebrated course festivities next Riqḍván through establishment nucleus Faith each remaining forty-four territories insuring thereby virtual attainment foremost objective initial stage Ten Year Plan.

Shoghi



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## Fast-Dwindling Band of Covenant-Breakers

Cablegram, December 16, 1953

Following successive blows which fell dramatic swiftness two years ago ring-leaders fast dwindling band old Covenant-breakers World Center Faith God's avenging hand struck down last two months Áváríh Faríd Falah within cradle Faith North America Turkey who demonstrated varying degrees course over thirty years faithlessness 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

First above named condemned posterity most shameless vicious relentless apostate annals Faith who through ceaseless vitriolic attacks recorded voluminous writings close alliance its traditional enemies assiduously schemed blacken its name subvert foundations its institutions.

Second history will recognize one most perfidious  
among kinsmen interpreters Center Covenant who, driven ungovernable cupidity  
committed acts causing agonies grief distress beloved Master culminating open  
association breakers Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant Holy Land.

Third chiefly remembered pride obstinacy insatiable ambition impelling  
him violate spiritual administrative precepts Faith.

All three however blinded perversity could not have failed perceive as infamous careers  
approached end futility opposition measure own  
loss degree progress consolidation triumphant administrative order[pg 54] so  
magnificently celebrated course festivities recently concluded Holy Year.

Shoghi



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## World Crusade Forges Ahead

Cablegram, December 7, 1953

Inform National Assemblies East West Bahá'í World Crusade matchless its vastness  
unsurpassed its potentialities spiritual annals mankind announced eve Holy Year formally  
launched climax festivities commemorating centenary birth Mission Founder Faith forging  
ahead gathering momentum both its territorial institutional aspects every  
continent globe chief islands Pacific Atlantic Indian Oceans Mediterranean North Seas.

Number sovereign States dependencies within orbit divinely propelled Order now totals two  
hundred five. No less seventy-seven territories won over Knights Bahá'u'lláh during little over  
half year representing two thirds total number virgin areas exclusive Soviet-controlled  
Republics satellites must needs be opened course whole decade. Every single territory  
whether island situated continent exception above-mentioned Republics satellites definitely  
assigned.

Out total eleven eight Funds inaugurated course same year aggregating approximately two  
hundred thousand dollars designed pave way acquisition sites future Maṣḥriqu'l-  
Adhkárs Carmel Canada Panama Italy Sweden 'Iráq, Australia India.

Hour propitious all National Assemblies particularly United States British Egyptian participate  
befittingly opening three remaining Funds ere first year Ten Year Plan draws close insuring  
thereby early purchase sites future Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkárs Cairo Kampala Johannesburg.  
Contributing three thousand pounds my initial donation three-fold meritorious purpose.

Preliminary measures adopted German National Spiritual  
Assembly projects initiated Tīhrán[pg 55] calculated hasten construction third fourth  
Maṣhriqu'l-Adḥkārs Bahá'í world heart European Asiatic continents.

Appeal individual believers reinforce whatever extent possible contributions Bahá'í national  
bodies called upon this hour unitedly lend impetus unfoldment opening phase Ten Year  
Plan whose consummation will God willing insure triumphant conclusion initial  
epoch evolution grand Design conceived Center Covenant systematic propagation Father's  
Faith. Advise forward all contributions whether individual or collective Egyptian British United  
States National Assemblies primarily invested responsibility eventual erection Bahá'í  
Houses Worship north heart south African continent.

Shoghi



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### Hand of Cause Appointment

Cablegram, December 7, 1953

Inform National Assemblies elevation Jalál Kházeh rank Hand Cause.

Shoghi



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### Appeal for Pioneer Settlement

Cablegram, February 8, 1954

Nine months elapsed since launching spiritual world-encompassing Crusade witnessed entry  
Knights Bahá'u'lláh well-nigh four score ten territories throughout planet representing virtually  
three-fourths total number areas exclusive Soviet zone influence destined be opened course  
entire decade swelling roll sovereign States Dependencies enlisted banner His Faith two  
hundred thirteen.

All independent States Principalities European continent excluding Soviet Republics satellites  
opened.[pg 56]

All territories North Central South America excluding Labrador opened.

All territories Asiatic continent outside Russian orbit opened except Tibet Bhutan.



All islands Mediterranean all islands North Sea opened except Spitzbergen.

All African sovereign States Colonies Protectorates Trust territories exception Togolands Spanish Guinea Bechuanaland Swaziland Gambia French Cameroons opened.

All islands South North Atlantic except St. Helena St. Thomas Anticosti, Falklands opened.

All Indian Ocean islands exception Socotra Cocos Comoro Mentawai Nicobar Chagos Archipelago Kuria-Muria opened.

All islands North South Pacific exclusive Soviet-controlled territories opened except Galapagos Gilbert Ellice Admiralty Loyalty Marshall Mariana Brunei Portuguese Timor.

Concourse high hails delight phenomenal rapidity victories Bahá'í pioneering virgin areas globe.

Encouraged address urgent plea all National Assemblies concerned, as well as each every prospective pioneer assigned aforementioned territories expedite every means disposal arrival respective posts ere expiry swiftly-passing three-month period separating them conclusion opening year auspiciously-unfolding decade.

Appeal furthermore entire body participants Crusade put forth all strength secure entry additional volunteers same territories multiplying thereby chances their inclusion pale Faith ere celebration fast-approaching Riqdán.

Supplicating redoubled ardor further measure Bahá'u'lláh's sustaining grace surpassing conspicuous blessings already vouchsafed His wholly-dedicated widely-scattered forward-marching warriors since launching Ten Year Plan.[pg 57]

Shoghi



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## Hand of Cause Appointment

Cablegram, March 19, 1954

Announce all National Assemblies elevation Paul Haney rank Hand Cause.

Shoghi



## Roll of Honor — Additional Inscriptions

Cablegram, March 21, 1954

occasion Naw-Rúz marking opening second decade second Bahá'í century inform National Assemblies Bahá'í world following pioneers scattered over twenty-one virgin areas inscribed Roll Honor since fourth periodic announcement.

Otillie Rhein *Mauritius* Olga Mills *Malta* Peter Lugayula *Ashanti* Virginia Breaks *Caroline* Dr. Fozdar *Andaman* Elly Becking *Dutch New Guinea* Andrew Nina Matthisen *Bahamas* Carl Loretta Scherer *Macao* Gulnar Aftabi Bahíyyih Rowhani Kaykhosrow Dahmobi *Diu* Jean Tove Deleuran Charles Ioas *Balearic* Adib Bagdadi Husayn Halabi *Hadhrumaut* Kenneth Roberta Christian Eyneddin Tahereh Alai, Joan Powis *Southern Rhodesia* Hormoz Zende *Morocco International Zone* Howard Joanne Menking *Cape Verde Islands* Elizabeth Bevan *Rhodes* Matthew Bullock *Dutch West Indies* Lillian Wyss *Samoa* Dulcie Dive Cook Stanley Bolton Jr. *Tonga* Greta Jankko *Marquesa* Jean Sevin *Tuamotu* Alvin Gertrude Blum *Solomon* Bernard Guhrke *Kodiak* John Leonard *Falkland* Munir Vakil *Kuria-Muria* John Audrey Roberts *Bechuanaland* Charles Dayton wife David Schreiber *Leeward* Faiborz Roozebehyan *Gambia* Rahmat Iran Muhajir *Mentawai* Gertrud Ankersmit *Frisian* Shamsi Navidi *Monaco* Roy Elena Fernie *Gilbert* *Ellice Islands* Qudratullah Rowhani Khodarahm Mojgani *Mahe*.

Ninety-one virgin areas opened Faith since launching Crusade. Total number territories within its pale now raised two hundred nineteen. Remaining unopened territories excluding Soviet Republics satellites twenty-five.[pg 58]

Appeal prospective pioneers whilst opening year Ten Year Crusade speeding its close expedite entry unopened areas contributing thereby enhancement celebrations coming Ridván rendered memorable swift magnificent victories achieved pioneering field, unsurpassed course eleven decades Bahá'í history.

Shoghi



## Institution of Hands of the Cause

Cablegram, April 6, 1954

To all the Hands of the Cause and all National Assemblies of the Bahá'í World:

Hail emergence unfoldment opening years second epoch formative age Bahá'í Dispensation august Institution foreshadowed Founder Faith formally established Testament Center His Covenant closely associated provisions same

Will Institution Guardianship destined assume fullness time under aegis Guardian dual sacred responsibility for protection propagation Cause Bahá'u'lláh.

Desire pay warm tribute services rendered severally collectively appointed Hands World Center Faith territories beyond its confines.

Greatly value support erection Báb's Sepulcher Mt. Carmel reinforcing ties newly emerged State Israel extension International Endowments Holy Land initiation preliminary measures establishment Bahá'í World Administrative Center as well as participation four successive intercontinental Teaching Conferences extensive travels African territories North Central South America European Asiatic Australian Continents.

Newly constituted body embarked mission such auspicious circumstances now entering second phase evolution signalized forging ties National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í world purpose lending assistance attaining objectives Ten Year Plan.

Hour ripe fifteen Hands residing outside Holy Land proceed during Riḍván appointment each [pg 59] continent separately from among resident Bahá'ís that Continent, Auxiliary Boards, whose members, acting deputies assistants advisers Hands must increasingly lend assistance promotion interests Ten Year Crusade.

Advise Hands Asiatic American European Continents convene Tíhrán Wilmette Frankfurt respectively purposes consultation nomination.

Hands Cause African Australian Continents must exercise functions Kampala Sydney respectively.

Auxiliary Boards American, European African Continents must consist nine members each Asiatic Australian continents seven two respectively.

Allocation areas each continent to members Auxiliary Boards as well as subsidiary matters regarding development activities newly appointed bodies manner collaboration National Spiritual Assemblies respective Continents left to discretion Hands.

All Boards must report be responsible Hands charged their appointment.

Hands each Continent their turn must keep close touch report result nominations progress activities Boards National Assemblies respective continents as well as four Hands residing Holy Land destined act liaison between themselves Guardian Faith.

Urge initiation five Continental Bahá'í Funds which, as they develop, will increasingly facilitate discharge functions assigned Boards.

Transmitting five thousand pounds my initial contribution be equally divided five Continents.

Appeal twelve National Assemblies individuals insure steady augmentation these Funds annual assignment National Budgets individual contributions.

Advise transmit contributions Varqá Holley Giachery Banání Dunn acting Trustees Asiatic American European African Australian Funds respectively.

Fervently supplicating Holy Threshold unprecedented measure blessings vital indispensable organ embryonic steadily unfolding Bahá'í Administrative[pg 60] Order presaging emergence World Order Bahá'u'lláh which must pave way establishment World Civilization destined attain maturity course successive Dispensations Five Thousand Century Bahá'í Cycle.

Airmail copies all Hands National Assemblies.

Shoghi



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## A Divinely-Guided Faith

April, 1954

On the eve of this Ridván Festival marking the opening of the second decade of the second Bahá'í century, and coinciding with the termination of the first year of the World Spiritual Crusade, I hail with feelings of joy and wonder the superb feats of the heroic company of the Knights of the Lord of Hosts in pursuance of their sublime mission for the spiritual conquest of the planet. The first twelve months of this decade-long enterprise unexampled in its scope, significance and potentialities in the world's spiritual history and launched simultaneously, amidst the climax of the world-wide festivities of a memorable Holy Year, in the American, the European, the African, the Asiatic and the Australian continents, have witnessed the hoisting of the banner of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in no less than a hundred virgin territories of the globe. The total number of the newly opened sovereign states and dependencies comprising Principalities, Sultanates, Emirates, Sheikhdoms, Protectorates, Trust Territories and Crown Colonies, scattered over the face of the earth, represents almost seven-eighths of all the territories, exclusive of the Soviet Republics and Satellites, destined to be opened in the course of an entire decade. The northern frontiers of a divinely guided, rapidly marching, majestically expanding Faith have been pushed, in consequence of the phenomenal success recently achieved by the vanguard of Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders, beyond the Arctic Circle as far as Arctic Bay, Franklin, 73 degrees latitude. Its southern limits have now reached the Falkland Islands in the neighborhood of Magallanes, the world's southernmost city. Other outlying outposts have been established in places as far apart as Sikkim at the foot of the Himalayas, the Lofoten Islands in the heart of the European Northland, Fezzan on the northern fringe of the Sahara Desert, the Andaman Islands and the Seychelles, the penal colonies in the Indian Ocean, the three Guianas and the leper[pg 61] colonies on the Atlantic Coast, the Faroe and Shetland Islands, the wind-swept and inhospitable archipelagos of the North Sea, Hadhramaut on the sun-baked shores of the Arabian Peninsula, St. Helena isolated in the midst of the South Atlantic Ocean and the

Gilbert Islands, the war-devastated, sparsely populated Atolls situated in the heart of the Pacific Ocean.

God's infant Faith, confined during the first nine years of its existence to its birthland and the adjoining territory of 'Iráq, reaching, in the course of the thirty-nine years of Bahá'u'lláh's Ministry, to thirteen other lands, enlarged, during 'Abdu'l-Bahá's twenty-nine year Ministry, through the opening of twenty additional countries, only succeeded, after the lapse of three-quarters of a century, in including within its orbit thirty-five countries within both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

The subsequent quarter of a century, constituting the first Epoch of the Formative Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation, witnessed the planting of the banner of the Faith in over forty territories of the globe, raising the number of countries included within its pale, on the eve of the Centenary Celebrations of the Declaration of the Báb's Mission to seventy-eight. The nine-year interval separating the first from the second Bahá'í Jubilee was signalized by the spiritual conquest of no less than fifty countries of the globe, whilst the first year of the Ten Year Plan has been immortalized by the opening of one hundred countries, swelling the number of the sovereign states and dependencies enlisted under the standard of the Cause of God to two hundred and twenty-eight. All territories in North, Central and South America; all sovereign states and principalities on the continent of Europe, excluding the Russian Republics and Satellites; all territories on the Asiatic continent, with the exception of Tibet, of Bhutan and of the Soviet Republics; all the islands of the Mediterranean; all the islands of the North Sea, with the exception of Spitzbergen; all African territories with the exception of Spanish Guinea; all the islands of the North and South Atlantic Ocean except Anticosti and St. Thomas; all the islands of the Pacific Ocean except Comoro Islands, Cocos Island, Nicobar Islands, Hainan Island, Portuguese Timor, Chagos Archipelago, Loyalty Islands, Marshall Islands, Admiralty Islands, Mariana Islands, are now included within the orbit of an irresistibly unfolding, rapidly consolidating, world-girdling Administrative Order.

The number of the European, the African, the Asiatic, and the American-Indian languages, including seven supplementary languages,[pg 62] into which Bahá'í literature has been, and is being translated, is over forty-two, raising the total number of the translations undertaken since the inception of the Faith to one hundred and thirty.

The African Campaign, outshining the brilliant success of the enterprise launched in Latin America, throwing into shade the splendor of the victories won in recent years on the European continent, eclipsing all previous collective pioneer undertakings embarked upon in the Asiatic and Australian continents, has almost doubled, in the course of a single year, the number of territories opened since the introduction of the Faith in that continent over eighty years ago. The total number of converts to the Faith belonging to the African race has passed the six hundred mark. The total number of African Bahá'í centers has now been raised to over one hundred and ninety. The total number of the tribes indigenous to the soil of that continent represented in the Faith is now over sixty.

A single territory out of the forty-five territories already opened to the Faith in the African continent, situated in its very heart and which, a little over two years ago did not possess a single Bahá'í, now boasts of over five hundred colored converts, who are settled in over eighty localities,

are drawn from thirty tribes, are provided with thirteen local Assemblies, and anticipate the immediate formation of about ten additional Assemblies. This same territory has, moreover, distinguished itself throughout the entire Bahá'í world through the dispatch of nine members of its mother Assembly for the purpose of pioneering in neighboring centers, as well as in territories situated on the eastern and western coasts of the African continent. A number of the newly-won recruits in some of these territories have, moreover, been instrumental in winning the allegiance of some of the members of their race, and have, in their turn, succeeded in opening no less than three neighboring territories in that continent.

Contact has been established with no less than twenty-two American Indian tribes, raising the total number of tribes contacted throughout the Western Hemisphere to thirty-four. The first Greenlandic, the first Pygmy, the first Berber, the first Fijian, Bahá'ís have been enrolled, swelling the number of races represented in the Bahá'í World Community to thirty-five.

The opening year of this World Spiritual Crusade has, moreover, gathered significance through the convocation first of the Stockholm, and later of the New Delhi Intercontinental Teaching [pg 63] Conferences, which, together with the two previous Conferences held during the first part of the Holy Year in Kampala and Wilmette, assembled a total of over thirty-four hundred followers of the Faith from more than eighty countries of both the Eastern and the Western Hemispheres and representing the principal races of mankind.

Within the confines of the Holy Land, "the Heart of the world and the Qiblih of all nations," the erection of the first base stones of the ornamental crown of the Dome of the Báb's Sepulcher which had commenced with Naw-Rúz of the Holy Year, was followed successively by the laying, during the Ridván period, of the first of the twelve thousand gilded tiles destined to cover the two-hundred and fifty square meter area of the Dome and the placing of the stone lantern which marked the consummation of the three quarters of a million dollar enterprise, and coincided with the closing period of the Year associated with the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Mission of Bahá'u'lláh. The site for the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkar of the Holy Land has been selected — an area of approximately twenty thousand square meters — situated at the head of the Mountain of God, in close proximity to the Spot hallowed by the footsteps of Bahá'u'lláh, near the time-honored Cave of Elijah, and associated with the revelation of the Tablet of Carmel, the Charter of the World Spiritual and Administrative Centers of the Faith on that mountain. Funds totaling one hundred thousand dollars have, moreover, been contributed by one of the Hands of the Cause, residing in the Holy Land, and negotiations have been initiated with the Israeli authorities for the purpose of effecting the immediate purchase of the selected site. Measures have been undertaken and Bahá'í Continental Funds inaugurated in anticipation of the forthcoming appointment by the fifteen Hands residing outside the Holy Land of five Auxiliary Boards, one in each of the continents of the globe, the members of which will act as deputies of the Hands in their respective continents, and will aid and advise them in the effective prosecution of the Ten-Year Plan, and will assist them, at a later period, in the discharge of their dual and sacred task of safeguarding the Faith and of promoting its teaching activities. The international Bahá'í endowments, situated in the heart of Mt. Carmel, and in the plain of 'Akká, already extending over an area of over three hundred and fifty thousand square meters, have been enlarged through the acquisition of properties overlooking the Resting Places of the Most Exalted Leaf and of the Purest Branch, which, when [pg 64] added to the

plots situated on the ridge of Mt. Carmel, on its western extremity and in the close neighborhood of the Shrine built within its heart — for the acquisition of which negotiations have been set afoot — will constitute an addition of over thirty thousand square meters to the vast area of Bahá'í holdings permanently dedicated to the Shrines of the Founder of the Faith and of its Herald. The embellishment of the Ḥaram-i-Aqdas, the outer Sanctuary of Bahá'u'lláh's Sepulcher, already accomplished in the course of the Holy Year commemorating the centenary of the birth of His prophetic Mission, has been greatly enhanced through the laying out, on both its northern and southern sides, of formal gardens, extending over an area of ten thousand square meters, providing a befitting approach to His Mansion and considerably widening the area stretching in front of His holy Sepulcher. The design of the international Bahá'í Archives, the first stately Edifice destined to usher in the establishment of the World Administrative Center of the Faith on Mt. Carmel — the Ark referred to by Bahá'u'lláh in the closing passages of His Tablet of Carmel — has been completed, and plans and drawings forwarded to Italy for the purpose of securing bids for its construction immediately after the conclusion of the necessary preliminary steps taken in the Holy Land for its forthcoming erection. Israel Branches of the British, the Persian, the Canadian and the Australian Bahá'í National Spiritual Assemblies have been legally established, recognized formally as Religious Societies by the Israeli Civil Authorities, and empowered to hold without restriction title to immovable property in any part of the country on behalf of their parent Assemblies. Contact has moreover been established with the President of Israel, its Prime Minister and five other Cabinet Ministers, as well as with the President of the Knesset, culminating in the establishment of a special Bahá'í Department in the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and in an official statement by the Head of this Ministry to Parliament emphasizing the international scope of the Faith and the importance of its World Center — a series of events that have paved the way for the forthcoming official visit, during the early days of the Riḍván period, of the President of Israel, himself, to the Báb's Sepulcher on Mt. Carmel.

The site of the Síyáh-Ḥál — that pestilential subterranean Pit, the scene of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's prophetic Mission, and the holiest place in the capital city of His native land — has been recently purchased, together with the surrounding area, involving an expenditure of approximately four hundred thousand dollars contributed[pg 65] by a Persian follower of the Faith, whilst negotiations have been initiated for the acquisition of the site of the Báb's incarceration in the mountains of Ádhirbáyján. Full rights have been accorded to Bahá'í women residing in the cradle of the Faith, to participate in the membership of both national and local Bahá'í Spiritual Assemblies, removing thereby the last remaining obstacle to the enjoyment of complete equality of rights in the conduct of the administrative affairs of the Persian Bahá'í Community.

Eleven Temple Funds have been inaugurated, amounting to almost a quarter of a million dollars, for the purchase of land for future Bahá'í Temples in the Western Hemisphere, in the European, the African, the Asiatic and the Australian continents, followed by the purchase of a four-acre plot, commanding an extensive view of the Pacific Ocean and the greater portion of Greater Sydney area, and by the selection of appropriate sites outside the Cities of Frankfurt and of Panama City.

The institutions of Bahá'í National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in East and West, already reaching an estimated value of over a million and a half dollars, have been enhanced through the purchase



and formal opening of the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds of the Bahá'ís of Paris, destined to evolve into the national administrative headquarters of the French Bahá'í Community, and through the inauguration of National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds Funds in Anchorage, Alaska, as well as in the capital cities of Italy and of Switzerland.

The initial landscaping of the area surrounding the Mother Temple of the West, involving an expenditure of over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, has been completed and been followed by an appropriation of two hundred and twenty thousand dollars by the United States National Spiritual Assembly for the completion of the entire project. The nature of the first Dependency of the Maṣhriqu'l-Aḍhkár of Wilmette has been finally decided upon by the members of that same Assembly, in anticipation of its early establishment within the precincts of the Mother Temple of the West. The Local Spiritual Assemblies of San Diego, Sacramento and Fresno in California, of Tucson in Arizona, and of Oak Park in Illinois have been legally incorporated, raising the number of national and local Bahá'í incorporated Assemblies in the United States of America and in the entire Bahá'í world to sixty-three and one hundred and twenty, respectively. National Bahá'í endowments have been established in Anchorage, Alaska. The Bahá'í Assemblies of Tucson, Arizona and of Sacramento, California have been qualified[pg 66] to conduct legal Bahá'í marriage services. Bahá'í Holy Days have been recognized in Los Angeles, California and Castro Valley, California; Niles Township, Michigan; Seattle, Washington; Newton, Massachusetts; Prince George County, Maryland; Cleveland, Ohio; Kenosha, Wisconsin; Maywood, Illinois.

The spiritual conquest of one hundred territories of the globe, the steady rise of the embryonic World Order of the Faith, and the multiplication and consolidation of its institutions have, in the course of the opening year of this World Spiritual Crusade, been paralleled by a no less startling decline in the fortunes of the enemies of the Faith, as evidenced by the removal, by the Hand of Providence, of its arch-enemy in Persia who, for thirty years, savagely attacked its Founders and its chief Promoter, and tirelessly schemed to extinguish its light, dishonor its name and wreck its institutions, as well as by the death of two others, who, in varying degrees, demonstrated their ingratitude and infidelity to the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant.

The opening phase of this gigantic, divinely propelled, world-encircling Crusade has been triumphantly concluded. The success crowning the initial stage in its unfoldment has exceeded our fondest expectations. The most vital and spectacular objective of the Ten Year Plan has been virtually attained ere the termination of the first year of this decade-long stupendous enterprise. The second phase, now auspiciously ushered in, must witness, in all the territories of the planet, whether newly opened or not, an upsurge of activity which, in its range and intensity, will excel the exploits which have so greatly enlarged the limits, and noised abroad the fame, of the Cause of God.

The energetic and systematic prosecution of the all important teaching work both at home and abroad, designed to increase rapidly the number of the avowed and active supporters of the Faith; the preservation, at any cost, of the prizes so laboriously won in the far flung, the numerous and newly opened territories of the globe; the maintenance, by every available means, of the status of local Spiritual Assemblies already established throughout the Bahá'í world; the steady multiplication of isolated centers, of groups and of local Assemblies in order to hasten the emergence of no less than forty-eight National Spiritual Assemblies in both the

Eastern and Western Hemispheres; the prompt conclusion of negotiations for the purchase of sites for future Bahá'í Temples in the American, the European, the Asiatic and the African continents; the[pg 67] initiation of Funds for the establishment of National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in the capital cities of the Sovereign States and in the chief cities of the Dependencies specifically mentioned in the Plan; the speedy fulfillment of the task undertaken for the translation and publication of Bahá'í literature in the languages allocated under that same Plan, to various National Spiritual Assemblies; the continued acquisition of Bahá'í Holy Places in Bahá'u'lláh's native land; the adoption of preparatory measures for the construction of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍḥkár of Ṭíhrán and of Frankfurt; the establishment of the first Dependency of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍḥkár in Wilmette; the inauguration of National Bahá'í endowments designed to pave the way for the formation of National Spiritual Assemblies; the lending of a fresh impetus to the incorporation of local Spiritual Assemblies; the establishment of Bahá'í Publishing Trusts — these stand out as the essential objectives of the phase now unfolding before the eyes of the Bahá'í communities in the five continents of the globe.

I direct my fervent plea to all the delegates assembled at the twelve annual Bahá'í Conventions to ponder these objectives in their hearts, to dedicate themselves anew to the tasks now challenging the spirit and combined resources of the entire body of the followers of the Faith, to rouse all the communities they represent to assume a worthy share in the common and gigantic effort that must needs be exerted for the attainment of the aforementioned goals, ensuring thereby the uninterrupted progress and the ultimate consummation of the noblest collective enterprise undertaken by the followers of the Most Great Name for the propagation and the establishment of His Faith over the entire face of the planet.

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## Glad Tidings

Cablegram, May 4, 1954

morrow close Riḍván period share National Assemblies Bahá'í world additional glad tidings supplementing message addressed fortnight ago delegates national Conventions East West.

Six acre five acre plots purchased Kampala Panama City sites future Temples heart African continent Central America.[pg 68]

First historic African Spiritual Assemblies formed Johannesburg Brazzaville Victoria Topremang Casablanca Tangier Algiers Tripoli Bukora. Uganda alone eleven additional Assemblies established over three hundred eighty additional converts enrolled raising total white Negro believers over six hundred seventy. Number localities where Bahá'ís reside Arabian Peninsula now over fifteen Egypt Súdán over forty British Isles over fifty Australasia over sixty ten European goal countries over seventy Germany Austria over seventy Uganda over eighty Canada over hundred Latin America over hundred ten Indian

subcontinent Burma over hundred thirty African continent over hundred ninety Persia over six hundred United States over twelve hundred, swelling number Bahá'í centers scattered surface globe well nigh twenty-nine hundred.

Additional National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds Funds inaugurated ten countries Central America.

Number Bahá'í books pamphlets for blind transcribed Braille English Esperanto German Japanese now totals over hundred ten.

President State Israel accompanied Mrs. Ben Zvi visited anticipated Shrines Mount Carmel following reception their honor 'Abdu'l-Bahá's house marking first official visit paid Head sovereign independent State Sepulchers Martyr-Prophet Faith Center Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant.

Following pioneers inscribed Roll Honor since fifth periodic announcement Bruce Matthews Howard Gilliland *Labrador* Olivia Kelsey Florence Ullrich *Monaco* Joan Powis *South Rhodesia* Sohrab Payman *San Marino* Samuel Njiki Mehrangiz Munsiff *French Cameroons* Gail Avery *Baranof Island* Benedict Eballa *Ashanti Protectorate* Martin Manga *Northern Territories Protectorate* Gayle Woolson *Galapagos Islands* Bula Stewart John Allen and wife, *Swaziland* Charles Duncan Harry Clark John Fozdar *Brunei* David Tanyi *French Togoland* Edward Tabe Albert Buapiah *British Togoland* Kay Zinky *Magdalen Islands* John Margery Kellberg *Dutch West Indies* Robert Powers Jr. Cynthia Olson *Mariana Islands* Habib Esfahani *French West Africa*. [pg 69]

Roll Honor after lapse one year since launching World Crusade now closed exception pioneers already left for destination as well those first arriving few remaining virgin territories inside outside Soviet Republics satellites.

Concourse High will continue applaud highly meritorious services rendered future volunteers arising reinforce historic work so nobly initiated Knights Bahá'u'lláh far-flung newly opened territories. Posterity will likewise record admiration gratitude initial victories destined be won course spiritual conquest continents islands globe.

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## A Succession of Victories

October 1, 1954

The opening months of the second phase of the Ten-Year Plan have witnessed, on the American, the European, the African, the Asiatic and the Australian fronts, a succession of victories rivalling, in their variety, rapidity and significance, the prodigious efforts exerted, and the superb exploits achieved, during the first twelve months of the Global Crusade, by the

mighty company of the stalwart Knights of Bahá'u'lláh in well nigh a hundred virgin territories scattered over the face of the planet.

Seven virgin territories have been opened to the Faith since the announcement on the morrow of the Riḍván Festival, raising the total number of the Sovereign States and Dependencies enlisted under the banner of the Cause of God to two hundred and thirty-five. The number of the unopened territories outside of the Soviet Orbit has now shrunk to eight, namely: Spitzbergen, Anticosti Island, St. Thomas Island, Nicobar Islands, Cocos Island, Socotra Island, Loyalty Islands, and the Chagos Archipelago. The following pioneers have been inscribed on the Roll of Honor since my last sixth periodic announcement: Elizabeth Stamp, *St. Helena*; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fitzner, *Portuguese Timor*; Elise Schreiber, *Spanish Guinea*; Violet Hoehnke, *Admiralty Islands*; Shahpoor Rowhani and Ardeshir Faroodi, *Bhutan*; Mehraben Sohaili, *Comoro Islands*; Marcia Atwater, *Marshall Islands*.

The number of Bahá'í centers scattered over the continents and [pg 70] islands of the globe has now passed the three thousand mark. A contract has been signed for the purchase of a three-acre plot as the site of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍhkár of Europe, situated on a plateau near the Taunus Hills in the vicinity of the City of Frankfurt. A thirty thousand square meter property located on the banks of the Tigris has been acquired as the site of the future Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍhkár of the Holy City of Baghdád. A plot lying in the outskirts of New Delhi has been secured at the price of a hundred thousand rupees as the site of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍhkár of the Indian sub-continent. A twelve thousand dollar plot has been bought in Johannesburg as the site of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍhkár of South Africa. A five-year Plan has been initiated in Bahá'u'lláh's native land designed to raise twelve million túmáns for the projected construction of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍhkár in the cradle of the Faith. A six thousand dollar plot has been purchased in the vicinity of the resting-place of the Greatest Holy Leaf and registered in the name of the newly established Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles. A property has been acquired opposite the Mother Temple of the West to serve as a possible site for the first Dependency of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍhkár of Wilmette. A contract has been signed, pending registration of a house valued at ten thousand dollars and situated in the immediate neighborhood of the Báb's Sepulcher, in the name of the recently established Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada. Preliminary steps have been taken for the acquisition of two plots, the one situated on the ridge of Mt. Carmel, the other to the west of the Báb's resting-place and for their subsequent registration in the name of the Israel Branches of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of Persia and of Australia and New Zealand, respectively. A national Ḥaḏíratu'l-Quds has been purchased in Kabul and one in Johannesburg. Arrangements will soon be completed for the purchase of a building costing over eighteen thousand dollars for a national Ḥaḏíratu'l-Quds in Tunis. Funds totalling over one hundred thousand dollars have been initiated for the purchase of similar institutions in Anchorage, Asuncion, Auckland, Baḥrayn, Beirut, Bern, Bogota, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Ciudad Trujillo, Colombo, Copenhagen, Guatemala, Havana, Helsingfors, Istanbul, Jakarta, Johannesburg, La Paz, Lima, Lisbon, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Managua, Mexico City, Montevideo, Oslo, Panama City, Port-au-Prince, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, San Jose, Santiago, San Salvador, Stockholm, Suva, Tegucigalpa, The Hague, Tokyo, and Vienna, as well as for the acquisition of the Garden of Riḍván in Baghdád, the transfer of the remains of the wife of the Báb in Shíráz and for the purchase of the sites associated with Bahá'u'lláh's exile in Istanbul and

in Adrianople. The initiation of these Funds has been made possible to a notable extent as a result of the successive contributions made by the Hand of the Cause, Amelia Collins, outstanding benefactress of the Faith, for the furtherance of some of the most vital objectives of the Ten-Year Plan. Negotiations are now afoot aiming at the acquisition of the fortress of Chihriq including its precincts involving the expenditure of a sum of over two hundred thousand túmáns. Preliminary documents have been signed in connection with the purchase from the Development Authority of the State of Israel of five houses, situated at the foot of Mt. Carmel and adjoining the last terrace of the Báb's Shrine, for a sum of approximately sixty thousand dollars.

The phenomenal progress of the African Campaign, alike in the teaching and administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity, has been maintained, most conspicuously in the heart of that continent, as evidenced by the ever-swelling number of African converts, now numbering over seven hundred, three hundred and eighty of which have been added in the course of a single year. The number of Bahá'í centers now spread over the face of this continent is a hundred and ninety-five. The number of African tribes represented in the Faith in this same continent has reached eighty-five. The African languages into which Bahá'í literature has been translated now number thirty-four, whilst the number of African local spiritual assemblies has swelled to fifty.

I feel the hour is now ripe for the adoption of preliminary measures designed to pave the way for the simultaneous erection during Ridván of 1956 of three pillars of the future Universal House of Justice in the North, the South and the very heart of this long dormant continent. The first of these pillars will be designated the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central and East Africa; the second the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South and West Africa; and the third the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North-West Africa. Responsibility for the convocation of the three epoch-making conventions, to be held in Kampala, Johannesburg and Tunis, preparatory to the emergence of these three central administrative institutions of the fast-evolving Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in the African[pg 72] continent will devolve upon the British, the United States and the Egyptian Spiritual Assemblies, respectively.

The jurisdiction of the first Assembly will embrace Uganda, Tanganyika, Kenya, the Belgian Congo, Ruanda-Urundi, French Equatorial Africa, Zanzibar, the Comoro Islands and the Seychelles. That of the second will extend over the Union of South Africa, South-West Africa, Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola, Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Swaziland, Nyasaland, Zululand, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion Island and St. Helena. That of the third will include Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco (Int. Zone), Spanish Morocco, French Morocco, Spanish Sahara, Rio de Oro, Spanish Guinea, Ashanti Protectorate, French Cameroons, British Cameroons, Northern Territories Protectorate, French Togoland, British Togoland, Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, French West Africa, the Gold Coast, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Madeira, the Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, and St. Thomas Island.

Abyssinia, Libya, Eritrea, British, French and Italian Somaliland and Socotra Island will, as of Ridván of that same year, fall within the administrative jurisdiction of the Egyptian National Spiritual Assembly which will from then on be designated as the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North-East Africa. All African territories originally allocated to the United States, the Persian, the Egyptian, the Indian, and the British National Spiritual Assemblies will continue, in the course of the Ten-Year Plan, to benefit from the advantages of sustained assistance by these

Assemblies — an assistance that will enable them to assume an ever-increasing share in the steadily expanding activities of the nascent National Spiritual Assemblies.

Only local spiritual assemblies duly constituted during Riḍván 1955 will be qualified to elect delegates to these four historic conventions to be convened during the succeeding year.

I call upon the Hand of the Cause, Músá Banání, to act as my representative at each of the three Conventions destined to culminate in the emergence of these three momentous institutions. I moreover invite the Chairman of the United States, the British and the Egyptian National Spiritual Assemblies to convene the aforementioned Conventions falling within the respective jurisdiction of these Assemblies and urge as many members of the African Auxiliary Board as possible to attend the sessions, and lend their support to the deliberations, of these gatherings. I feel, moreover, moved at this juncture to stress the urgent necessity for all groups established throughout the African continent as well as in the islands situated in its neighborhood — already four score in number — to seize their present golden opportunity during the fast-fleeting months separating them from next Riḍván, and exert every effort to attain assembly status which will enable them to participate in the election of, and contribute to the broadening of the foundations of the projected National Spiritual Assemblies.

I earnestly appeal to all Bahá'í communities, and in particular to their national elected representatives in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Australia to brace themselves and vie with one another in emulating the example of their African sister communities ranking among the youngest in the Bahá'í world. I entreat them, through a greater dispersal and an intensification of teaching activity, to lend an unprecedented impetus to the multiplication of local spiritual assemblies in their respective areas, accelerating thereby the dynamic process of the formation of National Spiritual Assemblies — a process destined to usher in the third and most brilliant phase, and constituting unquestionably the noblest objective, of the most stupendous crusade ever launched in the course of eleven decades of Bahá'í history.

Share this message with the Hands of the Cause and the National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the Bahá'í World.

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## Administrative Seats of Divinely-Appointed Institutions

November 27, 1954

I hail, with feelings of thankfulness and relief, the signature, on the eve of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ascension, of a contract for the immediate expropriation, by the Israeli Finance Minister, on the recommendation of the Mayor of the City of Haifa, of a thirteen-hundred meter plot, owned by the sister of Faríd, notorious enemy of the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant. This historic act paves the way for the early transfer of the title deed of this plot by the State of Israel to the Bahá'í



Community, now engaged in establishing and consolidating its World Administrative Center in the Holy Land.

The truculence, greed and obstinacy, of this breaker of the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh, demonstrated by her persistent refusal to sell and by the exorbitant price subsequently demanded, raised, during more than thirty years, an almost insurmountable obstacle to [pg 74] the acquisition of an area which, however circumscribed, occupies a central position amidst the extensive Bahá'í domains in the heart of God's Holy Mountain, is situated in the vicinity of the Báb's Sepulcher, overlooks the Tomb of the Greatest Holy Leaf, and adjoins the resting-places of the Brother and the Mother of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and which, through deliberate neglect, has been allowed to become an eyesore to all those who throng the embellished precincts of a Mausoleum rightly regarded as the second holiest Shrine in the Bahá'í world.

The ownership of this plot will now enable us to locate the site, excavate the foundations, and erect the structure, of the International Bahá'í Archives, designed by the Hand of the Cause, Mason Remey, President of the International Bahá'í Council, which will serve as the permanent and befitting repository for the priceless and numerous relics associated with the Twin Founders of the Faith, with the Perfect Exemplar of its teachings and with its heroes, saints and martyrs, and the building of which constitutes one of the foremost objectives of the Ten-Year Plan.

The raising of this Edifice will in turn herald the construction, in the course of successive epochs of the Formative Age of the Faith, of several other structures, which will serve as the administrative seats of such divinely appointed institutions as the Guardianship, the Hands of the Cause, and the Universal House of Justice. These Edifices will, in the shape of a far-flung arc, and following a harmonizing style of architecture, surround the resting-places of the Greatest Holy Leaf, ranking as foremost among the members of her sex in the Bahá'í Dispensation, of her Brother, offered up as a ransom by Bahá'u'lláh for the quickening of the world and its unification, and of their Mother, proclaimed by Him to be His chosen "consort in all the worlds of God." The ultimate completion of this stupendous undertaking will mark the culmination of the development of a world-wide divinely-appointed Administrative Order whose beginnings may be traced as far back as the concluding years of the Heroic Age of the Faith.

This vast and irresistible process, unexampled in the spiritual history of mankind, and which will synchronize with two no less significant developments — the establishment of the Lesser Peace and the evolution of Bahá'í national and local institutions — the one outside and the other within the Bahá'í world — will attain its final consummation, in the Golden Age of the Faith, through the raising of the standard of the Most Great Peace, and the emergence, in [pg 75] the plenitude of its power and glory, of the focal Center of the agencies constituting the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh. The final establishment of this seat of the future Bahá'í World Commonwealth will signalize at once the proclamation of the sovereignty of the Founder of our Faith and the advent of the Kingdom of the Father repeatedly lauded and promised by Jesus Christ.

This World Order will, in turn, in the course of successive Dispensations of the Bahá'í Cycle, yield its fairest fruit through the birth and flowering of a civilization, divinely inspired, unique in its features, world-embracing in its scope, and fundamentally spiritual in its character — a civilization destined as it unfolds to derive its initial impulse from the spirit animating the very



institutions which, in their embryonic state, are now stirring in the womb of the present Formative Age of the Faith.

Advise share this message with the Hands of the Cause and the members of the National Spiritual Assemblies throughout the Bahá'í world.

Shoghi



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## International Archives Building and Design for Temple in Persia

Cablegram, March 20, 1955

occasion Naw-Rúz Festival marking opening auspicious year being celebrated followers Faith approximately sixteen hundred centers Western Hemisphere above eight hundred Asia well nigh three hundred Africa more than two hundred Europe over one hundred Antipodes joyfully announce commencement excavation foundations International Archives heralding rise first edifice destined inaugurate establishment seat World Bahá'í Administrative order Holy Land.

Announce moreover selection design submitted Hand Cause Mason Remey for projected Mother Temple Bahá'u'lláh's native land paving way construction third Mashriqu'l-Adhkár Bahá'í world.

Urge followers Faith Eastern Western Hemispheres arise lend support erection these twin mighty institutions embryonic World Order Bahá'u'lláh[pg 76] at World Center Faith within cradle His Revelation.

Share twin glad tidings all National Assemblies.

Shoghi



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## Achievements of Second Year of Ten Year Plan

April, 1955

On the occasion of the triumphant conclusion of the second year of the Ten Year Plan, marking the termination of the first half of the second phase of a decade-long Bahá'í World Spiritual Crusade, I invite the delegates assembled at the twelve Annual Conventions, convened simultaneously throughout the Bahá'í world during the Ridván Festival, to survey with me the

multiple evidences of the progressive unfoldment of the incalculable potentialities with which this world-enveloping, steadily consolidating enterprise has been endowed by the Author of the Tablets of the Divine Plan at the very hour of its inception.

In every continent of the globe, throughout the widely scattered islands of the Mediterranean and the North Sea, of the Atlantic, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, this mighty Plan, devised for the systematic execution of the Design conceived by the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant for the propagation of His Father's Faith, is forging ahead, gaining momentum with every passing day, tearing down barriers in all climes and amidst divers peoples and races, widening irresistibly the scope of its beneficent operations, and revealing ever more compelling signs of its inherent strength as it marches towards the spiritual conquest of the entire planet.

### Two Hundred Thirty-Six Territories Now Opened to the Faith

The number of the virgin territories of the globe opened to the Faith has, since the inauguration, and in direct consequence of the vigorous prosecution, of this stupendous undertaking, been raised to one hundred and eight, swelling the number of the sovereign states and chief dependencies included within the pale of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh to two hundred and thirty-six, above two hundred of which have been enlisted under His banner since the ascension of the Center of His Covenant.

All the territories within the confines of the American, the European,[pg 77] the Asiatic and the African continents, assigned to ten Bahá'í National Assemblies, have, with the exception of Soviet-controlled territories, been opened. Of the seventy-two islands allocated to eleven Bahá'í National Assemblies no less than sixty-four have opened their doors to the vanguard of Bahá'í Crusaders, leaving Spitzbergen and Anticosti Island, situated respectively in the North Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, Nicobar Islands, Cocos Island and Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, and Loyalty Islands, Sakhalin Island and Hainan Island in the Pacific Ocean — one of which is a native reserve, two of which are within the Soviet orbit, while four others are either privately owned or controlled by private companies — as yet unopened by the heroic band battling for the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

The northern limits of the Faith in Europe have been pushed beyond the Arctic Circle as far as 70 degrees latitude, through the settlement of a Bahá'í pioneer in Reals Kolen, Batsfjord, Finnmark, only three degrees below Arctic Bay, Franklin, the northernmost Bahá'í Center established, in the course of the opening year of the Ten-Year Plan, in the North American Continent. Valiant pioneers have, moreover, volunteered and are busily engaged in devising plans, or have actually embarked on the necessary preparations, to cross the mountain frontiers of Tibet, to enter the Ukraine, beyond the Iron Curtain, to gain admission to the few remaining, hitherto inaccessible islands of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and to penetrate deep into the Arctic Ocean as far as the icebound island of Spitzbergen.

### Number of Races, Languages, Incorporated Assemblies Augmented

No less than forty races are now represented in the world-wide Bahá'í Community, which has been recently enriched through the enrollment of representatives of the Greek, the Berber, the

Pygmy, the Somali and Guanche races. The number of localities where Bahá'ís now reside is well over thirty-two hundred, of which fourteen hundred are located in the Great Republic of the West, over six hundred in the Cradle of the Faith, more than three hundred in the African Continent, and over one hundred each in the Dominion of Canada, in Australasia, Latin America and in the Indian Sub-Continent. In the African Continent alone the number of members of the Negro race has, within the space of four years, increased to over thirteen hundred; the number of territories opened to the Faith has reached fifty-eight, the number of local Spiritual Assemblies already established and functioning is now fifty, the number of tribes represented within the swiftly expanding Bahá'í Community is now over ninety, whilst the number of African languages into which Bahá'í literature has been and is being translated exceeds fifty.

The total number of the European, the African, the Asiatic and American-Indian languages into which Bahá'í literature has been and is being translated is one hundred and sixty-seven, of which fifty-five are among those included in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, and twenty-four are supplementary languages into which the translation of Bahá'í literature has been spontaneously undertaken by the indefatigable band of pioneers and new converts in Africa, in South East Asia, in the South Pacific Islands and in the Antipodes.

The number of incorporated Bahá'í national and local Spiritual Assemblies has now reached one hundred and forty, seventy-five of which are located in the United States of America, the latest additions to this steadily mounting list in other continents being the Assemblies of London and Manchester in the British Isles; of Ciudad Trujillo in the Dominican Republic; of Kuching in Sarawak; of Jakarta in Indonesia; of Helsinki in Finland and of San Juan in Puerto Rico.

### Activities at the World Center

In the Holy Land, the Center and Pivot around which the institutions of a world-encompassing Administrative Order revolve, steps have been taken for the preparation of a Synopsis, and for the Codification of the Laws, of the Most Holy Book, the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Mother-Book of the Bahá'í Revelation, as an essential prelude to the eventual translation and publication of its entire text.

A Fund has been inaugurated in anticipation of the adoption of preliminary measures for the ultimate construction of Bahá'u'lláh's Sepulcher in the heart of the Ḥaram-i-Aqdas recently established in the plain of 'Akká.

The international Bahá'í endowments on Mt. Carmel have been greatly enhanced by the signature of a contract with the Israeli Authorities for the acquisition of an area of thirty-six thousand square meters, situated on the promontory of Mt. Carmel, overlooking the Cave of Elijah, as well as the spot sanctified by the footsteps of Bahá'u'lláh and associated with the revelation of the Tablet of Carmel, for the price of one hundred and eight thousand dollars, to serve as the site for the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḏhkár of the Holy Land, the entire sum having been donated by Amelia Collins, Hand of the Cause and outstanding benefactress of the Faith.

The vast area surrounding the Báb's Sepulcher has been enlarged through the purchase from the Development Authority of the State of Israel, of five houses, adjoining the last terrace of His Shrine for a sum of approximately sixty thousand dollars, as well as through the acquisition of a

six thousand dollar plot that has been registered in the name of the Israeli Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles; of a house, valued at ten thousand dollars, that has been registered in the name of the Israeli Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada; of a twenty-eight thousand dollar plot, to be registered in the name of the Israeli Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; and of a five thousand dollar plot to be registered in the name of the Israeli Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand. Moreover, steps are now being taken for the purchase of several properties, valued at approximately one hundred and forty thousand dollars, the acquisition of which is essential for the safeguarding of the area in the close vicinity of the Báb's Sepulcher, as well as for the future extension of the arc around which the edifices, destined to serve as the seat of the future Bahá'í World Commonwealth, are to be erected.

Following the expropriation by the Israeli Finance Minister, on the recommendation of the Mayor of the City of Haifa, of the plot adjoining the site of the future International Bahá'í Archives on Mt. Carmel, the fixing of the position of the far-flung arc, around which the edifices constituting the Seat of the World Bahá'í Administrative Order are to be built, the location of the site of the building and the preparations for the excavation of its foundations, an hundred and twelve thousand dollar contract has been signed in Rome for the quarrying, the dressing and carving of the stones and the fifty-two columns of the building which will amount in weight to over nine hundred tons and are to be shipped within less than two years to the Holy Land.

The landscaping of the extensive area stretching between the Báb's Sepulcher and the resting-places of the Greatest Holy Leaf, the Purest Branch and their mother, and destined to encircle this Edifice, has been undertaken, adding greatly to the beauty of the [pg 80] surroundings of these consecrated Spots in the heart of God's Holy Mountain.

### Achievements in the Cradle of the Faith

In the Cradle of the Faith, the site of the Síyáh-Chál, the scene of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Mission and the second holiest spot in His native land, purchased in the course of the first year of the Ten-Year Plan, has been transferred by the donor of this holy and historic place, Ḥabíb Sabet, to the name of one of the Hands of the Cause acting as my official representative in that country.

A five-year Plan has been inaugurated for the purpose of raising twelve million túmáns for the construction of the first Maṣhriqu'l-Aḏhkár in that land. The design of this historic Edifice has been finally selected from among a number of designs submitted by Bahá'í Architects in both the East and the West, the choice falling upon the plan conceived by the Hand of the Cause and President of the International Bahá'í Council, Mason Remey — a design which incorporates a dome reminiscent of that of the Báb's Holy Sepulcher.

A contract has moreover been signed as a preliminary step for the eventual purchase of the Fortress of Ġihríq and its surroundings, for a sum of over two hundred thousand túmáns.

## Goals Attained in the United States of America

In the United States of America a plot has been acquired in the precincts of the Mother Temple of the West to serve as the site for the construction of a Home for the Aged, and which will constitute the first of the Dependencies to be erected around that holiest Bahá'í House of Worship. Measures have been adopted, and the design authorized, for the completion of the landscaping of the area surrounding that same building. The National Bahá'í Publishing Committee has been converted into a Bahá'í Publishing Trust, functioning under the jurisdiction of the American National Spiritual Assembly. The total number of American Indian tribes with which contact has been established has now reached twenty-two, whilst members of the Apache, the Cherokee, the Omaha, the Oneida, and the Sioux tribes have been enrolled in the American Bahá'í Community. The number of territories, federal districts and states of the United States of America where official authorization for the conduct of Bahá'í marriages has been granted is now twenty-one, whilst the number of localities in that same country [pg 81] where the Bahá'í Holy Days are officially recognized is over twenty-five.

## Properties Acquired around the World

Land for no less than eight of eleven Temple sites, to be acquired according to the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan and involving an expenditure of eighty thousand dollars, has been purchased in the following places: in the holy city of Baghdád, on the banks of the Tigris, blessed by the footsteps of Bahá'u'lláh, of an area of thirty thousand square meters; on the banks of the Nile in Cairo, the center of both the Arab and Islámic worlds, of an area of seventeen thousand square meters; in Frankfurt, the heart of the European continent, of an area of seventeen thousand square meters; in New Delhi, the capital of India, of an area of sixty-six thousand square meters; in Sydney, the oldest Bahá'í center in the Australian continent, of an area of eleven thousand square meters; in Kampala, in the heart of the African continent, of an area of twenty-four thousand square meters; in Johannesburg, the second largest city in the African continent, of an area of six thousand square meters; and in Panama City, the importance of which has been underlined by 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, of an area of twenty thousand square meters.

No less than fourteen national Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, out of the forty-nine listed in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan and which are to serve as seats of future Bahá'í National Spiritual Assemblies, have already been purchased, largely through the liberal contributions of the Hand of the Cause, Amelia Collins. These buildings, involving the expenditure of over two hundred thousand dollars, are situated in five continents of the globe: in London, Bern and Vienna in the European continent; in Anchorage, Lima and Panama City in the American continent; in Tokyo, Istanbul, Kabul, Baḥrayn and Suva in the Asiatic continent; in Johannesburg and Tunis in the African continent; and in Auckland in the Antipodes. Negotiations for the purchase of three additional Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, in the cities of Rome, Jakarta and Colombo are moreover under way, while funds, totalling one hundred and thirty thousand dollars have been pledged for the purchase, in the immediate future, of twenty-seven other Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in Latin America and the European continent.

Furthermore, the sum of fifty thousand dollars has been contributed by the Hand of the Cause, Amelia Collins, as yet another[pg 82] evidence of her munificence, for the purpose of establishing Bahá'í national endowments in no less than fifty countries, situated in all five continents of the globe. A plot has, moreover, been purchased in South Africa, a property offered in the Aleutian Islands and a fund initiated for the same purpose in Alaska and Finland.

### Sixteen New National Assemblies by Ridván, 1957

Such marvelous progress, involving such diversified activities, extending over so immense a field, within such a brief space of time, and notwithstanding the smallness of the numbers of the participants in this Global Crusade, the meagerness of their resources and the restrictions imposed upon them by those who are either unsympathetic to their Cause, or alarmed by their rising influence, or envious of the pervasive power of the Faith they champion, impels me to announce, in anticipation of the opening of the third phase of the Ten-Year Plan, the formation, during Ridván, 1957, in addition to the three Regional National Spiritual Assemblies to be elected in 1956 in the African continent, of thirteen National Spiritual Assemblies, some of which will be regional, others independent, some interim and others permanent.

These National Spiritual Assemblies, representing no less than forty-two territories will be established in four continents of the globe. Four will be in Asia: in Japan, in Pákistán, in the Arabian Peninsula and in South-East Asia. Three will be in Europe: in Scandinavia and Finland, in the Benelux countries and in the Iberian Peninsula. Five will be in America: the first, combining within its jurisdiction the Republics of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia; the second, comprising the Republics of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela; the third including Mexico and the Republics of Central America, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama; the fourth embracing the Islands of the Greater Antilles, Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, and the fifth in Alaska. And lastly, one will be in the Antipodes, in the Dominion of New Zealand.

Responsibility for the convocation of the eight Bahá'í Conventions, whose delegates are to elect eight National Spiritual Assemblies in North, Central and South America and in Europe, and which are to be held in Anchorage, in Panama City, in Port-au-Prince, in Buenos Aires, in Lima, in Stockholm, in Brussels and in Madrid, will devolve upon the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; for the convocation of[pg 83] the four conventions whose delegates are to elect four National Spiritual Assemblies in Asia, and which are to be held in Tokyo, in Karachi, in Bahrayn and in Jakarta, upon the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, of Persia, and of India, Pákistán and Burma; and for the convocation of the convention whose delegates are to elect the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand, which is to be held in Auckland, upon the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand.

### Hands of the Cause to Attend Historic Conventions

I call upon the following Hands of the Cause to act as my representatives at these thirteen historic conventions, that are to pave the way for the erection, in four continents of the globe, of the pillars destined to support, in varying measure, the Universal House of Justice, the final unit

in the construction of the edifice of the Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh: Valíyu'lláh Varqá and Horace Holley at the South American Conventions to be held in Buenos Aires and Lima respectively; Corinne True at the Greater Antilles Convention to be held in Port-au-Prince; Ǧhikru'lláh Kḥádem at the Central American Convention to be held in Panama City; Paul Haney at the Alaska Convention, to be held in Anchorage; Hermann Grossmann and Adelbert Mühlischlegel at the Scandinavian-Finnish Convention to be held in Stockholm; George Townshend at the Benelux Convention to be held in Brussels; Ugo Giachery at the Iberian Convention to be held in Madrid; Ṭarázu'lláh Samandarí at the Arabian Convention to be held in Baḥrayn; 'Alí-Akbar Furútan at the Southeast Asian Convention, to be held in Jakarta; Ṣhu'á'u'lláh 'Alá'í at the Pákistáni Convention to be held in Karachi; Jalál Khazeh at the Japanese Convention to be held in Tokyo; Clara Dunn at the New Zealand Convention to be held in Auckland.

I urge, moreover, as many members as feasible of the Auxiliary Boards appointed by the aforementioned Hands of the Cause, in the American, the European, the Asiatic and the Australian continents, to attend these momentous gatherings, at which the representatives of as many as forty-two Bahá'í Communities will assemble, and, through their active participation, reinforce and widen the scope of the deliberations of the elected delegates.

Furthermore, I cannot too strongly emphasize the vital necessity for all the Bahá'í groups, scattered throughout these forty-two[pg 84] countries, to brace themselves, and make a supreme effort, during these intervening two years, to achieve assembly status, ensuring thereby their participation in the election of the delegates to these fate-laden conventions, and contributing, through this act, to the broadening and strengthening of the foundations of these projected pivotal institutions, destined to play so prominent and vital a part in ushering in the last phase in the gradual establishment of the structure of an Administrative Order that must needs slowly evolve into the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, and which in turn will give birth, in the fullness of time, to a world spiritual civilization, which posterity will hail as the fairest fruit of His Revelation.

### Guardian's Appeal to Upholders of the Faith

Finally, I direct my appeal, through the assembled delegates, to the entire body of the believers whom they represent, and indeed, on this occasion, to all the upholders of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh wherever they reside in all the continents of the globe, to arise, at so auspicious an hour in the fortunes of the Faith, synchronizing with so fateful and perilous an hour in the fortunes of mankind, and consecrate themselves afresh, throughout this last, fast-fleeting year of the present phase of this momentous, world-girdling Plan, to the furtherance of the immediate objectives enumerated in my last year's Convention Message, ensuring thereby a befitting conclusion to a stage in its resistless unfoldment destined to usher in its third and most brilliant phase — a phase on which the triumphant consummation of the Plan itself must so largely depend.

It is indeed my fervent and constant prayer that the members of this firmly-knit, intensely alive, world-embracing Community, spurred on by the triple impulse generated through the revelation of the Tablet of Carmel by Bahá'u'lláh and the Will and Testament as well as the Tablets of the Divine Plan bequeathed by the Center of His Covenant — the three Charters



which have set in motion three distinct processes, the first operating in the Holy Land for the development of the institutions of the Faith at its World Center and the other two, throughout the rest of the Bahá'í world, for its propagation and the establishment of its Administrative Order — may advance from strength to strength and victory to victory. May they hasten, by their present exertions, the advent of that blissful consummation when the shackles hampering the growth of their beloved Faith will have been finally burst asunder, when its independent status will have been officially and universally recognized,[pg 85] when it will have ascended the throne and wielded the scepter of spiritual and temporal authority, when the brightness of its glory will have illuminated the whole earth, and its dominion will have been established over the entire planet.

Shoghi



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## Achievements — Supplementary Report

Cablegram, April 30, 1955

Share National Assemblies following announcement supplementing message recently addressed delegates Bahá'í Conventions.

Annual elections second year second decade second Bahá'í century signalized formation first historic local Assemblies in communities as diversified far apart Mecca Qiblih Islámic world Muscat Riaz situated shore heart *Arabian Peninsula* Bahamas *British West Indies* Diu *Kuala Lumpur* Malacca *Sargodha* Saigon S\_outheast\_ Asia Monte Carlo Basel Mongat Orleans Marseilles Bergen Cologne *Europe* Reunion Island Zanzibar Seychelles Madagascar *Indian Ocean* holy cities Kázimayn Najaf strongholds Shí'ah orthodoxy 'Iráq in addition group already established Karbilá Teneriffe Las Palmas *Atlantic Ocean*.

Africa alone boasts establishment above seventy new Assemblies raising total number established since launching systematic simultaneous teaching campaigns African continent four years ago well above one hundred. Uganda in particular achieved unique memorable feat formation seventeen new Assemblies swelling number Assemblies forty-one localities over hundred total believers almost nine hundred.

Sacred dust Báb's infant son extolled Qayyúmu'l-Asmá' respectfully ceremoniously transferred anniversary his Father's martyrdom presence pilgrims resident believers Bahá'í cemetery Shíráz prelude translation same spot remains Báb's beloved long-suffering consort.

Five additional incorporations local Assemblies including Suva *Fiji*. [pg 86]

Pioneer embarked for Loyalty Island last remaining unopened island Pacific Ocean outside Soviet orbit.

Negotiations purchase national Ḥaẓíras Colombo Jakarta nearing completion.

Preliminary steps undertaken establishment Bahá'í Publishing Trust Tīhrán.

Design Mother Temple cradle Faith unveiled presence pilgrims resident believers  
assembled Ḥaram-i-Aqdas<sup>3</sup> first day Riḍván.

Shoghi



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### Prayers for Faith in Persia

Cablegram, April 30, 1955

Call upon all believers join me special fervent prayers Divine protection vital  
interests complete emancipation shackles beloved Faith Bahá'u'lláh's native land.

Shoghi



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### Appointment to International Bahá'í Council

Cablegram, May 4, 1955

Announce National Assemblies number members International Council raised nine through  
appointment Sylvia loas.

Shoghi



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### Implications and Requirements

Cablegram, May 26, 1955

Impelled this grave hour chequered history over century-old world-encompassing repeatedly-  
persecuted yet undefeatable Faith summon entire body valorous upholders its institutions

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<sup>3</sup>. Outer Sanctuary of the Holy Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh.

who severally collectively stand pledged prosecution mightiest crusade launched since its inception whether residing homelands overseas however repressive regimes under which they labor ponder anew full implications essential requirements their stewardship Cause Bahá'u'lláh.[pg 87]

Entreat them refuse allow any vicissitudes present future dampen ardor enthusiasm impair solidarity weaken resolution deflect them high purpose. Unbowed adversity disdainful clamors undeterred machinations inveterate artful traditional enemies alarmed own declining fortunes contrasting evidence dynamic force impelling power rising prestige indivisible unity accumulating resources multiplying institutions inextinguishable spirit God's infant Faith it behoveth them bend energies rise higher levels consecration vigilantly combat all forms misrepresentations eradicate suspicions dispel misgivings silence criticisms still more compelling demonstration loyalty their respective governments win maintain strengthen confidence civil authorities their integrity sincerity reaffirm universality aims purposes Faith proclaim spiritual character fundamental principles assert non-political character administrative institutions.

Appeal members communities untrammelled disabilities shackles imposed less privileged brethren, particularly those established North American continent, recognized stronghold administrative order Faith, those residing British Commonwealth Empire, situated heart, East West African continent, scattered Antipodes Pacific area, arise promptly accelerate tempo activities, multiply exploits which will more than offset transient setbacks steadily-advancing as yet not fully-emancipated Faith may suffer. Theirs sublime opportunity so act as thoroughly dishearten confound any schemes which envious, fanatical embittered adversaries, tottering their fall, may devise.

Share message National Assemblies.

Shoghi



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## Archbreaker of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant

Cablegram, June 3, 1955

Announce National Assemblies Majdi'd-Dín most redoubtable adversary 'Abdu'l-Bahá denounced by Him incarnation Satan played predominant part kindling hostility 'Abdu'l-Ḥamíd Jamál Páshá [pg 88] chief instigator archbreaker Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant above sixty years labored fiendish ingenuity guile undermine its foundations miserably perished struck paralysis affecting limbs tongue. Dispensation Providence prolonged span infamous life hundred years enabling him witness extinction cherished hopes disintegration dramatic rapidity infernal crew he unceasingly incited zealously directed triumphant progress glorious termination 'Abdu'l-Bahá's thirty-year ministry as well as

evidences rise establishment continents globe administrative order child divinely-appointed  
Covenant harbinger world-encircling order.

Shoghi



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## World-Wide Reverberations

Cablegram, August 23, 1955

Mysterious dispensations ever-watchful Providence hastening, through turmoil trial  
triumph His undefeatable Faith dictating this critical hour sudden deterioration situation  
confronting largest community Bahá'í world as evidenced violent recrudescence persecution  
afflicting intermittently over century its members residing Bahá'u'lláh's native land.

Following seizure destruction dome community's national administrative headquarters  
occupation similar institutions all provinces government declaration Majlis  
outlawing Faith virulent press radio campaign distorting its history calumniating its Founders  
misrepresenting its tenets obscuring its aims purposes series atrocities perpetrated rapid  
succession length breadth land against members sorely-tried community.

House Báb foremost Shrine Írán twice desecrated severely damaged Bahá'u'lláh's ancestral  
Home Tákur occupied house Báb's uncle razed ground shops, farms plundered crops burned  
livestock destroyed bodies disinterred cemeteries mutilated private houses broken into  
damaged looted adults execrated beaten young women abducted forced marry Muslims  
children[pg 89] mocked reviled beaten expelled schools boycott butchers bakers imposed;  
fifteen-year-old girl raped eleven-month-old baby trampled underfoot pressure  
brought bear believers recant Faith.

More recently family seven oldest eighty youngest nineteen  
residing Hurmuzak Province Yazd were set upon mob two thousand strong  
accompanied music drums trumpets hacked them pieces with spades axes.  
Meanwhile official circular issued Prime Minister addressed Government Departments  
ordering expulsion all Bahá'í employees refusing recant.

Highly distressing situation threatens worsen Muḥarram Šafar.

Reacting these barbarous acts over thousand groups local Assemblies Bahá'í world appealed  
telegraphically authorities all National Assemblies addressed written  
communications Šháh, government parliament, pleading justice protection.

Finding written pleas unanswered appeal lodged United  
Nations representatives International Bahá'í Community Geneva. Copies appeal were  
delivered representatives member nations Social Economic Council Director Human Rights

Division certain specialized agencies nongovernmental organizations with consultative status. Furthermore President Eisenhower who according newspapers first mentioned persecutions Press Conference Washington appealed to National representatives American Bahá'í Community all Assemblies groups United States intervene behalf oppressed sister community.

Whatever outcome present heart-rending events one fact emerges clear indisputable. God's infant Faith provided, operation quarter-century-long process associated first epoch formative age Faith machinery divinely appointed Administrative Order utilizing course succeeding epoch formulation series national plans culminating launching World Crusade newly-born administrative agencies for systematic propagation Faith now gradually emerging from obscurity wake ordeal convulsing overwhelming majority followers Faith.[pg 90]

World-wide reverberations this nation-wide commotion will be hailed posterity mighty blast God's trumpet designed awaken through instrumentality its oldest most redoubtable most vicious most fanatical adversaries countless multitudes Chancelleries Chief Magistrates East West existence implications Faith proclaimed His Messenger this Day. Long-desired ardently-hoped-for emergence itself long-drawn-out process bound pave way emancipation same Faith fetters orthodoxy Islámic countries as well as ultimate recognition independent character Revelation Bahá'u'lláh His homeland.

Owing grievous losses sustained necessity demonstrate world-wide Bahá'í solidarity "Aid Persecuted" Fund inaugurated purpose bringing immediate relief despoiled homeless victims. Myself contributing equivalent eighteen thousand dollars noble purpose. However conscious manifold demands adherents Faith impelled invite them participate through contributions to be transmitted through respective National Assemblies.

Moreover undeterred obstacles placed path crusaders Bahá'u'lláh historic decision arrived at raise Mother Temple Africa City Kampala situated its heart constituting supreme consolation masses oppressed valiant brethren Cradle Faith. Every continent globe except Australasia will thereby pride itself derive direct spiritual benefits its own Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḍḥkár. Befitting recognition moreover accorded marvelous expansion Faith amazing multiplications its administrative institutions throughout this continent fully deserving House Worship complementing four national Ḥaṣíratu'l-Quds already established wherein spirit unconquerable Faith can dwell within whose walls African adherents Faith Bahá'u'lláh can congregate from which anthems praise glorifying Most Great Name can ascend Concourse Abhá Kingdom.

Transmit message Hands Cause National Assemblies.[pg 91]

Shoghi



## Hand of Cause Appointment

Cablegram, November 15, 1955

Inform Hands National Assemblies Varqá's son 'Alí-Muḥammad appointed succeed his father  
now gathered concourse on high Abhá Kingdom as  
Trustee Ḥuqúq elevated rank Hand Cause.

Shoghi



## So Significant a Victory

April, 1956

The triumphant termination of the second phase of the decade-long global Spiritual Crusade on which the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh have so auspiciously embarked impels me to share with the delegates assembled at the Annual Bahá'í Conventions convened in all the continents of the globe the feelings of joy, of pride and of thankfulness which so significant a victory has evoked in my heart.

## A Remarkable Victory

The year that has just ended — a year which posterity cannot fail to regard as one of the most eventful and challenging in the annals of the Formative Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation — has been overshadowed, in the course of its opening months, by a sudden and highly menacing crisis in the fortunes of this Faith, a crisis which, though as yet not fully resolved, has already led to a remarkable victory over the combined forces of its traditional adversaries in the land of its birth, who, for more than a century, have plotted assiduously to disrupt its foundations, tarnish its glory and extinguish its light. A long-abused, down-trodden, sorely tried community, constituting the overwhelming majority of Bahá'u'lláh's followers, subjected recently to the strain and stress of a violent recrudescence of persecution, which was marked throughout by intense vilification, intimidation, spoliation, expulsion, arson, rape, and murder, has emerged triumphant from yet another gruelling experience — a testing period of exceptional severity — its unity unbroken, its confidence reinforced, its prestige considerably enhanced, its fame noised abroad to an unprecedented degree, its administrative agencies unshaken, its endowments unimpaired, and the grim, boastful and reiterated threats of its sworn enemies to outlaw it through formal legislative action, confiscate its property, demolish[pg 92] its edifices, imprison and deport its members, and extirpate it, root and branch, in the native land of its Founder unenforced.

## Progressive Unfoldment of the Ten-Year Crusade

Simultaneous with this marvelous, awe-inspiring interposition of Providence, at this critical stage in the mysterious evolution and the resistless progress of God's infant Faith in the land of its birth, towards the two shining goals of complete emancipation from the shackles of religious orthodoxy and of state recognition, an equally significant development can be noted, during the last twelve-month, in the progressive unfoldment, beyond the confines of this storm-tossed land, and stretching to the farthest corners of the earth, of the Ten-Year Plan, now entering upon the third, and what promises to be the most brilliant, phase in its execution.

This world-encompassing enterprise, embarked upon, three years ago, on the occasion of the world-wide celebrations commemorating the centenary of the birth of the Mission of the Founder of our Faith, has, in all phases of its operation, throughout five continents, as well as the islands of the seas, gathered swift momentum, and is demonstrating, in both its territorial and institutional aspects, a vitality, and has registered successes, that have far exceeded the expectations of even the most sanguine among its promoters.

The number of localities into which the light of this unconquerable Faith, now radiating the splendor of its glory over the face of the planet, has penetrated, has swelled to well nigh thirty-seven hundred, marking an increase of almost five hundred in the course of a single year. The number of Sovereign States and Chief Dependencies included within its pale, which multiplied with such amazing swiftness during the opening year of this World-Crusade, has now risen to two hundred and forty-seven through the arrival of the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh Udai Narain Singh, Frank Wyss and Daniel Haumont, in Tibet, in Cocos Island and Loyalty Islands, respectively, as well as through the opening of Laos and Cambodia and of the Islands of Pemba, Fernando Po, Trinidad and Corisco — territories not included in the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, — and as a result of information recently received indicating the presence of a few believers in the Soviet Republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The number of local Spiritual Assemblies now functioning throughout the length and breadth of the Bahá'í World exceeds nine hundred. Every single country listed in [pg 93] the Plan within the confines of every continent of the globe, with the exception of those within the Soviet Orbit, are now opened to the Faith. All islands figuring in that Plan, over seventy in number, situated in the Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Indian Oceans, in the Mediterranean and the North Sea, have, likewise been opened except Nicobar Islands, Chagos Archipelago, Hainan Island, Sakhalin Island, Spitzbergen and Anticosti Island. The number of the islands of the globe to which the Message of Bahá'u'lláh has been carried since its inception now totals ninety-eight. In the Pacific Ocean alone the number of opened territories is now over forty, while the number of localities where Bahá'ís reside exceeds one hundred and seventy. The number of languages into which Bahá'í literature has been and is being translated has now reached one hundred and ninety, no less than thirty-four of which are to be regarded as supplementary to those included in the provisions of the Plan.

## Fast-Awakening Continent of Africa

In the Continent of Africa and in its neighboring islands, in both the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith has passed the three thousand mark; over two thousand five hundred of whom belong to the Negro race. The number of territories



opened to the Faith in that fast-awakening continent and its neighboring islands has risen to fifty-eight, while the number of localities where Bahá'ís reside is over four hundred. The number of tribes represented in the Bahá'í Community is now over one hundred and forty, the number of local Assemblies already established is over one hundred and twenty, and the number of languages into which Bahá'í literature has been and is being translated exceeds fifty.

### Forty-Three National Ḥazíratu'l-Quds

The number of incorporated Assemblies, both local and national, in various continents of the globe, has been raised to one hundred and sixty-eight, the latest additions being the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assembly and the Local Spiritual Assemblies of Brussels, Tokyo, Liverpool, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Quincy, Basel, Zurich, Geneva, Heidelberg, Buenos Aires, Saigon, Suva, Malacca and Addis Ababa. The number of National Ḥazíratu'l-Quds, the precursors of Bahá'í National Spiritual Assemblies, acquired in the capitals and leading cities of North, Central and South America, of the goal countries of Europe, of Africa, Asia and Australasia, and [pg 94] of several islands of the globe, has reached forty-three, involving the expenditure of over half a million dollars, amply compensating for the seizure and occupation of the National Administrative Headquarters of the Faith and the demolition of its dome by the military authorities in the Persian capital.

### Temple Sites and Endowments

Land for ten Temple sites has moreover been acquired at a cost of no less than one hundred thousand dollars, while negotiations are well advanced for the acquisition of the one remaining Temple site to be purchased in the Swedish capital. In no less than thirty of the fifty-one countries listed in the Ten-Year Plan, National Bahá'í endowments estimated as having a value of one hundred thousand dollars have been acquired, outstanding among them being the Maxwell Home honored by the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá while in Montreal, which has been transferred by the Hand of the Cause Amatu'l-Bahá to the Canadian National Spiritual Assembly. Efforts are moreover being strenuously exerted for the establishment of similar endowments in the twenty-one remaining countries. Following the completion and adoption of the design for the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḡḡkár in the cradle of the Faith, steps have been taken for the preparation of no less than three additional designs, one for the Temple scheduled to be erected in the heart of the European Continent, another for the one to be erected in the near future in the African Continent, and the third for the one contemplated for Australasia, paving the way thereby in each of the remaining continents of the globe for the erection of a House to be consecrated to the worship of the one true God, and to the glory and honor of His Messenger for this Day.

### Development of Bahá'í World Center

In the Holy Land, the center and pivot round which the divinely appointed, fast multiplying institutions of a world-encircling, resistlessly marching Faith revolve, the double process, so noticeable in recent years, involving a rapid decline in the fortunes of the breakers of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant and proclaiming the rise of the institutions of its World Administrative Centre, in the shadow of His Shrine, has been accelerated on the one hand, through the death,

in miserable circumstances, of the treacherous and malignant Majdi'd-Dín, the last survivor of the principal instigators of the rebellion against the Will of the Founder of our Faith, and, on the other, through the laying of the foundation, and the erection of some of the pillars, of the facade and of the northern side of the International Bahá'í Archives — the first of the major edifices destined to constitute the seat of the World Bahá'í Administrative Center to be established on Mt. Carmel. No less than thirty of the fifty-two pillars, each over seven meters high, of this imposing and strikingly beautiful edifice have already been raised, whilst half of the nine hundred tons of stone ordered in Italy for its construction have already been safely delivered at the Port of Haifa. A contract, moreover, for over fifteen thousand dollars has been placed with a tile factory in Utrecht for the manufacture of over seven thousand green tiles designed to cover the five hundred square meters of the roof of the building.

Coincident with these building operations an extensive plot, adjoining the resting-place of the Greatest Holy Leaf has, after protracted and difficult negotiations, been purchased for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, for the purpose of extending and safeguarding, on the one hand, the area of the international Bahá'í endowments on Mt. Carmel, and of providing, on the other, the much needed space for the extension and completion of the far-flung arc around which the edifices of the World Bahá'í Administrative Order are to be built. The recently acquired area surrounding the holiest Shrine in the Bahá'í World and its appointed Qiblih in the plain of 'Akká has been further extended through the purchase from the Development Authority of the State of Israel of a dilapidated house, situated south of the Mansion and blessed by the presence of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and in which He was wont to receive His friends, amongst them the first party of western Bahá'í pilgrims to arrive in the Holy Land after the passing of Bahá'u'lláh. To these latest acquisitions must be added the purchase of another plot situated in the neighborhood of the Báb's Sepulcher and adjoining the area surrounding the future seat of the World Bahá'í Administrative Order, raising thereby the total area of the international Bahá'í endowments in the Holy Land to over four hundred thousand square meters. Furthermore, the necessary formalities have been completed in connection with the purchase of the site of the future Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár on Mt. Carmel, while the transfer of the title deeds of recently acquired plots to the name of the Israel branches of the United States, the British, the Persian, the Canadian and Australian Bahá'í National Spiritual Assemblies is being expeditiously carried out.

[pg 96]

## Events in the United States

In the United States of America, the home of the champion-builders of a fast-evolving Order, an official invitation was extended to the Bahá'í Community by the San Francisco Council of Churches to send representatives to attend a Service of Prayer for Peace and Divine Guidance to the United Nations, an invitation to which the Community warmly responded. At this inter-religious gathering, held in the Cow Palace in San Francisco, the birthplace of the Charter of the United Nations, which united nearly sixteen thousand people in worship and silent prayers, and at which government leaders, among them the United States Secretary of State, were present, the voice of the Bahá'í representative was the first to be raised, reciting a prayer revealed by Bahá'u'lláh, after whom a prayer was read by each of the representatives of the Christian, the Muslim, the Jewish, the Hindu, and the Buddhist Faiths, all of whom were similarly invited to participate in that immense and historic gathering. A prayer revealed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá for

America was presented by the elected national representatives of the United States Bahá'í Community to President Eisenhower, who acknowledged its receipt in warm terms and above his own signature.

### Other Victories and Achievements

Nor should mention be omitted in this brief survey of Bahá'í victories and achievements in the course of the closing year of the second phase of the Ten-Year Plan of the establishment of a Bahá'í Publishing Trust in India; of the establishment of over thirty new centers and fifteen Assemblies in India, Páistán and Burma; of the purchase of some of the holy sites blessed by the footsteps of Bahá'u'lláh in Adrianople, the Land of Mystery and the scene of the proclamation of His Message; of the holding of the first Bahá'í Summer School in Central Africa, in Kobuka, Uganda, attended by about one hundred African and white believers and representatives of no less than twenty-eight Bahá'í local Assemblies; of the convocation of the first historic All-France Teaching Conference, the first fruit of the combined labors of the believers of about thirty centers already established throughout the length and breadth of that country; of the setting apart of a plot to serve as a burial-ground for the members of the Bahá'í community in Tripoli, Libya and in the capital of Tanganyika; of the purchase of land for the establishment of a Bahá'í Summer School in 'Iráq; of the extension[pg 97] to the Bahá'í women in Egypt of the right to be elected to the Egyptian Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly as well as to participate as delegates in the National Bahá'í Convention; of the purchase, in an island near Muara Siberut, Mentawai Islands, of a plot supplementing the Bahá'í endowment established in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital; of the pushing of the northern outpost of the Faith in Alaska to Point Barrow beyond the Arctic Circle; of the initiation of auxiliary plans for the promotion of the Faith in the Seychelles Islands and in the Súdán; and of the arrival of a pioneer in Praslin Island forming a part of the Seychelles group.

### Appeal to United Nations

Nor can I in this survey allow to pass unnoticed the energetic and commendable efforts exerted by Bahá'í communities the world over for the support, protection and relief of the persecuted members of the Persian Bahá'í Community subjected to one of the severest ordeals experienced in recent years by the steadfast followers of the Faith in the land of its birth. Following this barbarous recrudescence of religious persecution and the transmission of over one thousand messages by Bahá'í communities, some in writing and others telegraphically, to His Majesty the Sháh, the Government, the Majlis and the Senate, and reinforcing the wide publicity given in the world's leading newspapers and the numerous protests voiced by scholars, statesmen, government envoys and people of eminence such as Pandit Nehru, Eleanor Roosevelt, Professor Gilbert Murray and Professor A. Toynbee, a written communication accompanied by a memorandum listing the atrocities perpetrated throughout the Persian provinces, was submitted in Geneva to the Secretary General of the United Nations, who appointed a commission of United Nations officers, headed by the High Commissioner for Refugees, instructing its members to contact the Persian Foreign Minister and urge him to obtain from his government in Tíhrán a formal assurance that the rights of the Bahá'í minority in that land would be protected. Copies of this communication addressed to the United Nations were delivered to the representatives of the member nations of the Social and Economic

Council, to the Director of the Human Rights Division, and to certain specialized agencies of non-governmental organizations with consultative status. Furthermore, the American President was appealed to by the national representatives of the American Bahá'í Communities as well as by all local Assemblies and groups in the United States. A courteous[pg 98] and reassuring letter was subsequently received by the American Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly from the State Department in Washington, acknowledging the receipt of the appeal, while the Director of the Division of Human Rights addressed in his turn a communication to the Secretary of the American National Spiritual Assembly, informing him that summaries of both the letter and petition forwarded to him would be furnished to the Commission of Human Rights, and copies sent to the Persian Government. Assurance was moreover given that summaries would also be sent to the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. As a further measure to obtain redress a forty-thousand dollar publicity campaign was initiated by the American Bahá'í Community designed to lend an impetus to the proclamation of the fundamental verities of the Faith, the aims and purposes of its followers, and of the disabilities suffered by the overwhelming majority of its adherents in the land of its birth.

### Enrollments in Virgin Territories

Nor can I refrain from emphasizing in this rapid survey the highly significant fact that in over sixty territories, constituting more than a half of the total number of virgin territories opened to the Faith, since the inauguration of the World Spiritual Crusade, the number of those who have espoused the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh and enlisted under His banner has surpassed the number originally anticipated and regarded as a minimum for the opening of these territories; that in a considerable proportion of them the Bahá'í membership has far exceeded the number required for the formation of local Assemblies; that in Gambia as many as three hundred, and in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands as many as five hundred, have been and are being enrolled beneath His standard; and that in Uganda alone, which holds the palm of victory, the number of registered believers has exceeded one thousand.

### Next Phase of World Crusade

Such heart-warming, soul-stirring examples of Bahá'í initiative and enterprise; such splendid testimonies to Bahá'í solidarity, perseverance, courage, fortitude, and self-sacrifice, displayed in rapid succession, and over so immense an area of the globe's surface, and in the face of mounting opposition on the part of those who envy the ever widening glory of the Faith or fear the influence of its all-pervasive power, have shed on the opening chapter[pg 99] of this Crusade a luster which the passing of time can never tarnish. The third phase of this momentous enterprise — the opening of which is, at this hour, being signaled by the emergence of no less than three additional Regional Bahá'í Assemblies in the African Continent — must cast on the annals of this prodigious Crusade an illumination of such brilliancy as will eclipse the splendor of this luster.

The glorious and stupendous work already accomplished, singly and collectively, in the course of three brief years, in five continents of the globe and the islands of the seas, both at home and abroad, in the teaching as well as the administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity must, as the army of Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders marches forward into new and vaster fields to capture still greater

heights, never be jeopardized or allowed to lag or suffer a setback. The prizes so arduously won should not only be jealously preserved but should be constantly enriched. Far from suffering the long and distinguished record of feats which have been achieved to be tarnished, assiduous efforts must be exerted to ennoble it with every passing day.

The newly opened territories of the globe must, under no circumstances, be allowed to relapse into the state of spiritual deprivation from which they have so recently and laboriously been rescued. Nay, the highly edifying evidences proclaiming the expansion and the consolidation of the superb historic work achieved in so many of these territories must be rapidly multiplied. The local assemblies that have been so diligently and patiently established must under no circumstances be allowed to dissolve, or their foundations be in any way endangered. The mighty and steady process involving the increase in the number of the avowed supporters of the Faith, and the multiplication of isolated centers, groups and local assemblies must, throughout this newly opened phase of the Plan, be markedly accelerated. The incorporation of local assemblies must proceed with a rapidity that will throw into shade the progress achieved in this respect during the first two phases of the Plan. The remaining unopened territories of the globe outside the Soviet orbit, now confined to no more than four lonely islands, must with the least possible delay, be won over to the ever spreading dominion of Bahá'u'lláh, consummating thereby the most far-reaching and thrilling of all the enterprises launched through the concerted efforts of His valiant followers. The one remaining Temple site destined to be bought in the Swedish capital must be speedily acquired. The six remaining Ḥaḏratu'l-Quds, some in Latin America, others in [pg 100] the European continent, must likewise be rapidly established. The Bahá'í endowments in the countries still deprived of the benefits of this divinely appointed institution must be forthwith purchased. The task of completing the translation of Bahá'í literature into the languages listed in the provisions of the Plan must be carried out with renewed determination and vigor. The Bahá'í Publishing Trusts that are as yet unestablished must be founded at the earliest possible opportunity. The sacred obligation of purchasing the remaining chief historic sites in the birthplace of the Faith, and particularly the scenes of the Báb's incarceration and martyrdom, must be discharged as expeditiously as possible. The search now being conducted for the purpose of identifying the resting-places of the Father of Bahá'u'lláh, of the Mother and the Cousin of the Báb must be pursued with the utmost diligence and circumspection. The construction of the Mother Temple of Europe, so vital and yet so long overdue, must be speedily commenced, whilst a parallel effort must be exerted in Africa for the erection, without delay, of a similar institution which the phenomenal progress of the Faith in that continent has made imperative. The Construction of the Home for the Aged, marking the inauguration of the first of the Dependencies of the Holiest House of Worship in the Bahá'í world, must, now that the site in the proximity of the Temple has been acquired, be started and expeditiously carried forward. The process of incorporating the newly formed National Spiritual Assemblies, whether regional or independent, must be initiated soon after their formation, and should be continually stimulated with every increase in the number of these assemblies in all the continents of the globe. Above all, an effort unprecedented in its range and intensity, must be exerted for the speedy multiplication of local spiritual assemblies in all the territories where National Spiritual Assemblies, whether independent or regional, provisional or permanent, are to be established, for the purpose of broadening and strengthening the foundations on which these potent national institutions — the pillars of the future Universal House of Justice — must rest. Immediate attention should be focused on the multiplication of such institutions in areas

where these National Spiritual Assemblies are to be established in the near future, such as South and Central America, the Arabian Peninsula, Southeast Asia, Pákistán, Alaska, Japan, New Zealand, Scandinavia and Finland, the Benelux countries, the Iberian Peninsula and France, as well as those territories in which national assemblies are to be established at a later stage in the course[pg 101] of the unfoldment of the present phase of the Plan, and the date of the formation of which will, to a large extent, depend on the rapidity with which these local assemblies are formed.

### A Major Turning Point

The Crusade, on which the army of the Lord of Hosts has so joyously and confidently embarked, now stands at a major turning point in the history of its marvelous unfoldment. Three years of magnificent exploits, achieved for the propagation of the light of an immortal and infinitely precious Faith and for the strengthening of the fabric of its Administrative Order, now lie behind it. A spirit of abnegation and self-sacrifice, so rare that only the spirit of the Dawn-breakers of a former age can be said to have surpassed it, has consistently animated, singly as well as collectively, its participants in every clime, of all classes, of either sex, and of every age. A treasure, immense in its range has been willingly and lovingly expended to insure its systematic and successful prosecution. Already a few heroic souls have either quaffed the cup of martyrdom, or laid down their lives, or been subjected to divers ordeals while combating for its Cause. Its repercussions have spread so far as to alarm a not inconsiderable element among the traditional and redoubtable adversaries of its courageous and consecrated prosecutors. Indeed as it has forged ahead, it has raised up new enemies intent on obstructing its forward march and on defeating its purpose. Premonitory signs can already be discerned in far-off regions heralding the approach of the day when troops will flock to its standard, fulfilling the predictions uttered long ago by the Supreme Captain of its forces.

Before the eyes of the warriors enlisting under its banner stretch fields of exploration and consolidation of such vastness as might well dazzle the eyes and strike awe into the heart of any soul less robust than those who have arisen to identify themselves with its Cause. The heights its champions must scale are indeed formidable. The pitfalls that bestrew their path are still numerous. The road leading to ultimate and total victory is tortuous, stony and narrow. Theirs, however, is the emphatic assurance, revealed by the Pen of the Most High — the Prime Mover of the forces unleashed by this world-girdling Crusade — that “Whosoever ariseth to aid our Cause God will render him victorious over ten times ten thousand souls, and, should he wax in his love for Me, him will We cause to triumph over all that is in heaven and all that is on earth.”[pg 102]

Putting on the armor of His love, firmly buckling on the shield of His mighty Covenant, mounted on the steed of steadfastness, holding aloft the lance of the Word of the Lord of Hosts, and with unquestioning reliance on His promises as the best provision for their journey, let them set their faces towards those fields that still remain unexplored and direct their steps to those goals that are as yet unattained, assured that He Who has led them to achieve such triumphs, and to store up such prizes in His Kingdom, will continue to assist them in enriching their spiritual birthright to a degree that no finite mind can imagine or human heart perceive.

Shoghi



## Evidences of the Resistless March of the World Crusade

April, 1957

At this auspicious hour, marking yet another milestone in the progress of the divinely-guided, world-embracing, steadily consolidating Community of the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, I feel once again impelled to share with the elected representatives of the vast majority of its avowed supporters, assembled on the occasion of the convocation of the twenty-four Bahá'í Conventions being held simultaneously in the American, the European, the Asiatic, the African, and the Australian continents, the latest evidences of its resistless march along the path traced for it by both its Founder and the appointed Center of His Covenant.

The year that has just expired, signalized, at the hour of its birth, by the emergence of three regional spiritual assemblies, on the northern fringes, in the heart, and at the southern extremity of the long dormant African continent, and ushering in the third phase of a decade-long, world-encompassing Spiritual Crusade, has, as we look back on the triumphs and trials that have marked its course, accelerated, to a notable extent, the two parallel processes of integration and disintegration associated respectively with the rising fortunes of God's infant Faith and the sinking fortunes of the institutions of a declining civilization.

Indeed, as we gaze in retrospect beyond the immediate past, and survey, in however cursory a manner, the vicissitudes afflicting an increasingly tormented society, and recall the strains and stresses to which the fabric of a dying Order has been increasingly subjected, we cannot but marvel at the sharp contrast presented, on the one hand, by the accumulated evidences of the orderly unfoldment,[pg 103] and the uninterrupted multiplication of the agencies, of an Administrative Order designed to be the harbinger of a world civilization, and, on the other, by the ominous manifestations of acute political conflict, of social unrest, of racial animosity, of class antagonism, of immorality and of irreligion, proclaiming, in no uncertain terms, the corruption and obsolescence of the institutions of a bankrupt Order.

## Portentous Prophecies

Against the background of these afflictive disturbances — the turmoil and tribulations of a travailing age — we may well ponder the portentous prophecies uttered well-nigh fourscore years ago, by the Author of our Faith, as well as the dire predictions made by Him Who is the unerring Interpreter of His teachings, all foreshadowing a universal commotion, of a scope and intensity unparalleled in the annals of mankind.

The violent derangement of the world's equilibrium; the trembling that will seize the limbs of mankind; the radical transformation of human society; the rolling up of the present-day Order; the fundamental changes affecting the structure of government; the weakening of the pillars of religion; the rise of dictatorships; the spread of tyranny; the fall of monarchies; the decline of



ecclesiastical institutions; the increase of anarchy and chaos; the extension and consolidation of the Movement of the Left; the fanning into flame of the smouldering fire of racial strife; the development of infernal engines of war; the burning of cities; the contamination of the atmosphere of the earth — these stand out as the signs and portents that must either herald or accompany the retributive calamity which, as decreed by Him Who is the Judge and Redeemer of mankind, must, sooner or later, afflict a society which, for the most part, and for over a century, has turned a deaf ear to the Voice of God's Messenger in this day — a calamity which must purge the human race of the dross of its age-long corruptions, and weld its component parts into a firmly-knit world-embracing Fellowship — a Fellowship destined, in the fullness of time, to be incorporated in the framework, and to be galvanized by the spiritualizing influences, of a mysteriously expanding, divinely appointed Order, and to flower, in the course of future Dispensations, into a Civilization, the like of which mankind has, at no stage in its evolution, witnessed.

Parallel with this process of progressive deterioration in human[pg 104] affairs, now visibly gathering momentum outside the pale of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and recalling the convulsions which, on a far more restricted scale, seized a declining empire in the opening centuries of the Christian era, far less spectacular in its manifestation, has been the process of integration, as demonstrated by the increasing cohesion, the multiplication, and the reinforcement of the foundations, of the institutions of the embryonic Bahá'í World Order, which, now, under the impact of the forces released by a World Spiritual Crusade, deriving its authority from the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and launched for the express purpose of executing the Divine Plan bequeathed by Him to His followers in the evening of His life, is contributing, unnoticed by a generation forgetful of its God, and already in the shadow of His Visitation, to the building up, slowly but irresistibly, of that Ark of human salvation, ordained as the ultimate haven of a society destined, for the most part, to be submerged by the tidal wave of the abuses and evils which its own perversity has engendered.

### Victory over Ecclesiastical Forces

The fourth year of this Ten-Year Crusade, endowed with such tremendous potentialities, has witnessed, in the Cradle of the Faith, and in direct consequence of the strenuous, the concerted and persistent efforts exerted by the champion-builders of this embryonic World Order, holding aloft the standard of an unconquerable Faith in the American and European continents, and reinforced by the voice of men of eminence in both the East and the West, and, particularly, by responsible officials, occupying high positions in various agencies of the United Nations, a victory over the ecclesiastical forces leagued against it and a fanatical population determined to extirpate it root and branch — a victory which must rank as one of the most striking among those won in the Formative Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation. The numerous properties, serving, for the most part, as the administrative headquarters of the Faith, and scattered throughout the provinces of that sorely tried land, outstanding among which is the House of the Báb in Shíráz — the holiest spot in that country, the scene of the birth of His Revelation, and the ordained Center of Pilgrimage — have, pursuant to orders issued by the central authorities in Tíhrán, been returned to their owners, despite the protests of a relentless and powerful clergy, the agitation of a hostile population, and the importunate demands made by prominent members of the Legislature to outlaw and disendow[pg 105] the Faith, confiscate its literature, raze to the

ground its principal edifices, deport its chief supporters, and root it out of the provinces. A firm and categorical assurance has, moreover, been given by the Chief Magistrate and the head of his Cabinet to the national representatives of the Persian Bahá'í Community that their national administrative headquarters in Tīhrán, together with all its furnishings, books and documents, which have thus far been kept intact in that edifice, will be restored.

Whilst so conspicuous a victory was being registered by a persecuted Faith in the land of its birth over the combined forces of its traditional adversaries, its stalwart standard-bearers, in both hemispheres, have, in accordance with their solemn pledges, given at the time of the inception of the Ten-Year Crusade, been pursuing their historic task of enlarging the orbit, and of consolidating the institutions, of a rapidly maturing Administrative Order.

### Achievements of World Crusade

The number of territories included within the pale of the Faith, embracing all the sovereign states and chief dependencies of the planet, has now, in consequence of this prodigious effort, been raised to two hundred and fifty-one, as a result of the opening of the island of Anticosti, in the North Atlantic Ocean, by the Knight of Bahá'u'lláh, Mary Zabolotny, of the arrival of a pioneer in Mafia Island, off the coast of Tanganyika, and of the news received recently of the presence of a few followers of the Faith in the Soviet Republics of Tadzhikistan and of Kirgizia, almost doubling, within the space of four years, the total number of territories opened in the course of eleven decades of Bahá'í history. Of the hundred and thirty-one territories listed in the Ten-Year Plan, only Spitzbergen, Nicobar Islands and the Chagos Archipelago, as well as eleven territories, which are either incorporated in the Soviet Union or are included within its orbit, remain to be opened by the band of intrepid warriors intent upon enlarging the limits, and spreading far and wide the fame, of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. Every single territory of the hundred and twenty, mentioned by the Author of the Divine Plan in His memorable Tablets, is now opened to His Father's Faith, proclaiming the exemplary fidelity of His followers to the dearest wishes expressed by the Center of the Covenant in those Tablets.

The total number of localities where the followers of the Most Great Name now reside has, as a result of their unprecedented[pg 106] scattering over the surface of the globe, exceeded the forty-two hundred mark, representing an increase of no less than a thousand centers in the course of the last two years. Of these localities — foci of the warming and healing light of an all-conquering Revelation — over a hundred are now established in Australasia, over a hundred and ten in the British Isles, over a hundred and ten in the Goal Countries of Europe, over a hundred and ten in the Dominion of Canada, over a hundred and thirty in Latin America, over a hundred and thirty in Germany and Austria, over a hundred and forty in the Indian subcontinent, over two hundred and ten in the Pacific area, over five hundred and fifty in the African continent, over nine hundred and eighty in Persia, over fourteen hundred and sixty in the United States of America.

The northernmost outpost of the Faith has now been pushed far beyond the Arctic Circle, as far as 76 degrees latitude, in consequence of the arrival of William Carr, a Canadian believer, in Thule, Greenland, a settlement situated three degrees above Arctic Bay, Franklin, the most northerly center hitherto established in the Bahá'í world.

The number of local spiritual assemblies organized in all the continents of the globe, constituting the broad and indestructible foundation of the edifice of a rising Order, now exceeds one thousand, an increase of more than a hundred in the space of a single year.

The number of islands now within the pale of the Faith, situated in the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Indian Oceans as well as in the Mediterranean and the North Sea, is now over a hundred, seventy-four of which have been opened since the inauguration of the World Spiritual Crusade, including five islands, situated in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans and not listed as objectives of the Ten-Year Plan.

The number of languages into which the continually expanding literature of the Faith has been and is being translated has risen to two hundred and thirty, representing an increase of forty in the course of one year. Seventy-five of these languages are included in the ninety-one named in the Ten-Year Plan, while sixty-six have been added to those originally specified in the provisions of that same Plan. Of this widely disseminated literature seven books have been lately presented by an adherent of the Faith residing in Christchurch, New Zealand, to the officer in charge of the American [pg 107] Antarctic Expedition for its library, while others have been dispatched, beyond the Antarctic Circle, as far south as the Expedition's base, at McMurdo Sound, 77 degrees latitude, on the shores of the Ross Sea.

The number of incorporated spiritual assemblies, whether local or national, in all the continents of the globe, has now swelled to one hundred and ninety-five, more than ninety of which are situated in the United States of America. Outstanding among those that have been recently registered are the assemblies of Bern, Switzerland; Frankfurt, Germany; Luxembourg, Luxembourg; Brisbane, Australia; Scarborough, Canada; Aligarh, India; Mastung, Pákestán; Huncayo, Peru; Cochabamba, Bolivia; Colombo, Ceylon; Kuala Lumpur, Malaya; Asmara, Eritrea; Monrovia and Bomi Hills, Liberia; Tuarabu, Gilbert and Ellice Islands; Baro-bai-Amantai, Indonesia; and Simatalu Saibi, Simatalu Ulu, Sipipajet, Mentawai Islands.

Of the forty-nine National Ḥazíratu'l-Quds enumerated in the Ten-Year Plan all but three have already been established, involving the expenditure of over five hundred and seventy thousand dollars, raising thereby the value of all the edifices, serving as the national administrative headquarters of the Faith in all the continents of the globe, to over two and a half million dollars.

Of the fifty-one countries in which, in accordance with that same Plan, national Bahá'í endowments are to be purchased within the space of a decade, as many as forty-nine have achieved their goals, through the expenditure of a sum estimated at more than one hundred and thirty thousand dollars.

The number of sovereign states, dependencies, as well as territories, federal districts and states of the United States of America, where the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate is recognized is now over thirty, the latest additions being Vietnam, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Indonesia and Liberia. The number of countries, states as well as cities of the United States, where the Educational Authorities have recognized the Bahá'í Holy Days now exceeds forty-five, among which are included Israel, the British Isles, Samoa, Liberia, Tanganyika, the states of Victoria and of South Australia. Mention in this connection, moreover, should be made of the recognition officially

extended by the authorities of H. M. Kitalya Farm Prison in Uganda to its recently converted Bahá'í inmates to observe these same Holy Days.[pg 108]

### The Qiblih of a World Community

In the Holy Land — the Qiblih of a world community, the heart from which the energizing influences of a vivifying Faith continually stream, and the seat and center around which the diversified activities of a divinely appointed Administrative Order revolve — following upon the termination of the construction of the Báb's holy Sepulcher, marking the closing of the first chapter in the history of the evolution of the central institutions of a world Faith, a marked progress in the rise and establishment of these institutions has been clearly noticeable. The remaining twenty-two pillars of the International Bahá'í Archives — the initial Edifice heralding the establishment of the Bahá'í World Administrative Center on Mt. Carmel — have been erected. The last half of the nine hundred tons of stone, ordered in Italy for its construction, have reached their destination, enabling the exterior of the building to be completed, while the forty-four tons of glazed green tiles, manufactured in Utrecht, to cover the five hundred square meters of roof, have been placed in position, the whole contributing, to an unprecedented degree, through its colorfulness, its classic style and graceful proportions, and in conjunction with the stately, golden-crowned Mausoleum rising beyond it, to the unfolding glory of the central institutions of a World Faith nestling in the heart of God's holy mountain.

Simultaneous with this striking development, the plan designed to insure the extension and completion of the arc serving as a base for the erection of future edifices constituting the World Bahá'í Administrative Center, has been successfully carried out. The dilapidated house, situated in the close neighborhood of Bahá'u'lláh's Shrine, recently acquired from the Development Authority of the State of Israel, because of its historic associations, has been restored. Negotiations, moreover, have been initiated with that same Authority for the acquisition of two plots to the north and south of the Shrine, for the purpose of safeguarding its precincts from a further extension of the new settlements springing up rapidly in the plain of 'Akká. Steps have also been taken to register the title-deeds of a centrally located plot, originally owned by a Covenant-breaker, and abutting on the International Archives, in the name of the Israel Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles. A further blow has been struck at the remnants of the implacable enemies of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the breakers of [pg 109] His Father's Covenant, still living in the immediate vicinity of the holiest shrine of the Bahá'í world, through the destruction of a row of ruinous sheds which had been under their control, through orders issued by the Municipal Authorities of 'Akká. And, lastly, an expropriation order has been published in the *Israel Official Gazette* by the Treasury Department of Israel related to buildings enclosed within the Ḥaram-i-Aqdas, aiming at the eviction of these same enemies from the outer Sanctuary of Bahá'u'lláh's Sepulcher, following upon the evacuation by them of the Mansion at Bahjí after two score years of occupancy, and which, when carried out, will mark the final cleansing, after more than sixty-five years, of the immediate surroundings of the holiest Spot in the Bahá'í world.

Nor can I dismiss this subject related to the progress achieved in the development of Bahá'í international institutions in the Holy Land without a special reference to the continual extension and embellishment of the international endowments of the Faith in the plain of 'Akká and on

the slopes of Mt. Carmel, the value of which now exceeds five million two hundred thousand dollars, as well as to the ever-swelling crowds of visitors flocking to the Bahá'í Shrines in both of these places, and particularly to the number of those entering the Tomb of the Báb which, during a single day, in a three-hour period, has exceeded a thousand.

### The Ten-Year Plan in the United States

In the United States of America, the cradle and citadel of the embryonic World Order of Bahá'u'lláh, the elected national representatives of the American Bahá'í Community, acting as the representatives of the International Bahá'í Community, charged with the defense of the cause of their persecuted brethren in the cradle of the Faith, have energetically pursued their efforts, through representations made to the United Nations officials and agencies in New York and Geneva, through their contact with high-ranking officials of the American State Department and through measures of publicity in the American Press, all culminating in the victory won over the adversaries of the Faith, to which reference has been made earlier in these pages.

The landscaping of the Temple area, including the operation of the nine fountains, as envisaged by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, has been completed at a cost of two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. The number of visitors who, since public guiding has been instituted,[pg 110] have flocked to the doors of this Mother Temple of the West, now standing amidst such attractive surroundings, has exceeded seven hundred thousand, whilst more than three thousand have entered its doors in the course of a single day. Authorization has moreover been recently given by the Wilmette Village Board for the construction of the Home for the Aged, the first Dependency of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḡhkár. The value of national and local endowments owned by, and under the control of, that community, whose members have so spontaneously and effectively championed the cause of the persecuted and the down-trodden, and so generously contributed to their relief in the past, is now four and a half million dollars. The number of American Indian tribes with which contact has been established in the Western Hemisphere — an achievement in which the members of this Community have played a leading role — is now over forty-five. No less than eighteen American Indian tribes are now represented in the Bahá'í communities of that same hemisphere, mainly as a result of the assiduous endeavors exerted by the members of this Community. The number of territories, federal districts and states where official authorization for the conduct of Bahá'í marriages has been obtained is now twenty-eight, whilst the number of localities, in that same country, where the Bahá'í Holy Days are officially recognized is one short of forty.

### In the African Continent

In the African continent, where the momentum gained in the process of propagation of the Faith and the consolidation of its newly-born administrative institutions has exceeded the rate of progress achieved in every other continent of the globe, and particularly since the emergence, a year ago, of three regional spiritual assemblies, the number of the adherents of the Faith, including those in the newly-opened islands off the eastern and western coasts of that vast continent, is now well over thirty-five hundred, over three thousand of whom are Negroes. The number of localities where the followers of Bahá'u'lláh reside is over five hundred and fifty.

The number of tribes represented in these flourishing communities has reached one hundred and ninety-seven. The number of languages into which Bahá'í literature has been and is being translated is over seventy, whilst the number of local spiritual assemblies, constituting the bedrock of a solidly established Order, is approaching one hundred and fifty.[pg 111]

### In the Pacific Area

In the Pacific area, where Bahá'í exploits bid fair to outshine the feats achieved in any other ocean, and indeed in every continent of the globe, now competing for the palm of victory with the African continent itself, preliminary measures have been undertaken for the formation of no less than three of the thirteen national and regional spiritual assemblies which are to be established in the course of this year's Ridván festivities. These three assemblies, the seats of which are to be located in Japan, in Indonesia and in the Dominion of New Zealand, are destined to function in regions where the yellow, the brown and white races predominate, and in which the majority of the inhabitants belong either to the Buddhist, the Muslim or Christian Faiths. In so vast and promising an area, blessed by the labors of two Hands of the Cause of God, the number of localities where Bahá'ís reside, which in the concluding years of the Apostolic Age of the Faith, had barely reached ten, has now swelled to over two hundred and ten, scattered over no less than forty islands. It already boasts over seventeen hundred believers of the brown race alone, more than fifty local spiritual assemblies, five national Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, three Bahá'í schools, twenty-one incorporated local spiritual assemblies, four states where Bahá'í national endowments have been established, a site purchased for its first projected Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḡhkár, three territories where the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate is recognized, and three others where Bahá'í children have been allowed to observe the Bahá'í Holy Days, as well as the translation of Bahá'í literature into no less than fifty of the languages current among its indigenous population. It, moreover, prides itself on the initiation of teaching activities in no less than a hundred of the four hundred islands constituting one of its numerous southern archipelagos.

### The Mother-Temples of Three Continents

So brilliant and diversified a record of services to the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, has been greatly enriched by the plans now initiated for the launching of an ambitious three-fold enterprise, designed to compensate for the disabilities suffered by the sorely-tried Community of the followers of His Faith in the land of His birth, aiming at the erection, in localities as far apart as Frankfurt, Sydney and Kampala, of the Mother-Temples of the European, the Australian and African[pg 112] continents, at a cost of approximately one million dollars, complementing the Temples already constructed in the Asiatic and American continents. One-third of this sum I, gladly and with a grateful heart, pledge at this auspicious hour, a sum which, when added to the funds already donated for this laudable purpose, amounting to one hundred and forty thousand dollars — over one hundred thousand of which represents the munificent donation of the Hand of the Cause, Amelia Collins — will constitute well-nigh half of the entire amount required to ensure the consummation of this stupendous, epoch-making undertaking.

The designs for these sacred Fanés, to be raised to the glory of the Founder of our Faith, and dedicated to the worship of the one true God, have, in the case of the Australian and African



Temples, been already executed by the Hand of the Cause, Mason Remey, whilst the design for the German Temple has been completed by the German architect, Teuto Rocholl — all three of which will be exhibited, for the first time, to the assembled delegates at the thirteen historic Bahá'í National Conventions being held for the first time during this year's Rīdván Festival. The excavation of the foundations of the African Temple has actually commenced, whilst plans and specifications are being prepared by a well-known firm in Kampala. The construction of the Australian Temple has, moreover, been placed in the hands of a reliable Sydney architect, who will have completed the detailed drawings and specifications by the first of Rīdván, and contemplates beginning work on the foundations by next June and completing the building by March,

To the National and Local Spiritual Assemblies, more than a thousand in number, to groups as well as individuals, in every continent of the globe, and in whatever island they may be laboring in the service of this glorious Faith, I direct an earnest plea to arise, now that the prodigious task of the purchase of more than forty national Ḥazíratu'l-Quds, and the establishment of Bahá'í national endowments in nearly fifty countries, has been triumphantly consummated and display, at this hour when the global Spiritual Crusade has just passed the third-way point, the self-same solidarity, generosity, tenacity and single-mindedness which they have consistently demonstrated since its inauguration four years ago, which have insured the success of some of the most arduous enterprises launched under the Ten-Year Plan, and which, in the decades preceding its inception, have brought to a glorious culmination the task of erecting the first two Maṣhriqu'l-Adhkárs of the Bahá'í world.[pg 113]

### Knights of Bahá'u'lláh and Heroic Pioneers

A special tribute, I feel, should be paid in this survey of worldwide Bahá'í achievements, to the heroic band of pioneers, and particularly to the company of the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh, who, as a result of their indomitable spirit, courage, steadfastness, and self-abnegation, have achieved in the course of four brief years, in so many of the virgin territories newly opened to His Faith, a measure of success far exceeding the most sanguine expectations. Such a success, reflected in both the numerical strength of these territories and the range and solidity of the achievements of the Bahá'í crusaders responsible for their opening and development, has surpassed to an unbelievable extent the goals set for them under the Ten-Year Plan.

To Uganda, opened on the eve of the Global Crusade, where the number of the avowed adherents of the Faith has now passed the eleven hundred mark, and the number of Bahá'í centers exceeds one hundred and eighty, to the Gilbert and Ellice Islands and Gambia where the number of the believers has reached five hundred and three hundred respectively, must be added Mentawai Islands, where adult Bahá'ís now number over eleven hundred; the British Cameroons, with well-nigh three hundred adult Bahá'ís; Mauritius with over seventy; Basutoland with over fifty; Ruanda-Urundi and the Seychelles, each with over thirty; Spanish Morocco, Reunion Island, the French Cameroons, British Togoland, French Togoland, Sikkim, the Canary Islands, British Guiana, Cape Verde Islands, Ashanti Protectorate, Swaziland, South Rhodesia, each with over twenty; and Key West, French Equatorial Africa, Cook Islands, Balearic Islands,



French Somaliland, Italian Somaliland, Cyprus, Morocco International Zone, Samoa Islands, Mariana Islands, New Hebrides Islands, Solomon Islands, Portuguese Timor, Bechuanaland, Northern Territories Protectorate, Bahama Islands, and Brunei, each with between ten and twenty.

## Conferences and Institutes

Nor should reference be omitted in these pages to the surprisingly numerous conferences and institutes which, in the course of the last twelve months, have been organized by the enterprising, the indefatigable and vigilant members of Bahá'í communities in various parts of the world, supplementing the multiple activities carried on with such splendid vigor in the course of the prosecution[pg 114] of the Ten-Year Plan. A mere enumeration of these institutes and conferences will serve to reveal their diversity and scope, and demonstrate the earnestness with which their organizers and participants are discharging their primary obligation to propagate their Faith:

The first Southeast Asia Teaching Conference in Djakarta, Indonesia; the first All-Taiwan Teaching Conference in Tainan; the Korean Summer and Winter Conference in Kwangju; the Indo-China Teaching Conference in Saigon; the Japanese National Teaching Conference in Kyoto; the first American Indian Teaching Conference in Northern Arizona; the American Indian Teaching Conference in Los Angeles, California; the Alaskan Teaching Conference in Fairbanks; the Hawaii-wide Teaching Conference in Honolulu; the Western Canada Summer Conference in Banff; the Maritime Teaching Conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; the Teaching Conference in Beaulac, Canada; the French Teaching Conference in Menton-Garavan; the third Italian Teaching Conference in Rome; the third Swiss Teaching Conference in Basel; the Teaching Conference in Romanshorn; the Teaching Conference in Neuchatel; the Iberian Teaching Conferences in Barcelona; the first Austrian Teaching Conference in Gosau; the Teaching Conference in Frankfurt; the Regional Convention in Stuttgart; the Teaching Conference in Stockholm; the Benelux Regional Teaching Conferences in Brussels and in The Hague; the Nordisk Teaching Conference in Moss, Norway; the Northwest Teaching Conferences in Liverpool, Blackpool and Manchester; the Midlands Teaching Conference in Birmingham; the Southeast Teaching Conferences in London and Reading; the Scottish Teaching Conferences in Edinburgh and Glasgow; the Northern Ireland Teaching Conference in Belfast; the Northeast Teaching Conference in Leeds; the Southwest Teaching Conferences in Portcawl, Torquay and Cardiff; the British Northern Isles Teaching Conference in Lerwick, Shetland Islands; the South India Teaching Conference in Bangalore; the Pákistán Teaching Conference in Karachi; the South Australian State Teaching Conference in Adelaide; the New South Wales Regional Teaching Conference in Sydney; the Australian Post-Convention Teaching Institute in Sydney; the New Zealand Teaching Conference in Wellington; the New Zealand Regional Teaching Conference in New Plymouth; the Regional Teaching Conference in Hobart, Tasmania; the Canary Islands Teaching Conference in Las Palmas; the first Colombian Teaching Conference in Bogota; the[pg 115] Peruvian Teaching Conference in Lima; the first Mexican Teaching Conference in Mexico City; the Cuban Teaching Conference in Havana; the Haitian Teaching Conference in Port-au-Prince; the Honduran Teaching Conference in Honduras; the Guatemalan Teaching Conference in Guatemala; the Dominican Teaching Conference in Ciudad Trujillo; the Jamaican Teaching Conference in Kingston; the El Salvador Teaching

Conference in Santa Ana; the Nicaraguan Teaching Conference in Managua; the Costa Rican Teaching Conference in San Jose; the Panamanian Teaching Conference in Panama City; the Annual Study Institute of Brazil in Rezende; the Teaching Conferences of the British Cameroons in Mutengere, as well as a large number of similar conferences and institutes too numerous to mention held throughout the United States of America.

To these highly praiseworthy accomplishments, in which an increasing number of the promoters of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, whether teachers or administrators, have shared in recent years, must be added an even more impressive list of enterprises, none of them specified as part of the Ten-Year Plan, and which stalwart upholders of His Cause, driven by an irresistible impulse to further enlarge its limits, multiply its assets, consolidate its foundations, and noise abroad its fame, have initiated and conducted at a steadily accelerated pace since the launching of the World Spiritual Crusade.

Indeed the multiplicity, variety, scope, and significance of these enterprises have impelled me to tabulate and record them for posterity on a specially prepared map, designed to present graphically the achievements supplementing the tasks already performed in pursuance of the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan. A bare recital of these additional victories won, in such rapid succession, over so vast a field, by the band of Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders, will amply demonstrate the unquenchable enthusiasm, no less than the inflexible resolve and boundless devotion, animating His followers in the pursuit of their high calling.

### Dynamic Power of Faith

The opening of the Sovereign states of Laos and of Cambodia and of the islands of Trinidad, of Corisco, of Fernando-Po, of Pemba and of Mafia; the acquisition of sites for the construction of the future Mother-Temples of Argentina, of Brazil and of Libya; the sum recently allocated for the purchase of a site for the erection of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḡhkár of the British Isles; the launching of the twin far-reaching enterprises designed to culminate in the establishment of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḡhkárs of Africa and of Australasia; the founding of Bahá'í Schools in the New Hebrides Islands, in Mentawai Islands and in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands; the establishment of Bahá'í burial grounds in Libya, Burma and Tanganyika; the formulation of supplementary plans by the newly emerged regional spiritual assemblies in Africa, and by the Bahá'í communities of the Seychelles and the Súdán; the acquisition of land for the Bahá'í summer schools of Egypt, of 'Iráq and of Chile; the establishment of Bahá'í endowments in the Aleutian Islands, in Swaziland, in Mentawai Islands, in Spanish Morocco, in Basutoland and in Liberia; the acquisition of local Ḥaḏíratu'l-Quds in Gambia, in the Aleutian Islands, in Uganda, in Spanish Morocco, in the British Cameroons, in Algeria and in French Morocco; the translation of Bahá'í literature into thirty-one African, seven American Indian, and twenty-eight miscellaneous languages; the purchase of Bahá'í historic sites in the City of Adrianople; the founding of an Indian Cultural Institute in Chichicastenango, Guatemala; the transfer of the remains of the Báb's infant son from a mosque in Shíráz to the Bahá'í burial ground in that city — these proclaim, in no uncertain terms, the splendid initiative and the dynamic power of the faith of the bearers of the Gospel of the New Day, as well as their unyielding determination to exceed, by every means in their power, the bounds of their prescribed duties and responsibilities assumed under the Ten-Year Plan, and to enhance, through every channel open to them, and over as wide a range as their circumstances

permit, their share of service in the collective task now being prosecuted with such exemplary heroism, on the whole surface of the planet, for the world-wide triumph of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh and the ultimate redemption of all mankind.

### Solemn Renewal of Dedication

Dearly-beloved friends: The opening of the second year of the third phase of a ten-year long Crusade, marking the passing of a little over one third of its duration; coinciding with the closing of a period rendered memorable by the achievement of so many of its goals, as well as by a succession of victories won in fields beyond its scope; significantly ushered in by the emergence of no less than thirteen national and regional spiritual assemblies in four continents, with a jurisdiction embracing more than forty territories of the globe, in the election of which over three hundred delegates[pg 117] representing more than one hundred and thirty local communities will participate; and over the inauguration of which no less than thirteen Hands of the Cause of God will preside — the opening of so auspicious a year must be signaled by a solemn renewal of dedication, on the part of all who are participating in this colossal, world-girdling enterprise, and indeed by the entire company of those who profess the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh — a dedication which, as the year pursues its course, will be reflected in acts the brilliance of which will eclipse the shining exploits achieved since the inception of the Crusade, and, indeed, since the commencement of the Formative Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation.

The preeminent task of teaching the Faith to the multitudes who consciously or unconsciously thirst after the healing Word of God in this day — a task so dear to the heart of 'Abdu'l-Bahá; at once so sacred, so fundamental, and so urgent; primarily involving and challenging every single individual; the bed-rock on which the solidity and the stability of the multiplying institutions of a rising Order must rest — such a task must, in the course of this year, be accorded priority over every other Bahá'í activity.

"If they arise to teach My Cause," Bahá'u'lláh Himself, revealing the secret of success for the propagation of His Faith, has declared, "they must let the breath of Him Who is the Unconstrained, stir them, and must spread it abroad on the earth with high resolve, with minds that are wholly centered in Him, and with hearts that are completely detached from, and independent of, all things, and with souls that are sanctified from the world and its vanities. It behooveth them to choose as the best provision for their journey reliance upon God, and to clothe themselves with the love of their Lord, the Most Exalted, the All-Glorious. If they do so, their words shall influence their hearers."

### Tasks for the Current Year

The historic work initiated, at the price of so much sacrifice, in more than one hundred territories of the globe, must not only be jealously safeguarded, but continually expanded, and wisely consolidated. A determined effort must be made to insure, as speedily as possible, the resettlement of the territories which Bahá'í pioneers have been forced to abandon, and the opening of the three virgin islands situated in the North Sea and in the Indian Ocean, as well as the six Republics of the Soviet Union and the five territories included within the Soviet Orbit. Particular attention should be paid[pg 118] to the all-important task of broadening and

consolidating the foundations of the newly emerged national and regional spiritual assemblies, as an essential preliminary to the formation of additional ones designed to buttress the fabric of a steadily expanding Administrative Order. Simultaneous with the acceleration in the process of individual conversion, the equally pressing need of safeguarding local spiritual assemblies from dissolution and of increasing rapidly their number, must continually be borne in mind, as the most effectual means for the strengthening of the structural basis of the Administrative Order of the Faith. Complementing this laudable task, strenuous efforts must be exerted for the purpose of multiplying the existing groups and isolated centers in all the continents of the globe, insuring thereby the early attainment of the goal of five thousand Bahá'í centers in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. The three remaining Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, the last two national endowments, the one remaining Temple site, must, despite the present obstacles and the complications that have arisen, be speedily acquired, whilst the unexpected setback in the purchase of the Temple site in Frankfurt must be overcome. The important two-fold task of translating and of publishing Bahá'í literature, constituting so vital an aspect of the Plan, must be diligently pursued and rapidly completed. The construction of the Home for the Aged — an institution designed to inaugurate the Dependencies of the Mother Temple of the West — must without further delay be commenced. The process of incorporating firmly grounded local as well as newly formed national and regional spiritual assemblies must be given an unprecedented impetus in every continent of the globe. The no less essential obligation to establish the remaining Bahá'í Publishing Trusts must likewise be discharged. Strenuous efforts must be exerted to vindicate the independent character of the Bahá'í Faith through obtaining recognition by civil authorities, in as many countries, states and localities as possible, of both the Bahá'í Marriage Certificate and the Bahá'í Holy Days. Nor should any effort be spared, however severe the challenge, to insure the acquisition and preservation for posterity of the few remaining historic sites in the Cradle of the Faith, and particularly those associated with the incarceration and execution of its Herald in Áḡhírbáyján. The equally meritorious project of transferring the remains of the Father of Bahá'u'lláh, of the mother and of the cousin of the Báb to the Bahá'í burial ground in the vicinity of the Most Great House, must receive the continued and prayerful attention of those on [pg 119] whom this sacred responsibility primarily devolves. In particular a determined effort must be made, now that no less than nine of the fifteen republics constituting the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are included within the pale of the Faith, and especially by those Bahá'í communities situated on the periphery of this vast territory, to establish a nucleus, however small, in each of the six remaining republics, all of which are now confined to the European continent, as well as in each of the two islands and of the three satellites included within the Soviet Orbit, thereby decisively contributing to the consummation of one of the most challenging objectives of this world-embracing Crusade.

Supplementing these manifold and pressing duties, which the audacious prosecutors of this vast Crusade are now, with such modest resources, and despite the smallness of their numbers, so nobly discharging, over so large a portion of the globe, and at so turbulent a stage in the affairs of mankind, is the no less vital obligation to insure through a still more spectacular demonstration of world-wide Bahá'í solidarity and self-sacrifice, the means whereby the three monumental Edifices, each designed to serve as a house for the indwelling Spirit of God and a tabernacle for the glorification of His appointed Messenger in this day, may, without any interruption, be raised and dedicated, in the European, the African and Australian continents,

and contribute their share to the world-wide celebrations of the Centenary towards which every Bahá'í heart is eagerly straining.

Great are the strides that have already been made, and phenomenal the success achieved, by the prosecutors of a thrice blessed Crusade — a Crusade so closely associated with the epoch-making Tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, utilizing as its agencies the laboriously erected institutions of an efficiently functioning, divinely-appointed Administrative Order, and linking, as it forges ahead, two historic centenaries commemorating the Birth and the Declaration of the Mission of the Founder of our Faith. The tasks that still remain to be accomplished, however, are truly formidable. Above all, the homefront, that must serve as a base, and act as a reservoir for the supply of a steady flow of pioneers and resources for the multiple organized operations of a continually expanding Crusade, and which, alas, in several countries, distinguished by an outstanding record of service to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh has been progressively declining, must, at whatever cost, and within as short a time as possible, be revitalized, extended and consolidated. More than ever its manpower must rapidly increase, the administrative machinery it utilizes, and on which it relies, for the effectual discharge of its Mission, must be assiduously perfected, and, most important of all, its spiritual driving force must be constantly reinforced through a firmer grasp by the individuals, ultimately responsible for its progress, of the distinguishing verities and fundamental purposes of their Faith, through a fuller dedication to its glorious Mission, and through a closer communion with its animating Spirit.

### The Guardian's Appeal to All Bahá'ís

I appeal, as I close this review of the superb feats already accomplished, in the course of so many campaigns, by the heroic band of the warriors of Bahá'u'lláh, battling in His Name and by His aid for the purification, the unification and the spiritualization of a morally and spiritually bankrupt society, now hovering on the brink of self-destruction, for a renewed dedication, at this critical hour in the fortunes of mankind, on the part of the entire company of my spiritual brethren in every continent of the globe, to the high ideals of the Cause they have espoused, as well as to the immediate accomplishment of the goals of the Crusade on which they have embarked, be they in active service or not, of either sex, young as well as old, rich or poor, whether veteran or newly enrolled — a dedication reminiscent of the pledges which the Dawn-breakers of an earlier Apostolic Age, assembled in conference at Badašht, and faced with issues of a different but equally challenging nature, willingly and solemnly made for the prosecution of the collective task with which they were confronted.

May this Crusade, on which the privileged heirs and present successors of the heroes of the Primitive Age of our Faith have so auspiciously embarked, yield, as it speeds on to its mid-way point, such a harvest as will amaze its prosecutors, astonish the world at large, and draw forth from the Source on high a measure of celestial strength adequate to insure its triumphant consummation.

Shoghi



## Epoch-Making Victory Won over Covenant-Breakers

Cablegram, June 3, 1957

With feelings profound joy exultation thankfulness announce morrow sixty-fifth Anniversary Ascension [pg 121] Bahá'u'lláh signal epoch-making victory won over ignoble band breakers His Covenant which course over six decades has entrenched itself precincts Most Holy Shrine Bahá'í world provoking through acts overt hostility ingenious machinations in alliance external enemies under three successive regimes wrath Lord Covenant Himself incurring malediction Concourse on high filling inexpressible anguish heart 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Expropriation order issued Israeli government mentioned recent Convention Message related entire property owned Covenant-breakers within Ḥaram-i-Aqdas recently contested these same enemies through appeal Israel's Supreme Court now confirmed through adverse decision just announced same Court enabling civil authorities enforce original decision proceed eviction wretched remnants once redoubtable adversaries who both within Holy Land beyond its confines labored so long so assiduously disrupt foundations Faith, sap loyalty cause permanent cleavage ranks its supporters.

This final, shattering most humiliating blow may well be regarded culmination long series reverses suffered these same relentless foes marked by repudiation their preposterous claims following Passing of Bahá'u'lláh by overwhelming majority His followers east west by abject failure 'Abdu'l-Ḥamí, as well as notorious Commission Inquiry banish 'Abdu'l-Bahá Fezzan by ignominious defeat Turkish Commander-in-Chief cruel boastful Jamál Páshá following his threat crucify Center Covenant outside main gate fortress City 'Akká by acquisition site construction Báb's Sepulcher by restitution keys Most Holy Tomb recognition British authorities right Bahá'í world community custodianship Bahá'í Shrines by establishment international Bahá'í endowments Mt. Carmel by formation Palestine branches Bahá'í National Assemblies by exhumation Brother Mother 'Abdu'l-Bahá reburial neighborhood Báb's resting place by evacuation by same adversaries Mansion Bahjí after forty years' occupancy by demise, distressing circumstances archbreaker Covenant himself by ignominious flight his henchmen eve disturbances [pg 122] which rocked Holy Land recent years by deaths with dramatic swiftness same lieutenant his kindred closest associates by intervention Israeli government denying competence civil courts adjudicate case brought remnant these Covenant-breakers subsequent authorization issued Prime Minister Minister Foreign Affairs demolish ruined building close vicinity Bahá'u'lláh's Tomb finally by extinction life prime mover diabolical plans directed course three decades against 'Abdu'l-Bahá.

Implementation this order will long last cleanse Outer Sanctuary Qiblih Bahá'í world pollution staining fair name Faith pave way adoption execution preliminary measures



designed herald construction future      decades stately      befitting      Mausoleum  
designed enshrine holiest dust earth ever received its bosom.

Share announcement Hands Cause all National Assemblies.

Shoghi



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## Call to Hands of Cause and National Assemblies

Cablegram, June 4, 1957

Divinely      appointed      Institution Hands Cause      invested virtue authority  
conferred Testament Center Covenant twin  
functions protecting propagating Faith Bahá'u'lláh      now      entering      new  
phase process unfoldment its sacred mission. To its newly assured responsibility assist  
National Spiritual Assemblies Bahá'í world specific purpose effectively prosecuting World  
Spiritual Crusade primary obligation watch over insure protection Bahá'í world community  
close collaboration these same National Assemblies now added.

Recent      events      triumphant      consummation series historic      enterprises      such  
as construction superstructure Báb's Sepulcher dedication Mother Temple West world-wide  
celebrations Holy Year, convocation four Intercontinental Teaching Conferences  
launching Ten Year Crusade unprecedented dispersal its valiant prosecutors face globe  
extraordinary progress [pg 123] African Pacific campaigns rise administrative order Arabian  
Peninsula heart Islámic      world      discomfiture powerful      antagonists Cradle Faith  
erection International Archives heralding establishment seat World Administrative  
Order Holy Land served inflame unquenchable animosity Muslim opponents raised up new  
set adversaries Christian fold roused internal enemies old new Covenant-breakers fresh  
attempts arrest march Cause of God misrepresent its purpose disrupt its administrative  
institutions dampen zeal sap loyalty its supporters.

Evidences increasing hostility without persistent machinations within foreshadowing dire  
contests      destined range Army Light forces darkness      both      secular religious  
predicted unequivocal language 'Abdu'l-Bahá necessitate this crucial hour closer  
association Hands five      continents bodies elected      representatives national Bahá'í  
communities world      over joint      investigation nefarious      activities internal  
enemies adoption wise      effective      measures counteract      their treacherous schemes  
protect mass believers arrest spread evil influence.

Call upon Hands National Assemblies each continent separately establish henceforth direct  
contact deliberate whenever feasible as frequently possible exchange reports to be  
submitted their respective Auxiliary Boards national committees exercise unrelaxing  
vigilance carry out unflinchingly sacred inescapable duties. Security precious Faith



preservation spiritual health Bahá'í communities vitality faith its individual members proper functioning its laboriously erected institutions fruition its worldwide enterprises fulfilment its ultimate destiny all directly dependent befitting discharge weighty responsibilities now resting members these two institutions occupying with Universal House Justice next Institution Guardianship foremost rank divinely ordained administrative hierarchy World Order Bahá'u'lláh.[pg 124]

Shoghi



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### Restitution of Bahá'í Properties in Persia

Cablegram, June 8, 1957

Rejoice announce yet another victory won cradle Faith swiftly following crushing defeat recently sustained Covenant-breakers Holy Land. National Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds Ṭíhrán returned completing thereby restitution Bahá'í properties seized instigation traditional enemies Bahá'u'lláh's native land.

Shoghi



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### Purification of Ḥaram-i-Aqdas

Cablegram, September 6, 1957

Announce Hands all National Assemblies following loss appeal Supreme Court Government expropriation order implemented resulting complete evacuation remnant Covenant-breakers transfer all belongings precincts Most Holy Shrine purification after six long decades Ḥaram-i-Aqdas every trace contamination. Measures under way effect transfer title deeds evacuated property triumphant Bahá'í community.

Shoghi



## Announcement of Series of Five Intercontinental Conferences and Appointment of Eight Additional Hands of the Cause

October, 1957

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the opening of the memorable Holy Year associated with the Centenary celebrations of the birth of the Mission of Bahá'u'lláh in the Síyáh-Chál of Tíhrán — an anniversary falling only a few months before the decade-long global Spiritual Crusade, on which the entire company of His followers have embarked, will have reached its midway point — I feel moved to announce the convocation of a series of Intercontinental Conferences, five in number, to be held successively in Kampala, Uganda, in the heart of the African continent; in the city of Sydney, the oldest Bahá'í center established in the Antipodes; [pg 125] in Chicago, where the name of Bahá'u'lláh was publicly mentioned for the first time in the western world; in the city of Frankfurt, in the heart of the European continent; and in Djakarta, the capital city of the Republic of Indonesia.

These historic gatherings, which will recall in some of their aspects the four epoch-making Conferences which commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the inception of the Bahá'í Revelation, are to be held respectively in the months of January, March, May, July and September, under the auspices of the Regional Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central and East Africa, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria, and the Regional Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South-East Asia.

They are to be convened by the chairmen of the aforementioned Regional and National Spiritual Assemblies for the five-fold purpose of offering humble thanksgiving to the Divine Author of our Faith, Who has graciously enabled His followers, during a period of deepening anxiety and amidst the confusion and uncertainties of a critical phase in the fortunes of mankind, to prosecute uninterruptedly the Ten-Year Plan formulated for the execution of the Grand Design conceived by 'Abdu'l-Bahá; of reviewing and celebrating the series of signal victories won so rapidly in the course of each of the campaigns of this world-encircling Crusade; of deliberating on ways and means that will insure its triumphant consummation; and of lending simultaneously a powerful impetus, the world over, to the vital process of individual conversion — the preeminent purpose underlying the Plan in all its ramifications — and to the construction and completion of the three Mother Temples to be built in the European, the African, and Australian continents.

## Phenomenal Advance Achieved in World Crusade

The phenomenal advances made since the inception of this globe-girdling Crusade, in the brief space of less than five years, eclipses — if we pause to ponder the scope and significance of recent developments — in both the number and quality of the feats achieved by its prosecutors, any previous collective enterprise undertaken by the followers of the Faith, at any time and in

any part of the world, since the close of the initial and most turbulent epoch of the Heroic Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation.[pg 126]

The raising of the number of Bahá'í centers — foci and pivots of Bahá'í teaching and administrative activity — all over the globe, from twenty-five hundred to forty-five hundred; of the number of countries, both sovereign States and Dependencies, included within the pale of the Faith from one hundred and twenty-eight to two hundred and fifty-four; and of the number of Bahá'í national and regional Spiritual Assemblies — forerunners of the Universal House of Justice — from twelve to twenty-six; the substantial multiplication of Bahá'í local Spiritual Assemblies — constituting the foundation of a rising Administrative Order — throughout five continents, whose number has now passed the thousand mark; the planting of the banner of the Faith in over seventy islands, situated in the Pacific, the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans, as well as in the Mediterranean and the North Sea; the establishment of its northernmost outpost beyond the Arctic Circle, in far-off Thule, Greenland; the erection and completion, in the Holy Land itself, at the cost of over a quarter of a million dollars, of the Bahá'í International Archives, heralding the emergence, in its plenitude, of the seat of the embryonic World Order of Bahá'u'lláh on the slopes of Mt. Carmel and facing the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world; the enlargement of the scope of Bahá'í international endowments in the twin cities of 'Akká and Haifa, constituting the World Center of the Faith, until their present value can now be estimated at over five and a half million dollars; a corresponding extension of Bahá'í national endowments in the Great Republic of the West — the stronghold of the Bahá'í Administrative Order — the value of which is fast approaching five million dollars, and of Bahá'í holdings in the Cradle of the Faith, conservatively estimated to be well over forty million túmáns; the acquisition of no less than forty-eight National Ḥazíratu'l-Quds — the central administrative headquarters of Bahá'í communities established in the sovereign States and chief Dependencies of the globe — involving an expenditure of over half a million dollars; the founding of Bahá'í national endowments in no less than fifty capitals and chief cities of all five continents, the cost of which may be estimated to be at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; the initiation of the construction of the Mother Temples of both Africa and Australia, as well as the purchase of eleven Temple sites for over two hundred thousand dollars; the incorporation of over ninety national and local Spiritual Assemblies, raising the total number of incorporated Assemblies the world over to over two hundred; the translation of Bahá'í literature into one hundred and [pg 127] forty-eight languages, of which no less than seventy-two are over and above those called for by the provisions of the Ten-Year Plan, bringing the total number of languages to two hundred and thirty-seven; as well as a series of additional accomplishments, too numerous to recount, supplementing the objectives of that Plan, in connection with the opening of virgin territories, the acquisition of Temple sites, the inauguration of Bahá'í schools, the founding of Bahá'í local endowments, the establishment of local Ḥazíratu'l-Quds, the formulation of subsidiary Plans, the initiation of a Bahá'í Publishing Trust, the purchase of Bahá'í Holy Sites, and of plots for Bahá'í burial-grounds and for Bahá'í summer schools — all these can be regarded by any fair-minded observer in no other light except as the manifestations of a momentous progress as diversified in character as it is far-reaching in its import.

## Another Contingent of Hands of the Cause of God

So marvelous a progress, embracing so vast a field, achieved in so short a time, by so small a band of heroic souls, well deserves, at this juncture in the evolution of a decade-long Crusade, to be signalized by, and indeed necessitates, the announcement of yet another step in the progressive unfoldment of one of the cardinal and pivotal institutions ordained by Bahá'u'lláh, and confirmed in the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, involving the designation of yet another contingent of the Hands of the Cause of God, raising thereby to thrice nine the total number of the Chief Stewards of Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic World Commonwealth, who have been invested by the unerring Pen of the Center of His Covenant with the dual function of guarding over the security, and of insuring the propagation, of His Father's Faith.

The eight now elevated to this exalted rank are: Enoch Olinga, William Sears, and John Robarts, in West and South Africa; Ḥasan Balyuzi and John Ferraby in the British Isles; Collis Featherstone and Raḥmatu'llah Muhajir, in the Pacific area; and Abu'l-Qásim Faizi in the Arabian Peninsula — a group chosen from four continents of the globe, and representing the Afnán, as well as the black and white races and whose members are derived from Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Pagan backgrounds.

This latest addition to the band of the high-ranking officers of a fast evolving World Administrative Order, involving a further expansion of the august institution of the Hands of the Cause of God, calls for, in view of the recent assumption by them of their [pg 128] sacred responsibility as protectors of the Faith, the appointment by these same Hands, in each continent separately, of an additional Auxiliary Board, equal in membership to the existing one, and charged with the specific duty of watching over the security of the Faith, thereby complementing the function of the original Board, whose duty will henceforth be exclusively concerned with assisting the prosecution of the Ten-Year Plan.

At these five Intercontinental Conferences the Hands of the Cause, whether previously or recently appointed, particularly those associated with the Conference being held in the continent they represent, as well as members of their Auxiliary Boards, and representatives of the Regional and National Spiritual Assemblies primarily concerned with the opening of the virgin territories included in the continent to which they belong and of the islands situated in the neighborhood of that continent, as well as all believers, wherever their residence may be, are invited to be present.

To the Kampala Conference a representative of each of the United States, the British, the Persian, the North-East African, the Indian and the 'Iráqí National Spiritual Assemblies; to the Chicago Conference a representative of each of the United States, the Canadian, and Latin American National Spiritual Assemblies; to the Frankfurt Conference a representative of each of the British, the German, the Italo-Swiss and the United States National Spiritual Assemblies; and to the Djakarta Conference a representative of each of the United States, the Canadian, the Persian, the Indian, the Australian and the 'Iráqí National Spiritual Assemblies, should be sent in the capacity of an official participant.

Any other members of these Assemblies, as well as any of the members of the newly established National and Regional Spiritual Assemblies, are welcome to be present at these five successive Conferences.

### The Guardian's Representatives at the Conferences

The following five Hands, who, in their capacity as members of the International Bahá'í Council, are closely associated with the rise and development of the institutions of the Faith at its World Center, have been chosen to act as my special representatives at this second series of Intercontinental Conferences: Amatu'l-Bahá, Rúhíyyih, accompanied by Luṭfu'lláh Ḥakím, member of the International Council, at the Kampala Conference; Mason Remey, at the Sydney Conference; Ugo Giachery, at the Chicago Conference;[pg 129] Amelia Collins, at the Frankfurt Conference; and Leroy Ioas, at the Djakarta Conference.

To three of them, attending the Kampala, the Sydney and the Frankfurt Conferences, I shall entrust a portion of the blessed earth from the inmost Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, a lock of His precious Hair, and a reproduction of His Portrait, to be exhibited by them to the assembled friends at these Conferences. Two of these representatives will be instructed to deposit, on my behalf, the blessed earth in the foundations of the two Temples to be erected in the African and Australian continents, while the other sacred gifts will be delivered for safe keeping by these representatives to the Central and East African Regional Assembly and the Australian and German National Spiritual Assemblies. A fourth portrait of Bahá'u'lláh will be entrusted to my representative, Leroy Ioas, to be exhibited at the Djakarta Conference, and returned for safe keeping to the Holy Land, while to Ugo Giachery, representing me at the Chicago Conference, will be assigned the duty of exhibiting the portraits of Bahá'u'lláh and of the Báb, already entrusted to the United States National Spiritual Assembly.

### Fourth Phase of Ten-Year Plan

The holding of this second series of Intercontinental Conferences, marking the halfway point of the greatest Crusade ever embarked upon for the propagation of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in both the eastern and western hemispheres, signalizes the opening of the fourth phase of the Ten-Year Plan. The first phase, covering the initial twelve months of this stupendous enterprise, will forever be associated with the carrying of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh to no less than a hundred countries of the globe. The second phase, lasting twice as long as the first, witnessed the acquisition of a remarkably large number of national Ḥaṣíratu'l-Quds, and the establishment, in numerous countries, of Bahá'í national endowments, complementing, through the process of administrative consolidation, the striking enlargement of the orbit of the Faith in the course of the initial phase of the Plan. The third phase, equal in duration to the preceding phase, has been made memorable by the striking multiplication of Bahá'í centers, and the formation of no less than sixteen Regional and National Spiritual Assemblies.

The fourth phase, the opening of which is now approaching, must be immortalized, on the one hand, by an unprecedented increase in the number of avowed supporters of the Faith, in all the[pg 130] continents of the globe, of every race, clime, creed and color, and from every stratum of present-day society, coupled with a corresponding increase in the number of Bahá'í

centers, and, on the other, by a swift progress in the erection of the Mother Temples of Africa and Australia, as well as by the initiation of the construction of the first Maṣhriqu'l-Adhkár of Europe.

The phase which the valiant prosecutors of a Crusade, endowed with such tremendous potentialities, are about to enter must, as this divinely propelled, this highly beneficent, mysteriously unfolding enterprise hastens past its midway point, and approaches the closing stages of its world-wide operations, witness, in both the teaching and administrative spheres, and in consequence of the impact, which, it is ardently hoped, the deliberations and resolutions of the attendants at these forthcoming Conferences will have upon the immediate destinies of this Crusade, an upsurge of enthusiasm and consecration, before which every single as well as collective exploit, associated with any of the three previous phases, will pale.

I call upon each and every Hand of the Cause of God, previously or now appointed, upon the entire body of the believers participating in this Crusade, and, in particular, upon their elected representatives, the members of the various Regional and National Spiritual Assemblies in both the East and the West, and, even more emphatically, upon those privileged to convene and organize these history-making Conferences, to bestir themselves, and, according to their rank, capacity, function and resources, befittingly prepare themselves, during the short interval separating them from the opening of the first of these five Conferences, to meet the challenge, and seize the opportunities, of this auspicious hour, and insure, through a dazzling display of the qualities which must distinguish a worthy stewardship of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, the total and resounding success of these Conferences, dedicated to the glorification of His Name, and expressly convened for the purpose of accelerating the march of the institutions of His world-redeeming Order, and of hastening the establishment of His Kingdom in the hearts of men.[pg 131]

Shoghi



## Messages — a Supplementary Collection

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### New Step in Building the Báb's Shrine

Cablegram, January 4, 1951

Announce national assemblies America Europe Australia initiation preliminary measures erection steel framework designed support contemplated dome Báb's Sepulcher. Holy edifice whose site Founder Faith designated while Himself exile Most Great Prison whose central structure Center His Covenant erected course turbulent years His ministry whose enveloping arcade was constructed despite internal disturbance rocking Holy Land now carried forward notwithstanding mounting international tension through signing sixty-three thousand

dollar contract for stonework octagon. Request beloved friends collaborators historic undertaking join me prayers for uninterrupted prosecution work simultaneously initiated Italy Holy Land designed attain final consummation rearing lofty dome crowning unit enterprise so intimately associated Three Central Figures Faith linking Heroic Formative Ages Bahá'í Dispensation.



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### Construction of Shrine Moves Forward

Cablegram, May 29, 1951

Announce friends East West operations commenced last Naw-Rúz excavation eight shafts designed piers supporting dome Báb's Sepulcher terminated. Consignment thirty-three tons steel fifty tons cement safely delivered Holy Land. Seven thousand three hundred pound contract structural work capable sustaining thousand ton weight superstructure signed. First installment out of eight hundred tons stones octagon dome Shrine recently arrived. Greatly heartened response self-sacrificing believers both hemispheres enabling energetic prosecution this critical hour so holy enterprise. May sustained support all communities hasten its glorious consummation.



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### Pilgrimage to World Center Again Permitted

Cablegram, December 25, 1951

Announce all national assemblies restrictions pilgrimage being gradually removed. Owing prevailing conditions maximum[pg 132] duration nine days. Permission necessary as few at a time are now permitted.



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### Administrative Headquarters in Africa

Cablegram, March 16, 1952

Inform United States British Persian Egyptian Indian National Assemblies imminent purchase Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds Central Africa. Have forwarded my contribution six thousand dollars toward



historic enterprise. Appeal five cooperating National Assemblies participate through contribution meritorious purchase. Purchase price 5500 pounds. Advise forward contributions Banání Kampala.



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## William Sutherland Maxwell Passes — Rúḥíyyih Khánum Appointed Hand

Cablegram, March 26, 1952

With sorrowful heart announce through national assemblies Hand Cause Bahá'u'lláh highly esteemed dearly beloved Sutherland Maxwell gathered glory Abhá Kingdom. Saintly life extending well nigh four score years enriched course 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ministry services Dominion Canada ennobled Formative Age Faith decade services Holy Land during darkest days my life doubly honored association crown martyrdom won May Maxwell incomparable honor bestowed his daughter attained consummation through his appointment architect arcade superstructure Báb's Sepulcher as well as elevation front rank Hands Cause God. Advise all national assemblies hold befitting memorial gatherings particularly Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár Wilmette Ḥaḏratu'l-Quds Ṭihrán.

Instructed Hands Cause United States Canada, Horace Holley Fred Schopfloch, attend my representatives funeral Montreal. Moved name after him southern door Báb's Tomb tribute his services second holiest Shrine Bahá'í world. Mantle Hand Cause now falls shoulders distinguished daughter Amatu'l-Baha Ruhiyyih who already rendered still rendering manifold no less meritorious self-sacrificing services World Center Faith Baha'u'llah.



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## Progress on Shrine of the Báb

Cablegram, October 13, 1952

eve opening Holy Year announce Bahá'í communities East West joyful tidings conclusion over ten thousand dollar contract Utrecht firm fabrication twelve thousand gilded tiles cover area two hundred fifty square meters dome Báb's Sepulcher. Eighteen stained glass windows drum twenty-four windows octagon delivered Mount Carmel. Stones required construction drum ribs brim lantern dome nearing completion heralding early commencement erection last remaining unit rapidly rising edifice. Eastward extension terrace adjoining Sepulcher virtually terminated raising total length horizontal area fronting Shrine about six hundred feet adding greatly beauty stateliness approaches magnificent structure already enhanced through

recent extension terraces linking Haifa's oldest most imposing avenue Báb's resting place majestically rising bosom Carmel.



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## Achievements of Heroic Pioneers in Africa

Cablegram, January 5, 1953

Rejoice share Bahá'í communities East West thrilling reports feats achieved heroic band Bahá'í pioneers laboring divers widely scattered African territories particularly Uganda heart continent reminiscent alike episodes related Book Acts rapid dramatic propagation Faith instrumentality dawn-breakers Heroic Age Bahá'í Dispensation. Marvelous accomplishments signaling rise establishment Administrative Order Faith Latin America eclipsed. Exploits immortalizing recently launched crusade European continent surpassed. Goal seven-month plan initiated Kampala Assembly aiming doubling twelve[pg 134] enrolled believers outstripped. Number Africans converted course last fifteen months residing Kampala outlying districts Protestant Catholic pagan backgrounds lettered unlettered both sexes representative no less sixteen tribes passed two hundred mark.

Effulgent rays God's triumphant Cause radiating focal center fast awakening continent penetrating accelerating rate isolated regions unfrequented white men enveloping their radiance souls hitherto indifferent persistent humanitarian activities Christian missions civilizing influence civil authorities. No less nine localities qualified attain coming Ridván assembly status within single territory long-slumbering continent.

Zanzibar Madagascar French Morocco South Rhodesia Italian Somaliland already or soon be opened Faith.

Desire pay special tribute strenuous efforts exerted 'Alí Naḵhjavání setting example dedication freedom prejudice fellow pioneers laboring inhospitable surroundings confronted manifold formidable obstacles.

Planning entrust special representative delegated attend approaching Kampala Conference portrait holy Báb replica one deposited beneath dome Maṣhriqu'l-Adhkár Wilmette to be exhibited assembled attendants historic occasion. Confident unveiling may draw newly recruited vanguard ever-swelling host Bahá'u'lláh as well as all participating visitors itinerant teachers settlers closer spirit Martyr-Prophet Faith bestow everlasting benediction all gathered memorable sessions epoch-making Intercontinental Conference dedicated prosecution latest most glorious crusade launched course eleven decades Bahá'í history.



## Rapid Progress of Twin Sacred Undertakings

Cablegram, February 9, 1953

Eve convocation history making long eagerly anticipated African Intercontinental Conference share communities Bahá'í world joyous news rapid progress twin sacred undertakings launched Mountain God holy Plain 'Akká destined culminate erection worthy [pg 135] sepulchers Herald Author Bahá'í Revelation. World-wide celebrations Holy Year inaugurated last October heightened course present month through holding epoch making gathering moving steadily towards climax approaching Ridván festivities greatly enhanced latest developments institutions World Center Faith.

Construction third unit Báb's Shrine terminated synchronizing safe arrival port Haifa last consignment stones ordered Italy totaling over thirteen hundred tons. First section brim dome constituting base topmost tier triple crown majestic edifice erected heralding placing Ridván period tiles as well as construction ribs golden dome.

Landscaping initiated inception Holy Year thirteen thousand square meter area immediately surrounding Qiblih Bahá'í world involving extension its outer sanctuary to be designated henceforth Haram-i-Aqdas virtually concluded paving way, successively, embellishment extensive illumination entire area erection stately portals presaging rearing future date magnificent Mausoleum its heart. Striking enhancement beauty stateliness most holy spot Bahá'í world constitutes befitting tribute memory Founder Faith within hallowed area adjacent His resting place occasion centenary celebrations birth His glorious Mission.



## African Intercontinental Conference

Kampala, Uganda, February 12-18, 1953

I hail with a joyous heart the convocation in the heart of the African continent of the first of the four Intercontinental Teaching Conferences constituting the highlights of the world-wide celebrations of the Holy Year which commemorates the hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Mission of the Founder of our Faith. I welcome with open arms the unexpectedly large number of the representatives of the pure-hearted and the spiritually receptive Negro race, so dearly loved by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, for whose conversion to His Father's Faith He so deeply yearned and whose interests He so ardently [pg 136] championed in the course of His memorable visit to the North American continent. I am reminded, on this historic occasion, of the significant words uttered by Bahá'u'lláh Himself, Who as attested by the Center of the Covenant, in His Writings, "compared the colored people to the black pupil of the eye," through which "the light

of the spirit shineth forth." I feel particularly gratified by the substantial participation in this epoch-making conference of the members of a race dwelling in a continent which for the most part has retained its primitive simplicity and remained uncontaminated by the evils of a gross, a rampant and cancerous materialism undermining the fabric of human society alike in the East and in the West, eating into the vitals of the conflicting peoples and races inhabiting the American, the European and the Asiatic continents, and alas threatening to engulf in one common catastrophic convulsion the generality of mankind. I acclaim the preponderance of the members of this same race at so significant a conference, a phenomenon unprecedented in the annals of Bahá'í conferences held during over a century, and auguring well for a corresponding multiplication in the number of the representatives of the yellow, the red and brown races of mankind dwelling respectively in the Far East, in the Far West and in the islands of the South Pacific Ocean, a multiplication designed ultimately to bring to a proper equipoise the divers ethnic elements comprised within the highly diversified world-embracing Bahá'í fellowship.

### Tribute to Pioneers in African Field

I feel moved, on this auspicious occasion, to pay a warm tribute to the elected representatives, as well as the members, of the British, the Persian, the American, the Egyptian and the Indian Bahá'í Communities which have participated, in pursuance of their respective plans, in the opening stage of a colossal teaching campaign, constituting a vital phase of the impending decade-long World Crusade, and aiming at the spiritual conquest of the entire African continent. I desire in particular to express to all those gathered at this conference my feelings of abiding appreciation of the magnificent role played and of the remarkable prizes won, by the small band of Persian, British and American pioneers, in the course of the initial stage of this divinely propelled and mysteriously unfolding collective enterprise, which has overshadowed both the Latin American and European teaching campaigns launched in recent years, which is destined to exert an incalculable influence on the fortunes of the Faith throughout the world, and which may well have far-reaching repercussions among the two chief races dwelling in the North American continent.

### First African Pillar of Universal House of Justice

To the American Bahá'í Community, the chief executor of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan; to the British Bahá'í Community, destined to play in future decades a predominating role in opening to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh not only the British territories throughout the African continent, but the divers dependencies of the British Crown scattered on the surface of the globe; to the Persian Bahá'í Community, at once the most venerable and most consistently persecuted among its sister communities in both the East and the West; to the Egyptian Bahá'í Community that may well boast of having erected in that continent the first pillar of the Universal House of Justice; to the Indian Bahá'í Community, fated to contribute, to a marked degree, to the spiritual quickening of the Indians constituting a noble element of the population of Africa — to these communities I feel I must acknowledge my deep sense of thankfulness for the strenuous efforts exerted by their pioneers to raise aloft the standard of the Faith in the territories allocated to

them in Liberia, Uganda, Tanganyika, the Gold Coast, Kenya,<sup>4</sup> Somaliland, Nyasaland, Northern Rhodesia, Libya, Algeria, Zanzibar and Madagascar. To others who, though not following the fixed pattern of the plan initiated for the present African campaign, have arisen to introduce the Faith in the territories of Sierra Leone, Angola, Mozambique and Southern Rhodesia I feel, moreover, a debt of gratitude is due for their share in extending the range of Bahá'í pioneer activity in that continent.

### African Projects to Be Launched

The hour is indeed propitious, as the climax of the world-wide rejoicings signaling the Holy Year approaches, for the national spiritual assemblies of these same communities to gird up their loins, in collaboration with the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of 'Iráq, in a supreme effort to launch, on the morrow of this fateful conference, that phase of the Ten-Year Crusade which, God willing, will culminate in the introduction of our glorious Faith in all the remaining territories of that vast continent as well as the chief neighboring islands lying in the Indian and the Atlantic Oceans.

The decade on whose threshold they now stand must, circumstances permitting, witness:[pg 138]

*First*, the erection of three additional pillars within the confines of that continent and its neighboring islands, designed to support, together with no less than forty-five other national spiritual assemblies to be established in other parts of the world, the final unit in the erection of the Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, namely: The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central and East Africa, to be formed under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles, with its seat in Kampala; the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South and West Africa, to be formed under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, with its seat in Johannesburg; the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of North West Africa, to be formed under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Egypt and Súdán, with its seat in Tunis.

*Second*, the initial purchase of land for the future construction of three Mashriqu'l-Adhkárs, one in Cairo, one in Kampala and one in Johannesburg, situated respectively in the north, the heart and the south of the African continent.

*Third*, the opening of the following thirty-three virgin territories and islands: Cape Verde Islands, Canary Islands, French Somaliland, French Togoland, Mauritius, Northern Territories Protectorate, Portuguese Guinea, Reunion Island, Spanish Guinea, St. Helena, and St. Thomas Island, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; Ashanti Protectorate, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Italian Somaliland, Southern Rhodesia and Swaziland, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; French Equatorial Africa, French West Africa, Morocco (International Zone), Rio de Oro, Spanish Morocco and Spanish Sahara, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Egypt and Súdán; Comoro Islands, French Cameroons, Gambia, Ruanda-Urundi and Socotra Island, assigned to

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<sup>4</sup>. Since Shoghi Effendi refers to these countries in Africa before their independence during the 1960's, the old pronunciation has been utilised in keeping with their old "colonial" names.

the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pákestán and Burma; the British Cameroons, British Togoland, Madeira and South West Africa, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles; and Seychelles Islands, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of 'Iráq.

*Fourth*, the translation and publication of Bahá'í literature in the following thirty-one languages to be undertaken by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles: Accra, Afrikaans, Aladian, Ashanti, Banu, Bemba, Bua, Chuana, Gio, Gu, Jieng, Jolof, Kuanyama, Krongo, Kroo, Luimbi, Malagasy, Nubian, Pedi, Popo, Ronga, Sena, Shilha, Shona, Sobo, Suto, Wongo, Xosa, Yalunka, Yao and Zulu.

*Fifth*, the consolidation of the twenty-four following territories already opened to the Faith in the African continent: Angola, Belgian Congo, Gold Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Uganda and Zululand, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles; Abyssinia, Algeria, Eritrea, Libya, French Morocco, Somaliland, Súdán and Tunisia, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Egypt and Súdán; Madagascar, Mozambique and Zanzibar, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pákestán and Burma; Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; Liberia and South Africa, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America.

*Sixth*, the establishment, circumstances permitting, of a national Bahá'í Court in the capital city of Egypt, the recognized center of both the Islámic and Arab worlds, officially empowered to apply, in matters of personal status, the laws and ordinances revealed in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Mother-Book of the Bahá'í Revelation.

*Seventh*, the incorporation of the three above-mentioned regional national spiritual assemblies.

*Eighth*, the establishment by those same national spiritual assemblies of national Bahá'í endowments.

*Ninth*, the establishment of a national Ḥazíratu'l-Quds in Johannesburg and one in Tunis and the conversion into a similar institution of the local Ḥazíratu'l-Quds of Kampala.

*Tenth*, the formation of a national Bahá'í Publishing Trust in Cairo.

*Eleventh*, the formation of an Israel branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Egypt and Súdán, authorized to hold, on behalf of its parent institution, property dedicated to the holy shrines at the World Center of the Faith in the state of Israel.

*Twelfth*, the appointment, during Ridván 1954, by the Hand of the Cause in Africa, of an Auxiliary Board of nine members who will, in conjunction with the six national spiritual assemblies participating in the African campaign, assist, through periodic and systematic visits to Bahá'í centers, in the efficient and prompt execution of the plans formulated for the prosecution of the teaching campaign in the African continent.

## A Spiritually Welded Unit

May the six aforementioned national spiritual assemblies, aided by the Hand of the Cause appointed in that continent, and the Auxiliary Board to be chosen by him, and supported by the national committees and subcommittees to be formed in due course, and reinforced by the constant and energetic efforts of an ever-swelling number of pioneers, whether settlers or itinerant teachers, and assisted by the wholehearted collaboration of the indigenous believers in all localities, be spiritually welded into a unit at once dynamic and coherent, and be suffused with the creative, the directing and propelling forces proceeding from the Source of the Revelation Himself, and be made, as the projected campaign unfolds, the vehicle of His grace from on high, and prove themselves worthy and effective instruments for the execution and ultimate consummation of one of the most thrilling and far-reaching enterprises undertaken in the Formative Age of the Faith and constituting one of the noblest phases of the most glorious Crusade ever launched in the course of Bahá'í history for the systematic propagation of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh over the surface of the entire planet.



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## Fivefold Historic Celebration in America

### Cablegram, April 30, 1953

occasion fivefold historic celebration — dedication for public worship holiest Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár Bahá'í world convocation Second Intercontinental Teaching Conference Holy Year anniversary Declaration Bahá'u'lláh Garden Riḍván holding Forty-Fifth American Bahá'í Convention launching epochal global spiritual Crusade marking climax festivities associated Centenary birth Bahá'u'lláh's Mission — announce His followers East West final phase construction Báb's Sepulcher ushered in through erection scaffolding completion shuttering dome.[pg 141]

Forty-four gilded tiles out of total twelve thousand designed cover two hundred fifty square meter surface dome placed permanent position eve ninth day ninetieth anniversary Riḍván Festival. Afternoon same day during course moving ceremony presence pilgrims resident believers 'Akká Haifa placed reverently fragment plaster ceiling Báb's prison cell castle Máh-Kú beneath gilded tiles crowning unit majestic edifice. Circumambulated base dome paid homage His memory recalled afflictive imprisonment. Offered prayer behalf friends East West subsequent visit interior His Shrine.

Preparatory steps now being taken pouring concrete construction ribs dome as well as ornamental stones surrounding base.

Hopes heightened termination five-year-long three-quarter million dollar enterprise undertaken heart Carmel coincide termination world-wide celebrations commemorating Centenary inception Bahá'u'lláh's ministry.



Also announce formation no less sixteen new spiritual assemblies African continent — Monrovia Benghazi Nairobi Jinja Akarukei Tilling Mbale Atoot Kococwa, Acissa Opot Fassy Ocaka Osopotoil Kadoki Kabuku.

Uganda alone number believers over two hundred ninety residing twenty-five localities representative twenty tribes.

Finally share heart-warming news impending establishment long-overdue Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds French capital through conclusion agreement purchase nine thousand pound property situated best residential quarter city.

Kiyani's spontaneous generous contribution solely responsible achievement great victory establishment institution designed serve administrative headquarters both present Paris Assembly projected French National Spiritual Assembly.

Advise American National Assembly share message sister assemblies Bahá'í world.[pg 142]



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## All-America Intercontinental Conference — First Message

### Wilmette — Chicago, May 1953

With a heart overflowing with joy and thankfulness I acclaim, at this hour marking the climax of the world-wide festivities of this Holy Year, the convocation, in the heart of the North American continent and under the shadow of the newly consecrated Mother Temple of the West, of the second and, without doubt, the most distinguished of the four Intercontinental Teaching Conferences commemorating the Centenary of the inception of the Mission of Bahá'u'lláh. On the occasion of the opening of this epoch-making conference, at which members of the United States, the Canadian, the Central American and South American National Spiritual Assemblies, as well as representatives of the Bahá'í communities in the states of the American Union, in the provinces of the Dominion of Canada, in Alaska, and in the republics of Latin America, are assembled, I recall the unique, the historic, the highly significant and profoundly moving summons issued by the Author of the Bahá'í Faith Himself, and enshrined for all time in the Mother-Book of His Revelation and repository of His laws, and addressed collectively to the rulers of the entire Western Hemisphere, conferring upon them an honor such as has not been conferred by Him on the rulers of any other continent of the globe. With a throbbing heart I call to mind, at a distance of more than a century, since the Herald of the Faith bade in His Qayyúmu'l-Asmá' the "peoples of the West" to "issue forth" from their "cities" to aid His Cause, the long series of events which have illuminated the annals of Bahá'í history in the course of six memorable decades stretching from the time when the name of Bahá'u'lláh was first publicly mentioned on the American continent to the present hour when the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár of the West has finally been dedicated to public worship on the occasion of the celebrations signaling the termination of the first century since the birth of His Mission. I can but, at this juncture, touch upon certain outstanding episodes which, viewed in their proper perspective,

may well be regarded as landmarks in the rise and development of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh throughout the Americas. I am particularly reminded of the holding of the World Parliament of Religions of Chicago in September 1893; of the arrival of the first American Bahá'í pilgrims in the Holy Land in December 1898; of the inception of the Temple enterprise in June 1903; of the opening of the first American Bahá'í Convention in March [pg 143] 1909; of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's arrival in America in April 1912; of the laying by Him of the cornerstone of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár in May 1912; of the unveiling of the Tablets of the Divine Plan in April 1919; of the birth and rise of the Bahá'í Administrative Order on the morrow of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ascension; of the official inauguration of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Plan through the launching of the first seven-year teaching enterprise in April 1937; of the completion of the exterior ornamentation of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár, on the eve of the centenary celebrations of the Founding of the Faith, in May 1944; of the inception of the Second Seven-Year Plan in April 1946; of the formation of an independent National Spiritual Assembly in the Dominion of Canada in April 1948; of the establishment of the National Spiritual Assemblies of Central and South America in April 1951; and of the completion of the interior ornamentation of the Temple in October

### Six Decades of Achievement

So remarkable a development in the course of the past six decades, spanning the concluding phase of the Heroic and the opening decade of the Formative Age of the Faith, and encompassing the length and breadth of a continent, so greatly blessed, so richly endowed, has resulted in the extension of the ramifications of a nascent Administrative Order to every state of the American Union, to every province of the Dominion of Canada, and to every republic of Central and South America; in the construction, the ornamentation, and the dedication to public worship of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár of the western world; in the erection of no less than four pillars destined with others to sustain the weight of the final and crowning unit of the administrative structure of the Faith; in the establishment of over ninety centers in the Dominion of Canada, of over an hundred centers in Latin America, and of over twelve hundred centers in the great republic of the West, covering a range that stretches from the Arctic Circle in the North to the extremity of Chile in the South; in the founding of local and national endowments estimated at over three million dollars; in the incorporation of no less than four national, and of more than fifty local Bahá'í spiritual assemblies; in the recognition by eighteen states of the American Union of the Bahá'í marriage certificate; in the establishment of two national administrative headquarters, one in the Dominion of Canada and the other in the heart of the North American continent; in the framing of national Bahá'í constitutions; in the inauguration of summer schools; and in a notable [pg 144] progress in the translation, the printing and the dissemination of Bahá'í literature.

The hour has now struck for the national Bahá'í communities dwelling within the confines of the Western Hemisphere — the first region in the western world to be warmed and illuminated by the rays of God's infant Faith shining from its World Center in the Holy Land — to arise and, in thanksgiving for the manifold blessings continually showered upon them from on high during the past six decades and for the inestimable bounties of God's unfailing protection and sustaining grace vouchsafed His Cause ever since its inception more than a century ago, and in

anticipation of the Most Great Jubilee which will commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Bahá'u'lláh's formal assumption of His prophetic office, launch, determinedly and unitedly, the third and last stage of an enterprise inaugurated sixteen years ago, the termination of which will mark the closing of the initial epoch in the evolution of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan. Standing on the threshold of a ten-year-long, world-embracing Spiritual Crusade these communities are now called upon, by virtue of the weighty pronouncement recorded in the Most Holy Book, and in direct consequence of the revelation of the Tablets of the Divine Plan, to play a preponderating role in the systematic propagation of the Faith, in the course of the coming decade, which will, God willing, culminate in the spiritual conquest of the entire planet.

It is incumbent upon the members of the American Bahá'í Community, the chief executors of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, the members of the Canadian Bahá'í Community acting as their allies, and the members of the Latin American Bahá'í Communities in their capacity as associates in the execution of this Plan, to brace themselves and initiate, in addition to the responsibilities they have assumed, and will assume, in other continents of the globe, an intercontinental campaign designed to carry a stage further the glorious work already inaugurated throughout the Western Hemisphere.

### Special Tasks of Four National Assemblies

The task, at once arduous, thrilling and challenging, which now confronts these four Bahá'í communities involves: *First*, the formation, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, and in collaboration with the two existing national assemblies in Latin America, of one national spiritual assembly in each of the twenty Latin American republics as well as the establishment of a national spiritual assembly in Alaska under [pg 145] the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America. *Second*, the establishment of the first dependency of the Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár in Wilmette. *Third*, the purchase of land for the future construction of two Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkárs, one in Toronto, Ontario; one in Panama City, Panama, situated respectively in North and in Central America. *Fourth*, the opening of the following twenty-seven virgin territories and islands: Anticosti Island, Baranof Island, Cape Breton Island, Franklin, Grand Manan Island, Keewatin, Labrador, Magdalen Islands, Miquelon Island and St. Pierre Island, Queen Charlotte Islands and Yukon, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada; Aleutian Islands, Falkland Islands, Key West and Kodiak Island assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; Bahama Islands, British Honduras, Dutch West Indies and Margarita Island, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central America; British Guiana, Chiloe Island, Dutch Guiana, French Guiana, Galapagos Islands, Juan Fernandez Islands, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South America. *Fifth*, the translation and publication of Bahá'í literature in the following ten languages, to be undertaken by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America: Aguaruna, Arawak, Blackfoot, Cherokee, Iroquois, Lengua, Mataco, Maya, Mexican and Yahgan. *Sixth*, the consolidation of Greenland, Mackenzie and Newfoundland, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada; of Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands and Puerto Rico allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; of Bermuda, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama allocated to

the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central America; and of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South America. *Seventh*, the incorporation of the twenty-one above-mentioned national spiritual assemblies. *Eighth*, the establishment by these same national spiritual assemblies of national Bahá'í endowments. *Ninth*, the establishment of a national Ḥazíratu'l-Quds in the capital city of each of the aforementioned republics, as well as one in Anchorage, Alaska. *Tenth*, the formation of two national Bahá'í publishing trusts, one in Wilmette, Illinois, and the other in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *Eleventh*, the formation of an [pg 146] Israel branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada, authorized to hold, on behalf of its parent institution, property dedicated to the holy shrines at the World Center of the Faith in the state of Israel. *Twelfth*, the appointment during Ridván 1954, by the Hands of the Cause in the United States and Canada, of an Auxiliary Board of nine members who will, in conjunction with the four national spiritual assemblies participating in the American campaign, assist, through periodic and systematic visits to Bahá'í centers, in the efficient and prompt execution of the plans formulated for the prosecution of the teaching campaign in the American continent.

### Portrait of Bahá'u'lláh Sent

Mindful of the magnificent services rendered during over half a century by the chief executors of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, within a territory that posterity will regard as the cradle of the embryonic World Order of Bahá'u'lláh and the stronghold of its nascent institutions, and confident that this vast and historic assemblage, over which the national elected representatives of this privileged community are presiding, will prove to be the harbinger of still greater victories, I have been impelled to transmit, through my special representative, who will participate on my behalf in the proceedings of this conference and act as my deputy at the official dedication of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár, a reproduction of the portrait of Bahá'u'lláh Himself, made in the prime of His life, whilst an exile in Baghdád, as a token of my admiration for this community's unflagging and herculean labors, and as a benediction and inspiration for those who, whether officially or unofficially, are participating in the proceedings of a conference that will go down in history as the most momentous gathering held since the close of the Heroic Age of the Faith and will be regarded as the most potent agency in paving the way for the launching of one of the most brilliant phases of the grandest crusade ever undertaken by the followers of Bahá'u'lláh since the inception of His Faith more than a hundred years ago.



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### All-America Intercontinental Conference — Second Message

May 4, 1953

On the occasion of the launching of an epochal, global, spiritual, decade-long crusade, constituting the high-water mark of the festivities [pg 147] commemorating the centenary of the birth of the Mission of Bahá'u'lláh, coinciding with the ninetieth anniversary of the

declaration of that same Mission in the Garden of Ridván, and synchronizing with both the convocation of the All-American Intercontinental Teaching Conference in Chicago, and the fiftieth anniversary of the inception of the holiest Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár of the Bahá'í world and its dedication to public worship — on such a solemn and historic occasion I invite His followers, the world over, to contemplate with me the glorious and manifold evidences of the onward march of His Faith and of the steady unfoldment of its embryonic World Order both in the Holy Land and in the five continents of the globe.

This infinitely precious Faith, despite eleven decades of uninterrupted persecution, on the part of governments and ecclesiastics, involving the martyrdom of its Prophet-Herald, the four banishments and forty-year-long exile suffered by its Founder, the forty years of incarceration inflicted upon its Exemplar, and the sacrifice of no less than twenty thousand of its followers, has succeeded in firmly establishing itself in all the continents of the globe, and is irresistibly forging ahead, with accelerating momentum, bidding fair to envelop, at the close of the coming decade, the whole planet with the radiance of its splendor.

Confined within the lifetime of its Martyr-Prophet to two countries, reaching during the period of the ministry of its Author thirteen other lands, planting its banner in the course of the ministry of the Center of the Covenant in twenty additional sovereign states and dependencies in both hemispheres, this Faith has spread, since the ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, to ninety-four countries, raising the total number of the territories within its pale to one hundred twenty-nine, no less than eighteen of which were added in a single year, while fifty-one were opened in the course of the nine-year interval separating the first from the second Bahá'í Jubilee. The number of eastern and western languages into which its literature has been translated and printed, or is in the process of translation, and which reached forty-one a decade ago, is now ninety-one, including thirteen African and twenty-five Indian and Burmese languages. The number of settlements in Greenland provided with Bahá'í scriptures in the Greenlandic tongue has been raised to forty-eight, including Thule beyond the Arctic Circle and Etah near the 80th latitude, whilst Bahá'í literature in that same language has been dispatched as far north as the radio station at Brondlunsfjord, Pearyland, 82nd latitude, the northernmost outpost of the world. Representatives of thirty-one races and of twenty-four[pg 148] African tribes have been enrolled in the Bahá'í World Community. Contact has been established with the following seventeen minority groups and races: the Eskimos of Alaska and Greenland, the Lapps of Scandinavia, the Maoris of New Zealand, the Sea-Dayaks of Sarawak, the Polynesians of the Fiji Islands, the Cree Indians of Prairie Provinces, Canada, the Cherokee Indians in North Carolina, the Oneida Indians in Wisconsin, the Omaha Indians in Nebraska, the Seminole Indians in Florida, the Mexican Indians in Mexico, the Indians of the San Blas Islands, the Indians of Chichicastenango in Guatemala, the Mayans in Yucatan, the Patagonian Indians in Argentina, the Indians of La Paz in Bolivia and the Inca Indians in Peru.

### Eleven Pillars of the Universal House of Justice Raise Centers to 2500

The national plans, formulated and vigorously and systematically prosecuted, in the course of the concluding years of the first, and the opening years of the second, epoch of the Formative Age of the Faith, by the Bahá'í communities in the United States, in Persia, in the British Isles, in Latin America, in Canada, in India, Pákestán and Burma, in 'Iráq, in Australia and New Zealand, in

Germany and Austria, in Egypt and the Súdán, have raised the number of Bahá'í centers established in both hemispheres to two thousand five hundred maintained by representatives of the white, the black, the yellow, the red and the brown races of mankind, comprising ten in the Arabian Peninsula, over thirty in Egypt and the Súdán, over forty in the recently opened European goal countries, over fifty in the British Isles, over sixty in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania, over seventy in Germany and Austria, over ninety in Canada, over ninety in India, Pákistán and Burma, over one hundred in Central and South America, over six hundred in Persia and over one thousand two hundred in the United States of America. The superstructure of the Sepulcher of the Martyr-Herald of the Faith — a three-quarters of a million dollar enterprise — is nearing completion, on the slopes of the Mountain of God, within the heart of the Holy Land, the nest of the Prophets, and the divinely chosen Spiritual and Administrative Center of the Bahá'í world. The preliminary measures, heralding the unfoldment of the institution of Guardianship, the pivot of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Will and Testament, have been adopted, through the appointment of the first two contingents of the Hands of the Cause, numbering nineteen, recruited from the five continents of the globe, representative in their extraction of the three principal religions of mankind, and constituting[pg 149] the nucleus of that august institution invested with such weighty and sacred functions by the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant. The International Bahá'í Council, comprising eight members, charged with assisting in the manifold activities attendant upon the rise of the World Administrative Center of the Faith, which must pave the way for the formation of a Bahá'í International Court and the eventual emergence of the Universal House of Justice, the supreme legislative body of the future Bahá'í Commonwealth, has been established, enlarged, and the functions of its members defined. The number of the pillars of the Universal House of Justice has been raised to twelve through the successive formation of the Canadian, the Central American, the South American and the Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assemblies. The stupendous process of the rise and consolidation of the World Administrative Center of the Faith has been accelerated through the acquisition, in the Plain of 'Akká, of a one hundred and sixty thousand square meter area, surrounding the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world, permitting of the extension of the Outer Sanctuary of the Most Holy Tomb — to be designated henceforth the Haram-i-Aqdas — through the initiation, at the inception of the Holy Year, of the landscaping and embellishment of a tenth of the acquired area, and through the adoption of measures for the extensive illumination of the entire Sanctuary and the erection of stately portals constituting a befitting tribute to the memory of the Author of the Faith, within the sacred precincts of His Sepulcher, on the occasion of the celebration of the greatest festival of the year commemorating the Centenary of the birth of His Mission. The fifty-year-old enterprise, involving the purchase of land for the construction, the exterior and interior ornamentation, and the landscaping of the grounds of the holiest House of Worship ever to be reared to the glory of the Most Great Name, the Mother Temple of the West, and involving the expenditure of over two and a half million dollars, has been consummated, in time for its dedication to public worship during the Ridván period of this Holy Year coinciding with both the fiftieth anniversary of the inception of this enterprise and the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's ministry. The design for the Maṣhriqu'l-Adhkár on Mt. Carmel, conceived by the architect appointed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, has been completed, and a model constructed, which is soon to be unveiled at the All-America Intercontinental Teaching Conference, in anticipation of the selection and the purchase of its future site, and of its ultimate construction in the neighborhood of the Báb's Sepulcher. The total area of Bahá'í international endowments,[pg 150] surrounding and permanently dedicated to the Tomb of the Báb has been raised, through



recent successive purchases of extensive plots, overlooking that hallowed spot, to almost one-quarter of a million square meters. The estimated value of the Bahá'í international endowments and holy places at the World Center of the Faith, in the twin cities of 'Akká and Haifa, has passed the four million dollar mark. The Bahá'í national endowments in the United States of America now exceed three million dollars. The area of land purchased on the slopes of the Elburz Mountains, overlooking the city of Tīhrán, in anticipation of the construction of the first Maṣhriqu'l-Adhikár of Persia, has reached approximately four million square meters. The area of land dedicated to the Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh, in the vicinity of the confines of the Holy Land, exceeds two million three hundred thousand square meters. The area of land dedicated to the Shrine of the Báb and registered in the name of the Israel branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, is more than one hundred thousand square meters. Over one hundred and fifty thousand square meters of land have been dedicated to the Faith in the Antipodes, eighty thousand square meters in the Territory of Alaska, whilst the lands contributed in Latin America for a similar purpose approximate one-half of a million square meters, ninety thousand of which have been set aside near Santiago, Chile, for the first Maṣhriqu'l-Adhikár of South America. The estimated value of the national Bahá'í administrative headquarters established in Tīhrán, in Wilmette, Illinois, in Baghdád, in Cairo, in New Delhi, in Sydney, in Frankfurt and in Toronto, exceeds one and three-quarters of a million dollars. The Bahá'í spiritual assemblies now incorporated number one hundred and fourteen, of which nine are national and the rest local assemblies, fifty-six of which are in the United States of America, sixteen in India, eleven in South America, six in Central America, three each in Pákestán, in Burma and in Canada, two in Australia and one each in Germany, in Balúchistán, in New Zealand, in the Philippine Islands and in Malaya. The Bahá'í marriage certificate has been recognized by the Israel civil authorities, as well as by twenty-one federal districts and states of the United States of America. The Bahá'í holy days have been recognized by the Ministry of Education of the State of Israel, in the British Isles, by the state of Victoria in Australia, in Anchorage, Alaska, in Washington, D.C. and in seven states of the American Union. National Bahá'í conferences have been held in recent years in Bern, Zurich, Basel, Rome; national Bahá'í women's conventions and youth[pg 151] conferences have convened in Tīhrán, whilst regional teaching conferences have been organized in Buenos Aires, in Panama City, in Scandinavia, in the Iberian Peninsula, and in the Benelux countries. European international teaching conferences have been convened successively in Geneva, in Brussels, in Copenhagen, in Scheveningen and in Luxembourg City, paving the way for the convocation of four successive Intercontinental Teaching Conferences, the first of which has recently been held in Kampala, in the heart of the African continent, the rest to be successively convened in Wilmette, Illinois, in Stockholm and in New Delhi — Conferences which, God willing, will be the forerunners of the World Bahá'í Congress, to be convened in the city of Baghdád, on the occasion of the centenary of the formal assumption by Bahá'u'lláh of His prophetic office. Recognition has been extended to the Faith by the United Nations as an international non-governmental organization enabling the Bahá'í International Community to appoint accredited representatives, who have already attended, in their capacity as observers, the Conference on Human Rights held in Geneva and the United Nations General Assembly held in Paris and participated in United Nations regional non-governmental conferences, held in localities as far apart as New York, Santiago, Manila, Istanbul, Den Passar, Paris, Managua, Geneva and Montevideo.



## Prelude to Prodigious Expansion

So glorious a record of accomplishments in the service of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, whether local, national or international, in both the teaching and administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity, can be regarded in no other light than as a prelude to a period of prodigious expansion and consolidation to be inaugurated by the launching of a global spiritual crusade, on the threshold of which the Bahá'í world now stands. This crusade extending through ten years will involve the simultaneous prosecution of twelve national plans, will necessitate the active and sustained participation of each of the twelve existing national spiritual assemblies representing no less than thirty-six nations and will demand the utmost exertion, consecration and heroism. It aims at the broadening and the reinforcement of the foundations of the Faith in each of the twelve areas that are to serve as operational bases for the prosecution of these twelve national plans; the opening of one hundred and thirty-one territories to the Faith; the consolidation of one hundred and eighteen territories; the translation and printing of literature in ninety-one languages; the construction[pg 152] of two Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkárs; the acquisition of sites for the future construction of eleven Temples; the formation of forty-eight national spiritual assemblies; the founding of forty-seven national Ḥaḏíratu'l-Quds; the incorporation of fifty national spiritual assemblies; the framing of Bahá'í national constitutions and the establishment of Bahá'í national endowments by each of these national assemblies; the adoption of preliminary measures for the construction of Bahá'u'lláh's Sepulcher; the erection of the first dependency of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár of the western world; the development of the institution of the Hands of the Cause; the transformation of the International Bahá'í Council into an international Bahá'í court; the codification of the laws and ordinances of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas; the establishment of six national Bahá'í Courts in the chief cities of the Islámic East; the extension of international Bahá'í endowments in the Plain of 'Akká and on the slopes of Mt. Carmel; the construction of the International Bahá'í Archives in the neighborhood of the Báb's Sepulcher; the construction of the tomb of the Báb's wife in Shíráz; the identification of the resting-places of Bahá'u'lláh's father, of the Báb's mother and of His cousin and their reburial in the neighborhood of the Most Great House; the acquisition of the Garden of Ridván in Baghdád, and of the sites of the Síyáh-Ḥál in Tíhrán, of the Báb's martyrdom in Tabríz and of His incarceration in Chihríq; the establishment of six Bahá'í national publishing trusts; the formation of seven Israel branches of Bahá'í national spiritual assemblies; the participation of women in the membership of Bahá'í local and national spiritual assemblies in Persia; the establishment of a Bahá'í national printing-press in Tíhrán; the reinforcement of the ties binding the Bahá'í World Community with the United Nations; the opening to the Faith, circumstances permitting, of eleven republics comprised in the Soviet Union, as well as two Soviet-controlled European states — all, please God, culminating in the convocation of a World Bahá'í Congress, in the vicinity of the Garden of Ridván, in the third holiest city of the Bahá'í world, on the occasion of the world-wide celebrations commemorating the centenary of the formal assumption by Bahá'u'lláh of His prophetic office.

## A Planetary Spiritual Crusade

Let there be no mistake. The avowed, the primary aim of this Spiritual Crusade is none other than the conquest of the citadels of men's hearts. The theater of its operations is the entire planet. Its[pg 153] duration a whole decade. Its commencement synchronizes with the

centenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Mission. Its culmination will coincide with the centenary of the declaration of that same Mission. The agencies assisting in its conduct are the nascent administrative institutions of a steadily evolving divinely appointed order. Its driving force is the energizing influence generated by the Revelation heralded by the Báb and proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh. Its Marshal is none other than the Author of the Divine Plan. Its standard-bearers are the Hands of the Cause of God appointed in every continent of the globe. Its generals are the twelve national spiritual assemblies participating in the execution of its design. Its vanguard is the chief executors of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's master plan, their allies and associates. Its legions are the rank and file of believers standing behind these same twelve national assemblies and sharing in the global task embracing the American, the European, the African, the Asiatic and Australian fronts. The charter directing its course is the immortal Tablets that have flowed from the pen of the Center of the Covenant Himself. The armor with which its onrushing hosts have been invested is the glad tidings of God's own message in this day, the principles underlying the order proclaimed by His Messenger, and the laws and ordinances governing His Dispensation. The battle cry animating its heroes and heroines is the cry of Yá-Bahá'u'l-Abhá, Yá 'Alíyyu'l-A'lá.

So vast, so momentous and challenging a crusade that will, God willing, illuminate the annals of the second epoch of the Formative Age of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, and immortalize the second decade of the second Bahá'í century, and the termination of which will mark the closing of the first epoch in the evolution of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, will, in itself, pave the way for, and constitute the prelude to, the initiation of the laborious and tremendously long process of establishing in the course of subsequent crusades in all the newly opened sovereign states, dependencies and islands of the planet, as well as in all the remaining territories of the globe, the framework of the Administrative Order of the Faith, with all its attendant agencies, and of eventually erecting in these territories still more pillars to share in sustaining the weight and in broadening the foundation of the Universal House of Justice.

### Begin Ninth Part of Majestic Process

Then, and only then, will the vast, the majestic process, set in motion at the dawn of the Adamic cycle, attain its consummation — a[pg 154] process which commenced six thousand years ago, with the planting, in the soil of the divine will, of the tree of divine revelation, and which has already passed through certain stages and must needs pass through still others ere it attains its final consummation. The first part of this process was the slow and steady growth of this tree of divine revelation, successively putting forth its branches, shoots and offshoots, and revealing its leaves, buds and blossoms, as a direct consequence of the light and warmth imparted to it by a series of progressive dispensations associated with Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus, Muḥammad and other Prophets, and of the vernal showers of blood shed by countless martyrs in their path. The second part of this process was the fruition of this tree, "that belongeth neither to the East nor to the West," when the Báb appeared as the perfect fruit and declared His mission in the Year Sixty in the city of Shíráz. The third part was the grinding of this sacred seed, of infinite preciousness and potency, in the mill of adversity, causing it to yield its oil, six years later, in the city of Tabríz. The fourth part was the ignition of this oil by the hand of Providence in the depths and amidst the darkness of the Síyáh-Ḥál of Tíhrán a hundred years ago. The fifth, was the clothing of that flickering light, which had scarcely penetrated the adjoining territory of 'Iráq, in the lamp of revelation, after an eclipse lasting no less than ten years, in the city of

Baghdád. The sixth, was the spread of the radiance of that light, shining with added brilliancy in its crystal globe in Adrianople, and later on in the fortress town of 'Akká, to thirteen countries in the Asiatic and African continents. The seventh was its projection, from the Most Great Prison, in the course of the ministry of the Center of the Covenant, across the seas and the shedding of its illumination upon twenty sovereign states and dependencies in the American, the European, and Australian continents. The eighth part of that process was the diffusion of that same light in the course of the first, and the opening years of the second, epoch of the Formative Age of the Faith, over ninety-four sovereign states, dependencies and islands of the planet, as a result of the prosecution of a series of national plans, initiated by eleven national spiritual assemblies throughout the Bahá'í world, utilizing the agencies of a newly emerged, divinely appointed Administrative Order, and which has now culminated in the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Mission. The ninth part of this process — the stage we are now entering — is the further diffusion of that same light over one hundred and thirty-one additional territories and islands[pg 155] in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, through the operation of a decade-long world spiritual crusade whose termination will, God willing, coincide with the Most Great Jubilee commemorating the centenary of the declaration of Bahá'u'lláh in Baghdád. And finally the tenth part of this mighty process must be the penetration of that light, in the course of numerous crusades and of successive epochs of both the Formative and Golden Ages of the Faith, into all the remaining territories of the globe through the erection of the entire machinery of Bahá'u'lláh's Administrative Order in all territories, both East and West, the stage at which the light of God's triumphant Faith shining in all its power and glory will have suffused and enveloped the entire planet.

This present Crusade, on the threshold of which we now stand, will, moreover, by virtue of the dynamic forces it will release and its wide repercussions over the entire surface of the globe, contribute effectually to the acceleration of yet another process of tremendous significance which will carry the steadily evolving Faith of Bahá'u'lláh through its present stages of obscurity, of repression, of emancipation and of recognition — stages one or another of which Bahá'í national communities in various parts of the world now find themselves in — to the stage of establishment, the stage at which the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh will be recognized by the civil authorities as the state religion, similar to that which Christianity entered in the years following the death of the Emperor Constantine, a stage which must later be followed by the emergence of the Bahá'í state itself, functioning, in all religious and civil matters, in strict accordance with the laws and ordinances of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, the Most Holy, the Mother-Book of the Bahá'í Revelation, a stage which, in the fullness of time, will culminate in the establishment of the World Bahá'í Commonwealth, functioning in the plenitude of its powers, and which will signalize the long-awaited advent of the Christ-promised Kingdom of God on earth — the Kingdom of Bahá'u'lláh — mirroring however faintly upon this humble handful of dust the glories of the Abhá Kingdom.

This final and crowning stage in the evolution of the plan wrought by God Himself for humanity will, in turn, prove to be the signal for the birth of a world civilization, incomparable in its range, its character and potency, in the history of mankind — a civilization which posterity will, with one voice, acclaim as the fairest fruit of the Golden Age of the Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh, and whose rich [pg 156] harvest will be garnered during future dispensations destined to succeed one another in the course of the five thousand century Bahá'í Cycle.

## Appeal for Funds to Purchase Temple Site in Italy

Cablegram, May 4, 1953

Launching World Crusade signaled spontaneous contributions delegates assembled Florence purchase land first Italian Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḏhkár within stronghold leading community Christendom. Appeal National Assemblies Bahá'í world participate historic enterprise synchronizing emergence sister Assembly European continent. Urged message addressed Hand Cause Ugo Giachery selection site. Transmitting one thousand pounds my contribution meritorious purpose treasurer Anne Lynch Geneva.

## Joyful Announcement of Progress

Cablegram, June 26, 1953

Joyfully announce Bahá'í world rapid progress final stages construction Báb's Mausoleum Carmel as well as splendid initiative Bahá'ís Panama aiming acquisition site first Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḏhkár Central America. Erection lantern placing ribs dome completed. Five thousand gilded tiles dispatched Utrecht safely received half which already placed position disclosing glimpse shining splendor completed dome.

Appeal national assemblies East West participate through contributions meritorious endeavors exerted eventual establishment Bahá'í House Worship City Panama specifically mentioned 'Abdu'l-Bahá situated heart Western Hemisphere. Myself contributed five hundred pounds furtherance notable objective Ten Year Global Crusade.[pg 157]

Share message National Assemblies.

## European Intercontinental Conference

Stockholm, Sweden, July 21-26, 1953

With a glad and grateful heart I welcome the convocation, in the capital city of Sweden, of the third of a series of Intercontinental Teaching Conferences associated with the world-wide

festivities commemorating the centenary of the Mission of Bahá'u'lláh and destined to exert a profound and lasting influence on the immediate fortunes of His Faith in all continents of the globe.

I look back, with feelings of wonder, thankfulness and joy, upon the chain of memorable circumstances which, a little over a century ago, accompanied the introduction of the Faith into, and marked the inception of its nascent institutions within, a continent which, in the course of the last two thousand years, has exercised on the destiny of the human race a pervasive influence unequalled by that of any other continent of the globe.

I feel impelled, on this historic occasion, when the members of the American, the British, the German and the newly formed Italo-Swiss National Spiritual Assemblies, as well as representatives of the Bahá'ís of the United Kingdom, of Eire, of Germany, of Austria, of the Scandinavian and Benelux countries, of the Iberian Peninsula, of Italy, of Switzerland, of France and of Finland are assembled, to pay a warm tribute to the valiant labors of the early British and French Bahá'í pioneers, who at the very dawn of the Faith in Europe, strove with such diligence, consecration and resolution, to fan into flame that holy fire which the hand of the appointed Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant had kindled in the northwest extremity of that continent on the morrow of His Father's ascension. I recall the slow eastward spread of that infant light which led to the gradual emergence of the German and Austrian Bahá'í Communities, during the darkest period of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's incarceration in the prison-fortress of 'Akká. I am reminded of His subsequent epoch-making visit, soon after His providential release from His forty-year confinement in the Most Great Prison, to these newly fledged struggling communities, of His patient seed-sowing destined to yield at a later age its first fruits, and constituting a landmark of the utmost significance in the rise and establishment of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in that continent.

### Emergence of Faith's European Institutions

I, moreover, call to mind, on this occasion, the successive episodes[pg 158] which, on the morrow of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's ascension, in the course of the initial epoch of the Formative Age of the Bahá'í Dispensation, signalized the emergence of those administrative institutions, both local and national, which proclaimed the germination of those potent seeds which had lain dormant for more than a decade in these newly opened European territories, and which culminated in the construction of the framework of the Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh and the erection of the first two pillars destined to sustain in that continent the weight of the final unit of that Order.

Nor can I fail to acclaim, as a further milestone in the irresistible evolution of that Faith, the launching, following the creation of the administrative agencies designed to provide the effectual instruments for its propagation, of the Six-Year Plan of the British Bahá'í Community followed successively by the European Teaching Campaign, inaugurated in accordance with the provisions of the Second Seven-Year Plan of the American Bahá'í Community, the Five-Year Plan conceived by the German and Austrian Bahá'í Communities and the Two-Year Plan later initiated by the British Bahá'í Community — Plans which, within less than a decade, succeeded in laying the structural basis of the Administrative Order of the Faith in Wales, in Scotland, in

Northern Ireland and in Eire, in multiplying and consolidating Bahá'í institutions throughout the British Isles, in broadening and strengthening the foundations of that same Order in Germany and Austria, in erecting the National Administrative Headquarters of the Faith in the city of Frankfurt, in establishing spiritual assemblies in the capital cities of no less than ten sovereign states in Europe, in reinforcing the administrative foundations of that Faith in those territories, in providing the means for the convocation of five European, and a series of regional, teaching conferences, and above all, in the convocation of the historic convention in Florence culminating in the emergence of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Italy and Switzerland, the third in a series of institutions destined to play their part in the eventual establishment of the supreme legislative body of the Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

The hour is now ripe for these communities whether new or old, local or national, already functioning on the northern, the western and the southern fringes of that continent, as well as those situated in its very heart, to initiate befittingly and prosecute energetically the European campaign of a global Crusade which will not only contribute, to an unprecedented degree, to the broadening and the[pg 159] consolidation of the foundations of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh on the continent of Europe, but will also diffuse its light over the neighboring islands, and will, God willing, carry its radiance to the eastern territories of that continent, and beyond them as far as the heart of Asia.

### Crusade Projects to Be Undertaken

The privileged prosecutors of so revolutionizing, so gigantic, so sacred and beneficent a campaign, are, on the morrow of its launching, and, at such a crucial hour in the destinies of the European continent, summoned to undertake:

*First*, the formation, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, of one national spiritual assembly in each one of the Scandinavian and Benelux countries, and those of the Iberian Peninsula, and one in Finland, as well as the establishment, in collaboration with the Paris Spiritual Assembly, of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of France; the establishment, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria, of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Austria; and the establishment, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, and in association with the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Italy and Switzerland, of independent National Spiritual Assemblies in Italy and Switzerland.

*Second*, the construction of the first Maṣḥriqu'l-Adḥkár of Europe in the city of Frankfurt, the heart of Germany, which occupies such a central position in the continent of Europe.

*Third*, the purchase of land for the future construction of two Maṣḥriqu'l-Adḥkárs, one in the north in the city of Stockholm, and one in the south in the city of Rome, the seat and stronghold of the most powerful church in Christendom.

*Fourth*, the opening of the following thirty virgin territories and islands: Albania, Crete, Estonia, Finno-Karelia, Frisian Islands, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Rumania, White Russia, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria; Channel Islands, Cyprus, Faroe Islands, Hebrides Islands, Malta, Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, assigned

to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles; Andorra, Azores, Balearic Islands, Lofoten Islands, Spitzbergen, Ukraine, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; Liechtenstein, Monaco, Rhodes,[pg 160] San Marino, Sardinia, Sicily, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Italy and Switzerland.

*Fifth*, the translation and publication of Bahá'í literature in the following ten languages to be undertaken by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, through its European Teaching Committee: Basque, Estonian, Flemish, Lapp, Maltese, Piedmontese, Romani, Romansch, Yiddish, Ziryen.

*Sixth*, the consolidation of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; of Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Russian S.F.S.,<sup>5</sup> Yugoslavia, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Germany and Austria; of Eire, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles; of Iceland, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada; and of Corsica, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Italy and Switzerland.

*Seventh*, the incorporation of the thirteen above-mentioned national spiritual assemblies.

*Eighth*, the establishment by these same national spiritual assemblies of national Bahá'í endowments.

*Ninth*, the establishment of a national Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds in the capital city of each of the countries where national spiritual assemblies are to be established, as well as one in London and one in Paris.

*Tenth*, the formation of a national Bahá'í Publishing Trust in Frankfurt, Germany.

*Eleventh*, the formation of Israel branches of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles and of Germany and Austria, authorized to hold, on behalf of their parent institutions, property dedicated to the holy shrines at the World Center of the Faith in the state of Israel.

*Twelfth*, the conversion to the Faith of representatives of the Basque and Gypsy races.

*Thirteenth*, the appointment, during Ridván 1954, by the Hands of the Cause in Europe, of an Auxiliary Board of nine members who will, in conjunction with the four national spiritual assemblies participating in the European campaign, assist, through periodic and systematic visits to Bahá'í centers, in the efficient and prompt execution of the plans formulated for the prosecution of the teaching campaign in the European continent.[pg 161]

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5. The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic



## Opening of a Great Spiritual Revival

A continent, occupying such a central and strategic position on the entire planet; so rich and eventful in its history, so diversified in its culture; from whose soil sprang both the Hellenic and Roman civilizations; the mainspring of a civilization to some of whose features Bahá'u'lláh Himself paid tribute; on whose southern shores Christendom first established its home; along whose eastern marches the mighty forces of the Cross and the Crescent so frequently clashed; on whose southwestern extremity a fast evolving Islámic culture yielded its fairest fruit; in whose heart the light of the Reformation shone so brightly, shedding its rays as far as the outlying regions of the globe; the wellspring of American culture; whose northern and western fringes were first warmed and illuminated, less than a century ago, by the dawning light of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh; in whose heart a community, so rich in promise, was subsequently established; whose soil was later sanctified by the twice-repeated visit of the appointed Center of His Covenant; which witnessed, in consequence of the rise and establishment of the Administrative Order of His Faith, the erection of two of the foremost pillars of the future Universal House of Justice; which, in recent years, sustained the dynamic impact of a series of national plans preparatory to the launching of a World Spiritual Crusade — such a continent has at last at this critical hour — this great turning-point in its fortunes — entered upon what may well be regarded as the opening phase of a great spiritual revival that bids fair to eclipse any period in its spiritual history.

May the elected representatives of the national Bahá'í communities entrusted with the conduct of this momentous undertaking launched on the soil of this continent, aided by the Hands of the Cause and their Auxiliary Board, reinforced by the local communities, the groups and isolated believers sharing in this massive and collective enterprise, and supported by the subsidiary agencies to be appointed for its efficient prosecution, be graciously assisted by the Lord of Hosts to contribute, in the years immediately ahead, through their concerted efforts and collective achievements, in both the teaching and administrative spheres of Bahá'í activity, to the success of this glorious Crusade, and lend a tremendous impetus to the conversion, the reconciliation and the ultimate unification of the divers and conflicting peoples, races and classes dwelling within the borders of a travailing, a sorely agitated, and spiritually famished continent.[pg 162]

May all the privileged participators, enlisting under the banner of Bahá'u'lláh for the promotion of so preeminent and meritorious a Cause, be they from the Eastern or Western Hemisphere, of either sex, white or colored, young or old, neophyte or veteran, whether serving in their capacity as expounders of the teachings, or administrators, of His Faith, as settlers or itinerant teachers, distinguish themselves by such deeds of heroism as will rival, nay outshine, the feats accomplished nineteen hundred years ago, by that little band of God-intoxicated disciples who, fearlessly preaching the Gospel of a newly arisen Messiah, contributed so decisively to the illumination, the regeneration and the advancement of the entire European continent.



## Magnificent Response by Communities of East and West

### Cablegram, July 1953

Happy convey assembled friends epoch-making conference news magnificent response Bahá'í communities East West course less than three-month interval separating second third Intercontinental Conferences Holy Year to call arise befittingly inaugurate opening phase World Crusade. Number pioneers white colored young old all continents who volunteered service both virgin open territories past two hundred mark including three offers leper colonies. Ruanda-Urundi Samoan Islands Daman Southern Rhodesia Goa Kodiak Island Italian Somaliland already opened.

Settlement French Equatorial Africa Solomon Islands Queen Charlotte Islands South West Africa Cape Verde Islands Togoland Mauritius Reunion Island St. Helena Island St. Thomas Island Channel Islands Aleutian Islands Azores Key West Cook Islands Monaco Balearic Islands Malta Cyprus Hebrides Islands Northern Territories Protectorate Seychelles Andorra Canary Islands French Somaliland virtually assured. Northern outposts Faith Western Hemisphere pushed as far as Arctic Bay Franklin seventy-three latitude Europe as far as Lofoten Islands. Pioneer en route Fezzan Libya chosen scene 'Abdu'l-Bahá's banishment by 'Abdu'l-Ḥamíd.

All areas within Western Hemisphere allocated [pg 163] United States National Assembly assigned. third membership same Assembly joining ranks pioneers. Remaining sister national assemblies now vying spiritual race complete assignments their respective continents. Funds inaugurated sites being investigated purchase land Maṣhriqu'l-Adhkárs Rome Panama City Toronto national Ḥaṣíratu'l-Quds London. Appeal attendants conference thanksgiving manifold blessings abundantly showered Bahá'u'lláh's crusaders immortalize proceedings through inauguration funds purchase sites Temples northern city scene present conference Frankfurt heart European Continent. Contributing two thousand pounds furtherance meritorious enterprises.

Urge moreover participants view disproportionately small number pioneers destined virgin territories in relation total volunteers swell roll honor through enlisting promptly under unfurled banner advancing hosts Bahá'u'lláh. No worthier contribution can be offered altar Bahá'í sacrifice no greater honor won course Holy Year now swiftly drawing close.



## Asian Intercontinental Conference

New Delhi, India, October 7-15, 1953

With high hopes and a joyful heart I acclaim the convocation, in the leading city of the Indian subcontinent, of the fourth and last of the Intercontinental Teaching Conferences of a memorable Holy Year commemorating the centenary of the birth of the prophetic Mission of Bahá'u'lláh.

On this historic occasion, when the members of the National Spiritual Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America, of the Dominion of Canada, of Central and South America, of Persia, of the Indian subcontinent and of Burma, of 'Iráq and of Australasia, as well as representatives of the sovereign states and dependencies of the Asiatic continent, of the republics of North, Central and South America, and of Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania are assembled, and are to deliberate on the needs and requirements of the recently launched triple campaign embracing the Asiatic[pg 164] mainland, the Australian continent and the islands of the Pacific Ocean — a campaign which may well be regarded as the most extensive, the most arduous and the most momentous of all the campaigns of a world-girdling Crusade, and which, in its scope, is unparalleled in the history of the Faith in the entire Eastern Hemisphere — my thoughts, on such an occasion, go back to the early dawn of our Faith, to those unforgettable scenes of matchless heroism, of dark tragedy, of imperishable glory which heralded its birth, and accompanied the spread of its infant light in the heart of the Asiatic continent.

I vividly recall the meteoric rise of the Faith of the Báb in the provinces of Persia and the stirring episodes associated with His cruel incarceration in the mountain-fastnesses of Ádhirbáyján, with the revelation of the laws of His Dispensation, with the proclamation of the independence of His Faith, with the peerless heroism of His disciples, with the fiendish cruelty of His foes — the chief magistrate, the civil authorities, the ecclesiastical dignitaries and the masses of the people of His native land — with the humiliation, the spoliation, the dispersal, the eventual massacre of a vast number of His followers, and, above all, with His own execution in the city of Tabríz.

## Early Stages of Bahá'u'lláh's Faith

With a throb of wonder I call to mind the early and sudden fruition of His Dispensation in the capital city of that land, and the dramatic circumstances attending the birth of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation culminating in His precipitate banishment to 'Iráq.

I am reminded, moreover, of the initial spread of the light of this revelation, in consequence of the banishment of Bahá'u'lláh, to the adjoining territories of 'Iráq, and, as far as the western fringes of that continent, to Turkey and the neighboring territories of Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, and, at a later stage, to the Indian subcontinent and China, situated on the southern and eastern extremities of that continent as well as to the Caucasus and Russian Turkistán.

Nor can I fail to remember the series of alternating crises and victories, each constituting a landmark in the evolution of the Faith — which it has experienced in some of these territories, associated with the distressful withdrawal of its Author to the mountains of Sulaymáníyyih; with the glorious declaration of His Mission in Baghdád; with His second and third banishments to Constantinople and Adrianople; with the grievous rebellion of His half-brother; with the proclamation of His own Mission; with His fourth banishment[pg 165] to the desolate and far-off penal colony of ‘Akká in Syria; with the revelation of the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, His Most Holy Book; with His ascension in the Holy Land; with the establishment of His Covenant and the inauguration of the ministry of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, His son and the Exemplar and authorized Interpreter of His teachings.

These opening stages in the evolution of His Faith in the Asiatic continent were followed, while the first and Apostolic Age of His Dispensation was drawing to a close, by the opening of the islands situated in the Pacific Ocean, Japan in the north, and the Australian continent in the south. To these memorable chapters of Asian Bahá’í history another was soon added, on the morrow of the ascension of the Center of Bahá’u’lláh’s Covenant, and during the initial epoch of the Formative Age of the Faith, distinguished by the rise of the Administrative Order and the erection of its pillars in the cradle of that Faith, in ‘Iráq, in India, Pákistán and Burma and in the Antipodes. This memorable episode in its development in that vast continent was succeeded by the initiation, during the second epoch of that same Age, of a series of plans in those same territories in support of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s Divine Plan and as a prelude to the opening of the recently launched world-embracing Spiritual Crusade.

### Asia’s Hour in the Global Crusade

The hour has now struck for this continent, on whose soil, more than a century ago, so much sacred blood was shed, in whose very heart deeds of such tragic heroism were performed, and in many of whose territories such brilliant victories have been won, to contribute, in association with its sister continents, to the progress and ultimate triumph of this global Crusade, in a manner befitting its unrivaled position in the entire Bahá’í world.

The various Bahá’í communities dwelling within the borders of this continent and those situated to the south of its shores in the Antipodes, which include the oldest and most venerable among all the communities of the Bahá’í world, and whose members in their aggregate constitute the overwhelming majority of the followers of Bahá’u’lláh, are called upon, in close association with four other Bahá’í communities in the Western Hemisphere, to undertake in the course of the coming decade:

*First*, the construction of the first Maṣhriqu’l-Adhkár in Bahá’u’lláh’s native land, in the city of Tíhrán, surnamed by Bahá’u’lláh “Mother of the World.”[pg 166]

*Second*, the purchase of land for the future construction of three Maṣhriqu’l-Adhkárs, one in the city of Baghdád, enshrining the “Most Great House,” the third holiest city of the Bahá’í world, one in New Delhi, the leading city of the Indian subcontinent, and the third in Sydney, the oldest and foremost Bahá’í center in the Antipodes.

*Third*, the formation of no less than eleven national spiritual assemblies, one each in Pákistán, Burma and Ceylon, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pákistán and Burma; one in Turkey and one in Afghánistán, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; one in Japan, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; one in New Zealand, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand, as well as four regional national spiritual assemblies, one in the Arabian Peninsula, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; one in southeast Asia, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pákistán and Burma; a third in the South Pacific, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; and a fourth in the Near East, under the aegis of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of 'Iráq.

*Fourth*, the opening of the following forty-one virgin territories and islands: Andaman Islands, Bhutan, Daman, Diu, Goa, Karikal, Mahe, Mariana Islands, Nicobar Islands, Pondicherry, Sikkim, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pákistán and Burma; Caroline Islands, Dutch New Guinea, Hainan Island, Kazakhstan, Macao Island, Sakhalin Island, Tibet, Tonga Islands, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; Brunei, Chagos Archipelago, Kirgizia, Mongolia, Solomon Islands, Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; Admiralty Islands, Cocos Island, Loyalty Islands, Mentawai Islands, New Hebrides Islands, Portuguese Timor, Society Islands, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand; Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Marshall Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Central America; Hadhramaut, Kuria-Muria Islands, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of 'Iráq; Marquesas Islands, Samoa Islands, assigned to the National [pg 167] Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada; Cook Islands, assigned to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of South America.

*Fifth*, the translation and publication of Bahá'í literature in the following forty languages, to be undertaken by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pákistán and Burma, in association with the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Australia and New Zealand: Abor Miri, Aneityum, Annameese, Balochi, Bentuni, Binandere, Cheremiss, Chungchia, Georgian, Houailou, Javanese, Kado, Kaili, Kopu, Kusaie, Lepcha, Lifu, Manchu, Manipuri, Manus Island, Marquesas, Mentawai, Mongolian, Mordoff, Mwala, Na-Hsi, Nicobarese, Niue, Ossete, Ostiak, Pali, Panjabi, Pashto, Perm, Petats, Samoan, Tho, Tibetan, Tongan, Vogul.

*Sixth*, the consolidation of Aden Protectorate, Ádhirbáyján, Afghánistán, Aḥsá, Armenia, Bahrein Island, Georgia, Híjáz, Saudi-Arabia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Yemen, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Persia; of Balúchistán, Borneo, Burma, Ceylon, Indo-China, Indonesia, Malaya, Nepal, Pákistán, Sarawak, Siam, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pákistán and Burma; of China, Formosa, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Philippine Islands, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States of America; of Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, Trucial Şheikhş, 'Ummán, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of 'Iráq; of Bismarck Archipelago, Fiji, New Caledonia, Australian New Guinea, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of

Australia and New Zealand; of Hong Kong, allocated to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles.

*Seventh*, the incorporation of the eleven above-mentioned national spiritual assemblies, as well as those of Persia and 'Iráq.

*Eighth*, the establishment by these above-mentioned eleven national spiritual assemblies of national Bahá'í endowments.

*Ninth*, the establishment of a national Ḥazíratu'l-Quds in the capital cities of each of the countries where national spiritual assemblies are to be established, as well as one in Suva, one in Jakarta, one in Bahrein and one in Beirut.

*Tenth*, the establishment of a national Bahá'í Court in the capital cities of Persia, of 'Iráq, of Pákistán and of Afghánistán — the leading Muslim centers in the Asiatic continent.

*Eleventh*, the establishment of two national Bahá'í Publishing Trusts, one in Tíhrán and one in New Delhi.

*Twelfth*, the formation of Israel branches of the National Spiritual [pg 168] Assemblies of the Bahá'ís of Persia, of 'Iráq, and of Australia, authorized to hold on behalf of their parent institutions property dedicated to the holy shrines at the World Center of the Faith in the state of Israel.

*Thirteenth*, the appointment, during Riḍván 1954, by the Hands of the Cause in Asia and in Australia of an Auxiliary Board of nine members who will, in conjunction with the eight national spiritual assemblies participating in the Asiatic and Australian campaigns, assist, through periodic and systematic visits to Bahá'í centers, in the efficient and prompt execution of the plans formulated for the prosecution of the teaching campaigns in the continent of Asia and in the Antipodes.

### On the Threshold of a New Spiritual Era

The Asiatic continent, the cradle of the principal religions of mankind; the home of so many of the oldest and mightiest civilizations which have flourished on this planet; the crossways of so many kindreds and races; the battleground of so many peoples and nations; above whose horizons, in modern times, the suns of two independent revelations — the promise and consummation of a six thousand year old religious cycle — have successively arisen; where the Authors of both of these revelations suffered banishment and died; within whose confines the Center of a divinely appointed Covenant was born, endured a forty-year incarceration and passed away; on whose western extremity the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world has been definitely established; in whose heart the city proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh as the "Mother of the World" is enshrined; within whose borders another city regarded as the "cynosure of an adoring world" and the scene of the greatest and most glorious revelation the world has witnessed is embosomed; on whose soil so many saints, heroes and martyrs, associated with both of these revelations, have lived, struggled and died — such a continent, so privileged among its sister continents and yet so long and so sadly tormented, now stands at the hour of the launching of a world-encompassing Crusade, on the threshold of an era that may well recall, in its glory and

ultimate repercussions, the great periods of spiritual revival which, from the dawn of recorded history have, at various stages in the revelation of God's purpose for mankind, illuminated the path of the human race.

May this Crusade, launched simultaneously on the Asiatic mainland, its neighboring islands and the Antipodes, under the direction of eight national spiritual assemblies, and through the operation of [pg 169] eight systematic teaching plans, and the concerted efforts of Bahá'í communities in both the East and the West, provide, as it unfolds, an effective antidote to the baneful forces of atheism, nationalism, secularism and materialism that are tearing at the vitals of this turbulent continent, and may it re-enact those scenes of spiritual heroism which, more than any of the secular revolutions which have agitated its face, have left their everlasting imprint on the fortunes of the peoples and nations dwelling within its borders.



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## Triple Announcement on Conclusion of Holy Year

Cablegram, 7 October 1953

occasion conclusion Holy Year overjoyed following triple  
announcement attendants fourth final Intercontinental Teaching Conference  
marking termination festivities associated centenary birth Bahá'u'lláh's Prophetic Mission.

Five-year-old three-quarter million dollar enterprise constituting final stage initial  
epoch evolutionary process initiated over sixty years ago Founder Faith heart Mountain God  
consummated. Finishing touches installation stained glass windows drum octagon  
removal scaffolding exterior interior edifice interior calcimining dome drum octagon tuck-  
pointing cleaning floodlighting entire structure completed synchronizing closing  
weeks glorious twelve-month annals Holy Faith.

Steadily swelling throng visitors far near many days exceeding thousand flocking gates  
leading Inner Sanctuary majestic mausoleum paying homage Queen of Carmel  
enthroned God's Mountain crowned glowing gold robed shimmering white girdled emerald  
green enchanting every eye from air sea plain hill.

Moved request attendants Conference hold befitting memorial gathering pay  
tribute Hand Cause Sutherland Maxwell immortal architect arcade superstructure Shrine.  
Feel moreover acknowledgement be made same gathering unflagging  
labors vigilance Hand Cause, Ugo Giachery negotiating contracts inspecting dispatching all  
materials required [pg 170] construction edifice as well as assiduous constant  
care Hand Cause Leroy loas supervising construction both drum dome. Two doors Shrine  
recently named after first two aforementioned Hands octagon door now added  
henceforth associated third Hand who contributed raising stately, sacred structure.



Second announcement world-wide process settlement virgin areas globe accelerated arrival following pioneers respective posts Cora Oliver *British Honduras* Carole Dwight Allen *Greece* Mr. Mrs. Xavier Rodrigues *Portuguese Guinea* Brigitte Hasselblatt *Shetlands* Elizabeth Hopper Ada Schott Sara Kenny Mrs. Duffield *Madeira* H. J. Snider *Key West* Hugh McKinley and mother *Cyprus* Max Kenyerezi *French Equatorial Africa* Elsa Grossmann *Frisian Islands* Helen Robinson *Baranof* Mr. Mrs. Ted Anderson *Yukon* Tabendeh Payman *San Marino* Una Townshend *Malta* Rolf Haug *Crete* swelling Roll of Honor raising number territories pale Faith hundred sixty-five. Two additional pioneers proceeding leper colonies Puerto Rico French Guiana. Two valiant pioneers India America preparing entry Tibet. Two more members United States National Assembly volunteered pioneer raising number five. United States pioneers departing twenty-four virgin territories ere conclusion Holy Year. Feast Names celebrated last August two stalwart crusaders weather station Buchanan Bay desolate Ellesmere Island latitude seventy-nine less seven hundred miles North Pole. Irresistibly unfolding Crusade sanctified death heroic eighty-eight year old Ella Bailey elevating her rank martyrs Faith shedding further luster American Bahá'í Community consecrating soil fast-awakening African continent.

Third announcement preliminary steps taken aiming acquisition extensive area head holy mountain scene revelation Tablet Carmel preparatory purchase site future Mother Maṣḥriqu'l-Aḏhkár Holy Land made possible munificent hundred thousand dollar donation Hand Cause Amelia Collins signaling opening second stage unfoldment mighty process set motion Author Faith.[pg 171]

### A Triple Responsibility

triple bounty vouchsafed Community Most Great Name scattered face planet calls for tremendous immediate concerted exertion assembled believers adequately discharge triple responsibility. *First* redoubled consecration pioneering task particularly Pacific area emphasized Tablets Divine Plan raising thereby ere adjournment Conference number territories opened Faith assigned pioneers for immediate settlement above two hundred. *Second* demonstration increasing self-sacrifice through inauguration Funds purchase land future Temples Asiatic continent Antipodes Baghdád New Delhi Sydney. Contributing three thousand pounds furtherance meritorious enterprises. *Third* earnest consultation representatives Persian 'Iráqí National Assemblies directly concerned holy task with assembled Hands Cause ways means conduct thorough investigation ensure purchase holy places particularly site Síyáh-Ḥál cradle Revelation Author Faith as well as identification transfer Bahá'í cemeteries relatives Báb Bahá'u'lláh constituting vital objectives Ten-Year Plan.

Ardently hoping fervently supplicating epochal Conference setting seal celebration second Bahá'í Jubilee contribute unprecedented degree through character its deliberations solidity achievements scope accomplishments ultimate attainment shining goals World Crusade destined culminate not far distant Most Great Jubilee associated hundredth anniversary assumption Bahá'u'lláh His prophetic office.

## Hands at New Delhi Conference to Aid in Attaining Goals

### Cablegram, October 1953

eve conclusion festivities commemorating centenary birth Bahá'u'lláh's ministry moved direct following specific message Hands assembled conference. Grateful recognition multiple bounties showered [pg 172] rapid succession army Lord Hosts course Holy Year auspiciously ushered through proclamation objectives World Crusade whose opening months witnessed convocation heart African continent first Intercontinental Teaching Conference whose climax signaled simultaneous holding heart North America Intercontinental Conference Western Hemisphere dedication Mother Temple West launching Ten-Year Plan whose record ennobled two additional intercontinental gatherings successively convened European Asiatic continents all eleven Hands called upon arise enhance abiding value strenuous exemplary labors last twelve months constituting initial chapter their steadily unfolding world mission.

Hour propitious morrow last intercontinental conference gird your loins yet another still wider dispersal extending one or two months embracing Asia Africa Australasia purpose establishing close contact national assemblies advising assisting local assemblies individuals attain goals globe-girdling Plan.

Adoption following itinerary recommended Mason Remey Dorothy Baker Horace Holley *India Pákistán Burma Ceylon* Ugo Giachery *Persia* Valíyu'lláh Varqá, Shu'á'u'lláh 'Alá'í 'Iráq *Turkey Egypt* Clara Dunn 'Alí-Akbar Furútan *Australia New Zealand* Dhikru'lláh Khádem *Malaya Japan* Tarázu'lláh Samandarí Músá Banání *Arabian Peninsula*. Contributing three thousand pounds assistance execution meritorious enterprise.

Urge Persian Indian Australian Egyptian 'Iráqí National Assemblies extend utmost assistance arrange schedules publicize Faith wherever advisable direct local assemblies utilize every means power add momentum most ambitious undertaking yet embarked followers Bahá'u'lláh hundred ten years Bahá'í history.

## Further Additions to Roll of Honor

Cablegram, October 14, 1953

As Holy Year expires overjoyed announce assembled believers no less thirteen additions Roll [pg 173] Honor since transmission last message Conference week ago Clair Gung *Southern Rhodesia* Ursula von Brunn *Frisian Islands* Richard Nolen family *Azores* Katherine Meyer *Margarita Island* Geraldine Craney *Hebrides* Fawzi Zeinolabedin family *Spanish Morocco* Manouchihr Hezari *Morocco International Zone* Earle Render *Leeward Islands* Ted Cardell *Southwest Africa* William Danjon *Andorra* Fred Jean Allen *Cape Breton Island* Frederick Elizabeth Laws *Basutoland* Amín Batt *Rio de Oro*. Total number virgin areas inscribed scroll with names conquerors since launching World Crusade last Ridván mounted fifty. Number territories included orbit Faith raised within unbelievably short time hundred seventy-eight marking increase hundred countries since celebration first Jubilee nine years ago. Addition sixty unopened areas bespoken including Ukraine Albania. No more eight volunteers required be dispatched *Ashanti Protectorate Bechuanaland Chagos Archipelago Comoro Islands Marquesas Islands Marshall Islands Spanish Sahara Tonga Islands* in order ensure attainment preeminent goal Global Crusade, excluding Socialist republics satellite countries. Moment arrived last day year forever sanctified memory future generations owing its sacred associations be linked closing already narrow gap separating vanguard army crusaders victory most glorious phase grandest collective spiritual enterprise embarked organized firmly knit communities Most Great Name scattered planet.



## Valíyu'lláh Varqá Passes; Son Appointed

Cablegram, November 15, 1955

Profoundly grieved loss outstanding Hand Cause God exemplary Trustee Ḥuqúqu'lláh distinguished representative most venerable community Bahá'í world worthy son, brother twin immortal martyrs Faith dearly beloved disciple Center Covenant. Shining record services extending over half century enriched annals Heroic Formative Ages Bahá'í Dispensation. His reward Abhá Kingdom inestimable. Advise erect my behalf befitting monument [pg 174] his grave. His mantle as Trustee funds Ḥuqúq now falls on 'Alí-Muḥammad his son. Instruct Rawhani Tíhrán arrange befitting memorial gatherings capital provinces honor memory mighty pillar Cradle Faith Bahá'u'lláh. Newly appointed Trustee Ḥuqúq now elevated rank Hand Cause.



## Passing of George Townshend

Cablegram, March 25, 1957

Deeply mourn passing dearly loved much admired greatly gifted outstanding Hand Cause George Townshend. His death morrow publication crowning achievement robs British followers Bahá'u'lláh their most distinguished collaborator and Faith itself one of its stoutest defenders. Sterling qualities scholarship challenging writings high ecclesiastical position unrivalled any Bahá'í western world entitle rank with Thomas Breakwell Dr. Esslemont three luminaries shedding brilliant luster annals Irish English Scottish Bahá'í communities. Fearless championship Cause he loved so dearly served so valiantly constitutes significant landmark British Bahá'í history. So enviable position calls National tribute memory assembled delegates visitors forthcoming British Bahá'í Convention. Assure relatives deepest loving sympathy grievous loss. Confident reward inestimable Abhá Kingdom.



## George Townshend Passes; Agnes Alexander Appointed

Cablegram, March 27, 1957

Inform Hands national assemblies Bahá'í world passing Abhá Kingdom Hand Cause George Townshend indefatigable highly talented fearless defender Faith Bahá'u'lláh.

Agnes Alexander, distinguished pioneer Faith elevated rank Hand Cause. Confident appointment will spiritually reinforce teaching campaigns simultaneously conducted north south heart Pacific Ocean.[pg 175]



## Remains of Mírzá Buzurg Transferred

Cablegram, July 17, 1957

Inform Hands National assemblies transfer remains Mírzá Buzurg attainment yet another outstanding objective Crusade. Advise avoid publicity.

