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National Spiritual Assembly

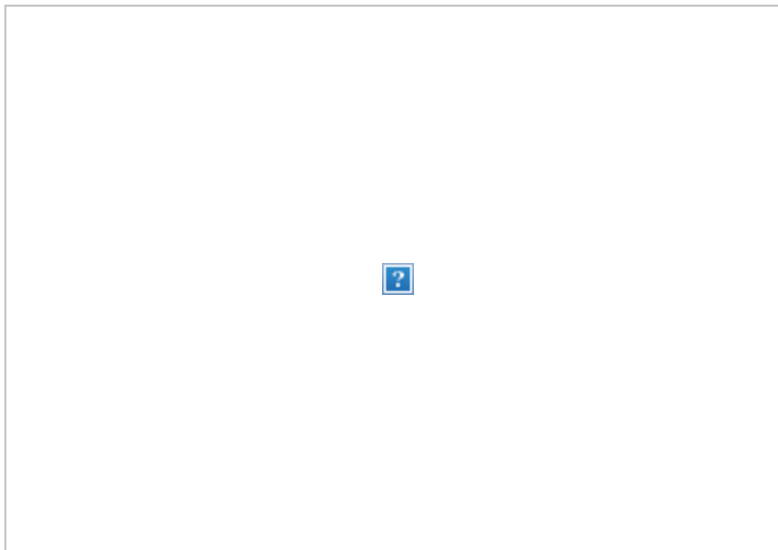
National Spiritual Assembly

From the table of the National Spiritual Assembly

October 19, 2001

Dearly loved Friends

AN ILLUMINATING study session with Counsellor Shahriar Razavi, a wide-ranging and productive consultation with the Bahá'í Council for Scotland, a special visit to the St Mungo Museum to view the Bahá'í exhibition, and a fabulous Persian dinner prepared so lovingly by some of the local believers were among the highlights of the National Spiritual Assembly's meeting in Glasgow over the weekend of October 12-14.



The members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'is of the UK and the Bahá'í Council for Scotland at their recent meeting in Glasgow

The National Assembly devoted a full session of its recent meeting to a study, facilitated by Counsellor Razavi, of the recently-released document, "The Institution of the Counsellors". The National Assembly has dedicated two further sessions to study of this very important material which was prepared by the Universal House of Justice in connection with the occupation by the International Teaching Centre of its seat on Mount Carmel at the beginning of the year. All Local Spiritual Assemblies and groups in the United Kingdom should have already received a complimentary copy of this document and are urged, where they have not already done so, to arrange deepening classes on it as soon as possible.

A recurring theme of the weekend's consultations was the importance, in terms of the spiritual destiny of the United Kingdom and indeed the entire continent, of the Scottish Islands. 2003 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Faith in Shetland, Orkney and the Hebrides, and the National Spiritual Assembly has asked the Bahá'í Council for Scotland to develop and coordinate, in collaboration with the local friends, suitable activities and events to mark this Golden Jubilee.

In the view of the National Assembly, the entire Bahá'í community in the United Kingdom needs to gain a greater awareness and understanding of the spiritual significance of the Scottish Islands, "which are to play such an important role in the in the awakening of the entire continent" (from a message of the Universal House of Justice to those gathered on the occasion of the dedication of the Mother Temple of Europe, July 1964).

This Golden Jubilee, therefore, is to be a UK-wide celebration and it is hoped that many

friends from throughout the country will consider participating in the special celebrations to be held in 2003.

As another recognition of the importance of the islands, the National Assembly has decided to initiate a process of consultation with the Bahá'í Council for Scotland and local friends with regard to the purchase of local Bahá'í centres in the Hebrides and Shetland, thereby fulfilling a goal first given by the Universal House of Justice to this national Bahá'í community in the Seven Year Plan (1979-1986).

Approximately 70 friends, representing many different communities including a number of the Scottish Islands, met with the National Spiritual Assembly on Saturday October 13. Uppermost in everyone's mind were the recent world events and their implications for humanity and the work of the Cause. The friends were reminded that what we are witnessing around us is a further surge forward in the operation of the Major Plan of God, whose operation will continue until the process of world unification is complete. And however turbulent the weeks and months ahead may be, we should not allow ourselves to be distracted from attending to the work that has been set before us by the Supreme Body of our Faith. Rather, the challenge to the institutions of the Faith in their own plans of action is, as the House of Justice has explained,

"... to gain insight into the operation of these great forces, explore the potentialities of the people they serve, measure the resources and strengths of their communities, and take practical steps to enlist the unreserved participation of the believers."

(The Universal House of Justice to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors, January 9, 2001).

Finally, the National Spiritual Assembly wishes to thank the many friends who made its recent visit to Scotland so enjoyable and fruitful.

Bahá'í Council Election Results

November 19, 2001

THE DAY OF THE COVENANT, 26 November 2001, marks the new term of service for the Bahá'í Councils. During the past year, the Councils took great strides forward in their work and made great efforts to refine their understanding of the scheme for the growth of the Faith over the next five years as set out by the Universal House of Justice. The Councils have also devised their own plans for the development of the Faith in their respective parts of the country, plans which are firmly rooted in the vision of the House of Justice whilst reflecting the unique circumstances, challenges and needs that face the believers under their respective jurisdictions.

The National Spiritual Assembly is delighted to share with the friends the new membership of the Bahá'í Councils in the United Kingdom:

ENGLAND

Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies who voted: 89 (out of 105)

Number of ballots cast: 591

Those elected (with no. of votes):

Mr Robert Weinberg: 203	Dr Tiffani Razavi: 156	Mr Adam Thorne: 151
Dr Babak Javid: 143	Mr Inder Manocha: 139	Ms Kay Hughes: 134
Dr Naghme Adab: 119	Mrs Mitra Murray: 112	Dr Isatou Hyde-Forster: 84

In light of her appointment to the Auxiliary Board, Dr Hyde-Forster is unable to serve as a member of the Council. Ms Fidelma Meehan, who received the next highest number of votes (48), is therefore elected to the Council.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies who voted: 8 (out of 8).

Number of ballots cast: 48

Those elected:

Mr Edwin Graham: 36	Mrs Marion Khosravi: 33	Mrs Patricia Jamshidi: 27
Dr Keith Munro: 27	Mr Colin Rodøers: 27	Ms Patricia Irvine: 26

Mrs Patricia Craig: 23

Mr Edward Whiteside: 23

Mrs Viny Robinson: 20

SCOTLAND

Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies who voted: 8 (out of 8).

Number of ballots cast: 58

Those elected:

Mr Allan Forsyth: 40

Mrs Maggie Manvell: 40

Mrs Anwen Shahim: 36

Mr Alan McKay: 32

Mr Hari Docherty: 30

Mrs Venus Alae-Carew: 29

Mrs Nahid Donald: 26

Mr Rolf Schmidt: 23

Mr Andrew Goodwin: 17

WALES

Number of Local Spiritual Assemblies who voted: 4 (out of 4)

Those elected:

Mr Vivian Bartlett: 19

Mrs Christine Abbas: 17

Mrs Kathryn Delpak: 17

Mrs Roya Azordegan: 16

Mr Denver Morgan: 15

Mr Tim Melville: 14

Mr Hooshmand Kalami: 13

Mrs Jean Owen: 10

Mr Soheyl Azordegan: 9

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes the newly-elected members of the Bahá'í Councils well in their new term of service and assures them of its prayers for the confirmations of the Blessed Beauty to sustain them in their important services to the Cause of God.

National Conference 2001

The National Spiritual Assembly wishes to express its sincere and loving gratitude to all those friends who contributed towards the success of the recent National Conference in Scarborough.

There are simply too many people to mention by name – but you know who you are! Once again, many thanks for all your hard work and sacrificial efforts.

With loving Bahá'í greetings
National Spiritual Assembly

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