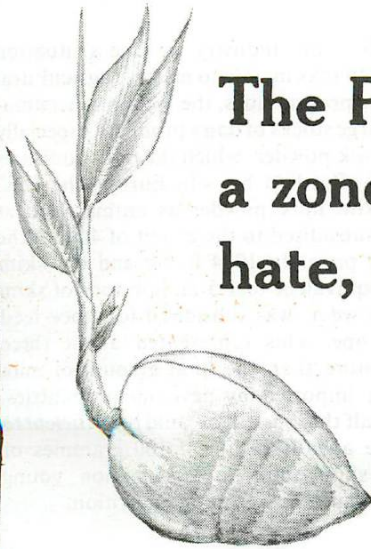


# NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

## The Pacific- a zone free of hate, fear and greed



Theme of  
Fiji conference opened  
by Governor-General

A CONFERENCE for the Moral Re-Armament of the South Pacific was held last month in Suva, Fiji, in the modern spacious buildings of the Nasinu Teachers' College.

The conference was opened by H E Ratu Sir George Cakobau, Governor-General of Fiji.

Having been welcomed by the singing of the Wainivalu Choir, the champion church choir in Fiji, and by Jo Bolatekue, President of the Fiji Teachers' Association, the Governor-General said: 'We here in Fiji are fortunate indeed that we have hitherto remained untouched by struggles, and that may well be why our country, with its multi-racial and multi-religious background, has been able to develop to a marked degree a spirit of tolerance, understanding, goodwill and harmony between our very different cultural communities. Be that as it may, there is no question but that the world needs a refreshment of the spirit of Christianity, in consequence of which men will fight the evils of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and selfishness instead of internecine wars. But wishing will not make it so; it must be fought with all the panoply of God.'

Those attending the conference came from the Netherlands, Britain, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, the Gilbert Islands and people from the Chinese, European, Indian and Fijian communities of Fiji.

Messages received included those from the Prime Minister of Fiji, the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet and parliament of New Zealand, from both sides of parliament in Australia and the Director of Education in Western Samoa.

Speaking on the theme of the conference, J S Thomson, Independent Chairman of the Sugar Board, said: 'Hate is indeed a poison in human relationships, and having been absorbed it takes years for its effects to be ousted from a person's system. Sometimes it seems we can never be free of its effects. Examine your own position on your hatreds and prejudices. It is incumbent on all of us to seek out the breeding places of racial animosity in our midst and to expose these



The Governor-General of Fiji  
photo: 'Fiji Times and Herald'

to the cleansing spirit of God's love... of the three poisons greed ranks equal with the other two. This is the one of which we are least conscious.'

### Senator's questions

He supplied everyone present with a list of 18 questions, the eighteenth being, 'Do you have any questions on your code of conduct and the relevance of Moral Re-Armament to that code?' A lively discussion developed under the chairmanship of Ratu David Toganivalu, Minister of Labour, who said as he left: 'This is so interesting I could spend a whole day on it.'

Senator Charles Walker commented: 'One key is communication, how many of us listen when we communicate?' He also spoke of the increasing need for a 'social and civic accounting in business, as well as the usual balance sheet at the end of the year'.

Paul Sotutu, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, said, 'In all negotiations it is a question of attitude, of caring being more important than grabbing. There is a circle of hate, fear and greed that has to be broken.'

Raman Nair, Director of the Fiji Em-

ployers' Consultative Association, spoke on the same evening as James Raman, the Secretary General of the Fiji Trades Union Congress, on the theme 'Industry to meet the needs of all'.

Raman Nair: 'The morality of work in Western society has always been based on religious teaching, including the Biblical injunction of six days' labour and one day's rest. The result was a deeply-rooted belief in the dignity of work. But just as other aspects of religion are now subjected to increasing questioning, so is the morality of work.'

James Raman: 'We need a common objective for all sides involved in industry in spite of different interests. An atmosphere could be created within the country so that seeking of common objectives can be made desirable by all in society. All sections of Fiji need a common identified goal.'

Madho Prasad, a building contractor, said: 'When faced with the position of laying off men a thought came to me, "The bulldozer doesn't need to eat, but the men do, tell the men the situation and offer them the work the bulldozer would have done." They accepted the offer and did the work in three days, also other work was found, they appreciated it very much and a new spirit has resulted on the site. I also put off making some improvements in my office. A thought which I had about this was, "Make the improvements and do what you should do first, before expecting more from your employees."'

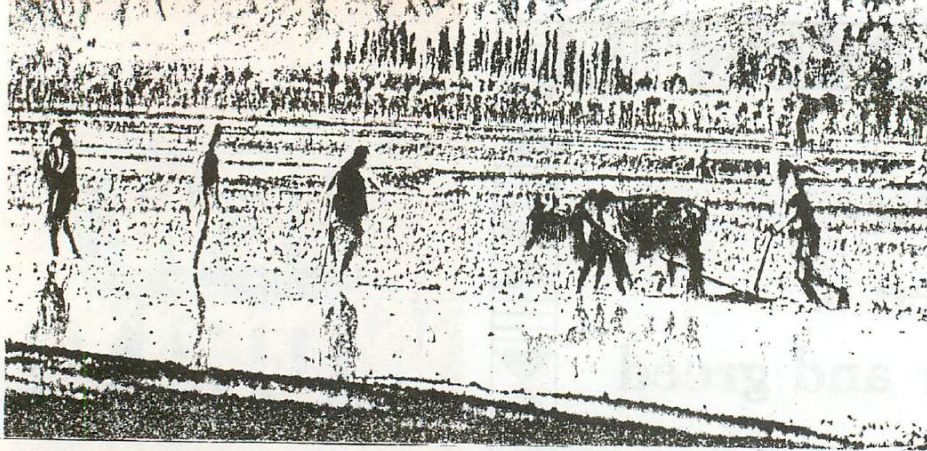
He paid for three of his employees to attend the conference, two part-time and one for the whole five days.

A student leader after talking with those who attended the conference said that he had been praying to meet such people: 'Up till now I thought I was the only voice in a large ocean.'

The relevance of the theme of the conference was underlined in the following week when the Senate passed a bill which sets out penalties for inciting racial hatred and dislike. The bill was passed by the casting vote of the President of the Senate, the first time in the history of the Senate.

**WAYS TO CLOSE THE GAP**  
by Stan Barnes See inside





## Ways to close the gap

A SEMINAR on the theme 'Rich and poor nations — ways to close the gap' was held at Armagh, the MRA centre in Melbourne, Australia.

A hundred and fifty people took part and among the speakers were Charles Kelly, farmer and former Cabinet Minister; John Cass, Chairman of the Australian Wheat Board; and Jim Beggs, President of the Melbourne Branch of the Waterside Workers Federation. The Chairman of the seminar was Jim Ramsay, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary to the Victorian Cabinet.

We reproduce the text of a talk given by S F Barnes, former Project Manager in Asia for the Australian Dairy Board.

WE LIVE in an age of development.

All too often we think of development as material progress, which includes massive expenditure on military hardware. Reserves of thermo-nuclear armaments now represent ten tons of TNT explosive energy for every man, woman and child on earth.

Yet we live in a world in which Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, places mass poverty — the continued existence of stark pervasive massive poverty among two thirds of the world's population — at the head of a list of the six critical problems of our time.

With poverty goes malnutrition, conservatively estimated to affect at least 500 million people, while at least half the population of the Third World do not get enough food for normal health and growth.

Coupled with the serious food situation in the Third World is the world economic situation which inevitably hurts the poor nations more than the rich. Due to inflation the financial situation in the non oil-producing developing nations has deteriorated considerably in the past three years. The World Bank estimates that the trading deficit of these countries in 1976 will be \$30,000 million or about four times the \$7,300 million deficit in 1973. The total indebtedness of the poor countries has now risen to the inconceivable figure of US\$ 120,000 million.

In the words of the President of Canada's International Development Agency, we need a new perception of development which recognises that development is not merely an increase in gross national product but improved food and nutrition, housing, health and educational services, employment and a fair distribution of income. A perception of development which clearly focuses on people rather than on mere instruments.

In the long term food needs must be met by the developing countries themselves, particularly the countries of Latin America and Africa where many millions of hectares of land suitable for farming remain unused. Should not the world be assisting in the long and costly development of these lands including the removal of such obstacles as the infestation of tse-tse fly in Africa? A tse-tse control programme costing around \$2,000 million spread over 20 years could add to the world's food production agricultural lands totalling some seven million square kilometres.

### Vast potential

India has a vast potential to increase the production of food, given increased inputs in the form of fertiliser and increased irrigation. In the State of Maharashtra only 6% of the cultivated land is irrigated while there is a potential to irrigate 30%. Major river control and irrigation works in the Indian sub-continent would make a major contribution to food production in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Should not the rich nations make a determined united effort and co-operate with the countries of Asia to lift food production? I believe that the kind of international co-operation and pooling of resources and technology that put a man on the moon, could achieve this result. Why not a Marshall Plan type project, which, at the end of the Second World War, aimed to restore Europe rather than provide mere palliatives. Under the Marshall Plan each country formulated a plan for reconstruction over a four year period to meet the cost of which America gave aid to the extent of over \$9,000 million, almost 90% of which was outright grants and not repayable.

In the dairy industry we face a situation where, thanks mainly to massive agricultural support programmes, the West has accumulated large stocks of dairy products, especially skim milk powder, which the poor countries cannot afford to buy. In Europe the EEC sells skim milk powder as animal feed at prices subsidised to the extent of 40% of the market price. In 1974 liquid and dry skim milk, equivalent to 1.5 million tons of skim milk powder, was subsidised for stock feed in Europe. This represented about three times more than the total amount of milk powder imported by developing countries. Even half this quantity would be sufficient to provide a daily ration of 100 grammes of liquid skim milk to 200 million young children suffering from malnutrition.

### No dumping

Protein starvation of children before birth and in the first years of life is now known to result in retarded mental and physical development. With protein/calorie malnutrition so widespread in the Third World might well ponder on the way we are preparing these children to meet the challenges of the next century. A regular daily supply of milk to nursing mothers and infants would make a major contribution to improved health of children in the Third World.

In Australia we should plan with the countries of Asia ways in which our milk powder can be made available to them, rather than allow many of our dairy farms to go out of production in a world where milk is desperately needed — particularly knowing that our rich pastures make it possible for us to produce milk economically.

Except in cases of extreme emergency the dumping of food surpluses on developing countries is not the way to help them and often causes more problems than it solves. In the words of Sir Richard Trehane, Chairman of the Milk Marketing Board of England and Wales, 'The developed countries fail to discharge their obligations to developing world as long as food aid is regarded as the sink into which surpluses are poured.' He goes on to point out that the infrastructure to handle food aid supplies will be created and the wastage and frauds that sadly occur from time to time will be avoided only if supplies are assured year in year out.

### Five year commitment

If we really want to help meet the food needs of the poor countries we must make a commitment to supply designated quantities for a long enough period to justify the setting up of a proper organisation for receiving, processing and distributing such supplies. This usually means a commitment for a period of at least five years; any other approach is too easy, too cheap, unfair to the recipient country and must lead to misuse and abuse.

Also it is essential that we plan our



production for export in consultation with the developing countries not only on the basis of giving aid but of integrating our production capacity with their needs in the interest of people.

In the past aid, over 50% of which was in the form of commercial loans, constituted one method of achieving the transfer of wealth from the rich to the poor nations.

## Aid must continue

While the United Nations agreed in the 'sixties to a target for aid to reach the level of 1% of the GNP of the donor countries, that level of aid was seldom achieved, and during the past few years, under the impact of inflation, aid has fallen to an average of just over 0.3% of the GNP. In 1971 the United Nations agreed that donor nations should aim to lift aid to 0.7% of the GNP by 1980, and Australia is one of the countries that has ratified this decision. I am pleased to say that Australian policy is now to make all aid in that form except in the case of certain government to government loans for special projects, and not to tie aid.

While we may deplore the idea of aid and the wrong relationships which it so often creates between the donor and the recipient countries, aid must still continue to be an important method of transfer of wealth from the rich to the poor nations. It is up to us to see that such transfers, whether in cash or kind, are on a basis genuinely designed to help the country in need, even at the expense of some sacrifice to ourselves.

Last year saw the launching of the New International Economic Order, which is now considered to be essential and inevitable. The form of this New Economic Order has yet to be clearly defined, but 1975 marked a realisation that the age of confrontation in international trade and development was coming to an end and ways must be found for the industrialised and developing nations to co-operate in the interest of peaceful development as a whole.

## Agreement reached

The first breakthrough came with the Lome Convention between 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the EEC, where agreement was reached to maintain certain price levels for essential raw materials produced by the developing countries. At the end of April the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government in Jamaica for the first time started to consider together on a constructive basis how to deal with the problems facing the Third World. In September the Seventh Special Session of the UN on Development met in New York and was unanimously considered to be the starting point of a new era in international economic relations. At this session the Secretary-General raised for discussion by UNCTAD the need to re-structure world commodity trade, to take action to alleviate the crippling debts of poor countries and the



need to take action to strengthen their exports.

Finally, in December 1975, the Conference for International Co-operation in Paris was made aware of the extent to which the reduction in purchasing power of their exports haunts responsible people in the Third World. As a result they made recommendations on trade and the reduction of tariffs.

The meetings of UNCTAD in Nairobi of May this year saw some further progress on questions of trade and the debts of the poor countries.

There are many aspects to this question of rich and poor nations. For instance the moral right of the rich nations to use their technology and wealth to produce synthetics which replace natural products of the developing countries. Should we in Australia produce rice and cotton for export rather than make our technology available to developing countries to help them to improve their production? I have always doubted whether it was really necessary for us to replace jute wool packs with plastic seeing that jute is the major foreign exchange earner for Bangladesh and also a major export of India. Should we not rather have used our technology to improve the quality of the jute packs?

## Within our hands

The implementation of sound policies in the interest of human development will call for willingness for us all to co-operate and to be responsible. In this day and age when we are more aware than ever before of events across the world and when technology has placed within our hands the means to sustain life, it is inconceivable that the poor nations

should continue to get poorer. A great deal can be done to improve the trading conditions and the foreign exchange earning capacity of the Third World.

## End to speculation

We as individuals need to know the facts of the situation and the ways in which our nation can support constructive decisions made at the international level. We need to insist that there is an end to speculation and profit-making on world shortages of food and fertiliser.

**We owe it to our own future generations and the developing world to keep our rich farming lands in production, and this is certainly our moral responsibility in a world where malnutrition is still widespread. This means that we must urge government to use aid funds on a long-term basis to keep our economic dairy farms in production and make milk powder available where it is urgently needed.**

The situation in the poor countries, especially the suffering of men, women and children, must trouble any concerned and caring person. The problems of poverty will not be solved by economic measures or technology alone but by men and women with the compassion that allows no rest while people starve and suffer in a world of plenty.

I have hope for the future because I believe that man's extremity is God's opportunity and that God has a plan for each individual and nation. We all have a part in bringing the answer as we accept what is right and start to live it.

Finally, I believe that the problems caused by the gap between rich and poor nations will be solved as the rich and poor together seek the inspired wisdom of God.



# Holidays with a difference

AUCKLAND, New Zealand's most populous city by far, is also the largest Polynesian city in the world, although the 'pakeha' (white man of European descent) makes up 90 per cent of the population of the country as a whole. It has become the home of many thousands of Maoris, the native people of these shores, who have left the traditions of the countryside in the hope that life will be more prosperous in the city. Likewise, to it have come tens of thousands who have journeyed from the islands of the South Pacific in search of education and employment.

The beauty and hospitable climate of this city belie the tensions that exist below the surface. The government's tight policy on immigration and the sometimes insensitive treatment of those from overseas are only part of the problem. At the heart of it is the battle of several very different cultures to live side by side, each respected and appreciated by the others.

Fired by the vision of a city and a world where the different races and nations are partners in building a world that works, 30 young people — Maoris, Pacific Islanders and pakehas — have just spent ten days of their school holidays together, not in a retreat but in the heart of Auckland. Aware that respect and love for each other and each other's way of life come most naturally through doing something together, they decided to produce a musical play as a demonstration that people of the different communities can give something constructive together.

This play, called *Jesus*, was written by a young man from the North-East Indian state of Mizoram. It portrays his own experience of how peace within his family comes when he finds forgiveness for his false idea of the sort of man Christ was. First performed in New Zealand in May before 1,100 people at a Maori Anglican 'Hui' (gathering), the play provoked a letter to the provincial newspaper which said, 'This play was the best of Christian culture and practice.'

Eight of the cast of the original production travelled 350 miles from Hawkes Bay at their own expense to help produce the play in Auckland. Undertaking the production was a step of faith (of madness, some would say) as virtually none of the cast had ever



Scenes from the rock musical 'Jesus'



performed on stage before, and as no musical equipment was available. Then a musical shop in the city offered to lend us equipment to the value of \$2,300 free of charge, as their contribution to what we were doing.

Many families took part, both in the play and in providing homes and meals for the cast. One girl who had never before sung in public surprised her parents by agreeing to

## LOOKING FORWARD

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE for Moral Re-Armament will be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 8 to 15 January, 1977.

Its theme is 'a partnership of nations to build a world that works'. To achieve this aim, the invitation states, 'We must find and make practical *change* for all, bringing unity and reconciliation, a *purpose* for government, industry, education and every individual — to meet the needs of people everywhere, a *partnership* of races beyond tolerance, built on faith, trust, understanding and sound family life.'

Overseas delegates who are expected from the Pacific Islands, Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas, will be invited to participate with New Zealanders 'in actions initiated from the conference'.

take the lead solo part in the play. One boy, who had agreed to play in the band, was found by his father at 5 am one morning asleep in a chair with guitar on his lap and all the lights on; he had been practising long hours. Another boy decided to take the lead acting part in the play but kept saying, 'I can't do it, I can't do it.' Then someone said to him, 'God has a much bigger vision of what you can do than you have yourself.' 'Do you think so?' the boy asked, quite surprised.

Every morning before rehearsals, time was taken to study *The Black and White Book* and to share the ideas and thoughts each of us had. This was a time to understand each other better and to build deeper friendships. It also prepared us for our visits to the local Mayor and to the Dean of the Cathedral. The Dean, a man with wide first-hand experience of Asia, told us how worried he was by the deteriorating racial situation in the city, and that he was encouraged by what we were doing. 'You have something precious here,' he said. 'Don't let it slip.'

The climax of our ten days together came with the two performances of the play. The first was in a central suburb of Auckland where many Islanders live alongside the pakeha majority. The multi-racial nature of the cast was matched by the audience, and the evening was hosted by a Samoan elder. At the end of the play, a Maori elder spoke of how taking part in the play had brought him back to the very church he had left many years ago because of the local divisions between the different racial communities.

The *North Shore Times Advertiser* wrote, 'The message that Jesus Christ is real and relevant today and able to heal division came across clearly.'

Speaking after the second performance, in front of a packed hall, a senior businessman said, 'I believe this play is an excellent preparation for the international conference to be held here in January.'

The teamwork and partnership between many people, which is growing as a result of this play, is giving legs to this vision. If this vision could be realised here in the Pacific, it would mean that small nations would have something big to give to the world.

EDWARD PETERS