

Bahai's being butchered in Iran

U. N. intervention sought for Iranian Baha'is

Pune, Aug. 29 : The Baha'is of India have appealed to Dr. Kurt Waldheim to send a special representative or a Commission to ascertain for himself the plight of the Baha'is in Iran. Recent executions of leading Baha'is on trumped-up charges clearly indicate that having destroyed the economic base of the community and confiscated their spiritual administrative centres. The authorities are now concentrating on destroying the Baha'i leadership at the city, provincial and national level. The cream of the Baha's community are either in prison or have been killed. The execution of seven highranking Baha'is in Yazd last September was followed by the murder of prominent believers in Tehran and Azerbaijan. Last week, seven leading members of the Baha'i Assembly of Hamadan were executed. Seven most active and important Baha'is of Tehran were executed by the firing squad after being held in solitary confinement for nearly two years. Baha'is fear that unless international action and support is mobilized, their community in Iran will be obliterated.

By now, torture and killings of Baha'is have assumed a kind of legality by the approval given to it by the Supreme Judicial Council in Tehran. The Times of London commented: "What makes the new wave of persecutions so alarming is that courts are beginning to persecute and even legitimize executions, on the ground that the accused person is a Baha'i"

The oppression of the Baha'is entered a nightly sinister and systematic phase when, about two years ago, the National Baha'i Centre in Tehran was seized and complete records of the Baha'is were taken away. This action provided those responsible for the persecution with the means of identifying members of the Baha'i Community throughout Iran. Leading Baha'is in the country were then arrested one by one. It appears that an execution list has been prepared which is now being implemented in stages.

Following the seizure of Baha'i statistical records, there began a campaign of systematic destruction of the economic base of the community. Baha'i assets were arbitrarily seized, pensions were cancelled and

bank accounts confiscated, private enterprises were looted or wrecked, farms and orchards were burned, and thousands of Baha'is were discharged from public and private employment.

A campaign to terrorize the community was let loose when inflammatory sermons of the Shi'ih clergy preceded attacks by mobs that destroyed Baha'i shrines and holy places, desecrated cemeteries and raped and beat up members of the Faith in scores of towns and villages. To make matters worse, the controlled Iranian media collaborated by giving wide publicity to hate propaganda against Baha'is.

Baha'is fear that if the present course of persecution in Iran is left unchecked and governments of the free world delay effective intervention on behalf of this beleaguered community, those in authority in Iran may pursue their admitted design, and continue the campaign of terror with a view to exterminate the innocent and defenceless Baha'i minority in Iran. At present the authorities have a list of about 4,000 key Baha'is for

liquidation. World-wide appeals have had little effect on the Government of Iran and the ominous portends of a religious genocide are looming large. In spite of even the best efforts last year, the holiest shrine of the Baha'is in Iran—the House of the Baha in Shiraz was obliterated, bearing ample evidence of the determination of the present authorities to eradicate the Baha'i community.

The present state of affairs is the culmination of a systematic campaign of intimidation against the Iranian Baha'i community that has taken the form of forcing individual Baha'is to recant their faith, of economic repression, vilification, false accusation, assassination and wrongful arrest, imprisonment and execution, and has called forth protests from the highest international authorities.

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India are left with no choice but to appeal, through the free press of India, to the hearts and conscience of our people and Government to intervene on behalf of the defenceless Baha'is of Iran.

Pugwash Conference

Moscow Aug. 29 (I) Arms control and strengthening of European security, among many topics, discussed at the 31st Pugwash Conference which opened at the Canadian resort town of Banff, yesterday.

Over 200 scientists from 30 countries are attending a six-day conference, the first since the State from Banff, W. Canada.

The conference devoted the quest for peace in a divided world expressed concern over the US decision to go ahead with production of neutron bombs and the US plan to deploy new US intermediate range nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

The scientists demanding taking up early measures to check the arms race, especially nuclear ones to strengthen mutual confidence among countries and to end détente.

They also called for control talks between the US and the Soviet Union at the earliest possible date.

The Pugwash movement was founded in 1956 by Albert Einstein and Bertrand Russell issued a joint manifesto calling all scientists to pool their efforts and prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

Angola asked OAU for help

Lisbon, Aug. 28 (Reuters) The Government of Angola tonight asked Member States of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to help expel South African forces from Angolan territory.

The Angolan News Agency (ANGOP) said the Council of Ministers issued a statement calling on all OAU members to contribute aid to "expel the attacking army of South Africa's racist regime from Angolan territory".

The statement said South African forces were still occupying Angola's Southern Kunene Province. It said access routes to the provincial capital of Namibe were being cut and the town itself was being bomb-