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A SPECIAL EXUBERANCE IN LEBANON

For sheer exuberance the MRA team in Zahle is in a league of its own. We met them when we visited Lebanon, after the Cyprus Consultation, for a week's program arranged by Ramez Salameh and his friends.

Zahle is in the middle of the Bekaa Valley. It withstood a terrible three-month siege in the war, and faces current political uncertainty with defiant cheerfulness. Its much-loved Bishop Georges Skandar presided over a meeting where we spoke to 70 people in his diocesan centre. He helped translate between Arabic, French and English. Afterwards 20 of the growing MRA team came to his home for a dinner which was followed by long personal talks, a birthday celebration, and finally, at 10.40pm, a meeting about the Consultation.

Our visit began in Beirut, where 19 of the team met over supper to talk of their hopes for their country. Thirteen of them have been in Caux. Several came frequently through the worst years of the war.

We were received by the Mufti of Lebanon for an hour; we were asked to present the basics of MRA to four Maronite bishops near Byblos; we were the invited speakers at a weekly gathering of mainly Muslim intellectuals; and, along with Roger Geara and Ramez, we shared experiences with a businessman who was recently a Government Minister. He said, 'You have reminded us that we Christians in Lebanon still need to forgive each other.' In Tripoli, Lebanon's second city, two judges, one Muslim and the other Druze, identified themselves with MRA at a meeting in the Cultural Club. It was November 22nd, the fiftieth anniversary of Lebanon's Independence.

We were struck throughout by the spiritual depth of the Lebanese we met, their family life, and their quest for 'what is right' in the reconstruction of their country. We hope that more of them can take part in the action of MRA in other countries.

Peter Everington Yukihisa Fujita Laurent Gagnon

BELORUSSIAN INITIATIVES

In October we spent five days in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, as the guests of Belorussians who have been in Caux. We have never experienced such hospitality amidst such poverty and hardship. Besides meeting people from all walks of life we were interviewed for radio and for 'Panorama', the popular evening television news programme, about MRA.

The Belorussians see themselves as a bridge between East and West, North and South. There is a special relationship growing between Germany and White Russia. So much blood has flowed between these two peoples. In World War II, White Russia lost one

quarter of its population (over two million people). In spite of this, the longing for reconciliation and for working together for a new Europe is overwhelming.

Our friends in Minsk had two proposals which they put before us. One is to produce a one-hour film on the history of MRA and the present work in Caux. Ten of them, including the Deputy Programme Director of Belarus Television, are coming to Caux for the New Year conference, and expect to do some shooting on their way through Germany. The film would be for Belarus television and for general use. They are also working on a major Belarus delegation for Caux '94.

Pierre and Fulvia Spoerri

MRA VISITING COURSE BOUND FOR MINSK

We visited Kiev and Minsk in early December at the invitation of the student president of Mohyla Academy, who had attended the *Foundations for Freedom* course in September. The Academy is a new institution, highly regarded in the Ukraine for its emphasis on nation building. Faculty and students showed great interest in MRA. The students have arranged an MRA gathering in April, and two of the faculty have accepted our invitation to visit Caux in August.

The situation in the Ukraine is grim, with inflation at 100% per month. There is urgent need for economic and political education for those who could turn things round. We are considering whether to offer in Britain a two-week programme for Ukrainian politicians, aimed at giving an insight into the ethical underpinning of a free society. This idea was keenly received by leaders of two main opposition parties we met.

In Minsk we finalised plans for an MRA 'visiting course' in June, at the request of some of those who visited Caux earlier this year.

Edward Peters Mike Lowe

LESSONS ON PEACE-BUILDING IN IZMIR

Last month Sushobha Barve visited Turkey and gave five lectures to students at the Aegean University on themes such as 'Building bridges between ethnic communities', 'New targets for industry: development of societies' and 'Interpersonal relationships: encountering oneself and one's nation'. She was also received by 50 fifth-formers at my son Enis's school - with intrigue and inquisition!

Sushobha challenged the university students to reflect on their destiny, as members of a generation whose task it is to answer long-standing prejudices, and to reflect on Turkey's destiny in the construction of new approaches to new issues and challenges in the region.

Her audiences listened spellbound as she gave an hour-by-hour account of her initiatives during the inter-communal strife in Bombay in December 1992. And her method of 'undoing stereotypes' was picked up by post graduate psychology students as being both relevant and quite congruent with theory. The themes of personal change and ethics wove into all conversations and were received with enthusiasm. Her visit was a refreshing gift to all of us.

Cigdem Leblebici

FOUR SIGNS OF HOPE IN RUSSIA

Leif Hovelsen, Jens Wilhelmsen and I arrived in Moscow in late September to find ourselves witnessing a fortnight of immense significance. Our rented flat was just 200 metres from the 'White House', the Russian Parliament. We had come to talk more deeply with certain individuals and, in spite of the circumstances, we achieved that. But primarily we will remember the events of 4th October, and the care of friends all over the city during that tense time.

Those we met did not share the aspirations of those holed up in the 'White House', but neither could many of them support the actions of the President. A number were angry over the West's blind, 'naive' support of him. They are alarmed at the increasing hold of the Mafia on the economic and political life of the country. Amongst most people we found a weary apathy. The chief editor of the *Moscow News*, however, said he saw four signs of hope: 'First, the fact that there has not been a general uprising this week; only a small minority have taken to the streets. Second, the survival instinct of the Russian people is very strong. Third, the young people who have not been tainted by the Communist lie; and finally the inbred religious faith of the Russian people.'

Meanwhile my wife Vendela was in Nizhny Novgorod with Bella Gribkova. On 4th October she was performing in one of the city's theatres.

Philip Tyndale-Biscoe

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

At the end of the seventeenth annual 'MRA action' at the Asian Centre in the Japanese city of Odawara, an interpreter asked to speak. Normally in her work, she said, she looked forward to the end of each session. But this conference had been different. She had really enjoyed translating the stories and experiences.

The Odawara conferences continue to break down barriers. Jang Ching-Jiang from Taiwan, who took an MRA Sing-Out group of over 50 Taiwanese to Shanghai in September, said that this had come about through the friendships established at the Odawara conferences. This year, when Taiwanese spoke, they were translated into Japanese by a Mainland Chinese. The 70 participants also included people from Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia, Burma, Bangladesh, UK, Norway, USA and Japan.

Patrick Santa Maria

BRITAIN IN EUROPE

Peter Hintzen spent two weeks in Britain in November, visiting schools on the invitation of Howard Grace. Meeting senior students from 12 different schools, in Norwich, Newbury, Cardiff and Sheffield, he led discussions, often vigorous, on 'Europe: what kind of community do we want, and what is our part in it?' Peter dispelled various misconceptions about Europe, and on every occasion shared his experience of reconciliation and his involvement in the heart of Europe and with the Germans over many years. The teachers involved have shown real appreciation for the visit. This tour was part of the continuing *For A Change Schools Service*, through which we offer speakers on the theme of 'purpose in life'.

Geoffrey Craig

LAUNCH OF ARTISTIC RESOURCE GROUP

The first project of the Artistic Resource Group (ARG!) will be a visit to ten regions in Britain with a range of artistic programmes for schools and community groups. ARG!'s repertoire will include international songs, theatrical pieces, multi-media presentations and one-act musicals around the theme of personal decision-making and self-worth. Just as important are the personal stories of the individuals within the group. So far, the company is: Charlotte Georg - Germany, Jacqui Daukes, Edward Howard - England, Magdalena Kaplanova - Czech Republic, Joy Seii - Kenya, Andrew Smith - Scotland, Melanie Trimble - United States.

We see this as a permanent and growing resource. We would like to be a part of many MRA initiatives, using theatre as a bridge to human understanding and world change. For information or if you have contributions, please contact the ARG! at Tirley Garth or at 91 Bathgo Avenue, Ralston, Paisley PA1 3DZ, Scotland.

Andrew Smith

ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY

We were given a heart-warming welcome by the lively Argentine team during our recent three-week stay in Buenos Aires. Many valuable contacts, mutually inspiring team meetings, speaking engagements in the Chamber of Commerce and the Association for Latin American Unity. The MRA flat, complete with meeting room and functioning fax, in the heart of this city of twelve million people, is a real boon.

In Uruguay we were impressed talking with Jeanette Ibargoyen about the outreach of her late husband Omar's and her work with *Viva la Gente*. Omar and she raised a remarkable force of Latin Americans all over the continent who stick together and stand for Christian values.

Peter and Digna Hintzen

CANBERRA KALEIDOSCOPE

Members of both Houses of the Federal Parliament were among those who took part in a weekend forum convened by Moral Re-Armament in Canberra this month. The forum was described as 'an exploration

into what it will take to be part of shaping our future'. Its aim was to help each other discover a calling adequate for the challenges we face in an era of rapid world change, and the qualities of character needed to turn visions into action.

We were helped in this search by people of wide experience including Professor Jerzy Zubrzycki, former Chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Council; Professor Peter Newman, who directs an Institute of Science and Technology Policy; and John and Glenna Smith of God's Squad Motorcycle Club, well-known for their social work among young Australians.

The weekend ended with a public meeting with the theme, 'Kaleidoscope of Hope'. In the impressive setting of the Federal Parliament's Main Committee Room, eight eminent speakers described vividly their discoveries in the search for God's way of grappling with national problems. Dr Kim Beazley spoke about his commitment to the growth of Aboriginal dignity; Peter Newman outlined the transformation in his home city of Fremantle; Niketu Iralu from Nagaland told of his work to overcome addiction in an area devastated by drugs. An audio-cassette is available from us.

John Bond Andrew Lancaster

'CRITICAL ROLE' ROLE OF MRA IN TAIWAN

In Taiwan, MRA has started an English-language newsletter. 'For years we have received the world-wide newsletters that maintain our friendships,' they write. A student of the Translation Faculty, Vivian Lam, is now working in their office, and this has given them the opportunity to 'share the situation of Taiwan MRA with you.' The first edition reports that MRA Taiwan has been awarded a medal by the Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs as one of the 'outstanding social organisations in Taiwan'. The citation said that MRA had launched the 'Clean Election' campaigns, and had held international youth camps and family camps aimed at broadening horizons and strengthening ethical values.

It also translates an article in *Global Views Monthly* which looks at MRA's role in countering money politics in Taiwan, focussing on the 'critical role' of MRA worker Liu Ren-Jou and his colleague, lawyer Jack Huang. 'Liu conceived the idea of launching the "anti-corruption movement"', says the article. 'Some friends scolded him as a Don Quixote, but he persevered. Jack developed the tactics, enlisting 68 other groups, and the movement became a raging fire.' The article discusses the accusation of some legislators that the movement is a tool of the Communists. To which Liu gives the reply he gave to a government official: 'Our struggle is not political, and there is no conspiracy. If the Democratic Progressive Party profits from our campaign, why shouldn't the Kuomintang do so as well?'

PLANNING FOR CAUX 1994

We have not kept count of how many Caux planning meetings there have been in Holland, but it must be at

least ten. At first they took place in the MRA house in Wassenaar, but for the last few years we have met in Amaliastraat in The Hague. We are happy that we can offer this service.

This time around 20 of us met - from various European countries and one each from the United States, Latin America and Africa. Again, it was amazing how much progress was made in a short time. A full report of our meeting is available from regional distributors of the *World Bulletin*.

The next planning meeting for the summer in Caux will be in Yutz, France, at the beginning of May.

Lotty Wolvekamp Johannes de Pous

'CREATORS OF TRUST AND PEACE'

The 1994 Caux summer conference programme will be available by Christmas. Please send bulk orders to Caux as soon as possible.

Conference programme:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| July 8 -18 | Past, present and future, a shared responsibility - an inter-generational dialogue |
| July 20-24 | Caux Forums on the economy and the individual - meeting the challenge of unemployment |
| July 26-31 | Unity in Diversity - consultation on Europe, a continent in need |
| August 1 | Creators of Peace: from vision to action - a women's initiative |
| August 15-25 | Regions in crisis, regions in recovery - learning from one another |
| August 26-28 | Evaluation and perspectives |

CYPRUS CONSULTATION

The report on the global consultation held in Cyprus from November 12 -16 is now available from *World Bulletin* distributors.

WHERE WAS IT?

Many of you probably wondered why there wasn't a November issue of the *World Bulletin*. The answer is simple: we did not receive enough material. Generally speaking we have been receiving fewer contributions than usual in recent months. We ourselves are staunch believers in getting your news, views and information out widely. But we do rely on you!

The Editors

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

After four and a half years in the USA - four homes, four schools, hundreds of thousands of miles and dozens of new friends - Mike, Jean, Adam and Anjali Brown are returning to Adelaide, Australia. Enriched, invigorated and not seeking an early retirement, they can be reached from December 22, '93 onwards at: 9 Serpentine Road, Belair, SA 5052, AUSTRALIA. Tel: +61 8 278 1657

The address in Sao Paulo, Brazil: Rua José Maria Lisboa 1168, apt. 112, no longer functions. For now, best communications with that city is via Elza de Araujo: rua José Maria Lisboa 1035, 01423001 Sao Paulo, SP.

Australia: From January 17, Brian and Lorna Lighttower will be at the new MRA home in Brisbane:

61 Moordale Street, Chapel Hill QLD 4069: Tel/Fax: +61 7 378 0357. From the New Year, John and Nada Bond's new address will be 151 Kent Street, Hughes, ACT 2605: Tel and Fax as before.

Correction: The Tel/Fax number for Grosvenor/FAC, c/- Ramsay in Melbourne, should be +61 3 889 1769.

Calendar of Events

DEC '93	<u>Canberra</u> <i>Australia</i>	"Shaping our Future" conference	Dec 3 - 5
	<u>Panchgani</u> <i>India</i>	"Creative Leadership"	Dec 13 - 17
		"Asian Youth Camp"	Dec 31 - Jan 4
	<u>Caux</u> <i>Switzerland</i>	"New Year Conference"	Dec 27 - Jan 2
	<u>Koppang</u> <i>Norway</i>	"Camp for young people and	Dec 28 - Jan 2
	<u>Narrawong</u> <i>Australia</i>	"Catching the Wave" - teenage surf	Dec 28 - Jan 4
JAN '94	<u>Dar es Salam</u> <i>Tanzania</i>	"Creators of Peace" - A Women's	Jan 13 - 18
	<u>Petropolis</u> <i>Brazil</i>	"Meeting of the Americas"	Jan 23 - 30
	<u>Panchgani</u>	"Creative Leadership"	Jan 18 - 22
	<u>Caux</u>	"Farmers' Dialogue"	Jan 5 - 9
	<u>Melbourne</u> <i>Australia</i>	"Effective Living" training course -	Jan 30 - Mar 12
FEB '94	<u>Panchgani</u>	"Creative Leadership"	Feb 4 - 8
MAR '94	<u>Phnom Penh</u> <i>Cambodia</i>	Seminar/ Round Table	To be confirmed
	<u>Tokyo</u> <i>Japan</i>	Seminar	To be confirmed
	<u>Melbourne</u>	"Effective Living" training course -	Mar 13 - Apr 23
APR '94	<u>Tirley Garth</u> <i>England</i>	"Life of Belief" course	Apr 4 - 9
	<u>Shillong</u> <i>India</i>	"Learning to live Together - Frontiers	Apr 7 - 24
	<u>Panchgani</u>	"Creative Leadership"	Apr 26 - 28
MAY '94	<u>Yaounde</u> <i>Cameroon</i>	"Pan-African Conference for MRA"	May 22 - 28
	<u>Panchgani</u>	"Family Seminar"	May 25 - 29
		"Creative Leadership"	May 31 - Jun 4
JUN '94	<u>Sri Lanka</u>	"Asia-Pacific MRA Regional	Jun 22 - 30
JUL '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Creators of Trust and Peace" -	Jul 8 - Aug 28

We regret the many gaps in this calendar, but the Coordination Group can only supply the information it receives. Please provide details of coming events as soon as possible to: *Coordination Group, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Vic 3142, Australia (Fax: +61 3 822 6871)*

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Saturday, January 15, 1994.

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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 - Annette 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