



MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

GERMANY'S NEW CHANCELLOR

By our German Correspondent

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SCOTS HIT HARD IN DRAMA DEBATE

IN THE Edinburgh arena the contest for and against decadent drama and destruction of national fibre continues to be waged.

A resolution by 120 Edinburgh citizens in September urged the Lord Provost and City Council through the Festival to promote 'great drama which will arouse something new in the spirit of man'.

A counter statement was sent on 11 October by 200 other persons in an open letter to the Festival Society Council, whose chairman is the Lord Provost.

Charles Graham, staff writer for the *Scottish Daily Express*, commented in that paper on 12 October:

'Two hundred oddly assorted individuals write an open letter expressing their "dismay" with an "insidious campaign" of attack on the Edinburgh Festival.

'What attack? No responsible body of opinion in Scotland has attacked the Festival.

'But, what thousands of Scots have done is voice their disgust with the Drama Conference, which is but one tiny and sordid aspect of the Festival.

'The Churches have joined in the condemnation of this disgraceful blot on a great cultural event.

'The *Scottish Daily Express* was unequivocal in denunciation of the godlessness and dirt that sullied the name of culture. There was nothing insidious about it.

'Some "top people" signatories are Mr. Kenneth Tynan and Mr. John Calder, the men who ran the Drama Conference. Another is Professor G. M. Carstairs, a man whose curious views on morality, particularly sexual morality, have aroused much controversy.

'When they say "Hands off the Festival", what they really mean is that the filth-peddlers would be left in peace.'

'Thunderous answer'

In reply to the 200 an open letter signed by 335 persons was sent four days later to the Lord Provost.

Signatories included an M.P., the President and Vice-President of the Edinburgh Trades Council, the Marchioness of Graham, dockers' and boilermakers' leaders, mayors, ministers, doctors and students.

They said that 'recent trends under the present directors have dishonoured the city and the Festival.' 'These gentlemen need to know that the people of Scotland do not want their godlessness and dirt imported across our border. They cannot use our Festival to foist this upon us in the name of culture.

'This is our reply to their "open letter", and any further attempt by them in these terms will be thunderously answered. In face of a conspiracy of decadence and defeatism Scotland still stands for character and courage.

'We believe the theatre is meant to inspire and not to degrade our capital city and nation.'

Sir Edward's chance

TEACHERS can only escape from their influence over the moral and spiritual development of their pupils by closing their schools,' states the Newsom report on secondary modern education, issued by the Central Advisory Council on Education.*

A chapter on 'Spiritual and Moral Development' quotes the 1944 Education Act: 'It shall be the duty of the local education authority to contribute towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community'.

The Council then declares: 'We believe it to be wrong to leave the young to fend for themselves without guidance. Boys and girls should be offered firm guidance on sexual morality based on chastity before marriage and fidelity within it.'

The *Daily Express* on 18 October commented editorially on this: 'Parents welcome this unequivocal statement from men and women who do much to shape educational policy.

'The hope must be that Sir Edward Boyle, the Minister of Education, will endorse their views.

'By doing so he will demonstrate that his Ministry really does care for the moral standards of the country's children.'

**Half Our Future*. H.M. Stationery Office. 8s. 6d.

Profile of Federal Germany's new Chancellor

by our German Correspondent

PROFESSOR ERHARD, in his first policy statement as the new German Chancellor on 18 October, called for closer ties with Britain.

'With the cultivating and deepening of relations with France, there must go hand in hand friendly relations . . . above all with Britain.

'We consider that endeavours to strengthen the European internal link with Great Britain should constitute an essential part of our European policy,' he told the German Parliament. He would not give up the idea of Britain's entry into the Common Market.

What sort of man is the 66-year-old Chancellor?

Many people think of him as a hard-headed economist with little range beyond facts and figures of markets and trends, production and trade.

Erhard's philosophy

But *The Times* report of his policy speech in Bonn noted that Dr. Erhard 'repeatedly struck a philosophical tone, so conspicuously absent from the rather simplified policy speeches of Dr. Adenauer, always a pragmatist.'

Indeed, the genial Bavarian surprised Swiss industrialists when he addressed them in St. Gallen. The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* of 16 January, 1962, gave a good sample of his philosophy when it quoted Erhard as saying on that occasion:

'It is not enough for the West to react to the challenges of Soviet Russia simply by pointing to its own free democratic order.

'What is needed is a new ideology, a confession of faith which makes even a man, who does not live in the free, advanced democracies, believe in their values.

'The West must realise,' said the man most credited with Germany's 'economic miracle', 'that booming prosperity and a flourishing consumer goods economy can lead to a state of satiation that can cripple the moral and spiritual strength of the free nations, and lead to their doom.

Statistics not enough

'It is not enough to try and meet Russian aggressiveness with statistics about production of consumer goods. The struggle with totalitarianism has to be carried forward on the moral and spiritual level. This struggle cannot be fought out with weapons alone, with economic strength, with technical efficiency and with the highest possible state of welfare.

'The essential thing is for the free world to strengthen the consciousness of those values which must not perish from the world if it is to be worth living in at all.'

Not long before this speech Dr. Erhard as Minister of Economics had had a 40-minute talk with General Ho Ying-chin in Bonn. General Ho, former Prime

Minister of mainland China, later head of the Strategic Planning Commission of the Republic of China, had stressed the importance of ideology for preserving freedom. It was even more necessary than economic and military measures, he told Erhard.

General Ho said that the reason the Chinese mainland was lost to Communism and that China was now divided was lack of a moral ideology in the past. Dr. Erhard told General Ho that he was looking for such an ideology for Germany.

In May this year Dr. Erhard wired a message of greeting to the cast of the play, *Space Is So Startling*, when they gave performances in his home town of Ulm. He again revealed some of his philosophy in his telegram: 'In the times we live in we need to direct our attention more and more away from the non-essential to the great questions of our age. This concerns everybody.

'What is common to all people is more important than what leads to conflicts of self-interest within a great nation and what divides nations from each other.'

Erhard does not share Adenauer's personal discipline and austerity. He probably holds the world championship at cigar-smoking. His Ministry of Economics reckons that he has smoked 13 miles of end to end cigars in the last 27 years—against Churchill's 13.3 miles in 60 years.

Smokeless Cabinet meetings under Chancellor Adenauer have given way to smoke-puffing sessions under Professor Erhard.

Refused to join Nazis

Son of a Protestant haberdasher in mostly Catholic Bavaria, Erhard got a distinguished degree at Frankfurt University, was wounded on the Western Front in World War I. He refused to join Robert Ley's Nazi Labour Front and lost his job.

This, however, helped him when the American Military Government were looking for men to run post-World War II Germany. He was made Minister of Economics in Bavaria.

Two years later he was Economics Adviser to the British and American Zone governments and in 1949 became Minister of Economics in Adenauer's first Federal Government.

A year previously he had conceived and carried out the currency reform which put the German economy on the high road to recovery.

That he can stand up for his convictions is shown by his reply to General Clay, then American Military Governor. Clay called him on the carpet for 'altering' the rationing system.

Erhard calmly replied, 'I haven't altered it. I have abolished it.'

THEY AIM TO CHANGE INDIA'S POLITICAL CLIMATE

A YEAR AGO the Chinese invaded India, and Indians rose as one to preserve their freedom.

The Chinese still threaten India, but India today is divided. A leading member of Mr. Nehru's Party said recently, 'We have a majority in every State. From the point of view of numbers we are safe. But there is a crisis. It is the moral crisis of division based on caste and linguism, power-seeking and corruption.'

A special report from New Delhi appeared last week in the New York *World-Telegram and Sun*. It was headlined, 'Gandhi Kin Leads New Moral Revolt'. 'Ever since Mahatma Gandhi died,' it stated, 'India has awaited a successor with the magic of his appeal to the masses of the East.'

'Last week a second Gandhi burst upon the Indian scene, polarizing public demand for a strong and united nation, and confronting China's Mao Tse-tung with what may prove to be his sternest challenge for the leadership of Asia.'

'He is the Mahatma's 28-year-old grandson, Rajmohan. Western-trained like his famous grandfather, Gandhi is no pacifist or neutralist. He believes military defence against aggression is essential. He believes that without a revolution of character in India, and a rebirth of faith and patriotism, freedom in that giant land is doomed.'

'Awaken will to fight'

'He is dramatizing this belief in a 3,400-mile March on Wheels now heading from Kerala in the South through eight states and 29 cities towards the capital of New Delhi in the North.'

'Rajmohan Gandhi is convinced that India needs a new national purpose. "India, not China," he says, "must become the dynamic, revolutionary nation of this century. We plan to awaken in our people the will to fight with every weapon available for the social and moral transformation of the modern world."'

Last week the March reached Hyderabad, capital city of one and a half million people, midway up the sub-continent. The blue, red and black buses carrying the force of Marchers from eleven nations, had then travelled over a thousand miles, accomplishing one third of their journey.

They had visited the textile centre of Coimbatore, where 160,000 people had jammed the streets to watch the March parade through, led by a Calcutta truck driver riding a gold-adorned elephant and carrying the Indian flag. They had passed through the military centre of Bangalore, and addressed officers and cadets at India's largest air base.

In Madras, headquarters of the film industry, stars whose names are a household word in India had promised to support Gandhi. Railway workers had

massed to hear him address them in the union yard.

The March was launched in Kerala, a State of fifteen million people, who once elected a Communist government. The division among the Communists' opponents made possible their victory.

M.P.s from Kerala have joined Gandhi in leading the March. An article in the widely-read *Sunday Standard* said: 'Political leaders from Kerala who are at the forefront of this March across India were deeply divided. Their factional fights led to blood-letting in the streets of Kottayam. Their divisions poisoned the political climate of the State. Today they have united and helped to unite their party. Their aim is to bring about a revolution of character in this country.'

Thousands line route

100,000 people joined demonstrations in Trivandrum, the State capital, to launch the March. Thousands lined the route through the densely-populated countryside with its palms and paddy fields.

Daily reports appeared in eighteen newspapers of the State. The national and vernacular press and radio made the news known throughout India.

Every night's lodging, every meal, and cars and buses for the March, were given free by the people of Kerala. At every stop petrol for all the vehicles was given by citizens and firms. Students and workers gave annas and rupees as their contribution.

The response to the March in Kerala was assessed by R. Vaitheswaran, outstanding Indian intellectual, who spent two years in jail for taking part in an armed Communist insurrection. He compared Kerala to Yenan, the remote province from which Mao Tse-tung took over all mainland China.

'The support of the Kerala masses convinces me,' he said, 'that just as Yenan brought Communism to China, so Kerala will bring Moral Re-Armament to India.'

'Struggle in streets and villages'

A few days ago Vaitheswaran spoke with Gandhi to a mass rally in Hyderabad. 'The real battle in this struggle will not be fought on the Chinese border,' he said, 'but in the streets, cities and villages of India.'

On 20 October, National Solidarity Day, commemorating the anniversary of the Chinese invasion, *The Deccan Chronicle*, Hyderabad's biggest daily, wrote in its main editorial: 'We commend Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi's appeal to men and women to work for a revolutionary democracy capable of curing all ills of corruption, hunger, poverty and social and economic divisions.'

'All who love their country as fondly as he and are proud of her past greatness, will rally round the standard of M.R.A. and clean up the national character.'

'Southall—answer to Alabama'

OF THE 45,000 people who live in the London borough of Southall an estimated 8,000 are coloured, mainly Indians or Pakistanis. There has been racial tension, and front-page stories in the national press about it.

Residents complained of housing values being lowered. Parents demanded segregation in schools because, they said, illiterate immigrant children were debasing standards.

The Minister of Education visited a Southall school in person on 15 October. He refused to agree to segregation as a solution. Southall education authorities have organized classes for teaching immigrant children English. Many of these children turn out to be as bright, or brighter, than their British schoolmates.

Other steps are being taken to improve the racial climate.

The *Middlesex County Times* of 12 October reported: 'Indian Workers' Association President, Mr. Sardul Singh Gill, wants Southall to be "an answer to Alabama". He said so on Saturday night when he spoke to 150 local people at Lon-

don's Westminster Theatre.

'Addressing a group that had just watched *Through the Garden Wall*—the current Moral Re-Armament play—he said that if 4,000 Southall people could see it, it would create such a new spirit that the town's problems could be solved.

'And leading lady, Phyllis Konstam, explained it was the cast's conviction that the theatre was meant to create plays which resolved problems instead of creating them, and united humanity instead of dividing it.

Love and Hate

'Discussion took place at a reception held after the play, where actors met Southall visitors. They tasted Indian delicacies prepared by the daughter of a British naval commander who had lived in India.

'The play they saw told of love, hate, laughter and tears of two ordinary families and of two divided worlds. Commented one of the party: "It portrays the reality of the situation we know—and it shows how we can answer it."

'Disregarding colour barriers'

PROMINENT Africans, Indians and Europeans saw Peter Howard's play, *The Dictator's Slippers*, at performances this month in Durban, principal seaport of South Africa.

The play has already been given in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Stellenbosch, 'the home of Afrikanerdom' and other cities.

The Natal *Daily News* wrote on 8 October, 'Behind the South African production of *The Dictator's Slippers* lies an encouraging story of determination and disregard of artificial colour barriers.

'The cast is, with one exception, non-European, and the play was initially performed in the African townships of Johannesburg.

'It was seen there by a group of students from Stellenbosch University, who were so struck by it that they arranged to take the company to

Stellenbosch.

'There, they met opposition from the municipality. Africans were not allowed to perform in the City Hall, the only suitable venue for the production.

'The nature of the play itself overcame all opposition—and a unanimous decision of the council allowed its performance.'

Durban has the biggest Indian population in South Africa. It was here that Mahatma Gandhi, as a young man, first emerged as a leader of his people.

The Leader, national Indian newspaper, described *The Dictator's Slippers* as 'a play with a vital message for South Africa.'

Ilanga Lase, the African paper, wrote, 'This is a play that seeks a solution to the racially prejudiced South Africa; and could not have

Bangalore, India—Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team, has joined Gandhi's 'March on Wheels'. He was given a 'big ovation' in Bangalore, where 'the crowd exceeded the wildest of anticipation of the promoters', reported *Indian Express*. Later he addressed the South Indian Film Chamber in Madras.

Tokyo—Students of Waseda University, which provided leaders for the anti-American riots in 1960, crowded in to see the play, *Beyond Communism to Revolution* in the auditorium where Robert Kennedy, Adenauer, Nehru and other statesmen have spoken. Communists, who had tried to stop students coming by leaflets and banners, started jeers and shouts in the theatre. They were silenced by the play's power and applauded loudly at the end. Students gave money to further world moral re-armament.

Madras—India's first Governor General after independence, C. Rajagopalachari, maternal grandfather of Rajmohan Gandhi, led a gala reception for the trans-India march.

Los Angeles, U.S.A.—Mayor S. Yorty, the President of the City Council, diplomats and film stars welcomed the cast of *Space Is So Startling* at a civic reception. The Mayor designated 14-21 October 'Space Is So Startling Week.'

Quebec—Students militant in the movement to separate French-speaking Quebec from Canada have attended the play *El Condor* in large numbers. A Quebec Catholic editor commented: 'There is great turmoil at the university. This play is a success beyond anything I dreamed possible. You have come at exactly the right time.' The cast were invited to address the student body next day.

been presented at a more opportune moment, taking into consideration political unrest in the country.'