MRA World Bulletin

No 8 October 1995

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PARTY IN FULL SWING

Archie and Ruth Mackenzie and Campbell Leggat have been in New York doing the UN rounds. Archie, of course, was at the San Francisco founding conference in 1945. It was a joy to have him here in the midst of preparations for a UN 50th anniversary session in which over 150 heads of state will participate. The Foreign Office facilitated the issuing of a pass, and Archie once again moved in and out of the General Assembly, 20 years after being here as a Deputy Permanent Representative.

The visitors arrived on the tail of a wonderful visit from the Pope. A thought from the Holy Father's address to the UN seemed particularly apt: 'The tears of this century have prepared the ground for a new spring of the human spirit.'

Archie and I spent 50 minutes with the Bosnian Ambassador, Ivan Misic, whose office is across the hall from ours. Archie was British Consul-General in Zagreb, and his current involvement with the former Yugoslavia, enlivened a heart-felt exchange. Misic is a Bosnian-Croat and a Catholic, formerly the editorin-chief of the main Sarajevo paper, *Oslobodjenja*. 'Thank you,' said the Ambassador, 'for your intellectual and emotional involvement.'

The Mackenzies spent an hour with the Thai Ambassador, Nitya Pibulsonggram - son of the Field Marshal friend of Frank Buchman - and his wife at their residence. They showed real interest in MRA's Cambodian initiatives.

Archie, Campbell and I attended an occasion at which the speaker was the Cambodian Foreign Minister, Ung Huot, who was at Caux last year. Another event at the UN organized by the Brahma Kumaris - with whom Jean Brown and others interacted in Beijing - on the theme 'Conscience and Choice' gave us an opportunity to introduce Archie to the Guyanan Ambassador, a former President of the General Assembly, who is a warm friend.

Other encounters were relevant to MRA's Somali and Bougainville endeavors, and to the link between our cities work and UN concerns.

Archie, a member of the UN Center's advisory council, expressed great satisfaction with the new facilities. And Skylar Sherman spoke for those of us based in New York when he expressed his delight at being in action, with all three components of the new center up and running: 'It's like a dinner party where everything is prepared - but there are no guests and then they finally show up.'

Rob Lancaster

CAUX PICTORIAL PROVIDES 'RARE CHANCE'

Fifteen months of creative effort by Mike Brown and John Williams have produced a stunning new presentation of Caux. 52 pages of text and colour and black and white pictures bring together the historic moments of Caux and its availability now as a resource for mankind.

The pictorial will appear in French, German and English in late January, as the anniversary year begins. It gives us a rare opportunity to inform world leaders of Caux's record of producing meaningful change and reconciliation and its potential contribution at this important moment. The fellowship of MRA will have in its hands a striking brochure with which to inform and inspire people.

Among the uses to which it could be put are:

- 1. As a guide and history to accompany the Caux Exhibition now being mounted in the Mountain House promenoir for permanent display, starting this summer.
- As a powerful visual aid to potential participants in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations this summer.
- 3. As a thank you to those who have given both financially and in kind to the undergirding of Caux over the years.
- 4. As a gift supplement to those who take MRA journals, such as *For A Change, Changer* and *Caux Information.*

You may think of many more uses.

The final decision on the print run will be made on November 7, and we would greatly appreciate your thoughts and orders before then. The production cost if we print 25,000 copies would be about £1.60 each, and for 30,000 about £1.50, plus freight.

Andrew Stallybrass Hugh Nowell

CAUX 50TH "TRIO" MEETS

We are grateful that so many people around the world will be seeking fresh gifts of the Spirit during the time of renewal at Tirley Garth. There is much that is already being prepared for the jubilee: there is much, much more still to be done. But we don't want to focus on that, but rather on the new gifts God wants to give us, individually and collectively.

This is a brief summary of where things stand now, and the decisions that need to be taken in Paris:

Priorities before the Council meeting in Paris:

- We will need to decide the print run for the pictorial (see previous item).
- The filming of the 5-6 minute video about Caux went well. It will be ready in English by the end of the year. What other languages should it be dubbed into? And who will do this?
- The proposal on the 'service force' for three-week periods needs further discussion and decision, especially in terms of the content for the periods between events. Each such period needs a team who make this time an enriching experience for all who come. Who will do this? How to organise it?

<u>Summer program</u>: a top copy of the draft program has been sent to your WB distributor. This is for photocopying, thus reducing postage costs. <u>The Anniversary Committee</u>: an updated top copy of this insert has also been sent to the same people.

Andrew Stallybrass

NEW CAMBODIAN VIDEOS

In Cambodia the *The Serene Smile* has been shown repeatedly on national television. The French version will be launched during a Franco-Cambodian festival at the MRA centre in Paris on 21st October. Articles and advertisements about the film have appeared in Cambodian journals in France, Britain, the United States and Australia, resulting in many orders.

In London we have completed a rough cut of the next Khmer video in the series and Alan will go to Phnom Penh for two weeks next month, stopping in Kuala Lumpur en route to maintain links. Our budget for this video, and an international video, is £50,000.

David Channer

HISTORIAN LEADS SEMINAR

Twenty of us from the Baltic Sea region met recently for three days in St Petersburg. Participants included two former Estonian Cabinet Ministers and a leader of the Russian population group (over 30%) there; a journalist and two historians, one of them of Russian descent, from Latvia; from Moscow the Vice-Chairman of the DUMA's (Parliament) Committee on ethnic questions, the DUMA's advisor on immigration and the Rector of the Alexander Men's Orthodox University. Ten came from Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

The meetings were sensitively led by Professor Sergei Podbolotov, the St Petersburg historian who had previously attended the MRA Baltic seminars in Stockholm and Copenhagen - as had most of the others who came. Irina Roganova, a music teacher from nearby Gatchina, brought a chorus of 25 young people. Their rendition of Russian and international songs moved everyone.

Our discussions were characterized by the way in which differences, fears and disagreements were expressed in a non-antagonistic way, leading to deepened understanding and friendship. One unmistakable theme, however, was the Russian leadership's growing mistrust of the West, focussed not least by plans for NATO's eastward expansion.

We have faith that God is developing something in this region which could one day be a pattern for both East and West.

Paul & Eva Gundersen Keld Jörgensen Finn Harald Wetterfors Jens Jonathan Wilhelmsen

PREVIEW OF A NEW WORLD GOES TO KING

Arthur Strong writes: 'An art expert came three times to the joint exhibition which Signe and I held in Stockholm recently. He told me he was dying of AIDS. He bought a photograph; but what fascinated him was *Preview of a New World*. He is a friend of the Swedish Royal Family. Two months later we were in touch. Though very ill, he urged me to send the book to King Carl Gustav. "He will appreciate reading that." A copy has now gone to the King.'

'May your splendid book give new vitality to the great impulses originating in Frank Buchman's movement,' writes Cardinal König to Arthur.

Of the 1,000 copies printed, he has only 350 left. Many are in libraries around the world. The £40,000 bill has been paid, half by Arthur and Signe and half by donations from those who have used the book.

BREAD, BRICKS AND BELIEF

Publishers Weekly of the United States writes of Mary Lean's book: 'These tales of troubled communities managing to set themselves right are inspirational.' Mary was interviewed on Premier Radio, London, about the book before going to Chicago where its US launching will take place this month.

FIELDS IN WHICH WORK OVERLAPS

In Geneva in late August, five of us from MRA were received for 55 minutes by the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Konrad Raiser, and Huibert Van Beek, the Executive Secretary of the Office for Church and Ecumenical Relations. We were touched by the warm welcome and the listening quality of our hosts. We told them about events planned for the summer of 1996. At the end of our discussion, the General Secretary thanked us warmly for establishing the link. 'This has been an eye-opener for me,' he said. 'It is amazing to see in how many fields our work overlaps.' We intend to carry the dialogue further.

Andrew Stallybrass

AUSTRALIAN EFFECTIVE LIVING COURSE 1996

The 19th Effective Living Course which begins at Armagh, the Australia/Pacific Centre for MRA, at the end of January 1996 is starting to take shape. Nine graduates from the Course have offered to come back and help, including Visier Sanyu and his family from Nagaland. Lauren and Mike Davis from New Zealand, teacher and architect respectively, join us for four months at the start of a year's sabbatical in overseas service. Participants are lining up from Japan, Korea, India, Cambodia, Burma, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia. There are still one or two places for those who are genuinely seeking fresh direction for their lives and who want to be part of the change alternative for the world. Further information is available from one of at us at Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak VIC 3142. Tel: +61 3 9822 1218; Fax: +61 3 9822 6871;

E-mail: 100351.1024@compuserve.com

John Mills Rob and Cheryl Wood

ASIA PLATEAU IN HEAVY DEMAND

Asia Plateau will have a busy programme of conferences throughout the coming nine months, including eight 4-day Creative Leadership seminars, each for up to 150 industrial workers and managers. There will also be programmes for schools, craftsmen and women, teachers, families, young people, entrepreneurs. Last month a conference was held for Maharashtrians. People came from the villages around Asia Plateau, and from Pune, Bombay, Sangli, Baramati, Wai and Panchgani. 'Many talked about the violence, which is spreading,' writes Jyothi Subrahmanyan. 'They were very interested to hear Sushobha tell of the work she and others are doing in Dharavi and Berampada. We talked about how to take similar action in our own areas.'

DATES OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONFERENCE

The dates for the Bloemfontein conference, 'Healing the Past, Building the Future - an Honest Consultation on Reconciliation, Responsibility and Renaissance', have been changed slightly. It will now be from 4th to 8th April, 1996.

NEW WORLD ADDRESS LIST

A new world address list will be produced in November. Changes that appear in the *World Bulletin* are automatically included. Please let me have any changes by **November 10**, at the Hague address. This new list will also have e-mail addresses, but only for those individuals/offices already on the list.

Lotty Wolvekamp

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

France: correction: The Paris fax number is: +33 1 41 10 80 67

Finland: Paul and Eva Gundersen's new address is: Munkkiniemen puistotie 7 A21, FIN-00330 HELSINKI. Tel: +358 0 486 447

Switzerland: from 4 November phone numbers in the Luzern region will change. The new numbers are:

Stiftung für Moralische Aufrustung	310 12 61
CAUX-Information	311 22 13
Fax: MRA & CAUX-Information	311 22 14
Spreng (home)	250 38 14
South Africa: New tel/fax numbers: S	Samuel Pono
+27 12 805 0330; Jackie Euvrard +27	11 673 8173.
Please note the following Internet add	resses.

Pieter Horn: phorn@pixie.co.za

Edward Howard: pak05401@pixie.co.za MRA South Africa - all others: mra@pixie.co.za

(see over for Calendar of Events)

Calendar of Events

OCT '95	Tirley Garth	Farmers' conference	Oct	14	-	15
	Chicago USA	MRA national meeting - A Call to Community	Oct	20	-	22
	<u>Tirley Garth</u>	Global Consultation - Jubilee Renewal	Oct	26	-	Nov 2
NOV '95	Paris	Caux 50th Council meeting	Nov	4	-	8
	<u>Petropolis</u> Brazil	Community leaders' meeting	Nov	16	-	19
	<u>Toronto</u> Canada	MRA Seminar - Initiatives for Change	Nov	17		18
DEC '95	<u>Tirley Garth</u>	Families' conference	Dec	28	-	Jan 2
JAN '96	Bateman's Bay Australia	Summer camp for teenagers	Jan	8	-	14
	Melbourne Australia	'Effective Living' Course at Armagh	Jan	28	-	Apr 21
APRIL '96	Bloemfontein South Africa	Healing the past - Building the future	Apr	4	-	8
JUNE '96	Caux	50th Anniversary Celebration	Jun	29	-	Jul 3
JULY '96	<u>Caux</u>	Forging the future - preparing for the 21st century	Jul	3	-	6
	Caux	Europe at the crossroads				
	Caux	Caux Conference for Business and Industry				
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Round Table				
	<u>Caux</u>	An Agenda for Reconciliation				
	Caux	The Creators of peace - a Women's initiative				

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Wednesday, 15 November 1995

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: <u>Asia</u>: South - C Iralu; <u>Malaysia</u> - Santa Maria; <u>Philippines</u> - Cardel; Japan, Rest - Fujita; Australia - A Lancaster; <u>Pacific</u> - Annette Porteous; <u>Africa</u>: East - Patel; South - Horn; <u>Zimbabwe</u> - Sibare; <u>Nigeria</u>, Rest - Agbih; <u>N. America</u>: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; <u>Latin America</u>: Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; <u>Caribbean</u> - Fiona Edwards; <u>Europe</u>: France - Lasserre; <u>Germany</u> - Bräckle; <u>Denmark</u> - Jørgensen; <u>Finland</u> -Koponen; <u>Norway</u> - Eskeland; <u>Sweden</u> - Söderlund; <u>Switzerland</u> - Mottu; UK - C Evans; <u>Austria</u> - Vock; <u>Netherlands</u>, <u>Rest</u> - J de Pous; <u>Middle East</u>: - Christodoulides