



MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

FROM COPENHAGEN TO THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

FOOD, WORK AND AN IDEA FOR IRAN'S VILLAGES

'BREATHES THERE THE MAN WITH SOUL SO DEAD'

—BY MARY WILSON

'THEY SPEAK WITH A THOUSAND TONGUES'

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Awakening the conscience of the nation

ONE THOUSAND and thirty people from all parts of Britain and from twenty-one other countries attended a Conference in London at Whitsun. It marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the launching of Moral Re-Armament by Dr. Frank Buchman in East Ham Town Hall.

Dr. Buchman then said, "We the Remakers of the World"—is that not the thinking and the willing of the ordinary man? . . . Everyone in the nation magnetised and mobilised to restore the nations to security, safety and sanity. . . . We can, we must, and we will generate a moral and spiritual force that is powerful enough to remake the world.'

The ordinary man responded and still responds. In Kattanam, South India, last week-end ten thousand people beneath tropical palms watched MRA films in their own Malayalam language. Students home on vacation clamoured for more showings in their university towns when their colleges re-open.

In New York, Major General Josef Mobutu, Commander-in-Chief of the Congolese Army, told 250 guests at a reception in his honour that 35,000 officers and men of his army knew the work of Moral Re-Armament. 'Thanks to MRA the Congolese Army today can distinguish between good and bad,' he said. 'Discipline is returning in the Congo.'

Seen by 250,000

In America, work began on the film of *Music At Midnight*, seen in the last four months as a play by over 100,000 across the United States and Canada. In London last week-end there were full houses for *Through the Garden Wall*, fourth of the Westminster Theatre productions which have been seen by a quarter of a million people in Britain in a year and a half.

When Moral Re-Armament was launched in 1938, sixty East London mayors, aldermen and councillors were on the platform with Dr. Buchman. At the Conference in London this Whitsun 200 trade unionists, Labour Party officials and their wives took part.

'Nobody hungry, nobody homeless, nobody handicapped by his background. This will take not only economic remedies, but governments and people dedicated to shift the evil in society by awakening the conscience of the nation,' was the keynote given by Mr. Peter Howard, the author and playwright.

Increases in productivity, raising of wages and bonuses, avoidance of unofficial stoppages and prevention of redundancy through a new spirit on both sides were described by men from trade unions and management.

Programme for industry

Those at the Conference ranged from royalty and the privileged to former officials of the Communist Party, from carpenter and cook to atomic scientist and diplomat, from school prefect to old age pensioner. Foreign speakers included the President of the Miners of Sierra Leone, a professor of political philosophy from Japan, Rhodes scholars from Oxford, and a member of the Swiss General Staff. A special plane brought 76 from Switzerland. 160 came from Scotland.

Mr. Howard outlined a four-point programme for management and labour: '1. Management, before a contract is signed, to open its costings and contracts to trusted men in labour. 2. Everyone to agree that the contract date be fulfilled. 3. No unofficial stoppages, and strikes only when called by elected trade union leadership and endorsed by a vote of the men. 4. Management and labour together to produce the highest standards of British workmanship.'

He said, 'People are more important than profits. The amount of work is as important as the amount of wages. Service is as important as salary. This line has got to be drawn by some great nation living it.'

'God often raises a man to match a challenge. The times are so vast He has raised this force to answer the challenge of our age. The whole world is waiting for one nation governed by men governed by God, because the will of God has become the purpose and passion of her people.'

From Copenhagen to the Arctic Circle

DENMARK was, long before Britain, a prototype of the modern Welfare State. But 'you never had it so good' proved, as in this country, not to be enough as a basis for national life and aims. A serious economic crisis has struck the country since Britain's failure to enter the Common Market.

An editorial in *Jyllandsposten*, Denmark's largest provincial paper, said: 'The only riches of our nation are our productive capacity, the qualifications of the inhabitants, their ability and initiative, their moral fibre. If these riches are to be maintained, the Danish nation must go through a process of cleaning up. Every citizen must begin with himself. The sense of responsibility must be resurrected. Honesty must get back on the throne. Jealousy, special interests and tactical finesses must be chased out.'

This task is being tackled by a group of young Scandinavians, who have been showing the way to do it through a play, *Vinden Vender* (The Wind Is Shifting), which they wrote and act in themselves. After showing this play and Peter Howard's play, *The Ladder*, in 14 Danish towns they have taken them to the capital, Copenhagen.

They have met everywhere with an eager welcome from a nation weary of welfare alone. 'This is the spirit we need to meet the selfishness and jealousies that destroy this nation from within and separate nation from

nation,' said a Farmers' Party Member of Parliament.

Police heads have welcomed the young Scandinavians' programme of world-wide action because they wish to redirect the energies of youth and end the constant demonstrations and throwing of 'Molotov Cocktails' into consulates and offices for political ends.

Bjorn Ryman, author of *The Wind Is Shifting*, told the thousands in the audiences: 'To put the world on the right track is the most interesting, demanding and essential task that we in the younger generation can undertake'.

From Copenhagen the Scandinavians and their plays travelled this week to Kirkenes in the extreme north of Norway, two hundred miles beyond the Arctic Circle, as far from Oslo to the north as Rome is to the south.

Kirkenes is five miles from the Russian frontier. Across the border the Russians are building a television station whose broadcasts in Norwegian will reach this area. Norwegians who visit Russia are presented with T.V. sets able to pick up these broadcasts. It will be several years before Norwegian television can cover the same area.

The plays opened in Kirkenes on 5 June. They have been invited to Norway by a committee including prominent Members of Parliament and the Speaker of the Upper House, and the bishop and leading military men of this strategic region.

Food, work and an idea for Iran's villages

A NEW ERA began recently for the peasants who make up 75 per cent of Iran's population.

'Those who know me . . . will understand why I am so happy today,' declared H.I.M. the Shah as he gave title deeds to the first group of peasants affected by the new agrarian law, making them owners of their own land. It was the fulfilment of his boyhood dream to better the lot of the peasants, said the Shah. To reign over a poor and hungry people was to him no glory. The land reform programme would establish social justice for the peasants and raise the nation's agricultural productivity. It had begun a 'decisive phase in Iran's political, economic and social development,' he said.

One of the 40,000 villages affected by this programme was inherited by Mr. Iraj Mehrzaad, the Lord Mayor of Shiraz, from his father.

Mr. Mehrzaad, who first met Dr. Buchman and his work in London, told our correspondent, 'I have been applying MRA principles in the village. It is the best possible tribute I could pay to my father's memory. It involves much voluntary expenditure of capital and income; and my reward is that the villagers to a man voted to keep the estate intact and run it as a co-operative with me, rather than divide it into sections each man

for himself as the Agrarian Reform Law allows.

'The school, the medical clinic, the public bath, the telephone, the electric power, the water supply, the pumping and irrigation system, the rich croppage of grain, fruit, flowers and trees, the 6,000 head of sheep and cattle, the new afforestation which the villagers so diligently guard and never allow an animal to come near—all these are MRA in its practical application.

'Here is work for a thousand empty hands, food for empty stomachs and an idea that is greatly satisfying for hearts which had nothing to live for. The enormous heaps of stones in the corner of every field, cleared off the land by united effort, the 25 square miles of greenery in the midst of stony desert, stretching from the mountain skirts to the paddy-fields in the valley, are eloquent testimony to the common inspiration which leads our people on.'

Fifteen thousand people have seen the films of MRA in Mr. Mehrzaad's city of Shiraz, writes our correspondent. The whole city has been shaken, lives changed, feuds settled, family and official relationships remade, and the authorities say that a marked difference in the spirit of youth followed the showing of the films to most of the senior boys and girls of the schools.

'BREATHES THERE THE MAN WITH SOUL SO DEAD

Who never to himself hath said,
"This is my own, my native land!"
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned
As home his footsteps he hath turned
From wandering on a foreign strand?"

THE ANSWER is 'yes, there are lots of them now'. They do not think much of their country. They certainly do not think much of God. And as a matter of fact their souls are dead.

How has this come about?

Nurse Cavell, as she was led to execution, said, it is true, 'Patriotism is not enough.' She did not say, 'Patriotism is nonsense.' If she had she would not have been about to be shot.

What, then, is patriotism?

A little while ago I turned on the wireless in the middle of an 'Any Questions?' programme. The question being asked was whether spying was a good thing or a bad thing. The answer given by one member of the panel was that spying was neither good nor bad. It was just a feature of our present age—a feature which was bound to continue as long as sovereign states existed. The only answer to it, he said, was the establishment of a world government, which would hold all the secrets, and do away with the need for one country to find out what another was doing.

This, however, leaves a good many questions unanswered. If it is a bad thing to have sovereign independent states, why are such states to be created and encouraged in Africa and Asia while they are being discouraged and curtailed in Europe and America?

If it is wrong to set countries against each other, why is it right to set races against each other?

Why is it patriotic to be a nationalist if you have a dark skin, and nationalistic to be patriotic if you have a white one?

If world government is a good thing, would it not be better for it to be built on a unifying principle, rather than a divisive one, which makes nonsense of the whole idea anyway.

Could a preliminary step towards a new order in the world be for more of us to grow up and think rationally? We accept words like nationalism, imperialism, communism, colonialism, pacifism, neutralism and all the rest of it as useful sticks to beat various dogs, or as sticks combined to beat the same dog. But very few people stop to think what they mean by them.

'Words' as Humpty Dumpty said to Alice, 'mean what I want them to mean.' And the modern Humpty Dumpty Committee on word meanings has now kindly explained patriotism to us.

They say *it is old-fashioned*, as old-fashioned as loving

one's husband or wife. Loving is emotional, except when related to animals, when it is humane. For instance, according to a recent radio programme, it is debasing to a noble animal like an elephant to make it perform like a human being. My question is, is it debasing for human beings to perform like animals? But, of course, the nearer we get to the jungle, the easier it is to understand the animal point of view.

They say *it is dangerous* because if you love your own country you are bound to hate the ones over the border. I love my family, as a matter of fact, but I have never heard that it worried the people down the street. On the contrary the fact that my husband and I are not contemplating divorce and do not regard our fifteen-year-old daughter as a major problem gives many people hope. At this point someone will say, 'Now she's going to start oversimplifying. Relations between countries are much more complicated. It is ridiculous to compare a family with a nation.'

But is it?

We have found something in our family that works. We have to be a family to make it work. People recognise the fact that it works, and they come to find out how it works.

The interesting thing is that the key to it does, as a matter of fact, lie in surrender of sovereignty—not to some undefined world authority in general, but to a personal authority in particular. We have already elected to live under a world authority, and the government works. Our new world order is already working, and it is a long way ahead of any of Humpty Dumpty's versions of democracy. It brings people together and gives them something to live for.

We have in our home other people's sons and daughters from other nations, who all have direct links with the source of this world government, but this makes them love their own countries more, not less. Our aim is to make our nation and their nations effective and distinctive, and to invest our lives together in creating a world that works.

Our family is not a nameless unit in an impersonal plan. It is like every other family, unique, because no two families are alike, just as no two countries are alike. We have a name. We have ways that are different from those of the family next door. We are neither better nor worse than them because of it. Like every family and nation, ours has roots and traditions. No growing thing can live without roots.

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BY MARY WILSON
*whose latest book, 'A Rushing
Mighty Wind,' will be published
by Blandford Press on 17 June*

'They speak in a thousand tongues'

NEWS IN BRIEF

SINCE the strike-cum-lock-out of half a million metal workers, industrial feelings in Germany have been embittered and uncertain after years of comparative calm.

Now an ideological force with the musical *Space Is So Startling* has moved into the Frankfurt industrial complex which includes the 22,000 workers of Hoechst Chemicals.

The Lord Mayor of Frankfurt, a prominent Socialist, is sponsoring the showings. The cast was officially welcomed in the Imperial Hall where President Kennedy will sign his name in the city's Golden Book this

month. The Chairman and Works Council of Hoechst Chemicals met for an hour with Prince Richard of Hesse and members of the musical's cast.

Abendpost told its 200,000 readers 'They speak in a thousand tongues', describing songs and speeches from the play given to 3,000 Hoechst workers in their lunch break.

German world champion rowers met with U.S. Olympic oarsmen in the cast when they came with the famed rowing coach, Fritz Brunne, to see *Space Is So Startling* in the Century Hall at Hoechst.

London, England — 'Whatever the anonymous author of *Everyman* sought to do, is the patent objective of Peter Howard, to articulate Christian values in a medium understood of the people, the idiom and ideology of the twentieth century,' wrote the *Church of England Newspaper* about *Through the Garden Wall*, now in its third month at the Westminster Theatre. *The Romford Times* wrote, 'Howard clearly established himself as a satirist and wit, comparable to Shaw. The dialogue is consistently brilliant and the acting reaches heights to be expected only of a cast grateful for the chance to put over something worth while, as well as entertainment.'

Cape Town, South Africa—Political, business and educational leaders of all races packed out performances of *The Dictator's Slippers* presented by an African cast. M.P.'s invited African leaders to meet with them in the Parliament to discuss how to impact the country with the answer shown in the theatre. At the invitation of students the play was shown in Stellenbosch, whose University has produced four prime ministers,

Nsukka, Nigeria—Five hundred students at the University of Nigeria saw the film of *El Condor* at the invitation of the Dean of Students. It was the fourth recent showing of MRA films at the University where student demonstrations have made headline news.

Natal, Brazil—The Governor of the State and his wife were among the 4,500 who crowded the largest cinema for *The Crowning Experience*. Muriel Smith, the star of the film, and her party were State guests.

Edinburgh, Scotland—Students and graduates of Edinburgh University attacked the spreading of 'false issues, like the phony choice between charity and chastity', reported the *Edinburgh Evening News*. They were addressing 800 at the first Scottish screening of *El Condor*.

'BREATHES THERE THE MAN...?' (Continued from page 27)

No country can cut its roots and live. Cut flowers are done up in bunches and taken from one place to another. People taken from their roots in God and country have no sense of belonging anywhere. They can be moved about to fit into some super-plan without protest.

If God is bunk, and nationhood is meaningless that is at least one way of passing the time between the cradle and the grave; but it is not my idea of living.

Suppose we in Britain were to live in such a way that nations would come running to us because of the Lord our God—because rulers and ruled are under a common world authority which works? People come to our home, and to every home where He is at work. Why not to our nation and every nation?

We have no problem of redundancy in our house. Everyone is needed. Work brings in work, just as laziness breeds unemployment. We

have a thriving export and import business in feeding the hungry hearts and minds of the world, and two thousand people have come and gone through our doors in the course of a few months. They come from every class and background and from all five continents.

This for us is patriotism—to keep our country alive in the service of the world, for patriotism is the flowering of a nation that serves God. You love your nation as you love your family. You neither whitewash it nor exploit it, debunk it nor boast of it. You are honest about its weaknesses, but you also make its talents and resources available to meet the needs of mankind.

Patriotism takes the needs of nations and answers them with men who can be trusted, and thus enables a country to add to its material defences the further defence—the respect and gratitude of its neighbours.

And to sound a final note of realism—if an Englishman's word were once more to become his bond, other countries might even want to do business with us knowing that they would not be let down. And if 'Made in Britain' were once more to become the symbol of the highest quality in the world our economic position might improve.

Why don't we try it?

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