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Bahá'í Council for Scotland

20th March, 2003

DEAR BAHÁ'Í FRIENDS,

The Bahá'í Council for Scotland was delighted to receive the following Naw-Rúz message from the First Minister, Jack McConnell. This is the first such message received by the Scottish community and is an indication of the growing awareness and respect for the Faith in Scotland's public life.

With warmest Naw-Rúz greetings,

Anwen Shahim secretary,
Bahá'í Council for Scotland

TO THE BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND I am delighted to offer you my best wishes for Naw- Rúz, the Bahá'í New Year, which your community will be celebrating on March 21.

Scotland is a multi-cultural and multi-faith society and Scotland's devolved government is committed to ensuring that all faiths can be worshipped without fear of prejudice or discrimination. That is why we launched the campaign "One Scotland. Many Cultures" last September. Through the campaign we are declaring a vision of the kind of Scotland that we want for the future. A Scotland where we respect and value the diversity of our communities, where the skills and talents of all are fostered and harnessed and where we welcome new blood and different perspectives.

I welcome my regular dialogue with all faith communities, and I hope the Bahá'í community continue to make a positive contribution to Scottish public life over the coming period.

I hope the celebrations go well.
(signed) Jack McConnell

