

# MRA INFORMATION SERVICE



A SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN CEYLON

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'A TIME FOR TRUTH' IN CANADA

UNIONS URGED TO 'FULLY SUPPORT MRA'

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## Burundi—the foundation for Independence

THREE DAYS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE the Acting Prime Minister of Burundi invited a delegation from the international force of Moral Re-Armament, at present in his country, to meet with the Cabinet in the Prime Minister's Office. They conferred for an hour, planning how Moral Re-Armament can help to lay the foundation for effective self-government.

The Acting Prime Minister thanked them for coming to his country at this historic moment. He quoted the words of Frank Buchman as giving the secret of true statesmanship: 'I want to see the world governed by men governed by God. Why not let God run the whole world?'

Earlier in the day the Belgian Governor, Colonel Henniquiau, had gone to the Jesuit College of the Holy Spirit, in the hills above Usumbura, capital of Burundi, to greet the MRA force. The Governor said, 'Moral Re-Armament is the thing most needed here. Your presence can serve to dissipate the hatred and division which

exist everywhere. I welcome you and wish you well.'

The kingdom of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda, lying between Uganda and Congo, became Africa's newest nations on 1 July. The MRA force were asked to begin a series of training sessions in the main camp of the Burundi Army. With Belgian forces soon leaving, the peace and security of the country will rest largely on its Army.

Introducing the speakers, the Secretary of State for Defence said: 'We welcome this international force which is doing so much to strengthen the spirit of our country.'

The Commissioner for Defence has been designated by the Government to develop the training programme for Burundi. 'I have long hoped to meet those people who have taken up the fight for moral standards for all humanity,' declared the Commissioner. 'We do not want to be an isolated country but to fight with you for a world remade.'

## 'The Tiger' returns to Japan

FOR TWO YEARS, Zengakuren students who helped plan and lead the riots that overthrew the Kishi Government have been engaged in an offensive to create a new moral leadership to unite the world. It has taken them to crisis points on four continents—Europe, Asia, North and South America. Last week they returned to Tokyo.

Hundreds crowded Haneda Airport to welcome them, led by the former Speaker of the Japanese Diet, Members of Parliament, leaders of labour and industry and the Seinendan youth organisation. Press and television cameras recorded the event. Twelve million people read daily in *Asahi*, *Mainichi*, *Yomiuri* and *Sankei*, the nation's largest papers, accounts of *The Tiger's* world mission. *Asahi* wrote, 'By mobilising the moral forces, MRA seeks a global cure to evil, to corruption in business and politics, to division and seeks finally to avert a nuclear war.'

Two days later, fifteen million viewed the arrival of

the students at the new MRA Asian centre, Odawara, on Japanese National Television's peak news programme. The programme, featuring Prince Kan-In, Kenzo Kono, Senator for Odawara, the Mayor and city leaders welcoming the force and conducting them through the buildings, was repeated at the peak news hour the next morning.

'All that has happened in the last months and years has been training. Now we go all out to change Japan,' said Mr. Saburo Chiba, chairman of the Constitutional Committee of the Diet, to the students at a reception in their honour in Tokyo. The head of the million-strong Independent Unions of Japan, the assistant Secretary General of the Newspaper Publishers' Association and the former Commander-in-Chief of the Self-Defence Forces (the Army) were amongst the wide cross-section of Japanese life who undertook with the students to carry their revolutionary idea to the entire country.

The Japanese had flown from Taiwan where they

had been requested to present their play, *The Tiger*, throughout the island. The massing of mainland troops in unprecedented numbers in Fu-kien, opposite the island fortress of Quemoy, has turned the eyes of the world once more to Formosa.

As they left the island, the President's Secretary-General, General Chang Chun, told the Japanese, 'MRA has not only the response of the people but the support of the Governments of South-East Asia. We need this ideology and it is here to stay.'

## A SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN CEYLON

*from our Ceylon correspondent*

**P**AUL LACEY is Superintendent of the Pitakande tea plantation in Ceylon. At Pitakande 1,500 workers pick one and a quarter million pounds of tea a year. The estate, high in the hills beyond Kandy, hums with efficiency. Trim roads wind through the tea that covers every inch of the hillside. Gangs of pluckers force their way through the close-grown bushes, plucking the top two leaves and bud with speed born of experience. The tea is then whisked down to the factory, where the tea maker presides over processes that end with the tasting of the harsh, fresh brew to determine its quality.

The workers' quarters were in sharp contrast—miserable hovels that spread squalor and disease, an index of the gulf between plucker and planter.

In 1952 Lacey came down to Colombo to see an MRA play. It changed the course of his life.

### **Refund for underpaid workers**

The first man affected was the Ceylonese District Union official, who had the ear of 15,000 workers in the area. Lacey could not get on with him and resented his support of men he considered to be trouble-makers. He had the thought to invite the union official to his bungalow—a revolutionary step for a European planter. Over tea he apologised for secretly underpaying some of the labourers. On a new basis of honesty, the superintendent and the union official solved their difficulties. The money was refunded to the underpaid labourers and the two men became friends. They travelled together to an MRA Assembly in Calcutta and then to the World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, to tell of their experience of building unity.

In Caux, Lacey decided that something drastic must be done to improve the living conditions of the workers. He fought to get from his company the money needed for a sweeping building programme. Soon the families were moving into new homes. They began to take pride in them. Curtains went up, furniture came in, and the superintendent and his wife were constant guests.

The superintendent decided that the houses needed electric light. A large generator was installed. The Labour Commissioner and the President of one of the largest labour unions in Asia (the Ceylon Workers' Congress) came up from Colombo for the opening. For the first time in Ceylon plantation workers had electricity in their homes.

An official of the Ross Institute of Social Medicine

in London, which surveys living conditions on plantations across the world, visited Pitakande. He said, 'I have carried out close inspection of ninety-six tea estates in India, mines in West Africa, sisal and tea plantations in East Africa; but none of that is comparable to what you have done here. They cannot be spoken of in the same breath. Others have tried to change things, putting up buildings and good houses, but they have not had the same response from labour that you have had.'

The superintendent and the union continued to deal together on the basis of what is right for all concerned, to settle the issues that inevitably arise in any large undertaking.

Not all was plain sailing. Before long a rival union with a different ideology began to bid for control of the workers. Pamphlets attacking Lacey and Moral Re-Armament deluged the estate. Acts of violence were committed.

Lacey was convinced that the writer of the pamphlets, one of the chief instigators of the trouble, would respond to a greater idea than that of class war. Lacey met him and explained to him the revolution that he himself had found. The man wrote soon afterwards, 'You have changed my life.'

### **A pattern of unity**

Since then two further attempts have been made to sow division on the plantation, but the spirit has been such that the workers have resisted all attempts to divide and use them.

A pattern of unity is emerging in a country sorely in need of it. Already famous in the tea industry, Pitakande is now being studied by those in other industries keen to discover its secret.

R. H. Jayasekera, the Marxist leader of the Harbour Progressive Union, one of the biggest in the Port of Colombo, said, 'I have been to many leading plantations on the island. In some the workers' quarters are like cattle sheds. Many of us try through strikes to achieve better conditions for the workers, but we have not been able to achieve conditions like those we find here.'

'Through MRA great service can be done to the workers and the whole island. Where political parties have been unable to bring bosses and workers together MRA can. When one man changes there is no limit to what can be done.'

# 'YOU SENSE A NEW ATMOSPHERE IN BRAZIL'

from our Brazil correspondent

**S**TRONG FORCES are bidding for the leadership of the peasants in the North-East of Brazil, crisis area where the bulk of American economic aid to the country is being sent. In a recent debate on television between a representative of Francisco Juliao, Communist founder of the Peasant Leagues, and Father Melo, founder of the Rural Trade Unions, Father Melo said, 'The country has reached such a state of crisis that only Moral Re-Armament can save it. Everyone must take a part.'

The two key cities in the area are Cabo and Sapé. On the initiative of Father Melo, who is the parish priest of Cabo, the film *Men of Brazil* was shown to two thousand in the city square. Among them were many leaders of the Rural Trade Unions. Speaking from the church steps, Father Melo said, 'We have seen opening before our eyes the possibility of bringing an answer to all our problems. Tonight we have learned how to construct a new society with new men by beginning with ourselves.' He is planning with the MRA force to show the film in others of the eighty-six towns where he has organised the Rural Trade Unions.

## Archbishop: 'I am glad you are here'

Before they moved to Sapé, 'battle zone' of the Peasant Leagues, which was occupied by troops six weeks ago, Archbishop Mario Villasboas received several members of the force, including Armando Perdomo, former Communist leader of the Uruguayan Metal Workers. The Archbishop told them, 'I am sincerely glad you are going to Sapé. You will penetrate sectors that are totally closed to us.' In Sapé, he continued, his parish priest had no idea anything was wrong, until one day he looked out of his window to see the Army piling subversive literature in the streets together with machine guns and other weapons that they had found while searching the houses of his parishioners.

The force visited every home in Sapé to give them the MRA Pictorial. The parish priest had the screen for *Men of Brazil* hung from the front of his church. That night thousands of peasants who six weeks ago had marched fifty kilometres on Joao Pessoa because of the assassination of their leader marched again, this time to see *Men of Brazil* and hear the international speakers of Moral Re-Armament.

Peasants in truck loads from the surrounding cotton and sugar-cane fields, workers standing on carts and tractors and sitting on mules, 6,000 in all, were gripped by the story of the film, so similar to their own. Among them were the treasurer and organiser of the Peasant League of Sapé and the chief of training, just back from Communist China and Cuba.

Next morning the film was shown to the 15th Infantry Regiment and the military police who had been called in to restore order during the recent crisis. The Com-

mandant, Colonel Rubens Pereira de Araujo, called his men together and distributing pictorials told them, 'I am sending you on a mission. You are to carry this idea to the villages and towns of the interior where you live. Take it to your families and to your neighbours.' The Mayor of Sapé said, 'Sapé must be the centre to spread this idea to the whole North-East.'

## Alternative for Brazilian students

Joao Pessoa, capital of Paraiba State, has been completely controlled by extremist students through riots, blackmail and terrorist tactics.

At the student centre, Solon Espinosa, leader of the revolutionary students of San Marcos University in Peru, and Isaac Amata of Nigeria were surrounded by an angry shouting crowd. They gave as good as they took. The students, impressed by their fearlessness and conviction, came *en bloc* to a special Sunday morning performance of the play *El Condor*. They greeted the play with loud cheers and applause. *El Condor* tells the dramatic story of the change in the San Marcos students who mobbed former Vice-President Nixon when he visited Lima, Peru, and are now positively affecting their nation.

Talking to Amata after the play, one student said that before seeing it he had believed bloody revolution was the only solution for his country, but now saw that the change demonstrated in the San Marcos students was a far more revolutionary approach and the only approach to the nation's problems that held out a chance of success.

In the play that evening people were standing five deep in the aisles. One padre, a colleague of Father Melo, drove 250 miles from the interior with the president of his Rural Trade Union. He left imploring the force to come with plays, films and literature to his area.

## TV takes 'El Condor' to millions

The American Director of the Catholic Relief Agency for the North-East drove from Recife, capital of Pernambuco State. After the play he said that its coming had prevented further bloodshed by demonstrating an alternative for both sides.

The two-hour television production of *El Condor* in Recife was so popular that in less than one week the entire programme was re-broadcast, the second broadcast being relayed to other states around Pernambuco. Both showings combined went into an estimated 500,000 homes. Waldemar Agra, former Communist and manager of the Portworkers' Co-operative in Recife, said, 'God spoke to the North-East through that television showing. Its influence is felt from the ports to the hills. In the neighbourhood, in the bus queues and in the homes you sense a new atmosphere.'

## 'A time for truth' in Canada

from our Canadian correspondent

TWO DAYS after the Canadian election, *The Gazette*, influential Montreal daily, warned, 'The country has never needed leadership more than now when its own uncertainty has led it into something near to chaos.' It continued, 'Much may yet be done to give the country the direction and appeal it now needs, as it has seldom so critically needed in the past.'

The Toronto *Globe and Mail*, breaking tradition with a front-page editorial entitled 'A Time for Truth', called for a programme of national self-discipline and asked, 'Who is going to tell the voters the facts about the country's future?'

Three days after his re-election as Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker revealed to the country that the drain on Canadian reserves of gold was so great that the government was compelled to take emergency measures. Many fear an increase of unemployment this winter to ten per cent of the working population.

One hundred Canadians met and agreed that the experiences described in Peter Howard's book, *Frank Buchman's Secret*, must be made available on a massive scale to restore national character and clarity of thought at this time of crisis.

Six businessmen, among them the President of the Montreal Allouette Football Club, the General Manager of Industrial Relations for Shell Oil of Canada and a director of Henry Birks, internationally known Canadian jewellers, led by sending Howard's book to 14,500 business and industrial leaders in the country. In an accompanying letter they wrote, 'Tass, the Soviet news agency observed recently: "To try to give the capitalist world an ideology is as useless and stupid as to apply a hot poultice to a corpse."'

'The enclosed book says otherwise. No war has been won without industry. The war of ideas is no exception. Think how the world would respond to a businessman who

commits his brain and drive to an ideology answering corruption, division and war.'

Men and women from every walk of life followed suit. Teachers sent 4,000 copies of the book to educational leaders. 7,000 went to all the Protestant clergy of the country. 300 mayors received it. Trade unionists are covering their representatives from coast to coast. Editors, sportsmen, nurses, members of parliament are all receiving the book from their professional colleagues. In each case the senders are raising the required funds.

Typical of the response of the country's leadership was the conviction expressed by Judge C. C. Sparling, national Vice-President of the Royal Canadian Legion, who said in Halifax: 'We should be directing most of our money and our talents in greater degree to a moral re-armament of our people, the teaching of our youth of an ideology where integrity, honesty, sincerity and strength of body and character are the watchword.'

### Unions urged to 'fully support MRA'

THE OPENING NIGHT audience of 4,000 for the Chinese play, *The Dragon*, in Oklahoma City included delegations from Little Rock, Arkansas, and Houston, Texas. The manager of the ticket agency handling the play told the press it had 'set an all-time record for the amount of money taken' before the performances began.

At one reception given by the city's AFL-CIO Council and attended by the AFL-CIO State President, the business manager of the building trade unions thanked the cast on behalf of organised labour in the city for the work it was doing, and urged that all unions 'fully support MRA'.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Elisabethville** — The Commanding General of the Katanga Army, General Muke, and senior officers attended a special performance of the German miners' film *Hope*, arranged by the Lord Mayor of Elisabethville. The same night, 7,000 people gathered in the open air in the township of 'Red' Kenia to hear the miners and see their film. Throughout the day Radio Katanga had announced the showing, while the Mayor of Kenia toured the township in a loudspeaker van inviting the population.

**Tasmania**—Max Oldaker, the Australian stage personality, in his column in the *Launceston Express*, describes *The Crowning Experience* as 'an epic film'. He writes, 'If the aim of this film was taken up by the nations with the same ardour that goes into atomic research, the effect could be more cataclysmic than a mass explosion of all the H-bombs that now lie on the stockpile.'

**Sweden**—A conference of the youth of the four Nordic countries was addressed by the Ayatullah Mojtabehi of Nishapur, Iran. He said, 'You must know that today groups like yours are fighting in my country and other countries along the border of the Soviet Union to make Moral Re-Armament the policy of their nations. I shall report your conference to my Government and His Majesty the Shahenshah.'

**South Wales**—A South and West Wales special train party of 150 to *Music at Midnight* was front-page news in the *South Wales Evening Post*. It was also fully reported by 'Stroller' in his popular social column in the *South Wales Echo*. Both papers, with others throughout the Western, Rhondda and Swansea Valleys and West Wales, featured the arrival of the German military attaché, Colonel Kraus, at the Westminster Theatre to thank the people of Wales for their generous welcome to his countrymen.