

# REARMEMENT MORAL · CAUX

## Centre de Rencontres Internationales

TÉL. 021/9634821  
TÉLÉFAX 021/9635260  
TÉLÉGRAMME CAUXVAUD

MOUNTAIN HOUSE  
RUE DU PANORAMA  
CH-1824 CAUX

PRIVATE

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Dear friends,

The last lap. I've just equalled my personal best for the circuit that I run from here (to Sonchaud and back), but in the conference, I've been going through my own personal energy and enthusiasm crisis. Yet the conference gallops on - and the amazing sense of the Holy Spirit's life permeating into the lives of people continues; indeed, I cannot remember sensing such a stirring before in an industrial conference - and this is the 17th of its kind. So yesterday we ended the Caux Industrial Conference, and in the evening, started the Caux Round Table with a formal dinner. Some of the young people who were here earlier in the summer are now back, dressed in suits and ties, to help with the organization. You will see enclosed the three press stories that we've sent out: the quality of the speakers and of what they had to say has kept us in the 'press team' busy! A highlight has been the inclusion of the 'Dialogue on the preservation of the Creation' within the industrial framework - of which more next week. I haven't had the time to catch up with this 'limited public session' which closed yesterday afternoon; it's hard to be in more than three places at the same time!

Today we launch into the final session 'Regions and communities in crisis - what can we learn from each other?' feeling much in need of prayer and sensitive inspiration. As the serious news filters in from the Soviet Union, we can only thank God for all those who have come from that part of the world to Caux over the last two years - and pray that doors once opened cannot easily be slammed shut. The numbers remain high - we only drop to 450 at the very end, as of now. And there are so many coming from areas of deep suffering and conflict, in need of a healing spirit. We are filled with gratitude for all those who have made this amazing summer of adventure in faith possible. For example, some 16 New Zealanders have been here, and many of them for long spells, or indeed since before the beginning. The service teams could not have run without them. So our thanks don't just go to them - we must also say thank you to all those who made it possible for them to come.

'The heart of the matter' sessions at the beginning of the morning have given deep experiences of personal change, reaching into tough work situations. A coal miner, describing himself as 'a reformed reprobate' said he'd have laughed if you'd told him that government, unions and management could possibly work together. Yet again, this session's overall theme, 'Moral Foundations for a Market Economy' seems to have struck a nerve,

and was not just a pretext for getting people together. Dr Gyorgy Samsondi Kiss, an Under-Secretary of State in the Hungarian government, with special responsibility for the vast Danube valley project, spoke of 'the terrible destruction of morality' in his part of Europe, where 'it was no shame to steal from a robber state'. An Egyptian irrigation engineer spoke of his professional experiences of honesty at work, springing from the challenges he'd heard in Caux some 15 years ago, when he'd come on a student exchange: 'I earn the clients' respect, the word goes around, and I get more clients because people believe in what we're doing.'

The head of a family business told how as a Marxist in his youth he had promoted conflict. He'd even been to China for 18 months in search of a real revolution. 'I'm a slow learner,' he wryly confessed. Now in his business he was trying 'to reconcile prosperity with a great deal more equality', but he had realised afresh that change needed to start with himself. 'This is an alien environment for those bred on conflict. As a boss, I've tried to work out my ideas, and ram them down others' throats. I have to listen to the voice which says "serve others", to listen to others, and to find the right way.'

'Discussion Forums' in the latter part of the morning have taken up a range of themes in some depth. William Porter, the convenor and organizer of a forum on 'The role of the communications industry' attacked the idea that professionals could be totally neutral about the way society goes, 'or, having established freedom, we will preside over the destruction of freedom'. Soviet journalists, a Romanian magazine editor and a Polish television producer were among those who took part. A senior British figure in the industry attacked 'the growth of commercialism at the exclusion of a social purpose.' He went on, 'We must assume more responsibility for resisting the decline of freedom into licence - a so-called freedom that assaults the integrity of individuals without their permission.'

A remarkable evening brought together 'the best of the forums' - it is never an easy thing to do, to give interesting résumés of previous meetings - and a Japanese classical dance, a wild masked folk-dance by the Toshiba delegation, forcibly enrolling several non-Japanese (and non-dancer!) volunteers, an Indian dance to the text of a psalm, with magic and classical music.

We also ask for your thoughts and prayers for those who will be meeting near Berlin at the end of the month for the next 'Consultation', to discuss the questions of enlistment and the consultation process itself. We would also value any thoughts and inspiration you may have for the next summer in Caux - and of course for the invitation - a subject always close to my heart. One suggestion is to take again the same basic theme of 'Democracy starts with me' since it seems so timely.

With gratitude for your moral support through this stretching time,

Andrew Stallybrass