

GUYANA: what lies ahead?

by Andrew dos Santos, 19, student at the Government College for Teachers, Georgetown

OUR NATION is now independent. The festivities are over, the people have gone back to work. We have won our freedom—but with the country still in a state of emergency. What lies ahead?

Prime Minister Burnham is faced with the task of building unity in a country divided racially. Ninety-eight per cent of the 199,000 Negroes support Burnham's Government, which is in shaky coalition with the minority party of Peter D'Aguiar. There are 320,000 East Indians, most of whom follow Dr Cheddi Jagan, leader of the left-wing People's Progressive Party, closely allied with Cuba. Then there are the Amerindian, Portuguese, Chinese and European minorities.

Burnham took over from Jagan in 1964 at a time when racial clashes, bombings and riots were rampant. As Leader of the Opposition, Jagan has

launched boycotts, marches, and repeated protests against the state of emergency under which some of his followers have been placed in detention. His party boycotted most of the Independence celebrations, as well as the Queen's visit in February.

Upon a people who are torn by racial feelings, personal ambition and greed, lies the task of building a national character and presenting a national identity to the world. Burnham realises this. He is searching for a common aim big enough to weld the different races into one nation. At present the country lacks any such aim. We need economic aid, we desperately need trained manpower. But most of all we need a national purpose big enough to answer hate and greed. Without it we face dictatorship, either of the right or of the left, which would once again plunge

the country into bloodshed. We are tired of this.

We believe that a big enough national purpose can be found through Moral Re-Armament.

Earlier this year Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team, came to our country. He gave us a vision of what Guyana could do for the world if we were prepared to pay the price of change in our lives first. Many of us youth decided to accept his challenge.

One East Indian girl says, 'I felt superior to all Negroes until I met Moral Re-Armament, when I realised that my attitude was causing division. I apologised for my arrogance and am now fighting to heal the hate in our country.'

A student of Portuguese descent says, 'I used to blame the other races for all the riots and bloodshed, but when I decided to apply absolute moral standards to my life, I realised that I was as much to blame because of the way I was living. We can find unity only on the basis of MRA.'

We've decided to get into action. Two hundred of us of all races from 20 Georgetown secondary schools have produced a musical show which we call *Get Going Guyana*. Through it we forcefully demonstrate the task and challenge—the need for hard work, sacrifice and moral standards. Next we held a conference with the theme 'Gearing Guyana for Independence', during which the show was presented for the many prominent citizens who came to address the conference.

After seeing the show the Governor, Sir Richard Luyt, said, 'What I have

Negroes and Indians sing in 'Get Going Guyana'.
photo: Schutz



GERMANY

OVER TWO THOUSAND German youth are now participating in Sing-Outs in the cities so far visited by the American cast of *Sing-Out '66*. Through these shows the Germans will demonstrate MRA as the idea for their nation and the world. Seventy-seven young men and women, selected from the nine German Sing-Outs so far started, are now travelling with *Sing-Out '66*.

The Socialist Lord Mayor of Wuppertal told the Americans, 'I would like you particularly to contact all our youth. When the youth of America and the youth of Europe unite on the basis of the themes you sing—*Freedom Isn't Free* and *Up With People*—then I have no doubt about the future of the world.'

Last Saturday night the British Forces Network broadcast a one-hour recording of *Sing-Out '66* for North Germany and Berlin.

BRAZIL

LAST WEEK the Brazilian musical, *Dynamite '66*, was seen by thousands of university and high school youth

in Petropolis (100 miles north of Rio) during school hours.

O Jornal, the principal paper of the city, carried a front page picture of the cast with the caption, 'Musical enroute to major cities, like *The Tiger*'. *The Tiger* was an MRA play, written by Japanese students, and credited by Marshal Tavora with helping to avert civil war in Brazil in 1961. The article goes on to say that *Dynamite '66* 'reveals the eagerness of youth to bring something completely new into the world in modern rhythm, and surpasses the barriers of race, religion and politics.'

The presentation shows that MRA is 'committed to bring moral standards to the Brazilian youth and freedom from the negative forces which are contaminating a large part of the youth of the world,' the paper reported.

JAPAN

LET'S GO '66, a musical produced by Japanese youth, was performed last week in an American military hospital near Tokyo.

After the show a soldier, injured in the Vietnam war, said, 'With young people like you from Japan and us here giving everything to the idea you represent we shall build a new world. We are most encouraged to see the kind of youth who are determined to preserve freedom.'

FINLAND

FINNISH STUDENTS are campaigning against hate and bitterness as factors in the national life. During the height of examinations twenty-eight students produced *The Ladder* and are now presenting this play through north east Finland.

The student body president of Kajaani Teachers' Training College introduced the première performance: 'Through our action we want to build a generation that matches the task before us.' Finland needed, he said, decisive men to make her a country where hate and bitterness are no longer power factors.

The principal of the college, praising the action of the students, said, 'We live in a dangerous time of transition where no one can be a bystander. Youth can affect the course of history. I am extremely glad that we have in this college an active force like this.'

The students plan to present *The Ladder* in other areas of Finland.

INDIA

A LEADER of the Naga people who are in conflict with the Central Government of India, last week urged MRA to come to Nagaland. He did this in Bombay after seeing the musical *India Arise*, called by the *Indian Express* 'the greatest musical staged by an Indian troupe.'

The Naga said if the Central Government took this play to the North East the spirit and ideas in it could resolve the problem between Nagaland and New Delhi. The training and dedication of the young Indians in the cast 'could do very great things not only for Nagaland but for all the peoples of the North East,' the leader said.

India Arise is being presented by Indian youth in Bombay's most modern theatre. The 'pièce de résistance' of the show, according to the *Indian Express*, is the 'Jhansi Ki Rani' declamation, set to music and rendered with intense passion and magnificent rhetoric.'

Jhansi Ki Rani was a heroine and princess of Indian history. Her story is sung by Alka Mahadkar, a young Indian woman selected for an Everest expedition which she declined in order to give priority to her work with Rajmohan Gandhi's *India Arise* campaign.

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seen and heard here is an indication of what will take this country forward into Independence'. Two cabinet ministers saw the show. One of them said, 'I am absolutely certain that with these young men and women we can be assured of a really great Guyana.'

The other man was the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Ptolemy Reid, who told us, 'It is a very good sign that you are now pointing to us, the adults of this country, our duty to Guyana, because for too many years people who ought to have been involved in this struggle for freedom, this attempt to make Guyana a better place, to get Guyana going, instead of tackling these tasks have avoided doing so. That is why I am so impressed when you put over your theme *Get Going Guyana*, because we will have to wipe out a lot of laziness

and idleness before Guyana can really get going.'

Last week in the Independence parade in Georgetown the crowds sang *Freedom Isn't Free* as the cast marched through the streets. Many marched with them shouting, 'the Prime Minister must hear this.' Other songs from the show were sung at the raising of the flag of Independent Guyana in the National Park. Extracts from the musical have been broadcast repeatedly over the radio.

Now that we are independent we want to make Moral Re-Armament our policy. We have decided to sacrifice our time to hit every last man in this country with this unifying revolution. We believe that race war is as out of date as class war. With its different races and religions Guyana can demonstrate a new way for Cuba, and North and South America.

He was a century ahead of his time

As fresh moves are made towards Christian unity, we publish here part of a recent talk on an important element in Catholic tradition. Fred Ladenius, who works on the editorial staff of 'Osservatore Romano', was speaking to the MRA Assembly at Caux earlier this year. Ladenius said:

ALPHONSE GRATRY, priest, philosopher and revolutionary, had his eyes turned towards heaven and his feet planted firmly on the ground. Though he lived a hundred years ago, he is more modern than many of us. A contemporary of Karl Marx, he gives a challenge to the young generation today. He was a forerunner, that is one who goes ahead and reaches the destination while others are only on the way.

Born at Lille in 1805 and ordained in 1835, he became five years later Principal of Stanislas College in Paris. Later he was elected to the French Academy. He died at Montreux in 1872.

What change meant

Throughout his life he firmly believed in the coming rebirth of society. Before those who wished to follow him he set a great aim. 'The world,' he wrote, 'which you wish to transform in the ways of justice, does not change because you have not changed yourselves. The world can

change, however, if you change.' Change meant for Gratra applying an absolute moral standard. In his commentary on St Matthew he set out the four essential aspects of that absolute standard: 'First grace, then purity, thirdly honesty in all you say, and finally the love which gives and gives itself without limit.'

Like Augustine, Francis de Sales, Theresa, Alphonso and Joan of Arc, Father Gratra had found out a secret which enables any man to rise to take on his responsibilities to the world. This is how in his book *The Springs* Gratra has shared that secret with us:

'The time comes for you to put into practice Christ's words: "You are not to claim the title of Rabbi; you have but one Master, and you are all brethren alike." Now you must have God as Master.

'Here is the practical way to grasp what God our Master wants to teach you. God is the universal light that lights every man coming into the world. Do you believe that? If you believe that you have in you a Master

who desires to transmit to you eternal wisdom, then just as you would speak to a man standing in front of you, say to Him with the same determination and decisiveness. "Master, speak to me, I am listening to you." You must then listen to God. To hear Him, you must be silent, listening for God.'

An hour a day

Similarly, St Francis de Sales, in his *Introduction to the Dedicated Life*, asks the reader to welcome willingly every inspiration which God is pleased to send him. He advises him to devote to this listening at least an hour a day; if possible at the beginning of the day, when his mind will be fresh after the night's rest and less distracted. It is above all necessary, he insists, that after the time of quiet you carry with you the decisions you have made so as to put them into practice throughout the day.

St Theresa would hear her Lord say to her, 'There are so many souls to whom I would love to speak, but the world makes so much noise inside

'You are the ambassadors of goodwill', says Cardinal Gracias of Bombay. Entertaining the casts of 'Sing-Out Australia' and 'India Arise' in his residence, he said, 'The spirit of MRA is very infectious. Whether through song, instrumental music or dance, your entertainments are so healthy, particularly for the mind and soul.'

photo: Channer



ADENAUER:

'Make MRA a reality in every nation'

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them that My voice cannot make itself heard.'

St Alphonso also emphasizes that at least half an hour of quiet reflection is needed if you mean business in spiritual life. He adds that with two half-hours you are sure of an intensely active life of the spirit. The early morning, he believes, is clearly the best time for it.

St Augustine used to say that the eternal wisdom is continually speaking to creatures endowed with reason and that there is a continual ferment of our reason in us.

Continual ferment

St Augustine began his *Soliloquies* with these words, 'I was a prey to a thousand different thoughts. For several days I had tried very hard to find myself, to know what evil I should avoid. Suddenly I heard myself saying, "If you find what you are seeking, what will you do with it? With whom will you share it before going on to something else?" "I will keep it in my memory," I answered. "But can your memory keep everything that your mind has seen?" "Certainly not." "Then you must write."

'*Ergo scribendum est*'. St Augustine's conclusion is repeated by Gratry. 'Is not God constantly speaking just as the sun is always giving light?' wrote Gratry. 'Ask him for help and strength to find what you seek. Then write it down, so that what your heart has conceived may inspire and strengthen you.'

The practice of quiet and of listening to God is not a monopoly of us Catholics. It is for that reason a very important meeting point for all who believe in God as Father and Creator.

THE MEETING advertised to take place tomorrow 5 June in the Royal Commonwealth Society, London, has been postponed.

AS THE DEBATE on the future of America in Europe increases, Dr Konrad Adenauer told *Sing-Out '66* and the German press last week, 'Europe needs America, but America also needs Europe'.

Receiving the *Sing-Out* cast in the Bundesrat (Upper House), he said, 'The most important thing to do today is to make the principles of Moral Re-Armament a reality in private and public life in every nation.'

The 150 young Americans in the musical are in Germany on the invitation of the Chancellor, Dr Ludwig Erhard.

Dr Adenauer continued, 'You are fighting for freedom. Only those who have lost it know how great is its value. We Germans once had lost our freedom and we regained it, thanks to the help of the United States to whom we shall always be grateful. Do carry these values of freedom right across the continent and right across Germany.'

'Humanity is facing very hard years

and you can only face what is ahead if you, yourself, are convinced of the value of the principles for which you stand. You stand for the principles of Moral Re-Armament and I wish with all my heart that in all nations, in private and public life, these principles will again be made regnant.'

In concluding he repeated again, 'I do want to say, stay faithful to these principles of Moral Re-Armament and wherever you go, as effectively as you can, make these principles a reality in every nation. That is the most important thing to do.'

John Ruffin from Virginia said the young Americans were counting on the youth of Germany to give their generation in the world a new sense of purpose.

America must stand firm for freedom on every continent. 'But more than that we must go on the offensive with an idea that results in a greater involvement and a greater responsibility than ever before,' Ruffin said.

National TV campaign in US

ONE OF THE LARGEST campaigns ever undertaken on American TV has begun. It is a one hour colour spectacle of *Sing-Out '66* broadcast this week in the Washington, Baltimore and Los Angeles areas which have a combined population of 20 million. This TV special, called *Up With People*, was shown for five consecutive nights this week in each area at peak listening hours. It is sponsored by the Schick Corporation.

Between 30 May and 1 July it will be shown in the major cities across America with a potential viewing audience of over 100 million.

The live show has been seen by two and a half million on three continents. The *Sing-Out '66* cast have travelled

41,000 miles. In their wake 53 new *Sing-Outs* have sprung up in America. This action by young Americans is a bid to enlist an entire new generation in the moral re-armament of the world.

The 33 rpm record, *Up With People*, is being sold in thousands of supermarkets, drugstores and music shops from coast to coast. During the week of the telecast in the main 24 cities of the USA, 30 to 60 spot announcements per day will be given in each city for both the record and TV show.

The record is on sale in Britain from 4 Hays Mews, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. Price 40s post free.