

A FORCE FOR RENEWAL.

During the last week Stockholm has been visited by an international MRA-team which on different occasions and under varying forms have met a great number of Swedes, politicians, representatives of management and labour, military and press, etc. As sponsors for one meeting were four of the speakers of Parliament, at a lunch for the three Rotary Clubs of Stockholm the King was present, and at another occasion a prominent representative of business was the host. The foreign team consisted mostly of people who had taken leave for a few days from their ordinary jobs to inform Swedish colleagues of their experiences of MRA. High British officers worked together with social-democratic editors and one member of a certain employers association, an Irish lady senator from the Labour Party especially addressed the Swedish MPs, and so on.

The message is as simple as evident. In a split world unity has to be created. But every effort for a united world is fruitless if the individuals do not change. The ideological front does not go at the iron curtain, not between the social classes within a nation, it runs through the heart of every individual. Everybody wants to see the other fellow changed, but the only reliable method is for everybody to begin with himself. A nation cannot unite if the families are divided. Not even a small nation can isolate itself from the great events in the world; on that point the Irish Senator had some reasonable remarks to make. Labour representatives pointed out that the class struggle is superseded in an age where the fight is going on within their own class. Managers stressed that the belief in "murdering competition" as a working method in business and industry is out of date. Teamwork is needed if the enterprises shall be able to fill their mission to serve their people and humanity.

When you listen to the voice of your conscience and act in honesty and unselfishness, mistrust and fear disappear, the social-democratic editor from Denmark said. The great ideological battlefields today are not situated at the 38th parallel but, among other places, in the big ports of the world, in the Ruhr, in the industrial area in North France and in North Italy. Many ex-Communists have found a higher loyalty than that to Soviet and Cominform. When managers have got a new view on themselves and their work at the same time, the former opponents have found each other in fruitful teamwork. Production has gone up. It is characteristic for the new vision how management and labour in industries have agreed that the profit created by rationalisations and raised capacity of work should be used to the profit of the consumers in the form of lowered prices. This, the MRA-people in industry say, is a good way of tackling the crisis.

In the London docks a constant tug of war is going on between the MRA-workers and the Communists, the latter well knowing that "where MRA comes in, Communism goes out". MRA is not anti-Communist, not anti anything. The movement is purely positive. But its ideology, rooted in Christianity, is incompatible with every kind of dictatorship. It is democratic in its absolute belief in every man being equally important. It does not interfere in industrial conflicts, but lays stress on the conflicts being solved according to the principle of what is right, not according to the point of view of prestige of who is right or gets his right. This method has in practice proved to be very effective. At the bottom of their hearts people have a longing for honesty and good will between each other.

Most Swedish employers and workers are of course unacquainted with this new idea, although circumstances here in many respects can be said to be very good compared to the situation in other corners of the world. In the enterprises where MRA has come to play a part conditions have all the same taken on a new quality. Prestige has given way to reality as never before. Artificial social barriers have fallen and the man at the board of directors and the man at the machine find each other as human beings. Among the greatest things - renaissance has taken place in the homes. This work goes on day after day, year after year and already comprises millions of people all over the world. It does not matter that in some quarters, not least in our country, it is met with scepticism or sneering. The critics have not been able to show up a better alternative how to create a new world of unity than through new people.