

WORLD BULLETIN No 2, February, 1993
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ASIA PLATEAU'S QUARTER CENTURY

One hundred and thirty people from 19 nations attended Asia Plateau's 25th Anniversary conference. Daw Than Than Nu, daughter of Burma's former Premier, spoke of the 'gigantic tasks' her country faced, even beyond the restoration of democracy. In these tasks, she said, 'MRA has been a true friend.' Tenpa Samkhar from the Central Tibetan Secretariat in Dharamsala spoke of the 'inspiration' his people had received through Asia Plateau in their attempt to pioneer a freedom struggle based on forgiving one's enemies and breaking down barriers between races. Liu Ren-Jou from Taiwan responded with a heart-felt apology for China's attitude towards Tibet. On the day of the anniversary on January 20, people from the surrounding area and from Pune poured in.

The conference was preceded by an 8-day workshop, led by Kiran Gandhi, on 'The role of facilitators in building a caring society'. This is the second workshop for people who have taken part in industrial seminars at Asia Plateau, and want to be 'catalysts for change' in their situations. The following week, 22 people arrived from 13 countries for an MRA training programme. They include five from Burma. The programme so far has included a night in a village, followed by some hours of 'shramdan', or labour of love, helping rebuild huts which had been accidentally burnt down. The participants are now in Coimbatore. Luis Gomes

'VITAL' IN PHONM PENH

A two-day seminar called 'Confidence building for peace in Cambodia' will be held in Phonm Penh under MRA auspices from March 26-27. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Supreme National Council (SNC) will receive speakers from the seminar at the Royal Palace on March 28. Rainsy Sam (now an SNC member), Renee Pan and Kassie Neou (both working with UNTAC) and Son Soubert in their invitation to MRA friends wrote, 'In the current circumstances, your presence may contribute to a better atmosphere of understanding and reconciliation, vital for our country and the region.' Among those coming are Rajmohan Gandhi, Joseph Lagu and Alec Smith. The MRA Board in Japan has decided to underwrite US\$ 10,000 of the budget of US\$ 35,000-40,000; various organisations are being approached. We ask your prayers for the protection, impact and resources of this this daring initiative which occurs just one week before the Cambodian elections. Yukihsa Fujita

CAUX BALANCE SHEET

The finance committee of the Swiss Foundation is full of gratitude for the gifts from friends in various countries in December. It meant we ended 1992 with a much smaller deficit than expected - about SFr 90,000, we think, though the accounts are not quite finalised.

Thanks to friends across the world, all the bills for the renovation of the West tower of Mountain House have been paid. The hot water system in the big kitchen is now being renewed and will be ready by the summer. It will cost SFr 110,000, of which we have SFr 20,500 so far.

We have just welcomed nine people from Britain, some of them skilled workmen, who have come to paint the first-floor corridor of Mountain House. They will stay two weeks and have even brought their own cooks! René Hodel, Heinrich Karrer

A FRIEND REMEMBERED

Arthur Ashe, who died last month, will be remembered for his Wimbledon, US and Australian Open wins, and his fight to bring change in the USA and South Africa. He and his wife Jeanne were about to go to India to join Rajmohan Gandhi on the 'yatra' commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's 'salt march' when the symptoms of his AIDS were discovered. Earlier Arthur and his friend Stan Smith had succeeded in their efforts to have their friend and spiritual mentor, Bunny Austin, reinstated as a member of the All-England Tennis Club. Jim Coulter

CAUX ROUND TABLE FROM TOKYO TO SOUTHERN CHINA

Interim meetings of the Caux Round Table take place in Tokyo (April 18-21) and Southern China (April 22-25). So far 13 American and eight European business leaders have accepted the invitation of their Japanese counterparts who make the point that at a time when corporate and national self-interest threaten to cascade into a destabilising series of blows to trade growth and fairness, firm leadership and wide vision are required of both global corporations and national governments. The visit to China will be hosted by the Governor of Guangdong Province, one of the fastest growing areas of the world.

Yukihisa Fujita

CHINESE CAMP

This year we in Hong Kong will host the fourth Asia Pacific Camp from July 21-30. This training programme for people between 18 and 35 will include a side-trip to Southern China. We believe through participating in an international programme of this kind, the social and global awareness of our younger generation will be enhanced, and their commitment to Hong Kong and its contribution to Asia's future will be encouraged. We sincerely appeal for your help in promoting participation from your countries. Please write us for further details.

Jenny Leung

CAUX 1992 - PREPARATION FOR THE SUMMER SESSIONS

The next working meeting to prepare and coordinate the whole of the summer in Caux will take place from April 29 to May 2. After consideration with the Koechlin's, we are glad to hold this meeting in Yutz/Thionville. Please send us any points which should be on the agenda. At least one person responsible for each session should be present. It will also be an occasion to review the daily programme, the need for manpower and for the spiritual and technical leadership for the community/working teams. Those responsible in these fields should also be present. In all, we expect to number about 25.

Weekend programme and cost: Participants should arrive on Thursday April 29 as the first meeting is the next day at 09.15; we will end with lunch on Sunday, May 2. Further details will be sent to those coming. The cost is about FRF 230. - accommodation in private homes; if you prefer something different, let us know. Transport: rail - Thionville station (between Luxembourg and Metz)
car - Motorway A31 (30km from Luxembourg and Metz)
air - nearest airport Metz-Lorraine or Luxembourg-Findel

Application: by April 17 to: 37 rue Drogon, F 57110 Yutz. Tel:+33 82 56 2795

Fax: Réarmement moral - Paris (new number in March) Charles and Juliette Danguy

WORLD REPORT FOR 1992-3

For the third year, we are producing an MRA world report/folder. It will be available by the end of March. This year it will be in French and German as well as English. The cost is unchanged (20p paper; 50p on a card slightly lighter than last year's). Could any who want more than 50 copies let me know in Geneva by the end of February, to help us get the print-run right.

Andrew Stallybrass

THE COMING MONTHS AT CAUX

The Easter 'work-week' has become a tradition at Caux, and will begin as before on Easter Monday. Then, for a week from June 9, bed and breakfast is provided at Mountain House for delegates attending a TV symposium in Montreux. As most of the work for this is done by volunteers, this is a great way of boosting Caux's finances. Margarit Küng would greatly welcome help with housekeeping, service, telephone, reception, hall, night-telephone and nightwatch!

May we mention some of the less visible ongoing tasks where help is needed?

We are seeking people who would like to learn to take responsibility for the laundry in the coming years. At present there are three such people, two of whom are over 65, and one who cannot be there all summer. The work starts at the beginning of the conferences and goes on for three weeks after they end. It involves tasks such as using the ironing machine, ironing kitchen overalls, keeping an eye on the public washing machines, and preparing work for the paid staff. We

hope to build a team of people who will take this on for a portion of each summer. Please write Emmina Carrard at Caux if you are interested.

Christoph Keller is seeking a team of people able to do small repairs. Some have helped him greatly, though the help has been irregular. He hopes for two or more people who will make it a priority. He would also be glad to pass on his responsibility for the dish-washing machine. This involves checking the machine regularly, telling newcomers how it works and giving a hand if the team is too small - a task that starts in mid-June and goes on throughout the conference.

To our delight, a younger woman has offered to take on the economat. Margarit Küng is looking for a man who could help with the work of lifting and carrying. There are other jobs he could do too, especially if he could speak French.

EXHIBITION 'WELCOME' AREA

How to introduce the Caux centre to a casual visitor? How to turn curiosity into interest, even into hope? Those who receive visitors have learnt that it is often best to let people discover this for themselves.

With this in mind a team has started work on a moveable exhibition of highlights from conferences, the story of the village, something of Frank Buchman's life. We aim to have it ready by 1996, the 50th anniversary of Caux as an MRA centre. This will give us time to create something of real quality.

The first stage will be to produce an overview of nearly half a century in the style of 'photo of the year'; and video clips in many languages from TV programmes and our own films. We have just been given a large-screen video machine, which will be installed in the promenoir.

What should we aim to say through this exhibition? What ideas does tomorrow's world need? Please send us your ideas. And if you would like to have a part, do let us know.
Charles Piguet, Andrew Stallybrass

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

Asia Plateau phone numbers have changed. The international and area prefix is still +91 2168. To reach the office dial 40241, the main building 40242.

After hours numbers are: Iralus 40606; Khattris 40242; Luis Gomes 40656.

Ailsa Hamilton has moved to The Rigg, Weirhill Place, Melrose TD6 9SF, Scotland. Tel/fax: +44 89682 3546.

Until further notice all communications previously directed to the Melbourne office at 21 Dorcas Street should be sent to Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Vic 3142, where general and finance administration is presently being conducted on a trial basis. Tel: +61 3 822 1218, Fax: +61 3 822 6871

Norwegian phone/fax numbers have changed: for MRA Office, Sophus Lies Gate and the Wilhelmsens add an extra 2 after the country code of 47. The Engebretsens' number is now +47 33 77 6864; the Eskelands' number is +47 67 14 1905.

Peter and Glenys Wood and family have moved from Fiji to: 155 Riverside Drive, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. Tel: +64 4 566 9912 Fax: +64 4 566 9915

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Monday, March 15, 1993.

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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 - A Porteous; 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 - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Netherlands, Rest - J de Pous; Middle East - Grandy