

(The chronology has been verified by the Notes by Paolo Marchetti "MRA in Italy 1951-1970)

Adriano Costa, Caldogno 14 November 2022.

My name is Adriano Costa. I am now 92. I met MRA in 1948 and was full time in it from the Summer 1954 to the Spring 1969. Almost all of this report is based on my memory and that of my wife Patricia. The only texts available are what was left from the archives kept by Paolo Marchetti and thrown away by mistake when the had to be removed from a loft. What was found is the issue published on 10/09/1964 of "Riarmo Morale Servizio Informazioni" a news bulletin published twice a month, and a text typed by Paolo with his activity in MRA in chronological order. I still hope to find more written material and some other people who remember the events which I am writing about. If I find them I will add to this account the mention of the sources. The first time Frank visited Italy after WW2 was in 1947. In February he was invited, with some friends, by Eugene von Teuber to spend some time at Castel Ganda in South Tyrol, a family property inherited from Eugene's mother. Eugene (Gene) was the first son of a Czechoslovakian industrialist and baron. He had emigrated to the USA in the late thirties, probably to increase his experience in industry, but decided to dedicate himself full time to the Oxford group, and had married Dorothy (Dot). He came to Europe with Frank after the war. Frank's time in Italy is recounted in Garth Lean's biography of him. In Castel Ganda Frank asked members of the Tyrolian and Italian communities to visit him, and through these visits he contributed significantly to reducing the tension between the two communities.

Count Carlo Lovera di Castiglione invited Frank to Rome. Lovera was an outstanding Catholic author and a personal friend of Frank. He had written positive articles about the Oxford Group before the war, probably having been to a rally or a house party. He was a Pontifical Chancellor and offered Frank the opportunity of asking for an audience with the Pope. Frank thought the move was premature and asked the Catholics in his group to make the request. Some Catholics came to Rome on purpose. They were received warmly and Pius XII expressed appreciation for their work. The visit was reported in the "Osservatore Romano". In Rome Frank met the Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, and the president of the Chamber of Deputies (the lower House) Giuseppe Saragat.

Frank had made a previous visit to Rome in 1940. It is mentioned in the Italian edition of "Remaking the World". In that visit, presumably also arranged by Lovera di Castiglione, he had met two significant personalities who were associated with MRA after the war in two different ways. They both expressed great appreciation of Frank's work. One was Monsignor Gian Battista Montini, at that time Pro-secretary of State together with Monsignor Tardini. Pius XII, who had been the Secretary of State for Pius XI, had kept the position for himself and had appointed these two helpers. Montini kept supporting MRA when he became Archbishop of Milan and wanted Buchman and his team to take a prominent part in the Whitsunday Mass in 1958. When he was the Pope with the name of Paul VI he welcomed Up With People in Rome and "advertised" the show in a national rally of the Azione Cattolica youth.

The other personality was Iginio Giordani, an outstanding journalist, who before WW2 was responsible for the Vatican Library. He was the one who interceded with Mussolini for Alcide De Gasperi, at that time in prison because of his opposition to Fascism. Mussolini had him freed and Giordani gave him a position in the Vatican Library. After WW2 Giordani met Chiara Lubich, a young woman from Trento, where during the war she had formed a small group of young women who dedicated their life to God in ordinary life. The group had grown and she had decided to make it into a formal association, which she called Gruppo dei Focolari, nicknamed Focolarini. She had come to Rome to ask for an official recognition by the Church. When he heard her convictions he was enthusiastic and dedicated himself consistently to her movement. Few years later Chiara declared him a co-founder of her association. Where did he get his ideas? From Moral Re-Armament. Also in the realm of the means of communication he was inspired by MRA. Singing groups and theatrical groups were formed. A world conference centre was built at Loppiano, in the countryside near Florence on the model of Caux. Later other similar conference centres were created in other continents. The Movement is now a world

reality with ecumenical openings. There are Lutheran-Catholic groups in Germany and other Christian denominations are involved in the Movement, which gives a significant contribution to the thinking and action of the Catholic Church. A typical grass roots organization is a house or a big flat where more than one family live together and take in young people who work full time for the movement. Most of the adults have a job which gives financial support to the whole group.

The next Italian public figure who gave a significant contribution to the work of MRA in Italy was Angelo Costa. He was the head of Costa Lines and president of the Italian association of industrialists, called Confindustria, from 1945 to 1955 during the difficult post-war, and again from 1966 to 1970. He was a deeply convinced Catholic and strong advocate of free trade, while most of the leading industrialist relied of State support.

CGIL, the pre-fascist workers organization reborn after the fall of Fascism, was gradually taken over by the Communists. A Catholic minority and one formed by other workers who were neither communist, nor socialist, founded two separate unions, but the overwhelming majority stayed in CGIL. The aim of the Communists was to turn the Unions into a revolutionary force to bring Italy into the Soviet world. Italy's inexperience in Industrial relations due to the twenty years of Fascism contributed to perpetual unrest in Industry. There is no record of how Costa met MRA, but he immediately realized it could give a vital contribution to social peace by changing both the workers and the industrialists. He convinced some of the leading industrialists and took them to Caux. They decided to send delegations of workers to Caux for a week of "full immersion". They started in 1950, each week a delegation of 60 couples from the Milan factory of Montecatini chemical industry, from Breda engineering, Falk steelworks and Pirelli rubber, all in Sesto San Giovanni, just North of Milan. The initiative went on two more Summers. It was a big feat of organization. All Italian speaking people in MRA were engaged, including five Italian University students who were familiar with English and some full timers who had fought in the war in Italy. The couples took part in meetings and attended shows; they met at table for lunch and supper with people who could tell them about their experience of change, and were invited to try themselves.

Many responded positively and the following winter met regularly the full timers who were stationed in Milan, but rather few persisted. With some of these workers and the head of personnel of Montecatini Alan Thornhill's play "The Forgotten Factor" was put on stage. Two of the younger members of the cast, Paolo Marchetti from Monza and Mariella Zipponi from Venice were invited to work full time with MRA in the Summer 1951. They were childhood friends; Paolo had grown up in Venice. Another person in the cast was Angelo Pasetto, the barman of the Montecatini headquarters in Milan. He was a talented man, had fought in the Resistance and was a Communist before going to Caux; he wrote some popular songs for MRA. Some years later Frank Buchman offered to support him and his wife and two boys, so he could leave his job and dedicate himself to MRA. Among those who persisted there were three from the Montecatini factory at Bovisa, a Milan industrial area, all three at an office worker level, Silvio Bedendo, ... Colombo and ... Monguzzi. They and their families were in constant touch with the group of MRA full time workers and took part in some of the Caux conferences. A delegation went to Caux at the same time also from the Solvay factory at Rossignano Solvay on the Tuscany coast. Only one of the participants kept in touch with MRA, Lelio Griselli, a foreman and Union leader. He went to Caux more than once with his wife and teamed up with the Bovisa group.

Probably before going on with the history of MRA in Italy it would be good to describe a "gallery" of other Italians who gave a significant contribution. Only the first one had daily "quiet times", but all took the four moral standards very seriously and believed deeply in the power of MRA to change Italy and eradicate ancient weak points in the national character. The first one is Vittorio Pons. He descended from a Valdean family of Piedmont. The Valdeans were a Christian denomination founded by the preacher Pietro Valdo in the late Middle Ages, who advocated strict morality and the end of privileges in the Church. He was supported by the ordinary people of his area between France and Italy, but declared a heretic by the Church authorities. Vittorio had emigrated to Switzerland shortly before WW2 and married a Swiss girl. They had three children. They met MRA and were active in it. During the war Vittorio took a job with the Federal Government as liaison

with the many Italians, mainly men, who had immigrated illegally to escape persecution or, after Italy's surrender, being enrolled in the Fascist army. They were interned. In his capacity he told them about MRA. Some changed life and when Caux was opened went there to take part in the first conferences. Two became my friends. One was Antonio Bonavera, an optical technician who worked in a shop in Bologna for surveying instruments. The other was Goffredo Zaccaria, a factory worker from Ravenna. They both were active members of MRA to their last days.

Vittorio decided to work full time in MRA when the Caux conference centre was opened. He spent the months between conferences meeting important political personalities in Italy. He and his wife became Catholics. In 1953 he came into disagreement with Frank Buchman about the strategy for Italy, and at the end of the Summer conference left for Rome where he was welcomed by Giulio Andreotti, who gave him a job as head of an organization for the improvement of labour relations. In that capacity he tried to spread the ideas of MRA without the "label", but did not succeed.

The second Italian is Princess Rosaria Castelbarco Albani. In the Summer of 1947 or 48 she was on a sightseeing tour of Lake Lemman with her sister-in-law countess Cicogna. They both lived in Milan. From Montreux they saw that intriguing castle up the hill and decided to take the rack railway up to Caux. They were welcomed at the lobby desk and offered a visit around. They were fascinated and there and then asked to spend a few days participating in the Conference. All guests were asked if they were willing to take part in running the house. They accepted and joined one of the teams in the kitchen. Since then they actively supported the work of MRA in Milan. For instance Countess Cicogna convinced a friend to lend a group of full timers the main apartment in her "palazzo". There were many of these big houses in the centre, which the owners had left during WW2 to avoid the bombing, moving to their villas in the countryside. They had of course emptied their town house and after the war had moved to smaller premises. These houses were for sale to be demolished and replaced with more profitable apartments and offices buildings. The princess and the countess also arranged for MRA to share an office in the central Via Manzoni with a ladies movement which encouraged women to vote and take part in politics, a right which they had acquired only after WW2. The movement was called Italian Association of Women Voters (ANDE). The arrangement was most convenient. MRA used an office and the common meeting room all year, while the ladies used their office and the meeting room only for a short time before elections. Friends of the princess and the countess put storage rooms for printed matter at MRA's disposal. But the main contribution of the two ladies was their name. The Cicognas were one of the leading families at the court of the Visconti and the Sforza, rulers of Lombardy in the Renaissance. The princess was the sister of the Duke Visconti di Modrone and of the film director Luchino Visconti. They were descendants of the Visconti family of the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Another person from Milan was Rolanda Biotello. Her brother had been to Caux with one of the industrial delegations. He died not long after from a tumour. They lived in an old farm house of Via delle Forze Armate in the western outskirts. The area had been a rich farmland, but was already built up in the post-war economic boom. What was left of the old days was these courtyards surrounded by small two-room flats, which had been used by the farm workers and at that time offered cheap lodging to those who could not afford anything better. Rolanda had one leg and was unable to work, but probably felt her brother had left her the mission to spread the message of MRA among the tenants of the court. The most remarkable of them was Alice Piatti. She had lost her only child, but looked after the children of her neighbours while they were at work. On one of their visits to Caux Rolanda and Alice shared a lovely room in Mountain House. They noticed there were many snails in the fields, so they found a big cardboard box, collected the snails and put them in the box, looking forward to a delicious meal of snails when they got home. Unfortunately the snails found a way out and covered the lovely walls with their trails. Fortunately the housekeeping ladies found a way to clean the walls. Frank Buchman was fond of Rolanda and often wanted her to speak at meetings.

Another remarkable lady from Milan was Mrs. Dosio, the union leader of the Christian rice workers. When the rice plants were born, they had to be spread out and the weeds removed. It was a heavy temporary job done

by women bent down and with their feet in the water. This operation is no longer needed nowadays, but it involved the poorest women of Northern Italy. Mrs. Dosio was their union leader. MRA's message helped her a lot in her battle. She was keen to witness it and spoke at Caux and on other occasions.

Among the Italians who met MRA by taking part in a conference in Caux there was Egidio Quaglia from Sesto San Giovanni, the industrial town just North of Milan and his wife Nadia. He was a full time union leader in CISL, the Catholic trade union. They lived on the upper floor of a two floor house with their teen age daughter Paola. On the ground floor lived his sister Mariuccia Corelli with her husband ..., brother of the famous tenor, and their teen-age daughter Grazia. Egidio and Nadia took MRA very seriously and involved Mariuccia and ... Nadia was invited to spend a month in the fifties with Paolo and Mariella in Brazil, where MRA was being launched. Two MRA full timer girls took turns in looking after her family during the day in her absence. The Quaglias and Corellis took part in many conferences in Caux and teamed up with the workers of the Bovisa factory of Montecatini.

In Sesto San Giovanni there was a weekly paper called "Sesto Città", produced single-handedly by an amazingly resourceful man, Luigi Rossi. He was also an inventor of house cleaning materials, which competed with Procter and Gamble etc. He produced them at home and sold them locally. His paper's line was of course Communist, Sesto being the Stalingrad of Italy. In the Spring 1956 "The Vanishing Island" had a run in Milan and one show in Sesto. Rossi went to it and was so enthusiastic that he produced a special number of his weekly telling about MRA. From then on he gave all his heart to spreading the message of MRA and was invited once to travel with a group on a tour of South-East Asia. He found the food rather difficult to accept and missed Italian coffee, but was so keen to witness his commitment, that he accepted the sacrifice.

Other ladies kept in touch and helped in various ways, after having met MRA by chance, usually by visiting Caux during a conference. One was Anna Monichino, an office worker who kept in touch also after leaving Milan. Another was Michelangela ..., a graduate of the Catholic University, where she also gave lessons. In the early sixties Giulio Grecchi, the young financial director of a small pharmaceutical firm, subsidiary of a larger Swiss one, saw one of the MRA plays and decided to change his life, have regular quiet times and contribute in any way he could. He had been a youth leader in a Milan parish and involved three of his youth in MRA. It was a time when only the Marchetti couple and Adriano Costa held the fort in Milan with very meagre financial resources. The four of them were a great help in the MRA activities. When Up With People came to Italy Giulio decided to leave his job and help Jack Ravenscroft in the finances. He returned with the cast to the USA, took a degree in Economics and, when his help was no longer needed, took a job in the Bank of America, married Joan, an American. They had three girls. They returned to Milan, where he worked on the budget of the Italian branch of the Bank of America, went back to the States and had a very successful career. Since then they have had a leading part in the Saint Vincent Society mainly helping people to move out of poverty.

The best known person in Bologna connected with MRA is Monsignor Luigi Bettazzi. Goffredo Zaccaria had told Giuseppe Galli, son of a friend of his in Ravenna and a freshman at the University of Bologna about MRA and suggested he get in contact with the Bologna team. In Bologna Giuseppe asked for an appointment with the local Archbishop, Cardinal Giacomo Lercaro, to get his approval of MRA, and wanted me to accompany him. At that time I was studying Engineering in Bologna and was part of the local MRA team. Though Andrew Mackay, responsible for MRA in Italy, was afraid that the request would cause a refusal, I felt we could not draw back without making things worse and decided to go. Giuseppe left me to do most of the speaking. The archbishop understood the spirit of MRA and approved our involvement. We asked for a priest as a spiritual counsellor and the archbishop appointed don Luigi Bettazzi, at that time vice-director of the local seminary, where he also taught, and spiritual counsellor of the Catholic University students association, FUCI. Giuseppe and I met Bettazzi, who was very friendly. The following Summer the cardinal asked Bettazzi to go to Caux and get not know more about MRA. In Caux he had a personal talk with Frank Buchman in his room. That talk was for him a deep personal experience.

Some FUCI students had known about MRA from me, and don Bettazzi encouraged them to go to Caux. Also Giuseppe and his fiancée went, changed their life and pitched in with the team in Bologna, but unfortunately did not persist. My FUCI friends instead did for some years and remained great friends of mine.

Monsignor Bettazzi became a bishop in 1963 and Lercaro appointed him his auxiliary bishop. In his capacity he took part in the Second Vatican Council. At the end of the Council he was appointed Bishop of Ivrea in the North-West. From 1967 to 1983 he was also president of Pax Christi, an important Catholic movement born in the Council. All the time and still now at 99 he is a warm friend of some people associated with Initiatives of Change.

In Bologna there were two ladies of very different extraction, who contributed a lot to MRA. One was Teresita Miotti, a retired social-democratic Union leader. There is no record of how she met MRA, but she was extremely keen to make it known in the city. She was faithful up to her death. It is a pity that she never met Mrs Lunelli, a retired teacher in a Lycée and widow of a Senator. She was told about MRA by Monsignor Bettazzi, a close friend of hers. She took on to translate into Italian Gabriel Marcel's book about MRA and a Bologna publisher at a national level published it. She always put up the MRA full time workers who came to Bologna.

There were many friends in Florence, maybe because Frank Buchman needed thermal treatment for the consequences of the stroke he had in the early forties. He went to Montecatini Terme, a short drive from Florence. Two of his friends were the dowager queen of Rumania and her sister-in-law the dowager duchess of Aosta, who shared Villa San Domenico on the hills between Florence and Fiesole. The link between them and the MRA team in Italy was their electrician, to whom Frank Buchman gave the nickname Sunshine. He was a joyful personality and very convinced of Frank's message. The Catholic Union leader and senator Maurizio Vigiani is mentioned in the following pages.

Doctor ... Passigli, a prominent private banker, had probably met MRA by chance on a visit to Caux during a conference. He was a widower and had a son who did not take on the bank, but founded a publishing firm. Passigli gave a decisive contribution to re-starting the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, he was a keen and competent music lover and capable organiser. MRA caught his imagination and he saw how much it could do for the future of Italy. Unfortunately his enthusiasm did not find adequate local support.

Another Florentine who met MRA by chance was Letizia(?) Goretti Specht. Her family was mentioned in Dante's Divine Comedy, which is the Florentine way of being in the Who's' Who. She met an American major during WW2. He came back to marry her after the war and stayed. With his and her money they bought a villa outside Florence with some land on the way North. It had been bombed by the Allies because the road passing by was a vital link for the Germans. The villa was partly habitable, and they lived in it while repairing it.

Letizia (?) was the president of the Florence Iris Society, the club of the ladies who grow irises and vie to produce the most beautiful one. The iris is the symbol of Florence, because a red iris on a white field is its coat of arms. On part of her land she cultivated irises, which was a very heavy job. She gave her profession for tax purposes as farmer, and when a tax official came on an inspection he found her knelt over her precious plants. Her position in society and her and her husband's ability made MRA well known in Florence. They always gave warm hospitality to all MRA full timers coming to contact people in Florence.

Andrew Mackay and his wife Jean rented a flat in Rome to give hospitality and support to people in MRA who wanted to visit the Government and Vatican offices. He also operated for MRA in the theatrical and cinema world. In this capacity he met Felice Paciotti, an agent for film production, who contacted actors and suppliers of scenery and other material. He and his wife became totally dedicated to MRA, not easy in his job. His way of living inspired many actors. He was decisive in dubbing in Italian the MRA films and he built the professional cast that Peter Howard wanted for a tour of "Through the Garden Wall" in Italy. Another person in Rome who knew MRA is don Luigi Sturzo, founder and head before the Fascist regime of the "Partito

Popolare”, the first catholic party in the Italian parliament, and after WW2 a very respected figure in Italian politics. He drew great encouragement from MRA and his last book was entitled “Riarmo morale”.

There are many more important individuals who could be mentioned, and many more in key positions in the country who were friendly and helpful. In 1961 the subscribers to the Italian edition of the MRA newsletter were around one thousand, hardly any known by the publishers. The sad thing about all this is that they never felt the need to form a national team, possibly starting with an assembly. Neither did the MRA leadership consider the point. In 1959 FIAT offered a van. The initiative was of the head of the Milan outlet. FIAT demanded that the van was registered as property of an association. There was no Italian MRA association; so Paolo Marchetti as president, I as secretary and two foreign members founded the association. It was clear that it would remain like that. I think that forming a responsible national team was considered risky by the world leaders of MRA, because nobody was both autorotative enough to lead it and adequately committed to live by the four moral standards. The many friends in Italy assumed that the full time workers had steady individual means of support, which was not true at least for many of them. They also assumed that any campaign was started after finding abroad adequate means to carry it out, which was usually true, but made MRA in Italy dependent on foreign help. If there had been an Italian team formally established it would have taken responsibility for the Finances.

The position of the Catholic Church in a country at that time 90% Catholic was important. No official position was requested or given, but when individual Catholics described their commitment to a bishop, or asked a bishop for approval of an initiative, they were approved or even praised. The only exceptions were Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan, who voiced some criticism and was feared to take a formal negative position, and Cardinal Siri, archbishop of Genova, who probably made things difficult for the Costa family, who were devout Catholics, but never caused them to stop their support of MRA. Schuster died in August 1954 and his successor was Monsignor Montini, a warm friend of MRA. Some hostility came from some Jesuits, who were very active in the world of industrialists and felt MRA was competing with them.

The first team came to Milan in 1949. In it there were three British couples, Andrew and Jean Mackay, Ron and Mary Mann and Francis and Gwen Goulding, the Baumann family from California (mother and three grown-up children Lena, Lorraine and Bill) two or three bachelors, probably Adam McLean, Frank Romer and Francis Goulding (they and Ron had fought in Italy during WW2), two or three other girls and two young men besides Bill Baumann: Jerry Teuber and Herbie Allen, both from the USA. Thanks to countess Cicogna’s intervention they were lent the main apartment in a *palazzo* in the centre, mentioned above. Removing the thick layer of dust on the parquet floors was a mammoth job, mostly done by the boys, but done with joy. The kitchen and bathrooms were old and decrepit, so after one year the Baumanns rented a big flat on a back street near the office, and later a less expensive but adequate one near the Milan fairgrounds. The girls lived in the flat, but the boys were given hospitality for the night and breakfast by families of workers who had been to Caux. The main task in the first years was to arrange the visits to Caux of the workers and following up on those visits.

In the Spring 1954 Frank Buchman organized an international conference at Montecatini Terme near Florence. Among the participants there were Franco Marinotti, who had built his fortune before WW2 on the production of artificial fibre from the wood of poplars which he grew at Torviscosa, between Venice and Trieste, and Senator Vigiani of Florence, catholic trade union leader of the gas workers. On that occasion Buchman met the famous mayor of Florence Giorgio La Pira and some action was taken in Florence.

In the Summer 1954 there were two significant visitors to Caux for the conference. One was Senator Maurizio Vigiani, the other Gianni Bartoli, the charismatic first mayor of Trieste after the city was given back to Italy. He arrived with a group of University students, who left Caux enthusiastic about MRA. Vigiani and Bartoli invited a group to their cities. It was decided to form a group of around fifty people, mainly young full timers. Mr. Hochstrasser, a keen supporter of MRA and head of Migros, the cooperative Swiss chain of supermarkets, lent a hotel in Lugano for the group to prepare for the expedition and rehearse an Italian

version of the shows "The Good Road" and "The cowboys Christmas". The three Italians in the group, Paolo Marchetti, Mariella Zipponi and I, taught those who did not know the language and translated the plays.

The group went to Florence by train and were guests in the homes of gas workers. The plant, the offices and the workers club were in Oltrarno, a district across the river and downstream from the city centre, where the factories and the workers home were, an area well known for its revolutionary spirit. The communist majority in the Union had no objection to the show; it was a contribution to the Christmas spirit and to the life of the club. The cast had several performances, which were applauded by the workers and their families, but they had no visible impact. However something must have got through. Vigiani returned to Caux the following Summer and persisted in spreading the message of MRA. The group took the opportunity to visit some families who had known MRA, and of course to visit the city centre.

From Florence the group went to Trieste. They were welcomed by the mayor, who gave them hospitality in a charming large villa on the hills overlooking the city centre. The villa, an imitation castle of the first years of the century, had been bequeathed to the University, but was not yet in use. It was in a good condition and the city provided the furniture and kitchen equipment which was in store for when refugees came through. The group stayed till the time of the Summer conference in Caux. At one point the mayor needed all the beds back, fortunately not the crockery, kitchen equipment, tables etc. One of members of the group, Robin Evans, knew the commander of the troops stationed in Trieste. During WW2 he had been a major in the British army fighting in Italy. He was a liaison officer with the Italian troops who fought with the allies after Italy's surrender in 1943. The commander was then a junior officer and a friend of Robin's. In Trieste he had many beds in store and gladly lent them. So, while the mayor's bed went away from one door, the Army ones came in from another.

The mayor also made the municipal theatre available, so "The Good Road", "The Cowboys Christmas and "The Forgotten Factor", all three in Italian were shown with great success. The students who had been to Caux helped the group meet the local population. In Trieste there was, and still is, a Slovene minority. At the end of the war Tito's troops had terrorised the Italians living in the Istria peninsula just South of Trieste, killing many people, in order to convince them to leave the area. What happened was a wound in the heart of the population of Trieste. So it is no wonder that the Italians considered the local Slovenes, though they were not in favour of Tito, as intruders. Among the people who saw the shows there was a teacher of the Slovene Lycée with some of his students. They met the cast and the teacher was eager for them to catch the spirit of MRA. The students met some of the youth in the cast many times and went to Caux during the Summer conference. Unfortunately there was no follow up after the Summer.

The musical "The Vanishing Island" arrived in Caux during the conference after the triumphant Asian tour. In the Autumn and Winter the tour continued in Europe and in the following late Spring 1956 arrived in Milan for a series of successful shows. One show was in Sesto San Giovanni, the industrial town just North of the city, called at that time the "Stalingrad of Italy". It had had a communist mayor since the war. It was the show seen by Luigi Rossi, whose story is told in the first part of this report. Frank Buchman came after his treatment at the spa in Montecatini (Tuscany). He met many people and Cardinal Montini, archbishop of Milan, invited him with all the MRA international group to take part in the Whitsun High Mass sitting around the altar.

In June 1956 a delegation from Milan, Sesto San Giovanni (including Luigi Rossi), and Rossignano Solvay took part in the Mackinac Island international conference. In the Summer 1957 a delegation of Italian members of parliament took part, and from 22/05/1959 one of Italian youth, including the son of Senator Vigiani. In the Spring 1959 the play "Hofnung", written and played by German miners went to Florence. The films "A crowning Experience" and "Freedom" were dubbed in Rome in October 1959 and were much used by Frank Buchman when he was in Italy before and after Christmas 1959 and also had a commercial run. Paolo Marchetti had come back from the USA, where he had stayed after the Mackinac conference, so as to marry Mariella Zipponi at Caux on 16/10. Their marriage was a significant step forward in the presence and role of

Italy in MRA. They decided not to have children for the time being, so as to be fully available for our revolution.

Before and after Frank's death a lot had happened in South America. Paolo and Mariella Marchetti were invited to La Paz, Bolivia where they landed on October 10th to join the task force with the play "The Tiger" and had a significant part in organising its tour as well as giving birth to the play "El Condor", which tells the story of the Peruvian students who moved from a destructive rebellion to a constructive revolution. Luc de Montmollin from Switzerland and I "held the fort" in Milan where nothing special was happening. "El Condor" was invited to Italy with a group from Brazil and Uruguay. The group included the two heroes of the reconciliation in the port of Rio de Janeiro which is told in the film "Men of Brazil", Damasio Cardoso and Nelson Marcellino de Carvalho, Luis Puig former Marxist revolutionary from Guatemala, where he ran a radio station, general Hugo Betlehem from Brazil with his wife and Esteban Daranj of Paraguay with his wife, a dynamic young entrepreneur. The invitation was made possible because of the decision of two Swiss industrialists to finance their tour. They were Catholic, and were keen that the country at the heart of Catholicism had the right spirit. The South American group went to Caux for the Summer conference 1962 and from there started the tour in Bari. The authorities, Union leaders and school superintendents of each city encouraged those of the next one to welcome the group, so right through the winter and following spring they were greeted with open arms in Reggio Calabria, Palermo, other cities in Sicily, Naples, where the municipal administration put two buses at their disposal to cover the whole gulf. They spent Christmas in Sorrento, then went North and spent the whole time in Lombardy leaving for Caux in June 1963. The stage equipment was borrowed from Caux, but the films were shown with 35 mm. projectors given by Philips and were carried with the van given by FIAT and mentioned above. The tour raised great enthusiasm. The most involved were the port workers of Bari, Palermo and Naples and the University students everywhere. The group announced their arrival in every city and town with a march through the main street, the girls with their national costumes.

In Caux Peter Howard suggested to Paolo and me to write a musical play about Italian politics. The Colwell brothers offered to help with the musical side. After some attempts we gave up. I think our problem was an insufficient knowledge of Italian politics, yet that was the area to tackle if we wanted to contribute to Italy's change. So Peter opted for a run of his play "Through the Garden Wall" in Italian with a professional cast. Two anchor people were of great help: one was Felice Paciotti, whom I mentioned among the significant people in Italy, the other was Pina Renzi, who had been a famous comical actress and was extremely keen to have MRA penetrate the theatrical and cinema world. Felice immediately got working and before the end of the conference the cast arrived in Caux and started rehearsing

"Through the Garden's wall" was particularly relevant for Italy, because it is a metaphor of the confrontation of the Communist and the western way of life and the possibility of finding reconciliation. Felice Paciotti had found a good director and cast which included Pina Renzi.

In Italy there is an organization which books a good theatre in all the main cities for the whole winter season and engages enough of the best theatrical companies to offer a play each week of the season. Paciotti succeeded in having "Through the Garden Wall" included. Luc de Montmollin had the heavy task of accompanying the cast, providing for their hotel accommodation, feeding and general welfare. They complained a lot, probably because they felt the play was not in the mainstream of Italian theatre, though it was well received. All the other full timers working in Italy were enrolled in supporting the run by selling tickets in advance. The plot was appreciated by the Communists, but MRA was in their bad books especially since it had distributed, shortly before Frank's death, all over Europe, including Italy, the pamphlet "Ideology and coexistence", which was a warning against communist infiltration. The people who sold tickets were instructed not to reveal they belonged to MRA. It was a very awkward situation. Anyway the run went fairly well and just managed to pay for itself. The message was positive and good for Italy, but of course the team could not include their MRA friends in the cities where the play was given, which was a great pity.

Paolo and Mariella Marchetti were not with us, because they were engaged by Peter Howard to penetrate the University world and organize for Peter a tour of lectures in the Italian universities after his South-American and US tour. Unfortunately Peter died in February 1965.

The run of "Through the Garden Wall" finished in the spring 1964. I do not remember all those who went back to Milan. There were certainly Paolo, Mariella, Patricia Tremellen and me. We were eager to take action. There were no plans from above. The financial situation in Milan was difficult. The normal support of the team of full-timers came from a flow of small contributions by individual families in Switzerland. They felt that the country South of the Alps badly needed MRA! A typical case was a widow who sold her heirloom table silver and sent the money to Milan. Another source of money was the piles of literature, mainly booklets "Ideology and Coexistence", the distribution of which around the time of the death of Frank Buchman had been discontinued. They were stored in a cellar kindly given by a friend of Countess Cicogna (mentioned above). The third source was the film projector and other equipment used in the "El Condor" tour. It was stored in Rome, where Andrew and Jean Mackay lived. He was no longer the leader of the work in Italy and worked full time promoting the MRA films and giving hospitality and help to authorities from all over the world who wanted to visit personalities in the Vatican. He kindly arranged to have the equipment sold at a fair price and sent the money to Milan. At one point the Swiss source dwindled. The team in Milan had no money for the next rent which was due in a few days. The whole team prayed together on their knees and a cheque arrived the next day. Later we found why less money came from Switzerland. In the late fifties a lot of literature was ordered in Switzerland and not all had been paid for. MRA in Switzerland was going through bad times, so they intercepted the money for Italy which was given through them. I felt sorry to have lost contact with the people who were won by the tour of "El Condor" and contacted them by correspondence and telephone.

Paolo and I decided to launch a national youth conference in August in the Naples area. Padre Lorenzo, an Augustinian friar, who had been appointed by the archbishop of Naples to help the Condor group, found a boarding school in Vico Equense, a lovely small town on the southern arm of the Gulf of Naples, which was empty because of the Summer holidays. For the two women in the team he found accommodation in a convent.

The conference was publicised in the twice monthly news bulletin of MRA in Italy. Instead of going into the details of the conference I prefer to attach to this report the translation of some of the articles published in the edition of 10 September 1964 of the Moral Rearmament information bulletin, Italian edition, the ones dealing with the conference. I also include the list of personalities who were invited. None of them came, but many sent messages of support. Their names and addresses are attached to Paolo's explicatory notes about his service with MRA. The "four musketeers" of Milan, headed by Giulio Grecchi who had involved the other three in MRA, came. They had been great help to our meagre forces in setting up the conference and in other activities. All the student of the Naples area who were won by "El Condor" took part in all the events, but stayed at home by night. There was time to go to the beach and many evenings were taken for expeditions to towns in the Gulf area, where the mayor's invitation was requested and MRA film were shown in the main square with great attendance and interest.

In the early months of 1965 a student of the last year but one of classical Lycée in Milan run by the Jesuits contacted the MRA team. There is no record of how he got to know about them and how much he knew and from whom about MRA. He was visibly fascinated by the idea and at the following meeting he brought some school-mates. They met again and brought their girl-friends. They wanted to do something and Mariella suggested that they put on stage Peter Howard's play "The Ladder", of which an Italian translation was already available. The idea intrigued them and under Mariella's direction they started rehearsing. Mariella felt the play needed a more expert director and Michel Sentis from Paris was asked. He knew enough Italian to hold a conversation and did a superb job. They put the play on stage at the *Teatro Litta*, the former chapel of the baroque Palazzo Litta, at that time property of the State railway company. The medium size theatre was packed full for at least two performances. After the performances the group vanished. Many of them were in the last year of school and had to prepare their final exams. Probably at this time we moved from our office in

Via Manzoni to one room on the ground floor of a house in front of our flat, which at that time was in Via Garibaldi.

In late Spring especially Paolo and I were engaged in recruiting the youth delegation for the "Sing Out" conference on Mackinac Island. A charter plane had been contracted for the Europeans and the fee for participating was very reasonable. Paolo, Mariella, Patricia Tremellen and I went to accompany the Italians. Also Giulio Grecchi and Cesare Ungaro went. The other two of the "four musketeers" who had helped a lot in the Milan activities could not afford the fee. Contact was made at the State University at the Catholic one. Some of the student leaders decided to participate. The students who had played in "The Ladder" were also contacted, but did not go. There were also five or six student leaders of the University of Rome, who had been contacted by Gene Teuber, who with his wife Dot shared the flat with the Mackays.

The Italian participation in the conference was on the whole very successful. All the national groups were asked to write and stage a play. The Italians wrote a story about the leaders of the five most important nations, the USA, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France. The five leaders decide to have a conference on a spaceship circling around Earth. On the spaceship they quarrel furiously. At one point the spaceship starts having trouble and there is no guarantee that it will land safely. After a moment of panic the five leaders begin to pray together, they find an agreement on all the points they had been quarrelling about, and the spaceship lands safely. The four boys taking the part of the five leaders made a good caricature of their role. The one doing De Gaulle was especially good. Everybody was delighted with their show. But at some point the roman group started misbehaving. I was there, but do not remember what they did; I probably did not know exactly even at the time. The people responsible for the conference decided they should be immediately shipped home. The other ones instead stayed to the end. On the way home they were guests of families of Italian origin North of New York and visited the city.

After the conference the cast of Up With People took a train all for themselves to Los Angeles with stopovers to sing the songs of the show for the local population. That was the beginning of the first world tour of UWP. Patricia Tremellen was invited to stay in the States and board the train, because Jack Ravenscroft had asked her to help with the finances in Los Angeles. Also Paolo and Mariella were invited and after the departure of the cast for Korea Paolo started to arrange with Blanton a tour of Italy. Paolo came back to take General Raffaele Cadorna, to the youth Christmas conference in Caux, where there was also a numerous Italian delegation. In 1944 General Cadorna had landed by parachute in Lombardy to be the link between the Resistance and the Allies. Back in Milan Paolo and I immediately got on to translate into Italian the words of the UWP songs. We also joined the Italian authors society and deposited our translations. That enabled us to cash in authors rights every time UWP was performed in Italy. It turned out to be a modest but very welcome source of income in the following years. I do not know how UWP got to be widely known and much appreciated in the Catholic youth associations. Up With People and What Colour is God's Skin even got into the hymn books of Catholic services.

Paolo and I went on visiting the Catholic University after the conference. It was an interesting time, a battle for the minds of the students against a Marxist group. At one point we met the most active one of them. It seemed quite clear that he had enrolled at the University for the purpose of infiltrating it. Paolo and I visited the rector, Giuseppe Lazzati, a famous Catholic intellectual, and told him what was going on and what we were doing about it. He was already aware of the battle and was grateful for what we did.

My concern about the loss of contact with the people in the South who were won by the tour of "El Condor" came to fruition in the first months of 1966. Some port workers and some students expressed the desire to resume contact. Giulio Grecchi asked his boss to finance a visit with a contribution from his firm. The boss gave him 200,000 lire, a good sum for those days. I wrote to the British headquarters to ask for somebody who could accompany me. Ron Mann, who had spent many years in Italy, accepted the invitation. I had very worn out clothes and Mariella insisted that I used a part of the contribution to buy new clothes. I bought a suit and a pair of shoes. As soon as Ron arrived in Milan we took a train to Naples and from there a boat to

Palermo. On the boat I wrote a letter to Patricia Tremellen, asking her to marry me. Not knowing whether she was still in New York with Up With People or in London, where she was invited to go and join the team there, I wrote two copies of the letter and sent them to both addresses.

In Palermo Ron and I met the dock workers, who were delighted to see us and know what MRA had done in the previous three years, but the suggestion to take some action did not find any response. However a change in their attitude toward life was visible. The same thing happened with the port workers and students in Naples. The latter had got a degree and were taking the first steps in adult life.

From Naples Ron decided to go back to the village where he had spent the Winter 1943-44. He had escaped from a POW camp in the North at the time of the Italian surrender, September 1943, and had walked on the crest of the Apennines and arrived at that village near the front line. He was hidden by a local family while the Resistance was arranging his crossing of the front line. He received a very warm welcome. I, instead was invited by my parents to spend Easter in the famous "Cinque Terre", a group of five villages with vineyards on the coast South of Genova. During the holiday I received a 'phone call from the team in Milan. Patricia was still in New York and had warmly agreed to marry me. One can imagine not only my delight, but also that of my parents.

After my return to Milan I was fully engaged in activities linked to our marriage. We were married in Sussex on 8 October and went on our honeymoon to Asolo a lovely historic town in the foothills of the Eastern Alps with 50,000 lire given to us by Giulio Grecchi and the car lent us by my brother. In the first months of my absence Paolo had been busy with Blanton Belk arranging the European tour of UWP. Soon after our return Paolo and Mariella went to Bologna. The youth group of a big parish in the South-Eastern outskirts wanted to put UWP on stage. Mrs. Lunelli, mentioned above gave them hospitality. The group probably had a good musical director. Paolo and Mariella did a very good job helping them with the choreography, but had to return to Milan before the première. They had probably been invited by Blanton Belk to discuss the strategy for bringing UWP to Italy. We took their place and had a very good time with the youth and the Parish priest. They gave several performances in the parish theatre with great success. Cardinal Lercaro, who was retired and lived in a villa just outside the city, came to one performance and was most appreciative.

The following Summer there was an international Sing Out conference in a small town in Jutland, Denmark. We told the Bologna group and they jumped to the idea of going. Patricia and I went with them as chaperones; it was a lovely experience.

Cast 1 of UWP came to Italy on its world tour early in 1968. Autumn 1967 was taken contacting the authorities and the press of the cities where it was due to perform and people who could help to find hospitality in homes. John Wood came from America to help through his contacts in Italy. He had guidance to fly first class from New York to Milan and happened to sit next to Giovanni Agnelli, the president of FIAT. John told him what he was going to Milan for and Agnelli offered four busses of a subsidiary of FIAT to take the cast all through the Italian tour. It was a godsend. The drivers behaved like fathers for the cast. Every morning they picked them up near the homes which gave them hospitality. They did not hesitate to correct them if they were untidy or misbehaved on the buses and were most patient with their youthful liveliness.

The tour started in Bergamo where the local senator, Belotti, was a good friend of Paolo. Then the cast went to all the cities of the North-East. In Vicenza the cast performed also in the U.S. base. I do not remember which were the following cities where they performed. The last one was Rome. On a Sunday during their run in Rome there was a national rally of the youngest age group of Catholic Action. They filled Sain Peter's square for the Pope's midday blessing. Paul VI told them about Up With People and encouraged them to attend a performance. Aldo Moro, the most outstanding political figure and at that time the Prime Minister, spoke at the end of a performance, stressing the importance of the message of UWP for Italy. His three children were very keen supporters of UWP, and so were the children of his friend and competitor Giulio Andreotti.

A reception was given in a hotel, probably by the Prime Minister, for Blanton and Betty Belk and the leaders of the cast. All the most important authorities were there. I knew the president of the Senate from previous contacts. He came up to me and said that he wished that an Italian UWP association was founded, and offered to be its first president. After the run Maria Fida, the first daughter of Moro, came to visit us in Milan and to see how continuity could be given to the experience of UWP.

In a way her desire was fulfilled, because in the Summer we had a week's conference of the UWP groups of Europe. The conference was held in Genova, because there we could have the support of the Costa family. The city gave us hospitality on the grounds of the naval fair on the coast. The exhibition halls in the main building were turned into comfortable dormitories. There was a big restaurant on the top floor, but the last caterer for the fair had left the kitchen in a mess. The first participants to arrive cleaned it up and it was ready in time to cook the first meal. The participants were organized in teams taking turns in cleaning the common rooms, cooking and serving meals, etc. I did not see much of the conference, because I was engaged in the logistics, but from the spirit I noticed it was a great success.

A few months after Cast 1 also Cast 3 came to Italy. The buses lent by Agnelli were given again. The cast made a slightly different tour, but I do not remember having difficulties in obtaining hospitality, press coverage, etc. Cast 3 had the same success as Cast 1. In a way UWP had taken roots in Italy. Meanwhile amateur casts had sprung up in many northern towns. The Milan one boasted having better equipment than the casts which came from America. There were many premises for establishing an Italian association, but it meant visiting all the casts and having an assembly of all of them. But who could do it? Who had the means to finance the visits? At that time, after we had closed the MRA office in Milan, Blanton Belk paid the rent for our flat and helped Paolo and Mariella to buy one of their own with a mortgage. Also the European young full-timers who came to Italy to help with the tour had their expenses covered only for that purpose. Up with People was not swimming in money, and there was no intention of establishing local associations in the European countries.

Shortly after the departure of Cast 3 Paolo was summoned by a Ministry of Finance official. I went with him. He was interrogated like a potential criminal. The official wanted to know why he had not declared all the money made by selling the tickets for the show. Being tours of a foreign cast, they required an Italian sponsor. Paolo had given his name, but after each show the whole proceeds were given to the person in charge of finances for the cast. At one point the official of the upper rank of the one interrogating, who was sitting at another desk, told him to stop insisting. He had realised that Paolo was telling the truth.

Just before the departure of cast 3 Paolo and Mariella had their first son Luca. About this time Patricia and I realized that there was no longer any need of our participation. UWP had created a permanent office in Brussels, from which the European part of the world tours were organized. There was no possibility of creating an Italian permanent Sing Out association, so our presence would have just been a burden. We resigned and received a very warm letter from Blanton Belk thanking us for what we had done. It was written in a way that could help me as a reference in the search for employment. A few weeks later Paolo and Mariella also received a similar letter and had to look for a job.