

Speaking Out

From The
New South

By ROBERT DURR

Oneness of Mankind

THOSE OF US who have sought diligently to know the truth have been rewarded with the knowledge Fleming in his book, "Bringing Our World Together," aptly expresses "difference in location, topography, and climate, in connection with prolonged isolation and man's creativity, served to differentiate mankind. The extent to which that process of differentiation has gone is indeed amazing. Africa has eight hundred languages.

"China's early republic officially recognized five racial stocks—Chinese, Manchus, Mongols, Muslims, and Tibetans. The Soviet Union is a multinational state and its people are as varied as its climate—one hundred seventy-five nationalities speaking one hundred fifty languages and dialects. India is a sub-continent as varied as Europe.

"Such enriching differentiations in language, culture, physique and manner of living have been going on for the last three thousand years. The inevitable result obviously has been many different patterns, a wide variety of accomplishment, and diverse standards of judgment.

"This unequal political and social development of mankind constitutes one of the great problems of our time. The promulgation of the achievement of community is the basic social task of every individual privileged to receive the Baha'i Cause. To deny oneself participation in execution of this task is to deny oneself the greatest job, and peace that can come to an individual.

Ready for a World Family

"TO SOME EXTENT mankind is ready, physically and spiritually, to enter into the privilege and responsibilities of a membership in a world family, because many different races, peoples, and schools of thought have with infinite patience made their contributions century after century.

"The impact of these ideas and inventions has been as determinative as decisive battles in changing or enriching the source of civilization. Psychological and spiritual maturity demands an expanded consciousness which includes a divinely ordained plan for enlarging circles of relationships.

"The religion of God is the only power that can create in the individual a true consciousness of the Oneness of Mankind. It acts as a cohesive power, a unifying force, a solvent of individual and social differences. By transforming and ennobling our inner emotions and feelings, through a genuine and constructive belief in God, it releases such spiritual forces that can kill lower instincts, and bridge outer and lower differences that separate us from each other."

Baha'u'llah says, "The source of perfect unity and love in the world of human existence is the bond and oneness of reality. When the divine fundamental reality enter human hearts and lives, it conserves and protects all states and conditions of mankind, establishing that intrinsic oneness of the world of humanity which can only come into being through the efficacy of the Holy Spirit.

"For the Holy Spirit is like unto the life in the human body, which blends all differences of parts and members in unity and agreement . . . Just as the human spirit is the controlling cause of the unity and co-ordination of mankind. That is to say, the bond or oneness of humanity can not be affectively established saved through the power of the Holy Spirit, for the world of humanity is a composite body and the Holy Spirit is the animating principle of its life . . ."

A World-wide Fellowship

IN PERSONAL PROMULGATION and acceptance of the following truths, (1) The oneness of mankind. (2) Independent investigation of truth. (3) The foundation of all religions is one. (4) Religion must be the cause of unity. (5) Religion must be in accord with science and reason. (6) Equality between men and women. (7) Prejudice of all kinds must be forgotten. (8) Universal peace. (9) Universal education. (10) Spiritual solution of the economic problem. (11) A universal language. (12) An international tribunal, are found the formula and leaven which works in creating "a world-wide fellowship in which its members are bound together in unity and mutual love under God for the service of the world.

"Only such a global community, whose members are drawn from all people, can best bridge the gulfs between races and nations.

"Leaders realize, and the lay constituency is beginning to see, that the near future holds possibilities without parallel in history for a world wide family of God. In the growth of this fellowship, and in the deepening realization and use by its members of the inexhaustible resources, and the creative energies available to those committed to the God's will, lies the greatest promise of a new order and of a better world.

"May we help others to catch such a vision of all peoples, races and nations forming one cooperative family characterized by mutual service and respect under the providence of God that we shall be thrilled to the center of our beings.

"Then may we not only commit ourselves to the progressive realization of that vision, but humbly seek that inward renewal through worship which can alone make our efforts truly and most fully fruitful."