

Nigerian salute to 'expeditionary force'



Nigerian students enliven Caux Assembly with their drumming, songs and dancing.

L Rengfelt

A MESSAGE from the Head of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria, Lt-General Olusegun Obasanjo, was read last week to the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament by HH Onumara Egunwoke, Ezeoha I of Ihitaoha, Uratta, Owerri, of Nigeria.

'On the occasion of the centenary anniversary of the birth of the late Dr Frank Buchman, the Federal Military Government and the people of Nigeria wish to pay tribute to the late founder of the Moral Re-Armament movement for his great and valuable contribution to humanity,' the message stated. It noted that 'the core of Dr Buchman's philosophy was that modern man's technological advance needed to be matched by a similar growth in character and motive', and described MRA as 'an expeditionary force from all faiths and races engaged in a race with time to modernise the character and purpose of man'.

Oil centre

The Nigerian delegation to Caux includes the Deputy Commissioner of Police of Lagos State, CT Akagbosu, the student presidents of two colleges of education, and students who make up the cast of a new play, *The Dearest Idol*, written by Ifoghale Amata, Lecturer at the Abraka College of Education.



HH Onumara Egunwoke reading the message from Nigeria's Head of State.

The saga of the performances of this play and the interviews these students had at home to raise their fares to Caux is graphic evidence of their determination and perseverance. They gave three shows for their own college where great interest and discussion have been aroused. Twice they travelled 300 miles to Lagos and Ijebu-Ode at considerable inconvenience and discomfort. Other showings were in their state capital, Benin City, and the oil centre of Warri.

China Ike, President of the Students of Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri, said that he had been a firm believer in violence. 'I have discovered here,' he concluded, 'that with MRA all the tribes of Nigeria could unite—and so could all Africa and the world.'

A scene from *The Dearest Idol*

L Rengfelt

NEW WORLD NEWS

Vol 26 No 41 26 Aug 1978 7p

MRA team in prison

A HUNDRED PRISONERS and prison staff attended a showing of *Men of Brazil* in the Women's Penitentiary of Bangu in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, last month. The film tells the true story of how dockworkers saved the port of Rio from total collapse.

The Governor, Denise Souza Soares, introduced the MRA team before the film: 'They are people from various parts of the world, including Brazilians, who are giving their lives to share this idea that God has a plan and each one has a part. It is not the absence of sin that matters, but that once one falls into sin, one should rise up again and have the courage to return to the right road.'

She told how she met this idea in 1964. She said, 'I was born into a family of practising Protestants. I was obliged to go to church. I got fed up and abandoned all things concerning God and religion. Then, I went to an MRA conference in Niteroi and heard people speak about their change. Without telling anyone, I decided to change. I decided to be baptized and live my religion.'

Ita Lima, wife of a docker who helped make the film said, 'Leonardo and I were living in hell. We used to fight, especially at meal times. When he hit me I threw plates at him. After meeting this idea of listening to God, we decided to get married in church. Now we are working together with others to bring this idea to people we meet.'

A visiting Swiss lady commented, 'Here I have learned that there is another prison worse than this prison cell. It is the prison that separates us from God—the prison we have in ourselves when we have closed and rebellious hearts.'

After seeing the film one of the prisoners said, 'God has no responsibility in the wrongs I have done. It is not God's fault that I am in prison today. My parents tried to give me the best, but I did not listen. Now I am paying for it. When I get out I will live an honest life.'

Another woman added, 'Most people come here looking so serious and grim, but you people are different.'

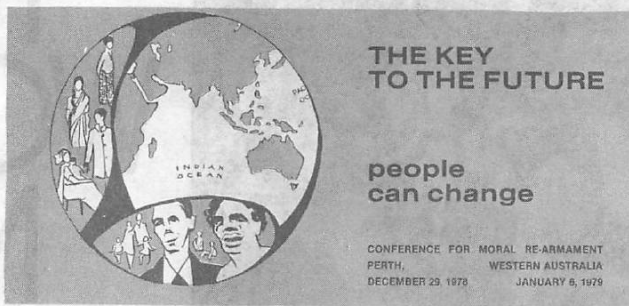
Alice CardeL

For the Indian Ocean

WEST AUSTRALIANS, Aboriginal and white, have called an MRA conference in their capital city, Perth, at the end of this year.

Delegates are expected from all over Australia and from the Indian Ocean area. New relationships between Australia and the other countries bordering on the Indian Ocean will be a major concern of the conference.

Amongst those who have called the conference are trade unionists, teachers, academics, farmers and writers. One of them, Jack Davis, poet and editor of the Aboriginal and Islander magazine *Identity*, last month carried a three-page report in his magazine on the International Assembly held



in Brisbane in January.

We reproduce, above, the invitation to the Perth Assembly, which is printed in the black and gold colours of the city.

'The most imaginative projects often founder on greed, cynicism and selfishness,' the initiators of the conference write.

'The key to

- open-hearted relationships between individuals and nations
- an economy that works
- united families
- a satisfying purpose for all is that people can change.

'Entrenched attitudes can be put aside and an unexpected creativity set free.'

Northern experience

THREE YOUNG MEN, one Aboriginal, one white Australian and one Papua New Guinean, recently spent six weeks in Australia's Northern Territory, where Aboriginal land rights, uranium and the mining of it on Aboriginal land are increasingly becoming contentious issues.

Stephen Hagan, Ron Lawler and Charles Ova covered over 5,000 miles, meeting Aboriginal community leaders and whites working in the Territory.

More than one third of the Territory's population is Aboriginal, and the group was welcomed on their town fringe camps and far-flung communities.

The three had taken part in the MRA training course, 'Studies in Effective Living', in Melbourne. Their journey gave them the chance to use experiences they had found through the course—of change in their own lives and of building partnerships between peoples.

They had put in all the money they had to pay for the journey, and many others contributed too.

Deeper motives

'THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT social documents I have read,' commented an Australian sociologist after reading *If Everyone Cared*, the autobiography of Margaret Tucker—Princess Lilardia—a great Aboriginal woman.

Published last year in Australia, the first edition was sold out before copies were sent to Britain. It was mistakenly said at the time that a paperback edition would be forthcoming. Now copies of the second hardback impression are available from Grosvenor Books (£5.50 plus 65p p&p).

In his foreword to the book, Dr KE Beazley writes, 'In Australia our faith tends to be in organisation, in resources, in power and in the incentive of self-gratification. Lilardia believes, however, that Aboriginal people should be seeking deeper motives than those required to achieve the aims generally accepted by the Australian community.'

'The essence of Aboriginal thought has always been transcendental, and all Aboriginal ritual seeks identification with the creative force in the universe. To Lilardia this creative force is the Holy Spirit. He is also the Person of the Dream Time, and all other times, to Whom the Aboriginal people are consciously or unconsciously tending. She believes that the Spirit's counsel and companionship are available here and now; that is her discovery and that is the basis of the philosophy expressed in this book.'

From wheat to lupins

by Margaret Richardson

UNTIL TEN YEARS AGO my family ran a farm in Western Australia's 'wheat belt', growing wheat and raising sheep, as everybody in that area does. My grandfather was the second white person to settle in that area; it was he who named our home town, and we were one of the old families in the district. Our farm was one of those used by the Government research organisation for experiments in wheat.

Then my father met a professor from the University of Western Australia who told him that, with their knowledge of cereal production, enough carbohydrate could be produced to feed the world, but that the greatest cause of future malnutrition would be a shortage of protein.

This professor had therefore spent 18 years developing a crop known as sweet lupin. It has several advantages:

- 1 It has a protein content of 28—30%, comparable to or greater than such crops as soya bean and the different lentils.
- 2 It grows in very poor soil and needs less rainfall than many other 'protein' crops.
- 3 The food value is not just in the pod, but also in the stubble, thus benefiting the stock which eat it.
- 4 Like all legumes, it enriches the soil with nitrogen.

My family saw that the production of sweet lupin could not only help to solve the serious problem of malnutrition in the world, but could bring huge areas of very poor soil in our State into profitable production.

Even though we risked losing everything if

the experiment did not work, we bought land in the poor 'sand plain' area and went into lupin production—and sold our wheat-belt farm.

Many difficulties arose. At one stage the lupins were turning yellow and dying. My father, believing this experiment was of God's leading, asked God for direction on what to do. His thought was to try spraying on a trace element, manganese. When he did so, this answered the problem.

By this time many other farmers were beginning to grow lupins and my father was interviewed on the radio about how we had started and how he had solved this problem.

Shifting sand

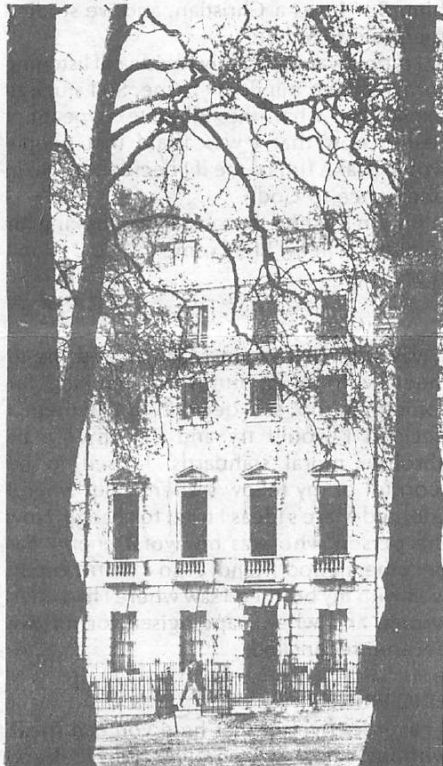
There are now thousands of hectares of poor land in Western Australia producing lupins. The farm we bought is now green and well grassed in winter, the soil is firm—a transformation from the shifting sand when we went there.

My parents and all our family are not in farming just for profit. Of course, if you do not make a profit you cannot live or go on farming, but we also care deeply about the situation in the world:

- that there should be enough food for all;
- that there should be better international co-operation in the marketing and distribution of primary produce;
- that prices in all countries of the world should be fair to both the producer and the consumer.

WHAT ABOUT A PLAQUE?

45 Berkeley Square



45 BERKELEY SQUARE, since 1938 a centre of the work of MRA in Britain, has been sold for close to three quarters of a million pounds. The 58-year lease has been bought by Crowncircle Ltd.

This marks the conclusion of MRA's phased move to the Westminster Theatre in Palace Street.

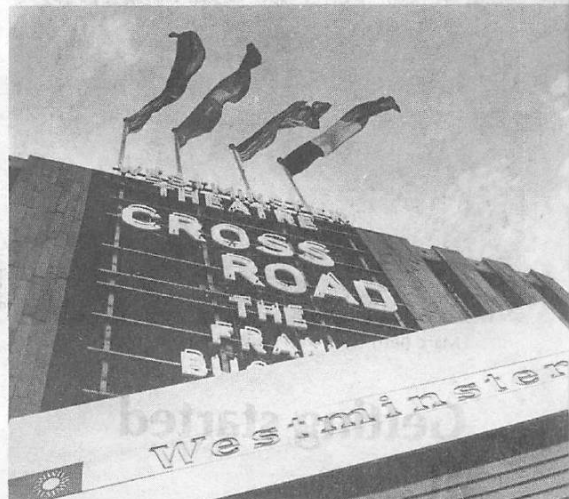
In recent years the Westminster Theatre has been developed to provide a modern centre with theatre, cinema, conference rooms, restaurant and administrative facilities. The literature department has been moved to Wandsworth, and the northern centre at Tirley Garth, Tarporley, in Cheshire, has been developed for conference and training purposes.

The sale of 45 Berkeley Square is part of MRA's general policy in London of moving out of leasehold properties into freehold properties. Leasehold properties were originally cheap to buy and economical to run, but with changing property values this is no longer so.

Investment

45 Berkeley Square was for six generations in the possession of the family of Clive of India. In 1938 it was purchased and furnished through the gifts of hundreds of people and given to Dr Frank Buchman as a centre for his work of Moral Re-Armament in Britain. Since then, thousands of people from every class, race and country have come and found help with personal and sometimes national problems.

A seven-column article by Michael Henderson in the *Westminster and Pimlico News*



Westminster Theatre Centre

suggests that 'it might be appropriate that alongside the blue plaque on the wall honouring "Clive of India—soldier and administrator" should now be placed a plaque, "Frank Buchman, initiator of Moral Re-Armament, lived here."'

The money from the sale will be invested to help fund MRA's campaigns in Britain and overseas, the running costs of the Westminster Theatre and Tirley Garth, and the maintenance and improvement of MRA's properties. Gifts will be made to MRA centres in other parts of the world.

MRA's investment income has been more than trebled through the sale but, as the *Financial Times* noted, this still leaves an annual gap of £100,000 between known income and expenses. This will be met, as it has been for 40 years, on the basis of faith and prayer.

VIBRANT WITH HISTORY by Michael Barrett

SOME GREAT HOUSES grow old in dust and decay, neglected and unused.

It was never like that with 45 Berkeley Square. The house, since Clive of India's day, was vibrant with history, past and in the making.

It was purchased for Dr Buchman and the world-wide work of Moral Re-Armament by the sacrifice of friends. Every piece of furniture, every carpet, picture or piece of china was someone's gift, someone's investment in a new world.

Trade unionists, businessmen, MPs, servicemen, dockers, agitators, statesmen, families—all felt the house was theirs. All understood the Violet Oakley painting in the ballroom depicting Christ washing the feet of the statesmen at Geneva.

During the Second World War we servicemen came whenever possible, sleeping in double-decker bunks above or below ground, taking part in as much of the work as we could. Incendiaries and bombs were falling in London then, and I remember leaving for my HQ in the early morning with shattered glass all over the streets.

At the time of the Round Table Conference over India and Pakistan, the whole

Pakistan delegation came to the play, *The Forgotten Factor*, at the Westminster Theatre and then to a reception at Berkeley Square. At the end, the President, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, turned to Dr Buchman and said: 'Honest apology is the golden key. You have the answer to the hurts and hates of the world. Come to my country.'

During the critical Nigerian constitutional talks in 1953, delegates from all parts of Nigeria came to a dinner there. It was a moving experience to see people stand up and go round the table to shake hands with opponents in reconciliation.

Then, at the height of a crisis over Cyprus, when hatred was at its worst between British and Cypriots, a luncheon there profoundly affected the negotiations. When Cyprus gained her Independence, its President, Archbishop Makarios, brought the new Cypriot flag personally as his gift to the house.

Two miners' lamps stood in the hall, one given to Dr Buchman by Yorkshire miners, the other by miners from the Ruhr in Germany. And I remember one of the great Welsh miners' choirs massed on the stairway, and the rafters ringing with the Easter



Labour leaders sending out an MRA pamphlet from 45 Berkeley Square during the Second World War. L to r: George Light, then Chairman of the National Trades Union Club; Ben Tillet, pioneer of the dockers' unions across the world; Tod Sloan, collaborator with Keir Hardie in the British Labour Movement.

P Sisam

anthem, 'Christ is Risen'.

The main dining-room table had place for 26 people. It was fascinating to see the care and imagination that went into the seating of each guest. Dockers sat next to bishops, radicals next to conservatives.

Everything was given the best of care in cooking. One lady, an expert seamstress, laundered and repaired the tablecloths. Students came to help with the washing-up. All

BERKELEY SQUARE contd p4



Marc (left) talks with Guy, Georges and Eric at Caux.

Getting started at school

Four French students spoke at the MRA Assembly at Caux last month:

MARC CLEMINTIN

My school in Versailles is run by the military. This means quite a few restrictions—you wear a uniform and have short hair. Coming from a civilian background, this made me bitter. I thought of myself as rather a socialist person, not on the left, but I wanted to do something to stir up the comfortable people around me. However, by the end of the year I realised I had done absolutely nothing.

There were also many problems in my family, and I couldn't escape from them. So I decided to come to Caux last Christmas.

Here I decided that I was going to take the plunge and let God control my life. But I didn't know how. I tried to take time in quiet each morning at college.

BERKELEY SQUARE contd from p3

gave their time and labour. As one who lived there, I am deeply grateful to the many who helped thus, and who are now doing the same sacrificial work elsewhere.

You could well ask: 'Could every home and household be like this?'

Why not? It would answer class war, race war, industrial war and political strife. Britain would find with her homes, stately or otherwise, a new role in the world.

For more about its history read

'45 Berkeley Square'
a 32-page booklet
22 illustrations

20p plus 20p p&p in Britain and overseas
from Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road,
London SW18 3JJ

I first thought to ask my classmate, Guy, to my home for the Easter weekend. It was difficult because we didn't get on very well. He often put me in my place when I tried to act 'the big chief'.

He couldn't come, but it touched him to be invited. So I invited Georges, who was also in my class, and with whom I had not been on good terms either—chiefly because my ideas were rather leftist and very different from his. But we had an excellent weekend.

One afternoon, back at school, I said to him, 'Would you like to come into the chapel and talk a bit?' He certainly didn't expect that, but the friendship we had built during the Easter weekend helped.

We began to meet together regularly. We spent most of our time discussing the Bible. I wanted him to learn the idea of listening for God's direction. So I timidly handed him a notebook saying, 'It may help to note down your thoughts—but you are not obliged to do so!' He didn't get the idea very quickly. I was discouraged at the slow progress, but I was happy to have someone to share my thoughts with, and this gave me courage. Finally Guy was invited to come and share in our chapel meetings.

What happened was quite different from what I expected. I saw I had to start by being honest myself, so I went to my mathematics teacher and told him I had cheated in his class. There was also a German teacher I had been rude to. I apologised to him. In my class there were several people who were persecuted. So I tried to get to know them and talk things over.

There were many people I had looked down on. I thought they had no heart to them. Finally I realised that they were people like me who also needed to find something.

All this has brought something entirely different into the class. It has been noticeable

in our work—only one person failed his leaving exam. There has been a change towards the people who were bullied. And I have enjoyed the year very much.

I hope in the months to come we can take this idea further in the schools and colleges, because I know that it works.

GEORGES MICHEL

I wanted to become an army officer, and my ideas were quite different from Marc's. I didn't know why he asked me to meet with him. But I was a Christian, and we studied the Bible together.

I didn't want to follow his idea of listening for what God might say to me. So I stuck to explaining what the Bible text meant. I realise now that I was afraid that people would make fun of me if I decided to live in obedience to God.

But, in the end, because I was looking for something in my life, I came to Caux. I don't regret it.

GUY JUMERE

I was surprised when Marc invited me to meet with them. But I was looking for something too, so I decided to join them. I decided I would try and live my life by absolute moral standards. I used to be scornful of my fellow students. But when I adopted Marc's ideas I tried to change. Now the person who was my worst enemy has become a good friend. Also I didn't get on well with my brother. I saw where I had been wrong, and when I apologised for this we became reconciled.

ERIC PRIGENT

I have discovered that here you can speak without fear, saying what you really feel, and that the experience we can share can enrich other people, and help ourselves too.

Civic visit

THE LORD MAYOR AND LADY MAYORESS of Norwich, and the Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lady Mayoress of Coventry were among the 71 civic leaders who came to the Westminster Theatre following the Royal Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace last month. This is the fifteenth successive year that such occasions have been held at the theatre.

They came at the invitation of Sir Nicholas Garrow, who was for 15 years Chairman of Northumberland County Council, and councillors convinced of the contribution made by the Westminster Theatre in helping people find the moral conviction that every society needs.

The civic leaders saw the play *Sentenced to Life* by Malcolm Muggeridge and Alan Thornhill.

RGR

Bargain sub

TOM CHITTENDEN, a retired teacher from Kent who is now working on the distribution of NWN, writes:

'I read my NWN the day I receive it. Then I ask myself who will be glad to read it, and promptly pass it on—to a neighbour, a friend, an MP or a Cabinet Minister.

'I have been surprised how many people are longing for its thinking. A parliamentary candidate says, "It always lifts my morale and encourages me in my work for people."

Now my copy is not read only by me—in fact, I find I need more than one copy each week.'

May we draw our readers' attention to the special introductory subscription? NWN for three months to any address within Britain for £1.00, or outside Britain for £1.50, is a bargain not to be missed.

Published weekly for Moral Re-Armament by The Good Road Ltd, PO Box 9, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2UH, England. Printed by Tonbridge Printers Ltd. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Articles may be reproduced without reference to the editor, acknowledgement welcomed. Annual subscription: British Isles, posted fortnightly £4.50, posted weekly £6.50; Overseas (airmail weekly) including Europe, £6.75. Regional offices and rates (airmail weekly): Australia MRA Publications, Box 1078J, GPO Melbourne, Vic 3001 \$12.00. New Zealand MRA Information Service, PO Box 4198, Christchurch \$12.50. South Africa Moral Re-Armament, PO Box 10144, Johannesburg R11.80. Canada 387 Chemin de la Cote Ste Catherine, Montreal, Quebec H2V 2B5 \$14.00. USA Moral Re-Armament Inc, Suite 702, 124 East Fortieth Street, New York, NY 10016 \$14.00. Editorial address: 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF.