

2,000 Baha'i Youth Pledge Action At Evanston World Convention

EVANSTON, Ill., June 21 — The largest National Baha'i Youth Conference ever held ended with a pledge by the youth present to increase the spread of the Faith across the United States and to work to change themselves to better serve mankind.

Over 2,000 Baha'i Youth from every state and from some two dozen foreign nations attended the three-day conference held at the Evanston Township High School, Evanston, Illinois, June 19-21.

The youth heard speakers who urged them to set an example for the world by living a life of dedication to God and service to mankind. The youth were asked to follow and to use as a standard the teachings of Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith. In particular they were urged to set high moral standards in dress, conduct and in abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Baha'u'llah called for the abolishment of all prejudices, the equality of men and women and for the unity of mankind.

The Baha'i youth were asked in the next three years to assist in spreading the Baha'i message to foreign lands, to increase the number of Baha'i College Clubs from 126 to 200, and to establish twenty new Baha'i Assemblies.

Principal speaker at the Conference was Madame Ruhiiyyih Rabbani, author, world-traveler, and distinguished Baha'i the great-grandson of Baha'u-llah, the great-grandson of Baaha'u-llah. She urged the Bahai's youth to make deeds and not words their example to the world. She stated that the world is tired of preaching what it wants now is love and action.

Members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States also addressed the youth. High praise for the conduct of the 2,000 youth attending the Conference was expressed by Evanston

High School officials and the manager of the YMCA Hotel in Chicago.

In 1968 the Bahai's youth

adopted a Five Year Program for the expansion of the Faith and since then the number of Baha'i youth has increased some 160 per cent in the United States. Youth attending the conference were housed in the YMCA Hotel in downtown Chicago and at two colleges in Lake Forest, Illinois, Lake Forest College and Barat College. A fleet of some 40 buses transported the youth to and from the Conference site.

Following the Conference on Sunday, a "New Age of Music" festival was held in Locust School in Wilmette, Illinois and featured singing groups and recording stars from Illinois and California. The youth conference was also being filmed by Kiva Films of New York, who have contributed films to the Emmy award-winning television series "Sesame Street."

The Baha'i Faith is an independent world religion that was founded in Persia (now Iran) in 1844. Bahai's believe that Baha'u'llah, Prophet-Founder of the Baha'i Faith, is the Bearer of God's Word for this age. Baha'u'llah taught the oneness of God, the oneness of religion and the oneness of mankind. The Baha'i Faith is now established in over 300 countries and territories and in over 2,700 localities in the United States.