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GANDHI'S GRANDSON LEADS A NEW MARCH

By VERE JAMES

THE Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai, appears to have created world-wide interest with his remark last week that "revolutionary prospects are excellent throughout the African continent."

While it may be regarded by some as cynical and by others as prophetic, such prognosis by a professional revolutionary of Mr. Chou's reputation is worthy of serious consideration. However, as an editorial comment in the *East African Standard* on February 5 suggested, he may have "another think coming". Not all revolutions have their origin in Marx or Mao.

A generation ago, before the self-styled revolutionaries of today can remember, while Mao Tse-tung was leading 650,000,000 people into bondage, another revolutionary, Mahatma Gandhi, led 450,000,000 of his people into freedom. Today there are men of vision and courage who could lead the awakening Continent of Africa along its revolutionary path, outmoding perhaps the failing societies of both East and West.

Gandhi began with a march to the sea in protest against the British salt-tax. It caught the imagination of India's millions. Soon a nation was marching towards independence.

About the same time Mao was starting his "long march" across China to Yen-an where he consolidated the forces that were to conquer China and direct their aims towards South-East Asia and the countries of Africa.

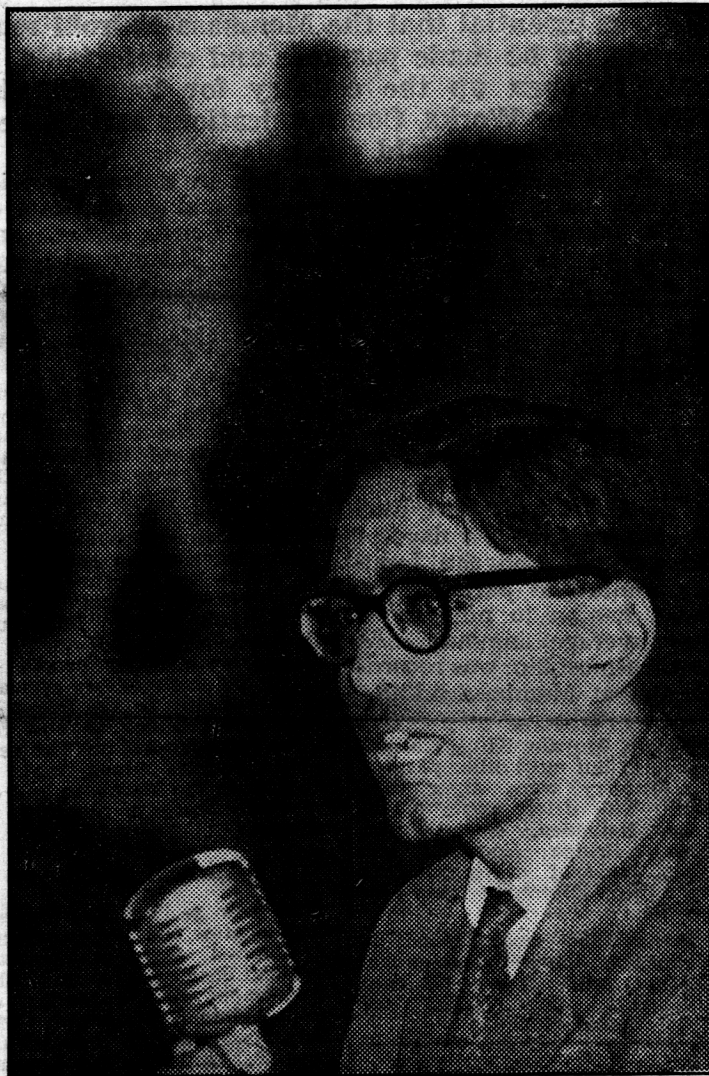
Fifteen years ago Mahatma Gandhi was killed by an assassin's bullet. Today the aging Mao is said to be a very sick man. But the protagonists of their ideas and objectives are still marching.

In this generation, an offspring of the Marxist revolution, Fidel Castro, led his men through the Sierra Maestra to Havana. Their revolt, so costly in lives and so gloriously hailed in some of the headlines, has run into serious economic difficulties.

4,500 MILES

Now from Asia comes news of another revolutionary march. This time across India's vast sub-continent and led by none other than the 28-year-old grandson of the Mahatma. On October 2 he set out from Cape Comorin, India's southernmost point, on a 4,500-mile journey, partly on foot but mostly in cars and buses. His purpose? To mobilise the ordinary man and woman of India against the corruption and crime that is crippling his country.

Raj Mohan Gandhi, as he is named after his maternal grandfather Rajagopalachari, India's first Governor-General, and Mohandas Gandhi, his



Raj Mohan Gandhi
Seeking moral revolution

paternal grandfather, is attempting to lead the masses of India out of poverty, purposelessness and despair.

In every generation searching, and sometimes rebellious, youth choose the path they will pursue. Castro and men like him offer violent overthrow to achieve their objectives; the end justifies the means. Gandhi offers a revolution of character; the end and means must be one and the same. He proclaims for India a revolution that is so radical and rapid that it captures the interest of both reactionary and Communist alike.

Gandhi has refused to imitate the materialists of the West or the Marxists of the East. Secondhand foreign ideas do not interest him or his friends.

"I don't want the sort of American democracy where the almighty dollar is god and Marilyn Monroe is the goddess," he told Bombay's leading in-

dustrialists recently. "Nor do I want the sort of people's democracy where the bureaucrats have everything and the people are neglected. I am not for the *status quo* either. We must have a radical change in this nation and it must be based on moral revolution.

"We want democracy in India, but it must be democracy based on the great traditions and truths of our ancient land. We are going to fight to preserve this democracy and we are going to win it for the millions who do not yet have it.

"What we are launching is a national struggle greater even than the struggle for independence, a struggle that will be above class, above party, above race."

Raj Mohan Gandhi is the leading figure in an intensive programme of Moral Re-Armament which has taken place in India during the last four months. His march

through the country was reported in the *New York World Telegram* and *Sun* under the headline "Gandhi Kin Leads New Moral Revolt". The article began: "Ever since Mahatma Gandhi died, India has awaited a successor with the magic of his appeal to the masses of the East.

"Last week a second Gandhi burst upon the Indian scene, polarising public demand for a strong and united nation, and confronting China's Mao Tse-tung with what may prove to be his sternest challenge for the leadership of Asia."

Gandhi and his colleagues are involved in an intelligent, international bid to establish economic and social change faster, deeper and longer lasting than anything Communism or Fascism have ever achieved. They have initiated a programme for training 10,000 youth in their ideas. This will take place in special camps in the North and South of India during this year.

Mahatma Gandhi, motivated by his faith and conviction, roused a quarter of the human race; but the emotional energy Indians felt during the Mahatma's time was allowed to dissipate until it appears his grandson has begun to stir the people again.

NEW FORMS

Asia is searching for solutions in new forms of society. Impatient youth are in revolt against the status quo. Military regimes take over. Some new way is needed that is not corrupted by hatred or revenge.

Marx still tempts those who would seek to build a better world. Mahatma Gandhi's vision, an ideal given new impetus by his grandson, may yet prove to be a more permanent path to peace and a world remade.

In Africa newly independent States grapple perilously with social and economic problems that threaten their security and the very freedom for which so many fought and sacrificed. Corruption and nepotism, which have undermined old and new countries, cast a shadow over this continent. Violence sows the seeds of hatred and counter violence.

Yet Africa could proclaim and live an answer to which both East and West would respond.

Such a purpose recalls Mr. Kenyatta's words on Kenya's Independence Day. He proclaimed: "Some people are asking 'Where will your Uhuru lead? Will Kenya choose the East or West, the Devils or the Angels?'" He continued amidst cheers and applause as he pointed the directions with his fly whisk "The aim of my Government will be not to go to the East or West, the left or right, but to take the straight road ahead".

The straight road ahead in nation after nation on this Continent may be a revolutionary prospect which Mr. Chou En-lai did not anticipate as he left Mogadishu last week.