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'Music at Midnight' dramatizes dilemma of our age

WHAT SHOULD a Western Prime Minister do when a dictator moves tanks into a satellite country to suppress a national revolt which the Prime Minister himself has encouraged?

Should he risk nuclear war by intervention? Should he do nothing? Or is there a third alternative?

This—the dilemma of Britain over Hungary and America over Cuba, the dilemma inherent in every incident of the Cold and not-so-cold War from Berlin to Vietnam—is the question tackled in *Music at Midnight*, the new play by Peter Howard and Alan Thornhill opening at the Westminster Theatre on Thursday, 3 May.

The action of the play, which takes place on both sides of the Iron Curtain during twenty-four hours of tension between East and West, drives home with dramatic incident the choices which leaders on both sides have to make at the present time. Behind it all is the enquiry whether there are needs common to both sides—and solutions to those needs on which both could realistically unite.

Themes within the main theme provoke thought on many of the human and ideological questions of the hour. Should the wife of a public man aim to be a cushion he can rest upon? What can one do with a squatting son? Is it right for a Freedom Fighter to hate? What is the function of the Press—and is that function discharged by the faithful ferreting out and printing of the news?

The gifted cast, headed by Nora Swinburne and Norman Wooland, is fast coming up to first night pitch. They deserve fullest support in this serious bid to create a permanent centre for vivid and thought-provoking plays at the Westminster, at a time when many feel that the British theatre is producing little which challenges constructive thought or even which a family can see together without embarrassment. A famous critic has said that the present is 'the bawdiest age ever in the British theatre'. Bawdiness normally reveals a poverty of creative inspiration. Here is an intelligent attempt to bring in an invigorating stream of new life and thought. A long run of *Music at Midnight* will be a vital step towards a new cultural life for Britain and the world.

As the announcement of the play appeared in the theatre columns this week, the Westminster Box Office (VIC 0283) reported an unusual demand for tickets. 'It is quite unprecedented,' said the theatre manager.

Strasbourg Assembly told 'Cyprus can help Algeria'

THE TURKISH VICE-PRESIDENT of Cyprus, Dr. Fazil Kutchuk, told the Easter Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Strasbourg in a message that 'the principles of MRA constitute the basis of the London and Zurich Agreements and of the Cyprus constitution.'

Dr. Kutchuk, whose statement was read to the Assembly by the Vice-President of the Cyprus Parliament, Dr. Muderrisoglou, went on to express his 'ardent wish that the principles of Moral Re-Armament will spread among our beloved friends, the people of Algeria, so that our Moslem brothers may live with their countrymen of other races in friendship and co-operation, as we in Cyprus are doing at present.' Archbishop Makarios, in a similar message, said, 'I share the principles of Moral Re-Armament and pray that they may be applied everywhere.'

French and Algerians in the audience heard a Greek and a Turkish Cypriot speak side by side. Mr. Stephnou, former EOKA leader from Famagusta, told the story of 'a miracle that brought an end to our hatred and bitterness, when a few men changed and applied absolute moral standards.' Mr. Ahmed Gazioglu, Turkish school principal, said that 'many countries like France and Algeria could find in Cyprus an example of how a divided and blood-stained country can be united. We have come to this conference to tell you of our experiences and to work with all those who want to unite their countries.'

Dr. Bencharif of Constantine, a doctor who is a wellknown figure in Algeria, rose in the audience and joined the Cypriots on the platform. The four absolute standards of Moral Re-Armament, he said, provided a common denominator for the different religions of Algeria, which have 'divided the country because their immense treasures have been neglected. This ideology will unite Algerians of all faiths and restore calm to the country.'

A Frenchman, M. Philippe Schweisguth, President of the Board of Management of *La France Agricole*, largest French farming paper, said, 'We as a nation have said "yes" to President de Gaulle's plan for Algeria. But we used the vote to pass to de Gaulle the task that lies on the shoulders of very one of us.

'We are more ready to pay the cost in the blood and misery of other men than in the change in our personal and national living which is needed to bring a solution. The experience of Cyprus must be repeated in North Africa. We in metropolitan France must accept the same demands of a moral ideology.'

'Three modern miracles'

Mme. Augustine Hardy, a Socialist leader from the red belt of Paris, said, 'No political party can solve the problems of France and Algeria or prevent Africa from turning to Communism. Only the spirit of Moral Re-Armament can do this, and we are all responsible that it happens.'

An Algerian-born officer in the French Army told the assembly, 'I know the way we French have lived in Algeria, and what it means to put the past in order.

'I fought for two and a half years in the Algerian war and led several hundred patrols. One month ago one of my comrades joined the O.A.S., risking his own and his family's life. Today his career is destroyed and he is in prison. If others do that out of despair, and for the wrong ideology, cannot we risk everything for the right ideology? I have decided to be one of the men who will carry Moral Re-Armament to North Africa.'

Speaking at a session of which he was co-chairman, Admiral Ruge, until recently Commander-in-Chief of the post-war German Navy, described three 'modern miracles' which had decisively affected the course of Europe since 1945. First, the relationship of trust which had developed between France and Germany. Second, the co-operation within NATO, which sixteen years ago nobody would have thought possible. Third, the unity of Cyprus, 'which we have seen demonstrated at this conference'.

Mob action against Kenya leaders prevented

W HEN THE RIVAL LEADERS of Kanu and Kadu, Mr. Jomo Kenyatta and Mr. Ronald Ngala, arrived back in Nairobi from the Kenya Constitutional Conference in London, dissatisfied elements in the youth wings of both parties planned to cause a riot at the airport. It would have jeopardised the agreement reached in London after seven weeks of difficult negotiations.

Why this mob action against their leaders did not take place was revealed by Mr. Ibrahim Malika, National Secretary of the Kadu youth wing, at the opening session of the Moral Re-Armament conference in Kenya, held at Narosurra, Eldama Ravine, over Easter.

Malika reported that the youth of his party planned to throw rotten eggs and tomatoes at Jomo Kenyatta. 'A counter-attack was planned by the youth leaders of Kanu. At this point I arrived from Kisumu, where I had been with the MRA film *Uhuru* (Freedom). I stopped the riot taking place.'

Edward Saler, who had been in charge while Malika was away, took up the story. 'Our method is to get drunk before such an attack. We bought six "debes" (24 gallons) of African beer the night before. As leader, I was expected to drink the most. As luck would have it, Ibrahim arrived. He convinced us that rioting would destroy the constitutional agreements arrived at in London, even before they had been given a trial. We returned the beer and the crates of eggs and tomatoes, got our money back and went to the airport, sober and singing happily, to welcome our leaders.' Daniel Njaguna, executive officer of the Kanu youth wing, told how he had similarly prevented three hundred Kanu youth, critical of the results of the London conference, from mobbing the leaders of all parties on their arrival at the airport.

Dedan Mugo, the first man in Kenya arrested as Mau Mau and the last to be released, told the assembly, 'Before you all I promise God I will work with MRA so that our country will be truly free, so that there shall be no more fear or hate.'

Mugo, about whom much was written in the Corfield Report, was arrested in 1950. After three years' imprisonment he was deported without trial for nine years. During that period six members of his family were killed, his wife shot, his house demolished and all his property confiscated.

After his release, bitter and frustrated, he saw the film *Uhuru*. 'Something deep in my heart made me want to learn more about it. I see now MRA is a revolution which can save Kenya. I will give my entire life to go with you from place to place, from country to country, to witness to the effectiveness of the work of MRA.'

A white settler, Mr. Wilfrid Hopcraft, said, 'I always blamed the government and the Africans for what went wrong, but a worker on my own farm, whom I trusted implicitly, turned out to be the chief Mau Mau oath administrator of the district. I could not blame the government for this. I realised I must change. Unless we Europeans do change radically, Africa will go the wrong way.'

Common destiny for black and white in South Africa

FIVE HUNDRED DELEGATES from all races and all parts of South Africa took part in an Easter Assembly near Johannesburg, called to bring an answer to the divisions of their country and continent.

The answer was dramatized at a session addressed by representatives of all the major racial groups of South Africa. General Hans van Rensburg, famous during the war as leader of the militant Right-wing movement, 'Ossewa Brandwag', rose from the audience, to shake the hand of Mr. Manasseh Moerane, former President of 10,000 African teachers, who was chairing the meeting.

'Here we see black and white meet as equal,' said the General. 'Until I met Moral Re-Armament I had never met Africans socially. I am absolutely convinced by the selflessness and honesty of your struggle.'

'I get impatient with people in our country who have a small conception of the destiny of South Africa,' said Moerane. 'Black and white are not in this country by accident. We have a destiny together which the world is still going to see.' His words were echoed by a member of one of South Africa's best-known political families, Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr, who declared, 'We are a bitterly divided country, because we have never taken up our true role in the world. If we decide to give an answer to the whole African continent, every race will need the others.'

That unity was demonstrated for the conference when a cast unique in South Africa's history took part in a performance of the play *The Ladder*. They included Mr. Philip Vundla, one of Africa's most famous revolutionary leaders and elected spokesman of 600,000 Africans, Mr. Justice Claassen, Supreme Court Judge, Mr. John Trengove, Government Prosecutor in the Treason Trial, Mr. Joel Leppan, a leader of the Coloured Community in Johannesburg and Mr. Alfred Coates, Director for Africa of Consolidated Papers. The wives of all these men were also in the cast.

Earlier, the MRA force had been welcomed to Basutoland by the young Paramount Chief, Moshoeshwe II, who recently returned from Oxford. Basutoland, British protectorate surrounded by South African territory, has become the base for the present ideological struggle in Africa.

'What we need,' Chief Moshoeshwe told a distinguished gathering at The Great Place at Matsieng, 'is the new type of man, who can be the pillar on which the new world is built. We must change our own lives to bring about the Basutoland we all long for.'

Test player sees West Indies as 'bastion of freedom'

THREE MEMBERS of the West Indies cricket team, fresh from their 5-0 victory over India in the Test Match series, arrived in London last week-end. They were Mr. Conrad Hunte, opening bat, Mr. Wesley Hall, reputed to be the fastest bowler in the world, and Mr. Seymour Nurse, a middle-order batsman, all on their way to take part in Lancashire League cricket this summer.

Mr. Hunte, whom the official Test Match programmes referred to as 'a complete sportsman and gentleman' and a worker for Moral Re-Armament, said at London airport that India had a good team, and that the games had been more keenly fought than the scores might suggest. The West Indies' strength had lain in their teamwork. 'Everyone pulled together in batting, bowling and fielding. And,' he added, 'we had the astute captaincy of a great cricketer in Frank Worrell.'

Hunte thought that their teamwork on the field was something which the West Indies eleven could help their whole country to find. 'As you know,' he said, 'our Federation has just broken up, yet we desperately need unity among our islands. They are meant to be a bastion of freedom for the world, and I am longing that we have politicians, businessmen and labour leaders who will fight to make that conception a reality.'

Referring to the recent elections in Jamaica, in which Sir Alexander Bustamente's Labour Party won 26 seats to Mr. Norman Manley's 19 (People's National Party), Hunte said the election campaign had been remarkably free from race feeling and that any speakers who had 'electioneered on a race basis and tried to stir up hate' had found little following. Many attributed this to the fact that the film *The Crowning Experience*, with its theme of unity above race, class and colour, has been widely shown in recent months throughout Jamaica and the Federation. It has drawn record houses not only in Jamaica but in Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Kitts, as well as in Surinam in the Dutch West Indies.

Sir Grantley Adams, West Indies' Prime Minister, described the film as being 'past excellent. It is the most marvellous thing I have ever seen in my life. I think hundreds of thousands should see it, particularly at this time.'

Now The Crowning Experience is being followed by the all-African colour film Freedom, which has just had its première in the famous spice island of Grenada, southernmost of the Windward Islands. Government ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and other prominent citizens were present. The West Indian, in an editoral, welcomed MRA to Grenada 'at a time when the West Indies' people are more at a crossroads than ever,' and declared, 'We will join with this force which is preparing to bridge all barriers of religion, race and class to bring a better world.'

Magazine takes MRA to every Swiss home

THE SWISS illustrated periodical, Silva, which goes to every one of the 1,775,191 homes and offices of Switzerland, has devoted its entire March issue to articles on the world outreach of Moral Re-Armament. The issue is introduced by the following editorial entitled 'The Great Miracle of Today':

'What is the great miracle of today? The Sputnik? The Explorer? Orbital flight round the world or the journey to the moon? Although modern science and technique still have many surprises in store for us, and seem about to jump out of their narrow shoes and fly to the stars, it is not science which provides the real miracle. The miracle, the great miracle of our time, is the dynamic force suddenly bursting-at exactly the right moment-from the ideology of Moral Re-Armament. Like an inexhaustible sun it is illuminating men and nations and recalling them to what is right and to the will of God. A torn and crumbling world, worn out by the pursuit of money and power, by selfishness and violence, hatred and sin, is beginning to come to its senses.

'Many have heard of this miracle in recent weeks and months. We ourselves have watched it happening and have felt its life-giving radiance as it brings to Switzerland, too, a new birth of understanding and brotherhood between men. Everywhere there have been great demonstrations, first-class plays and gripping films which have aroused tremendous enthusiasm. Some doubters and mockers, to be sure, who shun this light and the power it brings, have tried to raise their voices in criticism. To give our readers the chance to form their own judgment on Moral Re-Armament, we are publishing in this issue a series of articles by well-known personalities. These articles are intended to give a picture-as far as that is possible—of the ideology of MRA and the astonishing results. which, thanks to its power and purity,

it is producing in the daily life of men and nations.'

One article is by Dr. Karl Wick, M.P., Editor of the Catholic daily Vaterland. Describing the significance of Frank Buchman's personality and work, he says, 'A new reality has come to birth in Moral Re-Armament. It is not a new philosophy, not a new religion, not a new church. Frank Buchman has always emphasized that MRA wants to strengthen the basic and existing loyalties and to re-awaken them in nation, family and religion. It does not want to get either the Catholic or the Protestant away from his church. On the contrary, it seeks to strengthen loyalty to the church and wants the Catholic to become a better Catholic and the Protestant to become a better Protestant in the evangelical meaning of the word. In MRA we always meet the basic forces of Christianity and the best religious forces latent in humanity. The movement which Frank Buchman has brought into being is not a theory. It is a new way of living, tried and tested in all situations.'

'Frank Buchman's Secret'

In the Tribune de Geneve, M. Henri L. Miéville, Professor of Theology in the University of Lausanne, reviews Frank Buchman's Secret.

'Is it right,' he asks, 'to use the term "saint" when speaking of Frank Buchman, whose work, with its extraordinary outreach, is described by Peter Howard? He would not have allowed himself to be called a saint, for he had a horror of hero worship.

'What do we expect a saint to do? What do we mean by the word "miracle"? Not, in this 20th century, something spectacular, not a supernatural vision, not the cure of some physical infirmity. Why not that which no natural science can explain—the cure of moral blindness? This is what Frank Buchman achieved.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, before a battery of press and television cameras, Marshal Juarez Tavora opened a ten-day book and photo exhibition on Moral Re-Armament, arranged jointly by leaders of the Brazilian armed forces, prominent industrialists and portworkers from the Rio docks. Former President Marshal Eurico Dutra was represented at the opening by General Pelio Ramalho and former President Cafe Filho by Jose Armando Vasconsales. The exhibition was manned each day by military, industrial and labour leaders, among them a former Minister for the Navy, Admirals, and General Ignacio Rolim, general in charge of army supply.

In the Transkei, first of the areas set aside by the South African Government for limited African selfgovernment, the editor of the African newspaper Untunya told an MRA force, 'You have given South Africa a challenge which it cannot escape. This is the salvation of all Africa." The Catholic Bishop, the Right Reverend Grueger, said, 'This is the new revolution that must reach the whole world, so that people will again believe in God, overcome the hatred that has fanned wars and live for what is right. I hope you will be victorious around the world."

In Maseru, Basutoland, The Crowning Experience was seen by 6,000 people in the National Stadium. They included Members of the National Council, Chiefs from the Great Place, the head of the police and many African revolutionaries who had left South Africa.

At Silkeborg, in Denmark, after a three-day run of *The Crowning Experience* had drawn unprecedented crowds, 200 delegates from Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark attended an Easter conference 'to restore God to leadership in the Nordic North and to put Scandinavia on the offensive in the world battle of ideologies'.