

# Ten Year Crusade 1953-1963

## During the Ten Year Crusade

Bahá'í Geography 8  
Teaching the Bahá'í Faith

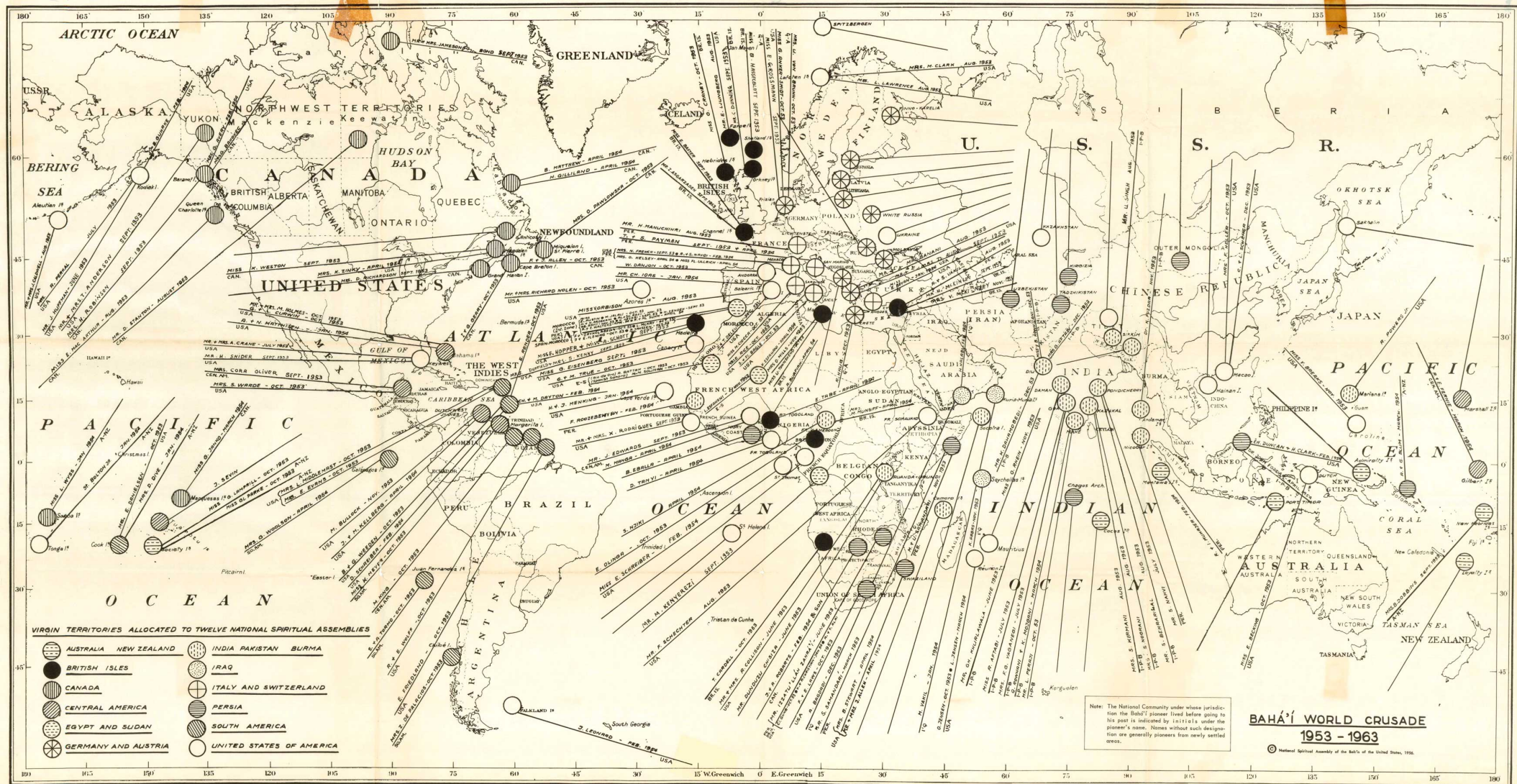
# The rise of pioneers

Many Bahá'ís arose immediately to go and fill the goals of the Crusade by settling and teaching the Faith in a foreign land, often one they had never heard of. The challenges and sacrifices were great, but so were the victories. Shoghi Effendi guided them, as in the instructions below to the United States National Spiritual Assembly.

# The significance of the teaching plan

It must, as it gathers momentum, awaken the select and gather the spiritually hungry amongst the peoples of the world, as well as create an awareness of the Faith not only among the political leaders of present-day society but also among the thoughtful and the erudite in other spheres of human activity. It must, as it approaches its climax, carry the torch of the Faith to regions so remote, so backward, so inhospitable that neither the light of Christianity or Islam has, after the revolution of centuries, as yet penetrated.

(From a letter dated 25 June 1953 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States)



Virgin Territories allocated to 12 National Spiritual Assemblies

# The significance of the teaching plan

It must, as it approaches its conclusion, pave the way for the laying, on an unassailable foundation, of the structural basis of an Administrative Order whose fabric must, in the course of successive Crusades, be laboriously erected throughout the entire globe, and which must assemble beneath its sheltering shadow peoples of every race, tongue, creed, colour and nation.

(From a letter dated 25 June 1953 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States)



Shoghi Effendi



# The significance of the teaching plan

... winning to the Faith fresh recruits to the slowly yet steadily advancing army of the Lord of Hosts ... is so essential to the safeguarding of the victories which the band of heroic Bahá'í conquerors are winning in the course of their several campaigns in all the continents of the globe.

(From a letter dated 25 June 1953 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States)

# The significance of the teaching plan

Such a steady flow of reinforcements is absolutely vital and is of extreme urgency, for nothing short of the vitalizing influx of new blood that will reanimate the world Bahá'í Community can safeguard the prizes which, at so great a sacrifice, involving the expenditure of so much time, effort and treasure, are now being won in virgin territories by Bahá'u'lláh's valiant Knights, whose privilege is to constitute the spearhead of the onrushing battalions which, in divers theatres and in circumstances often adverse and extremely challenging, are vying with each other for the spiritual conquest of the unsundered territories and islands on the surface of the globe.

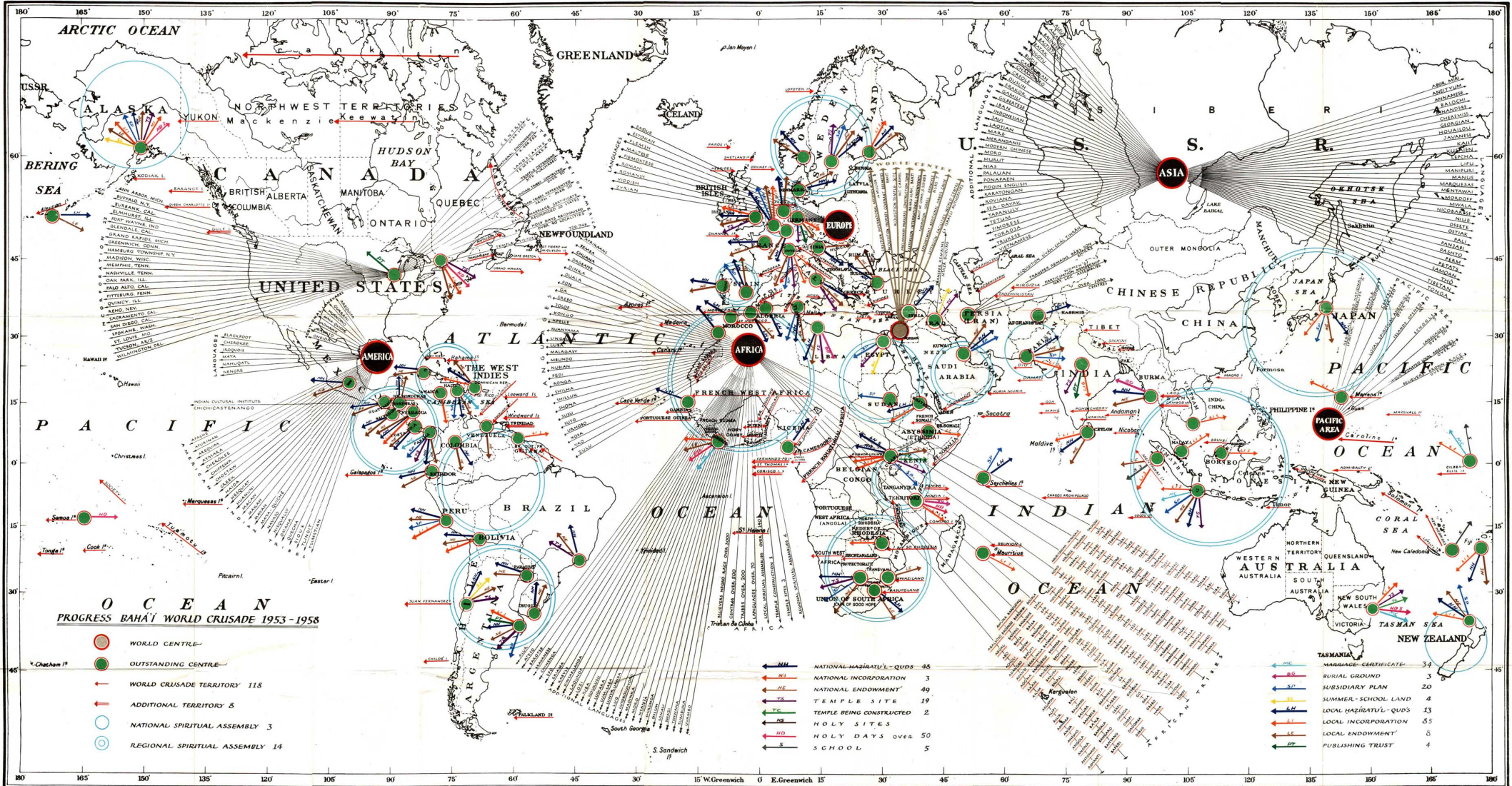
(From a letter dated 25 June 1953 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States)



# The significance of the teaching plan

This flow, moreover, will presage and hasten the advent of the day which, as prophesied by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, will witness the entry by troops of peoples of divers nations and races into the Bahá'í world—a day which, viewed in its proper perspective, will be the prelude to that long-awaited hour when a mass conversion on the part of these same nations and races, and as a direct result of a chain of events, momentous and possibly catastrophic in nature and which cannot as yet be even dimly visualized, will suddenly revolutionize the fortunes of the Faith, derange the equilibrium of the world, and reinforce a thousandfold the numerical strength as well as the material power and the spiritual authority of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

(From a letter dated 25 June 1953 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to the National Spiritual Assembly of the United States)



The Guardian's Map mid-way in the Crusade 1958

# The passing of Shoghi Effendi

On 4 November 1957, Shoghi Effendi passed away in London, and members of National Spiritual Assemblies from around the world gathered for his funeral. The 27 Hands of the Cause, as the Chief Stewards of Bahá'u'lláh's embryonic World Commonwealth, assumed the direction of the Faith to complete the plan left by the Guardian until the election of the Universal House of Justice at the end of the World Crusade in 1963.



Funeral of Shoghi Effendi in London, November 1957



Funeral of  
Shoghi Effendi  
in London,  
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Funeral of Shoghi Effendi in London, November 1957



# The Hands of the Cause

From 1957, the Hands of the Cause of God, as the Chief Stewards of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh, carried on the work, with nine of their members staying at the Bahá'í World Centre in Haifa, Israel. The final victory came in April 1963, with the election of the **Universal House of Justice**. Almost all the goals were met, except for a few countries where entry was then impossible, and which were opened later.

The Hands of  
the Cause  
1960



# Teaching

Many are the souls who, in this Holy Cause, without either worldly means or knowledge, have set ablaze the hearts of others with the divine love and rendered the Faith imperishable services.

(From a letter dated 5 October 1941 written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi to an individual believer)