

ICF FORUM IN SYDNEY

The International Communications Forum held a weekend forum in Sydney last month in association with the Australian Press Council. Prominent Australian publishers and journalists met with ICF members from six countries to discuss 'The role and responsibility of the media'.

Their discussions led to wide coverage in the Australian media. ICF visitors were interviewed on TV, radio and in print. They also visited Canberra, where they met members of the Government, the Leader of the Opposition, and a wide range of parliamentarians. At the start of Question Time the Speaker of the House of Representatives welcomed two of them – Jaroslava Moserová and Rajmohan Gandhi – to the Australian Parliament.

The Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University hosted a reception for the visitors, which was attended by a wide range of academics and other Canberrans, and diplomats from seven countries.

A report of the Forum will be available soon from Hugh Nowell in London and John Williams in Melbourne.

John Farquharson John Williams

NAGA CALLS FOR TRANSPARENCY

'Today, those who aim the gun and those who receive the bullets are equally helpless... We are fast becoming a land of widows and orphans.' This impassioned observation by Niketu Iralu, one of Nagaland's most respected intellectuals, during the fourth Naga tribal leaders' parliament, highlighted the spiralling vortex of violence that has enmeshed the Naga people for more than 50 years.

The timing of the meeting was significant. Prime Minister Deve Gowda had not only assured the region's leaders that unconditional talks would be held, but had also met underground leaders in Davos.

Mr Iralu noted that the Naga struggle had developed out of the sacrifice of all the tribes. Now it was time for introspection. Mincing no words, he wondered aloud 'whether 80 per cent of Naga politics has not deteriorated into inter-tribal, inter-personal rivalry, a fierce confrontation of hidden agendas... We use lies, violence and money to resolutely hide our own agendas and attack others for hiding theirs.' Calling for greater transparency, Mr Iralu urged the Naga people to look outwards towards a new vision.

After two days of deliberations, the meeting ... called upon all the leaders of the Naga National Workers to stop the 'acts of fratricide on the principle of forgive and forget' and to push towards an amicable Naga political settlement.

From The Times of India, 25 March

THE IMPACT OF A HANDFUL IN COLOMBIA

During a recent visit to Colombia, I was struck by the impact the handful of friends who have been to Cauca are having nationally. Sadly, Colombia holds the world record for killings and abductions, and against this background the 'Women Creators of Peace' Foundation (Mujeres Creadoras de Paz) has found a great response. They hold courses on peace making in various parts of the country, and are now becoming an NGO. This is very much the work of Heyde Duran (see *All Her Paths are Peace*) who with friends takes courses in conflict resolution, adding the element of forgiveness and reconciliation, which she illustrates from her own experience.

Then there is 'Laicos por Colombia', a lay people's movement to 'evangelize politics'. They work with a Senator who speaks out as a national conscience and has achieved change in laws far out of proportion to his number of constituents. His team are Nelly Cediel and Alfonso and Marta Rueda, for whom change meant ending their refusal to have anything to do with 'dirty politics'. They are breaking through traditional political boundaries, persuading people from all classes to stand for election in their local councils.

I was accompanied by a Colombian friend, Blanca Aparicio, who lives in Holland. To coincide with our arrival, a weekend conference had been convened by MRA and CoP. The 60 participants included slum-dwellers and diplomats. A mass was celebrated in memory of my husband Peter who, the organisers wrote, had inspired many such conferences. Heyde and I then went to Bogota and Cali, where we spoke to 330 people, mainly youth.

We are now working for Colombian participation at the Minneapolis conference. Relations with the USA are below zero after Washington's 'de-certification' of Colombia.

My conclusion is that our work expands best when it addresses a locally-felt need, under a name that people respond to, and this initiative is nurtured by the world network of MRA.

Digna Hintzen, Holland

VISITING COURSE IN CRIMEA

The venue was freezing, and taking a shower called for heroism. But nothing could dispel the glow on the face of the student after she had phoned her mother. 'I told her how I have lied to her, and asked her forgiveness,' she said. 'Now I am no longer captive in a dark room.'

The student was one of ten participating in a Visiting Course in Crimea last month. We were there at the invitation of Rev Georges Carillet, Vice-President of Academic Affairs at the Crimean American College. Rev Carillet attended out of curiosity, and stayed on. 'This course is exactly what I have been looking for,' he said. Before we left, he arranged for Erik and Peter to meet Crimea's Deputy Prime Minister. The course was fully funded by the British 'Know How Fund' on the recommendation of the British Ambassador in Kiev.

**Erik Andren Peter Thwaites Nick Foster
Zuzanna Parczewska Jarmilá Vrbenska**

HOTCAKES IN LITHUANIA

The second Lithuanian edition of *Listen to the Children* and *Listen for a Change* (in one volume) is selling like hot cakes. It is being used in marriage preparation courses across the country. Last month the head of Caritas' family centres invited Ann Rignall, Joy Weeks and me to Lithuania to meet parents and teachers.

Much has changed since my visit in '93: more cars on the roads, and bananas are no longer a luxury. An oil terminal and container port are being built to lessen their dependence on Russia. The banking system is now working. But life is hard. As one person said, 'It is now each one for himself, nobody is going to save us.' Suicide rates are among the highest in the world.

We were warmly received by friends from my last visit, and quite a few who had been to Caux or the Visiting Courses. I have hardly seen a country so hungry for friendship, hope and vision. Ann and Joy were asked to return next Spring to train teachers in 'the other 3 R's'. A publisher wants to publish it in Lithuanian.

Annejet Campbell

HEALING THE PAST IN SOUTH AFRICA

A multi-racial group of South Africans met last month in Johannesburg for a retreat on 'Healing the Past'.

Joan Travers told of her reaction to the revelations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. 'I was appalled and angry because I felt I hadn't wanted to know what was happening. I just wanted to bury myself and my shame in a dark corner. Then unexpectedly, six friends arrived with gifts, having heard it was our wedding anniversary. They came with such love and care. Even 40 years of apartheid had not been able to kill this spirit. I felt forgiven.'

After the retreat, some contacted people they wanted

to forgive or apologise to. Snowy Mohlala wrote, 'It seemed as though angels were with us. I was totally healed of my hatred of my white colleagues.'

Sam Pono, Edward Howard, Rosemary Mattingley

A 'DEMOCRATIC CONSCIENCE' IN ZAIRE

Thomas and Nelly Ntambu, a Zairian couple living in Montreux, joined the Koechlin and Danguys in Strasbourg for the April session of the Euro-Parliament. The Ntambus have contact with Zaire's leadership on all sides, and have been instrumental in bringing some of them to Caux.

They met six MPs individually, most of whom are members of the ACP Assembly (Lomé Convention between Europe and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries). Their assessment of the situation was valued, as was their commitment to be a 'democratic conscience' for whatever regime may emerge. Lord Henry Plumb, co-chairman of the ACP Assembly, was very interested in a project of Thomas and Zairian friends to help relaunch agriculture in Zaire by creating a farming workshop which will offer moral training to young people. All the MPs expressed a concern for a better use of European Union aid to Africa.

Father Christoph Remb, who spent most of the '95 summer at Caux, is now a parish priest in the mining town of Kolwezi in Shaba Province. He writes that he is in constant demand for training seminars on MRA.

Michel Koechlin Charles Piquet

MELBOURNE CONSULTATION

The Global Consultation in Melbourne, Australia, bringing together 33 participants from all continents for a week, begins on 19 April. Many discussion groups have been meeting and thoughtful submissions made. We are very grateful.

Will you pray for us? Each morning at 7.30, participants will meet for quiet reflection. Again at 6pm a time of common prayer will take place. You may wish to use these times as a prayer focus.

**John Mills and Edward Peters
for the Support Group**

A SENSE OF PROMISE IN SWITZERLAND

It was with tremendous gratitude for their great contributions that we said farewell, at our annual meeting on April 11, to four of our members who retired after many years of service to the Foundation and to Caux. Daniel Mottu, Heini Karrer, Gerhard Grob and René Hodel have all given so much, and we are all the richer for our having worked alongside them, and learned from them. We elected four new members, and look forward very much to working with them in the years to come. They are: David Forbes-Jaeger (40), an American lawyer working in

an international law firm in Geneva, whose wife is Swiss; Antoine Jaulmes (38), a French civil engineer working with Peugeot in Valenciennes; Anya Snellman Orphelin (30), an architect from Finland, Switzerland and France, married to a Frenchman and living in Paris; and Michel Tobler (40), who is Swiss and a manager in a manufacturing plant near Caux.

As we go through this time of transition, following our Jubilee Year, we have a sense of promise about what God has in store for the future. We ask your prayers and support as we work to keep Caux available as a place of healing, a home for the world.

Swiss MRA Foundation

THE LADDER IN LONDON

Peter Howard's one-act play *The Ladder* was performed twice at the Westminster Theatre, London, this month. The production, directed by Elisabeth Tooms, featured the cast and production team who presented the play in Caux last year. Appreciative audiences gave over £1,000 in collections after the performances, to start a fund for the Creativity, Service, Freedom session at Caux this August. Many artists and young people are coming to this session, particularly from Eastern and Central Europe, and will need help with their expenses.

Hugh Williams

MRA NEWSLETTER EDITED IN KRACÓW

Poland is the latest country to establish a regular MRA newsletter. Marta Dabrowska and Maria Wedzony edit the newsletter in Kraków, and circulate it every three months.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES: CHOICES FOR COMMUNITY

There is an air of anticipation among those preparing for the international conference in the Twin Cities, June 24-29. The excitement grows as music and theater presentations are rehearsed, intriguing workshop ideas are put forward, and local Native Americans take the lead in realizing a vision to have a Sacred Fire burn during the five days. A new production of Peter Howard's musical, *Give a Dog a Bone*, is in rehearsal and funds are being raised to bring the play to Minnesota. Joe Carter will perform 'One Family', the story of his family from their life in Africa in the 1800s through the struggles with slavery and freedom in North America.

The conference will aim to develop the tools that help bring about change in ourselves and our communities. Speakers will address the themes of: 'Why community and what gets in the way?', 'What does it take to heal community?', 'What does it take to build healthy community?', and 'What is my response? Moving toward strategy and action.'

Donald Shriver, President Emeritus of Union Theological Seminary in New York and author of *An Ethic for Enemies*, will address the conference. John Hatch, founder of FINCA (Foundation for International Community Assistance) will speak about helping economic growth in developing regions.

Workshops will be offered on such topics as: breaking through to honest conversation; sustaining diverse teams in community action; strategy and action in your own community; and developing the practice of listening to the inner voice from the perspective of different faith traditions and practices.

In the spirit of the Caux learning communities, many of us are working together to draw on the deepest conviction and experience of those from Latin America, Canada, the US and Caribbean. Please consider who might participate in this conference and encourage them to be in touch with us. Invitations and programs will be sent to anyone on request. Contact the MRA office in Washington DC or in Minnesota.

**Kathy Beenen Steve Dickinson Mike Olson
Sofia Vargas Fisher**

LOOKING FOR A NEW ADVENTURE?

Would you, or anyone you know, like to learn a new skill for life? If so the Caux kitchen might be for you.

This skill includes:

- working with an international team
- discovering old and new ways of cooking
- mastering menus and machinery
- meeting deadlines
- managing personalities and potatoes
- enjoying the production of a good meal
- finding confidence that you can do something you never thought you could

We are meeting in South Tyrol to plan menus for the coming summer from April 18-28. If you have any offers and/or suggestions, please let us know. Our fax number there, at the Pension Heinrichshof Hans Emmanuel is +39 473 220 116

**Frieda Thaler Judith Henderson
Alison Wetterfors**

INDIAN PRESS ON ETHICS

'Global debate converges in favour of business ethics' was the headline to a 200-word article by Mike Smith in *The Pioneer*, New Delhi, 31 March. The article quoted the Indian management consultant Dr M B Athreya, speaking at last summer's business and industry conference at Caux. It reported the activities of the Caux Round Table, Ryuzaburo Kaku's concept of 'kyosei', and Britain's Institute of Business Ethics.

NEW CAUX VIDEO

High points of the 50th anniversary at Mountain House are captured in a new 23-minute documentary, 'Caux Jubilee'. Participants appearing in this state-of-the-art video range from the Dalai Lama to US civil rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, from Britain's Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, to the Emir of Kano and Mohammed Masmoudi, from the Swiss authorities to former Japanese Prime Minister, Tsutomu Hata.

Copies are available from MRA Productions in the UK and from Grosvenor USA and Grosvenor Australia. The price of the video will vary from country to country; in the US it will cost \$20; in Britain £15 (plus p&p).

Michael Henderson

FAC ARTICLES NOW ON CD-ROM

Articles from *For A Change* have been published on CD-ROM, by Gale Canada. Gale pays FAC a small royalty to include the magazine among the 400 Canadian and international publications listed on the 'CPI.Q' (Canadian Periodical Index, IQ). CPI has been regarded as the standard library reference tool in Canada since 1921, and the CD-ROM is a resource for teachers and librarians. The CD-ROM lists 292 articles published in FAC since January 1992. It is updated bimonthly. It can also be found

on the website
<<http://Galenet.gale.com/db/cpi/demo>>.

CAUX TRANSLATION ENGINEER

As we approach the next season, we want to let you know that the position of a competent person to look after the technical side of the translation system is vacant. For proposals or details, please e-mail me at: CSpreng@compuserve.com THANKS!

Christoph Spreng

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

India: Niketu and Christine Iralu's phone number in Meghalaya has changed to +91 364 232124. The best fax number for them is +91 364 231500 marked "ATTENTION: IRALU".

United States: correction to fax number for Olson: +1 612 924 0068 instead of 612 646 8650
Correction: The MRA address in St. Paul, Minnesota should be Suite 70, not Suite 10

Sweden: Philip and Vendela Tyndale-Biscoe's new phone number is +46 70 567 6631 (mobile);
Fax: +46 8662 7474; e-mail: philipt-b@swipnet.se

France: Jean-Marc and Eva Duckert's new phone number is: +33 1 6080 1112. Gérard and Véronique Gigand's new number is: +33 1 6080 1079. The new fax number for both families is: +33 1 6978 0945.

Calendar of Events

APR '97	<u>Kano Nigeria</u>	Conference: Africa - pattern of peace and unity	Apr	19 - 25
	<u>Victoria Australia</u>	Global Consultation on 'Participation and the Development of People'	Apr	19 - 26
MAY '97	<u>Boulogne Paris, France</u>	Preparation for Caux 1997	May	8 - 11
	<u>Moldova</u>	'The Search for Freedom', FFF Seminar	May	23 - 25
JUN '97	<u>Minneapolis USA</u>	International Conference at University of Minnesota	Jun	24 - 29
JUL '97	<u>Armagh Melbourne Australia</u>	'Life Matters', nine-day course for young adults	Jul	4 - 13
	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	The World of Tomorrow – A Dynamic Learning Community	Jul	12 - Aug 24
	<u>Odawara Japan</u>	Asia Pacific Youth Conference (APYC)	Jul	20 - 29
SEP '97	<u>Tirley Garth Britain</u>	FFF International Course	Sep	4 - 23
OCT '97	<u>Kobe Japan</u>	Asia: Dialogue with neighbours	Oct	4 - 5

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Thursday, May 15, 1997

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Santa Maria; Philippines - Calma; Japan, Rest - Nagano; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; Africa: East - Patel; South - Euvrard; 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