



# MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

WORLD STRUGGLES FOR NEW SOCIETY  
Peter Howard speaks at Cambridge

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## M.P.s, MASSES, ELEPHANTS MARK START OF GANDHI'S MARCH

**G**OLD-CAPARISONED elephants, Malabar dancers, trumpeters and drummers led the way into the South Indian city of Trivandrum. Then came the 86-year-old leader of Kerala's liberation struggle, Mannath Padmanabhan, and 28-year-old Rajmohan Gandhi, just recovered from typhoid, riding in an open car.

Behind followed a military band, bagpipes, a column of Kerala M.P.s, students in uniform and workers' contingents bearing banners. They marched through a colonnade of arches and streamers along the two-mile route through the city.

This was the start on 2 October of Rajmohan Gandhi's 3,400-mile 'March on Wheels' across India.

An estimated hundred thousand people lined the streets and stadium of Trivandrum for the occasion. That evening 25,000 took part in a mass rally in the city.

Next day, as the motorcade drove to Kottayam, whole towns, villages and colleges turned out to welcome the marchers. From Kottayam to Cochin—the third day's journey—is fifty miles. There was scarcely any area along the route without some group or crowd waiting to greet the marchers as they passed.

The Kerala papers, Communist, Catholic, Congress, Socialist—fourteen in all—heralded their coming to the 15 millions of that State. National dailies like the *Hindusthan Times* carried the news to the people of India.

The *New York Journal-American* carried the news. Dutch T.V. broadcast it. Independent Television News syndicated film of the start of the March to 16 countries on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

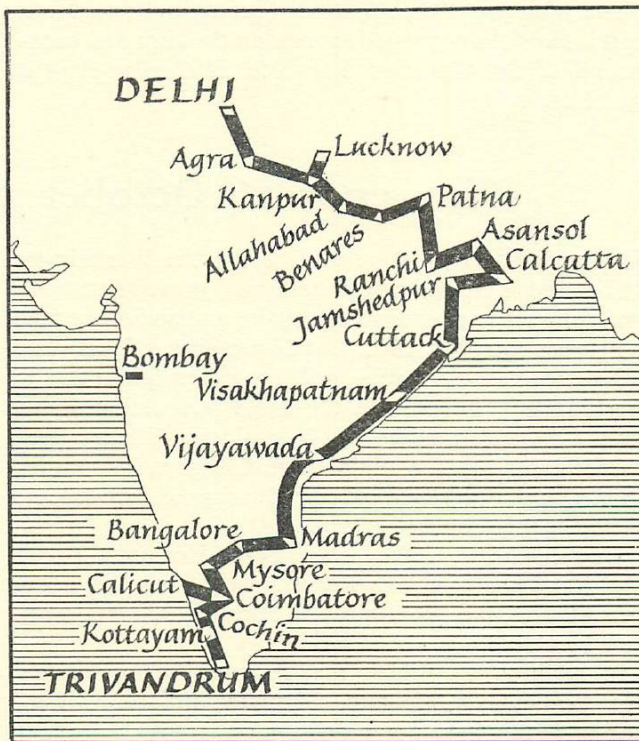
Paris Radio announced: 'Starting today the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi begins a motorised march across India. In 1930 the Mahatma made the Salt March, 300 kilometres from Ahmedabad to the sea. He defied the English law. It was the launching point of a campaign of passive resistance of national dimensions which led to independence. Rajmohan Gandhi is covering not 300 but 5,000 kilometres.

'Contrary to his grandfather, who believed that

passive resistance would see the solutions to the problems of war, Gandhi is convinced that a spectacular action will mobilise the best energies of the nation and bring a solution to the divisions which reign in the social and economic sphere, as well as to corruption and misery.'

A few miles from the ancient port of Quilon, the road submerged in a gaily clad crowd of villagers who were waiting to welcome the marchers. At Changanacherry the motorcade was stopped by thousands of students from Hindu College. The college hall was packed by students, who jammed every door, window and aisle.

At sunset that day the cavalcade drew up before a great welcome arch which had been erected before the bridge leading to Kottayam. A huge crowd lined the



road and riverbanks in greeting. A hundred firecrackers exploded, a burst for each marcher, and an Indian flute and drum band led the procession into the city.

An open jeep carried Gandhi and the Chairman of the Municipal Council. Thousands of citizens ran along beside them. In the central park 12,000 more had waited patiently for an hour to hear the marchers speak.

On the beach at Cape Comorin, India's southernmost point, before the March began, Gandhi and twenty Kerala politicians gathered at dawn round the monument that stands there to the Mahatma. They pledged their lives to fight corruption and build in India a new social order 'more just than any Capitalist or Communist society'.

On the same day, the Mahatma's birthday, *The Times* correspondent had written from Delhi, 'It has been said that Gandhi waged two struggles, against the British Raj and against his own people, and his second adversary was the more obdurate. . . . The widest falling away from

what Gandhi stood for may be seen perhaps in society at large, in the disappearance of the public will for the removal of injustice and ugliness, which he fostered by constant exhortation and example.'

'Fifteen years ago my grandfather was assassinated, but many of us still kill the spirit of Mahatmaji by the way we live,' declared Rajmohan Gandhi, addressing a mass rally at Cochin on the third evening of the March. He called on them to lay aside everything but that which will build a clean, strong, united country. 'Moral re-armament is the way to do this,' he said. 'It is your property—the property of the millions of India.'

After the meeting young men rushed up to speak with Gandhi as they have done after every meeting. Some offered rupees to finance the March. Others asked how they could take part. An engineering student said, 'I am a Communist, but I want to give my life with you. Please count me as one of the thousand you called for to build a new India.'

## 'El Condor' flies to Canada

THE ARRIVAL of the Latin American play *El Condor* from Switzerland in Montreal, Canada, last week was widely reported by press and radio.

*L'Action*, the Quebec City Catholic daily paper, carried a Canadian Press news agency story announcing that the play would be given in Quebec on 8 October.

In a second article the paper quoted Italian press comments on the play's success and reported its Swiss tour.

The *Montreal Star*, *Montreal Gazette* and two Montreal radio stations carried reports on the aims and background of the campaign, in which *El Condor* plays a prominent part.

In Switzerland *El Condor* was performed before large and distinguished audiences in Lausanne, Geneva and Neuchatel, and in strongholds of a separatist movement in the Jura Mountains.

In Geneva the play was given in the Theatre de la Cour St. Pierre opposite the cafe where Lenin used to meet his revolutionary cadres.

Among those who saw *El Condor* there were the American Ambassador to the U.N. in Europe, members of the Canton and City governments and officials of international organisations.

At the peak broadcasting hour one of the *Condor* cast spoke to the nation over *Radio Geneva*.

## Play ends 26 October with 252nd performance

IN THE WORLD of stage and screen the Westminster Theatre has created new patterns and proved that those who follow these patterns can make a financial success.

Between October, 1961, and 26 October, of this year, 573 performances of plays will have been given in the Westminster Theatre. In the same period there have been 127 performances of Westminster Theatre productions in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Stockton-on-Tees, Blackpool, Liverpool, Sheffield, Brighton and Jersey.

Since October, 1961, when Peter Howard's plays, *The Hurricane* and *The Ladder*, were launched commercially in the Westminster Theatre, 300,000 seats have been sold.

In addition to British theatre goers, many parties from Scandinavia, Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy have come to London to see these plays

and take back the ideas in them to their countries. Thousands of Asian, African and Middle Eastern students, businessmen and politicians have been captivated by what they saw on the stage.

Americans who saw *Music at Midnight* in London decided to take it across America and to Canada. The Westminster stage was also the launching point for *Space Is So Startling* for Germany, Switzerland and America.

The decision of the Westminster Trustees to instal a simultaneous translation system has made theatrical history and brought their plays within reach of those who speak Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, German, Italian, Portuguese, French, and other languages.

The run of *Through the Garden Wall* will end on Saturday evening, 26 October, at the Westminster Theatre. There will have been 252 performances.

# WORLD STRUGGLES FOR A NEW SOCIETY

by PETER HOWARD

At a luncheon in Cambridge on 2 October arranged in his honour by Sir Hamilton Kerr, M.P., Mr. Peter Howard spoke of efforts on both sides of the Iron Curtain to create a new society. He also attacked Cambridge theologians and the Bishop of Southwark who, he felt, were undermining the foundations of a Britain which could make a mighty contribution to the modern world. Mr. Howard said in part:

**I**T IS an age with everything in it—except the way to go. Humanity lives in a splendid ship with ever-increasing comfort, ever-increasing speed and ever-increasing entertainment. But we lack a knowledge of where we have come, or whither we go. We lack a compass. And we lack any master on the bridge whose authority is acceptable by everybody. Indeed, we are engaged in an everlasting wrangle which sometimes risks the safety of the entire ship as to who are the passengers, who are the crew and who should give the orders.

For the first time in the story of man, it is possible for all men everywhere to be fed, to be housed decently, to be clothed properly and to be given the fulness of life. Yet millions tonight will go hungry to bed and arise empty of food and much hope tomorrow morning.

## Strange trends

Meanwhile, there are strange trends in the modern world and strange paths being followed in an effort to find the right way.

Within ten years, they say, no man will be needed on assembly lines in America. Machinery will do all the work. And within twenty years, President Kennedy, or his successor, has to devise twenty-two million new jobs for a rising population in America.

Automation will mean that ten million new jobs have to be found in Britain in the next ten years.

Mr. Krushchev says that by the end of the century he thinks all men will work without wages or salaries to serve the State in the Communist world. But he already complains that 45 years of Communism have not cured selfishness in man. He has to shoot people for corruption. He has to imprison men for organising strikes among workers. He is crying out for a new type of man without which he feels the Communist system may break down.

He seems nowadays to think that anybody who concentrates on new environment without also creating new character to live in it, is reactionary and bourgeois, not revolutionary at all. This is a considerable change from the days when sincere Communists believed that

a change in environment alone would produce a change in human nature.

In America, they are experimenting with animals. They have found that after inserting electrodes in the brains of beasts, if you press one button the beasts start to fight. If you press another button they rub noses and smile animal-wise upon each other.

## Soviet surgeons experiment

In Russia, skilled surgeons for years have been striving to graft from one human brain to another, cells that will pile generations of understanding, knowledge and experience into the head of a younger man. The object of these experiments is to produce a world of master men with millions of artificially created zombies—the people who will willingly, gladly and effectively do the rough and tough, dirty tasks of the world that still must be performed.

Now, I do not believe these things are going to happen. I believe God has a plan for the world and that if enough of us humbly, hopefully, honestly seek that plan and pursue it, we shall see an age of history dawn which will be the greatest age mankind has ever known.

Like millions of other people, I rejoiced at the vision that His Holiness The Pope gave a day or two ago in Rome when he invited the leaders of the earth to make this world one great city. But the Holy Father said, and said with great force, that this could only happen if the leaders of the earth understood the real nature of man and the real nature of God.

## 'Rachmans of the spirit'

What we need is not the theory of theologians, but the experience of men of faith.

In Cambridge theologians, however sincere, have seemed to ordinary people to question the power of God and even His presence in our midst. So Rachmans of the spirit in the theatre, the BBC and the film world whose faith is fornication, who profit by other men's perversion, and who aim to make slums out of every human soul—

interpret the 'New Morality' and the 'New Theology' as an excuse to go their wicked ways.

It is for this reason that ordinary men will welcome the strong words of the Pope and of Anglican Bishops like Dr. Bardsley, the Bishop of Coventry, who said a few days ago that this country is sexually sick, over pre-occupied with this particular aspect of human nature, and can find a cure.

The whole tradition of our country and, in my view, the greatest strength of our country has been a constant questioning of conduct which sprang from centuries of a consciousness of human weakness and a dependence upon God Himself. Even today the Englishman is worried as to whether he is doing right individually or nationally. When, as so often happens, we do wrong, we may well be branded as hypocrites. But I would sooner be branded as a hypocrite who at least proclaims and aims at standards of conduct that he does not always live, than be branded as the citizens of a nation that used the pulpit and public platform to deny a knowledge of God and to destroy any belief that right and wrong as absolutes exist at all in the mind of the Eternal.

### **Church and party**

One sign of the times is the way some people try and use the churches as instruments of a political party. Once upon a time, the Church of England was described as the Conservative Party at prayer. If the Church of England ever was this, then that was the wrong use and function of the Church. But I do not want to see a Church become a tool of the Tories or a lackey of the Left. I do not want any church to be regarded as a robot of the Right or a stooge of Socialism.

In this connection I have received a letter from the Bishop of Southwark. In it he declares he would listen to rebukes from the Archbishop of Canterbury, or even from Mr. Macmillan, leader of the Conservative Party, but not from ordinary people like myself. He tells me that I have no right to question his words and ways. This seems to me to be the straight path to dictatorship.

But if the Bishop is not going to listen, he will not mind if I speak, and speak I will. The Bishop of Southwark used the platform of the Anglican Church in Toronto to attack the Government of this country on party lines. He said the Government was growing fat on the sort of slum conditions that produced Rachman, and added, 'What can you expect from a Capitalist society?' I do not object to the utterances of a Bishop, whatever his political views, if he does the work of a Bishop, not the work of a party hack.

### **Vision and division**

The days are—or ought to be—gone when Bishops can use their diocese as rotten boroughs to project their own personalities into the party political arena.

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Men of

God in Britain should be men of national vision, not party division. The idea that a Church has to be Socialist if it is to be Christian, is as muddled and perilous as the idea that it had to be Conservative if it was Christian. A Protestant Church which starts to play a political game is a Church on its way to the scrap heap.

In any case, the Bishop has plenty to look after in his own diocese. Many people are deeply disturbed at the way things are run there. They call it a disgrace when you have Canons preaching sermons condoning impurity, not only before the whole nation—because the BBC puts it out to the nation—but before their own choir-boys and going unrebuked.

### **Pub and pulpit**

And you have the astonishing spectacle of people leading entire congregations out of church to the local pub to drink on a Sunday instead of listening to the word of God preached in a way that will interest modern man. I am not against pubs or publicans. I am strongly against a pulpit which yields place to the pub. It makes unbelievers suppose that people will get more out of the wines and spirits at the bar than they will get from the Holy Spirit speaking through God's ministers inside the Church, or from the wine and bread at the Communion Table.

If modern man pays more heed to a mug of beer than to a Bishop's mitre, then God help us all.

Our generation has to decide whether God is there, or whether He is not. We have to decide whether man has the Spirit of God within him, or is merely an animal—a beast.

The Communist world is seeking the new type of man which revolutionary Christianity alone can create. When rulers have no rules and the ruled reject the old rules of morality, then no objection can be made to a Hitler, a Stalin or a Rachman.

### **A chance for Britain**

Without a faith in God and an acceptance of His standards of conduct, freedom and decency will perish from the earth. I believe the Church is indestructible. But a new Dark Age is possible.

The choice is plain: it is the living spirit of God, or the dead hand of materialism to control our culture, our country, our civilisation and our lives.

What an amazing chance for a country like Britain. Faith in God can become the dominant factor in the educational, commercial, artistic, social, political and economic life of Britain. I believe that if we accept that challenge we shall have something worthwhile to offer the modern world—something far greater than anything we have yet managed to give in this small, amazing, mighty Island—so old in history and still so young in heart.

## President Kennedy meets 'Space' cast in South

PRESIDENT KENNEDY greeted the cast of the musical *Space Is So Startling* in Little Rock on 3 October. After addressing 25,000 people in the city, he pushed his way to the front of the crowd where the 17-nation cast were standing.

Surrounded by press and newsreel cameras and Secret Service men, he shook hands with members of the cast and said, 'It is good to have you here.'

### Welcomed in Bonn

Many of them from Japan, Germany, Finland, Norway, Scotland and Switzerland were in national costume. The President asked about the countries from which they came.

He was delighted to hear that they were among those who welcomed him in the market place at Bonn on his State visit to Germany earlier this year. At that time *Space Is So Startling* was on a four month tour of West Germany and Berlin at the invitation of Chancellor Adenauer.

President Kennedy was interested to hear that the play had its American première in his home town, Boston.

After dedicating a new dam near Little Rock, Mr. Kennedy spoke of great economic and industrial developments in the South. He said: 'I believe the other story of the South deserves to be told—a story of hope, progress and Federal-State cooperation, not animosity and isolation, a day of Southern growth. The ultimate day to which we look is the day when we shall see no South, no North, no East, no West, but one nation under God indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'

### Little Rock's response

Seated on the platform with President Kennedy were Governor Orval Faibus of Arkansas and Mayor Byron Morse of Little Rock. Both the Mayor and Governor had received the cast of *Space Is So Startling* the day before.

TV stations in Little Rock of the two biggest networks carried these

receptions on their evening broadcasts.

Last week Governor Faibus told the cast in the State Capitol: 'May your efforts be successful for all mankind so we may live together in self-respect and peace.'

The Mayor said, 'This mission you are on is the finest thing being done for all humanity.'

From Central High School, once in the world's headlines as a centre of race strife, 200 students came to the play. Mr. L. C. Bates, Arkansas field secretary for the militant National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, was present with leaders of the Negro community.

Before Little Rock the 'Space' drama was performed at Cape Canaveral, in Huntsville, Alabama and in Atlanta, Georgia. At the Air Force base theatre at Cape Canaveral it was given against a background of missile gantries that have hurtled humans and satellites into space. The play showed spacemen how power clashes on this and other planets can be resolved when men of the space age take on a universal task together.

### Launching sites seen

Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (N.A.S.A.), as well as Air Force and Navy Polaris submarine officers, saw the play. The cast were shown the closely-guarded launching sites from which Colonel Glenn and other astronauts took off on orbital flights.

In the Space Flight Centre at Huntsville, Alabama, under the direction of Dr. Werner von Braun, a Saturn Five rocket is being constructed to land men on the moon.

The whole cast of *Space Is So Startling* were welcomed at the N.A.S.A. Centre and shown the new rocket, which will be 350 feet high and weigh six million pounds.

Many of the technicians had seen the play the night before. It was given in the auditorium of the high

school, which in September was the first in Alabama to integrate Negro students peacefully.

Dr. von Braun's Deputy Director, Dr. Milwee, said to them, 'I hope our space effort will prove as good as yours, but you have already passed us.'

On their way to Florida the cast were welcomed in strife-torn Birmingham, Alabama, by newspaper and business leaders and town officials who urged them to return and put on the play there.

### Atlanta greets cast

In Atlanta they were received by the Governor of Georgia in the State Capitol. The *Atlanta Constitution's* headline reported 'City Welcomes Space Musical.' The *Atlanta Journal* devoted half a page to one of its reports. T.V. and radio gave wide coverage.

Charter planes and delegations came from Texas, Florida, Virginia, Kentucky, Alabama and Washington D.C. to see the play there.

Negro and white leaders sat together in the city's auditorium and applauded the portrayal of a new society.

The first U.S. astronaut to orbit the earth, Lt.-Col. John Glenn, and his wife met with the cast of the 'Space' play last weekend in Houston, Texas.

### Col. Glenn's comments

Col. Glenn commented on the 'great goal and aim' the cast had. The Glenns said they had been greatly impressed earlier this year in Japan when they met militant Zengakuren students, who had been trained in moral re-armament.

John Sayre, U.S. Olympic gold medallist, told them, 'We are out to build a society in America that will match, in the realm of character, the fantastic technological advance of this age. By 1970 when you have placed a man on the moon, we want to have this type of society on earth.'

## 'MRA man tilts at "Beast" in Britain'

PETER HOWARD trained as a journalist. He has lost none of his famous flair in that line . . . begins a review, under the above headline, in the *Edinburgh Evening News* of 30 September. It continues:

"In *Britain and the Beast* he turns the weapon of sensationalism against the sensationalists, and the devices of showmanship and popular entertainment against the liberty-taking showmen and those who try to debase religion to the level of popular entertainment.

"His chapter headings are in the huckster tradition—"Beasts and Bishops," "Guts and Grandeur," "Red and Yellow," "Workers and Shirkers," "Gaiters and God," "Mud and Monkeys," leading up to his positive message—"Purity and Passion."

### 'Chatterley Case'

"His thesis is that "the Age of Beasts may be upon us." He puts it concisely in one paragraph: "At the very time when the spirit and moral passion of man, his knowledge of good and evil, must increase to meet the challenge of his strength and skill, there comes a world-wide onslaught on old virtues of faith, chastity, honour, patriotism, and obedience. Man thinks he has got God in a corner. He will kill Him if he can."

"He pitches valiantly into the Churchmen who try to make religion more "popular" by joining its debunkers. He attacks especially Dr. John Robinson, the Bishop of Woolwich, who gave evidence in the four-letter-word trial about *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

### Most trenchant reply

"Since then the Bishop has written *Honest to God*. There have been several replies to it, but Howard's is the most trenchant. "If the Gospel of St. Mark is denied," he writes, "or cut down to fit man's convenience, then on earth the gospel of Marx will prevail. That gospel, according to the dialectic, leads to war."

"His patriotism is expressed in the hope that, "in the gravest crisis man has yet faced Britain may shrug off her sloth, shed her sex-thralldom and her lust for the second-rate, and by her exertions and example show humanity how to rebuild a broken world."

### "Honest Look"

"To this end he takes "an honest look at Britain," and declares that the awkward fact which must be faced is that, "if Britain is to change, people in Britain must change." He picks a hard row for us to hoe: "Absolute standards of character in the home, craftsmanship in industry, cleanliness and purity from top to bottom of the nation, from castle to cottage, from pub to palace, must be acknowledged and pursued."

"He argues that the handful of Reds secure power because "too many of us are yellow." Every trade unionist will recognise the truth of what he says: "We sit while others shout. We compromise while others Communise."

"His references to present-day moral slackness in Britain, and downright, rampant immorality, are well documented, and painfully realised in the events of the day. He is uncompromising in his arguments against the "charity before chastity" line.

### 'Public Concern'

"These are all questions of public concern, but of even greater consequence is the failure of our leaders to lead, and particularly of our religious leaders to give us religious leadership.

"Courageously, Howard tackles the modern philosophers who have undermined our faith and the clerics who have failed to restore it. Many, without being converted to Howard's movement, will recognise the truth and timeliness of his stand."

The *Catholic Herald* of 20 September carried a review of *Britain and the Beast* by Sir Arnold Lunn, author and sportsman.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**London**—Independent Television's *Granada* network devoted its half-hour programme 'World in Action' on 30 September to Moral Re-Armament.

**Lagos**—Nigerian Radio reported a London reception for Nigerians in honour of the nation becoming a republic. Mr. Peter Howard told the guests, 'God is colour blind and character conscious. Man is character blind and colour conscious. We must reverse that.'

**Johannesburg**—Performances of *The Dictator's Slippers* by an African cast in one of the city's best theatres were reported in the Johannesburg *Star*, the government paper *Die Transvaler* and the African *The World*.

**Ulm, Germany**—In this constituency of Professor Ludwig Erhard, who will be Chancellor of Germany on 16 October, the film, *The Crowning Experience*, was shown last week commercially to thousands from the army, industry and schools.

**Penang, Malaysia**—Commercial showings of *The Crowning Experience* have begun under the patronage of the State Governor.

**Basle, Switzerland**—The season at the Basle Komoedie Theatre, the city's main playhouse, opened with the Swiss première of *The Ladder*, by Peter Howard, in German. The author, introducing the play, said, 'I hate plays which do nothing except destroy the faith and integrity of man. I long to see the theatre build character into the heart of nations.'

**West Azerbaijan, Iran**—The Governor-General, military chiefs and heads of education arranged showings of *The Crowning Experience* in Rezaieh, capital of this province which borders on Iraq, Turkey and the Soviet Union.

**London**—From Japanese warships visiting Britain a party of 38 officers and men were guests at Dr. Buchman's London home on 29 September.