



MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

'THE DIPLOMATS'
WEST END PREMIÈRE, 31 DECEMBER
WESTMINSTER THEATRE

*A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
to all our readers*

WHAT QUALITIES ARE NEEDED IN 1964?

WHAT QUALITIES are required of the men and women of 1964?

Our world has swept past the place where just to uphold the old is an adequate policy for a nation. We need a revolution that works and wins.

The future belongs to the men and women of revolutionary temper who steadily assault social sin, economic injustice, class conflict and human hates till these evils yield before the power of a purpose that changes men and unites them.

There is a secret of kindling consciences, harnessing hopes, mobilising minds, so that paper plans take shape in people, blueprints become the bricks and mortar of homes, schools and hospitals, and ideas in the heads of experts bring work to men's hands and pay to their pockets.

The three thousand million men, women and children for whom we must now think and plan will be six thousand million before our century's end.

Will these mounting millions grow together into one human family of God's sons and daughters, or will they swell two or more vast rival systems whose highest hope is to avoid the hell of conflict?

Men and management in the shipyards, factories and mines have shown that Moral Re-Armament provides the most practical of all incentives to modernise Britain in the next ten years. Evidence proves that morally rearmed men answer unemploy-

ment, un-economic production, unfulfilled delivery dates, and the class war in industry which is so costly to our prosperity and our people.

A boilermaker from one of the yards said, 'MRA creates character. Character creates craftsmanship. Craftsmanship creates work.'

In the speed and certainty of our advance we can slough off those satirists and intellectuals whose aim is to enfeeble faith and crush down character.

It is from faith and character that our national wealth, material and spiritual, springs, and such men are blind to the social and economic results of the programme of dirt and moral confusion they call 'progress'.

1964 will be a year of choices.

We need men who will prefer being patriots to being popular.

We need men who love their countries as they are, and who decide that they will live to make them what they should be and can be.

New Year Assembly in London

A NEW YEAR ASSEMBLY from 28 December to 6 January will be held in London on the theme, 'A revolution that works and wins'. Delegates are coming from France, Germany, Holland, Switzerland and other countries. From Scandinavia a charter plane brings 90 in addition to the Nordic cast of the play *The Wind Is Shifting*, which has been at work in Germany.

The Assembly will meet at 10.15 a.m. each morning in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on 28, 30, 31 December, and on 1, 3, 4 January, and in the Ballroom of the St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, on 2 January. Sunday morning sessions will be at 10.30 a.m. and will be held in the Westminster Theatre.

We need men set to make their countries into countries governed by men governed by God. Nations that will not rest till every man, woman and child on the earth has a job to do, food to eat, a place to live, clothes to wear, culture that enriches leisure, and a life guided by ideas that wholly satisfy.

To chart the course of this revolution that works and wins is the aim of a New Year Assembly to be held in London.

'The Diplomats' — pre-London press reviews

“DIPLOMATS” Scores a Success’ was the headline in the *Northern Despatch* of 10 December reporting the pre-London première of Peter Howard’s new play in the Civic Theatre, Darlington, County Durham.

The *Middlesbrough Gazette* wrote, ‘Howard has wisely spiced his play with comedy . . . he has supplied a plot that lends itself naturally to biting wit. The cast of nine deal with it admirably. They create some finely developed characterizations. The direction is dramatically handled.’

The *Darlington and Stockton Times* of 14 December wrote, ‘The full house was held enthralled by a production that had poise, polish and had obviously been rehearsed down to the last detail . . . If Darlington’s thunderous applause is anything to go by, *The Diplomats* will be successful when it opens at London’s Westminster Theatre immediately after Christmas. The presentation was of an order Darlington has not seen for at least thirty years.’

Mr. Peter Howard writes in the programme for *The Diplomats*’ London opening:

‘Joan Littlewood is reported in the Press as saying,

“The theatre is the opposite of religion and the Cross.” If religion and the Cross are taken to mean influences that hold man to the best and highest of which he is capable, I am the opposite of Joan Littlewood.

‘Consciously or unconsciously people imitate what they see on the stage. If they see men behave like animals, hear barnyard morality extolled, watch jungle violence glorified behind the footlights, they go out into the streets more animal-like than when they went in.

‘There is more in man than a beast wearing clothes in daylight. Man’s spirit is meant to dominate his flesh. The future of civilization depends on whether man accepts his destiny of soul and conscience, or whether he rejects faith, God, absolutes of right and wrong, and decides to be a cruel, cunning creature of his lusts and desires.

‘In recent years the theatre, as well as some of its critics, has contributed greatly to the demoralisation of our times.

‘I want to see the British theatre once more play its part in restoring honour to homes, unity between colours and classes, and to all men faith in God.’

Gandhi leads campaign against corruption

IN INDIA there is a swelling cry against corruption. The dramatic march of Rajmohan Gandhi from Cape Comorin to New Delhi provoked and sustained this justified demand of millions for public honesty. This was continued and sharpened by the MRA Delhi Assembly of Nations which Gandhi moved from the palatial Vigyan Bhavan Conference Hall to the streets, convocation halls, press offices, hospitals, factories and homes in order to reach the people where they live and work. He termed it an ‘Assembly on legs’.

Gandhi and delegates from 22 nations spoke out on every platform offered. Sessions were held with the Parliamentary Congress Party and other political and trade union groupings, both Praja Socialist and Communist.

Politicians and officials, long uneasy with the growing corruption, made a start to clean things up. In Delhi 35,000 municipal employees took a pledge of honesty. A member of the Municipal Council began a fast against bribery. The Government set up an independent vigilance committee to investigate corruption in government service, and a public grievance committee. The Congress Party set up a watchdog committee to keep check on the Planning Commission.

The Tribune, largest newspaper of North-West India, published in the Punjab, carried the headline ‘Surrender Dishonest Earnings’ and reported Peter Howard as saying, ‘An honesty pledge means little or nothing unless it is backed by the depositing with the Government of

money earned through dishonest means.’

Delhi University students started campaigns for honesty in college examinations. Girls were honest with their directress about previous cheating. Boys paid back money to the Delhi Transport Company for unpaid rides. (4,300,000 in India were reportedly caught last year travelling without tickets.) Cutting classes was frowned on as a waste of taxpayers’ money.

Gandhi’s call for 10,000 revolutionaries for national reconstruction is being answered by the youth. Thousands of students have turned in their names and are ready to report to Gandhi’s summer camp for training.

Dr. C. Rajagopalachari, one of India’s shrewdest political thinkers and first Governor-General, hailed these efforts to fight the nation’s materialism—a materialism indirectly encouraged, he said, by ‘quarters carrying great weight’.

General I. Sugita, former Chief of Staff of the Japanese Ground Defence Forces, said the conference had opened the door to closer co-operation between the Indians, the Australians and the Japanese in the solving of Asia’s social and economic problems. He is supported by Australian political and government leaders attending the conference.

Thirty-four Japanese, led to India by General Sugita, this week take *Across the Rubicon*, their drama dealing with bribery and corruption, on tour of the major cities of the most populous state, Uttar Pradesh, which has a population of 75 million.

WHAT COURSE FOR KENYA?

by our special correspondent

At midnight on 11 December, the ceremonial raising of the new Kenya flag marked the moment of Independence after 68 years of British rule. Before a crowd of 250,000 people, 1,200 tribal dancers in their traditional costumes weaved, stamped and leapt around the arena to the rhythm of African drums.

The huge audience roared its welcome to Independence as the flag was slowly raised while the massed bands played the new National Anthem, 'Ee Mungu Nguvu yetu ilete baraka kwetu'—'O God of all Creation bless this our land, our Nation'.

The Queen sent a message of congratulation which was read by Prince Philip: 'I pray that, with God's guidance, Kenya may prosper and that her people may enjoy peace and contentment in full measure. Together as one nation you can prove to the world that it is possible for people of different races and creeds to live together in one country in peace and harmony.'

'Devils or Angels?'

The Prime Minister replied in Kiswahili. Kenya's friendship with Britain, he said, would now be 'heartfelt, greater than that which had been previously imposed'.

'Some people are asking "Where will your Uhuru (Freedom) lead? Will Kenya choose the East or the West, the Devils or the Angels?"' Amidst cheering and applause, pointing the directions with his fly-whisk he stated, 'The aim of my Government will be not to go to the East or West, the Left or Right, but we will take the straight road ahead!'

Throughout this, his first speech as Prime Minister of an independent Kenya, he underlined the qualities and conditions needed to build the new nation. 'Some people think that from now on free wealth will pour down from Heaven. There will be nothing of the sort. We must all work hard to liberate ourselves from the slavery of poverty, disease and ignorance.'

'Forgive mistakes'

At one point he turned to the state guests, asking for their forbearance if in the future 'any mistakes arise'. 'If we make mistakes,' he said, 'be you black, white or brown, please forgive us. We are human beings and it is human to err.'

On the eve of Independence, the *East African Standard* carried a full page headlined, 'Beyond Independence'. It has been contributed at this time by men and women of Kenya with the conviction that this new nation's future security, prosperity and contribution to the rest of the world lies in Moral Re-Armament. One of its authors is the only brother of the Prime Minister.

It states, 'We must move beyond Independence into a

revolution of character where free men without violence can create a revolution more rapid, more radical, more permanent than that produced by the violence of totalitarians of any kind; a revolution which all generations, black, white, brown and yellow will want to follow.'

Prominent in the window of every bookshop and on every news-stand is the quarterly pictorial, *New World News*, with an article 'Mr. K. of Africa' by Peter Howard.

Gift to guests

With the co-operation of the Government and with the Prime Minister's approval every state guest received a copy of *New World News* on arrival in Nairobi. The international press corps of 250 journalists and photographers who are here to cover the Independence celebrations also received copies through the press headquarters.

The all-African film *Freedom* in Swahili was telecast, for the second time, at the request of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The task ahead is formidable. The Kenya Government is committed to the creation of an East African Federation. In the North Eastern Region there is the explosive frontier dispute with Somalia and closer home the task of employing and creating a part in the nation's life for the men leaving the forest, the youth whose initiative and drive was the spur in the Independence struggle, and the thousands of unemployed.

Lesson to world

The most repeated conviction in Kenya during these days has been, 'Thank God for Mzee—the Elder. He is the only man who could have brought the country united to this stage.'

The *East African Standard*, in an editorial 'Independence Eve' on 11 December, recalled 68 years of Kenya's history and wrote, 'There has been a truly wonderful response to Mr. Kenyatta's doctrine of forgive and forget. The African capacity to do this in the Kenya of today is a lesson in toleration to the whole world.'

As *The Economist* on 14 December stated, 'This is not to say that the job is done and the barometer set fair for Kenya. Its continuing needs, of both friends and technical assistance, are great and in several respects still growing. But anyone who four years ago surveyed the economic and political prospects for Kenya after Independence could not fail this weekend to be heartened beyond measure.'

The future now depends on the decisions of thousands of ordinary men and women of Kenya, as well as the understanding and assistance of peoples outside this, the 34th Independent State in Africa.

'Biting the bulldog'

SENNET, London University Union paper, on 3 December reviewed *Britain and the Beast* under the above headline. The review, by Monica Tyack, said in part:

"Like it or lump it, you cannot remain indifferent to it. For it is a book of facts—uncomfortable facts.

"'Is man spirit, or only a beast?' That, says Howard, is the question of our age.

"In colourful though not complimentary manner Howard describes the Beast; "He is a cunning, vicious, dangerous beast. He has learnt tricks. He has thermonuclear teeth below the earth and his claws span the sky in space capsules. His females have learned to wear wigs for his delight, to paint lips, cheeks, toes, eyes till they are the colours of a mandrill's backside, to drown their natural scent with false and dazzling odours."

"But Howard cogently argues for man the spirit. He unashamedly believes in Britain's greatness which does not lie, he writes, in "bulging banks and bellies, those twin goals of a Bingo Age and Affluent Society",

but "in the character of British men and women".

"Under the heading "Workers and Shirkers" the author tackles the national sloth which gives hard work a bad name and loses orders to other countries. "The shadow of unemployment," he writes, "could be lifted from every home in Britain in six months."

"Howard gives chapter and verse on the debunkers of patriotism and the purveyors of the new morality. He adds, "Nowadays the soft oil of flattery is preferred by most Britons to the salt of truth. Those who cringe to the Establishment are praised as patriots. Those who cross the current of the times are accused of disloyalty and treachery. In an age when men refuse to fight the moral battle of life, moral cowards are called progressive."

"He seeks to cure a sick society. Accurate in his diagnosis, skilful with the surgeon's knife, he goes to the root of the malaise. Whatever your background or philosophy of life you cannot ignore the truth and timeliness of Howard's book."

'Change character of the BBC'

'BBC Accused of "Low Moral Standards"' was a headline in the *Daily Telegraph* on 9 December. The paper's reporter wrote: "The BBC was strongly criticised by several speakers at a weekend Assembly for National Character in Sheffield City Hall.

"Dr. E. Benson Perkins, former secretary of the World Methodist Council, said everything the BBC did should be worthy of a Christian country. It should not sneer at what was right.

"A Scottish miner, Mr. Alec Martin, yesterday declared that BBC television should be used as an education instrument rather than "a purveyor of filth", and Mr. Roland Wilson, London secretary of Moral Re-Armament, said: "We

have got to change the heart, voice and character of the BBC in this next year."

The Times headlined its report of the Assembly on 8 December, 'The New Morality is Baalism'. After quoting Dr. Perkins it said, 'A resolution seeking an end of atheism, corruption and perversion was passed unanimously. The proposer, Mr. Michael Hallows, Headmaster of the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, stated: "Baalism has reared its ugly head today in our land. It is called the 'new morality'. It masquerades as advanced thinking among the intellectuals." The answer was not pop music in church but purity in the home.' (Baalism was the worship of sex in ancient times).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia—Australia's ABC Television service reported Gandhi's March across the Nation with news-reel shots and in its radio news services. An Associated Press story carried in the *Canberra Times* said, "Rajmohan Gandhi, 28, has the 'do-or-die' spirit of his great grandfather."

Los Angeles, U.S.A.—The *Herald Examiner*, 3 December, reported the launching by young Americans of a 'moral revolt against the landslide of character.' The paper says they have put on 'a new three-act play, *Across the River*, which powerfully dramatizes this.'

Sao Paulo, Brazil—Three leading Rio papers reported an 'unprecedented' meeting, under MRA auspices, of 300 representatives of the 1,200,000 people of the 'Favelas', the shanty towns of Rio and Sao Paulo. With state authorities present the meeting's purpose was to solve the social and housing problem.

Springs, South Africa—*The Dictator's Slippers* play was received enthusiastically in Kwa Thema, African township of Springs, the gold-mining centre. It was here that the City Engineer, trained in MRA, pioneered large-scale African-built housing to end shanty towns and provided a national pattern whereby two million Africans were rehoused in low-rent four-room cottages with private fenced gardens.

Helsinki, Finland—Members of Parliament arranged a performance of *The Ladder* by Peter Howard. It was attended by 25 M.P.s of different parties and by representatives of national television.

Quebec, Canada—30,000 have seen the Latin American play *El Condor* in French Canada. The Quebec Minister of Family and Social Welfare invited the play to his own constituency, the industrial city of Sherbrooke.