

Geographical compilations of letters from Shoghi Effendi

A DOCUMENT BY VIOLETTA ZEIN FOR "[THE GUARDIAN: THE ILLUSTRATED
CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF SHOGHI EFFENDI](#)"

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Alaska: High Endeavors: Letters to Alaska

In 1976, the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska published a compilation of the Guardian's letters to Bahá'ís in Alaska, because the National Spiritual Assembly was only elected in 1957, the same year Shoghi Effendi passed away. This is an excerpt of the compilation's introduction:

[T]his book represents more than a collection of letters from the Guardian of the Cause of God. It shows his tender, loving hand as his vision becomes translated into reality, from virgin territory to teaching area, to pioneer post, to local institutions, to national institutions. It is a view of the master craftsman, shaping a sustained pillar of the Universal House of Justice.

This compilation of 80 letters and cables written by and on behalf of the Guardian is divided in five parts:

- Part 1: 6 letters from the Guardian to individuals from 1939 to 1943;
- Part 2: 49 letters to Local Spiritual Assemblies, Conventions, committees, and communities, and some to the newly-formed National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska;
- Part 3: 22 letters from the Guardian to individuals from 1946 to 1957;
- Part 4: 3 telegrams to Bahá'í individuals;
- Part 5: 24 excerpts from letters written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi.

The book also reproduces telegrams to pioneers and letters to Bahá'í institutions.

Below is one of the most beautiful excerpts from this compilation dated 30 June 1957, on the occasion of the formation of the National Spiritual Assembly of Alaska:

The endeavours which the high-minded, youthful hearted, deeply consecrated members of this community will exert must be such as to excite the unqualified admiration of their fellow believers in Bahá'í communities in both Hemispheres. The sacrifices which must

be made will, no doubt, if they rise to this occasion, merit the applause of the Concourse on high and draw forth a still fuller measure of the promised blessings of the Author of the Divine Plan Himself.

That the members of this community may neither falter nor fail, that they may set an example worthy of emulation of their fellow-workers in all continents of the globe, that they may achieve such feats, in the course of the attainment of their high objectives, as shall eclipse the past achievements of their spiritual brethren in the North American continent and throughout Latin America, is the object of my constant prayer for them in the Holy Shrines as well as my heart's most cherished desire.

REFERENCES

[High Endeavors: Letters to Alaska](#), Shoghi Effendi.
[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjavání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 209-220.

Australia and New Zealand: Messages to the Antipodes

When 'Abdu'l-Bahá revealed the Tablets of the Divine Plan, only a very small handful of individuals rose up to accomplish the tasks set out by the Master.

Among these rare, exceptional, heroic souls were John Henry and Clara Hyde Dunn, American Bahá'ís arose to pioneer at the farthest end of the planet from their home, and arrived in Australia, on 18 April 1920.

Three years later, after the Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and under the guidance of Shoghi Effendi, they were able to form the first Local Spiritual Assembly in Melbourne. The National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand was formed in 1934, and in 1956 New Zealand became a separate National Spiritual Assembly

Shoghi Effendi wrote 700 letters and 200 cables, to Australia and New Zealand, and they were all published for the first time in 2021 by the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia in a volume called Messages to the Antipodes.

This compilation gathered in a single book the 81 letters included in a previous compilation—Letters of the Guardian to Australia and New Zealand, and the 82 letters in Arohanui: Letters from Shoghi Effendi to New Zealand, as well as a number of additional letters which mention Australia and New Zealand, although not addressed to believers living in the Antipodes.

The compilation is divided in several parts with additional information, but the letters of Shoghi Effendi are grouped by addressee:

- Letters Written by Shoghi Effendi or on His Behalf Messages to National Spiritual Assemblies
- Messages to Other Institutions, Groups & Individuals

Extracts from these messages are included below:

This beautiful excerpt from a letter 30 December 1948 addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly of Australia and New Zealand is a handwritten postscript by the Guardian himself:

Every outward thrust into new fields, every multiplication of Bahá'í institutions, must be paralleled by a deeper thrust of the roots which sustain the spiritual life of the community and ensure its sound development. From this vital, this ever-present need, attention must at no time be diverted; nor must it be, under any circumstances, neglected, or subordinated to the no less vital and urgent task of ensuring the outer expansion of Bahá'í administrative institutions. That this community, so alive, so devoted, so strikingly and rapidly developing, may maintain a proper balance between these two essential aspects of its development, and march forward with rapid strides and along sound lines toward the goal of the Plan it has adopted, is the ardent hope of my heart and my constant prayer.

REFERENCES

[Messages to the Antipodes \(2021 Edition\)](#), Shoghi Effendi.
[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjávání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 209-212.

Canada: Messages to Canada

Canada was opened to the Faith in 1902 by Mrs. May Maxwell, and blessed by the footsteps of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 10 years later. With its sister national community the United States, it was joint recipient of the Tablets of the Divine Plan. Shoghi Effendi's first letter to the newly-formed Local Spiritual Assembly in Montreal, dated 2 January 1923, reads: 'Though its people be firmly entrenched in their religious sectarianism and strongly attached to their religious doctrines and traditions, yet who can doubt that with courage and persistence, kindness and wisdom, the all-conquering words of Bahá'u'lláh can fail to break down all these barriers of prejudice and religious exclusiveness and conquer this long-standing stronghold of sectarian belief!' (MC 5).

The first edition of messages to Canada was published in 1965, and had only 30 communications from the Guardian. An enlarged edition appeared in 1999 and consists of 278 letters and cables, running to 170 pages. The revised version is organized into four sections:

- Section 1: The early years: From 1923 to 1937;
- Section 2: First and Second Seven Year Plans under the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States and Canada: From 1937 to 1948
- Section 3: The National Spiritual Assembly of Canada: From 1948 to 1953
- Section 4: The Ten Year Crusade: From 1953 to 1957

The Canadian National Spiritual Assembly was formed in 1948 and by 1953, when the Ten Year Crusade was launched, had become one of the national pillars of the Administrative Order. It was thus one of the 'twelve generals' of the Ten Year Plan. The major messages of Shoghi Effendi to Canada were sent between 1948 and 1957.

This tribute of love from Shoghi Effendi to Canada is exceptional, and it is excerpted from a handwritten postscript by the Guardian to a letter written on his behalf by his secretary to the National Spiritual Assembly of Canada, dated 1 March 1951. It is particularly touching to read the words of the Guardian about his beloved wife, Ruḥiyyih Khánum, whom he calls his "shield":

It was a Canadian [Louis Bourgeois], of French extraction, who through his vision and skill was instrumental in conceiving the design, and delineating the features, of the first Mashriqu'l-Adhkár of the West, marking the first attempt, however rudimentary, to express the beauty which Bahá'í art will, in its plenitude, unfold to the eyes of the world. It was a Canadian woman [Marion Jack], one of the noblest in the ranks of Bahá'í pioneers, who alone and single-handed, forsook her home, settled among an alien people, braved with a leonine spirit the risks and dangers of the world conflict that raged around her, and who now, at an advanced age and suffering from infirmities, is still holding the Fort and is setting an example, worthy of emulation by all her fellow pioneers of both the East and the West. It was a member [Rúhíyyih Khánum] of that same community who won the immortal distinction of being called upon to be my helpmate, my shield in warding off the darts of Covenant-breakers and my tireless collaborator in the arduous tasks I shoulder. It was a Canadian subject [May Maxwell], the spiritual mother of that same community, who, though fully aware of the risks of the voyage she was undertaking, journeyed as far as the capital of Argentina to serve a Cause that had honoured her so uniquely, and there laid down her life and won the everlasting crown of martyrdom. It was, moreover, a Canadian [William Sutherland Maxwell] who more recently achieved the immortal renown of designing the exquisite shell destined to envelop, preserve and embellish the holy and priceless structure enshrining the dust of the Beloved Founder of our Faith.

REFERENCES

[Messages to Canada](#), Shoghi Effendi.
[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjavání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 212-217.

Germany and Austria: Light of Divine Guidance, Volumes 1 and 2

In 1982 and 1985, the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany published two compilations of letters of the beloved Guardian to Bahá'í communities and to individual believers in Germany and Austria.

These compilations were called Light of Divine Guidance, Volumes 1 and 2, and they are both arranged chronologically, not thematically. Volume 1 contains 213 letters from 17 December 1922 to 27 October 1957, and Volume 2 contains 170 letters from 27 February (1922) to 24 October 1957, as well as an index of the addressees of letters to individuals.

Both volumes are arranged in two parts, from 1922 to the beginning of World War II, and from 1945 to 1957, the end of Shoghi Effendi's life. The reason for the gap between 1939 and 1945, was, of course, the Second World War, and the fact that the Nazi regime had officially banned the Bahá'í Faith in Germany and Austria, as well as the fact that communications with the Holy Land were cut off.

The Guardian inspired the Bahá'ís in Germany, scattered after World War II, to resume their activities, elected their National Spiritual Assembly, embark on a teaching plan, and rise to the status of one of his 12 "Generals" of the Ten Year Crusade, one of 12 National Spiritual Assemblies he could rely on to win historic victories.

During the Ten Year Crusade, the Guardian wrote the National Spiritual Assembly of Germany and Austria two 9-page letters. Below is a deeply inspiring excerpt from a letter Effendi wrote to that National Spiritual Assembly on 30 May 1952, ahead of their European Intercontinental Teaching Conference:

The participation of the Bahá'í community, in both Germany and Austria, individually as well as officially, in the forthcoming Stockholm intercontinental Conference, to which I trust its members will contribute a notable share, in view of the part they are destined to play in the future awakening of the European Continent—will no doubt, launch them upon the initial stage of their glorious Mission beyond the confines of their respective countries. Theirs will be the two-fold and highly challenging task of

consolidating, steadily and rapidly, the administrative foundations of the Structure which is being painstakingly established by them in the heart of the European continent, and of implanting the banner of the rising order of their Faith in the neighbouring sovereign states and dependencies of that continent and even beyond its borders, as far as the heart of Asia.

Time is running out. The work they have to accomplish is immense, exacting, thrilling and inescapable. The hosts of the Concourse on high will surely lead them onward and assure them a resounding victory, if they but keep their vision undimmed, if they refuse to faint or falter, if they persevere and remain faithful to both the spiritual and the administrative principles inculcated by their Faith.

REFERENCES

[Light of Divine Guidance: Volume 1](#), Shoghi Effendi, Germany: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1982.

[Light of Divine Guidance: Volume 2](#), Shoghi Effendi, Germany: Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 1985.

[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjavání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 206-209.

India, Pakistan, and Myanmar: Messages of Shoghi Effendi to the Indian Subcontinent

Shoghi Effendi's messages to India, Pakistan, and Myanmar were initially published in 1970 under the title *Dawn of a New Day*, but the compilation's name was changed to *Messages of Shoghi Effendi to the Indian Subcontinent: 1923 – 1957*, when it was revised and expanded in 1995.

This 430-page compilation is a collection of 580 letters and cables of the Guardian to the Indian, Pakistani, and Myanmar Bahá'ís, and it is strictly organized by year, from 1923 to 1970.

Asia occupied a very special place in the Guardian's heart because of its very early association with the Bábí and Bahá'í Dispensations. The Báb mentioned India by name on the first night of His Declaration, in the following verse from Chapter I of the *Qayyúmu'l-Asmá'*:

O concourse of kings! Deliver with truth and in all haste the verses sent down by Us to the peoples of Turkey and of India

The Báb also appointed Sa'íd Hindí, an Indian from Lucknow, as the Ninth Letter of the Living. The Indian subcontinent was one of the oldest Bahá'í communities in the world: it was opened to the Faith during the lifetime of Bahá'u'lláh, when He sent a well-known Persian Bahá'í scholar, Jamál Effendi, to teach the Cause in India and what was then known as Burma—now Myanmar. During the Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the Master showered the Bahá'ís in India and Burma with His all-embracing love, and nearly 700 Tablets. Apart from the Bahá'í community in Iran, one of the strongholds of the Bahá'í Cause during the Guardian's ministry was India.

The excerpt below from Shoghi Effendi's message to the Asian Intercontinental Teaching Conference in New Delhi in October 1953 displays in full glory the joy and pride the Guardian felt towards the Bahá'í communities of the Indian subcontinent:

The Asiatic continent, the cradle of the principal religions of mankind; the home of so many of the oldest and mightiest civilizations which have flourished on this planet; the crossways of

so many kindreds and races; the battleground of so many peoples and nations; above whose horizon, in modern times, the suns of two independent Revelations—the promise and consummation of a six thousand-year-old religious Cycle—have successively arisen; where the Authors of both of these Revelations suffered banishment and died; within whose confines the Centre of a divinely-appointed Covenant was born, endured a forty-year incarceration and passed away; on whose Western extremity the Qiblih of the Bahá'í world has been definitely established; in whose heart the City proclaimed by Bahá'u'lláh as the 'Mother of the World' (Tehran) is enshrined; within whose borders another City regarded as the 'Cynosure of an adoring world' (Baghdád) and the scene of the greatest and most glorious Revelation the world has witnessed is embosomed; on whose soil so many saints, heroes and martyrs, associated with both of these Revelations, have lived, struggled and died—such a continent, so privileged among its sister continents and yet so long and so sadly tormented, now stands, at the hour of the launching of a world-encompassing Crusade, on the threshold of an era that may well recall, in its glory and ultimate repercussions, the great periods of spiritual revival which, from the dawn of recorded history have, at various stages in the revelation of God's purpose for mankind, illuminated the path of the human race.

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[Messages of Shoghi Effendi to the Indian Subcontinent: 1923-1957](#),

Shoghi Effendi.

Qayyúmu'l-Asmá', The Báb, [Chapter I](#).

[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjavání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 200-205.

Japan: Japan Will Turn Ablaze

The National Spiritual Assembly of Japan first compiled Shoghi Effendi's letters to Japan in 1974 under the name Japan Will Turn Ablaze, with an expanded edition in 1992.

The book is divided in two parts, one for letters written to Japanese believers during the Ministry of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and one for letters written during the ministry of Shoghi Effendi.

In the first part, devoted to the ministry of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, the compilation includes Tablets to Agnes Alexander, and other Bahá'ís and all the existing connections between 'Abdu'l-Bahá and Japan during his ministry, including his address to a Japanese audience in San Francisco, Tablets mentioning Japan, and his meeting the president of a Japanese women's college in London in 1912.

The bulk of Japan Will Turn Ablaze is a compilation of 103 letters and cables from the Guardian, which form Part 2 and are divided in

- 46 letters and Cables to Miss Agnes B. Alexander, 1923-1957;
- 11 letters and Cable to the Bahá'ís of Japan in the Early Days, 1922-1931;
- Letters and Cables to Bahá'í institutions—the Conventions and National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia, National Spiritual Assemblies of Australia and the United States, and various Japanese Local Spiritual Assemblies;
- Letters to Individuals
- The story of how Martha Root transmitted a cable from Shoghi Effendi to Emperor Showa of Japan in January 1930;

The compilation ends with two messages from the Universal House of Justice to Message from the Universal House of Justice to the North Pacific Oceanic Conference in Sapporo, Japan, in September, 1971.

Here is a powerful excerpt dated 19 July 1957 from the Guardian's messages to Japan on the historic election of a Regional Spiritual Assembly in North East Asia, firmly planting the banner of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh in the midmost heart of the Pacific:

...The emergence of a new Regional Spiritual Assembly in the North Pacific Area [National Spiritual Assembly of North East Asia, with its seat in Tokyo, Japan] . . . may be said to have, at long last, established a spiritual axis, extending from the Antipodes to the northern islands of the Pacific Ocean – an axis whose northern and southern poles will act as powerful magnets, endowed with exceptional spiritual potency, and towards which younger and less experienced communities will tend for some time to gravitate.

REFERENCES

[Japan Will Turn Ablaze](#): Shoghi Effendi.
[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjávání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 220-223.

New Zealand: Arohanui: Letters to New Zealand

In 1982, the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand published a compilation of 79 letters and cables addressed to individual Bahá'ís and Bahá'í institutions of New Zealand.

The compilation's name was Arohanui: Letters to New Zealand.

Arohanui means big love, much love, with deep affection, and is often used in signing off letters to friends.

The National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand explains that in the context of this compilation of letters from Shoghi Effendi, "Arohanui" is used in its more expressive meaning, "enfolding love", or "that love which binds a community together", or "that love which creates bonds of mutual trust and loyalty", or "that love which builds and carries forward culture or civilization"

Arohanui: Letters to New Zealand is divided into 6 parts:

- Part 1: Letters to individuals, June 1923 to April 1926
- Part 2: Letters to individuals, August 1926 to September 1933
- Part 3: Letters to individuals, June 1934 to January 1955
- Part 4: Letters to Bahá'í institutions, March 1926 to September 1957
- Part 5: Cables to New Zealand, January 1949 to December 1953
- Part 6: Extracts on various subjects

This compilation contains two interesting appendices: one appendix containing background information on 10 of the letters, and the second appendix listing the name of 69 addressees.

This is a particularly touching excerpt from this compilation, an excerpt of a letter dated 4 April 1957 from the Guardian on the occasion of the inception of the National Spiritual Assembly of New Zealand:

May the outpourings of the Holy Spirit continue to energise this small yet resolute forward marching, dedicated community, and may the outcome of the collective efforts of its members contribute decisively to the triumphant consummation of the World Crusade on which the entire body of the followers of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh have so confidently embarked.

REFERENCES

[Arohanui: Letters to New Zealand](#), Shoghi Effendi.
[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjavání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 217-219.
Te Aka Māori Dictionary: [Arohanui](#).

The United Kingdom: The Unfolding Destiny of the British Bahá'í Community

In 1981, the National Spiritual Assembly of the United Kingdom published a massive compilation called *The Unfolding Destiny of the British Bahá'í Community*, and comprised of letters and telegrams by or on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to British Bahá'ís from 1922 to 1957.

The compilation was 430 pages long.

The letters and cables of the Guardian were organized in 6 parts:

- Part 1: The early years: 1922 to 1944
- Part 2: The Six Year Plan: From 1944 to 1950
- Part 3: The Africa Plan: From 1950 to 1953
- Part 4: The Ten Year Crusade: From 1953 to 1957
- Part 5: Letters to Local Assemblies
- Part 6: Excerpts from letters to individuals

The Guardian's deep love and admiration for the British Bahá'í community—a place he always associated with 'Abdu'l-Bahá's two visits in 1911-1912 and in 1913, as well as his own studies in Oxford in 1920-1921—flows through his encouraging, kind, affectionate letters and cables.

The Six Year Plan was the first great collective teaching Plan of the United Kingdom, and it was an extraordinary, heroic victory.

The British Bahá'ís repeated their exploits during Shoghi Effendi's lifetime with their prosecution of the two year Africa Plan. The United Kingdom was responsible for coordinating the efforts of 4 National Spiritual Assemblies to establish the Bahá'í Administrative Order south of the Sahara. Again, the British Bahá'ís' efforts were a resounding success.

This letter from Shoghi Effendi, dated 9 April 1949 is exceptional in its mention of the exploits of British believers, the double visit and double blessing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to the United Kingdom, as well as Queen

Victoria—blessed by Bahá'u'lláh's approval—and its former grandeur as the greatest Empire the world has ever seen:

The Bahá'í world, in its entirety, is struck with amazement at the quality of the work performed, at the extent and number of the victories achieved by this community...[Abdu'l-Bahá] Who blessed it with His footsteps, Who called into being, and fostered the growth of, the community labouring in that Island, hails, from His station on high, the exploits which immortalise the small band of His present-day consecrated and resolute followers, who are carrying on the torch which He Himself had entrusted to their immediate predecessors. Bahá'u'lláh Himself lauds the conspicuous victories being won in His Name, in the dawning years of the Second Bahá'í Century, at the very heart and centre of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, whose Sovereign Monarch He Himself had addressed and whose deeds He, with His Own pen, had commended.

REFERENCE

[Unfolding Destiny](#), Shoghi Effendi.

[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjavání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 195-200.

The United States: Citadel of Faith

This 158-page compilation of messages addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States was first published after the Guardian's death, in 1965. It includes 121 messages, some as letters, and others in cable form, sent over a period of 10 years between 1947 and 1957. Thirty-nine are cables sent on the occasion of the passing of outstanding believers. Apart from these specific communications, the bulk of Shoghi Effendi's messages deal with the duties and responsibilities facing the community of the Great Republic of the West. The preface summarizes the content of the volume as a description, in 'challenging terms', of the world mission of the American Bahá'ís, 'reminding them of their spiritual primacy as the trustees and executors of the Divine Plan of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and reinforcing that primacy with the mysterious power of accomplishment inherent in his words of encouragement and exhortation' (CF v).

The longest letter is 34 pages in length, and was separately published under the title of *The Challenging Requirements of the Present Hour*. Six others are from 8 to 12 pages long. In these messages Shoghi Effendi explains in great detail the needs and challenges of the second Seven Year Plan, sees a parallel between the processes propelling the American Bahá'í community and the American Republic itself, draws the attention of the friends to the inevitability of tribulations, crises and trials, impresses upon the friends the importance of supporting the international and national funds, reminds them of the promises of divine blessings as stated in the utterances of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, appeals to them to scale nobler heights of heroism, and finally advises them to have a period of austerity, curtailing some of their activities in order to divert contributions to the Temple Fund. In this volume we read about the significance of the Shrine of the Báb and the construction of its superstructure, and learn of the disaffection of members of Shoghi Effendi's family and their passing out from under the shadow of the Cause. Emphasis is laid on the continuous extension of the teaching work, the need of Europe for a flow of devoted pioneers, and on the urgency of supporting the teaching undertakings in Africa, while the friends are reminded that priority should be given to the announced goals and objectives of the Ten Year Crusade.

The Guardian underlines the fact that the American Bahá'í community will face perils, trials and crises stemming from such internal issues as

racial prejudice, as well as conflicts on the world scene. He relates the premeditated campaign of persecution against the Persian Bahá'ís, and portrays it as a blessing in disguise, aiding the proclamation of the Faith worldwide. In these pages we also read about the irreplaceable contribution of the individual believer, and the need for personal consecration and dedication to the pressing tasks facing the community. Shoghi Effendi assures the friends that 'Abdu'l-Bahá's 'watchful care and unfailing grace [will] continue to sustain them, individually and collectively' (CF 158).

Some more quotations from this important compilation are included below:

Perhaps one of the most exceptional excerpt from Shoghi Effendi's writings about the destiny of America can be found in his lengthy letter dated June 5, 1947, titled *The Challenging Requirements of the Present Hour*, in a section called *The Workings of Two Simultaneous Processes*:

Indeed if we would read aright the signs of the times, and appraise correctly the significances of contemporaneous events that are impelling forward both the American Bahá'í Community and the nation of which it forms a part on the road leading them to their ultimate destiny, we cannot fail to perceive the workings of two simultaneous processes, generated as far back as the concluding years of the Heroic Age of our Faith, each clearly defined, each distinctly separate, yet closely related and destined to culminate, in the fullness of time, in a single glorious consummation.

One of these processes is associated with the mission of the American Bahá'í Community, the other with the destiny of the American nation.

The one serves directly the interests of the Administrative Order of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, the other promotes indirectly the institutions that are to be associated with the establishment of His World Order.

The first process dates back to the revelation of those stupendous Tablets constituting the Charter of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Divine Plan. It was held in abeyance for well-nigh twenty years while the fabric of an

indispensable Administrative Order, designed as a divinely appointed agency for the operation of that Plan, was being constructed...

The other process dates back to the outbreak of the first World War that threw the great republic of the West into the vortex of the first stage of a world upheaval. It received its initial impetus through the formulation of President Wilson's Fourteen Points, closely associating for the first time that republic with the fortunes of the Old World...

REFERENCES

[Citadel of Faith](#), Shoghi Effendi.

[Shoghi Effendi: The Range and Power of His Pen](#), 'Alí Nakhjavání, Acuto 2006, Casa Editrice Bahá'í, pages 182-190.

Messages to the Bahá'í World: 1950–1957

This 175-page compilation contains 82 messages of the beloved Guardian from 25 April 1950 till October 1957. The volume is divided into two parts. From page 131 onwards, additional messages have been included under the title 'Supplementary Collection'. Shoghi Effendi started his practice of sending one major message to all the Bahá'í Conventions in April 1950. The longer messages were sent after the inauguration of the Ten Year Crusade in 1953, and progressed incrementally in length, from 7 pages in April 1954 to 19 pages in April 1957. At times he would send a further brief message to some National Assemblies for their Conventions, if he felt the need to bring certain specific points to their attention in the areas under their jurisdiction.

A list of major subjects covered in these messages to the Bahá'í world follows:

- Formation of the first International Bahá'í Council
- Inception of the institution of the Hands of the Cause, in accordance with the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l- Bahá, through the appointment of several contingents
- Acquisition of property on Mount Carmel and in Bahjí
- Review of the world progress of the Faith
- Preparing the international Bahá'í community for a world-encircling plan, and the subsequent launching of the Ten Year Plan
- The inauguration of the Holy Year, October 1952– October 1953
- Announcement of the convocation of four intercontinental conferences
- Establishment of a Roll of Honour for the Knights of Bahá'u'lláh
- Progress reports on the construction and completion of the Shrine of the Báb
- The opposition of Covenant-breakers and the eventual frustration of their efforts
- The initiation of the construction of the International Archives Building
- Data regarding the plans for the construction of the Temples in Frankfurt, Kampala and Sydney
- Persecution of the Bahá'ís in Persia
- Victories won in Africa and the Pacific

- Announcement of another series of five intercontinental conferences at the midway point of the Ten Year Crusade
- Reopening the doors of pilgrimage in May 1951
- Messages to the five intercontinental conferences
- The ten parts or stages of the social and spiritual evolution of mankind leading to the diffusion, penetration and suffusion of the light and warmth of God's Revelation in human society
- Future opposition to the Faith.

The letters of Shoghi Effendi included in this compilation are his last wishes to the Bahá'í world. In his letters and cables from 1950 to 1957, Shoghi Effendi repeatedly calls on Bahá'ís to be vigilant, to protect the Cause, to promote the interests of the Faith, to be united, steadfast, and selfless, and to continue the moment they have built up in winning victories in the field of service to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

Here is a particularly beautiful excerpt from an 30 June 1952 letter titled The Summons of the Lord of Hosts and addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States which encapsulates these ideas perfectly:

No matter how long the period that separates them from ultimate victory; however arduous the task; however formidable the exertions demanded of them; however dark the days which mankind, perplexed and sorely-tried, must, in its hour of travail, traverse; however severe the tests with which they who are to redeem its fortunes will be confronted; however afflictive the darts which their present enemies, as well as those whom Providence, will, through His mysterious dispensations raise up from within or from without, may rain upon them, however grievous the ordeal of temporary separation from the heart and nerve-center of their Faith which future unforeseeable disturbances may impose upon them, I adjure them, by the precious blood that flowed in such great profusion, by the lives of the unnumbered saints and heroes who were immolated, by the supreme, the glorious sacrifice of the Prophet-Herald of our Faith, by the tribulations which its Founder, Himself, willingly underwent, so that His Cause might live, His Order might redeem a shattered world and its glory might suffuse the entire planet—I adjure them, as this solemn hour draws nigh, to resolve never to flinch, never to hesitate, never to relax, until each and every objective in the Plans to be proclaimed, at a later date, has been fully consummated.

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For addressee of the excerpt, see: [Crisis and Victory](#): Compiled by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice (October 1987), Number 25.