

Whose business is the crisis?

By DONALD SIMPSON

BRITAIN is passing through one of her deepest crises for many a year. It is too late in the day to argue about who is to blame. It is a sheer waste of time. Besides, if you can tack the blame on someone else, you don't need to do a darn thing about it.

Peter Howard once said, 'This is not a Labour mess we are in and it is not a Tory mess we are in. It is a British mess.' And every British man and woman will have to get us out of it.

The real culprit of the situation is the attitude that has been so common for so long—'I couldn't care less'. An understanding French journalist described our national mood a few weeks ago as one of 'total unconcern'.

This is how I feel about it. Britain is my country. I love it deeply—warts, creaking joints and all. Whatever happens in any part of these islands is my business. I am not prepared to be a by-stander while the life-blood of this country seeps into the sea leaving us small, pessimistic and half-dead.

Have a go!

If my child is knocked down in the street I will not wait for a representative of the government to sign a certificate for me to pick her up. She is my child. If my house goes on fire, I won't just sit around waiting for the fire-brigade. I will mobilise every neighbour with hoses, buckets and bowls. It is my home.

Why should I stand by when my country is in danger?

'Have a go' is not just good advice in helping the police deal with crime. It is our minimum responsibility as citizens.

I think of three friends who have tried it:

★ A plumber in the Midlands has made it his business to get the whole

nation rehoused. He and his mates regularly build 30 per cent more houses than the average gang—because they are aiming at something bigger.

★ A housewife in Northern Ireland made it her business to keep prices stable. In a crisis she had the courage to go up and down the queues saying, 'Don't buy these eggs at that price, it's profiteering.' The women didn't buy. And the prices came down.

★ A docker in the West Country has made it his business to modernise the attitudes of port employers, dockers and trade union officials alike. Last week on the radio the port manager reported that there was a new spirit in the docks.

Some time ago there was a costly industrial dispute. It was going to impoverish the whole country. I decided to have a go. To my surprise I had the chance within three weeks to give my convictions about the country to the chief protagonists on both sides.

I am convinced that if anyone is willing to pay the price and wants to do something about the national situation, he will certainly find the way.

There is a price. Centuries ago, at a time of crisis, the price of national survival for elected and electors alike was, 'clean hands and a pure heart.'

Men may hold sound and sincere principles, but if their hands are not



Tom Ham, executive member of National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' Union, talks to a visiting Dutch delegation (see article on page 4) in East Ham Town Hall. He describes the battle to modernise British industry. Photo: Strong

World looks to Britain

ROLAND WILSON, Secretary of Moral Re-Armament in Britain, speaking to clergymen in the Midlands last week, said:

I THANK GOD every day for our Christian heritage: for the bread of life whereby nations are nourished, and for the bold truth bearers, who give heart and hand and head and feet to the doctrines God Himself entrusted to us.

I have been far afield in these last months and I want to say with utmost emphasis that the heart of humanity is still hungry for the milk, meat and miracle which is in our storehouse, and no nation in the world can dispense it with greater effect than our own.

Mistakes we have made in plenty. But millions in Asia and Africa still think of us as friends from whom they hope and expect to receive ideas adequate for the future, as we gave them ideas in the past.

For this nation, above any other, has borne a fertile womb of ideas through the centuries. And perhaps

the greatest challenge we face today is the assumption by men of every race, class and colour in five continents that if we chose and decided to live to match this hour, we could make a contribution which might set new norms for the whole earth.

For the greatness of our creative genius is not shown by men's acknowledgements and credits to us, but by the fact that ways and ideas this island conceived are now flowing in the world's life blood and are deep in the bone and marrow of men everywhere. We have, in our best hours, been granted the art of producing elements which blend and become universal to man himself.

For men of faith this is not a boast but a challenge. For the Cross means to be responsible for the life of the world.

Our flag proclaims our load and our privilege.

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clean they just do not speak out. They sit paralysed when they should be on their feet.

As for a pure heart!

Why do some of the most sonorous appeals for sacrifice seem to fall on deaf ears? Is it the memory of men who have loudly called for sacrifice, but quietly have made none themselves?

Or is it that our national aims are just too small to command the sacrifice which many are ready to give?

My daughter is doing a school exercise on the subject of 'saints'. We have saints for breakfast and saints for tea! These daring, exciting people have won her liveliest interest. They have interested people for centuries because they enthusiastically gave everything. And they have enriched the lives of millions.

Britain has a major role to play in world affairs. If we refuse it, millions who have steadfastly believed in our guts and our humanity will starve without shelter and without hope.

If we accept our true role, humbly from God, we shall bring to men and women everywhere, not only the necessities of life, but also the com-

passion of a true family and the satisfaction of a faith that works. And we would tackle our national problems like a team fighting for the World Cup.

This is what makes me tick. I have never been much of a hand at waving a flag. But on this I am clear. If the faith and freedom of this country need my sweat and blood to keep them alive, you can count on me, night or day, in rain or shine.

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VISION NEEDED AS WELL AS HARD TRUTH

BRITISH PEOPLE SHOULD BE told the 'hard truth' said *The Times* last Saturday. 'The people have not feared hard truths in the past. It is bad political calculation to believe they will do so now.'

But what should that 'hard truth' be?

Clearly Britain today needs stringent economic measures and the Government has taken them. But is there not a more fundamental cure needed? *The Times* hints at it by saying the crisis is ostensibly financial but in reality is social.

Frank Buchman spoke truth that could be hard but also hope-giving for Britain today. 'Nations fail because they try desperately to combat moral apathy with economic plans . . . the material crisis may obscure the materialism and moral breakdown that underlie it, so the statesmen do not know how to cure it.'

Buchman said there could be no cure 'until we deal with human nature thoroughly and drastically on a national scale'.

Churchill gave 'hard truth' in 1940. But he also gave people vision.

Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma, recently said that Britain, with links in Asia and Africa which neither Russia nor America possess, could give a lead in seeking a 'cure for corruption, division and hate among the castes, tribes and races' in both the Communist and non-Communist world.

Britain would have to 'proclaim and live out a revolutionary society that neither America nor Russia had yet announced. A society with no room in it for hate, greed and self-absorption and with a special place for every man, whatever his background'. This would appeal to Washington and Moscow, Gandhi said, and to the slum dwellers of Asia.

At the national assembly for MRA, opening this weekend at Tirley Garth, Cheshire, there will be hard truth. But there will also be vision. The combination could set Britons on the go with a purpose stretching across the world.

BRIAN LIGHTOWLER



WHAT CAN STRENGTHEN BRITISH LINKS WITH THE MIDDLE EAST?

HARRY ALMOND writes on the visit of King Hussein of Jordan to Britain

THE STATE VISIT of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan to Britain comes at a time critical for both Britain and the Arab world. Britain, plagued by serious economic problems, is being told by many she should relinquish responsibility abroad and accept smallness as her fate, that she should, in fact, wash her hands of responsibility for that part of the world from which King Hussein hails.

King Hussein, whose Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is at the very centre of the Arab world, is similarly faced with grave problems. His visit here takes place at a time when his government, even his person, are under threat for several reasons, one of which is his sincere friendship for Britain.

But, although reasons of domestic political expediency would make it seem more prudent to postpone a visit to Britain, the stout-hearted young Jordanian monarch is holding to his course. His regard for Britain is real. His studies at Harrow and Sandhurst represent an unforgettable period in his life. His affection for Britain is founded not on the pomp and circumstance but on the basic soundness of character of the ordinary Briton.

To gain perspective one must recall that prior to the 1914-18 war the Arab world as we know it today and the present state of Israel had been for 400 years under Turkish rule. The Sultan in Istanbul was both Temporal Ruler of the Ottoman Empire and Spiritual Leader of Islam.

Egypt under Mohammed Ali had

broken away from the Sultan's hold, and during the First World War Cairo became the base of Allied operations for a thrust against the Turks from the South. Beginning in the Hejaz on the Red Sea where the Turkish grip was weakest, Allenby's campaign took the area from the Turks right up to the present Syrian border.

The Arab Army under Prince Feisal, King Hussein's great uncle, operated as Allenby's right wing, interfering with the railway that ran north and south along the edge of the desert and harassing Turkish garrisons.

The area roughly including the present states of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel, was promised by Britain to Prince Feisal's father, Sherif Hussein, in return for the support of the Arab Army in Allenby's campaign. Shortly thereafter Lord Balfour made the declaration in which he stated that His Majesty's government 'viewed with favour' the establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine, provided the rights of non-Jewish elements in the population of the territory were in no way adversely affected.

It was a curious wording, since the non-Jewish elements then represented 90% of the population. It was a promise which Britain had no right to make. Later the Sykes-Picot treaty came to light, which was in effect an agreement to divide the liberated Arab territories between spheres of French and British influence.

With this sad background the Arab

world was jig-sawed into administrative areas. Lebanon and Syria were mandated to France; and Palestine, Iraq and Transjordan, or Jordan, were entrusted to Britain for a period of mandate leading to self-government. In a belated effort to fulfill her promise of an independent Arab state, Britain established Prince Feisal in Baghdad as King Feisal I of Iraq, and his younger brother, Prince Abdullah, was installed as Ruler of Transjordan, later to become King of Jordan. He was King Hussein's grandfather.

When the enormity of their betrayal became apparent to the Arabs, disillusionment, bitterness and reaction followed. Some accepted their fate, saw realistically their own helplessness and determined to make the best of a bad deal. Others plotted and schemed, but no Arabs planned as effectively for their own eventual independence under the terms of the mandate as did Zionist Jews in Palestine and around the world for the establishment of Israel.

Thus in 1948, when the British mandate in Palestine expired, Zionism presented the State of Israel to the world as a *fait accompli* while the Arabs were in disarray. The twice-promised Holy Land was sundered by partition. Zionist troops more than held their own against Arab armies which were plagued by poor equipment, corrupt leadership and disunity. Nearly a million Arabs fled their farms and homes mistrusting Jewish assurances.

Today, eighteen years later, they

live for the most part in camps administered by UNRRA. Only in Jordan have the refugees been offered citizenship. Technically a state of war still exists between Arab and Zionist states. There are continual incidents along the UN-supervised truce lines.

In Iraq, Syria and Egypt, regimes tending to co-operate with the West in spite of injustices suffered have been violently overthrown. More conservative governments, aware of their weakness in the struggle between Communism and the free world, have thrown in their lot with Britain and America. Their choice has been largely determined by their Islamic faith.

They see the unfair treatment of which the Arab world has been victim as a failure of the West to live its professed faith and moral standards, which are in harmony with their own Islamic beliefs.

Communism they see as atheistic and fundamentally amoral, and therefore absolutely contradictory to Islam, however often the practice of Communism may appear to coincide with Arab aspirations. King Hussein represents this Islamic position.

On the other hand, revolutionary Arab leaders such as President Nasser feel that while in theory they may reject the atheism of Communism and accept the professed faith in morality of the West, in fact they find the practical politics of both quite different from their theories. For all her atheism, Russia has helped build the Aswan Dam, supplied arms and supported aspirations for independence in the UN.

The West, for all its lip service to Christian principle, has forced Israel on the Arab world, withdrawn prom-

ised help for the Aswan Dam and invaded Egypt in 1956. So the revolutionary wing of the Arab world judges the West by deeds rather than words and reluctantly turns to the Communist countries.

King Feisal of Saudi Arabia gave outward expression to the moderate position in his call for a conference of Islamic states several months ago. Jordan, Iran (a Muslim, though not an Arab state), Morocco, Libya, Sudan have indicated varying degrees of interest. The UAR and Syria have been outspoken in their opposition. Iraq less so.

King Hussein's Jordan is very much the focus of this ideological struggle in the Arab world. He has the longest frontier with Israel to defend. The more than 300,000 Arab refugees to whom he has offered citizenship raise a difficult problem of assimilation. The Palestine Liberation Organization, established at the summit meeting of Arab Heads of State in Alexandria in 1964, is almost a Palestine government in exile, authorized by the Arab Summit to raise a liberation army.

The way the PLO leader, Ahmed Shuqairy, has gone about this task in Jordan recently brought a just reminder from King Hussein that Jordanian subjects had one allegiance and that was to the throne. Shuqairy immediately called for 'loyal' Palestinians to oppose the Jordan government and even threatened King Hussein's life. This is where the matter stands today. The tension is critical.

This is the background of the Jordanian Royal visit to Britain. By coming here at this time, King Hus-

sein exposes himself to further attack at home.

He is acquainted with danger. One of the bullets which killed his grandfather, King Abdullah, in 1953 as he entered the Great Mosque in Jerusalem, ricocheted off a medal on young Hussein's tunic. There have been coups and plots and violent radio barrages laid down from Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad. The young monarch has survived all threats by bold action.

He has stated that he hopes he can be counted as a pioneer of moral rearmament. Speaking at joint graduation exercises for all Jordan's teachers' colleges recently, the King called on the graduates not to 'overlook the importance of moral and spiritual rearmament which maintains a delicate balance between the various needs of man and safeguards him from destruction by the very forces of science he tries to control.'

His presence in Britain viewed in the perspective of his faith in our common moral and spiritual heritage, poses a great challenge not only to Britain but to Christendom.

The issue is whether we will rise to that challenge, thrusting away the smallness born of moral compromise which alienates friend and enemy, and accepting leadership in a commonwealth of the spirit far vaster than the Empire Kipling saw fading in his latter days. And it is to be hoped that King Hussein's state visit to Britain will serve to strengthen the spiritual values which we in the West hold in common with the Arab world; and will not be allowed to accentuate political divisions.

Harry Almond and Marcel Grandy in audience with King Hussein in his Palace. They were his guests for two weeks. Photo : Albert



TRIPLE BASE FOR PROGRESS IN ASIA

JAPAN, INDIA and AUSTRALIA are, according to the Australian Foreign Minister, Rt Hon Paul Hasluck, 'three bases on which the tripod of progress for the future of Asia could rest'.

These nations believe in freedom as the basis of nationhood and have strong trade links.

In 1962 a third of Australia's exports went to Asia. Japan last year bought as much from Australia as Britain did. Japan needs Asian markets for her exports as well as the vast markets of the industrial Western Hemisphere. India needs Australian wheat and Japan is India's fourth largest trading partner, both for imports and exports.

But even more important are the ideological links. And these are being strengthened through the thrust of youth. The Australian Foreign Minister, in supporting the visit of *Sing-Out Australia*, the MRA musical, to India, said, 'Technical assistance, government conferences and negotiations are all necessary but are not by themselves enough. Human warmth and understanding are necessary. It is people that matter. Yours is a venture by people to meet people. It is because I value that above all other activities that I wish you success.'

Another Australian MP, K M Beazley, said this month that the musical was 'doing an essential work.'

'Plan for the whole continent', was the message of Masahide Shibusawa, MRA leader in Japan, speaking to youth from Japan, Korea, Thailand and Hong Kong, now meeting at Odawara outside Tokyo. He urged them to take Moral Re-Armament this year to Vietnam, Indonesia, Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Thailand.

Reports this week illustrate the further advances of this Asian co-operation.

JAPAN

MASAHIDE SHIBUSAWA paid a tribute to Korea, once Japan's bitter-

est enemy, when he opened the Odawara conference on 10 July. He praised the 'distinguished leadership which the nation of Korea showed recently through the Asian Ministers' Conference in Seoul'. With patience and maturity, Korea, he said, 'has led Japan and many other countries and succeeded in demonstrating a new pattern of continental diplomacy.'

Shibusawa told the young men and women from Asian countries: 'Plan your future with a bold theme and strategy like a general would plan his campaign. The whole of Japan—every town and village and the whole of Asia—all its capitals and countries, are your battlefield. Give the truth of life as you have learned it to these people with all your passion.'

'The joy and hope which you have discovered is born out of the right relation between God and man. God is trying to intervene in human history through your lives.'

Shibusawa ended by advising them: 'Keep your aim high and large. Be honest, be natural. The tide of history is rising in front of you. Ride on it and go as fast and far as you can go.'

INDIA

THE 'SING-OUT AUSTRALIA' musical was in action in Mysore, South Indian state of twenty-seven million, where Governor V V Giri, former national Minister of Labour, and the Legislative Assembly's Speaker received the cast. University students there are daily rehearsing their own new musical, *Sing-Out Bangalore*, with a cast of 450. High school pupils are learning the songs in schools and have created their own choreography for some of the scenes.

The young Australians have presented their show in the nearby Kolar Gold Field to managers, miners and engineers. The Kolar mines are some of the deepest in the world. Their 13,000 workers produce much-needed gold for India's economy.

A mine superintendent and engin-

eer, who had met members of the cast at Broken Hill mine in Australia, invited them to Kolar.

A new Indian musical, *Sing-Out Poona*, is having its first public performance soon in Poona, an educational and military centre.

CEYLON

CEYLON is plagued by racial and language divisions between Sinhalese, Tamils—who immigrated from South India—and Burghers of Eurasian descent. This week young men of Ceylon from the three communities have been jointly showing MRA films throughout the island.

Before a thousand students in Galle, Ceylon's fourth largest town, they declared their determination to answer race hate and make their country a model for Asia.

Joseph Mendis, a Sinhalese, told the audience, 'I used to hate Tamils and Burghers because I thought they were harming our country. When I saw the harm I was doing by the way I lived, I changed and lost my hatred of others'. A Burgher spoke after him, then a Tamil, who spoke in Sinhalese.

The Catholic Bishop of Kandy asked this week that MRA should train his students. Earlier at a youth camp he said, 'I put the Catholic youth movement at the disposal of MRA to fire our youth'. He said that Moral Re-Armament 'cuts through all the barriers.' It was 'doing a job in Ceylon which no sectarian community could do.'

The Chairman of the Port Cargo Corporation of Colombo held the sixth in a series of screenings of the Rio dockers' film *Men of Brazil* which he is showing to Colombo's 15,000 dockers, with the backing of the trade unions.

This film has also been seen by the Minister of Justice and Senators from Government and Opposition at the invitation of the President of the Senate.

at a glance

FRENCH WORKERS and engineers from the St Nazaire shipyards, where the liner *France* was built, last week saw Peter Howard's play, *The Ladder*. It was performed by youth from different parts of the country including sons and daughters of miners from the northern French coalfield. A trade union leader told them, 'You are the only force which succeeds in establishing a real dialogue in this area where conflict and division are rife.'

Members of Parliament and local authorities have invited the play to other towns in the industrial region of southern Brittany. A delegation of young Germans is taking part in the programme.

CANADIAN ARMY and Air Force bases and Royal Canadian Mounted Police have seen performances by one of three new casts of the musical, *Up with People*, this week. Two other casts, each of 200, have been giving performances at the world's largest military training base, in Lackland, Texas, and at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

At Lackland Air Force Base 12,000 airmen marched into the amphitheatre. In the middle of a special song written by the cast for the base

they suddenly lit their red flashlamps, which every airman carries, and waved them in rhythm with the music against the night sky.

ADMIRAL MURILO, Brazil's Chief of Naval Operations, and a thousand officers and ratings of the flagship *Almirante Barroso*, packed the afterdeck, guns, turrets and crows-nest to see a performance of *Dynamite '66* on board ship last week. The ship's commander, Admiral Milton Beduri Moreira, said, 'You must take this play to every city of Brazil.' The Admiral offered transport to all ports.

In Santos, thousands from the army, navy, airforce and police attended a performance of the play on Armed Forces' Day. Within half an hour of the end of the performance in the Coliseum Opera House soldiers were already rehearsing the songs for their own production.

SWITZERLAND'S WORLD CUP football team was welcomed by a special Swiss song as they entered the auditorium of Sheffield City Hall this week for 'Music of the North'. This concert, of traditional, classical and modern music, was given by the combined choirs of

Guyana's acting PM supports young nation builders

DR PTOLEMY REID, acting Prime Minister of Guyana, this week hosted an evening of MRA films at the Prime Minister's official residence.

After hearing the young men and women from the MRA musical *Get Going Guyana* speak, Dr Reid said, 'It is our hope that the youth of this country will catch your enthusiasm and spirit of self-sacrifice so necessary to build the nation. All must decide to make the necessary self-sacrifice to work with a common aim.'

Chesterfield and Grenoside, with the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, winner of the Edinburgh Festival band championship. All gave their services to aid the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre building fund.

The Yorkshire Friends of the Westminster Theatre arranged the concert as part of a campaign to raise £25,000 to furnish and equip the Arts Centre restaurant, for which Sheffield cutlery, silver and hollow-ware have been specified.

Answering youth riots



Ingrid van Stratum, 17, who is in the cast of 'Sing-Out Nederland' Photo: Strong

DUTCH YOUNG PEOPLE are not all 'provos' or anarchists who incite riots such as those that took place recently in Amsterdam. It is a few, many of them students, who ignite an explosive mixture of aimlessness and amorality in the minds and hearts of thoughtless thousands. These few get the radio and TV publicity and it inflates their egos to further efforts.

This is what a group of young Dutch at the national conference at Tirley Garth report. They themselves are taking action to set their nation's youth, 'provos' included, on a new task. A musical which they are developing, *Sing-Out Nederland*, shows how even the 'couldn't care less' type of 'provo' can be won to live purposefully for a new Netherlands.

The task, says 20-year-old Peter Wolvekamp, one of the delegation of thirty-three young Dutch, is to show young men and women that they can shape the future of their country.

'This musical', he says, 'is a weapon in the struggle to shake Netherlands youth out of laziness, cynicism and negative attitudes into a spirit of idealism, sacrifice and hard work.'

'Holland is a small country but it can give hope to the world by building up a society without barriers between age and youth, where sound families fulfil once again their indispensable role in forming the character of youth. From such families will arise leaders and statesmen who have found the answer to hate between races, classes and nations,' he says.