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National Spiritual Assembly

Message to Unit Conventions

October, 2002

TO THE FRIENDS GATHERED AT UNIT CONVENTIONS 2002

Dearly loved Friends,

The National Spiritual Assembly sends you its warmest love on this important occasion. It is by participating in such elections that we can make a substantial contribution to the health of our community for the “*strength and progress of the Bahá'í community depend upon the election of pure, faithful and active souls.*” (Letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to a Local Spiritual Assembly, April 9, 1932)

In addition to the election of the delegate to National Convention, you now have the opportunity to consult on the strength and progress of the communities in your Unit.

We can all be proud of what has been achieved thus far in the Five Year Plan. In every part of the United Kingdom, under the loving stewardship of the Bahá'í Councils, “clusters” have been identified and the three core activities – study circles, devotional meetings, and children’s classes – are being established and gradually opened up to participation by seekers and friends of the Faith. The community is being revitalised by a new energy among all the sections of our increasingly diverse and talented community. It is particularly heartwarming to see the Bahá'í youth directing their abundant energies in service to the Cause. These developments augur well for the further growth of the Cause in the United Kingdom.

It is especially gratifying to observe how keenly the friends have been closely applying the guidance of the Universal House of Justice in their endeavours. In this respect, they have been ably aided by the dearly loved Auxiliary Board members and their valued assistants. As a result, there is an increasing degree of unity of vision about the growth of our Faith as “communities and institutions strive to align their pursuits with the Will of God” and labour to build the “*model of coherence in lines of action.*” Experience throughout the entire Bahá'í world indicates that the three core activities are already demonstrating their potency for creating and sustaining growth.

The National Spiritual Assembly invites you to take this opportunity to consider how these three core activities of the Plan can be further multiplied and integrated, and transformed into “*portals for entry by troops.*” In so doing, you will no doubt pay careful attention to the unique challenges and opportunities that present themselves in your part of the country.

The year thus far has been an extraordinary one. Each week, news reaches the National Assembly of the steady emergence of the Cause of God from obscurity. The success of study circles, external affairs activities, local proclamation and individual teaching initiatives should embolden us to rise up with ever increasing enthusiasm and energy to

carry out the Will of God for this age, as explicitly expressed in the Five Year Plan of the Universal House of Justice. But our possibilities of moving forward at this critical time depend on resources – both spiritual and material.

“Nothing short of a continuous flow of contributions to (the national) fund,” wrote

Shoghi Effendi, ‘can, indeed, ensure the financial stability upon which so much of the progress of the institutions of the Faith must now inevitably depend.’”

(Message to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada, July 29, 1935)

The National Spiritual Assembly is hopeful that your consultations will bring forth many new ideas and a renewed spirit of dedication and generosity.

“Dedicate thyself to the service of the Cause of thy Lord, cherish His remembrance in thy heart and celebrate His praise in such wise that every wayward and heedless soul may thereby be roused from slumber.”

(Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 262)

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
National Spiritual Assembly

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