

UCLA STUDENT BODY LEADER SAYS MRA IS THE ANSWER

EDITOR'S NOTE: Willard Johnson, president of the student body of 12,000 at University of California at Los Angeles, now attending the Asian Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Baguio, the Philippines, cabled the following exclusive article to this newspaper.

By WILLARD JOHNSON

There is a clear conclusion that can be drawn from the Asian Assembly for Moral Re-Armament held the last two weeks at Baguio. Moral Re-Armament is the only real solution to the race problem in the United States.

Before this Assembly I felt the race problem to be America's foremost problem. But here we have been able to see it as a symptom of a much deeper problem. The fundamental cause of this problem is the lack of moral character in individual Americans.

Americans like myself have been blind to our own personal faults of extreme pride, ambition, and materialism, which has led to the self-righteous attitude towards other countries, towards other races. Only an answer which can penetrate into the heart of men and make them see themselves as they are will be effective in eliminating the pride and self-righteousness of men who refuse to accept change.

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THE EVIDENCE of the power of an ideology based on absolute moral standards has been given by delegates gathered here from 27 countries.

We witnessed a dramatic reconciliation between Japan and Korea. Niro Hoshijima, senior member of the Japanese Diet, who had signed the Japanese Peace Treaty at San Francisco, recalled his visit to the Philippines in 1955 with the MRA Ideological Mission when he apologized publicly for the wrongs committed by the Japanese during the war.

"The response of hundreds of Filipinos at that time was the greatest moment of my life," he said. "There is a very deep desire in my heart as I come to this conference. Relations between Japan and our nearest neighbor, Korea, are not what they should be. This is primarily the responsibility of the Japanese. We are beginning to understand that only through MRA can we begin to have a new relationship between our countries."

The chairman of the Foreign

Relations committee of the Korean National assembly, replied, "The real difficulties between Korea and Japan can only be solved through the spirit of Moral Re-Armament. We need to change personally," he said, "but it also needs to issue in political, social, economic and international changes. I have to change and every nation has to change. Just as the differences between Korea and Japan can be solved through the spirit of MRA, so, too, can every nation find unity."

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THESE STATEMENTS were given prominence on the front pages of the Korean government newspapers. "The Kyung Hyung Press" in a front page editorial on the imperative need for Moral Re-Armament, said, "The Japan-Korea relationship is solvable by MRA. Koreans welcome the apology with a tolerant spirit. May MRA's standards become the Korean social and ethical code."

General Ho Ying-chin, chairman of the Military Strategy Advisory Board of Taiwan, war-time Chief of Staff of the Chinese Armies, declared that

what he and others had striven for in ten years of post-war diplomatic effort and failed to achieve, had been accomplished here at Baguio.

President Carlos P. Garcia of the Philippines and Mrs. Garcia, accompanied by members of the Cabinet and Congressional leaders, traveled through the night by special train to Baguio to welcome to the Philippines the delegates to the Assembly. As reported in the "Manila Times," President Garcia came to a "fulfil a date made by the late President Magsaysay."

President Garcia told the delegates, "Moral Re-Armament is sounding a chord that will certainly find responsive hearts the world over."

The ineffectiveness of relative standards as the guidepost to moral decision was clear. As one delegate from Kentucky put it, "When I measured my life against absolute moral standards — honesty, purity, unselfishness and love — I realized I could never again feel superior to a Negro or anyone else."

The delegate explained further that when he made the decision to give his life in the

task of remaking the world, he found the courage to be honest with Negro friends about how he had really lived. They found real unity that not have existed on any lesser basis.

This is the key to the South. It is the answer MRA can bring. As Prime Minister U Nu of Burma said in a special message to the assembly, "This is an ideology above class and race because it seeks to answer the needs of the heart. This ideology seeks to change men, their ideas, their motives and their aims."

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THIS ANSWER is needed in the Negro community. Only the ideology of MRA can answer racial prejudice because it is the only force that can challenge both black and white to change and build a new world. We, Negroes, have often attempted to answer racial prejudice and hatred with an equal amount of prejudice and hatred toward the whites. Our real battle is against prejudice, not against the people involved in it.

One of the most significant aspects of the Baguio Assembly was the fact that the many Asians here realized that there were people fully committed to bringing the answer of unity to the races in the United States—and they were committed with them. Many of the stories of racial conflict that have been distributed in this part of the world have been designed purposely to cause further disunity. The Asians also realized that the paradoxes of American democracy had their counterparts in their own countries. The delegates committed themselves to fight this global battle on a global scale.

This assembly was one of the few times when Asians through their desire to put straight their own mistakes have had a hand in bringing the answer to the racial problem in the United States. The commitment of these men has made me decide permanently to give my life for the answer of remaking the world. With men who give everything on the basis of the ideology of MRA, I believe we can bring change to all the areas that need change.



WILLARD JOHNSON, UCLA student body president, calls Moral Re-Armament solution to U.S. race problem.