

NIGERIAN CONFERENCE

'Building a hate-free, fear-free, greed-free society' is the theme of a national conference for Moral Re-Armament to be held in a fortnight (28-30 March) in Lagos, Nigeria. Delegates have been invited from all twelve states of the Republic of Nigeria as well as from other parts of Africa and other continents.

LEEWARD PREMIÈRE

Under the patronage of Sir Wilfred Jacobs, Governor of Antigua and Barbuda, and Lady Jacobs, a première showing of the film *Give a Dog a Bone* was held at Government House in St John's on 26 February. Guests included the Rt Rev Orland Lindsay, Bishop of Antigua; Basil Peters, Minister of Education, Health and Culture, representatives from the Education Department, Day Care Centres, School for the Deaf, Health Department, Red Cross, YMCA, YWCA, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations, church and community groups.

The film is being sponsored by the Community Development Division of the Ministry of Education, Health and Culture and will be shown at schools, churches, community centres, etc. The film was donated to the people of Antigua by a Canadian.

RIO ACTION

During Carnaval, Rio's popular festival, a varied group, including thirty young Brazilians, gathered at the MRA Centre at Petrópolis. They had especially asked to come there at that time to have training in MRA. The group decided that they would produce the play *The Dictator's Slippers*, as a contribution to proposed industrial and trade union seminars to be held later in the year.

Plans were also talked over of how to reach the secondary schools and universities with *The Black and White Book*, to which the Minister of Education has given his backing. A Rio professor is eager to go with a group to all of Brazil's seventy universities. Each day there were courses on *The Black and White Book*, illustrated with slides.

SAIGON SHOWINGS

Dr Pham Van Hat, Vice-President of the Senate, and Dr Nguyen Luu Vien, Vice-Prime Minister of the Republic of Viet Nam, attended a recent showing of the film *The Crowning Experience*.

Other personalities among the audience of 180 at the Vietnamese American Association included three special assistants to the Prime Minister; Tran Van Hieu, the Vice-Minister of Health; MPs and Senators; and senior Government officials and Army officers. Also present were Nguyen Van Tho, Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery of Saigon, and his wife who is President of the Ladies' International Association of Saigon.

The film was introduced by Colonel Quan Minh Giau, Inspector General of the Quang Trung Army Base, under a banner reading 'As I am, so is my nation'.

Large quantities of MRA books and pamphlets were sold. Since this showing there have been further demands for the use of the film in the Saigon area.

ETHIOPIAN SUPPORT

Last month *New World News* (vol 23 no 6) announced the launching of an Ethiopian fund. Its treasurer, J Baynard-Smith, reports that as a result £173.32p has so far been received from 21 people.

The money has been used in three ways, he writes: to buy the film *The*

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Smile of the Apsara, which is being shown on average twice a day in Addis Ababa; to send a consignment of books to use with it; and 'the balance goes thankfully towards the living expenses of those from Britain who have been asked to stay and work alongside the growing team of citizens who are determined to bring to bear the evidence of answers to comparable situations in other lands'.

He continues, 'As the National Police Chief declared after the film, referring to the initiative of *Song of Asia*, "We must build a team of dedicated men ready to give that sort of leadership." The Chief Censor's first thought was to take personal responsibility in getting it shown on national television at this time of bitter strife.

'The English language edition of *The Black and White Book* is now stocked by the bookshops of Africa Hall, the Pan-African conference complex where the 42 Foreign Ministers of the OAU have just been meeting.'

'Song of Asia' arrives in Europe next week — see inside





FOUR YOUNG MAORIS have just left New Zealand to join *Song of Asia*. Their families travelled 350 miles to see them off at an occasion attended by 140 people in Auckland.

One of them, Jimmy Woods, is seen in this photo with his father and mother. He says, 'My father and I had a confrontation many months ago. It became so heated that I lost my temper and hit him. For me to apologise was the hardest thing but I did it and, oh boy! what a terrific feeling afterwards. When I obey, God works things out and change comes. Perhaps many others can change so that nations can change.'

Another, Madge Ormond, told the audience, 'I have decided to commit my life to God's Will. I am the first to leave home before 21 and I look forward to this mission as I want to learn more.'

Tureiti Hawkins said, 'I found Moral Re-Armament one of the most challenging adventures I had ever seen and ever engaged in.'

The fourth Maori, Paul Eaglesome, said, 'There was a conference held at Takitimu last year. What really struck me was that it was alive and relevant to what the world is going through today. So I started to listen to God. I was a rebel against authority, schools, police force, anything. Now I have a cause, I am a revolutionary.'

The community in Wairoa, where the Maoris come from, have given whole-hearted support to their venture. More than 400 people have contributed so far to the \$4,000 raised towards their expenses. Nine younger brothers and sisters of one of the delegation emptied their savings accounts. \$8,000 is the target that has been set.

●The new 16 mm colour film about the visit of 'Song of Asia' to Laos 'The Smile of the Apsara' can be hired by arrangement from MRA Productions or bought for £90.

●In December 1973 'New World News' produced a special eight-page issue (vol 22 No 9) about 'Song of Asia'. Copies are available 10p each (post free) from 'New World News', PO Box 9, Tonbridge, Kent

Towards the healing of hurts and the building of bridges

by Janet Mace

'IF HATE can be melted, that is one of the most important discoveries in the world. If people with a compelling human reason to hate decide to forgive that is more important than nuclear fission. *Song of Asia* portrays true stories of how hate has been answered. There lies its significance.'

These are the words of a young Indian from Fiji, Suresh Chandra, director of the musical production *Song of Asia* which arrives in Europe on 20 March. He speaks from the experience of men and women in many parts of Asia.

The roots of hate and resentment grow deep in our continent of Europe too. Even when exploitation and injustice have been righted the roots often remain, deep-seated, destructive and multiplying. How can these roots be destroyed?

In one of its most moving scenes, *Song of Asia* relates a true story which answers that question.

This musical production was created at Asia Plateau, the Moral Re-Armament Centre in Panchgani, India. It grew from the conviction that in the years ahead the voice of Asia should be

'not the cry of suffering, nor the blast of bombs but the still small voice'. And it grew from the personal experience of men and women who decided to make that still small voice the authority in their own lives.

The cast of fifty-five represent twelve countries. In dance and song, through drama and comedy, they express the truth they believe their nations need. Thousands flocked to see *Song of Asia* in the towns and cities of India. *The Hindu*, writing of its 'conspicuous artistry, unpretentious elegance and quiet competence' added 'it unfolds the destiny of a rising continent'. And *The Statesman* of Calcutta wrote, 'The music and the dance was imaginatively fresh, bold and forceful. The choreography... was intelligent and telling. The music was imaginatively composed.'

Many of us may never have the chance to visit Asia. But through this production, Asia comes to us. Wisdom from Japan and China, the ancient lands of the Far East, is woven into it with newly learned wisdom from Papua New Guinea where an ugly industrial dispute found unexpected solution. The beauty of the scene presented by the Maoris brings a gasp of admiration from the audience. From India to Australia, Turkey to Malaysia, South Vietnam to the Philippines, the cast share with us the best of their heritage and the profoundest of their convictions.

How each individual came to join the cast is a story in itself; one can only believe it is the hand of God that has brought them together and that He wants to use them for mighty enterprises in the years ahead.

A young Cambodian has expressed his deepest longings for the war-torn region of Indo-China in a poem, illustrated by the graceful dancing of two Laotians. It is a humbling and moving experience thus to glimpse the heart and the hopes of lands which have suffered so much.

After their tour through India to Indo-China that the cast made their

Vietnamese translators at a performance in Saigon





Tianethone Chantharasy, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, speaks at an outdoor performance for 3000 people in Laos. Photos: Rengfelt

first overseas journey. They were invited to Laos and to South Vietnam. Prince Souvanna Phouma, Prime Minister of Laos, in a message welcoming the cast said he had followed closely the activities of Moral Re-Armament in the world. He continued, 'According to reports I received this musical production has been warmly welcomed in the southern, north eastern and eastern states of India and just recently in New Delhi. It has helped to create favourable conditions for the solution of many difficult problems in industry as well as in universities and trade unions. Profound changes have been witnessed.'

In Vientiane 13,500 people saw *Song of Asia*, and the series of showings culminated in a special performance for The King and Queen. Evaluating the visit, Tianethone Chantharasy, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said, 'You from MRA have brought a new technique - of selflessness and honesty... The tide of change which has been set into motion by this visit is irreversible.'

The invitation to *Song of Asia* is a united European venture. One continent welcoming another, with the privileges of host shared by many. The cast will

arrive at the MRA Centre at Caux, Switzerland, on 20 March; there they will take part in the Easter Conference and complete their plans for visiting France, Germany, Holland, Scandinavia and Britain.

Generous gifts from all over Europe have made it possible to pay the travel expenses to Caux for the cast and stage equipment. It is estimated that the cost of accommodation and travel for this force of about sixty people during the next six months will run into six figures.

It is easy to hold a gloomy view about the coming years in our continent. But for men and women with faith (even the size of a grain of mustard seed) a more realistic view is to look on the next decades as years of pioneering, of exploring, of discovering the new way of doing things which *will* work.

As Europe faces its huge problems it needs an answer to division, an idea that will fill empty hands, stomachs and hearts, a passion for righteousness and a fighting faith.

Asia, which has seen so much suffering, needs this ideology too.

Could it be part of God's design for the world that we pioneer side by side

SPECIAL OFFER TO OUR READERS

A striking full colour 5" x 7" mounted photograph of the cast of 'Song of Asia'

Cost £1 including postage and packing

Any profit from the sale of the photograph will go towards the 'Song of Asia' fund

Please send your orders to 'New World News' 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF (cheques payable to David Channer)

This offer is open until 15 April

into these new realms, learning from one another and learning together?

One challenge which faces us all is how to share the material riches of the world. There is a scene in *Song of Asia* which takes place in an Indian village where there is a water shortage. Some of the villagers are allowed to take ample for their needs. For others there is not one drop available. Yet, when a miracle touches and cures the selfishness in the heart of the well owner, there is enough for all. And the poor village woman, full of wonder at receiving the water for family needs, says, 'I used to say that the bad habits of the living will not break until they die; but from now on I will have to say, if the bad habits break, the living won't have to die.'

Frank Buchman once said that Moral Re-Armament is the ordinary man's opportunity to remake the world. The cast of *Song of Asia* are ordinary men and women through whom God is doing extraordinary things. Accepting absolute standards in their own lives, they have put aside personal plans, preferences and prejudices and He has been able to build them into an effective force. The gift they bring is the secret of obedience to the 'still small voice that speaks in every heart'. It is a pearl of great price for a confused and apprehensive continent.

Towards the end of *Song of Asia* a young man from India's North East sings the Prayer of St Francis - that clear, simple expression of Christian faith. Will we accept it as a call to live out the best of our heritage? If we do we shall see in these next months the healing of old hurts and the building of new bridges. And in welcoming *Song of Asia* we shall be playing a part in history beyond our present understanding.

A fund has been opened for the travel and accommodation needs of the cast of 'Song of Asia' as they move round Europe. Gifts and promises of any amount may be sent to Peter L George, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF. Cheques should be made payable to P L George SOA Travel Fund.

Mother Teresa and her nuns listen to the cast in Calcutta



HOWARD EVENING

Songs from the musicals *Miracle in the Sun* and *The Vanishing Island* and extracts from the plays *We Are Tomorrow* and *Mr Brown Comes Down The Hill* will be given at the Westminster Theatre at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 25 March. They are part of a programme of Peter Howard's songs, plays, poetry, letters and speeches to be presented by professional actors and actresses.

ADDISON ECHO

Radio Merseyside broadcast extracts from Harry Addison's article in *New World News* (vol 23 no 18) in a report on the debate on press freedom.

TEACHER'S MANIFESTO

Thirty teachers who had brought parties from their schools to the Educational Programme at the Westminster Theatre over the past few years took part in a conference at the theatre with other educators and the theatre staff.

The theme was 'Drama and education in the re-christianizing of society' and plans were made for a drama festival for schools and special school productions of modern plays. The following manifesto was presented by Francis Brown, Head of Religious Education in a comprehensive school:

'We declare our unshakeable conviction that man is an eternal spirit and that education should continue to nurture faith.

'Cynicism and defeatism will have no part in our work.

'We affirm our belief that unless education nourishes the human spirit we are depriving a generation of the inner springs of inspiration, and the source of strength in difficulty and adversity.

'We confirm our belief that absolute honesty is the foundation of trust and confidence; absolute purity, of clarity and a passionate cleaving with evil and the second-rate.

'We believe that when men and women submit their wills to God their lives assume a new dignity, purpose and fulfilment. This is true freedom.

'We believe every child to have an inalienable right to find and fulfil his destiny under God. This is the true equality.

'We admit to ourselves the inevitability of making mistakes but we aim at our goal of placing the God of love and justice at the centre of our own lives, the places where we work and our nation.'

The experience of Easter could come alive for many through a book

Easter reading

*'New nationhood with us abide
And renaissance this Easter tide'*

From Peter Howard's collected poems **Above the Smoke and Stir** £1.50 (p+p 23p)

'Challenging record of "try-it-and-see" Christianity' **Church of England Newspaper's** comment on **Good God, It Works!** by Garth Lean £1.20 (p+p 23p)

An order for two or more of the following, if received at MRA Books, 54 Lyford Road SW18 3JJ, before Easter, will be sent post free.

Brave Men Choose by Garth Lean 25p

John Wesley, Anglican by Garth Lean 25p

The Lord's Prayer and Modern Man by Roger Hicks 25p

The Endless Adventure by Roger Hicks 37p

The Old Testament for Modern Explorers by Roland Wilson 25p

Man Alive, anthology compiled by John and Joan Kendall 37p

One Fight More, portrait of B H Streeter by Alan Thornhill 12p

'I've neglected the country'

'WE NEED to look at problems of industry not from a manager's or worker's point of view but in the interest of industry as a whole. That is what I have learnt through MRA - to be unselfish. Because once you have a selfish motive I don't think you can see a problem with any vision or perspective,' said S V Gole, veteran trade unionist and Vice President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

He was addressing the industrial seminar 'A Fresh Factor at Work', held at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, in February. It was the second of a series of six for the first half of this year.

Sixty delegates from nine industries of different parts of Maharashtra attended. They gathered to search together for ways to lift the nation out of its present economic difficulties of inflation and growing unemployment.

One of the main groups present was from Polydor India. Men and women working in this firm came with their Managing Director, Shashi Patel.

Patel has been to Asia Plateau on previous occasions. He had come here originally because he wanted to see a change in his daughter who took drugs and drink. However, his daughter changed only when he himself stopped drinking. 'Here I realized that men like me have neglected the needs of the country far too long,' he said.

Chairing a session, Patel spoke about a recent problem he had faced. One of his companies produces electrical goods.

With the present recession in industry sales had dropped drastically. He was faced with the choice of either firing men or of closing down the department. But then a new thought came to him. He called his workers together and promised he would fire no one. He said he was prepared to run the company at a loss for two years if necessary if they would accept a smaller increment in wages. To his surprise some offered to have no increase.

His firm is pressing an EP record of songs by the cast of *Song of Asia*.

Mrs Patel spoke of how they were learning to use their home not just to entertain but to help people find answers to their problems. 'I was only interested in jewellery and my home,' she said. 'Now I am taking interest in my husband's factory, in the workers and how they live at home.'

These seminars have been providing a platform for workers to speak to the management even of other firms and vice versa. They have agreed that a change in industry would need to be based on a change in the hardened attitudes of all involved, that the most effective revolution for India would need to be a shift in the character of man.

This idea was echoed by Conrad Hunte, former Vice-Captain of the West Indies cricket team. 'Most people think of revolution only as a violent one,' he said. 'There is another type, equally radical, as it changes the selfish motives of people. But the weapons are moral and spiritual - the power of the Inner Voice and the absolute standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. The father of your nation, Mahatmaji, knew how to tap this source.'