

QUESTION OF THE 70's

Australia's new partnership with Asia

Timely arrival of international force
direct from Malaysia.

AUSTRALIA is a land of booming affluence at home. But her eyes are turning to the Asian nations to the north where she is increasingly becoming involved politically, commercially and militarily.

This week a Moral Re-Armament international force with the musical *Anything to Declare?* arrived in Perth, Western Australia from Southeast Asia. 'Events bring home to us our precarious position and the explosive needs of Asia,' stated the Australians and New Zealanders who have invited the force to Australasia. The 19-nation force came direct from Malaysia and earlier from India where they have been working since November.

Their arrival in Australia is timely, Commenting on Australia's relations with Asian nations Rajmohan Gandhi, Chief Editor of the Asian newsweekly *Himmat*, writing recently said, 'Will Australia decide to be the first nation to learn how to live with affluence? Communist leaders of Asia today say that they live in societies that are corrupt, poor and crooked. One wishes

one could point to one nation and say, "That is the way we want to develop." Could Australia do what no other nation has done - demonstrate a revolutionary life under God's guidance, one of absolute moral standards? If you did that you would have the nations running towards you to find out how you do it. Moscow, Washington, Peking and the poor countries of Africa and Asia might want to emulate you. The suffering of nations would be healed. Continued on page 2



The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tunku Abdul Rahman, talks with members of the cast of 'Anything to Declare?'

'BLINDSIGHT' OPENS

'Blindsight', a new and unusual play by Anne Wolrige Gordon, opened on Thursday night at the Westminster Theatre, London.

The play exposes the workings of a ring of financial crooks and the way some people deliberately blind themselves to evil. The only person who sees through it is a blind girl who confronts the evil with the help of the man who loves her.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR
FURTHER PHOTOS



From left to right: Paul Hastings (John Marquis), Philip Friend (Sir Gideon Kelman) and Carolyn Courage (Stella).

'MALAYSIA CAN MEET THE CHALLENGE'

ON 13 MAY 1969 Malaysia erupted into racial riots. On 11 May 1970 an MRA international force arrived in Kuala Lumpur, the national capital, on the invitation of a committee representing the Chinese, Malay and Indian communities.

On the anniversary of the communal disturbances the Deputy Prime Minister and Director of Operations, Tun Haji Abdul Razak, issued the following message: 'At a time when Malaysia is endeavouring to build a united and prosperous nation out of its multi-racial groups, this international group with its theme of goodwill and unity is most welcome.'

The musical *Anything to Declare?* was performed under the patronage of the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, who attended the opening night with five members of his Cabinet.

From Kuala Lumpur are the latest news reports:

19 MAY

THE ENTIRE MRA force were guests at an official government dinner in the Prime Minister's Banquet Hall presided over by Tun Tan Siew Sin, Minister with Special Functions, and attended by other ministers and government officials. Radio and television were present.

A crowd of 500 braved torrential tropical rain to see extracts from *Anything to Declare?* at an open air performance in the Lake Gardens. They sheltered under a colourful sea of umbrellas, newspapers, sheets and polythene, under trees and in cars to see the presentation.

20 MAY

DATA HAJI HARUN, Chief Minister of Selangor, received the MRA force in his residence for supper. Among the guests were members of the Executive Council of Selangor and the Committee of Hosts in Malaysia to *Anything to Declare?* Dato Harun said, 'With this visit MRA is known all over the country.'

22 MAY

THE CAST gave a ninety minute presentation from *Anything to Declare?* to 3000 members of the National Youth Development Corps at the Dusun Tua Training Centre. The centre was started after last year's communal disturbances and gives civic and practical training to young men mainly drawn from the villages of Malaysia.

24 MAY

A HEADLINE in the *Sunday Times* read, 'Malaysia can meet the challenge'. The *Sunday Times* and the *Sunday Mail* both reported Rajmohan Gandhi on his departure from Malaysia saying, 'Malaysia will be Asia's answer nation which will solve the problems of corruption, poverty and racial division.' *Mingguan Malaysia* in its report said the MRA force were an example of how people of different races, classes and religions were meant to work together.

'God's Guidance, not China's'

In London three Malaysian student nurses - Malay, Chinese and Ceylonese - said at an MRA assembly that their country could demonstrate for other nations a working unity. Miss Ooi Ang Sien, a Penang Chinese, said that to achieve this the Chinese community in Malaysia should 'ask for God's guidance and not China's'. Miss Ooi was speaking in the Westminster Theatre last Sunday with her nursing colleagues, a Malay from Penang, Miss Aishah Merican and Miss Raenukadevi Kanapathi Pillai, a Malaysian of Ceylonese origin from Kuala Lumpur.

AUSTRALIA'S IMPACT

Cont. from page 1

'It would take a boom in character like the recent boom on your stock market, a resolute search for character like your resolute search for wealth, mines and minerals.

'Some say it is impossible to change the life of two billion people in Asia. But with God it is possible. It is possible to see this revolution move from man to man to millions.

'Australia could be a country that yields to the costly demands of Almighty God.'

In the last six months evidence has mounted in India and Malaysia of the history-shaping effect of a change in men's motives under the power of God.

In March and April *Anything to Declare?* was in India's Northeast and this month in Malaysia - two key areas in the crescent of nations that stretch from the Himalayas to Saigon, Singapore and the South China Sea. In Kuala Lumpur the MRA force was welcomed by messages from both the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Haji Abdul Razak Bin Hussein.

The *Frontier Times* of Shillong, capital of Assam, wrote on 6 April, 1970 - the day of the inauguration of the new state of Meghalaya in North-east India - 'A policy of a change of heart and the new statesmanship that overarches differences of race, language, religion and point of view

26 MAY

SIX THOUSAND people have seen *Anything to Declare?* in three shows in the last two days in the University of Malaya. Present have been the Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Director-General of Radio and Television, the Governor of the National Bank and the Editor of the *Straits Times*. Last night a 15 minute interview of Gandhi was televised. All day members of the cast of *Anything to Declare?* were at studios recording a 25 minute programme for National Television.

have made today's celebrations possible.' Yet the *Weekend Review* in December 1967 had written of the area, 'It is too late for a rapprochement - a hill-valley compromise is now no longer possible.'

Gandhi knows intimately these recent developments in India's Northeast. Writing in *Himmat* last week he said of Thailand, Assam and Malaysia, 'If in these places politicians became honest, the rich start serving the poor and races and religious groups turn from hostility to partnership, the effects will be felt in Hanoi and Saigon, in the Plain of Jars and in Cambodian hamlets.'

In India's modern city of Chandigarh the MRA force was received in March by the Chief Ministers of the two rival states of Haryana and Punjab and the Governors of both states came to the same performance of the musical. Both states are using Chandigarh as their state capital for the next five years whilst the newly formed state of Haryana builds a new capital.

Invited by a representative group of Australian and New Zealand parliamentarians, pressmen, civil servants, trade unionists and men from industrial management, the MRA force will visit industrial cities in Australia and New Zealand, participate in an international MRA assembly in Canberra in August and visit the island of Papua-New Guinea.

An Australian's View

by Gordon Wise

A STATESMAN once said that his electors did not really want something for nothing but a chance to give everything for something great.

Two years after World War II, Winston Churchill said, when I told him I was giving my whole life to the world work of Moral Re-Armament, 'It is a great thing to have a great aim in life.'

An Australian MP on the Front Bench of the Labour Party once asked a friend, 'But what would happen to a politician who was absolutely honest?' The reply was, 'He would be in grave

danger of becoming a statesman.' The politician did become absolutely honest and he has become a statesman.

Absolute moral standards would lift all politics to the level of statesmanship. We need leaders who will tell us what we need to know, not what they think we want to hear.

Statesmanship begins when a candidate thinks and lives for the next generation rather than the next election. The forgotten factor in politics is that God has a plan and a platform. Our politics need to be God-arched.

Abraham Lincoln stood against the



trend of his time and is remembered. Some of his contemporaries who followed the trends are forgotten. Lincoln acknowledged his limitations, 'I am satisfied,' he said, 'that when the Almighty wants me to do or not to do a particular thing He finds a way of letting me know it.'

'Cabinets, to rule well, must change people,' to quote Frank Buchman. 'Ordinarily Cabinets do not have this art.' But they could. If the politicians choose to be governed by God, one suspects that the public would choose to be governed by them.

at a glance

NORWAY

ALL NORWAY'S 17 teacher-training colleges have had showings of *Mr Brown Comes Down The Hill*, subtitled in Norwegian; so have high schools throughout the country and many church societies. Delegates at a Whitsun conference in southern Norway planned similar use of *Happy Deathday*, the film of another Peter Howard play.

Howard's play *The Ladder*, in Norwegian, was read at the conference and plans made for its use elsewhere. Those at the conference included the chairman of the policy-making board of Norwegian broadcasting, and a Labour Party expert on social affairs. The conference was at Uppigard, Bolkesjø, a mountain resort near Oslo.

SWAZILAND

Asimbambisane Ngwane means 'Pull together Swaziland.' It is the theme of a musical staged in Mbabane, the capital, last month by young Swazis. They believe Swaziland, which lies between Portuguese Mozambique and South Africa and became an independent kingdom in 1968, could set an example of unselfish teamwork and honest leadership for all Africa.

Recently these youth raised money for badly-needed school buildings, and built them, in spite of flood and storm, with their own hands. The school's principal, L. Lukhele of Mbabane Central School, told them, 'Without question 80 pupils would have been

turned away and denied education this year, but for your work in building three classrooms for our school.

He was speaking at a 'Pull together Swaziland' conference at which the Swazi youth gave their show. Other speakers included members of the Cabinet and the Secretary of H.M. King Sobhuza II.

Closing the conference, the Minister of State for Public Service, the Hon. E. S. Dladla, said, 'The sickness of modern society is a symptom of the denial of God.... The ideals you work for will change a world of despair into a world of hope.'

HIGH WYCOMBE

TWO HUNDRED members of the Commonwealth Peoples' Association saw the film *The Crowning Experience* last week. The occasion was initiated by 87-year old Mrs. Jessie Brocklesby and the film was introduced by Conrad Hunte, the West Indian Test cricketer.

FLORENCE

A GROUP of Italians from industry, the Press, television, theatre, politics and the Church met in Florence at Whitsun at the College of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Martha. They planned a wider use of the Italian version of the film of Peter Howard's play *Mr Brown Comes Down The Hill* and the sending of delegations to the forthcoming World Assembly at Caux in Switzerland.

TARPORLEY

SEVENTEEN HUNDRED people poured through the gates and into the grounds of Tirley Garth, northern centre for MRA in Britain, on the Spring Bank Holiday, 25 May. The rhododendrons and azaleas flamed in brilliant sunshine while cars and buses lined the drive and filled the car parks, bringing families from all over the north of England. They came to the Spring Fair which raised over £700 for MRA to be shared between the centres at Tirley Garth and Panchgani, India.

The Spring Fair was the climax of a 10-day Whitsun programme on the theme, 'Fresh Wind of Hope - From Cynicism to Cure.' Two weekend conferences drew many from surrounding industries including union officials from the strike-hit Pilkington glassworks at St. Helens; from British Leyland, Birmingham; Vauxhall's, Ellesmere Port; Rolls Royce, Crewe; and the Liverpool docks.

CORRECTION

The Editors apologise and make the following corrections to a report published in the 'MRA Information Service' of 9 May, 1970:

LOUIS GUISAN, Swiss Member of Parliament, represented the Swiss Government at Expo '70 in Tokyo and not in Asia as a whole as was reported. He was present at the MRA Assembly in Panchgani, India but it was his wife, not Mr. Guisan as we stated, who announced a gift of 3,600 Swiss francs to the Panchgani centre from people in the Canton of Vaud.

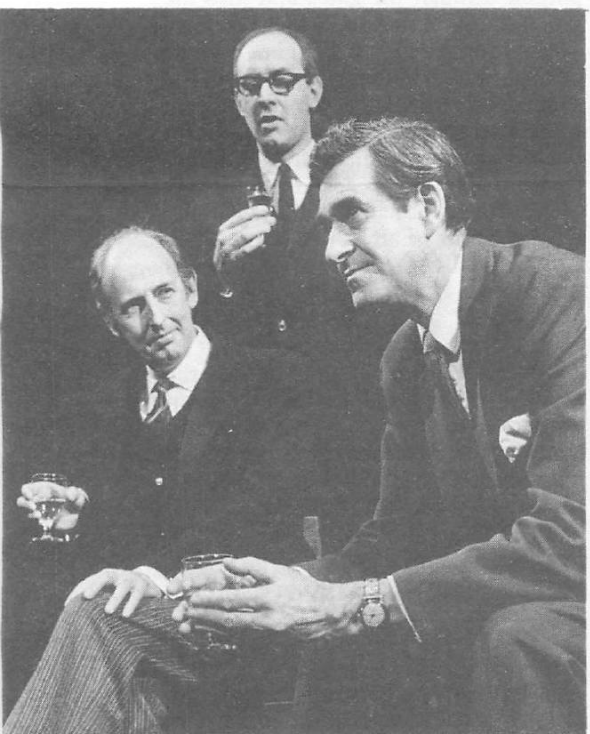
'BLINDSIGHT' opens



Carolyn Courage and Philip Friend.



Mary Jones (Louisa Sim), Michael Martin (Percy), Joyce Heron (Hermione Hurst), Carolyn Courage, Philip Friend, Sharon Duce (Martine) Richard Grant (Peter Constantine).



ABOVE
The financial crooks: Geoffrey Colville (Eric Swinler), Anthony Higginson (Lawrence Easton) and Michael Malnick (Dr Mark Marquis).

ABOVE RIGHT
Scene from 'Blindsight'.

Photos by Stuart Robinson.



**Philip Friend
Joyce Heron
Anthony Higginson
Paul Hastings
Tim Buckland**

**Philip Newman
Mary Jones
Carolyn Courage
Sharon Duce
Chris Channer
Directed by
Henry Cass**

**Michael Malnick
Geoffrey Colville
Richard Grant
Michael Martin
Chris Johnston**

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