# MRA Information Service

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# WANTED NOW: REAL REVOLUTIONARIES

### Rajmohan Gandhi speaks at Caux conference, Switzerland

WHITSUN 1968 may be regarded in years to come as a marking date in the history of revolution.

Revolutionary figures from the world gathered in Switzerland at Caux for the 30th anniversary of Moral Re-Armament, the French situation apparently moved towards stability and Dubucek, the progressive Communist chief, received a mandate of support from the Czech Communist Party Central Committee.

But at Caux representatives of 46 nations planned for a more penetrating and far-reaching revolution than either the Czech or French revolutions.

Rajmohan Gandhi, one of the men responsible for MRA in Asia, said that Asians and Africans looked to Europe to produce 'not phoney revolutionaries but real revolutionaries'.

Afro-Asians asked themselves whether the Czech and



French revolutions were changing revolutions if they did not cure greed, hate and complacency.

'Let all French, German, Czech revolutionaries live up to the requirements of the new type of man,' Gandhi said.

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German- and Italianspeaking delegates from the South Tyrol in Italy listen to Rajmohan Gandhi. These delegates from one of Europe's explosive situations said at Caux they found a new approach to their problems photo Franzon

# EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA SENDS MESSAGE

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, the Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, was personally represented at the MRA World Assembly at Caux, in Switzerland, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of MRA on Whit Sunday.

During the years that the Emperor spent in London he frequently received Dr Buchman, and said of him that he had been a true friend in England.

When a second son was born His Imperial Majesty sent for Dr Buchman, put the infant in his arms and asked him to bless the child.

The Emperor cabled the following message from Addis Ababa last weekend:

'We are happy to congratulate Moral Re-Armament on its 30th anniversary.

'Its tenacity for these most difficult years proves that it has unshakable values to offer the world. From infancy it progressed to childhood and youth with great successes and it is now going from manhood to full maturity. We pray that Almighty' God may give it the energy to continue its service to mankind.

'Dr Frank Buchman made an unmatched contribution when he established Moral Re-Armament during the difficult days of 1938. Much of what happened since then, would have been averted had some leaders taken heed to what he was preaching.

'Moral Re-Armament and Dr Frank Buchman deserve our gratitude for their unswerving devotion to mankind.

"Blessed are the peacemakers".

'May God be with you in all your deliberations.'

# CYPRIOTS INVITE EUROPEAN REVUE TO ISLAND

THE GENERAL SECRETARY of the Free Trade Unions of Cyprus, Nicos Zivanas, read to the Caux assembly an invitation from leaders of all communities and from people of all walks of life in Cyprus for an MRA force to come to the island with the revue, *Anything to Declare?* 

The President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios and the Vice-President, Dr Fazil Kutchuk both sent messages of support to the assembly.

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'It is easy for a man to shout revolution, but if he is hugging a mistress, a hate or a bottle, he is very ineffective. Those who think they can create a new world with bricks of half-truths are in for serious trouble. If your revolution doesn't create unselfish men, Asia is not interested—nor will Europe be.'

The trouble with Europe today said Gandhi was that people did not hate enough. 'You don't hate complacency, greed and selfishness.

'Asia respects the searching of your young people for a new society. But the things you want to tear down Asia wants to grab. The trouble is neither affluence nor poverty, but man's attitude to man.

'Any idea that does not change men does not deserve to be called revolu'The next 100 days will see whether France will get out of her crisis. The battle will be won by men who have chosen to follow their conscience.'

Sentis said he and his colleagues had sent a message to the French cabinet when in emergency session. The message said, 'We will get out of this crisis, impoverished certainly, but enriched if men of faith and courage fight.'

Philip Vundla, a leader of the Africans of South Africa and a founder of the militant African National Congress, said, 'Violence is no answer today. I learnt from Dr Buchman that what you achieve through violence you will need greater violence to maintain.

'Those who say that bloodshed is the answer have other people's blood in mind, not their own.'



The Governor of Ginda, Ethiopia addresses assembly. R to 1: representative of the Emperor; Minister of Labour, Rajastan, India; and Chairman of the Indian Trade Union Congress

tionary. The history of the last 30 years of the revolutionary idea of MRA shows that the hardest problems can be solved by miracles in men.'

Speaking on the crisis in France was Michel Sentis, a Paris engineer, and one of those responsible for MRA in his country.

'The struggle is not between capitalism and socialism, but between good and evil, chaos and God,' said Sentis.

'Without moral authority an apparently strong nation can collapse like a pack of cards. Twentieth century man refuses to be treated as arms to work, a mouth to consume, or a brain to swallow slogans. He wants a part in building the world of tomorrow. Some years ago Vundla had decided, as a result of meeting Dr Buchman and the force of MRA, to fight for a change in both black and white. The issue, he said, was not one of colour but character.

### South Tyrol

At the Caux conference was a South Tyrolean delegation of both Federal and Local Parliamentarians and representing both German- and Italianspeaking communities.

The South Tyrol is potentially one of Europe's most critical areas. Bomb throwing incidents have taken place. It has a large German-speaking population, although it is part of Italy.

Many Germans want greater autonomy for the South Tyrol. South Tyrol



#### P Q Vundla

was given to Italy after the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of the First World War.

Both Italian and German speakers said they had seen at Caux a possible way to break out of 'the vicious circle of wrong' that had frustrated the settlement of their problem.

Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, member of the Italian Parliament for Bolzano, representing the German population, said that over the years his people had often felt betrayed by history. To remedy wrongs they had resorted to other wrongs.

Until a few weeks ago he had seen no way out.

#### **New impulses**

Mitterdorfer said, 'We have come to Caux with hope because we can find here new impulses towards a solution valid for all. My first impression here was that our own problems suddenly seemed to lose their size.

'My second impression was that if we could settle our own small problems with the help of the principles of Moral Re-Armament, we could be an example for the solution of even bigger problems. That gives us new courage and strength to tackle our small problems.'

Dr Armando Bertorelle, Vice-President of the Regional Parliament, said, 'We are grateful to learn here how other more serious problems between races and people than ours have been overcome.

A youth leader in the South Tyrol Volkspartei, Dr Heiner Nicolussi-Leck, said that mutual trust could only be established as people on both sides find a uniting purpose beyond the borders of South Tyrol.

MRA might provide the new dynamic which was needed in the deadlocked situation.



Trade unionists and employers from 10 countries assemble during the Caux conference

### FEARLESS MEN MAKE VIOLENCE UNNECESSARY, SAY FRENCH Industrial assembly planned

FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES of both labour and management have initiated a special conference on industry in Caux from the 12 to 22 July.

Trade unionists and employers from Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia have been attending the Caux assembly with the French (see photo above).

Maurice Nosley, representing the industrial region of the Loire Atlantique, said, 'In recent weeks many workers have found themselves in the middle of conflicting currents without knowing where to turn.

'We want to train here fearless men who will make violence unnecessary. Every dispute can be solved as workers and management accept the larger aim of fighting for the rights of everyone in the world.'

Responding to this French initiative, a German coalminer, Hubert Eggemann, from Gladbeck in the Ruhr, said, 'We have been challenged by the militant students to join their demonstrations. I challenge them to join us in a greater revolution that will demonstrate an answer to the problems of Germany and the world.'

### Students respond

The coalminer was joined on the platform by students from different German universities. Heinz Eberhard said, 'The basic question is not whether we have solidarity with workers or with employers, but whether we can find a common aim for which to fight.'

Michel Herwig, also from Göttingen, said, 'Caux has shown me that we need an aim greater than our university, Germany or Europe.'

Rajmohan Gandhi said that Asians had the greatest respect for the determination of workers and students to bring about a radical change in society. They were sometimes puzzled, however, that European workers could demand a minimum wage of 1,000 francs a month and still call themselves revolutionaries.

Many workers in Asia and Africa only earn 15 to 20 francs a month. 'They see workers and students tearing down property and attacking the very affluence they would give their lives to attain.'

Gandhi said he was all for the extension of the critical faculty. Everyone should be permitted to criticise what was wrong. But to do this without applying the same critical faculty to one's own life was reactionary.

'We in Asia and Africa look forward in the coming years to the great nations of Europe giving a fundamental answer to a bewildered, needy, frequently hungry, definitely sick humanity.'

Among those attending the conference (see photo above left to right) were:

Nathan Pepple, Secretary, Bank Employees' Union, Nigeria; Mr Sunderam, official of the Ceylon Plantation Workers' Union; Catalino G Luzano, National Secretary, Steel and Allied Workers' Union of the Phillippines; Ingemar Söderstrom, Industrial, Technical and Commercial Employees' Un-ion, Sweden; Nicos Zivanas, General Secretary, the Cyprus Confederation of Free Trade Unions; John Vickers, chairman and managing director of a British textile oil company, Leeds; Abid Ali, Chairman, Indian National Trade Union Congress; Alec Porter, National Union of Agricultural Workers, Great Britain; Mr Sharma, Minister of Labour, Rajastan; Robert Carmichael, President of the French Jute Industry; Hubert Eggemann, Mineworkers' Union, Germany; Paul Frischnecht, Geneva trade uni-onist; Mr Gopeshwar, General Secretary, Indian Metal Workers' Federation; John Mackenzie, Branch Secretary, Boilermakers' Union, Clydeside; Duncan Corcoran, Glas-gow; and Otto Cadegg, Secretary, Swiss Railway Workers' Union.



German TV films German miner Hubert Eggemann reading a message from the President of the Federal German Parliament, Dr Gerstenmaier photo Aiche

## MESSAGES READ AT CAUX

MESSAGES were read to the Caux assembly from heads of state of Africa and Europe. Leopold Senghor, President of Senegal, called for a reconciliation between men 'beyond considerations of race, belief or ideology'.

President Guiseppe Saragat of Italy sent a message which was read to the assembly by the Mayor of Bolzano, Giorgio Pasquali.

Chancellor Dr Josef Klaus of Austria sent a message supporting the aims of the Caux assembly.

The Auditor General of Eritrea, Ghebremedhin Tessema, brought the greetings of the Governor-General of his province. 'The response of the public of Ethiopia to MRA is profound and widespread,' he said.

This work, he said, had the support of the Emperor who had personally helped in the financing and publishing of the book *Which Way Africa?* A campaign was being carried out to send young people to Caux for training. The next stage was to achieve a depth of commitment to MRA in individual people, then Ethiopia could play a very important role in Africa and the Middle East.

# **Central revolutionary force of our age** MRA's 30th anniversary in London

MEN AND WOMEN from industry, the press, the Church, the theatre and the universities demonstrated the forward march of Moral Re-Armament on its 30th anniversary on Whit Sunday.

'MRA is the central revolutionary force of our age,' said K D Belden who was in the chair at the meeting held in the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, London.

Five hundred and ten people met at the Arts Centre which was celebrating the 3rd anniversary of its initial launching and where this week the musical, *Annie*, was given its 300th performance.

People whose lives had been changed in the last year spoke. A young Scottish journalist said MRA had helped him mend relationships and get clearer direction in his work. He appealed for all fellow journalists to practise absolute honesty in reporting and in everything. He said, 'God's voice is louder than your editor's.'

A secretary who had first practised listening to God while at a meeting in the Westminster Theatre a year ago, described MRA as 'practical Christianity.' She had sold her car to realise money so that she could devote herself fulltime to the work of MRA. She said the last year had been the best year of her life.

### Hope for all races

Martin Murray, No. 2 Vice-President of the West Indian National Association, said MRA was a revolution that gave hope that the races of Britain could work together. It made him care for India, Nigeria and the starving millions of the world.

Dr Paul Brodersen, who was Dean of Copenhagen Cathedral for 28 years, said, 'Moral Re-Armament and the Christian Church, as it is destined to be, are not two different things. They are destined to be together.' He called for a militant spirit that would make the truth of Christ regnant in the world today.

Other speakers included Jim Worthington, a member of the National Executive of the National Union of Seamen and Jack Carroll, a branch chairman of the Transport and General Workers' Union in Bristol.

### 300th PERFORMANCE OF 'ANNIE' MUSICAL

'ANNIE', the British musical, has now passed its 300th performance.

This makes it the longest running show at the Westminster Theatre in the last seven years.

Its continuing success said Margaret Burton, the leading lady, was largely due to 'a very happy company', 'a charming management' and 'the delightful and comfortable theatre in which we perform—surely the most comfortable in London, especially from the artist's point of view.'

This week Brighton Radio broadcast Margaret Burton singing the song from the musical, 'Open Your Heart'.

# Jap de Boer—indomitable fighter

THE TRAGIC Indonesian airlines crash outside Bombay caused the death of an indomitable fighter for a new world order. Jap de Boer from Holland was on his home flight after a year of trekking and travelling through Australia, the New Guinea interior, Indonesia and New Zealand.

To those who saw him off at Bombay airport he called this year the best of his life. Just before he had been delighted to see 'Asia Plateau', the new MRA centre at Panchgani.

De Boer was a hard-headed Freislander. Born in the hamlet of Nieuwe Zijl 47 years ago, he was reared in the tradition of class war and exploitation. His father, as a farm worker and founder of the union, opposed the big farmers' unjust ways.

A radical change occurred in the family de Boer when Jap's father found in Moral Re-Armament a better way than class war. The impact of the new spirit was so profound on the 14-year-old boy that he became, from a mediocre pupil at the trade school, an outstanding student. He earned a scholarship and became an architect.

German occupation and war brought misery. Jap de Boer had to work as a forced labourer in Bremen and suffered starvation and continuous bombing. When he started, after the war, to work full-time with MRA, he returned to Germany with a force of 260 people from 30 nations at the invitation of the country's new democratic leaders. His freedom from hate helped many Germans to liberate themselves from the shackles of selfpity and blame and to rebuild their destroyed country.

Jap de Boer was one of the architects who turned the hotels in Caux, Switzerland, into the world-renowned conference centre of MRA where nations and individuals have found the answer to baffling problems.

### Trade unionists

The conviction that the workers of the world could not only unite themselves but also unite mankind—frequently expressed by Frank Buchman —gripped Jap de Boer. Top trade union leaders as well as countless ordinary workers trusted him as friend and counsellor. Through him hard-boiled employers and militant Communists changed. This has resulted in many instances in the birth of a new society.

He lived in the world's biggest port, Rotterdam. The docks and dockers across the globe had his special interest. Jap de Boer's death leaves a gap not only in the hearts of his wife and 8-year old daughter. His cheerful spirit and revolutionary vision will be missed by a host of friends throughout the world.

DR AAD BURGER

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