



ASSAM'S CHIEF MINISTER SEES HOPE FOR INDIA'S KEY NORTHEAST

A FRESH ELEMENT has entered the situation in India's Northeast, an area entangled by racial and political divisions.

The Chief Minister of Assam, B P Chaliha, said recently that his visit to the MRA centre in New Delhi had been a 'great inspiration'. He said, 'I had an experience I never had before when I saw people from all over the world engaged not in politics, not in mercenary matters, but in trying to bring people together.'

'This progressive force must win. I am sure the expectations of Rajmohan Gandhi and his associates for the people of this area (the Northeast) will be fulfilled if we believe we are men, not merely animals.'

The Chief Minister was speaking after a performance of the musical *India Arise* in the capital of Assam, Shillong. Chaliha was the chief signatory to an invitation to Rajmohan Gandhi to bring an MRA international force to Assam last month.

The State of Assam is strategically placed with China and Tibet to the north, Burma to the east and East Pakistan to the south. The long standing conflict between its racially different Hills and Plains People began to move towards a solution last year.

After anxious discussion the Indian Government conferred a measure of autonomy on the Hills Peoples which was accepted by both the Plains and Hills Peoples. Leaders of both groups



Chief Minister B P Chaliha photo Lancaster

had visited MRA centres in Delhi and Panchgani. Stanley Nichols-Roy, General Secretary of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference, said, following a visit to Panchgani, that he had found a new approach to the Indian Government.

In the letter of invitation to Gandhi, Chaliha and other Assam leaders wrote that the visit of an MRA force

'will help to create the basis of real understanding and integration in the Northeast. It can contribute to the unity and security of the area, and give our peoples new hope and wider perspective for the good of the whole of the country.'

Last week the *Assam Tribune* published an article with the headline, 'MRA holds the key to future prosperity'. It was quoting a statement by the economist, Dr M N Goswami, Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University, at the opening of an MRA four-day conference in Gauhati, a city in the plains of Assam on the Brahmaputra. At a performance of *India Arise*, attended by the Chief Justice of Assam and Nagaland, a government official commented on the presence of Hills People in the audience. He said, 'For Hills People not to walk out and in fact to stand while the Assamese National Song was sung was astounding.'



People of
the Khasi Hills
at a Moral
Re-Armament
meeting
photo Channer

DR PAUL CAMPBELL, a leading personality in Moral Re-Armament, has gathered a remarkable knowledge of people and the world through numerous journeys around the world as personal doctor and companion of Dr Frank Buchman. At an international conference in Caux, Switzerland, attended among others by representatives of 38 universities of East and West Europe, including Göttingen students, our correspondent Hans-Jörg Gemeinholz took the chance to get an interview, from which we reprint these extracts:

Q Dr Campbell, what do you consider is the particular characteristic of our times and with what tasks does it present mankind?

A The outstanding characteristic of our times, in my opinion, is the dissatisfaction in Eastern and Western society. The outstanding task of our times is, above all, to answer the contradictions and frustrations in the Communist as well as the non-Communist society.

A further common task is to take responsibility for the difficulties of the developing countries. We must show these countries a solution to the problems of corruption, division and the lack of teamwork. These problems often rob material aid of its intended effectiveness. Each person must be shown that he is indispensable and has a full part in building his country.

Q Germany and France have found reconciliation since the war. Today how can Germany find unity with the Soviet Union and the East European countries?

A According to Chancellor Adenauer, the Franco-German reconciliation came about through men and women who, after the war, came to Caux* on the Lake of Geneva, faced the bitterness, hate and disillusionment of the past years, changed and laid the

* MRA conference centre

Thoughts on a new teamwork between races, classes, nations and generations

basis for new political and economic agreements.

Today, it seems to me, we have reached a phase when the same miraculous change and development is needed: this time between the Communist world and Western Europe. I am convinced that it is already beginning in exactly the same way. The Communists, like the men of the Western world, will only be convinced through deeds. The situation demands unequivocal proof that through changed men selfless conditions can be created in all walks of life.

We will never build a selfless society with selfish people. The contradictions in the Communist society—as Khrushchev confirmed—have their origin in the failure to create selfless people. The same failure is present in Western society. But there is an answer. People can be changed.

Q What can Germany do for Britain's entry to the Common Market and what do you consider is Europe's task?

A At present each of the six member states—and Britain as well—put the increase of their own standard of living in first place. As soon as these countries make their aim a united Europe which mobilizes its reserves of human and material resources for the needs of Asia, Africa and the rest of the world, there will be a prospect of Britain's membership. First of all Europe's aims must change.

Q What sort of development aid should Germany give?

A Germany should send both material aid and people. But people will create the same social conditions where they go as they have created at home. Do you want to take society as it is in Germany and put it in the heart of Asia and Africa? If so, simply send the type of experts and technicians you are sending today.

I think they would be received in a wholly different way if they brought a revolutionary idea that answers corruption, division and selfishness in people so radically that our whole social system is changed. Germany could set an example.

Q What particular role do you think German professors and students can have in this?

A I believe that universities today are serving wrong forces. Due to the materialistic aims in our nations, we use our universities to train people to put personal profit—the widespread aim of Western society—in first place. But our universities should produce people with the understanding, the heart and the will to plan to rebuild their nations. They will only be able to accomplish this if they put right what is wrong in themselves. The university should be the source of a permanent constructive revolution in the centre of society.

Q How can students and workers build this new society together?

A Students often remain preoccupied with their theories. Workers are faced with practical life. There can be an inspiring teamwork between workers and students: students can make the workers and the whole nation conscious of the aim of building a world society without selfishness. On the other hand, the workers can help the students keep their feet on the ground of reality and link their best ideas with practical human experience.

Workers and students can then together win professors, employers and politicians for a common purpose. This is already happening in many countries.

Q What practical steps can students take to achieve this aim?

A An important practical step would be to have the most militant and far-sighted student leaders of Germany, France, England and Italy, along with professors and representatives of university administrations, come to Caux during the second half of July 1969. There they can leave behind the pressures of position and office and sit together round a table and find out what is right for the future. This conference will naturally not be limited to the academic world. That would be fruitless. They will be joined by revolutionary workers, employers and politicians.

WHEN I FIRST came to Britain six years ago it was to see the 'mother' country—the land of British traditions, the land that created the democracy and culture we enjoy as well as the land of the English poets. Like Dorothea MacKellar*, 'I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains', but I wanted to know Milton's England too. Also I wanted to experience working here in my own profession. Most young Australians come here for roughly the same reasons.

As a ward sister in a large London hospital I had much to learn about a welfare society and how to live and work with people of different races and backgrounds. What made my time more challenging and worthwhile was that I found I had quite a lot I could give from my own experience. It meant battling against red tape and some out-moded procedures and enlisting my associates in creating with me a new standard of nursing care.

Young Australians work and save hard to come here. It is interesting that as they lift their eyes from their own country on to the world that it is on Britain they focus. Some think they can live and work here as they like, and as they would not dare or wish to at home. I disagree with this behaviour. It may sometimes be reaction to crowded, city life, but it does not help the British who at this period are in the grip of a 'couldn't care less, me first' attitude to work and the world.

Coming back to Britain two years ago I found a change had taken place. I appreciate the solidity of society here and the heritage Britain has given to her former colonies so that now many newly independent nations have a base on which to grow. My first reaction to the fierce attacks on and cracks in the foundation of this society was fear.

Without reward

I knew that what happened here would eventually affect my own country, and I do not want to see anarchy and chaos at home. I realize that fear and self-interest will not cure anything. I am learning to love and care for this country as much as I do for my own, and for Britain's own sake I

**Australian poet*

have asked God's help to do so.

An Australian writer in the *Sunday Express* of 19 January said, 'We will only stop caring for Britain when we feel that Britain doesn't want us.' Australia has grown up and as responsible adults surely it is our place to care and give without being asked to, or without hope of reward.

During the recent conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers this country was continually bombarded in press and television by propagators of pessimism and division. The scoffing started even before the conference began. The Prime Ministers themselves were not put off by it, but maturely and calmly exchanged views from their diverse backgrounds. Recently I heard a group of young Europeans sing a song which says, 'How long will it take to build a thousand bridges, spanning a thousand years of hate?' The Commonwealth Prime Ministers could build those bridges and be God's instruments for creating the hate-free, fear-free, greed-free world all sane people want to see.

Australia now has high living standards, and the sense of adventure, pioneering and hard work is still there.

'WE WILL STAND BY OUR COMMONWEALTH FRIENDS'

MICHAEL BARRETT, from Edinburgh, speaking at the MRA conference at Waikato University in New Zealand last month, said:

The Commonwealth has been bought with a price. The price was the pioneering of our forefathers, the blood of our fathers and sons, the enterprise of our people, the granting of independence to one quarter of the earth and the development of the largest multi-racial community of nations in the world. These links cannot be lightly thrown away.

Today the Commonwealth presents an opportunity for statesmanship above colour, class or narrow interests. We face dangerous days. We need to face them together.

We owe a debt of gratitude to you in New Zealand who twice have come to our aid in two world wars. Now you have your feet in Asia. We have

I always get a thrill when new areas open up and new discoveries are made. Enough uranium has been discovered to supply the world for the next 50 years. Australia's iron-ore mountains and fields of oil and coal will feed her expanding economy for generations.

Inject hope

Australians are direct and independent people. Independence does not rule out the necessity of inter-dependence on and responsibility for other nations. As Britons willingly sacrificed to build the Commonwealth, Australians in turn can sacrifice to maintain it and work with the British to inject hope into those who lack vision and life.

It is heartening to meet British who still think out beyond their own small geographical area and economic plight. Their numbers need to be multiplied. The Christian faith is the solid base from which came Britain's character, democracy, justice and affluence. Her role now is to live out this faith. If she does she will keep the trust of her Commonwealth friends.

LORNA BARRETT

ours in Europe. But that comradeship remains.

We have had to cut down on our expenditure. We gave up Malta and brought a grave problem of unemployment to our staunchest allies. Since then the Russians have moved into the Mediterranean and the Western powers are re-examining their defences.

We announced our withdrawal from Malaysia and Singapore. Now with a possible change of policy by the United States in Vietnam the defences of this whole Pacific area require examination. I am not criticising anybody, I am merely saying that all these decisions must be taken in full consultation with our friends and allies.

There are thousands of us in Britain who want to stand by our friends and allies come wind, come weather.

Enlisting the next generation

'Nothing less than a world answer will interest them'

HOW DO YOU WIN the loyalties of the next generation?

This question is being asked every day by parents, teachers, politicians and psychologists. No end of answers have been given by many more parents, teachers, politicians and psychologists. Rarely is it ever put to the younger generation themselves.

Last week in the Westminster Theatre 200 clergy and laymen listened to 14 young men and women give concrete experiences of living Christianity as a world answer. They included a variety of people—a French student, a London bank clerk, an Australian concert pianist and a Danish pop singer. Their theme was: 'Enlisting the Next Generation in a World Battle'.

Introducing the speakers—who came from the cast of *Anything to Declare?*—Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Westminster Theatre Trustees, said, 'Only a world answer, only enlistment in a world battle, is big enough to capture and enlist the younger generation.'

Sympathies worldwide

'The sympathies of the next generation,' he continued, 'are already enlisted worldwide; over Vietnam, over Biafra, over poverty in Latin America, over famine in India, over racial inequality in America and nearer home.'

'They are not content with anything less than a faith that will meet these vast human needs. They expect faith, if they are to hold it, to affect real situations. They expect God, if He is there, to act.'

Paul Maton, aged 19, from Belgium,

told how he had been a rebel against every kind of authority. Once when on the run from home he had succeeded in dodging 17 police barriers set up to stop him.

'It was real adventure,' he said, 'but one week later when I found myself with a psychiatrist, nothing much had changed. I was looking for something really big to do with my life, but I hadn't found it.'

'I then met people who said I needed to accept absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love in my life, and suggested I should start by being honest with my father. I was not so pleased at that; but it stopped me in my tracks and when I was honest with myself I realised it was the thing I needed to do.'

'I wrote to my father, apologising to him. I was very frightened how he would react, but in fact that letter marked the beginning of a tremendous and satisfying adventure—which has only just begun. As a family our aim now is to see a transformation take place in my country in this coming year.'

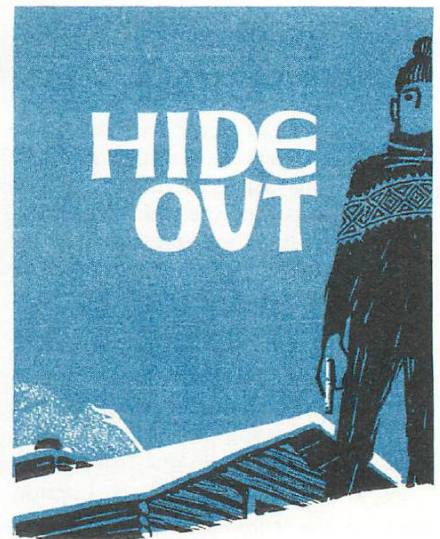
'Drugs would end me'

As in parts of Britain there is a serious problem of drug addiction in Scandinavia. A Danish student said that until six months ago he was dependent on drugs. He said, 'It was an escape from reality and its problems. Drugs made me indifferent in the school towards the teachers and about work and that was the reason why I was kicked out. At the same time, one of my best friends died because of an infection from a dirty LSD needle. Another one got seriously ill and I am told he has only five years left to live.'

'At that moment I realised that I had to finish with drugs or it would finish me sooner or later.'

'Some of my friends invited me to Switzerland and I came to Caux, the MRA conference centre. And there I met the cast of *Anything to Declare?* and I found the solution to my problems. I got a bigger vision of what was happening in the rest of the world outside my own. I found a hope for my future and for myself. I decided to accept the challenge.'

'I did not have much of a faith and I am beginning to find one now and it is a most satisfying way of living



A MAN at the hideout door with a gun in his hand—murder on a spring night in the mountains—resistance fighters of yesterday grappling with the stresses of another revolution—who is friend and who is foe? Who is for freedom and who against it? What is freedom, anyway, and how do you sustain it in the cynical, distracted, disintegrating world of today?

Who is in the hideout and what are they hiding from—an enemy? Themselves? Reality?

Alan Thornhill's new play went into rehearsal on Tuesday under the direction of Henry Cass. It opens at the Westminster on Friday, 7 March. Book your seats and arrange your parties now.

It is a drama not to be missed.

and that is why I have decided to fight this battle.'

After the meeting several clergy of different denominations asked these speakers to address their Church services. Another immediately booked a coach to bring members of his congregation to see *Anything to Declare?*

This was the fourth in a regular series of morning conferences. The next will be addressed by G D Lean, MA, Oxford author and biographer, at the Westminster Theatre on 19 March at 11am.

RICHARD WEEKS