

South Tyrol agreement: leaders speak in Belfast

'We used to hit first and talk afterwards'

IN NORTHERN IRELAND and South Tyrol the hand of history to many has seemed violent and arbitrary. However, at the end of 1969 a new hope was born in the North Italian province of South Tyrol.

South Tyrol leaders last Saturday in Belfast gave some of the behind the scenes story of what made agreement possible between the South Tyrol Province and the Italian and Austrian Governments on the future of this strife-torn area. (See article over page)

They spoke at a dinner with an unusual guest list ranging from members of the Northern Ireland Government to men who manned the barricades in the recent riots, city councillors, Catholic and Protestant clergymen, businessmen and university students.

Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, Member of Parliament in Rome representing the German-speaking interests in South Tyrol, and Senator Peter Brugger, Vice-



Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, MP, and Senator Peter Brugger outside Stormont

President of the South Tyrol People's Party, both addressed the dinner.

Dr Mitterdorfer said, 'Your problem is basically similar to our own. We

have already learned a great deal from your situation that we can use in ours. I am struck by what I heard from one

Continued on page 2

'Welcome to Britain, home of a multi-racial society'

Rajmohan Gandhi writes on Springbok tour

RAJMOHAN GANDHI, grandson of the Mahatma, has suggested a different kind of demonstration when the South African cricketers come to Britain. Outlining the difficulties arising from the South African tour, he proposes that 'the demonstrators should consider taking with them to the grounds placards that say, "Welcome to Britain, home of a multi-racial society".'

Writing in the Asian newsweekly *Himmat*, Gandhi says, 'Instead of being criticised, obstructed or accused, the

cricketers should be invited by those in Britain of all races who oppose apartheid to their homes. Not to be given a lecture on the wrongness of their Government's attitude—of which some of them may already be convinced—but to be received in hospitable fashion.'

Believers in racial partnership and friendship could not do much better than winning the popular Graeme Pollock, perhaps the world's best bat. 'What will the white people of South Africa not take from this sort of hero?'

The sportsmen, not the politicians, may be the best channel to induce a fresh thinking in South Africa.

'An increasing number everywhere, of course, have realised that bitter demonstrators defeat their own purposes. Warm friendship is likely to produce better results than hot slogans.'

Gandhi proposes that the South Africans should meet their counterparts from the West Indies. 'Surely the South Africans would be intrigued at the prospect of meeting a figure like Conrad Hunte. All enthusiasts know about his batting, and quite a few have heard of what he is trying to do for race. He has spent a good deal of time in Britain enlisting whites, blacks and browns in an effort to give permanence and harmony to a multi-racial society.'

See over for further comment.

Continued from page 1

man today, "No one can take from us the right to be responsible for our country."

Giving the history of the South Tyrol dispute he said, 'Force is no solution. Force in the South Tyrol met with counter-force and you get a spiral of force. Many were killed and there was much tragedy.'

'I realised that a solution must be found in another way. People came to see that the problem must be solved by negotiation, but even the very best laws can only take the edge out of the situation. They are not enough on their own.'

'On 22 November last year, our party accepted the proposition of a packet deal with the Italian Government. I would like to say a personal word about this.'

'Two years ago I first came to Caux, the MRA world conference centre in Switzerland. I came because I felt we

South Tyrol agreement

South Tyrol, which has a German-speaking majority, has been under Italian rule since the end of the First World War. For the last ten years there have been bitter disputes between the Italian and German language groups and serious incidents have taken place—bombings and assassination.

On 1 December 1969, the Foreign Ministers of Italy and Austria agreed to a package deal to end the dispute. The deal was also approved by representatives of the 230,000 strong German-speaking population in South Tyrol. The area has 130,000 Italian speakers.

There has been sabotage since the area was incorporated into a larger administrative region giving it an Italian-speaking majority. Under the package deal, this was reversed putting the German speakers in the majority again.

Springboks

continued from page 1

BRIAN BOOBYER, former England Rugby international and Oxford Rugby and Cricket Blue, writes:

Rajmohan Gandhi's statement is superb. He expects Britain to help South Africa find a way out of her dilemma.

I have played Rugby in South Africa on her magnificent grounds. It is a lovely country, prevented, it seems to me, by fear and bitterness from doing great things for the world.

A prophet voice once said, 'Where there is no vision the people perish.' I salute Gandhi's vision and I will work to see it realised.

needed help. At Caux the perspective by which I looked at South Tyrol enormously widened. We are a mountain people. It is understandable if the mountains sometimes block the view.'

Responsibility

He described his meeting with Rajmohan Gandhi, Chief Editor of *Himmat*, and continued, 'I decided to do anything possible to arrive at new relationships. It was a question of a responsibility that extended beyond ourselves, of giving up our rights, but it was a prospect in which we were more likely to accomplish our aim. But something had to change.'

'It is easy to demand that the other man change. The important thing is that you yourself face the responsibility.'

'As a result of doing this, we were able to have a talk with Mr Piccoli, former Secretary-General of the Christian Democrats in Rome. After I had talked to him, he admitted that there had been mistakes on the Italian side. Later he said this publicly in Parliament. Here was a way to a better relationship.'

Turning to Senator Brugger, Dr Mitterdorfer continued, 'For instance, Senator Brugger is leader of the opposition wing within our own party. The clash between us whether or not to accept the package deal has at times been extremely sharp. There was danger that permanent harm could come to our people from this clash.'

'During my last visit to Caux, I decided I should talk to Senator Brugger. This was necessary but very difficult.'

'We politicians are all driven by ambition. This can be personal ambition or ambition to meet the need of the task we face. When I measured my own position, I discovered a lot of envy and jealousy of those whom I felt had better qualities and more success.'

'After long consideration and many postponements I had this talk with Senator Brugger and apologised for the wrong things that had been between us. I do not want to exaggerate the effect of such a personal relationship, but I do know that a lot of space came into our relationship and took us beyond our political disagreement.'

'This new relationship may have extended to others and made possible much freer discussion on the package deal. We may then have played some part in the unity of our party which was so necessary for the right relationship with the Italian Government. And the fact that we can come to you today together speaks of that.'

Senator Brugger shook Dr Mitterdorfer warmly by the hand and thanked him for what he had said. 'We have

sometimes had to go different ways,' the Senator said. 'We have fought hard but we have both been trying to do the best for our country. We and you here in Ireland can unite on one point. All of us love our land. From that arises a sense of responsibility about which Dr Mitterdorfer spoke.'

'I have had to refuse to build upon artificial differences for my own purposes, to refuse to keep quiet about good things that others do, a silence which could produce violent results.'

'Sometimes in our situation we hit first and talk afterwards, but I can assure you that after the talk which Dr Mitterdorfer so courageously initiated, a new relationship began between us personally.'

Get on together

'Even if some political ideas remain different, I recognise our present political phase as a possible arrangement. It is not a full solution, that will come through men who have not been able to get on together, learning to live together. That needs time. I thank you for your invitation to Northern Ireland and I thank Dr Mitterdorfer for what he has said.'

The guests remained till nearly midnight and said the evening gave a new hope for Northern Ireland.

HAPPY DEATHDAY 'Shakes and grips you'

Happy Deathday, the colour film of Peter Howard's last play, continues to enthral and provoke discussion among audiences at the Westminster Theatre, London. Here are some comments on the film following its recent world premiere and at private previews in other parts of the world:

'Howard tackles the central problem of our age—whether man, with his great technical powers, will make a god of himself or accept obedience to something greater.'—*Fleet Street Journalist*.

'Even more meaningful to us here where the generation gap is wider than in Europe.'—*civil servant, Ethiopia*.

'Shakes and grips your innermost being.'—*'Vaterland', Swiss Catholic daily*.

'The kind of film the industry is looking for now. Every family should see it.'—*film distributor, Ceylon*.

'It ought to be shown in the entire world.'—*Minister of Justice, Austria*.

'What's it say? Change yourself and pass it on to the next.'—*Cockney*.

'Where will industry take the world in the 1970s?'

Managers and workers from British industry convene conference

THE PERMISSIVE SOCIETY was soundly rapped by both Management and Labour at a Moral Re-Armament conference last weekend.

'We cannot run a steel works on permissiveness,' said John Craig, Group Director—Finance, Scottish and North West Group, British Steel Corporation. 'When a man is handling 200 tons of molten metal, he has to put it where and when it is wanted. You need strict rules. Industry must speak out with a loud and clear voice, demanding that we establish moral standards recognised as authoritative. This authority must be what is right for humanity—not just for one section of it.'

Men from the troubled motor factories of the Midlands and Merseyside, from steel factories and shipping line boardrooms, from the docks of Merseyside and the yards of Belfast and the Clyde, had convened the industrial conference at Tirley Garth, Cheshire. Two hundred men and women from

Britain's key industries, from Aberdeen to London, met to consider together the theme, 'Where will Industry take the world in the 1970s?'

William Taylor, shop steward and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Austin British Motor Corporation factory at Longbridge, Birmingham, said that his experience at MRA conferences had equipped him with 'answers to take to the conferences with management'. 'I am going along with MRA and its four standards,' he said.

His brother, George Taylor, who works in a Birmingham engineering firm, described how he had last week tackled an injustice in the factory. After 38 years in the firm, he had been suddenly told that he was being moved to another job, dropping £4 10s. in his weekly wage.

Instead of 'blowing his top' and walking out of the factory, he had asked for time to think it over. He decided to approach the departmental manager.

'We talk about equal pay for women. What interests me is women taking equal responsibility for industry. Industry is not just a matter of lathes, furnaces and computers—it is relationships. It needs people who have an answer to demand and bitterness in their own homes and who can deal with these things at work.'

Mrs John Pate, wife of a member of the Sheffield District Committee of the AEF.

'I told him,' said Taylor, 'that I had been applying the basic standards of MRA with the men at work and that these standards applied to him too. I felt this treatment of me was not honest. I thought he would tell me to get out, but I stood my ground, and he said, "Strangely enough there is a job we can fit you in at your old rate of pay." It is only by applying MRA that I was able to straighten things out like this.'

Among those present were John Houlder, Chairman of Houlder Brothers and Co Ltd, the shipping line; W J Green, Chief Executive of WPM Paint Division; Les Dennison, Chairman of the Building Trades Operatives in Coventry; George Whyte, National Trade Group Committee Member, TGWU; Jim Worthington, Member of the National Maritime Board; shop stewards and convenors from Rolls-Royce, Vauxhall, Girling Brakes, and BMC factories in the Midlands, Merseyside and Luton.

'Two of us deciding things'

JOHN AND SANDRA WOODS were born and grew up in Liverpool. They live in Kirkby, part of the Prime Minister's constituency. John is a dockers' shop steward working in Liverpool for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

They have three rumbustious boys, aged nine, six and three. John's father was a watchman and Sandra's a baker.

This is their story:

SANDRA: John and I seemed to be at a stalemate. One would not give way to the other, and eventually it was the children who suffered most. I could no longer stand the evenings when he came home.

Oh, he was not a drinker or a wife-beater or anything like that. But I always thought a husband should be one to help his wife master the everyday problems that the wife could not solve by herself, like the worries of bills.

But John's only interest was to lounge in a chair and snore his head off; if I asked him a question I was always nagging, and so it went on and on and on.

Eventually things got so bad and the

atmosphere at home was so strained I decided to leave. Then out of the blue John asked me out one night, so with nothing better to do I went. And in the Dockers' Club, Edinburgh Park, we met MRA's revue, *Anything to Declare?*, and it set me thinking.

I began to realise that you cannot hope to change someone else unless you are prepared to change yourself, so I decided to give it a try, and slowly it worked. We both realised we could get nowhere as we were.

We decided we would set a time aside each evening to talk over our problems and help each other to sort them out. It was funny, really, that I could be married nearly ten years and not know my husband. I knew nothing of how he felt about our home or what he did at work or how he liked his job, because I had done exactly what I had accused him of. I had not cared to ask after him, just as he had not cared for my problems.

Once we realised we were equally to blame, we started to climb back to a



John and Sandra Woods

happier way of life. There are still times when John snores, and I nag, but as soon as we realise it, we laugh about it and start again. We have a lot to learn and a lot of hard work ahead of us before we reach our goal, but now thanks to MRA we can do it together.

JOHN: Before meeting MRA I had absolutely no understanding on the docks.

Continued on page 4

In my view

Living is better than Existing

by 17 year-old Margaret Gray

MOST OF MY FRIENDS seem doomed to go through life in the usual pattern of leaving school, getting a job, getting married and then die! I do not want that and I am sure they do not either. One girl said to me the other day, 'There must be more to life than this!'

We want something that is big enough to give a new way of life. Something practical, nothing airy-fairy but really down to earth.

'Deciding things'

Continued from page 3

It was a case of all take and no give, will it give *me* more? Not, will it help everyone? But now we can sort things out between us by talking things over with the employers, thus avoiding many petty strikes and increasing productivity.

Apart from the docks we have tried to bring a breath of Moral Re-Armament to Kirkby by showing films like *Give a Dog a Bone* to children of all age groups. After seeing the film two young girls went round the houses, collecting groceries to make Christmas hampers for the local pensioners. This was their way of showing that they care for people, their idea for changing things and helping others.

There is also a marked difference in our own home. My wife had even considered leaving me, but after listening to several speeches about Moral Re-Armament, I began to see myself in a way which I never thought possible and it frightened me. I had always thought the home problems were not for me to worry about, that was the wife's job, until I asked myself, is it *my* or *their* home?

So I decided I had to do something pretty fast. It took many nights of battling with my conscience and the telly, but I eventually won, and now when the children go to bed at night, instead of the constant arguing over how lazy I am, we sit down and talk of what we have to do about one problem or another and the worries fade away. It is so much easier having two of us to decide things.

We do not want the security of a steady, dull job that merely pays well, we do not want standards that are easy and that compromise. We want something that is downright honest—not just 'being good'—but living straight enough to be a part of a world plan that what we do, however great or small, will be significant and strategic in building a better and freer world.

I have found this in MRA. It sets absolute moral standards that can free you to do the things you have never dared to do before. It sets you thinking and living for the whole world. You are not expected to tag along but to take responsibility for people in every country.

This is something I long to give to my friends at school, and also to everyone I meet.

This is the difference between just existing and really living.



Margaret Gray

Adventure is better than Comfort

by 85 year-old Irene Prestwich

HAS GOD laid on Britain a responsibility which can become her greatest glory—to be 'a nation governed by men governed by God'? Was it for this that martyrs like Sir Thomas More had died, that John Wesley had ridden up and down the land turning men to God? A call that had sent men to the far corners of the earth to create a Commonwealth, often for their own ends but bearing there also the faith of a great Christian heritage? That we came triumphant in the cause of freedom through the blood and tears of two world wars?

Is God calling us to a still greater destiny today—to bring this light and life of service to the whole world, a service to which the humblest and the greatest in the land can respond? Shall we not leave our love of comfort, our grasp for what the other fellow gets, our pursuit of holidays in the sun, for something great again—something great enough to stir in us that old love of

adventure, the call to sacrifice and serve—the uttermost purpose of a God-directed world—God calling us to unite families, to learn again the cost and sanity of obedience to His moral laws, to His guiding hand?

Could not this unite us again as a nation, to give freedom to the world, not freedom from selfish ends, but freedom to give the answer and purposes of God.



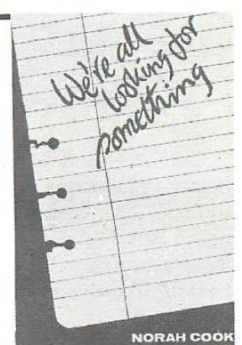
NEW PAMPHLET

by Norah Cook

Now teaching in a large Comprehensive School, Mrs Cook describes the close questioning, apparently hostile, of her sixth form class in Liberal Studies and of the conclusion they reached:

'We're all Looking for Something'

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NORAH COOK