

MRA Information Service

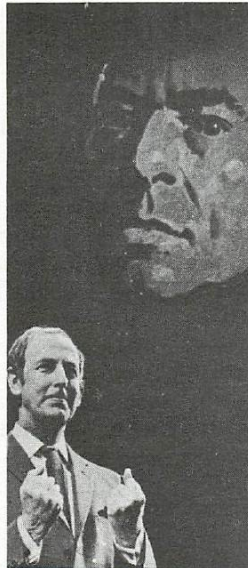
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'The Ladder'



'The Dictator's Slippers'

THE DICTATOR'S SLIPPERS and THE LADDER Up to date with a sting in its tale

Racial bridge building in Malaysia

BRIDGES between the different races in Malaysia needed building urgently said Bernard Lu, Political Secretary to Tun Tan Siew Sin, Malaysian Minister with Special Duties.

Lu, a Chinese-Malaysian, said last week at the 'Continents in Partnership' conference at Panchgani, India, 'My people often felt proud of their thousands of years of culture without showing a sufficient appreciation of the cultures of other communities.' The need was to discover how to move them from their Chinese orientation to become part of a Malaysian society in the making.

'Economically, socially and politically the Malays have not been given the help they need though they are the majority people. We took our colonial history as a scapegoat for our responsibilities. We never asked ourselves what we should do today. That is why we had the May 13 riots. Since coming to Panchgani,' he concluded, 'I have begun to feel the "We" spirit instead of the "I" spirit.'

Lu is one of the Malaysian delegation to the conference including representatives of the Malay, Chinese and Indian communities.

WITH A POWER STRUGGLE rumoured amongst Soviet leaders gathered in Moscow for Lenin's centenary next week, Peter Howard's play *The Dictator's Slippers* is as up-to-date as when he wrote it—just before Stalin died.

At its London premiere last week, an East European commented, 'My President would enjoy this. It is what is happening around us.' Asian and African ambassadors laughed as they saw on stage black, white and brown leaders of a world revolution scramble to succeed a sick dictator. 'A comedy with a sting in its tale,' wrote *Time and Tide*, London political weekly.

The Dictator's Slippers opened in a double bill at the Westminster Theatre with *The Ladder*. In this brilliant one-act drama Howard dissects the forces impelling a democratic politician up the ladder of success. As the Hero makes conscience serve career, crisp cameos reveal the roles of mother, wife, mistress and financial and political backers. 'This play,' said a South American diplomat, 'shows the choice each one of us needs to make.'

Acted with tremendous conviction by experienced casts who bring out, under Henry Cass' direction, every point the author intended, the plays invite men everywhere to choose a wholly different authority in place of man-made drift to chaos and enslavement.

They show how materialist revo-

lutionaries—or any cabinet, committee or council—can find a new thinking, and challenge Britain to turn from sex, security and success to the Cross of Christ.

It is a unique event at this stage in the theatre's history. Posterity may record it as a turning point in the history of Britain.

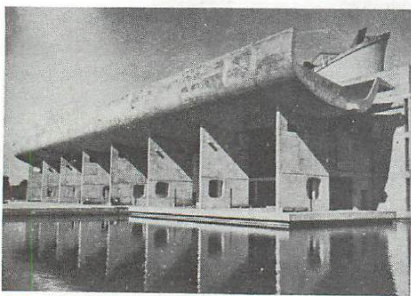
The two plays run until 23 May.

'Dramatises the Cross of Christ' —says British actress

WEST END ACTRESS Phyllis Konstam, contrasting the play *The Ladder* with the trend in British theatre, said, 'Here at the Westminster is a play which actually dramatises the Cross of Christ. It is relevant, beady and bang-on.'

'Most of you know what British theatre is like today—much of it is the most decadent in the world. But think of presenting to Britain at this time a play which actually dramatises the Cross of Christ,' she said, speaking this week at an MRA meeting in the Westminster Theatre.

Miss Konstam said, 'One young actor told me it was the finest play on the crucifixion he had ever seen. An actress said to me over the phone, "Phyll, I can't believe what is going on in London theatre. In the midst of it all the Westminster is the most inspired theatre".'



State Parliament

'THANK GOD WE HAVE SOME MEN OF ACTION'

Report from Chandigarh, India

An MRA international force with the musical 'Anything to Declare?' went to Chandigarh shortly after riots had broken out in February concerning the ownership of the city. Bitter feelings existed between the Jats of Haryana and the Punjabis of Punjab over the future of the modern city of Chandigarh. Built originally as the capital of Punjab it became Union Territory when Punjab was divided to form the two states of Haryana and Punjab. The New Delhi Government announced in February that Chandigarh would revert to Punjab in five years but in the meantime both States would share it.

The Governors of Punjab and Haryana sat together to see 'Anything to Declare?' and the Chief Ministers of the two states both received the international force.

RICHARD WEEKS reports on the action taken by college students:

THE PRINCIPAL of the Government college for women had thought the fruit in her garden was safe. She had even taken the precaution of placing a paper wrapping over each guava as a protection against the birds.

One eventually, however, she had not foreseen. Here was one of her students telling how, not once, but several times, she had taken guavas from Mrs Ram's garden! She turned towards her principal and apologised. Mrs Ram's face reflected mixed emotions: reproof, certainly, but also amazement and joy at the new and contagious spirit spreading through her college.

30 start revolution

This was not the first time such an apology had been made. It had been happening all week. In fact, ever since four girls from the cast of the MRA revue *Anything to Declare?* had come to live in the college hostel, students had been putting right wrong relationships, getting honest about cheating in examinations and about using ink remover to erase the record of days spent out of college.

The students say, 'Already about thirty of us have started this revolution.' The principal says, 'The college hall is always available to show MRA films or to hold meetings.'

Students from this college gathered

on a recent Sunday afternoon with 60 Chandigarh citizens to plan action.

The girl who had helped herself to the guavas disclosed that the college principal was not the only one to have suffered from her light fingers. She had taken chocolate from the canteen without paying the contractor. At first she had been petrified to approach him, but when at last she mustered enough courage to go and pay the money back, her fears proved to be unfounded. 'He even told me,' she exclaimed, 'of childhood days when he had done the same!' This reaction encouraged others to follow her example.

A second student from the same college wanted to make the point that personal change was only the first step. 'We have got to change ourselves,' she said, 'but if we stop there we don't get anywhere. We must start working on a broader scale.'

If this spirit was to reach all levels of society, she went on, they would have to produce shows like *Anything to Declare?* in the Indian languages. They would also need training.

'I already have a play,' declared a medical student in response to the latter's suggestion. After talking with Osman Ibrahim from Eritrea, he concluded that he must translate and produce the Eritrean play *I am the third*.

'I have attended meetings of the Indian Integration Council, but there was something lacking in us. Now I realise what we lacked was honesty and all the other absolute moral standards. It will really make a great difference to the country if these ideas are inculcated in us.'

A professor from the law faculty of the Punjab University said that no amount of teaching, academic or non-academic could have had the effect produced by the visit of the MRA international force.

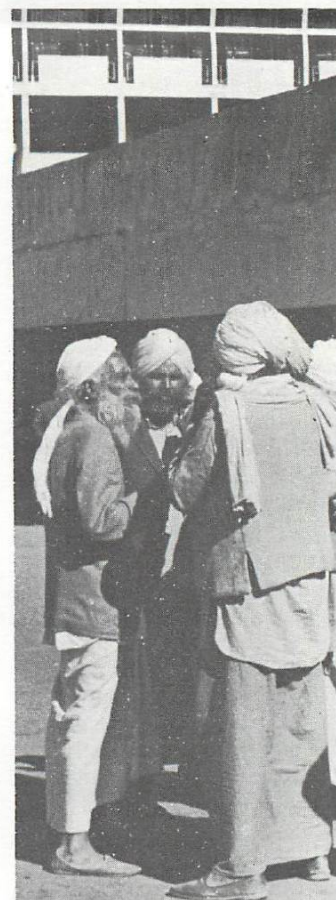
'We must make sure,' he went on, 'that whatever impressions and impact this visit has had must not depart. We need to have a permanent centre and form a nucleus of people who really mean to act.'

A doctor said that his house would always be available for this purpose, and as a start he suggested that all those

interested should meet there at the same time the following week. MRA had meant considerable changes in his life in recent days, he said. He had provided proper accommodation for his medical assistant and raised his servant's pay.

His daughter, who was studying for her Ph D, said she wanted to work with MRA and he had agreed to let her do so if she felt it was right. 'The greatest Ph D she can do,' he said, 'is to study these ideas and put them into practice.'

The afternoon was best summed up by an editor from Bombay. He said, 'This is my third visit to Chandigarh, but it is only this afternoon that I have discovered why this part of the country is so far advanced. Listening here I thought to myself, "Thank God that amongst all those in this land who talk we still have some men of action".'



Chandigarh citizens

Mayor of Delhi opens 'Continents in Partnership' conference

'Men at daggers drawn—MRA the ray of hope'

THE MAYOR OF DELHI, Hans Raj Gupta, last week opened the MRA conference 'Continents in Partnership' at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, 160 miles southeast of Bombay. 'All around men stand at daggers drawn. MRA is the one ray of hope,' he said.

'I came here from a desire to learn, to see if I could find at Panchgani the happiness for which I have been searching all my life,' he continued. 'We cannot find happiness until we live like men and cultivate in ourselves the standards of moral conduct a man should have.'

Che Saleha Zain, wife of the Malaysian Auditor General, said, 'The racial riots on May 13 last year were for me a turning point. For twenty years we had been involved in an economic, political and social struggle. We had forgotten God completely. Malaysia is a nation where all the different religions, cultures and races can live together in unity, harmony and happiness. Perhaps God planned it so as to be an example for the whole world and perhaps that is why I am here.'

Shashi Patel, whose Bombay firm processes ninety per cent of India's colour films, said, 'Four months ago I came as a spectator, but you cannot be a spectator here. Now, to use show business terms, I have been turned into an actor. In my firm we were heading for collision between myself and my workers. I started to apply MRA principles in my factory and in two days the situation was solved. Through MRA I have



Mayor of Delhi

found a new way of life.'

Present at the conference were leading Panchgani citizens and farmers from the surrounding villages. On the platform were representatives from five continents. Delegates from 21 nations are attending the conference.

'Hour is very late' says Madras businessman

THE TIDE can yet be turned in West Bengal and other disturbed areas in India, said V C Vishwanathan, a Madras businessman. 'The hour is very late, but we have the opportunity to grab the hour and take decisions that will turn the tide.' He was addressing an international conference at the MRA centre in Panchgani.

'I would like to live for one thing only—that Moral Re-Armament grips the mind of men and women all over this country, so that India can give some-

thing to the rest of the world, and so that the seventies will not be an age of dictatorship and violence, but one of renaissance and hope for the world.'

Vishwanathan, who was speaking after a performance of *Anything to Declare?* for conference delegates, said, 'Panchgani will be a focal point for the ideological struggle which will decide the future of Asia.' He stressed the importance of the auditorium at present under construction at the MRA centre, in creating films and plays for Asia.

BRITAIN AND THE BEAST—Book for 1970

AN ENGLISHMAN'S HOME is his castle, but certain things no walls can keep out. Last month many thousands of private citizens received through their letter box a letter advertising literature that anyone but the most confused would call pornographic.

Three weeks ago the *Radio Times* gave much space to the writer of their Wednesday night play. The time had now come for the public to be given the chance to view on TV the whole of sex and its perversions with nothing omitted. Viewers of such acts, the writer claimed, would then cease to be doers of them!

On a recent late night programme an author viciously attacked W H Smith's, the bookseller, for refusing to sell his latest work, and the commentator displayed the cover of this book and five others equally salacious (which W H Smith had also declined to sell). Each was 'panned' by the TV camera in close-up. In conclusion came his trump card, six further titles, which his sleuths had bought that very day from W H Smith's branches, differing regrettably very little from the first six.

To pick up Peter Howard's book

**Britain and the Beast* in the face of this is invigorating indeed. Here is an answer to the assault on our national character, deliberately engineered, on the old virtues of faith, chastity, honour, patriotism and obedience. Howard gives it with all the plainness of speech and with all the passion and hope of the great patriot he was.

'The question of our age,' Howard wrote, 'is this—and each must answer it for himself: is man spirit or only a beast, an animal?'

'If he is a beast then he will live like a beast and treat others as beasts. If he is more than a beast then he has within him a spirit that is eternal. . .

'Too many Christians have lived as if the others were right. Crossless Christians who have in fact made money, position, sex, food or power their guide. . .

'Churchmen should have been Churchills against this attack.'

The fact to be faced is this: if Britain

**Obtainable from 4 Hays Mews, London W1X 7RS, or your bookseller, price 5s.*

is to change, then people in Britain must change. Relative standards of morality must go out and absolute ones come in, in home and in industry, from top to bottom.

He deals with the cases of men, whose private moral weaknesses have been played upon by others, turning them into public security risks.

He shows, in some detail on the one hand, how certain brilliant men of stage, college, literature and even the Church have twisted and confused the thinking of our people with their philosophies. And then, on the other hand, he gives a clear picture of the men who live for the revolution of Moral Re-Armament, now as down the centuries, who believe in a God who speaks and who acts when men obey. He writes about Frank Buchman and his love for Britain and his lifetime of winning faithless men to faith and to an effective part in rebuilding our world.

In what may be Election year, for anyone who feels dismayed at the onward surge of the permissive tide, *Britain and the Beast* is the book that will bring a fresh hope. GFS

Papua-New Guinea

IN A CORRUGATED IRON cinema, jammed between a cafeteria and a hairdressers called 'Ali Barber', six hundred people saw the public release of the African film *Freedom* in Port Moresby. Seats and aisles were packed and the cafeteria next door was all attention.

With the assistance of the Department of Information and Extension services, the film is being dubbed into Melanesian pidgin, the most widely used language.

Port Moresby Radio announced the coming of the international MRA force with the musical *Anything to Declare?* Paul Lapun, Member of the House of Assembly for South Bougainville; and Miss Alice Wedega, MBE, have invited the revue to the Territory later this year.

Switzerland

THIRTEEN SWISS NEWSPAPERS including the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* reported the Easter conference at the MRA centre at Caux.

United States

Christian Counter-Attack, the latest book by Sir Arnold Lunn and Garth Lean, was published in America by Arlington House last week and has been chosen as a main selection by the Conservative Book Club of America this autumn. The British edition has just become a Catholic Book Club choice in the United Kingdom.

Nigeria

PEOPLE from the East Central State of Nigeria (formerly Biafra) are eager for MRA literature. One person wrote from Enugu, the state's capital, 'I personally would love to have more books on MRA. Also I would be most grateful if I would be guided to be instrumental in the cause. MRA is the only answer to our Nigerian problems. Help us here and now.'

The Rev Eric Colebatch Clark, Chaplain to the Anglican Archbishop of West Africa, has travelled frequently to the East Central State with quantities of MRA literature and relief materials.

Western Australia

AN EXHIBITION of antiques, some over 300 years old, raised \$161 towards the coming of the international force with the revue *Anything to Declare?* to Australia. This exhibition of family treasures was in the home of Mr and Mrs Christopher Briggs of Perth. Briggs, who was a commander in the Royal Navy in the Second World War, said they were doing this because they wanted to 'see the work which MRA has done on the world scene since World War II continued and extended in this area.'

Ethiopia

FOUR HUNDRED students from eight secondary schools in Asmara, the Teachers' Training Institute and the University packed into the Cathedral cinema to see a special performance of *Happy Deathday*. The occasion was arranged through the initiative of a Prince Makonnen School 12th Grade student, who introduced the film in Tigrinyan, and the Director of Asmara Schools, Ato Kidane. The Catholic authorities of the Italian Catholic parish lent the cinema.

The audience included the committee of student leaders and some of the Parents' and Teachers' Committee, who have been negotiating important educational problems in recent weeks. This showing is to be followed by a meeting in the Education Department Hall for students to ask questions about the film and about Moral Re-Armament.

The Teachers' Training Institute of Asmara is composed of students from all over Ethiopia, many from distant parts of the Empire. At the request of the Director, talks on MRA, followed by regular question and answer periods, have been given in the past two weeks. Films are being shown regularly.

'If we are corrupt our children will hate us'

DEDJAZMATCH Ghebreyohannes Tesfamariam, a Minister on the Provincial Council of Eritrea, recently arranged a special dinner at his home and invited the Mayor, his fellow councillors, the Directors General and top civil servants.

After dinner, he spoke. 'We criticise the youth who are in revolt,' he said, 'but we do not look at ourselves. If we continue to live divided and in corruption, our children will hate us. But if we leave them the heritage of moral standards which we live ourselves, they will thank us.'

He called for news of the advance of Moral Re-Armament in different parts of the world. Speaking directly, he added with a twinkle. 'Some of you may be surprised that I am not serving alcohol, but I want you all to have clear heads tonight.'

These men, drawn from different communities and different parts of the



Ghebreyohannes Tesfamariam

country, stayed talking till midnight. 'It was miraculous,' said one man afterwards. 'There was an entirely new honesty between us.'

It has not stopped there. These men have decided to work together to resolve some of their country's problems and they have continued to meet regularly. Instead of putting the blame on to somebody else, they have decided to be responsible.

Let's Go

A twelve page news sheet with the ideas and convictions of sixth formers—for everyone, including a charter for every school.

Price 1s 6d (Postage extra) available from Peter Riddell, 16 Kinlet Road, London SW18.