

**WORLD BULLETIN No 10, December 1992**  
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**'GREATLY NEEDED IN UKRAINE'**

The first international MRA conference in the former Soviet Union took place in Lvov, Ukraine, in October. The Swedish national daily *Dagens* carried an article on it by Rev Richard Cedergren. Here are extracts:

*Some 90 participants from Ukraine, other CIS States, Poland and Western Europe focussed on the theme, An independent Ukraine and its place in modern Europe. The aim was to attain 'peace through communication' between people of differing ethnic origins, political convictions and social backgrounds.*

*Historian Dr Moskvich from Lvov University pointed out that historically Ukraine has shown great openness to other cultures, but centuries of oppression and the mass killings during the wars have left deep bitterness.*

*Klara Agafonova, an editor of the Lvov paper Militsejskij Kurjer said that many churches had been destroyed, but worse was the destruction in human souls. That is why she valued MRA's emphasis on starting with oneself, and taking responsibility for the needs of the nation and the world. That week her paper had published a three-column article on MRA's work in the world.*

*Dr Heinrich Zahn, a German physician and scientist, asked forgiveness for what his nation had done in Ukraine, and to the Jews.*

*Teacher Maria Furdish from Crimea emphasised the importance of moral standards in education. Children who are not honest with their mothers will not be honest with others, she said. She announced that she would initiate a gathering on 'the moral dimension in education'.*

*The Ukrainian patriot Viktor Makeimjuk, who served a 10-year prison sentence in Siberia for his political activities, said that MRA's ideas were greatly needed in Ukraine.*

*The conference was initiated by Jaroslav Gribalskij from Lvov, a wheelchair-bound musical director who has just founded an organisation for handicapped people. Leading the conference with him were librarian Nadejda Banchik, representing the Jewish population of Lvov; authoress Nina Turbal, who chairs the Andrei Sakharov Society of Lvov; and Professor Petro O Bekh, Dean of Kiev University.*

*Wanda Tarnawska, Gunnar Fur, Richard Cedergren*

**HALF-A-MILLION PLEDGE AGAINST BRIBES**

In the run-up to elections for the Taiwan National Legislature, 520,000 people have signed pledges that they will neither take bribes nor vote for candidates who offer bribes, and have sent their pledges to the MRA office in Taipei. The response to the Clean Election campaign has been so great that we are no longer counting pledges; we are weighing them! TV and the Press have carried pictures of the huge stack of pledges. Sixty-seven religious and cultural organisations have now joined MRA in the campaign.

Of the 370 election candidates, 156 have signed pledges that they will not give bribes. *The China Times*, a major daily, is framing the pledges for the candidates to hang in their campaign headquarters.

The director of the Matsushita Institute of Government and Economics in Japan plans to visit Taiwan with a researcher to study the campaign. A number of the Institute's graduates are MPs, and it is keenly interested in methods of cleaning up politics. Grace and Ren-Jou Liu

#### CAMBODIANS WELCOME AN MRA INITIATIVE

One of the most significant Cambodian political parties, FUNCINPEC, launched the Khmer-language version of *For the Love of Tomorrow* at their headquarters in Phnom Penh last month. (FUNCINPEC was founded by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and was led by him until, on his appointment as President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, he gave up party allegiances). The occasion was attended by over 100 of the party's principal cadres and guests.

Leading the discussion after the film, Rainsy Sam, economic advisor to FUNCINPEC, spoke passionately of the need for every Cambodian to serve his nation by renouncing hatred. 'The challenge,' he said, 'is to build a new nation on the basis of reconciliation.' Mr Sam invited the General Secretary of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, Soubert Son, to share the platform; and together they welcomed MRA's initiative in helping to rebuild Cambodia.

Truong Mealy, *Chef de Cabinet* of Prince Sihanouk, told of the experience of change he had found during a two-week stay at Asia Plateau, the MRA centre in India. He called for a commitment to personal change, and a resolve to build unity between the factions which make up the political structures of Cambodia.

Prince Sisowath Seirirath, who heads FUNCINPEC's Foreign Affairs department, appealed for ideas on how the healing work of MRA can get to the grass-roots of the nation. Two refugees from the Pol Pot era, Renee Pan and Kassie Neou, both of whom had lost members of their immediate families, spoke of their liberation from hatred, and their determination to rebuild Cambodia.

In the audience was a group of Buddhist monks, one of whom came forward to emphasise that the film exemplified the truths found in Buddhism. 'But we have not applied the truths,' he said. David Channer, Allan Griffith

#### CAUX SCHOLARS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

The 1993 Caux Scholars Program is called *Resolving conflict: from personal to global change*. It will run from 11 July to 13 August, and will be divided into three parts. The first week will feature a symposium on historical trends, and the changes in the world which call for new skills of leadership, understanding and sensitivity. It will illustrate the relevance of MRA, Caux and the course curriculum; and will not be limited to those doing the Program. More information will soon be available.

During the next two weeks the Caux Scholars will study intensively under the direction of the academic director, Dr James Laue of George Mason University. This will include case studies of conflict situations in which Caux and MRA were involved. For the last two weeks, they will take part in

the session on 'Regions in crisis, regions in recovery' and help carry responsibility for it.

We would appreciate your help in finding qualified students for the program. Brochures and application forms are available from the Washington office or regional centers; and an 11-minute video on the program (\$15). Rob Corcoran

#### MOVES IN SOUTH AFRICA...

We have moved into the new MRA home in Mamelodi near Pretoria. We love it and its beautiful surroundings, and the view of one of the Magaliesberg ridges which is visible on a clear day. Your prayers and ceaseless moral support have been a great strength to us. Our address is 312 Mogolodi Crescent, Sun Valley, Mamelodi West, 0122. Sam and Virginia Pono

#### ...AND CANBERRA

When this Bulletin has been dispatched, the Bond family will move house. This is the next step in our search for the kind of set-up that will enable young people to discover the fascination of a committed life. We are moving to a house with a small flat attached, trusting that God knows where the extra \$100 a week rent will come from. Our first guests will be a Burmese couple, who will stay 10 weeks. Thereafter, we hope that many will come, let their hearts be caught by the needs in this city and region (and in us!); and discover how God uses anyone who tries to care. John and Nada Bond

#### FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

David and Betty Lancaster have moved to 77 Dean Road, Bateman, Western Australia 6155. Tel & fax: +61 9 310 8775.

In Rio de Janeiro Luis and Evelyn Puig now have a fax: +55 21 268 8378, as well as Erwin Zimmermann: +55 21 502 1262.

*May we wish all who are celebrating a very happy Christmas. The deadline for the next Bulletin will be Tuesday 19th January, 1993 - as both editors will be away on the usual deadline.*

John Bond  
38 Wisdom Street (Please note new number)  
Hughes ACT 2605  
Australia  
Tel: +61 6 281 0940

Andrew Lancaster  
10 Dooley Place  
Curtin ACT 2605  
Australia  
Tel: +61 6 281 2107

Fax: +61 6 285 3616

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