## MRA Information Service

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#### MRA show at Anti-Submarine School

Group Captain B G Stanbridge

OFFICERS AND MEN of the Joint Anti-Submarine School (RN and RAF) in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, saw It's our country, Jack! last week. The performance at HMS Sea Eagle was attended by Group Captain B G Stanbridge, senior RAF officer, Northern Ireland, and Commander B J Parish, deputy senior naval officer, Northern Ireland.

Group Captain Stanbridge, co-director of the school, said in presenting the cast with the plaque of HMS Sea Eagle, 'I would like to thank you all. You are obviously making your mark. Your programme has been a splendid success. We admire your enthusiasm and wish you the best of luck.'

Richard Channer, who won the MC in Burma in World War II and is Stage Manager of the show, said, 'We stand shoulder to shoulder with you as you remain in readiness for any new emergencies. The fighting man must have in his hand the best weapon technology can give him. To be totally equipped he also needs an idea in the head to fight for and an answer in the heart.

'Men are trained in HMS Sea Eagle to seek out the menace below the surface of the sea and to destroy it. Now a menace lurks below the surface of our nation. Hate, fear, jealousy create division in our home life, public life and our industry.

'These young men and women in

Commander B J Parish, officers and men see 'It's Our Country, Jack!' Inset: Plaque of HMS Sea Eagle Photos: Huston

## 'India Arise' in Beirut

A BATTERY of press photographers and TV cameramen met the 64-member cast of *India Arise* on their arrival in Beirut. They were the guests of the Ministry of Education, who had arranged the programme for the visit with the Office of Social Development.

News of the arrival was broadcast on both the TV channels. The girls' quartet, 'The Daredevils', were twice featured live on television and on the 'Top Ten' radio programme.



'Daredevils' on Beirut TV

The radio interviewer said at the end of the programme, 'I feel ashamed that I am not living for my nation. A spirit like this is needed today.'

L'Orient, an influential French language newspaper, wrote about MRA, 'This movement is universal and has found fertile soil in India. Only men of character will answer the division, famine and injustices of the world.' The Arabic papers also published extensive reports.

Sheik Selim El Khouri, President of the North Lebanon Hydro-Electric Company, and powerful Arab leader, evaluated *India Arise*: 'This is the most important and intelligent investment continued on page 3

the cast have paid the price of sacrifice in their own lives. They have accepted the discipline needed to restore moral standards and faith in God, to maintain and build a nation worth living—and dying—for. Forces

like these are at work on every continent. Their task in this age of modern technology is to fight for the growth and modernisation of the character of man himself. To that world battle we are committed.'



### Moment of history by Rajmohan Gandhi\*

IT IS IN GIVING that we receive. On Saturday last, 63 men and women from India, Ceylon, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and America left New Delhi by an Air-India Boeing for Lebanon. Beirut will be their first stop in a journey through the Middle East, Europe and Britain.

Forty-six of them are Indians. All of them take part, on or off-stage, in the India Arise show, which is the story of a challenge met.

These men and women have gone to give Moral Re-Armament to the nations they will visit. Their aim is not response or the creation of a new Indian image. It is to help other nations solve their problems. They want so to live and work that God might use them to give men they meet qualities of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love.

#### Far from perfect

Their desire is to enable each country they go through to find and play its special role in re-building this broken world.

These men and women are far from being perfect. Like all of us, they have their ups and downs. But their strongest wish is to be of service and help to other nations and the Almighty will honour that.

In my knowledge this is the first time that a group of Indians of this size is going to move unitedly across continents with the dominant purpose of giving. Their action marks a moment of history.

Costly and moving sacrifice has been responsible for the opportunity they have. Their journey and their expenses in the Middle East and Europe will be paid for by friends and fellow-fighters over there.

Here is a letter from a friend in London telling about it: 'How I wish that all those who are coming could

NEXT PERFORMANCES OF

#### 'It's our country, Jack!"

10 March Sheffield

College of Technology

14 March Doncaster

Grammar School Hall

18 March Sheffield City Hall

21 March Hull

David Lister High School

have shared with us here the wonder of these last days as money has poured in from all over the country for the fares of the India Arise party. Our target of the first £15,000 was topped about half an hour before we received notification of the sum to be remitted to Delhi. Behind each gift is a story often of real sacrifice or fight. The widow who wrote, "India's immediate needs are more important than my future." The trade unionist who gave his complete unopened pay packet of £14. The secretary who gave all the savings she had of £5. The retired missionary who gave £1,500. The button manufacturer who gave £500 after one conversation over lunch. The surgeon who gave a day's operation fees amounting to £100.'

Generous help from Switzerland, Holland and Scandinavia, added to the British effort, brought the figure to £15,000. More is being collected.

Those who invited India Arise to Britain and Europe offered to raise all the foreign exchange required for the journey and thereby made it easier for our Government to grant permission and P forms. The offer was a courageous step in faith. It was vindicated by the large number of ordinary men and women who contributed at considerable cost to themselves.

The cost of clothing and equipping the India Arise force and of giving them training before they set out was about Rs. 50,000. This is being raised in India through donations by friends and relatives of those who were invited and by others who believe that financing their journey is an investment in India's future and the world's.

#### Content to serve

The India Arise men and women will, I believe, be used to change people where they go, bridge divisions and heal hates. This will happen not because they are basically virtuous, but because they are honest about their natures and have decided to use their lives for other people.

They will be happy to give their show when asked, or work without it if that is felt right. They will be content to give their best in whatever work or opportunity comes to them.

It is their life together which will matter most of all. Over the last months they have learned invaluable lessons. They have understood the

forces of ambition and jealousy in their lives and discovered how these can be answered.

Problems at home are no barrier to giving answers abroad. Exporting men and women who have some knowledge of how to deal with human nature can become India's normal way of

As a show, India Arise has been a remarkable triumph inside India for the last nine months-in Bombay, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madras, Andhra, Bengal, Rajasthan, Delhi and Punjab. There is no doubt whatever that it will win audiences everywhere to a new appreciation of India and what she stands for.

But a new world, a world where man no longer cheats, hates, worships or exploits his fellow man, is the target of India Arise's men and women, and a new Indian image will be the fruit of their battle, not its aim.

#### Brahmin and Harijan

What India can do in and for the Middle East, Europe, Africa, the Americas and the rest of Asia ought to be the rightful concern of the man in the street, the student, the peasant and the worker, as well as of the officials of India's External Affairs Ministry.

An extraordinary range of backgrounds is represented in the India Arise force, There are Brahmins and Harijans, rich and poor, old and young, city folk and villagers.

In a written message given for use on their journey, the Vice-President of India, Dr Zakir Husain, says, 'I am so glad that India Arise is going on this important journey abroad. I know the work you are doing of putting right what is wrong in the world. But you should never forget that it is difficult work and requires immense patience. The youth must aspire to live for the country and for the future of man. I wish you every success on this journey.'

We in India may be, and should be, conscious of our hates and fears and selfishness, but the world seems to need us. This group of our men and women launching out into the world may set a pattern for a solution of India's internal problems as well as for our relationship with the rest of the world.

<sup>\*</sup> An article published in the Indian news magazine 'Himmat' on 17 February



Cast of India

To meet the present crisis a moral awakening which will win co-operation of the widest range of people.

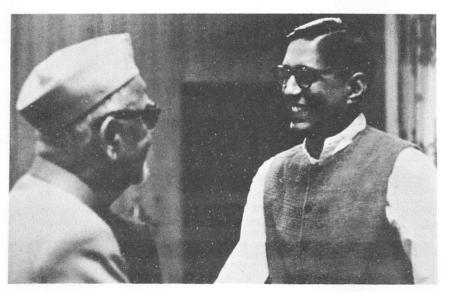
#### PRESIDENT RADHAKRISHNAN

Republic Day Message 1967

There is an answer. The aims and motives of men can be changed. Cowardice, laziness and irresponsibility can be rooted out. Our main task now is to mobilise our people, make them aware of the power they possess and of the profound and wide changes they can bring if only they decide to.

RAJMOHAN GANDHI

## complete change of spirit is essential. What we need is a



The Vice-President of India, Dr Zakir Husain, greets Rajmohan Gandhi in New Delhi

The cast of 50 come from village and city, from rich homes and poor. They represent many faiths and castes and states of India. Through full pages in the 'Hindustan Times' and the 'Indian Express' they have spoken out fearlessly to their nation:

IS INDIA TODAY between chaos and anarchy or between anarchy and tyranny? Whichever is true we know there is an answer which can yet change India.

The problem in India is not just the evil designs of some forces, but the cowardice, compromise and non-involvement of those who know what is right but do not care.

The answer is a revolution which can change human nature. A revolution which can transform the aims and motives of millions of people.

We believe that the revolution of Moral Re-Armament has this power.

Hunger, poverty, nate and violence, never be cured by paper plans alone. The answer is a tidal wave of unsermen. We think that if people like us can change, everybody can change. Hunger, poverty, hate and violence, the harvest of vast-scale selfishness, will never be cured by paper plans alone. The answer is a tidal wave of unselfish



#### KALPANA SHARMA

assistant director of 'India

I am as old as Free India. Hold me responsible for the future of my country. Every Indian, young or old, has the right to sacrifice. I want to see an India where millions like my younger brother and sister will be free to do what they in their hearts know is right.



#### PARAMJIT SINGH

who gave up his job as an advertising executive to join 'India Arise'

We have come to terms with the status quo and evil in our families and our nation. We have come to accept it, to protect it, and even to justify it under the guise of love and tolerance. This has got to change. I have committed my life to do this.



#### ARUN MUNDKUR

A few years ago I planned to settle down in a foreign country and leave all the problems of India behind. I met MRA and decided India was my country, her five hundred million people my people and my responsibility. In the task we have taken on we expect opposition . . . We also expect passionate support from every Indian who wants to see India arise.



#### **NEERJA CHOWDHURY**

as an architecture student won an All-India Gold Medal My decision is to give India a new leadership. I want to learn to accept, love and plan for this whole country as my own family. India will not be changed on the



#### **USHA CHANDIRAM**

whose courageous fight to regain her freedom, after she was forcibly taken away from her work with MRA, inspired thousands in India

If today the freedom of individuals can be snatched away, tomorrow it could be the nation's freedom.

As for myself, I want to use my life, working with MRA, to fight to keep India's freedom, or restore it if it is lost.

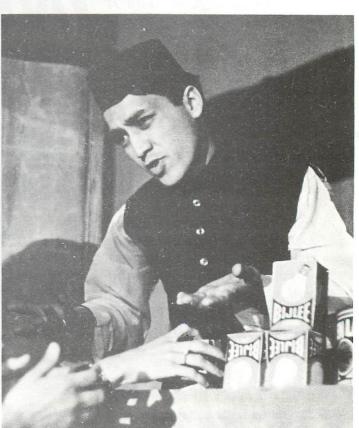


#### NIKETU IRALU

from one of Nagaland's leading families

Where is India's soul? And what is it that can be said to be in India's heart? I have come to care deeply for the creation of an India with a big and strong enough heart to shape and lead the right future for all of us on this continent.





cheap.



The Daredevils

THE 'INDIAN EXPRESS' WROTE: 'If ever a musical could be called stirring, the adjective describes the MRA show *India Arise*. The speed and zest with which the players run through some 28 items make two hours non-stop entertainment.'

Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, said after seeing the musical, 'I am very proud of the cast of *India Arise*. The world is on the verge of moral and spiritual bankruptcy. God bless you and the message to which you are wed.'

'Will there be rice tomorrow?'





Photos by David Channer

# 'Our vast millions are an asset not a liability'

RAJMOHAN GANDHI

INDIA ARISE CAMPAIGN IS ENLISTING INDIA'S PEOPLE THROUGH:



MASS MEETINGS



A WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

TRAINING CENTRES



# VICE-PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO THE CAST

THE VICE-PRESIDENT of India, Dr Zakir Husain, gave a reception for the cast of the MRA musical *India Arise* on the eve of their departure for the Middle East and Europe. He issued the following message:

'I am so glad *India Arise* is going on this important journey abroad. I know the work you are doing of putting right what is wrong in the world. But you should never forget that it is difficult work and requires immense patience. The youth must aspire to live for the country and for the future of man. I wish you every success on this journey.'

He said to the cast, 'You will give and you will also bring something back. Getting Independence was a difficult job but what you have taken on is an equally difficult job.'

The call for a campaign of 'India Arise' was first made by Rajmohan Gandhi in Bombay in April last year. He said he believed that the 'India Arise' campaign was going to be more important in history than the 'Quit India' movement initiated by his grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi. 'We must again declare independence—freedom for the cult that says, "It can't be done", freedom from fear of those next door or those in authority, freedom from self-absorption. India is going to be changed, she is going to be a strong united country with a great lesson to teach the world,' said Rajmohan Gandhi.

In response to Gandhi's call patriotically-minded and talented young Indians developed the musical *India Arise* as a speedy means of influencing and changing thousands. It was directed by Canadian producer Howard Reynolds.

Since then it has been performed to distinguished audiences in the main theatres of New Delhi, Bombay and Madras and to tens of thousands in other cities across the country.

# WHAT 'INDIA ARISE' OFFERS EUROPE

THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE has invited *India Arise* to Britain and to Europe because it is important that our countries understand the hope they offer for the future of the world's largest democracy.

The young men and women from every part of India, from every caste and social background, have a passionate determination to shape the future of their country in liberty and faith. They have a sense of responsibility for Asia and the world. They have made considerable sacrifices of career and position, as well as of hard work and long hours, to present their convictions so colourfully and effectively.

India Arise is more than a musical, though it is a polished, winning, fast-

moving show with great depth of feeling. It is an expression of a new spirit rising in a nation, uniting people where so much pulls them apart, demonstrating an unselfish lead in place of the pursuit of personal aims, calling with conviction for the moral rearmament of men and nations as the only way to meet the dangers and opportunities of the modern world.

The Westminster Theatre hopes to present *India Arise* in the main cities of Britain, as well as in London, and is also actively engaged in arranging a tour of the Continental capitals.

K D BELDEN Chairman Westminster and Overseas Productions

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## 'A rare and brilliant play'

by Katherine de Mille Quinn, daughter of the Hollywood producer Cecil B de Mille

ONLY ONE WEEK AGO I dug myself out of a snow storm in Connecticut, USA, caught a DC10 and flew to London. I was determined to be present at an event which, in my belief, is destined to affect profoundly the future of humanity—that is its object, and in only one week I am personally aware of some half dozen lives totally redirected by its impact.

A new play opened at the Westminster Theatre written by the late Peter Howard, with the intriguing title of *Happy Deathday*. It is a rare and brilliant play, so rich in content that much may elude the listener at the first seeing. Yet few are so dead in conscience that they will not at some moment feel the twinge of recognition, while others may experience that overwhelming impact of the moment of truth, when a choice must be made.

Mr Howard wrote as he lived and as he was, if need be, prepared to die, to give others the courage to live. He was not interested in escapism; laughter merely for laughter's sake or a tear merely for sentiment and he despised cynicism which insidiously drains the very blood of life from mankind. He used theatre to shake man awake.

He knew the ills and sorrows of the world will find no cure until man will accept in his own life the change and growth in character that he so continually demands from the other fellow or the other nation. He wrote

#### 'India Arise'

continued from front page

we can make.' He was the host at a meeting where 600 of Tripoli's influential citizens came. He also undertook responsibility for the financing of a delegation of Lebanese youth to go for training at the MRA centre at Caux in Switzerland. Tripoli is the second largest city of the Lebanon and the terminus for the Iraq Petroleum Company pipeline.

India Arise opened in the Piccadilly Theatre, Beirut, on 17 February. On behalf of the Minister of Education, the Director General of Youth and Sports, Dr Issam Haidan, introduced the performance.

plays which, in both humour and pain, reveal man to himself and then proceed to challenge him to greatness.

For this time in history there can be a no more intelligent theatre, or more relevant purpose.

Much of modern theatre and film is prodding into wounds with dirty instruments, perhaps on the misguided theory that if you continue this process long enough some may build up an immunity to the horrors of life. However I think it more likely, as with the patient who runs to his doctor and is told over and over again 'You are very, very ill' but is offered no cure and given no hope, one simply despairs and gives up trying.

The Westminster Theatre is continually charged with spreading a 'message', while the other theatre disclaims such a purpose, with what I feel is a rather foolish intellectual conceit, that message stifles art. Frankly it is my impression there is a very powerful message in their theatre and I believe it is entirely the wrong one for a world in desperate need. I remember a little verse my



father C B de Mille was fond of quoting:

In vain we call old notions fudge And bend our conscience to our dealing,

The Ten Commandments will not budge

And stealing will continue stealing.

Happy Deathday will go into the history of our time. I don't know any play in world literature that lets God speak with such reality as at the end of Happy Deathday.

THEOPHIL SPOERRI

Professor of Literature and former Rector of Zürich University

# New Zealand Prime Minister initiates fund for Arts Centre

THE PRIME MINISTER of New Zealand, Rt Hon Keith Holyoake, spoke at an occasion chaired by the Mayor of Wellington, Sir Francis Kitts, to launch a fund in New Zealand for the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre.

The Prime Minister said that millions in the world were indebted to Peter Howard in whose memory the Arts Centre is dedicated. His passing was a great loss to so many millions of people because it was a tremendous loss to the world. He spent himself in the pursuit of his ideal. The Prime Minister described the film of Howard's life, Man to Match the Hour, as 'a powerful picture, a gripping one, a great tribute to a very, very great man.'

Present at the occasion were Mem-

bers of Parliament, the Mayor of Lower Hutt, Percy Dowse, who with Sir Francis is on the National Executive of the New Zealand Labour Party, leaders of church and industry, and the Dominion President of the National Council of Women, Mrs Tiller.

Sir Francis, opening the evening, drew attention to the distinguished audience and turning to the Prime Minister he said, 'Your being here is following a very important pattern so evident throughout the world today.' He referred to the opening by the Prime Minister of Australia of the world conference for MRA in Melbourne last month. 'Moral Re-Armament bridges all barriers, crosses all frontiers and cuts across all views,' Sir Francis said.

## 'Greatest housing story of the century'

EUCLIDES DA SILVA, President of four favelado associations in Rio de Janeiro, said this month that Rio's favelas (shanty towns) could be eliminated by 1968. Da Silva was addressing an MRA conference on housing at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre. He has reported to European audiences how he has already helped re-house 500,000 favelados in Rio de Janeiro.

But he told the London conference 20 million houses were needed in South America. In Brazil the average income of a man was £180 per year. A house cost £250. 'If we want to get rid of slums in the world we must first get rid of corruption,' he said.

Illustrating this he outlined the sequence of events which led to the rehousing of 500,000 people in the Rio favelas. He said, 'One third of the population of Rio lived in the favelas which are shanties made of wood, often built during the night. They exist because of the dishonesty of land-owners who demand half the

#### 'Sing-Out Deutschland' for Bonn

THE GERMAN Federal Minister of Agriculture, Hermann Hoercherl, asked this week that Sing-Out Deutschland be shown to his whole Ministry in Bonn. He saw the MRA musical in Regensburg, South Germany.

At the opening performance in Regensburg the Duke and Duchess of Thurn and Taxis and the Socialist Lord Mayor of the city led a standing ovation. Earlier in the day the Duke and Duchess had entertained the cast at lunch in their castle.

The Catholic Bishop of Regensburg supported the performances financially. One priest said that Sing-Out Deutschland had got 'the interest and involvement of youth—a thing so much lacking in our youth.' He asked for permission to travel with the musical to learn how to win the interest of the younger generation.

harvest the peasants produce. So they leave the land for the cities.

'Abandoned by society they build their own shanty towns. These dwellings are built on stilts and when it rains the sewage runs down the slopes beneath the homes of people below.

'We decided to form a citizens committee to present our needs to the Government. As President of the committee I had the concession for supplying electricity to the 526 families in the district.

#### 'I ended exploitation'

'Having grown up in an atmosphere of corruption I exploited these families. The Electricity Supply Company charged four cruzeiros. I charged the people eleven cruzeiros and used the balance for myself, and indulged in every kind of corruption. As a result my family began to break up.

'At this point Rio dockers brought their MRA film Men of Brazil to the favelas. I faced the standards of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. I got honest with my wife about the life I was living. I got honest with the committee and charged four cruzeiros for electricity plus 20% for maintenance.

'This brought so much trust from the people that I was elected President of the Federation of 60,000 favela dwellers. We showed the film *Men of Brazil* in every one of the 186 favela districts and raised a force of 120 leaders out to change the situation.

'We went to the Governor of the State with proposals for housing the people. He had one million dollars from an Alliance for Progress fund which he made available. Three per cent was added from the State Budget and they started building. "I want your help," said the Governor, "to make sure that not a penny is spent wrongly or unnecessarily." A State Corporation was formed and on the committee were three favela leaders.

'Five satellite towns have been built and today 500,000 people are living in decent homes. Every house is in its own plot of 8 x 15 metres and has a living-room, one or two bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, and toilet, electricity and running water. People pay 15% of the legally established minimum salary per month. They own the houses and the land and pay for them over fifteen years. It has given new life and a new motive in life to the families living in these homes. Each community has its own schools and shops and a Community Hall.'

Senhor da Silva has lived for 33 years in a favela and still lives in one today. 'Our aim is that all the favelas of Rio shall be eliminated by 1968,' he says. 'If we want to get rid of slums in the world we must first get rid of corruption. Every family in the world has the right to live in dignity in a decent home. We will never rest until this aim is achieved.'

Harry Moncrieff, London architect and town planner, described da Silva's report as 'the greatest housing story of the century.'

## 'Up With People'

'HONOLULU ADVERTISER' reviewing the Hawaiian première of *Up With People* this week carried the headline, '*Up With People*—fantastic'. The critic said, 'Without question this rousing revue lives up to its pre-show claims and it is the most exciting show...I've ever seen here. From the time the curtain rises it is obvious that the cast practises what it preaches.'

From the time they arrived the cast have been on all the major TV and radio stations.

J Blanton Belk Jr, US director of MRA and the *Up With People* cast, visited the National Memorial Cemetary of the Pacific to pay tribute to Private First Class John J Hogan, US infantryman, whose last letter home is featured in *Up With People*. The song 'Which Way America' was inspired by this letter.