

MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

FOUR HAYS MEWS · BERKELEY SQUARE · LONDON W.1

Vol. 1

Saturday, 15 March, 1952

No. 3

BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

MRA IN THE FACTORIES

THE PRESS IN THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE

DR. BUCHMAN NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

NEWS IN BRIEF

WHEN the election of 1950 left the Communist Party without a seat in the House of Commons, the unthinking rejoiced in what they took to be an ideological victory.

Mr. Harry Pollitt, the leader of the British Communist Party, thought otherwise. He said, "The great issues will be settled, not in the arena of this reactionary Parliament, but by the workers' mass struggle in the factories and in the streets."

The success of this policy is now apparent. There is a widespread movement throughout British industry, especially in coal, steel, engineering and aircraft, to

limit production and use industrial pressure to force political changes. Everyone is being mobilised—teachers, housewives, clergy, students, as well as workers in industry, to resist "re-armament and ruin." On 2 March, 249 delegates from key defence industries met in Sheffield, following the Vienna conference of engineering industries, to plan how to enforce a reduction in the re-armament programme. This is one of several such conferences. The movement to cut out Saturday work in the coal fields continues. Unemployment is rising steadily. The former Minister of Labour, Alfred Robens, forecast a million out of work this year.

THE CRISIS IN BRITAIN

Whatever the reasons for re-armament, there can be only one result from the wide-spread campaign now being fought: to break the economy of Britain, and to weaken the West.

With France undergoing the severest economic crisis in many years, with Italy in danger, as a Swiss industrial report says, "of being taken over perfectly legally by the Communist Party in the 1953 elections, unless a miracle happens," with Germany still unarmed, Britain is the cornerstone of the strength of the West.

This is the reason for the all-out effort to break down our economy, and to force a general strike if necessary. Millions are being enlisted in the good causes of "peace," "maintaining the standard of living," "saving the welfare state," "acting before Britain is an atom ruin," and the rest. Teachers and education officers are being enlisted all over Britain, on the grounds of resisting cuts in education expenditure.

The basic issue, however, is not how to offset present disruptive activity. It is more far-reaching question of how to give a uniting idea to Britain; how to build a sound economy and bring a permanent cure for unemployment; how to face realistically our need for re-armament to meet the threats which confront us, and at the same time increase our production so that our

standard of living goes up, houses are built, and the people are fed and clothed as they should be.

MRA WORKING IN 300 FACTORIES

This battle, as Harry Pollitt foretold, is being fought out on the floor of the factories.

Moral Re-Armament is actively at work in 300 factories in the key industries of Britain, in the coalfields and the docks. The strength of the Communist campaign is the trained men, the Moscow-formed leadership who know how to exploit every situation. The strength of MRA is the rapidly growing number of workers, shop stewards and trade union leaders at all levels who have been trained at Caux in the superior ideology of Moral Re-Armament. Shop-stewards' training courses have been taking place in key areas. Management also is being ideologically trained, and is learning a new approach to Labour, and to the problems of industry.

SHOP STEWARDS' CONFERENCE

Seventy-five shop stewards, trade union officials and members of trades and labour councils representing 230,000 workers, met in London on Sunday, 9 March, to plan for industry in the London area. Alderman Rignall, Secretary of the Battersea Trades Council and a member of the London executive of the Boilermakers'

Union said : " Industry must take responsibility for the whole nation. Our only hope to bring unity is through the moral standards of MRA, on the basis of *what* is right. The four standards are available to everyone. Nobody is barred. They are free. They are universal. They unite. They are democracy being lived out."

ARMS OR EXPORTS?

The cry of the moment is " Armaments—or exports : we must choose." With increased productivity per man and per factory, both might be possible—security and a better standard of living, national strength and economic recovery.

All the efforts of the present slow-down campaign are aimed at proving that this cannot be done. Communist control in British industry has gone further than many realise or care to admit. In an aircraft factory with 25,000 workers, 11 out of 14 on the unofficial works committee follow the party line, and the chairman is a trained man. In another, making jet planes, the convener of shop stewards is in the Party. In a large firm with 10,000 making jet-bombers, where the Government is the principal share-holder, the shop stewards are Communist controlled, and so many strikes have taken place that the closing of the factory is under consideration. In a London plant employing 9,000, partly on armaments work, 52 out of 104 shop stewards follow the Party, and 8 out of 10 on the steering committee are Communists. In another large engineering works there are 95 shop stewards ; 30 follow the Communist line, but they dominate policy, as the 65 others seldom attend the meetings in force.

PRODUCTION GOES UP

Moral Re-Armament is bringing a constructive answer to problems in industry. There is a growing response in the factories.

The works manager of a large engineering firm in the Midlands says, " The shop stewards committee is 100% behind Moral Re-Armament. We have the basis of complete understanding, and our export production has risen by 20%."

The *Stratford Express* last week reported increased production in the Assembly plant at the Ford Motor Works at Dagenham. The superintendent of the Assembly building, Mr. W. Whatham, said that he and the the shop stewards decided to apply the moral standards of MRA to their work. Since then everyone " on the line" has co-operated, and success in production has never been equalled.

In one steel firm 1,000 men saw *The Forgotten Factor*. Two departments since report an increase in production. In the tyre mill, where the record was 2,900 wheels in a week, 3,059 wheels were produced in the

week after the men had seen the play. In the rolling mill, they produced 600 tons the week before the play, 650 tons the week the play was on, and 670 tons the week after.

In another steel firm a call was made for increased production. But the workers, who were on piece rates, feared that management would become alarmed if wages increased, and would reduce the rates. A member of the production committee, who is in MRA, put the matter honestly to the management, who pledged themselves not to do so. At once production went up. For the last seven weeks production has been up 25%, and the average worker's wage has gone up by at least £1. In a firm employing 6,000 men, the Managing Director says that MRA has brought a new spirit into the factory in the past year.

In a steel works the chairman of the shop stewards came in to negotiate with management, and walked out after 45 seconds. Thirty men then saw *The Forgotten Factor*. The chairman of the shop stewards apologised to the management, and a number of the management then saw the play. One shop steward gave back a valuable micrometer to a colleague from whom he had taken it some time ago. The Communist convener of shop stewards says, " If this grips any tighter here, I shall be out."

WORKING HOURS SAVED

At an important aircraft research centre, MRA has brought a new understanding and confidence between management and the head of the 50 shop stewards. As a result they have worked out a new system of clocking in which saves 40 minutes daily for 500 workers, an annual saving of 104,000 working hours.

TACKLING REDUNDANCY

The Birmingham Post reports the constructive way in which an area official of the Transport and General Workers' Union is tackling the problems of redundancy and says, " Without this sort of positive, intelligent co-operation from the unions, the immense transfer of men into arms work will be impossible." The official in question says, " Anything I have been able to do is due entirely to MRA."

RESULTS SUMMARISED

The reports which reach us from every part of Britain show that MRA is :

1. Training leadership in every area which is building national unity, giving a superior ideology to Communism, and creating a new era of constructive relations in industry.
2. Providing a new approach to the unofficial leadership of labour which often exercises decisive control of the workers. Hitherto, only the Communists

have taken an active interest in them. Since 1925 their aim has been to separate the rank and file from the official trade union leadership. Now the gulf is being bridged, and many of the influential unofficial leaders have found a new direction.

3. Increasing production in industry through better teamwork on the job, better labour-management relations, elimination of disputes, improved conditions, and new incentives of personal responsibility.

4. Inspiring management to take the lead in revolutionary change in industry, leading to better conditions, smoother running and increased production.

THE PRESS OF EUROPE

Fifty-six editors, heads of news agencies, radio and film men from 11 countries met for a week-end conference on 1 and 2 March, at the MRA centre in the Ruhr, to plan on a European basis for what press, radio and film can achieve in the ideological struggle.

The conference took place on the initiative of Eric Dombrowski, joint proprietor and chief editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Fritz Hirschner, chief editor of the *Essener Allgemeine Zeitung* and Hans Krümmer, publisher of the *Hamburger Freie Presse*.

Delegates were present from Austria, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as all parts of Germany.

Bonn was represented by Dr. Kayser, one of the heads of the Press and Information Department, and Dr. Luders, legal head of the press, radio and film section of the Ministry of the Interior, who was reporting to the Minister.

Maurice Mercier, national secretary of the textile workers of France, Force Ouvrière, brought a group from the press and radio of the North of France, including M. Laurent, of the *Nord-Matin*, the socialist organ of the north of France. M. Laurent said, "The four lead-

THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

The press reports that Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, founder of Moral Re-Armament is among those nominated for this year's Nobel Peace Prize

Readers will recall that two years ago Dr. Buchman was invested with the French Legion of Honour for his work in creating Franco-German understanding. Last year the German Federal Chancellor, Dr. Adenauer, paid tribute to the "invisible but effective part in bridging differences of opinion between the negotiating

London—29 Members of Parliament of all parties attended a special meeting at the House to hear Karl Albrecht, former Deputy Commissar of Forests in the

UNITING THE NATION

Sir Frederick James, Deputy-Chairman and Managing Director of Tata Ltd., said recently, "Moral Re-Armament can give unity where there is disunity, it can give hope where there is despair, certainty where there is uncertainty and honesty where there is corruption."

On the factory floor and in the offices of management, a new industrial revolution is being worked out which can unite the nation and strengthen it for whatever comes, and which can build a new economy for Britain. The need is to extend fast enough and far enough the effective work already being carried out.

ing papers of the North have agreed on one thing only since the Liberation: their support of Moral Re-Armament." Mercier, who twice addressed the conference on the need for urgent measures to give the workers of Europe a new ideology, said, "What France needs is not a new party or a new organisation, but an idea powerful enough to lead men of all parties to the same goal."

The chief spokesman for radio was H. van den Broek, Director of the Hilversum short-wave station. Also present were Mr. Ismail Mohammed, News Editor of Radio Cairo, and representatives of Radio Munich, Radio Graz, and Radio Lille. The chief editor of the *Neue Deutsche Wochenschau* newsreels, and two senior editors of DPA, the German Press Association also took part.

The delegates examined how they could make the most effective use of newspapers, books, pamphlets, periodicals, information services, films and radio programmes to reach the millions of Europe with the ideas of MRA, and how to express in the policy of their organs and their way of presenting news a constructive approach to national and world problems.

parties" which Moral Re-Armament had played in recent months in "the conclusion, after some difficult negotiations, of important international agreements."

Two hundred Japanese leaders have taken part in MRA Assemblies in Europe and America since the war. When the Japanese Peace Treaty was signed at San Francisco last autumn, one European Foreign Minister said to Dr. Buchman, "You made peace with Japan three years before we signed it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet Union. There was standing room only when he addressed a meeting of 400 business men last week, and 200 were unable to get into the hall

Liverpool—In the last three weeks 10,000 have seen *The Forgotten Factor* in Liverpool and St. Helens. Many of the Liverpool Port Workers Committee have seen the play. One said: "No wonder a million have seen this play. Everyone should see it. It isn't just a good play, it's perfect."

Rotterdam—A series of dockers meetings has been held in the port of Rotterdam by the veteran dockers' leader Carlos Pronk. After a meeting of 500 dockers last week, Pronk told a correspondent: "Three months ago these men were thinking only of the barricades. They said, 'Better a civil war than a third world war.' Today they are thinking how to make a better world through better men."

Denmark—230 articles on MRA appeared in 20 days in the Danish press during February.

Melbourne—A meeting of 1,000 from every state in the Commonwealth, welcomed Australians returning from MRA Assemblies in Caux and the United States. Speakers included V.C. Alford, member of the Federal Council of the Waterside Workers of Australia, James Ross, President of the Geelong Trades and Labour Council, and T. H. Uren, recently Secretary of one of Australia's largest transport corporations. V.C. Alford read a message of support from Longshoremen in San Francisco who are working with him and dockers all round the world for an ideology which "answers the materialism of Right and Left." Japanese leaders in Parliament and industry cabled, "MRA has shown us the way to change, and live democracy based on absolute moral standards, as restitution for our past mistakes, enabling us to unite for the ideological security of the Pacific."

Tokyo—Regular training meetings for leaders in Japanese life are being held at the Industrial Club. Every month there is a public meeting in the National Railways Headquarters. Speakers at the last meeting in February included the head of the Textile Union,

the chief ticket agent at a Tokyo station, a telephone operator superintendent, a director of the National Railways and his wife.

Malaya—At the premiere showing of the film *Turn on the light*, in Singapore, the President and Secretary of the Labour Party in the Legislative Council and other members of the Legislative Council and City Council were present. At a later performance of the film in Kuala Lumpur the Secretary of the Selangor Labour Party said: "On the basis of these ideas we could have a united Malaya."

Colombo—100,000 people a day are expected to attend the Colombo Exhibition this month. A feature of the Exhibition is the film shows in the Open Air Theatre. Two nights a week Moral Re-Armament films, including *Turn on the Light*, are being shown with introductions by English and Singalese.

Kenya—13,000 have seen *The Forgotten Factor* in Kenya, a country whose total white population is only 30,000. An African who saw the play with his Chief wrote: "This is the only solution to the problems of racial prejudice and fear". Leaders of the various Asian communities are much concerned with the problem of falling moral standards. The head of the Sikh community told our correspondent that 350 of their leaders from Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya were holding a conference on how to re-arm the community morally and spiritually. One of the Moslem leaders, concerned with the same question, put his finger on a copy of *The World Rebuilt* and said: "This is the answer." An Assembly for training, for Europeans, Africans and Asians, is being held from the 14th to the 24th March.

Uganda—The King of Buganda received the MRA task force which visited Kampala last month. The Anglican Bishop in Uganda and the Hindu Mayor of Kampala also gave their support. Two public meetings were held in the Town Hall.

For background information on MRA and world problems

THE WORLD REBUILT

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MRA, FOUR HAYS MEWS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

(Orders of £2 and over post free)

Printed in Great Britain by Lowe & Brydone (Printers) Ltd., for MRA Information Service 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1

Subscription rate Twenty Shillings a year, post free to all countries.

A GREATER REVOLUTION

WILLI BENEDENS

Throughout Europe hundreds of men trained in the Communist ideology have discovered a greater revolution. Many of these men come from the Ruhr. It is to their work that a member of the Executive of the mineworkers of Germany last year attributed the main credit for the drop in the Communist vote on the works councils of the Ruhr from 72% to 25%.

One of the most active Ruhr Communists, Willi Benedens, has written his story—a story which could be told of hundreds of others in Germany, France, Italy, Britain and Scandinavia. Benedens was a pilot in the Luftwaffe and was transferred to the Infantry on account of his left wing sympathies. After the war he became an active propagandist for the Communist Party in Germany. In 1949 he first met Moral Re-Armament in the Ruhr. This article describing the results was written as a special feature for International News Service when he was in the United States as a delegate to the MRA Assembly of the Americas, January, 1952.

ON the 20th of July 1944, a courageous colonel planted a bomb in the concrete shelter where Hitler consulted on the course of the war with his generals, hoping that this would overthrow the regime and put his friends in power.

The result of the Fuehrer's narrow escape from death was a thorough-going purge of all the "politically unreliable" elements in the armed forces. I myself was taken out of the Luftwaffe where I had been a pilot for five years, including two years in Russia and North Africa, and put into a Punishment Battalion. With only a few weeks of infantry training we were then used as shock troops in the Ardennes offensive.

I remember telling one of my comrades that I would embrace the first American GI I saw and go over to his side. But this turned out to be quite impossible because there were more guns behind us than in front.

In the first few days of combat a grenade blew off both my legs. Lying in the field hospital I had ample time and oppor-

tunity to think. As a result I was filled with a burning hatred against the ruling class who I felt were responsible for destroying my chances in life.

To fight against the ruling class

In order to fight effectively against them I joined the Communist Party.

I then began an intensive study of Marxism and the principles of the Communist Party. My enthusiasm soon got me selected for training in the Communist Party University in Berlin and I became a member of the regional executive of the Party for Moers in the Ruhr, responsible for training and propaganda.

Immediately after the shooting died down the communists founded the Socialist Unity Party. This was supposed to be a union of all the most progressive forces under communist leadership in their zone. Soon afterwards they made a bid to found the same party in the Western zones. I was picked to organise the new Party for the lower Rhine area. When the German People's Congress was called in Berlin in 1947 I was also a delegate from the Ruhr.

At that time the Communist Party was one of the strongest and most militant in the Ruhr. But from 1949 onwards the Communist Party found itself more and more on the defensive. There were many reasons for this, including the economic conditions of the Eastern Zone and the stories told by prisoners of war returning from Russian camps.

But the main reason was the sudden appearance in the Ruhr of men and women of all nations who told convincingly of an ideology which was superior to communism. They did not preach anti-communism like all the other organisations in Germany were doing. They talked about personal change for everyone everywhere, issuing in social, economic, national and world change.

When these people from Moral Re-Armament first brought their famous industrial play, *The Forgotten Factor*, to our town,

we, as officials of the Communist Party, didn't take what they said too seriously. That is, until one day some of our best trained officials came back from a Moral Re-Armament Assembly and said they had found an ideology which was superior to their own.

That rang the alarm bell for the Party. For these were hard-bitten fighters who had fought for their ideology for over a quarter of a century and who had been tortured, thrown into prison and threatened with death for years under the barbarous Nazi system. So I set myself the task of finding out what this "better" ideology was.

I went to Caux, Switzerland, to the World Assembly of Moral Re-Armament. I thought I could collect arguments there to fight against Moral Re-Armament when I came back. But what did I find there in Caux? I found the living evidence of the classless society. We had sung the "Internationale" for years but for the first time we saw there in practice an international society of all races, nations and classes.

In spite of being a communist and a German I was amazed in Caux to find myself treated with the same open-heartedness and the same inclusiveness in the family of nations as everyone else. So I went back to the Ruhr determined to fight for absolute moral standards as the only way to bring unity and peace.

When I got back I was told that the Party had expelled me in my absence, without giving me any chance to justify myself. This also happened to at least twenty leading Party officials in the Ruhr who had all been to Caux and who in every case took a strong group of Party supporters out with them.

Unity more potent than the atom bomb

In 1950 I climbed into a train to Scandinavia with the most amazing delegation that ever travelled together. There was a member of parliament from the Christian Democratic Party, a mining director from the largest coal company in the Ruhr, a socialist leader and myself—a former communist official.

A year earlier we would certainly have generated more heat than light, but on the basis of the uniting ideology we have found we could fight for the same objectives without friction. Among many national leaders we met the present King of Sweden and the Prime Ministers of Sweden, Norway and Denmark. In many cases we were the first Germans they had met since the war or since their countries had been occupied by the Nazis.

This trip convinced me even more that effective unity in Europe can only be created on the basis of change. We Germans have done great wrong to many nations, but on the basis of the ideology of Moral Re-Armament we can change and unite with other nations of the West.

This is the only idea big enough to lift German and European youth out of their apathy and suspicion and to give to the young European army the moral backbone and crusading spirit which, if fight it must, will ensure a military triumph and a victorious peace.

Moral Re-Armament offers us a uniting force active in and between all nations, a unity more potent than the most powerful atom bomb.

THE REVOLUTION FOR OUR TIME

BY HANS BJERKHOLT

A founder of the Norwegian Communist Party

“Two events stand out in my life ; the first in 1928 when I represented the Communist Party of Norway at the International Conference in Moscow. The second was when I met MRA a year ago.”

PRICE 3D. (POSTAGE EXTRA)

FROM MRA, 4 HAYS MEWS, LONDON, W.1

Further copies of this pamphlet may be obtained from MRA, 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1. Price 3d., postage extra.