

At a glance



USA

The Botswana Ambassador to the USA, A M Dambe (above), addresses a weekend conference at Frederick, Maryland. He told 81 North Americans from eleven US states and Canada, 'We must bring something beyond co-existence that will bring people together and create a better world.' He wanted, he said, to be a part of the effort for a new and inspired global leadership that their meeting represented.

The conference was attended by diplomats, journalists, social workers, port-workers - young and old, black, white and brown. Washington journalist Bob Webb said their aim was 'a counter offensive to the cynicism and despair that have spread in the wake of Watergate.'

HOLLAND

Thirteen housewives from German and French speaking parts of Switzerland and from France are on a tour of Europe. Their aim: to create in the heart of Europe a force of women who care and carry together responsibility for the Moral Re-Armament centre in Caux. They have just completed ten days in the Netherlands where they spoke at gatherings in different parts of the country.

BRITAIN

The multi-media show 'The next step is revolution' was given last week at Balliol College, Oxford. The showing, arranged by Australian Rhodes Scholar Kim Beazley, was attended by students from Australia, Germany, India, Jordan, Kenya, the USA and Britain.



FRANCE

The Baroness de Watteville (above) hosted a weekend conference in her home in Paris where *A Man For All People* was shown for the first time in French.

AUSTRALIA

'A journey for world revolution' is how Brisbane TV channel 9 describes the tour of a party led by Australian Gordon Wise which has just visited India, Burma, Thailand, Laos, South Vietnam, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.

The party was being interviewed on arrival this week in Queensland where they met a number of people including the Police Commissioner and the President of the Trades and Labour Council.

The Courier-Mail, Brisbane, had the headline, 'Australia's job to help others' and *The Australian*, 'Material views of life "are not enough"'. *The Australian* reports that the party will be attending an MRA Conference in Sydney from 9-13 January along with representatives of Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

Among their many engagements in



Vietnam were a trip by motorized sampan (above) on the Mekong River to visit a village in the Mekong Delta and a lunch given by the Commandant of the Army Medical School in Saigon.

INDIA

A second edition of 'From India With Hope' by Michael Henderson (Grosvenor Books) has gone to the printers in Bombay. In a letter endorsing the book the Indian Ambassador to Italy, Apa Pant, writes, 'It was fascinating to read *From India With Hope*. Millions should get this message.'

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

SHORT OF IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS?

How about a subscription to *New World News* (rates on back)



BRAZIL

President Emilio Garastaza Medici of Brazil last week received a Moral Re-Armament delegation at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia. General Hermes Guimaraes, who led the MRA group, introduced colleagues from Britain, and Switzerland. The Europeans expressed their gratitude for the contribution of a Brazilian delegation at the Caux conference and in several European countries this summer.

General Guimaraes thanked the President for the emphasis in many of his speeches on the need to have a moral and spiritual development to match economic and social development. This emphasis, said the General, was more than ever necessary in the world, and could be Latin America's great contribution to humanity.

The Minister of Education and Culture of Brazil, Jarbas Passarinho, also received the group. He decided to send a letter, recommending a series of MRA

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films for showing in schools and colleges, to the 24 Secretaries of Education in Brazil's states.

Senator Dr Paulo Torres, President of Congress, also met the group in his office in the Senate.

RHODESIA

Under the headline 'Turn back from hate' the *Rhodesia Herald* carried the following review of *A Man for All People* by Colin Neilson: A dramatic story of change. It is a documentary, brilliantly produced, about a raging African nationalist who grew from wanting to shed white blood to become a leader supporting co-existence without inter-racial hate. I found it moving.

The film investigates the life of Dr William Nkomo, the first African to be president of the South African Institute of Race Relations. At his death in March last year 10,000 attended the funeral.

The film is made with great professionalism and handled with imagination. Perhaps the best shots are of Dr Nkomo speaking: 'I come from South Africa. It is a country bedevilled by racial division. From early on I committed my life to break the yoke of foreign oppression. I made it my task to fan the flames of hatred in young Africans.'

He tells of forming the African National Congress Youth League to become a militant movement for black back-lash.

'It was as I was fighting in that League that I met Moral Re-Armament, and for the first time I met white men and black men who had changed.

'What shook me most was to meet rabid Afrikaner nationalists who had found something bigger to live for and who were prepared to apologize to me and to other African nationalists for their former attitude of hatred and arrogance...

'I began to realize that instead of planning the liquidation of people I could sit with them, and listening to God's guidance, plan with them for a new South Africa...'

Many people feature in this film telling of how this dynamic doctor of medicine wrought changes in their lives. They include white men like former rugby Springbok George Daneel, now a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church.

This is a film which many Rhodesians need to see. It does not preach. But the message is powerful.

It says unless men of different races can work towards a goal for the common good, to work to end bitterness, to choose leaders who cannot be bought with money, Africa is doomed.

GERMANY

Madame Irène Laure from France addressed a weekend conference at

Gladbeck in the Ruhr attended by eighty Germans and representatives from all over Europe. She said that urgent appeals for the help of men and women trained in Moral Re-Armament had been made to her in her visits to South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Bangladesh.

Fritz Hirschner, former editor of the *Rheinzeitung*, Koblenz, said that the way forward for Germany to master her own problems was to play her full part in the moral reconstruction of the world.

A fighting fund was launched for the proposed Easter Youth Conference in West Berlin. A preparatory conference would take place during the Caux Assembly in the New Year.

CHINA

The *Clydeside paper* Greenock Telegraph carried the following news item: 'Chinese puzzlers. Mr Tom Gillespie, in Australia on an MRA campaign, was presented at Melbourne docks to a troupe of acrobats from the People's Republic of China who are on a friendship tour there.'

SOUTH AFRICA

Black, white and coloured students from universities, colleges and schools in the Cape, the Transvaal and Swaziland took part in a Moral Re-Armament conference on a South African farm last week. The theme of the conference—on the farm of Mr and Mrs David Kingwill of Gordonville, Graaf Reinet—was how to face up to 'the famine of food, human relationships and moral fibre'.

ITALY

The Italian weekly *Famiglia Christiana*, with a circulation of 1.8 million copies, writes about the Italian edition of *The Black and White Book*: Do not be misled by the suggestion of violence in the title. This little book does not teach us the technique of street warfare. Nor does it explain how to gain control, by violent means if necessary, of the centres of power. However, if by revolution we mean 'turning the system upside down', or 'the birth of a new social order', or merely—to use an expression that is popular nowadays—'the liberation of man', then this is indeed a handbook of revolution: 'The kind of revolution which builds an unselfish society without destroying innocent millions in the process.'

INDIA

The President of the Neelamalai Plantation Workers' Union, Nilgiris, South India, P L Perumal, writes, 'There has been greater cordiality and understanding between the employers and the workers in the plantations as a result of the new way of life shown by the MRA. We were able to reach a settlement on the issue of plucking incentives, which had dodged us for more than ten months. It was signed on 1st November.'

RHODESIA

For more than a year African students at the Teachers Training College, Gwelo, have been meeting together, studying Moral Re-Armament by seeing films and by discussions.

It came as a surprise to them, writes correspondent Richard Whidborne, to learn of Father Schoenenberger's MRA group at Bondolfi Catholic Teachers Training College (*New World News* 14 July) but the idea of a meeting between the two groups was immediate.

A group of students and others, both African and European, made the 200 km journey to Bondolfi where they were made most welcome. On the first evening 500 children from the primary school and 300 students and adults gathered under the African sky to see *Men of Brazil* and *A Man for All People*.

The two groups had an absorbing and wide-ranging discussion on all aspects of Moral Re-Armament.

Father Schoenenberger apologised his arrogant attitude when he had first come to Africa with typical missionary zeal to show the heathens the way to Christ. He felt that he had learned as much from the African as he had been able to teach him.

Many speakers felt that there was a need for a national convention where those who were prepared to live by absolute moral standards could 'stand up and be counted'. It was agreed that God's guidance should be sought on this idea.

Father Schoenenberger suggested a three point programme for his group. Firstly, they should individually study some aspects of the history or work of MRA and later come together to discuss their findings. Secondly, they should decide collectively on one aspect of their community life which did not measure up to the four absolute standards and about putting it right. Thirdly, they should stage a play. The Gwelo students, many of whom had seen *The Ladder* performed earlier in the year, were also struck with the idea.

BRAZIL

The Brazilian paper *O Globo* reported the showing of *The Voice of the Hurricane* in their own auditorium. It was the second time that journalist Senhora Leonor Amorin had presented MRA films there recently. National trade union leaders were in the audience.

The Indian film *A Nation is Marching* was seen by 800 cadets at the Colegio Militar in Rio. *Happy Deathday* was shown in Nova Iguacu in the First Baptist Church.

The most widely read paper in Salvador *A Tarde* reported the presence of an MRA delegation and their visit to the off-shore island of Itaparica to show films to students, teachers and workers.



Now we are ten!

The tenth season of *Give a Dog a Bone* has begun at the Westminster Theatre, London. There were three full houses the first three days. The foyer rang with familiar cries: 'Mum, can we go again?' or 'Can we stay for the next performance?' or 'Where's Ringo?' or choruses of 'Icecream, sausages and cake'.

Hundreds of handicapped children, some in wheelchairs, came to the first matinee. More than ten thousand children are booked in for 'The Day of London Theatre'. Columnist Tenax wrote in the monthly news magazine Time and Tide the following comment on the tenth year:

CHRISTMAS TIME is pantomime time. And back to London comes what



TEN YEARS TOGETHER — (right to left) Co-directors Henry Cass and Bridget Espinosa, musical director Louis Mordish and actor Roy Heymann who has not missed one performance in ten years.

THE GIRL GUIDES PAPER *The Brownie*, in its editorial writes, 'If you are wondering what to do for a Pack or family outing and can get to London, why not arrange a visit to the Westminster Theatre to see *Give a Dog a Bone*, a really lovely pantomime. The theatre is next door to the back entrance of Guide Headquarters, and judging by the crowds that poured out after each performance in previous years, is one of the most popular shows in London.'

a Radio London commentator calls 'probably the world's best-known pantomime' - Peter Howard's 'enchanting' (*Evening Standard*), 'undeniably excellent' (*Guardian*), 'extremely enjoyable' (J C Trewin), *Give A Dog A Bone*.

The Radio London man saw it in Hong Kong with Chinese subtitles, for the filmed version has gone even farther than the original. It is showing in 43 countries, and is available for home, school and other group showing as well as in cinemas. It was shown for the Shah of Iran's son's birthday party and the Dalai Lama had it for Tibetan children in Dharamsala.

The story tells of Mickey Merry's escape from his dull and difficult home to seek his fortune in London. He is accompanied by his agile dog, Ringo, plus an enormous bone. On the way he meets Mr Space, who is on the side of the angels, and the Rat King who is not.

The Rat King's aim is to turn every human into an animal (Did Howard get the idea from Milton's *Comus*?), and

CAST MEMBERS Richard Warner and Louis Rush were interviewed on London Broadcasting, the new commercial radio station. 'I must tell everybody where it is,' programme presenter Sarah Dickinson told her listeners. 'Go and see *Give a Dog a Bone*, a glorious family pantomime at the Westminster Theatre.'

THE 297,000 circulation monthly *She* carries a 1400 word article about *Give a Dog a Bone* in its December issue.

this he can do if he can get a person to say the words, 'I couldn't care less'. Luckily animals can be turned back into humans again if they will be induced to say 'Please,' 'Thank you' and 'Sorry' - a difficult feat in which Ringo, Mr. Space and Mickey assist.

So do the children. There is plenty of audience participation. I know people who go year after year - this is its tenth season at the Westminster - to watch the audience.

The last battle is to get Lord Swill, a dignified member of the House of Lords, changed into an even more pompous pig, to say 'Sorry'. 'Kids in the audience were delighted,' said *Punch*. 'You can't tear the children away,' added *South London News*.

Because they enjoy it so much, the idea lingers with the children. You hear them singing, 'Please, thank you and sorry' - and shouting if anyone says 'I couldn't care less' - right through the year. As the *Evening News* critic put it, 'Children who see *Give A Dog A Bone* enter into the struggle between good and evil with real gusto. They leave the theatre knowing there is a war to be won against evil. Not a bad lesson for children to learn in these days of thugery'.

And not only children. When I arrived in Jerusalem some years ago, that superb peace-maker the Anglican Archbishop, George Appleton, asked me: 'How quickly could I get a copy of the film? We will show it to the children - Arab, Jew and the rest - and the parents will get it. It is about as much as they will take.'

I know for a fact that seeing this pantomime has changed a lot of difficult people - and played a part in solving the Ulster-type situation in the South Tyrol and the Vietnam-type trouble in Assam.

Incidentally, have you noticed how many really 'family' shows are now on in London over Christmas? Critics tell me that this is in large part due to the ten year run of *Give A Dog A Bone*. When it was first played, most Christmas shows were doubtful - and about many there was no doubt at all. The success of the Westminster production convinced impresarios that there is brass in cleanliness, as well as in muck.

An answer to ambition

by Peter Rundell

The Oxford University weekly *The Cherwell* (29 Nov) carried this article by a third year student of Mathematics at Wadham College

IN THE NORTH-EAST OF INDIA, where the Hills and Plains tribes of different race, religion and culture have fought for centuries, the state of Assam was once labelled 'India's Vietnam'. One day the leader of the All-Party Hill Leaders' Conference made an experiment: he wrote down the thoughts that came when in quiet he listened to the voice of his conscience.

He made three decisions: to be honest with his wife and to apologise to his opponents in both his own and the main opposition parties for his former divisive and bitter attitude.

The effectiveness of these decisions may be judged empirically. The next day his wife drove down the main street waving at total strangers and telling them happily of the new love in her family; the backstabbing within his own party stopped and unity came in their battle for autonomy; finally, through the melting of the hatred and distrust that had separated him from the opposition leaders there developed new public attitudes and the creation of the autonomous state of Meghalaya within India and without bloodshed.

So apparently simple decisions produce startling results when taken by people of such standing. That they can also do so when taken by ordinary people is the

most important factor in the analysis of effective revolution today. Revolutionary ideologies are based on a philosophy, a passion and a plan. Certainly analysis of the world's ills is Oxford's strength but passionate commitment to set them right and a realistic strategy to do so are clearly not. In this article I want to look at the role each of us can and must play if an effective revolution is to be possible.

That revolution is needed and inevitable, crushing the outmoded and immoral structures and relationships of exploitation and injustice that capitalism represents and enforces, I am not going to argue—that is well done elsewhere. What I want to stress is the equally crucial ingredient which mere system-smashing or structure-changing cannot provide: new people. Absolute honesty, with all that implies of corruption ended, resources appropriately employed; absolute purity, which is the ingredient needed for the freedom from the bonds of instinct and personal greed that makes a revolutionary truly effective; absolute unselfishness, and the end to exploitation and inequality which that brings; absolute love, which includes all men and is the true dynamic of real revolution. It is my resolution to live my life daily by these criteria as a necessary basis for effective revolution: if I do not, how can I expect society to have these attributes? That I am as distant from humanity as I am from the person I feel most divided from may be hard to accept, but it is that basis on which a revolutionary must judge his relationships.

The need for political changes demands a total commitment from everyone involved, above academic success, financial security, and personal advancement. Each of us must face the selfish motives in much that we do: revolutionaries' ambitions for themselves never lead their comrades to true victory, but

always turn at one stage or another to personal advancement. Only a continual re-commitment to the service of all men, my neighbour and the children in Ethiopia equally, can for me provide an answer to ambition and sycophancy. The necessity for this parallel factor in revolution stems from the simple fact that only thus can we create the selfless, honest man who alone can enable a free, just and caring society to function. Without this personal transformation, this commitment in life-style and attitude both in themselves and in those around them, revolutionaries cannot be expected to create such a society. Each of us knows where we have failed by these absolute criteria: in order to play our part in the revolution we must set ourselves right and follow this life-style.

What then of plan, given the philosophy and the passion? Much follows from the political needs of the moment, but there is an individual role beyond that. Every morning I get up an hour early (about 6.30) to write down honest the ideas that come when in quiet I wait for them. Call it conscience, call it God, but obey it since it is the basis of the strategy to match analysis. That God can speak to man is almost axiomatic; that He does so continually is a fact that many do, and can, experience. The empirical strategy of unity through the honest sharing of the thoughts that come in quiet is the new dimension of leadership for the revolutionary cell.

It is up to us then. That it works, that the simple personal change which comes when you commit yourself to live by those absolute criteria of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love is effective in a family, I know from my own experience. That the strategy of that still, small voice is adequate in national politics is shown by events in Assam—and elsewhere. The necessity of this revolution is obvious. Its sufficiency depends on all of us.

AUSTRALIA

A quiet revolution is taking place on the Australian waterfront according to Jim Beggs, Melbourne President of the Waterside Workers' Federation. Addressing an industrial seminar in Brisbane he said, 'We have got to the stage where we realize that knocking the boss out and then talking is no good. In the last five years there has been very little unrest because the waterside workers are adopting new methods.'

Mr Beggs, who earlier this year won a second term as Branch President with the biggest ever majority on the Melbourne Waterfront, said that it was MRA that had challenged him to take an interest in the union and the docks industry. Until then 'golf or duck shoot-

ing' had always won out over union meetings. 'I couldn't even address a meeting in a telephone box,' he said.

He introduced a showing of the film *Men of Brazil*—the true story of the ending of violence on the Rio waterfront. The film, he said, was the key to the settlement of union, industrial and national disputes. The seminar was attended by representatives of the unions and management and the Queensland Industries Minister.

BRITISH WILLS

Since the article *Wills and Money* (17 Nov) we have been asked by readers to supply the form of wording for those who would like to leave legacies to Moral Re-Armament. It is: 'I bequeath

to the incorporated association known as The Oxford Group of 45 Hays Mews, London, W1X 9RT, the sum of... for its general purposes absolutely.'

We would also draw your attention to the article by the Treasurer of The Oxford Group in *New World News* (15 Sept) setting out the conditions under which bequests to charities are now exempt from Estate Duty up to a limit of £50,000.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Guild Sound and Vision Ltd who distribute in Britain the films for hire for MRA Productions have changed their address to 85-129 Oundle Road, Peterborough PE2 9PY (Peterborough 63122).