

# NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

## Men of faith for a community of peoples

### Caux: special session announced

1976 marks the 30th anniversary of the Moral Re-Armament Conference Centre in Caux, Switzerland. It will be in session this summer from 10 July until 2 September.

Within this framework a special session is being held for the countries bordering the Mediterranean with the theme 'Men of faith for a community of peoples'. This will take place from 2 — 10 August.

The invitation for this session, which is signed by 64 French men and women, reads in part:

Because of their geographical position as well as for other historical and practical reasons, the nations located on the shores of the Mediterranean, heirs of centuries of tradition, are now called to the task of uniting the world.

Former colonies and colonialists, nations rich and less rich, those who welcome immigrant workers and those whose workers emigrate, consumers and exporters of raw materials, all will overcome their understandable antagonisms and draw from their different faiths the sense of their common task — to build a community of peoples.

#### Spiritual heritage

It is in this spirit that the special session of August 2 — 10 will take place during the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament.

Here are some suggested themes for thought and discussion:

- \* Each individual can find, in the depth of his own conscience, sources of inspiration and strength to fulfil his own responsibilities as a citizen. What can we learn from the spiritual heritage of three continents?
- \* The resources of the world contain enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed.
- \* The contribution of immigrant populations.
- \* The family unit in the service of a more stable society.

In the immediate post-war period some of the nations of Europe found in Caux the key to reconciliation, thanks to certain men and women who overcame their divisions in

order to prepare together for the future.

Oppressed minorities have found there not only a welcoming platform but also open hearts and the basis of a solution to their problem.

But, above all, men and women have there learned truths in their own personal lives, which they are now working to make effective in the lives of their nations. A new

mentality has gone out from Caux and is already spreading in the world.

French men and women from different social, political and religious backgrounds have taken the initiative to invite their neighbours of the great Mediterranean family to spend this week together. They hope to share the responsibility with people of many other lands.

## El Alamein re-visited

by Matt Manson

IT WAS A BRIGHT BLUE Mediterranean morning in Alexandria when my Egyptian friend, Radames, whom I had first met during World War II, called with his car to drive me with some friends to El Alamein. Now a senior business man, but still living in the family home where he and his family had given us soldiers such royal hospitality 33 years ago, he offered to take us to that spot he knew meant so much to those of us from Britain.

Along that Western Desert road, running parallel with the Mediterranean Sea, we sped till we hit a sand storm. It was like old times. On went the car lights and we picked our way gingerly through the white dust. Mercifully, as we approached the battlefield the storm subsided and there, in the silence of the sands, we gazed on the acres of tombstones.

There before us lay together the men of the Commonwealth, from India, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South, West and East Africa and all parts of Britain.

As I stood, I thought of that morning of V Day (Victory Day) 1945 in Cairo when we, who remained, paraded to take part in the Service of Thanksgiving. I remember we sang:

*'O valiant hearts who to your glory came  
Through dust of conflict and through battle  
flame.*

*Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved  
Your memory hallowed in the land you  
loved.'*

Back in the desert, Radames said, 'Shall we go over to the German and Italian memorials?' I was glad we did. I was forced to think of the multitudes of young Germans and Italians — the flower of their generation likewise — who also gave their all in the infernal struggle. And I reflected that it was a combination of ineffective European statesmanship and smallness of aim and vision on the part of all of us between the wars which culminated in this terrible day of reckoning in October 1942.

But the Eastern end of the Mediterranean is historic not only because of El Alamein. Not long ago President Bourguiba of Tunisia said, 'The Eastern end of the Mediterranean is the place where in historical times Heaven has touched the Earth three times, through Moses, Jesus and Mohammed. Today it is the place where God seems to have withdrawn His presence from the Earth.'

Press, radio and television reports tend to give the impression that this is so. But my encounters with many of those who have

EL ALAMEIN contd on p4

# Easter 76

## OPPORTUNITY

For a young man or woman,  
offering interesting, life-time position  
with guaranteed, permanent employment.

## QUALITIES NEEDED

Initiative, courage and care

## DIPLOMAS NEEDED

None

## THE JOB

To establish a new and just society  
where everyone has a unique  
and important part to play.  
Traditional ways and structures  
are buckling under  
new pressures and challenges.  
To respond creatively  
to these challenges,  
a change of heart and motive  
in individuals is needed.  
The task for the coming years is to  
bring about this change in ourselves  
and our countries voluntarily  
and in time.

## EXPLORATORY ORIENTATION SESSION

International Easter Conference  
for Moral Re-Armament

## DATE

Friday 16 April, 16.00 hrs —  
Monday 19 April, 19.00 hrs  
Optional stay till  
Tuesday after breakfast.

## PLACE

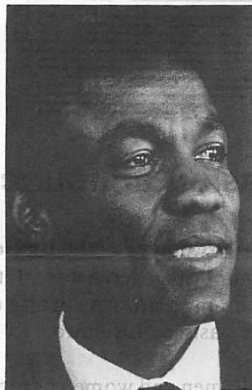
'De Westerhelling' Boarding School,  
Sophiaweg 8, Nijmegen, 20 km  
from Arnhem in the East of Holland, can easily  
be reached both by car and by train.

## SESSION WILL INCLUDE

Stimulating exchanges between people  
from many different countries  
Speakers of varied background  
and experience who will give  
fresh insight into  
the problems of our time  
Films and discussion groups  
Recreation and sport  
The gaiety of music and the  
depth of the Easter experience

More details available from 'Easter 76',  
Amaliastraat 10, The Hague, Holland.

## MY FELLOW MAN IN BRITAIN



by  
Conrad  
Hunte

From the top of a hill  
I looked out  
Across the open plain.  
I saw fields and farms  
Cows and chickens  
Factories and fences.  
There were cars and trucks travelling  
Human habitation with families resting,  
The countryside of old England.  
And beyond out of view the open sea.

The voice inside said,  
'Limit not your vision  
To man's horizon,  
Beyond is the limitless Kingdom  
Of God's creation  
And re-creation.

Never be bound,  
Keep reaching out  
To His new foundation.  
Walk ye in newness of life.

In this land of patriots and poets  
Saints and sages, miners and masons,  
And in other lands,  
We are witnessing

The death pangs of the old  
The birth pains of the new.  
All love is born in pain.  
Who will love his homeland  
And live for her future  
And forge the new charter  
For the world's sake?'

'I will,' said the voice inside.  
'On the foundation  
Of pain and sacrifice  
I will build the new nation.  
Out of suffering and sacrifice  
Will grow men of mercy and compassion  
With great thinking,  
Fine arts and crafts, which will be  
A wonder of the world!

You fellow man  
Cannot build this Kingdom.  
You can inherit it.  
Through obedience  
I will take the strain and stress  
Out of living.  
You will have the peace  
Which the world cannot give.  
And the poor shall inherit the Earth.'

## Playing to Win

by Conrad Hunte

He describes his colourful cricket career as Vice-Captain of the West Indies, his work in the 33 British cities with the largest immigrant populations, and his encounters with Edward Heath, Enoch Powell, police and Black Power leaders.

Price: 45p p+p 30p  
MRA Books, 54 Lyford  
Road, London SW18 3JJ

# Conformers and rebels

by Brian Boobbyer

I GREW UP in a sporting family. It started with both my grandfathers. One was a medical pioneer and the other a bishop, and they both lived and loved cricket. The women, too, were especially good at cricket and lacrosse.

My brother and I searched every second-hand bookshop we could find to hunt for cricket books. Eventually we had about 300 between us. Through the summer in the garden we imitated the great players from 1870 onwards.

In the winter it was football. Every Saturday evening I went down to Ealing Broadway station, bought the evening paper, came home and read every football result aloud to my father. It was important that he did not see the results before me. I supported Charlton and Sheffield United. He supported Notts County.

When I was afraid of the dark or could not get to sleep I went under the bedclothes and played a cricket match and soon fell asleep. It was better than counting sheep.

## Wholehearted

At 12 I went to Uppingham School which played rugby and it took me two years to get used to it. I tackled half-heartedly and got hurt all the time. Then one day I did it wholeheartedly and painlessly. Almost overnight a game that I hated became the game that I loved.

It was a good way to learn that fear is a liar.

Life continued to move from one field to another. I had a certain faith, but there were no teeth in it; no concern for the world.

Then came the first of many rugby tours to France. Oxford were playing Stade Francaise in Paris, and it was the evening after match. I went with one of the players into a coffee shop near the Hotel du Printemps where we were staying.

The conversation that followed in that coffee shop changed the course of my life. We talked about things I had never talked about before. I cannot remember now what they were, but listening to God and changing the world came into it. I did not want to do either. I was quite satisfied as I was.

But something inside me compelled me to take his challenge seriously.

## Important experiment

We continued the conversation in Oxford, and I remember going to my room in Frewin Hall off Cornmarket Street and making the most important experiment of my life. I took a look at my life alongside Christ's standards, absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, absolute love. I wrote down the thoughts that came: fears,

**Brian Boobbyer, former English Rugby International, has spoken in about 50 school chapels, assemblies, colleges and sportsmen's services in the last few years. Here we print an address given in morning chapel at Blundells School, Devon.**



Brian Boobbyer

habits, self-centredness. I started getting up ten minutes earlier to listen to God. It soon became 20, then 30 and longer, getting fit and ready, not for a match, but to help bring a new spirit and direction to people, and to nations.

After leaving university I spent ten years in Asia and America with Moral Re-Armament. And I saw some of the toughest situations imaginable change because certain people decided to listen to the voice of God instead of the voice of hate. Specially I remember seeing this happen to reconcile the nations of the Pacific after the war.

## Squeezed into mould

Without change, people conform or rebel. We are all different. We have different faces, different hands, different interests.

But the world tries its hardest to make us all the same. Paul said to the Romans, 'Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould.' But the pressures of fear and fashion easily do their work, and we all become mediocre. We conform, and then comes the strain and sleeplessness of being someone else but me.

Conformity can be correct. But it can be 'cold correctness', as Browning put it.

People rebel against it, and then use the weaknesses of the system or of parents as a bitter excuse to live dirty and irresponsible lives. To blame somebody else for the way I am shows a serious lack of character.

The alternative is new men, men who have the courage to follow God and not the crowd. Victor Hugo wrote, 'To dare is the price of progress. To stand one's ground — that is the example that nations need, that is the light which electrifies them.'

I think of three courageous students that I know: a Trotskyite, a socialite and a dropout. All have changed so deeply in the last

months that they are unrecognisable; their faces, lives, language. They stopped blaming and took the blame. Now they are the most controversial people in their colleges.

## Wooded and won

Churchill spoke to the youth of 50 years ago in these words, 'Do not be content with things as they are. "The earth is yours and the fullness thereof." Don't take No for an answer. Never submit to failure. Do not be fobbed off with mere personal success or acceptance. You will make all kinds of mistakes: but as long as you are generous and true and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously distress her. She was made to be wooed and won by youth.'

There is a choice. Conform, and be safe: rebel and be bitter: or dare to follow the still small voice, and set the world alight.

# EDUCATION — what for?

**An Education Conference will take place in Caux, Switzerland, from 24 July — 3 August.**

**The conference invitation states:**

In the jungle of modern society and in the stress of ideological argument, education has a decisive part to play not only in schools and universities but also in family life, industry, the mass media and public life. All — not only those professionally involved in education — are invited to share their convictions and experience with people from every continent in the framework of the conferences for Moral Re-Armament at Caux.

'Among the themes already proposed are the following:

- Education of the whole man and education for all men.
- Education: a question of how you talk or of how you live.
- Change in the system or the teacher?
- The family: a living cell.
- Are there any universal standards of education?

The words of a Burmese headmistress, Daw Nyein Tha, are also quoted in the invitation:

*'Your job is not just to love your children, or to teach them facts, or to make them think, or even to train their characters, or to give them a faith. It is to equip them to remake the world. Every child in your care is a potential builder of a new social order.'*

## EL ALAMEIN contd from p1

suffered most in this region in these last months have convinced me that God is not absent.

Over the Christmas period it was my good fortune to stay with a Middle East refugee family. They had lost everything, home, possessions, even members of their family, and had to start life from nothing in a town far away. In the new home where, bit by bit, the house was being furnished, I was their first guest. All I can say is that during that visit my cup of faith was filled.

The manner in which people in all walks of life in Cyprus, Egypt, Greece and Turkey are responding to the invitation to the special Mediterranean Conference to be held at Caux in August is another tangible measure of this faith.

It could be that through such men of faith from all the Mediterranean lands, from North and South, East and West, becoming fused into one great family with one heart, one will and one goal, Heaven might once again touch the Earth.

## Great-grandfather contributed too

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH is engaged in total confrontation today, and those of us who are committed to this battle would be wise to get our priorities straight.

My sister and I, like many other people, possess some greatly loved family treasures. They are a heritage from the past.

A new wing and other extensions are to be commenced at Armagh, the Australian centre for Moral Re-Armament, and this represents a great deal of money.

Having given the money we felt to be right towards this project, my sister and I turned our thoughts to any bric-a-brac that might have been hidden away, or was at least unnecessary in our home. Then out of the blue, one of us had the thought to consider selling a very valuable gold seal which had belonged to our great-grandfather.

This was shattering, and nothing at all to do with unwanted bric-a-brac. However if one invites God to guide, He is apt to take one seriously, and the suggestions received are not always welcome, or what one had expected.

However we decided to face the thought, and came up with the following decisions. Yes, family heirlooms are a responsibility, and a trust, but so also is the freedom to practise our Christian faith. Our great-grandfather belonged to this faith, and we came to the conclusion that he would sooner see his seal with its ancient crest sold in order to preserve this freedom of worship, than that his descendents should guard it in a cabinet, possibly to be sold by a later generation to buy their escape to live.

Usually the first thing the Scottish pioneers built, after their homes were established, was a church. They knew their priorities. We are glad to have decided upon our priorities in our generation.

Innes Cameron  
Betty S Cameron

## General's 'superior power'

IRAN'S DEPUTY MINISTER OF WAR, Lt-General M Sadeghian, earlier this month received a group of 20 undergraduates of the University of Portland, Oregon, led by Professor John Cooper. He spoke to them of his son Ali Murad, who as a student in his last year at that same university had been murdered and robbed by hitch-hikers to whom he had given a lift on his way westward across the continent to complete his studies.

Addressing this group at a reception which he had arranged for them to meet his colleagues, the General wished them every success in their researches into the Persian language and culture, the object of their visit. He said he hoped that they would also learn in Iran that humane quality of moral re-armament which alone enabled him, he said, by the grace of God, to meet them with an open heart and no anger against the innocent fellow-countrymen of those whose victim his son had been.

'Our two great nations,' continued the General, 'have been given the destiny of leading mankind on the path of integrity, humanity and mutual help. We are glad to have been able to put transport at your disposal during your stay in Tehran to take you anywhere your programme may demand, and also, on your leisure days, up to our mountains for skiing and climbing.'

The American visitors said that this entire reception had been an overwhelming demonstration of the superior power of love and forgiveness over the animal passions of hate and revenge which lie behind so much of the violent demonstrations of our modern world.

## Militant morning call

Les Dennison, Coventry building trade unionist, recently took part in a 70-minute phone-in on 'Marxism and Christianity' on Radio Birmingham's popular 'Morning Call' programme. Together with a clergyman, Dennison fielded an unprecedented number of phone calls, and the programme was later repeated.

'COMMUNISTS are men who are concerned with what's wrong with society, men who passionately care, and believe that Marx had the answer,' said Dennison. 'I long for Christians to have the passion, discipline and world vision of the Marxist. Then you'd find they'd take the offensive and win men such as I was — a Communist for 22 years. I met revolutionary Christians who related their faith to what was wrong in society and brought answers — not theories — to society.'

Dennison spoke of his own road to faith, starting with the challenge he received from a Christian — that he fought for the unity of the working class, but he wasn't united in his home. 'Bang, it hit me straight between the eyes. The ABC is reconciliation in the family, new attitudes in industry, and across the world,' Dennison continued.

### Nitty-gritty

Asked how his fellow workers on the building site reacted to his new ideas, he said, 'I used to tell them what I'd seen; and without exception, the positive, related, Christian experience grips men. You relate your experience of Christ, of God, to the nitty-gritty of the situation you're in in industry, then men listen.'

'So you set out,' asked the compere, 'to show that your Christianity didn't take you

out of the fight, but it drove you into it with a different kind of enthusiasm?' 'The men I met didn't tell me to stop hating,' answered Dennison. 'They told me to stop hating the men I used to hate, but hate what's wrong. They didn't tell me to stop fighting, they told me how to fight more effectively. So often people equate Christianity with going soft, going easy. I hate just as vehemently as any Marxist the injustices, the exploitation, the degradation, and I fight to put it right.'

He expressed gratitude for the Archbishop of Canterbury's Call to the Nation, and quoted a militant left wing colleague from the car industry saying, 'This is the first time I've had my cynical attitude towards the Church shaken.'

He spoke of the social evils that sincere Marxists want to change. 'To the revolutionary Christian, this is social sin, and there's no difference, but it all stems from a personal evil and a personal sin — the greed of the capitalist and the greed of the worker. The Marxists' passion stems from conscious hatred of what's wrong with society, and his love for his fellow man, but the one negates the other. For the Christian, it is love of men and his Almighty, and to do what the Almighty would like to see done across His world and the whole of society.'