

Special news summary

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Owing to an industrial dispute at our printers we regret that it has not been possible to print New World News in its usual form. We hope to get back to normal publication very soon - THE EDITORS

GERMANS HEAR DIFFERENT VOICE FROM ASIA

Bus loads of people from north and south Germany came to the premiere of Song of Asia in Bensheim, marking the start of a tour of Germany that will include performances in Mannheim, Bonn and Berlin. German is the fifth language in which these young men and women from 12 Asian nations have presented their show.

As the Heidelberg daily Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung wrote, 'The German public, sated with TV and Press coverage of tragic events in South-East Asia, will have the chance in the next weeks to listen to a different voice from that troubled continent.'

This would explain the interest shown by the hundreds - many of them high school students - who stayed long after the show to meet and talk with the cast.

Messages of greetings were received by the cast from Cardinal Volk, Bishop of Mainz, and Helmut Class, Bishop of Württemberg. Bishop Class, who is also President of the Protestant Church in Germany and attended the preview, told the cast, 'I send you out through Europe with God's blessing'.

Earlier in the day they were honoured guests at a service marking Ascension Day and the day on which Germany surrendered after World War II. 'Ambassadors of reconciliation' the Dean called them, as he welcomed the Asian visitors to the Catholic Church before a congregation of 1,500 Catholics and Protestants from an area known for religious differences. It was all the more notable an occasion because it was the first time the Protestant Bishop had preached the sermon in the Catholic Church.

One of the speakers at the packed Ascension Day service was Lam Kim Phung, a member of the cast who teaches blind people in Saigon. We print the following extract from her appeal to her people and the world.

'When I heard the news that Saigon had fallen I nearly went out of my mind. "Where are my parents, my brothers and sisters?" I asked. No one could answer my question. I could not sleep. I felt very bitter. Then I heard a voice in my heart saying "Do you want to be part of the problem or an answer?" And I surrendered that bitterness.

'There are thousands of Vietnamese refugees all over the world who are now desperate. I would like to say to all my people, the refugees, North and South Vietnam, the only way for us, the West and the world is that we return to God's ways. We need a world governed by men governed by God, as Frank Buchman said. If people accept that challenge and a change of heart today they will not become refugees tomorrow.'

An estimated eight million people saw the cast of Song of Asia in a national TV broadcast on Germany's Second channel last week. Scenes from their show and interviews were also recorded by the First channel for a national broadcast this week.

An extract from the show was filmed outside the Second German television's new centre at Mainz, where they had been guests of the Managing Director at lunch.

The cast were also given a civic reception by the city of Mainz in the Gutenberg Museum.

An extra performance of Song of Asia arranged at short notice was again overfilled. Nearly 3,000 people saw Song of Asia in three days in Bensheim.

The new record of 12 songs by the cast sold nearly 400 in the first three days it was on sale.

HOME TRUTHS FROM LONDON

London's Royal Festival Hall will provide the venue for a significant event in the calendar of International Women's Year.

The 2,700 seat concert hall on the south bank of the Thames has been booked for Wednesday, 4 June for a day's rally on the theme 'Home Truths for International Women's Year'. Organised by the initiators of the Housewives' Declaration in association with Moral Re-Armament, the meeting will include speakers from other countries and from all parts of Britain as well as song and music.

The meeting will run from 11.0 am to 4.0 pm with a break for lunch and the doors will be opened at 10.0 am. Admission is by ticket only. Tickets are free of charge and obtainable from Mrs K Evans, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF.

Mrs Erica Evans, one of the initiators of the Housewives' Declaration, a charter issued by women who have decided to live themselves the way they want Britain and the world to live, says 'Here is our chance to look at those "home truths" together, to hear from those who have applied them; from housewives, teachers, nurses and many others from Britain and abroad giving their answers; to think together how we can tackle our nation's responsibilities. What do we women think? And above all, what can we do?'

The first 10,000 leaflets for the meeting were quickly gone and a further 20,000 have now been printed.

TV RUN UP TO RHODESIA CONFERENCE

Rhodesian Television began its new series of Sunday evening films on 4 May with MRA's Decision at Midnight. Later in the month Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill will be shown. These films are being transmitted as a preparation for the Moral Re-Armament International Assembly to be held in Salisbury at the beginning of June.

EX-PRESIDENT JOINS COUNCIL

Former President Emilio Medici, who governed Brazil until March 1974, has accepted an invitation to serve on the Consultative Council of the Brazilian Association for Moral Re-Armament.

The Vice-President of the Brazilian Senate, Senator Benjamin Farah and The Confederation of Workers in Commerce have just been host to an MRA group visiting Brasilia. The group included Jose Veras, ex-President of the Tramway Workers of Rio, Nelson Marcellino, a former portworkers' leader and Generals Calimerio Santos and Hermes Guimaraes.

'EDINBURGH 75' CONFERENCE CASSETTE

A 90 minute compact cassette, produced by Dr Ian Robertson, Denis Nowlan, Chris Hartnell and Peter Riddell giving highlights of the recent Edinburgh conference is now available. It includes: Les Dennison, a former Marxist, on how he found a faith; excerpts from a seminar taken by Harry Addison on acquiring a revolutionary commitment; convictions and decisions of students from England, Egypt, India, Scotland, Eire, Australia, South Africa and other countries; Xhosa, French, Swiss and Scottish songs. Cassettes are £1.50 each plus postage and packing 20p. Orders and cheques to Peter Riddell, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF.