

[PROVISIONAL TRANSLATION FROM PERSIAN]

[Translator's notes appear in square brackets]

[Personal information has been **redacted**.]

[Emblem]

Ministry of the Interior

The Immigration and Passport Police Head Office

Date: 23 Khordad 1323 [13 June 1944]

Number: 17333/C/1989

Confidential and very urgent

The Honourable Mr. Prime Minister,

After the events of the month of Shahrivar 1320 [August/September 1941], Baha'is sent a large number of Baha'i propagators [teachers] to different parts of the country, and even to small villages such as Natanz and Taleghan and started propaganda everywhere, for the purpose of spreading their views. These actions agitated the religious sentiments and fanaticism of the local people, which resulted in severe reactions. In some places, groups have even been formed, such as a religious group, an Islamic Centre, and so on, the aim of which is fighting the Baha'is and preventing the spread of their thoughts. In reality, in some areas, the locals [businesses] do not sell anything to Baha'is and do not even allow them to enter the public bath houses and barbershops. In some instances, the doors of their houses were set on fire or [they were sent] flyers and unsigned letters threatening to kill them. They seriously demand that Baha'is should leave their residential homes.

The Governors General and Governors are taking the necessary actions to maintain the order and prevent any evil incidents, but most of the time these measures have not resulted in favourable results, as, in some instances, fighting and struggle start between the two groups. It is only at this moment that law authorities intervene and prosecute the criminals. But legal investigations always occur after the incidents, which is not a deterrent to the sinister actions or expansion of the fights between the two groups. Disturbing and alarming reports are received from the official authorities of most of the cities, indicating concern and fear about the incidents of tragic events. The Governor of Qom even reports that local residents have seriously demanded the banishment of the Baha'is from there and the mentioned authority had been forced to form a commission to temporarily quiet the mentioned public reaction.

The mentioned commission has found it necessary to expel a group of the Baha'is; however, as they did not have legal grounds for this decision, they had to find legal grounds, such as punishment for people with criminal records such as knife assault, and so on.... As reports such as these are received from most parts of the country, I felt obliged to bring it to Your Excellency's attention and request that

you raise this issue with the Cabinet. From your decisions and urgent instructions taken for removing anxieties, you will inform the Ministry of the Interior. In conclusion, I am obliged to mention that you had previously stipulated that telegrams were to be sent to various cities in order to prevent events such as these. Your Excellency's orders were implemented; however, for the above-mentioned reasons, the decisions of the governors general and governors did not produce favourable results.

The second point is that the actions and interference of Baha'i teachers and their leaders, who are often government officers, aggravate the malicious incidents. Since, according to Article 8 of the Public Services Employment Act ([which states that] influencing political views in administration and propaganda against the country's official religion in the national government are strictly prohibited and will cause dismissal) in the view of the Ministry of the Interior, it is necessary that the subject be announced to all ministries, in order to prevent [religious] propaganda [directed at] the government authorities and employees.

On behalf of Minister of the Interior,

[Signature: Sorouri]

[Margin 1:] According to the views of the Minister of the Interior [necessary] actions [are to] be taken

[Margin 2:].....744, 13 Tir 1323 [4 July 1944]