



M O R A L   R E - A R M A M E N T   1 9 9 3 - 9 4

# CREATORS OF TRUST AND PEACE

The world takes a faltering step towards peace – and at the same time seems to sleepwalk into fresh and bloody conflict. Some experience the suffering of others on their TV screens. Others are forced to experience the suffering directly, at first hand.

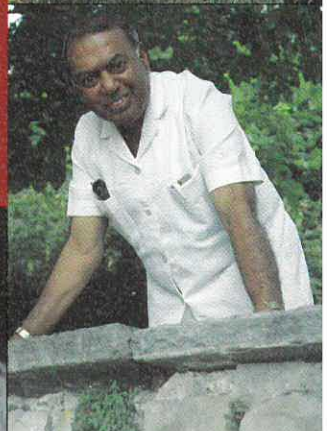
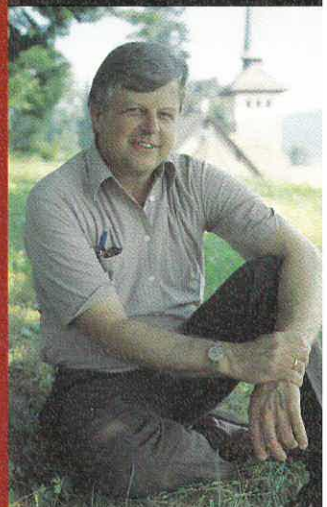
*Time* magazine's 'men of the year' for 1993 were 'the peacemakers', four leaders who 'broke out' of conflicts that 'seemed frozen in hatred' in the Middle East and South Africa. The courage and clear-sightedness of such leaders is sorely needed elsewhere, but it is not enough to wait for the providential leader to get us out of the mess we're in. Few believe in one great universal answer, whether it's to drugs, or conflict or to unemployment. Millions of people can and must become creators of trust and

peace, taking initiatives where they see a need, making a difference where they can.

'Silencing the voice in our hearts and on our lips which subtly whispers we are less to blame than others... Acknowledging the wrongdoings of our own group, our own people, so opening the way to a change of heart and to trust... Reaching out to others, above all if they are different, or if we have reasons to fear them...Such is the price of peace,' so opens the invitation for the 1994 international conference for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland.

That is the theme of this year's report on the work of Moral Re-Armament around the world which is reflected in conferences and actions, but which is born in a change of heart. These few pages can do no more than give a few glimpses.

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F. Lancaster

Unity Walk in Richmond

## HEALING THE HEART OF AMERICA

*Hope in the Cities*, a coalition inspired by MRA, involves people in more than a dozen US cities who have set out to put the necessity for honest conversations on race, reconciliation and responsibility onto the national agenda. They launched their campaign at a conference in June 1993, in Richmond, Virginia, that drew over 1,000 participants from 30 American cities and 20 other countries.

Mayor Walter T. Kenney, who headed a 75-member sponsoring committee representing the leadership of the city and surrounding counties, said, 'As the former capital of the Confederacy, Richmond has a particular opportunity to address the unfinished business of racial healing.' He led a dramatic 'Unity Walk' through Richmond's hidden history, marking sites where Native Americans and European settlers had confronted each other, and where Africans had disembarked from slave ships. 'By acknowledging our history together, without guilt or bitterness, we hope to set in motion a process of healing for the city and the nation,' said the Richmonders.

The conference held up such 'models of hope' as an inter-ethnic coalition formed after riots in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and a highly effective drug and alcohol program in Pasadena, California. Participants ranged from police chiefs to former gang members, from Jewish rabbi to leaders of the Muslim community, from the Mayors of the Zimbabwean cities of Harare and Gweru to the deputy mayor of Roubaix, France, from community activists to ordinary citizens who wanted to know how to get involved in helping their cities. Delegates were interviewed on local TV and radio stations and events hit the front pages of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* every day.

A documentary of the Unity Walk is being seen in cities across the world. Dr Raymond J. Bakke, an international expert on urban is-

sues, describes it as a 'powerful video which confronts our segregationist and 'separationist' history and presents a practical approach to healing the history of a community and building hope in the future'.

## MEDIA MATTERS

The *International Communications Forum* has held major events in the USA and Russia in the last year, and there have been visits to Canberra, Belgrade, Brisbane, Budapest, Geneva, Kuala Lumpur, London, Melbourne, Moscow, New Delhi, Perth and Sydney. The Forum, launched in Caux in 1991, aims 'to promote the fundamental values which underpin democracy - honesty, service to others, the search for truth and the primacy of the individual conscience'.

Nizhny Novgorod, Russia's third city, sponsored a forum in September 1993 on 'The media - A decisive force in building a free and just society' that brought together 76 participants, 56 from Russia and 20 from seven other countries. Philip Boobbyer, writing in *The Times Higher Educational Supplement* quoted a Forum participant, Olga Noskova, a director of the regional television, 'We are suffering from a rare clinical case - the freedom of the madhouse. We live in a society without any values. Any normal society must have values...We have destroyed the old values but have not created the new.'



Olga Noskova

M. Smith

The US Forum was held at Cantigny, near Chicago, and was hosted by the McCormick Tribune Foundation. Michael Finlay, a Governor of the International Press Foundation in London, suggested three rules for journalists: 'Try not to make matters worse than they are; ensure that you acquire real knowledge of any subject you propose to report on; and address yourself to the needs of your audience, not your own self-gratification.'

In its 'position paper' the *International Communications Forum* states that it is on the way to 'developing a world-wide network of men and women - a creative minority seeking to change the course of events through the promotion of reconciliation in conflict, higher standards in political life and responsibility in the communications world'.

## BALTIC SEMINAR

'There are experiences so traumatic that they are hard to verbalise,' said one participant to the consultation in Stockholm on 'Cooperation and reconciliation around the Baltic Sea', referring to the decades of lost freedom and suffering. The Swedish director of a university department for



F. Wetterfors

### Baltics talk out pain

peace studies in Austria added, 'That's why it's so valuable that we meet here.'

35 participants from ten countries ranged from university lecturers and an industrialist from St. Petersburg, an ex-Cabinet Minister with responsibility for ethnic minorities in Estonia to a Russian Orthodox priest from Latvia, a Polish farmer, and a Lithuanian journalist who was in the Vilnius television tower in January 1991 where the fate of her country was decided.

'We must talk out our pain,' said a Latvian university lecturer, 'The ethnic mentality is dangerous. The key is the individual soul's relation to God, not ethnic identity.' A Russian teacher said, 'The first step towards democracy in Russia is to begin to tell the truth. Help us to know the truth. That is more important than bread and sugar.'



Caux Round Table in China

## CAUX ROUND TABLE

Caux has been the birthplace for many important initiatives. The *Caux Round Table*, an international association of business executives is one. Against the background of growing frictions in world trade, the CRT was convened in Caux in 1986 at the initiative of Frederik J. Philips, the Dutch former President of Philips, and Olivier Giscard d'Estaing from France, the Vice Chairman of the INSEAD business school. They invited European, American and Japanese industrialists to join in a dialogue designed to search for 'what is right rather than who is right'. The CRT meets each summer at Caux; a further, interim meeting each year alternates between Europe, North America and Asia.

In 1993, the interim session was held in Tokyo, and included a three-day visit to Guangdong Province in Southern China. One day was spent in a Round Table meeting in Guangzhou, with the Provincial Governor, Zhu Senlin, and nine department heads and mayors. The 1994 interim session took place in early February in Berlin, at the Academy for East-West Cooperation.

The *Caux Round Table* is formulating a world standard of business behaviour based on shared values, and drawing on the personal and corporate experience of its members, and on the expertise available in their countries.

## RUSSIAN 'WAY OF CHANGE'

In January 1993, MRA published in Moscow 25,000 copies of *Na Puti Peremen*, ('The way of change') a 48-page magazine on the theme of 'the possibility of peoples learning to forgive'. With an Anglo-Russian editorial board, the magazine had

four original articles by Russians and an article on MRA and forgiveness in international affairs reprinted from the Russian journal *Friendship of Peoples*, as well as material from *For a Change* (the English-language magazine of MRA). 1,000 copies were requested by the Ministry of Nationalities, and another 1,000

by a university professor involved with the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Memorial, the nationwide human rights organization founded by Andrei Sakharov, Sergei Kovalev and others took 2,000 copies.

Then in April, Rajmohan Gandhi and his wife were welcomed to Moscow at a reception organized by 40 friends of MRA in Russia, at the headquarters of Memorial. Gandhi, a grandson of the Mahatma, had been until recently head of India's Human Rights Commission. The event was carried on national television news. Gandhi was the official guest of Sergei Kovalev, then chairman of the Russian Parliament's human rights committee, who received him along with other committee members in the parliament building.

Gandhi met people in the Yeltsin government, the parliament, press and academia. Gandhi was also the keynote speaker at a seminar at the Russian Academy of Sciences on the Muslim contribution to Asian culture, and at a second seminar, at the University of the Humanities, he spoke on MRA's contribution to inter-religious and inter-ethnic peace-making.



Gandhi is interviewed for radio

## FOUNDATIONS FOR FREEDOM

After an experimental pilot-program in 1993, *Foundations for Freedom*, a series of courses 'on the values that underlie a truly free society' has been launched by Moral Re-Armament in Europe. The organizers say, 'The euphoria brought on by the ending of the Cold War has evaporated, and the reality of a divided and unstable world community has again become apparent. In both East and West Europe the devaluation of religious belief and the failure of secular ideologies have left a dangerous moral and spiritual vacuum.'



J Bennett

Participants in the Tiryly Garth course

There are two types of course in the program – visiting courses, at the request of individuals or groups 'on the ground' and an annual international course based at Tiryly Garth, Cheshire, Britain. The first visiting course took place in September 1993 in Slovakia, at the invitation of Dr. Joseph Glasa, a founder member of the Institute of Medical Ethics and Bioethics in Bratislava. A group of 15 from Slovakia, Ukraine, Holland, USA, Britain and Australia took part. One participant noted, 'Before, I never understood the need to go back and put things right, I simply tried to rejoin God's way without repenting.'

The first course in Tiryly Garth drew on speakers from British industry, politics and education. A Bulgarian student commented, 'The course made me think over my attitude towards the Russians as a people, and even helped me to partly free myself from my hate towards them.'

In the coming year, courses and visits in the framework of this program are planned in Belarus, Britain, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine.



FOUNDATIONS FOR FREEDOM

B Hamlin



Sushoba Barve

## CREATORS OF PEACE – A WOMEN'S INITIATIVE

What do a Tanzanian cabinet minister, an Australian aboriginal social worker, a Lithuanian TV producer and a Russian poetess have in common? They're all part of a network of women, 'creators of peace' striving to move 'from vision to action', and preparing a major session at Caux for 1994.

In 1991, women from around the globe initiated a gathering at Caux to explore how to be creators of peace in a troubled world. That conference, attended by more than 600 women and men from 62 countries, led to an ongoing process of exploration and actions, including conferences in Zimbabwe and Samoa. Mrs Anna Abdallah, Minister of State in the Tanzanian Government, has been at the heart of this initiative from the start. She says, 'Peace is dependent not only upon disarmament but also upon the attitudes and decisions of individuals.'

One who has been putting these ideas into practice is Sushoba Barve, in Dharavi, Bombay, the largest slum in Asia, with perhaps 750,000 inhabitants. An article in the *New York Times* describes the enduring fear in the wake of the terrible communal riots of late 1992 – early 1993. The journalist writes, 'Sushoba Barve travels from a middle-class sea-front apartment everyday into the slums to try to create a climate of understanding between Hindus and Muslims that will prevent another explosion of violence.' Noting that Ms Barve works with Moral Re-

G Williams

Armament, the article quotes her as saying, 'More rhetoric for communal harmony isn't enough. If we could make these citizens-police committees work in the long run, they would help the social fabric of the city.' Along with Kekoo Gandhi, who has also had extensive experience with MRA, she was appointed by the State Governor of Bombay to an official peace committee.

## THE CAUX SCHOLARS PROGRAM

For the past three years, Caux has been the home to a pilot programme for young people of high academic achievement and leadership potential: the *Caux Scholars Program*. It has drawn students from 51 colleges and 24 countries and combines a rigorous study of the theory and practice of conflict resolution with an exploration of the role of the individual in bringing about change.

The participants have included a South African Rhodes Scholar, a Japanese graduate of Georgetown School of Foreign Service, a Cambodian attending the University

mentarian Dr. Karl Mitterdorfer. The late Dr. James Laue, a highly-regarded scholar and practitioner of conflict resolution, played a key role in developing the curriculum.

## 'TRAVELLING CONFERENCE' IN LATIN AMERICA

A four-week 'travelling conference' on the theme 'Change to build bridges, new lives, relationships between nations' took place in early 1993, at the initiative of three young Latin American women. A group from 16 different nations, including two young Latvians, moved with them from Brazil to Uruguay and Argentina for a series of public meetings, conferences and visits.

At a meeting in Petropolis, the MRA centre in Brazil, speakers ranged from the President of the Association of Commerce for the state of Rio de Janeiro and a Federal Congressman, who is also Vice-President of the International Association of Employers, to the officeholders of several taxi cooperatives, and favela (shanty town) leaders. The travelling group met Luiz Martins, the Secretary-General of the Bus-Drivers Union, one of the most important unions in the city, with 47,000 members. He told them that his meeting with MRA in 1961 had changed his thinking. 'I came from the interior of the country, where there were no organizations to protect the workers. My idea at that time was that you have to use violence to survive. I understood

I had to change my philosophy. I am convinced that my work in the unions would otherwise have been entirely different,' he said.



The 1992 Caux Scholars

of California, Berkeley and a Ukrainian student from Kiev University. 'I have met a few extraordinary individuals through the CSP who have helped me transform my life from victim of hatred and past wrongs to survivor of many hard lessons,' wrote one participant. An Amherst College student said, 'Caux has changed my view of myself, the world, and my role in it.'

Faculty and guest lecturers have included former US Assistant Secretary of State Harold Saunders, and Italian senator and European parlia-



Initiators of the travelling conference

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