

MRA Information Service

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Seven Ethiopians from Eritrea address MRA assembly at Caux. Attending the session were Solaimen Al'Zein, Lebanese UN Ambassador at Geneva, and Abdul-Rahman Al-Bazzaz, former Prime Minister of Iraq

'At Caux I have seen for the first time people of different races living together without hate, fear and greed,' said Tekie Gebremehdin from Asmara. Mohammed Nur from Korun agreed. 'I have found here an answer for the hatred and bitterness I had towards other people,' he added.

'I thank God I came to Caux,' said Alumsaged Truneh. 'For the first time in my life I am really confident. When I came I was a materialist but I met people living differently—living by absolute standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love—and I decided to join them.'

The students are attending a 3-week course, 'Training for Responsible Leadership in the Modern World'

photo Strong



MISSING FACTOR IN CZECH— SOVIET EQUATION

Rajmohan Gandhi, Chief Editor of the Indian news weekly *Himmat*, said in Switzerland this week, 'Asia is very greatly stirred by the events in Czechoslovakia.

'In this sordid age to see the bigness of the Czechoslovak people, in this cowardly age to see their bravery, and in this couldn't care less age to see their love of country, has done something to the consciences of Asian people and of the world.'

The Asian editor was speaking at the opening of a special session of the MRA conference in Caux, Switzerland, attended by 686 people from 44 countries.

'In the Czech-Soviet equation there is a missing factor,' said Gandhi. 'Dealing with Soviet power, the Czech people need the help of the only power decisively stronger than the Soviet Union. I am not referring to the United States of America but to Almighty God.'

'It is very wrong merely to admire

the bravery and be moved by the moral and spiritual dilemma of the Czech people, deciding at gun point whether to go against their conscience.

'Division in the non-Communist world presents as grave a blow to the Czech people as the tanks that roll in.

We are meant in these coming days to discuss our part in curing the corruption, selfishness and self-absorption of the non-Communist world.

'Men must choose to be governed by God or they condemn other nations to be ruled by tyrants.'

Alan Thornhill's new family comedy

BISHOP'S MOVE

opens on 12 September

WESTMINSTER THEATRE

LONDON

WHAT EUROPE MOST NEEDS . . .

An East European observer made the following comments on the European situation, in introducing the film of Peter Howard's play **DECISION AT MIDNIGHT** at Caux in Switzerland.

WE HAVE ARRIVED straight from Yugoslavia and the atmosphere in East Europe is very tense.

To me the brutal events in Czechoslovakia over the last days illustrated two things. One, the complete ideological bankruptcy of the Soviet Union, and two, the complete shallowness of Western thinking about the curing of East-West tensions.

A lot of people talked cheaply about detente. Now they know there will be no detente on the cheap.

What we need, and the only thing that will give our children the future we want for them, is a revolution of thinking and living that goes deep enough to deal with the torrents of hate and fear that are being unleashed in the world today.

In face of the ideological bankruptcy of the Soviet Union on the one hand and the impotence of the West on the other, it seems to me that this is the moment above all to proclaim and live an ideology more dynamic than ever before that offers hope for the whole of humanity.

It will have to be an ideology that creates the new type of man that Communism admits it has not been able to do, and the West certainly hasn't. Detente won't do that. But the ideology of MRA is doing precisely that. That is why it gives me tremendous hope to be here.

I was struck by what the Czechoslovakian engineer said here on the day of the invasion, that, 'although Prague Radio goes off the air, I know that the voice of God can speak to me

wherever I am at any time. Liberalisation of our economy is fine, but it will not create the new society we want to have. Economic aid is important but what Czechoslovakia needs most of all is moral and spiritual re-armament.' That is realistic thinking on the situation in Eastern Europe.

This afternoon we saw *The Vanishing Island* which was written 13 years ago but it was poignant in its timeliness for today. Now we are going to have the privilege of seeing another

. . . AND WHAT AMERICA NEEDS

Extracts from a speech at Caux by Mrs Henrine Banks, Dean of Women at the Bethune Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida. Mrs Banks is President of the Florida Council on Human Relations.

ONE THING that has been very close to my heart here has been the situation in my own country. And strangely enough it has not been the racial situation. It has not been colour.

It has been the character of America. It's been these two big political campaigns—one has been over a couple of weeks and we sort of got by without any real violence. But in my own home town of Chicago, there has been horror. There has been a lack of character. There have been men against men of the same country. There have been youth fighting for their rights with adults fighting against them. There has been bloodshed. And the world has been as horrified by events there as they were by events in Prague.

My prayer is that the men who will

of Peter Howard's plays, written 8 years ago, but equally up to date for Europe tonight. It deals with an international situation, very similar to what has been in the headlines of our papers, dramatically and realistically, and shows how the answer can come dramatically and unexpectedly.

Arthur Koestler said communism was darkness at noon. Mr Kanellopoulos, former Prime Minister of Greece, said 'If Communism is darkness at noon, Moral Re-Armament is sunshine at midnight.'

That is exactly what Europe needs tonight. Mr Howard had Mr Kanellopoulos's words in mind when he made this play and called it *Decision at Midnight*.

be elected to office in the United States be men of statesmanship and develop a real power of leadership. We need men who are not out for greed of power, and governed by others who have greed for money. But men who really care for everyone, the men who vote for them and all who need their leadership.

Recently I have been in London and I want to pay a tribute publicly here to Conrad Hunte (former Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket XI). First for his decision. For it must have been hard to give up cricket. I was taken as a friend into some of the homes where he has been working—Indian, West Indian, all races. There were 18 of us at dinner, seven nationalities, with one family whose doors are open to all people in their community.

Conrad Hunte and his force are meeting the needs of people who have deep bitterness and hatred because of race. They are also tackling the injustices that give rise to bitterness.

This is the way we are meant to live, and I am deeply grateful for these days. I'd like to bring a force of American women to the next conference here. As I go back to America and to Bethune College I take with me a new heart. I take with me a new determination. And pray for me, for I need it. I'd like my life to be used every day to bring an answer to division in my school, my state, my country and the world.

The film of **DECISION AT MIDNIGHT** can be hired shortly in 16mm from MRA Productions, 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1. It is black and white and the running time is 90 minutes. Purchase price for a 16mm print is £170. Hire price: £6.10s. Your regional television may be interested in taking it for transmission. Please contact MRA Productions for details on television use.

The Chief Marshal and his son await news of the developing crisis



A MORAL AND SPIRITUAL FORCE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO REMAKE THE WORLD

by Mary Wilson

THIRTY YEARS AGO, in Switzerland, Frank Buchman spoke of a negative cloud hanging over Europe—it was 2 September 1938. 'What', he asked, 'will drive away the clouds that have been hanging over the Jungfrau during these ominous days?'

And he gave the answer—'We have set ourselves the difficult task of trying to liquidate the cost of bitterness and fear, which mounts daily. The odds are seemingly against us, but just as individuals are delivered from their prison cells of doubt and defeat, so it is possible for nations to be delivered from their prison cells of fear, resentment, jealousy and depression.'

We faced a crisis then. We face another now, but with this difference. The world force of Moral Re-Armament, launched by Frank Buchman, reaches today into every continent. It goes through the tumult of war, revolution, and the threats of invaders, with a strategy to put God in charge of nations.

1968 is a year in which we celebrate many anniversaries of moves started in the course of the last century and a half by determined men and women—some rebels, some visionaries, some were both—who wanted something new for the world.

Karl Marx was born a hundred and fifty years ago. In 1848 he launched the Communist Manifesto, designed to produce a society in which the power of the state would finally wither away and all men would be equal.

A hundred years ago some workmen met in a group which was later to be recognised as having been the birth of the Trade Union Congress. The same year men who looked hopefully towards a voluntary association of nations founded what is now the Commonwealth Society. India is preparing for the Centenary celebrations of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. The Women's Suffrage movement has its fiftieth birthday this year.

It was an age bubbling with ideas which were to take shape during the years leading up to the present day.

The movements into which they grew all developed in various ways, and not all in the same direction. Each saw the world from its own viewpoint. Each was sure that its views would produce a world of order and sanity.

Then in 1908 when revolutions of Left against Right, of women against men, were well on the way, one man made a decision destined to catch them up and overtake them.

Sixty years ago this year Frank Buchman decided to abandon bitterness and the fruitless blaming of others, through changing not others, but himself.

Marx faced with social injustice called on the workers of the world to unite and destroy those who stood in their way. Buchman faced with the steely selfishness of management, gave God the selfishness and bitterness in his own heart and began to train a force in which workers could play their part in uniting the world.

It was a timeless decision, in the tradition of the men of God through the ages. It was timely in being the starting point of God's answer for our own age.

Two world wars

Two world wars have come and gone since Frank Buchman made that decision. They have left untold misery, oppression and bitterness. By 1968 idealism, reason and violence have all failed to inspire man or control him.

A small boy was found by his mother stealing chocolates. After discussing it with him she said, 'Shall we ask God to help you not to do it again?' 'No', said the child firmly, 'I think I'll try once more by myself.'

This may be the year to admit that trying by ourselves has not worked. It may also be the year when all the revolutionary forces of the world—all those who genuinely want to get things done—begin to unite in the revolution of Moral Re-Armament.

'Nations must be governed by men governed by God,' said Frank Buch-

man. 'Why not let God run the whole world?'

For fragmentation cannot go on indefinitely. Splitting the atom brought advance to science, but we cannot go on forever splitting humanity into smaller units. Nor will Black Power, Youth Power, Money Power, or Armed Might bring the splinters together, except by further suppression of one lot of people by another.

The greatness of Frank Buchman lay in the fact that he tackled more than he could handle alone. It was, and remains, a task impossible without God. Other revolutions have concentrated on sections of mankind, on something the promoters thought they could manage—one race—one class—one age—one religion. It is easier to divide and rule than to unite and serve.

Moral Re-Armament is out to replace the policy of the balance of power, whereby politicians play one nation off against another, with the uniting power of God at work in all nations.

This has been demonstrated at Caux this year. The clouds are again hanging over Europe, as they did in 1938. But in 1938 Caux, as we know it today, did not exist—nor did the Westminster Theatre, nor did Asia Plateau at Panchgani.

In 1968 all the warring elements in the world are beginning to meet in these and other places to put into practice the answer to hate and lust for power—men and women from countries in the grip of revolution and civil war are finding their way to them. So are people from countries still clinging precariously to stability and order.

They are finding that we have not yet tapped the great creative sources in the Mind of God—that God has a plan, and that the combined moral and spiritual forces of the nations can find that plan. That we can, we must and we will generate a moral and spiritual force that is powerful enough to remake the world.

**Assembly in the
Westminster Theatre**

Main speaker:

RAJMOHAN GANDHI

Sunday 15 September

at 11 am

RAJMOHAN GANDHI IN CEYLON

RAJMOHAN GANDHI, speaking in Ceylon last week, said that it was time India thought of her neighbours. This could be the start of a new Asia, he said. The *Sun* termed Gandhi's speech 'a spirited appeal for unity in Asia'.

Gandhi announced that the MRA musical, *India Arise*, which had toured Europe last year with Ceylonese and Indians in the cast, was going to be 'escalated' into *Asia Arise*.

He was speaking at a reception in his honour attended by the President of the Senate and the Mayor of Colombo.

During his visit to Ceylon he was received by the Governor-General, William Gopallawa; the Prime Minister, D S Senanyake; the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs S Bandaranaike and given a Senate lunch by the Senate President, A Ratnayake.

In my view

WE HAVE MISSED THE POINT OF FREEDOM

TODAY THE CZECHS are fighting for their freedom with slogans and pamphlets against armoured tanks, while the world looks on.

As a sixteen year old brought up in a so-called free society, I am looking around for what to do with my life and with my freedom. I see my generation using freedom to indulge their lusts, as love gets freer and freer, and running away from life in a world of hippies, way-out clothes and loud music.

I see the older generation, who have fought for and won their freedom in two world wars, using it to get more and more money, then sitting back and enjoying it.

But as I watch the bitter and frustrated faces passing in the street, I wonder—will I look like them in forty years' time?

End products

Looking at Britain now, can this be the end product of freedom, a cause for which millions through history have fought and died? Are we really free in this country? And free to do what?

We use freedom of speech to debunk, freedom of expression to dramatise perversion and violence. In my view, we have missed the point and meaning of true freedom.

We are each of us a slave to something, whether it's money, sex, power

or security. We are all subject to our own human nature, our prides, fears, hates and habits.

I have found that true freedom comes when I obey the inner voice, and cross my will with God's. Then my rugged selfcentredness is broken, which otherwise, no matter how hard I try, makes me go all out for myself and to hell with the rest of the world.

When we find that freedom, we shall be able to build this new society which is what everyone is looking for—where we are all free under God to put right the things that are wrong in the world.

That, in my view, is what we in a free society are meant to do with our freedom. It is what I am going to do with mine.

JOANNA SCIORTINO

New Zealand farmer for India

A NEW ZEALAND FARMER and his wife left New Zealand for India last week to give voluntary service in farm development there.

Mr and Mrs John Porteous from Pukekohe, near Auckland, have developed two dairy farms. They have just leased their present farm to free themselves to accept the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi to develop a model demonstration and training farm attached to the new Moral Re-Armament training centre, Asia Plateau, at Panchgani in the state of Maharashtra, 160 miles from Bombay.

Speaking at a farewell Asian Dinner, attended by citizens of Wellington, Porteous quoted Gandhi as saying, 'Unless you give us the spirit of Moral Re-Armament, we can make you poor before you make us rich.' Porteous continued, 'It is this vital aspect of aid which I believe to be very important.'

Happy Deathday read in Merton

A UNIQUE EXPERIMENT in community co-operation took place in Merton, one of the boroughs of Greater London, on 27 August.

Actors drawn from five local drama groups combined under the direction of Hugh S Williams in a dramatic reading of Peter Howard's *Happy Deathday*. The fund-raising event was arranged by the Merton branch of the Friends of the Westminster.

One of the members of the Borough Arts Council, said, 'I had not realised how powerful a reading could be. We must do this kind of thing more often.'

Dr C Giles, Senior Lecturer at Strathclyde University and a leading authority on surface chemistry, said, 'It was very moving. I would like our University to do it.'

Dr R Prasad who is working in a London hospital before taking up research work in Oxford said, 'This is the very thing for the universities and leaders in India. It will give them hope.'

As of going to press £26,919 out of the £45,000 needed for the filming of *Happy Deathday* has been raised.

The casting for the film is almost complete and filming is due to begin on 23 September.

It had not been easy, Porteous said, to leave the security and comfort of a home and farm, but 'we feel very much that this is the kind of aid New Zealand is meant to give and is in a favoured position to give at this particular time in history.'

The dinner, held for the purpose of raising funds for the construction of Asia Plateau, was hosted by His Worship the Mayor of Wellington, Sir Francis Kitts, and Lady Kitts. In welcoming the guests Sir Francis referred to the news, just broadcast, of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and said how it highlighted the need for the moral re-armament of nations as well as of individuals. Business firms donated goods for the dinner and Asian dishes which featured were prepared as a contribution by Indian women and others who have spent years in India.