

**WORLD BULLETIN No 1, January 1993**  
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**SONG OF ASIA SINGS**

Forty of us who worked with *Song of Asia* in the 1970s, and our families (more than thirty children) met at Asia Plateau last month. Friendships were renewed and extended. As we thought about situations such as Cambodia, we realised that *Song of Asia's* message is still valid, and may be meant to continue in some form. We decided to start the *Song of Asia Network*, a newsletter which I have offered to edit. The first issue is due in March. I would be grateful to anyone who can send me the addresses of people who were part of *Song of Asia*. My address is Nostravagen 19, S-417 43 GÖTEBORG, Sweden. Antero Tikkanen

**PHNOM PENH SEMINAR**

Following the gathering at Asia Plateau, Yukihisa Fujita and I spent a week in Cambodia, discussing how we can help build confidence amidst the very fluid situation there. We sensed unanimous support from close friends for a seminar in Phnom Penh, and we are now securing endorsement from the Supreme National Council and UNTAC. With UNTAC working towards elections in May, it will need to take place before the end of March. We need your prayers and thought on who could share real-life evidence of change in conflict situations, and on how to raise the US\$35,000-40,000 we estimate the venture will cost. K Haridas

**IN RUSSIAN CANCER WARDS**

*Thankful at every turn*, the story of my late wife Aino's last year, is now in its second English-language edition. And when I visited Russia in May, I discovered that a St Petersburg businessman has published the book in Russian. He apologised that he had not asked my permission. 'Don't worry,' I said, 'what made you translate it?' He told me that his father and mother had both died young from cancer. Recently he had become very concerned about his own health, and that of his daughter. He had no faith, and sometimes was nearly paralysed by fear. Someone had given him the book in English. In it he found the answer to his fear, and decided to share his discovery. Now the Russian edition is being used in cancer wards in the St Petersburg area. Paul Gundersen

**'REAL TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED'**

Klara Agafonova, an editor of the Ukrainian paper *Militsejskij Kurjer*, writes in the paper about the recent MRA conference in Lvov. Outlining the work of Irène Laure of France, she asks, 'Is not our inability to rise above the hurts of our history the source of the ethnic conflicts blazing in various parts of the former Soviet Union? And the stressful situation encourages the growth of crime. This question was not left unattended during the conference....' 'The ideas of MRA are real to people who have suffered; there were people in wheelchairs at the conference, an unusual sight....' 'Trust and forgiveness. An open and sincere look into the depths of one's own soul. So simple, yet so difficult. But without it we cannot survive.'



#### ON SKIS AND SURFBOARDS

When Norwegians are skiing, Australians are surfing. Over New Year there was a camp amidst Norway's snow-covered forests; while on the other side of the world, teenagers were 'Catching the Wave' at a beach camp near Sydney.

The Norwegian camp has been held annually for over 15 years. Some who came then as teenagers now come with their children. 'Many of us find ourselves short of time and life becomes a complicated puzzle,' states this year's invitation. 'We want to use these days for silence, prayer and discussion about our calling.' The 45 participants included two doctoral students from Krakow University in Poland. Discussions ranged over family life, friendships, career and our social responsibility. 'Excellent skiing conditions and a New Year's Eve with hilarity and depth added to a life-giving experience,' write Axel and Camilla Nelson. 'I feel as if I have always known these people,' said a young participant. 'Here I have found peace.' A Moscow art student invited everyone to meet her friends at a camp with a similar theme which she will arrange near Moscow in July.

The Australian beach camp had a similar combination of vigorous activity and honest discussion. Its invitation featured a surf-board rider. 'The waves of life are rollers and dumpers,' it said. 'God can show each of us the wave to catch, that makes the future adventurous and the world a better place.' 'At the camp I found people I didn't fear,' wrote one teenager, 'people who listened not to criticise but to try to help. I learnt to listen to the inner voice, and have found a way to extinguish my violent resentment.' Another wrote, 'It amazes me how people who are so different can become so close, like a family, in only one week.' Already the search is on for a venue for next year's camp.

#### BOSNIANS AT CAUX

Over 250 people gathered at Caux after Christmas. Fifteen came from Croatia and Bosnia, Muslim and Christian, seeking how to 'bridge the river of blood that flows through our country', as one expressed it. Three came from Romania, and led everyone in singing at the New Year celebrations. A young Bosnian woman whose mother had just left Sarajevo told of losing all hope in humanity. 'Here I have found hope and a new love for people,' she said. Blair Cummock

#### STOCKHOLM IV AT CAUX

After the Caux conference, 28 people stayed to take part in 'Stockholm IV', the fourth annual gathering to review MRA's work in Central and Eastern Europe. Its purpose is to offer support to the growing network of people in these countries. We need to raise considerable fresh funds, and prepare better with those who come to Caux. A full report is available from any of the following, who have taken responsibility to act as reference groups for the different regions:  
*Russia and the CIS* Bryan Hamlin (liaison), Philip Boobbyer, Paul Gundersen, Leif Hovelsen, Daniel Mottu, Hugh Nowell, Wanda Tarnawska, Philip Tyndale-Biscoe.

*The Baltic Republics* Finn Harald Wetterfors (liaison), Bror Jonzon, Jorma Koponen, Ken Rundell.

*Poland* Rex Dilly (liaison), Claude Bourdin, Wieslaw & Marzena Kecik, John Lester, Mike Lowe, Wanda Tarnawska, Jens Wilhelmsen.

*Former-Yugoslavia* Christoph and Marianne Spreng (liaison), Charles and Juliette Danguy, Marcel & Theri Grandy, Archie Mackenzie.

*Czech Republic and Slovakia* Patrick Colquhoun, Vreni Saxer, Franz Vock, Ursula Wolfer.

*Romania* Patrick Colquhoun, Andrew and Eliane Stallybrass.

*Hungary* Leif Hovelsen, Archie Mackenzie.



#### PLANNING FOR ARTISTRY

Three days of planning for our artistic presentations will take place in Stockholm, 12-14 March. We will consider the role of theatre, music and art in the Caux conferences, and the practical implications. We would appreciate thought on what productions we should have this year. We will also look ahead, asking what truths need to be proclaimed, and what kind of productions we need to do this.

Philip Tyndale-Biscoe, Gunnar Soderlund

#### WANTED: THINKERS AND DOERS

Here is a unique opportunity to shape a session at Caux this year. From July 18-28 the theme will be, 'Moral Re-Armament - connecting the intimate and the global; a session for people of all ages and backgrounds.' Would anyone who'd like a part - whether or not you can be there in person - please enter into dialogue with the other co-ordinators: Mike and Jean Brown and Jeroen Gunning in San Francisco, Andrew Stallybrass in Geneva and Edward Peters in Oxford. The Caux invitation carries more about the theme.

Jean Brown

#### TELEPHONE MESSENGERS

In Caux last year four people volunteered to help relieve our few, precious telephone operators from some of their non-technical duties. This was much appreciated; but far more are needed. Could this be your contribution this summer? We need people available to pass on messages at one meal a day, and/or to help with the administrative work for an hour a day. I will be happy to co-ordinate after we return from Colombia (DV!) in early March.

Digna Hintzen

#### MEETING THE COSTS OF CAUX

The 1993 Caux invitation is now available. You will note changes in the paragraph on finance. The new price of 80 Swiss francs per day (or 118 francs if maintenance costs are included) may seem high, but it is more realistic and in line with the discussions at the Ottawa consultation.

It is impossible to give a figure that everyone can relate to. Many of you come to Caux at great sacrifice, work hard, and the last thing we want is to discourage you from coming. But Switzerland's cost of living is rising, and many people give less than they are able and need to know the facts. The house is 90 years old, and the contributions of conference participants cover only 46% of the cost of its upkeep; and that figure takes no account of large maintenance projects such as retiling the roof or replacing the boiler.

We need to be stricter about contributions to Caux. A lack of money should not prevent anyone coming, especially those who want to help carry the conferences. But we do ask all our teams across the world to prepare people better before they come. We feel that every candidate needs to read the invitation and decide ahead how much they will give. If they cannot manage the cost of their stay, they need to discuss this with those who invited them, and/or write to Caux asking for financial help.

To this end, the Caux Secretariat will only accept applications on the official form; no photocopies, please. Late applications - less than a month before the arrival date - may have to be turned down; it is better to apply early, then confirm the application when you have your visa and ticket. The Secretariat will send a leaflet about Caux's financing with their letters of confirmation. These leaflets, in eight languages, will be available for us all to use.

Philippe Lasserre, Eliane Stallybrass



## OUR GLOBAL CALLING

May we propose that the main theme of the October consultation be 'Our vision of MRA's global calling'? This was suggested at the Ottawa consultation, as they discussed the need to spell out our aims if we are to raise money.

We will never conclude a discussion on this theme; nor should we. Ours is a fast-changing era, and our understanding grows as we change. But in a world so different from the one in which MRA was launched, we need to work at it.

Being such a broad subject, we think that preparatory discussions in our regions would be valuable. Here are some questions which might focus discussions: How do we take part in God's continuing work of creation? For what large purpose does God need MRA now? What tasks require our specific gifts and combined energies? What have we been prepared for? What tasks are best left to others, either because they are better suited or because the particular challenge is right for their development?

Please let any of us in the support group have your views, and proposals for other subjects to be discussed, if possible by the end of February.

Alice Cardel, Rob Corcoran, Ailsa Hamilton, John Mills,  
Dick Ruffin, Philip Tyndale-Biscoe, 'Robo Ukoko

## AUSTRALIA-WIDE PHONE-IN

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation has carried a nation-wide radio programme on Moral Re-Armament. The 90-minute programme began with interviews with Dr Kim Beazley, former Minister for Education; Jim Beggs, just retired as National President of the Waterside Workers' Federation; Rothai Chantharasy and Peter Thwaites. Then the phone-lines were opened and the four answered questions. People in several cities have contacted us since then. John Bond

## TANZANIAN VISIT

At the invitation of Anna Abdallah, Minister of State in the Tanzanian Cabinet, we have just spent two weeks in Tanzania. In Arusha, Mwanza and Dar es Salaam we talked with a wide range of people including the former Prime Minister and Members of Parliament. Many expressed the need to strengthen the moral roots of democracy, and want to work more closely with MRA in Kenya.

Inger & Keld Jorgensen, Alan Knight

## MOVEMENTS

Hugh and Dell Williams have moved to 6 Acton Place, Vicarage Rd, Yalding, Kent ME18 6DN, UK. Tel/fax +44 622 812894. Peter and Su Riddell have moved for some months to the Boobys' home, 2 The Paddox, Oxford OX2 7PN. Tel +44 865 58624.

*The deadline for the next Bulletin is Monday, 15 February.*

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Tan; Philippines - Cardel; Japan, Rest - Fujita; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Cooper; Africa: East - Patel; South - Horn; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - I Amata; N.America: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; Latin America: Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; Caribbean - Edwards; Europe: France - Lasserre; Germany - Spoerri/Bräckle; Denmark - Jorgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Hottu; UK - C Evans; Netherlands, Rest - J de Pous; Middle East - Grandy