

Uncompiled Published Letters - 1940s

Shoghi Effendi

Original English



– 930 –

1940-01-03 Martha Root Memorial

USBN #134 March 1940, p2

THE MEMORIAL IN HONOR OF MARTHA L. ROOT

“With regard to the Memorial which the N.S.A. is proposing to erect in honor of our beloved Martha, the Guardian is hopeful that the fund which is now being raised for that purpose will receive the full support of the believers, and that the donations which will be sent in will be sufficient to enable your Assembly to erect a befitting monument in memory of our departed sister. The friends should be impressed with the importance and significance of this undertaking, and should seize this opportunity of paying their last tribute to so outstanding and indeed matchless a pioneer and servant of the Cause in the West.”

— SHOGHI EFFENDI, through his Secretary, to Roy C. Wilhelm, Treasurer.

Haifa, January 3,



– 931 –

1940-01-15 To USNSA re Edna Belmont

Cited in letter to all LSA's fm NSA 30 Jan 1940

ADVISE WARN BELIEVERS AVOID COMPLETELY ASSOCIATION (WITH) EDNA BELMONT. HER RELATIONSHIP (WITH) (HEW) HISTORY SOCIETY AND (HER) MISCHIEVOUS INTENTIONS IMPEL ME (TO) SAFEGUARD (THE) COMMUNITY.”



ORIGINAL

1940-01-24 To May Maxwell re Trip to Buenos Aires

The Maxwells of Montreal Vol II, Violette Nakhjavani, p357-8

He wants me to tell you how very happy and pleased he is over your trip to South America. I remember one day about a year ago in speaking of the teaching work the Bahá'ís were doing there, the Guardian said it would be very good for you to do work there — and now of your own accord you are doing this! He wants me to tell you not to stay too long away from home. He has no desire that you should make a prolonged visit there, but feels that during the winter the climate there is better for your health and at the same time you are rendering the Cause a wonderful service. Above all Shoghi Effendi wants you to be careful of your health and have that as your first consideration.

Another thing Shoghi Effendi wants me to tell you is that you should concentrate your teaching work in one spot and devote your effort to consolidating it, not dissipate your time and energies over different places. Also when you leave for home you are to go straight home to America and not stop off at different places! ...

Your spontaneous response to the call of teaching in distant fields, despite the condition of your health, is indeed a further & still more striking evidence of your marvelous devotion to the Cause & your unquenchable enthusiasm for whatever may promote its truest & best interests. My special prayers will accompany & surround you & Jeanne in your highly meritorious enterprise. For your success, your good health & protection, as well as for the welfare of Mr. Maxwell I will supplicate our beloved Master while you are rendering Him such splendid services. Mary is so happy & proud of the spirit you are so powerfully manifesting. She is progressing in every way & speaking Persian fluently. You should be happy, thankful & assured. Affectionately

Shoghi



1940-02-27 To Townshend to Write Tribute to Marie for BW with Suggestions

Her Eternal Crown: Queen Marie of Romania and the Bahá'í Faith, Della L Marcus, pp277-9

The Guardian wishes me now to request you to kindly prepare a detailed article concerning the late Queen Marie of Romania, which he wishes to reproduce, together with some other material regarding her, in the next issue of 'The Bahá'í World'. He would like you to send him the article in about a month's time, and if not he can wait a month more. As you have already contributed articles to the previous volumes of the Biennial (Volumes II, III, IV, V, VI and VII), and these have been widely appreciated by the friends, he thinks you would be encouraged to undertake writing the article in question.

As material for your study he would suggest the following:

1. The Queen's own statements published in Volume VII of 'The Bahá'í World', pages 498-501.
1. Tribute paid to Her Majesty by the Guardian and reproduced in Volume II of The Bahá'í World, pages 173-174.
1. Article by Miss Martha Root in 'Bahá'í World' Volume VI, pages 580-583.
1. Enclosed article by Mrs McNeill, a childhood friend of the Queen, published in 'World Order' magazine.
1. Enclosed letter addressed to the Guardian by Her Majesty, dated August 27, 1926. Special reference should be made to that letter in view of the far-reaching significance of its references to the Faith.

The Guardian would further recommend that the following facts and data should be incorporated into your article:

1. The late Queen Marie was the granddaughter of both Queen Victoria and Czar Alexander II of Russia, to both of whom Bahá'u'lláh revealed Tablets in which He appreciatively referred to them, unlike His Tablets to Napoleon III, and His references to the King of Prussia, and the Emperor of Austria in the Kitáb-i-Aqdas. The illuminated copy of Bahá'u'lláh's Tablet to Queen Victoria was presented to her by Lady Blomfield in London.
1. The Queen and her daughter intended to visit the Bahá'í Shrines in Bahjí and on Mount Carmel, and they reached Haifa with that intention, but were deterred from doing so, as testified by the Queen herself in the following passage of a letter she wrote Miss Martha Root on June 28, 1931: 'Both Ileana and I were cruelly disappointed at having been prevented going to the holy Shrines and of meeting Shoghi Effendi, but at that time we were going through a cruel crisis and every movement I made was being turned against me, and being politically exploited in an unkind way. It caused me a good deal of suffering and curtailed my liberty most unkindly ... But the beauty of truth remains and I cling to it through all the vicissitudes of a life become rather sad.'
1. In July 1938, in connection with the Queen's death, the Guardian on behalf of all the Bahá'ís sent a message of condolences to her daughter, the Queen of Yugoslavia, to which Her Majesty replied expressing 'sincere thanks to all Bahá'í followers.'
1. Bahá'ís in various countries held memorial gatherings in her honour. In the U.S.A. flowers were sent for the memorial service in Washington. The letter sent on behalf of the American National Spiritual Assembly to the Romanian Minister in Washington is enclosed for your information.
1. The Queen has made unequivocal assertion in one of her seven statements of her faith of the divine authority of both Bahá'u'lláh and the Prophet Muḥammad, as a result of her study of the Bahá'í Writings. The Guardian wishes you to quote the passage in one of the seven statements referring to Prophet Muḥammad.

1. The following passage from another letter addressed by the Queen to Miss Martha Root, dated June 8, 1926, should be incorporated in toto in your article: 'The beautiful truth of Bahá'u'lláh is with me always, a help and inspiration. What I wrote was because my heart overflowed with gratitude for the revelation you brought me. I am happy if you think I helped. I thought it might bring truth nearer because my words are read by so many.'

With renewed thanks from the Guardian for your invaluable help, and with his warmest love and greetings ...



– 934 –

1940-02-27 Use of Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds

USBN #136 June 1940, p3

While the National Office in Wilmette, designated by the Guardian as Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, is primarily an administrative center, its use should by no means be confined to purely administrative work, but should include such activities of a social and intellectual character, both local and national, as can best establish its character as the foremost teaching and administrative center of the Faith throughout the States.

In the conduct of any social activity at the National Office, however, great care should be taken to maintain strictly the dignity of the place, particularly in view of its proximity to the House of Worship, which makes it doubly essential for all the believers to conform to the standards of conduct, and of social intercourse set up in the Bahá'í Teachings.

As a teaching center, where Bahá'í lectures, conferences and meetings, whether local, regional or national, could be held, the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds can also prove of invaluable help, and the .S.A. should indeed see to it that the necessary facilities are provided in the building for that purpose.

By thus combining these three features, namely teaching, administrative and social, the Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds can best fulfil its mission, as the visible symbol of the steadily-growing national Bahá'í Community in Northern America, and as the chief rallying center for all its activities and plans throughout that Continent.

SHOGHI EFFENDI, through his secretary, February 27,



1940-03-02 To Sutherland Maxwell on Passing of May

The Maxwells of Montreal Vol II, Violette Nakhjavani, p368

GRIEVED PROFOUNDLY YET COMFORTED ABIDING REALIZATION BEFITTING ONE SO NOBLE
SUCH VALIANT EXEMPLARY SERVICE CAUSE BAHÁ'U'LLÁH STOP RUHIYYIH THOUGH ACUTELY
CONSCIOUS IRREPARABLE LOSS REJOICES REVERENTLY GRATEFUL IMMORTAL CROWN
DESERVEDLY WON HER ILLUSTRIOUS MOTHER STOP ADVISE INTERMENT BUENOS AIRES
STOP HER TOMB DESIGNED BY YOURSELF ERECTED BY ME SPOT SHE FOUGHT FELL
GLORIOUSLY WILL BECOME HISTORIC CENTRE PIONEERS BAHÁ'Í ACTIVITY STOP MOST
WELCOME ARRANGE AFFAIRS RESIDE HAIFA STOP BE ASSURED DEEPEST LOVING
SYMPATHY SHOGHI



1940-04-06 Max and Inez Greeven

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp42

Max and Inez Greeven, 6 April 1940

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Greeven,

Your joint and eagerly-awaited message dated March 25th was indeed most welcome, and the Guardian was truly heartened by its perusal, and rejoiced to know that you are both keeping well, and are continually exerting your utmost for the spread of the Cause in Holland. You should rest assured that your painstaking efforts will in time bear fruit, and should not feel discouraged therefore if you have not so far succeeded in accomplishing any tangible results. Now is the time of seed sowing, and consequently one of slow and painful progress. But the harvest which the future shall reap will be incalculably rich, and great will also be your reward for having so unremittingly toiled in bringing it about....

Renewing to you both his prayers for your protection and safety in these trying times, and with the seasons warmest greetings.

Yours ever sincerely, H. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-workers:

I wish to assure you in person of my special prayers for your protection in these days of increasing stress and peril. I hope and pray that, despite the prevailing gloom, you may be graciously assisted by the spirit of our Beloved to win over to the Faith a few souls who, however small their number; may be able to lay a firm foundation for the glorious work destined to be

accomplished in the days to come. May He inspire you and sustain you always. Your true and grateful brother; Shoghi



– 937 –

1940-04-07 Nancy Bowditch re Passing May Maxwell

“The Artist’s Daughter”, Nancy Douglas Bowditch, p260-1

1. Letter from The Guardian via H. Rabbání to Nancy Bowditch. Dated April 7th, 1940.

Dear Mrs. Bowditch,

Your loving message of the 25th March has duly arrived, and kind words of sympathy you had expressed on the occasion of the death of our beloved and distinguished sister Mrs. May Maxwell have imparted deep comfort to the grief-stricken heart of our beloved Guardian.

He truly appreciates your thoughtfulness in thus expressing to him your sorrow over the passing of such a devoted, loyal and spiritually outstanding handmaid of the Cause, and feels profoundly grateful to you, and to those dear and faithful friends who too have joined in conveying to him their utter grief in this very sad bereavement

Mrs. Maxwells departure, so sudden and unexpected, is indeed most significant in the circumstances that have attended it. That she should, in spite of her advanced age and her ill-health, have embarked on so long and tiring a journey to so remote a center as Buenos-Aires, and should have left this world away from her friends and relatives is in itself sufficient proof of the tenacity of her faith, and of her selfless and utter consecration to the service of our beloved Cause. Her death has been indeed that of a martyr, comparable only to that which in recent years Mrs. Keith Ransom-Kehler so courageously met while working for the Faith in Is[f]páhán.

May the memory of so glorious a life ever live in the consciousness of the believers, and serve also to inspire future generations of believers to faithfully follow its truly noble example.

The Guardian was pleased to note the very appreciative references you had felt prompted to make regarding our dear sisters Miss Louise Drake Wright and Mrs. Nelson her sister, and wishes you to assure them both how he too appreciates the services which they are jointly engaged in rendering the Cause in Boston. His continued prayer is that they may ever be strengthened in their selfless and loving exertions in its path.

Assuring you also of his prayers, and with the warmest Bahá’í love and greetings,

Yours in His Service,

H. Rabbání.

Note in Shoghi Effendi’s handwriting:

May the Beloved guide you and bless and protect you at all times and under all circumstances, and enable you to follow up the work our dear and valiant Bahá'í sister Mrs. Maxwell has so noble initiated and accomplished.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi.



– 938 –

1940-04-07 To Nancy Bowditch re Passing of May Maxwell

The Artist's Daughter, Nancy Douglas Bowditch, p260-1

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Your loving message of the 25th March has duly arrived, and kind words of sympathy you had expressed on the occasion of the death of our beloved and distinguished sister Mrs. May Maxwell have imparted deep comfort to the grief-stricken heart of our beloved Guardian.

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Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi.



– 939 –

1940-04-11 Action on Pylons & Maxwell Memorial

USBN #136 June 1940, p13

“Delighted immediate action (on) pylons. Prompted urge, if not too uneconomical, (to) proceed (with the) completion (of) one face. Complete (the) remainder (in) manner most advisable. Welcome contemplated memorial gathering. Moved (to) invite national representatives (and) community join me contribute (to) construction (of) grave being designed (by) Mr. Maxwell at such (a) significant spot for so outstanding (a) pioneer during such momentous stage (in the) dynamic expansion (of the) Faith (of) Bahá'u'lláh.”

— - — April 11, 1940

Memorial is ref to memorial to May Maxwell



– 940 –

1940-04-15 Various to USNSA

USBN #137 July 1940, p3

“In the matter of the use and distribution of prayer beads, in this and other matters of secondary importance he does not wish that any hard and fast rules be set up. The believers should not be required to use prayer beads, nor should they be prevented from doing so, as the Teachings do not contain any specific instruction on the subject.”

“The letter received by the Vancouver Assembly from the Department of National Defence acknowledging their letter on the subject of the exemption of Bahá'ís from combatant military duty has been read with gratification by the Guardian who, indeed, welcomes this action as yet another step forward in the consolidation and recognition of the administrative institutions of the Faith.”

“Regarding the question of Bahá’í membership in secret fraternal organizations: he thinks that for the present this matter should be left to the discretion of the friends, and that no statement on the subject, defining in a rigid and uniform way their attitude towards such bodies, would be necessary.”

to USNSA 15 Apr 1940



– 941 –

1940-04-22 Main Story Ornamentation of the Temple

USBN #139 October 1940, p2

“The stone casting representing the window head of the main story ornamentation of the Temple which you had shipped on board the American Export Liner ‘Excalibur’ was safely received only two days ago, and was found in excellent condition. It has already, at the guardian’s direction, been placed at the entrance to the garden adjoining the Shrine of the Báb. The size of the casting, and the intricate and beautiful designs, and the excellent location it has been given, are such as to highly impress all visitors. It makes indeed a most befitting and dignified exhibit, and is bound to awaken considerable interest in the Cause. The Guardian feels most grateful to the N. S. A. for their gift, which constitutes indeed one more tangible proof of the bonds of undying devotion and attachment that so indissolubly unites them with the world-center of the Faith in the Holy Land.”

— SHOGHI EFFENDI, through his secretary, to Allen B. McDaniel, Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly,

April 22,

Two views of this casting in the garden at Haifa were published in Bahá’í News for September,



– 942 –

1940-04-xx To Lee & Margot Worley on Passing of May Maxwell

The Maxwells of Montreal Vol II, Violette Nakhjavani, p371

May the beloved of our hearts aid you to work as devotedly and unremittingly as our dearly-loved and valiant pioneer, Mrs. Maxwell, and aid you to carry on the work for which she gave her life, and thus set so noble an example to those who will labour after her in the Divine Vineyard.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 943 –

1940-05-07 New Trans of Son of the Wolf

USBN #137 July 1940, p4

The first part of Shoghi Effendi's translation of Epistle To the Son of the Wolf was received in a letter dated May 7, 1940, with the following comment:

"A careful comparison of this new translation of the Guardian with that of Mrs. Chanler's clearly reveals how inadequate and misleading the latter is both from the point of view of accuracy and of faithfulness. It further shows how unconscientious Aḥmad Sohrab has been in comparing that old translation with the original Persian and Arabic text of the Tablet. His description in the preface of the book of Mrs. Chanler's rendering as 'accurate' and 'faithful' is altogether untrue, as not only her translation abounds with mistakes, but also reveals many important omissions. The term 'Fear of God' has apparently been deliberately changed in some cases into 'Love of God' towards the end of the book, as the French version which she translated proves (it)."



– 944 –

1940-05-15 Various to USNSA

USBN #138 Sept 1940, p1

In connection with the selection of particular photographs of 'Abdu'l-Bahá for circulation among the friends, the Guardian strongly feels that no definite ruling should be laid down establishing the superiority or distinction of any particular photograph. The friends should be left quite free to use their individual independent judgment in this matter.

The Guardian does not advise your Assembly to authorize for the present the use of Bahá'í historical material in the radio program ... ; nor does he think the time is ripe to translate and publish Bahá'í certificates of marriage and divorce. He prefers to wait until a sufficient number of

Assemblies have been empowered to conduct legally these Bahá'í rites. When the time comes he will formulate the proper form of certificate for universal adoption by the American believers.

In connection with the formation of new Assemblies and the maintenance of their Assembly status, the Guardian wishes to reaffirm the general principle that only those who reside within the city limits of any given locality have the right to either vote or be elected as member of the Assembly, even though this may involve frequent dissolution of the Assembly owing to insufficient number of members. It will, on the other hand, serve as a stimulus to those outside these limits to establish a group and eventually an Assembly of their own. This principle should be closely adhered to, otherwise it will lead to confusion and overlapping.

Regarding the age of fifteen fixed by Bahá'u'lláh: this relates only to purely spiritual functions and obligations and is not related to the degree of administrative capacity and fitness which is a totally different thing, and is, for the present, fixed at twenty-one.

Regarding Naw-Rúz: if the vernal equinox falls on the 21st of March before sunset, it is celebrated on that day. If at any time after sunset, Naw-Rúz will then, as stated by Bahá'u'lláh, fall on the 22nd. As to which spot should be regarded as the standard, this is a matter which the Universal House of Justice will have to decide. The American N.S.A. need not therefore take any action in this matter at present.

Haifa, May 15,



– 945 –

1940-05-27 Response to Difficulties of Rúḥání Family in Dáráb

Against Incredible Odds, pp93-4

Dáráb, Jináb-i Áqá Mírzá Muḥammad-Shafí Rúḥání, the pilgrim from Nayríz, upon him be Bahá'u'lláhu'l-Abhá

The letter of that dear spiritual friend dated 10 Shahru'-Bahá attained the loving glance of His Highness, the Guardian of the Cause of God, may our spirits be sacrificed for him, and the details of the circumstances you have described became known in his illumined and spotless presence. He beseeches divine favours and hopes that the resultant difficulties may be vanquished, that your affairs may improve, that Gods mercy, blessings and bestowals may surround you, that you may be successful in rendering service to the Cause of God and that you are able to manage your affairs with absolute confidence and reliance [on God], directing your full attention to Him.

It is hoped that heavenly assistance may come to your aid and that all the troubles and hardships you have endured may not be wasted and may produce the desired result. In all

circumstances the glance of his loving-kindness and generosity has been and will continue to be directed towards you. Be assured and joyous.

Your esteemed wife Amatu'lláh Túbá Khánum, your honourable mother Amatu'lláh Núríyyih Khánum, your brothers Áqá Mírzá Khaíl, Áqá Mírzá Jalál and Áqá Mírzá 'Alí-Akbar, and your dear children, Mírzá Masíh Rúhání, Shamsud-Duhá, Nayyirih, Pourán-dukht, Mahíndukht and Baharieh, were all mentioned by the tongue of compassion and loving-kindness. He beseeches on behalf of all divine assistance, confirmation, success and easing of affairs.

Written at the instruction of his blessed self, 11 Shahrul — Azamat 97 be, 27 May 16. Núrud-Dín Zayn.

Postscript in the handwriting of Shoghi Effendi:

Was seen. The Servant of His Threshold, Shoghi. 73



– 946 –

1940-08-22 Ismailiyyih Reports Believers Assigned Cemetery.

USBN #139 October 1940, p2

Cablegram from Shoghi Effendi

Ismailiyyih reports believers assigned cemetery. Authorized building. Rejoicing with American community (at) striking evidence (of the) resistless march (of the) ever-expanding, consolidating Bahá'í world order.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Received August 22,

Note: Believers in Muslim countries have not previously been permitted to have separate Bahá'í cemeteries. The building authorized is the supplementary administrative building now under construction at Wilmette.



1940-08-23 Tribute to Florence Morton

USBN #139 October 1940, p2

“Congratulate Florence Morton (on the) imperishable honor (of) association through magnificent donation (with completion of) last faces (of) remaining units (of) historic House (of) Worship. Inexpressibly rejoice (at) simultaneous evidences (of) astounding acceleration (of) ornamentation, vigorous prosecution (of) teaching enterprises, (and) visible expansion (of) newly-formed nucleus (of) Administrative Seat. Bahá’í world vibrates (with) emotion (at) phenomenal successes enabling, in (a) declining age, (the) high-minded, greathearted champions (of) Faith (to) enlarge limits, reinforce fabric (and) insure future greatness (of) Divinely-ordained institutions.”

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Sent 23 Aug 1940



1940-10-21 Completion of Pylons

USBN #140 December 1940

Delighted (at) completion (of) pylons, overjoyed (at) Fred and Lord's valuable, generous donation. Assure them (of my) deep felt appreciation.

Shoghi Rabbání.

Cablegram received October 21,



1940-11-03 To Raymond Rouse on Becoming a Bahá’í

[Growing Up Bahá’í, Diana Rouse Kaufman, pp195-6]

(Written on behalf of the Guardian to Mr. Raymond C. Rouse)

November 3rd, 1940

Dear Bahá'í Brother;

I am instructed by our beloved Guardian to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated July 17th conveying to him the welcome news of your confirmation in the Bahá'í Faith.

It indeed rejoices his heart to know that through contact with our dear & devoted sister Mrs. Baker you have been introduced to the Bahá'í Teachings, & after careful study & investigation have taken the decision to fully and unreservedly identify yourself with the Cause. He wishes me to heartily congratulate you upon the success of your efforts, & also to express his admiration and gratitude to both Mr. & Mrs. Clarence E. Baker for having been instrumental in bringing you so close to the Faith. His earnest hope & prayer is that through continued association with these devoted souls you will deepen spiritually & get better grounded in the Teachings, & thereby become in turn a pure & effective channel for the propagation of the Message.

The Guardian will specially pray that the opportunity you have had recently presenting the Message to the Bible Class may afford you the full chance you need to bring the Cause to the attention of many individuals of true spiritual capacity, & that you may also thereby acquire the full training necessary for wider & effective service to the teaching field in the future.

Assuring you again of his loving appreciation of your very heartening message, with greetings,

Yours in His service,

R. Rabbání

(and in the Guardians own handwriting)

May the Beloved bless richly your efforts, deepen your understanding of the essentials of His Faith, aid you to promote effectively its vital interests.

Your true brother; Shoghi



– 950 –

1940-11-07 Situation in Middle East

USBN #141 January 1941 p1-2

It will certainly rejoice your heart to know that notwithstanding the difficulties created by the war situation, the Cause in the countries neighboring the Holy Land is making steady headway. In Damascus where the friends are well advanced with their plans for the purchase of a plot of land as site for their future Ḥaẓíratu'l-Quds, and in Egypt where the authorities have at last granted, though only to two of our communities in Cairo and Isma'liyyih, special burial grounds, the prospect appears to be particularly bright and promising. This glad-tiding will assuredly impart infinite joy to all our American friends, and stir them to scale still nobler heights of self-sacrifice in service to our Cause."

SHOGHI EFFENDI, through his secretary, November 7, 1940, in letter to Mrs. Thomas Collins.



– 951 –

1940-11-20 Effect of War Conditions

USBN #143 May 1941 pp2

The Guardian will pray that the general conditions outside the Cause and the inevitable repercussions which further deterioration in the international situation might bring on America, will not reach such a point as to seriously hinder the friends in bringing this enterprise (i.e., Temple construction) to full completion.

The concern you have expressed for the Guardian following recent air raids on Haifa. has deeply touched and moved him, and he wishes me to assure you that no casualties whatever have been suffered by any of the believers here, and that all Bahá'í properties and institutions, including the Holy Shrines, have been spared. No doubt, Bahá'u'lláh will continue to vouchsafe His unfailing protection to the believers in every land, how much more to those who are directly and more particularly associated with the administration of the affairs of His Faith, whether at its world-center in the Holy Land or abroad.

From letter dated November 20, 1940, written through the Guardian's Secretary to Allen B. McDaniel.



– 952 –

1940-11-21 Position of America in Coming War

USBN #137 July 1940, p4

With the Guardian's consent, the National Assembly publishes an excerpt from the letter written by him to Miss Juliet Thompson on November 21, 24. In giving permission, the Guardian informed the Assembly that "it should be published only for the information of the friends, and does not imply any collective action to be taken by them."

"With regard to your question concerning the future position of America in the coming world war: it would be certainly premature to make any definite forecast at the present time, and the impression¹ that the Guardian meant that America would be necessarily drawn into the field of hostilities is also not correct. One thing, however, is absolutely certain, and which the Guardian

¹ The impression that the last section of The Advent of Divine Justice means that America will inevitably enter the war.

himself has more than once emphasized, namely that nothing short of a full assumption by America of the grievous burdens, responsibilities and duties that naturally fall upon her as one of the leading nations of the world can enable her to fulfil the high political mission which she has been called upon to play in the future political and social reconstruction of mankind. The destiny of America is inseparably bound up with that of the rest of the world, and it would be impossible therefore to conceive of her taking, in the long run, a purely passive attitude in regard to political and social developments that transpire in and agitate the remaining four continents of the globe."



– 953 –

1940-12-02 re Funds

USBN #143 May 1941 pp2

Kindly assure the National Assembly of his deepest appreciation of their very generous offering which he will use for the promotion of vital international interests of the Faith. A separate receipt duly signed by him is enclosed for your files ...

He hopes and will continue to pray that the flow of contributions to the Temple Fund will remain uninterrupted, nay, will so increase as to insure the full consummation of this glorious and sacred undertaking at the appointed time.

From letter dated December 2, 1940, Written through the Guardian's Secretary to Roy C. Wilhelm.



– 954 –

1940-12-13 Work on Temple and Grounds

USBN #143 May 1941 pp2

Dear and Valued Co-Worker:

The successive communications, whether letters or cables, that have lately been received from the States, whether from the National Assembly or individual believers, eloquently proclaim the magnificent spirit and the remarkable achievements of the American believers. I rejoice and feel deeply thankful for these blessings of Bahá'u'lláh vouchsafed to them in these days of ever-increasing stress and turmoil.

The Guardian's postscript to letter below.

He has been again most pleased to note that the Temple work is making steady and speedy progress, and that the Trustees hope that the nine faces of the main story ornamentation will be completed by the latter part of next year.

The news of the completion of the reinforced concrete walls, of the entrance ways and areaways, has also been most encouraging to him, and he too hopes that this will now make it possible to go ahead with the grading of the grounds, and also with their seeding, so that by next spring the Temple grounds will look as attractive as possible, especially in view of the great flow of delegates and visitors which the Temple would attract at that time of the year.

As regards the construction of the accessory building, adjacent to the caretaker's house in the Temple area, the Guardian would urge that every effort should be made to have the building ready as soon as possible for use as headquarters of both the Treasurer and of the Publishing Committee. The transfer of these committees to the vicinity of the Temple and of the Ḥaẓírat'sul-Quds is indeed a step of historic significance and one which is bound to increasing the efficiency and heighten the prestige of the national administrative institutions of the Faith in America.

From letter dated December 13, 1940, written through the Guardian's Secretary to Allen B. McDaniel.



– 955 –

1941-01-18 Construction Work

USBN #143 May 1941 pp2

He is fully pleased with the work so far accomplished, and hopes that by now the first three faces of the main story have been duly completed. He has now every reason to believe that should the present rate of progress in the ornamentation work be maintained throughout the coming year, and should the flow of contributions be as steady and substantial as it has been so far, the entire edifice will be completed far ahead of the schedule, thus giving still another striking evidence of the unremitting zeal and inexhaustible resourcefulness that have been so remarkably and so consistently displayed by the American believers in their collective exertions for the termination of this unique, and indeed historic enterprise.

The photographs you had kindly sent showing the progress of the various construction activities were indeed excellent, and the Guardian has distributed some of them to various pilgrims from Írán who, upon their return home, will no doubt share them with the rest of the believers. They will all derive much needed comfort and encouragement from these pictures, and will surely be further strengthened in their resolve to courageously face and patiently endure the many trials and tribulations to which they are being increasingly subjected.

From letter dated January 18, 1941, written through the Guardian's Secretary to Allen B. McDaniel.

1941-02-02 Regional Teaching Committees

USBN #143 May 1941 pp3

It is his considered view that the Regional Teaching Committees, though appointed by the N. S. A. should be directly responsible to the National Teaching Committee, inasmuch as this body's specific task is to supervise, direct and coordinate, under the general guidance of the N. S. A., all teaching activities throughout the U. S. A. and Canada.

The N. S. A.'s final jurisdiction over both the National Teaching Committee and the Regional Teaching Committees is certainly indisputable, and is of the same nature and character as the authority to which it is entitled over all other national committees.

The Regional Teaching Committees should henceforth be asked to send their reports directly to the National Teaching Committee, and to ask for their directions as to the most effective way they can carry on their respective teaching tasks. By so doing, the National Teaching Committee will undoubtedly help in relieving the N. S. A. of unnecessary details, and will also avoid duplication and congestion of work, particularly now that the N. S. A. is assuming such great responsibilities under the Seven Year Plan.

From letter dated February 2, 1941, written through the Guardian's Secretary.

1941-02-03 State of the National Fund

USBN #143 May 1941 pp2

Regarding the state of the National Fund, which you have reported as suffering from a general slackness in contributions from both individual believers and the local Assemblies and groups. It is only evident that unless the flow of donations is regularly maintained by means of generous and continual support by all the believers, individually and collectively, the National Fund will never be able to meet the needs and requirements of the Cause. particularly in these days when the national activities of the American believers are assuming such wide and increasing proportions.

From letter dated February 3, 1941, written through the Guardian's Secretary to Roy C. Wilhelm.

1941-02-xx To Race Unity Committee

USBN #152 April 1942 p2-3

In the matter of teaching, as repeatedly and emphatically stated, particularly in his 'Advent of Divine Justice', the Guardian does not wish the believers to make the slightest discrimination, even though this may result in provoking opposition or criticism from any individual, class or institution. The call of Bahá'u'lláh, being universal, should be addressed with equal force to all the peoples, classes and nations of the world, irrespective of any religious, racial, political or class distinction or difference.

"In America, where racial prejudice is still so widely prevalent, it is the responsibility of the believers to combat and uproot it with all their force, first by endeavoring to introduce into the Cause as many racial and minority groups as they can approach and teach, and second by stimulating close fellowship and intercourse between them and the rest of the community.

"It should be the paramount concern of your committee to foster this aim through every means available. Not only the colored people, who because of the increasing receptivity they are evincing to the Message truly deserve special attention, but all other minorities, whether racial or religious, such as Jews or Red Indians, all alike should be contacted and confirmed. The greater the receptivity of a particular class or group, the stronger should work the desire and determination of the believers to attract and teach its members. In a time when the whole world is steeped in prejudices of race, class and nation, the Bahá'ís, by upholding firmly and loyally this cardinal principle of their Faith, can best hope to vindicate its truth, and establish its right to bring order and peace out of the chaos and strife of this war-torn world."

— From letter to Mrs. Dorothy Baker, Chairman, Race Unity Committee,

February, 1941



1941-03-12 Pageants are of Value to the Cause

"The Artist's Daughter", Nancy Douglas Bowditch, p261-2

1. Letter from The Guardian via R. Rabbání to Nancy Bowditch. Dated Haifa, March 12th, 1941.

Dear Mrs. Bowditch:

Shoghi Effendi has asked me to answer your kind letter of Jan. 27th, and to thank you for the enclosed photographs of the pageant held in Green Acre.

As you already know, he considers such pageants of value to the Cause and of interest to Bahá'is and non-Bahá'is alike, and he is pleased to hear that your work is making progress every year.

He was also very pleased with the news of the work in Brookline and Ann Arbor. The truly wonderful progress the Faith is making in America, North and South, is a source of great encouragement to him—especially now that the conditions in Europe have temporarily suspended so many Bahá'í activities.

So far the copy of the pageant "Fountain of Light" has not reached the Guardian, but perhaps it will take more time than a letter and the mails, of course, are slow.

He wishes me to assure you of his prayers always for your devoted services to our beloved Faith which you are ever rendering.

In closing I send my love to you and dear Polly too — when you see

Ever yours,

R. Rabbání.

Note in Shoghi Effendis handwriting:

May the Almighty guide your steps, fulfil your hopes, reinforce your efforts, and enable you to enlarge the scope, and consolidate the foundations of this important sphere of Bahá'í activity, in which you are so devotedly engaged.

Your true brother,

Shoghi.



– 960 –

1941-03-12 To Nancy Bowditch re Pageants

The Artist's Daughter, Nancy Douglas Bowditch, p261-2

Dear Mrs. Bowditch:

Shoghi Effendi has asked me to answer your kind letter of Jan. 27th, and to thank you for the enclosed photographs of the pageant held in Green Acre.

As you already know, he considers such pageants of value to the Cause and of interest to Bahá'is and non-Bahá'is alike, and he is pleased to hear that your work is making progress every year.

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encouragement to him-especially now that the conditions in Europe have temporarily suspended so many Bahá'í activities.

So far the copy of the pageant "Fountain of Light" has not reached the Guardian, but perhaps it will take more time than a letter and the mails, of course, are slow.

He wishes me to assure you of his prayers always for your devoted services to our beloved Faith which you are ever rendering.

In closing I send my love to you and dear Polly too-when you see her.

Ever yours,

R. Rabbání.

May the Almighty guide your steps, fulfil your hopes, reinforce your efforts, and enable you to enlarge the scope, and consolidate the foundations of this important sphere of Bahá'í activity, in which you are so devotedly engaged.

Your true brother,

Shoghi.



– 961 –

1941-04-19 On Behalf of to an Individual re 'Abdu'l-Bahás Statement About Socrates

Socrates #10

Compiled By Research Department Of The Universal House Of Justice.

'Abdu'l-Bahá stated that Socrates visited the Jewish doctors and imbibed the wisdom of the Hebrew Prophets. At present in the library here we have no books substantiating this statement. However as we know that the Master asserted its truth, no doubt historical evidence will be forthcoming in the future to support it.



– 962 –

1941-04-19 Tribute to Marion Jack

USBN #143 May 1941 pp1-2

Assure Marion Jack (my) loving, fervent prayers (and) high admiration (of) her heroic perseverance, noble courage (and) exemplary stewardship (of the) Cause (of) Bahá'u'lláh. Much impressed (by) superbly conceived, courageously outspoken, truly inspired statement embodied in general letter pages two to four in Australian Bahá'í Quarterly. Advise publication (in its) entirety this letter (in) American Bahá'í News. Regard it best answer to certain believers requesting clarification (of) statement entitled "Grace That Sustains" in June Bahá'í News. Advise read full text (of) letter (at) Convention.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Cablegram received April 19,



– 963 –

1941-04-23 To Bádíulláh Khán of Abádih re Four Questions

Abstract:

Answers four questions: (1) re "Crimson Scroll"; (2) re the "Sacred Night"; (3) re the "Tablet of the Bell"; and (4) using the Kitáb-i-Aqdas for bibliomancy.

Notes:

Sec. Shoghi Effendi/Jináb-i-Áqá Mírzá Bádí'u'lláh Khán of Abádih. 23 April 1941, in hand of Núru'd-Dín Zayn.²

Letter to Jináb-i-Áqá Mírzá Bádí'u'lláh Khán of Abádih

by Shoghi Effendi

translated by Juan Cole.

1997-05

The letter put forward by that spiritual and dear friend dated 9 Bahman 1319 has come to the attention of the Guardian of the Cause of God, may our spirits be his sacrifice. The four questions concerning which you asked the favor of a reply from the most holy court were accepted and honored with a response.

². Ma'idih-yi-Asmaní, 3:1 (JC's note).

With regard to the crimson scroll mentioned in the unapproachable Tablets,³ he said, "Write that 'Abdu'l-Bahá' said that the original intent of the 'Crimson Scroll' is the Tablet of the Covenant, that is, the Book of the Covenant."⁴

As for the Sacred Night, the recitation of blessed prayers and Tablets revealed for that night every year, and the inclusion of that night in the Bahá'í calendar, he said: "Write that it is permitted, but including it on the Bahá'í calendar is not required at the present time."

As concerns the blessed Tablet of the Bell, and the story of how it was revealed, he said: "Write that this Tablet was revealed in Istanbul at the request of Áqá Muḥammad-'Alí Iṣfahání as conveyed by 'Abdu'l-Bahá'. This Tablet was written out by the Blessed Beauty⁵ in His Own hand on the night of 5 Jumada al-Ulá, the night the Báb received His mission. Reciting this Tablet on that very blessed night is beloved and acceptable."

With regard to the last question, about a situation in which the means of consultation is absent and one has trouble making up one's mind about an important matter, you asked, "How should one consult the Most Holy Book for the purpose of soothsaying?"

He said, "In such a situation it is necessary and requisite that one turn with complete attention, in the spirit of seeking help, to the source of grace and inspiration, and to no one else. If it is possible to delay a bit in making one's decision until such time as consultation can be undertaken, this is better and more appropriate."

Written at his blessed behest.

15 Jalál 98

23 April 1941

Núru'd-Dín Zayn

Seen: Shoghi Effendi



– 964 –

1941-05-02 Assemblys Supreme Objective

USBN #143 May 1941 pp2

³. i.e. The 'Crimson Book'. See Epistle to the Son of the Wolf, p. 32; Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh Revealed After the Kitáb-i-Aqdas, p. 89, 90, 242 (MF's note).

⁴. See Directives from the Guardian, #46 (MF's note).

⁵. Bahá'u'lláh (JC's note).

Newly elected Assembly's supreme objective (is) steadily direct energies, energetically coordinate enterprises, fan (the) flame (of) enthusiasm, remove impediments (in) progress (of the) teaching activities (of the) Bahá'í communities (of the) Americas. Praying unprecedented success.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Cablegram received May 2,



– 965 –

1941-05-04 Fund Story; Teaching

USBN #144 June 1941 p2-3

"Indeed the splendid spirit that animates the American believers these days is a great source of joy and inspiration of the Guardian, and as the good news comes in of new victories won and new sacrifices made, one can see his spirits rise and a wave of new strength sweep over him.- tired and over-burdened as he so often is.

In this connection the letter you so thoughtfully enclosed from that dear Bahá'í who gave the difference in the price of a cheap or expensive coffin to the Fund of the Cause, greatly touched him. Such sacrifices prove the caliber of the friends and insure the very foundations of the Faith.

"In view of the increasingly dark condition of the world the Guardian feels that the N. S. A. should direct all its energies to fostering the teaching work, that no time may be lost in the fulfilment of their task which is of such paramount importance for the future."

by the Guardian through his secretary to the National Treasurer: Haifa, May 4,



– 966 –

1941-05-22 Florence Mortons Donation & Inter-American Campaign

USBN #144 June 1941 p2

Extremely delighted (at) Florence Morton's magnificent, timely donation. Assure her (my) deepest appreciation. Greatly welcome opportunity afforded Assembly (to) concentrate henceforth entire resources (on) all-important national (and) Inter-America teaching campaigns and expedite publication (of The) Bahá'í World. Praying signal victories.

Cablegram received May 22,



– 967 –

1941-05-25 Various to USNSA

USBN #145 July 1941 p2-4

It is in view of this constant expansion and increasing complexity of the inter-continental activities of the Faith, for which your Assembly has assumed a primary responsibility, that the Guardian has lately re-emphasized the necessity of avoiding over-centralization in the conduct of the affairs of the Cause, thereby relieving your Assembly of an unmanageable amount of detail and routine work, which would interfere with its clear and paramount duty of maintaining a thorough and vigilant supervision over the work of the Cause as a whole. Excessive decentralization, on the other hand, would tend to nullify the principle which places ultimate authority and responsibility in the hands of the National Spiritual Assembly. His recent instruction regarding the relationship of the Regional Teaching Committees to the National Teaching Committee safeguards this principle which lies at the very basis of the Administrative Order. The Regional Committees, although appointed by the N.S.A. should, unlike all other committees, be viewed as special adjuncts created specifically for the purpose of helping directly the National Teaching Committee in its all-important task of stimulating the teaching activities of the Faith in North America. In a sense they are subcommittees of the National Teaching Committee, to whom their reports and all details of the national teaching activity should be constantly and directly referred.

At the present time, in view of the emphasis placed by the Guardian on the teaching phase of the Seven Year Plan, the National Teaching and Inter-America committees acquire great importance and assume added responsibility, and should be supported and encouraged by both the N.S.A. as well as the rank and file of the believers. The resources of the entire community and of the National Fund should be consecrated to this supreme and sacred purpose. The importance acquired by these two committees, however, does not make of them independent bodies, or give them the right to disregard the advice and the general directions of the N.S.A. Otherwise a conflict of authority would ensue within the administration, introducing an evil as pernicious as the tendency to over-centralize the affairs of the Cause in the hands of an over-burdened N.S.A., depriving it thereby of the vision and the necessary leisure required to ponder the policies, the problems and enterprises which the growth of the Administrative Order engenders.

The Guardian is very pleased to learn of the success that has attended the sessions at Atlanta and the removal of the disagreement within the community of that city and the work achieved by the regional conference and the public meeting open to both races. A special effort, he feels

should now be made to lay a foundation of unity between the white and colored Bahá'ís and weld the groups into communities capable of forming Assemblies representative of both races.

The action taken by your Assembly in connection with rural areas, such as township and county, as different from towns and cities, meets with his approval. He hopes that a special effort will be made to increase the number of Assemblies in these rural areas. This, he believes, is one of the major functions and duties of the National Teaching Committee this year.

The fifty photographs showing the recent progress in Temple construction have been safely received and he has already distributed them among the many pilgrims that came this year from Persia, 'Iráq, Syria and Egypt. He would appreciate another fifty copies of the Temple photograph as soon as sufficient faces are completed to represent a finished and unobstructed view of the entire edifice.

The material sent to him regarding the legal action taken against the New History Society, as well as copies of their monthly publication, have been received and the Guardian feels that Aḥmad Sohrab is increasingly revealing his latent opposition to the spirit as well as the letter of the Master's Will and Testament. His references to excommunication flatly contradict the Master's own actions and attitude, of which he is personally fully aware, and are irreconcilable with some of the most emphatic and unmistakable injunctions of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His Will and Testament. His increasingly bold criticisms of the action taken by the Guardian amounts to a repudiation of the authority of the Guardianship, and is thus an open and flagrant violation of the Will establishing that authority. In fact the more he writes and the more he gives vent to his true feelings, and discloses his real attitude to what 'Abdu'l-Bahá has regarded as absolutely essential to the unity, the integrity and protection of the Faith, the more will he clearly demonstrate his disloyalty to the Master whom he professes to uphold and defend. He is no doubt the most subtle, resourceful and indefatigable enemy the Faith has had in America, and the retribution he will in the end suffer will be correspondingly grievous and devastating. Every effort should be made by your Assembly to protect the new believers from the poison which he is trying to instill into their minds and souls, and to reinforce their confidence in his ultimate downfall and complete obliteration.

Regarding the Master's public talks, copies of which you have sent under separate cover, the Guardian approves of their being made available to the friends as excerpts in "World Order" magazine.

Will you kindly assure Miss Kruka that the Guardian has received a few copies of the Finnish version of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era," and wishes her to arrange to have more sent to him for distribution. He would appreciate it if Mrs. Lynch could arrange to send through you a few copies of the Polish version recently published, that the Guardian may place them in the various libraries he has established in the Holy Land.

Regarding the design for the door of the Temple, the Guardian approves your decision not to proceed with any plan for these doors before the exterior ornamentation is completed. Nor should the question of metal grilles for some of the windows be considered at present. Care should be exercised lest the Trustees be led to enter into any new subsidiary contracts in the

course of this year, as this would entail a diminution of the funds that should now be devoted to the vital teaching work to be carried out throughout the Americas.

Every endeavor should be made in the course of the year by the National Assembly, the National Teaching and Inter-America committees, as well as the pioneers in various fields, and indeed by each and every individual believer, to extend the scope and consolidate the basis of the teaching campaigns initiated throughout the Western Hemisphere. Any progress achieved in this most vital field at so critical a stage in the secular affairs of the American nations, will vitally affect the spiritual destinies of these republics, though the inter-action of the forces at work in both fields, spiritual and temporal, may not be apparent at the present time. Bahá'u'lláh, the Guardian firmly believes, is releasing through this inter-continental campaign, at a time when decisions vital to the interests of the Western Hemisphere are being taken, forces which, as they reveal their potentialities, will increasingly assist in shaping that World Order which the American peoples of the New World are being called upon to proclaim and establish.

With the assurance of the Guardian's continued prayers for the success of your historic services.

Yours in His Service,

H. RABBÁNÍ

Haifa, Palestine, May 25, 1941



– 968 –

1941-06-03 Appreciation of Milly Collins

USBN #144 June 1941 p5

Delighted. Convey (to) Milly Collins (my) ever-deepening appreciation (of her) historic, exemplary contributions (in) this crucial hour (for the) Faith (of) Bahá'u'lláh."

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Cablegram received June 3,



– 969 –

1941-06-15 Transfer of Luas Remains

USBN #146 Sept 1941, p2

Advise cable American Consulate (in) Cairo authorize on behalf American National Assembly transfer remains (of) Lua Getsinger to Bahá'í Cemetery through Egyptian National Bahá'í Assembly.

Shoghi Rabbání

Cablegram received June 15, 1941



– 970 –

1941-07-18 Importance of the Teaching Work

USBN #148 Nov 1941 p2

The paramount and urgent importance of the teaching work both in the North American continent and throughout Latin America cannot be over-emphasized. The attention of the entire company of the American believers should be focussed on the requirements of this vast undertaking that has been so gloriously initiated, and which must be pursued, extended and consolidated by every means in their power. This is the National Assembly's supreme objective, upon which must depend the success of the Seven Year Plan. I will pray that this goal may be attained and this great mission be nobly fulfilled.

— To Allen B. McDaniel, Chairman, July 18,



– 971 –

1941-07-19 To Gayle Woolson re Teaching Successes

Divine Springtime — Louise Coswell Recalls, p56-7

Dear and valued co-workers.

Future generations will extol your labours, follow your footsteps, and derive inspiration from your pioneer activities. I will specially and constantly pray that your numbers may increase, and your Assembly flourish, and your hopes be fulfilled and your influence extend far and wide.

Persevere and be happy.

Your true and grateful brother,

(Signed) Shoghi

1941-08-01 People Will Take Sides for and Against Faith

George Townshend, David Hofman, p203

‘Wherever the Cause is being spread, as it grows in strength, people increasingly will take sides both for and against it. Therefore he is not surprised to learn that you are finding yourself in his position, sometimes being upheld and sometimes being attacked! It is a great bounty from God that you have had a training in this world which so admirably suits you for a champion of His Faith and an exponent of His doctrines.’

[August 1, 1941 the Guardian’s secretary had written on his behalf to George Townshend]

1941-08-12 Consent of Parents; Latin Teaching

USBN #148 Nov 1941 p2

Regarding the question whether it is necessary to obtain the consent of the parents of a non-Bahá’í participant in a marriage with a Bahá’í; as Bahá’u’lláh has stated that the consent of the parents of both parties is required in order to promote unity and avoid friction, and as the Aqdas does not specify any exceptions to this rule, the Guardian feels that under all circumstances the consent of the parents of both parties is required.

The Guardian approves the use of the form of report to be filled in by all Latin-American Assemblies. This form, however, should be closely considered by your Assembly, and need not be forwarded to him, as the final action in such matters rests with the N. S. A. This body should exercise the utmost patience, good will, care and vigilance in such delicate and vital matters, should stress the importance of the institution of the local Spiritual Assembly, should take into special consideration the Latin temperament and character, should exercise a general, though not too rigid, supervision over newly formed groups and Assemblies, and should, by every means in its power, maintain, nay, increase, the flow of pioneers and financial assistance to these countries, that constitute, in these critical years, the greatest trust delivered into the hands of the champions of the Bahá’í Faith in North America. He is delighted to learn that there is a possibility of one or more Spiritual Assemblies being formed in South America, besides those of Buenos Aires, Costa Rica and Bahia. There is no doubt that in this particular field the North American believers are exceeding the expectations of the Guardian when he conceived and formulated the Seven Year Plan. What he would urge at the present stage is to insure that an anchorage for the Faith be firmly laid in every Latin Republic. This need not involve the formation of an Assembly, but presupposes the formation of a group of resident believers, who will safeguard

permanently and definitely the interests of the Faith during the critical years which lie ahead of the Continent of America.

— Shoghi Effendi, through his secretary, August 12,



– 974 –

1941-08-13 Effect of Donations of Collins & Morton

USBN #148 Nov 1941 p2

It is such a pleasure to learn from your letter that the extremely generous donations of our dear and esteemed Bahá'í sisters, Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Morton, will enable the N. S. A. to concentrate its attention on the vital requirements of the inter-continental teaching campaign, which during the remaining years of the Seven Year Plan constitutes the predominating and decisive issue confronting the American believers. I feel certain that you will continue, as it has been your wont ever since its inception and long before it was initiated, to lend your outstanding assistance to the historic task entrusted by our Beloved to the American Bahá'í community. I will continue to pray for your precious health.

— To Roy C. Wilhelm, Treasurer, August 13,



– 975 –

1941-08-14 To Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Rouse on their Marriage

[Growing Up Bahá'í, Diana Rouse Kaufman, pp197]

Dear Bahá'í friends:

The Guardian has instructed me to answer your letters to him of April 13th.

He was very happy to hear that you are both so united in your devotion to the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, as this will greatly bless your marriage itself and give you true and abiding happiness.

A Catholic background is an excellent introduction to the Faith, and one that Mrs. Rouse should feel grateful for having had. Though the doctrines of the church today are no longer needed — as the Father Himself has come, and thus fulfilled the Mission of Christ the son — yet the

foundation they lay of spiritual discipline, and their emphasis on spiritual values and adherence to moral laws, is very important and very close to our own beliefs.

The Guardian will pray that you may both grow to become gifted and capable teachers, and thus attract many souls to the Cause. He is very happy to hear that you have set yourselves the goal of bringing more young people into it. The youth today not only greatly need the teachings but are capable of both grasping and living up to them, and it is of the utmost importance to teach them and inspire them with this divine Message.

He is also very pleased to hear that Mr. Rouse is going to study Spanish. This, he hopes, will prepare the way for you to both at some future date aid in the all important inter-America work.

Assuring you of his most loving prayers for you both,

Yours in His service,

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

P.S. He thanks you for the enclosed photographs of yourselves on your wedding day. R.R.

(and in the Guardians own handwriting)

Dear friends,

I wish to congratulate you in person on your union, which I trust pray will be richly & continually blessed by our Beloved Master. I hope you will both be enabled to promote jointly and effectively the vital interests of the institutions which the American believers are so devotedly and energetically establishing in these days.

Your true brother, Shoghi



– 976 –

1941-09-30 Prayers for Nicklin & Cheney

USBN #147 Oct 1941 p6

Assure (Eve) Nicklin prayers (for) success (in) Peru. Convey (Eliabeth) Cheney loving concern, fervent prayers (for her) recovery (and my) deepest admiration.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Cablegram received Sept. 30, 1941



1941-10-05 Mrs. Greenleaf's Passing

USBN #154 July 1942 p3

"Mrs. Greenleaf's passing deprives the friends of yet another veteran and outstanding teacher. The Guardian hopes and prays that among the younger Bahá'ís many will train themselves to follow her example and profit by the methods she used so successfully in spreading the Cause. Deep knowledge of the teachings, profound human sympathy, a heart which mirrored the Master's love, and a winning sweetness and friendliness were hers. She will indeed be greatly missed."

to Mrs. Amelia Collins on October 5, 1941



1941-10-11 To Safa Kinney re Declaration of Pacora Blue Mountain

Bahá'í World Vol XV, p467

The Guardian was most happy to learn that you have been able to confirm souls from South American countries, such as Mr. Blue Mountain and Mr. Torres. He will pray for their dedication to the wonderful work of spreading their new-found belief in Bahá'u'lláh amidst their countrymen who so greatly need these glorious Teachings. He was particularly happy than Mr. Blue Mountain, an Inca descendant, should have embraced the Cause, thus bringing nearer the realization of the Master's command to confirm the Indians.



1941-10-14 Insure Completion December Sixth & Seventh Faces

USBN #148 Nov 1941 p1

Unhesitatingly advise insure completion by December (of) sixth and seventh faces. Urge contractor (to) redouble efforts during winter months (to) prepare two remaining faces to be placed as soon as weather permits next spring. Owing (to) international situation strict economy (in) administrative expenses and supreme sacrifice needed (to) complete nine faces by end (of) spring."

— Shoghi Effendi, in cablegram received October

— 980 —

1941-10-26 Heroism is Needed

USBN #157 November 1942 p1

These indeed, are the days when heroism is needed on the part of the believers. Self-sacrifice, courage, indomitable hope and confidence are the characteristics they should show forth, because these very attributes cannot but fix the attention of the public and lead them to inquire what, in a world so hopelessly chaotic and bewildered, leads these people to be so assured, so confident, so full of devotion? Increasingly, as time goes by, the characteristics of the Bahá'ís will be that which captures the attention of their fellow citizens. They must show their aloofness from the hatreds and recriminations which are tearing at the hearts of humanity, and demonstrate by deed and word their profound belief in the future peaceful unification of the entire human race.

— written through his secretary to Willard P. Hatch on October 26,

— 981 —

1941-10-26 State of the National Fund

USBN #149 December 1941 p2

“Conscious of the state of the National Fund. and realizing the urgency of the task facing its administrators. I have felt the urge to devote the offering of the American believers to the International Fund to the work which is now vitally facing and challenging the friends in the teaching field. Much as I appreciate the spirit prompting you and your fellow members to make this monthly contribution to the Cause at the World Center, I felt that it was my duty to consecrate this offering while the Seven Year Plan is still operating, to that vital aspect of teaching upon which its success must ultimately depend. May the friends in view of the vastness of the field that stretches before them, and the potentialities of their labors within it, and of the glowing promise of future blessings which such a labor must yield, rise to still greater heights of self-sacrifice and evince nobler manifestations of solidarity in the face of the critical situation that so insistently demands their support.”

Shoghi

October 26, 1941, the Guardian to the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly

1941-10-26 Temple & Teaching Work

USBN #150 January 1942 p1-2

“He has recently cabled the National Assembly that he considers it of the utmost importance that the faces of the Temple be completed and placed in position on the main story with as much expedition as possible. This matter has aroused his grave concern, as the Guardian believes that in view of the relation of the U.S.A. to the international situation, the rising costs, labor shortage, etc., it may be both increasingly difficult and expensive to complete this work with every month that goes by. He, therefore, would urge you to impress on Mr. Earley — who, he realizes is always eager to cooperate in such matters — the necessity of completing whatever ornamentation of the main story remains, during the winter months, so that at the earliest moment next spring, when the weather permits the work at the Temple itself to be resumed, the last faces may be placed in final position.

“Next to this in consideration should be the teaching work. Nothing must be permitted to hamper or slow down this apostolic campaign which the believers have undertaken. It represents the discharge of their moral duty towards their fellow men. that of permitting them. in these cataclysmic times. to hear the Message their Lord has sent to them and the ways He has prescribed for them to solve their problems and heal their ills.

“The Guardian feels confident that the great devotion which so evidently inspires both the body of the believers and their National representatives will carry them on to victory. in spite of the difficulty of achieving it. His prayers and his hopes are with you all the time.”

In the Guardian's hand:

“Now that the construction of the steps of the Temple has had to be postponed and in view of the increasing gravity of the international situation, a special and pressing responsibility rests on the National Assembly to insure, with the aid of the contractor and through every other possible means, the completion of the nine faces of the edifice before the end of next spring. During the coming winter months the work at the studio should be (so) conducted that no delay whatever will be incurred when the time for the placing of the remaining faces arrives. During these same months, while the teaching work is being strenuously pursued, the most effective measures for the construction of the steps should be carefully considered, and thus insure the uninterrupted progress of this vital aspect of the Seven Year Plan.”

through his secretary to the Chairman of the National Spiritual Assembly on October 26, 1941



1941-11-07 Gratified Process on Temple

USBN #149 December 1941 p1

“Much gratified. Praying speedy success. Persevere.”

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbání.

(Cablegram received November 7,5.)

This message was in reply to a cablegram sent to the Guardian by the National Assembly on October 28: “Proceeding completion sixth (and) seventh faces (by) December. All castings needed completion eighth (and) ninth faces (in) 1942 already finished and stored at Temple.”



1941-11-10 Rúhís Sister Married Covenant-breaker Feyzi

USBN #149 December 1941 p1

“Rúhí’s sister married covenant-breaker Feyzi, whose mother joined and supported arch-enemy Muḥammad-‘Alí and whose father ‘Abdu’l-Bahá denounced openly and repeatedly as His deadly enemy. Rubi’s family concurred. Inform all believers (that) all manner (of) communication (with) excommunicated family (is) forbidden.”

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbání.

(Cablegram received November 10,5.)



1941-11-10 Flagrant Disloyalty Rúhís Family

USBN #149 December 1941 p1-2

(The) flagrant disloyalty (of) Rúhí’s family compels me (to) disclose information so long (and) patiently withheld (from) American believers concerning his failure (to) obtain my approval (of) his second visit (to) America. His subsequent conduct regarding his marriage which I refrained

from revealing (to) anyone except your Assembly, as well as Fu'ad's departure (to) England without my knowledge, should now be made known (to) believers. Confident (of) unshakable steadfastness (of) exemplary American Bahá'í Community."

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbání.

(Cablegram received November 10, 5.)



– 986 –

1941-11-21 Vital Importance Increasing Number of Pioneers

USBN #154 July 1942 p3

"I wish to add a few words to what has been written on my behalf and stress afresh the vital importance of increasing by every means in our power the number of pioneers who for however short a period are able to help in promoting the establishment of the Faith in South America. The utmost encouragement, moral and material, should be extended to those heroic workers who are willing in these days of uncertainty and turmoil to travel to or settle in those regions. You will, I am sure, with your co-workers, strain every nerve to stimulate the friends and facilitate their journey and reinforce their endeavors in such a vital sphere of Bahá'í activity."

to Mrs. S. W. French, Secretary of the Inter-America Committee, November 21,



– 987 –

1941-12-17 To LSA San Jose Costa Rica re its Significance

Divine Springtime — Louise Coswell Recalls, p59

Your Assembly will go down in history as the first Bahá'í Assembly in Central America, a great distinction and blessing, and the Guardian feels that if you continue to progress so rapidly you will soon be in a position to spread the Cause, through representatives of your Community, in other neighboring lands. This would be of great value to the work of teaching these divine laws and truths, as then the Latin Americans would be hearing it from the lips of their own people, in their own language, which, of course, would be very effective.



1942-01-01 Faithless Sister Mehrangiz

USBN #150 January 1942 p1

Faithless sister Mehrangiz (has) followed (the) example (of) Rubi's sister. All ties (have been) severed. No consideration (of) family relationships can ever be allowed (to) interfere (with the) dictates (of) justice or (to) supersede supreme fidelity (to) Center (of) Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant. Inform believers."

(Signed)

Shoghi Rabbání.

1 Jan 1942



1942-01-03 Parents Strongly Condemn Mehrangiz

USBN #150 January 1942 p1

Parents strongly condemn Mehrangiz's action.

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbání

3 January



1942-01-08 Comforted by Fervent Messages

USBN #150 January 1942 p1

"Comforted (and) fortified (by) fervent messages testifying (to) solidity (of) bonds (of) spiritual kinship uniting me (with) true upholders (of the) Covenant. (I) prize their loyalty, glory (in) their achievements, hail their resolve, invoke still greater blessings (upon) their superb exertions."

(Signed) Shoghi Rabbání.

8 January 1942

1942-01-13 Donations of the N.S.A

USBN #152 April 1942 p2

Shoghi Effendi, much as he deeply appreciates the donations of the N.S.A., representing as they do the contribution of the friends to the World interests of the Faith, feels very strongly that from now on the N.S.A. should concentrate all their resources on the fulfilment of the Seven Year Plan, including any money they might, in their love and devotion, wish to send to him for the Faith here. Will you kindly convey to your fellow-National Assembly members both the expression of his deep gratitude for this latest contribution, and his wish that it be the last from them until the Plan is completed in triumph?

Haifa, Palestine

January 13,

1942-01-15 Various to USNSA

USBN #152 April 1942 p2

Regarding the efforts that have been made by Mr. Remey in connection with the Tablet supposed to have been revealed by Bahá'u'lláh to the Americas: the Guardian has already written Mr. Remey that no such Tablet was revealed. In the Aqdas, however, Bahá'u'lláh addresses the rulers and presidents of the American Republics. This has given rise to the misapprehension that He addressed a Tablet to them similar to His Epistles to some of the rulers in Europe.

Concerning the question of refusal by certain believers to accept election to an administrative post: the Guardian strongly feels that criticism, opposition, or confusion do not provide sufficient grounds for either refusal or resignation. Only cases of physical or mental incapacity, which, by their very nature, are extremely rare, constitute valid reasons for such an act. The difficulties and tests involved in the acceptance of administrative posts, far from inducing the believers to dissociate themselves from the work of the Cause, should spur them on to greater exertions and to a more active participation in the privileged task of resolving the problems that confront the Bahá'í community. Only in cases where individual believers, without any valid reason, deliberately refuse the repeated exhortations, pleas, and warnings addressed to them by their Assemblies, should action be taken in removing them from the voting list. This is a measure

designed to sustain the institutions of the Faith at the present time, and to insure that the abilities and talents of its, as yet, limited number of supporters are properly consecrated to its service. The believers, for the sake of the Cause, now in the period of its infancy, should accept their duties in a spirit of self-sacrifice, and should be animated by the desire to uphold the verdict of the electorate, and to lend their share of assistance, however difficult the circumstances, to the effective administration of the affairs of the Faith.

The same sanction should apply to those who persistently refuse to dissociate themselves from political and ecclesiastical activities. This is a general principle which is being maintained throughout the Bahá'í world, and the believers throughout the East are already aware of the absolute necessity of refusing any political or Moslem ecclesiastical office.

The Guardian approves the action taken by your Assembly recognizing villages as civil units suitable for the formation of local Assemblies in States where there are no townships, and the county unit is too large for united action by a Bahá'í community.

Regarding the non-appointment of Assembly members to membership on national committees, the Guardian firmly believes that no such principle should be recognized. Those who are best fitted for the specific work assigned to the committees should be elected, irrespective of their membership on either national or local Assemblies. The greater the pressure on those who shoulder both committee and Assembly responsibilities, the greater the reward and the richer the blessings vouchsafed to those who willingly and gratefully sustain this double burden.

In conclusion, the Guardian wishes to re-emphasize the necessity of concentrating during the remaining two years, and in spite of America's entry into the war, all the resources of the Community on the final aspect of the Seven Year Plan, which can alone bring it to a successful consummation. The difficulties that have arisen should stimulate the friends to greater and still more heroic exertions on behalf of a Cause which they have served and are still serving with such exemplary tenacity, fidelity, vigor, courage and devotion.

January 15,



– 993 –

1942-01-25 To M M Clarence E Baker Name for Baby

[Growing Up Bahá'í, Diana Rouse Kaufman, pp198]

Dear Bahá'í friends:

The Guardian was very happy to receive your loving letter of Nov. 9th, which just came, and which he has instructed me to answer on his behalf

He is sorry to hear Mr. Baker has not been in good health. He assures you he will pray for you both in the Holy Shrines, that God may strengthen you to go on rendering the Cause such devoted service.

The good news of the many new souls you have been teaching pleased him very much. God has blessed you both with the ability to inspire faith in the hearts of others, a truly great gift.

Regarding your request for a name for the expected baby of Mr. & Mrs. Rouse: the Guardian is very sorry to refuse your request, but from the very beginning he has invariably refused all such requests on the part of the believers, as he felt that this practice of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's, of giving believers names, should be kept sacred to His memory, and not be instated by the Guardian. Please explain this to these dear Bahá'ís, and assure them that the Guardian will pray for their child, that it may become a noble and exemplary believer.

The photographs you enclosed were of interest to the Guardian. He is happy to see that you are able to reach the colored as well as the white, and that you uphold with such devotion the principle of complete lack of prejudice.

For all those whom you mention in your letter; the Guardian will pray; please assure them of this, and he will often remember you both in his loving prayers, that you may render the Cause even greater services.

With Bahá'í love,

Yours in His service to our beloved Faith,

R. Rabbání

(and in the Guardian's own handwriting)

May the Beloved guide, sustain, & reinforce your splendid & meritorious efforts, & enable you to extend the range of your valued activities, & aid you to reflect, at all times & under all conditions, the spirit that animates His Faith & its institutions.

Your true brother;

Shoghi



– 994 –

1942-02-03 End of the First Bahá'í Century Approaches

USBN #154 July 1942 p3

“His thoughts are increasingly turned to the American believers as the end of the First Bahá’í Century approaches, as he feels so strongly the tremendous, worldwide importance which their success involves. They are not merely struggling for the furtherance of the Cause in their native land, but for the achievement of parts of a Divine plan which involves the progress and happiness of all men. Their individual and collective responsibility is, therefore, very great, very precious, and presents them with an opportunity to serve mankind which they may never again have because mankind’s life may never again pass through such critical years. His ardent prayers continually surround them.”

to Mrs. Amelia Collins on February 3,



– 995 –

1942-02-09 To Sarah Oglesby re The Race Issue

Compiled fm Pupil of the Eye #44, Champions of Oneness p212, Power of Unity

He is well aware that the conditions within the ranks of the believers in respect to race prejudice is [sic] far from being as it should be. However, he feels very strongly that it presents a challenge to both white and coloured believers.

As we neither feel nor acknowledge any distinction between the duties and privileges of a Bahá’í, whoever he may be, it is incumbent upon the Negro believers to rise above this great test which the attitude of some of their White brethren may present. They must accept the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh for the sake of the Cause, love it, and cling to it, and teach it, and fight for it as their own Cause, forgetful of the shortcomings of others. Any other attitude is unworthy of their faith.

Proud and happy in the praises which even Bahá’u’lláh Himself has bestowed upon them, they must feel He revealed Himself for them and every other downtrodden race, loves them, and will help them to attain their destiny.

“The whole race question in America is a national one and of great importance. But the Negro friends must not waste their precious opportunity to serve the Faith, in these momentous days, by dwelling on the admitted shortcomings of the white friends. They must arise to serve and teach, confident of the future in which we know these barriers will have once and for all been overcome.

“... The more Negroes who become Bahá’ís, the greater the leaven will be within their own race working for harmony and friendship between these two bodies of American citizens: the white and the colored.

May the Beloved of our hearts guide and sustain you in your constant activities, enable you to increase the number of the coloured believers, whose interests are close to my heart, and for whom I continually and ardently beseech the guidance and the blessings of Bahá'u'lláh.



– 996 –

1942-02-28 Hope for More Pioneers and Teachers

USBN #153 June 1942 p1-2

It does indeed seem strange that people who have seen literally prophecy after prophecy fulfilled, and all that the Bahá'ís were led to anticipate, come to pass, still remain veiled from the reality of the Faith and spiritually lethargic. How deeply they will rue their lost opportunity when once their eyes become open!

Shoghi Effendi hopes that the N. S. A. and Teaching Committee are meeting with a wider response to the call for pioneers and teachers. The American believers have carried on with such enthusiasm and devotion, and established such a record, that now all the Bahá'ís the world over have the impression that they can do almost anything! They must exceed their own past records for speed and accomplishment in order to triumph in the Seven Year Plan.

(From Letter dated February 28, 1942, written through his secretary, to Roy C. Wihelm)



– 997 –

1942-03-19 Sufferings so Piteously Afflicting Humanity

Fire and Gold: Benefiting from Life's Tests", p61

As compiled by Brian Kurzius

The friends must not feel too crushed by the sufferings that are so piteously afflicting humanity. They must realize that the hotter the fire the more malleable the metal becomes, and take hope that out of the agony of the present the future will be born — the glorious future of peace and unity amongst the sons of men. Evidently only intense misery will prove sufficiently strong to purge the hearts of men.

[From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, March 19, 1942]



1942-03-26 Not the Time for a Bahá'í Village

USBN 171 November 1944 p2

Now is not the time for the friends to seek to establish a Bahá'í village; they have definite tasks confronting them of the utmost importance and urgency, and on these they should concentrate their attention. Nor does the Guardian feel that it is necessary for the friends to buy land at this time. In the future, when they have accomplished the goals set out for them by the beloved Master Himself, they will be able to develop more community projects, but now such enterprises would merely dissipate their strength which should all be directed into the teaching work.

— To Mrs. Ethel Murray, March 26,



1942-03-28 To Safa Kinney re Teaching Work of Pacora Blue Mountain

Bahá'í World Vol XV, p467

He was very happy to hear of the successful teaching work which Mr. Blue Mountain is carrying on. The conversion of the original inhabitants of North America and South America to the Faith is a cause for great rejoicing, and will no doubt bring rich blessings in its wake.



1942-04-30 Rejoice Formation New Assemblies

USBN #153 June 1942

Rejoice (in the) formation (of the) new Assemblies. Extend cordial welcome. Praying still greater success. Urge concentration (on) potential Assemblies, particularly (in) States (and) Provinces where none exist.

Shoghi Rabbání.

Cablegram received April 30,

— 1001 —

1942-05-05 Welcome Renewed Determination NSA

USBN #153 June 1942 p1

Welcome renewed determination reflected (by) Assembly. Praying befitting discharge (of its) solemn, urgent responsibilities. Love.

Shoghi Rabbání.

Cablegram received May 5, 1942

[reaction to first msg of new NSA?]

— 1002 —

1942-05-08 Turn to Your Bahá'í Brothers and Sisters

LoG #729 plus

USBN #217 March 1949 p4

“Deep as are family ties, we must always remember that the spiritual ties are far deeper; they are everlasting and survive death, whereas physical ties, unless supported by spiritual bonds, are confined to this life. You should do all in your power, through prayer and example, to open the eyes of your family to the Bahá'í Faith, but do not grieve too much over their actions. Turn to your Bahá'í brothers and sisters who are living with you in the light of the Kingdom. Indeed, the believers have not yet fully learned to draw on each other's love for strength and consolation in time of need. The Cause of God is endowed with tremendous powers, and the reason the believers do not gain more from it is because they have not learned to duly draw these mighty forces of love and strength and harmony generated by the Faith.”

Shoghi Effendi to Miss Roan Orloff, May 8, 1942

[this is compiled from the two sources listed above]

– 1003 –

1942-05-12 Bahá'í World Received

USBN #153 June 1942 p1

First copy (of The) Bahá'í World received. Deepest loving appreciation (to) all contributors (for this) magnificent production.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Cablegram received May 12,



– 1004 –

1942-05-15 Convention Response Encouraging

USBN #154 July 1942 p3

"The Convention response, as well as all the recent news from the U. S. A., have greatly encouraged him. He feels the strong, purposeful determination of the believers as well as of their representatives, to see the Plan through to complete victory. In view of his own burdens and cares, this greatly cheers him.

"He hopes that every available agency of the administration will be used to insure the speedy fulfilment of this year's teaching requirements and that everything will be done to encourage new pioneers to volunteer and go forth while there is yet time. As he already pointed out in his Convention cable, this year is the year. The major part of the work must be gotten under way now, so that before 1944 it will have yielded its fruit; otherwise it will be too late."

Shoghi Effendi, through his secretary, to Roy C. Wilhelm, Treasurer, on May 15,



– 1005 –

1942-05-26 Various to USNSA

USBN #155 August 1942 p1-2

The Guardian has already acknowledged the receipt, by cable, of the 100 photographs of the Temple, some of which were sent him air mail, and he has distributed a considerable number already amongst the believers of the Near East, and he feels sure so impressive a photograph of the exterior ornamentation will greatly stimulate the friends in their various activities in the service of the Cause.

He has been informed by the Bahá'ís in Egypt of the receipt of the sum cabled by your Assembly to them for its Memorial to Mírzá 'Abu'l-Faḍl, and he deeply appreciates your prompt response to his request in this connection. The remains of that illustrious teacher have already been ceremoniously transferred to the new Bahá'í cemetery allocated by the Egyptian government to the Cairo Bahá'ís. The believers in other centers in Egypt are now negotiating with the authorities concerned for similar cemeteries to be established in their respective localities. The Guardian is sending you under separate cover a photograph of the ceremony in connection with the reinterment of Mírzá 'Abu'l-Faḍl's remains, for publication in Bahá'í News.

Regarding the question of inserting the names of the translators of Bahá'í sacred writings: the Guardian feels there is no objection to this. As to the manner in which the names of the translators should appear in a book such as "Bahá'í Scriptures" he prefers to leave this matter to the discretion of your Assembly.

The Guardian is cabling you today acknowledging the receipt of 96 copies of The Bahá'í World to date. He has already started distributing them to eminent sympathizers and friends of the Cause in various countries, who, he feels, cannot but be deeply impressed by the steady expansion of the institutions of the Faith in both the East and the West, as witnessed by this book. For such a publication to be brought out and distributed far and wide in time of war is in itself a remarkable testimony to the irresistible march of the Faith and the vitality of its indomitable spirit. He would suggest that three copies of this valuable biennial be sent to every National Spiritual Assembly. The copies for Persia should be sent through the N.S.A. of 'Irāq.

Shoghi Effendi has been greatly heartened and cheered by the news of the splendid Convention held this year and its complete consecration to the unfinished tasks of the Seven Year Plan. The character of its sessions, the expansion of its subsidiary activities, the spirit which animated its deliberations and the number of delegates and friends that participated in its proceedings, are a befitting commencement for a year that must witness unprecedented victories in the national and intercontinental teaching fields, as well as the consummation of the thirty year enterprise of the Temple of Bahá'u'lláh.

The newly elected National Assembly must, in the course of this crucial year, keep in the closest possible touch with the two major teaching committees on whom the prosecution of the twin teaching enterprises of the American believers directly devolves. In conjunction with them, the National representatives of the American Bahá'í community must, by every means in their power, insure an unprecedented increase in the number of pioneers and visiting teachers, both at home and in foreign fields, for this constitutes the bedrock on which the structure of these enterprises can alone rise and be firmly established. The Guardian's contribution of five thousand dollars to finance five pioneers, is designed to provide an incentive to those who are in a position to either provide the material means or to arise themselves in person for the furtherance of pioneer activity in virgin territories.

In large rural areas such as exist in the State of Washington, recognized voting districts may be considered as units for the formation of Spiritual Assemblies. The National Assembly, the Guardian feels, may follow in such cases the election district divisions. The application of this principle he leaves to your Assembly.

Haifa, May 26, 1942



– 1006 –

1942-06-16 To John Eichenauer Jr

USBN #161 March 1943 p2

“This Cause, although it embraces with equal esteem people of all ages, has a special message and mission for the youth of your generation. It is their charter for their future, their hope, their guarantee of better days to come. Therefore the Guardian is especially happy that the young Bahá’ís are active in the pioneer work.”

“The formation of your first Spiritual Assembly in Honduras was a source of great joy to him, and he hopes that you will do all in your power to strengthen it and help it to function smoothly. It is the nucleus of all community life, and requires often adjustment and sacrifice from all concerned, until they learn how to function according to the higher laws of Bahá’u’lláh.

“The Guardian found the publicity you had received very sympathetic in tone. If the South Americans have the courtesy, kindness, and warmth expressed in these papers, as well as the deep capacity for faith and steadfastness, so characteristic of the Latins, they should indeed make wonderful Bahá’ís.

“The Guardian would advise you to be very careful about associating with Orientals and preferably avoid them. They are sometimes connected with Covenant-breakers, whether they know it or not, such as one of those whom you mention in your letter, who is the son-in-law of a well-known Covenant-breaker here.”

— To John Eichenauer, Jr., June 16,



– 1007 –

1942-06-17 Remaining Copies of The Bahá’í World Received

USBN #154 July 1942 p2

“Remaining copies (of The) Bahá’í World received.”

— SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Received June 17,



–1008–

1942-06-17 re Work on Temple

USBN #155 August 1942 p2

He was happy to hear that the work on the Temple is going to be carried out without delay, and that at last we are in sight of our goal and have every assurance of its speedy accomplishment.

He feels that all concerned should exert their utmost endeavor to assure that the remaining faces and the circular staircase will be finished this year. This will not only free Bahá’í funds for the now all-important teaching work, but act as a tremendous advertisement of the Faith and its principles.

No channel should be left unexplored in the endeavor to exploit to the full the teaching and publicity value of our first western House of Worship. It has been so long in the building that the friends themselves are scarcely aware that their hour of triumph is at hand! Both they and the public at large should be stimulated into a fresh realization of what they have achieved. It is the tangible evidence of the power of the American Bahá’í Community, few in numbers, but mighty in the spirit they draw from their Faith.

(The Guardian’s postscript)

Dear and valued co-worker: The completion of the Temple should, and I feel confident will, release tremendous and unprecedented forces of spiritual energy destined to be wholly consecrated to the teaching tasks now confronting the American believers. The concentrated, the sustained, and undivided attention of the individual believers and all Bahá’í agencies, local, regional, as well as national, should be directed to the attainment of this supreme, this shining goal. The increase in the number of pioneers, of every class, race, age and outlook is the vital need of the present hour. May the Beloved bless richly and continually this mighty and glorious endeavor.

(Signed) Shoghi.

Haifa, June 17, 4. (Addressed to Allen B. McDaniel)

— 1009 —

1942-06-20 Overjoyed Pioneer Activity

USBN #154 July 1942 p2

“Overjoyed impetus (given to) pioneer activity (throughout the) Americas, completion (of) ornamentation (and) commencement (of) steps. Assure pioneers and Mrs. Collins (of my) profound admiration, abiding gratitude (and) special prayers.”

— SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Received June 20,

— 1010 —

1942-07-05 Regarding Teaching Faith in South

“To Move the World”, Gayle Morrison, p291

Regarding the whole manner of teaching the Faith in the South: the Guardian feels that, although the greatest consideration should be shown the feelings of white people in the South whom we are teaching, under no circumstances should we discriminate in their favor, consider them more valuable to the Cause than their Negro fellow-southerners, or single them out to be taught the Message first. To pursue such a policy, however necessary and even desirable it may superficially seem, would be to compromise the true spirit of our Faith, which permits us to make no such distinctions in offering its tenets to the world. The Negro and white races should be offered, simultaneously, on a basis of equality, the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. Rich or poor, known or unknown, should be permitted to hear of this Holy Faith in this, humanity's greatest hour of need.

This does not mean that we should go against the laws of the state, pursue a radical course which will stir up trouble, and cause misunderstanding. On the contrary, the Guardian feels that, where no other course is open, the two races should be taught separately until they are fully conscious of the implications of being a Bahá'í, and then be confirmed and admitted to voting membership. Once, however, this has happened, they cannot shun each other's company, and feel the Cause to be like other Faiths in the South, with separate white and black compartments... .

'Abdu'l-Bahá Himself set the perfect example to the American believers in this matter — as in every other. He was tactful, but the essence of courage, and showed no favoritism to the white

people as opposed to their dark-skinned compatriots. No matter how sincere and devoted the white believers in the South may be, there is no reason why they should be the ones to decide when and how the Negro Southerner shall hear of the Cause of God; both must be taught by whoever rises to spread the Message in those parts.

[On behalf of Shoghi Effendi to Mabel Ives, 5 July 1942]



– 1011 –

1942-07-05 To Mabel Ives Southern Teaching

USBN #161 March 1943 p2

“Regarding the whole manner of teaching the Faith in the South: the Guardian feels that, although the greatest consideration should be shown the feelings of white people in the South whom we are teaching, under no circumstances should we discriminate in their favor, consider them more valuable to the Cause than their Negro fellow-southerners, or single them out to be taught the Message first. To pursue such a policy, however necessary and even desirable it may superficially seem, would be to compromise the true spirit of our Faith, which permits us to make no such distinctions in offerings its tenets to the world. The Negro and white races should be offered, simultaneously, on a basis of equality, the Message of Bahá'u'lláh. Rich or poor, known or unknown, should be permitted to hear of this Holy Faith in this, humanity's greatest hour of need.

“This does not mean that we should go against the laws of the state, pursue a radical course which will stir up trouble, and cause misunderstanding. On the contrary, the Guardian feels that, where no other course is open, the two races should be taught separately until they are fully conscious of the implications of being a Bahá'í, and then be confirmed and admitted to voting membership. Once, however, this has happened, they cannot shun each other's company, and feel the Cause to be like other Faiths in the South, with separate white and black compartments.

“Even in places where the two races can meet together in the South, he feels it would be, in certain cases, preferable to teach them separately until they are fully confirmed and then bring them together.

“Abdu'l-Bahá Himself set the perfect example to the American believers in this matter — as in every other. He was tactful, but the essence of courage, and showed no favoritism to the white people as opposed to their dark-skinned compatriots. No matter how sincere and devoted the white believers of the South may be, there is no reason why they should be the ones to decide when and how the Negro Southerner shall hear of the Cause of God; both must be taught by who ever rises to spread the Message in those parts.”

— To Mrs. Mabel Ives, July 5,

— 1012 —

1942-07-06 Must Put Administrative Machinery to Real Use

USBN #161 March 1943 p2

Now that they (the American believers) have erected the administrative machinery of the Cause they must put it to its real use — serving only as an instrument to facilitate the flow of the spirit of the Faith out into the world. Just as the muscles enable the body to carry out the will of the individual, all Assemblies and Committees must enable the believers to carry forth the Message of God to the waiting public, the love of Bahá'u'lláh, and the healing laws and principles of the Faith to all men." —

To Eleanor Kepfer, July 6,

— 1013 —

1942-07-08 To Mr. Raymond C. Rouse Pioneering

[Growing Up Bahá'í, Diana Rouse Kaufman, pp198]

Haifa, July 8th, 1942

Dear Bahá'í Brother;

Your letter of May 5th has been received, the two pictures of your little son arrived safely with it. The Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is pleased to hear that you are serving on the Washington assembly this year; and hopes that you will do all in your power to stimulate the growth of your local community and find new ways and means of teaching the Faith in the Capital.

The greater the love, harmony, and spirit of complete and selfless dedication which animates the members of a spiritual assembly, the greater will be the degree of Divine inspiration and assistance vouchsafed to them. Pioneer service in these epoch-making days need not be confined to going out in foreign fields. The friends can pioneer on their assemblies in helping to bring about a keener vision of what their duties are; they can pioneer in developing new local teaching methods, new contacts with new classes of people; indeed they can even be said to pioneer inwardly in finding new depths in their own souls and new ways in which their own God-given capacities can be put to use in serving the Faith.

The Guardian was very pleased to hear of your teaching activities with Mrs. Baker; and hopes they will meet with ever-increasing success. To teach at present is the paramount duty and privilege of every Bahá'í, who knows full well that the solution to the terrible problems facing the world today lies in Bahá'u'lláh's teachings.

The Guardian will pray for you and your wife, that you may render the Cause ever greater services. He will also pray for your son Raymond, that God may richly endow him and he may grow up a wonderful Bahá'í.

With Bahá'í greetings,

Yours in His service,

R. Rabbání

(and in the Guardians own handwriting)

May the Beloved, whose Cause you are teaching with assiduity & devotion, bless continually your activities, & aid you to extend their range & widen the sphere of their influence. Your true brother; Shoghi



– 1014 –

1942-07-26 To San Jose Costa Rica LSA re Progress Made

Divine Springtime — Louise Coswell Recalls, p59-61

The progress which the Bahá'ís of Costa Rica have made during the past year is little short of astounding, and shows the deep receptivity the people of that country have to the New Message of God which Bahá'u'lláh has proclaimed to the world. You must all indeed be both proud and grateful that you live in a land so tolerant of progress and which enables you to establish the blessed institutions ordained by our Faith.

The establishment of the new Spiritual Assembly of Puntarenas is a great step forward, and the legal registration of the Cause and approval of the government marks a milestone in the progress of the Cause not only in Costa Rica, but in Latin America.

The more the Guardian receives news from the Central and South American Republics, the more firmly he becomes convinced of the great capacity possessed by the peoples of Latin America. They are proving themselves to be both deeply spiritual and intellectual, and he cherishes great hopes for their future development and their contributions to this glorious Faith of ours.

How wonderful that in less than a hundred years the message that originated in the heart of Persia should have spread to the heart of Central America, and kindled such love and devotion and hope as now burns in the hearts of new believers in that distant continent!

The Guardian hopes that you will not only succeed in establishing further centers in your own native land, but that the activities of the Costa Rican Bahá'ís will spread to neighboring countries and aid in the establishment of the Faith there.



– 1015 –

1942-07-31 To Roan Orloff Family Ties

“Deep as are family ties, we must always remember that the spiritual ties are far deeper; they are everlasting and survive death, whereas physical ties, unless supported by spiritual bonds, are confined to this life. You should do all in your power, through prayer and example, to open the eyes of your family to the Bahá'í Faith, but do not grieve too much over their actions. Turn to your Bahá'í brothers and sisters who are living with you in the light of the Kingdom.

“Indeed, the believers have not yet fully learned to draw on each other's strength and consolation in time of need. The Cause of God is endowed with tremendous powers, and the reason the believers do not gain more from it is because they have not learned to draw fully on these mighty forces of love and strength and harmony generated by the Faith.” — To Roan Orloff, received July 31,



– 1016 –

1942-08-15 Importance of Present Pioneer Activity

USBN #156 October 1942 pp2

He considers that at present pioneer activity is of the utmost importance and that the NSA should do everything in their power to insure that those who have gone to Central and South America, as well as those who are going there, remain there and consolidate their work — otherwise all the efforts and all the money, sacrificed by the believers for this effort, will have been spent practically in vain. The same applies to a lesser degree to the work in the United States and Canada. Whereas in these parts the difficulties of pioneer settlement for the purpose of teaching the Faith are not so great, the work still remaining to be done is tremendous. The Guardian feels that the paramount need is to get the people to settle in these virgin territories as quickly as possible, and that if too much emphasis is laid on the highest possible requirements for pioneers, the work may risk remaining unaccomplished. The believers have future years in which to improve on the groundwork done at present, but they only have about two years left to do this all-important groundwork in. Speed should be your motto. —

Excerpt from letter written by Shoghi Effendi, through his secretary, August 15, 1942, to the National Spiritual Assembly through the Treasurer.

– 1017 –

1942-08-15 Support for New Pioneers

USBN #156 October 1942 pp1-2

He is fervently praying that the new pioneers, who have volunteered to teach in Colombia, Venezuela, Chile and Nicaragua, will be able to complete the necessary arrangements for their voyage to South America, and will be enabled, without interruption or delay, to consolidate and extend the range of the activities inaugurated in those countries. Every effort should be made to increase the number of such pioneers, to facilitate their departure, to insure their settlement in virgin territories, to keep in close and constant touch with them, and to reinforce their activities through visiting teachers, adequate financial assistance, and constant moral encouragement. The Guardian wishes to urge them, and those who have preceded them, to retain their posts at all costs, to face the obstacles in their path with courage, faith and confidence in the future outcome of their work. The National Assembly, on the other hand, must do everything in their power to enable these self-sacrificing workers to continue their pioneer services, and to discourage their return until the results of their labors are so substantial as to insure the continuity of the Bahá'í Community after their departure. This is their greatest responsibility, their immediate task, and the most meritorious service they can render the Cause, at this juncture, in the American Continent.

Shoghi Effendi, through his secretary, August 15, 1942, to the National Spiritual Assembly

– 1018 –

1942-09-18 Hopes Meetings in Temple will be National Attraction

Compilation on the Mother Temple and the Maṣḥriqu'l-Adhkár

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

The Guardian hopes that the meetings held in the Temple will grow to be a national attraction and lead to the conversion of many, many thirsty truth-seekers. Now that the building is all but completed, it must be of far greater interest to the public than ever before, and no doubt when the steps are laid, and wide publicity is given to the fact that our first, historic, Temple is at last finished, a far greater number of people will flock to its doors and be eager to hear its Message.

(On behalf of Shoghi Effendi 18 September 1942 to an individual believer)

1942-10-14 Trial and Suffering Insignificant to Blessing of Serving Cause

Fire and Gold: Benefiting from Life's Tests", p253 as compiled by Brian Kurzius

No one can, of course, foresee the course of human events. But we do know that whatever of trial and suffering we may have to pass through is utterly insignificant in comparison with our infinite blessing of being the people bearing His Name and serving His Cause in these tremendous, history-making days.

[Letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual, 14 October 1942]



1942-10-24 To Marzieh Gail re Teaching Activities

Oct. 24th, 1942

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your welcome letter of July 24th arrived recently with the snapshots you enclosed, and the Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He was delighted with all the good news you conveyed to him, and most happy to hear that you believe the friends are now fully roused to service in the teaching field in order to accomplish the Seven Year Plan.

He very strongly feels that you must not be at all discouraged by not being put on committees where in the past you have served with such devotion. On the contrary you should regard it as an opportunity to launch out more actively than ever in the teaching field through speaking, writing, and personal contact. We should never for a moment consider our election or non-election to Bahá'í bodies as indicative of the good pleasure or otherwise of God, as it may be due to any number of different reasons, all of them purely human.

He was happy to see that the friends are associating with love and complete lack of prejudice with their fellow-Bahá'ís of negro and Japanese origin. The believers cannot be too careful, at a time when the whole world is consumed with hatred, to keep their hearts untainted and their passions uninvolved.

He wants you to know that he will certainly pray for the way to open for you and your husband to render the Cause many wonderful services in these last years of the Plan. His loving thoughts are with you, and he is always pleased to hear from you.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-worker:

Your many and valuable services, past and present, should encourage you in your efforts for the promotion of our beloved Faith. The friends, far and near, appreciate the value of these services, and you should not feel depressed or discouraged. I will continue to pray for you from all my heart. Persevere, be happy and confident.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1021 –

1942-12-21 Strengthen the Work of Pioneers

USBN #153 June 1942 p1-2

He also hopes that the National Assembly, aided by the Teaching and Inter-America Committees, will and exert their utmost endeavor that they not only remain at their posts, but that new ones go out to strengthen and reinforce the work.

It is hard to conceive of a time which will demand greater dedication and sacrifice, endurance and courage, than the period at present ahead of the American Bahá'ís. All those noble traits of dedication and eagerness to devote all their energy to promoting the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh, which they have increasingly demonstrated these past years, must now rise to meet the challenge of the ordeal which they now, in common with the vast majority of their fellowmen, must support and pass through.

(From Letter dated December 21, 1941, written through his secretary, to Allen B. McDaniel)

(The Guardian's postscript to the above Letter)

The prosecution and completion of the task to which the American believers have pledged themselves must be insured, despite and in the very midst of the ordeal which they are now facing. The greater the anguish which this ordeal must entail, the more formidable the obstacles it will raise, the more meritorious their achievement, and the greater the spiritual power which their enterprises must and will exert in the future. I will pray that their efforts will be crowned with success that will cause the whole Bahá'í world to marvel.



1943-01-08 New History Society & Civil Disobedience

USBN #162 April 1943

The report that the New History literature includes a Tablet of the Master urging civil disobedience regarding war, is another indication of the gross misrepresentations of the Faith by that Society, whose publications are deliberately and maliciously aimed at undermining the loyalty of the believers, at creating confusion among them, and causing internal disruption.

(Through his Secretary, January 8, 1943)



1943-01-08 re Marriage Words

USBN #161 March 1943 p1

The Guardian approves the using of the words of the Bahá'í marriage service by the believers in communities which have not acquired legal capacity to conduct a marriage ceremony, provided it does not become an established rule, to be rigidly carried out by the Bahá'ís.

At the present time, when he is weighed down with his own cares and problems, the determination and devotion, loyalty and enthusiasm manifested by the American believers greatly helps and sustains him. He is praying for unprecedented victories to crown their labors, and he feels certain that, in these remaining months, before the Century draws to a close, your Assembly, as well as the believers, will rise to such heights of service as shall befittingly crown their past labors and bring the century to a successful consummation.

[To USNSA 8 Jan 43]



1943-01-25 Meditation & Teaching

“The questions you ask in your letter about individual guidance have two aspects, one might say. It is good that people should turn to God and beseech His aid in solving their problems and guiding their acts, indeed every day of their lives, if they feel the desire to do so. But they cannot possibly impose what they feel to be their guidance on anyone else, let alone on Assemblies or Committees, as Bahá'u'lláh has expressly laid down the law of consultation and never indicated that anything else superseded it.

“As to meditation: This also is a field in which the individual is free. There are no set forms of meditation prescribed in the teachings, no plan as such, for inner development. The friends are urged — nay enjoined — to pray, and they also should meditate, but the manner of doing the latter is left entirely to the individual.

“The same thing is true of teaching methods; no system, for teachers to practice, exists. But obviously the more people know about the teachings and the Cause, the better they will be able to present the subject. If some people find that prayer and placing all their trust in God, releases in them a flood of inspiration, they should be left free to pursue this method if it is productive of results.

The inspiration received through meditation is of a nature that one cannot measure or determine. God can inspire into our minds things that we had no previous knowledge of if He desires to do so.

“We cannot clearly distinguish between personal desire and guidance, but if the way opens, when we have sought guidance, then we may presume God is helping us.”

[January 25, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. William Kenneth Christian: Printed in US BN Jan 1944, pp1-2]



– 1025 –

1943-01-25 Primary Importance is Teaching Cause

The Principle Of An International Auxiliary Language

Compiled by the Research Dept at the direction of the House of Justice, 1 Nov 79(?)

We have no authentic record of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s in which He states that Esperanto will be the universal language of the future. It may be Esperanto, it may be some other language, we do not know; but as we believe so firmly in the necessity of an international language, we are always eager to co-operate with the Esperantists.

The thing of primary importance at present, especially in America, is the teaching of the Cause. With good will and determination an auxiliary language — especially one of the nature of Esperanto — can easily, and relatively quickly, be learned; whereas the Cause requires that people change not only certain ideas but their very characters and habits, and this is much harder to do and often takes a long time!

(25 January 1943 to an individual believer)



1943-01-25 Regarding Individual Guidance

USBN #167 January 1944 p1-2

“The questions you ask in your letter about individual guidance have two aspects, one might say. It is good that people should turn to God and beseech His aid in solving their problems and guiding their acts, indeed every day of their lives, if they feel the desire to do so. But they cannot possibly impose what they feel to be their guidance on anyone else, let alone on Assemblies or Committees, as Bahá'u'lláh has expressly laid down the law of consultation and never indicated that anything else superceded it.

“As to meditation: This also is a field in which the individual is free. There are no set forms of meditation prescribed in the teachings, no plan as such, for inner development. The friends are urged — nay enjoined — to pray, and they also should meditate, but the manner of doing the latter is left entirely to the individual

“The same thing is true of teaching methods; no system, for teachers to practice, exists. But obviously the more people know about the teachings and the Cause, the better they will be able to present the subject. If some people find that prayer and placing all their trust in God, releases in them a flood of inspiration, they should be left free to pursue this method if it is productive of results.

“The inspiration received through meditation is of a nature that one cannot measure or determine. God can inspire into our minds things that we had no previous knowledge of if He desires to do so.

“We cannot clearly distinguish between personal desire and guidance, but if the way opens, when we have sought guidance, then we may presume God is helping us.”

January 25, 1943, to Mr. and Mrs. William Kenneth Christian: —



1943-01-30 Newsletter Size

USBN #161 March 1943 p1

January 30, 1943: —

He does not feel that the Bahá'í News letter, published monthly for the information of the Bahá'ís, should be reduced in size, as it is read with deep interest by the believers everywhere, and the information it contains of the activities of the friends is a great stimulus to the work everywhere.

— 1028 —

1943-02-08 Re-establishment of LSAs

The re-establishment of disbanded Spiritual Assemblies in States and Provinces already possessing an Assembly forms no part of the Seven Year Plan. Concentrate attention and resources on virgin territories.

February 8,

— 1029 —

1943-02-22 To Eve Nicklin re Getting Established in Peru

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p64-5

Dear Bahá'í Sister,

Your letter of Oct. 24th has just been received; together with that of Philip, and the Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He was very happy to hear that you are now well established in Peru, and he hopes that ere long you will be able to confirm some of the Peruvians in the Faith, and thus start an active and devout nucleus of the Cause of God there.

You may be sure the Guardian will offer his ardent and loving prayers on your behalf in the Holy Shrines, that sincere and devout souls may be led to you and to accept the Divine Message.

He will be pleased to hear from you and of your work there and those whom you contact.

With Bahá'í love

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-worker

I deeply appreciate your high endeavours and the spirit that so admirably animates you in the service of our beloved Faith. You are often in my thoughts and prayers as you labour in that far-off land. Persevere in your glorious task, and rest assured that the Beloved will abundantly reward you for your meritorious services.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi

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Philip is travel teacher Philip Sprague, who arrived in Lima, Peru in late October 1942 and held informal meetings over several months that involved several 100 people total.

In 1940, he had had dinner with May Maxwell the night before she left for Buenos Aires and then took her to the ship. On her death a few months later, he asked the Guardian to take her place. He subsequently made numerous travel teaching trips to South America as a member of the U. S. Assembly Development Committee.



– 1030 –

1943-02-27 Celebration of Declaration of the Báb

USBN #162 April 1943 p1

In connection with the above [Celebration of Declaration of the Báb] he wishes me to add that the actual Celebration gathering, commemorative of that glorious occasion when the blessed Báb declared His spiritual Mission to the world in 1844 should take place exactly two hours and 11 minutes after sunset on May 22, in the Temple — naturally other Bahá'í Centers all over the continent of America must hold their special Commemorative meeting at the same time. The delegates and friends must hold their special Commemorative meeting at that time. The date of the Convention must be fixed by your Assembly in such a manner that the gathering on May 22, 1944, will fall approximately in the middle of the Convention period.

It is certainly a wonderful occasion to look forward to!

(Through his Secretary, February 27, 1943)



– 1031 –

1943-03-01 Temple Pamphlet

Temple pamphlet received. Highly satisfactory. Deepest appreciation. Advise widest distribution to public and to Balm'i Centers of East and West.

March 1,



1943-03-25 Value of Bahá'í Work and Any Other Form of Service to Humanity

USBN 171 November 1944 p2

He feels that, although your desire to partake actively of the dangers and miseries afflicting so many millions of people today, is natural, and a noble impulse, there can be no comparison between the value of Bahá'í work and any other form of service to humanity.

If the Bahá'ís could evaluate their work properly they would see that, whereas other forms of relief work are superficial in character, alleviating the sufferings and ills of men for a short time at best, the work they are doing is to lay the foundation of a new spiritual Order in the world founded on the Word of God, operating according to the laws He has laid down for this age. No one else can do this work except those who have fully realized the meaning of the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, whereas almost any courageous, sincere person can engage in relief work, etc.

The believers are building a refuge for mankind. This is their supreme, sacred task and they should devote every moment they can to this task.

— To Dagmar Dole, March 25,



1943-03-28 Letter to U.S. NTC re Keep BWC Well Informed On Details of Teaching

He enjoys very much receiving actual figures and details of how the Plan is progressing, and appreciates your having sent him this data at length. The number of pioneers already placed since Convention of 1942 is truly imposing, and, although he follows closely all reports in Bahá'í News, minutes of the N.S.A., etc., he had not realized that so large a number had gone forth in less than a year, and this information truly rejoices his often heavily burdened heart! ... Such letters, far from burdening him, make his work easier, as they give him a more complete picture of what is going on and encourage him.

[Leroy Loas: Hand of the Cause of God, Chapman, p113-4]



1943-03-28 Mostly About Aspects of Centenary

USBN #164 July 1943 pp1-3

Regarding the passages in the “Promulgation of Universal Peace”, the word “income” should be changed to “need” until such time as the text of the Master’s address in the original is found and verified. This particular address however, is not available at present. The second passage is obviously a mistake and should read: “if his production exceeds he will pay a tax.”

As already stated in a previous communication, the observance of the centenary of our Faith should be held in May, 1944, at which time the annual Convention should also take place; the friends should gather in the auditorium of the Temple on the 22nd of May, two hours and eleven minutes after sunset, which is the exact time of the Báb’s Declaration. On that occasion they should also celebrate the completion of the exterior ornamentation of their Temple. This meeting, so historic in nature, will thus be both a dedication ceremony of the House of Worship, as well as a celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Faith. While gathered in the auditorium no addresses should be delivered, but appropriate selections from the revealed writings should be read, whether prayers, meditations, Tablets, the addresses of the Master or selections from the Bible or the Qur’án. Passages from the writings of the Báb should be a special feature of the readings selected for this occasion. Singing, whether by soloists or choirs, should form part of the program. The utmost care should be taken to insure that the standard of the vocal music should befit that solemn occasion. The Guardian approves the selection of some of the psalms of David as an evidence of the universality of the Faith which should be amply demonstrated on that occasion. In order to consummate that historic celebration on that day the Guardian suggests that a meeting should be held in the Foundation Hall immediately following the dedication ceremony in the auditorium. at which addresses should be delivered, and non-Bahá’ís be invited to take part. The program for such a meeting should be elaborate and carefully prepared, and every effort should be made to have men of capacity and eminence as well as well-known Bahá’í speakers participate. The agenda of this meeting is left to the discretion of your Assembly, but the Guardian advises you in view of its importance, to seek the suggestions of the believers before making your final decision. Any new features the friends or the Assembly may wish to add would be most welcomed by the Guardian, who feels that the significance of the Faith, its universality, its world-wide influence, its indestructible unity, its moving history, its world order, its first House of Worship, in the Western World, and its attitude to other Faiths should be clearly and eloquently set forth and explained.

In honor of this unique occasion the Guardian hopes to send a copy of the portrait of the Báb and some of His relics to be displayed for the first time to the assembled believers in the auditorium of the Temple on that memorable evening, after which they should be placed in a safe spot within the Temple together with the Hair of Bahá’u’lláh previously presented to the American believers. Under no circumstances should the portrait of the Báb be left exposed or hung on the wall of the Temple, nor should any copy of it be made. Only on very rare occasions should it be displayed, and whenever shown should be in no other place except the Foundation Hall of the Temple. Its display in the auditorium is permitted only for this occasion. No such

portrait is to be found anywhere in the Bahá'í world — with the exception of Haifa — nor is the Guardian contemplating sending any copy at present to any other Bahá'í community. This indicates the importance he attaches to the Temple in America, which he feels is a befitting edifice to enshrine it. The utmost vigilance should be exercised that no copy be made of it in the future, or any attempts be made to reproduce it in any way.

This celebration, on the 22nd of May, 1944, is one feature of the festivities commemorating that historic event. The Convention period, during which these festivities are to be held, should be extended to at least a full week, during which the greatest publicity should be given to the events that are being commemorated. A banquet, at which distinguished friends, sympathizers and admirers of the Cause should be invited to be present, should be held in a befitting setting in the city of Chicago where the Cause was first established in America. In this connection, the Guardian would like to point out that that first center was, as affirmed by Dr. Khayru'lláh himself, established by him in 1871. Hence, it is justifiable to consider the establishment of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in the continent of America to have begun in 1894. The American believers will, therefore, be celebrating in May, 1944, at once the hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the Faith, the completion of the exterior ornamentation of the Temple, and the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Bahá'í Faith in the Western hemisphere and, indeed, in the entire Western world. To this marvelous coincidence adequate recognition should be given during the dedication ceremony in the form of thanksgiving prayers, in the meetings held in the Foundation Hall of the Temple, at the sessions of the Convention, through the press, and over the radio.

As to this particular Convention itself, the Guardian feels that the Bahá'ís in Central and South America should be invited to participate and to send, if possible, one representative from each country. These representatives would have the right to deliberate and participate in all the discussions of the Convention, only, naturally, for that year. They would not, however, exercise the right to elect the National Assembly which will be restricted to the delegates from the United States and Canada. In a sense the Convention will represent the entire community of the followers of Bahá'u'lláh throughout the Americas, gathered to celebrate, in the newly completed Temple, the centenary of their Faith, and commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its inception in the Western Hemisphere.

As the number of local Spiritual Assemblies in North America is steadily increasing, and will soon reach a point when it will be impracticable to apportion the 171 delegates among them, and as the number of delegates should not at present be further increased, the Guardian considers it advisable to introduce a new basis for election on the occasion of this historic Convention. This new principle will enable all Bahá'ís, whether belonging to communities that have an Assembly or to groups, and even all isolated believers, to participate in the election of delegates for the national Convention. Such a step has become necessary in view of the fact that the number of the Bahá'ís in localities where there are only groups or isolated believers has increased to such an extent as to constitute more than half of the total number of believers living in localities where there is a Spiritual Assembly. All the Bahá'ís will participate, through this new method, in the election of the national delegates — a step that will greatly increase the electorate, and broaden the basis of Bahá'í representation. The unit will, henceforth, have to be regarded as the

State or Province, rather than the locality in which the believers reside. In other words, the hundred and seventy-one delegates will have to be apportioned among the States of the U.S.A. and the Provinces of Canada, in direct proportion to the number of believers residing in each one of them. The Bahá'ís in each State and Province must either through correspondence or, preferably, by coming together whenever feasible, elect from among all the believers in that State or Province, the number of delegates allocated to them by the National Spiritual Assembly. In those States where there are numerous local Bahá'í communities it may be found advisable to divide each one of them into districts, allocating to each district a portion of the delegates assigned to that State, and in direct proportion to the number of believers living within the specified district. It is for the National Assembly to consider the most efficient methods whereby all the American believers will henceforth be able to participate in the election of their delegates. This method will promote Bahá'í solidarity in every State and Province, and, by bringing together the believers, enable them to function more efficiently and harmoniously, and promote the work of the Cause that lies ahead. No more befitting occasion could be found on which to initiate this measure than when the Bahá'í representatives of North, Central and South America are gathered to celebrate such historic events in the annals of the Cause.

In connection with these celebrations the Guardian would advise your Assembly to consider the following suggestions:

1. Bahá'ís unable to participate in the festivities in Chicago and Wilmette should be urged to observe befittingly these anniversaries in their respective localities. Articles in the press, radio broadcasts, invitations to well-known friends and admirers of the Cause, the showing of the Master's film, the playing of the record of His voice, banquets, exhibitions of the Temple models, etc., should characterize these festivities.
1. The special attention of the friends and visitors, during this celebration should be directed to the fact that the event marks also the hundredth anniversary of the birth of 'Abdu'l-Bahá. This should be emphasized in the addresses delivered in the special anniversary publication, the souvenir pamphlets, the articles for the press and the radio broadcasts.
1. A special anniversary publication should be issued under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly and following the general lines indicated in the memorandum submitted by them to the Guardian.
1. The preparation of a smaller souvenir pamphlet, adorned by the Paris photograph of the Master and an artistic reproduction of the Temple, containing a brief outline of the salient events of the first Bahá'í century, and prefaced by a short statement of the aims and purposes of the Faith, attractively bound and to be presented to the distinguished guests participating in these celebrations.
1. Special instructions to the Bahá'ís of Central and South America to celebrate the occasion and to gather at the exact time of the Báb's Declaration, and to give as wide a publicity to the event as their resources permit.

1. The appointment of a special committee as soon as possible to insure the carrying out of the necessary measures, under the close supervision of the National Assembly, for the proper execution of these plans.
1. An effort should be made to give publicity to this event and its celebration through national radio broadcasts, and, if feasible, to broadcast the ceremony from the auditorium of the Temple.

The Guardian hopes to send a color film of the Holy Shrines and gardens in 'Akká and Haifa to be shown to the friends at the Convention and circulated amongst the various centers.

In conclusion, he wishes to assure you, one and all, of his special prayers for the success of the mighty efforts which he is sure you will exert to insure the triumph of the Seven Year Plan, as well as the glorious celebrations which must consummate the first Bahá'í century.

March 28, 1943



– 1035 –

1943-03-28 Teaching Work in North Central and South America

USBN #163 June 1943 p2

Concerning the teaching work in North, Central and South America, the Guardian has already advised your Assembly that the reconstitution of the disbanded Assemblies in the States and Provinces where a Spiritual Assembly already exists does not form an objective of the Seven Year Plan. The friends should concentrate on their goal which is to have at least one Assembly in every State and Province before May of 1944, and at least one permanent resident believer in every Republic in Central and South America. In view of this, special attention should be paid to those Latin Republics where the situation, from the Bahá'í viewpoint of establishing the Faith, is precarious. Every encouragement should be given to those volunteers who express a wish to settle in virgin areas. Nor should there be any delay in arranging for their settlement — whatever their qualifications they should, during these crucial remaining months of the first Bahá'í century, be sent out to the places most urgently requiring attention. Through further urgent appeals for pioneers, through a series of area conferences, through special teaching circuits for the key cities; through constant reminders that the time is getting short; that all volunteers will be acceptable, and will be speedily dispatched to the centers in most need, the success of the Seven Year Plan must be assured and the magnificent undertaking launched by the American Bahá'ís carried to a glorious consummation.

(From the Guardian, through his secretary, March 28, 1943).



1943-03-28 To Leroy loas Need Pioneers in Field Quickly

“He wishes to stress the importance of sending out the volunteers for pioneer teaching and settlement .as quickly as possible: he does not feel that this is the time to be exacting about the qualifications of the people who volunteer. The time is too short and the stake too great to consider these secondary points; once the precious goal is won, all adjustments necessary can be considered and made.”

“I admire the spirit that animates you, marvel at your stupendous efforts, and greatly rejoice at the success you and your collaborators in the teaching field are achieving. Persevere in your historic and all-important task...”

[Leroy loas: Hand of the Cause of God, Chapman, p112-3]



1943-05-02 Acclaim Magnificent Victory

USBN #163 June 1943 p2

I acclaim magnificent victory in the teaching field during the course of the sixth year of the Seven Year Plan. I heartily congratulate the National Teaching Committee and feel proud of its high endeavors and of the self-sacrifice of the beloved pioneers. Abiding gratitude.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Received May 2nd,

[Obviously a cablegram w/ undesignated interpolated words]



1943-05-03 Properly Evaluate The Work They Are Doing

USBN 171 November 1944 p2

If the believers could properly evaluate the work they are doing they would be astonished at its importance, but they are in the position of not being able to see the forest for the trees; they are too close to it to realize its true import.

— To Mrs. Alice Dudley, May 3, 1943



– 1039 –

1943-05-04 Fervent Prayers for Unprecedented Victories

USBN #163 June 1943 p2

I assure the members of the reelected Assembly my fervent prayers for unprecedented victories in the concluding year of the Bahá'í Century. I gratefully recognize their share in the magnificent achievements of recent years. Deepest love.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Message Received May 4,

[obviously a cablegram w/ undesignated interpolated words]



– 1040 –

1943-06-25 Pioneer May Resign Administrative Post

USBN #165 September 1943 p1

Reply to a question addressed to Shoghi Effendi inquiring whether members of local Assemblies desiring to pioneer may resign from their administrative post.

"I approve resignation provided the Assembly is not dissolved."

Received June 25, 1943



– 1041 –

1943-08-02 Bahá'í National Headquarters Established Delhi.

USBN #165 September 1943 p1

"Bahá'í National Headquarters have been established in Delhi."

August 2, 1943

1943-08-08 West Indies & Latin Republics

USBN #166 November 1943 p1

“Regarding the status of believers resident in British territories of the West Indies: the Guardian feels that in view of their proximity to the U.S. A. they should be regarded as centers under the supervision of the American Bahá’í National Assembly. They are not included as objectives of the Seven Year Plan which comprises only the sovereign republics of Central and South America.”

“The Guardian has recently, in a detailed cable, urged that special attention be directed, during these remaining months of the first Bahá’í Century, to the strengthening of the centers requiring assistance in the Latin Republics as well as in the virgin areas of the North American continent, in order to assure the establishment of a permanent center in each of these Republics and the formation of a Spiritual Assembly in each remaining virgin area. Through further appeals for more pioneers at this eleventh hour; through further self-sacrifice aiming at the provision of ampler funds for the dispatch of these pioneers and other teaching purposes, the few unfinished tasks of the Plan must be speedily accomplished in order to insure the total success of the for the coming Centenary Celebrations. During these remaining months the Guardian will, as he has already assured you in that cable, pray with redoubled fervor for the complete success of this vast undertaking, this organized crusade, the like of which has never been launched during the entire course of one hundred years of Bahá’í History.”

— August 8, 1943

1943-09-26 To an Individual Believer re Be Tolerant of Each Other

Unlocking the Power of Action, #49

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

The believers must be tolerant of each other’s weaknesses and mistakes, and ever ready to forgive and forget the past because inharmony — whatever the cause — is sure to prevent the community from growing.

1943-11-16 Convention Delegates & LSA Formation

USBN #168 March 1944 p1-2

“Regarding the seven points submitted to the Guardian in connection with the new basis of the election of Convention delegates. He approves the action taken by your Assembly but wishes to stress the importance of reminding the believers that they should make every possible effort to attend the meeting for the election of the State or Province delegates, in order to stimulate a larger group consciousness which will greatly facilitate the process of the believers becoming acquainted with each other, and provide an intermediary stage — which will become increasingly valuable and necessary between the local organization, represented by the group or Assembly, and national collective action, represented by the activities of the Convention and the institution of the National Assembly.

“Regarding the District of Columbia: the Guardian feels it should be accorded its independent status of a State and should be treated on a footing of absolute equality with the other States and Provinces. Believers residing in that district should be accorded the same rights, in all matters of election and otherwise, as those who reside in the States and Provinces of North America.

“The Guardian’s directions regarding the formation of local Assemblies before April 21 applies to Central and South America as well as to the North American communities.

“Regarding the election of the local Assembly on April 21: He feels that it should not take place after sunset on that day, for otherwise it would be according to the Bahá’í Calendar, falling on April 22; if any changes should be made in the ByLaws, uniform action should be enforced by your Assembly.”

November 16, 1943



1943-12-17 All the Battle of Life is Within the Individual

USBN 171 November 1944 p2

Ultimately all the battle of life is within the individual. No amount of organization can solve the inner problems or produce or prevent, as the case may be, victory or failure at a crucial moment. In such times as these particularly, individuals are torn by great forces at large in the world, and we see some weak ones strong, and strong ones fail — we can only try, through loving advice, as your Committee has done, to bring about the act on the part of the believer which will be for the highest good of the Cause. Because obviously something bad for the Cause cannot be the highest good of the individual Bahá’í.

— To Leroy loas, December 17,



– 1046 –

1943-12-24 Vaccinations Calendar Studies

USBN #173 February 1945 p3

“Regarding your question about vaccination: these are technical matters which have not been specifically mentioned in the teachings, and consequently the Guardian can not make any statement about them. No doubt medical science will progress tremendously as time goes by, and the treatment of disease becomes more perfect.

“It is advisable to use both the Bahá’í dates, according to the Bahá’í Calendar, and the usual Gregorian dates as well. The friends at present are free to do as they please.

“The Guardian hopes that along with whatever other studies you take up, you will continually study the teachings and endeavor to acquire a profound knowledge of them. The importance of young Bahá’ís becoming thoroughly steeped in every branch of the teachings can not be over-emphasized, as they have great teaching tasks ahead of them to accomplish.”

(From letter to John C. Eichenauer, Jr., December 24, 1943)



– 1047 –

1943-xx-xx Obo SE to Loulie Mathews re How to View Cause

World Order Magazine, July 1943, p115

We should view the Cause in the light of a perfect system, operating as yet through very imperfect instruments. Gradually, through the deepening of individual spiritual consciousness and general change the world itself must undergo, the perfection of this will become manifest and fully operative.

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quoted by Robert L Gulick, Jr



1944-01-14 Importance of these Endowments in Jordan Valley

USBN #168 March 1944 p1

"In this connection he would like you, in Bahá'í News, to call the attention of the friends to the importance of these endowments in the Jordan valley, by quoting Bahá'u'lláh's own words as found on pages 116 and 117 in the 'Gleanings,' in which He very clearly states His approval of such dedicated lands, anticipates the importance they will acquire in those regions, and associates them with the words in the Old Testament: 'Spread thy skirt, a Jerusalem!'

— January 14, 1944

The passage in Gleanings From the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh reads as follows: —

"If a man be found willing to rear, in Our name, an edifice of pure gold or silver, or a house begemmed with stones of inestimable value, such a wish will no doubt be granted. He, verily, doeth what He willeth, and ordaineth that which He pleaseth. Leave, hath, moreover, been given to whosoever may desire to raise, throughout the length and breadth of this land, noble and imposing structures, and dedicate the rich and sacred territories adjoining the Jordan and its vicinity to the worship and service. of the one true God, magnified be His glory, that the prophecies recorded by the Pen of the Most High in the sacred Scriptures may be fulfilled, and that which God, the Lord of all worlds, hath purposed in this most exalted, this most holy, this mighty. and wondrous Revelation may be made manifest.

"We have, of old, uttered these words: Spread thy skirt, O Jerusalem! Ponder this in your hearts, O people of Bahá, and render thanks unto your Lord, the Expounder, the Most Manifest.



1944-01-23 How Much of Gospels are Accurate

The Bible: Extracts on the Old on New Testaments

compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

...we cannot be sure how much or how little of the four Gospels are accurate and include the words of Christ and His undiluted teachings, all we can be sure of, as Bahá'ís, is that what has been quoted by Bahá'u'lláh and the Master must be absolutely authentic. As many times passages in the Gospel of St. John are quoted we may assume that it is his Gospel and much of it accurate.

(23 January 1944 to an individual believer on Behalf of the Guardian)

— 1050 —

1944-02-11 For SE to Ind re Confucius

Bahá'í Studies Bulletin Vol I #2 September 1982 pp61

Confucius was a reformer, not a divine Manifestation of God

— 1051 —

1944-02-11 On Behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an Individual re Tax on Inheritance

Redistribution of Wealth #20

Compiled By Research Department Of The Universal House Of Justice.

The income tax, according to the Bahá'í teachings, mounts at quite a steep rate so that great sums of money would be very heavily taxed. But the individual is free to make his will as he pleases. What he has laboured for he has the right to dispose of. The greater the sum inherited, the higher the tax will be.

— 1052 —

1944-03-13 Delighted at Notable Successes

USBN #168 March 1944 p1

Delighted at notable successes achieved and splendid prospects ahead. Fervently praying for speedy formation of Assemblies in the four unsettled areas and full attendance of Latin American representatives.

— SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

— 1053 —

1944-03-14 Locket with Bábs Hair

USBN #168 March 1944 p1

The first envelope containing locket with hair was returned after meeting with an accident. Though the accompanying letter was half burnt, the hair is intact. I rejoice at the providential escape and safe arrival. Inform friends.

— SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Received. March 14, 1944

(This message refers to the shipment of the hair of the Báb for exhibit at the Centenary and preservation in the Archives. It was sent in June, 1943, and never received here. But now we have this news of its providential escape from loss or destruction and safe return to its sender, the Guardian, in Haifa.)



– 1054 –

1944-04-13 re Formation of LSAs

USBN 171 November 1944 p3

In connection with your Assembly's two actions regarding the formation and dissolution of Spiritual Assemblies: The Guardian approves of your first action, which he understands is only for this last year of the first Bahá'í Century, as, of course, in the future Assemblies will be formed only during the month of April. As to the second action, however, any Assembly which is dissolved must immediately report to the national secretary, who must always keep an up to date list of Assemblies. Any dissolved Assembly cannot be reconstituted until the time of election in April. This is the general principle which must be followed in the future. In this last year of the Century, however, naturally any Assembly that is dissolved may be reconstituted as soon as the number of believers reverts to nine again.

Regarding your question as to the changing of pronouns in Bahá'í prayers: The Guardian does not approve of such changes, either in the specific prayers or in any others. They should be read as printed without changing a single word.

— Shoghi Effendi, through his Secretary, to the National Spiritual Assembly April 13,

(Written in reply to question of procedure raised by the NSA in connection with the special condition existing prior to the Centenary date due to the Guardian's temporary waiving of the regulation that Assemblies can only be elected or constituted on April 43.)



1944-04-22 On Behalf of to an Individual re Psychic Experiences

Reincarnation And The Nature And Progress Of The Soul #17

Compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice

We know from His Teachings that reincarnation does not exist. We come on to this planet once only. Our life here is like the baby in the womb of its mother, which develops in that state what is necessary for its entire life after it is born. The same is true of us. Spiritually we must develop here what we will require for the life after death. In that future life, God, through His mercy, can help us to evolve characteristics which we neglected to develop while we were on this earthly plane. It is not necessary for us to come back and be born into another body in order to advance spiritually and grow closer to God.

This is the Bahá'í Teaching, and this is what the followers of Bahá'u'lláh must accept, regardless of what experiences other people may feel they have. You yourself must surely know that modern psychology has taught that the capacity of the human mind for believing what it imagines is almost infinite. Because people think they have a certain type of experience, think they remember something of a previous life, does not mean they actually had the experience, or existed previously. The power of their mind would be quite sufficient to make them believe firmly such a thing had happened.

We must use the Writings of the Prophets as our measurement. If Bahá'u'lláh had attached the slightest importance to occult experiences, to the seeing of auras, to the hearing of mystic voices; if He had believed that reincarnation was a fact, He, Himself, would have mentioned all of these things in His Teachings. The fact that He passed over them in silence shows that to Him, they had either no importance or no reality, and were consequently not worthy to take up His time as the Divine Educator of the human race.

We must turn our faces away from these things, and toward the actual practice of His Teachings in our everyday life through our Bahá'í Administration, and in our contact with other people and the examples we give.



1944-05-12 World After this War to be in Terrible Condition

USBN #174 April-May 1945 p3

The world that lies ahead of us after this war is going to be in a terrible condition, and if the believers are going to accomplish their duty and present the Divine Solution to mankind, they must prepare themselves for the great tasks that lie ahead. This particularly applies to Bahá'í youth. Young men and women in the Faith must be deep and thoughtful scholars of its

teachings, so that they can teach in a way that will convince people that all the problems facing them have a remedy. 'They must grasp the Administration so that they can wisely and efficiently administer the ever-growing affairs of the Cause: and they must exemplify the Bahá'í way of living. All this is not easy — but the Guardian is always greatly encouraged to see the spirit animating such young believers as yourself. He has high hopes of what your generation will accomplish.

(From letter written to Seymour Weinberg, May 12, 1944).



– 1057 –

1944-05-27 To Virginia Orbison for Formation of Lima Peru LSA

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p78

ASSURE ASSEMBLY LOVING APPRECIATION GREETINGS PRAYING BRILLIANT VICTORIES



– 1058 –

1944-05-29 To Eve Nicklin on Election of 1st LSA in Peru.

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p75-6

Haifa

May 29th

Dear Bahá'í sister,

Your welcome letter of April 23rd reached the Guardian; and the news you convey in it of the spread of the beloved Faith brought him great joy. The formation of an assembly in Peru was indeed a great victory, and added to the chain of Central and South American Bahá'í another precious link.

He is so happy over the work accomplished by the valiant pioneers — and so proud of the record of the American believers achievements: an assembly in every province and state of N. America and a center in every Latin Republic — and so many spiritual assemblies!

He will especially pray for you in the Shrines, and he is deeply appreciative of all you have done for the Cause these last few years in Peru.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-worker:

Your steadfastness, your devotion, your historic services are assets that I greatly value. I will fervently pray that the Beloved may bless your efforts, guide your steps, cheer your heart and fulfil your dearest wish in His service.

Persevere in your high endeavours and rest assured and be happy.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi

The first Spiritual Assembly of Lima in 1944 with Virginia Orbinson (seated first row right) and Alfredo Barreda (standing second row right) — Eve Nicklin is at the center. Courtesy: Bahá'í World Centre



– 1059 –

1944-07-06 Membership of Elected Institutions

USBN #173 February 1945 p3

“Regarding your questions concerning the advisability of changing the basis of the National Assembly’s election and confining it to the body of delegates or of limiting the term of office: He feels that as any such changes are of a radical nature and should therefore apply to the N. S. A.’s of other countries, they are inadvisable and premature, both for this reason and because of their very nature.

“What is needed is to get the administration in its present form to run more efficiently and at the same time to build up a higher sense of responsibility among the body of the believers. They should be encouraged to think more, not only about the qualifications of their elected bodies, but also about such things as you mention, the law of averages, the age and indisposition of some of the members, etc.

“When we look back and see what the Administration has accomplished in twenty odd years, indeed what it has done in the last seven years, we see what strides forward have been made. Far greater tasks lie ahead, but the Guardian does not feel that the way to meet them is to change the present system but rather to perfect it by educating the believers and training them, holding more conferences, publishing more news for Bahá’ís, getting more people active.”

(From letter to Emeric Sala, July 6, 1944)



– 1060 –

1944-07-07 Need for Unity

USBN #173 February 1945 p3

“Regarding your question about the need for greater unity among the friends there is no doubt that this is so, and the Guardian feels that one of the chief instruments for promoting it is to teach the Bahá’ís themselves, in classes and through precepts, that love of God, and consequently of men, is the essential foundation of every religion, our own included. A greater degree of love will produce a greater unity, because it enables people to bear with each other, to be patient and forgiving.”

(From letter to Mrs. Annie Romer, July 7, 1944)



– 1061 –

1944-07-28 To Virginia Orbison on Formation of Lima Peru LSA

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p78

The news of the formation of the Spiritual Assembly there [Lima Peru] greatly rejoiced his heart, as you already know. It is practically impossible for those who take part in the first stirrings of the World Order of Bahá’u’lláh in new lands to properly estimate their value and place in history



– 1062 –

1944-08-06 French have Great Capacity for Religious Feeling

Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá’í Studies Review 4:1

He will also pray that the way may open for you to serve it in ever wider fields, even some day, God willing, in your beloved France. The French people have a great capacity for religious

feeling, and the Guardian hopes that after their great sufferings during this war their hearts will gradually become receptive to this Divine Message which alone can heal the ills of all mankind.

(on Behalf of Shoghi Effendi 6 August 1944 to an individual believer)



– 1063 –

1944-08-09 Dark Forces in the World Today

Fire and Gold: Benefiting from Life's Tests", p139

as compiled by Brian Kurzious

There are dark forces in the world today of despair and hatred and suspicion; the believers must, as the Master said, turn their backs on these and their faces to Him, confidence of His help and protection.

[Written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 9 August 1944]



– 1064 –

1944-08-19 To Latin America Bahá'ís re Significance of July Teaching Conf

Divine Springtime — Louise Coswell Recalls, p59-61

It is the first time in Bahá'í history that so many duly appointed representatives of so many independant countries have gathered together, and it foreshadows the gatherings of the future when the believers from the four corners of the globe will gather to discuss plans for the beloved Cause and to exchange ideas and suggestions.



– 1065 –

1944-08-25 To Louhelen Junior Youth Session

1. LETTER TO LOUHELEN JUNIOR YOUTH SESSION OF JULY 1944

Haifa

25 August 1944

To the Bahá'ís who were present at the Junior Youth Session of Louhelen Summer School, July 1944

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your loving message, dated July 23rd, has been received and the Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He hopes that you will develop into Bahá'ís in character as well as in belief. The whole purpose of Bahá'u'lláh is that we should become a new kind of people, people who are upright, kind, intelligent, truthful, and honest and who live according to His great laws laid down for this new epoch in man's development. To call ourselves Bahá'ís is not enough, our inmost being must become ennobled and enlightened through living a Bahá'í life.

He will pray for you, each and every one, that you may be of great help to the world in the days to come.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

May the Almighty bless your efforts, guide your steps, and enable you to further the interests, and consolidate the foundations, of this noble institution which has already rendered such notable services to our beloved and glorious Faith,

Your true brother

Shoghi

[Your True Brother: Messages to Junior Youth Written by or on Behalf of Shoghi Effendi]



– 1066 –

1944-08-xx To an Individual Believer re Value of Studying History of the Cause

Studying the Writings of Shoghi Effendi

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Studying the Writings of the Guardian, ed. M. Bergsmo

He feels that you will benefit greatly by the history of the Cause as outlined in 'God Passes By', and he hopes you will master the subjects and facts it contains and help to bring them to the

attention of the Bahá'ís, as there is a need in the Cause to see our Holy Faith in its proper perspective, and he feels you can be of great help in this connection.



– 1067 –

1944-09-24 Noble Determination of Committees and Assemblies

USBN 171 November 1944 p2

Profoundly gratified, I greatly welcome the noble determination of Committees and Assemblies unitedly to arise to preserve the prizes dearly won and prepare themselves befittingly to discharge the mightier, more glorious task ahead in the opening years of the second century.

(signed) SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

September 24, 1944

[Guardian's reply to word sent him from the September meeting that the National Assembly is determined to arise in unity with the National Committees and the local Assemblies to preserve the prizes already won and prepare to discharge the greater responsibilities and tasks which lie ahead.]



– 1068 –

1944-10-16 To Participants at Louhelen Summer School Aug 1944 re Study GPB

Studying the Writings of Shoghi Effendi

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Studying the Writings of the Guardian, ed. M. Bergsmo

He is pleased to hear that the friends are intensively studying 'God Passes By,' as it is most essential for them to gain not only a fuller knowledge of their Faith's history but also to see how persistently it has been attacked by enemies who once held high positions in its ranks. Indeed he hopes a perusal of this book will help not only friends and observers of the Cause to see Aḥmad Sohrab in his proper colours, but also believers who are not familiar with the defections of those who were far more highly placed and who turned against the Faith in the days of Bahá'u'lláh and the Master.



1944-10-17 Regarding International Language

USBN #178 December 1945 p1

Regarding the whole question of an international language and its relation to the Faith: We, as Bahá'ís, are very anxious to see a universal auxiliary tongue adopted as soon as possible; we are not the protagonists of any one language to fill this post. If the governments of the world agree on an existing language, or a constructed, new tongue, to be used internationally, we would heartily support it because we desire to see this step in the unification of the human race take place as soon as possible.

Esperanto has been in wide use, more so than any similar language, all over the world, and the Bahá'ís have been encouraged by both the Master and the Guardian to learn it and to translate Bahá'í literature into it. We cannot be sure it will be the chosen language of the future; but as it is the one which has spread most, both East and West, we should certainly continue to co-operate with its members, learn to speak it, and translate Bahá'í literature into it.

— to John M. Clifford October 17, 1944



1944-10-17 Function According to Bahá'í Laws & Principles

USBN #178 December 1945 p1

All over the world the Guardian is constantly encouraging and enjoining the believers to learn to function according to Bahá'í laws and principles; members of Spiritual Assemblies must learn to face their responsibilities; individuals must learn to turn to them and abide by their decisions. When we realize that all marriages, divorces, disposal of inheritance, etc., are now handled in Egypt and Persia solely through the Assemblies and that the believers abide by their decisions, we see that in Western countries the friends still have a long way to go — the sooner they start the better for themselves and for the Faith.

To Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, October 17,



1944-10-17 Infallibility Guidance Consultation

USBN #177 November 1945 p2

The infallibility of the Guardian is confined to matters which are related strictly to the Cause and interpretation of the teachings: he is not an infallible authority on other subjects, such as economics, science, etc. When he feels that a certain thing is essential for the protection of the Cause, even if it is something that affects a person personally, he must be obeyed, but when he gives advice, such as that he gave you in a previous letter about your future, it is not binding: you are free to follow it or not as you please.

The question of guidance is a very subtle one. We cannot be positive that an impulse or a dream is guidance. We can seek, through earnest prayer and longing, Sincerely to do God's Will, His guidance. We can try, as you say, to emulate the Master and at all times live up to the teachings, but we cannot be sure that doing these things we are still making no mistakes and are perfectly guided. These things help us not to make so many mistakes and to receive more directly the guidance God seeks to give us.

Regarding consultation: Any person can refer a matter to the Assembly for consultation whether the other person wishes to or not. In matters which affect the Cause the Assembly should, if it deems it necessary, intervene even if both sides don't want it to because the whole purpose of the Assemblies is to protect the Faith, the Communities and the individual Bahá'ís as well.

To John Ashton, October 17, 1944



1944-10-22 Land Donated by Mírzá 'Ináyatu'lláh

USBN #173 February 1945 p3

"Some of the members of the N. S. A. will remember Mírzá 'Ináyatu'lláh who about forty years ago was in America and has ever since remained firm and disassociated himself entirely from his half-brother, Dr. Fareed and his sister, Mrs. Sprague."

(From letter dated October 22, 1944)

[The Guardian sent the National Spiritual Assembly the Certificate of Registration of a tract of land on Mt. Carmel adjacent to the Tombs of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Family there. It was registered in the name of The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States and Canada: Palestine Branch. The covering letter states that the piece of land was recently given to the Cause by Mírzá 'Ináyatu'lláh Iṣfahání of Haifa.]

— 1073 —

1944-11-13 Significance of Remains of Prophets

USBN #210 August 1948 p2

There is no special physical significance in the remains of the Prophets or relics of Their Persons. But there is a profound spiritual significance in the sense that Their dust was the physical mirror of the greatness of God. In other words we know God through His Prophets, Who have bodies; these bodies — Their very dust — are precious through association. It is natural for people to be touched by a lock of hair or some token of one they loved; how much more should we treasure and feel moved by a relic of the Beloved of God?

The Báb has told us to bury the dead in silk (if possible) in coffins of crystal. Why? Because the body, though now dust, was once exalted by the immortal soul of man! The portrait of the Báb should be regarded as an inestimable privilege and blessing to behold, as past generations were denied a glimpse of the Face of the Manifestation, once He had passed on.

— To Miss Sally Sanor, November 13,

— 1074 —

1944-11-18 Triumph of Arduous Seven Year Plan

USBN 171 November 1944 p1-2

As you know, from his various cabled messages, he has been greatly rejoiced over the complete triumph of the arduous Seven Year Plan undertaken by the American believers during a difficult period in world events and carried forward to a glorious conclusion in the very teeth of the tempest of war which has been raging for almost five of the seven years of their heroic endeavor. To complete such a Plan during times of peace and security would in itself have been a great achievement; but to have succeeded during the darkest days of humanity's abasement and trial, is truly little short of miraculous and must forever attest the calibre of the faith and loyalty which fills the hearts of the members of the blessed American Bahá'í community.

His hope and belief is that they will not rest on their oars, but will, their appetites whetted by their successes, carry on their great and noble tasks allotted to them by the Center of the Covenant Himself.

The work that lies ahead of them in the immediate future is clearly defined: The great advantages won for the Faith in the eyes of the public by the remarkable success of the

Centenary in Wilmette; the large attendance of believers, the presence of gifted and devoted Central and South American representatives of newly established outposts of the Faith, should be followed up by teaching campaigns, wide publicity and as many radio broadcasts as can be secured. A contact with the masses has, for the first time, to all intents and purposes, since 'Abdu'l-Bahá's visit, been made, and should be vigorously maintained. Inside the Bahá'í Fold every effort must be exerted to safeguard the newly established Assemblies and prevent them from falling back into group status again. In Latin America the Assemblies must not only be maintained but new ones established in the Republics which have not yet a Bahá'í administrative nucleus. Literature in Spanish and Portuguese should be made available as speedily as possible and disseminated far and wide. Latin American and native Bahá'ís should, whenever qualified, be urged and assisted to pioneer, to travel and to teach in Central and South America, thereby encouraging them to gradually shoulder their own responsibilities.

With such a triumph behind you the Guardian feels confident you will face these many tasks that lie ahead with joy and his prayers will constantly be offered on your behalf and for your inspiration and guidance.

August 18, 1944



– 1075 –

1944-11-27 To Phillip Hainsworth re Teaching in British Isles

Looking back in Wonder, Phillip Hainsworth, p26-7

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your welcome letter of November 15, so full of encouraging news, has been received, and the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer on his behalf.

He was both surprised and delighted to see how much you have been able to do in Norwich, and that the first 'native' believer has entered the Faith and is actively assisting you. The work in England has, indeed, progressed slowly from the standpoint of enlarging the Faith's membership and establishing new centres and assemblies. On the other hand, however, the British Bahá'ís have consolidated the administration and thus prepared the way for intensified teaching activities. They have also built up a very helpful institution in the Publishing Trust, one calculated to impress the public and aid greatly in their own and other countries' teaching programmes. The Faith there needs more active, devoted young believers like yourself.

Regarding your question concerning your future plans; the Guardian strongly advises you to devote yourself to teaching the Faith in the British Isles. The need is very great for the people, emerging from so much suffering into a still deeply troubled immediate future, to hear of the Cause. Also the recently undertaken Six Year teaching Plan requires a great effort on the part of the English Bahá'ís, and your services are very much needed in this field.

Please convey his loving greetings to Mr Tellerman and Miss Bird. He will pray for them, and particularly for you, that you may render the Cause many services.

With Bahá'í Greetings,

R. Rabbání

Assuring you of my keen appreciation of the spirit that animates you in the service of the Faith, and of my special and fervent prayers for the success of your high endeavour.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1076 –

1944-11-30 Forgiveness of Covenant-breakers

USBN #179 January 1946 p1

Regarding Mr. Smeskal's question about the Covenant-breakers: Bahá'u'lláh and the Master in many places and very emphatically have told us to shun entirely all Covenant — breakers as they are afflicted with what we might try and define as a contagious spiritual disease; they have also told us, however, to pray for them. These souls are not lost forever. In the Aqdas, Bahá'u'lláh says that God will forgive Mírzá Yahyá if he repents. It follows, therefore, that God will forgive any soul if he repents. Most of them don't want to repent, unfortunately. If the leaders can be forgiven it goes without saying that their followers can also be forgiven... .

Also, it has nothing to do with unity in the Cause: if a man cuts a cancer out of his body to preserve his health and very life, no one would suggest that for the sake of "unity" it should be reintroduced into the otherwise healthy organism! On the contrary, what was once a part of him has so radically changed as to have become a poison.

— To Mr. and Mrs. Otto Smeskal November 30,



– 1077 –

1944-11-xx Passing of John Stearns

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p85

RADIANT SELFLESS SERVICES DEAR JOHN STEARNS WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN COUNTRY
INDEED BLESSED WHERE PIONEER NOT ONLY TAUGHT BUT REMAINED DIED STILL
GLORIFYING HIS FAITH



– 1078 –

1944-12-24 Mostly About Teaching

USBN #173 February 1945 p2

In your letter of Sept. 20th you enclosed a copy of your amendments of the By-Laws of the N.S.A.: He fully approved of these changes rendered necessary by the States and Provinces themselves now being regarded as electoral units in the election of delegates to the annual Convention.

In that same letter you ask for his suggestions concerning possible plans for teaching in Europe, or helping the Bahá'ís there with literature, etc. Obviously, there will be a tremendous need for Bahá'í literature in these war-torn countries and for spiritual enlightenment and help. But as the whole situation is still in the throes of violent changes, and we cannot as yet foresee how soon or where assistance may be given, he feels that there should at present be no diversion into new channels of the energies of the American believers now concentrated on the tasks they already have in hand. Literature in German, French, and any other European languages that can be conveniently undertaken, should be translated and held in readiness for use whenever the time for action comes.

He has been very sorry to notice in various reports received from you that some of the new Assemblies, established at such cost of sacrifice on the part of those who arose as pioneers and overcame every obstacle in their path and those who generously contributed of their means to insure a supply of funds for this purpose, are falling below Assembly status. He realizes that your body and the National Teaching Committee and Regional Teaching Committees are well aware of this situation. But he wishes to personally add a word of appeal to the friends not to permit their hard-won prizes to now slip from their grasp through any relaxation of their vigilance and efforts. The believers, now more sure of their own powers and of the Divine help that has so unfailingly reached them than at any previous period in their fifty-year history, must continue to put forth a mature, dedicated and sustained effort so that these new Assemblies whether in North or South America may be preserved and reinforced and, where necessary, re-instated. Groups, though of secondary importance, should likewise be enlarged and built up to Assembly status so that the truly remarkable victory achieved by the American and Canadian Bahá'ís may

not shrink in dimension as the months go by, but rather flower into still greater victories in the days to come.

He also wishes to call your Assembly's attention to the great importance of Magallanes as a center, and of the necessity of extending it every assistance, so that this Bahá'í year an Assembly may be firmly established there. It, together with that of Alaska, may be likened to the extremity of the Bahá'í arms stretched out and waiting to embrace the whole world in the order of peace and love which Bahá'u'lláh has established for the children of men in this day.

In closing the beloved Guardian wishes me to assure you and your fellow-members of his most loving prayers on your behalf and for the success of the many tasks of importance which you are, in collaboration with the mass of the believers, seeking to carry to a successful conclusion.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. RABBÁNÍ

Haifa, December 24, 1944



– 1079 –

1944-xx-xx Formation and Dissolution of Spiritual Assemblies

USBN #269 July 1944 p4

In connection with your Assembly's two actions regarding the formation and dissolution of Spiritual Assemblies: The Guardian approves of your first action, which he understands is only for this last year of the first Bahá'í Century, as, of course, in the future Assemblies will be formed only during the month of April. As to the second action, however, any Assembly which is dissolved must immediately report to the national secretary, who must always keep an up to date list of Assemblies. Any dissolved Assembly cannot be reconstituted until the time of election in April. This is the general principle which must be followed in the future. In this last year of the Century, however, naturally any Assembly that is dissolved may be reconstituted as soon as the number of believers reverts to nine again.

Regarding your question as to the changing of pronouns in Bahá'í prayers: The Guardian does not approve of such changes, either in the specific prayers or in any others. They should be read as printed without changing a single word.



1945-01-01 Participation Erection Shrine of Báb

USBN #177 November 1945 p4

Shoghi Effendi very much appreciates the desire of the American believers to participate in the erection of the completed shrine of the Báb. The preliminary plans are now being made, and he leaves it to the friends to contribute towards this sacred enterprise in whatever manner and to whatever degree they wish to.

(Shoghi Effendi, through his secretary. January 1, 1945)



1945-01-01 School Session at Englewood

USBN #173 February 1945 p2

Shoghi Effendi very much appreciates the desire of the American believers to participate in the erection of the completed shrine of the Báb. The preliminary plans are now being made, and he leaves it to the friends to contribute towards this sacred enterprise in whatever manner and to whatever degree they wish to.

Also, regarding your letter of Aug. 7th: you ask his advice concerning a school session at Englewood, N.J. He feels that the four Bahá'í schools at present in existence, namely Louhelen, Green Acre, Geyserville School and Temerity Ranch, are sufficient for the time being. There is, naturally, no objection to holding meetings and conferences in Englewood.

With loving greetings and the ardent hope that this new year will bring the believers over there many new victories,

Yours

ever,

R. RABBÁNÍ

Haifa, January 1, 1945



1945-01-14 Warnings Concerning Orientals

USBN #174 April-May 1945 p1

In view of the fact that a few Persians have, in defiance of the instructions and expressed wishes of their National Spiritual Assembly, gone to America, and in view of other considerations as well, the Guardian feels impelled to call the matter to your attention. You must recall to the believers' minds the oft — repeated warnings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá concerning Orientals, especially Persians. The Americans, kind and open-hearted as they are, may easily fall a victim to the hypocritical and the insincere, and it is to protect them from being misled and imposed upon that he is sending you this message.

— Through his secretary, January 14,



1945-01-23 Future Generations will Recall Marion Jack Stewardship

Quoted in Never be Afraid to Dare, Jasion, p222

Your most welcome letter of December 18th brought great joy to the Guardian's heart, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

You have very, very often been in his thoughts during the many dangerous months and years Bulgaria has passed through, and it was a true happiness for him to see your letter ...

How can you feel your offerings are little! You have remained in the country of your adoption even in spite of his own urging that you consider your own welfare, and have demonstrated the quality of your steadfastness and devotion in a way that will never be forgotten, or effaced from the history of our beloved Faith.

The degree of your devotion and sacrifice cannot but bear fruit, and the mere act of your remaining there all these years has laid an irremovable foundation for the spiritual work there.

[on behalf of Shoghi Effendi]

Dear and prized co-worker:

I am overjoyed to learn of your safety, your constancy, your magnificent spirit of devotion, and your exemplary conduct in the service of our beloved Faith under such hard and trying circumstances. Future generations not only in Bulgaria, but in Europe and Canada will recall your noble stewardship, will extol your superb spirit, will strive to follow in your footsteps, and will

derive inspiration from the record of your services. I feel so proud of you, so close to you, so grateful for all that you have done and demonstrated. Be happy and grateful to God for so high a privilege, so great a bounty, so exalted a station in the ranks of the followers of His glorious Faith.

[To Marion Jack 23 Jan 1945]



– 1084 –

1945-02-25 Meaning of Suffering

Fire and Gold: Benefiting from Life's Tests," p7

As compiled by Brian Kurzious

The suffering of mankind, we know, must ultimately prepare it to turn to Bahá'u'lláh and His life-giving message — but how soon this process will be accomplished we cannot say. We can only strive to show forth the example which will attract men's hearts, and to busy ourselves day and night in spreading the Teachings.

[From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer, 25 February 1945]



– 1085 –

1945-02-28 Youth on Committees

USBN #174 April-May 1945 p1

The question of young Bahá'ís being permitted to serve on committees other than the Youth Committee has been raised in a number of letters recently, and in considering the matter he felt that Bahá'í young people under twenty-one should not be denied the privilege of committee work. Though they cannot be voting members of Bahá'í communities (or exercise the electoral vote at all until they reach that age), and though they cannot, likewise, be elected to Assemblies, there is no reason why they should not serve the Cause on various committees as all committees, national or local, are subordinate to Assemblies and their members not elected but appointed, and appointed by Assemblies. We have many devoted and talented young believers who can be of great assistance to the Cause even though not yet legally of age.

— Through his secretary, February 28,



– 1086 –

1945-03-06 Bahíyyih Monument Represent BAO

Bahíyyih Khánum, compiled by the Research Department p92

The steps of her holy resting-place represent Local Spiritual Assemblies, not individual believers. The columns, that is the pillars, are like the National Spiritual Assemblies, while the dome, which is raised following the placing of the columns, symbolizes the Universal House of Justice which, in accordance with the Master's Will and Testament must be elected by the secondary Houses of Justice, that is, the National Spiritual Assemblies of East and West.

to an individual 6 Mar 1945, translated from Persian



– 1087 –

1945-03-19 Regret Failure Hold Convention

USBN #174 April-May 1945 p1

Regret failure efforts hold Convention. Praying success Peace plan.

Shoghi Rabbání

Message received March 19, 1945



– 1088 –

1945-03-19 Better Not to Read Books by Covenant Breakers

"It is better not to read books by Covenant Breakers because they are haters of the Light, sufferers from a spiritual leprosy, so to speak. But books by well meaning yet unenlightened enemies of the Cause can be read so as to refute their charges."

(From a letter dated 19 March 1945 written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer)

Writings of Covenant-breakers and other Enemies of the Faith

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.



1945-03-19 On Behalf of to an Individual re Take Teachings as a Whole

Scholarship (BSB)

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá'í Studies Bulletin Vol 1-1

It is better not to read books by Covenant Breakers because they are haters of the light, sufferers from a spiritual leprosy so to speak. But books by well meaning yet unenlightened enemies of the Cause can be read so as to refute their charges.

We must take the teachings as a great balanced whole, not seek out and oppose to each other two strong statements that have different meanings; somewhere in between, there are links uniting the two. That is what makes our Faith so flexible and well balanced. For instance there are calamities for testing and for punishment — there are also accidents, plain cause and effect.



1945-03-24 Status of Pioneer

USBN #181 March 1946 p1

The pioneer, as soon as an administrative body has been established, ceases to have any unique status in the community. But, of course, the service he has rendered remains very great, and he should continue to do his utmost for the Cause in conjunction with the Assembly and the other believers.

— to Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Dahl on March 24, 1945



1945-03-29 Maintenance of Goals Won Crucial

USBN #174 April-May 1945 p2

If it seemed to the believers that their pioneer activities were of vital importance during the closing decade of our first Bahá'í Century and in the midst of a most tragic world war, they must now grasp the fact that the maintenance of the goals they have won and the winning of new ones is of even more crucial importance as the war draws towards an end and the people turn their bewildered minds to thoughts of peace. We face a most challenging period in the days to

come, and the friends must gird themselves for action with a calm faith, a united and self-sacrificing devotion to their tasks, and a consciousness that if they struggle hard to accomplish them they will witness even greater triumphs than those of the last seven or eight years which so gloriously rewarded their untiring labors.

— SHOGHI EFFENDI, through his secretary, March 29, 1945



– 1092 –

1945-03-29 Nation-wide Teaching Campaigns

USBN #174 April-May 1945 p2

He fully approves of the concept of uniting the believers' labors through focussing them on nation-wide teaching campaigns and so on. But he feels that the friends should constantly be encouraged to bear in mind certain salient facts: Bahá'u'lláh has brought a new system and new laws and standards of personal as well as racial conduct into the world. Although outside agencies have been to a certain extent illumined by the radiance of His Message and doctrines, and are exerting efforts to bring the world into that orbit of universal peace and harmony He has set for it, these outside forces cannot achieve what only the followers of His Faith can. The believers must not take their eyes off their own immediate tasks of patiently consolidating their administrative institutions, building up new Assemblies in North, Central and South America, and laboring to perfect the Bahá'í pattern of life. For these are things that no other group of people in the world can do or will do and they alone are able to provide the spiritual foundation and example on which the larger world schemes must ultimately rest. At the same time every effort should be made to broadcast the Teachings at this time, and correlate them to the plight of humanity and the plans for its future. Both tasks should go forward simultaneously — internal consolidation and expansion. and a wider contact with the masses, maintained through public meetings, radio, publicity, etc.

The Guardian has already laid down the principle that any one claiming to be a Bahá'í from Persia must have his properly issued credentials from the N. S. A. of Persia before he can be accepted by any other Bahá'í community Now that the doors are opening increasingly for students and travelers to go to America, the National Assembly can not be too careful and vigilant in this matter. The Master, as you know, was very strict, and the Guardian feels it his duty at this time to be equally strict and observant of the measures introduced by 'Abdu'l-Bahá Himself.

March 29, 1945



1945-04-05 April 1945 On Behalf of to an Individual Believer re Greek Contact with Prophets

Socrates #12

Compiled By Research Department Of The Universal House Of Justice.

The Master said that Socrates — the Prince of the Grecian philosophers — received inspiration and instruction from the Hebrew Prophets; so we cannot say that Greece was devoid of contact with any Prophetic Source.



1945-04-05 Prolonged Absence of Assembly Member

He [Shoghi Effendi] does not intervene in purely local administrative matters, and it is for the Assembly to decide, if the absence of a member is prolonged, when they should hold an election to replace that person. The principle is that the 9 members of the Spiritual Assembly should be reasonably available for meetings. If their absence from town is prolonged, someone else must fill the vacancy.

[Letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, dated April 5, 1945, to an individual believer cited in GLSA-DDBC]



1945-04-30 Congratulations to Inter-America Committee

USBN 1945-04-30 August 1945 p1

Heartfelt congratulations superb achievement Inter-America Committee opening year second Bahá'í century. Advise concentrate attention formation Assembly one remaining republic, Nicaragua. Consolidation newly fledged Assemblies multiplication groups throughout Latin America reinforcement outpost Magalannes intensified efforts dissemination literature paramount tasks present year. Praying fervently removal obstacles dispatch pioneers fulfilment hopes necessary prelude launching second stage Divine Plan. Appreciate two photographs each Assembly Central South America adorn walls mansion adjoining Bahá'u'lláh's holy tomb.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ Received April 30, 1945



1945-06-12 To Philip Hainsworth re Teaching in Africa

Looking back in Wonder, Phillip Hainsworth, p28

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letters dated November 15th 1944 and May 30th 1945 have been received, and the Guardian has instructed me to answer them on his behalf. He answered your first letter shortly after receiving it; the reply must have not reached you, unfortunately. The clippings you sent, etc., were of interest to him, and he was delighted to see you had been so active in teaching the Cause.

In East Africa we have no addresses of believers, but in the Belgian Congo there is a Bahá'í family, a Persian married to a Belgian woman. Their address is: Mr Vahdat, Agronome Colonie, Kabongo, Province of Elizabethville, in case you have an opportunity to get in touch with them.

The Guardian hopes that at a not distant future date you will again be able to serve the Cause in England. Young and eager workers are much needed to get the work started on a larger scale and reach more of the public.

No doubt you will be able to teach wherever you are, and you may be sure his prayers will be offered on your behalf and for the success of your devoted efforts.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbání.

Assuring you of my special and fervent prayers for your welfare, your spiritual advancement, the success of your efforts in the service of our beloved Faith, and the realisation of every hope you cherish for its extension and promotion.

Your true brother,
Shoghi.



1945-07-01 formation of Buenos Aires Summer School

USBN #177 November 1945 p2

.. Overjoyed at magnificent achievement, the formation of the Summer School. Deeply appreciative of Mr. and Mrs. Tormo's historic service. Offering fervent prayers for the extension and consolidation of the activities of the foremost Center in Latin America. Deepest love."

— Shoghi Rabbání.

[This message, received by the Buenos Aires Assembly on July 1, refers to the donation of their country place by Mr. and Mrs. Tormo in order to make it possible to found a Bahá'í Summer School.]



– 1098 –

1945-07-05 To Coswell re Form 1st LSA in Panama

Divine Springtime — Louise Coswell Recalls, p31

The formation of this very important Assembly was a source of deep joy for him, and he feels that your persevering efforts, and those of Mrs. Oliver and all the other dear friends, have at last borne fruits in a worthy form; he hopes that the believers there will go forward, with the greatest love and unity, to the accomplishment of the many tasks that lie ahead, such as increasing the community's members, holding regular public meetings, teaching the Indians, etc.

He very greatly appreciates your own constant labours in this small but significant Republic, and assures you that he will continue to pray for you, that your efforts may be richly blessed and that you may be guided and strengthened in your devoted labours for the Faith.

(Signed) R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-worker:

I am so glad to receive the splendid news conveyed by your letter, and I wish to assure you of my heartfelt and abiding appreciation of your constant, your devoted, and meritorious activities and services to our beloved Faith. Persevere in your noble task and rest assured that I will continually supplicate for you at the Holy Shrines.

Your true and grateful brother,

(Signed) Shoghi.



1945-08-10 Orlova San Francisco Conference

USBN #177 November 1945 p2

Regarding the matter of Mme. Orlova: as it is now clear that she is openly associating with the New History group. The friends should ignore her and have nothing more to do with her.

The reports which have reached him about the teaching and publicity during the San Francisco conference were very satisfactory. He feels the American believers are maturing and gaining in experience in presenting the Faith not only to the public at large but also to leaders of importance, and they are doing it in a sober and dignified way. A glance at the pressing problems facing the world is enough to convince any Bahá'í that there is no ultimate solution for its ills except that provided by Bahá'u'lláh. It is therefore of the greatest conceivable importance the manner in which the teachings are presented to a nation with such a leading role in international affairs at the present time as that of the United States. He urges you, in this connection, to seek out and exploit to the full the talents and abilities latent within your community for, whatever the American believers have accomplished heretofore. It is a mere prelude to what they can and must do in the field of Bahá'í service in the future.

August 10,



1945-08-14 To Eve Nicklin re Report on John Stearns and His Activities

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p86-7

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of Nov. 9th, 1944, reached Haifa some time ago, but due to pressure of work the Guardian has not been able this winter and spring to attend to his mail promptly, otherwise he would have written you before. He feels sure you will understand the delay was not caused by any other reason!

He was very sorry to hear of the death of John Stearns; he was a fine believer, and it is a pity he should have passed away so young — but his reward is assured and his name will be forever preserved in the roll call of the early Bahá'í pioneers to South America.

The news of the progress of the Cause in Peru greatly pleased him, and he hopes that on the modest but sound foundation that has been laid there a flourishing and exemplary community will arise and reward you and the other dear friends for your devoted and unsparing labours.

You may be sure he will certainly pray for you and for the success of the fine work you are doing there.

Please convey his loving greetings to all the dear Bahá'ís there.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

May the Beloved bless your efforts in the service of our beloved Faith, and enable you to promote at all times the vital interest of its institutions.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1101 –

1945-08-xx To Senior Youth Session at Louhelen School

USBN #190 December 1946 p1

“He appreciates very much the devoted and determined spirit with which you are facing the future and all the Bahá'í responsibility it will bring you increasingly. The part of the youth is very great; you have the opportunity to really determine to exemplify in word and deed the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. and to show your generation that the New World Order He has brought is a tangible reality in the lives of His followers.”

— to Senior Youth Session at Louhelen School in August, 1945



– 1102 –

1945-09-24 Greatly Cheered by Evidences of Progress

USBN #177 November 1945 p2

Greatly cheered by evidences of progress in all-important teaching work. Praying fervently for complete success of plans adopted. Convey my loving appreciation to Gail Woolson, Virginia Orbison and Dorothy Baker for their noble, steadfast services. Supplicating abundant blessing on forthcoming State and Province Conventions. Urge persistent efforts to promote vital tasks facing the believers constituting the prelude to inauguration of second stage of Divinely-conceived Plan.

SHOGHI RABBÁNÍ

Cablegram received September 24,



– 1103 –

1945-11-13 Burmese Bahá'í Community Needs Assistance

USBN #178 December 1945 p2

Burmese Bahá'í community emerging from long, afflictive period of unprecedented tribulations — assassination, spoliation, dispersal, seizure of Archives, destruction of Ḥazíras School. I advise the American community as token of Bahá'í solidarity to cable whatever contribution is sensible.

— Shoghi Rabbání Received November 13, 1945



– 1104 –

1945-11-17 To Eve Nicklin re Politics and Guillermo Aguilar

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p115-7

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

The Guardian was very happy to receive your letter of Aug. 17th, together with that of the Bahá'í youth, and to see how well the Cause is progressing there.

Regarding your reference to Dr. Aguilar, who seems to be a very enlightened and sincere man, the Guardian feels that you might point out to him that if he, as a Bahá'í, should insist on the right to support a certain political party whose platform he considers highly meritorious, he cannot very well deny the same degree of freedom to other believers; which would mean that within the ranks of a Faith whose primary objective is to unite all men as one great family under God, there would be Bahá'ís opposed to each other, and because of the very nature of politics, in violent disagreement with each other. Where then would lie the example of harmony and unity for which the world is seeking?

The Guardian will pray that Dr. Aguilar may feel moved to sacrifice his political associations in order to fully support the Divine system which is the remedy for all the ills of all the people in the world. He will also pray that your friend Irene Silva de Santolalla will feel moved to courageously espouse the Faith which she so admires.

Your long and patient service in Peru has yielded a fruitful harvest, and the Guardian is very pleased over the reports you have given him. He feels you are the best to decide whether you should at present go home for a rest or not, as you can better judge if your temporary absence will seriously affect the work there or not. Meantime you may be sure he will pray for your continuous success, guidance, and health.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

P.S.: He thinks it would be an excellent idea to translate some of the teachings into the native Indian languages.

With the assurance of my lively and abiding appreciation of your truly remarkable efforts and services, and of my continued and fervent prayers for the extension of your valued activities, and the full realization of your dearest hopes in the service of our beloved Faith,

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1105 –

1945-11-19 Undertow of Materialism

USBN #210 August 1948 p3

People are so markedly lacking in spirituality these days that the Bahá'ís should consciously guard themselves against being caught in what one might call the undertow of materialism and atheism, sweeping the world these days. Skepticism, cynicism, disbelief, immorality and hard-heartedness are rife, and as the friends are those who stand for the antithesis of all these things they should beware lest the atmosphere of the present world affects without their being conscious of it. The Guardian agrees with you that a higher standard would be required before World Order could attract people of marked intellectual capacity; but he feels that the friends should make a greater effort to see that it gets supplied with better material; they should raise the standard of the present publication.

— To Dr. Glenn L. Shook, November 19, 1945, through his secretary.



1945-11-19 Questions fm Glenn Shook

USBN #210 August 1948 p3

1. & 2, The supreme Tribunal is an aspect of a world Superstate; the exact nature of its relationship to that state we cannot at present fore-see.
1. Supreme Tribunal is the correct translation; it will be a contributing factor in establishing, the Lesser peace.
1. There is no statement in the teachings indicating that the Lesser Peace will definitely be established by 1957 or 1963.
1. The Most Great Covenant is different from the Everlasting Covenant.
1. No, Bahá'u'lláh did not bring a complete system of economics to the world.
1. Profit-sharing is recommended as a solution to one form of economic problems.
1. There is nothing in the teachings against some kind of capitalism; its present form, though, would require adjustments to be made.
1. Islám attained a very high spiritual state, but western scholars are prone to judging it by Christian standards One cannot call one world Faith superior to another, as they all come from God; they are progressive, each suited to certain needs of the times.
1. Of course, Man divides; only the Power which comes from God can unite.

11 & 2. The Seven Lights of Unity will not necessarily come in the 3 order given. A product of the second may well be universal culture.

13. "Insaf" should be thought of as fairness.

1. Through meditation doors of deeper knowledge and inspiration may be opened. Naturally, if one meditates as a Bahá'í he is connected with the Source; if a man believing in God meditates he is tuning in to the power and mercy of God; but we cannot say that any inspiration which a person not knowing Bahá'u'lláh, or not believing in God, receives is merely from his own ego. Meditation is very important, and the Guardian sees no reason why the friends should not be taught to meditate, but they should guard against superstitions or foolish ideas creeping into it.
1. In quoting prayers any part may be used, but should be quoted as it is, however short.

1. The Manifestations no doubt had some consciousness of Their station, but what the nature of that consciousness was we do not know.
1. Those who have never had any opportunity of hearing of the Faith but who lived good lives will no doubt be treated with the greatest love and mercy in the next world, and reap their full reward.
1. There is no objection to using Rúhí's book on mysticism.
1. We believe that Christ only was conceived immaculately. His brothers and sisters would have been born in the natural way and conceived naturally.
1. Both Caliphate and Imámate mean successorship. Either term could be used,
1. Shoghi Effendi has always made it quite clear that, in the future, the teachings may be retranslated, if the need arises.
1. There is nothing in the teachings against swimming and dancing; mankind will become nobler, this we know; if that will include or eliminate such pastimes we do not know at present.

— to Dr. Glenn L. Shook in a letter dated November 19,



– 1107 –

1945-12-03 Welcome Consolidation Activities

USBN #179 January 1946 p1

Greatly welcome evidences progress in consolidation of the manifold activities of the American Bahá'í community. Urge intensification of efforts in national broadcasting and publicity calculated to reach the masses. Appeal to Assemblies to reinforce the measures undertaken by their national representatives. The proclamation of the verities of the Faith through bold, concerted measures is the crying need of the present hour. Fervently praying for fresh victories: fully share your hopes for Holy Land.

Shoghi Rabbání

Cablegram received December 3,

(This message was the Guardian's response to the cablegram sent him from the November meeting, reporting actions taken and expressing hope that the race difficulties in Palestine would be solved and the prophecies concerning the Holy Land be fulfilled).

1945-12-19 Peoples Peace Conference

USBN #174 April-May 1945 p2

Regarding your suggestion to the N.S.A. about a People's Peace Conference. The idea and the aims are excellent, but the Guardian does not feel that the believers are as yet in a position to undertake such a major step; if the friends seek to carry out a thing of such importance and find that they cannot — through lack of members, prestige, funds, or any other reason, — see the thing through to a successful conclusion, they will have done the Cause a serious injury by making it seem just one more ripple on the surface of a disturbed and turbulent society. They must first build the fabric of their community life so solidly that it can bear the strain which such an undertaking would place upon it, and which, by its very nature, would focus the eyes of the press upon the Bahá'ís everywhere in the world.

— to Miss Hannah Lohse on December 19, 1945

1945-12-21 Conditions in Europe

USBN #180 February 1946

In view of all the German and Austrian Bahá'ís have passed through, and the naturally disorganized state of their affairs, after so long a period of suppression and suffering, he feels that your Assembly should by all means do all in its power to help them and protect them. If you feel that the suggestion of Mr. Eichanauer is feasible, he advises you to carry it out. Although he has stated that the Bahá'í mission in Central and South America must be completed before the American believers can start teaching campaigns in other countries, this does not mean that those friends whom duty or business takes abroad are not to serve the Cause all they possibly can. Likewise it does not mean that help should not be given to Bahá'í brothers and sisters in desperate need—such as is the case at present in Burma, the Philippines. Austria and Germany.

In view of the terrible conditions prevailing in Europe today, and the tremendous suffering which the German and Austrian Bahá'ís have passed through, both spiritually and physically, the Guardian wishes you to please make every effort to send, during the rest of this Bahá'í year and the coming one, the contribution of the American and Canadian Bahá'ís to the International Fund, to these believers, for their relief and succor. He urges your Assembly to also make every effort to supply them with Bahá'í books in German, either published in the United States or Switzerland — whichever is most speedy, economical and practical.

“He was very pleased to see the excellent publicity the Cause received in The Chicago Sunday Tribune, and hopes that more will be forthcoming, of a similar nature, all over the country. In this connection. he sees no objection to using the advice and services of non-Bahá’í experts, or agencies, as long as the purity of the Teachings and the dignity of the Faith are maintained

“The writings of Husayn should be considered in the same category as those of Rubi; the friends are not forbidden to read them.”

(This refers to the articles and pamphlets approved by the Reviewing Committee for the World Order Magazine Editorial Committee and published some years ago).

Haifa, Palestine. December 21, 1945



– 1110 –

1945-12-30 Object of Inter-Racial Work

USBN #188 October 1946 pp3-4

“He feels that as the main object of the Bahá’í inter-racial work is to abolish prejudice against any and every race and minority group, it is obviously proper for them to include in particular any group that is receiving especially bad treatment — such as the Japanese-Americans are being subjected to. There is also no reason why work should not be done among and in cooperation with the Mexicans, the Chinese and so on.

“He has always been very anxious to have the Indians taught and enlisted under the banner of the Faith, in view of the Master’s remarkable statements about the possibilities of their future and that they represent the aboriginal American population.

“The Negroes, likewise, are, one might say, a key problem and epitomize the feelings of color prejudice so rife in the United States. That is why he has so constantly emphasized the importance of the Bahá’ís actively and continuously demonstrating that in the Faith this cruel and horrible taint of discrimination against, and contempt for, them does not exist but on the contrary is supplanted by a feeling of esteem for their great gifts and a complete lack of prejudice in every field of life.

“The work of the Race Unity Committee should include, as far as is possible, contacts with all minority groups, and wherever there is a particularly stout prejudice against a special group — such as the feelings against the Japanese in the Western States and the Negroes in the Southern (states), etc., efforts should be made to counteract it by showing publicly the Bahá’í example of loving tolerance and brotherly association.”

— to the Race Unity Committee on December 30, 1945



– 1111 –

1945-12-30 To a National Teaching Committee re Devise New Suggestions for Teaching

Unlocking the Power of Action, #30

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Your Committee must encourage all the believers to teach, and try and constantly devise new and stimulating suggestions to offer to the friends of ways in which they can help — for the Guardian knows that all the friends are keenly concerned over the state of society, and anxious, every one of them, to take an active part in counteracting the wave of materialism, bitterness and selfishness which is sweeping over the world.



– 1112 –

1945-xx-xx To Unknown re Pictures of Shoghi Effendi

The Priceless Pearl, Rúhíyyih Khánum, p76

...he has never gone so far as to forbid the friends to have pictures of himself in their possession; he merely would rather they placed the emphasis on the beloved Master.



– 1113 –

1946-03-05 To Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek on Decision to Pioneer

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp43

Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek,

5 March 1946

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of February 20th has been received, and the beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He is most happy to welcome you as a co-worker in our glorious Cause, and he approves of your plan to go to Holland and spread the teachings.

The need for Bahá'í workers is tremendous in Europe, and those who, like yourself, have relatives and facilities there should certainly do all they can to carry this hope-giving Message to people who have suffered so much misery and disillusionment.

He will pray that your sister may also accept the Faith, and that your services in your native land may be richly blessed by God.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

May the Beloved enable you to undertake the journey to your native land in the near future, and may He bless richly your work, guide every step you take, and fulfil every hope you cherish, for the establishment of this glorious Faith in that country

Your true and grateful brother;

Shoghi



– 1114 –

1946-03-18 To Ellsworth Blackwell re Guidelines About Meetings at the Temple.

White and Negro Alike (Kindle edition), Audrey Mike

“.....As to your question about teaching, the Guardian has told the friends to use all sorts of mediums in their efforts to reach the masses, radio, publicity, public meetings, banquets, summer schools, conferences, etc, etc. the details of these things he cannot possibly take the time to work out, nor should he, for this is the very reason assemblies exist — to administer the affairs of the Cause. If the meetings in the Temple seem to you and the other friends to lack certain elements, you should make suggestions to the Comm. and the NSA, and through a delegate, even call the attention of the convention to the subject.

You may be sure he will pray for the success of your tireless and devoted Bahá'í activities, which he deeply appreciates.

With Bahá'í love,



– 1115 –

1946-03-19 Two Factors Gods Will and Our Will

Letter on behalf of the Universal House of Justice, July 17, 1989

There are two factors, God's Will and our free will: we are not puppets, if we make mistakes we have to pay for them. Bahá'u'lláh sought to prevent and avert wars of the last 50 years or so. No one listened. We are being chastised for our good now, by all this suffering, but there was an easier way, to accept the Message sent by God. We would not take that way; therefore He sends us this one

... .there are calamities for testing and for punishment — there are also accidents, plain cause and effect.

[From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, March 19, 1946, unpublished;



– 1116 –

1946-03-24 To Emeric Sala re Teaching in Latin America

Tending the Garden: A Biography of Emeric and Rosemry Sala, p100-1

March 24, 1946

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your most welcome letter of March 5th was received by our beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

The graphic and to-the-point description you have given him of the conditions you found in Latin American Bahá'í Centers helped him very much to see the picture of the work there as a whole, and he feels your recommendations to the Inter-America Com. are excellent.

He has felt from the very beginning that these gifted, sensitive Latins, who are capable of being both spiritual and intellectual, have a great contribution to make to the future progress of the Cause everywhere, and he is very anxious that they should become strong enough to manage their own affairs.

He will pray that your labours for the Faith may be ever-increasingly blessed and fruitful.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear & valued co-worker:

The services which you & your dear wife have rendered in Latin America are highly meritorious, & evoke my heartfelt admiration. I pray you may have similar opportunities in the near future, and that the Beloved may, wherever you labour, bless abundantly your notable activities and accomplishments. Persevere in your work, rest assured & be happy.

Your true & grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1117 –

1946-03-25 Various to USNSA

USBN #184 June 1946 p2

He wants the American friends to help their destitute brothers and sisters in Europe and Asia all they can. This includes sending food and clothing when feasible.

The chart you sent him on the cycle of man should not be officially accepted and circulated among the believers, as we now have no way of knowing, for sure, if it really embodies what the Master meant.

He was sorry to learn through your cable that the project for a Bahá'í Radio Station can not be carried out at present. He considers that such a station would be a very great asset to the Cause, not only as a teaching medium and a wonderful form of publicity, but also as an enhancement of its prestige. He feels your Assembly should not drop the matter but go on investigating ways to make such a project materialize as soon as possible.

Reaching the masses with the message at this time is of the greatest importance. More initiative should be shown by all the Bahá'ís and encouraged by the NSA and local Spiritual Assemblies.

March 25, 1946



1946-04-01 On Behalf of to an Individual re Soul Does not Go to Another Planet

Reincarnation And The Nature And Progress Of The Soul #15

Compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice

No Revelation from God has ever taught reincarnation; this is a man-made conception. The soul of man comes into being at conception; we do not believe it goes on to another planet.



1946-04-13 Literature Review

USBN #185 July 1946 p1-2

“In the February Bahá’í News, page 3, it mentions that magazine articles about the Cause ‘written by individual believers as their personal understanding of the teachings’ ... need not be reviewed officially. He feels this is unwise in view of the Master’s own instructions that articles about the Cause should not be published by individuals without proper approval of some responsible body.

“The Guardian says the local Assemblies can pass upon such articles; it is not necessary to refer them to a national committee.

“So often persons can be carried away by their enthusiasm and express something detrimental to the Faith. Therefore they must either refer their articles to their local Spiritual Assembly or the National Reviewing Committee.”

April 13, 1946:



1946-04-24 {Germany} Destined Develop into Most Powerful Centre

Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland #26

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá’í Studies Review 4:1

PRAYING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS EAGER RECEIVE REPORTS PROGRESS COMMUNITY
DESTINED DEVELOP AS PROPHESED BY 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ INTO MOST POWERFUL CENTRE
SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION ENTIRE EUROPEAN CONTINENT DEEPEST LOVE.

(24 April 1946 to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada)



– 1121 –

1946-05-02 Reply to Convention Message

Guardian's Seven Year Plan for the American Bahá'ís, p5

Deeply touched by response of delegates to new call to service unprecedented in history of Faith in West. Urge delegates contribute their share arouse believers in respective states and provinces to exert their utmost to insure speedy attainment of glorious objectives.

— SHOGHI



– 1122 –

1946-05-05 To USNSA re Beginning 2nd Seven Year Plan

Planning Progress: Lessons from Shoghi Effendi, June Manning Thomas, p51

OVERWHELMING RESPONSIBILITY RESTS NEWLY ELECTED ASSEMBLY URGE IMMEDIATE
MEASURES SET PLAN MOTION ADVISE MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS ASSEMBLY PROMPT
FORMATION COMMITTEES CHARGED FURTHERANCE EACH ASPECT PLAN STOP EXERCISE
UTMOST CARE SELECTION MEMBERS COMMITTEES STOP FEEL NECESSITY ELIMINATE
UNNECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS ENABLING ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FOCUS
ATTENTION SESSIONS DIVERS IMPERATIVE REQUIREMENTS PLAN STOP.



– 1123 –

1946-05-09 Welcome Responses New Plan

USBN #185 July 1946 p1

Greatly welcome initial evidences of magnificent responses of Assembly to new Plan. Invoking divine assistance for vigorous, wise, sustained prosecution of manifold activities to be initiated in North America, Latin America and European continent.

Shoghi

Cablegram received May 9, 1946

(This message came in response to the cablegram sent to the Guardian by the National Spiritual Assembly from its meeting May 22, 1946, following the Convention, as follows: "You have disclosed to American Bahá'ís the glorious path of faith leading to world spread of Bahá'u'lláh's Message and ascendancy of the authority and dominion of His Divine Revelation. Awed but resolute the Assembly has pondered the four objectives of Seven Year Plan, formulated measures, established necessary agencies and adapted annual budget of \$250,000 sanctified by your contribution. Invoking divine aid for purification of the souls and attainment of the spiritual worthiness requisite to success of America's mission under mandate conferred by 'Abdu'l-Bahá.")



– 1124 –

1946-05-xx NSA Eliminate Unnecessary Administrative Details

USBN #185 July 1946 p1-2

"Feel necessity eliminate unnecessary administrative details enabling Assembly members to focus their attention at sessions on the diverse imperative requirements of the plan."

[Immediately after the Convention]



– 1125 –

1946-06-07 On Behalf of to an Individual re 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Statements as Dogmatic Finalities

Socrates #13

Compiled By Research Department Of The Universal House Of Justice.

We must not take many of "Abdu'l-Bahá's statements as dogmatic finalities, for there are other points which when added to them round out the picture. For instance, when He calls Aristotle and Plato Philosophers of the East, He is obviously placing them in that category because He believes they belong more correctly to Eastern culture than to Central European and the New World cultures of the West. When He calls the philosophers of the West materialistic this does not for a moment mean He includes all Western philosophers for, as you truly point out, many of them have been very spiritual in their concepts....

Historians cannot be sure Socrates did not visit the Holy Land. But believing as we do that 'Abdu'l-Bahá had an intuitive knowledge quite different from our own, we accept His authority on this matter.



– 1126 –

1946-06-07 To Dr. J. W. Freudenberg

[Found in a notebook that had belonged to Amelia Bowman]

COPY OF LETTER OF SECRETARY OF SHOGHI EFFENDI TO DR. J. W. FREUDENBERG,
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Haifa,

June 7th,

Dear Spiritual Friend:

Your interesting letter of May 16th has been received and Shoghi Effendi has instructed me to answer you on his behalf and assure you that he appreciates your warm friendship with the Bahá'ís and the co-operative spirit in which you assist them in their activities.

As regards the various points you have raised in your letter; We must not take many of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's statements as dogmatic finalities, for there are other points which when added to them round out the picture. For instance, when He calls Aristotle and Plato Philosophers of the East, He is obviously placing them in that category because He believes they belong more correctly to Eastern culture than to Central European and the New World cultures of the West. When He calls the philosophers of the West materialistic this does not for a moment mean He includes all Western philosophers for, as you truly point out, many of them have been very spiritual in their concepts.

When studying at present, in English, the available Bahá'í writings on the subject of body, soul and spirit, one is handicapped by a certain lack of clarity because not all were translated by the same person, and also there are, as you knew, still many Bahá'í writing untranslated. But there is no doubt that spirit and soul seem to have been interchanged in meaning sometimes; soul and mind have, likewise, been interchanged in meaning, no doubt due to difficulties arising from different translations. What the Bahá'ís do believe though is that we have three aspects of our humanness, so to speak, a body, a mind and an immortal identity — soul or spirit. We believe the mind forms a link between the soul and the body, and the two interact on each other.

Historians cannot be sure Socrates did not visit the Holy Land. But believing as we do that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had an intuitive knowledge quite different from our own, we accept His authority on the matter.

We cannot prove man was always man for this is a fundamental doctrine, but it is based on the assertion that nothing can exceed its own potentialities, that everything, a stone, a tree, an animal and a human being existed in plan, potentially, from the very “beginning” of creation. We don’t believe man has always had the form of man, but rather that from the outset he was going to evolve into the human form and species and not be a haphazard branch of the ape family.

You see our whole approach to each matter is based on the belief that God sends us divinely inspired Educators; what they tell us is fundamentally true. What science tells us to-day is true; to-morrow may be entirely changed to better explain a new set of facts.

When “Abdu’l-Bahá says man breaks the laws of nature, He means we shape nature to meet our own ends, as no animal does. Animals adapt themselves to better fit in with and benefit from their environment. But men both surmount and change environment. Likewise when He says nature is devoid of memory he means memory as we have it, not the strange memory of inherited habits which animals so strikingly possess.

These various statements must be taken in conjunction with all the Bahá’í teachings; we cannot get a correct picture by concentrating on just one phrase.

The Guardian hopes this will better enable you to understand our wonderful Faith — for a living religion it is, and not merely a philosophy.

He wishes you every success in your labors to promote the unity and enlightenment of mankind, so sorely needed these days, and he will pray for your happiness and spiritual advancement.

With cordial greetings,

(signed) R. Rabbání.



– 1127 –

1946-07-01 Anxious for Growth Throughout France.

Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá’í Studies Review 4:1

The Paris Bahá'ís, representing as they do the oldest Community of the Cause in Europe, occupy an important position, and he is most anxious for the growth and spread of the Faith there and throughout France.

(on Behalf of Shoghi Effendi to individual believer, 1 July 1946)



– 1128 –

1946-07-03 To Robert L. Gulick

USBN #196 June 1947 p6

The use of “Alláh–u–Abhá” in the East is, generally speaking, confined to a greeting. It is not said at the end of prayers and the Guardian feels that the less it is used freely in public by the Bahá'ís in the West (before strangers) the better, as it gives a very peculiar impression of us, and makes us seem like some strange Oriental sect.

As obligatory prayers require either genuflection or ablution and orienting toward Bahjí, they cannot truly be said by one person for a group of people without it being in effect a form of congregational prayer, so he thinks it better to avoid it.

It is far too early to make any predictions about peace of any sort, judging by the ebullitions of the world's affairs these days! 'Abdu'l-Bahá, in His Tablets, connects the prophecy of Daniel (1957) with the proclamation and spread of the Cause. Other references regarding this date must be considered as hearsay.”

— To Robert L. Gulick, July 3,



– 1129 –

1946-07-19 To Geyserville Junior Youth Class

Haifa

4 April 1947

To the members of the 'Junior Youth Class' who were present at Geyserville Bahá'í Summer School on July 19th, 1946

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Owing to pressure of his work our beloved Guardian was not able to answer your letter earlier, and to thank you for the copies of your 'newspaper' which you sent him.

He is always very happy to see the youth preparing themselves for their future responsibilities in serving and administering the Faith, and he feels that they are never too young to do some share of Bahá'í work; even a child can spread the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, through word and deed, if it wants to!

You may be sure he will pray for you all and for the success of your Bahá'í labours, as well as for your spiritual development.

With loving greetings,

R. Rabbání

May the Spirit of Bahá'u'lláh guide, sustain and bless you in your meritorious endeavours, enable you to deepen your knowledge of the essential verities of His Faith, and aid you to promote effectively, in the days to come, the vital interests of its institutions,

Your true brother,

Shoghi

[Your True Brother: Messages to Junior Youth Written by or on Behalf of Shoghi Effendi]



– 1130 –

1946-07-20 Various to USNSA

USBN #188 October 1946 pp2-3

You can well imagine that much of his thoughts are now centered on the work of the new Seven Year Plan. Its tremendous importance cannot be over emphasized, for on its success hangs the success or failure of the future work which 'Abdu'l-Bahá in His wisdom apportioned to the Bahá'ís of North America. The Guardian, however, having had now for 25 years the experience of working with the American believers, no longer has any doubts as to their capacity for work, their devotion, their loyalty and their determination to never fail their Faith! It is therefore with a mind at rest and a confident heart that he has entrusted to them the great tasks of the next seven years.

As regards the whole question of the Temple and services held in it:

He wishes to emphasize that he is very anxious, now that this first and greatest Temple of the West has been built, and will, within a few years, be used for worship and regular services by the

Bahá'ís, that no forms, no rituals, no set customs be introduced over and above the bare minimum outlined in the teachings. The nature of these gatherings is for prayer, meditation and the reading of writings from the Sacred Scriptures of our Faith and other Faiths; there can be one or a number of readers; any Báhá'í chosen, or even, non-Bahá'í, may read. The gatherings should be simple, dignified, and designed to uplift the soul and educate it through hearing the creative word. No speeches may be made, no extraneous matter introduced.

The use of pulpits is forbidden by Bahá'u'lláh; if, in order to be more clearly heard, the person reading stands on a low platform, there is no objection, but this should not be incorporated as an architectural feature of the building.

As he already informed you by cable, he thinks that the best seating arrangement from every standpoint is that the section of the audience in the center of the auditorium, beneath the dome, should face towards 'Akká, and all the other seats around this central space should be placed in the form of a circle so that the seats face inwards towards the center of the Temple. In other words a central mass facing 'Akká-wards, surrounded by circular rows of seats facing inwards.

The reader should stand where he or she will be best seen and heard by all. All minor details regarding this matter are left to the discretion of your Assembly to decide after receiving the advice of experts. As he already informed you, he suggests using fixed rather than movable seats.

Vocal music alone may be used and the position of the singers or singer is also a matter for your Assembly to decide; but again, there should be no fixed point, no architectural details marking a special spot. Acoustics should certainly be the main consideration in placing the singers.

The Guardian feels that the Temple, if divided into an auditorium and eight or nine small rooms, would have a far too circumscribed seating capacity for a National House of Worship and that also the small rooms would serve no useful purpose whatever. In view of this he instructed you to do away entirely with these superfluous rooms; the whole main floor of the building should form one vast auditorium with no dividing walls at all. What provision for keeping the cold out, and what entrances you wish to make constant use of, are matters for your Assembly to decide after receiving expert advice.

Color may be used in the interior — and, indeed, it was Mr. Bourgeois' intention to use it, as the original cross-section showing the interior, which now hangs here in the archives, shows: (The photographic plate and reproduction of this drawing you already received.) The Guardian feels very strongly that you should adhere as much as possible to the architect's own design for the interior — otherwise the homogeneity of the building will be destroyed, which would be a fatal mistake. Any modifications should be in the nature of eliminating or simplifying — and only when absolutely necessary — Bourgeois's designs, and such changes should only be made by an experienced architect and decorator, and not be left to the discrimination of mere laymen.

He approves of lighting being employed as part of the decorative scheme, but suggests you avoid anything in the nature of producing a gloomy or bizarre effect.

As he cabled you, he approves of opaque white glass being used wherever recommended on the ground floor in order to provide the interior with the necessary privacy.

Very careful consideration should be given to the acoustics of the auditorium, and wood or any other material may be used in the interior in order to facilitate this.

The use of all nine or only a certain number of entrances is left to you to decide in consultation with your advisers.

He need not tell you how very important the decisions are which you will now be called upon to make in connection with completing the Temple interior. He urges you, at all times, to receive the very best technical advice, and to bear in mind that the main thing is that the meetings in the Temple should be conducted in a beautiful and peaceful setting, in comfort and with dignity and simplicity, and that the audience should be able to hear perfectly and the tone values be pleasant to the ear.

Music, as one of the arts, is a natural cultural development, and the Guardian does not feel that there should be any cultivation of “Bahá’í Music” any more than we are trying to develop a Bahá’í school of painting or writing. The believers are free to paint, write and compose as their talents guide them. If music is written, incorporating the sacred writings, the friends are free to make use of it, but it should never be considered a requirement at Bahá’í meetings to have such music. The further away the friends keep from any set forms, the better, for they must realize that the Cause is absolutely universal, and what might seem a beautiful addition to their mode of celebrating a Feast, etc., would perhaps fall on the ears of people of another country as unpleasant sounds — and vice versa. As long as they have music for its own sake it is all right, but they should not consider it Bahá’í music.

Any blatant acts of immorality on the part of the Bahá’ís should be strongly censored; the friends should be urged to abandon such relationships immediately, straighten out their affairs, and conduct themselves as Bahá’ís; if they refuse to do this, in spite of the warnings of the Assembly, they should be punished through being deprived of their voting rights. The N.S.A. is empowered to settle such cases of flagrant immorality without referring them to the Guardian.

As he already informed you by cable, the West Indies, Mexico and Panama are considered part of Central America, and will be under the jurisdiction of the Central American N. S. A. The Canal Zone and Puerto Rico also are part of this area and under its jurisdiction. Two N. S. A.’s will be formed; one for Central and one for South America. They will adopt their own constitutions after election, which should follow as closely as possible that of your own body. This new constitution — for obviously these two new N. S. A.’s will not seek for Latin America to have two different ones — will be in Spanish, and will be published in the Bahá’í World, there to join its sister constitutions in English, German, Arabic and Persian. The Canadian constitution should, likewise, be patterned on and closely follow your own.

Your Assembly must determine the number of delegates, and call the first Conventions of these three new national bodies, and they must receive a certain amount of supervision and guidance from you until the end of the present Seven Year Plan, when they will pass directly under the

supervision of the Guardian. Your Assembly is, so to speak, their sponsor, and they will become independent at the end of this present plan.

There is no objection whatsoever to non-Bahá'ís being present when the long prayer for the dead is read, as long as they respect our manner of reading it by rising and standing as the Bahá'ís do on this occasion. Nor, indeed, is there any objection to non-Bahá'ís being present during the reading of any Bahá'í prayer for the departed.

An official Bahá'í funeral service should only be given for a believer, but there is no objection to the reading of Bahá'í prayers, or indeed to a Bahá'í conducting the funeral service of a non-Bahá'í, if this has been requested.

In reporting Bahá'í marriages it is much better to mention that the ceremony was performed by the Assembly, as this is the proper thing to do, and an individual only acts for the Assembly on this occasion. As a funeral is not a legal ceremony more latitude can be allowed, especially as the family of the deceased may want some particular Bahá'í friend to officiate.

Concerning the question of the Philippines, they are not under your Assembly's jurisdiction, but you can, being such a sturdy and prosperous community, lend them a helping hand and advise them. The Guardian urges great caution, however, in handling the situation there; this is a new community which has never had any close contact with Bahá'ís from other countries, and well organized and recognized administrative bodies — such as existed in Germany, Austria and Burma before the war. You should ascertain if the people requesting help really need it, and are really Bahá'ís. He would not recommend that anything more than food parcels, clothes, and Bahá'í literature be sent them at present, and he hopes the way will open for a competent Bahá'í teacher to visit them, and help them organize their affairs on a true Bahá'í basis.

He feels that sufficient relief funds have now been accumulated in Tíhrán, and that, except for any parcels of food and gifts individual believers may still wish to send, any sums on hand for this purpose should be directed into the European teaching and publishing work.

The Guardian approves in principle of a radio station, and sees no objection to its being in the Temple; but he considers the cost you quote too much of a burden at the present time for the Fund to bear, in view of the multiple expenses of the new — Seven Year Plan. If there is any way it can be done for a price you feel the Fund could pay, and which would be more reasonable, he approves of your doing it.

20 July 1946



– 1131 –

1946-07-26 Attitude Towards the Jewish Question

HOLOCAUST AND THE GREATER PLAN OF GOD (Revised 1998)

A compilation by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice

Our Bahá'í attitude towards the Jewish question and Palestine is not difficult to define: first we have the prophecy of the Master in "Some Answered Questions"; how much that entails we cannot be sure of; all we can say is that God has forgiven the Jews in this Dispensation and that they will return to their homeland. We must not go further than this.

Second, we must discuss their problem with sympathy, but dispassionately; we are not concerned with, and must — for the protection of the Faith — keep out of, political controversies; all we can say is that the Jews, like every other minority in the world, are entitled to help, consideration, and justice. We must be broad in our approach to all such extremely heated controversies, and while giving our Bahá'í point of view, not take sides.

Needless to say we profoundly sympathize with the Jews, and deplore with all our hearts the cruel treatment they have received.

(26 July 1946, on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer)



– 1132 –

1946-07-27 To Philip Hainsworth re Teaching in England

Looking back in Wonder, Phillip Hainsworth, p55-6

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letter of June 17th was received, and the beloved Guardian was delighted to receive your good news; both of the state of the Cause in England and the acceptance of the Faith by three new people in Egypt.

He hopes that the way will open for you to both enter the pioneer field and also provide for your dear parents. He was very sorry to hear of your father's condition, and assures you he will supplicate for him in the holy shrines, that Bahá'u'lláh may assist him and bless him, and that God's will for him may be done.

What the Guardian meant by appealing more directly to the masses is that the British Bahá'ís must try to acquaint the public with the teachings through public meetings and disseminating literature; this still does not mean they are in a position to launch activities on a scale comparable with what is being done in America: as he told you, their primary consideration at the present time must be to bring people into the Faith, in order to speedily achieve the goals of the Six Year Plan. This has precedence over everything else.

He hopes the Summer School will be a great success, and wishes you well in your devoted efforts to stimulate the friends to take immediate action! You may be sure he will pray for you and your family.

With loving greetings,

Rúhíyyih Rabbání.

May the Beloved guide every step you take in the path of service, bless every effort you exert for the promotion of the Plan, and fulfil every desire you cherish for the advancement of the Faith in your country.

Your true brother,

Shoghi.



– 1133 –

1946-07-29 Loyal Bahá'ís do not Become Carriers of CB

Covenant-Breaking

Prepared by the The International Teaching Centre — 28 November 1999

He is very happy to know your dear sister is now happier, and more like her old self, and the dark thoughts she had have been dispelled. Covenant-breaking is truly a spiritual disease, and the whole viewpoint and attitude of a Covenant-breaker is so poisonous that the Master likened it to leprosy, and warned the friends to breathe the same air was dangerous. This should not be taken literally; He meant when you are close enough to breathe the same air you are close enough to contact their corrupting influence. Your sister should never imagine she, loyal and devoted, has become a “carrier.”

(From a letter dated 29 July 1946 written on behalf of the Guardian to an individual believer)



– 1134 –

1946-09-02 To Anita loas to Pioneer in Europe

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp. 44-5

Anita

loas,

2 September 1946

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of August 9th was received, and our beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was delighted with your suggestion that you enter the European teaching field at this important juncture, and fully approves of your going.

Your dear family has been and is so constantly active in the service of the Faith, and your labours are deeply appreciated by the Guardian. He followed your previous pioneer work, and admires the spirit of devotion that prompts you to again go out in this important field.

Please give his loving greetings to your father, and assure him he is often remembered.

As to the place you will be able to render the greatest service in Europe: that is a matter for the European Teaching Committee to advise you on. If Honor Kempton can manage to go with you, without weakening the work in Alaska, it would be very nice for you both.

You may be sure he will pray for your success in this noble service you are undertaking.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear co-worker:

I am delighted to hear of the plan you have conceived, and I pray from the depths of my heart for your success and the realization of every hope you cherish for the work you will be undertaking. You will be enriching the record of service associated with your dear family, and particularly your dear father whose outstanding services in connection with the first Seven Year Plan 47 will ever be remembered with joy and gratitude.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1135 –

1946-09-30 To Melanie Humbert Plans to Pioneer to Belgium

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp45-6

Melanie Humbert,

30 September 1946

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of September 1st announcing the very good news of your intention to pioneer in Belgium reached our beloved Guardian, and he was delighted with this news.

He has been anxious now for very many years that the Cause should be really established there, and a permanent center formed. Now your departure promises the future development of such a center, and you should feel very proud to be able to undertake such a mission to your native land.

You may be sure he will pray for you, and that the doors may open, and your work meet with great success. He would also like you to report to him from time to time regarding your work there, and he urges you to keep in close touch with the friends in neighbouring countries.

With loving good wishes, yours,

R. Rabbání

Dear co-worker:

I am thrilled by the news you give and by your noble intentions to pioneer in Belgium. My loving and fervent prayers will accompany you in your glorious mission. Persevere and never feel despondent.

Future generations, if you be steadfast, will extol the work you will be undertaking, and the Beloved will reward you a thousand fold for your meritorious services.

Be happy and confident, your true brother, Shoghi



– 1136 –

1946-10-06 Need for Pioneers

USBN #189 November 1946 p3

Shoghi Effendi wants to particularly emphasize the need for more pioneers and travelling teachers, most particularly in the European field. The present very unsettled state of the world, the confusion and suspicion which seems to be growing rather than dissipating, necessitates immediate action; no postponement to future years of an increase of workers abroad can be

permitted, if the goals of this second Seven Year Plan are to be successfully achieved. Indeed a time may come when the friends will look back and regret every hour of delay as a priceless opportunity irrevocably lost! Rapid as has been the work in Latin America, the work in Europe must go forward at a much more urgent pace. Although he feels the European Teaching Committee has already done wonderfully well, he urges you to appeal to the believers to arise in far greater numbers, and go abroad at once, heedless of the sacrifices involved. He himself, through his personal correspondence is constantly pressing the Bahá'ís to volunteer for this service, and hopes during the coming months many more people will place themselves at your disposal for this all important service.

I need not tell you all that he constantly prays for your success and guidance in the discharge of your increasingly heavy duties. He admires greatly the spirit of perseverance and dedication with which you are serving, and you may call upon him at any time for his assistance and advice.

October 5, 1946



– 1137 –

1946-10-xx To Northampton England Community re Able to Form LSA

Looking back in Wonder, Phillip Hainsworth, p63

REJOICE HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENT CONSOLIDATION IMPERATIVE. PRAYING FERVENTLY SUCCESS INCREASE MEMBERSHIP. LOVE SHOGHI.

=====

Hainsworth notes that 3 important points were made in this cable — form Assemblies, consolidate, increase numbers.



– 1138 –

1946-11-20 To Arnold van Ogtrop on Moving to Nederlands

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp47-8

Arnold van Ogtrop,

20 November 1946

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your welcome letter, dated August 19th, has been received, and our beloved Guardian was very pleased to hear from you, as he had already received news of your attachment to the Faith from the English believers. He has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He has great hopes for the rapid development of an assembly in Holland; the Dutch people are a fine race, tolerant, intelligent and kindly, and a center in Holland would greatly reinforce the Cause in Europe. Now that the new Dutch Bahá'ís are going to be active there in spreading the teachings, you will have the benefit of their help, and through your united labours should soon be able to establish a group of interested people.

He was also very pleased to hear of your visit to the Swiss Bahá'ís; they are devoted and persevering, but need outside help and stimulation. Your experience at the Summer School in England will also be of great help to you, for when the friends gather for study and consultation they really feel the depths of the bonds which unite us in the Faith of God for this day.

You may be sure his ardent prayers will be offered for the success of your Bahá'í work, and he will also pray for your father and for the soul of your dear mother, that in the worlds beyond she may have the joy of recognizing Bahá'u'lláh.

He would welcome news of your activities and of the progress of the work there.

With warm Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-worker:

I was so glad to hear from you and to be assured of your noble sentiments and determination to serve our beloved Faith. I assure you of my loving and fervent prayers on your behalf and of my eagerness to hear of the progress of your work to which I attach the utmost importance. Persevere in your noble task, and be assured and happy.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1139 –

1946-11-22 To Amelia Collins Naming as Hand of the Cause

The Priceless Pearl, Rúḥíyyih Khánum, p258-9

YOUR MAGNIFICENT INTERNATIONAL SERVICES EXEMPLARY DEVOTION AND NOW THIS SIGNAL SERVICE IMPEL ME INFORM YOU YOUR ELEVATION RANK HAND CAUSE BAHÁ'U'LLÁH. YOU ARE FIRST BE TOLD THIS HONOUR IN LIFETIME. AS TO TIME ANNOUNCEMENT LEAVE IT MY DISCRETION



– 1140 –

1946-12-13 To Emeric Sala re Latin Americans

Tending the Garden: A Biography of Emeric and Rosemary Sala, p101

The Latin American friends have many fine traits of heart and mind, and he believes they will, in the future, when they become firmly grounded in the World Order and their numbers multiply, contribute much to the general progress of the Faith the world over.



– 1141 –

1946-12-28 Slides of our Bahá'í Temple

Arts and Architecture #9

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

These slides of our Bahá'í Temple and various activities are very interesting, and open a new door on the teaching approach to the general public. The more interesting sets can be collected and circulated amongst the friends the better....

(on behalf of the Guardian 28 December 1946, to an individual believer)



– 1142 –

1947-01-xx To Melanie Humbert on Pioneering to Belgium

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp49

Melanie Humbert,

January 1947

ASSURE LOVING FERVENT PRAYERS SUCCESS HISTORIC MISSION

— SHOGHI

=====

She left NYC for Europe in late Jan and arrived in early Feb



– 1143 –

1947-02-02 To Rita Sombeek re Translation of BNE

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp49-50

Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek,

2 February 1947

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of November 9th was received, together with that of your dear sister, and our beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was so happy to see that your sister has embraced the Faith and arisen to serve it with you with so much devotion and enthusiasm. He was also very pleased to see you were able to attend, together, both the Convention and the Summer School at Greenacre. These experiences have no doubt deepened your knowledge of the Faith and your attachment to it.

The work in Holland is very promising, and he feels sure you both, with Mr. van Ogtrop, will soon see tangible results of your devoted labours.

The translation work is of the utmost importance and as soon as you have at least the Esslemont in printed form you will be able to start your teaching work on a large scale. You should keep in close touch with Mrs. Graeffe in Geneva and, as far as practicable, with your co-workers in nearby countries. This will both help and inspire you and cement the bonds of the love of Bahá'u'lláh which is spreading over Europe through the efforts of His consecrated servants.

You may be sure your work will be remembered in his prayers, and that he will pray for you both, your happiness and your success.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-worker:

The work on which you and you dear sister have embarked is historic, meritorious, and rich in possibilities. Future generations will extol your labours and derive inspiration from the example you have set. I am deeply grateful to you both, admire your spirit, will pray for your success, and am eager to receive the report of your activities. Never lose heart, be assured, happy and grateful. Your true and grateful brother, Shoghi

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi

=====

Rita's sister was Georgette Straub-Van Bleyswijk Sombeek



– 1144 –

1947-02-05 Like Soldiers Under Attack

USBN #210 August 1948 p2

The friends must, at all times, bear in mind that they are, in a way, like soldiers under attack. The world is at present in an exceedingly dark condition spiritually; hatred and prejudice of every sort are literally tearing it to pieces. We, on the other hand, are the custodians of the opposite forces, the forces of love, of unity, of peace and integration, and we must continually be on our guard, whether as individuals or as an Assembly or Community, lest through us these destructive, negative forces enter into our midst. In other words, we must beware lest the darkness of society become reflected in our acts and attitudes, perhaps all unconsciously. Love for each other, the deep sense that we are a new organism, the dawn-breakers of a New World Order, must constantly animate our Bahá'í lives, and we must pray to be protected from the contamination of society which is so diseased with prejudice.

— To the Spiritual Assembly of Atlanta, February 5, 1947



— 1145 —

1947-02-15 On Behalf of to an Individual Believer re Statements About Greek Contacts with Holy Land

Socrates #14

Compiled By Research Department Of The Universal House Of Justice

We have no historical proof of the truth of the Master's statement regarding the Greek philosophers visiting the Holy Land etc., but such proof may come to light through research in the future.

We must not take this statement too literally; "contemporary" may have been meant in Persian as something far more elastic than the English word. Likewise, the whole translation probably needs revising.



— 1146 —

1947-02-18 To Alberto Lobaton re Buenos Aires Conf

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p109-10

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your letter dated Oct. 14th was received by our beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

News of the wonderful success of the Buenos Aires Conference has already reached him, and he feels that it truly marks a turning point in the development of the work in South America. It also has demonstrated that the believers of Latin America are going to be able to not only elect their two national assemblies, when the time comes, but will be capable of managing the affairs of the Cause in these republics of the New World with dignity, efficiency and success.

The news you gave him of the teaching work being carried on by your Assembly in Callao gave him great satisfaction. This work is of the utmost importance, and he assures he will pray that it may be very successful, and that a flourishing Bahá'í Community may soon exist there.

Your donation to, and love for, our glorious Cause touches him deeply and he will pray that your services may be richly blessed by Bahá'u'lláh.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Assuring you of my deep and abiding appreciation of your meritorious and historic services to our beloved Faith, and of my fervent prayers for your successful and the speedy realization of every hope you cherish for its extension and promotion,

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1147 –

1947-02-18 To Phillip Hainsworth re Teaching in England

Looking back in Wonder, Philip Hainsworth, p65-6

He wishes he more often got such glad news in one letter! It seems that at last the Cause in England is really getting into its stride, and that the British Community of believers are beginning to show forth the fruits of the many blessings showered on them — for England was one of the first countries of the West to hear the Divine Message, and was blessed by two visits from the Centre of the Covenant! Surely the older Bahá'ís must be astonished to see new centres springing up in a matter of months after years of an almost static condition! It shows that wherever and whenever the friends arise to serve, the mysterious power latent in this Divine Cause rushes in to bless and reinforce their labours far beyond their fondest hopes...

He is very happy to hear you are established as a pioneer, with a business of your own, and you may be sure he will pray for your material as well as spiritual success in this goal town.

As to the bulletin: he suggests you try and make it as universal in appeal as possible, with news included of outstanding work being done by the Bahá'ís in other lands, in the form of well-written articles.

Your dear father's death, though for him a blessed release, must have been very hard for your Mother and for you as well, to bear. You may be sure the Guardian will pray for his great happiness and progress in the next world.

He feels her presence there is an important opportunity to serve the Faith. Please assure her of this and encourage her constantly in your letters.

Dear and Valued Co-worker,

I was deeply touched by your letter, and I truly admire your services and the spirit which animates you. You are often in my thoughts and prayers, and I will continue to pray, from the depths of my heart, for your success, your happiness and continual spiritual advancement. Persevere in your noble endeavours.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1148 –

1947-02-24 To Corinne True Appreciation for Services

Corinne True: Faithful Handmaid of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Nathan Rutstein, p200

Dear and valued co-worker:

I wish to add a few words in person and express to you my abiding and affectionate appreciation of your past and splendid achievements in the service of the Faith, as well as of the services now rendered by your dear and devoted daughters ...[14]

[written by the Guardian to Corinne True, 24 February10.]



– 1149 –

1947-03-28 To an Individual Believer re Discourage Photos of Paintings of Master 7

Representation of the Manifestations of God and the Master

Compiled by Universal House of Justice Research Department

The portrait of the Master, which you painted with obviously so much care and love, he has placed in the Western Pilgrim House, where it can be enjoyed by the friends.

He has no objection to your giving friends photographs of your portrait, but he feels it should not take the place on their walls of photographs of the Master if they prefer to keep their own, particularly the one taken in Paris which 'Abdu'l-Bahá Himself chose as being the best of Him.



– 1150 –

1947-04-05 To Melanie Humbert Belgian Successes

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp52-3

Melanie Humbert,

5 April 1947

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter dated March 14th was received by our beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was very happy indeed to see you are going to have a class of six interested persons there, and he assures you he will ardently pray in the Holy Shrines that you may find and confirm receptive souls and soon establish an assembly there.

This will be an historic achievement, as the Cause has never spread in Belgium before, in spite of the efforts of many Bahá'í teachers.

Your labours are deeply valued, and he will always be happy to receive news of the progress of your activities.

With warmest Bahá'í greetings, yours in the service of the blessed Faith,

R. Rabbání.

Dear and valued co-worker:

I am so grateful to you for your magnificent response and I truly admire the spirit which animates you so powerfully in the service of the Faith. You are, I assure you, often in my thoughts and prayers, and I am so eager to learn of the progress of your activities and long for the news of the formation of a spiritual assembly in that country. Persevere in your noble task, rest assured, be happy and grateful for the great privilege and honour conferred upon you in these days.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1151 –

1947-04-05 To Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek Contacts with Esperantists

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp51-2

Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek,

5 April 1947

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letters dated January 4th and February 13th have been received by our beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer them on his behalf.

Regarding your question about the Esperantists: for many years they have been one of our closest contacts in Europe, and many of them have become believers. They are working for one of our greatest principles, and we certainly should associate with them. In Germany the Bahá'ís published an Esperanto magazine, and Martha Root represented the Cause at Esperanto Congresses. We cannot say we are sure this language will be the International one, but we are anxious to see it spread as it fosters unity and understanding. By all means foster your contact with them. Whether Esperanto will be chosen as the International language or not we cannot say; but we can say we hope it will spread because it nearly fulfils such a noble purpose.

By all means speak to gatherings, when the opportunity arises, about the Faith. There is no objection to broadcasting the Message over the radio — but your first consideration and main objective is to confirm sufficient souls to establish a spiritual assembly, and also to build up your literature in the Dutch language.

He is very encouraged to hear you and your dear sister and Mr. van Ogtrop are working in close harmony, and that your spirits are high and you are facing the work with so much joy!

You may be sure his loving prayers for your spiritual advancement and understanding will be offered in the Holy Shrines.

With Bahá'í love, R. Rabbání

May the Spirit of Bahá'u'lláh ever sustain you, cheer your heart, illumine your path, remove every obstacle that impedes the progress of your historic work, aid you to attract capable souls to the Faith, and establish a firm and unassailable foundation for its institutions.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



1947-04-05 To Van Bleyswijk Sombeek re Esperantists

The Bábí Question You Mentioned, Jelle deVries, p204

They are working for one of our greatest principles, and we certainly should associate with them. In Germany the Bahá'ís published an Esperanto Magazine, and Martha Root represented the Cause at Esperanto congresses. We cannot say we are sure this language will be the international one, but we are anxious to see it spread as it fosters unity and understanding. By all means foster your contact with them."

[on behalf of Guardian]



1947-04-08 To Community of Nottingham re Successes

Looking back in Wonder, Philip Hainsworth, p66-7

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter, dated 16 February, was received and read by our beloved Guardian with great joy, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

The news of your group having reached Assembly status was a source of deep satisfaction to him, and demonstrates what the friends can do, once they put their shoulder to the wheel!

You have every reason to feel proud of your achievement, and he hopes you will, through your correspondence and contacts with your fellow believers, encourage them to follow your example and forge ahead, in spite of every obstacle, with determination, confident that once we do our part, God is never failing in His.

He hopes your numbers will steadily increase and that many young people will be attracted to the Faith, as the part they have to play is very great and, also, their need of the Faith is very great.

You may be sure his loving prayers will be offered for you, and for the success of your labours, in the Holy Shrines.

May the Beloved bless your efforts in the service of our beloved Faith, and enable you to deepen your knowledge of the essentials of His World Order, to increase your numbers, to extend the scope of your activities, and to fulfil every desire you cherish for its promotion and consolidation.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1154 –

1947-04-10 Deepening Admiration For

Quoted in Never be Afraid to Dare, Jasion, p223

Dear and prized co-worker,

I wish to answer you in person of my ever deepening admiration for the exemplary tenacity, devotion & loyalty you have exhibited ever since you have landed on the European continent in the service of our beloved Faith. The example you have set is being followed by the American believers these days and future generations will no doubt extol your magnificent services.

Persevere in your glorious task and be happy.

Affectionately.

Shoghi.

[to Marion Jack, 10 April 1947]



– 1155 –

1947-04-14 To Melanie Humbert

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp53-4

Melanie Humbert,

14 April 1947

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letters dated February 16th and March 10th, with other enclosures, were received, and Shoghi Effendi has instructed me to answer you on his behalf. He is indeed (as you so clearly see) very over-worked with his mail; but he does not want your kind letter to go unanswered.

It is wonderful to see, at last, the intellectuals turning to the problems of the world and seeking to solve them. Side by side with this non-Bahá'í work, so close to many of Bahá'u'lláh's teachings, we believers must carry on our purely Bahá'í work, which only we can do, and which has such tremendous implications for the future of humanity in every sphere.

Your interest in our glorious Faith, in its many aspects, pleases him greatly, and he urges you to teach the Cause as much as possible, and help to find new ways of reaching the public and different elements in it.

He read your letters to the N.S.A. and Contacts Committee, and is glad to see the evidences of your devotion to the Cause.

You may be sure he will pray for the success of your labours in its service.

With Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbání.

May the Beloved bless, guide and sustain you, and enable you to promote effectively the best interests of His Faith, and fulfil your hearts desire in its service.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1156 –

1947-04-15 To Horace Holley re Financial Aspects of Construction of Shrine of the Báb

The Priceless Pearl, Rúhíyyih Khánum, p242-3

He therefore has in mind asking the friends, those in a position financially to do so, to raise a loan in order to place these contracts... he himself wishes to be considered the guarantor in this matter and will repay the loan at the earliest possible moment. He is very anxious to have no misunderstanding on this point. He is financing this work from the international funds of the Cause and will only consider an arrangement by which he will repay this temporary loan... As our situation here is so uncertain that any day we may find mail and even cables suspended temporarily he is hastening to get this information off to you... if suitable arrangements can be made and contracts signed Mr. Giachery will have to act as representative in this matter, receiving the sums from the States which you will send, keeping an eye on the work in Italy, and generally assuming responsibility there if we all get cut off from each other... He has urged Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Weeden to be back here in Palestine in three weeks if possible as he is afraid

that we might be entirely cut off from them... It is wonderful to know that the actual work on the Shrine is now so far advanced as to see the possibility of building operations being begun some time soon. But tremendous obstacles must be overcome, and, he feels confident, will be overcome.



– 1157 –

1947-04-19 For SE to Ind re Trans GPB into Arabic

Bahá'í Studies Bulletin Vol 5 #1-2 September 1985 pp93

... He attaches great importance to a suitable title for the book,⁶ and feels that you should not necessarily try to get a short one... As you know the concept embodied in the English words is very subtle... a very powerful spiritual concept, but a beautiful term in the English language... He cannot, alas, provide you with the originals of the less well-known quotations.

(19 April 1947)



– 1158 –

1947-04-24 To Theo Durieux first Belgian Bahá'í

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp54

Theo Durieux,

24 April 1947

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Your letter dated April 5th was received by our beloved Guardian and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was very happy indeed to receive news of you, and to know that dear Miss Humbert has an active Bahá'í brother to lean upon in Belgium, and to assist her in her labour to promote the Cause of God there!

You may be sure he will especially pray for your health, that you may regain your strength and thus be able to not only pursue your work but assist Miss Humbert in her teaching efforts. He

6. (Translations of "God Passes By" into Arabic)

will also pray that some members of your family at least, if not all of them, will become spiritually quickened and receptive to the world transforming Message of Bahá'u'lláh. Please give his cordial greetings to Miss Humbert when you see her. With warm Bahá'í greetings to you, yours in the Faith, R. Rabbání

Assuring you of my loving and ardent prayers for your spiritual advancement, for the expansion of your meritorious activities, and the realization of every hope you cherish for the progress of our beloved Faith and the establishment of its nascent institutions in that country.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1159 –

1947-04-28 Personal Participation or Appointment of Deputies

USBN #195 May 1947 p1

I am impelled to appeal to all American believers possessing independent means to arise and supplement the course of the second year of the second Seven Year Plan through personal participation or appointment of deputies, the superb exertions of the heroic vanguard of the hosts destined, through successive decades, to achieve the spiritual conquest of the continent unconquered by Islám, rightly regarded as the mother of Christendom, the fountainhead of American culture, the mainspring of western civilization, and the recipient of the unique honor of two successive visits to its shores by the Center of Bahá'u'lláh's Covenant.

SHOGHI

Cablegram received April 28, 1947



– 1160 –

1947-04-28 To Charlotte Stirrat on Arrival in Netherlands

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp55

Charlotte Stirrat,

28 April 1947

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter to our beloved Guardian, dated April 18th, has just been received, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He is very happy to hear of your settling in Amsterdam and of the close cooperation between the fine Bahá'ís in Holland. It is so wonderful to think that already the better half of an assembly exists there, in number!

He was also delighted to hear that Mr. van Ogtrop has been having such well attended fireside meetings; this type of teaching is very important as through it new souls are often confirmed.

The devoted labours you and the other dear believers there are putting forth in order to speedily establish the first Spiritual Assembly in the Low countries, are very deeply appreciated by him, and you may rest assured he is ardently praying for the success of your work and the fulfilment of your hearts desire in every way.

With warmest Bahá'í love and greetings, yours in the Faith, R. Rabbání

May the Almighty bless your pioneer efforts, reward you for your historic labours, aid you to assist in the establishment of a spiritual assembly in that land, and to fulfil every desire you cherish for the promotion of our glorious Faith. Your true brother, Shoghi



– 1161 –

1947-05-03 re — Hidden Words Arabic No. 63

References of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Shoghi Effendi to the Hidden Words

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá'í Studies Review 9

re: Hidden Words Arabic No. 63

“Túr” and “Sinai” should not be taken literally; the first is an allusion to Mount Sinai, which in this case means the Manifestation of God; the second, “Sinai,” represents the human heart.

(From a postscript in the handwriting of Shoghi Effendi to a letter dated 3 May 1947 written on his behalf to an individual believer)

[Note: This statement referred to an early translation. The word “Túr” was later translated by the Guardian as “sacred Mount”]



– 1162 –

1947-05-04 To U.S. National Conv

USBN #196 June 1947 p1

Greatly touched by noble sentiments of delegates. Profoundly grateful, deepest love, ardent prayers.

Shoghi

To the Convention. Received May 4,



– 1163 –

1947-05-07 To the Canadian Bahá'ís

USBN #196 June 1947 p1

To the Canadian Bahá'ís

Share joys and hopes of dearly beloved members of Canadian Bahá'í community; urge redouble efforts as hour of triumph approaches. Loving fervent prayers.

Shoghi

Received May 7,



– 1164 –

1947-05-08 To the National Spiritual Assembly

USBN #196 June 1947 p1

To the National Spiritual Assembly

Deeply appreciate newly-elected Assembly's noble determination. Praying for Bahá'u'lláh's guidance, sustaining grace and richest blessings for manifold, weighty tasks shouldered by its consecrated, privileged, resolute members. Deepest love.

Shoghi

Received May 8,



– 1165 –

1947-05-08 to UKNSA re George Townshend

Quoted in George Townshend, David Hoffman

He has already informed the American N.S.A. that he feels Mr. Townshend's services to the Faith can best be rendered by his writing about it, as he obviously has an outstanding ability in this direction, combined with knowledge and zeal, and can render a very valuable service this way; also he feels that Mr. Townshend, now that his church association seems about to be broken, could be used as part of the pioneer force in Eire. It is his own land, he knows his own people, and the need for workers there is very particularly great this year. Naturally, if Mr. and Mrs. Townshend have received a personal invitation to go to America and care to accept it, they are quite free to do so.

If Mr. Townshend has not as yet been registered as a voting believer he certainly should be immediately. Every one knows he has been a most devoted Bahá'í for many years and his contributions should certainly be considered those of a voting Bahá'í.

[letter to UKNSA on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 8 May 1947]



– 1166 –

1947-05-09 Assistance to Philippine Bahá'ís

USBN #196 June 1947 p6

Assistance to Philippine Bahá'ís

He is not in favor, as he already wrote you, of sending the Philippine friends any other assistance than food parcels and some Bahá'í literature. And he does not want money forwarded to them, as the American believers have already a very heavy program to carry out, in connection with their present Seven Year Plan, and can not afford to dissipate their resources.

May 9, 1947



1947-05-09 Begin Temple Work

USBN #196 June 1947 p7

The way the European teaching work is forging ahead and the number of pioneers being sent (and already settled abroad) greatly encourages him. It now remains for your Assembly to forge ahead with equal speed in carrying out the initial steps required before work on the Temple in situ can be begun. As all kinds of unforeseen complications may arise before the interior is completed, the sooner the first contracts are placed and work actually started, the better. As you know, he is very anxious to have work actually begun on the site this year, and he urges you to press the matter as much as possible.

May 9,



1947-05-09 Credentials for Orientals

USBN #196 June 1947 p6-7

As to your question as to what races should be regarded as coming under the heading of “Orientals” in connection with ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s warnings: there is no doubt He was primarily thinking of the Near Eastern races of Islámic extraction, who have every reason to look upon the Faith either with contempt as a mere heresy within, or sect of Islám, or with hatred as a potential threat to the supremacy of their religion. Likewise, it is these Near Eastern races, particularly the Persian, who have been most persistently exposed to the propaganda and bad example of the Covenant-breakers, old and new, and from whose ranks these very Covenant-breakers have sprung. These circumstances, combined with the fact that, like his Prophetic Forebears, Bahá’u’lláh appeared amongst the people most in need of enlightenment — and hence at their lowest ebb morally — are the reasons for not only ‘Abdu’l-Bahá’s and his own (i.e.. the Guardian’s) repeated warnings concerning Orientals, but also for the conduct, so often demonstrated, unfortunately, by these same Orientals, and which amply justifies our attitude of great precaution and wariness concerning receiving them in our midst and believing their declarations to be sincere. Shoghi Effendi also feels that the Moslems of India should likewise be included in this category, owing to their respective religious and racial background.

If any credentials your Assembly receives, issued by other National Assemblies, are ambiguous in tone, you should write the body in question and request them to clarify the matter, and be more specific in the future. At present the Guardian does not want to introduce any set international form of credentials.

May 9, 1947



– 1169 –

1947-05-09 Importance of Direct Bahá'í Activity

USBN #196 June 1947 p7

He cannot urge upon you all sufficiently, and through you the American believers, the importance of Bahá'ís realizing that direct, concentrated and efficiently carried out Bahá'í work is not only their supreme duty but the best way they can serve the interests of humanity and hasten the day when at least the Lesser Peace will become a reality. We must always bear in mind that Bahá'u'lláh's Order is the sovereign remedy, and all other measures inaugurated by the United Nations or various governments, are in the nature of palliatives, however sound and progressive they may be. We must concentrate on perfecting our characters as individual Bahá'ís and on maturing our still embryonic, and as yet imperfectly understood World Order; on spreading the Message, according to the provisions of the Divine Plan: and on building a tightly-knit, world-wide Bahá'í community. We are relatively few in numbers, and have such a precious, unique and responsible task to carry out we must concentrate our full forces upon it.

— May 9,



– 1170 –

1947-05-09 Association with the United Nations

USBN #196 June 1947 p7

He feels the friends should bear in mind that the primary reason that he is encouraging Bahá'í association with the United Nations is to give the Cause due publicity as an agency working for and firmly believing in the unification of the human family and permanent peace, and not because he believes that we are at present in a position to shape or influence directly the course of human affairs! Also, he feels this association will afford the believers an opportunity of contacting prominent and progressive-minded people from different countries and calling the Faith and its principles to their attention. We should associate ourselves in every way with all movements of UN which are in accordance with our principles and objectives; but we should not seek to take the initiative or ... focus a glare of publicity and public attention on a very wide scale, upon ourselves which might prove very detrimental to our own interests. He considered, for instance, the “Bahá'í Declaration of Human Obligations and Rights” appropriate and believes this type of action to be wise and suitable.

— May 9,



– 1171 –

1947-06-16 National Committee Membership

USBN #198 August 1947 p3

“In going over the Minutes of your recent N.S.A. meeting he noticed that you had decided to try as far as possible to eliminate N.S.A. members from the national committees. Although he fully realizes your reasons for taking this decision, he feels it infringes on one of the fundamental principles of our administrative order which is freedom of choice — freedom of electors to elect anyone they please to local or national bodies, and freedom of the members of these bodies to appoint any Bahá’í, who seems best qualified for the work, to function on committees.

“The first consideration must always be the person best qualified for a job, and National Assembly members should in such matters not be either discriminated against, or in favor of, because of the position they occupy on the national body.”

June 16, 1947



– 1172 –

1947-07-03 Temple Inspired by the Taj Mahal

Arts and Architecture #8

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

He personally does not believe that the Master’s wish to have a Temple inspired by the Taj Mahal meant that it must be one hundred percent based on that building and fully Indian in all details. He feels the Master meant that the general impression, the beauty, contours and symmetry of that glorious tomb should be predominant in the Temple.

(on behalf of the Guardian 3 July 1947, to an individual believer)



1947-07-04 authenticity of any of phrases in Old or New Testament

The Bible: Extracts on the Old on New Testaments

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

We cannot be sure of the authenticity of any of the phrases in the Old or the New Testament. What we can be sure of is when such references or words are cited or quoted in either the Qur'án or the Bahá'í writings.

(4 July 1947 to an individual believer on Behalf of the Guardian)



1947-07-05 To an Individual Believer re Areas of Study

Scholarship (BSB)

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice. Published in Bahá'í Studies Bulletin Vol 1-1

It is very easy indeed for him to understand how you, with your training, are often tested and irritated by your contact with some of the believers. But then you must remember that your advantages of a reasonable mind and a scientific education, have not been given to all, and you cannot expect acceptance of Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings to endow people with these things automatically! But think of the kind of human beings, if brought up in the society He envisages, and taught in homes, schools and universities which were the mirror and product of His teachings, which would be produced! There you would really have a new race of men.

Shoghi Effendi has for years urged the Bahá'ís (who asked his advice, and in general also), to study history, economics, sociology, etc., in order to be au courant with all the progressive movements and thoughts being put forth today, and so that they could correlate these to the Bahá'í teachings. What he wants the Bahá'ís to do is to study more, not to study less. The more general knowledge, scientific and otherwise, they possess, the better. Likewise he is constantly urging them to really study the Bahá'í teachings more deeply. One might liken Bahá'u'lláh's teachings to a sphere; there are points poles apart, and in between the thoughts and doctrines that unite them. We believe in balance in all things; we believe in moderation in all things — we must not be too emotional, nor cut and dried and lacking in feeling, we must not be so liberal as to cease to preserve the character and unity of our Bahá'í system, nor fanatical and dogmatic. Very few people, as you as a psychologist know, have attained perfect equilibrium in their minds or their lives — their acts — the same is certainly true of the Bahá'ís, for anyone who believes in our teachings can become a Bahá'í and they represent all elements of the population.

He can see quite clearly both your point of view and that express' by those dear and devoted Bahá'ís whom you quoted in your letter. Both Mr. Remey and Mr. Holley are men of much experience and considerable learning in their way; what they no doubt meant was that the solution given to the world's problems by Bahá'u'lláh is the only solution — being Divine in origin — and most desperately needed; therefore we, the few who have caught the vision, should not waste our energies beating up and down the paths pursued by humanity, and which are not solving its ghastly present-day problems. We should concentrate on the Cause, because it is what is needed to cure the world. This is a sound attitude, for if we don't devote ourselves to the Bahá'í work and teaching who will?

On the other hand there is a big difference between this and learning. If the Bahá'ís want to be really effective in teaching the Cause they need to be much better informed and able to discuss intelligently, intellectually, the present condition of the world and its problems. We need Bahá'í scholars, not only people far, far more deeply aware of what our teaching really are, but also well read and educated people, capable of correlating our teachings to the current thoughts of the leaders of society.

We Bahá'ís should, in other words, arm our minds with knowledge in order to better demonstrate to, especially the educated classes, the truths enshrined in our Faith. What the Guardian, however, does not advise the friends to do is to dissipate their time and energies in serving movements that are akin to our principles but not, we believe, capable of solving the present spiritual crisis the world finds itself in. We can cooperate with such movements and their promoters to good effect, while at the same time openly standing forth as Bahá'ís with a specific program to offer society.



– 1175 –

1947-07-05 On Behalf of to an Individual Believer Subjects to Study

Science and Technology #7

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Shoghi Effendi has for years urged the Bahá'ís (who asked his advice, and in general also) to study history, economics, sociology, etc., in order to be au courant with all the progressive movements and thoughts being put forth today, and so that they could correlate these to the Bahá'í teachings. What he wants the Bahá'ís to do is to study more, not to study less. The more general knowledge, scientific and otherwise, they possess, the better. Likewise he is constantly urging them to really study the Bahá'í teachings more deeply. One might liken Bahá'u'lláh's teachings to a sphere; there are points poles apart, and in between the thoughts and doctrines that unite them. We believe in balance in all things; we believe in moderation in all things — we must not be too emotional, nor cut and dried and lacking in feeling, we must not be so liberal as to cease to preserve the character and unity of our Bahá'í system, nor fanatical and dogmatic.



1947-07-07 Circulation of the Statement on Communism

Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union A Compilation From the Bahá'í Writings, #38

Compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice

He does not endorse, however, the circulation of the statement on communism, and considers that if such a document fell into the hands of the wrong people it could cause a great deal of harm, especially in those countries where the believers are living under Soviet rule or in states strongly influenced by communism. The issues touched upon are too vital and too interwoven with present day politics for us to make any written comment upon them. However he feels that orally pioneers could be apprised of these things and warned to be extremely discreet in communicating our viewpoints to those they teach in Europe, and elsewhere. The word communism cannot be dissociated from the Soviet Political Regime, and great wisdom is required to make our viewpoint clear without giving the impression we are for or against any existing government.

(7 July 1947 on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada)



1947-07-07 Observe Nine Holy Days

USBN #198 August 1947 p3

He wishes also to stress the fact that, according to the Bahá'í laws, work is forbidden on our nine Holy Days. Believers who have independent businesses or shops should refrain from working on these days. Those who are in government employ should, on religious grounds, make an effort to be excused from work; all believers, whoever their employers, should do likewise. If the government or other employers refuse to grant them these days off, they are not required to forfeit their employment, but they should make every effort to have the independent status of the Faith recognized and their right to hold their own religious Holy Days acknowledged."

— July 7, 1947



1947-07-07 Statement Regarding Orientals

USBN #198 August 1947 p3

The statement regarding Orientals he considers very well selected, and feels that it will be an added protection to the believers, especially those newly enrolled in the Faith.

SHOGHI EFFENDI

July 7, 1947



– 1179 –

1947-07-14 Cover Letter

On 9 July 47, Shoghi Effendi received a letter from the chairman of United Nations Special Committee on Palestine requesting a statement on the relationship which the Bahá'í Faith had to Palestine and the Bahá'í attitude towards any future changes in the status of the country. His reply was written 14 July 47 and sent the next day. A portion of the cover letter were published in BW vol X and not made part of the statement published as a pamphlet.

That letter is as follows as published in Rúhíyyih Khánum's 1988 book, "The Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith" [which is similar but not identical to "The Priceless Pearl."]

Mr. Justice Emil Sandstrom, Chairman,

United Nations Special Committee on Palestine.

Sir:

Your kind letter of July 9th reached me and I wish to thank you for affording me the opportunity of presenting to you and your esteemed colleagues a statement of the relationship which the Bahá'í Faith has to Palestine and our attitude towards any future changes in the status of this sacred and much disputed land.

I am enclosing with this letter, for your information, a brief sketch of the history, aims and significance of the Bahá'í Faith, as well as a small pamphlet setting forth its views towards the present state of the world and the lines on which we hope and believe it must and will develop.

The position of the Bahá'ís in this country is in a certain measure unique: whereas Jerusalem is the spiritual center of Christendom it is not the administrative center of either the Church of Rome or any other Christian denomination. Likewise although it is regarded by Moslems as the spot where one of its most sacred shrines is situated, the Holy Sites of the Muḥammadan Faith, and the center of its pilgrimages, are to be found in Arabia, not in Palestine. The Jews alone offer somewhat of a parallel to the attachment which the Bahá'ís have for this country inasmuch as Jerusalem holds the remains of their Holy Temple and was the seat of both the religious and political institutions associated with their past history. But even their case differs in one respect from that of the Bahá'ís, for it is in the soil of Palestine that the three central Figures of our religion are buried, and it is not only the center of Bahá'í pilgrimages from all over the world but also the permanent seat of our Administrative Order, of which I have the honor to be the Head.

The Bahá'í Faith is entirely non-political and we neither take sides in the present tragic dispute going on over the future of the Holy Land and its peoples nor have we any statement to make or advice to give as to what the nature of the political future of this country should be. Our aim is the establishment of universal peace in this world and our desire to see justice prevail in every domain of human society, including the domain of politics. As many of the adherents of our Faith are of Jewish and Moslem extraction we have no prejudice towards either of these groups and are most anxious to reconcile them for their mutual benefit and for the good of the country.

What does concern us, however, in any decisions made affecting the future of Palestine, is that the fact be recognized by whoever exercises sovereignty over Haifa and Acre, that within this area exists the spiritual and administrative center of a world Faith, and that the independence of that Faith, its right to manage its international affairs from this source, the right of Bahá'ís from any and every country of the globe to visit it as pilgrims (enjoying the same privilege in this respect as Jews, Moslems and Christians do in regard to visiting Jerusalem), be acknowledged and permanently safeguarded.

The Sepulchre of the Báb on Mt. Carmel, the Tomb of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in that same spot, the Pilgrim Hostel for oriental Bahá'ís in its vicinity, the large gardens and terraces which surround these places (all of which are open to visits by the public of all denominations), the Pilgrim Hostel for western Bahá'ís at the foot of Mt Carmel, the residence of the Head of the Community various houses and gardens in Acre and its vicinity associated with Bahá'u'lláh's incarceration in that city, His Holy Tomb at Bahjí, near Acre, with His Mansion which is now preserved as a historic site and a museum (both likewise accessible to the public of all denominations), as well as holdings in the plain of Acre — all these comprise the bulk of Bahá'í properties in the Holy Land. It should also be noted that practically all of these properties have been exempted from both Government and Municipal taxes owing to their religious nature. Some of these extensive holdings are the property of the Palestine Branch of the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada, incorporated as a religious society according to the laws of the country. In future various other Bahá'í National Assemblies will hold, through their Palestine Branches, part of the International Endowments of the Faith in the Holy Land.

In view of the above information I would request you and the members of your Committee to take into consideration the safeguarding of Bahá'í rights in any recommendation which you may make to the United Nations concerning the future of Palestine. May I take this opportunity of assuring you of my deep appreciation of the spirit in which you and your colleagues have conducted your investigations into the troubled conditions of this Sacred Land. I trust and pray that the outcome of your deliberations will produce an equitable and speedy solution of the very thorny problems which have arisen in Palestine.

Yours

faithfully,

Shoghi Rabbání

Haifa, Palestine,

July 14, 1947



– 1180 –

1947-07-14 Faith of Bahá'ulláh

Abstract:

A summary of the origin, teachings and institutions of the Bahá'í Faith, prepared in 1947 for the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine by Shoghi Effendi in his capacity as Head of the Bahá'í Faith.

Notes:

Add or read comments or links pertaining to this work here.

Classified in Bahá'í Writings and Letters from the Guardian.

The Faith of Bahá'u'lláh:

A World Religion

by Shoghi Effendi

Palestine, Palestine

July, 1947

The Faith established by Bahá'u'lláh was born in Persia about the middle of the nineteenth century and has, as a result of the successive banishments of its Founder, culminating in His exile to the Turkish penal colony of 'Akká, and His subsequent death and burial in its vicinity, fixed its permanent spiritual center in the Holy Land, and is now in the process of laying the foundations of its world administrative center in the city of Haifa.

Alíke in the claims unequivocally asserted by its Author and the general character of the growth of the Bahá'í community in every continent of the globe, it can be regarded in no other light than a world religion, destined to evolve in the course of time into a world-embracing commonwealth, whose advent must signalize the Golden Age of mankind, the age in which the unity of the human race will have been unassailably established, its maturity attained, and its glorious destiny unfolded through the birth and efflorescence of a world-encompassing civilization.

Restatement of Eternal Verities

Though sprung from Shi'ih Islām, and regarded, in the early stages of its development, by the followers of both the Muslim and Christian Faiths, as an obscure sect, an Asiatic cult or an offshoot of the Muḥammadan religion, this Faith is now increasingly demonstrating its right to be recognized, not as one more religious system superimposed on the conflicting creeds which for so many generations have divided mankind and darkened its fortunes, but rather as a restatement of the eternal verities underlying all the religions of the past, as a unifying force instilling into the adherents of these religions a new spiritual vigor, infusing them with a new hope and love for mankind, firing them with a new vision of the fundamental unity of their religious doctrines, and unfolding to their eyes the glorious destiny that awaits the human race.

The fundamental principle enunciated by Bahá'u'lláh, the followers of His Faith firmly believe, is that religious truth is not absolute but relative, that Divine Revelation is a continuous and progressive process, that all the great religions of the world are divine in origin, that their basic principles are in complete harmony, that their aims and purposes are one and the same, that their teachings are but facets of one truth, that their functions are complementary, that they differ only in the non-essential aspects of their doctrines, and that their missions represent successive stages in the spiritual evolution of human society.

To Reconcile Conflicting Creeds

The aim of Bahá'u'lláh, the Prophet of this new and great age which humanity has entered upon — He whose advent fulfils the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments as well as those of the Qur'án regarding the coming of the Promised One in the end of time, on the Day of Judgment — is not to destroy but to fulfill the Revelations of the past, to reconcile rather than accentuate the divergencies of the conflicting creeds which disrupt present-day society.

His purpose, far from belittling the station of the Prophets gone before Him or of whittling down their teachings, is to restate the basic truths which these teachings enshrine in a manner that would conform to the needs, and be in consonance with the capacity, and be applicable to the problems, the ills and perplexities, of the age in which we live. His mission is to proclaim that the ages of the infancy and of the childhood of the human race are past, that the convulsions associated with the present stage of its adolescence are slowly and painfully preparing it to attain the stage of manhood, and are heralding the approach of that Age of Ages when swords will be beaten into plowshares, when the Kingdom promised by Jesus Christ will have been established, and the peace of the planet definitely and permanently ensured. Nor does Bahá'u'lláh claim finality for His own Revelation, but rather stipulates that a fuller measure of the truth He has been commissioned by the Almighty to vouchsafe to humanity, at so critical a juncture in its fortunes, must needs be disclosed at future stages in the constant and limitless evolution of mankind.

Oneness of the Human Race

The Bahá'í Faith upholds the unity of God, recognizes the unity of His Prophets, and inculcates the principle of the oneness and wholeness of the entire human race. It proclaims the necessity and the inevitability of the unification of mankind, asserts that it is gradually approaching, and claims that nothing short of the transmuting spirit of God, working through His chosen Mouthpiece in this day, can ultimately succeed in bringing it about. It, moreover, enjoins upon

its followers the primary duty of an unfettered search after truth, condemns all manner of prejudice and superstition, declares the purpose of religion to be the promotion of amity and concord, proclaims its essential harmony with science, and recognizes it as the foremost agency for the pacification and the orderly progress of human society. It unequivocally maintains the principle of equal rights, opportunities and privileges for men and women, insists on compulsory education, eliminates extremes of poverty and wealth, abolishes the institution of priesthood, prohibits slavery, asceticism, mendicancy and monasticism, prescribes monogamy, discourages divorce, emphasizes the necessity of strict obedience to one's government, exalts any work performed in the spirit of service to the level of worship, urges either the creation or the selection of an auxiliary international language, and delineates the outlines of those institutions that must establish and perpetuate the general peace of mankind.

The Herald

The Bahá'í Faith revolves around three central Figures, the first of whom was a youth, a native of Shíráz, named Mírzá 'Alí-Muḥammad, known as the Báb (Gate), who in May, 1844, at the age of twenty-five, advanced the claim of being the Herald Who, according to the sacred Scriptures of previous Dispensations, must needs announce and prepare the way for the advent of One greater than Himself, Whose mission would be according to those same Scriptures, to inaugurate an era of righteousness and peace, an era that would be hailed as the consummation of all previous Dispensations, and initiate a new cycle in the religious history of mankind. Swift and severe persecution, launched by the organized forces of Church and State in His native land, precipitated successively His arrest, His exile to the mountains of Aḡhírbáyján, His imprisonment in the fortresses of Máh-Kú and Chihríq, and His execution, in July, 1850, by a firing squad in the public square of Tabríz. No less than twenty thousand of his followers were put to death with such barbarous cruelty as to evoke the warm sympathy and the unqualified admiration of a number of Western writers, diplomats, travelers and scholars, some of whom were witnesses of these abominable outrages, and were moved to record them in their books and diaries.

Bahá'u'lláh

Mírzá Ḥusayn-'Alí, surnamed Bahá'u'lláh (the Glory of God), a native of Mázindarán, Whose advent the Báb had foretold, was assailed by those same forces of ignorance and fanaticism, was imprisoned in Tíhrán, was banished, in 1852, from His native land to Baghdád, and thence to Constantinople and Adrianople, and finally to the prison city of 'Akká, where He remained incarcerated for no less than twenty-four years, and in whose neighborhood He passed away in 1875. In the course of His banishment, and particularly in Adrianople and 'Akká, He formulated the laws and ordinances of His Dispensation, expounded, in over a hundred volumes, the principles of His Faith, proclaimed His Message to the kings and rulers of both the East and the West, both Christian and Muslim, addressed the Pope, the Caliph of Islám, the Chief Magistrates of the Republics of the American continent, the entire Christian sacerdotal order, the leaders of Shí'ah and Sunnī Islám, and the high priests of the Zoroastrian religion. In these writings He proclaimed His Revelation, summoned those whom He addressed to heed His call and espouse His Faith, warned them of the consequences of their refusal, and denounced, in some cases, their arrogance and tyranny.

‘Abdu'l-Bahá

His eldest son, ‘Abbás Effendi, known as ‘Abdu'l-Bahá (the Servant of Bahá), appointed by Him as His lawful successor and the authorized interpreter of His teachings, Who since early childhood had been closely associated with His Father, and shared His exile and tribulations, remained a prisoner until 1908, when, as a result of the Young Turk Revolution, He was released from His confinement. Establishing His residence in Haifa, He embarked soon after on His three-year journey to Egypt, Europe and North America, in the course of which He expounded before vast audiences, the teachings of His Father and predicted the approach of that catastrophe that was soon to befall mankind. He returned to His home on the eve of the first World War, in the course of which He was exposed to constant danger, until the liberation of Palestine by the forces under the command of General Allenby, who extended the utmost consideration to Him and to the small band of His fellow-exiles in ‘Akká and Haifa. In 1921 He passed away, and was buried in a vault in the mausoleum erected on Mount Carmel, at the express instruction of Bahá’u’lláh, for the remains of the Báb, which had previously been transferred from Tabríz to the Holy Land after having been preserved and concealed for no less than sixty years.

Administrative Order

The passing of ‘Abdu'l-Bahá marked the termination of the first and Heroic Age of the Bahá’í Faith and signaled the opening of the Formative Age destined to witness the gradual emergence of its Administrative Order, whose establishment had been foretold by the Báb, whose laws were revealed by Bahá’u’lláh, whose outlines were delineated by ‘Abdu'l-Bahá in His Will and Testament, and whose foundations are now being laid by the national and local councils which are elected by the professed adherents of the Faith, and which are paving the way for the constitution of the World Council, to be designated as the Universal House of Justice, which, in conjunction with me, as its appointed Head and the authorized interpreter of the Bahá’í teachings, must coordinate and direct the affairs of the Bahá’í community, and whose seat will be permanently established in the Holy Land, in close proximity to its world spiritual center, the resting-places of its Founders.

The Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá’u’lláh, which is destined to evolve into the Bahá’í World Commonwealth, and has already survived the assaults launched against its institutions by such formidable foes as the kings of the Qájár dynasty, the Caliphs of Islám, the ecclesiastical leaders of Egypt, and the Nazi regime in Germany, has already extended its ramifications to every continent of the globe, stretching from Iceland to the extremity of Chile, has been established in no less than eighty-eight countries of the world, has gathered within its pale representatives of no less than thirty-one races, numbers among its supporters Christians of various denominations, Muslims of both Sunní and Shí‘ah sects, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Zoroastrians and Buddhists. It has published and disseminated, through its appointed agencies, Bahá’í literature in forty-eight languages; has already consolidated its structure through the incorporation of five National Assemblies and seventy-seven local Assemblies, in lands as far apart as South America, India and the Antipodes-incorporations that legally empower its elected representatives to hold property as trustees of the Bahá’í community. It disposes of international, national and local endowments, estimated at several million pounds, and spread

over every continent of the globe, enjoys in several countries the privilege of official recognition by the civil authorities, enabling it to secure exemption from taxation for its endowments and to solemnize Bahá'í marriage, and numbers among its stately edifices, two temples, the one erected in Russian Turkistan and the other on the shore of Lake Michigan at Wilmette, on the outskirts of Chicago.

This Administrative Order, unlike the systems evolved after the death of the Founders of the various religions, is divine in origin, rests securely on the laws, the precepts, the ordinances and institutions which the Founder of the Faith has Himself specifically laid down and unequivocally established, and functions in strict accordance with the interpretations of the authorized Interpreters of its holy scriptures. Though fiercely assailed, ever since its inception, it has, by virtue of its character, unique in the annals of the world's religious history, succeeded in maintaining the unity of the diversified and far-flung body of its supporters, and enabled them to launch, unitedly and systematically, enterprises in both Hemispheres, designed to extend its limits and consolidate its administrative institutions. The Faith which this order serves, safeguards and promotes, is, it should be noted in this connection, essentially supernatural, supranational, entirely non-political, non-partisan, and diametrically opposed to any policy or school of thought that seeks to exalt any particular race, class or nation. It is free from any form of ecclesiasticism, has neither priesthood nor rituals, and is supported exclusively by voluntary contributions made by its avowed adherents. Though loyal to their respective governments, though imbued with the love of their own country, and anxious to promote, at all times, its best interests, the followers of the Bahá'í Faith, nevertheless, viewing mankind as one entity, and profoundly attached to its vital interests, will not hesitate to subordinate every particular interest, be it personal, regional or national, to the over-riding interests of the generality of mankind, knowing full well that in a world of interdependent peoples and nations the advantage of the part is best to be reached by the advantage of the whole, and that no lasting result can be achieved by any of the component parts if the general interests of the entity itself are neglected.

Nor should the fact be overlooked that the Faith has already asserted and demonstrated its independent religious character, has been emancipated from the fetters of orthodoxy in certain Islámic countries, has obtained in one of them an unsolicited testimony to its independent religious status, and succeeded in winning the allegiance of royalty to its cause.

Tributes by Leaders

"It is like a wide embrace," is Queen Marie of Rumania's own tribute, "gathering together all those who have searched for words of hope. It accepts all great Prophets gone before, it destroys no other creeds and leaves all doors open.... The Bahá'í teaching brings peace to the soul and hope to the heart. To those in search of assurance, the words of the Father are as a fountain in the desert after long wandering.... It is a wondrous message that Bahá'u'lláh and His son 'Abdu'l-Bahá have given us. They have not set it up aggressively, knowing that the germ of eternal truth which lies at its core cannot but take root and spread.... It is Christ's Message taken up anew, in the same words almost, but adapted to the thousand years and more difference that lies between the year one and today... If ever the name of Bahá'u'lláh or 'Abdu'l-Bahá comes to your attention, do not put their writings from you. Search out their books, and let their glorious, peace — bringing, love — creating words and lessons sink into your hearts as they have into mine."

"The teachings of the Bábís," wrote Leo Tolstoy, "... have a great future before them ... I therefore sympathize with Bábism with all my heart, inasmuch as it teaches people brotherhood and equality and sacrifice of material life for service to God ... The teachings of the Bábís which come to us out of Islám have through Bahá'u'lláh's teachings been gradually developed, and now present us with the highest and purest form of religious teaching."

"Take these principles to the diplomats," is the late President Masaryk's advice, "to the universities and colleges and other schools, and also write about them. It is the people who will bring the universal peace." "The Bahá'í teaching," is President Eduard Benes' testimony, "is one of the great instruments for the final victory of the spirit and of humanity ... The Bahá'í Cause is one of the great moral and social forces in all the world today. I am more convinced than ever, with the increasing moral and political crises in the world, we must have greater international coordination. Such a movement as the Bahá'í Cause which paves the way for universal organization of peace is necessary."

"If there has been any Prophet in recent times," asserts the Rev. T. K. Cheyne in his 'The Reconciliation of Races and Religions,' "it is to Bahá'u'lláh that we must go. Character is the final judge. Bahá'u'lláh was a man of the highest class — that of Prophets." "It is possible indeed," declares Viscount Samuel of Carmel, "to pick out points of fundamental agreement among all creeds. That is the essential purpose of the Bahá'í religion, the foundation and growth of which is one of the most striking movements that have proceeded from the East in recent generations."

"Palestine," is Professor Norman Bentwich's written testimony, "may indeed be now regarded as the land not of three but of four faiths, because the Bahá'í creed, which has its center of faith and pilgrimage in 'Akká and Haifa, is attaining to the character of a world religion. So far as its influence goes in the land, it is a factor making for international and inter-religious understanding."

And, finally, is the judgment passed by no less outstanding a figure than the late Master of Balliol, Professor Benjamin Jowett: "The Bábí movement may not impossibly turn out to have the promise of the future." Professor Lewis Campbell, an eminent pupil of Dr. Jowett, has confirmed this statement by quoting him as saying: "This Bahá'í Movement is the greatest light that has come into the world since the time of Jesus Christ. You must watch it and never let it out of your sight. It is too great and too near for this generation to comprehend. The future alone can reveal its import."



— 1181 —

1947-07-15 For SE to Ind re Trans Qayyúmul-Asmá into English

Bahá'í Studies Bulletin Vol 5 #1-2 September 1985 pp93

He does not believe there is anyone at present capable of translating the passages you referred to in the Qayyúmul-Asmá into befitting and accurate English. Arabic is especially difficult, and many of the Bahá'í writings will require a well-qualified group of translators, not just one person.

— 1182 —

1947-10-19 To Corinne True Blessing Family

Corinne True: Faithful Handmaid of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, Nathan Rutstein, p200

I rejoice that your dear daughters are following in your footsteps, and I will supplicate the Beloved to bless this family that has rendered and is still rendering such distinguished services to the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi

— 1183 —

1947-10-19 To John Bernard Corne

USBN #202 December 1947 p3

Regarding your questions: There are only two institutions which are infallible, one is the guardianship, the other the International House of Justice. What the Master desired to protect the friends against was continual bickering and opinionatedness. A believer can ask the Assembly why they made a certain decision and politely request them to reconsider. But then he must leave it at that, and not go on disrupting local affairs through insisting on his own views. This applies to an Assembly member as well. We all have a right to our opinions, we are bound to think differently; but a Bahá'í must accept the majority decision of his Assembly, realizing that acceptance and harmony — even if a mistake has been made — are the really important things, and when we serve the Cause properly, in the Bahá'í way, God will right any wrongs done in the end.

Bahá'ís are not required to vote on an Assembly against their consciences. It is better if they submit to the majority view and make it unanimous. But they are not forced to. What they must do, however, is to abide by the majority decision, as this is what becomes effective. They must not go around undermining the Assembly by saying they disagreed with the majority. In other words, they must put the Cause first and not their own opinions.

He, (an S. A. member) can ask the Assembly to reconsider a matter, but he has no right to force them or create inharmony because they won't change. Unanimous votes are preferable, but

certainly cannot be forced upon Assembly members by artificial methods such as are used by other societies.

What Bahá'u'lláh means by chastity certainly does not include the kissing that goes on in modern society. It is detrimental to the morals of young people, and often leads them to go too far, or arouses appetites which they cannot perhaps at the time satisfy legitimately through marriage, and the suppression of which is a strain on them.

The Bahá'í standard is very high, more particularly when compared with the thoroughly rotten morals of the present world. But this standard of ours will produce healthier, happier, nobler people, and induce stabler marriages.

— to John Bernard Cornel dated October 19, 1947

[See also John's letter to the Guardian. John was on-line when I first got on-line and discussed the background of this letter, which had to do with his divorce and his belief that the local Assembly had been conned by his ex-wife.]



— 1184 —

1947-10-24 Meeting with the Grandchild of Şubḥ-i-Azal

Covenant-Breaking

Prepared by the The International Teaching Centre — 28 November 1999

He noted the report of ... about her meeting with the grandchild of Şubḥ-i-Azal. He feels that the friends should as much as possible avoid her, as it is very unlikely she has anything but prejudice against Bahá'u'lláh, in view of her background.

(From a letter dated 24 October 1947 to a National Spiritual Assembly)



— 1185 —

1947-10-24 To a National Spiritual Assembly re Assoc with Grandchild of Şubḥ-i-Azal

Non-association with Covenant-breakers #11

Compiled by Continental Board of Counsellors.

He noted the report of ... about her meeting with the grandchild of Şubḥ-i-Azal. He feels that the friends should as much as possible avoid her, as it is very unlikely she has anything but prejudice against Bahá'u'lláh, in view of her background.

1947-10-25 Marriage Ceremony & Prayer

USBN #202 December 1947 p2

There is no objection to performing a Bahá'í marriage for two non-Bahá'ís, if they desire to have our simple ceremony. This, on the contrary, is yet another way of demonstrating our liberality.

Bahá'u'lláh has clearly stated the consent of all living parents is required for a Bahá'í marriage. This applies whether the parents are Bahá'ís or non-Bahá'ís, divorced for years, or not. This great law He has laid down to strengthen the social fabric, to knit closer the ties of the home, to place a certain gratitude and respect in the hearts of children for those who have given them life and sent their souls out on the eternal journey towards their Creator. We Bahá'ís must realize that in present-day society the exact opposite process is taking place: young people care less and less for their parents' wishes, divorce is considered a natural right, and obtained on the flimsiest and most unwarrantable and shabby pretexts. People separated from each other, especially if one of them has had full custody of the children, are only too willing to belittle the importance of the partner in marriage also responsible as a parent for bringing those children into this world. The Bahá'ís must, through rigid adherence to the Bahá'í laws and teachings, combat those corrosive forces which are so rapidly destroying home life and the beauty of family relationships, and tearing down the moral structure of society.

The point the Indian NSA called to your attention about the Marriage Tablet is correct; part of it is Bahá'u'lláh's, part of it 'Abdu'l-Bahá's.

October 25, 1947

[See page 7 Bahá'í News for February, 8. The Marriage Prayer as reprinted is attributed to 'Abdu'l-Bahá, whereas in reality the text consists of two separate Tablets. The text up to "the Lord of the worlds!" is by Bahá'u'Hah, and the remaining text is a Tablet by 'Abdu'l-Bahá. — USBN editor]

Here is the text as printed in the February 1947 USBN. It is now found in the U.S. Prayer Book as two separate Marriage Prayers, but the section — - — -

"And we greet and salute those of the Bayán who became the people of Bahá, those who expended their efforts for the uprising of this luminous Faith, and whom the blame of the blamer did not withhold from God.

is not included.

The 1906 pilgrim notes of 'Alí-Kuli Khán refers to the Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh as a homily to read during the wedding ceremony and is a slightly different translation.

The version below from the Feb 1947 USBN is by Marzieh Gail from the Marriage Certificate used by the Assemblies in Persia.

He is the Bestower, the Bounteous!

"Praise be to God, the Ancient, the Ever-Abiding, the Changeless, the Eternal! He Who hath testified in His Own Being that verily He is the One, the Single, the Untrammelled, the Exalted. We bear witness that verily there is no God but Him; acknowledging His oneness, confessing His singleness. He hath ever dwelt in unapproachable heights, in the summits of His loftiness, sanctified from the mention of aught save Himself, free from the description of aught but Him.

"And when He desired to manifest grace and beneficence to men, and to set the world in order, He revealed observances and created laws; among them He established the law of marriage, made it as a fortress for well-being and salvation, and enjoined it upon us in that which was sent down out of the heaven of sanctity in His Most Holy Book. He saith, great is His glory: 'Marry, O people, that from you may appear he who will remember Me amongst My servants; this is one of My commandments unto you; Obey it as an assistance to yourselves.'

"And we greet and salute those of the Bayán who became the people of Bahá, those who expended their efforts for the upraising of this luminous Faith, and whom the blame of the blamer did not withhold from God. Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds!

"He is God! O peerless Lord! In Thine almighty wisdom Thou hast enjoined marriage upon the peoples, that the generations of men may succeed one another in this contingent world, and that ever, so long as the world shall last, they may busy themselves at the Threshold of Thy oneness with servitude and worship, with salutation, adoration and praise. 'I have not created spirits and men, but that they should worship Me.'⁷ Wherefore, wed Thou in the heaven of Thy mercy these two birds of the nest of Thy love, and make them the means of attracting perpetual grace; that from the union of these two seas of love a wave of tenderness may surge and cast the pearls of pure and goodly issue on the shore of life. 'He hath let loose the two seas, that they meet each other: Between them is a barrier which they overpass not. Which then of the bounties of your Lord will ye deny? From each He bringeth up greater and lesser pearls.'⁸

O Thou kind Lord! Make Thou this marriage to bring forth coral and pearls. Thou are verily the All Powerful, the Most Great, the Ever-Forgiving!"

(signed) 'Ayn-'Ayn



7.

1.

8.

1947-10-25 Relief to European Pioneers

USBN #202 December 1947 p2

If any of the European pioneers are really in need of relief parcels for their personal use, there is certainly no objection to sending them some. However, he certainly would not send relief for those whom they are teaching or contacting, as this would seem in the nature of either a reward or an enticement for those attracted to the Faith.

October 25,

[This statement from Haifa was written in response to the question raised at the last National Convention as to whether relief packages should be sent to the European pioneers for distribution to needy non-believers in their vicinity.]



1947-10-25 Long Healing Prayer

USBN #202 December 1947 p2

The long Healing Prayer translated by Dr. Khán and his daughter is authentic. As it is one which, when rendered into English, loses much of its rich imagery, he does not feel it is suitable at present for inclusion in a prayer book, as non-Bahá 'is might find it rather strange

— October 25,

[This is a reference to the typescript version that was passed around]



1947-10-25 Prerequisites for Assembly

USBN #202 December 1947 p3

A spiritual Assembly can only exist where there are nine or more adult declared Bahá'ís in a specific area, who hold a proper election or constitute themselves an Assembly properly. There is nothing vague about it, and no departure can be made from the accepted procedure.

October 25,



– 1190 –

1947-10-25 Year 1335

USBN #202 December 1947 p3

In the August issue of Bahá'í News there is a statement about the year 1335 and a reference to "God Passes By" in which it gives the impression that in that book the Guardian associates the fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy with one hundred years after Bahá'u'lláh's mystic experience. He wishes me to point out that this is inaccurate as on page 151 of "God Passes By," in the reference to His Declaration, the Guardian clearly states that with this declaration the "hundred lunar years" had commenced. The mystic experience of Bahá'u'lláh was in the Síyáh-Chál and has nothing to do with Daniel's prophecy.

This statement of the Guardian is itself based on extracts from two of the Master's Tablets which are published in "The Passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá."

— dated October 25,



– 1191 –

1947-11-15 Overjoyed at Recent Victories

USBN #202 December 1947 p3

Overjoyed at recent victories, achievements Praying for continual extension in range of magnificent accomplishments by divinely-guided, much beloved, highly admired American Bahá'í community.

November 15,



1947-11-16 Pamphlets of the Covenant-breakers

“Regarding the pamphlets of the Covenant-breakers received in Tīhrán the Guardian stated that these papers which are not worthy of any attention whatsoever were received in the Holy Land. Any further material sent in the future should be ignored, and no refutation or reply be given, because the material is regarded as baseless distortion of truth.”

(From a letter dated 16 November 1947 written on behalf of the Guardian to the National Spiritual Assembly of Persia — translated from the Persian)

Writings of Covenant-breakers and other Enemies of the Faith

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.



1947-11-23 To Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek on Recovering fm Surgery

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp56-7

Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek,

23 November 1947

Dear Bahá'í Sister,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian, dated November 16th, has been received, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is delighted to hear you are now fully recovered and again active in your important work for the Cause. However, you should not neglect your health but consider it the means which enables you to serve. It — the body — is like a horse which carries the personality and spirit, and as such should be well cared for so it can do its work! You should certainly safeguard your nerves, and force yourself to take time, and not only for prayer and meditation, but for real rest and relaxation. We don't have to pray and meditate for hours in order to be spiritual.

The meetings you are so successfully holding, and the interest in our Bahá'í books shown by Mr. Buys, are very encouraging signs of progress. If a non-Bahá'ī publishing firm should bring out a Bahá'í book it would add greatly to the prestige of the Cause in the eyes of the public. As long as the original text is preserved in its entirety and the translation good, we can certainly have no objection to such a constructive effort.

He will pray for the success of all you and the other dear believers there are doing, and for the speedy establishment of an assembly in Amsterdam.

With loving greetings,

R. Rabbání

May the Almighty aid you to recover fully and speedily your strength, promote actively the teaching activities you have so nobly and energetically initiated, win to the Faith additional souls of great capacity and hasten the advent of the day when the first historic Bahá'í assembly will have been established in Holland.

Your true and grateful brother;

Shoghi



– 1194 –

1947-12-07 to Haifa Planning Commission re Shrine of the Báb

The Priceless Pearl, Rúḥíyyih Khánum, p240-1

Haifa

Dec. 7th,

Haifa Local Building and Town Planning Commission. To the Chairman

Dear Sir:

In connection with the accompanying drawings and application for permission to build, I wish to add a word of explanation.

The Tomb of the Báb, and of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, so well known to the people of Haifa as 'Abbás Effendi, is already in existence on Mt. Carmel in an incomplete form. In its present state, in spite of the extensive gardens surrounding it, it is a homely building with a fortress-like appearance.

It is my intention to now begin the completion of this building by preserving the original structure and at the same time embellishing it with a monumental building of great beauty, thus adding to the general improvement in the appearance of the slopes of Mt. Carmel.

The purpose of this building will, when completed remain the same as at present. In other words it will be used exclusively as a Shrine entombing the remains of the Báb.

As you will see from the accompanying drawings the completed structure will comprise an arcade of twenty four marble or other monolith columns surmounted by an ornamental balustrade, on the first floor or ground floor of the building. It is this part of the building that we wish to begin work on at once, leaving the intermediary section and the dome, which will surmount the whole edifice when completed, to be carried on in the future, if possible at an early date after the completion of the ground floor arcade.

The Architect of this monument building is Mr. W.S. Maxwell, F.R.I.B.A., F.R.A.I.C., R.C.A., the well-known Canadian architect, whose firm built the Chateau Frontenac Hotel in Quebec, the House of Parliament in Regina, the Art Gallery, Church of the Messiah, various Bank buildings, etc., in Montreal. I feel the beauty of his design for the completion of the Báb's Tomb will add greatly to appearance of our city and be an added attraction for visitors.

Yours truly,

Shoghi Rabbání



– 1195 –

1947-12-15 19 Day Feasts

USBN #207 May 1948 p4

“... Regarding your question: The Devotional part of the 19 Day Feast means the reading of Prayers by Bahá'u'lláh and the Master. If, after this, there is a period of reading the teachings, his (the Guardian's) writings may be included, but this does not form part of the devotional aspect of the meeting.

“Attendance at 19 Day Feasts is not obligatory but very important, and every believer should consider it a duty and privilege to be present on such occasions.

“If the N.S.A. should wish to publish the above in Bahá'í News it may do so. He leaves such matters to the discretion of that body.

“He wishes the Bahá'ís to press for recognition of their right to observe their own Holy Days, and to observe them whenever possible in strict accordance with our teachings.”

(from a letter to Marzieh Gail dated Dec. 15, 1947)



– 1196 –

1947-12-18 Louis Gregory svc at Green Acre

Cited in To Move the World, Gayle Morrison, p305

He feels your loving association with the believers you are able to contact in Green Acre, and in the near-by towns, and the memories of the Master which you can share with them, as well as general Bahá'í instruction, of which you and your dear wife have such a store, and which you can impart to others — are the best ways you can serve the Cause at present.

... ..

In this world age and health and material conditions limit the soul. But in the next world it is free."

[to Louis Gregory, 18 Dec 1947, ltrs of Shoghi Effendi, USBNC Archives]



– 1197 –

1947-12-27 Committees Must Assume More Responsibility

USBN #204 February 1948

"He feels that Committees must assume more responsibility and exercise freedom of choice and judgment in electing their officers, and function as a corporate body with a corporate spirit. More especially so as now that the Cause is growing in numbers, and its responsibilities are being multiplied, national Committees are acquiring added importance and must seek, ever-increasingly, to follow the pattern of Bahá'u 'llah and assume responsibility for the election of their officers. These Committees must develop, become mature, and forge ahead courageously, relying more on united effort and less on personal leadership, as is now the case with local and national Assemblies."

December 27, 1947



1947-xx-xx Extend Assistance Marion Jack

USBN #282 August 1954 p5

Advise encourage extend assistance through European Teaching Committee beloved Marion Jack who over decade dauntlessly held fort exemplified spirit worthy emulation entire North American Bahá'í community.

[Cable to USNSA 1947]



1948-01-04 To Ellsworth Blackwell re Anti-racism Protests

White and Negro Alike (Kindle edition), Audrey Mike

Jan. 4, 1948

Haifa

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian of Dec. 26th, 1947, was received, together with the clipping you sent, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He does not see any objection to Bahá'í students taking part as Bahá'ís in a protest such as that mentioned in the clipping. On the contrary, he does not see how they could remain indifferent when fellow students were noticing our own Bahá'í attitude in such a vital issue and one we feel so strongly about.

He thinks that the quotation you cite, from "The Advent of Divine Justice" would certainly indicate that such a protest was justifiable as there was nothing political about it there was no reason for the Bahá'í students not to participate.

He assures you and your dear wife of his prayers on your behalf, and his loving appreciation of your trusted services to the Cause.

With warmest greetings, R. Rabbání

[response to follow ltr]

4641 So. Michigan Ave. Chicago 15, Illinois, USA

December 26, 1947

Dear Shoghi Effendi,

I am enclosing for your consideration a newspaper clipping and photo from one of the Chicago newspapers.

As you can see, it concerns a protest meeting by the student body against racial discrimination at the University of Chicago.

At the present time there is an official Bahá'í study group at this institution. Examination of the photograph will show that this Bahá'í group participated in this protest rally along with other University groups by the display of a placard or poster with the name Bahá'í thereon.

My question, then, is this: Is there anything wrong in the protesting of Bahá'í student groups against racial prejudice along with other student groups or organizations?

I would also like to know if the following quotation from The Advent of Divine Justice, (page 20), would in any way justify such action by these students:

"Freedom from racial prejudice in any of all its forms should ...be adopted as the watchword of the entire body of American believers, in whichever state they reside, in whatever circles they move, whatever their age, traditions, tastes and habits. It should be consistently demonstrated in every phase of their activity and life, whether in the Bahá'í community or outside of it, in public or in private, formally as well as informally, individually as well as in their official capacity as organized groups, committees and Assemblies. It should be deliberately cultivated through the various and everyday opportunities..... at their schools and colleges, their social parties and recreation grounds, their Bahá'í meetings, conferences, conventions, summer schools and Assemblies."

My wife joins me in Bahá'í love and greetings to you and all the Holy Household.

Faithfully in His service,

Ellsworth Blackwell



– 1200 –

1948-01-05 Crimson Book

USBN #210 August 1948 p3

Unfortunately it would seem that the knowledge "which could largely eliminate fear" has not been disclosed or identified by Bahá'u'lláh, so we do not know what it is. However, what

Bahá'u'lláh did not elaborate but what He meant by the “world” recorded in the Crimson Book was the power of the Covenant.

The “Crimson Book” refers to the Book of His Covenant, and the reference above means the power for unity which the Covenant possesses and radiates. On page 238 of “God Passes By” you will find the cross reference to the “Crimson Book” and the “Epistle to the Son of the Wolf.”

— To Charles S. Krug, January 5, 1948, through his secretary



– 1201 –

1948-01-30 To Eve Nicklin re Move to Punta Areas Chile

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p137-8

He heartily approves of your going to Punta Areas to strengthen the work there, as he considers it a very important outpost of the Faith and one that must be maintained at all costs.

The news of the very successful congress held in Santiago pleased him very much. Now that more of the Latin believers are active and beginning to assume responsibilities, the work will go forward on a more permanent foundation, as pioneers from a foreign land can never take the place of native believers, who must always constitute the bedrock of any future development of the Faith in their country.

=====

She was concerned about such a move given the rather primitive living conditions and cold weather; she had rheumatism, fibro-myalgia. See also 1948-12-06 to Eve Nicklin re suggested teaching methods in Punta Arenas



– 1202 –

1948-01-xx Letter to Ellsworth Blackwell Copy Confidential

Letter to Ellsworth Blackwell

Haifa,

Jan [illegible]

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letter to our beloved guardian of Dec. 26th, 1947, was received together with the clipping you sent, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf. He does not see any objection to Bahá'í students taking part as Bahá'ís in a protest such as that mentioned in the clipping. On the contrary he does not see how they could remain indifferent when fellow students were voicing our own Bahá'í attitude on such a vital issue and one we feel so strongly about. He thinks that the quotation you cite, from "The Advent of Divine Justice," would certainly indicate that such a protest was justifiable, as there was nothing political about it, there was no reason for the Bahá'í students not to participate. He assures you and your dear wife of his prayers on your behalf and his loving appreciation of your trusted services to the Cause.

With Warmest greetings,

R. Rabbání.

Assuring you of my ardent prayers for the success of your high endeavors and the realization of every hope you cherish for the advancement of the vital interests of your beloved Faith, your true brother, Shoghi.

"In connection with the subject matter of Mr. Blackwell's letter and your reference to it, the Guardian feels that, as he said in his letter to Mr. Blackwell, there was no objection at all to the students taking part in something so obviously akin to the spirit of our teachings as a campus demonstration against race prejudice. The Bahá'ís did not inaugurate this protest, they merely were proud to have a voice as Bahá'ís in such a protest, took part, and he thinks they did quite right and violated no administrative principle."

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada, November 18, 1948)

comments by Richard Hollinger

These articles are about a December 1947 protest against racial discrimination at the University of Chicago that Bahá'í students participated in. I believe this is the protest that Ellsworth Blackwell wrote to Shoghi Effendi about, which brought the well-known response affirming that their participation was appropriate. If you look closely in the photos you can see a sign saying "Bahá'í University Fellowship Fights Bigotry."

I'm writing about the role of Bahá'ís in the civil rights movement. I went looking for this demonstration to place that letter in some context, but also to see if it linked to CORE, which began at the U of C a few years earlier and which Bahá'ís were active in around this time.

Committee on Racial Equality was a big thing in Chicago, with linkages to the later Freedom rides against Jim Crow in the south. If you want me to look through archival materials, let me know...can't do it just now, but eventually. I have looked at Beecher Hall's student director committee records from when Martha Root lived there (it was a dorm then, it houses faculty offices mostly now. She briefly held an office — treasurer I think it was.

At some point I would like to figure out the role that Ellsworth Blackwell in the Development of CORE's protest strategies. He was chair of their public accommodations committee in 1944, when he planned some creative protests to integrate an ice rink. I'll be looking at the national CORE records shortly, which may document this, but they are mainly from the 1960s onward.

I am guessing that he sent the article from the Chicago Defender about the protest, which includes the smaller photo, which is likely what raised the issue in the Chicago community.

Above clipping was fairly widespread, originated w/ Chicago Defender.



– 1203 –

1948-01-xx Letter to Ellsworth Blackwell

Letter to Ellsworth Blackwell

Haifa,

Jan [illegible]

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letter to our beloved guardian of Dec. 26th, 1947, was received together with the clipping you sent and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf. He does not see any objection to Bahá'í students taking part as Bahá'ís in a protest such as that mentioned in the clipping. On the contrary he does not see how they could remain indifferent when fellow students were voicing our own Bahá'í attitude on such a vital issue and one we feel so strongly about. He thinks that the quotation you cite, from "The Advent of Divine Justice," would certainly indicate that such a protest was justifiable, as there was nothing political about it, there was no reason for the Bahá'í students not to participate. He assures you and your dear wife of his prayers on your behalf and his loving appreciation of your trusted services to the Cause.

With Warmest greetings,

R. Rabbání.

Assuring you of my ardent prayers for the success of your high endeavors and the realization of every hope you cherish for the advancement of the vital interests of your beloved Faith, your true brother, Shoghi.

“In connection with the subject matter of Mr. Blackwell's letter and your reference to it, the Guardian feels that, as he said in his letter to Mr. Blackwell, there was no objection at all to the students taking part in something so obviously akin to the spirit of our teachings as a campus demonstration against race prejudice. The Bahá'ís did not inaugurate this protest, they merely were proud to have a voice as Bahá'ís in such a protest, took part, and he thinks they did quite right and violated no administrative principle.”

(From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada, November 18, 1948)

regarding a December 1947 protest against racial discrimination at the University of Chicago that Bahá'í students participated in.



– 1204 –

1948-03-04 To Philip Hainsworth re State of the World etc

Looking back in Wonder, Philip Hainsworth, p76-7

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian, dated February 23rd, has been received, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf. Regarding the various matters you asked his advice and opinion about.

It is not surprising, in view of the gloom overhanging the entire world, and in conjunction with their run-down, exhausted state due to war conditions and present circumstances of life in England, that the British Bahá'ís should sometimes reflect the state of their countrymen! It is a pity; and they should certainly try, as believers, to be cheerful and radiant; but he feels the greatest sympathy for them, and considers that when their present achievements are assessed in future, people will give them a double measure of praise for having done so much when they were least fit to do it. The spirit of determination, and their perseverance, are truly outstanding.

Just because some people have lost their vision of the Cause, or never had a proper grasp of its implications before entering it, and leave the fold, should not cause undue discouragement. There are bound to be such cases, and although every moral support should be given them if they still wish to withdraw, they fall off — as you said — like withered leaves from the Tree of the Faith, and do it no real harm.

He likes to be provided with facts by the friends, when they ask his advice, for although his decisions are guided by God, he is not, like the Prophet, Omniscient at will, in spite of the fact that he often senses a situation or condition without having any detailed knowledge of it.

As to your own plans, he feels that you should not leave Nottingham at present, where you are not only needed by the local Community, but where you have a store. He suggests you make a

serious effort, through devoting more time to your business, to getting it on its feet, and at least in a condition to dispose of, if you don't think it worth continuing.

He is very anxious to have the pamphlets in African languages gotten out — both the one Mrs Preston was to see to, and the one you mention you can get done, at least the translation, by an African. He suggests you write Mrs. Preston, and urge her to get the Swahili one done quickly (he himself has heard nothing from her at all), and you make suitable selections for a small pamphlet to be sent to your African acquaintance and translated into Chinyanza. He is delighted at the prospect of having this done, as our publications are now translated and printed in 50 languages, two are being translated into 12 additional languages. One of these 50 is Tegrinia, an African tongue.

He urges you to never feel discouraged, or that you have in any way failed in your services; on the contrary you have done a tremendous lot of work for the Cause since your return to England, and he is very happy over your accomplishments, and assures you he will pray in the Shrines for the solution of your problems and the fulfilment of your heart's desire.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání.

Dear and valued co-worker,

I wish to assure you in person of my everlasting gratitude for the historic and magnificent work you have achieved in recent years — a work of which I feel truly proud. You should be happy, grateful and confident, and persevere in your great task, which the Beloved, I feel sure, will continue to bless and guide. The spirit you have imparted to the friends after your return from the Holy Land has been responsible for the success you achieved. May the Beloved sustain you in your high endeavours.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1205 –

1948-04-02 To Ugo Giachery re Travels of Sutherland Maxwell & Ben Weeden

The Maxwells of Montreal Vol II, Violette Nakhjavani, p406

MR. MAXWELL ACCOMPANIED BENJAMIN WEEDEN ARRIVING ROME APRIL THIRTEENTH
PLANE BRAATHENS SOUTH AFRICA FAR EAST AIR COMPANY STOP PURPOSE PLACE
CONTRACTS COMPLETION SHRINE BÁB STOP WEEDEN AMERICAN SUBJECT OWING
CONDITIONS HERE UNABLE OBTAIN ITALIAN VISA JERUSALEM STOP APPRECIATE MEET
THEM AERODROME ARRANGE FOR WEEDEN OBTAIN VISA ON ARRIVAL OTHERWISE HE
MUST PROCEED SAME PLANE GENEVA STOP MR MAXWELL BEING BRITISH REQUIRED NO
VISA STOP KINDLY CABLE RECEIPT THIS CABLE STOP LETTER FOLLOWING STOP DEEPEST
LOVING APPRECIATION



– 1206 –

1948-04-05 To the Believers of Amsterdam on Election of 1st Assembly

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp58-9

To the Believers of Amsterdam,

4 July 1948

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your words of greeting and expressions of devotion to our beloved, were forwarded to the Guardian by Mrs. Baker, and he assures you they were much appreciated. He would have answered you sooner, had circumstances here not only held up the mails but kept him very occupied.

He was so happy to see how alive and active you all are in serving the Cause there, and spreading this great Message of hope amongst the people.

We Bahá'ís can clearly see that the only way out for humanity is this way, this New World Order.

He will pray that your services may yield a rich harvest, and that your love and unity as a group may attract the hungry hearts of the true seekers.

With Bahá'í greetings,

R. Rabbání

May the Almighty abundantly and continually bless your labours, guide your steps, remove every obstacle from your path, deepen your understanding of the essential verities of His Faith, and enable you to establish firmly its institutions in that land.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1207 –

1948-04-06 To Ugo Giachery re Difficulties with Construction of Shrine of Báb

The Priceless Pearl, Rúhíyyih Khánum, p241-2

... Mr. Maxwell ... because of various difficulties ... has not been able to place any contracts for the actual work to be carried out here in Palestine. However, he has been in touch with an Italian firm in Carrara about placing contracts for the granite columns which will surround the building on the first floor. He is now proceeding to Italy primarily to place the contract for these, and, if suitable stone, matching the Palestinian stone which will be used here can be found, to also place additional contracts for the capitals and certain pieces of the carved ornamentation ... Mr. Benjamin Weeden ... will accompany Mr. Maxwell to both take care of him and facilitate in expediting the work there ... As conditions in this country are extremely disturbed and the immediate future most uncertain, the Guardian is very anxious to have the contracts placed in Italy as soon as possible and have Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Weeden return here before they might possibly be cut off from us temporarily. He would therefore greatly appreciate your giving as much time as you can to assisting them, translating for them and seeing that they are in touch with reliable Italian firms and dealt with fairly ... Unfortunately, owing to the fact that practically all communication with Jerusalem is cut off ... Mr. Weeden was not able to contact the Italian Consulate there and obtain his visa. he will, if you and he cannot arrange for a visa in Rome when his plane comes in, have to go on with the same place to Geneva ... and return to join Mr. Maxwell ... as Mr. Maxwell is now 74, though in the best of health, we hope you will take good care of him ... Things are so acute here that it is extremely important that they get through with their business and return to Palestine ...



– 1208 –

1948-04-11 Text of Letter of Intro for Sutherland Maxwell & Ben Weeden While in Israel

The Maxwells of Montreal Vol II, Violette Nakhjavani, p406

Haifa, Palestine

April 11th, 1948

To Whom it may Concern:

This is to introduce Mr. W. S. Maxwell, F.R.I.B.A., who is a member of the Bahá'í Community and has been residing in Haifa with me since³¹. He is my father-in-law and is proceeding to Italy in connection with work to be carried out on one of our Bahá'í Shrines on Mt. Carmel.

He is accompanied by Mr. Benjamin Weeden, a Bahá'í from the United States of America, who is likewise occupied here in Haifa in serving the Bahá'í Faith at its World Centre. Mr. Weeden is proceeding to Italy to assist Mr. Maxwell in his work there.

I, as Head of the Bahá'í Faith, would appreciate every assistance being rendered to these two gentlemen in discharging their tasks and in facilitating their journey and safe transit through Palestine territory.

Shoghi
Head of the Bahá'í Faith.

Rabbání,

House of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

7 Persian Street,

Haifa



– 1209 –

1948-04-26 To European Teaching Conference

USBN #208 June 1948 p10

Hearts flooded with joy remarkable victory exceeding fondest expectations stop. Convey heartfelt congratulations, assurance, admiration, loving gratitude, prayers newly formed Assemblies. Supplicating Bahá'u'lláh enable both pioneers, native believers unitedly achieve still greater triumphs stop. Eagerly await photographs newly constituted Assemblies adorn walls Bahá'u'lláh's Mansion adjoining Most Holy Tomb Bahjí.

SHOGHI

[response to ETC cable that 8 assemblies had been formed in Europe]

— 1210 —

1948-04-27 Sympathize Loss Fanny Lesch

USBN #211 September 1948 p5

“DEEPLY SYMPATHIZE LOSS LOYAL DISTINGUISHED HANDMAID BAHÁ’U’LLÁH FANNY LESCH
— PRESENT WITH YOU IN SPIRIT MEMORIAL SERVICE PRAYING ARDENTLY PROGRESS HER
9SOUL ABHÁ KINGDOM.

SHOGHI

received Apr. 27, 1948 from Haifa.

— 1211 —

1948-04-29 To First Brussels Assembly

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp57

Brussels' community,

29 April 1948

LOVING REMEMBRANCE SHRINES HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS

SHOGHI

— 1212 —

1948-04-xx Loss of Fannie Lesch

USBN #230 April 1950 p1

“Deeply sympathize loss loyal distinguished Maid-servant Bahá’u’lláh Fannie Lesch. Present with
you in spirit memorial services. Praying ardently progress her soul Abhá Kingdom.”

(Signed) SHOGHI

(Cable received April, 1948)



– 1213 –

1948-05-02 Response to Convention Meeting

USBN #208 June 1948

Deeply touched by your message welcome pledged by assembled delegates ardently praying fulfillment deepest hopes.

(Signed) SHOGHI

Cablegram received May 2, 1948



– 1214 –

1948-05-02 To European Teaching Conference

USBN #209 July 1948 p3

Share the joy and elation of the attendants at the first historic Bahá'í Teaching Conference on the European Continent, regarded as the fairest fruit of the momentous enterprise signaling the second stage in the evolution of the Divine Plan. Overjoyed at the manifold signs of the rapid progress evidenced by the formation of eight Assemblies in seven goal countries, in the notable increase in the number of new believers, in the remarkable activity displayed by itinerant teachers and the meritorious endeavor systematically exerted by the organizers and participators of the newly launched European campaign in the opening years of the Second Seven Year Plan. Appeal to the newly constituted Assemblies to preserve, at whatever cost, the integrity of the prizes gloriously won, to consolidate the institutions recently established, to simultaneously initiate extension work designed to form nuclei destined to reinforce the administrative structure of the Faith in the respective countries. Urge the groups in the three remaining goal countries to ensure Assembly status ere the termination of the current year. Entreat every individual and all agencies associated in the conduct of the divinely sustained, majestically unfolding, tremendously challenging crusade, whether administrators at home or abroad, visitors or settlers, itinerant teachers, newly enrolled believers to intensify their concerted efforts to win wider fields, to give added momentum to still more conspicuous victories. Undaunted by the aggravation of the crisis in the tragically disturbed continent, undeterred by the obstacles and pitfalls encountered in a thorny path, sensible to the growing hunger of disillusioned, fearstricken, spiritually famished multitudes, constantly aware of the sublimity of the mission entrusted, in this critical propitious hour, to their care, inspired by the example of the Author of the Divine Plan Who, in no less a critical hour in the fortunes of the European continent, notwithstanding His age and illness, twice visited its shores and labored

tirelessly for the illumination of its peoples, let them hold aloft, amidst the tumult of the disorders of a tottering civilization, the torch of divine guidance, tramp resolutely ahead to the appointed goals until the initial stage of so colossal an enterprise has been gloriously consummated.

SHOGHI

Haifa,

May 2, 1948

Cable to the European Teaching Conference, Geneva, Switzerland — May 22 · 26



– 1215 –

1948-05-05 Egypt Five Year Plan

USBN #211 September 1948 p7

Only national assembly Bahá'í World deprived privilege formulation plan Egyptian Assembly. Appeal convene promptly special session National Assembly consider carefully inauguration Five Year Plan with definite objectives aiming multiplication Bahá'í Centers. Urge entire community rise as one man fulfill objectives by nineteen fifty-three. Eagerly awaiting response all believers ensure success first collective enterprise Egyptian Bahá'í history."

May 5, 1948 to Egypt NSA



– 1216 –

1948-05-06 Praying for Magnificent Victories

USBN #208 June 1948 p7

"Praying for magnificent victories in third year of second Seven Year Plan."

(Signed) SHOGHI

To USNSA — Rcvd 6 May 1948



1948-05-08 Condition of World Like a Great Negative Undertow

Fire and Gold: Benefiting from Life's Tests," p100 as compiled by Brian Kurzios

He [Shoghi Effendi] quite understands how the friends can sometimes feel, as you put it, 'spiritually depleted,' for the condition of the world is such today that it is like a great negative undertow trying to pull down all but the strongest and most firmly rooted. The friends should realize this and draw closer to each other, knowing that they form one spiritual family, closer to each other, in the sight of God, than those united by ties of blood.

He will pray for you, and that you may be able to draw the believers into a more conscious effort at unity, and to inspire them to see in each that which the Master would wish them to and not what their own intolerant personalities are so prone to seeing: namely faults!

[From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, 8 May 1948]



1948-05-18 re-Revising BNE

USBN #210 August 1948 p1

"He does not consider that Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era should be revised at present, but should be continued in its present form."

May 18, 1948



1948-05-18 Recognition Given Assembly by United Nations

USBN #210 August 1948 p1

The recognition given your Assembly (as representative of the other National Spiritual Assemblies) by United Nations as a non-governmental body entitled to send representatives to various U. N. conferences, marks an important step forward in the struggle of our beloved Faith to receive, in the eyes of the world its just due, and be recognized as an independent World Religion. Indeed, this step should have a favorable reaction on the progress of the Cause everywhere, especially in those parts of the world where it is still persecuted, belittled; or scorned, particularly in the East.

In these days, when his mind has been so preoccupied with the grave situation in this country (Palestine), the wonderful advancement being made by the American believers, at home and abroad, and their Canadian confreres, has sustained him, and brought him moments of pride and happiness, when his heart was weighted down with various problems and difficulties. He is indeed grateful for this active support, this love that shows itself in deeds that rise to meet and overcome every obstacle!

to the NSA dated May 18,



– 1220 –

1948-05-18 To a National Spiritual Assembly re Making Rules

Unlocking the Power of Action, #31

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

... he considers that National Assemblies must strongly guard against this marked tendency of laying down new rules and regulations all the time, which he considers unnecessary and injurious. In the end it will dampen the zeal and quench the spontaneity of the believers, and give the impression that the Bahá'í Faith is crystallizing into set forms. Principles there must be, but they must be applied with wisdom to each case that arises, not every case covered, before it arises, by a codified set of rules. This is the whole spirit of Bahá'u'lláh's system: rigid conformity to great essential laws, elasticity, and even a certain necessary element of diversity, in secondary matters.



– 1221 –

1948-06-04 To Charlotte Stirrat on Progress in Netherlands

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp57-58

Charlotte Stirrat,

4 June 1948

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of March 2nd, written on behalf of Miss Van Sombeek, and enclosing a translation of the Dutch pamphlet, has been received by our beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

The excellent progress being made in Holland, the formation of the first historic assembly there, the translation work being done — all are great sources of comfort and pride to our Guardians heart. Please assure dear Miss Van Sombeek of this, as she and her sister have devoted so much care and love to the work there.

In a country of such intelligent and forward-thinking people as the Dutch the Cause should make steady headway and soon become well, and — we hope — nationally established.

He assures you all of his loving prayers, and greatly appreciates your own dedicated services.

With loving greetings,

R. Rabbání

May the Beloved bless your efforts, guide and sustain you in your highly meritorious labours, remove all obstacles from your path, and enable you to extend continually the range of your valuable and historic achievements.

Your true and grateful brother;

Shoghi



– 1222 –

1948-06-08 Healing Methods; Peace

USBN #237 November 1950 p2

“The Guardian knows nothing about your kind of healing, nor would he care to go into the question in detail, as he has no time for such matters. But he can lay down for your guidance certain broad principles: there is no such thing as Bahá’í healers or a Bahá’í type of healing. In His Most Holy Book (the Aqdas) Bahá’u’lláh says to consult the best physicians. In other words, doctors who have studied a scientific system of medicine; he never gave us to believe He Himself would heal us through “healers” but rather through prayer and the assistance of medicine and approved treatments.

Now, as long as your healing is in no opposition to these principles, as long as you do not try and take the place of a regular doctor in trying to heal others, but only give them your kind of help through constructive suggestion — or whatever it may be — and do not associate this help with being a channel of the direct grace of Bahá'u'lláh, the Guardian sees no harm in your continuing your assistance to others. But you must conscientiously decide whether, in view of the above, you are really justified in continuing. He will pray for your guidance and happiness.

Peace

P.S. I might add that he does not believe any radiations of thought or healing, from any group, is going to bring peace. Prayer, no doubt, will help the world, but what it needs is to accept Bahá'u'lláh's system so as to build up the World Order on a new foundation, a divine foundation! ..."

to an individual Bahá'í, June 8,



– 1223 –

1948-06-20 To European Teaching Committee Conf in Geneva

The Bábí Question You Mentioned, Jelle deVries, p204

Greatly heartened profoundly grateful magnificent success achieved in the historic conference. Congratulate heartily European Committee for this splendid, enduring achievement. Urge that you guard in the course of the current year, against a relaxation of effort; that you maintain a flow of pioneers and itinerant teachers; ensure the continued translation and steady expansion of literature; initiate extension work; consolidate the existing Assemblies; enable the groups in Lisbon, Luxembourg and Copenhagen to attain Assembly status. Prayer ever increasing success in this momentous enterprise launched on the European continent.'



– 1224 –

1948-06-23 Deplore Passing George Latimer

USBN #209 July 1948

Greatly deplore passing of distinguished disciple of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, firm pillar of the American Bahá'í community, George Latimer. His outstanding services during closing years of the Heroic, and first epoch of the Formative Ages of the Faith, are imperishable. Assure bereaved dearly loved, much admired mother my profound sympathy and fervent prayers for the progress of his soul.

SHOGHI

(From cablegram received June 23)



– 1225 –

1948-07-03 Obedience to Government

Non-Interference in Politics

“Regarding your question about politics and the Master’s Will: the attitude of the Bahá’ís must be two-fold, complete obedience to the government of the country they reside in, and no interference whatsoever in political matters or questions. What the Master’s statement really means is obedience to a duly constituted government, whatever that government may be in form. We are not the ones, as individual Bahá’ís, to judge our government as just or unjust for each believer would be sure to hold a different viewpoint, and within our own Bahá’í fold a hotbed of dissension would spring up and destroy our unity. We must build up our Bahá’í system, and leave the faulty systems of the world to go their way. We cannot change them through becoming involved in them; on the contrary they will destroy us.

— From a letter on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Teaching Committee for Central America dated July 3, 1948 printed in U.S. BN January 1949



– 1226 –

1948-07-06 To LS Assembly of Brussels on Being Formed

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp58-9

Local Spiritual Assembly of Brussels,

6 July 1948

Dear Bahá’í Friends:

Your letters to our beloved, with photos enclosed, and dated May 10th and 13th have been received, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

It gave him great pleasure to see the faces of the new believers in Belgium, and the formation of your first Assembly there is an event of great importance — however unobtrusive it may seem to have been in the eyes of your fellow-countrymen!

He urges you all to persevere, in conjunction with the dear American Bahá'ís labouring with you, in your efforts to establish a sound, well-grounded, united and mature community of believers there, as this is the bed-rock on which all your future activities must rest.

You may be sure his loving prayers will be with you all in your historic labours.

With warmest greetings,

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-workers,

I was delighted to receive your most welcome message and I rejoice at the great success achieved in Brussels. The Beloved is well pleased with your victory, and will no doubt, watch over you and guide your steps and enable you to achieve still greater victories. I will pray for you from the depths of my heart. Rest assured and persevere in your glorious task.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1227 –

1948-07-06 To Shurcliffs & Doris Lohse re Successes in Europe

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp60-3

John and Eunice Shurcliff, Doris Lohse,

6 July 1948

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter to our beloved Guardian, dated May 9th, has been received, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He has been greatly encouraged over the wonderful way the work has progressed in Europe during the past year. The formation of the Brussels Assembly being a most welcome addition to the list of triumphs registered!

Also the marked success of the Geneva conference, the large attendance (and representatives of so many countries!) and the enthusiasm of those present were all a source of great satisfaction to him.

He deeply values the dedicated services you are rendering the Cause in Belgium, and he hopes the work there will grow steadily and strike deep roots.

You may be sure his prayers are offered for you all.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

May the Almighty abundantly bless your efforts, guide your steps, reward you for your splendid achievements, aid you to extend continually the range of your activities, and enable you to win notable victories for His Faith and its institutions.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1228 –

1948-07-07 To Townshend on His Resignation

George Townshend, David Hofman, p326-7

No doubt this is a great step for dear Mrs Townshend to have to make at her age. But he feels sure she too will come to rejoice in this new freedom and the constructive activity it will bring in its wake.

Postscript by Shoghi Effendi —

I am thrilled by the news of your resignation — a truly remarkable and historic step. Your past and notable services in connexion with the exposition of the essentials of the Faith to the public in the West, your bold and challenging act at present in dissociating yourself from the Church and its creed, and your subsequent resolve to pioneer in Dublin and help in establishing the

administrative basis of the Bahá'í new world order in Ireland are deeds that history will record and for which future generations will feel deeply grateful and will extol and admire. May the blessings of Bahá'u'lláh be abundantly vouchsafed to you, guide every step you take, remove all obstacles from your path, and aid you to win still greater victories for His Cause in the days to come.

[To George Townshend, on July 7, 1948, in reaction to his resignation from the Church]



– 1229 –

1948-07-29 Increased Responsibility of American Bahá'ís

USBN #213 November 1948 p2

Now that the work carried on by the American Bahá'ís is becoming so important in both Europe and Latin America, their duties at home, likewise, are increasing in importance, and their sense of responsibility towards the work they have undertaken in this new phase of the Divine Plan must steadily increase. Their commitments are heavy; they must finish the Temple, send out more teachers, publish more literature, be worthy of the position they are taking in the eyes of the world, for the Public everywhere is growing more conscious of the Faith as a real force in the world, and its adherents must stand forth as exemplars of what they preach."

to believers who attended the General Session at Louhelen School, July 29,



– 1230 –

1948-10-01 re First Shipment Marble for Shrine of Báb

Quoted in Shoghi Effendi — Recollections, Ugo Giachery, p81

"Delighted splendid progress increasingly admire your indefatigable labours. Owing international situation urge start shipment material completed. Cable date shipment. Deepest love. Shoghi Rabbání."

Cable to Ugo Giachery regarding first shipment of marble for Shrine of the Báb, 1 Oct 1948



1948-10-14 To Jim Loft re Teaching Indians

Return to Tyendinaga: The Story of Jim and Melba Loft, Bahá'í Pioneers, Evelyn Loft Watts & Patricia Verge, p37-8

Mr. Jim Loft

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Our beloved Guardian was overjoyed to receive your letter of Sept. 2nd, and is happy to extend to you a sincere and warm welcome into the service of our glorious Faith.

Over and over again 'Abdu'l-Bahá mentioned the great importance of teaching the red Indians, "the original inhabitants of America," and now that various tribes of the Indians of the Western Hemisphere are gradually coming to be represented in the Bahá'í Faith, through some of their members accepting Bahá'u'lláh, His hopes are being fulfilled. This marks an important step forward not only in the evolution of our Faith itself, but also in the history of the Indian peoples, for, through the universal teachings of our Faith, they will come to not only be loved as brothers by their compatriots of European origin, but also develop the potentialities God has endowed them with, and thus contribute their share to world progress and world unity.

He would greatly welcome your returning to your own tribe, and giving them this great Message you and your dear wife have accepted. He advises you to consult with the Canadian National Bahá'í Assembly, as part of their teaching Plan is to carry our Faith to the Indians in Canada, and they can help and advise you.

He assures you he will pray for your success in teaching your own people, for your happiness and for your protection.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear Co-worker,

Your most welcome letter rejoiced my heart and I hasten to assure you of a most hearty welcome into the Bahá'í Fold, as well as of my loving and fervent prayers for any and every effort you may exert for the promotion of the Faith and the conversion of your fellow Indians and their acceptance of its verities. May the Beloved bless, protect and sustain you always and aid you to realize your heart's cherished desire.

Your true brother,

Shoghi.

Beloved Guardian,

Don Corbin said I should write to you. I have been a believer for about 8 months. I have worked in a factory for 17 years. I quit my job when I could not get time off for the summer school at Louhelen.

I am a Mohawk Indian of Canada. Should I stay in Marysville or go back to the Indian Reserve in Canada. I own some land there. I have a business here. Wife and 3 children are believers. I try to teach the Bahá'í faith at all times.

Waiting,

Jim Loft

1661 Vermont Avenue

Marysville Michigan



– 1232 –

1948-10-17 To Philip Hainsworth re Sympathy for Family Deaths

Looking back in Wonder, Philip Hainsworth, p79-80

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

I am acknowledging on behalf of our dear Guardian your letter of some time ago, because he is anxious to assure you of how deeply concerned he was to hear your Mother's health is in danger.

It seems very hard indeed that after losing your dear father you should be faced with this new sorrow — he hopes the doctors are wrong, and that she will be spared to serve with you for many more years. He will certainly pray for her recovery, and he wishes you to assure her that as your mother she is dear to him and often remembered.

Your own indefatigable services are, as you know, deeply valued by him; and he urges you not to lose heart but to persevere, with your radiant spirit and your usual courage and determination.

The Cause in England seems, in spite of financial handicaps, to be going forward in Seven League boots. He is truly proud of the British believers, and this is more than he could say in the past, when the work for years seemed to be stagnating! Those days are now past forever, he feels sure.

You know his loving prayers and thoughts are always with you.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání.

PS. Please assure your secretary also of his prayers. Likewise Mrs Alma Gregory.

Dear and valued Co-worker,

Your constant and noble efforts, exerted with such determination and devotion, evoke my highest admiration, and will, no doubt, be richly blessed by the Almighty, Whose Cause you love and serve so well. You are often in my thoughts and prayers, and I will continue to beseech on your behalf the sustaining grace of Bahá'u'lláh.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi.



– 1233 –

1948-11-08 Spirit of Marion Jack

USBN #216 February 1949 p1

“He feels that the spirit of Marion Jack, her evident desire to stay with the community she loves so dearly and has fostered through thick and thin, reflects glory not only on the North American community, but on the entire Faith. She should be left free to remain in Bulgaria and your Assembly should see to it that she receives a sufficient income to end her life in peace and with no more hardships to be endured. She is a heroic soul, the finest example of the pioneer spirit which we have anywhere in the world, and the Guardian feels deeply indebted to her, and loves her very dearly.”

to USNSA November 8, 1948



1948-11-25 Include as much Info as Poss about Things in Archives

Guidance Regarding Bahá'í Archives

Compiled by Bahá'í International Archives

He thinks that when things are collected for the archives as much information as possible should be given about them. It is easier now, while the old Bahá'ís dating from the early days of the Cause in America are still living, to collect accurate information than it will be later on, and every attempt should be made to amplify local records and accumulate historical data.

From a letter on behalf of Shoghi Effendi dated 25 November 1948 to an individual



1948-11-30 Hopes France to Have 1st Center in Europe

Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá'í Studies Review 4:1

The work in France is beginning to reflect the general and great impetus to the teaching work which the present Plan is responsible for in Europe. It is only right and fitting that the first country to have had a Centre in Europe should take her place at the forefront, and he hopes France will gradually do this.

(on Behalf of Shoghi Effendi to individual believer, 30 November 1948)



1948-12-06 To Eve Nicklin re Suggested Teaching Methods in Punta Arenas

Eve Nicklin: She of the Brave Heart, Boris Handal, p140-1

Dear Bahá'í Sister,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian, dated Nov. 1st, has been received, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He fully realizes the difficulties involved in maintaining such an assembly as that of Punta Arenas. But he urges the friends, and you, not to lose heart, but rather to try new means of contacting a different range of people. Perhaps, through becoming active in some social or other type of clubs, or assistance in charitable works, or promotion of U.N.O. Support in ways such as these — you and the believers may succeed in making new contacts which would not ordinarily respond to public meetings, advertisements or broadcasts.

He will pray for your success and the protection of your assembly in the Holy Shrines, and he greatly appreciates your determined and devoted labours.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-worker:

I am so pleased to learn of the progress of your work in so important and distant a field, am profoundly grateful for your steadfast and noble endeavours. Persevere in your glorious task and rest assured that the Beloved will guide and sustain you in your labours, and will aid you to render still more notable services to His Faith and institutions.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1237 –

1948-12-09 Non-association with Descendant of Azal

Non-association with Covenant-breakers #12

Compiled by Continental Board of Counsellors.

No intelligent and loyal Bahá'í would associate with a descendant of Azal, if he traced the slightest breath of criticism of our Faith, in any aspect, from that person. In fact these people should be strenuously avoided as having an inherited spiritual disease — the disease of Covenant-breaking! Certainly such matters should be brought to the attention of the Assembly or National Spiritual Assembly within whose jurisdiction they occur.

(From letter dated 9 December 1948 to an individual believer)

— 1238 —

1948-12-22 Rapid Completion of Temple Interior

USBN #219 May 1949 p2

“As he has just cabled you, he feels the rapid completion of the Temple interior is the most pressing financial obligation of the American believers, and practically every other activity except European and Latin American teaching — can be legitimately sacrificed to it during the coming years. He hopes, of course, that very drastic sacrifices of other work will not be necessary, but if they do, your Assembly should not hesitate to make them.”

To the NSA through his secretary, dated Dec. 22,

— 1239 —

1948-12-26 On Behalf of to an Individual re Transmigration of the Soul

Reincarnation And The Nature And Progress Of The Soul #16

Compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice

Regarding your question about reincarnation: we Bahá'ís do not believe that one individual soul keeps returning to this earthly life in different bodies. This is a very ancient belief, and based on a great truth — namely that the soul does go on developing and unfolding and returning towards its Creator. But the concept of its returning to this physical world is erroneous, and an outgrowth of man-made doctrines which have grown up about the fundamental concept of the progress of the soul. It would be like putting the child over and over again back into the world of the womb. It is unnecessary; but from state to state spiritually, after death, the soul does go on and go higher, so to speak.

— 1240 —

1948-12-26 To Graeffe Hipp & Nys to Work with French

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp64

Etty Graeffe, Suzette Hipp and Lea Nys, 26 December 1948

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian of December 5th has been received and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He is delighted to see your committee is so active and planning to get underway in this all-important work of teaching, through proper translations.

He would suggest you work in close cooperation with the Paris believers, in particular, in order to avoid any duplication of effort, and obtain the maximum results in the shortest time. In the past, on more than one occasion, there has been duplication of translations and of work, which is an awful waste of our limited resources. If the French Bahá'ís already have any translations made, he suggests, you review them and use them, rather than make new ones, — unless of course, they should not be considered usable.

You may be sure his loving prayers are being offered for the success of your work and your other devoted Bahá'í activities.

With warmest greetings,

R. Rabbání

Dear co-workers,

I wish to assure you of my deep and abiding appreciation of your high endeavours and of my ardent prayers for your success. The Beloved will surely bless your work and reward you for your services, which I greatly value. May He remove all obstacles from your path and aid you to achieve your goal.

Your true brother,

Shoghi

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I think this can be called a European Teaching Committee but it is not the same as the one appointed by the USNSA.



1948-12-xx Encouraging Townshend to Write

George Townshend, David Hofman, p334

‘Have you ever thought of working on what they call in America a “study outline”? There is a need for the friends everywhere to become more deeply spiritual in their way of thinking, of seeing life, and of acting. He feels with your long background of spiritual education and study, as a Christian and as a Bahá’í, that you can help the friends to deepen their knowledge and their inner life.’

Shoghi Effendi postscript —

I strongly feel that you should concentrate in the years to come, on writing for the Cause, whose literature you can, more than anyone else throughout the Bahá’í world, enrich. You should also, I feel, lend your valuable assistance in both the teaching and administrative fields, but only as subsidiary activities. I will pray for the success of your historic pamphlet, and fervently hope it will arouse the public and achieve a brilliant victory for the Faith, which you serve so well and love so dearly.

[to George Townshend, Dec 1948 or early 1949]



1949-01-31 The Daily Prayers

USBN #220 June 1949 p2-3

“The daily prayers are to be said each one for himself, aloud or silent makes no difference. There is no congregational prayer except that for the dead. We read healing and other prayers in our meetings, but the daily prayer is a personal obligation, so some one else reading it is not quite the same thing as saying it for yourself. “If you find you need to visualize some one when you pray, think of — ... the Master. Through Him you can address Bahá’u’lláh. Gradually try to think of the qualities of the Manifestation, and in that way a mental form will fade out, for after all the body is not the thing, His Spirit is there and is the essential, everlasting element.”

January 31, 1949, to Mrs. Stuart Sims.



1949-01-31 Daily Prayers

USBN #222 August 1949 p2

“The daily prayers are to be said each one for himself, aloud or silent makes no difference. There is no congregational prayer except that for the dead. We read healing and other prayers in our meetings, but the daily prayer is a personal obligation, so some one else reading it is not quite the same thing as saying it for yourself.

“If you find you need to visualize someone when you pray, think of the Master. Through Him you can address Bahá'u'lláh. Gradually try to think of the qualities of the Manifestation, and in that way a mental form will fade out, for after all the body is not the thing, His Spirit is there and is the essential, everlasting element.”

— SHOGHI EFFENDI

To Mrs. Stuart Sims, January 31, 1949



1949-01-xx To Guatemala Congress

USBN #217 March 1949 p6

“Supplicating Almighty’s blessings deliberations, Urge attendants concentrate on methods designed (to) extend scope (of) teaching, consolidate assemblies, deepen knowledge (of) spiritual (and) administrative principles (of the) Faith, reinforce bonds uniting Central American believers.”

Guardian cabled the Congress delegates at Guatemala, held Jan 21-24



1949-02-08 Stations of Prophets

USBN #228 February 1950 p4

“The names of those cited in Bahá'u'lláh’s prayer in the Dispensation are quite correct as you gave them. (Abraham, Moses, Joseph, John (he Baptist, Christ, Muḥammad, Imám Ḥusayn, the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh)

“The Prophets ‘regarded as one and the same person’ include the lesser Prophets as well, and not merely those who bring a ‘Book.’ The station is different, but They are Prophets and Their nature thus different from that of ours.

“In the prayer mentioned above Bahá’u’lláh identifies Himself with Imám Ḥusayn. This does not make him a Prophet, but his position was very unique, and we know Bahá’u’lláh claims to be the ‘return’ of the Imám Ḥusayn. He, in other words, identifies His Spirit with these Holy Souls gone before, that does not, of course, make Him in any way their re-incarnation. Nor does it mean all of them were Prophets.”

on February 8, 1949, to Mrs. Kathryn Frankland:



– 1246 –

1949-03-06 To Regional Youth Conference

USBN #224 October 1949 p3

“He assures you all he will pray for your success, and that you may win many victories for the Faith.

“He himself is frightfully busy these days with his routine work and the new and tremendous work of building the arcade of the Holy Shrine of the Báb. The degree to which you serve and assist the Cause there will lighten his load and help him, you may be sure, for much of his correspondence and time is taken up in attending to details which if the friends studied the Teachings and administration, and followed their precepts and laws, would never arise or need to be referred to him! So he urges you to study, ponder what you read, and do your part.”

(signed) R. RABBÁNÍ

From letter by the Guardian dated March 6, 1949 to: “The attendants at the Regional Youth Conference held in Washington February 19,23. ”



– 1247 –

1949-03-24 Contact with the Esperantists

The Principle Of An International Auxiliary Language

Compiled by the Research Dept at the direction of the House of Justice, 1 Nov 79(?)

He was also very pleased to see the contact with the Esperantists is being maintained. This friendly co-operation with them, and attendance at their Congresses, is very good, and will no doubt bring the Bahá'í Cause to many of their members' attention. Also, he hopes, it will lead to many of them becoming Bahá'ís in the future.

(24 March 1949 to an individual believer)



– 1248 –

1949-04-11 Expulsion and Reinstatement of Covenant-Breakers

USBN #220 June 1949 p2

“The Guardian, like the Master before him, has not considered it advisable to as yet permit any person or Assembly to put another person out of the Cause of God. There is a sharp distinction between depriving a believer of his voting rights, which is a severe disciplinary measure and not a spiritual sanction, and pronouncing a former believer to be a truly spiritually diseased soul, a soul in the condition the Master referred to when, in His last cable to America before His ascension, He said: ‘he who sitteth with a leper catcheth leprosy.’ The Guardian has, within the last few years, considered the National Assemblies strong enough to wield the instrument of sanction in the sense of depriving a Bahá'í of his voting rights. But no one but himself can pronounce a person to be in that diseased condition we call ‘Covenant-breaking,’ and no one but he can reinstate a Covenant-breaker. No National Assembly has been given this right and cannot, therefore, review the question or reinstate any one. All any National Assembly can do is to report to the Guardian if they are approached by a Covenant-breaker, and then the Guardian will take action. It is a pity that some of the Western friends, with remarkable naivete, do not grasp the fact that there is absolutely nothing keeping those who have broken the Covenant, whether Bahá'u'lláh's or the Master's, out of the Cause of God except their own inner spiritually sick condition. If they were sound, instead of diseased, and wanted to enter the service of the Faith, they would apply direct to the Guardian and he would be able to adjudge of their sincerity and, if sincere, would welcome them into the ranks of the faithful as he did with Sydney Sprague. Unfortunately, a man who is ill is not made well just by asserting there is nothing wrong with him! Facts, actual states, are what count. Probably no group of people in the world have softer tongues, or proclaim more loudly their innocence, than those who in their heart of hearts, and by their every act, are enemies of the Center of the Covenant. The Master well knew this and that is why He said we must shun their company, but pray for them. If you put a leper in a room with healthy people, he cannot catch their health; on the contrary they are very likely to catch his horrible ailment.”

April 11, 1949 to the NSA.



1949-04-11 Temple Project Impact on Guardian

USBN #220 June 1949 p2

“He also wishes that it could be brought home to the believers that not only they, with the exigencies of their Temple and their foreign teaching work, are really being hard put to it to stand up to the time of test which is at hand, but all their brothers the world over! In fact in most other countries the difficulties to be overcome, though not spread over such a wide range, are more stubborn. In the East, for example, the friends have to surmount violent religious prejudices, prejudices which debar them from so much as obtaining visas for the countries their Plans embrace, and which, when they do get there, sometimes endanger their lives. The British Bahá'ís, a mere handful, extremely limited financially, find themselves called upon to carry out their courageous Plan and forced to find ways and means of making one pound do the work of ten and one pioneer the work of at least three! And yet they are wholly absorbed in winning their goals, and are bringing all the traditional British grit into play!

“The Guardian himself, already tired out with the work of the last twenty-seven years — which has been steadily growing with the growth of the Cause the world over — now finds himself simply engulfed in a sea of new problems, responsibilities and worries in connection with the work on the Báb's Shrine. Much as this glorious enterprise is dear to his heart, much as he sees the necessity for carrying it on, and foresees the tremendous advantages to the Faith which will accrue from its unfoldment, he cannot be blind to the fact that it has doubled his load and will be, for some years to come, a back-breaking task for him and all concerned here with it.

“So, as the American believers survey with some trepidation and dismay the gigantic work before them, and the tremendous sums that must be raised, let them remember that for them, even as for their Guardian and their spiritual brothers and sisters all over the globe, there can be no turning back, no escape from duty, no easy way out! Indeed, seeing the plight of all the peoples of the world, they should realize that this whole Planet is in the throes of an unmistakable ordeal, a time of bitter transition and profound testing. If the spiritually dead are in this condition, how can the spiritually alive not be expected to be summoned to active duty, to be called upon to bear heavy burdens and to sacrifice deeply for the future.”

dated April 11, 1949:



1949-04-11 In Connection with Dome of Temple

USBN #220 June 1949 p2

“...in connection with the dome of the Temple, he would like to point out that a metal dome, constituting a partition between the inside and outside light of the Temple, would have entirely

done away with the original concept of the light of heaven coming into, and the interior illumination, at night, going out of, the Temple. The transparency, the “openness” would have been done away with, no matter how much perforation remained, and thus the original idea have been lost.”

To the NSA, written through his secretary, dated April 11,



– 1251 –

1949-04-24 Direct Teaching

USBN #226 December 1949 p1

“He approves of your desire to teach the principles of the Faith through radio. But he urges you to do all you can to always, however small the reference you are able to make to it may be, clearly identify or associate what you are giving out with Bahá’u’lláh. The time is too short now for us Bahá’ís to be able to first educate humanity and then tell it that the Source is this new World Faith. For their own spiritual protection people must hear of the name Bahá’í — then, if they turn blindly away, they cannot excuse themselves by saying they never even knew it existed! For dark days seem still ahead of the world, and outside of this Divine Refuge the people will not, we firmly believe, find inner conviction, peace and security. So they have a right to at least hear of the Cause as such.”

“Direct” Teaching from a letter by the Guardian dated April 24, 1949, to Mrs. Orpha Daugherty of Honolulu, T.H., written through his secretary



– 1252 –

1949-04-25 Concentrate Maintenance Status Elected Assemblies

USBN #220 June 1949 p3

“Urge remaining years concentrate maintenance status elected Assemblies, consolidation superb achievements, multiplication groups through steady expansion extension work.”

The above quote is from a European Teaching Committee Report and is not found in the published cable to the U.S. National Convention of April 27. It is preceded in the report by — - —

-

Shoghi Effendi has given clear directives both to the Spiritual Assemblies and to the Committee for the work immediately ahead, in the following excerpts from his cable of April 25:

I therefore assume it was sent to national Assemblies and the ETC



– 1253 –

1949-06-06 Some Work Must Now be Sacrificed

USBN #222 August 1949 p1

Dear Bahá'í Friends:

Your letter of April 7, with the book you forwarded, was received, and the Guardian was very pleased to see all you have done this past year.

He regrets that much of the work so enthusiastically undertaken, and carefully built up by the various committees, must now be sacrificed for some time to come. But there is no choice, and the friends must, as the Master said, give up the important for the most important of all — which is certainly the Temple's completion and the far-flung teaching work being carried on. Indeed, such is the preoccupation of man-kind with purely material evidences of power that the solid accomplishment of a House of Worship at last ready to fulfill its function, and the constant addition of new countries and assemblies to the family of Bahá'í communities, are more likely to attract the attention of the public than meetings or publicity.

Far from awakening from its slumber mankind seems to be plunging deeper into the nightmare of present-day society. We Bahá'ís see only too clearly where this is leading, but this must not paralyze us, but rather stir us to new spiritual consciousness and force us to take a firmer grip on the Rope of our Faith, determined not to be pulled into the undertow and to do all we can to pull others out of it.

He urges you all to exert your utmost in helping the believers to mature spiritually, and to unitedly work to consolidate the community in the laws of the Faith and the administration of its institutions.

He will pray for all of you, and he deeply values your devoted services.

With Bahá'í love,

— R. RABBÁNÍ

(In the Guardian's own handwriting)

May the Almighty bless your high and meritorious endeavors, enable you in the days to come to extend the range of your activities to which I attach the utmost importance, and aid you to

consolidate your past achievements, and win in this new and vast field now stretching before you notable victories for His Faith and its institutions.

Your true and grateful brother,

— SHOGHI

A letter of 7 June 1949 to the Public Relations Committee in response to their letter including — -

“Though it has been grievous to us to forego our advertising schedule and rearrange our work in other fields, the Committee recognizes that a completed Temple holding meetings of public worship will create the most effective form of Bahá’í public relations that could be imagined; and that a strong Bahá’í community in Latin America, Europe and the United States will be the final and unanswerable proof of the validity of the Faith.

“Therefore our hope is to contribute all we can to the development of an alert, well-informed and vigorous community demonstrating in spirit and in action the supernal truths whose symbol the House of Worship is to be throughout the Americas for ages to come.”



– 1254 –

1949-07-03 For SE to Ind re Bahá’í Scholarship

Bahá’í Studies Bulletin Vol 3 #3 September 1985 pp73

It seems that what we need now is a more profound and coordinated Bahá’í scholarship in order to attract such men as you are contacting. The world has — at least the thinking world — caught up by now with all the great and universal principles enunciated by Bahá’u’lláh over 70 years ago, and so of course it does not sound ‘new’ to them. But we know that the deeper teachings, the capacity of his projected World Order to re-create society, are new and dynamic. It is these we must learn to present intelligently and enticingly to such men.

(From a letter dated July 3, 1949, written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer.)



– 1255 –

1949-07-04 To Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp65-6

Rita van Bleyswijk Sombeek,

4 July 1949

Dear Bahá'í Sister,

Your letter to our beloved Guardian of June 7, was received, and he has instructed me to answer it on his behalf.

He was most happy to see the truly remarkable way in which your passport-difficulties have been straightened out, and feels that this in itself has been a way of serving the Cause, for it has called to the attention — and evidently won the sympathy of the American authorities for your uprightness, and devotion to this Faith of ours.

Your struggles have been richly blessed and must serve as an example to other pioneers and a sure proof that God will assist all those who arise to serve Him.

It is part of the preciousness of this great work being done in the teaching field that it should be done through real sacrifices and not without heartaches attending it. There is a tendency in the American outlook on life at present to believe that suffering is produced by clumsiness and is not only avoidable but not a good thing, and not essential. While there is some truth in this attitude, we as Bahá'ís cannot but believe that suffering is often an essential part of our service. The Prophets suffered bitterly, so did all the saints and martyrs and often “fed on the fragments of those broken hearts,” as Bahá'u'lláh says in one of His beautiful prayers.

He is very happy to hear the Cause is now so firmly established there, and also that you are going to be able to attend the European Teaching Conference before your return to America.

He hopes your plan to travel and teach in America will be realized and that in the future you will again return to teach and serve in Holland. Your devoted labours have been very deeply appreciated, and he feels proud of you.

With warm Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Assuring you of my great and increasing admiration for the work you are achieving, of my deep gratitude for your incessant endeavour and of my constant prayers for you and your dear co-workers who are laying such a solid foundation for the institutions of our beloved Faith in that promising country.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi

1949-07-05 On Behalf of To an Individual re We Need to be Much Better
Informed

Scholarship (BSB)

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá'í Studies Bulletin Vol 1-1

He can see quite clearly both your point of view and that expressed by those dear and devoted Bahá'ís whom you quoted in your letter. Both Mr. ... and Mr. ... are men of much experience and considerable learning in their way; what they no doubt meant was that the solution given to the world's problems by Bahá'u'lláh is the only solution — being Divine in origin — and most desperately needed; therefore we, the few who have caught the vision, should not waste our energies beating up and down the paths pursued by humanity, and which are not solving its ghastly present-day problems. We should concentrate on the Cause, because it is what is needed to cure the world. This is a sound attitude, for if we don't devote ourselves to the Bahá'í work and teaching, who will?

On the other hand there is a big difference between this and learning. If the Bahá'ís want to be really effective in teaching the Cause they need to be much better informed and able to discuss intelligently, intellectually, the present condition of the world and its problems. We need Bahá'í scholars, not only people far, far more deeply aware of what our teachings really are, but also well-read and well-educated people, capable of correlating our teachings to the current thoughts of the leaders of society.

We Bahá'ís should, in other words, arm our minds with knowledge in order to better demonstrate to, especially, the educated classes, the truths enshrined in our Faith. What the Guardian, however, does not advise the friends to do is to dissipate their time and energies in serving movements that are akin to our principles but not, we believe, capable of solving the present spiritual crisis the world finds itself in. We can cooperate with such movements and their promoters to good effect, while at the same time openly standing forth as Bahá'ís with a specific program to offer society.

1949-07-29 To Second European Teaching Conference

USBN #224 October 1949 p4

Heart overflowing (with) joyous exaltation (on the) occasion (of the) holding (of the) Second European Teaching Conference celebrating attainment (of the) objectives (in the) historic Second Seven Year Plan (in) all (the) ten goal countries (of the) European continent.

(My) hopes fondly cherished (at the) inception (of the) transatlantic project (have been) fulfilled, nay far surpassed. (The) establishment (of) twelve assemblies, (the) formation (of) twenty-two additional groups (and) isolated centers ere (the) halfway mark (of the) Plan (has been) reached, constitute (an) outstanding exploit, unparalleled since (the) inauguration (of) 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan, unsurpassed in vastness, range, (and) spiritual potency by any collective enterprise undertaken by (the) followers (of the) Faith (of) Bahá'u'lláh in any continent (of the) globe since (the) inception (of the) Formative Age (of) His Dispensation.

(I am) moved (to) offer (my) warmest congratulations (to the) American National Assembly (as the) trustees (of the) Plan, (to the) European Teaching Committee (as) its appointed executors, (to) all pioneers whether settlers or itinerant teachers, (to) all native believers both new (and) old, (to) all newly formed assemblies, (to) all groups (and) all isolated believers who directly (or) indirectly participated so valiantly (in) this unique, brilliant (and) greatest single victory since (the) Plan (was) set (in) motion.

(The) stage (is) set, (the) moment propitious for no less spectacular (an) exertion (of) effort, concentration (of) attention (and) expenditure (of) energy (during the) course (of the) final phase (of the) Plan (on the) European continent, aiming, though above (and) beyond (the) prescribed objectives, at (the) broadening (and) consolidation (of the) structural basis already laid: through (the) preservation (of the) prizes recently won, (the) conversion (of the) larger groups (into) assemblies, (the) expansion (of the) recently instituted extension work, (the) increased participation (of the) native believers (in) both (the) administrative (and) teaching activities, (the) acceleration (of the) translation (and) publication (of) Bahá'í literature, (the) gradual institution (of) regional summer schools, (the) promotion (of) closer fellowship (and) more active collaboration despite great distances, paucity (of) resources, diversity (and) range (of) customs (and) language among (the) budding communities, scattered (in the) north, west, south (and in the) heart (of the) European continent, which posterity will recognize (as the) bedrock (of) Bahá'u'lláh's fast evolving Administrative Order, (the) torchbearers (of) His embryonic World Order, (the) heralds (of the) yet unborn world civilization, amidst (the) turmoil (of the) travailing age, (and the) overspreading gloom (of the) present chaotic social (and) political order. Firmly knit (by the) sacred bonds (of a) spiritual fellowship more enduring, possessed of greater cohesive strength than any ties (of) kinship or race, (and) more potent (than) any social ideology or political alliance; deriving constant sustenance from (the) Mandate issued (from the) Pen (of the) Author (of the) Divine Plan; (and) assured (of the) overshadowing protection vouchsafed by (the) Lord (of the) Covenant Himself presiding (over the) Plan's unfolding destiny, let them, (on) this auspicious occasion, dedicate themselves, through their assembled representatives, (to the) dual task (of) steadily consolidating their infant strength (and) tirelessly diffusing (the) holy influences inherent (in) their mission, until (a) visionless, slumbering, spiritually-impoorished continent (is) awakened through (the) saving grace (of) Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation and its peace (and) security unassailably established through (the) redemptive power released through (the) emergence, of (the) institutions of (a) divinely appointed World Order.

(signed) SHOGHI

to Second European Teaching Conference in Brussels — Received July 29, 1949



– 1258 –

1949-08-05 Translation of Bayán is Difficult

Light of the Pacific #54 May/June 1970 p2

“We do not know the exact dates when the Báyan was revealed. Undoubtedly it will be translated in the future, but the style is extremely difficult and great learning will be required for such a work. As the Bayán was superseded by Bahá’u’lláh’s laws it is not essential for us to have it at this time.”

(To an individual believer, dated August 5, 8.)



– 1259 –

1949-08-07 Second Message to the Brussels Conference

USBN #224 October 1949 p5

Delighted large attendance, representative character, second historic conference. Welcome determination (of) representatives (to) enrich further record (of) initial successes respective communities. Overburdened heart cheered, comforted (by) loving message. Praying still mightier confirmations.

(signed) SHOGHI

Second Message to the Brussels Conference — August 7, 1949



– 1260 –

1949-08-18 Friends Naive and Superficial in Approach to Covenant-breakers

Covenant-Breaking

Prepared by the The International Teaching Centre — 28 November 1999

The friends are sometimes surprisingly naive and superficial in their approach to the subject of Covenant-breakers. They do not seem to understand that the descendants of Azal, with their mother's milk, drank hatred of Bahá'u'lláh, just as the descendants of Muḥammad-'Alí and his relatives have imbibed from babyhood a false concept of the Master. It takes practically a miracle to overcome this lifelong habit of wrong thought. Now, however, he has told the German believers to shun her.

(From a letter dated 18 August 1949 written on behalf of the Guardian to a National Spiritual Assembly)



– 1261 –

1949-08-xx To Sutherland Maxwell to Take Care of Health

The Maxwells of Montreal Vol II, Violette Nakhjavani, p410

URGE YOU TAKE UTMOST CARE AVOID POSSIBILITY SUNSTROKE WHILE INSPECTING SHRINE
STOP AS WORK PROGRESSES YOU ARE INCREASINGLY PRECIOUS TO US ALL STOP AIRMAIL
COPY PHOTOGRAPH SHRINE MODEL NOT TOO SMALL LOVE



– 1262 –

1949-09-30 Theocratic Systems

USBN #226 December 1949 p2

“He thinks your question is well put. What the Guardian was referring to was the theocratic systems, such as the Catholic Church and the Caliphate, which are not divinely given as systems, but man-made, and yet, having partly derived from the teachings of Christ and Muhammad are, in a sense, theocracies. The Bahá'í theocracy, on the contrary, is both divinely ordained as a system and, of course, based on the teachings of the Prophet Himself. This seems to reconcile the Guardian's statement with Mr. Hofman's.

“Theophany is used in the sense of Dispensation.

“He will certainly pray that Los Angeles may continue to grow in Bahá'í membership and the believers become ever more united and more active in serving the Faith.”

September 30, 1949, addressed to Mrs. Oni Finks, the Guardian answers a question addressed to him which arose during a study class discussion of David Hofman's Commentary on the Master's Will and Testament. The question was sent to the Guardian at the request of the Los Angeles Assembly.

– 1263 –

1949-10-20 To Lea Nys re Translations into French

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp68-9

Lea Nys,

20 October 1949

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

The Guardian has instructed me to answer you directly regarding the questions you asked Mrs. Lynch to put to him concerning the proper term to be used in French for the English: "by which the letters B and E (be) have been joined together."

He feels that your committee should consult the Paris assembly and also see if, in the translations of Hippolyte Dreyfus of the writings of Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb, etc. and also Mr. Nicolas' translations of the Bayán, you cannot find a good French usage for this difficult expression, which in English works out so well.

He does not advise you to put a whole phrase, such as "le symbole précieux, le Verbe de Dieu..." as this departs too much from the original and does not convey the true meaning.

He is very pleased over the excellent work your committee is doing, and assures you all of his loving prayers for your complete success.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

– 1264 –

1949-10-23 Thornton Chases Resting-place & Anniversary

USBN #228 February 1950 p4

“It is not important whether Thornton Chase’s resting-place is referred to as his grave or his shrine. We should not be rigid in such matters. Likewise it is not important whether the friends gather on the 30th or the 1st of the month.⁹ The keeping of the anniversary is the important thing.”

To Mr. Willard P. Hatch dated October 23,



– 1265 –

1949-10-23 Memoirs & Experiences with the Master

USBN #228 February 1950 p4

“It is very important that the old Bahá’ís should accurately record their experiences with the Master, and events in the Cause’s progress, for these things form data for future histories of the Cause. They have not, however, the authority of the revealed Word or the Tablets, etc...”

To Mr. Willard P. Hatch dated October 23,



– 1266 –

1949-10-23 Old Bahá’ís should Accurately Record their Experiences

Guidance Regarding Bahá’í Archives

Compiled by Bahá’í International Archives

It is very important that the old Bahá’ís should accurately record their experiences with the Master, and events in the Cause’s progress, for these things form data for future histories of the Cause. They have not, however, the authority of the revealed Word or the Tablets, etc.

From a letter on behalf of Shoghi Effendi dated 23 October 1949 to an individual



⁹ Mr. Hatch explains that the “Star of the West” reports Thornton Chase as having died after sunset on September 30th, so the reference to the 30th and the 1st means the 30th of September or the 1st of October

1949-10-25 Heart Austerity

USBN #230 April 1950 p1

“You are quite right to say that much more emphasis should be placed on the heart in America. Without the spirit of real love for Bahá'u'lláh, for His Faith and its Institutions, and the believers for each other, the Cause can never really bring in large numbers of people. For it is not preaching and rules the world wants, but love and action.

“He also feels that this period of ‘austerity’ will do no harm, and that it can and should arouse the individuals to undertake more responsibility. Too many instructions and procedures deaden the initiative of people and confuse them.”

To Mrs. Beatrice Ashton, dated October 25, 1949



1949-10-25 To Henk Buys re Going to Indonesia

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp70-71

Henk Buys,

25 October 1949

Dear Bahá'í Brother:

Our beloved Guardian was very happy to receive your letter of October 2, and also to hear you are going out to Indonesia.

You can do an immense lot of good for the Faith there by teaching people whom you find open-minded and receptive to the wonderful message of Bahá'u'lláh.

He urges you to get in touch with:

Mr. Rustam Sabet, P.O. Box 19, New Delhi, India, who is the secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of India, Pakistan and Burma. There is already one pioneer from India in Indonesia, and if you can see him, or write to him, after obtaining from Mr. Sabet his address, your cooperation would be very useful, as of course this believer is of oriental background.

It would be a wonderful service to the Faith if you can find some way of having the book Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era translated into Malay.

It is wonderful to think that whereas a few months ago there were no Bahá'ís in Indonesia, there will now be three, two from Holland and one from India. God truly moves in mysterious ways to carry His Faith to suffering humanity!

It is just possible that Mr. Charles Mason Reméy may be able to visit, on his world tour, Indonesia. Mr. Sabet can inform you of this. As Mr. Remey is a very charming and cultivated man he could be introduced to your circle of friends and give them lectures on the Cause in a way that would not savour of any propaganda, but rather seem a privilege to those who met him.

The Guardian assures you of his prayers for the success of your work out there, and also for dear Mrs. Buys.

With warmest greetings,

R. Rabbání

P.S. In view of the great importance of having some literature in Malay the Guardian urges you, and the other two pioneers out there, to make every effort to have at least a small pamphlet translated and printed as soon as possible. He would like to receive some copies of this for the Bahá'í libraries in Haifa and Bahjí as soon as they are available.

May the Almighty bless richly your efforts in the new Held opening before you, remove all obstacles from your path, and aid you to lay a strong and unassailable foundation for the institutions of His Faith, your true brother, Shoghi



– 1269 –

1949-10-27 To Lea Nys re dont Pressure People to become Bahá'ís

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp92

Lea Nys,

27 October 1949

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

The beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer your letter of October 2, enclosing that of Mr. E. Remacle, as well as the post card relevant to it.

I am sending you herewith his answer, which no doubt Mr. Remacle will share with you, and which explains his attitude towards the questions raised.

No pressure should be brought to bear on these kind and loving friends, to join the faith. This is a matter of conscience, and whatever their future attitude may be, the Bahá'ís should continue to cooperate with them and show them great cordiality and friendship.

The Guardian is praying for their spiritual enlightenment, and also for the steady progress of your Assembly's work in Brussels.

He was made most happy by the excellent reports of the Brussels Conference and the high praise bestowed upon the Brussels Bahá'ís for all they did to make it such a success.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Dear and valued co-workers:

I wish to assure you in person of my deep and heartfelt gratitude for your notable services to the Faith, and particularly in connection with the Brussels Conference. I feel truly proud of your accomplishments, and will supplicate the Beloved to bless richly your valuable and meritorious activities, and enable you in the days to come, to win still greater victories in the service of His Faith.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi



– 1270 –

1949-10-28 The Number Nine

USBN #228 February 1950 p4

“Regarding your various questions: We must avoid giving the impression of being all tied up with peculiar religious theories; on the other hand, the 9 sides of the Temple, and the 9-pointed star require an explanation, and he feels the best one is this:

"Nine is the highest digit, hence symbolizes comprehensiveness, culmination; also, the reason it is used in the Temple's form is because 9 has the exact numerical value of "Bahá" (in the numerology connected with the Arabic alphabet) and "Bahá" is the name of the Revealer of our Faith, Bahá'u'lláh. The 9-pointed star is not a part of the teachings of our Faith, but only used as an emblem representing "9." In telling people of the 9 religions of the world, that is, existing religions, we should not give this as the reason the Temple has 9 sides. This may have been an idea of the architect, and a very pleasing idea, which can be mentioned in passing, but the Temple has 9 sides because of the association of 9 with perfection, unity and "Bahá."

"The Guardian feels that with intellectuals and students of religion the question of exactly which are the 9 existing religions is controversial, and it would be better to avoid it. He does not want the friends to be rigid in these matters, but use their judgment and tact, sometimes one statement is exactly the right thing for one type of mind and the wrong thing for another.

"Strictly speaking the 5-pointed star is the symbol of our Faith, as used by the Báb and explained by Him. But the Guardian does not feel it is wise or necessary to complicate our explanations of the Temple by adding this.

"Shoghi Effendi himself uses the King James version of the Bible, both because it is an authoritative one and in beautiful English.

"The statement in 'Seven Days of Creation' certainly cannot be considered authoritative or correct. The Ark and the Flood we believe are symbolical.

"He feels that it is not necessary to present, prematurely, to every new Bahá'í the teachings regarding the use of the Greatest Name. Some souls need and are ready for this: others are not. Judgment must be used in such matters. It is more essential to stress the importance of prayer and to urge the use of one of the obligatory prayers."

To Nina Matthisen, dated October 28, 1949



– 1271 –

1949-10-30 To Philip Hainsworth re His Plans

Looking back in Wonder, Philip Hainsworth, p84-5

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letters of January 4 and August 22, were received, and the beloved Guardian has been anticipating answering them for some time, but the pressure of his work has held up a lot of letters of late. He regrets the delay — the material you enclosed in them was also received and he thanks you for sending it.

Mrs Preston wrote the Guardian three letters about herself and her work — or contemplated work. She seems to be now ready to take hold and do some teaching, and the Guardian advised her about this, and also that she need not send any pamphlet to him for correction, but should consider the British National Spiritual Assembly the natural source of advice and help in these matters. He urged her, however, to keep in close contact with him.

The thing he is anxious to see is a pamphlet in Swahili (and as many other African languages as possible!). He was, therefore, very pleased over your action and leaves it to you to push the matter further. You should perhaps send a copy of your material to Mrs Preston for consultation. It seems her husband is helpful and speaks Swahili himself, so he could judge of any translation you get back.

It pleased the Guardian very much to hear your dear mother is so much better. You were blessed in your parents and he will pray she may be spared to you for many years to come. Give her his love.

As regards your own future plans: in view of the precarious state of the Plan in Britain he does not think you can at present decide what you will do when it is over. He advises you to wait until it is over and the needs of the immediate future take shape. The best general plan for you to make would be to contemplate getting work for the next year or so in the British Isles, to go on with your services for the Cause there, and keep in mind the desirability of going at a later date to some place in Africa to establish the Cause.

All that you have done and are doing he most deeply appreciates. You have been of invaluable assistance to the work there since you went back, and he envisages for you many future distinguished services.

With warmest Bahá'í love and greetings,

R. Rabbání.

Dear and valued co-worker,

Your strenuous, valiant and persistent efforts, exerted with such zeal and devotion, to ensure the success of the Plan are, indeed, worthy of the highest praise. I increasingly admire your accomplishment and feel deeply thankful for the exemplary spirit you demonstrate. My fervent and loving prayers surround you in all your activities, and I feel confident that the Beloved is well pleased with the standard of your achievements. Persevere in your high and meritorious endeavours and be happy and confident always.

Your true and grateful brother,

Shoghi.

– 1272 –

1949-10-31 Hopes France Can Play a More Important Part in Affairs of Cause

Germany, France, Italy, and Switzerland

Compiled by Research Department of the Universal House of Justice.

Published in Bahá'í Studies Review 4:1

France could certainly profit greatly, as you say, from the visits of more travelling teachers, and he hopes that as the urgent phase in the building up of the Ten Goal Countries passes, more attention can be given to assisting the French believers. No doubt a great deal could be achieved in France with relatively little effort, and he longs for the day when the oldest Bahá'í Community in Europe can play a more important part in the affairs of the Cause in that Continent.

(on Behalf of Shoghi Effendi to individual believer, 31 October 1949)

– 1273 –

1949-11-05 Correction to Printed Version of Msg to 2nd European Teaching Conf

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp93

2nd European Teaching Conference,

5 November 1949

The Guardian wants me to call your attention to an error in the published version (October Bahá'í News) of his cable to the European Conference. It should read as follows:

Right hand column, beginning of the second paragraph:

“Firmly knit (by the) sacred bonds (of a) spiritual fellowship more enduring, possessed of greater cohesive strength than any ties (of) kinship or race, (and) more potent (than) any social ideology or political alliance; deriving constant sustenance from (the) Mandate issued (from the) Pen (of the) Author (of the) Divine Plan; (and) assured (of the) overshadowing protection vouchsafed by (the) Lord (of the) Covenant Himself presiding (over the) Plans unfolding destiny, let them, (on)

this auspicious occasion, dedicate themselves, through their assembled representatives, (to the dual task (of) steadily consolidating their infant strength (and) tirelessly diffusing (the) holy influences inherent (in) their mission, until (a) visionless, slumbering, spiritually-impooverished continent (is) awakened through (the) saving grace (of) Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation and its peace (and) security unassailably established through (the) redemptive power released through (the) emergence of (the) institutions of (a) divinely appointed World Order."



– 1274 –

1949-11-30 To Josephine Diebold re Dealing with Disharmony

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp93-4

Josephine Diebold,

30 November 1949

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter dated November 23 has reached our beloved Guardian, and he has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

He fully realizes how very distressing it is to see any inharmony in a Bahá'í Community. However, a great deal of inharmony — if not all of it — is due to the fact that the Bahá'ís do not properly understand the administration. They know that the Spiritual Assembly is the body to decide the affairs of the Community, but they do not let it do so! This is usually due not to lack of a desire to see the assembly function, but rather to over-anxiety to see it do what one or two people think is the proper thing.

It is very hard for people to learn to function the way 'Abdu'l-Bahá says we should: the friends on the assembly must consult freely, all of them; then whatever the majority decides must be accepted wholeheartedly, for the sake of God. Personal opinions are important, but once the majority has voted, they must be given up and not clung to.

The Guardian appreciates very much your devotion to the Faith, and your loving and helpful attitude towards your fellow Bahá'ís. He urges you to go on encouraging them, and pointing out to them that these are small problems — growing pains — and will and can be overcome.

He will certainly pray for the unity of the friends there.

With Bahá'í love,

R. Rabbání

Assuring you of my loving prayers for your success in the service of our beloved Faith and for the realization of every hope you cherish for the promotion of the interests of its institutions.

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1275 –

1949-12-14 Fanny Knohlochs Passing

USBN #227 January 1950 p1

“Grieve passing (of) beloved, ‘distinguished, exemplary pioneer (of) Faith, Fanny Knobloch. Memory (of) her notable services imperishable, her reward (in) Abba Kingdom bountiful, assured, everlasting.”

— SHOGI

(Cable from the Guardian received Dec. 14)



– 1276 –

1949-12-25 To Jeanne Boekhoudt re Bahá'í healers”

Dear Co-worker: Messages from Shoghi Effendi to the Benelux countries, pp94-5

Jeanne Boekhoudt,

25 December 1949

Dear Bahá'í Sister:

Your letter of November 3 was received and our beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

As he is particularly busy at this time in connection with the work going on at the Shrine I will make this just a short letter.

He does not feel that you should try to do anything special about this capacity you feel to help people when they are ill. This does not mean you should not use it when the occasion arises, such as it did recently. But he means you should not become a “healer” such as the Christian Scientists have, and we Bahá’ís do not have.

As your niece seems quite happy in her new life there is nothing you can do to open her eyes but pray for her. He too will pray for her.

With warmest greetings,

R. Rabbání

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

Your true brother,

Shoghi



– 1277 –

194x-xx-xx Time Limit on Assembly Non-Attendance

USBN #208 June 1948 p7

“...it is establishing a dangerous precedent to allow Assemblies to put a time limit on non-attendance of their members at meetings of the S. A., beyond which that person is automatically dropped from the Assembly and a vacancy declared ... There should be no time limit fixed by Assemblies beyond which a person is dropped. Every case of prolonged absence from the sessions of the Assembly should be considered separately by that Assembly, and if the person is seen to not want to attend meetings, or to be held away from them indefinitely because of illness or travel, then a vacancy could legitimately be declared and a new member be elected.”

A recent letter written by the Guardian through his secretary to an American Bahá'í.



– 1278 –

194x-xx-xx To Amelia Collins re Fast

USBN #167 January 1944 p2

“Regarding your question concerning the Fast: Travelers are exempt from fasting, but if they want to fast while they are traveling, they are free to do so. You are exempt the whole period of your travel, not just the hours you are in a train or car, etc. If one eats unconsciously during the fasting hours, this is not breaking the Fast as it is an accident. The age limit is seventy years, but if one desires to fast after the age limit is passed, and is strong enough to, one is free to do so. If during the Fast period a person falls ill and is unable to fast, but recovers before the fast period is over, he can start to fast again and continue until the end. Of course the Fast, as you know, can only be kept during the month set aside for that purpose.”

to Mrs. Amelia E. Collins: — Date unknown



– 1279 –

194x-xx-xx To Mildred Mottahedeh

[Found in a notebook that had belonged to Amelia Bowman]

Excerpt from letter from Guardian to Mildred Mottahedeh

Now that the war is blazing in all its fury, the only service the Bahá'ís can render, as a body, of a concrete nature is to try and perfect themselves and their institutions in the Faith, and do all in their power to spread its knowledge, and holdup the light of its example, among as many people as possible. This is the time to broadcast the teachings and the name of the Faith far and wide, so that in the present days, and those to come, the people will know that such a belief, embodying such laws and principles, exists for their aid and their salvation ...

