

## Japanese Senator attacks national 'self-centredness'

THE OZAKI MEMORIAL HALL in Tokyo, near to the Diet, the Japanese Parliament, was the setting for a nationwide gathering for Moral Re-Armament in Japan last month. Many major industries were represented by senior members of management and labour, a party of 10 flew specially from Kyushu, Japan's southern-most island, and there were representatives from Papua New Guinea and Australia.

Renzo Yanagisawa, a Social Democrat Senator who was recently elected to Japan's Upper House of Parliament, spoke of the growth of Moral Re-Armament in Japan as shown by the work both management and labour were doing together and by the numbers from Japan who have participated in world conferences at Caux, Switzerland.

Speaking of his election, Yanagisawa said that the 960,000 who voted for him had to be regarded by him as 960,000 souls for which he was responsible. 'This is important particularly at a time when with more social insecurity there is a sense of crisis,' he said. 'This crisis has helped Japan to become more egocentric and to forget the human spirit. The final expression of this shows in the "Red Army" and acts of terrorism such as hijacking.'

The Senator, who has been a leading trade union figure, said, 'This self-centredness has also shown itself in strikes that are both



Senator Yanagisawa with J R Coulter of Australia

against the law and the best interests of the people. In the light of these realities I want to renew my commitment to bring the spirit of Moral Re-Armament to Japan and the world.'

The Managing Director of the Toshiba Electric Corporation, Shoji Takase, said that the world crisis in industry would not be solved 'by confrontation but by a consultation where all sides heighten the final decision'. He had come to see MRA as the key to the solution needed in industry, with unions having an equal part with management. Industry, he said, was meant not just to create wealth but to be a pattern of the new society.

The Vice-President of the Board of Japan's National Railways—the nation's largest employer—Mamoru Takyama, said that although the Railways were facing economic difficulties, they had been asked to give technical assistance to the USA, Iran and other countries. They had decided to take on this responsibility wholeheartedly despite the fact that some critics said they should 'balance their own budget first' before helping other nations with their problems.

Plans were announced for delegations to go from Japan to the forthcoming world conferences for Moral Re-Armament to be held in January in Brisbane, Australia, and Panchgani, India. **JRC**

# NEW WORLD NEWS

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Shoji Takase



Mamoru Takyama



Mrs Mary Farapo, wife of the Papua New Guinea Ambassador to Japan, and Mrs Yukika Sohma at the national meeting

## ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ASIA PLATEAU

# Next Steps in Asia

### An International Conference of Moral Re-Armament

Some nations search for bread; others for freedom; all for honesty.

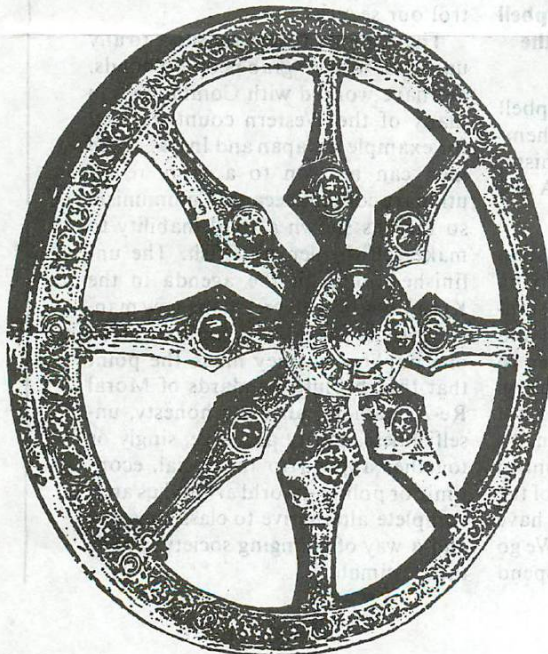
Bread and freedom are neither alternatives nor luxuries.

Both are needed for the full dignity of our people.

Both can be achieved through the combined efforts of God and man.

To expect anything less would be an insult to our people and a betrayal of our heritage. Is there some common ingredient that can help our nations achieve these goals? The conference will explore what the next steps towards these goals might be.

**Asia Plateau, Panchgani, India  
from 14 to 22 January 1978**



## SOUTH AFRICA:

# Government's change of approach

IN JUNE this year a letter from the Minister of Planning and Environment dropped into the postbox of the Rev J Fourie, Chairman of the Action Committee of the coloured community of Somerset West, near Cape Town in South Africa. This committee has been working for a change in the application of the Group Areas Act under which many of the long-established coloured citizens of their town had the threat of compulsory removal from their present homes hanging over their heads.

As readers of *New World News* may remember, among these were Mr and Mrs Peter Gordon, whose case was pinpointed in South Africa by both the Afrikaans and English press (NWN Vol 24 No 39). These papers made clear the extent of bitterness aroused.

The Minister's letter stated that, provided their properties are in good condition, no established coloured family will, after all, have to move. This decision represents a considerable change of approach by the Government. Few realistically had expected it. Till now this Act has been regarded as a cornerstone of Government policy.

Asked why they felt their town had achieved such a breakthrough, Peter and Shirley Gordon attributed much to the spirit in which the campaign had been—and continues to be—fought. Nearly two years ago they themselves gave their home and their bitterness to God. It was a decision which they have had to renew many times in the face of difficulties. The Gordons tell how 3,000 whites in the town were inspired to sign a petition asking that the Government's decision be changed; how Peter himself had gone to his neighbours in the road (an Afrikaans policeman next door and an Afrikaans civil servant opposite, for instance) and had asked each in turn if they had any objection to their being there. Each replied that, not only had they no objection, but they would prefer the Gordons to anyone else.

### You should feel guilty

Not that it has all been easy. Just the opposite. Peter tells of the English-speaking family (recent immigrants), who remarked to him, "Of course, from my work I know how to deal with coloured 'boys'."

The battle for change continues, with Somerset West setting a pace. As a school principal, Peter Gordon's influence, together with that of men like Rev Fourie, is considerable. Shirley, for her part, is now

Chairman of the Women's Movement for Peaceful Change involving all races in the area. She is the first of her group to join the local National Council of Women and was immediately appointed Treasurer.

Among the 'firsts' which she lists for Somerset West in the last year are:

- The first public library to open to students of all races.
- The first multi-racial camp for Girl Guides, with the next step to be guide-troops open to all.
- The theatre and 'drive-in' cinema open to all.
- A hairdresser, originally for whites only, now open to all, with two others following suit.

Other developments have included the first multi-racial concert for many years. They could not get the Town Hall, so used a church hall. Also a mixed group have taken on an adult literacy campaign in an underprivileged area.

Much of this has taken great determination to achieve. Many battles, they feel, still have to be won. Application was made for a restaurant open to all. So far only separate ones for whites and a new one for coloureds have been authorised. Shirley is reported in the press as saying clearly, 'This is unacceptable.'

In her September letter as Chairman of the Women's Movement, Shirley finished by saying, 'Members, if you are not involved in any of our projects or similar bridge-crossing activities, you should feel guilty.' As a result, one white neighbour phoned, offering speech and drama lessons at Peter's school. Another offered recorder lessons.

When Shirley met three leading women from the United States in Johannesburg recently on a United States/South Africa leadership exchange programme, they said

that the news from Somerset West was the one bright spot in an otherwise gloomy panorama of problems with which they had been confronted.

I asked the Gordons what was the toughest thing they faced. Shirley said thoughtfully, 'I am the darkest one in our family. I have found it so hard to be put in a category because of that, regardless of qualifications or one's quality of work. And then there are the instinctive reactions. I still find I go into any relationship with a white having to prepare myself to make allowances.'

Peter added, 'The toughest thing for me is to fight the temptation to become angry when I hear of senseless acts of discrimination, and to try to break down deeply engrained prejudices. This only becomes possible when one meets and communicates with those with whom one disagrees without prejudging them. Then one discovers that under the veneer they, too, are children of God.'

## Letters from the Cabinet

Shirley and Peter hold to their road, regardless of misunderstanding by some of their own people or prejudice and insensitivity in others. To give two examples of how they take action: the Gordons wanted to build an addition to their home, but ran into red tape because of their colour. Shirley had been to a meeting where a white official said that anyone who experienced difficulties concerning houses could ask his help. So she went to his office. But there, amid his colleagues, she sensed that he was trying to avoid her. She, however, waited and waited and waited until he could no longer not meet her eye. She said to him, 'I will only say to you, "Never again say something which you

## What interests Moscow

**Rhodesian radio broadcast an interview on Moral Re-Armament with Canadian Dr Paul Campbell twice in one evening as part of the main news.**

**Interviewer:** We asked Dr Campbell if the supporters of MRA saw themselves as the answer to Communism, and if the Soviet Union saw MRA as a real threat.

**Dr Campbell:** We see the Christian community around the earth living and applying the Christian standards and seeking God's wisdom and guidance as the complete answer to Communism and to the materialism of the West as well. Selfishness is not limited to Moscow or Washington, it's universal. I believe that Communism is a simple reaction to the failure of the Christian promise because we have not lived what we talked about. We go to church on Sundays but we spend

the rest of the time aiming at comfort, we make profit our business and control our security.

The Kremlin is very sensitive to any universal idea to grab people's minds. We have worked with Communists in many of the Western countries, and for example in Japan and India. These men can be won to a more revolutionary concept because Communism so far has shown a total inability to make selfish men unselfish. The unfinished item on the agenda in the Kremlin is how to create the new man.

Moscow has taken great interest. In one publication they made the point that the absolute standards of Moral Re-Armament, absolute honesty, unselfishness, purity and love, singly or together applied to the social, economic or political world around us are a complete alternative to class struggle, and a way of changing society. That's their estimate.



Mrs Shirley Gordon

don't mean to carry out." He was so stung that, minutes later, she found herself with his boss and, in the next days, the local Council officials gave the required permission.

Peter says, "The local post office must have wondered during these past weeks what was happening. Day after day we've been getting official letters franked by one Cabinet Minister's office after another." This is in reply to his letter sending each MP and member of the Government a copy of the book, *Southern Africa—What Kind of Change?*, in which one chapter tells the beginning of the Gordon story.

In his letter Peter wrote, "Great changes are seriously planned, but, whatever form of Government is finally accepted, it is clear that our future and that of our land depend on the attitudes which each of us adopt. I and my family have, in this respect, had experiences which give us new insight. The question faces each of us, 'For what kind of change are we going to strive?'"

**PETER HANNON**

## 'Freedom' in Parliament

"IF WE ALLOW God to talk to us, there is no one who is unchangeable," an African member of the Rhodesian Parliament told his colleagues in introducing the Moral Re-Armament film *Freedom*. The MPs and senators met in a committee room of the Rhodesian House of Assembly, as the British and United Nations representatives, Field Marshal Lord Carver and Lt-Gen Prem Chand, were discussing a cease-fire with Rhodesian army leaders in Salisbury.

A dozen parliamentarians came on the invitation of Micah Bhebe, the Member for Ntshonalanga and Opposition Chief Whip, well-known for his outspoken speeches on behalf of his people. The Speaker of Parliament and the Government Chief Whip had co-operated with Mr Bhebe in making the showing known to members.

Mr Bhebe told how the film had changed his own thinking and living. "Change begins with you. It began with me—that is what impressed me. Then it goes on to your neighbour, your district and the world. It is so fitting that we should see this at this time."

To see in a block of stone the completed sculpture,  
In a child's first steps the speed and grace of an athlete,  
In a few bright threads the finished work of the loom,  
That is faith.

# Symphony for Zimbabwe

Miss Jean Thornton-Duesbery, who was for 10 years in the Isle of Man Parliament, the House of Keys, and most recently Chairman of its Education Committee, and Miss Joyce Kneale, an Isle of Man teacher, are visiting Southern Africa. Miss Kneale writes of their visit to Rhodesia.

RHODESIA, what a glorious country—ablaze with flowers, purple, red, white, orange and blessed with almost continuous sunshine. It produces the finest maize in the world. Its mines offer the best chrome for the making of steel to be found anywhere.

Three weeks is not long to spend in a country, yet it was long enough for us to feel the strength and passion as well as the anxiety of this great nation.

At the airport was a young accountant, Don Barnett, who was to be our host. He had just completed five weeks of military service. This is the amount of time which must be given every eleven weeks by every man between 18 and 50. 'It is not easy to run a business and care for a home and children these days,' said Don. Yet he and his wife with friends had arranged for us to meet every kind of person, in Salisbury and across the country.

## Burning fires

Few of those we spoke to, black or white, had escaped tragedy—a son killed or maimed, a neighbour attacked. Fifty-four teachers have lost their lives. 367 schools are now closed in border areas and 60,000 children are out of school.

Mrs Kanodereka, wife of the Rev Arthur Kanodereka, Treasurer of the United African National Council, invited us to a gathering of 250 Methodist women from all over the country. Speaking to the gathering, she said, "Our country is full of bloodshed. We are climbing a mountain of fear. Your division in Britain is class, ours is tribalism. There are times when we don't know what to pray for. We need to listen to God. The best time to listen is in the morning at 5am."

Professor Reader, Dean of Social Studies at the University of Rhodesia, and his wife held a reception at their home for us to meet

Inspectors of Education, Heads of Schools and parents. 'Pioneering for the future' was the theme. 'How can we look ahead and prepare our children for the changes that are coming?' asked Professor Reader.

Mrs Penny Barnett gripped everyone's attention as she answered this question. She had found that at least two-thirds of each class in the affluent white high school where she teaches had stolen from shops. Her honesty about herself had encouraged some of the students to be honest.

She had then recounted this to a class of black students. Such an atmosphere of honesty was created that Joseph, a 16-year-old, told of his plan to abscond across the border into Mozambique and join his friends in the guerrilla war. 'The black people need to take revenge,' he said, 'and to fight until the fire inside them is burnt out, and then only can they be friends.'

'My husband happened to be doing his service at the time,' said Penny. 'So I asked Joseph: "If your father was killed by my husband or vice-versa just because they were fighting until their fires burned out, would you make friends with me afterwards?"'

'I asked him about the role of the whites who genuinely wanted to make amends and build a country where character counted and not colour. He said he would allow these people to stay but the rest would be eliminated. So I asked, "How would you know who to eliminate?"'

Two weeks later this letter arrived: 'Dear Mrs Barnett, Your words really touched my heart. That was my first time to speak to a white person as freely as that. I used to think that God has forsaken the black man by making him the servant and the white man the master. I do hereby apologise for my wrong and rotten words which I uttered before you and also

**SYMPHONY contd p4**



Miss Thornton-Duesbery and Miss Kneale with headmasters and teachers from Soweto



At a Soweto school

## SYMPHONY contd from p3

for thinking all white people were bad.'

Another home we visited was that of

Dexter Chavunduka, a veterinary surgeon, and his wife, Jane. We were welcomed by a radiant and totally united couple—and later ate a delicious meal with them and their family. During it we were joined by a relative—to whom Jane had recently gone and said how sorry she was for the resentment she had held against her.

At the table also was their 12-year-old son. In a tragic accident he had lost an eye a few weeks previously. He showed us a letter from a 12-year-old English boy who had written to show his concern and suggesting that God has a plan for these tough days and if he took some time to listen each day he could find it.

Dexter and Jane told us of their decision to use their home as a centre where people of all kinds could come and find unity. Already

a dinner party for 30 was planned for the following week and another for the week after.

Everywhere we went we found the practice of listening to God becoming normal—be it at a tea or coffee party, a reception or Church service.

No one we have met wants a bloodbath for this country. The only alternative is a harmony between black and white. On a musical instrument no harmonious chord can be struck until each note or string is tuned. We have seen so much evidence during these weeks of Rhodesians becoming attuned to the absolute moral standards of their Creator that nothing can shake our belief that whatever discords may reach the headlines, a mighty symphony of God is in the making.

## at a glance

### BIG QUESTIONS

**LLWYBR Y CHWYLDRO** (*The Revolutionary Path*), a selection of the speeches of Frank Buchman published during the Wrexham Eisteddfod in August, has now been reviewed by three Welsh-language papers and on BBC Radio Wales.

Recently *Y Cymro* (The Welshman) featured the book under the headline, 'Dealing with the eternal truths'. 'The cornerstone of his (Frank Buchman's) philosophy,' it says, 'was that it was necessary to reform yourself first before thinking of reforming anyone else. The book deals with the "big" questions which are of eternal significance to men. Indeed there is more than enough to ponder over after reading it.'

The reviewer in *Y Goleuad*, the Welsh Presbyterian weekly, writes, 'The treatment is at once audacious and light of touch and the translator (Rev E H Griffiths) really deserves praise. I feel it is a book that should be useful to study groups and it has its message. I am confident it will sell well among us.'

*Y Gwilydydd* (The Watchman), organ of the Welsh Methodists, also refers to the service done by the translator in making the speeches available in Welsh. The reviewer writes of Frank Buchman, 'No one can deny the contribution of this remarkable man. Buchman called for a fundamental revolution in the life of each man. The weakness of every other revolution was that they wanted to change the system without changing human nature.'

Another review came in Radio Wales' Sunday morning programme *Y Ddolen*. The

reviewer commented, 'It is good to have a book where answers are given rather than just questions asked. It is a reliable book for all in Wales to have in their hands.'

### BLACK CHURCHES

ELEVEN men and women from seven countries spoke in 30 minutes of their experience of MRA at a combined meeting of six black churches who were holding a convention in South London. Afterwards Pastor Miller thanked the visitors for the brightness and bravery of their words. He and the congregation, he said, needed to shed fear and follow their example.

### PIONEER MINER

MINERS from pits in the Fife coalfield recently attended a reading of the play *Keir Hardie—The Man They Could Not Buy* by Henry Macnicol in the Lochgelly Community Centre. They were joined by car workers, farmers and others from different parts of Scotland.

Also present were a group of educators from Southern Africa and the South Pacific who are studying in Scotland.

The miners were enthusiastic about the play. One said, 'Keir Hardie is revered in these parts. We know him as the pioneer of the miners' union. But it's great to know his wider ideas and what motivated him.'

The play was read by men and women from Fife, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

### GENUINE CONTACT

TWO HUNDRED SWISS met together last month at Caux for a national conference of Moral Re-Armament. The theme of the discussions was: 'Where does Switzerland stand, morally, spiritually and ideologically?'

Speakers referred to the emptiness in many lives, which sometimes is filled by extremist activities. One remarked: 'Terrorism feeds on the emptiness in our hearts. This emptiness comes from indifference, and can only be filled by a genuine contact with others, whether or not we agree with them.'

This indifference concerned all Swiss in relation to the Jura, one of the main issues discussed by the conference. 'I had hoped that the question would be settled politically, and that we could forget about it,' admitted one person. Several people decided to take time to get to know the situation and to meet the people of the region. Jurassiens from the north and south of the Jura assured all visitors of a warm welcome.

Also taking part in the conference were 20 young people from European countries who are part of a mobile action force. This force will be based in Caux until Christmas, available to answer invitations from elsewhere. This week two of the force will leave for Cyprus and five for Portugal.

News of the conference was carried by the radio and by the *Journal de Geneve*.

### 90% MORAL

THE FILM, *Choice For An Impatient World*, was shown at the Royal Scottish Automobile Club, Glasgow, last week.

The theme of the evening was 'Preparing for Tomorrow's World—What is Britain's Role?'

Mr ARK Mackenzie, former British Minister for Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations, quoted a senior Scottish economist who said that 90 per cent of Britain's economic problems are moral. Mr Mackenzie added, 'Britain does not need new organisations, fronts or movements; but there is an urgent need for like-minded people to get together all over the country to think out with God's help what can be done in all our situations to tackle the basic moral problems.'