

# Far-from-dead MRA recognises urgent need to develop morality

**M**oral Re-Armament (MRA), the international movement for personal and national change, dead? No sir! Your editorial "Development and morality" (*The Star*, April 30) consigns it to the dustbin of history, but it is as vibrant today as it has ever been, albeit perhaps without the charisma of its founder, Frank Buchman. Right now the worldwide movement is rejuvenating itself. In August 2001 MRA formally changed its name to Initiatives of Change (IC). In South Africa the MRA is also changing its name to Initiatives of Change.

In addition to this, on April 1, Initiatives of Change International, an association with MRA/IC bodies as affiliates worldwide, was launched under the chairmanship of Dr Cornelio Sommaruga, former head of the International Red Cross and currently a member of the UN investigating team in Palestine.

The new emphasis is more

on action-oriented programmes than pious talk. International programmes running in countries across the five continents include:

■ **Hope in the Cities**, launched in the US several years ago to bring people together to deal with inner-city problems, particularly race.

■ **Agenda for Reconciliation**, dealing with the flashpoints of conflict between people and nations in many critical areas across the world.

■ **Action for Life**, a programme to help youth find true purpose and a moral foundation.

■ **Caux Conference for Business and Industry**, which every July brings businessmen, industrialists and trade unionists from around the world together at the IC international conference centre of Caux in Switzerland for dialogue on global issues affecting business.

■ **Foundations for Freedom**, a course which helps people in the new democracies of East-

ern Europe understand and build their moral and social foundations.

In addition, other programmes with links to MRA/IC are the International Communications Forum, the Caux Round Table (a meeting of world business leaders) and Renewal Arts (using art, drama and music as a catalyst for change).

More information is available on [www.initiativesofchange.org](http://www.initiativesofchange.org).

Each year for six weeks in July and August, hundreds of people from each continent, meet at Mountain House, Caux to take part in these programmes which continue throughout the rest of the year in specific areas.

The starting point of MRA is the readiness of each person to make honesty, purity, unselfishness and love absolute and central in his or her life.

With this foundation the next step is to seek God's will

and solutions to problems on the basis of what is right – not who is right – and then to be prepared to challenge people to live what is right in all situations.

In South Africa MRA/IC has been networking people of different races, cultures and religions in the work of reconciliation, respect for one another and the connecting of communities.

MRA/IC has been involved in developing training programmes in schools with the emphasis on leadership development and moral and spiritual values. A life-skills course for young adults is planned for next year.

Your editorial is a timely reminder that we need to be more active in addressing the needs for moral standards in every initiative we take, if these are genuinely to sustain our people.

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