



Founder and force behind Moral Re-Armament, Pennsylvania-born Frank Buchman. His mission in life: to "remake" individuals, classes, races and nations.

# MRA: *Will It Master Communism?*

Frank Buchman's potent ideology has spread to eighty countries in thirty years, and it may be democracy's "hope" in the present World War of Ideas

By JOHN McCOOK ROOTS

*The author, a Harvard graduate and writer on communism and Far Eastern affairs, went to South Africa with Buchman in 1929 and since then has been closely associated with the MRA leader. When he is not traveling with MRA, Roots makes his home in Washington.*

**T**HE free nations, eager for a master weapon in the clash of ideologies, are turning today to a 73-year-old American with an idea that is sweeping the world.

He is Frank N. D. Buchman, founder of Moral Re-Armament (MRA), an international movement which in three decades has spread to 80 countries and which is now regarded by many observers on both sides of the Iron Curtain as democracy's most potent challenge to communism in the struggle for men's minds.

The other side of the Urals, Soviet Russia

has trained masses of German Communists who are infiltrating Western Germany by the hundreds every month. These men are warned to beware of Moral Re-Armament above everything else in the West.

Modern America has produced her share of statesmen, scientists, generals, industrialists—some of global stature. But of Buchman alone can it be said that he has initiated a universal idea which the record shows is proving stronger than Marxism in its appeal to the human mind. "If your country were to live this

# Its men and women live by four moral absolutes: honesty, purity, unselfishness, love

ideology," a battle-scarred disciple of Lenin told me in Europe, "communism would be unnecessary."

Three successive Speakers of the House of Representatives, both Democratic and Republican, have stated that MRA is doing more to bring peoples together than anything else in the field. ECA's first administrator, Paul Hoffman, has called it "the ideological counterpart of the Marshall Plan." And the chairman of a congressional committee who was sent to observe its international assembly in Switzerland reported that it was a "Gibraltar of hope" for the world.

Moral Re-Armament is a cause with a difference. It is not an organization; instead, it brings a new spirit into existing ones. There are no memberships, titles, rules, salaries or dues. There is nothing to join or resign from. "You are either in or out," says Buchman, "according to the quality of life you lead."

Generous toward others but highly disciplined themselves, the men and women of MRA live by four absolute moral standards—honesty, purity, unselfishness, love. All those of whatever race, class, faith or profession who sincerely try to apply these standards are MRA workers. No one knows their number, but it must run into the millions and it is growing fast.

Reversing the usual procedure of spotlighting other people's faults, MRA insists that change be-

gins at home. Says Buchman: "Everybody wants to see the other fellow changed. Every nation wants to see the other nation changed. But everybody is waiting for the other fellow to begin. If you want an answer for the world today, the best place to start is with yourself and your nation." His slogan for a new era in human relationships is: "Not *who* is right, but *what* is right."

## MRA's True Strength

MRA is activated by an international traveling force of 1000 full-time workers, including 100 war veterans; but its true strength lies in its thousands of local "cells" and in the leadership, in most countries, of businessmen, labor chiefs, government officials, workers, professional people, housewives and youth. It holds meetings throughout the world, sends "task forces" to hot spots of political or industrial unrest and maintains training centers at Caux, Switzerland; London, England; Ottawa, Canada; Mackinac Island, Mich., and Los Angeles. Its musical plays *Jotham Valley* and *The Good Road* and its drama *The Forgotten Factor* (called by John R. Steelman "the most effective single instrument for industrial teamwork") are playing to picked audiences on five continents. Films, radio, publications and television also carry MRA's idea to the world.

Moral Re-Armament is an ideology of change—basic, radical, revolutionary change in the nature of individuals, classes, races and nations.

"Peace," Buchman once said in a broadcast, "is not just an idea. It's people becoming different." And he sometimes quotes a British statesman: "To expect a change in human nature may be an act of faith. But to expect a change in human society without it is an act of lunacy."

Most people today assume that men and nations have certain fixed characteristics which do not, will not and cannot alter. Marx made this popular cynicism the foundation stone of his materialist ideology. For at the core of Marxism is the assumption that the "possessing classes" are incurably selfish and cannot be changed. And since they cannot be changed, they must be destroyed. That, in its simplest terms, is the doctrine of the class war under whose banner the Communist millions are today prepared to go out and conquer the world.

Frank Buchman brushes all this aside. "Human nature," he insists, "can be changed. That is the root of the answer. National economies can be changed. That is the fruit of the answer. World history can be changed. That is the destiny of our age."

MRA's accomplishments support this claim. In Europe, by living and

working with Communists and their families, its teams have changed hundreds of veteran Reds into ardent fighters for democracy. Last spring in Miami, an MRA task force brought to a screeching halt a three-year bitter strike feud in National Airlines and introduced a revolutionary change in industrial relationships at the overhaul base of Pan American. With both these companies, and with Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker's Eastern Airlines, MRA workers induced labor and management to apply the principles of "change," starting with themselves.

## MRA "Teams" Are Busy

In a unique joint statement, George T. Baker, National Airlines president, and W. T. Babbitt, leader of the opposing pilots, credited the solution to MRA. Baker said: "It took an apology on my part and absolute honesty to restore a basis of confidence." Said Babbitt: "Until I get more information, I shall refer to MRA as the wonder drug that makes real human beings out of people."

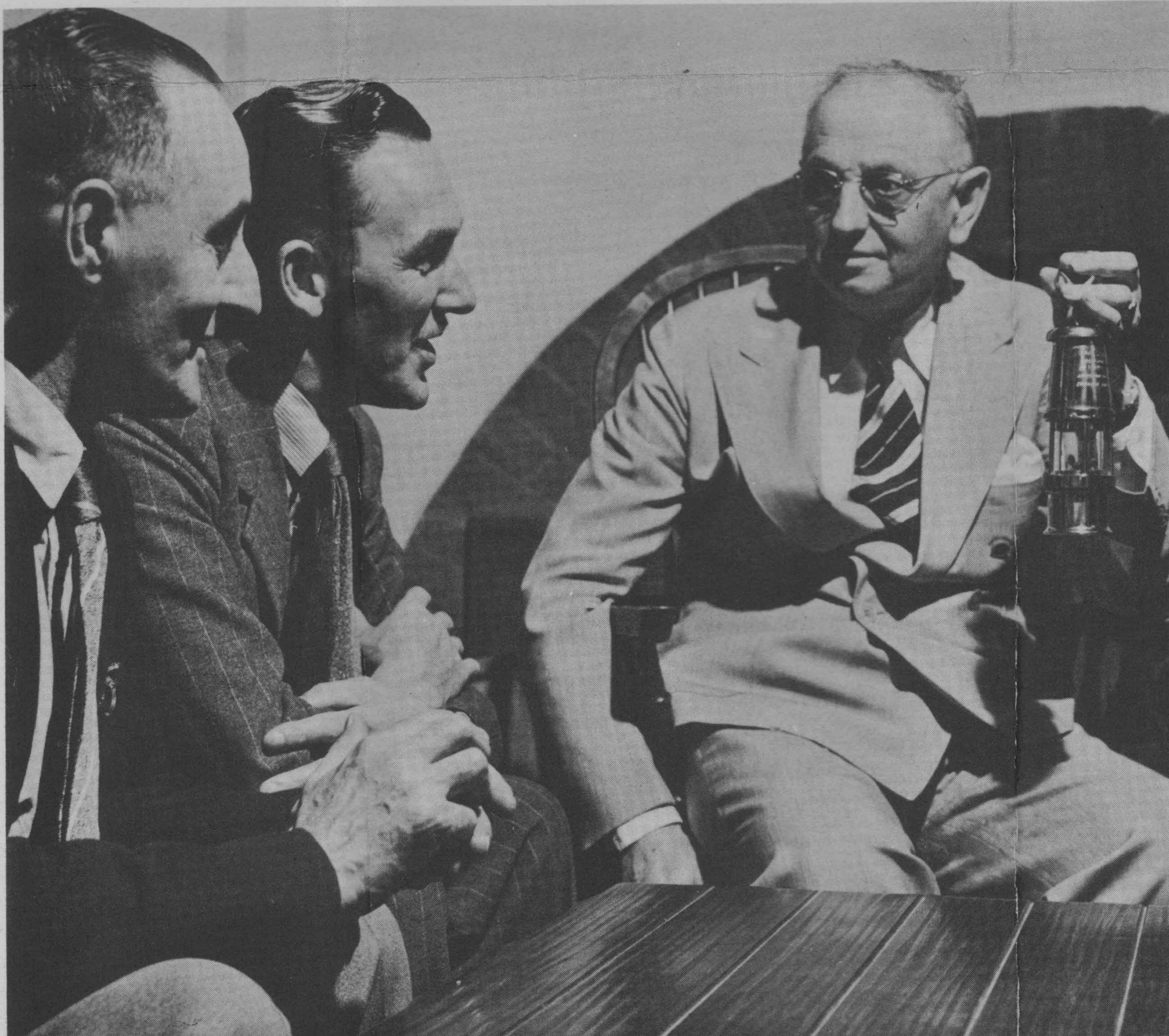
Other achievements have been equally impressive. In the six years since the war, MRA has been credited with an important part in filling the ideological vacuum in Germany and Japan; neutralizing Communist leadership in British coal mines, French factories and New Zealand docks; strengthening the independence of the Finnish government (the Communist press recently protested against Finland's "MRA Cabinet"); consolidating the democratic forces before the Italian and Turkish elections and inspiring racial unity in South Africa and Malaya.

For his work for Franco-German understanding and world peace, Buchman was recently decorated with the Legion of Honor on the initiative of Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, who also wrote the foreword to the French edition of his *Remaking the World*. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer last year welcomed him to the Ruhr to lead a counterdemonstration to the Communist rally in Berlin. Since V-E Day, the penetration of his "teams" into most corners of the world has led a State Department official to christen them the "Comintern of the democracies."

Buchman's understanding of the East is profound. Sun Yat-sen said, "You tell people the truth about themselves." Mohandas Gandhi called his work, "The most significant movement to come out of the West," and Mohammed Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan, told him: "You have the answer to the hates of the world." Leading colleagues of Jawaharlal Nehru have urged Buchman to bring a team to India. Last year, a 75-man all-party Japanese delegation to Caux stated: "We appeal to Western governments to make themselves expert in the ideology of Moral Re-Armament. Then all Asia will listen."

You will find MRA cells at work in a sugar mill in Jamaica, a coffee plantation in Brazil, a gold mine in Johannesburg or a youth congress in Prague. MRA men are equally at home at a national labor headquarters or the annual conclave of the National Association of Manufacturers, at the United Nations Assembly or a Democratic convention, at a shipworkers' local

Buchman with miner's lamp, gift of British miner Peter O'Conner and Frank Smith, Leicestershire union official.



# "The wonder drug that makes human beings of people"

or the Harvard Club. They are on terms of friendship with half the cabinets of Europe and Asia, with heads of the British Mineworkers and the German Coal Board, and with several thousand leaders of American and world labor — and their families.

Born June 4, 1878, in Pennsburg, Pa., Buchman often quotes as his own philosophy of world affairs William Penn's pungent saying: "If men refuse to be governed by God, they condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants."

His family came to this country in 1740 from St. Gallen, Switzerland. One ancestor translated the Koran into German. Another fought with Washington at Valley Forge. Another was the first Minnesotan to volunteer in the War Between the States. After he was graduated from Muhlenberg College at the turn of the century, Buchman spent most of his time in travel and in a firsthand study of men and events all over the world.

He dates a turning point in his career on the decision 40 years ago at Penn State (where he taught) to get up an hour earlier in the morning and from 5 to 6 a.m. ("when telephones don't ring") listen to God for direction. His life since then has been based on the plan of action noted down daily in this "quiet time." He believes that what the party line is to the Communist, divine guidance should be to the democrat. He holds that the main point about belief in God is that (1) the Creator has a plan for men and nations, (2) this plan can be discovered and (3) it should be obeyed.

The world phase of Buchman's work began in 1921. Attending the Washington Disarmament Conference, he became convinced that plans alone would not bring peace. He thereupon resigned a comfortable lecturership and has since devoted himself, unpaid and with no fixed abode, to training an international force of men and women. "You can plan a new world on paper," he often says, "but you must build it out of people."

The idea spread rapidly. In 1929 in South Africa, it was christened

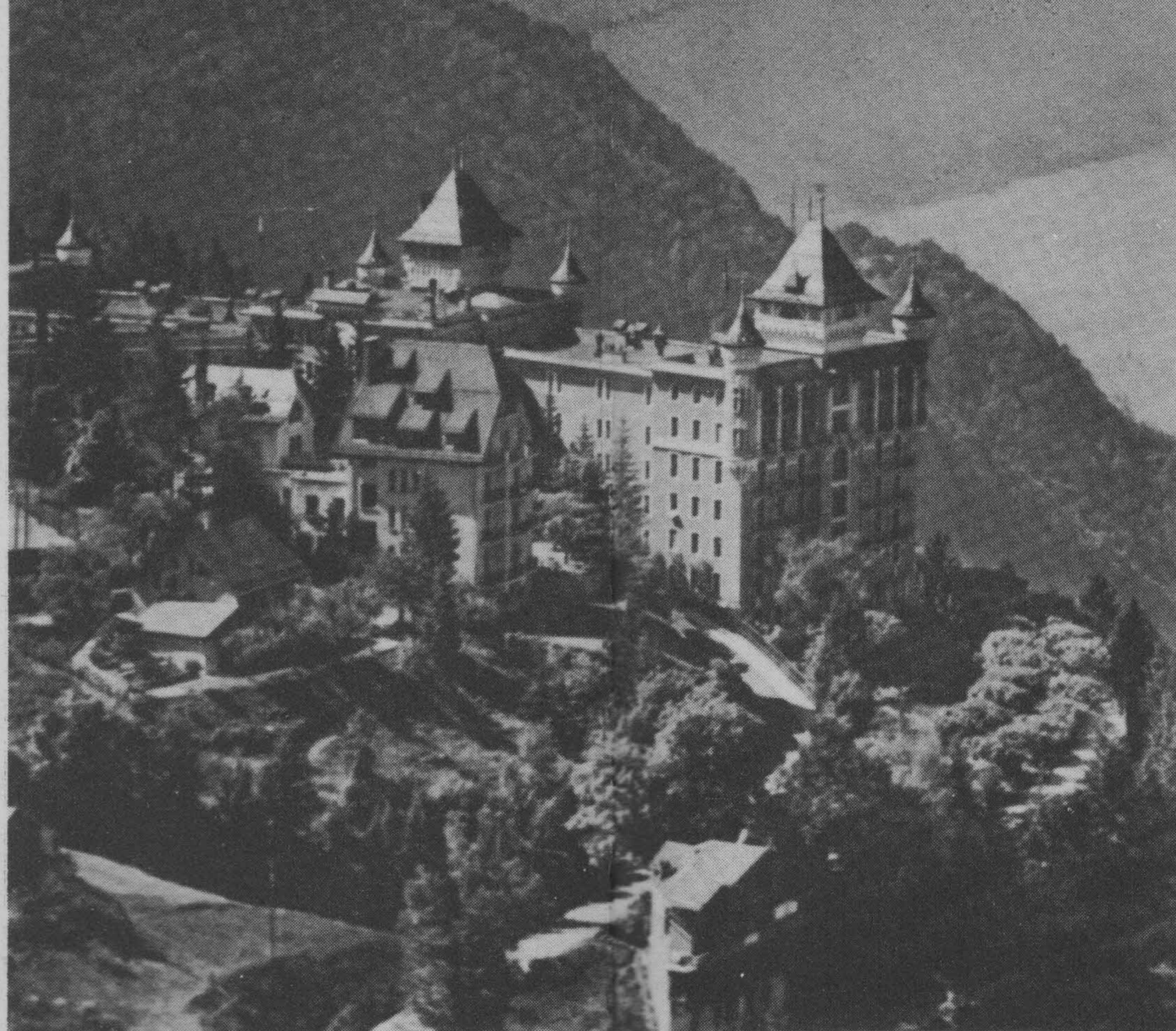
by the *Cape Times* the "Oxford Group" because of its large quota of Rhodes scholars and other Oxford men. Soon it had expanded to most of the countries of Europe and Asia. Observing its work in Geneva, Carl J. Hambro, Norway's veteran League of Nations delegate and president of the League Assembly, said: "These people have succeeded in fundamental things where we have failed. They have created a fellowship of men and women irrespective of nationality and political doctrine. They have created that constructive peace which we have been seeking in vain for years."

By 1938, Buchman was ready to launch, under the name of Moral Re-Armament, his bid to counter the rise of Nazism and the more distant threat of Communism — a bid which the *London Times* later described as "the evolution of an ideology with an expansive power greater than that with which the democracies are confronted."

MRA is a working democracy. Buchman's idea of leadership is to "train six people to do your work better than you do it yourself." He knows that no one-man movements or paper committees can possibly generate enough force to turn the evil currents of our age. The supreme aim of his life has been to create a self-perpetuating super-national organism (he prefers "organism" to "organization" because an organism is something that lives), with a common discipline, unity, strategy and zeal sufficient to regenerate the free nations and master any totalitarian ideology.

Opposition to MRA (and there has been plenty of it) comes chiefly from those who don't want to start with themselves in changing the world. Totalitarians who want to start with the system, and materialistic elements in the democracies who don't want to start anywhere, have always resisted Buchman. Then there are the sound citizens whose ignorance of the facts makes them an easy prey to rumor.

MRA has drawn the fire equally of Nazis and Communists; of the extreme right and extreme left in



MRA's Mountain House, its world training center at Caux, Switzerland.

## Divine guidance—"party line" of Moral Re-Armament

politics; of aggressive atheists and narrow ecclesiastics. In Britain, it has been accused of being a brilliantly clever front for fascism; in Germany and Japan, of being a super-intelligent arm of the British and American intelligence services. Col. John D. Langston, deputy national director of Selective Service in World War II, concludes: "Nothing but a potentially vast moral and spiritual renaissance of global proportions could possibly be honored by antagonisms so contradictory in character and so world-wide in scope."

Buchman's principles are not new; they are the great universals of human experience — the moral law and the guidance of God. They are also the heart of our American heritage.

But though his principles are not new, his thoroughness in practicing them is. His first act after his own change 40 years ago was to write letters of apology to six men against whom he had borne what most would have called a justifiable resentment. He never heard from those men, but the result of his change of heart was Moral Re-Armament.

His philosophy of money is applicable, he believes, to the whole world economy: (1) "There is enough for everybody's need, but not enough for everybody's greed." (2) "Where everybody cares enough, and everybody shares enough, everybody will have enough."

For 30 years, Buchman has had no salary and no permanent home. His fellow workers, hundreds of them constantly traveling around the world, likewise are unpaid. Yet none has ever gone hungry. "Where God guides, He provides," says Buchman. There are no mysterious millionaires to pay the bills. The financing is carried, often at great personal sacrifice, by thousands of men and women who wish to invest in a permanently better world.

### No Reserves—No Debts

MRA is registered in New York State as a nonprofit corporation, and contributions are tax-deductible. At the time of writing, there are no reserves — and no debts. A typist in New York, one in London and one in Paris give \$2 a week. A California teacher contributes \$50 a year, and a congressman in Washington \$50 a month. A Virginia doctor paid for bringing the first Germans to Caux, and a Long Island lawyer for the first Japanese.

Veterans have contributed \$73,000 from wartime bonuses. A business firm sent \$5000 for help received in industrial relations and a labor leader wrote: "My wife has quit nagging. Here's \$10." People have sold homes, land, insurance policies, heirlooms, jewelry. Several full-time workers have invested their entire capital. Records show gifts from unions, American Legion posts, gardeners, cooks, schoolchildren, ministers, priests, rabbis, druggists, script writers, actresses. A Swiss bride gave her dowry, and a reformed German Communist his party dues, along with his former outlay for cigarets and schnapps. Multiplied, these are the financial backers of Moral Re-Armament.

Many donate gifts in kind. Doctors, dentists, laundrymen, hairdressers and taxi owners give their services free. James C. Petrillo's musicians have often turned back their salary checks after MRA shows. A hundred tons of paper from American manufacturers have gone into *The World Rebuilt* and other MRA books published abroad. Sugar from Jamaica, carpets from Scotland, fish from Norway, butter from Denmark, flour from Canada, coal from the Ruhr help run the World Assemblies.

MRA's budget is streamlined. Its U. S. operations last year totaled one tenth the cost of a single B-36 bomber. With this figure in mind, one Washington congressman who

Japanese delegates to 1951 MRA World Assembly, Mackinac Island, Mich.



# Yearly cost in U.S. is one tenth that of a B-36

recently took the lead in slashing 90 million dollars from the Voice of America's request for funds, told me he would vote to restore the cuts in full if this program were to reflect the spirit of MRA. "How else," he insisted, "could the American taxpayer get such a return for his money?"

National defense budgets may be affected by the fact that top-ranking military leaders now recognize that Buchman's program provides them with new weapons in an ideological age. The former commander of French troops in Indo-China states that had he known MRA in 1945, the country could have been united without

civil strife. Maj. Gen. Francis Wilby, wartime superintendent of West Point, called MRA "the arm behind the Army." It is a part of officers' training programs in Denmark, Sweden and France and of the West German and Japanese police. Britain's *RAF Journal* recently recommended "a study of Moral Re-Armament by every officer and man in the Air Forces." German generals are on record with the prediction that "only through MRA" can their country be roused to join the defense of Europe.

The current war threat in Iran brings to mind a revealing incident which occurred when I was

traveling with Buchman through the Middle East. One evening in Cairo, the dean of Egypt's newspaper proprietors entertained us at dinner. After everyone had left, I sat on with the old man.

## "Too Late . . . Unless"

"You know," he said with emotion, "I have devoted my life to bringing East and West together. But I have lost hope. The English have given us so much—schools, banks, an irrigation system, a civil service, a Parliament. But they never gave us their hearts. Now it is too late . . ."

"Unless," the sad voice brightened, "unless London and Wash-

ington were to send out half a dozen men like Frank Buchman. That would alter everything."

Soviet Russia fights with four great offensive arms—military, economic, political and ideological. The democracies as yet reply with only three—military, economic, political. Can the democracies live and propagate a universal ideology which will win the human race? Buchman answers "yes."

In Moral Re-Armament, such an ideology is in action on a global front. In every decisive field of affairs, it has been sufficiently tested to give assurance that, when adequately backed by governments and peoples, the entire international picture can be transformed.

END

Former top Communists in the German Ruhr, now men of MRA: Fritz Heske, Willy Benedens, Max Bladeck, Paul Kurowski and Hermann Stoffmehl.

