

# REARMEMENT MORAL · CAUX

## Centre de Rencontres Internationales

TÉL. 021/9634821  
TÉLÉFAX 021/9635260  
TÉLÉGRAMME CAUXVAUD

MOUNTAIN HOUSE  
RUE DU PANORAMA  
CH-1824 CAUX

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Monday, 10th July 1989

Dear Friends,

The first struggle (of the season) with a blank page and a rather blank mind! But greetings from Caux, where we started the summer conferences yesterday. So this will be a short first letter. The house has been filling up day by day: we're just over two hundred now, and rising. There's that beginning-of-term feeling, with new faces, new people to get to know. On Tuesday we start the first, franco-american, session, so many of those arriving seem to be from the States, or from France. They include a notable group from Frank Buchman's home state of Pennsylvania. But we'll say more of them next week.

Yesterday we welcomed a senior Taiwanese diplomat, the Director of the Sun Yat-sen Centre in Lausanne, with his wife and daughter. Switzerland has no official diplomatic links with his country, but he runs an embassy in all but name. They were welcomed by the Liu family, and two other young Chinese from Taiwan.

The winter was strangely mild, the spring early, the summer hot and dry, and the harvest down in the valley is already well advanced. So we prepare for another harvest here. Is it wishful thinking, or is the world now more ready for moral and spiritual re-armament? Are people coming with a new sense of need and humility, in search of God's answers, since man's ways have so clearly failed, are so clearly failing?

Whatever the explanation, we are expecting today the first of a group of some 20 plus from Lebanon. Do please pray for them, and the others like them, who will have to go through quite a series of adventures to get as far as the front door of Mountain House. Some leave by sea via Cyprus, others leave by road via Damascus. They represent all the different communities of that sad country. Many of those who come this summer seem destined to make another, inner journey once they are here, to meet a person, an individual from an enemy camp. We expect a similar number of Greeks and Turks, from Cyprus and from Greece and Turkey. The Mediterranean session towards the end of the month looks like being one of the high-points of the summer.

Then we expect a bus of thirty Poles from Warsaw, and the bus is already over-subscribed. A small group of young Burmese is expected, for training in the ideas of democracy. Exiles after the peaceful attempt last year to overthrow the military regime, they are being sent by the son of U Nu. We have just welcomed an Iranian friend who was last here ten years ago. She speaks movingly of the spiritual lifeline it has been to receive one of MRA's monthly publications, when the post allowed. We have taken some time over the last days to try to prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the many who will come from situations of great pain and suffering, where there is little or nothing to say. We can only try to be agents of God's healing Spirit.

We are grateful for those who have already come to carry the conference with us - from New Zealand, from the USA and Britain, from Scandinavia. Alongside all the other elements, I feel that this is going to be an important summer with our world team, a chance to include those who come, and through these letters many more of you too, in some of the longer term thinking for Caux itself, and the use we are meant to make of it over the next twenty years. There will also be precious opportunities to think for different parts of the world, and to search for the unexpected promptings of the Spirit.

And then there is always going to be the unexpected. At tea yesterday I thought it was a joke when somebody rushed up to tell me that a group of Russians was at the door, but it wasn't. Two senior diplomats had come to visit the house with their wives and teenage daughters on vacation from the University of Moscow. Thanks to the hard work of David Channer and his team in London, and to the financial support many of you have given them, we were able to show 'For the Love of Tomorrow' in Russian. We hope to have the Polish version for the Poles who come.

Another piece of news - not from Caux, and from under another hat, that of co-editor of the 'World Bulletin' - is that the other editors, Thomas and Christa Bräckle, have a daughter who joined them on Thursday, July 6. Congratulations to all three on a successful edition.

Yours ever,

Andrew Stallybrass