

Special news summary



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

'WE ARE ATTENTIVE LISTENERS' GERMANS TELL CAST

A housewife from Japan, Leftist students from Heidelberg University, American soldiers, the elite in their elegant gowns and black ties - these were some of the elements making up the 1,800 who came to see Song of Asia in Mannheim's massive theatre complex, Rosengarten.

'Many have come with great expectations, some a bit sceptical to see the young Asians who will offer us Europeans their help and advice which comes from their 30 years' experience of suffering, bloodshed and wars. We are attentive listeners because we are looking for light, trust and hope,' said Mayor Walter Keubler addressing the cast and audience at the beginning of the second act of the play. He continued, 'Because we feel helpless and we know something has to happen, we are looking for new ways which will help us find a sense of direction.' 'To change the course of history' was the headline in a two column article with a photo of the cast in the Mannheim Morgen.

After the show a CDU (Christian Democratic Union) MP of the Baden-Württemberg State Parliament said, 'I was deeply touched by the aims which you showed. We can learn from one another. This learning is a good way of understanding and solving problems.' A number of Thai students commented, 'If only we knew of Song of Asia before, we want it for our country.' Another young man who had been separated from his parents and was a drug addict said, 'It was not just a show. It was truth.'

For the first time the Theatre translation system was used for 200 Americans in the audience who are serving with NATO in Europe.

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Members of the cast of Song of Asia from five countries recorded a radio programme for the American Forces network in Frankfurt. 'America has been very generous to many of our nations,' Mr Niketu Iralu told the interviewer. 'Our Asian nations have been the scene of American sacrifice. Many Americans have paid with their lives. We feel for their families. We want to see that those who have sacrificed will not have sacrificed in vain. Moral Re-Armament came from a great American, Frank Buchman, who was convinced that the world was heading for an unprecedented crisis and what we needed was moral and spiritual re-armament of nations. He was realistic enough to realise that the great plans for the reconstruction of our nations would not succeed unless we learned to deal with rugged human nature. Many of us in Asia see this as the all-round revolution that will tackle our problems adequately.'

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An estimated eight million people in Germany, including Berlin, saw scenes from Song of Asia on national television. Members of the cast from Fiji, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines were interviewed on the relevance of reconciliation and the power of 'the still small voice' in Indo-China today.

Underlining the topicality of what the Asian cast had to say, the programme posed the question whether 'the still small voice' could be large enough and loud enough in the present crisis.

'We believe that "the still small voice" is the most powerful force in the world,' said the producer Suresh Chandra. 'It can be tapped by everyone.'

'We are not pro-American or anti-Communist. Both can change through a change of character. Nations will be reconciled as individuals find the answer to simple problems like jealousy and hate.'

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A 20-minute broadcast about Song of Asia by the Voice of Germany, including a review, commentary and extracts from the show, was picked up in Papua New Guinea.

NIGERIAN YOUTH COUNCIL SEE 'FREEDOM'

The all-African film, Freedom was shown to delegates from all over the Federation of Nigeria attending the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the National Youth Council of Nigeria at Sokoto in the extreme north-west of the country.

Giving the background to the invitation for the film show, the National Secretary of the Council wrote in his annual report, read to all the delegates: 'I strongly believe that the film Freedom is one of the greatest achievements of Black Africa.'

Speaking at the end of the film, the chairman of the meeting said, 'We fought for freedom and independence, but we still harbour bitterness among us. If we can eschew bitterness, hate and selfishness, this country has a chance of becoming a truly great nation. This is a film with a message. If we go away from Sokoto armed with that message, this gathering would have been profitable.'

Two member organisations of the National Council immediately asked for the film for their forthcoming annual gatherings.

TV FILM CONTEST ENTRY

Two films, A Man for All People and Belfast Report were entered by MRA Productions as part of the International Christian Film Festival, held recently in Brighton.

Films accepted had to have been shown on television for the first time during the last two years. Over 50 films were entered in five different categories. The MRA films were entered in the category 'Reconciliation'.

The Festival was the fourth in a continuous series in various parts of the world under the aegis of the World Association of Christian Communication and the International Catholic Association for Radio and Television. It was organised in association with the BBC and the IBA.

Enquiries came from Germany and Australia for the televising of the MRA films.

SEMINAR SPARKS NEW AIMS FOR INDUSTRY

Representatives from labour and management of eight companies took part in an Industrial Seminar at the Moral Re-Armament Centre at Panchgani, India earlier this month. They came from the engineering, fertiliser, machine tool, textile and transport industries from South, North East, Eastern and Western India.

The President of an engineering company union announced that he was arranging for a group to come to his factory with MRA films to help bring a new spirit there. He said that he and his colleagues want to tackle corruption and black marketing.

Two workers from the same factory announced their decisions to cut out a life-long habit of drink. One of them said, 'I had refused to believe in God even though I felt He had saved my life once when I fell 30 feet while drunk and was not killed. I feel now that He has a plan for me.'

Speaking for management a senior executive of one of the largest transport undertakings in the country said, 'Industry must serve the needs of society.' He also affirmed that application of MRA principles was the way industry could make its legitimate contribution to society. One of his assistants who is in charge of training personnel said, 'I did not exactly know what faith was. Now I feel it is knowledge in the heart beyond what the mind sees. That is going to be the aim and purpose of my life.'