

MRA Information Service

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His Holiness the Dalai Lama looks at photographs of MRA's work in Asia. With him are R D Mathur, one of the men responsible for MRA in India, and Roland Wilson, Secretary of MRA in Britain. The Dalai Lama in January sent a message to the opening of the world assembly at Panchgani, south east of Bombay. He said then, 'It may be too late for Tibet but we must think for other Asian nations now. MRA is very important because it teaches us not to hate anyone. The four moral standards of MRA are within the teachings of Buddhism. I hope in the future we will have an Asia Plateau centre (Panchgani) in Lhasa'

photo Leggat

NEW IDEAS FOR LORRAINE French industrial conference opens

A MILLION VIEWERS in Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium and France watched members of the cast of the MRA European musical revue, *Anything to Declare*, on Luxembourg-TV last Saturday.

At the same hour the Mayor of Thionville, Maitre Georges Ditsch, was opening a three day Lorraine conference for Moral Re-Armament in the Thionville Musical Centre.

'Never has Thionville seen such an

assembly of people from such varied backgrounds as is here tonight,' said the Mayor addressing 270 people including trade union leaders from different regions of France and other European countries, the local military commander, the deputy managing director of the De Wendel factories and senior representatives of every major steel producer in France.

A De Wendel executive said that only MRA could have sat a steel

manager down next to a militant trade unionist in his own industry. He said, 'We are expecting a great deal from this visit. Last time, in November it was brought home forcibly to people that MRA had new ideas to offer this region.'

John S Craig, Group Director Finance, Scottish and North West Group of the British Steel Corporation, during his two days in Lorraine, talked with many French steel directors. He said that change was inevitable in modern industry and that MRA helped to make the changes acceptable and beneficial to all.

The Mayor said he was grateful that MRA had returned in force to his region because it was on one hand a frontier land which had suffered much misery from the war, and on the other it was the home of a great European, Robert Schuman, who shared the ideas of MRA.

Guest of honour was A Lawson Wood who had been asked to speak on the theme 'Men of MRA and the crisis in Britain'. 'MRA did not offer a miracle, a panacea for industries or regions that were at deadlock,' he said, 'but demonstrated conclusively that answers were always possible when men were ready to change and accept their responsibilities for their industry and for the world.'

'When one speaks to militant trade unionists, the directors and presidents

continued on page 2

Georges Barrier, trade union official of the Paris Metro, speaks at Lorraine conference supported by trade unionists from different regions of France as well as from Britain, Holland and Australia

photo Maillefer



Ordinary men and women can lead Britain

THE VACUUM IN BRITISH LIFE—and the government was doing nothing about it—was lack of a national purpose, said Air Vice-Marshal Nigel Blair-Oliphant, a former President of the Ordnance Board.

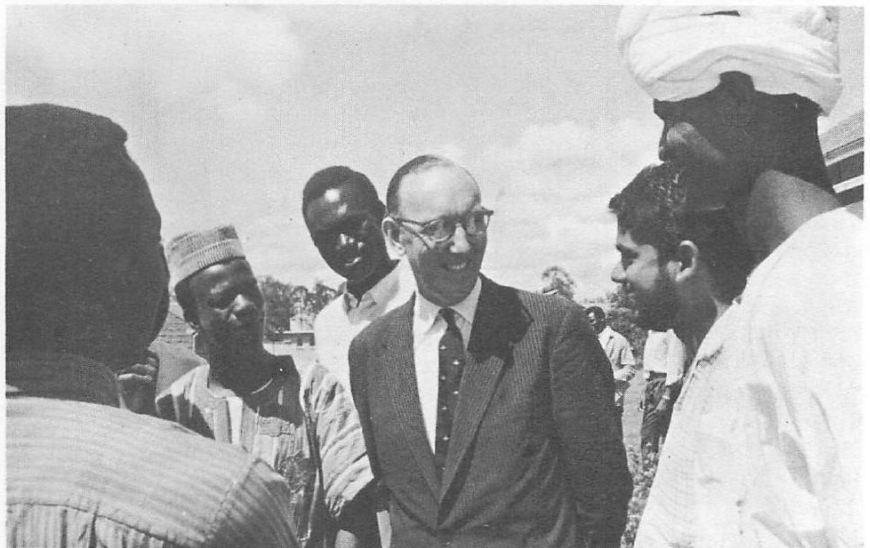
The ordinary people of Britain could remedy this, he said while speaking at a luncheon last week in MRA's London Headquarters.

'There is a growing body of opinion that Britain's role in the world is responsibility—responsibility for closing the gap between the rich nations and the poor, responsibility for providing an example and responsibility for leadership. Whatever governments may or may not decide, Britain's responsibility begins with us and our decision. We do not have to wait for governments or ministers—indeed in a true democracy we should inspire the government's thinking instead of letting them do our thinking for us.'

Initiating action

He said to withdraw Britain's military forces from Asia on the grounds of not being able to afford it was wrong. 'This is a new departure in British foreign policy which in the past has been characterised by determination to take on what needs to be done rather than what we believe we could afford. To take on what needs to be done means involvement and action; to be governed by what we think—or what someone else thinks—we can afford, means disengagement and caution, neither of which are highly prized characteristics.'

The air marshal said the type of action that ordinary Britishers could do had already been initiated in India and other parts of the world. Trade unionists, experienced in MRA, had gone to India on the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi to meet the economic and industrial crisis. A film of Peter Howard's pantomime, *Give a Dog a Bone*, has been shown to audiences in 32 countries. The impulse for its production and distribution had come from a group of British teachers. Earlier the film, *Freedom*, was shown to over a million people in Kenya and government officials



Air Vice-Marshal Nigel Blair-Oliphant speaks with Africans at Nairobi MRA conference

have said that it averted bloodshed at the post-independence elections.

'A nation's role is always in the future—never in the past. Britain's

role, her responsibility, can begin in us today and is what we decide to live and give tomorrow for our nation and for the world,' he said.

India visit by French trade unionists

THREE CITIZENS of Nantes, a port in the West of France, last month returned from ten weeks in India. They went in response to an appeal for assistance from Rajmohan Gandhi, one of the men responsible for Moral Re-Armament's programme in Asia.

On their return they were interviewed by the press and television of the area. Mr Le Goff, an electrician in the docks, a trade union official and father of two children, said the

high point of their time in India was in the State of Goa which Rajmohan Gandhi had charged them to mobilize for Moral Re-Armament. They had met political leaders, including the Chief Minister, clergymen, trade unionists and journalists.

Le Goff said he now saw the necessity of French trade unionists thinking beyond their own problems. 'It is often in seeing the problems of other people that you find the solution to your own,' he said.

continued from page 1

of industry it is clear that all want to participate in an action that is global in scope, capable of resolving our problems, and of creating a truly modern world, a world that works. It is good at this Easter time to recall that Frank Buchman, initiator of Moral Re-Armament, described it as "the greatest revolution of all times

whereby the Cross of Christ will transform the world".

Other speakers at the conference included representatives of the French metal industries, Melbourne dockers' leader Jim Beggs, British National Union of Mineworkers' branch secretary Jim Crooks and other trade unionists from Holland, Switzerland and the Loire-Atlantique region.

WHAT IS MORAL RE-ARMAMENT?

EVENTS CHANGE with bewildering speed the structure of power. Leaders come and leaders go in both East and West. What the world vitally needs is a force of men and women of every class, race and nation who will be, as Dr Frank Buchman put it, a rock in the shifting sands.

Buchman described Moral Re-Armament as: 'Men and women of all races and nations united with a common commitment. The foundation is laid of a new world, not on the shifting sand of corruption and compromise, but on the rock-like character of God-directed men and nations.'

MRA is like a diamond,

It has many facets. Here, presented almost entirely in the words of its initiator, Dr Frank Buchman, are some of them.

1. It is 'for everyone everywhere': 'MRA stands for a common denominator of immediate constructive action for everybody.' It is 'the ordinary man's opportunity to remake the world.'

2. It is not a theory but a way of life tried and tested in every circumstance.' It is 'a life to be lived, a road to be followed—a good road, a God-constructed road, the road of a change of heart.'

Already in 1921 Frank Buchman had outlined his aim as 'a programme of life which issues in personal, social, racial, national and supernational change.' That was, and remained, his commitment, the theme of his life, until his dying day, and which he handed on to the world force he created.

3. It is an ideology: ie a philosophy capable of, and committed to, changing the world. 'It has restored for millions the simple sanctities of home and honour, and given hope for a new world. It has built the world organism that can make a reality of this hope.

'Division is the mark of our age. Division in the heart. Division in the home. Division in industry. Division in the nation. Division between nations.

'Union is our instant need.

'Division is the work of human pride, hate, lust, fear, greed.

'Division is the trademark of materialism.

'Union is the grace of rebirth. We have lost the art of uniting because we have forgotten the secret of change and rebirth.

'Moral Re-Armament is the good road of an ideology inspired by God upon which all can unite.'

'Change,' said Dr Buchman, 'is the heart of the superior ideology. Moral Re-Armament gives the full dimension of change. Economic change. Social change. National change. International change. All based on personal change.' 'The only thing left to do in a crisis', he declared and he lived through an age of crisis, 'is to change people.' And he constantly repeated, 'If you are not changing people, you are doing nothing.'

The content of the ideology of MRA is 'the whole message of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It gives faith to the faithless, but also helps men of faith to live so compellingly that cities and nations change.

'MRA restores absolute standards in a day when selfishness and expediency are the common practice of men and nations.' It 'means honesty, purity, unselfishness and love—absolutely, personally and nationally.' It is a 'new thinking forged by living absolute moral standards.

'It means the knowledge and exact information that God's guidance brings. It has God's mind. It holds before the nation its primary national policy—obedience to guidance.'

4. It is a Revolution—'a revolution under the Cross that can transform the world.' It is not 'a nice comfortable awakening' but a 'spiritual revolution'—the only alternative to a 'revolution of chaos.'

5. Moral Re-Armament is a world force. It is 'a world force of people, ideologically equipped, who know how a new moral climate can be produced because of what has happened in their own lives. **Workers and soldiers, housewives and statesmen, farmers and industrialists, young and old, they have no new paper plans to offer, but have experience which cannot be denied.**' It is 'a phalanx of God-controlled people who are constantly waging a world war against selfishness.' In that battle the films, plays, books, pamphlets and magazines

of MRA are 'weapons'—no more and no less. Their effectiveness can be tested by their capacity to introduce people to a full experience of all that MRA stands for.

6. The aim of Moral Re-Armament is 'to restore God to leadership as the directing force in the life of nations.'

It is out for 'the birth of a new society brought about by a revolutionary change in human nature'—a world in which 'hands will be filled with work, stomachs with food, and empty hearts with an ideology that really satisfies.

'Human nature can be changed. That is the basic 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.'

Note: All the above quotations are taken from the speeches of Frank N D Buchman in *Remaking the World* (Blandford Press 1961) which is the basic source book on MRA.

'Live' broadcast from Caux

SOTTENS, the French Swiss radio, in a 75-minute 'live' broadcast from Caux, Switzerland last Sunday, invited the public to phone in any questions they wanted answered about Moral Re-Armament.

Claude Mosse, the radio commentator, said there was a 'record' number of questions. The phone did not stop ringing. Every kind of issue was raised and answered—Vietnam, race, Communism, money and opposition. The facts about MRA's work were given—including the purpose and worldwide outreach of the Caux centre, the impact of the Westminster Theatre, London and the role of Frank Buchman.

The programme was one in a series called 'Dimanche en Liberté'. The programme enables the radio audience to hear each question put over the telephone and the answers given.

The replies were given by the editors of the *Tribune de Caux*, P E Dentan, D Mottu and Mr and Mrs C Pignet. Mosse described the programme as 'a fascinating debate' and thanked the MRA representatives for 'the frankness and sincerity of their answers.'

SUDANESE STATESMAN DIES

Mohammed Salih Shangitti 1896-1968

'GOD DOES NOT CHANGE the condition of a people until the people change themselves'. This verse from the Koran was often quoted at the MRA world assemblies by Sayed Mohammed Salih Shangitti who died recently on return from pilgrimage to Mecca.

Sayed Shangitti's public service spanned fifty years from 1918, when

As a Northern Sudanese, Shangitti was concerned about the widespread revolt in the Southern Sudan. At Caux in 1958 Shangitti was present when the most turbulent Southern politician, Sayed Buth Diu (then Minister of Works), publicly renounced his hatred of the North and enlisted in what he called the greater revolution of MRA. Not long afterwards



Sayed Buth Diu and Mohammed Salih Shangitti at Caux in 1958

photo Strong

he was an assistant in the Legal Department, to 1968, when he was President of the Cotton Growers Association. In between he was successively administrator, judge, MP, Speaker of the Parliament, and Chairman of Khartoum Rotary.

Forthright

Always forthright in acknowledging the benefits Britain had brought his country, he found in MRA Britons equally forthright in acknowledging their country's wrongs through such acts as the desecration of the Mahdi's tomb. As a Muslim with a respect for the 'People of the Book' he was humble enough to learn new truth from new sources including Christians.

He had a particular respect for Dr Frank Buchman and in 1957 travelled to the USA to meet him together with Sudan's Minister of Labour.

a son was born to Buth Diu whom he named Shangitti.

In Omdurman there is a hot market street so crowded with humanity that the camel can outpace the Chevrolet. It is known as Shangitti Street. Behind an ordinary wall in that street is a house with large veranda, cool lawn and cherished English roses, where the whole world was welcome. The politician, the vegetable-seller, the young British teacher could come and learn from Shangitti, and plan for the best interests of Sudan.

Shangitti felt responsible for the moral rearmament of his country, and he believed always that his government should be responsible for it. One of my last memories of him is an evening party in his garden to which he had called the leadership of the country to meet Rajmohan Gandhi.

PETER EVERINGTON

Tribute paid to Martin Luther King

LAST SUNDAY on America's National Day of Mourning for Dr Martin Luther King 300 men and women from British industry and education at an MRA assembly in London stood for a minute's silence in tribute to Dr King.

Conrad Hunte, the West Indian cricketer, said at the assembly in the Westminster Theatre, 'We are in the midst of a floodtide of hate because men have forgotten God. Our job, yours and mine, is to create God-guided personalities, men and women with the faith, the passion and the plan adequate to answer the hate-power that got rid of Dr King.'

'I think of his widow and I think of his four children. I think also of the men and women in America and across the world, black, brown and white for whom he was a father and a leader. He knew and met many of the men who worked at Dr Buchman's side, Rajmohan Gandhi, London Hamilton, William Jaeger, and many more.'

'It will be a travesty of justice, a mockery of the might of America and the futile betrayal of all he stood for and for which he died, if the revolution of the bullet seized his work.'

'Any idea that cuts anyone down or leaves anyone out is too small for the modern world in which we live and too irrelevant and ineffective to deal with the world issues of war and want, poverty and pride, hate and hunger, selfishness and suffering, money-control and man-control. It was a great American patriot who said, "Men must choose to be governed by God or they condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants."'

'Moral Re-Armament is an idea whose time has come. It is the greatest revolution of all time, whereby the Cross—in the sense of God's will crossing man's will—will transform the whole earth.'