



MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

TASK FORCES MOVE OUT FROM CAUX
FROM AFRICA, A CHALLENGE TO EAST AND WEST
IRAN'S PRIME MINISTER ON 'POTENT FACTOR IN
HUMAN WELFARE'
'THE AVANT-GARDE OF A WORLD REVOLUTION'
'MEN ARE HUNGRY FOR THIS ANSWER'

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Japanese Prime Minister at Odawara opening

PRIME MINISTER IKEDA, the Foreign Minister and other Japanese leaders will take part in the opening of the Asian Assembly Centre for Moral Re-Armament at Odawara on 22 October. The centre has been created 'to lay a foundation for world peace and, especially, to create unity in Asia'. Mr. Ikeda will at the same time inaugurate the first assembly there, which will be attended by a thousand delegates from all parts of Japan and from every continent. The Prime Minister's office this week confirmed that the second man of Korea, Colonel Kim Chong Pil, is coming to settle outstanding difficulties with Japan, news which *Yomiuri* headlined: 'Cornerstone to conclusion of Japan-Korea negotiations'.

Messages of greeting to the assembly have already been received from nine heads of state and prime ministers. Word has come from the White House conveying President Kennedy's 'best wishes on this occasion'.

Korean Foreign Minister Choi Duk Shin writes that the centre 'will play a significant role in uniting the Asian peoples on the basis of an ideology that can answer corruption and Communism'.

Heading the official Viet-Nameese delegation of twelve will be a senior cabinet minister, Mr. Truong Cong Cuu. From Malaya a member of parliament, representing the Prime Minister, will be accompanied by the former Speaker of the Parliament and the Chief Minister of Pahang. General Chang-chun, Secretary-General to the President, leads the Taiwan delegation. Members of parliament are also expected from the Philippines, India and New Zealand. The New Zealand contingent will include the head of the navy and a daughter of the Prime Minister. The Dalai Lama has sent a message: 'I assure you of my prayers for the success of the assembly.'

Greeks and Turks will attend from the island of Cyprus, including the Vice-President of the Parliament. Other Middle East representatives expected include the Deputy Prime Minister of Iran, Mr. N. Moinian. The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Mr. Abdel Khalek Hassouna, sees the centre as 'a concrete expression of the

faith of the Japanese people in the ideology of MRA'.

This initiative at Odawara, in which the Prime Minister is backed by former Premiers Yoshida and Kishi, the Governors of the Bank of Japan and of the Japanese Railways and others, continues the re-orientation in national policy which MRA has brought since the war. When Prime Minister Yoshida sent the first delegation of 78 Japanese to Caux in 1950, he said they would 'usher in a new age'. A little later, Prime Minister Kishi made his historic journey of apology to Japan's former enemies in Asia, and the Foreign Office announced that MRA had radically improved Japan's relations with the Philippines, Burma, Australia and other countries.

'Nothing is more important'

General Ichiji Sugita, until six months ago Chief of Staff of the Japanese Army, has been touring Europe and America as the representative of the Odawara invitation committee. 'I have committed myself to active service with Moral Re-Armament under the guidance of God, and my plan is that all officers and men and all the people of Japan do likewise,' he said on arrival at Caux. 'Nothing is more important than this ideology.'

The first stage of his journey from Caux, which will take him to Germany, Britain, France, Scandinavia and the United States, was Berne, where he invited the President of Switzerland to be represented at Odawara.

In Germany he gave official invitations to the heads of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministries and to Chancellor Adenauer's representative during his absence on vacation. He consulted with Admiral Ruge, former Naval Chief of Staff, General Lechler, commanding the Stuttgart area, and was received officially at the Staff College in Hamburg by General de Maizière, who spoke of the essential part played by Moral Re-Armament in the ideological training of army and nation.

In Britain, General Sugita was received by the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir Richard Hull, by the Vice-Chief, Lt.-General Sir William Pike, and by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and Vice-President of the Air Council, Mr. Julian Ridsdale, M.P.

Task forces move out from Caux

'WITHIN FIVE YEARS Communism can be relegated to the museum of history,' was the headline in *Figaro* of Paris over its summary of the Caux Conference. More accurately, the paper could have said that MRA must become the climate of every country, Communist and non-Communist, in the next years, if world disaster is to be averted. The *Figaro* article described the influential delegations from every continent at Caux. Those delegations are now the task forces which are moving out through the continents.

The Latin American force are in Italy (see page 51). The African force, with their play *The Flaming Spear*, have been in action in London and in Germany (see below). The Scandinavians will sweep through the five countries of the Nordic North with their play *The White Cap*—a ringing challenge by Swedish students to their own generation and their elders to leave the ways

of decadence and take up the battle for a new world.

Nine members of the Kerala State Assembly have committed themselves to take their play, *The New Chapter*, and the ideology of Moral Re-Armament 'to the whole world'. India, they say, will only play her true role when she is a nation 'governed by men governed by God'.

Already they have impacted London, Edinburgh, the Ruhr and Bonn. 'Nine men recall how they made history', wrote the Edinburgh *Evening Dispatch* in its 'Dispatch Diary'. The paper said: 'A political drama which earned itself world headlines about four years ago was re-enacted in Edinburgh yesterday. And the actors were . . . some of the very men who took part in the real-life crisis. (The play) shows how the Congress Party, of which the visitors are members, overcame its own internal disputes to form a government in succession to the Communists, who had ruled for over two years.'

From Africa, a challenge to East and West

'THE FLAMING SPEAR,' a play out of the heart of tormented Africa, received a thunderous ovation at its première in the Westminster Theatre, London, last week-end. It portrays with stark realism the problems confronting the newly independent nations and the ideology needed to save them from losing their freedom. It deals with an independent African state, where the ambassadors from East and West serve conflicting interests. Through the play Africa speaks with new authority to the Communist and non-Communist worlds.

The part of the Prime Minister is played by Mr. James Muigai, only brother of Mr. Jomo Kenyatta. Among the eight African nations in the cast was a strong contingent from Ghana, including the daughter of the Deputy Speaker of Parliament and the niece of the Asantahene. Also in the cast were the Vice-President of the National Union of Mineworkers from Northern

Rhodesia, an African personnel officer from the Roan Antelope Mine in Luanshya, a welfare officer of the Metal Box Company of Salisbury, and black and white from South Africa.

The Flaming Spear was written by Africans at the MRA Assembly in Caux. There the Minister of Health of Mauritania told the cast, 'We Africans are better placed than anyone to draw upon the lessons of history. It is clear that neither the capitalist nor the communist way of life possesses the whole truth. Yet the world has become very small, and whether men like it or not, they are all in the same boat.'

'That is why an ideology based on human solidarity and the need for man to live by his own conscience is certainly the answer to our gravest problems. Men are looking for a new way of life around the world. Here you have found it.'

Iran's Prime Minister on 'potent factor in human welfare'

AT THE REQUEST of His Excellency General Fazlollah Zahedi, Iran's Ambassador Plenipotentiary for Europe, 27 September was celebrated as Iran Day at the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in Caux.

His Excellency Ardeshir Zahedi, newly appointed Ambassador to the Court of St. James in London, brought the greetings of the Royal Family and of his father, who expressed their admiration for the work of MRA in solving crises in many parts of the world.

Mr. Safinia, Chargé d'Affaires at the Imperial Embassy in Berne, read a message sent for Iran Day by Prime Minister Alam. It read, 'Reports of Moral Re-Armament activity have been regularly received with much gratitude and interest. The raising of the moral standard of living is a potent factor in human happiness and welfare. My prayers are with you that God may give courage and

constancy in the achievement of the great enterprise undertaken by the founders and fighters of this ideology.'

Two days earlier the Jordan Minister of Justice, Mr. Hanna Khalaf, representing King Hussein at Caux, told the assembly that the King 'has been an ardent supporter of Moral Re-Armament for many years. As early as 1953, the King sent to Dr. Buchman the message, "Count me as one of you". I bring to this assembly His Majesty's greetings and blessings.'

'Long years have filled the Palestine Arabs with cynicism and disillusionment,' Mr. Khalaf said. 'The only thing that can bring them back to life and make dead bones live is this great message of Moral Re-Armament. I will take back to my King not the decisions of a round table conference but the decision to be myself an ardent fighter for this great global ideology.'

'THE AVANT-GARDE OF A WORLD REVOLUTION'

On 25 September a Latin American force moved into the town of Bari in south Italy, spearheaded by revolutionary Peruvian students with their play 'El Condor'. Our special correspondent sends the following on-the-spot account of what has since taken place.

IT IS LIKE AN ATOM BOMB,' said a man coming out of the European première of *El Condor* in Bari. He was for eight years on the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party.

'An extraordinary evening,' wrote the *Gazzetta Del Mezzogiorno* next day. The editor of the paper, largest in south east Italy, described in a five-column article what he called the 'unprecedented scene'. 'The audience was captured by a sense of marvel, surprise and wonder.'

With its 300,000 inhabitants Bari is the second largest city of south Italy. Its harbour was at one time the natural link with Albania and Yugoslavia. Today less than 200 dockers work there. The city and its surroundings have been for decades a depressed area and a problem for succeeding governments in Rome. It is a region of vast farms, with many absentee landlords and, until this year, little industry to solve unemployment. Communist forces have made it—and the south in general—a main target in their bid to capture the country. A one per cent increase in the combined Communist and Nenni-Socialist vote in the elections next April could put the country legally behind the Iron Curtain, wreck the Common Market and make a mockery of NATO unity in the Mediterranean.

Last August, violent riots broke out during a strike of building workers, transforming the centre of the city into a battlefield. On the Corso Vittorio Emanuele, principal street of the city, cars were overturned and set ablaze. Women and children formed human barricades, blocking the way for approaching armoured cars. Men with special gloves picked up police tear gas grenades and hurled them back. For many hours the rioters controlled the streets completely.

Archbishop of Bari: 'Your idea cannot fail'

These incidents and their implications were alive in the minds of the thousands who from the first evening filled every seat of the magnificent Municipal Theatre to see *El Condor*. The south east of Italy is a region into which the Government is putting two billion lire (2,000 million pounds) in the next ten years in economic aid. From Bari the Mayor, the Prefect and other leaders had asked the Latin Americans to begin a nation-wide ideological action.

'This force is the *avant-garde* of a world revolution,' said General Hugo Bethlem of Brazil. 'Our greatest need today is to re-establish the authority of God in the hearts of men, and to restore the absolute moral standards on which Christian civilisation was built. God chose Italy to be the heart of the Christian world,' con-

tinued the general. 'Italy can now give to the modern world a new renaissance.'

'You are accomplishing a mission of truth to put the whole world again on God's road,' said His Excellency Archbishop Nicodemo of Bari, receiving the Latin Americans in his palace. 'In so doing you are creating real peace for humanity.' Speaking of the people of Bari, he said that *El Condor* had been 'tremendously appreciated and effective. There is a great idea which unites you, an idea which cannot fail because it is rooted in the real nature of things and so brings you closer to God.'

Many of the students at the university, pouring back into the city from their vacation, came immediately to the theatre. The University Rector, Professor del Prete, told the Latin Americans, 'The idea of Moral Re-Armament is spreading throughout the city and the university. It is reaching the students, and being discussed in the lecture halls. It speaks to the hearts and minds of youth.' Students helped every night by doing the simultaneous translation of the play from Spanish into Italian.

'It cures class war'

Militant workers belonging to various trade union organisations came in their hundreds to the theatre. 'In the play we saw men of all opinions working together. This has never been achieved here before. You give us a new incentive to carry forward our fight to bring the workers freedom and direction,' said the Secretary General of the C.I.S.L., the Christian Democrat trade union, for the province of Bari. At the Nenni Socialist headquarters, the party organisers saw the Rio dockers' film, *Men of Brazil*, at the request of a socialist city councillor, who was for ten years Secretary General of the Nenni Socialists for the province. Afterwards, under the pictures of Lenin, Nenni and Italian socialist heroes who were shot by Mussolini's men, the discussion continued late into the night. 'MRA surpasses Marxist Socialism because it cures class war', said the city councillor.

The same man invited two of the Latin American trade unionists to stay in his home. A Communist did the same and offered his own bed. 'I will sleep on the floor,' he said. Hospitals, monasteries and convents invited groups to be their guests. The priest in charge of a Capuchin monastery where twenty-one people stayed commented, 'This is a most intelligent force. If everyone lived as you do, we would soon remake the world.'

On the anniversary of Saint Francis, who himself put on plays in the cathedral squares of Italy, the cathedral

'Men are hungry for this answer'

ABERDEEN IS A CITY of granite, fishing and ship-building. Five thousand fishermen go out from the port to bring back the fish that are cured, packed and sent every day to all parts of the country. The women in the factories can still vie in speed and efficiency with the latest cutting and filleting machines.

Last week, the fishermen, the fishwives, the fish porters flocked to see *Music at Midnight*. So did the welders, the platers, the drillers from the shipyards, led by the East of Scotland Secretary of the Boilermakers' Society and the secretary of the Aberdeen dockers. One union leader said the play was the talk of his shipyard. 'Men are hungry for an answer to the world situation,' he said, 'and they know there's an answer in this play.'

The Provost of Kintore, oldest royal borough in Scotland, was there with a party, as was the Provost of Montrose. A delegation of workers came from the railway repair yard of Inverurie.

The ticket collector at Aberdeen station called the play 'a masterpiece'. One city councillor summed up his evening at the theatre: 'It's revolutionary and it means you've got to think out the whole of your life again.' Ministers of all denominations were present at the performances, often with large parties from their churches. One priest described the play as 'a great means of making faith real to people', while a minister said it was 'the medium for the twentieth century', adding, 'You can reach people we cannot reach'.

The 'House Full' sign up for the opening night and scarcely a seat to be had for the rest of the week—in all, 8,855 paying for admission. That was the story of *Music at Midnight* in the King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

'It's the idea we need in Scotland'

'It is great theatre and marvellous entertainment,' said one Scottish provost after the play. 'More than that it's got the idea we need in Scotland to restore our national purpose and answer the critical problems we face.' This was a reference to the country's 82,000 unemployed, which the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) has just announced are expected to become 100,000 by January of next year.

Two other provosts present on the opening night took immediate action, and came back later in the week with seven busloads of people from their towns in Fife. Other busloads poured in from the Lothians, the Borders, Glasgow and Clydeside.

'Every line of that play gripped me,' said a miners' union official. 'I'm going back to invite the manager, the assistant manager and all the men in the pit.' He did, and hundreds of miners came, with management.

When the curtain went down on the final performance in Scotland, 88,047 people had seen the play since the first performance in the Westminster Theatre, London, last May.

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square in the heart of the old city of Bari was filled as people streamed in to an open-air showing of the film, *Men of Brazil*.

The crowd jammed the steps of the 800-year-old cathedral and children, families and rows of nuns lined the windows and balconies overlooking the square. The screen was hung from a balcony belonging to a Communist family, and the film was projected from the back of a hay wagon.

The international force marched with flags flying into the square, and the Colwell Brothers, from Hollywood, were cheered again and again as they played and sang.

The showing of the film was arranged by the port-workers of Bari, whose president was in the audience with hundreds of Communist workers, carabinieri, military men, waiters, students and the people of the old city.

3,000 workers at open air film show

Next night the Piazza Roma in the port of Barletta was a sea of fishermen, agricultural labourers, men from the famed marble quarries and the nearby Montecatini chemical factory as *Men of Brazil* was shown to 3,000 in the open air. The film came to the city at the invitation

of the Provincial Secretary of the Catholic Workers' Movement (A.C.L.I.), Signor Gentili, and the city's Educational Secretary, Professor di Corato.

Earlier in the day the whole of the Capuchin monastery, Father Provincial, Father Professors and their students, gave *Men of Brazil* a thunderous ovation.

Professor Matteo Fantasia, Christian Democrat President of the provincial government of Bari, received members of the MRA international force in the provincial palace. He told them, 'I have heard from government officials and many others of the way you are reaching the trade unions, the agricultural workers, the students and the ordinary people all over the province.' Urging that the MRA force stay on as long as possible, he said, 'It is a difficult task you have undertaken because you have to go deep into the lives of people.'

As the Latin American force moved to Naples, a press conference was held in that city. Chaired by the Vice-President of the Press Association, it was attended not only by newspaper editors but by Communists, men from industry and the trade unions. One of the trade unionists said, 'There is no doubt Italy must become the launching platform of Moral Re-Armament to the world.'