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## From the Table of the National Spiritual Assembly

**'Our lack of material resources places an unfortunate but inevitable limit on what we can do ...'**

3rd July, 2002

DEARLY LOVED FRIENDS

The National Spiritual Assembly met again over the weekend of June 14-16 in London.

The state of the National Fund was the subject of earnest and anxious consultation around the National Spiritual Assembly table. The Treasurer informed the National Assembly that the year-to-date income (as of 14th June, 2002) was 77% of budget; expenditure was 86% of budget. The problem is that expenditure, although well within budget, continues to run ahead of income.

The effects of the lack of financial resources on the operation of the Bahá'í administration at the national and regional level and on Bahá'í activities in general have already been shared with the friends. There is no need to repeat it here. One tangible effect is that the development of the training institute process in these islands will be adversely affected. Our lack of material resources places an unfortunate but inevitable limit on what we can do to accelerate this vital process, a process that has been identified by the Universal House of Justice as being central to the further growth and development of the Cause of God.

Without the necessary funds, contributed generously and sacrificially by all the friends, the rolling out of training institute programmes and courses will be hampered. It is as simple as that.

The National Spiritual Assembly enjoyed a very productive consultation session with Dion Azordegan and Marco Milone, representatives of the European Bahá'í Youth Council. The Youth Council is a unique institution in the Bahá'í world, a body of seven youth appointed by the Universal House of Justice to coordinate and galvanise the activities of the Bahá'í youth of Europe. The role of youth in the promotion and development of the arts and Bahá'í scholarship were among the main subjects of what was a wide-ranging and thought-provoking consultation.

A major highlight of the National Assembly's weekend was its meeting with the friends at Baden-Powell House on the Saturday evening. Over 180 friends attended a vibrant and positive meeting. It was a joy for the members of the National Spiritual Assembly to mingle and mix with the believers after the meeting and to learn about the progress of the Faith in one of the world's great capital cities.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

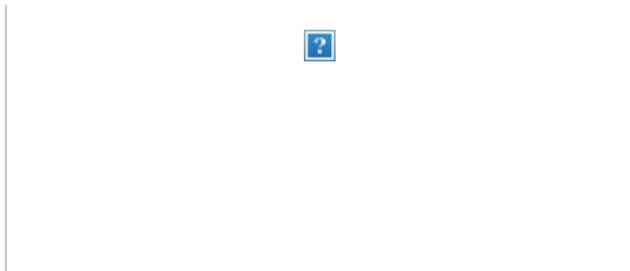
The National Spiritual Assembly

**Visit to the National  
Haziratu'l-Quds by His  
Royal Highness Prince  
Andrew**

11th July 2002

## DEAR BAHÁ'Í FRIENDS

The National Spiritual Assembly was honoured this morning with a visit to the National Hazíratu'l-Quds by His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, The Duke of York.



*A smiling Duke of York with Barney Leith and Iqan Fadaie (see also Persian language pages).*

This first visit to the Hazíratu'l-Quds by a member of the Royal Family was part of the Royal Family's programme of visits to religious centres and the recognised faith communities in connection with the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen.

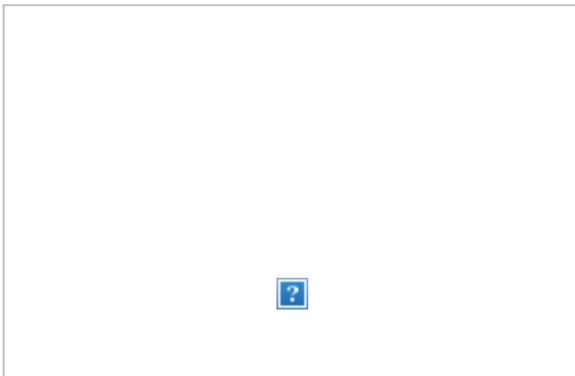
The Duke of York arrived just after 11.15 am and was greeted at the door by the Secretary and the Treasurer of the National Spiritual Assembly, who conducted him upstairs to the Drawing Room. The Secretary gave a brief speech of welcome, in which he referred to the Tablet of Bahá'u'lláh to Queen Victoria, to the rescue of 'Abdu'l-Bahá at the end of the First World War by General Allenby's army and to the range and diversity of the work of the Bahá'í community in the UK and worldwide. He also requested the Duke to convey to Her Majesty the loyal greetings of the National Spiritual Assembly and of the Bahá'í community on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee.

The Duke replied briefly, thanking the Bahá'ís for their welcome, explaining that it was the wish of the Royal Family to visit all the recognised religions during the Golden Jubilee year, and saying that he looked forward to learning more about the Bahá'í Faith from those present. The Secretary then presented the Bahá'ís, who had been invited by the National Assembly to take part, to the Duke. The Duke showed a keen interest in what people had to say and asked quite detailed questions of some. He shook hands with every individual in the room during his brief stay. As time went on he relaxed more and clearly began to enjoy himself, chatting and bantering, sometimes with individuals, sometimes with the whole gathering. There was a lot of laughter and the atmosphere was truly one of joy, appropriate to the occasion and the setting.

As the Duke prepared to leave, the Secretary invited 8 year old Iqan Fadaie, to present a copy of "Visions of A New World Order" by Brenton Edwards to the Duke. The flyleaf of the book had been inscribed by a professional calligrapher with the words: "Presented to His Royal Highness The Duke of York on the occasion of his visit to the National Bahá'í Centre, Thursday 11th July 2002. With the loyal greetings of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís and the Bahá'í community of the United Kingdom."

The Duke thanked all those present for being there and said how much he had enjoyed his visit. He referred to the Faith as a "recognised religion" and commented on the importance of interfaith dialogue and tolerance.

Before he left the Hazíratu'l-Quds he signed the visitors' book, a page of which had been inscribed by the same calligrapher with the words: "On the occasion of the visit of His Royal Highness The Duke of York to the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís, Thursday 11th July 2002."



Hazratu'l-Quds, Thursday 11th July 2002, to mark the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen." The other guests also signed the visitors' book.

The Duke left to travel to his next engagement at approximately 11.50 am.

*Iqan Fadaie presents a copy of "Visions of A New World Order" to the Duke*

The National Hazratu'l-Quds had been prepared to the very highest standard of cleanliness for the visit and very beautiful flower arrangements were provided by the National Assembly's Persian Committee (Lajneh Melli Khedmat va Olfat). The Drawing Room looked very elegant and the whole setting was entirely appropriate for the occasion.

With loving Bahá'í greetings National Spiritual Assembly

### **United Kingdom community represented at Golden Jubilee**

5th June, 2002

DEAR BAHÁ'Í FRIENDS,

Yesterday the Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly represented the Bahá'í community of the United Kingdom at the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on the Occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen at St Paul's Cathedral.

The occasion was hugely impressive, with wonderful music and colourful ceremonial. The representatives of the World Faiths were given some of the best seats, positioned under the Dome so that they could see the Queen and Prince Philip and the other members of the Royal Family.

The representatives of the World Faiths formed the first procession of the service, moving out from the Minor Canon's Aisle at 10.30, along the South Aisle to the Great West Door and then processing the whole length of the cathedral nave to reach their seats, in the same row as the Speaker of the House of Commons.

The service brought together the full panoply of State: Monarch, armed forces, Church, Parliament and the Law. Because St Paul's Cathedral is situated in the City of London, where the Lord Mayor takes precedence, by tradition the Lord Mayor must formally acknowledge the precedence of the Sovereign on these occasions.

Every element of an occasion like this is steeped in history and tradition and one could not help but be mindful of the many strands and events that made this particular day and this particular service possible: the Great Fire of London, the building of new St Paul's, the development of Constitutional Monarchy, the growth of an empire that evolved into a Commonwealth of Nations that brings together in a kind of family the peoples of 50 countries all over the world.

One could also not help but reflect upon the chain of events in Bahá'í history that led to the representation of the Cause at this most great of great State occasions. From Máh-Kú and Chihriq, from Tabríz and the Siyáh-Chál, from Baghdád and Edirne and the Most Great Prison, to this celebration of the Golden Jubilee of a monarch whose great great grandmother was addressed in a Tablet from the King of Kings, "O Queen in London!"

Letter from the office of the Duke of York

Dear Mr Leith,

The Duke of York has asked me to thank you for receiving him at Rutland Gate and for giving him the opportunity to meet a few members of the Bahá'í community. In this Jubilee Year, His Royal Highness was glad that members of your community could not only attend the Service at St Paul's Cathedral and the multi-faith reception at Buckingham Palace, but also host this morning's event as well.

The book was a kind gift and it, together with memories of the conversations His Royal Highness had, will serve as a lasting memento of his visit.

The Duke of York has asked me to send his good wishes.

With loving Bahá'í greetings

National Spiritual Assembly

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## **Standardised Medical Form for Organisers**

AS A RESULT of requests the National Spiritual Assembly is making available a standardised Medical Form for organisers of events to note the illnesses of any young people taking part and be authorised to administer appropriate medical treatment.

Organisers of events where children and young people are taking part are asked to use this form, and to ensure it is returned to the appropriate place afterwards.

The form is available as a master copy (which can be printed out or photocopied) from the National Spiritual Assembly – hard copy from the National Office, electronic format (RTF or PDF – please specify which, RTF will often print out better) from [resources@bahai.org.uk](mailto:resources@bahai.org.uk).

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## **Designs for the Mother Temple of South America**

18th June, 2002

DEARLY LOVED FRIENDS,

Acting under the instruction of the Universal House of Justice, the National Spiritual Assembly of Chile has sent a call for designs for the Mother Temple of South America to all National Assemblies in the world.

Further information about this historic opportunity to design the last remaining continental House of Worship to be constructed in the Bahá'í world is available from the National Office or by sending an email to [resources@bahai.org.uk](mailto:resources@bahai.org.uk).

Please note that the closing date for receipt of submissions is November 30, 2002.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

National Spiritual Assembly

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## **Annual Report 2001/2**

13th June, 2002

DEARLY LOVED FRIENDS,

The Annual Report of the National Spiritual Assembly for 2001/2002 and the Report on National Convention 2002 are now available in hard copy form from the National Office and electronically at [resources@bahai.org.uk](mailto:resources@bahai.org.uk).

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