



In front of his painting 'Barbed-wire or Reconciliation' Professor Lennart Segerstraale (right) talks with the Finnish Ambassador to Britain, O Wartiovaara. The Ambassador said, 'It is an honour to unveil the painting that this grand old artist of Finland has offered to this house. I do it with the greatest pleasure and with high veneration for Professor Segerstraale. photo: Almond

PROFESSOR Lennart Segerstraale, one of Finland's greatest artists, came to London specially to present his painting 'Barbed-wire or Reconciliation' to the Westminster Theatre.

This work was one of 43 paintings created by the 81-year-old artist during the last two years and recently exhibited in Helsinki.

In an interview with Lennart Segerstraale *Svenska Dagbladet*, the Stockholm daily, wrote: 'When World War II hit Finland it became the task of Lennart Segerstraale and his wife Marie-Louise to pioneer "the spiritual defence of the population", the connection between the men at the frontier and their families at home. Lennart Segerstraale has experienced two world wars face to face. He reckons that we may be on the threshold of a third war. He finds hope of salvation in a realistic Christianity. Faith in such a Christianity is a realistic hope because it means faith in a meaning and a guidance in life, Segerstraale states.

"During the most difficult period of the last war our son Ulf wrote in a letter from the front just before he was killed, 'I have seen the worst and the best side by side. But I can never lose hope because I have my faith'."

'For Lennart Segerstraale Christian art is not characterized by Christian or even "religious" motifs. What is at stake, in art as well as in the church, is the battle - in every human being and in the world - between good and evil, between truth and lies, love and violence, oppression and freedom.

'As far as I can understand, Christianity and the Church is in a crisis where it can only gain credibility if it can become a force that changes the lives of people and in this way also changes the condition in society and in the world'."

Barbed-wire or reconciliation

OVER THE FIRST weekend of March 125 artists, producers, writers, actors and others concerned with the arts, met at the Westminster Theatre, London, for a 'Theatre Study Weekend'. People came from all over Britain and from other countries including a delegation of 17 from the Nordic North. They had as one of their themes a quote from Solzhenitsyn, 'Perhaps art and literature will really be able to help the modern world. We must not seek excuses on the grounds that we lack weapons, we must not give ourselves over to a carefree life, we must go out into battle.'

Among the highlights of the weekend were the unveiling of a painting given to the Westminster Theatre by Finland's Lennart Segerstraale and the first public reading of *Return Trip*, a new play about drugs and family life, by Alan Thornhill and Hugh Steadman Williams.

Phyllis Konstam, actress and Trustee of the Westminster Theatre, declared:

'We need to have the courage to face the fact that we artists, songwriters, painters and producers stand guilty before God and humanity. We have been given glorious gifts of creativeness and imagination, but what have we done with them? We've indoctrinated millions with a steady diet of violence and perversion. We live in a cruel and violent world.

'I accuse the men who created *Clockwork Orange*, *Straw Dogs* and now *The Exorcist* of helping to create a world where kidnapping, murders, hijacking

and terrorism are the order of the day. If you feed the stomach with poisonous food you get sick. If you feed the minds of millions with poisonous stuff you have what we've got now - a sick society.

'A famous neurologist told me, "People are suggestible. After they've read books and seen plays and films they will often do things they'd never have thought of themselves."

'We artists are cowardly. We refuse to face the truth of our responsibility to humanity. We make excuses for ourselves and our colleagues because we are afraid not so much of our enemies but of our friends. We Christians are often the most guilty because of our lust for success and approval. We water down God's truth to make it popular and box office? People think there's something wrong when we are criticized. There would be something wrong if we were not.

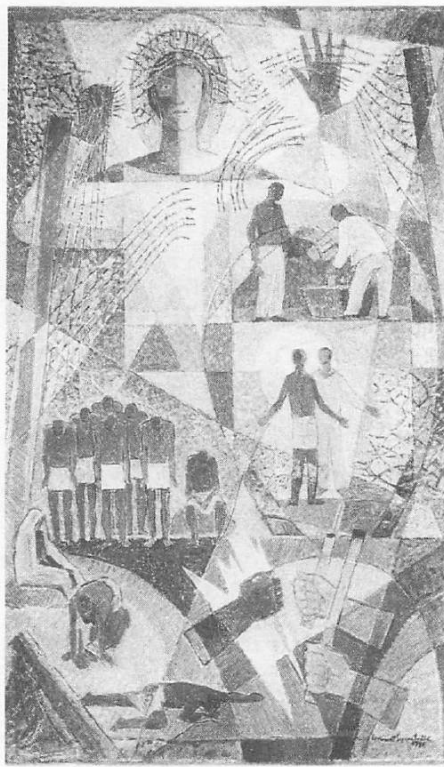
'We are in the great tradition of militant Christianity throughout the ages. "Beware when all men speak well of you." Why was Stephen stoned, Peter crucified, Paul beaten again and again? Is it because undiluted Christianity is uncomfortable and ought to be? Oh, how desperately we need courageous men like Solzhenitsyn. Will we have to endure our loss of freedom, concentration camps, torture and massive cruelty before we dare to speak up? The arts have been taken over by the materialism of both Left and Right from a lack of

**NEW
WORLD
NEWS**
FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

THE PICTURE 'Barbed-wire or Reconciliation' that is being unveiled here today expresses our battle for God's influence on men and their relationships. Only His power can change mind and heart and put what is right ahead of who is right. This means willingness to be factual. Every real policy today is based on facts.

The lower parts of the picture show the fists of hate fighting each other in the concentration camp, where violence and humiliation reign. The painting shows the decisive moment: Christ Himself tearing down the barbed wire which surrounds the prisoners. The crown of thorns He wears is made of barbed-wire. His suffering for all men is the price He pays to solve the race question. The barbed-wire has been torn down, a white and a black man approach each other with the spirit of reconciliation, willing to co-operate. They start to build the new heart of the world together—the road to a world led by God. It is my hope that 'Barbed-wire or Reconciliation', through being here, can have a part in the battle today to reach this goal.

Lennart Segerstråle



THEATRE *continued from page 1*

passion and conviction from men of faith.

'We need a renaissance of Christian culture across Europe—in every town, city and country. Not a weak watered-down solution but a mighty life-giving

When violence becomes acceptable . . .

MAN HAS for many centuries believed that violence is wrong. What has become apparent is how often the body reinforces the conscience.

We are most wonderfully constructed. No machine comes anywhere near the perfection of all our systems. If a person becomes angry or afraid, his nervous system reacts, tensing the muscles, speeding up the heart and making him ready for fight or flight.

If, however, anyone witnesses a violent scene such as road accident or a surgical operation, he experiences 'aversion'. He feels sick, clammy and faint. His heart slows down so much that if the violence is severe enough or the person sensitive enough he will faint. These two systems, one of which speeds up the whole body and the other which slows it down, work in opposition and form a protective mechanism.

Under certain circumstances, the person will be led to escape or to defend himself. But if his tendency to aggressive behaviour becomes too much then the very thought of, or sight of violence will make him 'sick to the heart'.

It is man's inborn restraint to his ag-

gression. It is not moral, it is physiological, though it reinforces what man's conscience and spiritual leaders have said for a long time.

What happens when people see violent films? Some doctors in Britain have been doing research on it. They wired several volunteers to monitor their hearts and blood while watching two very violent films. The result in all cases was that the tendency to 'aversion'—to sickness and to the slowing down of the heart—was very marked, the heart-beats slowing down to 50 per minute. This completely overshadowed the excitement or opposite effect which martial music and sexual themes in the film produced.

The factor which causes concern, however, is that other researchers have found that repeated stimulæ of this kind immediately reduce the bodily responses.

In other words, if you watch too many violent films or violent scenes, your 'aversion' to them goes. Those who tamper with violence on the mass media may be producing a society which is no longer averse to violence.

Dr John Lester

Freedom found through

by Princess Sophie of Roumania, aged 16, living in Geneva

NEITHER MY MOTHER, nor my sisters, nor myself have seen Roumania, and yet our family represents her today. We live in a difficult situation, torn between duty and a desire to do what we please.

Last year my parents were away for two months. I let myself go. All that my father had tried to teach me about duty and logic gradually went by the board. I became selfish and neglected my little sister who must have felt it quite a bit. I became snobbish in my own way, and above all I tried to forget who I am. I didn't give a damn for anything except for the little world I had created and in which I lived with other young people and followed them into everything imaginable that young people of today in distress would do.

When my parents came back I ignored them, grew further away from them each day, and even reached the point where I mistrusted them, until the day they decided to go up to Caux for the New Year Conference. Despite my rebellion, something made me go up with them. There I found a purpose for my life, and I pulled myself together. I found a new way of looking at things in general; a unity between people, and trust. Not only trust in people but in myself. But above all I found faith.

Undoing the knot

About two years ago you would have had to force me into a church. One day up at Caux I walked into one without even knowing why. I felt swallowed into something very firm but at the same time very loving and very close. I felt it telling me to kneel down, but I didn't, out of fear of hurting my self-pride. It went on at me until I felt my knees trembling, and I was forced to kneel. I burst out crying and prayed and prayed until I poured out everything that was sitting on my heart.

I felt that God was with me, had always been, and that He alone was my Master. I sensed His power, and accepted it. I felt that He was speaking to me, telling me to do things I had never dreamt of doing. But when I came home again I tried to forget what had happened that day, but it only made me feel unhappy and frustrated.

gh honesty

mania

neglected me to such a point, how could I enter your heart?

Free to follow

'I am the one who sent you here to Caux, and that was for a special purpose. It wasn't just by chance, and you know it. And as you know it you must do something about it—change! You must change because I need you. I need your strength, and your faith can heal a great many people. You must not ask

me to speak to you just for the sake of hearing an unknown voice, but in order to listen and obey. You are a slave like many other slaves, and being one you must do as I tell you.

'Tonight you pleaded with me to speak to you. Now I have done so. You are free to follow. I cannot take decisions for you. If ever you feel you are going to drop the rope you are holding, I am here to help you. But remember, listen and obey. Now go forward, and rest in peace.'

Equality found by giving all

by Margaret Cook
who has just left school in England
and is now in Switzerland

MY FATHER was a miner in East Lothian, Scotland, during the war. My mother grew up in East London in the 1930s. They have both given their lives for their conviction that workers guided by God can remake the world.

Brought up from an early age with the belief that industry and the workers' homes were the source of an answer, it was a shock to me recently when I had to face in myself the very attitude which I had recognised in others as the root of the ineffectiveness of workers and their families to bring a permanent and human solution to industrial conflicts.

I visited a spacious and lavishly decorated home which seemed to me to lack nothing materially. And I felt a hate in me for these people which stemmed from an overwhelming pride in myself and my background. Hate makes you comfortable because it immediately forms a shield of protection around you through which nothing can hurt you. Yet what stops the hurt coming in, also stops anything coming out of you except what reinforces your iron wall.

After the evening I spent in that home it became clear to me that the answer to class war is not that they have less and I have more, that domination by one class is simply replaced by domination by another, but that the classless society will be made up of people who stand on equal ground not because of the amount they possess, but because of all they have given. To become a part of it I need to give *all* I have, including my time, my energy and my possessions, into God's hands and lay claim to nothing.

Too often the passion and the energy that exists in us working families has been diverted into the narrow tunnel of class war. I went to a school in a

working-class area of London which was, however, attended by pupils from widely differing backgrounds, the large majority of whom stayed on till the age of 18 and then went on to university or other forms of higher education. Yet I have friends who feel their family background determined which school they went to and that in turn the strata of education they were in determined what career they were expected to choose.

In their view the government could thus ensure that there would always be a balance of people to sweep the streets, to man the offices and to govern the country. And they would ask me—didn't I feel bitter about having to work for a teacher I didn't like at school and then being channelled into a particular job laid out for me because of the form of education I had received.

But I don't see it that way—I don't work *for* my teachers or anybody else. I am grateful for the education I received—and I work because I enjoy working and learning, seeing results come from what I am doing, setting myself a big enough aim and using what capabilities I have been given to reach that aim.

The greatest satisfaction is the knowledge that I am following the destiny God planned for me when He gave me a mind and two hands to be used. That is where my passion and energy goes and in giving it *all* to this destiny I can begin to become part of the classless society.

I have begun to realise what it means to put into practice in my life what I believe is the solution to the present crisis in Britain. Although not in Britain at the moment, I have decided to live relevantly to the situation there. It is also the best I can give to Switzerland.

So once more I submitted to His will, because I knew deep down that I simply had to get honest with myself. I decided reluctantly to obey. I wrote a letter to my mother, apologising for all the things I had done behind her back, then I got things straightened out with my friends and my teachers in school. It was hard but once it was over I felt loosened from the chains which had held me prisoner. It is like undoing the knot of your shoelace. You can feel the pressure go and you can move your toes. Only then you can draw back your foot, and feel the ground properly beneath it. I felt through this release so free. And in God I had found a wonderful friend in whom I could trust, to whom I can take all my feelings, and who loves me more than any living creature could ever possibly love me.

Like dictation

I also found freedom. I've always looked for it, in every form, but never found it because I was looking for a physical and materialistic one which has never and will never exist. Freedom is the purity of mind which you must find through honesty. Then you can look someone straight in the eyes, without any remorse.

I would not tell you all this if I was unsure of it. I am trying to give it to everyone I meet, so that we can live a life guided by God and not by pride. In other words, I have given my life to God's will. If we want to find a solution to our world, which I am sure so many of us do, I sincerely feel, through my experience in life, that this is the way to do it. I would like to share with you what I wrote down—or, if I may say so, what was dictated to me.

'You can be a great leader, but you are progressing without faith. You need to do things, many things, but only on my command. You should obey me like you obey your stupid head that takes you nowhere but to misery. You must follow me, walk in my path. You need my love and you need faith. I shall give it to you, but for that you must obey.

'I know you feel uneasy about certain things. So often I have tried to stop you from doing these things, but you

For racial harmony

FOUR HEADS of diplomatic missions were among the one hundred and thirty guests who attended a reception for Mr and Mrs Gordon Wise in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, following their recent visit to the countries of South East Asia. Students and Embassy officials from six other countries along with families and people from many walks of the city's life, both Maori and Pakeha, listened intently to news they gave of the spread of hope-giving answers in some of the crisis areas of the world.

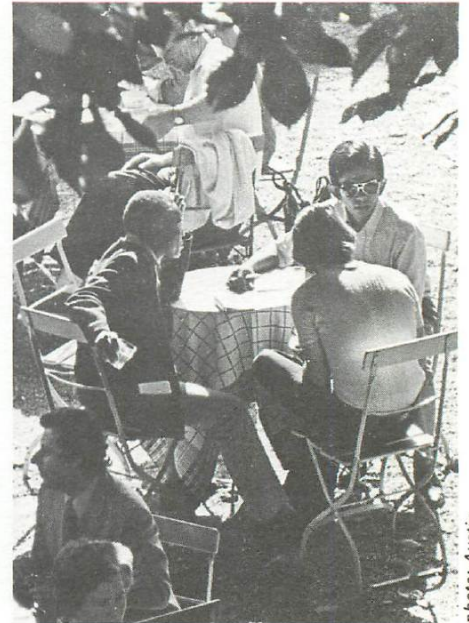
Three students from Wellington's Victoria University also spoke. One of them, Peli Aron, a Sea Dayak from Malaysia, told of his determination to build a harmonious multi-racial society. He said, 'My great grandfather was a head-hunter in Borneo. We Sea Dayaks have always felt resentful of the Chinese

and the Malays. The Chinese have the economic power and the Malays have the political power, we have nothing. But I am interested in building a strong country of all the races of Malaysia on a basis of honesty. So I decided to give up my resentment and I have apologised to members of both races. Charles Ooi, a Chinese Malaysian, and I have decided to work together for racial harmony, not only among the nations at the university, but wherever it is needed in New Zealand.'

Earlier Mr and Mrs Wise were interviewed for fifteen minutes on the popular mid-morning nationwide programme 'Viewpoint'. As well as meeting the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Labour, Mr Wise has had discussions with other cabinet ministers. Members of Parliament from both political parties hosted dinners in the House for him and others of his party.

The party divided forces, with Mr and Mrs Sciortino and their daughter Joanna going to the South Island for meetings in Christchurch and Dunedin. Their invites included John Kennedy, editor of the Catholic newspaper *The Tablet*. In Dunedin they spoke at a public reception held at Otago University. They were officially welcomed to the city by the Mayor at this occasion and were interviewed live for four minutes in the news programme 'South Tonight'.

The Sciortinos were also asked to give an hour's lecture at the Holy Cross College, to thirty trainee priests. The College is the only Catholic seminary in New Zealand. Father Scott, the rector, said in thanking the visitors, 'The Pope has constituted a Holy Year and it is a year of reconciliation and repentance, and these are the two things we have heard about tonight.'



'Where people from every continent meet'

photo: Austin

To re-shape the world

'GOD'S DYNAMIC to Re-shape the World' is the overall theme for the world assembly in Caux this summer which will run from 12 July - 16 September.

The invitation to the assembly states: 'The materialism on which civilisation has been built is crumbling. It has proved inadequate to meet the need for unselfish policies in an increasingly interdependent world. The growing gap between the wealthy nations and the millions who live in want must be bridged if a secure and just society is to be built.'

'At the heart of a disturbed and divided Europe is Caux, the place where people from every continent meet to forge together the thinking and living for the new age into which mankind is moving.'

'It will be an age in which men and nations, in free and equal partnership, accept their share of responsibility, of sacrifice and of commitment to ensure a better future where the emphasis is on a change in man himself as well as on a change in structures.'

'You are invited to join with others who will be meeting at Caux this summer to explore together God's dynamic to re-shape the world.'

A number of groups with common interests, like members of parliament, industrialists, clergy, artists and youth, intend to meet in Caux for specific periods during the summer assembly. Further details are available from the Conference Secretary, Moral Re-Armament, CH-1824 Caux, Switzerland.



The *Dominion*, Wellington daily, carried this photograph of ladies in the visiting MRA team: (1 to r) Mrs Gordon Wise, Nada Middleton, Mrs Ian Sciortino, Joanna Sciortino.

Photo: Dominion and Sunday Times

Money

'I AM A pensioner, living in a retirement home. The other day I received a letter telling of the need for money to improve and enlarge a conference centre for MRA. I had the thought to send a certain sum - two thirds of my weekly pension. The next letter I opened contained a cheque for exactly the sum I had thought to give.'

'A year or two ago I had the thought to send the film *A Man for All People* to Rhodesia and to pray for £90 or so needed. I also had the thought to sell a very much valued possession as a starter. I asked no one for money, though some who knew Rhodesia heard of the project.'

'In a very short time I had not only enough for film and air freight, but sufficient to help send a copy to another part of Africa too. Since then, the film

has been shown all over Rhodesia to black and white, to leaders and led.'

J P B

We are grateful to readers who have sent in their adventures in living by faith and prayer and hope that more will do so.

Madness?

A WEEKEND conference is being held in Swansea from the 23-25 March with the theme 'Wales: Voice of Hope'. The invitation states: 'With so many crisis points in the world, is it mad to talk about building an unselfish society? In the belief that there can be areas of hope as well as areas of crisis - and that Wales can be such an area of hope - you are invited to attend a two-day weekend conference to explore new initiatives that can come from Wales this year.'