

VIOLENCE OR A NEW CLIMATE

**Publishers, writers and
journalists attend
conference on
Fashioning the Future**

AUTHORS, PUBLISHERS and journalists met in London last Sunday to plan a positive way of fashioning the future through their particular professions.

Garth Lean, author and columnist, said that the growing taste for violence demanded the creation of a totally new climate in the world.

'We need to create a new spirit in the world,' he told delegates at the Westminster Theatre. 'We need to change and inspire the people who can write the new theatre, television, books and films that are needed.'

Lean said that the recent violence in both France and the United States could be traced to the impact of ideas through literature and television.

The French Minister of Culture,

Garth Lean

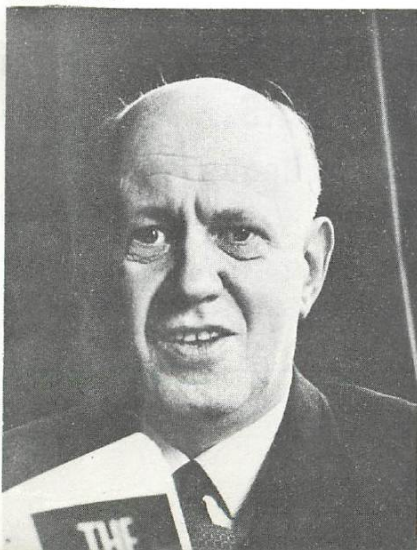


photo Channer

Indian children look at the story book of the pantomime 'Give A Dog A Bone'. The pantomime has been filmed for the children of the world and is showing in 32 countries.

André Malraux, had unveiled a statue in honour of the writer Guillaume Apollinaire, a man who had hailed the Marquis of Sade as the freest man who ever lived.

Lean asked, 'Can Malraux be surprised, if he is going to put this man on a pedestal, when the students of Paris pull up the paving stones and chuck them about or when his police are extremely brutal? What the prophets write today the people do tomorrow.'

Assassination

The United States Supreme Court recently had made it practically impossible for any public figure to sue any newspaper for libel, continued Lean. This had led to an outpouring of filth and venom on all the Presidential candidates and their wives. A month later Senator Kennedy was shot. *Time Magazine* commented: 'Eventually verbal assassination becomes physical assassination.' James Reston, an editorial director of the *New York Times* and Washington columnist, wrote, 'There is something in the air of the modern world, a contagious irresponsibility, a kind of moral delinquency no longer restrained by religious or ethical faith.'

Lean said Moral Re-Armament was out for responsibility. 'We are out for

a new way of living for the whole world. We are not out for censorship, but for inspiration.'

Blandford Press production manager, Terence Goldsmith, said that publishers needed a new emphasis on the prophet motive if they were to fashion the future. 'We in Blandford Press have proved where we have published books that build and inspire there has come in our overall venture growth and prosperity,' he said.

He announced this week's publication of the *Old Testament for Modern Explorers* by Roland Wilson. It was a vital book for fashioning the future. It turned men to the Old Testament enabling them to study the design and plan of God.

Actress and playwright Phyllis Konstam said that theatre could show the way in a world where the old order was breaking down. In this respect the Westminster Theatre was unique. 'It heals the hurts and binds up the nation's wounds,' she said. 'It cures bitterness and hatred. And instead of murder and killing, greed and grab, it teaches men to care for every man, woman and child on the face of the earth.'

'We will never give up this fight until the truths of this theatre flow in the bloodstream of every nation.'

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Mary Wilson, authoress of a series of books entitled *God's Hand in History*, said she had written them to 'show in simple, understandable terms the way God has worked in relation to man all through history.'

She said, 'When men have kept to God's standards there has been progress and when they have abandoned them there's been decay.'

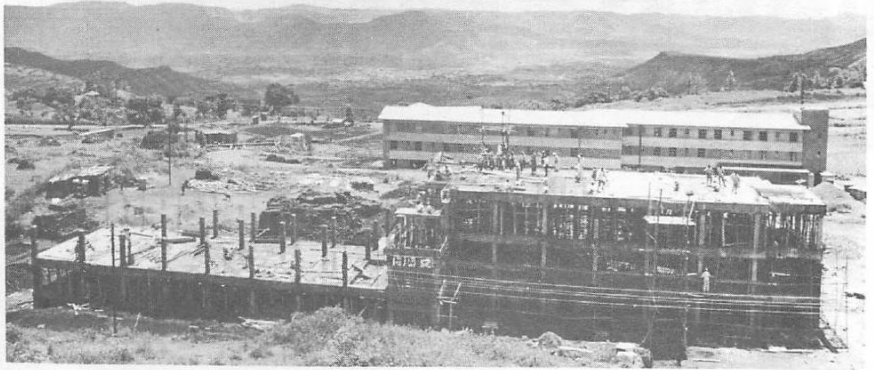
'Man in each generation is faced with the choice of building the City of God or the City of Man. And that is what we are faced with today. It is the choice and the challenge given by Moral Re-Armament.'

Simon Scott Plummer, an international news agency sub-editor, said that what a journalist wrote was determined by the life he led. 'It is difficult for a man who is selfish and greedy to write convincingly on the great problem of poverty in many parts of the world; for a man who fears other men's opinions to write an objective and honest story; for a man who is cynical and defeatist in his private life to appreciate man's immense struggles all over the world for equality, justice and peace.'

He instanced the almost disastrous impact of an exaggerated report of the support given by British dockers to Enoch Powell's immigration speech. When published in India the report caused the Indian dockworkers and the Socialist Trade Unions to plan a boycott of all British ships in India. The boycott plan was only dropped when British trade unionists in India with MRA explained the limited support given Powell by London dockers, and when messages to the Indian dockers were sent from trade union leaders in Britain.

Journalists must move ahead of the times in which they lived, he said. They needed a care and an understanding of the world. 'In this way we shall find that the spirit of MRA is in accordance with the highest ideals of journalism.'

Speakers outlined the impact of the films and books of MRA in Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Ceylon, South Africa and India. William Jaeger, responsible for MRA's work internationally in the industrial and trade union field, said that there was an urgent need to translate MRA's pamphlets and literature into Russian, Arabic, Polish, Spanish, Czech, and French to meet worldwide demands.



Construction of the second residential building at the new MRA centre in Panchgani, due for completion by the end of the year. photo Channer

Gandhi asks for 'Happy Deathday' MERSEYSIDE SUPPORTS PANCHGANI

RAJMOHAN GANDHI, chief editor of the Indian newsweekly *Himmat*, outlining the importance of the film *Happy Deathday* for Asia, writes, 'In the absence of television, and with our shamefully low literacy rates, films have a role in Asia that may sometimes be difficult to comprehend in Europe . . . If *Happy Deathday* can be filmed, and if we can receive copies, we shall have the chance of reaching millions with truths that are not only precious but could be life-saving. Blinded by prejudices and superstition, enticed and sapped by materialism, our people need to know so much more about true compassion and its source. They need *Happy Deathday*.'

Money has recently been raised towards the filming of *Happy Deathday* in Sweden, Switzerland and Australia. The fund now stands at £23,000, leaving £22,000 still to be found.

A £530 'MERSEY ROOM' is to be built into the new Moral Re-Armament Training Centre at Panchgani in India from gifts made by hundreds of interested Liverpool people.

This announcement was made by Eric T Morrell, during a special luncheon given recently in honour of Miss Constance Smith, former headmistress of Penrhos College, and Miss Jill Robbins who both talked of their recent world wide tour with the film of Peter Howard's pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone*.

Alderman D J Lewis, former Lord Mayor of Liverpool, presided at the meeting.

The India Arise (Panchgani) Committee in Britain have appealed for 40 cities, boroughs or counties to follow Merseyside's example and subscribe the cost of one room each.

Published this week

THE OLD TESTAMENT FOR MODERN EXPLORERS

Notes on the Book of Books
Roland Wilson

BLANDFORD PRESS 5s FROM YOUR BOOKSELLER OR
MORAL RE-ARMAMENT, 4 HAYS MEWS, W1 POSTAGE 9d

Violence blocks social progress

by Dr L E Vogel

VIOLENCE is the way to political and economic stagnation. The actual experience of real men is totally different from Mao Tse Tung's dictum that 'Political power comes out of the barrel of a gun'. What comes out of a gun-barrel is impotence.

I saw this first-hand in Latin America. In 1953, the newspapers of Rio de Janeiro carried headlines: 'Reign of terror in the Port'. A militant minority group of dockers were trying to settle glaring injustices by imposing their will through force of arms. They attacked the union. Naturally, the real union leaders took up arms in self-defence. Soon every docker carried a revolver or a gun, and sometimes both. Wives saw their husbands off to work in fear, never knowing if they would be carried home maimed or injured.

While the power struggle between the rival groups went on with ever-increasing fury, the injustices of the dockers continued unresolved. Rolling strikes—sometimes every ten days, for months at an end—disrupted the economy of the country, and food needed to help feed Brazil's 40,000,000 hungry bellies rotted on quay-sides.

Moral Re-Armament came into this situation. The union President cleaned up his life and found a power from God which changed the life of the man who came to shoot him, the leader of the terrorists. Together they undertook to unite the dockers. The terrorist's first act was to sell his two revolvers. Within eighteen months, every revolver and every knife had been eliminated from the port.

The union was united, the claims of the dockers for the redressing of grievances were irresistible. A few months after reconciling the rival factions the dockers received a 100% wage increase, together with greatly improved fringe benefits.

One of the next things tackled was the dockers' housing, for many lived in shacks in an insanitary shantytown near the port. The Port Authority accepted a union plan and built a whole model housing project on the shantytown site, tearing down the hovels. 750 families of dockers now live there paying minimum rents.

The change in the dockers' status in

the community was even more pronounced. Politicians who had either denounced or exploited the strife-torn watersiders in past days now made speeches in parliament about their model union elections. One member, speaking in Parliament said: 'These simple dockers, many of whom cannot read or write, are teaching us politicians a lesson in democracy'. The former State Police Chief said on television: 'These dockers are my country's best ambassadors. They were my biggest headache.'

Cure for corruption

Violence is one of the many forms of corruption and as such demands an urgent cure. Violence simply means I increase my privileges at the expense of the community as a whole—just as definitely as if I indulge in black-marketeering or drug-running. But if there is to be social and economic progress, and solutions found for the huge injustices that exist in Latin America, every kind of corruption must be cured.

Moral Re-Armament's cure is the most realistic and radical: it is to make the corrupt and the corrupter honest, and to enlist them both in remaking the whole of society.

Who are the builders of a new age?

RAJMOHAN GANDHI, one of the men responsible for MRA in Asia, was asked while visiting Europe last month to comment on the current European revolutions.

He said, 'I do not believe that the trouble in the world is affluence. I do not believe it is poverty. I believe it is man's attitude to man.'

'The answer for the world is a change in the nature of man. Any idea that does not change the nature of man is very ineffective. It is reactionary. So long as men keep the lust, the hate, the greed and the selfishness in their hearts and their systems, they are not the builders of a new age.'

'When Asians look at Europe, we find one section who are blamers, who attack what is wrong, and another section who are blame-deniers and say, "We have done all we could. We have done nothing wrong. You are agitators, trouble-makers." Then we

Peter Howard, speaking to 1500 Rio de Janeiro dockers as their invited guest speaker, made this plain. 'Moral Re-Armament began for me when I returned money from petty cash to the newspaper where I worked,' he said. The dockers exploded with laughter. 'What are you laughing for?' asked Howard. 'Do you think dockers are the only ones who know how to steal? All of us on the platform here know how to steal too.' (Standing at his side were some of the highest Government officials). The dockers got the point; that a national clean-up has to begin with myself. They went to work. A year later, Rio newspapers published statistics showing that monthly Port revenues were up by 100%—from 1.3 to 3.0 billion cruzeiros. This was because stealing had gone out, with the dockers also insisting that shipping companies paid proper port dues.

Out of the changes made at this time came many of the solid advances that made the dockers in government-controlled ports like Rio de Janeiro amongst the best paid workers of Brazil. They put their experience of the first few years into a film, *Men of Brazil*, which has been shown on every continent.

ask, "Where do we go from here?" Asia wants to see in Europe nations of problem-solvers. We want to see people who accept their responsibility for their part in creating these problems, but also then go to the next step of solving them by changing people.

'The history of the revolutionary ideas of Moral Re-Armament has shown that the hardest problem can be solved through miracles in men—that men can be changed.'

'In the thirty years since it was launched on June 4th 1938, it has established bridgeheads in every nation. It has solved many conflicts and political problems. It has brought peace to countless factories and to countless families. It has brought unity to castes, language groups and racial groups throughout the world. National leaders and the ordinary men have said that here is the hope of the future.'

FRENCH CALL ON PARLIAMENT TO GIVE A NEW LEAD

Bastille Day conference at Caux

THE EVE OF BASTILLE DAY saw a return to the barricades in the Latin quarter of Paris. At the same time delegations from every part of France were assembling for a conference at the MRA centre in Caux, one aim of which is to draw the lessons from recent events in France.

Mme Irène Laure, former secretary general of the Socialist Women of France who was in India at the time of the first demonstrations, said she had found many people in other countries who counted on the French spirit. 'What a betrayal it will be,' she said, 'if we fall into anarchy'. She continued, 'There is a danger that the bitterness, hatred and hurt pride of those who have failed will invade France and will be on the streets again. Where are the French men and women,' she asked, 'who will stand at the barricades of common sense.'

Letter to all MP's

The conference, a 'Convention for Responsible Citizens' has been called by French people from every background, including students, workers, professors and businessmen. It is being attended also by representatives of 32 countries.

The French have also sent a letter to every member of their Parliament. The letter states: 'The ordinary Frenchman who feels himself powerless will put and keep his trust in the institution which you collectively represent, if he feels that the declarations made and the work done in your chamber contribute to the realisation of the society to which he aspires, rather than to the denigration of the other man, the other faction, the other philosophy or the other system.'

The letter continues, 'The voice of conscience speaking to each one could once again dominate your debates more than any majority.'

Roland Wilson, Secretary of MRA in Britain, addressing the conference, said he had found in India an intense interest and concern for the situation in France. 'Everywhere he said, 'you find people who expect more from Europe than Europe expects from it-

self. Self-absorption is the gravest disease of our time. We need to send out people from Europe with an answer in their hearts.'

Last week the French resort of Evian on Lake Geneva opened its theatrical season with a performance of *Anything to Declare?* As well as leading citizens of the town a special boat brought 146 across the lake from Lausanne. They included a Swiss Supreme Court Judge, the wife of a Vietnamese Minister and students from Lausanne University. The two main newspapers of the town *Le Dauphiné Libéré* and *Le Progrès* wrote that the public were conquered by both the content and the production. The reviewer says one of the aims of the show is to answer the wave of violence caused by the conflicts between men, between races and between generations, so that society may be enriched by the variety of the qualities of all humanity.'



Irène Laure

The Church must be reconciler says Metropolitan

THE MOST REV Lakdasa de Mel, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon, urged his country, India, to 'extend the right hand of fellowship to other brothers in Pakistan'.

The Metropolitan, who is attending the World Council of Churches Assembly in Uppsala, was speaking at a reception in the MRA centre near Stockholm.

Real wealth

He said, 'I pray that my country will stop pointing the finger of criticism at other nations and extend the right hand of fellowship to other brothers in Pakistan. The greatest wealth in the world today is not possessions, but human life, which God created and Christ came to redeem.'

'The Church must be a reconciling

factor in all walks of life and must learn to work with those who belong to it and those who do not.'

In this respect he greatly valued the work of British and Scandinavian trade unionists who have visited India earlier this year on the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi. They had been guests in the Metropolitan's home. 'I urged them to meet with their fellow workers and did all I could to put them in touch with employers.'

The reception was attended by delegates and officials of the WCC Assembly. John Söderlund, organiser of the Transport Workers' Union of Norrköping and one of the party of trade unionists recently in India, said, 'What we workers expect from the Church is that it gives us absolute moral standards and teaches both us and industrialists how to listen to God and obey.'