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National Spiritual Assembly

15th September, 2003

DEARLY LOVED FRIENDS,

In its message to the Bahá'ís of the World at Ridván 2003, the Universal House of Justice emphasised the importance of Bahá'ís being able to understand the significance of the extraordinary, and often disturbing, processes which are currently unfolding in the world. The House of Justice writes:

“For the friends of God, there is an unambiguous explanation for what is occurring; they have only to recall the vision and principles offered by the Faith if they are to respond effectively to the challenges posed by the spread of distress and dismay. Let them strive to understand more deeply the Teachings that are relevant by reviewing letters of Shoghi Effendi which have been published in **The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh**, particularly those entitled ‘The Goal of a New World Order’, ‘America and the Most Great Peace’, and ‘The Unfoldment of World Civilization’.”

The National Spiritual Assembly has been pleased to learn of several communities who are presently running deepening classes or study programmes on the World Order letters. Indeed, the National Spiritual Assembly has taken time in each of its recent meetings to review a selection of passages from these seminal letters in order to assist its own understanding of the forces at work in the world today.

The National Assembly is currently discussing ways of making these letters and suitable study materials easily available to the friends. In the meantime, it was felt that it would be useful to share some of the online resources that are available to assist those individuals and communities who may wish to make a start at private or collective study.

The entire collection of World Order letters is available online for downloading at:

<http://bahai-library.org/writings/shoghiEFFendi/wob/>

It can also be downloaded from:

<http://bahai-library.org/writings/downloads.html>

Study questions to “The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh”, compiled by Shahriar Razavi, and originally published in the book, “Studying the Writings of Shoghi Effendi”, are available online at:

<http://bahai-library.org/study/wob.questions.html>

In addition, the full text of the World Order letters can be searched at:

<http://ibiblio.org/Bahai/Texts/EN/WOB/>

A distance learning correspondence course on the World Order letters is available from the Wilmette Institute at:

<http://wilmetteinstitute.org/worldorder2.html>

The National Spiritual Assembly hopes that the friends will take this opportunity to respond to the request of the Universal House of Justice, and that the insights gained from the systematic and sustained study of the writings of the Guardian will enhance their efforts to advance the progress of the Cause of God throughout the United Kingdom.

DEARLY LOVED FRIENDS,

The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Stanley is organising a special celebration in February 2004 to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary of the introduction of the Bahá'í Faith to the Falkland Islands, and is very keen for a Bahá'í from the United Kingdom to help them celebrate this historic milestone.

The Spiritual Assembly is particularly keen to welcome a guest with speaking skills and/or skills in the arts, music or education and especially someone who might be able to reach the youth on the Falkland Islands.

Anyone interested in arising to perform this valuable service should contact the Assistant Secretary of the National Spiritual Assembly, Dr Kishan Manocha, as soon as possible. Please note that it will not be possible for the National Assembly to fund any aspect of this trip.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Dr Kishan Manocha,
Assistant Secretary
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