

Baha'i National Convention Brings Delegates, Observers

A nine-year, world-wide plan for spreading the universal principles of the Baha'i Faith, particularly among peoples in minority groups and less developed countries, was presented Thursday at the Baha'i National Convention in Wilmette, to extend through the 26, when twelve hundred delegates and observers are expected to attend.

The American Baha'i National Assembly, according to Dr. David S. Ruhe, national secretary, has been assigned the leading role among the 69 participating National and Regional Assemblies by the Baha'i International Headquarters in Haifa, Israel.

The American community will assist the National Assembly of Panama in building their first House of Worship, and the National and Regional Assemblies of Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic in the formation of a new Regional Assembly comprising the Leeward, Windward and Virgin Islands.

The American community will give special assistance to sixteen other National and Regional Assemblies in such matters as opening new territories to the Faith; acquiring national headquarter properties; establishing schools; and purchasing additional temple sites. Of these specially assisted Assemblies, seven are located in Africa; four, in Latin America; three, in large island

groups in the Pacific and the Indian Oceans; and two, in Europe.

American home-front goals, Dr. Ruhe went on to say, include increasing the number of Baha'i centers from 1700 to 3000, and the number of local assemblies from 310 to 600, as well as stepping up efforts in enrolling members among minority groups, especially Indian, Negro, Chinese, Japanese and Latin-American.

The victories that will be won during this nine-year period, Dr. Ruhe said, will be celebrated in April, 1973, the centennial of the charter of a new world order revealed by Baha'u'llah, Founder of the Baha'i World Faith.