

"Moral Rearmament" as Reply to Communism

International Christian Movement that is Troubling Moscow

A LONDON NEWSPAPER, giving "a peep over the iron curtain" speaks of four "headaches" in Moscow. One of these is the movement for moral rearmament. Here is the story of one of the things that may be causing the headache.

by
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of Pretoria, who attended
the Caux Conference in
Switzerland.

In an Alpine setting high above Lake Geneva a conference is taking place which may help to shape the future of Germany. Among the thousands of delegates taking part, in the World Moral Rearmament Assembly at Caux are 400 from Germany, representing a cross-section of the nation's leadership — minister-presidents, ministers of education, leaders of labour and leaders of youth, many of them noted resistance leaders.

A year ago 150 Germans took part in a similar conference. They decided that the Caux Conference offered a working pattern of God-inspired democracy which was their best security against the onrush of materialistic ideologies. Germany, they felt, with Nazism knocked out, was now divided into pro-Communist and anti-Communist camps, but whereas the Communists had a clear-cut ideology, the potentially democratic forces knew only what they were against. Caux, they said, gave them the great positive answer. Boiled down to four simple points, it said:—

- (1) People are more important than things.
- (2) As I am, so is my nation.
- (3) Everyone must change and live by teamwork.
- (4) The Voice of God must be the will of the people.

"I See Hope"

TO express this to the German people, they produced a handbook on inspired democracy, which they published in a million copies, overcoming all difficulties, even a printers' strike. Management and labour agreed that this was a priority for Germany, so while all other work was suspended the booklet, "Es Muss Alles Anders Werden" ("Everything has got to Change") was rushed through. Ministers of education distributed it to every teacher in their "land." Labour and management leaders got it through the factories. Moreover, it went out in all four zones. Returning to Germany from Caux, a minister-president was asked why he looked so happy. "At last I see hope for Germany," he said.

Dr. Rudolf Pechel, the publisher and chief editor of the important German magazine, Deutsche Rundschau, flown out of Berlin in a blockade-breaking plane, addressed one of the Caux Assemblies with six other top German newspaper editors.

"Moral rearmament is answering the problems the Communist cannot answer," he declared. "Radio station directors were flooded with thousands of letters from all the zones as a result of broadcasts on Caux. My own staff, which has become a real team, answered many hundreds of letters that came in after newspaper articles and radio talks. Results exceeded our greatest expectations. I know of people in the Russian Zone who have begun to apply and spread this ideology merely through reading about it. We face a very great danger, but here is the answer."

DR. FRANZ MAIER, publisher and chief editor of the Stuttgarter Zeitung, spoke of the moral as well as economic collapse that Germany had suffered. "A devilish phantom has vanished, but nothing new has been put in its place," he stated. "Some people are giving up the struggle and are drifting."

"The Press in this situation carries a special importance and responsibility. It is not merely an instrument for giving news and forming political opinion. It is a moral factor or it must become one. It must be a force for the spiritual reconstruction of the nation. The Press must be in the front line of those who seek a basis for new national life."

"Here at Caux I have seen a force capable of moving mountains. Here are people who not only lay down principles but live them. This force reaches all classes. It removes class warfare whose fruits show in the present state of this 20th century. Caux answers suspicion and hatred and restores respect for the dignity of man. It can fill the vacuum in our nation."

"To bring this force to our people is one of the great tasks of the Press. If anyone says it is hard to put this across in a nation, remember that the German nation has carried out the craziest ideas with typical thoroughness and toughness. Why not use these qualities to carry out a good idea? The German nation needs a good idea. Then people will be able to trust us."

Bavarian Victory

ANOTHER session was conducted by the three leaders of the Bavarian youth movements. One of them, Dr. Heinz Beck of Munich, said: "In spite of differing political and religious opinions, we succeeded in forming a team, and we were able not only to turn back the attack of Communism but force them to make a shameful retreat. This we owe solely and wholly to Caux. We believe that in spite of material and other difficulties the youth of Bavaria stand on a firm foundation and we are proud that people are coming from all over Germany to ask us our secret. We could only say that our secret is teamwork and listening to the Voice of God."

In their battle for a Christian ideology these men know that they are crossing swords with powerful and ruthless forces. When they broadcast the air is jammed by other stations trying to drown them out and spreading lies and suspicion. They say simply that they expect martyrs to fall in their struggle; but, free and fearless, they march forward toward a new Germany.