

**THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'Í'S OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
UNDER THE HEREDITARY GUARDIANSHIP, INC.**

Box 182
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Dec. 10, 1965

Mr. Joel Marangella, President
Second International Baha'i Council

Dear Joel,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letters of November 22 and 23. Both letters, because of their contents, were reproduced by thermofax-ditto process and mailed to the NSA membership; and I'm sure they were equally happy to receive your views on such matters as the "Proposed Project" and interrogatories.

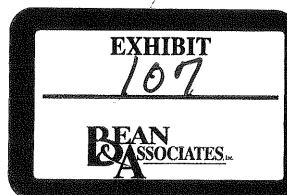
Your comments with regard to the NSA Log were welcomed, and I am in full agreement that it would be a wise precedent to have all Assembly members receiving copies of letters written on behalf of the Guardian. The Assembly, of course, took the first step in this direction when, at its last meeting, it established the policy that all Guardian's letters to NSA members would be photo-copied and distributed to the remainder of the Assembly. It is perfectly natural to assume that other mail written for the Guardian should receive a similar type of treatment.

The materials that you sent with your letters have been forwarded to Mr. Petzoldt. I trust that as soon as he has finished with them he will return them to you.

In a telephone conversation with John Byers last evening, I learned that Mr. Petzoldt will be meeting with our legal counsel sometime next week. I understand that one of the items to be discussed will be the proposed letter to sans-Guardian ISA's. I assume, of course, that they will also discuss at length the legal case; and I assume we will be given a complete report on that meeting as soon after it is held as possible.

With regard to the addresses of the sans-Guardian ISA's, your suggestion to pose the question to Mr. Frey is, I believe, a sound one --and I hope may obtain favorable results. So far we are without such a list. On behalf of the NSA, I have made inquiry about a list to Rex King and Edward Lucy III (the latter, a believer who came to us from the Willette body not too long back). Neither has responded, and I wrote them both 3½ weeks ago. I am writing them both again this evening to ascertain whether they can be of any assistance in this matter. At the same time, I shall be writing to another believer whose name was suggested by Dr. Frain.

To another matter: The Guardian has requested our NSA to assume the expenses you incur in your Baha'i correspondence. I do not know whether Clarence has written you about this, but as you may know from the recent Glad Tidings, our NSA does expect to take care of this expense for you. If Clarence has not already contacted you and made arrangements with you on this matter, I assume he shall be writing you shortly.



OBF 000262


Frank

NSA sec'ty to Joel Narangella
Dec. 10, 1965

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You should also be informed that the scheduled NSA meeting for over the Christmas holidays is being called off. It is the unanimous sentiment of the membership that the meeting is not absolutely essential at this time. One of the fundamental reasons for the cancellation of the meeting is that there are, at present, no problems confronting the NSA--that is, problems within the Faith under the Hereditary Guardianship. The "personality problems"--at least those directed to the NSA--have either been resolved or controlled. (At any rate, they are not apparent, if there are problems.) And personally, I am delighted to see such a situation, and I'm sure this will be good news to you also.

The NSA's biggest concern at this time--other than the legal case--is that of teaching. This concern is, I believe, exposed in the December issue of the Glad Tidings. However, concerned as we are, teaching (especially national teaching) is not noticeably successful. Indeed, we are without a national teaching plan, per se. And quite frankly, I don't think we really know what a "national plan" entails--other than stimulating and encouraging individual believers to "give the message" and then doing the same thing ourselves.

 I have thought about one avenue that might be pursued at the national level, and that is an all-out mailing campaign employing one or two--possibly several--form letters about the Faith to be sent to people throughout the country. The letter(s), of course, would need to be cogent and appealing (that is, appealing enough to be read--whether liked or not). I intend to try drafting such a letter during the Christmas "vacation". In the meantime, do you have any ideas or suggestions that would help us?

With warmest Baha'i love and greetings,

Frank
Franklin D. Schlatter,
Secretary

TO: ALL NSA MEMBERS, THE GUARDIAN, & JOEL MARANGIELLA

SUBJECT: A DECEMBER 28, 1965, MEETING OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL COMMITTEE AND A TELEPHONE CALL TO OUR LEGAL COUNSEL.

On December 28, 1965, A.S. Petzoldt, John B. Byers, Marion Rhodes, and Franklin Schlatter met at the Rhodes' residence in Peoria, Illinois, for purposes of discussing the latest developments in the legal suit with the sans-Guardian Baha'is. One of the fundamental reasons for the meeting was a December 15th letter to the NSA Secretary from the Guardian. (See photo-copy enclosed.)

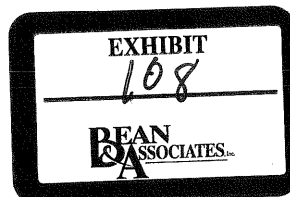
The meeting opened at 1:30 P.M. with the reading of a prayer. A general discussion then took place regarding such matters as Mrs. Rhodes's meeting in Chicago with our legal counsel; the general correspondence that had gone between Mr. Frey and Mr. Petzoldt (much of which had been sent in mid-December); the response of Wilmette to our first two sets of interrogatives (in which they made motion that the interrogatives be withdrawn because of their irrelevance, their rhetorical nature, their argumentative nature, etc.); the court's upholding of Wilmette's motion with regard to the first two sets of interrogatives; and the acceptance by the court of our third set of interrogatories--a copy of which was sent to NSA members by Mr. Frey.

The Guardian's letter of 15 December was read in its entirety. Comparisons were then made with the Guardian's earlier letters of October 12th and October 22nd. The parallels in the Guardian's statements were noted:--the emphasis on teaching and the playing down of the legal case. The October 12th letter called for the dropping of the suit; the October 22nd letter said that the Guardian was interested in "what sans-Guardians of Haifa are willing to consult with us about." The October 12th letter stressed teaching; the letter of the 22nd spoke of changing from the methods of the past.

The group concurred that the Guardian's views were becoming more and more pronounced insofar as our changing methods was concerned. All members present were in agreement that our legal counsel needed to be contacted.

In addition to the Guardian's latest letter, the members needed to discuss certain points raised in our legal counsel's recent correspondence. Not the least of those points was Mr. Frey's comment in a December 21st letter to Mr. Petzoldt about the costs of the litigation becoming "exorbitant." After due consultation, the call was placed to Mr. Frey. Its initial purposes: (1) to determine what legal counsel meant when he wrote that the costs were becoming exorbitant; (2) to learn what would happen if we withdrew from the case (that is, what the costs and results would be); (3) to learn what value our suit had other than as a psychological pressure on the sans-Guardians (we needed to know how it was related to the trademark suit).

Mr. Petzoldt and Mr. Byers used extension telephones for the call; Franklin Schlatter took notes of the Petzoldt-Byers conversation and such responses from Mr. Frey as could generally be ascertained. (NOTE: The accuracy of those views attributed to Mr. Frey must, therefore, be subject to Mr. Petzoldt's and Mr. Byers' concurrence. However, the secretary believes that most--if not all--the views are substantially accurate.)



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