

# BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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to the United Nations  
Dr. Victor de Araujo  
Alternate Representative  
Mr. Gerald Knight

2 February 1984

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 27 January 1984, in which you raise various queries in connection with two items of anti-Bahá'í literature currently being disseminated on campuses by the Muslim Students' Organization.

The first document you mention, entitled "Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran: A review of the facts", made its first appearance when members of the Iranian delegation to the United Nations distributed it to representatives to the Third Committee of the 37th General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters on 23 November 1982. The Bahá'í International Community immediately prepared and circulated to representatives to the Third Committee a written rebuttal of the false allegations contained in the Iranian document. A few days later, on 30 November 1982, a slightly amended version of the rebuttal statement, together with relevant excerpts from the Iranian document, was mailed to all Ambassadors to the United Nations. A copy of the 30 November document, with its attachment, is enclosed for your information.

For the answers to your queries concerning the Bahá'ís (or alleged Bahá'ís) who are identified as having held high office under the Shah, please see pages 4 and 5 of the rebuttal statement.

With regard to the five men listed on page 31 of the Iranian document, all are (or were) Bahá'ís. For details of their fate, please see pages 6 and 7 of the rebuttal statement. There are no grounds whatsoever for believing that those who were released from jail won their freedom by recanting their faith. It has long been the policy of the Iranian authorities to sow doubt and uncertainty among the members of the Bahá'í community by carrying out arbitrary arrests of Bahá'ís and by ordering equally arbitrary releases of some Bahá'í prisoners. Frequently, those released are subsequently re-arrested.

The second document you mention - the booklet entitled "Bahaism: Its origins and its role" - made its first appearance in a United Nations forum on 19 August 1983, when representatives of the Government of Iran circulated it to the members of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its 36th session in Geneva.

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The Bahá'í International Community was already aware of the existence of this document and had prepared a written rebuttal, which was immediately circulated to the members of the Sub-Commission. Copies of the Iranian booklet and of our commentary upon it are enclosed for your information.

Once again, the answers to your questions concerning Bahá'ís, or alleged Bahá'ís, named in the Iranian document are to be found in the Bahá'í International Community's rebuttal - see pages 6 and 7.

We are grateful to you for sending us your first-hand report of the anti-Bahá'í activities being carried out on American campuses by the Muslim Students' Organization. Since we believe that the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States would also be interested in this information, we are sending to the National Assembly a copy of your letter, and of our reply.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

*Margaret N. Knight*

Margaret N. Knight  
Alternate Representative for Human Rights

Encs: 4

cc: National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States

Iranian document "Baháism - its origins  
and its role"  
together with Bahá'í International Community  
Commentary on that document

["Baháism its origins and its role" and the 9 page commentary by the Baha'i International Community where published together in August 1983 by the Baha'i International Community]

# **Bahaism**

**its origins and its role**

# In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

## Introduction: Motive of Publication

Since the early days of establishment of Islamic Republic system in the State of Iran, conspiracies have been under way by the superpowers, especially the Great Satan "America", to break up the people's resistance and to overthrow the system. So far, over *700 instances of domestic and foreign plots* have been uncovered and neutralized by the alert people and the responsible organs. Extensive propaganda by the enemy through imperialistic media and Zionist news agencies, which have spread their sinister domination over more than 85% of the world's propaganda activities, has been a basic pillar of such conspiracies. Aggrandizing the Bahai issue in Iran, falsifying facts and utilizing such methods as tools to *overwhelm public opinion* and to scar the holy countenance of the Islamic Revolution hold a special place in the chain link of the consecutive conspiracies by the enemies of this divine movement. In particular, in the wake of the enemies' past scandalous defeats in their plots to overthrow the government and to inflict destruction, the above issue has been valued more than ever before, and the affiliated press in different countries, especially European countries and the affiliated international associations, such as those for defence of Human Rights as well as those for defence of minorities and .... are busy day and night publishing articles and raising untruthful issues in connection with "the Iranian Bahais".

Although the policy adopted by the authorities of the Islamic Republic in the face of the propaganda wave is not to involve themselves in a propaganda war or neglect their noble objectives of stabilizing the system and to renovate the ruins, and on the other hand, the affiliation of this sect to imperialism is so clear and apparent and the Bahai issue is so negligible and unimportant that it does not call for much force, nevertheless, since the false rumours spread by the imperialist mouth-piece, together with the crocodile tears shed by pretentious western individuals and organizations for groups such as the Bahais and the terrorists and ... might cause some unaware people to be affected by them, we decided to state the facts and uncover the baselessness of the enemies' unfair propaganda by preparing this booklet including the history and records of this stray faith and their destructive activities together with the relevant documents thereof.

It should be noted that in this "summary" we have not meant to attempt an overall historical and social analysis of the development of this faith, to find the roots of the causes thereof or to document the whole activities of this treacherous political party because a sufficient number of books have been written on this subject, and the existence of assemblies of the followers of this sect in various European countries and their connection with international Zionism is so clear and vivid that it obviates the need for any further explanation. Rather, our effort has been directed at mentioning their affiliation since the beginning, with due observance of the principle of "sampling", as well as proving the rightfulness of the Islamic Republic authorities' manner of confronting this imperialistic development and divulging the hostile propaganda by the Bahais' Zionist allies, by citing and referring to ample documents in this respect.

## History and Nature of Bahaim

With the advent of neocolonialism and the introduction of imperialists to remote countries, a flood of researchers from imperialistic governments, particularly Britain and

the Czarist Russia, began pouring into Islamic countries and, under various pretexts, primarily set to learning the different dimensions of the culture of the Islamic nations and peoples. Mr. Hemfer (founder of Wahabism and the instigator of Mohammad Ben Abdul-Wahab), in his memoirs, says: "The British Foreign Minister told me that about 5000 spies and experts on cultural issues had been deployed in the remotest parts of the world to obtain sufficient intelligence on nations and their customs and traditions" (from the Memoirs of Mr. Hemfer). On the other hand, the Ottoman Empire which was gradually being weakened, had turned into a field of rivalries between the British and the Russians, each trying to pave the way for its own future domination by penetrating intellectual, political and social groups.

One of the best known conspiracies by the imperialists in this connection was this same issue of "religion making, sectarianism and creating gaps in the Moslem ranks", just as the history of coming into existence of many of the present beliefs, concepts and parties in the Islamic countries go back to those days (such as Zionism in the Middle East, Babism, Bahatism and Kasravism in Iran, etc.).

Bahatism was a rather successful experience by imperialism and the enemies of Islam, although it did not prove much benefit to its original promoter, Russia. Since its genesis, however, it has acted as a political party, opposed to Islam, disuniting people and paving the way for the superpowers' penetration into Islamic countries, especially Iran. Here, we shall endeavour to describe the background which caused the Russian government to exploit it to create a new faith called Bahatism.

Following the death in 1825 of Sheikh Ahmad Ehsaei who had managed to launch a new school of thought, called Sheikhia, in Iraq's Shia teaching centres during the tumultuous atmosphere of the time between the Osoolis (those believing in rational principles to understand the rules of scripture) and the Akhbaris (those who believed in traditional narratives without applying intellect or rational principles), the ground-work had been laid by Sheikh Ahmad Ehsaei for misuse by imposters by virtue of omitting two precepts, namely "resurrection" and "justice", from the religious precepts and their replacement by a fourth precept called "the fourth pillar" (belief in the existence of a deputy and direct link between the Imam and the people during the Imam's absence). Following his death, his disciple, Seyed Kazem Rashti, attempted to propagate his ideas, thereby gradually increasing the gap between the mullahs of the new sect and those of Shi'ism. Seyed Kazem Rashti, who, according to many historians and history books, was not from Rasht but from Vladivostok in Russia and was a political agent of the Russian government, had in his class a young man from Shiraz, named "Mirza Ali Mohammad".

After Seyed Kazem's death, Ali Mohammad Shirazi claimed deputyship and attracted some people around himself in Iraq. Among his disciples, there was a man by the name of Sheikh Issa Lankarani whose real name, according to his own confessions and the documents published by Czarist Russia, was Kiniaz Dolgorouki who, in the beginning, during the rule of Fat'h Ali Shah, had been an employee and a translator of the Russian Embassy in Tehran. He had then gone to Russia and, upon his return to Guilan, had introduced himself as a Moslem by the name of Issa Lankarani. Wearing the clergy attire, he went to Iraq on an intelligence mission for his government to gather intelligence about the above-mentioned circumstances in the Iraqi religious teaching centres. There he attended the classes taught by Ali Mohammad Shirazi who claimed to be the deputy of the absent Imam Mahdi. This same person (by the fictitious name of Sheikh Issa) was later sent to Tehran as the Russian ambassador, at which time he supported the Bahai movement in Iran and, according to admissions by Bahais, was the cause of Baha's release from prison.

Ali Mohammad Shirazi's psychological disorder, his strong ambitions for leadership, continual instigations by Sheikh Issa (Dolgorouki), and the susceptible circumstances created by Seyed Kazem Rashti all united to induce Ali Mohammad to proclaim himself the justice-administering world saviour by pretending to be the "Promised Mahdi of Islam", and thereby attract the wretched and oppressed people to his beguiling mirage, which caused three civil wars in three sensitive regions of our country and shed much blood.

In his confessions in this respect, Mr Dolgorouki has written: "... I gradually approached him and became one of his closest friends. I invited him to my house several times, where I mixed his water-pipe tobacco with Indian hemp juice and hashish. During his ecstatic moods I encouraged him to stand up against the Shia mullahs and to claim superiority."

Such circumstances gave rise to Ali Mohammad's claim of Mahdism and even prophecy and divinity and so a new sect called "Babism" (which later changed to Bahatism by Hossein Ali Mirza's claim) was created by Ali Mohammad Shirazi and, in fact, under the leadership of the Russian spy. Ali Mohammad Bab's propagation of superstitious and sacreligious ideas sent him to prison. However he was released from prison by Manouchehr Khan Motamedodoleh, the governor of Isfahan who was born an Armenian and was from Georgia in Russia and, with the Russian Government's help, had penetrated the Qajar establishment as an enemy and had a deep dislike for Isfahan's Shia mullahs. Manouchehr Khan brought Bab to Isfahan and provided him with propaganda facilities. As stated in "Summarized History" by Nabil Zarandi, "Manouchehr Khan himself endeavoured hard to spread the faith". Dolgorouki has written in his book: "As soon as I received information that Bab had arrived in Isfahan, I wrote a friendly letter to Isfahan Governor Motamedodoleh, asking him to protect him as my good, respected friend."

As is evident, the agents of Czarist Russian government spared no effort to protect him and to spread the new faith. Even when, under pressure from Iranian mullahs and the people of Isfahan, the then Prime Minister, Mirza Aghasi, in a letter to the governor of Isfahan, ordered him to arrest and exile Bab to Maku, Manouchehr Khan refused to enforce the order. "Sayyah's Personal Memoirs", a book written by Abass Afandi (the third Bahai leader), states on page 16: "... [Manouchehr Khan] sent him out of Isfahan with a group of his riders. When they reached Mourchehkhort, they were secretly ordered to return to Isfahan, where he securely sheltered him in his own house."

This fact was divulged after Manouchehr Khan's death, when Bab was exiled to Maku. After some time he was imprisoned in the Chehrig Castle, and finally in 1850, he was hanged in Tabriz after trial. Although Bab expressly repented twice, his real instigators, the Russian agents, did not allow the disturbance to die down and, even to his death, encouraged him to make baseless claims of disuniting effect.

During Ali Mohammad Shirazi's imprisonment, unpleasant events took place at the hands of Babism in Zanjan, Ghazvin and Mazandaran at foreign instigation and by the makings of people such as Mirza Hossein Ali (a pleasure-seeking Iranian who took over the leadership of this new religion, claimed Babism and later claimed to be Bahaollah and even God) as well as a prostitute by the name of Qaralein. History is ashamed to relate such events. The blood of hundreds of innocent men, women and children was spilled. The political disorder at the time, the Shah's chronic illness, repercussions of the instability of his reign, the Qajar family's quarrels over the throne, the existence of ignorant and oppressive governors and incompetent clergy, prevalence of religious gains, the uprising by the Afghan people, British support for separation of the Afghani region, dispersion of Iran's 60 thousand man army as a result of British threats,

expansion of the influence exercised by the Russian, British and French embassies in Iran, and riots by the people of Khorassan against the ruling prince created such an atmosphere that enabled the Babis to strengthen themselves and thereby give rise to the bloody events at Sheikh Tabassi Castle as well as the tragic events in Tabriz and Zanjan. Amir Kabir who sensed British and Russian imperialism to be behind such events, decided to crush them. However, in the wake of his death, foreign embassies proceeded with their schemes until 8 Shawal 1268 (August 1852) when the Babis tried in vain to assassinate Nassereddin Shah. Following this attempt, Hossein Ali Mirza was arrested, convicted and sentenced to death. However, he was released from prison at the Russian ambassador's support and mediation and was saved from certain death at the recommendation of Emperor Nicolaevevitch Alexander II<sup>(1)</sup>, whereupon he was exiled to Iraq with the remnants of the Babis. During their ten years in Baghdad, they continued with their sedition, causing disunity and diversity among the Moslem community as well as committing crimes, most of which are recorded in history books. They were finally summoned to Constantinople by the Ottoman Government. The fact is that the Ottoman government initially sought to use them as a means to weaken the Iranian Government. But, as soon as it found out about their secret connections with the Russian and British embassies in Turkey, it put a stop to their activities, and finally, under pressure from the people who had grown impatient with their atrocities, it divided them into two groups, one of which, called Babia, headed by "Sobhe Azal", was exiled to Cyprus, and the other group, headed by Mirza Hossein Ali, was exiled to Akka in Palestine. The Babia group in Cyprus abandoned its activities and is now almost extinct. But Mirza Hossein Ali in Palestine, with the help of the British government, who were at war with the Ottoman government, as well as Abass Afandi's activities and his trips to Europe and America and the support he received from the Zionists who contemplated to set up a government and to occupy Palestine, was able to set up an organization in Palestine, modelled on European political parties, at a site called "Beitol Adl" (House of Justice) in Haifa. This same establishment gradually became an authority for taking decisions on Bahai activities in all countries, and was turned into a fundamental pillar for establishment and entrenchment of the regime occupying Qods (Jerusalem). Following Mirza Hossein Ali's death, Abass Afandi and Shoghi Afandi respectively took over the leadership of the affiliated party.

## **Bahatism was incepted by, and has always been a tool of, imperialism**

As was stated above, this sect was originally created to serve the objectives of the Czarist Russian government. According to Dolgorouki's admission, the original impetus behind Ali Mohammad Shirazi's fabricated claims, was his (Dolgorouki's) very person who, in the clerical attire and with the fictitious name of "Sheikh Issa", carried out his mission to make religion. Seyed Kazem Rashti, who was Ali Mohammad's teacher, was also a Russian agent. All through the course of events which have taken place since the creation of this sect, footmarks of the imperialist governments and the Russian and British embassies in Iran, Iraq Turkey and Palestine are clearly in evidence. By relying on credible history books and particularly those of the Bahais themselves, some instances of such facts are mentioned hereunder:

1. Spread of Bahatism in Iran by the Russian agent penetrating the Qajar establishment, Mr. Manouchehr Khan, governor of Isfahan, which was mentioned in the previous section.

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<sup>(1)</sup> "God Passes By" by Shoghi Rabbani, vol. 2, pp. 41-50. attached hereto under Exhibit No. 1



2. Imperialist support for Bahai rioters in Iran:

- (a) Abbot, the British government envoy who passed through Zanjan at the time of the Bahai riots, has written in his memoirs:

*"...Mullah Mohammad Ali, leader of the fanatic group of the Zanjan Babis, told his followers: 'Do not be afraid to fight,' and he assured them that the Russian government would come to their aid."*

- (b) Not only the British envoy but also the Bahai officials have spoken of the relationship with pride. The author of "Old History" (Nogatolkaf), a Bahai history book printed in London, on page 23, mentioning Abbot's statement, writes:

*"...His Excellency Hojat (Mullah Mohammad Ali Zanjani) was disappointed with Amir [Kabir].... He therefore wrote some letters to ministers of foreign governments, telling them about himself. So they interceded for him with Amir who did not accept the intercession.... I heard that one of the faults that the Russian monarch had taken with Amir, which had caused his dismissal, was the murder of the oppressed dynasty. Anyway, after that the Russian and Roman envoys came to see His Excellency Hojat..."*

- (c) In this connection (the Zanjan incidence) the British Ambassador has written:

*"Mullah Mohammad Ali (leader of the Zanjan Bahais), the outstanding clergyman from Zanjan, sent me a letter begging me to put in a good word for him with the government."*

*(Documents published by the British Foreign Ministry, Shill to Palmerstone, July 22, 1850, Britain 60/152)*

- (d) Shill (the British ambassador), responding to Mullah Mohammad Ali's plea, in a letter to Amir Kabir to prevent execution of the Bahai leaders involved in the Zanjan disturbance, wrote:

*"...Babia's riots have caused many deaths including that of many rioters. With the intellectuality I know you possess, it would not be justifiable to execute these few or to exercise any prejudice against the belief of any sect."*

*(Britain 60/159 - Shill to Palmerstone, March 14, 1851).*

*As is evident, not only do imperialist Britain and its allies show token support for terrorists and cry crocodile tears for their execution today, but in the past, they used to show off such sympathies and, by mediation and writing letters, tried to protect their fostered clients when they became captive to the people's wrath, and that for such persons, the mention of an example of whose countless atrocities represents their characters.*

*"...They expelled one third of the people of the town (Zanjan) who continued to adhere to the Shia religion (believing in the 12 Imams) and disagreed with the Babis in that respect. After their departure, the Babis plundered their homes and shops and took away all their utensils, provisions, food and drinks and pillaged the Zanjan bazaar, then burned it and destroyed the houses and..."*

*(Rozalsafa, Reza Gholi Khan Hedayat, vol. 10, p.449)*

Page 66 of "The Babi Calamity" by Etezzad-o-Saltaneh, second edition reads as under:

*"...Mulla Mohammad Ali ordered a fire made, in which they put a few metal pieces until they were red hot and then placed them on his (one of the army leaders) body and tore up his flesh by scissors. He then had his body burned."*

3. The Czarist government not only supported the Bahais within the Iranian territory, but also provided them with full facilities, within its own territory, to print and publish their false, baseless news. The Bahai centre in Eshghabad, Russian Turkamanestan, was called Mashregh-ol-Azkar, and was visited by Hossein Ali Baha. However, after the Bolsheviks and Communists came to power in Russia, and the Bahais rolled into the British trap, they became subjected to the Russians' anger, and their centre in Eshghabad was closed.

The Czarist Russian ambassador's views on the Bahais was reported to Moscow as under:

*"It is indeed good that the Babi sect has started a hard campaign in opposition to the Moslem leaders and has accused them of deviation and ..."*

#### 4. Baha's release by Russian agents

- A. Part of "A Brief History of Nabil Zarandi" (by Shoghi Afandi) reads: "... The Russian ambassador refused to surrender His Holiness Bahollah to the Shah's agent, told His Holiness to go to the Prime Minister's home, and wrote a letter to the Prime Minister saying: 'You should receive His Holiness on my behalf and you must make every effort to protect this token of trust. Should any harm come to His Holiness Bahaollah, you will be personally responsible to the Russian Embassy'."
- B. Mirza Hossein Ali Baha's daughter wrote to Blanford about the role played by the Russian embassy to release her father, as verified by Abass Afandi and the Bahai community in London: "... The Russian Consul rose without the slightest fear and, addressing the members of Baha's court of trial, said: '... I have decided to bring this innocent nobleman (Baha) under the Russian Government's protection. So, beware! If any harm should befall him, streams of blood will run in this city in your punishment... Know that my sovereign government supports me in this issue.'"; Blanford, p.240.
- C. In this connection, Shoghi Afandi writes in "God Passes By", p. 41: "... Having learned of the royal order (to execute Baha) and the purport thereof, the Russian ambassador requested His Holiness to give permission to his sovereign government to facilitate His Holiness' travel to Russia... Some years later, in a writing by His Holiness to honour Emperor Nickoleevitch Alexander II of Russia, His Holiness appreciated the gesture by the ambassador, saying: '... When I was in prison in chains, one of Your Majesty's ambassadors came to my aid. In recognition of this service, God has given you a high office'."
- D. Bahai historian Abdul-Hossein Avareh writes on page 169 of "Kavakeb-ol-Darieh Fi Ma'asser-ol-Bahaieh": "When he (Baha) was in Darjaz, a village in Mazandaran, the Russian servants and guards, who had found a befitting devotion towards His Holiness, decided to sieze His Holiness from the Iranian agents or to facilitate his escape to Russia, but His Holiness refused and... and then news of Mohammad

Shah's death was received, and the Russian admiral rejoiced and brought about Bahaollah's release. On this trip he was accompanied by Seyed Basir Hindi."

- E. Describing Ali-Mohammad Shirazi's execution, Abass Afandi writes on page 49 of "*Maghaleh Shakhsi Sayyah*": "... On the second day the Russian Consul came and photographed the two bodies as they lay next to the pit."

We can see that the Russian Government even used Bab's body and photographed it for its objective of instigating the Bahais.

#### **5. Foreign Governments continued to support Bahais in Iraq and Turkey**

- A. On page 125, volume II of *God Passes By*, Shoghi Afandi writes "Colonel Sir Arnold Burroughs Cambell, the then British Consul-General in Baghdad, having felt the magnanimity of His Holiness Bahaollah, wrote a friendly letter to His Holiness and ... proposed to him his sovereign government's acceptance to support His Holiness. In audience in His Holiness' presence, he committed himself to transmit any message that His Holiness might want to send to Queen Victoria. He even went as far as to say that he was prepared to arrange to settle him in India (British colony) or any other place His Holiness might wish..."
- B. Page 27, vol. II of *God Passes By* reads: "Such issues as well as the respect extended towards His Holiness (Baha) by the foreign consuls residing in Turkey, made the Ottoman Government determined to adopt a suppressive policy."
- C. "... The French Deputy Consul, who had been acquainted with His Holiness Bahaollah, secretly went to see him and held a private meeting for half an hour or less so that the agents would not find out about his intentions..." – *Kavakeb-al-Darieh*, p. 381.

#### **6. Sincere Co-operation between the Bahais in Palestine with Britain**

Following his arrival in Palestine, owing to the strict control exercised by the Ottoman rulers and the absence of communications with the Russian and British embassies, Hossein Ali Baha wrote Nassereddin Shah a letter full of flattery expressing repentance at his past belief and confessing to criminal acts.

At the outset of World War I, the leadership of Bahaimism was in the hands of Abbas Afandi, the elder son of Baha. This man pretended to be a Muslim and attended congregational prayers of the Muslims in spite of the apparent prohibition by the Bahai faith <sup>(2)</sup>.

However, as soon as the British imperialists scored victories in the war with the Ottomans which drew Palestine into the conflict, the Bahais acted as a powerful espionage group in support of the British government and against the Moslems and the Ottoman government.

Afandi went so far that Jamal Pasha, commander of the Ottoman forces, decided to hang him on the slopes of Mount Carmel <sup>(3)</sup>.

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<sup>(2)</sup> "God Passes By" by Shoghi Rabbani, vol. 3, p.318 (Exhibit No. 2)

<sup>(3)</sup> "God Passes By" by Shoghi Rabbani, vol. 3, pp. 297-298 attached hereto under Exhibit No. 3

Soghi Afandi clearly states on page 291, vol. III of *God Passes By*: "Jamal Pasha, commander of the Ottoman forces, decided to execute Abbas Afandi on charges of espionage."

As soon as the British cabinet received news of this through the British Army Intelligence, Lord Curzon and Lord Lamington began taking measures, and Lord Balfore, the British Foreign Minister (promotor of the Zionist Government) immediately cabled General Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine, ordering him to use all his powers to protect Abbas Afandi, his family and his friends. General Allenby accordingly ordered the commander of the Haifa front to take the necessary measures to protect the leader of the Bahais. After conquering Haifa and saving Abbas Afandi from Jamal Pasha, General Allenby transmitted a cable to London and reported the safety and health of His Holiness Afandi to the officials.<sup>(4)</sup>

When the aggressive British forces triumphantly marched into Palestine, they encountered some problems in respect of provisions in Palestine. But their Bahai friends had already prepared for such an event. Abbas Afandi hurried to their welcome, and placed at the disposal of the alien army large stores of provisions which he had prepared and hidden away.<sup>(5)</sup>

It is clear that at that time, the entire Palestine as well as the entire Ottoman territories were stricken with famine resulting from the war, and masses of people died of hunger and poverty everyday, but this unpatriotic spy had stealthily hoarded the wheat produce of these wretched people's land and water to feed the foreign aggressors.

Following the British victory in Palestine, they extended their appreciations to their Bahai spies for their outstanding services. Abdul-Hossein Avareh writes in *Kavakeb-al-Dorieh*, vol. II, p. 305: "... The British commander who conquered Haifa on 22nd July 1918... was assigned by the Emperor of Britain to especially go to meet His Holiness Abdul-Baha upon his arrival, at which time he was given an M.B.E. from the British Emperor." He was also rewarded with large amounts of money and gold as well as a knighthood bearing the title of "Sir" which was bestowed upon this sincere servant of the British Government by Gen. Allenby during an official ceremony.<sup>(6)</sup>

In this connection, Blomfield writes on page 214: "... The British Government honoured Abdul-Baha with a knighthood, which he accepted as a gesture of honouring formality from a just king."

Shoghi Afandi writes on page 299 of *God Passes By*: "After the end of the war and... officials of the British Government, gratified by the valuable services rendered by His Holiness Abdul-Baha during those days, extended their appreciation and respect by bestowing upon him the title of 'knighthood' and presenting him with the special insignia from the Government." His Excellency Afandi, in response, wrote a letter of gratitude, the text of which rightly attests to the foregoing:

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<sup>(4)</sup> "God Passes By" vol. 3, pp. 296-297 (Exhibit No. 3)

<sup>(5)</sup> "The Chosen Highway" by Lady Blomfield, p. 210 (Exhibit No. 4).

<sup>(6)</sup> "God Passes By" by Shoghi Rabbani, a Bahai leader, vol. 3, p. 229 (Exhibit No. 5).

*"O God, the tabernacle of justice has truly been erected on this holy land, and we thank and praise Thee. O God, may Emperor George V, Ruler of Britain, be assisted in his divine achievements, and may his shadow over this realm be everlasting."<sup>(7)</sup>*

Note how this impostrous religious hypocrite had interpreted the aggression of the British forces and the defeat of the Muslims in terms of "erection of the tabernacle of justice", how he thanked and praised God, how he esteemed the British Emperor and how he prayed to God for continuation of the British rule over the Islamic territory of Palestine.

In a speech to the British, Abass Afandi said: "I am pleased with the British people and government... My coming here has been the cause of friendship between Iran and Britain which will produce a relationship that will reach such a degree that the Iranian people will soon give their lives for Britain." – Collection of Abdul-Baha's Speeches, vol. I, p. 23.

Following a number of trips to America and Europe where he was warmly received by his principals, Abbas Afandi died in 1921. Here again there is evidence of the gratitude expressed by the British Government towards the Bahais and their leader:

The following cable was sent to Haifa by the British Colonial Secretary Winston Churchill:

*"Convey to the Bahai community His Majesty the British King's expression of sympathy and condolences."*

General Congreve, General Sir Arthur Monye and other officials of the British Government, too, communicated similar cables <sup>(8)</sup>, and finally, Sir Herbert Samuel and Sir Ronald Storrs attended his funeral on behalf of the British Government. <sup>(9)</sup>

Page 508 of *Kavakeb-ol-Dorieh* reads: "... At this time, the crowd approached the body of the high clergy (Abdul-Baha), led by Sir Hebert Samuel, the British High Commissioner in Palestine, who was called Mandoob Sami, accompanied by his entourage who had come especially to attend the funeral."

Such were some scenes of the remote past. Now, after the lapse of long years, there are clear evidences, which indicate Bahatism, its leaders and its followers are totally at the service of international Zionism and western imperialism. Some such evidences are cited below:

## **7. The Bahai Role in Setting up the Qods-Occupying Regime (Israel)**

At about the same time as implementation of the Zionists' sinister plans for Jewish migration to Jerusalem, the Bahais co-operated in every way to exert pressure on the Arabs. Shoghi Afandi, the fourth Bahai leader, wrote a cable reading: "The relative number of people in that community (British Bahais), who have migrated, has been

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<sup>(7)</sup> "Makatib" (Letters) by Abass Afandi, vol.3, p.347 (Exhibit No. 6)

<sup>(8)</sup> "God Passes By", vol. 3, pp. 321-323 (Exhibit No. 7)

<sup>(9)</sup> "God Passes By", vol. 3, pp. 325-326 (Exhibit No. 8)

unprecedented in any other community. The British Bahai community has performed its historic mission very well." (Akhbar Amri magazine, news letter of the Iranian Bahai community, dated July 26, 1950).

At a time when the Zionists were pressuring the United Nations to give official status to their usurpant government, Mr. Shoghi Afandi, in a letter to the United Nations on behalf of the Palestinians, which was published in the Akhbar Amri magazine No. 7, has not in any way defended the rights of the people of that occupied territory, but has emphasized his sincere relationships with the Jews and the necessity thereof and has supported their plans for occupation.

The Bahai establishment is today centered in Israel, in the city of Haifa, near the grave of Abbas Afandi. Its leadership is entrusted to nine persons, mostly American and European, of whom one American woman, Roohieh Maxwell, is the spiritual leader. There are, in Israel, branches of every Bahai organization and interest anywhere in the world, which are controlled by the nine-member body or so-called "House of Justice".

#### **8. Following the formation of the Zionist government, Bahaism has been the executor of the Zionist aims throughout the world:**

Ever since the United Nations granted official status to the Israeli government, Bahaism and Zionism, which are both offsprings of colonialism, came to each other's aid like two dear brothers. Since then, Bahaism has been a centre at the disposal of the Zionists, and their assemblies throughout the world have carried out the orders received from occupied Palestine:

Akhbar Amri magazine (the Bahai organ) dated April 1, 1954 reads:

*"The Israeli president and his wife Mrs. Ben Zoy paid a scheduled visit to the holy sites of Mount Carmel, following the reception given in their honour at the home of His Holiness Abdul-Baha."*

The edition dated June 24, 1954 of the same magazine reads: *"The [Israeli] Government's relations with His Holiness Vali Amrollah and the International Bahai Delegation is friendly and sincere. It is a pleasure that successes have been achieved in recognition of the faith in the holy land."*

Many years ago, the following statement appeared in the official Bahai publication in Iran: *"We are very proud and pleased to announce to the Bahais the expansion and development of relations between Bahaism and the officials of the Israeli Government."*<sup>(10)</sup>

At about the same time, the Bahai representatives had meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Ben Gurion, at which they expressed their gratitude and appreciation towards the Israeli Government, as well as the Bahais' sincere feelings and emotions towards him, wishing for the primacy and progress of the Israeli Government. <sup>(11)</sup> Ben Gurion had said: *"I hope the Bahai World Centre in the State of Israel will always prove to be increasingly effective in the country's progress and eminence and in the people's*

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<sup>(10)</sup> "Akhbar Amri" Magazine, official publication of the Iranian National Bahai Society, No. 5, 1330 A.H. (1951-52), p.8

<sup>(11)</sup> "Akhbar Amri" Magazine, No. 5, pp. 14-15 (Exhibit No.10)

*prosperity. Since the inception of the State of Israel, the Bahais have always had sincere relations with the Israeli Government".* <sup>(12)</sup>

Dr. Latifollah Hakim, a member of the International Bahai Delegation in Israel, in a letter to the Iranian Bahai community, wrote: *"These days the Israeli papers, whether in Hebrew, Arabic or English, publish detailed articles on the Bahai religion and His Holiness."*

Other recurrent contacts between Israeli and Bahai officials, such as the former Israeli President Zalman Shazar's visit to the Bahai centres on April 7, 1964 and the exchange of extremely sincere compliments between them, are themselves indications of strong relations and intense cooperation between the Bahais and the regime occupying Jerusalem.<sup>(13)</sup>

Cooperation between these two anti-Islamic groups is also witnessed in practice. Bahaism is legal and officially recognized in Israel. All its landed properties and endowments are exempt from government taxation and duties. Even the imports required by Bahais enjoy exemption from customs duties. Publication of Bahai news in the Israeli newspapers and their broadcast on Radio Israel are authorized. Radio Israel sometimes even congratulates the Bahais on the occasion of their festivities. The Israeli Ministry of Education relieves the Bahai students from attending school on their holidays <sup>(15)</sup> and thousands of clandestine and unknown relationships that remain secret to us.

The Bahais' co-operation with the newly-arrived Zionists was so apparent that Gamal Abdul-Nasser ordered the removal of all Bahai communities in Egypt. The "Bureau for Boycott of Israel", organized by the Islamic countries, subjected the Bahais to the boycott for co-operating with Israel.

As the final example and document, mention is made of Mrs. Roohieh Maxwell's press conference, in which she said: "I prefer to have the youngest religion, Bahaism, germinate in the newest country of the world, Israel. We belong to, and depend on, this country, Israel. Indeed, I should say that ours and Israel's future are interlinked like a chain."<sup>(16)</sup>

It can be said with certainty that:

The fabricated, mock Bahai faith, that has been instrumental in sowing discord and disunion among the Moslem people during its hundred-and-thirty year history, is afforded the same function today. Just as the British Government once wanted Baha, the Bahai leader, to go to India<sup>(17)</sup> or the French Government requested to have Bahai missionaries despatched to North African countries, such as Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, which were then under its colonial rule<sup>(18)</sup>, the western imperialist governments today are endeavouring to use Bahaism as a pretext to forge a propaganda weapon against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, just as factual realities do not remain

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<sup>(12)</sup> "Akhbar Amri" Magazine, Nos. 1 and 2, 1333A.H. (1954/55), p.15 (Exhibit No.11)

<sup>(13)</sup> "Akhbar Amri" Magazine, No. 8 1343 A.H. (1964/65), pp. 405-406 (Exhibit No. 12)

<sup>(14)</sup> "Akhbar Amri", No. 5, pp. 11-15 (Exhibit No. 10)

<sup>(16)</sup> "Akhbar Amri", No. 10, 1340 A.H. (1961/62), p.601 (Exhibit No. 16)

<sup>(17)</sup> "God Passes By", pp. 125-126 (Exhibit No. 14)

<sup>(18)</sup> "Maede Asemani" (Heavenly Feast) by Abbas Afandi, part 9, pp. 43-44 (Exhibit No. 15).

concealed for ever, and manipulation of facts cannot be permanently effective, their conspiracies shall be frustrated and shall prove futile, God willing.

As evidenced by the documents presented in the next section, Bahatism played a part in all the terrible crimes by the sinister Pahlavi Monarchy throughout its reign, and it has strengthened the usurpant regime of Israel with its material and moral support.

Following the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, too, the Bahais acted as agents of Israel and U.S.A. in Iran and took part in conspiracies, the documents of which have been provided by judicial authorities on various occasions.

## **Bahatism is a political party with imperialist affiliations, not a religious or cultural faith**

The Bahais have tried from the beginning to present their faith as independent of politics, to afford it a merely religious and ideological aspect, to consider themselves as advocate of the principle of non-intervention in political affairs and have always placed the above motto at the top of all their plans and writings. Nevertheless, as evidenced by the following arguments and the events throughout the past and present history of this sect, not only have they intervened in politics, but they are also essentially an imperialist-inspired political party.

1. The coming into existence of Bahatism, as detailed in the last two chapters, was a result of the Czarist Russian Government's political and imperialistic objectives, and was founded by Russian spies under the supervision of the Russian Emperor Nicolaevitch Alexander II.
2. Russian, British and Zionist imperialism has always been involved in all the affairs of continuation of the activities of the sect. In Iran, at first, it was a medium for the Czarist government's penetration in the Qajar establishment, thence to oppose constitution, and later to deviate the movement. In Baghdad and Turkey, it was a British-affiliated political affair employed to weaken and bring about the downfall of the Ottoman Empire. Following the establishment of the Zionist government, too, Bahatism has been a tool in the hands of this anti-humane movement, defending their objectives and acting as a major agent in strengthening the Zionists and undermining the Moslems' unity.

The political dimensions of the Bahais' major activities since its inception (which are recorded in history books and documents and on which the existence of this affiliated sect depends) are listed hereunder to clarify its imperialist nature:

- (i) Weakening of the clergy, who had always been like a steel obstacle against imperialism, by spreading disuniting allegations by the Bahai leaders at the start of its coming into existence.
- (ii) Rioting and creation of numerous conflicts and battles in different regions, which were perpetrated by the Bahais, brought about the weakening of the central government and the furthering of the influence of the Russians and the British.
- (iii) The Bahai conspiracies to assassinate Amir Kabir, the Tehran Imam Jum'a (the Friday Prayers Leader of Tehran) as well as Nassereddin Shah in the circumstances of the time were exactly in consistent with the political objectives of the Russian government.



- (iv) The Bahais' seditious acts and blood-sheddings, committed over the ten-year period of Baha's residence in Baghdad had no other objective but to undermine the Ottoman Empire, to provide the grounds for British exploitation and to confront Iran with the Ottomans.
- (v) The totality of the Bahai activities in Turkey comprised:
  - (a) The continuous relationship of their leaders with the British, French and Russian embassies?
  - (b) Agitating the internal and central affairs of the Ottoman Empire which was to the direct benefit of Britain, such that the Ottoman government, citing these same facts, exiled them to Cyprus and Akka.
- (vi) In Palestine, before establishment of the usurping government, the Bahais acted as British spies against the Ottoman Empire. They went so far ahead in their venture that their leader was sentenced to death by the Ottoman Pasha on charges of espionage. However, the British cabinet assigned Lord Curzon and Lord Lamington to save him, and Lord Balfore immediately cabled Gen. Allenby to save him and to protect his life.
- (vii) After the occupation of Palestine, too, the Bahais have concentrated their activities on supporting Israel and strengthening the pillars of this bloodthirsty regime.
- (viii) In Iran, prior to the Islamic Revolution, they always supported, and participated in, the regime's crimes in all political affairs; and after the Revolution, they have always taken active part in all political conspiracies against the Islamic Revolution.

In view of the foregoing arguments, only those who consider Zionism to be an innocent infant free of any political brand and a propagator of heavenly teachings, may contend that Bahatism is an ideological platform and a religion!!

## **The Bahai Culture and Ideological Platform**

Although Bahatism had always been an affiliated political affair, the Russian Government knew very well that under the conditions of the Qajar era and in communities such as Iran and Iraq, where religion had deep roots in the peoples' lives, no imperialist plan would succeed unless with religious appearances. Thus, by taking advantage of the ground-work set by the Sheikhia sect, the Russian agent first claimed to be Imam Zaman's deputy, then called himself Bab and later claimed prophesy and divinity. For this reason, the Bahais' ideological books are filled with contradictions and conflicting contentions. Most interesting of all is that they have sought to put out religious orders which form the most amusing part of the Bahai books. Even more interesting is that, today, the western world, claiming civilization, campaigning against extravagant talk, and accusing the Islamic Republic of fundamentalism, regression, ... has come to the defense of these people. **"Take counsel ye people of insight."**

## **Examples of Beliefs, Claims and Orders By the Twentieth Century God**

Baha's claim to godliness and divine revelation to a friend. On page 179 of Mobin, Mirza Hossein Ali tells Alinaghi: "O, Ali before Naghi (Alinaghi), hear my voice from the

shores of existence in the red mausoleum which is the highest place, that there is no god but I." And in his *Fatehat-ol-Ketab*, he says: "I am a god the like of which is not but I, compassionate and merciful. I am a god the like of which is not but I, the great king. I am a god who created the beings."

Man's dignity as seen by Bahatism:

"Aghnamollah", meaning "God's sheep", is one of the commonest words in Bahai books, signifying that the Bahais consider all human beings, particularly Bahais, as Mirza Hossein Ali's sheep, that is their god's sheep.

This fact is evidenced by the name of the Bahais' community, where they hold their prayers and meetings, which is "Hazira" meaning "stable".

## **The Sanctity of number 19**

Since Bab and his companions numbered 19, the Bahais sanctify this number, so much so that each Bahai year has 19 months of 19 days each. They fast 19 days of the year. Their essential inheritance is 19 sheets of paper and 19 rings. The women's marriage portion, too, is 19 mesqals<sup>1/</sup> of gold or silver.

## **Urban and rural women's marriage portion**

According to the verses descended by the Bahai god, Mirza Hossein Ali, the urban women's marriage portion shall be 19 mesqals of gold and that of the rural women 19 mesqals of silver – Bahaollah's holy book.

## **Burn him alive**

Bahaollah's Holy Book, p. 18, line 5: "Burn alive whomever burns a house intentionally."

## **Nothing to women**

The pertinent section on page 118 of the Holy Book reads: "We ordained that the residential house and clothes (bequeathed by the dead) shall be for male offsprings (men), and nothing (of this property) shall go to women."

## **Strange pronouncement on a point of religious jurisprudence**

The Bahai holy book entitled "Bayan", chapter 16, item 6 reads:

*"If someone is forced to travel, or his house is entered into without his permission, or he is evicted from his house without his consent, his wife will be forbidden to him for a period of 19 months."*

According to chapter 9 of the 4th book of the Farsi version, it shall be incumbent upon all the women to stay all night with the omnipresent (the 18 special companions of Bab) in order to save God's companions from loneliness and misery.

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<sup>1/</sup> 1 mesqal = approx. 5 grams (translator)

## **Political pronouncements:**

1. "As of the sunset on the 4th and the beginning of the eve of the 5th day of Jamadi-ol-Ola of the lunar year 1260 A.H. (26.6.1844) being the beginning of rallying of Babism, anyone who disobeys him (Bab) shall be considered a rebellious pagan, and his blood may be spilled."
2. According to Chapter 4 of the 6th book of "*Ahsan-ol-Ghesas*", in the five regions of Mazandarn, Khorasan, Fars, Azarbaijan and Iraq, no one but the Bahais has the right to reside.

## **Economic Pronouncement:**

"God (Bab) has ordained that men and women adulterers should pay a fine to the House of Justice, the fine comprising 9 mesqals of gold in the first instance (being progressively raised in the subsequent instances)" – p.15, Bayan.

## **Particulars of the Bahai ideology**

The following issues generally make up the basic principles of the Bahai ideology:

1. Lack of belief in the home-land and the country where they live. This issue has provided the premise for any treachery, espionage and betrayal of the home-land by the Bahais.
2. Non-participation in political parties.  
This provides a cover for operations of sabotage.
3. Collaboration with oppressive, instrumental rulers. According to the holy book "*Aqdas*", page 201, no one has the right to object to, or protest against, those who rule the people.  
(This very belief explains their collaboration in the crimes committed by the Zionist regime as well as the sinister Pahlavi regime).
4. Obstinate enmity with Moslems and belief in annihilation of all Moslems throughout the world.
5. Formation of an anti-Islam government of parallel faith in occupied Palestine (Holy Land).

# The Bahai Role in the 50-Year Crimes of the Annihilated Pahlavi Regime

This section demonstrates part of the documents and reports acquired from SAVAK concerning the Bahais' collaboration with the regime. The original documents are respectively provided at the end of this section.

## A. The connection between Bahais and Reza Khan

During the rule of Reza Shah, there did not exist a strong intelligence organization, such that a document on the Bahai connection with the regime might be divulged. However, confessions by a Bahai leader in this respect cleared everything up: According to a SAVAK report, at a meeting of the Nafhatollah Publishing Commission in Shiraz on 31.3.1350 (June 21, 1971), Mr. Massihollah Rohani said: "At the time of Reza Shah and Seyed Nouredin, we were plundered, but Reza Shah, very dismayed about this affair, secretly killed off some Moslems without the Ulema's knowledge. Since he was a real Bahai and always supported the Bahais, the unveiling of women was done in conformity with Bahaollah's rule and logic." (Exhibit No. 17)

## B. The connection between Bahais and the deceased Shah

The major part of the organizations of the Shah's damned rule, particularly SAVAK, was managed by Bahais. As an example, suffice it to look at the following list of names, all of whom were Bahais:

Hoveyda, the Shah's 13-year Prime Minister as well as Minister of the Imperial Court and Minister of Finance;  
Mehri Rasekh, Farah's boon companion;  
Gen. Abdol-Karim Ayadi, the Shah's special physician, who held 23 high-ranking government jobs;  
Gen. Ali Mohammad Khademi;  
Gen. Sani'ee, Minister of War;  
Habib Sabet and Hojabr Yazdani, two major economic supports and two financial arms of the Zionists in Iran;  
Mansoor Rohani, the Shah's minister for 13 years;  
Mrs Farokhrou Parsa, Minister of Education and holder of tens of other jobs;  
Shapour Rasekh, the Shah's sincere advisor;  
Hossein Amanat, the famous capitalist, designer and executor of the Shahyad Monument;  
Parviz Sabeti, Director of Internal Security of the Shah's security police;  
Lili Amir-Arjomand, trainer of the Shah's children.

It is obvious that the Shah's crimes were mostly committed by such influential persons. This fact, which is not a secret to anyone, is well-supported by the Bahais' own admissions as well as by the documents of SAVAK which tried very hard to cover up the Bahais' role in the government. SAVAK's document Ref. 3H/20299 dated 29.8.1357 (Nov. 20, 1978) reads: "... Mr. Ra'oofian (a Bahai leader in Shiraz) has said: 'Mr. Amir Abass Hoveyda, supported by the Universal House of Justice (in Israel) and by Kambala in Africa, governed Iran for 13 years, during which period the Bahai community achieved considerable progress, and influential Bahai persons occupied important positions in Iran and transferred the country's funds abroad.'" (Exhibit No. 18).

SAVAK's document Ref. H/765 dated 20.2.1350 (May 10, 1971) reads: "... In a speech at the Bahai meeting in Dehbid, Mr. Azizollah Bamposian, referring to the Prime Minister's attendance at the Bahai community on the occasion of the Rezvan festivities, spoke of the Government's co-operation with Bahais in provincial towns." (Exhibit No. 19).

SAVAK's document dated 7.3.1347 (May 28, 1968) concerning a speech by Mr. Abass Aqdas at the Bahai Commission reports as follows: "... H.E. Assadollah Alam, Minister of the Royal Court, has been very kind to us, particularly H.E. Amir Abass Hoveyda (a Bahai and of Bahai parentage); may they both be junior headmen of the Bahais." (Exhibit No. 20).

SAVAK's report Ref. H8/10871 dated 20.5.1350 (Aug. 11, 1971): "... Beit-ol-Adl, the House of Justice, has given instructions to the National Assembly in Iran that the Bahais resident in Iran should fully participate in the ceremonies of the 2500 years monarchy and see to it that the Bahais celebrate the occasion with more splendour than the other religious minorities." (Exhibit No. 21).

SAVAK's document Ref. H/19496 dated 7.11.1351 (Jan. 27, 1973) concerning the Bahais' meeting in Col. Shabab's home and the speech by Mr. Ardeshir Master: "The late Col. Shabab was an officer of the security organization (SAVAK). While he served with SAVAK in Shiraz, he helped the Bahais of Shiraz very much (He was the former SAVAK chief in Khorramabad). Then Col. Shabab's father said: 'A few years ago Shahanshah Aryamehr decided to issue instructions for formal recognition of Bahaiism. However, Gamal Abdul-Nasser, the Egyptian President, found an excuse and said that the Shah of Iran had become a Bahai... The Shah of Iran follows the same path as did His Holiness Bahaollah.'" (Exhibit No. 22).

SAVAK's document Ref. H/15272 dated 29.9.1350 (Dec. 20, 1971) reports Mr. Hackaki's speech at the Shiraz Assembly as follows: "... Some people from the Royal Court secretly come to Shiraz to visit the Holy House (the Bahai shrine)" (Exhibit No. 23).

According to a SAVAK document, Iran's Bahai Assembly's notice dated November 13, 1967 reads as follows: "... As it has been already notified to H.E. Sabet, the representative of your Assembly, this Board agrees to present the proposed gift to His Imperial Majesty. Needless to add that you will be advised of the outcome in due course." (Exhibit No. 24).

By the order of the Shah, Alam, the Minister of the Royal Court, presented Mr. Habib Sabet (an Iranian Bahai leader) a Commemoration Medal on the occasion of the celebrations marking the 25th centenary of the founding of the Iranian kingdom.

## **Relations of Bahais and usurping Israel under the protection of the Shah's regime.**

SAVAK's 7th Office General has made the following comments on the relations between Iranian Bahais and Israel: "In view of Israel's recognition in 1972 of the Bahai sect as a religion, it appears that the Israeli government, by demonstrating friendly signs towards the sect, is endeavouring to exploit the Bahai minorities in other countries, especially in Iran, for political, intelligence and economic purposes." (Exhibit No. 25).

Document Ref. 20/1465 dated 10.5.1346 (Aug. 1, 1967):  
"According to information received, over the past month, about Rls. 1,200 million has been collected by the Iranian Bahais who intend to remit this sum ostensibly to the

House of Justice in Haifa, but their real intention in remitting this sum is to aid the Israeli army..." (Exhibit No. 26).

Referring to the Iranian Bahais' aid to Israel, SAVAK's document Ref. V/300/20995 dated 1.11.1348 (Jan. 21, 1970) reads: "... and the Bahai manufacturers now use Israeli parts." (Exhibit No. 27).

The document Ref. H/6063 dated 9.1.1350 (March 29, 1971) reports as follows on Mr. Shadmani's speech at the meeting of the Bahai District 16 in Shiraz: "... America, Israel and our capitalists have penetrated Iran, and their profits are transferred to the charity fund." (Exhibit No. 28).

The speech by Mr. Hossein ....., financial member of the Ministry of Finance and former deputy director of the Gendarmerie Accounting Dept., was reported by SAVAK as under: "Owing to the secret deal to sell Iranian oil to Israel, which was accomplished by the will of Amir-Abass Hoveyda, Israel has given him 140 thousand square metres of land in occupied Palestine." (Exhibit No. 29).

In another commentary on the relations between Israel and the Bahais, SAVAK has said: "... Since only Israel has recognized the Bahai faith and... therefore, [the Bahais] try to extend huge financial assistances to that country in order to aid the Israeli economy." (Exhibit No. 30).

A message by the International Bahai Council concerning good relations with Israel reads: "It is of the utmost pleasure and pride that our godly friends learn of the progress in the construction of the building called "A'la" in Mount Carmel, as well as ... development of relations with the officials of the Israeli government." (Exhibit No. 31).

In a cable, Moshe Dayan thanked Mr. Ali Khademi for the gift he gave him during his visit to Israel.

According to a SAVAK report, at a meeting of the Bahais on 7.3.1347 (May 28, 1968), Mr. Abass Aqdas said: "... The Israeli Government was recognized as the world champion in the 1967 war. The activities and progress of us Bahais is that we have a spy in every office and ministry in Iran. Once every week when the projects prepared by the government [of Mr. Hoveyda] are reported to Shahanshah Aryamehr, reports on the projects reach the Bahai Assemblies. For instance in the contractor group, the Iranian Bahai cadre submit their reports every day to the Bahai holy assembly on the Iranian army, how weapons are imported into Iran and how the parachutists are trained." (Exhibit No. 20).

According to the SAVAK report Ref. H/9864 dated 27.7.1347 (Oct. 19, 1968) on the meeting of the Shiraz Bahai Assembly, Mr. Ahad, one of the attendants at the meeting, instructed the invitees: "Don't deposit your monies in Iranian banks. Transfer them to Israeli and British banks."

### **Examples of the Bahais' sabotage activities:**

SAVAK's document Ref. H/7779 dated 23.4.1347 (July 14, 1968) reads: "... Col. Aqdasieh (the Bahai) said '... When I was in the army, I used to respect the Bahai soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers. But if a Moslem person made a complaint against another, I had him whipped. We are informed that Shahanshah Aryamehr is a Bahai and..." (Exhibit No. 32).

SAVAK's document Ref. H/7596 dated 18.2.1350 (May 8, 1971) reports as follows the statements made by Mr. Loghmani, the Bahai: "... We now have explicit instructions from America and London to promote dressing and building fashions as well as the women's being unveiled, so that Moslems shall take off the veil from their faces. ... In Iran and other Moslem countries, offend the Islamic nations as far as possible by applying fashion and propagation.... Weapons and ammunitions are manufactured by our youths in Israel. These Moslems will finally be annihilated by the Bahais, and the world of His Holiness Bahaollah will be promoted." (Exhibit No. 33)

Quoting a Bahai employee of the National Iranian Oil Company, SAVAK has reported: "... We Bahais avenged the destruction by Moslems a few years ago of the Haziral-Qods in Tehran on the Feizieh School in Qom... We not only avenged the past, but continued the Bahai issue as far as land reforms." (Exhibit No. 34).

The document Ref. H/14409 dated 31.2.1357 (May 21, 1978) reports Mr. Massihollah Rohani's statements as follows: "... We Bahais are originally Iranians, but our intelligence and intellect are attached to the authorities in London and the Universal House of Justice (in Israel). By taking advantage of the situation and through propagation, we make the clergy apprehensive towards the government. With these riots in the country, the nature of the clergy is revealed and is not acceptable to the modern community, as they have proved to the people that the clergy is synonymous with saboteurs and communists." (Exhibit No. 35)

According to SAVAK's document Ref. H/6736 dated 30.2.1347 (May 20, 1968), Mr. Adab, Deputy-Governor of Bank Mellî, speaking at the Bahai Assembly, said: "... As long as I am in Bank Mellî, I shall endeavour to recruit our required personnel from our bretheren. Also, as far as possible, I shall torment and cause the inconvenience for the Moslem employees in respect of salaries, fringe benefits and allowances." (Exhibit No.36).

## **The Bahai Role in the Enemies' Conspiracies before the Triumph of the Islamic Revolution**

The Bahais directly participated in all the Shah's crimes. The Shah's SAVAK, too, was directed by Bahais such as Parviz Sabeti. The Bahais did not give up their conspiracies after the triumph of the Revolution. Many of their treacherous leaders, together with the other criminals of the Shah's, went to Israel and Europe, taking with them the wealth of this oppressed nation. They are now actively conspiring abroad against the Islamic Revolution and have made large investments in this effort. The remaining few in the country have gone to the aid of affiliated political groups, and have, in particular, taken part in conspiracies such as coup d'etat, creating insecurity, bombings and especially espionage in favour of Israel and America. Most of them have been arrested by the Revolutionary courts and have been punished. Documents evidencing their connections with such groups as well as with the Palestine-occupying regime have been divulged and announced to the public through the mass media at various intervals.

## **Islamic Republic of Iran's position vis-a-vis Bahatism and the Bahais**

All the Iranian people and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on their having sensed at close hand the uncountable crimes committed by the followers of this sect throughout their country's undulating history, as well as on the evidence provided by history and the documents, of which a handfull was referred to hereinabove, consider Bahatism as a politico-imperialist platform. They neither have recognized the Bahai

followers as a religious minority nor will ever permit the propagation of their nonsense and false reports which, due to the treacherous nature of this political party, would be a prelude to the premise of renewed penetration by American and Israeli spies into Iran.

Years of treason, duplicity, crime, corruption and bloodshed by the leaders of this treacherous party have been enough for our nation. Therefore, any effort by western governments and the enemies of the Islamic Revolution to exert pressure to allow these traitors to resume activity will be in vain. Just as it has removed one by one all the imperialists' espionage bases in Iran, the Islamic Republic is firmly determined with all its power to crush the Zionist espionage dens acting under cover of Freemasonry, Bahaiism, etc. Just as the conspiracies by the Great Satan during the heroic action by the Moslem students following the Imam's Line and the pressures by its western allies failed to have the least effect on our people's steel will, the ridiculous spectacles by Zionists and escaped Bahais and the outcry by the western press will not be able to aid the Bahais reared by them or to prevent the complete elimination of the negligible, crumbling organization of the leaders of this treacherous party.

However, such a firm position does not mean that the rights of the few uninformed and deceived followers of this faith who, under the influence of the many intrigues and economic pressures by its leaders, have joined Bahaiism, will be neglected. Fortunately, as a result of the atmosphere of freedom prevailing in the Islamic community, the fair approach by the Moslem people of Iran, the revelations and guidance by the promoters of Islam, many of them, having recognized the imperialist nature of this mock faith, have returned to the bosom of the people and Islam. It is hoped that the very few remaining deceived persons will gradually realize the truth and will free themselves from the claws of this treacherous party reared by Zionism.

## **Execution of Bahais**

It is essential that we clarify our position vis-à-vis the rumour concerning "execution of Bahais in Iran for believing in Bahaiism" which is spread by the world's imperialist newsmongers.

We do not expect anything else from the imperialist propaganda octopus. It was these same news media which explained away U.S. crimes in Vietnam, Nicaragua, El Salvador and all over the Third World, the murders and open aggressions by Britain and France against the people of India, Algeria, Morocco, Ireland and hundreds of other spots, as well as the savage bombardments by the Qods-occupying regime in Lebanon and their seizure of the homes of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. These very news media glorified 50 years of crime, thievery and plunder by the Shah's regime in the name of struggle to achieve great civilization. It is these same media that are now conducting a full-fledged campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, justifying Saddam's aggression against our Islamic home-land. And it is these same blatant imperialist media which have presented Massoud Rajavi, the terrorist, and Bani Sadr, the traitor, as progressive liberals, shed tears of pity for the death of terrorists, and instigate the world public opinion against us. It is therefore only natural that they should take advantage of the execution of a few spies and conspirators as a pretext for further attacks against the Islamic Revolution.

However, we address here the communities which unfortunately receive their news through this same imperialist news network, and based on this entirely false and spiteful propaganda, make protestations against the Islamic Republic as to why Bahais are executed merely for believing in something. We hereby clearly declare to all the free thinkers of the world that all these reports are utterly false, and there has not been a single instance in Iran where a person has been executed or even imprisoned or indicted



on charges of harbouring certain beliefs. This practice is based on an explicit principle of the Constitutional Law which provides:

*"Inquisition into people's opinions shall be forbidden, and no one shall be offended or brought to account merely for having a certain opinion." – Article 23 of the Constitutional Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran.*

But it is natural that in Iran, like any country in the world, no one will be allowed to commit espionage, treason or conspiracy, regardless of his religious or political beliefs. All the Bahais, who have been condemned to imprisonment or death by the Revolutionary Courts, and who number but a handful, have been persons, who had key roles in public slaughters and were the major elements in holding the regime during the Shah's time, such as Hoveyda and..., or who were involved in plots to overthrow the Islamic Republic system after the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, or persons who mostly spied for Israel, the usurper, and strengthened the Qods-usurping regime with their material and moral assistance, transferring millions in foreign currency to the Israeli banks at the present sensitive circumstances.

## **Last word and final stand**

The last word is that:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers "Bahatism" as an imperialist-affiliated political party.
2. The Islamic Republic of Iran has never recognized this faith and its followers as a religion, religious minority or an official, legal party, nor will it ever do so for the following reasons:
  - (a) The faith's being originally forged by Russian spies;
  - (b) Sabotage activities, creating civil clashes in Iran and disunion between Moslems in Islamic countries;
  - (c) All-out assistance to Britain in defeating an Islamic empire, creating colonial rule in Islamic countries and their separation;
  - (d) Propagation of corruption, prostitution and sin in the Iranian community;
  - (e) Direct participation in most of the Shah's crimes, slaughter and torture of Moslems, and management of the dead Shah's hellish SAVAK;
  - (f) Economic exploitation of Iran during the Shah's regime;
  - (g) Collaboration with the counter-revolutionaries through:
    - (i) participation in conspiracies and overthrowing plots,
    - (ii) weakening the economy,
    - (iii) transferring foreign currency abroad,
    - (iv) economic and moral assistance to international Zionism after the triumph of the Revolution.
3. Under the Constitutional Law, as long as the followers of the Bahai faith do not perpetrate espionage, offend the people's properties, propagate corruption, interfere in the fundamentals of the Islamic Republic, or have relationship with the Palestine-occupying regime, all their rights will be protected like an Iranian citizen, no one will be allowed to offend them, and they may be guided only by admonishment and words of wisdom. But those leaders and members of this imperialist party who try to apply the old imperialist objectives and continue their relationship with Israel and the domestic and foreign enemies of the Revolution, will be dealt with severely in accordance with the Constitutional Law.
4. Let the imperialist communities and the western world's news media, which endeavour to pressure Iran in this connection, know that: Just as none of their active

and propaganda conspiracies has been effective, this time, too, they will not be the least successful in all the clamour, especially that the supporters of this treacherous party in Iran are quite negligible and unmentionable, and Bahaism is the most hated imperialist faith in the eyes of the Iranian people, and the Islamic Republic will continue to the end its course of independence and freedom, God willing...

**There is no victory but with God.**

"GOD PASSES BY", volume 2, page 41

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### His Holiness Bahaollah's Exile to Iraq

As mentioned in the previous chapter, the assassination attempt against the Shah's life took place on 28.10.1268 A.H. lunar (August 15. 1852 A.D.), and His Holiness was immediately arrested in Niavaran, taken to the capital city prison with the utmost contempt and disgrace and imprisoned in the Tehran dungeons....

**pages 42-44**

... By divine fate and divine wisdom, His Holiness was released from prison, which was caused, on the one hand, by the mediation of Prince Dolgorouki, the Russian Ambassador in Iran, who made every effort to have Bahaollah released from imprisonment and to prove his innocence, and on the other hand, by confession of Mulia Sheikh Ali Tarshizi who, in the presence of the prison warden, the Russian Embassy interpreter and the Government representative, attested to His Holiness Bahaollah's innocence, and expressly stated his own involvement in the incident against the Shah. The increasing efforts by Bahaollah's brothers, sisters and relatives towards his release, as well as the investigating authorities' confirmation of His Holiness's innocence helped facilitate his release and saving from the hands of his hard enemies.

**pages 47-49**

His Holiness Bahaollah's relative peace and serenity, following the painful imprisonment, was short-lived by the will of God, because shortly after His Holiness's arrival amongst his family and relatives, he was served an order from the Shah to leave Iran, within one month, to whichever destination he chose.

Having learned of the Shah's order, the Russian Ambassador requested His Holiness to permit his transportation to Russian territory. His Holiness refused this request and preferred to take up residence in Baghdad, Iraq.

In later years, in writings by His Holiness in honour of Russian Emperor Nicoleevitch Alexander II, he expressed his gratitude of the Ambassador's action, as quoted hereinbelow:

*"Truly did one of your emissaries assist me while I was in prison with heavy chains on my hands and feet. Such was the will of God, for no one but He has any knowledge or control and any change is made at His will."*

Elsewhere he wrote:

*"While I, the innocent, was in prison tied with chains, the Ambassador made his utmost effort to have me released, and repeated permits for my release from the prison were issued, but some authorities prevented execution thereof. Finally, as a result of attempts by the Ambassador, my release was effected. His Majesty the Emperor of Russia offered much assistance in the way of God."*

## Exhibit No. 2

page 318

... on the last Friday of his life in this world, he attended midday congregational prayers, in spite of intense fatigue and weakness.

## Exhibit No. 3

pages 296-298

In this section concerning the general world war and the incidents taking place in the world, it would not be inappropriate to mention some of the actions and attempts made, during the siege of Haifa, to protect Baha.

Having learned of the severe dangers threatening His Holiness's life, the British friends took immediate action to secure his health. Lord Curzon and other members of the British cabinet were directly informed of the dangerous situation in Haifa. Moreover, Lord Lamington immediately sent a special report to the Foreign Ministry of the country and drew the attention of the officials to "His Holiness Abdul Baha's personality and importance".

Upon receiving this report, Lord Balfour, the then Foreign Minister, on the same day sent a cable instruction to Gen. Allenby, commander of the British forces in Palestine, emphasizing to "protect His Holiness Abdul-Baha, his family and his friends with all your power."

Subsequent to that cable, and following the conquest of Haifa, Gen. Allenby sent a cable to London and requested the officials to "announce His Holiness's health and well-being to the world." He also assigned the commander of the Haifa front to take appropriate measures to protect His Holiness's life, thus preventing the plans of Jamal Pasha, who, according to information received by British Intelligence, was determined to crucify His Holiness Abdul-Baha and his family on Mount Carmel, in the event of the Turkish forces' set-back from the city.

## Exhibit No. 4

### THE CHOSEN HAIGHWAY

During the war the Arabs were less frequent in their raids. They were afraid, if they ventured too near, that they might be seized and carried off into an unknown life—that of the soldier, the idea of which was a terror to themselves, and indirectly a cause of tranquillity to the villagers.

Preparation for war conditions had been made by 'Abdu'l-Bahá even before His return to Palestine, after His world tour. The people of the villages Nughayb, Samrih, and 'Adasiyyih were instructed by the Master how to grow corn, so as to produce prolific harvests, in the period before and during the lean years of the war.

A vast quantity of this corn was stored in pits, some of which had been made by the Romans, and were now utilized for this purpose. So it came about that 'Abdu'l-Bahá was able to feed numberless poor of the people of Haifa, 'Akkaá, and the neighbourhood, in the famine years of 1914-1918.

*We learned that when the British marched into Haifa there was some difficulty about the commissariat. The officer in command went to consult the Master.*

*"I have corn," was the reply.*

*"But for the army?" said the astonished soldier.*

*"I have corn for the British Army," said 'Abdu'l-Bahá.*

*He truly walked the Mystic way with practical feet.*

## Exhibit No. 5

pages 299-300

... After the end of the war, officials of the British government extended their appreciation for the valuable services rendered by His Holiness Abdul-Baha towards the residents of the holy land in reducing the pains of the people of the land. This appreciation and gratitude was expressed in the form of presenting him with the title of "Knighthood" and the special Order, which was done in ceremonies which took place at the residence of the British ruler in Haifa, attended by dignitaries from different nations and sects, including Gen. Allenby, the British commander, accompanied by his counterpart in Bahja, King Faisal, who later ascended to the Iraqi throne, and Sir Herbert Samuel, later entitled Viscount Samuel of Carmel....

(۳۴۷)

هو الله  
 اللهم ان سرادق العدل قد ضربت اطنابها على هذه الارض  
 المقدسة في مشارقها ومغاربها. نشكرك ومحمدك على حلول هذه  
 السلطة العادلة والدولة الفاهرة الباذلة القوة في راحة الرعية  
 وسلامة البرية. اللهم ايد الامبراطور الاعظم جورج الخامس  
 عاهل انكلترا بتوفيقك الرحمانية وادم ظلها الظليل  
 على هذا الاقليم الجليل بيدك وصونك وحمایتك  
 انك انت المتقدر التعالی العزيز الكرم  
 حيفا ۱۷ دسمبر ۱۹۱۸ ع  
 محمد کرمان  
 اعضای محفل روحانی و احبابی امی علیهم بهاء الله الایبی  
 ای ثابتان بریمان الیوم این عنوان از ابدع سخنان \* زیرا قوت  
 امر الله بهند و پیمانست و نشر نجات در آفاق بقوه میثاق است  
 و وحدت بهائی را جز عهد الهی محافظه نماید \* و هجوم تا کین  
 و ناقضین را جز ثبوت بر میثاق دفع نکند لهذا این عنوان یعنی  
 ثابت بریمان بین ملا اعلی \* استایش فی بیان الحمد ان محفل  
 روحانی سزاوار این عنوان اسمانی زیرا ثابت و مستقیمند و ثابت

مکتب نوشتہ عبدالبہاء جلد سوم

## Exhibit No. 7

### pages 321-322

... As soon as this news was published, British Colonial Secretary Mr. Winston Churchill sent a cable message to the Palestine special envoy, Sir Herbert Samuel, asking him to "convey His Majesty's sympathies to the Bahai community". Viscount Allenby, the special envoy in Egypt, extended his condolences, as follows, through the Palestine special envoy:

*"Convey my sincere condolences to the survivors of the late Sir Abdul-Baha, Abass Afandi, and the Bahai community on the occasion of his demise."...*

## Exhibit No. 8

### page 325

... Sir Herbert Samuel, the Palestine special envoy, upon hearing of His Holiness's demise, sent a message to his surviving family, expressing his request to attend the funeral personally in order to extend his respects....

## Exhibit No. 10

Akhbar Amri magazine, No. 5, page 12

... The head of the Bahai International Assembly began to speak and stated that the State of Israel is considered by the Bahais as well as Jews, Christians and Moslems to be a holy land. Over fifty years ago, His Holiness Bahaollah wrote that Palestine would eventually become the homeland of the Jewish people. This statement was put in print and publication at that time. The meeting and the interview took place in a very sincere atmosphere, and the Minister and his colleagues, who were present, expressed their pleasure.

A colour photograph of the façade of the holy building was presented to the Minister, and he and his wife were invited to visit the holy site and the surrounding gardens whenever they travelled to Haifa.

The head and deputy of the Bahai International Assembly also met with the mayors of Haifa and Akka and the military ruler of Galilee. These meetings, which took place for familiarization purposes, resulted in friendly relations between the above-mentioned officials and the representatives of the Bahai delegation.

The Assembly head also had a very friendly meeting with Mr. Dwight Davis, U.S. Ambassador in Israel. On April 12, the Bahai International Assembly held a tea reception in the Bahai palace. This was the first official reception by the Assembly which was attended by government officials, foreign government consuls, representatives of the Ministry of Religion in Jerusalem as well as a group of friends and acquaintances.

News of the reception was desirably published in the social column of an Israeli English language newspaper, which commented on its importance and standing. It is noteworthy that formation of the Bahai International Assembly was publicized in different languages by various newspapers of this country, and Radio Israel, in its broadcasts, included news about the Bahais and greeted them on the occasions of Nowrooz and Rezvan festivities.

Bahais' books have long been available at the Jews' Library in Jerusalem, and some Bahai literary works and publications have recently been included in the library of the Ministry of Religions at their request. Some books have also been presented to Rabbi Meiman for his personal library. Rabbi Meiman has been conducting a research on past religions, and the said books were given at his request.

Our relationship with the Israeli government may be described in two ways: sometimes we succeed in obtaining government assistance after much effort; and sometimes the government officials themselves extend their kindness towards us in a most pleasant and unexpected manner. One of the most important matters is the transfer of the room in Akka where His Holiness Bahaollah stayed for two years after his arrival in that town. Regarding this historical place which, because of the remembrances therein, is considered a sacred place by the Bahais, without any request by us, the government doctor, in charge of the hospital established there, informed us that he would give us the keys to His Holiness Bahaollah's room which has been allocated to the Bahais. This action was highly appreciated, and the room is now ready for Bahai visitors and local friends. The Mayor of Haifa, too, is quite ready to extend his assistance and had stated that he was ready to give all possible assistance to complete the sacred place as it would add to the popularity and importance of Haifa. This kind attitude was later exploited and, due to his efforts, the government provided facilities for fifty tons of cement. One cannot appreciate



the value of such assistance unless one is a resident of this country.

The farm is one of the endowments which, according to existing laws, cannot be sold. Nevertheless, as friends are aware, the Ministry of Religions, owing to mediation by the Minister, Rabbi Meiman, agreed to turn the farm over to the Bahais to become a holy visiting site for the Bahai pilgrims. In fact we have rented this sacred place from the Israeli Ministry of Religions.

This department is headed by a rabbi called Dr. Hirshberg who, following a tea reception of him, his wife and his entourage at the western hotel, visited all the Bahai sites in Haifa and Akka. Having completely visited the farm, the above-named doctor and his entourage went to the Bahja Palace and looked at the collection of Amri relics, including photographs, maps, etc. compiled there in a most interesting manner by His Holiness Vali Amrollah. Friends will be surprised by the news that, during the Eide Fetre holiday week, over one thousand people visited the Bahja Palace. These people, including many foreign visitors, all the students of a school as well as youths from kibbutzes, arrived by car, by bus and on foot. Dr. Hirshberg, accompanied by the head and deputy of the Bahai International Assembly, then travelled to Akka in a car and visited the residence of His Holiness Bahaollah, where he resided a number of years and wrote the holy book and other important works, as well as the Akka Mosque, where a great congregation had gathered because it was a Friday.

As soon as the crowd of believers left the mosque, the imam of the mosque came down from the altar, welcomed the visiting party and insisted that we have coffee with him, the judge and other Moslem officials in Akka in the mosque.

As can be appreciated, the holy order, which had always been favourably regarded by the officials of the new State of Israel, has now, more than ever before, found credibility and importance with them who recognize it as a public belief and religion which, although separate from other past religions, is quite like the Jewish, Christian and Moslem religions at the time of the advent of Christ and other prophets, in respect of purity and chastity.

The Bahai marriage licences are now recognized by the officials of this new country, and, without any request from us, the Israeli Ministry of Education has relieved Bahai students all over the country from attending class on the Bahai holy days. This matter has been advised in a circular to all the schools.

All the under-mentioned Bahai institutions are exempt from government and urban taxes, and items necessary for these places are imported free of customs duties: The Superior Office; the Blessed Garden; two collections of relics, one affiliated to the Superior Office, and the other next to His Holiness' sepulchre; two historic buildings, one in Bahja where His Holiness Bahaollah's ascension took place, and the other the farm palace where he stayed after departing from Akka; two houses where Their Holinesses Bahaollah and Abdul-Baha resided, one in Akka where the holy book was descended, and the other in Haifa where His Holiness Abdul-Baha's ascension took place. Also over forty acres of land surrounding the Supreme Office in Mount Carmel were exempted from taxation.

These are reasons supporting the spirit of real understanding and cooperation existing between the Bahai community and the Israeli officials. We want to convey this fact to the interested Jews that an interestingly pleasant process is taking place, that is to say the newest religion in the world is growing in the youngest country of the world.

**(Quoted from Akhbar Amri of U.S.A.)**

The Bahais National Holy Assembly of U.S.A. is very pleased to inform the holy friends that three members of the Assembly, accompanied by Mrs. Emilia Collins, Deputy Chairman of the Bahai International Assembly met with H.E. David Ben Gurion, the Israeli Prime Minister, and his entourage at the Ambassador Hotel in Chicago on Saturday May 19.

The meeting had been arranged by Mr. Cavlin who had met the Prime Minister's secretary in New York. At the meeting, the Bahai representatives expressed the community's appreciation for the kind attitude and respect adopted by the leaders of the newly-established State of Israel. His Holiness Vali Amrollah assigned the National Holy Assembly to meet the Prime Minister to express the feelings of U.S. Bahais towards Israel.

H.E. David Ben Gurion most kindly received the Bahai representatives, consisting of Mrs. Emilia Collins, Miss Edna Nero, Mr. Leroy Evas and Mr. Huras Hadley, and expressed special appreciation for Mrs. Collins's holy functions carried out at the Bahai international centre in Israel, and invited her to visit him in Haifa upon their return. He also put some questions to her, such as: "How did the proclamation of Bahaism reach U.S.A.? What was the effect of His Holiness Abdul-Baha's 1912 trip to U.S.A. then and thereafter? To what extent has Bahaism advanced in other countries?" He also expressed his pleasure at the high thoughts and teachings of Bahaism, adding that the Israeli Government supported and reinforced the principle of freedom of religions. These discussions took place in an atmosphere filled with freedom and sincerity and free of any formalities.

The Bahai delegation presented the Prime Minister with selections of Akhbar Amri, colour design of the Supreme Office, a framed picture of Mashreg-al-Azkar of U.S.A., and a letter from the U.S. National Holy Assembly addressed to the Prime Minister. The Bahai delegation considers His Excellency to enjoy an open mind and a far-sighted thought which well feels the need for religious brotherhood, forbearance and patience.

On the same day, the Prime Minister's press secretary, for the first time, released the following statement to the press and radio, describing His Excellency's meeting with the Bahai delegation as under:

"Mr. David Ben Gurion, the Prime Minister of Israel, this morning received four members of the Bahai Holy Assembly of the United States of America. The delegation expressed its gratitude for the Israeli Government's admirable treatment of the Bahai Religious Centre and its religious leader, His Holiness Shoghi Afandi Rabbani.

"The delegation comprised Mrs. Emilia Collins, Deputy Chairman of the Bahai International Assembly, which is domiciled in Haifa, Miss Edna Nero, the Assembly's stenographer, Mr. Huras Hadley and Mr. Leroy Evas, the treasurer.

"The Prime Minister and his guests talked for nearly one hour about issues of the Bahai faith and its expansion throughout the world. Mr. Ben Gurion showed special interest in propagation and penetration of Bahaism in America. It was very interesting and surprising for him to learn that there are now Bahai centres in over 175 cities and towns of the United States of America, and 2500 Bahai centres all over the world. He was also informed that the Bahai faith had been recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental international organization.

"Before their departure, the Bahai representatives presented the Prime Minister with a photograph of the Bahai temple in Wilmont, which is the national prayer site of American Bahais, as well as a letter indicating their appreciation and gratitude for the attention paid by the Israeli Government in understanding the affairs of the Bahais."

The last point to be added is that H.E. the Prime Minister was sincerely invited to visit the Bahai Mashreg-al-Azkar. However he declined the invitation, with gratitude, due to his time having been fully taken up.

## Exhibit No. 11

**Akhbar Amri magazine, publication of the Bahai National Assembly of Iran, Nos. 1 and 2, 1333 A.H. (1954 A.D.).**

Text of letter dated April 27, 1954 from Dr. Lottollah Hakim to Bahaollah-al-Abba:

"...Days of Rezvan festivities are here. I extend my sincere greetings to the respected members of the National Holy Assembly and the Local Holy Assembly and all the dear friends in Iran. On April 26, the honourable President of the State of Israel, accompanied by his wife, visited His Holiness the Religious Leader's house at 9.30 a.m. and was received at a reception to tea and cakes attended by His Holiness Omatal-Baha. The President asked several questions His Holiness, to which sufficient replies were given. Thence, accompanied by their Holinesses, he visited the Holy Supreme Office and the residence of His Holiness Abdul-Baha.

"On April 27, the Israeli newspapers reported this visit. The news item appearing in the Jerusalem Post is attached herewith.

"Translation of the article in the Jerusalem Post dated April 27, 1954:

The Israeli President's meeting with the Bahai religious leader:

Haifa – Monday – The President of Israel, accompanied by his wife, this morning paid a visit to Shoghi Afandi Rabbani, the Bahai religious leader, as well as to the Bahai holy sites on Mount Carmel.

"Initially, Mr. Charles Mason Ramy, Chairman of the International Bahai Board, and Mr. Leroy Evas, Secretary-General of the Board, met the President and his wife at the Makido Hotel, from where they took him to His Holiness Shoghi Rabbani. There they had tea and Iranian cakes, and the President was presented with a silver-bound album, containing colour pictures of the Bahai holy places in Israel, as a memorabilia.

"At this meeting, the President and the Bahai religious leader talked about the effect of faith in the human community. His Holiness Shoghi Rabbani said that he hoped the world Bahai centre in Israel could be continuously and increasingly effective in the country's progress and the welfare of its people. He also mentioned the fact that the Bahais had always had sincere relations with the Haifa government since the establishment of the State of Israel."

## Exhibit No. 12

Akhbar Amri magazine, No. 8, 1343 A.H. (1964 A.D.)

### **The Israeli President's visit to the Bahai Centre**

H.E. Zalman Shazar, President of Israel, accompanied by his wife, the Mayor of Haifa and his wife and a number of other officials of the State of Israel, on April 7, 1964 paid an official visit to the Bahai Centre. H.E. the President and his entourage were welcomed by members of the Centre, and visited the gardens of the Supreme Office. On this occasion, H.E. the President greeted friends all over the world. Some time later, as a memorabilia of the visit, an album containing pictures of the visit by the President to the Bahai Centre, was presented to him. The beautiful album was gilded-bound, in the middle of which was an enamelled Persian miniature.

Having received the album, in a letter, H.E. the President expressed his hearty thanks and renewed his message of friendship and goodwill to the Bahai world community.

### **New Ceremonies at Albert Hall**

In memory of the late Indian Prime Minister Jawahar La'al Nehru, a memorial service was held at Albert Hall attended by the British Prime Minister and members of the cabinet as well as a number of diplomats and representatives from all over the world. Bahai prayers were read by a member of the Bahai community in Britain.

## **Exhibit No. 14**

### **"God Passes by", vol. 2, pages 125-126**

... Colonel Sir Arnold Burrows Kemball, the then British General Consul in Baghdad, having sensed the eminence of His Holiness Bahaollah, wrote him a friendly letter, proposing his sovereign government's acceptance of protection. Upon meeting His Holiness, he committed himself to send any message from His Holiness to Queen Victoria. He even suggested to arrange to relocate His Holiness to India or anywhere else he wished. His Holiness declined this offer and preferred to reside in Ottoman territory rather than move in another direction. Finally, during the last year of His Holiness's stay in Baghdad, the city governor, Nameq Pasha, affected by His Holiness's magnanimity, went to meet him to convey his respects.

## **Exhibit No. 15**

### **"Maede Asemani" (Heavenly Feast), pages 43-44**

#### **Chapter 59**

Several letters were received from Tehran, stating that the French Embassy officials insisted that some missionaries pay attention to African countries, such as Tunisia and Algeria, and that officials of the French Government would extend their utmost assistance to convert the people of the region. From my contemplations on this subject I concluded that the individual able to achieve this mission is not available, unless Your Holiness pay a visit to the region, if possible, to realize and achieve such an objective.

## **Exhibit No. 16**

### **"Akhbar Amri" magazine, No. 10, 1340 (1961), page 601**

Even though, presumably, establishment of the World Bahai Centre in the Jewish State of Israel may, in itself, be regarded as apparently nonsensical, the holy lady most emphatically states without any doubt that we belong here. His Holiness Bab, who was martyred in Iran, gave us the good news that this will be our home. On the other hand, we believe as much in the Jewish faith as we do in other religions. Even if we are to weigh the advantages, I prefer to have the worlds' newest religion grow in the world's newest country. Indeed it should be said that our futures are interlinked like a chain.

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

Security Classification

News Report

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|--|---|
| 1. To: 321                                   | 9. Date of incidence: 25.3.1350<br>(June 15, 1971)                                |
| 2. From: H7                                  | 10. Date News received by source:<br>25.3.1350 (June 15, 1971)                    |
| 3. Report No.: H/9578                        | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 17.3.1350<br>(June 7, 1971) |
| 4. Date of report: 31.3.1350 (June 21, 1971) | 12. Security remarks:   |
| 5. Appendix:                                 |   |
| 6. Copy receivers:                           |   |
| 7. Source: 1699                              |   |
| 8. Origin:                                   |   |

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Subject: Bahais' activities

A meeting of 12 Bahais in Shiraz was held at the home of Massihollah Rohani under the title of Nafhatollah Publishing Commission. After reading hymns and some pages from the book "Lowh Ahmad", Mr. Massihollah Rohani spoke about Bahaism and then said: "One or two of you have been seen contacting the Islamic propaganda personnel. This must not be repeated. You do not remember that, at the time of Reza Shah and Seyed Nouredin, we were plundered, *but Reza Shah, very dismayed about this affair, secretly killed off some Moslems without the Ulema's knowledge. Since he was a real Bahai and always supported the Bahais, the unveiling of women was done in conformity with Bahaollah's rule and logic.*"

Sunday's comment: Saturday's statements are confirmed

Wednesday's comment: Sunday's comments are confirmed

H/7's comment: Wednesday's comments are confirmed

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|--|--|
| 1. To: 341                                   | 9. Date of incidence: 21.8.1357<br>(Nov. 12, 1958)                                 |
| 2. From: 3H/7                                | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 21.8.1357                                     |
| 3. Report No.: 3H/20299                      | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 24.8.1357<br>(Nov. 15, 1958) |
| 4. Date of report: 29.8.1357 (Nov. 20, 1958) | 12. Security remarks:  |
| 5. Appendix:                                 |  |
| 6. Copy receivers:                           |  |
| 7. Source: 8825                              |  |
| 8. Origin: Heard by the source               |  |
- 

Subject: Shiraz Bahais

Mr. Ra'oofian, a well-known Bahai in Shiraz, has said:

*"Mr. Amir Abass Hoveyda, supported by the Universal House of Justice and by Kambala in Africa, governed Iran for 13 years, during which period the Bahai community achieved considerable progress, and influential Bahai persons occupied important positions in Iran and transferred the country's funds abroad."*

Saturday's comment: The above statements were made due to the recent incidents and the stagnation in the Bahai activities

Sunday's comment: With regard to Saturday's sincerity, the above statements are true.

Wednesday's comment: Sunday's comment is confirmed.

Friday's comment: Wednesday's comment is confirmed

H/7's comment: Friday's comment is confirmed



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|---|---|
| 1. To: 321                                  | 9. Date of incidence: 2.2.1350<br>(April 22, 1971)                              |
| 2. From: H7                                 | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 2.2.1350                                   |
| 3. Report No.: H/7651                       | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 14.2.1350<br>May 4, 1971) |
| 4. Date of report: 20.2.1350 (May 10, 1971) | 12. Security remarks:   |
| 5. Appendix:                                |   |
| 6. Copy receivers:                          |   |
| 7. Source: See news report                  |   |
| 8. Origin:                                  |   |

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Subject: Bahai activities in Dehbid

On the evening of 2.2.1350 (April 22, 1971) the meeting of Bahais in Dehbid was held in the home of Amrollah Refahi. Mr. Azizollah Bamposian, missionary and liaison between the Shiraz and Dehbid centres, spoke about the freedom, independence and recognition of Bahatism. He then mentioned the teachers' salary, the oil income and the shooting at Lt.Gen. Farsio. He then talked about *H.E. the Prime Minister's attendance at the Bahai centre on the occasion of the Rezvan festivities and the government's co-operation extended towards the Bahai faith in provincial towns.*

Sunday's comment: Saturday's comment is confirmed

Wednesday's comment: Sunday's comment is confirmed

H/7's comment: Wednesday's comment is confirmed

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Security Classification

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|---|---|
| 1. To: 321                                  | 9. Date of incidence: 7.3.1347<br>(May 28, 1968)                                  |
| 2. From: H7                                 | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 7.3.1347                                     |
| 3. Report No.: H/6946                       | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 10.3.1347<br>(May 31, 1968) |
| 4. Date of report: 11.3.1347 (June 1, 1968) | 12. Security remarks:   |
| 5. Appendix:                                |   |
| 6. Copy receivers:                          |   |
| 7. Source: A colleague                      |   |
| 8. Origin: Bahais' meeting                  |   |

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Subject: Activities of Shiraz Bahais

At 6.30 p.m. on 7.3.1347 (May 28, 1968) the Nafhatollah Publication Commission was held at Assembly No. 4 located in Assadollah Qodsianzad's home on Tekyeh Navab. Abass Aqdasi, who was the speaker of the Commission, said:

*"H.E. Assadollah Alam, Minister of the Royal Court, has been very kind to us, particularly H.E. Amir Abass Hoveyda (a Bahai and of Bahai parentage); may they both be junior headmen of the Bahais, and report to the Universal House of Justice on their activities. His Holiness Bahaollah has said 'Possession is nine-tenth of ownership'. The Israeli Government was recognized as the world champion in the 1967 war. We Bahais worship the activities of this dear Jewish force. We are very glad that they will lay down a law for their friends in Iran. The activities and progress of us Bahais is that we have a spy in every office and ministry in Iran. Once every week when the projects prepared by the government [of Mr. Hoveyda] are reported to Shahanshah Aryamehr, reports on the projects reach the Bahai Assemblies. For instance in the contractor group, the Iranian Bahai cadre submit their reports every day to the Bahai holy assembly on the Iranian army, how weapons are imported into Iran and how the parachutists are trained."*

**News Report**

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|--|--|
| 1. To: 21                                    | 9. Date of incidence: Recently   |
| 2. From: J8                                  | 10. Date news received by Source: Recently                                   |
| 3. Report No.: H8/10871                      | 11. Date news received by local operations leader: 19.5.1350 (Aug. 10, 1971) |
| 4. Date of report: 20.5.1350 (Aug. 11, 1971) | 12. Security remarks:  |
| 5. Appendix:                                 |  |
| 6. Copy receivers:                           |  |
| 7. Source:                                   |  |
| 8. Origin: A member of the National Assembly |  |

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Source: Participation in the 2500 years monarchy celebrations

*The Universal House of Justice has given instructions to the National Assembly in Iran that the Bahai residents in Iran should fully participate in the celebrations to mark 2500 years of monarchy and see to it that the Bahais celebrate the occasion with more splendour than the other religious minorities.*

Saturday's comment:

*With regard to the above order, the National Assembly has bought 50 commemorative schools at Rls. 15 million with funds collected from Bahais through local assemblies. Furthermore 50 more schools have been paid for by Nonahalan Company and other wealthy Bahais, including Habib Sabet. In view of public opinion, however, the names of Bahais and members of the local assemblies have not been published in the newspapers.*

Tuesday's comment: With regard to your letter Ref. 311/980 dated 9.5.1350 (July 31, 1971), it is understood that the order of the Universal House of Justice and its implementation by the national assembly will be in compliance with the above-mentioned letter.

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Security Classification**

**News Report**

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. To: 341                                   | 9. Date of incidence: 23.10.1351<br>(Jan. 13, 1973)                                 |
| 2. From: H/7                                 | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 23.10.1351                                     |
| 3. Report No.: H/19496                       | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 28.10.1350<br>(Jan. 18, 1972) |
| 4. Date of report: 7.11.1351 (Jan. 27, 1973) | 12. Security remarks:   |
| 5. Appendix                                  |   |
| 6. Copy receivers:                           |   |
| 7. Source: 1766                              |   |
| 8. Origin:                                   |   |
- 

Subject: Activities of Shiraz Bahais

17 Shiraz Bahais attended a meeting service held in the home of late Col. Shabab. At this gathering, after reading hymns, condolences were expressed to the dead man's son. In reply to a question from one of the attendants at the meeting, Mr. Ardeshir Master said: "*The late Col. Shabab was an officer of the Security Organization (SAVAK). While he served with SAVAK in Shiraz, he helped the Shiraz Bahais very much.*" Later, in discussions concerning the Bahai retired people, it was said that the retired persons should attend the classes teaching missionaries, and instead of sitting idle, they should migrate and serve the Bahai faith. Army officier Rashidpour said: "If the Bahai faith were official we would no longer be dismayed against other religions, because when they cannot bring any argument to dismiss Bahatism, they say 'Then why are you not official?' Then a few days are needed for us to speak to them and convince them." *Then Col. Shabab's father said: "A few years ago, Shahanshah Aryamehr decided to give orders concerning official recognition of Bahatism. However, Gamal Abdul-Nasser, the Egyptian President, found an excuse and said that the Shah of Iran had become a Bahai and had violated the Islamic ordinances."* He added: "*The Shah of Iran follows the same path as laid down by His Holiness Bahaollah. Since it is God's decree, it will be carried out automatically.*"

Sunday's comment: 1. Saturday's statements are confirmed

1. Saturday's intention: *The late Col. Shabab was the former Chief of the Intelligence & Security Organization in Khorramabad, Lorestan.*

Wednesday's comment: Sunday's comment is confirmed.

H/7's comment: Wednesday's comment is confirmed.

VERY CONFIDENTIAL

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|--|--|
| 1. To: 321                                   | 9. Date of incidence: 24.9.1350<br>(Dec. 15, 1971)                                 |
| 2. From: H7                                  | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 26.9.1350                                     |
| 3. Report No.: H/15272                       | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 27.9.1350<br>(Dec. 18, 1971) |
| 4. Date of report: 29.9.1350 (Dec. 20, 1971) | 12. Security remarks:  |
| 5. Appendix:                                 |  |
| 6. Copy receivers:                           |  |
| 7. Source: 1699                              |  |
| 8. Origin:                                   |  |

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Subject: Activities of Shiraz Bahais

A meeting of 12 Shiraz Bahais was held at Mr. Sadiq Hahhiri's home on Shamshirgarha Street, under Mr. Ali Akbar Iravani's observation. After reading hymns, a person by the name of Ne'matollah Hackaki, a 70-year-old man, who has come to Shiraz from Esfahan, gave a few letters to Mr. Chehrenegar. During his speech, he said: *"There will be one day when all the world's kings will come to Shiraz and will bow in the Holy House. In Particular, some people from the Royal Court secretly come to Shiraz to visit the Shiraz Holy house."* He added: "I have converted 450 people to Bahaism during my life time. Do not fear any one and continue with your campaign." Then Mr. Iravani spoke for 45 minutes about Bahaism.

Mr. Chehrenegar said: "Five of the best Bahais in Abadan and Ahvaz will soon come to Shiraz. Gentlemen, look carefully at the cards and the seal thereon." The attendants at this meeting were Ali Akbar Iravani, Nassrollah Chehrenegar, Ne'matollah Hooshmand, Ezatollah Hooshmand, Ehsanollah and Kakakhan Mehdizadeh, Qasem Karimian, Aligoli Rezaee, Mohammad Hassan Afghani, Bijan Kenshan.

Sunday's comment: Saturday's statements are confirmed

Wednesday's comment: Sunday's comment is confirmed

H/7's comment: Wednesday's comment is confirmed.

**Exhibit No. 24**

**THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE**

**Bahai World Centre  
Haifa, Israel**

13th November 1967

Holy National Assembly of Iranian Bahais  
Mr. Sheidollah Arkaneh

In reply to your letter dated 12th November 1967, as it has been already notified to H.E. Sabet, the respected representative of your assembly, this Board agrees to present the proposed gift to His Imperial Majesty. Needless to add that you will be advised of the outcome in due course.

Wit regard  
Universal House of Justice

**Exhibit No. 25**

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**

**Prime Ministry  
State Intelligence & Security Organization  
SAVAK**

Report

Re. *Elections of the World Bahai Leadership Council in Israel*

Purpose: For information of the General, Chief of SAVAK

On 9.2.1352 (April 29, 1973) elections of nine members of the leadership council of the World Bahai Central Assembly are going to be held in Israel. The council will assume leadership of the World Bahai Central Assembly for a period of five years.

For this purpose, nine members from each Bahai assembly in 113 countries will travel to Israel to participate in the elections.

*In view of Israel's recognition in 1972 of the Bahai sect as a religion, it appears that the Israeli government, by demonstrating friendly signs towards the sect, is endeavouring to exploit the Bahai minorities in other countries, especially in Iran, for political, intelligence and economic purposes.*

Seventh Office General

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Security Classification**

**News Report**

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|---|--|
| 1. To: 321                                  | 8. Origin:   |
| 2. From: (H20) 14520                        | 9. Date of incidence: Recently                                 |
| 3. Report No.: 4H20/14651                   | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 5.5.1346 (July 27, 1967)  |
| 4. Date of report: 10.5.1346 (Aug. 1, 1967) | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 5.5.1346 |
| 5. Appendix:                                | 12. Security remarks:  |
| 6. Copy receivers:                          |  |
| 7. Source: Colleagues                       |  |

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Subject: Iranian Bahais' assistance to the state of Israel

*According to information received, over the past month, about Rls. 1,200 million has been collected by the Iranian Bahais who intend to remit this sum ostensibly to the House of Justice in Haifa, but their real intention in remitting this sum is to aid the Israeli army. A considerable sum of this money has been paid by Habib Sabet. A number of Jews, too, have assisted the Bahais in collecting the money.*

The owner of a haberdashery shop on North Jamshidabad Avenue, who is Jewish, has reliable information about the manner of collection and remittance of the sum to Israel.

Operations leader's comment: Iranian Bahais' activities in Israel's interest is confirmed. Since the Bahais wish for the triumph and strengthening of the State of Israel, it is not unlikely that they have collected the funds in Israel's interest.

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Security Classification**

**News Report**

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. To: R825   | 7. Source: East Azarbaijan Police Dept.                                       |
| 2. From: V/300  | 8. Origin:  |
| 3. Report No: V/300/20995                               | 9. Date of incidence:   |
| 4. Date of report: 1.11.1348 (Jan. 21, 1970)            | 10. Date news received by source:   |
| 5. Appendix:  | 11. Date news received by local operations leader: 28.10.1348 (Jan. 18, 1970) |
| 6. Copy receivers:<br>Copies 1,2,3 (825); copy 4 filing | 12. Security remarks:   |

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*Some Bahais are residents of the State of Israel, and some persons, including a person by the name of Ruhollah Moshtagh from Sisan village around Tabriz, travel to that country, taking with them the aids contributed to Israel by this sect. Furthermore, the Bahais, who have installations and factories in Azarbayan and other towns, utilize equipment and devices made in Israel, and by buying them, they indirectly help the economy of that country.*



**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Security Classification**

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. To: 321                                   | 9. Date of incidence: 25.12.1349<br>(March 16, 1971)                               |
| 2. From: H7                                  | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 25.12.1349                                    |
| 3. Report No.: H/6063                        | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 7.1.1350<br>(March 27, 1971) |
| 4. Date of report: 9.1.1350 (March 29, 1971) | 12. Security remarks:  |
| 5. Appendix:                                 |  |
| 6. Copy receivers:                           |  |
| 7. Source: 1699                              |  |
| 8. Origin:                                   |  |

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Subject: Shiraz Bahais

Nine Bahais from District 9 attended a meeting at Mr. Shadman's home. To begin with, Qasem Karimian read hymns. Then Mr. Chehrenegar read some pages from Iqan book. Then Mr. Shadman spoke about the Bahai history. He then added that the Bahais have been famed for their chain-like bondage together and for holding the best positions in the country. In the past, many Bahais have been martyred. Nearly two thousand were killed. At that time, there was much anarchy, *but Iran has now become stable and has become very good for Bahais. American, Israeli and our capitalists have penetrated Iran, and their profits are transferred to the charity fund.* Those who attended the meeting included Dr. Shadman, Ahmad Samian, Enayatollah Mehdizadeh, Keramat and Nasser Mehdizadeh, Sedigh Kamaee, Massihollah Rohani, Zabihollah Yazdani, Zabihollah Chehrenegar and Farhad Namvari.

Sunday's comment: Saturday's statements are confirmed

Wednesday's comment: he is on leave

H/7's comment: No comment.

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**

**Prime Ministry  
State Intelligence & Security Organization  
SAVAK**

**DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT**

Subject: Statements by Hossein...	No.: A 100/2126
Location: Tehran	Date of incidence:
Source of News: 11	Date news received: 16.11.1344 (Feb. 5, 1966)
Classification: B2	Date of report: 16.11.1344

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Hossein...., financial member of the Ministry of Finance and former deputy director of the Gendarmerie Accounting Dept., who has close connections with Ulema and the clergy, said:

"Owing to the secret deal to sell Iranian oil to Israel, which was accomplished by the will of Amir-Abass Hoveyda, Israel has given him 140 thousand square metres of land in occupied Palestine."

## Exhibit No. 30

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Security Classification**

### News Report

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1. To: 724
2. From: 224
3. Report No.: 224/2120
4. Date of report: 29.12.1353  
(March 20, 1975)
5. Appendix:
6. Copy receivers:
7. Source: 224/1
8. Origin: Egyptian Gazette
9. Date of incidence:
10. Date news received by  
source: 6.12.1353 (Feb.25,1975)
11. Date news received by local  
operations leader:
12. Security remarks:

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The General Committee for the Boycott of Israel decided to dissolve all Bahai assemblies in Arab countries and to prohibit their reorganization due to the large aids given to Israel by the Bahais all over the world.

#### Agency's comment:

Since only Israel has recognized the Bahai faith, and the Bahais have a shrine in that country, they try to extend huge financial assistances to that country in order to aid the Israeli economy.

## Exhibit No. 31.

**Akhbar Amri Magzine, official newsletter of the Bahai National Assembly of Iran.**  
**No. 5, 1330 (1951/52)**

#### 2. Message from the International Assembly

Dear Bahai Friends,

After His Holiness Vali Amr decided to strengthen his thirty-year activities by organizing the first International Bahai Council, *it is of the utmost pleasure and pride that our godly friends learn of the progress in the construction of the building called "A'la" in Mount Carmel, as well as ... development of relations with the officials of the Israeli government.....*

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL  
Security Classification**

**News Report**

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|--|--|
| 1. To: 321                                   | 9. Date of incidence: 18.4.1347<br>(July 9, 1968)                                  |
| 2. From: H7                                  | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 18.4.1347                                     |
| 3. Report No.: H/7779                        | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 22.4.1347<br>(July 13, 1968) |
| 4. Date of report: 23.4.1347 (July 14, 1968) | 12. Security remarks:  |
| 5. Appendix:                                 |  |
| 6. Copy receivers:                           |  |
| 7. Source: 1699                              |  |
| 8. Origin:                                   |  |

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Subject: Activities of Shiraz Bahais

On 18.4.1347 (July 9, 1968) a Bahai meeting was held at Ziaollah Hooshmand's home. Col. Agdassieh said:

*"We pride ourselves on our Bahai religion. When I was in the army, I used to respect the Bahai soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers. But if a Moslem person made a complaint against another, I had him whipped. We are informed that Shahanshah Aryamehr is a Bahai. We Bahais are all wealthy and will advance even further."*

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Security Classification**

**News Report**

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. To: 321                                 | 9. Date of incidence: 11.2.1350<br>(May 1, 1971)                                 |
| 2. From: H7                                | 10. Date news received by<br>source: 11.2.1350                                   |
| 3. Report No.: H/7596                      | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 12.2.1350<br>(May 2, 1971) |
| 4. Date of report: 18.2.1350 (May 8, 1971) | 12. Security remarks:  |
| 5. Appendix:                               |  |
| 6. Copy receivers:                         |  |
| 7. Source: 1699                            |  |
| 8. Origin:                                 |  |

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Subject: Bahais

A meeting of 9 Bahais from Shiraz District 15 was held at Mr. Farhang Azadegan's home, chaired by Mr. Loghmani. After reading the letter, Mr. Valiollah Loghmani spoke about the world's religions, their statistics and the martyrs of Bahaism. He went on to say: "The Bahai gentlemen had better study more and judge by the truth, in order to understand the meaning of Bahaism which enjoys more freedom today. *In the old days, our friends could not say they were Bahais and could not propagat. Those who campaigned were immediately killed. But, now that such fanaticism has been abandoned, we now have explicit instructions from America and London to promote dressing and building fashions as well as the women's being unveiled, so that Moslems shall take off the veil from their faces.*

I made some statements [to this effect] at Mr. Motamed's home, and all the Bahai girls and boys rejoiced. *In Iran and other Moslem countries, offend the Islamic nations as far as possible by applying and promoting fashion, such that they should no longer say that Imam Hossein conquered the world and Ali rules the world. Bahais agree that nationalism has no place in the Atomic Age, the atom which is made by Bahai hands. Weapons and ammunitions are manufactured by our youtns in Israel. These Moslems will finally be annihilated by the Bahais, and the world of His Holiness Bahaollah will be promoted."*

Sunday's comment: Saturday's statements are confirmed

Wednesday's comment: Saturday's statements are confirmed

H/7's comment: Wednesday's comment is confirmed.

## Exhibit No. 34

Subject: Bahatism  
Location: Shiraz  
Source of News: Goudarzi  
Classification: B-3  
Date news received: 5.11.1341 (Jan. 25, 1963)

... He happened to come across a Bahai who works with the National Iranian Oil Company. The latter said: "*Sabet Pasa* the well-known capitalist was the real man behind Teyeb's execution." He explained that: "*Sabet Pasa* was received by His Imperial Majesty and told him that Teyeb had been the cause of destruction of the Bahai cemetery and Golestan Javid."

To supplement this information, I refer to my memories from last summer when Kamal Sarvestani, an employee of the Ministry of Education, said: "*We Bahais avenged the destruction by Moslems a few years ago of Jazirato-Qods in Tehran on the Feizieh School in Qom.*" A few months before that I heard a Shiraz Bahai who said: "*We not only avenged the past, but continued the Bahai issue as far as land reforms.*" By that, he meant to infer that the "land reforms" issue was one which had been foreseen and that the idea thereof was from the Bahais.

*On the whole, the Bahais believe that the Bahais' assemblage in London was the cause of the crises over the past few months as well as the disputes between the Government and the clergy.*

Sunday's comment: As you had been advised before, it is this sect's method of operation to attribute any positive action anywhere and at any time to themselves.

**VERY CONFIDENTIAL**  
**Security Classification**

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. To: 241                                  | 9. Date of incidence: 24.2.1357<br>(May 14, 1978)                                 |
| 2. From: 2H7                                | 10. Date news received by<br>source:  |
| 3. Report No.: 3H/14409                     | 11. Date news received by local<br>operations leader: 27.2.1357<br>(May 17, 1978) |
| 4. Date of report: 31.2.1357 (May 21, 1978) | 12. Security remarks:   |
| 5. Appendix:                                |   |
| 6. Copy receivers:                          |   |
| 7. Source: 8825                             |   |
| 8. Origin:                                  |   |

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Subject: Shiraz Bahais

At 18.30 on 24.2.1357 (May 14, 1978) a meeting was held in Mr. Massihollah Yazdani's home, attended by Davoud Rohani, Massihollah Rohani, Massihollah Yazdani, Mohammad Ali Hooshmand, Qasem Karimianfard, Hadi Hooshmand, Fatollah Hooshmand Qadimi and Jahan Hooshmand.

To begin with, Massihollah Rohani said: "*There are strong differences between the religious fanatics and the Government. This has given rise to internal riots. Nobody would have believed that the people's security and welfare would be disrupted so quickly. The fact that Bahais serve with the Ministry of Imperial Court and the Imperial Commission has caused the clerical community to regard the Establishment with even more suspicion.*" He added: "*Communists will one day take over Iran. We have already anticipated this development. We Bahais are originally Iranians, but our intelligence and intellect are attached to the authorities in London and the Universal House of Justice (in Israel). By taking advantage of the situation and through propagation, we make the clergy apprehensive towards the government. With these riots in the country, the nature of the clergy is revealed and is not acceptable to the modern community, as they have proved to the people that the clergy is synonymous with saboteurs and communists.*"...

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. To: 321                                  | 8. Origin: Bahais' meeting  |
| 2. From: H7                                 | 9. Date of incidence: 28.2.1347   |
| 3. Report No.: H/6736                       | 10. Date news received by source: 28.2.1347                                 |
| 4. Date of report: 30.2.1347 (May 20, 1968) | 11. Date news received by local operations leader: 29.2.1347 (May 19, 1968) |
| 5. Appendix:                                | 12. Security remarks:   |
| 6. Copy receivers:                          |   |
| 7. Source: Colleague                        |   |

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Subject: Activities of Shiraz Bahais

*At 5.00 p.m. on 28.2.1347 (May 18, 1968) a meeting of the Bahais was held in HaziratoI-Qods. Mr. Assadollah Khatibi said in a speech: "O God, save us from this country and keep us safe. We hope that the progress of the Universal House of Justice will be such that it will one day end all these miseries, because the connections between the Universal House of Justice and the leaders of the world is such that U.S. President Johnson regularly congratulates the friends in Iran. A letter has been received from Dr. Brand Scott saying that sufficient money and wealth has been left to us by the friends in Iran. Therefore, if we are officially recognized, we will be wealthy. In this society, there is not a single Bahai beggar, because all the Bahais are educated and are employed in various capacities. Fortunately, Moslems are today below the Bahais, because Moslems are always backward, just as all Moslem governments are behind other governments."*

*Mr. Adab, Deputy-Governor of Bank Melli, speaking at the Bahai Assembly, said: "As long as I am in Bank Melli, I shall endeavour to recruit our required personnel from our bretheren. Also, as far as possible, I shall torment and cause the inconvenience for the Moslem employees in respect of salaries, fringe benefits and allowances."*

The above news is confirmed.





نشر فرهنگ انقلاب اسلامی

هلند - لاهه

P.O. Box 85567  
The Hague

# BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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Representative  
to the United Nations  
Dr. Victor de Araujo  
Alternate Representative  
Mr. Gerald Knight

August 1983

A COMMENTARY  
ON THE DOCUMENT  
"BAHAISM - ITS ORIGINS AND ITS ROLE"  
PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

As part of its continuing campaign to discredit the Bahá'í Faith, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran recently published a document entitled "Bahaism - its origins and its role".

The alleged purpose of this publication is to set out the "facts" concerning the Bahá'í Faith. It is clear, however, from the intemperate language of the document, from the patent inaccuracies and contradictions it contains, and from the unconvincing nature of the "evidence" it presents, that this publication is not concerned with facts or with the truth but is simply an exercise in defamation.

The real purpose of the document is to support the Iranian Government's allegation that the Bahá'í Faith is a seditious political entity; to justify, on this pretext, the persecution and execution of Bahá'ís in Iran; and - most important of all - to conceal the true motive underlying the persecution of the Iranian Bahá'í community. That motive is, quite simply, primitive religious prejudice.

In the early days of the Bahá'í Faith, which originated in Iran in the middle of the last century, the religious leaders of the country did not trouble to conceal the true reasons for their hostility towards the new religion. The very notion that any religion could appear after Islam was anathema to the Shiite Muslim fundamentalists, who viewed the Bahá'í Faith as a dangerous heresy and its followers as apostates who deserved death. In the pogroms that ensued, over 20,000 men, women and children were brutally slaughtered. However, as times changed, so rationalizations and slogans changed. In the twentieth century, modern notions of religious toleration penetrated Iran and the fundamentalist religious leaders found that they could no longer win public support by attacking the Bahá'í Faith on purely theological grounds. Secularism had influenced the educated classes, who embraced nationalism as a surrogate religion. In order to turn them against their Bahá'í fellow-citizens, it was necessary to accuse the Bahá'ís of being unpatriotic and politically-motivated. Spurious accusations to this effect were duly invented and disseminated by the religious leaders as a means of inflaming public opinion against the Bahá'ís who, as a result, suffered

severe discrimination and repeated pogroms throughout the Pahlavi regime. The Iranian Revolution, which brought to power those very elements most bitterly opposed to the Bahá'í Faith, witnessed the resurgence of primitive religious fanaticism and signalled the start of a campaign of persecution against the Bahá'í community of an intensity and ferocity unparalleled since the early days of the Faith.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, piqued at the many protests it has received from Governments the world over concerning the treatment of the Bahá'ís, and unwilling publicly to admit that it is engaged in a systematic campaign of religious persecution, is now attempting to convince the international community - particularly non-Western Governments - that the Bahá'í Faith is a political organization and that its followers worldwide are engaged in subversive activities.

The Bahá'í International Community categorically denies these allegations. The Bahá'í Faith is an independent world religion and its followers are forbidden by the laws of their faith from becoming involved in partisan politics or in any form of subversive activity.

Bahá'í communities exist in countries throughout the world and their activities are known to the Governments of those countries to be non-political, non-partisan and peaceful. The activities of Bahá'í communities in every part of the world are open to scrutiny and the Bahá'í International Community would welcome the establishment of an impartial body of inquiry to mount a thorough investigation into these activities, particularly into the charges of political involvement and subversion, in order to disprove once and for all the false and malicious accusations propagated by the Government of Iran.

The Bahá'í International Community does not propose, in this brief commentary, to examine and rebut in exhaustive detail every mis-statement contained in the new Iranian document but has the following general comments to make concerning the main arguments put forward in this publication.

Introduction (page 3). The introduction to the report asserts that Western Governments and the Western media are solely responsible for drawing world attention to the "Bahá'í issue" and that this issue is being cynically exploited by the West as a vehicle for propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The human rights organs of the United Nations are accused of complicity in this process. The authors of the report conveniently omit to mention that Governments and the media in Africa, Asia, Australasia and Latin America have also condemned and publicized the Iranian Government's treatment of the Bahá'ís and that human rights experts from a number of Muslim nations have deplored the persecution of the Bahá'ís as being contrary to the teachings of Islam.

Origin of the Bahá'í Faith (pages 3 to 6, 8 and 9). The proposition that the Bahá'í Faith is a product of Russian imperialism and that it owes its very existence to the activities of a Russian spy masquerading as a mullah is so

foolish that Muslim scholars themselves have ridiculed it. The whole argument is based upon the fact that, in the early days of the Faith, various Russian diplomats intervened with the Iranian authorities in an attempt to halt the religious persecution of Bahá'ís. Yet the "Russian connection" is solemnly presented as a fact in the Iranian document, and quotations from "history books" are presented in support of the argument.

It should be noted in this connection that, for over a century, the enemies of the Bahá'í Faith have produced numerous books and tracts denouncing the Faith and its followers and deliberately distorting and misrepresenting its history and its teachings. Typically, in such publications, the Founders of the Bahá'í Faith are portrayed as moral degenerates, its teachings are distorted in such a way that they appear either ludicrous or anti-Islamic, and historical incidents involving the victimization of Bahá'ís are depicted as bloodthirsty assaults carried out by Bahá'ís.

The Iranian document contains numerous examples of this kind of distortion, all supported by quotations. Assuming that these quotations were not invented specifically for the purposes of the report, it must be concluded that the compilers are quoting heavily from anti-Bahá'í "history books" - thereby using one falsehood to support another.

In addition to these distortions, the report contains major errors concerning readily-verifiable facts. Since they add nothing to the report's anti-Bahá'í arguments, such errors of fact may be presumed to be unintentional - but their mere presence in the report indicates very clearly the compilers' total disregard for accuracy.

Alleged relationship between the Bahá'í Faith and colonialism (pages 6 to 11). The compilers of the Iranian document have assiduously sought to find in authentic Bahá'í publications (most notably in the book "God Passes By") any reference to Western Governments or government officials. Where any such reference is found, it is solemnly presented as evidence of some kind of illicit relationship between the Bahá'í Faith and Western Governments. The reader who studies this "evidence" will find, however, that it is totally innocuous. Throughout the history of the Bahá'í Faith, numerous diplomats - both Eastern and Western - have, for purely humanitarian reasons, offered assistance to the Bahá'í victims of persecution and intervened with the Iranian authorities in an attempt to halt the persecution. Such actions - which were not uncommon in the past, just as they are not uncommon today - are duly noted with gratitude in Bahá'í books. Similarly, Bahá'í books record instances in which Governments throughout the world (not just Western Governments) have, through their official actions, expressed their recognition of and respect for the Bahá'í Faith and its teachings. References such as these, while testifying eloquently to the humanitarian and non-discriminatory attitudes of many Governments, can hardly be said to constitute evidence of political collusion between these Governments and the Bahá'í Faith.

In a further attempt to provide evidence of some "colonial connection", the Iranian report refers to events in Palestine during World War I (which is redefined as being, in essence, a conflict between Islamic and imperial powers). The report alleges that 'Abdu'l-Bahá (also known as Abbas Effendi), the son of the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, acted as an agent of the British Government in Palestine, stockpiled wheat for the British army while the local population was starving, and that he was protected, financially rewarded and knighted by the British Government, in recognition of his services.

These alleged "facts" are gross distortions of the truth. 'Abdu'l-Bahá never received any money from the British Government and the knighthood conferred upon him was in recognition of his humanitarian services to the poor and needy in Palestine during World War I. The claim (page 10 paragraph 4) that 'Abdu'l-Bahá hoarded wheat for the British army while the local population starved is flatly contradicted by the very evidence which is used to support it (i.e. Exhibit 4, page 27 of the report). As this exhibit makes clear, the wheat cultivated by 'Abdu'l-Bahá was used for the relief of the famine-stricken local population throughout the war years 1914-1918. Also clear from this exhibit is the fact that the British army had access to the wheat only once, towards the very end of the war.

The intervention of the British Government to protect the life of 'Abdu'l-Bahá was inspired by and in response to appeals from the British Bahá'ís, who had learned that the Commander of the Turkish forces had publicly vowed to crucify him on Mount Carmel. Similar situations exist today, when Bahá'ís in different countries appeal to their respective Governments on behalf of their co-religionists in Iran.

The report cites the names of various British officials who attended 'Abdu'l-Bahá's funeral, but omits to mention that his funeral was also attended by the chiefs of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish and other religious communities in the Holy Land, and by notables from all strata of Palestinian society.

Alleged relationship between the Bahá'í Faith and Zionism (pages 11 to 14).

In an attempt to concoct some political relationship between the Bahá'í Faith and Zionism, the Iranian document quotes extensively from Bahá'í publications which describe the status of the Bahá'í Faith and its World Centre in the Holy Land. Once again, the reader will find that the material is wholly innocuous. It is totally devoid of political content and simply records various incidents pertaining to the relationship which must inevitably exist between the headquarters of an international non-governmental organization and its host government.

As the Bahá'í International Community has explained on many previous occasions, the Bahá'í World Centre was established in the last century, long before the State of Israel came into existence, and has nothing to do with Zionism. The

Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, Bahá'u'lláh, was exiled to the Holy Land in compliance with the orders of two Islamic governments (Iran and Turkey). He remained in the Holy Land until His death in 1892, His Shrine was raised there, and the Holy Land thus became the world spiritual centre of the Bahá'í Faith. Bahá'u'lláh Himself directed that the world spiritual and administrative centres of His faith must always be united in one locality. Accordingly, the world administrative centre of the Bahá'í Faith has always been and must continue to be in the Holy Land. It cannot be re-located for the sake of temporary political expediency.

References are made in the report to the Bahá'ís sending funds to Israel "to support international Zionism". In fact, the funds sent by Bahá'ís the world over to the Bahá'í World Centre are solely and exclusively for the upkeep of their holy Shrines and historic sites in the Holy Land and for the administration of their Faith. It will be noted that other religious communities (including the Muslim and Christian communities) also send money for the upkeep of their holy places in Israel without being accused by the Iranian Government of giving financial support to the Government of Israel.

Allegation that the Bahá'í Faith is a political party and not a religion (pages 14 and 15). Most of the arguments marshalled in support of this false allegation (viz. the "Russian connection", the "colonial connection" and the "Zionist connection", complete with the usual references to "history books") have been discussed and discredited earlier in the commentary and do not merit further consideration. The only new allegation - namely, that the Bahá'ís were political supporters of the late Shah - is fully discussed on pages 6 and 7 of this commentary.

Alleged examples of Bahá'í teachings (pages 15 to 17). In this section of the Iranian report, the compilers have quoted Bahá'í laws out of context and misrepresented them or, in other instances, have simply invented them. This commentary would be unduly lengthened if corrections on such ideological issues were included in it.

Contrary to what is implied in the report, there is no hidden or sinister meaning in any of the Bahá'í teachings and the whole body of Bahá'í law is open to scrutiny and to question by any person who cares to enquire into it.

The allegation that the Bahá'ís lack loyalty to their homeland or to their country of residence is a deliberate distortion of the Bahá'í teachings, which exhort all Bahá'ís to be loyal citizens of their country and commend a "sane and intelligent patriotism", but condemn arrogant and aggressive nationalism and hold that, in this age, the goal of mankind should be the establishment of the unity of all nations rather than the promotion of purely national interests.

As stated in the report, "non-participation in political parties" is, indeed, a fundamental principle of Bahá'í belief, but the assertion that "this provides

a cover for operations of sabotage" is as false as it is ingenuous. As noted earlier in this commentary, Bahá'ís are prohibited by the law of their faith from becoming involved in any form of subversive activity.

The allegation that the Bahá'í Faith preaches "collaboration with oppressive, instrumental rulers" is a distortion of the Bahá'í law which requires all Bahá'ís to show loyalty and obedience to the government of the country in which they live, whatever its form or political orientation.

Finally, there is no shred of truth in the allegation that the Bahá'í Faith preaches "obstinate enmity with Muslims and belief in the annihilation of all Muslims throughout the world". Nothing in the Bahá'í teachings could possibly be construed as conveying these sentiments and it is quite clear that this inflammatory accusation has been inserted in the report for the specific purpose of arousing the hostility and mistrust of Muslim readers and Muslim Governments.

The Bahá'í Faith, in fact, advocates religious unity and teaches that all forms of religious intolerance and discrimination must be abolished. The Bahá'í attitude towards all religions can briefly be summarized as follows. Whereas the followers of other religions believe that divine revelation ended with their Prophet, the Bahá'í Faith teaches that religious revelation is continuous and progressive and that Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith, is the latest - but not the last - of the Divine Educators sent by God to guide mankind. Accordingly, Bahá'ís believe in the essential oneness of all the major religions of the world and honour and revere their Founders as divinely-inspired Prophets. (Indeed, the Bahá'í Faith is the only independent world religion, apart from Islam itself, which recognizes the Holy Qur'án as a divinely-revealed Book). For a Bahá'í to oppose, belittle or seek to destroy other religions and their followers would thus be a denial of one of the most fundamental Bahá'í principles.

Alleged collaboration between the Bahá'ís and Pahlavi regime and between the Bahá'ís and SAVAK (pages 18 to 21). The allegation that the Bahá'ís collaborated with and supported the regime of the late Shah springs from the fact that, in accordance with the teachings of their faith, Bahá'ís are loyal to the Governments of their countries and that, consequently, the Iranian Bahá'ís did not affiliate themselves with political parties or subversive organizations opposed to the regime. The same principle is observed by Bahá'ís at the present time, under Iran's new regime. The allegation that the Bahá'ís collaborated with SAVAK is equally false. SAVAK officials such as Parviz Sabeti, who have been described as Bahá'ís, were not Bahá'ís.

Ignoring the fact (of which they must be well aware) that, short of being executed for their religion, the entire Bahá'í community in Iran suffered persecution and discrimination throughout the Pahlavi regime, and that SAVAK was one of the principal agencies used against them, the compilers

of the Iranian report illogically assert (page 18) that "the major part of the organization of the Shah's damned rule, particularly SAVAK, was managed by Bahá'ís".

The report goes on to list thirteen people whom it identifies as Bahá'ís. In common with the rest of the material contained in the report, this list is half innocuous fact and half damaging fiction. None of the political figures named in the list (Hoveyda, Rohani, Parsa, Sabeti) is or was a Bahá'í; nor is (or was) Lili Amir-Arjomand. General Sani'i was once a Bahá'í but was expelled from the Bahá'í community when he accepted a political post. None of the others (who truly are Bahá'ís) was ever in any way associated with the political or security operations of the Shah's regime. Doctor Ayadi was one of the Shah's physicians; Mr. Khademi was head of the national civil airline. Shapour Rasekh, a distinguished economist and educationalist, served on the planning commission for development projects in Iran. His wife Mehri, an eminent psychologist, was sometimes consulted in her professional capacity by official bodies responsible for implementing Iran's educational development programme. Messrs. Sabet and Yazdani are private businessmen. Hossein Amanat is a distinguished architect whose name was no doubt included in the list because he designed the recently-completed Permanent Seat of the Universal House of Justice (the supreme administrative body of the Bahá'í Faith).

Alleged SAVAK documents (pages 18 to 21). Two very pertinent questions arise in connection with these documents:

If (as falsely alleged in the report) SAVAK was "managed" by Bahá'ís, why was this organization spying on Bahá'ís and producing reports damaging to the Bahá'í community?

Since the compilers of the report have chosen to ignore this blatant incongruity, the following question arises:

Bearing in mind that the present Iranian Government has totally discredited SAVAK and all its works, why are SAVAK documents now being held up as reliable and authentic as far as Bahá'ís are concerned?

Turning to the documents themselves, the dates of various Bahá'ís meetings and the names of those attending them might possibly be genuine (the Bahá'ís were constantly under surveillance by SAVAK) but the statements purported to have been made by Bahá'ís are so ludicrous that they have obviously been fabricated. Significantly, these fabricated statements contrive to serve the ends both of SAVAK itself (which attacked the Bahá'ís on political grounds) and of SAVAK's arch-collaborator, the fanatical Tablighat-i-Islami organization (which attacked the Bahá'ís on religious grounds). Evidence of collaboration between these two organizations in "attacking Bahá'ís in a scientific and logical way" was published in the Iranian newspaper Mojahed on 9 June 1980. (For full text, see "The Bahá'ís in Iran: A Report on the



Persecution of a Religious Minority", page 83 of the 1982 edition).

Contrary to what is alleged in the Iranian report, no Bahá'í has ever "confessed" to any of the charges brought against the Bahá'í community and the purported "confession" referred to on page 18 is simply a quotation from one of the SAVAK documents. No shred of evidence has ever been produced to support any of the charges brought against Bahá'ís and the numerous "Exhibits", masquerading as documentary evidence, which occupy the final 21 pages of the Iranian report will be found to be either innocuous quotations (Exhibits 1 to 16) or crude and very obvious fabrications (Exhibits 17 to 36 - alleged SAVAK documents).

The inability of the Iranian authorities to produce any convincing evidence against the Bahá'ís is not at all surprising. The Bahá'í principles of loyalty and obedience to government, and of abstention from political or subversive activities, are absolutely fundamental: they do not change with changing governments or with changing circumstances.

Attitude of the Iranian Government towards the Bahá'ís (pages 21 to 24). The final sections of the Iranian report contain (among a mass of political diatribe) various false assertions concerning the attitude of the Iranian Government towards the followers of the Bahá'í Faith.

It is alleged (page 22 paragraph 3) that many Bahá'ís have "recognized the imperialist nature" of their faith and have therefore renounced it and "returned to the bosom of the people and Islam". The truth is that the 300,000 members of the Iranian Bahá'í community (the largest religious minority in Iran) have resisted remorseless social, financial, psychological and physical pressure rather than deny their beliefs; that 142 Bahá'ís have suffered death when they could have saved themselves by recanting; and that the very small number of Bahá'ís who have actually recanted their faith did so only under extreme physical pressure.

The report (page 22 paragraph 5) duly takes up the official stance of the Iranian Government and asserts that no Bahá'í has ever been executed in Iran because of his religious beliefs and that any Bahá'í who has been imprisoned or sentenced to death has been found guilty of crimes against the State.

This argument does not explain the pervasive and continuing persecution of the entire Bahá'í community in Iran. It ignores the fact that no evidence has ever been produced to support any of the charges brought against those Bahá'ís who were executed, and also ignores the fact that, in the very few cases in which a Bahá'í has been willing to recant his faith, he has immediately been released and all the charges against him dropped - while his fellow believers, who refused to recant, have been executed on identical charges. The argument does not explain the disappearance, following their arrest, of all nine members of the national governing body of the Bahá'í

Faith in Iran, nor the secret execution (initially denied by the authorities) of eight of their successors. It does not explain why over 200 Bahá'ís, including women and juveniles, are currently being held without charges in Iranian prisons.

The argument that there is no large-scale persecution of the Bahá'í community on religious grounds is singularly unconvincing in the light of the fact that all Bahá'í community properties and holy places in Iran have been confiscated and/or destroyed, and that thousands of innocent Bahá'ís have been deprived of their fundamental human rights in a variety of dehumanizing ways, including dismissal from employment, denial of pensions, confiscation of private property, deprivation of means of livelihood and denial of education to children.

The contention (page 23 paragraphs 2 and 5 of the report) that the Bahá'ís are protected by the Iranian Constitution provided that they do not engage in anti-State activities is also false. The Bahá'ís are not recognized as a religious minority in the Iranian Constitution and thus (according to the Islamic law upon which the Constitution is based) they have no status, rights or protection under the Constitution. Under the present legal system, they will be granted constitutional rights only if they are willing to recant their faith and embrace Islam.

Despite the repeated denials of the Iranian Government, it is clear that the persecution of the Bahá'ís is based solely upon their religious beliefs. It is equally clear that the allegations contained in the document "Bahaism - its origins and its role" represent an attempt by the Iranian Government to divert international attention from the fanatically religious motivation underlying the persecution and to undermine the good reputation which the Bahá'í community enjoys throughout the world.

(The current plight of the Bahá'í community in Iran, and the false accusations levelled against the Bahá'ís by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, are more fully discussed in the Bahá'í International Community publication "The Bahá'ís in Iran: A Report on the Persecution of a Religious Minority," first published in June 1981, revised and updated in July 1982).