



Chief David Crowchild of the Sarcee welcomes Niketu Iralu and Dr Paul Campbell to Calgary. Photo: Calgary Herald

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Indian chiefs invite 'Song of Asia' to Canada



Chiefs and senior representatives of the five tribes of Treaty Number 7 in Alberta, Canada, hosted a conference for 'Native Conscience Re-Strengthening', for Indians and non-Indians, in Calgary from 3-4 January.

THE CONFERENCE was organised by Little Chief, Chairman of the Calgary Urban Treaty (Indian) Alliance and Western Canada co-ordinator of the American Indian Movement, and Arnold Crowchild, President of the Development Corporation of the Sarcee Reservation, both of whom had recently visited Britain in order to confer with the force of *Song of Asia*.

Treaty Number 7 was signed in 1877 and was the seventh treaty signed between Queen Victoria and the Indians. It was made with the chiefs of the five tribes in the area now known as Southern Alberta.

Calling the conference an 'unusual gathering', the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's television news described the theme as 'a call to a return to the cultural, spiritual and social values of the past, values the Indians say their society and the greater Canadian society is lacking, and inspired largely by the Moral Re-Armament movement and its call for absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love'.

In a half-hour interview on Calgary's CFAC-TV, which caused an unprecedented number of congratulatory telephone calls to the TV station, Arnold Crowchild said, 'The

Indian has never been asked what part he should play. In this conference we would like to demonstrate how the Indian has a rightful place in society. We want to take the best from the white people, the best from the Indians, put it together and make it work. This conference is just the beginning. We have to spread it right across Canada and the USA.'

The conference was attended by 200 delegates from across Canada and the USA, and representing ten tribes. On the Saturday evening the conference hall was packed for a traditional pow wow of dancing and singing.

At the opening, following an invocalional

prayer in his native language by an Indian elder, the Mayor of Calgary, Rodney Sykes, welcomed the conference to his city.

Under the headline, 'Attitude change said key to native-white harmony', the *Calgary Herald* reported the American Indian Movement's (AIM) Canadian leader, Ed Burnstick, saying, 'Violence between Canada's native people and white society can only continue to grow unless there is a change in attitude by both sides.' He referred to his recent visit to Britain and Northern Ireland and warned Canadians against becoming 'isolated' from the world problems.

Referring to MRA he said, 'This is the only group of people I have ever come across who are thinking of the world problems and can really understand the world problems and understand people and are determined to work and try and solve some of these problems.'

Taxpayers' money

Roy Little Chief, chairing a conference session, said, 'We need the assistance of MRA, a movement where we can sit down together and try and look at our own culture, where we can talk together. Then people like myself don't have to have an unpredictable

CANADIAN INVITATION contd p2



Treaty Seven chiefs and leaders with a representative of 'Song of Asia' after they had invited the Asians to North America. From left: Fred Gladstone, representative of the Bloods; Nelson Small Legs Snr, Councillor of the Plegan; Gordon Crowchild, Chief of the Sarcee; Niketu Iralu, N E India; Bill McLean, Chief of the Stoney, Bears paw band; Leo Pretty Young Man, Chief of the Blackfoot. Photos: Weeks

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attitude, because when I do, then I sure waste a lot of Canadian taxpayers' money!

'What I like about the atmosphere since yesterday is that there are new feelings now,' he continued, as he thanked the representatives of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and City Police for coming.

'Nelson Small Legs Jr, Southern Alberta co-ordinator of AIM, said, 'I spoke differently this time than I have ever spoken before. I speak to many audiences and the spirit of criticism in them is such that I am always speaking on the defensive. Here there is a kind of spirit of goodwill such as I have never experienced. It changed my whole attitude.'

Violence slows change

Dr Paul Campbell, who flew especially from England to the conference, said, 'I am a revolutionary. Revolution is my aim. I want to bring the most profound change, not only to Calgary, to Alberta, to Canada, but to the entire world. I am against violence. I think it is morally wrong. It slows down the process of change. Violence hardens the hearts of the people against whom it is committed. Violence does not speed change, it slows it up.'

He continued, 'I see a tremendous destiny for the native people of Canada who could share a way of bringing change swiftly, a change in which everybody benefits and no one loses.'

Rick McArthur, a Sioux from the Rosebud Reserve in South Dakota, who is now responsible for economic development for Indians in Minnesota, said, 'I used to be the head in Minneapolis of the American Indian Movement. I was in Wounded Knee and at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' take-over and in more jails than I would like to count. And then I was asked: "How much fighting for your people can you do in jail?" I came up with the idea of not fighting with the people you don't agree with, but to work with them. I thought it was a new idea, but that was because I was so busy talking that I

never listened. Well, I come up here and I feel a little foolish because I run into something like MRA that was in existence and trying to do that same thing before I was even thought of. I see that there are people all over the world who are trying to do that.'

Serge Kujawa, Director of Crown Prosecutions for the province of Saskatchewan, said, 'What has impressed me about this conference, and I attend a great many, has been people getting together with goodwill, thinking not of how to increase fees and income and productivity and become richer and greedier, but how to improve the quality of life of all of us. I do look to the Indian people to provide moral leadership to a world that is lacking in everything but expertise and materialism. And I certainly hope that this is not only the beginning of this kind of get-together. There is just about



Arnold Crowchild being interviewed by CBC TV during the conference.

nothing in our modern education system that teaches us about living with each other, or about living with ourselves. I think I got more education here on that aspect in three days than I got in three years in university.'

Mrs Grace Young from Ottawa said, 'The thing that hit me about this invitation and that challenged me to come, was saying that this is a conference for Indians and non-Indians. I had never thought of myself as a non-Indian. Perhaps for the first time in our lives as white people we have taken the chance to sit down and really listen and understand what is going on in the hearts of the native Canadians.'

The final session of the conference was chaired by the District Superintendent of the Department of Indian Affairs, Michael Kartushyn, and the Chiefs and senior representatives of the five tribes of Treaty 7 spoke. First they called upon Niketu Iralu from Nagaland in North East India, Director of the force of *Song of Asia*, to give a full description of the stage production and its impact in other parts of the world. Then each chief spoke.

Chief Bill McLean of the Stoneys and son of the late Chief Walking Buffalo, said, 'Our people are getting so militant in some places of our country and the government turns around and tells us Indians that we are causing trouble for everyone. I think we have come to a turning point. This is where we need to attack. I believe God has put us here on this continent with a purpose. We need to stop once in a while to listen to the Great

Spirit and live what He tells us. If we Indians live this, we can change the white man, the people, our government and North America.'

Chief Leo Pretty Young Man, the Chief of the Blackfoot tribe, said that he appreciated the privilege of viewing and listening to all the speakers and that he was just overwhelmed by what he had heard.

Fred Gladstone, the former Canadian calf-roping champion and representative of the Blood reserve, said, 'We are the leaders of today, trying to blend two cultures that we are exposed to. With the natural philosophy of the Indian people and their religion, MRA is a programme that I have to take a real good look at.'

Chief Gordon Crowchild of the Sarcee, to the applause of the delegates, then rose on behalf of the Chiefs of Treaty 7 to invite *Song of Asia* to Canada and North America.

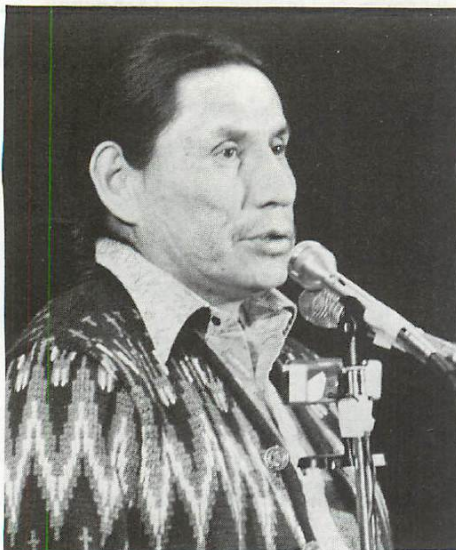
THREE OTHER CONFERENCES

AUSTRALIA— From crisis to cure

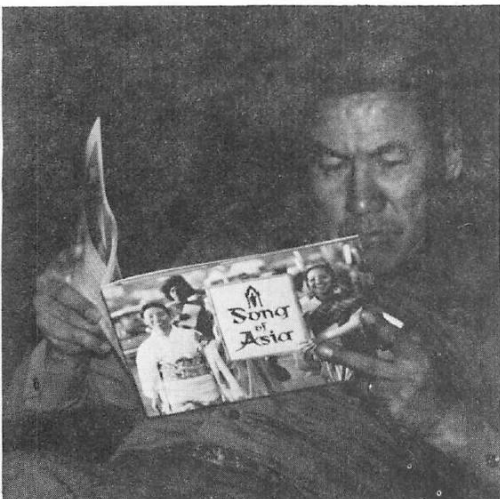
THE FIJIAN High Commissioner, Raman N Nair, addressed the opening session of a New Year Moral Re-Armament conference in Canberra. Mr Nair, who is Dean of Diplomats, said, 'I wish that the Australian people would involve themselves in the whole process of development in the Pacific. It is people with clear, pure hearts, with friendship, love and affection that can weave a new fabric for a dynamic, stable creative society.' He hoped that MRA could establish itself in Fiji. He was addressing over 300 people from 24 countries at the conference which was held under the theme 'From Crisis to Cure'. Participating were delegates from Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Fiji, Philippines, Japan, the United States and Canada, as well as diplomats from Egypt, Fiji, Malta, Spain, India, Brazil, Indonesia and South Korea, and several parliamentarians, including the Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly.

Launching pad

Prime Minister Somare of Papua New Guinea sent a message expressing his wish that the conference become a launching pad for new initiatives in the South Pacific and South East Asia. Amos Rorima, a teacher from Bougainville, the copper-rich island where there is a secessionist campaign, said he was speaking as a Papua New Guinean and not only as a representative from his province. He was fighting for unity in his country and had decided to give one year's



Roy Little Chief, Chairman of the Calgary Urban Treaty Alliance and Western Canada co-ordinator of AIM.



Chief Gordon Crowchild studies the 'Song of Asia' pictorial.

He felt peace in Asia and the Pacific region could only exist if there was close co-operation between nations.'

For this reason he had decided to pay his own way to the MRA International Conference.

The story continues, quoting the general, 'We need MRA. Without it, it is nonsense to have military forces even for defence. It is not enough to have defence materials. The men should have moral strength and determination.'

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) television news and feature programmes carried news of the conference, as did ABC and commercial radio, and *The Canberra Times* and the national daily, *The Australian*.

USA — Catalysts of change

MICHAEL OKER, Curator of the Minneapolis Regional Native American Indian Center, presented a raw uncut piece of pipestone, weighing several pounds, to Arnold Crowchild, President of the Sarcee Development Corporation of Calgary, Canada, during a Moral Re-Armament Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Minnesota is the only place in the United States where this precious stone is found. The quarry at Pipestone in southwestern Minnesota is considered a holy place. It is a historical monument and only native American Indians can quarry the stone used for ceremonial pipes.

The theme of the conference, held in mid-December, was 'The Revolutionary Way: how the ordinary person can be a catalyst for change in today's society'.

A cross-section of the community was represented at the meeting, from college professors, high school and college students to people from business and labour.

SWEDEN — A new way of life

THE FIRST DEPUTY SPEAKER of the Swedish Parliament, Torsten Bengtson, addressed an audience of 170 at an MRA gathering at Joenkoping, South Sweden, over the New Year. Mr Bengtson, who for several years has been a delegate to the United Nations, spoke on human rights around the world. Among issues discussed in connection with his address were the conditions of the Samic (Lapp) people, the minority of 10,000 in the north of Sweden.

The theme of the gathering was 'A New Way of Life — A New Society — But How?' A medical professor from Stockholm, an

expert on medical ethics, led a seminar on how to attain clear ethical standards in questions like abortion, euthanasia and the treatment of malformed children.

The conference was supported by people from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Germany, Switzerland and Australia. They saw a performance of the play, *Peter Wieselgren — We Need You*, which is the story of the Swedish pioneer who during the last century became one of the founders of present day Sweden through his national fight to answer drunkenness and social misery. The performance was also mentioned by the local press, which carried articles on the gathering and interviewed several delegates.

Preparations were made for the visit of the Asian musical, *Song of Asia*, to Sweden in February. Whole families, young and old, took part in planning the practical details. The youngest started collecting funds for the visit by selling handicrafts they had made themselves.

The invitation to *Song of Asia* has so far been signed by more than 200 Swedes, among whom are nine members of parliament, Samic people in the north, business people, students, workers, farmers, doctors, teachers and clergy around the country.

AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP including members of *Song of Asia* visited Dublin last month. Radio Telefis Eireann's programme, 'Here and Now', played four songs from the *Song of Asia* record and interviewed Neerja Chowdhury on the theme of the show.

CHALLENGE TO WAR

*There are no sides in God's World,
He speaks to everyone,
Skin black or white,
Hair straight or curled,
He guides, forgetting none;
And asks 'What are you living for,
Is it the biggest thing?'
If you'd bleed less in time of war,
Then sweat while peace bells ring.
And open up your cold closed hearts,
Defeated faithless men.
The biggest revolution starts,
(Let's not discuss the when)
It's here and now, a world rebuilt,
When each decides and gives
Whate'er he has, his gifts, his guilt,
His rights, the way he lives,
Obeys that thought for freedom's sake,
His shackles fall, he's free.
Oh men who dare, awake, awake,
Your sightless eyes will see
A God-led world, by God-led men,
On earth, as 'tis in Heaven.*

John Purton, Victoria, Australia

leave without pay to work with MRA.

Mrs Margaret Tucker, MBE, the Aboriginal Princess on whose tribal land Canberra is located, said that through MRA she had learnt that her people have something to contribute to the world. 'And that means a great deal to us because it has taught us we are people.'

Disaster and cure

A senior public servant in the Prime Minister's Department said that the gap between disaster and cure was very small. MRA was working on that fringe of change that determines the outcome.

Anthony Lew, a journalist from Taiwan, said, 'We Chinese in Taiwan feel privileged to be given a second chance to build a new society. Though I am an American citizen, I have decided to stay in Taiwan to help do this. We have renewed our efforts to spread the work of MRA.'

In the light of recent political upheavals, W H Coffey said, 'We need now leaders who will give a central place to moral ideology on which alone a secure responsible nation can be built. We cannot afford more elections where all national leaders campaign as if the rest of the world didn't exist. MRA offers four absolute moral standards as a wellspring of an inspired democracy.'

The Canberra Times had a four-column front-page picture of Japanese General Ichiji Sugita laying a wreath on the Australian War Memorial. The paper said, 'He saw the wreath-laying as a demonstration of respect and belief in the links made between his country and Australia since the war.'



General Sugita

The pain of nations

by Rajmohan Gandhi

AT THIS SEASON it is fitting that we expand our concerns.

To think for our countries is necessary; but we are all world citizens too, and we should be ready to be bothered by the needs of other lands.

Almost half the world lives without freedom. The Soviet Union, China, East Europe, North Korea and Indochina are among the regions where man is not free to express or propagate his views. These areas have undoubtedly seen progress in strength and economy. But their inhabitants are unable to taste the joys of freedom.

Russian heartbeat

Indians have many ties with Russia. Some of these are longstanding.

Tolstoy watched the Indian struggle for freedom with sympathy and understanding. His books enabled the world, including India, to listen to the heartbeat of the individual Russian.

Before him Dostoevsky had done the same. And after Tolstoy the bravery and suffering of Russia have been portrayed by Solzhenitsyn with compelling devotion and skill.

Very few among those who read these will have visited the Soviet Union. Many will have read Solzhenitsyn. He rings true. He breathes authenticity.

Between two and three hundred million people live in the Soviet Union. They are splendidly gifted, sensitive, strong, courageous — and unfree.

Their night has been long. Why does an all-loving Providence not terminate it? Providence is inscrutable, and knows best. Pain seems part of its plan. Possibly it is meant as a lesson for those not — or not yet — similarly afflicted.

Providence may allow the pain to continue. But we must strive and yearn and pray for it to end. We cannot play God and assert that deprivation of liberty is good or salutary for the Russian people.

Half the world

With China, India has greater links. Both countries are Asian, poor and heavily populated. Both possess an ancient civilisation. Taken together their peoples comprise

roughly half the world.

India can admire certain Chinese achievements and traits — above all the industriousness of the Chinese people. There is much to be learnt from the example of our neighbour on the other side of the Himalayas.

Yet the absence of liberty is a fact in China. The Chinese heart and the Chinese mind are as active and creative as the Chinese muscle; but Chinese conditions freeze and suppress the activity and the creativity. And the absence of any news of revolt is no proof of joy; human beings have an astonishing capacity for stifling pain and bearing it.

I have not had the privilege of visiting Russia or China. But I did visit South Vietnam and Laos before their Communisation. Corruption and greed were evident, but so was liberty. People I met or saw cherished liberty and were proud of their religion, which was Buddhism or Christianity.

Untruths and insults

I picture them now in their homes or rice fields or along the Mekong or trudging past their pagodas and churches. Perhaps they are working harder than before. Possibly they are more 'disciplined'. But I know that they are uttering what they disbelieve, ordering their consciences to silence, and stomaching, with extreme but unexpressed pain, untruths, humiliations and insults.

I will be told that the Americans messed up things in Indochina, that some of them were cruel there. I was and am aware of this, just as I was and am aware of the sheer selfishness of many of those who opposed Communism in Indochina. But my spirit is injured by the silent misery now of those I met or saw, and enormous numbers besides them, in Indochina.

It is not in us to know when dawn will break in these parts. But totalitarianism — whether of rightist, centrist or leftist variety — in the rest of the world will not hasten it. Some country or countries have to reject the temptations of totalitarianism and demonstrate the simultaneous flowering of liberty and discipline.

reprinted from the Asian newsweekly 'Himmat'

The right direction

by Paul Petrocokino

‘The crisis of our times demands an increase in the number of men and women who have decided to make the guidance of God the basis of their lives. Anyone, guided by God, can become an active and constructive factor in the nation's life, instead of being a passive victim of circumstances.’

This 4-page leaflet is available from MRA Books. Single copy: 2p; 10 copies: 18p plus 8p p+p; 50 copies or more: 80p plus 20p p+p.

A New Conference Cassette is now available

'AN EVENING WITH VICTOR SPARRE'
Norwegian Painter
and Artist in Stained Glass

This is a recording of a talk at the MRA centre in London.

It can be ordered from
Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road,
London, SW18 3JJ.
Price £1.85 + 15p VAT p+p 20p.

John Wesley Superstar '76

This was the headline over a story in this week's 'Sunday Telegraph' on the Wesley musical 'Ride! Ride!'. The article, by John Capon, the ecclesiastical correspondent, reads:

JOHN WESLEY, founder of Methodism, is the latest religious figure to get 'Superstar' treatment. A musical based on his life is due to start an 11-week provincial tour in March before opening in London in May.

The show, entitled *Ride! Ride!*, follows such religious musicals as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Godspell*, *Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Rock* (about St Peter) and *Rock Pilgrim* (John Bunyan).

The story concerns a young servant girl, Martha Thompson, who was thrown into a lunatic asylum for two years by her employers following her conversion at a Wesley revival meeting. Wesley rescues her and she rides pillion with him back to her home in Preston. Hence the title of the show.

A sub-plot concerns Dr Hobart, a corrupt Anglican clergyman who is one of Wesley's chief opponents. Convicted of bribery, forgery and imprisoned in Newgate gaol, he finally asks to see Wesley before he is hanged at Tyburn.

The character of Hobart is based on Dr William Dodd, a friend of Dr Johnson.

The play was written at the request of Dr Maldwyn Edwards, a former president of the Methodist Conference, who died a year ago.

The author, Alan Thornhill, is an Anglican clergyman and Moral Re-Armament supporter. His plays, including *Mr Wilberforce MP*, have already been performed in the West End.

The music is by Penelope Thwaites, a young Australian. The director is Peter Coe, whose previous successes include *Oliver!* and *Lock Up Your Daughters*.

The musical was presented by an amateur group at the Methodist Conference at Newcastle in 1973. The following year it was put on in Cardiff by Dr John Gibbs, a wealthy Methodist layman.