

Baha'is Slate Annual Meeting

WILMETTE, Ill. — The 49th annual convention of the Baha'is of the U. S. will be held at the Baha'i House of Worship, Wilmette, Ill., from April 28 through May 1.

Several hundred Baha'is will attend, including nearly 200 official delegates from every state in the U. S. and from Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

The purpose of the convention meeting this year under the theme of "The American Baha'i Community in the World Crusade", is to review progress in the fourth year of the Baha'i Ten-Year World Spiritual Crusade, discuss tasks ahead in furthering the promulgation of the Baha'i teachings for promoting permanent world peace and elect nine members to serve as the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States through the coming year.

At the opening session on April 28, a special message from Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Faith at the Baha'i World Center in Haifa, will be presented. It will report the achievements and events of the past year and set goals for the year ahead.

Outstanding on the convention program will be a meeting the first night at which the present members of the National Assembly of the United States will tell of another historic step in the Faith, the establishment of nine new National Assemblies at conventions held April 22-24 in Anchorage, Alaska; Lima, Peru; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Panama, Buenos Aires, Stockholm, Brussels, Western Europe and Tokyo.

By the end of the convention period there will be 26 Baha'i National Assemblies in the world, an increase of 11 since April, 1956. Work of the convention will proceed under topics including erec-

tion of the Baha'i home for the aged as an auxiliary to the House of Worship in Wilmette; the Crusade on the Homefront and intercontinental teaching; American Indian Service and Interracial teaching; Baha'i youth activities, child education, Baha'i Summer Schools and relations of the Baha'i International Community with the United Nations.

Meetings open to the public will be two, the regular Worship Service at 3:30 Sunday afternoon, April 28, and the Ridvan Feast at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 27, preceding the opening of convention. Both will be devotional programs in the Temple Auditorium, the latter to be followed by a social gathering in Foundation Hall to which friends and interested persons are invited.

The Ridvan Feast will celebrate the 94th anniversary of the public declaration of the Mission of the Baha'u'llah.

On May 2, 1953, while encamped in the garden of Ridvan (Paradise) on the outskirts of Baghdad, Baha'u'llah made His prophetic announcement on a new religious dispensation opening a universal cycle of world brotherhood, unprecedented progress and peace.

Baha'is began their world-wide Crusade at the time of the dedication of the Baha'i House of Worship in 1953. Since that time the number of countries and territories in which the Faith has been planted has reached 250, almost double that of four years ago, many buildings have been acquired to house local and national Baha'i headquarters, 10 sites have been purchased for future houses of worship and international Archives Building has almost been completed on Mt. Carmel in Israel.