

U.S. Bah'a'is To Attend Conference In Sicily

Some four hundred Baha'is from the United States will attend a conference in Palermo, Sicily on August 23, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the journey of Bahauallah, Prophet-Founder of the Bahai Faith, from Adrainople to the Holy Land.

Three thousand Baha'is from all over the world are expected to attend this three-day commemorative gathering.

Following the Palermo Conference most of those attending will journey to Haifa and 'Akka in the Holy Land. There they will visit Bahai Holy places and participate on August 31st in a formal observance of the Centenary of Bahauallah's arrival there.

Baha'i communities throughout the United States will also hold special observances of the Centenary on August 31.

At the National Baha'i Center in Wilmette, Illinois, the Centenary will be observed with devotions in the main auditorium of the world-famous Baha'i House of Worship at 8:30 p.m. on August 31st.

This will be followed by a talk in Foundation Hall by Dr. Manucher Javid, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, School of Medicine, at the University of

Wisconsin. Dr. Javid's talk, entitled "An Ancient Prophecy Fulfilled", will cover the historic events surrounding Bahauallah's journey and its significance. The public is invited to the devotions and Dr. Javid's talk.

Bahauallah was exiled from His native Persia because of His religious Teachings. He was first banished to Baghdad. In May 1863, He and a small group of His followers were taken to Constantinople and later to Adrainople.

Finally by decree of Sultan Abdul-Aziz, He was sent to Akka, in the Holy Land where He was imprisoned. He and His fellow exiles set sail from Gallipoli on August 21, 1868 aboard an Austrain-Lloyd steamer bound for Haifa, arriving on August 31st.

The Palermo Conference, in addition to being a commemoration of this historic event,

will also deal with the teaching work presently being carried out in Bahai communities bordering on the Meditterrean. Representatives of twelve National Bahai Assemblies will make reports on the advancement of the Faith in their areas.

The Bahai Faith is an independent world religion. Baha'is believe that Bahauallah is the Bearer of God's Word for this age. Bahauallah's Teachings kind. "The earth is one country," He said, "and mankind emphasize the oneness of man-its citizens."