



People of many lands in the final scene of 'The Cowboys' Christmas' Photo: Strong

Conferences plan for 1967

THE CAST OF *It's our Country, Jack!* presented Cecil Broadhurst's *The Cowboys' Christmas* as the climax to a Festival of Christmas at the Westminster Theatre, London, on 18 December.

On 28 December they will leave by charter plane for Caux, Switzerland, where a conference with the theme 'Europe's Way Forward' has been called. Later in January *It's our Country Jack!* will begin a tour of Scotland (see page 2).

Over the Christmas and New Year period Moral Re-Armament conferences or action assemblies are also taking place in London; Melbourne, Australia (see page 3); Meisenhof, Ruhr, Germany; Santa Fe, USA; Nairobi, Kenya (see page 3); Swaziland in southern Africa and at Nordseter, Norway (see *Information Service* No 11).

The London New Year Assembly will begin on the evening of Friday, 30 December and will continue through Monday, 2 January. Its aim is to plan for a new spirit in British industry, especially the maritime industries—a development in which the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre will play an increasingly important part.

The conference will plan Britain's continuing role in Europe and the world through Moral Re-Armament.

The Santa Fe conference will be attended by the 600 youth in the three national casts of the MRA musical *Up with People*, and their families. At the conference new films, TV shows, books and Sing-Out campaigns will be initiated. A feature of the conference will be the première of the film, *The American Indian Speaks*. Peter Howard's *Give a Dog a Bone* will be performed.

Japanese Socialists meet

AT A TIME of serious trouble in the Japanese Diet, Toshikatsu Horii, Chairman of the Sohyo Federation (Japan's largest trade union organisation with 4 million members) and Senator Yoichi Yamato, Chairman of the Senate Strategy Committee of the Socialist Party, came to a lunch party and spent five hours at the MRA centre in Tokyo this week.

The occasion was organised by Renzo Yanagisawa, Chairman of the Shipbuilding Workers' Union at the Ishikawajima-Harima Company, builders of the world's largest oil tanker. Other Socialist MPs, leaders of other unions and 15 young shipbuilding workers also attended.

Horii gave an account of this year's labour and trade union struggle in Japan, explained his own policy and asked for the lead and co-operation of MRA in the coming year.

'Seamen's Executive should hear every word'

'I'D LIKE TO PLAY AN LP of *It's our country, Jack!* to all my Executive. They should hear every word!' said a member of the National Executive of the National Union of Seamen following a performance last week of the musical for Folkestone and Dover, the busiest passenger port in the world.

Another Executive member urged the cast to return for a longer run. Alderman Lamb, Mayor of Folkestone, welcomed the cast from the stage. He attended the revue with ten Councillors. A former Mayor commented, 'Conservative and Labour Councillors made the same comment—one hundred per cent.' The Town Clerk had twice addressed the Council about the musical. Also present were miners from the Kent coalfield.

Following their participation in the New Year conference at Caux, Switzerland the cast of *It's our country, Jack!* will begin a tour of Scotland.

The dates are as follows:

South Govan Town Hall
Saturday, 14 January

Port Glasgow Town Hall
Wednesday, 18 January

Aberdeen Grammar School Hall
Friday and Saturday (matinee and evening) 20 and 21 January

Concert Hall, Glasgow
Wednesday, 1 February

Greenock Town Hall
Saturday, 4 February

'Voice of the Hurricane' in Denmark

'VOICE OF THE HURRICANE' opened at the beginning of December in Copenhagen. The film will run at the Premiere Theatre until Christmas. *The Voice of the Hurricane* is the film version of the play *The Hurricane* staged originally at the Westminster Theatre.

The film was announced in *Kristeligt Dagblad* under the headline, 'From the war of ideas—a film about the need for moral revolution in Africa'.

Fresh approach sought in East Africa

IN FACE OF the seemingly insurmountable economic and political problems that beset Africa, an entirely fresh approach is being called for.

The stimulus of a uniting ideology is the missing factor, according to Sam Odaka, Uganda's Foreign Minister, in an address last month to African diplomats attending a seminar at Makerere College, Kampala.

Tanzania President Julius K Nyerere has called for 'a change in moral character' as the cornerstone of nation-building.

It is to the search for a new spirit continent-wide that the cast of *Harambee Africa*, the all-Africa Sing-Out, gives legs and expression. *Harambee Africa* was created at the MRA conference in Nairobi in December, 1965, attended by people from fourteen African nations. President Jomo Kenyatta, when he saw the musical, urged the cast to take the spirit of 'harambee' to all of Africa and the world. Since then *Harambee Africa* has toured East Africa and, at government invitation, the Sudan and Ethiopia.

Preparations are now under way in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Burundi, Swaziland, Sudan, Ethiopia and Nigeria to launch the next phase of *Harambee Africa* in Africa. An Action Assembly for 200 students

selected from well over a thousand applicants will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 25 December to 7 January.

Over the past two months cast members have visited nearly every major high school in the three East African countries of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Everywhere they have met with an overwhelming response as students rushed to sign up with *Harambee Africa*.

The musical has been featured two Saturdays running for half an hour on Voice of Kenya's popular Swahili service.

In all three countries students have conferred with Cabinet Ministers about utilising the energy, talent and spirit of service and sacrifice engendered by *Harambee Africa* in youth. One Minister said: 'Africa has still to discover a continental ideology capable of inspiring us all to a united effort. These ideas of yours are what we want.'

HENRY PELHAM-BURN

'Harambee Africa in action'

A 20-minute, 16mm film of the move through East Africa, Sudan and Ethiopia is now available at £25 from MRA Productions, 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1.

'Harambee Africa' cast received in Organisation for African Unity HQ in Ethiopia



Australian Premier to open Assembly

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER Harold Holt will give the opening address at a ten-day Moral Re-Armament 'Action Assembly' which begins at Monash University Halls, Melbourne on 5 January.

With its theme 'It's Our Job Australia', the assembly aims to rouse Australia to increase her responsibility in Asia, her role with the USA and her partnership with the British Commonwealth. It will consider how Russia and China can be won to MRA's revolutionary concept—that a change in human nature provides the basis for effective change in the political, social and economic spheres. It will call for Australians to think big, work hard and live straight.

Other speakers who have accepted include Kim Beazley, MP, Secretary

of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Australian Parliamentary Labour Party in the last parliament; Sir Walter Scott, leading management consultant; Professor E W Titterton, Australia's foremost nuclear scientist and Dean of the Research School of Physical Sciences at the Australian National University; and William Jaeger from Britain, world authority on labour and industrial affairs.

Delegates will come from all the States of Australia, Papua, New Guinea, New Zealand and further afield. The Chairman of the Assembly will be James R Coulter. He has recently returned from India where he led a 53 member party of Australians and New Zealanders. They have been working the past seven months with Rajmohan Gandhi.

Prime Minister Harold Holt



Great role urged for S American youth

Report by DAVID CAREY on 'Up with People' in Venezuela*

FOUR MILLION of the eight and a quarter million people of Venezuela are under 19 years old. This poses a frightening problem or a fantastic potential.

There are some who would use this to explode the nation into chaos and economic ruin so they can take over. They play on the most natural fears and jealousies.

In the last weeks there has been a recurrence of terrorist activities aimed principally at US interests in the country. Most of this has emanated from the Central University in downtown Caracas, though not all of the people involved are necessarily students. The universities here and in most areas of South America are autonomous and sacrosanct, so neither city nor federal police can set foot on the campuses.

While recognizing the inherent danger in this situation, the present government is loath to clamp down.

But the point is that the extremist element, whether they be students or professionals, are only a small minority. The fact is that here, as in so many areas of the world, no one has given the sound, silent majority a big enough aim and challenge, first to unite the divergent groups, and then

to enable them to speak up and act on a constructive programme.

Literally within hours of first hearing the *Up With People* show, hundreds turned out for rehearsals to start a *Sing-Out Venezuela*. They not only want training in how to sing the songs, but they ask for detailed instruction on how to apply the ideas behind them in their own situations. A most enthusiastic group is already in action in the Catholic University.

These youth are patriotic and want to be put to work. They are fed up with the corruption and division they see all too clearly around them. But for lack of any positive alternative they eventually will fit right into this groove themselves.

This reporter believes that Americans should be extremely proud of the young Americans in the *Up with People* cast who, without any pay whatsoever and at the sacrifice of college scholarships and careers, have set themselves to the task of giving a new direction to their generation.

The hope now is that this programme can be expanded fast enough to do what is needed in time. And there is no reason at all why it cannot be if the finances and major items like transportation can be adequately provided. It could sweep through Latin America.

Lesotho Premier's message to Swaziland

THE PRIME MINISTER of Lesotho, Chief Jonathan Leabua, sent a message to the Swaziland MRA conference which was read last week by the delegation he sent. While in London this autumn he talked with representatives of MRA and visited the London headquarters at 45 Berkeley Square.

The message said: 'I have recently returned to my country from an extended tour of the Far East. I considered it my bounden duty to do all possible to send five of my young men to the conference as representatives of Lesotho. I did this because I am fully aware how important MRA is to Lesotho, Africa and the world. Most of us in the modern world are satisfied and sit passively by to await what we consider to be inevitable. I am quite convinced that is not what God expects of us.'

'In addressing myself to you young men and women I am talking to people whose responsibility it is to make Africa the sort of place God would like it to be. I am not saying this lightly. It is your responsibility and mine.'

The conference, entitled 'Which way Africa?', was opened on 15 December by the Reverend Gamede, liaison officer between HM King Sobhuza II and the British Government.

* For news see last week's issue

Photo: Strong



Unity call for South Sudan

AS A TOKEN of his desire to end tribal warfare in South Sudan and Arab-African clashes between North and South Sudan, Sayed Buth Diu, President of the Sudan Liberal Party, last week presented MRA's London headquarters with spears and a hippo-leather shield.

Buth Diu, whose tribe the Nuer have often clashed with the more numerous Dinka tribe in South Sudan battles, said, 'We can use our spears on fish instead of on each other.'

Buth Diu said he had seen an American Indian, Chief Walking Buffalo, at an MRA conference lay down his battle axe. 'Like him I now lay down my arms as a sign of no more tribal disputes,' he told an international gathering assembled for the ceremony at 45 Berkeley Square before he returned to the Sudan.

Referring to North-South clashes in the Sudan, Buth Diu said the trouble was that Northerners and Southerners each thought they were right and the other wrong. 'I have decided to discuss matters with the North on the basis of what is right not who is right,' said Diu, who was

till recently Minister of Animal Resources.

The international cast of *It's our country, Jack!* which has been touring British industrial areas sang a song, 'Do it a Hundred per cent' to the Sudanese visitor. Buth Diu referred to their efforts to settle industrial disputes and invited them to come to his country.

He said they could help settle problems of friction in the railways, airlines and among cotton pickers which had caused 'great loss to the budget'.

Buth Diu came to Britain representing the Imam El Mahdi, head of the Government Party, to unveil on 26 November the gift of leather from the Sudan Government Tannery which panels the foyer of the new Westminster Theatre Arts Centre.

TV coverage for 'Sing-Out Deutschland'

'SING-OUT DEUTSCHLAND' last week gave three performances in the Hamburg University auditorium.

Television in Germany has broadcast the musical or its message throughout the country. 'Panorama', most controversial programme on national TV, with an estimated audience of 15 million in West and East Germany and other parts of Europe, reviewed *Sing-Out Deutschland*.

On 13 December the musical was on national television as part of a programme dealing with the German economic situation.

The regional television stations of Bavaria in the south, of Hesse in the centre and of Hamburg in the north all broadcast about the musical.

DANISH PIONEER DIES AT 80

CHRISTIAN HARHOFF, for many years Chairman of the Federation of Danish Shipowners, died on 14 December at eighty years of age.

During the visit of Dr Frank Buchman to Denmark in 1935 Harhoff decided to join him in his battle for the moral re-armament of mankind.

It was in Harhoff's home on the day of the German invasion that the Danish resistance was born. As the Germans crossed the frontier, Harhoff invited leaders from all walks of life to his home.

Since the war Harhoff and his wife have played an important part in major advances of Moral Re-Armament in Europe and the world.

He said to his friends on his eightieth birthday last week, 'I want you to give gifts not to me, but to the fund I started on my seventy-fifth birthday for the Westminster Theatre and all its projects.'

His friends did this, and it was a few hours later that he died.

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