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UN DEPUTY OPENS DIALOGUE

Japanese foreign-policy makers are giving serious attention to concepts of preventive diplomacy and the role of NGOs in reconciliation and peace-making. This was evident at last month's Dialogues on Reconciliation, co-hosted by MRA, the Asia Center Odawara and the United Nations University (UNU) Tokyo. The Dialogues were supported by the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs, and the National Institute of Research Advancement (NIRA), a government policy think-tank.

Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Deputy Director of the Foreign Policy Bureau of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, said that in situations of internal strife, there could be no reconciliation unless there was a will for peace. 'Reconciliation at the individual level is important,' he said, 'because it will lead to reconciliation among larger groups at the state level.'

Professor H G de Souza, Rector of the UNU and Deputy-Secretary-General of the UN opened the Dialogue in Tokyo. Panel speakers included Dr Douglas Johnston (USA), Mrs Renee Pan (Cambodia), Mr Masahide Shibusawa (Japan) and Professor Hideaki Shiroshima, author of a report published by NIRA entitled, 'The roles of NGOs in international conflict resolution - a study of MRA, the Carter Center and International Alert.'

An editorial in the *Asahi Shimbun* (circulation 4 million) on preventive diplomacy referred to the Dialogue, drawing on comments by panel speakers.

These two dialogues were advance events for the major international symposium on reconciliation, co-hosted by NIRA, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC, and MRA, which will be held in Caux next year, 10-15 August.

Mr Tsutomu Hata, prominent Opposition figure and former Japanese PM and Foreign Minister, will speak at the session on 'Reconciliation: Japan and the international community' and Professor Washington Okumu (Kenya) at the session, 'Reconciliation: the African experience'. Mr Shinyasu Hoshino, President of NIRA and former Vice-Minister of the Economic Planning Agency, will

conduct a workshop on 'The Moral Foundations of the Market Economy'.

Yukihisa Fujita, Brian Lightowler

WASHINGTON POST CARRIES CALL

The National Hope in the Cities Coalition held a public symposium in Chicago on October 20, at which it issued a 'Call to Community', inviting all citizens to join a 'renewed commitment to an American community based on justice, reconciliation and excellence.'

Three days later William Raspberry, one of America's most respected syndicated columnists, wrote about this Call on the op-ed page of *The Washington Post*. Reflecting on the significance of the Million Man March in Washington and on President Clinton's call for Americans to undertake the hard work of bridging racial divisions, Raspberry writes, 'I've just seen a "call to community" from a Richmond-based network called "Hope in the Cities" that lays out just what is needed - at least for starters:

'Listening carefully to each other and to the whole community; bringing people together, not in confrontation but in trust, to tackle the most urgent needs of the community; searching for solutions, focusing on what is right rather than who is right; and building lasting relationships outside our comfort zone.

'We need to do all these things,' he goes on, 'not in pursuit of some sappy attempt to take the vigor out of our politics, but in recognition of the crisis that is staring us in the face. We will have to start transforming our society into a community - and quickly - or else continue our self-righteous slide into chaos.'

The Chicago symposium was initiated by Margaret Palmer, a Chicago attorney and former legislative aide. 'At the end of the Civil War Lincoln had a vision - to heal the nation,' she said. 'The vision was not shared by his successors. We must take up where he left off, and heal the nation.' Another

prime mover was Alderman Richard Mell, formerly one of the white faction whose vehement opposition to Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor, crippled the city government. Mell was so stirred by the video, *Healing the Heart of America*, that he bought a copy for every Council member.

The symposium's host committee included 18 members of Chicago City Council and a wide range of community leaders. The honorary committee was chaired by the Mayor of Chicago, Richard Daley, and included W Deen Mohammed, spokesperson for America's 5 million orthodox Muslims; Carol Moseley-Braun, the first African American woman to be elected to the United States Senate; and Nathaniel Jones, a distinguished Appeals Court judge and former General Counsel to the NAACP.

The panelists were John Gilligan, former Governor of Ohio and US AID Administrator; Bliss Browne, an Episcopal priest, former bank vice-president and community activist; Jesse Jackson Jr; and Dick Chrysler, a Republican congressman who borrowed a private plane to fit the event into his schedule. Dr Raymond Bakke of International Urban Associates moderated the dialogue.

The symposium was a further step in bringing before the country the need for an honest conversation on race, reconciliation and responsibility. It comes at a time of heightened awareness of America's racial divide. Several Hope in the Cities members had taken part in the Million Man March in Washington. The March's initiator, Louis Farrakhan, aroused varied reactions but the March, wrote the editor-in-chief of *US News and World Report*, was seen by many African Americans as 'a moral rearmament in which black men confront their own responsibility.' One white colleague, finding himself on a flight with Farrakhan, told him that he believed that white Americans must and will repent, and that a moral and spiritual rearmament is necessary for America's experiment in diversity.

Next we will ask national figures to endorse the Call, and encourage them to draw on its contents. Copies are available from the Richmond office.

Rob Corcoran

RELECTING AROUND THE WORLD

In many parts of the world, people met together last month for a weekend of renewal and rededication. We have heard news of gatherings in many countries, on every continent.

A young lawyer travelled all the way from Sri Lanka to the 4-day 'retreat' at Asia Plateau, which brought together people from Delhi, Bombay and Pune.

Finns and Estonians met in South West Finland. 'In unstructured meetings, prejudices and hurts began to melt,' write Marketta Waroma and Hannu and Terttu Laaksonen. 'We understood afresh that just as God can take hold of a person's life, He can remould a fellowship and give it new, pulsating life. An Estonian said that his country is slipping fast: 'It needs cleaning up in all sectors. We need the help of our neighbours. We must become fishers of men and our nets must be clean so that God can use us.' A young professional woman decided to free herself for two months next summer to work in Caux.

Fifty Swedes and Norwegians met in Western Sweden. Lennart Sjoegren writes that they began with a communion service with freshly-created modern music by Leif Nahnfeldt, who conducted the service. Times of meditation and lively exchanges in small groups led on to 'a flood of sharing, with tears and joy' on the theme, 'See, I make everything new'.

POLISH MEDIA MEET

A wide cross-section of the Polish media has given its support to a 4-day conference of the International Communications Forum, which will take place early next month in Poland. Its theme is: 'Freedom and Responsibility: the dilemma of the media'. The Association of Polish Journalists has made available its conference centre for the event. The Polish Government Press Office is giving financial support, and will host a reception for participants.

PRIORITIES AFTER PARIS

The meetings in Paris, planning for Caux '96, were coloured, we felt, by a fresh openness, sensitivity, listening, sharing. We've taken time, and thus saved time. We feel deeply a sense of being led towards a greater wholeness in what we do in Caux. This is linked with the Jubilee renewal gatherings in Tirley and elsewhere, and the widespread search for renewal in our work. Not back to old ways, nor forward in a spirit of reaction or desire to be be different, but rather in towards God and then out towards others. We share an exciting sense of promise that new gifts are being given and will be given. We are grateful for all that has been prepared and planned, but there are still many,

many needs. We intend to do the preparations in partnership with younger and/or newer people.

Many of us may have to decide not what new things we take on, but what we stop doing in order to make the summer what it is meant to be. The priority needs, as we see them, are:

* That this Jubilee marks a fresh outreach into the world, and that we bring the people who will share in and contribute to the spirit we are being given.

* Core teams (3 x 20-30 people) to carry each three-week period into which the summer has been divided, so that the continuous assembly becomes a living, growing whole, as a learning community.

* Two or three reference people for each of the three-week periods, to build and co-ordinate these core teams, and an overall liaison person for the whole summer.

* We were mainly Europeans who met. We look forward to taking on the first three weeks together, and creating a teamwork and fellowship on our continent that does not come naturally. We are grateful that the Americans (North and South) will take on the second period. As for the third period, we don't want to present other regions with a 'fait accompli' - we have heard from friends in Australia, New Zealand, India and the Philippines, and welcome the widest participation of all the continents.

* Translators for the different documents and the new promotional video will be needed in the coming months. Also interpreters and translators throughout the whole summer in Caux.

* A spirit of joy and celebration, an openness to new ideas and ways, a longing for renewal in all of us.

The full report is available from your WB distributor, with several documents intended to be used widely:

1. An invitation letter for MRA friends, explaining the three-week periods.
2. A letter inviting those we hope will join the three-week teams.
3. A drawing by Anja Orphelin, 'The summer garden in Caux 1996', illustrating the link between 'events' and 'three-week periods'.
4. A leaflet on the practical work of the house.
5. A copy of the new finance text for the general programme, and a letter about this.

These documents can be adapted and photocopied and will, we hope, be sent out with national team newsletters.

Andrew Stallybrass

ON SCOTTISH AIRWAVES

Rex Dilly's book *Discovering Moral Re-Armament* has just been reprinted. In a review on Radio Forth, Scotland, John Cameron said: 'The book helps to restore our faith in ideals in a day when cynicism and sleaze seem to dominate the headlines.'

VALUE EDUCATION IN BOMBAY

Paul and Sylvia Agbih have returned to Nigeria after spending most of 1995 in India. Their many activities there included helping with a programme of value education at the request of Bombay teacher Zarin Virji. They made 16 visits to Bombay schools and colleges in August, 'giving talks, singing, drumming and listening to students and teachers alike... The programme was highly appreciated by all we met.' When it finished, school principals, administrators and teachers met together to plan for the development of these programmes.

OPPORTUNITY IN SYDNEY 1997

From January '97 we plan to base in London for one year. This will give us the opportunity to participate in the *Foundations For Freedom* programme, respond to invitations to Germany and other European countries and do more to support Caux.

Our beautiful four-bedroom home owned by MRA in Sydney is available to anyone who feels called to Australia and would relish the opportunity to work with David and Jane Mills and many other lively colleagues. Please contact us at 60 Prince Street, Mosman, NSW 2088. Tel/fax: +61 2 9909 8188.

Peter and Rosemary Thwaites

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

International Communications Forum (ICF): Bill Porter's address has changed slightly to 9 Résidence Mer et Soleil, Avenue Jean Bart, 62520 Le Touquet, France. His phone is unchanged: +33 21 05 15 15 and he now has a fax: +33 21 05 62 37

Australia: All phone numbers in Melbourne have added a 9 at the beginning: Armagh is now +61 3 9822 1218. In Sydney only numbers already beginning with a 9 have an extra 9 added at the beginning; so Peter and Rosemary Thwaites' number is now +61 2 9909 8188.

Calendar of Events

DEC '95	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Creative Leadership	Dec 13 - 17
	<u>Tirley Garth</u>	Families' conference	28 - Jan 2
JAN '96	<u>Bateman's Bay Australia</u>	Summer camp for teenagers	Jan 8 - 14
	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Creative Leadership	17 - 21
	<u>Melbourne Australia</u>	'Effective Living' Course at Armagh	28 - Apr 21
FEB '96	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Craftsmen and women's conference	Feb 1 - 5
	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Creative Leadership	14 - 18
APRIL '96	<u>Bloemfontein South Africa</u>	Healing the past - Building the future	Apr 4 - 8
	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Creative Leadership	16 - 20
MAY '96	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Families conference	May 15 - 18
	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Youth camp	21 - 30
JUNE '96	<u>Asia Plateau</u>	Creative Leadership	Jun 4 - 8
	<u>Caux</u>	50th Anniversary celebration	29 - Jul 3
JULY '96	<u>Caux</u>	Europe at the crossroads	Jul 3 - 6
	<u>Caux</u>	Forging the future - preparing for the 21st century	12 - 16
	<u>Caux</u>	Business focus	23 - 28
AUGUST '96	<u>Caux</u>	Faith, moral values and our future	Aug 3 - 7
	<u>Caux</u>	An agenda for reconciliation	10 - 15
	<u>Caux</u>	Farmers' dialogue	18
	<u>Caux</u>	The creators of peace - a women's initiative	19 - 21
	<u>Caux</u>	Final weekend event	24 - 25

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Friday, 15th December 1995

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