



# MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

## 'SPACE IS SO STARTLING'

GLASGOW: 4-9 February at King's Theatre

EDINBURGH: 11-16 February at the Lyceum Theatre

ABERDEEN: 18-23 February at His Majesty's Theatre

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## General Eisenhower sees 'Music at Midnight'

GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER and Mrs. Eisenhower attended the sold-out opening performance of *Music at Midnight*, by Peter Howard and Alan Thornhill, in Palm Springs, California, last week.

According to theatre officials the play, performed by an all-British cast with Nora Swinburne and Walter Fitzgerald in the lead, drew the most distinguished audience the Plaza Theatre has ever had.

They included Mr. Justin Dart, President of the continent-wide Rexall Drug and Chemical Company, and Mrs. Dart, tennis star Ellsworth Vines and Mrs. Vines, film stars June Allyson and Debbie Reynolds, and the Commanding General with other officers from the nearby Marine base.

Following the performance General and Mrs. Eisenhower and their party of sixteen talked with members of the cast backstage. The General said, 'I want to congratulate you on the whole production. I thoroughly enjoyed your performance'.

*Music at Midnight* deals with a dramatic crisis between East and West such as arose during the Hungary revolt (when the General was President of the United States) and the recent blockade of Cuba.

The play went to America following its run of five and a half months at the Westminster Theatre, London. On 4 February it will open in San Francisco, where the civic authorities have proclaimed a 'Moral Re-Armament Week' and officially urged all citizens to see the play.

## Preparing for independence in East Africa

THE PRIME MINISTER OF UGANDA, Mr. Milton Obote, was guest of honour on his first evening in London at a performance of *Space is so Startling* at the Westminster Theatre. Mr. Obote, who was in London for talks with Mr. Macmillan on East Africa's future, was accompanied by the Uganda Minister of Justice and the Minister without Portfolio, and by the High Commissioner. The author of the play, Mr. Peter Howard, welcomed them at the theatre.

The main purpose of Mr. Obote's London talks was to urge the British Government to speed up Kenya's independence. This would make easier the federation of Uganda, Kenya and Tanganyika.

Just before the Uganda Prime Minister's arrival in this country, the Nairobi *East African Standard* published a letter of great significance for the future of any federation in East Africa. It was signed by three Europeans in Kenya.

'Wider publicity,' they wrote, 'is given to the utterances of those who are leaving Kenya than to the sincere intentions of those of us who mean to stay.'

'Many of us want to play our full part in the development of this new nation.'

The basis of their future commitment to Kenya would be (1) to make the work and wealth of the country available for all and for the exploitation of none (2) to counter irresponsible statements which are causing defeatism and the flight of capital and technical skills (3) to stop looking for a profitable sale of land and a more secure base elsewhere (4) to make 'what is right' and not 'who is right' the guiding principle in all their affairs.

'It is obvious,' they add, 'that the problem in Africa is not colour but character. Kenya could articulate for the rest of Africa this simple philosophy—a national ideal—which both leaders and led could follow.'

They decided to stay, they conclude, 'not because it is politically or economically expedient to do so nor simply because some of us wish to remain in Kenya, but so that Kenya will become a nation to which East and West will turn and say, "That way lies hope for the world".'

## Iran — revolution from without or within

A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION is shaking Iran. Two thousand peasants and workers, armed with sticks, charged into Teheran University last week to demonstrate in favour of the Government-sponsored reforms. Agitators against the reforms needed police protection to save them from lynching.

The changes were overwhelmingly supported in last Saturday's national referendum.

The redistribution of land is to be completed by next June. The Shah himself has parted with estates and wealth estimated at £70 million. Peasant co-operatives are being formed to finance farming. Other fruits will be: profit-sharing for industrial workers, abolition of the landlord-serf system, new electoral laws and further steps towards nation-wide education.

Yet responsible men in Iran know that the fruits of this work will decay from within unless handled by patriots who are incorruptible. Skill, surgery and speed in re-making men are needed now if what has been gained for Iran is not to be lost.

A force of men trained in Moral Re-Armament was invited to come and show the way.

A command performance of *The Crowning Experience* in Persian was given in the Imperial Palace. This was followed by a screening in a Teheran cinema, introduced by the Prime Minister, Mr. Assadullah Alam.

The cinema was over-full, with people standing. The audience included Cabinet Ministers, twelve top military men, ten judges of the Supreme Court, the Lord Mayor, the deputy Director of the Chamber of Commerce and many other national figures.

'This film must go to the whole country, and I will launch it in my province,' said a newspaper editor. The head of the Commercial Insurance Bank commented, 'This is the best film I ever saw in my life. Everyone must see it.' Army leaders assessed it as 'the right way to answer subversion'.

The Shah's words of eight years ago are as true now as they were then: 'We shall either have revolution by consent from within or revolution by force from without'.

## Europe's 'last chance for survival'

MR. OTTO CADEGG, National Secretary of the Railway Workers of Switzerland, who flew with a special plane of 70 Swiss industrial and political leaders to see *Space is so Startling* at the Westminster Theatre last week-end, told an assembly in London: 'This play will have a decisive part in enabling Europe to see that its last chance of survival is Moral Re-Armament'.

Following its extended London run, *Space is so Startling* opens at King's Theatre, Glasgow, on 4 February for one week. It will be at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, from 11-16 February, and at His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen from 18-23 February.

'*Space is so Startling*—and so is this musical,' says the *West London Observer's* review. 'This is something you could and should take the whole family to see. It is full

of attractive words and catchy music, as up-to-date as space and as old as the human heart in which location it is set. 'Time—the present. Place—any human heart' says the programme and what's more, it is positive.'

The review continues, 'A determined team of authors, actors and producers at the Westminster Theatre are doing their best to offset the kitchen sink influence that casts its shadow on our general stage'.

'Musical with a Message of Hope' is the headline of an article in the *Croydon Times*. The critic writes: 'Here is a musical that is different, that will send you home with your heart singing, with a new hope for mankind, a new vision for Britain and a realisation that in the dangerous times in which we live all of us can have a part in the saving and the making of tomorrow.'

## Call for new spirit in Labour movement

AS LABOUR'S SHADOW CABINET met last week to arrange the ballot for a new Party leader, a call to Labour to fire its own supporters and the nation with a new purpose appeared in the *Western Mail* and *South Wales Evening Post*.

Under the headline 'Call for a new spirit in Labour Party', the *Western Mail* reported a speech made in London by Alderman Tom Evans, Vice-Chairman of the Glamorgan County Council.

Mr. Gaitskell's death was a great blow to the Labour movement said Alderman Evans. He warned that 'the gap will not be filled by a jockeying for position. We need a new spirit in the Labour movement, and a new purpose.

'In fifty years of fighting for the workers, I have seen our Party become the cockpit of politics and the unions disrupted by subversive elements. That is the opposite of Keir Hardie's vision of the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.'

Alderman Evans, who was addressing a meeting of 500 in Westminster, said that the Labour and trade union leaders of Great Britain should 'give the nation and the world a clarion call to Moral Re-Armament'.

'It is the one hope of the world today,' he said, 'and I think every leader and public representative should make a declaration to that effect.'

# THE SECRET OF CHRISTIAN REVOLUTION

*On 16 January, 1963, Mr. Peter Howard, the British journalist and author, addressed over a hundred clergy and church leaders from different denominations and all parts of Britain in Church House, Westminster. The following are extracts from his speech:*

**W**E WANT TO TALK TODAY about the most important thing in the modern world. All of us need to recapture the doctrine of God. It is a very definite doctrine. But to me what is needed is the greatest revolution of all time, whereby the Cross of Christ will transform the world.

I am a revolutionary. My life does not belong to myself. I have no preconception of any kind, any day for the rest of my life, where I'll go, what I'll do or won't do, what I'll say or won't say. I want to be used by God if He will use me.

Frank Buchman used to say, 'If you're not winning, you're sinning'. It made certain people cross. He meant that if you call yourself a Christian and people around you are not changing, there is something wrong with the way you live your faith. Now, you may agree with it or disagree with it. I don't talk about it as a point of doctrine. I talk about it as a point of experience. In my own life, if I am living straight and the maximum God shows me, people change. If people don't change, there is some sin, definite, concrete, which is preventing that happening.

## **The Church should win the millions**

It is true of a church. It is true of a so-called Christian nation. It is true of Christendom. If we are not winning, we are sinning. If people in their millions are not being changed and won to the truth of Christ, there is something wrong with the way Christians are living their Christianity. If we really wanted, we could find out what it is. Because the God I worship is a God Who speaks.

Not every thought I get in my heart comes directly from God. Many of them do not. But I know from experience that if honestly and without preconception I open my heart to God and say, 'What do You want me to do?' then, if there is something He wants me to do, He'll tell me. God will show us where the sin is if we are not effective. God will give us the answer to it.

Once I was talking with Frank Buchman and said to him that sentence from St. John, 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.' Buchman said, 'What do you mean by that?' I said, 'Well, I believe that Christ died for me and that if I turn to Him in faith, He washes me clean and forgives me all my sins'.

'That's true, but it's a very limited experience,' said Buchman. I was furious, but didn't say so, mind you. I was at the stage where you smile and pretend to be happy, when actually you are savage. Many go through that stage. Some never come out of it. I said, 'Thank you very much' and went away. Then I went back to him—some people whom Buchman annoyed never went

back to him, they just reacted—and he said, 'I'll tell you what I mean. Your nature and mine are wrong. We need Jesus Christ moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day as long as we are on this world and if we are to keep straight. The blood of Jesus Christ will wash you moment by moment from all sin, if you let Him.'

## **A miracle in a general**

I want to tell you the story of a miracle. It's the story of a general. He is a Catholic. He came to see a play called *The Ladder*, which I happen to have written. Quite a short play, it describes how an ordinary man is captured by ambition, by money, by the love of his mother, by the—not the love of—but the association with a wife, by his interest in other women. He goes to the top of the human tree and in so doing puts another nail in Christ. The play doesn't say it in quite those terms, but that is the story of the play.

The general sat there with his wife. At the end of the play he said, 'That man is me'.

He was an ambassador, as well as the youngest general his country had ever known. He said, 'I want to talk to you'. He sat down and told me one or two things he had rightly told his priest. I said, 'You need to go back to your priest, not to me'. He said, 'The trouble is, I go to confession regularly, but I always confess the same things'. I said, 'Well, I can't tell you more or as much as your priest, but I can tell you this, that in my own life Christ has given me the cure to problems of lust and dirt and dishonesty which I thought were incurable'.

The general said, 'I believe He can do the same for me'. From that moment, although he goes regularly to confession, he has not returned to some of the things that he had to weary his confessor by confessing again and again.

## **Brazil saved from civil war**

He turned back to his own country. He took his wife with him. He shut up his business, sold some of his property and invested that money in bringing an answer to his country. He got 400 businessmen together in a big city. He said to them, 'Gentlemen, we tell our workers to be honest, but I am dishonest about my income tax. We tell our wives to be pure, but I am not pure.' Those 400 businessmen stood up and cheered him to the echo. They began to change.

The general then took round Brazil and into Peru and other Latin American countries a play written by Japanese students. Many of them were not Christians. Some were. They were students who had been atheist

and militantly anti-God; who had been changed; who had accepted absolute moral standards as a first step, a necessary step, for salvation and who had begun to march along that road.

Marshal Tavora, who was a Presidential candidate in Brazil and one of the great men of his country, went to see the Pope. He said, 'Holy Father, I want you to know that these Japanese students in the last few months have saved my country from civil war and Communism.' That is his view as a man. The Pope put up his hands and said, 'Bravo, bravo!'

### More passionate than Communism

The general has now taken the Latin American students who were changed by the Japanese into the south of Italy. They are dealing there with the Communists and giving them a more powerful and passionate revolutionary aim. Think of Communism, carrying nearly half the population of Italy, the land of Mother Church.

I am not against Communists. Many of them I know are the most sincere and militant people in the modern world. But Lenin said, 'We shall never succeed until the myth of God is removed from the mind of man'. That is why today you get this tremendous out-thrust of Godless revolution into the heart of our national life, including the church, if you want the truth.

A parish priest from one of the most Communist parts of Italy, in the south, said yesterday about these Latin American students taken into his country by the general: 'This idea is an answer to "Christian materialism" which is baptised and sometimes consecrated. I speak of Christians who trust more in their own strength than the will of God. This must be changed, and Moral Re-Armament will do that.'

Think of what a man like Krushchev would do in an island like ours. If he had a colossal building, scores of colossal buildings in every city in the country, if he had the biggest headquarters in every hamlet and village in the country, if he had a paid staff, full-time, to do only what he wanted all over the country—where would we be in a year's time?

### Squares and puritans

Is there any clear moral line drawn in the life of Britain by the churches, together? I am not talking about individuals or even one church. I am talking about the Christian forces challenging the materialism of our time. Are we straight on adultery? Are we straight on *Lady Chatterley's Lover*? Drunkenness? Gambling? Perversion? Indulgence?

We even use words in the wrong sense. It has become a bad word to call somebody a square; nobody wants to be a square. It appears to mean somebody who believes in God, who believes in his country, who believes in a straight family life, who is against adultery, who thinks that men should dress like men and women like women. In that case I am a square and want to be one.

I looked up the word 'puritan' in the Oxford Dictionary this morning. It means 'a person of strictness in religion and morals'. In that case I want to be one. I am absolutely fed up with a nation which lets the dirty desire to be liked warp even the meaning of our language.

A Christian revolutionary is meant to be a revolutionary who revolutionises the situation he is in. Every non-Christian in the world should be saying, 'What are the Christian nations thinking about now? What is their next move? What are they saying? What are they doing?' We ought to be the focus of attention at this time of crisis instead of being a pattern of disunity and ineffectiveness.

Somebody says in the play *Space is so Startling*, 'Why should the Communists, who say they disbelieve in God, believe in Him, when the nations who say they believe in Him can't live unity together?' It is not a bad point.

Moral Re-Armament is an element which has been projected into the modern world by Almighty God. It is not a church. It is not a religion.

What does God mean to modern man? A God passionate to win the world? A God with a master-plan for every human being in the world? An unexpected God? An adventurous God? Somebody Who is more interesting, more loving, more dynamic than any human person you know? Not on your life.

We need to understand once more the doctrine of God, to be possessed mind, body and estate by that doctrine, to live it and give it in triumph to humanity.

### Christian revolutionaries would shift nations

To me, the situation in the world is very often like a mule stuck in the mud. You all complain about the mule. Then you have a red-hot poker handed to you by God. And all you can do is to look at the poker and say, 'I don't like the shape of it. Not sure who paid for the coal to heat it. Ah, that is not the kind of poker I would use.' You are critical of the poker, but the mule is still stuck.

Moral Re-Armament is the true and traditional property of the church. It takes a man like myself with no faith; it gets me straight; it gives me a friendship with Jesus Christ which is the most precious possession in my life. It teaches me, such as I am, to be available to God for His plan. Isn't that the work of the Church?

It seems so to me. Incidentally, if you go to my village, you will find that our homestead and family are among the regular churchgoers. Now, lots of people go to church Sunday after Sunday, but nothing happens around them. I am glad they go to church. I think the whole country should go to church. But those who go to church should be the most intelligent revolutionaries in the nation.

The division in the churches has been a colossal human tragedy. But if all the people who are so proud of their churchgoing became Christian revolutionaries, we should see nations shift. That is normal faith. It's time we reverted to the normal.