

Mix-Marriages OK'd By Baha'i Assembly

WILMETTE — Interracial marriage was defended in a statement issued by the governing body for the Baha'i Faith in the U. S. "The basic Baha'i principle of the oneness of mankind upholds the right to select a mate without regard to religious background, nationality, or race," announced the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, meeting at the school operated by this universal religion at Geyersville, Cal.

This policy statement was prepared to clarify the Baha'i attitude on interracial marriage, the subject of an important case soon to be decided by the Supreme Court.

"There is no evidence," the statement continued, "that any race is superior or inferior to any other, and the fear that the offspring of interracial marriages is likely to be defective is completely unfounded. Geneticists have demonstrated that there are no deleterious biological effects from interracial unions as such. In fact, there is considerable anthropological and historical evidence that some blending of races has pro-

duced physical types in various areas of the world that have been superior to the parental stocks.

"While the Baha'i Faith teaches that racial traits are not important in selecting a marriage partner," the statement continues, "it is made clear that the good character of those betrothed and the support from their families is essential to a stable union. The racial diversity of Baha'i communities throughout the world is a demonstration of the power of the Faith of Baha'u'llah to remove prejudice and create respect for all human rights, including the right to marry without regard to race."

The Baha'i Faith is an independent world religion presently established in 305 countries and territories. Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Faith, was born in 1817 in Tihiran, Iran (then Persia), and died a prisoner in the Holy Land in 1892. Baha'i teachings revolve around the oneness of God, the oneness of religion, and the oneness of mankind. U. S. Headquarters for the Faith is located in Wilmette, Illinois.