



We are the INDIA ARISE team. Our names are Shah and Rao, Singh, Iralu and Chowdhury, Carvalho, Mathur, Jedhiya, Paithankar and Subramaniam. Some amongst us are Harijans, others are Brahmins. Some were brought up in cities, others in villages. Some are rich, others are poor. With us are men and women from many nations—Ceylon, Taiwan, New Zealand, Australia, Britain, the West Indies and others.

We are in Europe alongside Europeans who work and fight to make Moral Re-Armament the philosophy of their countrymen and the policy of their governments. Today, somewhere in Europe, people will pour in to see the musical 'India Arise' which shows India's present and the future as it might be. We are training to serve India. India has a great part to play in human history and we want to make sure this does happen.

*We love India. We say this to Mrs Indira Gandhi,
to the Governor, and Chief Minister M. P. Sinha of Bihar,
to their colleagues and to all the people of India:*

BIHAR CAN BE FED!

THE HOUR IS LATE, but there is still a way. God has a plan. God has the ways and means. There is enough grain—if not in Bihar, elsewhere, if not in India, then abroad. There are enough ships, planes, trucks, railways and roads. In the Bihar Government, in New Delhi and in foreign capitals there are people who know how. They know how to divide up the grain, send it to fifty thousand villages, set up one lakh ration shops, parcel out five crore adequate portions.

Different backgrounds and opinions could serve as windows flooding national life with many-angled light; personal rivalry and hate would no longer dictate the dividing lines; ancient resentment would be replaced by a united assault on essential matters. Direct threats of floods and drought can be rendered powerless with the knowledge and the power in human hands today.

The world needs and expects a new initiative from India.

All these resources—granaries, vehicles, manpower, brainpower, organisational skills—are available. These resources, mobilised, can save lives today and spare children from scarring by malnutrition. Even at this eleventh hour it can be done

Hypocritical poojas or piosity are not going to get these gargantuan mechanisms into action. Difficult, humiliating acts coming out of costly changes inside our hearts can put the wheels in motion.

1. The rulers in Patna and Delhi must unite, every politician and official hurling his bulk into the fray shoulder to shoulder with the man who might be his bitterest rival.
2. The Opposition leaders must be given a chance to play a practical part—and they must take that chance forsaking the desire to get their pound of Congress flesh.
3. The true statistics, the mortality, the conditions of health, the actual available quantities of grains, the real state of rail and road links, the performance of our docks must be published—far and wide, to all the people of India and the nations of the world.
4. Radio, newspapers, television, films, government agencies, voluntary organisations throughout the world—all must now be drafted into the search for men, money, food and ideas.

WE KNOW WHAT CHANGE COSTS, and what it means. Putting right past wrongs is necessary. Some of us had to pay unpaid college fees, return stolen things, shatter the rose-tinted image of ourselves we had projected before parents and friends, make excruciating apologies to old enemies or to friends behind whose backs we had whispered tales. We are learning to be honest, to admit our blunders, learn the lesson and instead of trying to impress others are beginning to help them.

Though daily we feel jealous of one another, we are learning to work as a team and are even beginning to rejoice at our colleagues' successes. Though by inclination lazy, we are seeing how not to do what we wish to do or feel like doing, but how instead to foresee what tomorrow will demand of us and do the thorough preparation work today.

No man, and no syndicate of men, leads us. We do not spend our hours shouting, "I am No. 1!" "No, you are No. 2!" "I am the leader, you are not!" Instead we are resolved together to obey God, each one honestly seeking

out His will. And we find it is true that God speaks most clearly to a group of united, committed individuals, more than to anyone by himself.

There is no easy political road to unity. There is no short-cut to the world's respect. Four phrases, when they become popular among us Indians, will fuel the most potent of political revolutions. "Please" when we want something, "Thanks" when we have got it, "Sorry" when we have made a mistake, and "I don't know" when we don't know. These will give India national integration and adequate foreign policy as well.

SINCE FEBRUARY we have been overseas. We have found that the world is puzzled and suspicious about India's famines. First it is told, "We are starving. Give us food." It delves deep and gives fistfuls. Then it is told, "The whole story has been exaggerated. It was never so serious." And seldom a word of thanks.

Dutch banks gathered 18 million guilders within hours after TV broadcast an appeal for India's starving people. Later 7 million more guilders were collected. Dutch schoolchildren went without meals to help Indian boys and girls. The Italians gave 1 billion lire last year—and the money came from the pockets of clerks, labourers, housewives and students, not only from Treasury vaults.

There are plenty of people who care. We have met many. Pope Paul VI who received us in Rome. The Indian caterer in Bristol who gave us £100, the British dockers who have volunteered to come to India any day. The Dutch schoolmaster who welcomed us to The Hague and whose pupils fasted.

THERE ARE ENORMOUS RESOURCES of greatness in the heart of India. The minds of modern India are second to none. No problem is too intricate for their united and undistracted endeavours to solve. Our people are hardy, their sinews are strong, their bones can bear heavy blows. We can work hard if we need to.

It is time for a great change. The Bihar famine could be the last episode of a dead era—and the triumphant response to it could mark the beginning of a new age.

We can build from today the entire Indian nation into a team. Not a team of regimented, faceless, mindless ones. Indian politics could become a new creation very quickly.

Arabs, Cypriots (both Turk and Greek), Europeans from many countries, Africans, East Europeans and British have come to see 'India Arise'. They say that it not only gives them hope about India's future but also points them towards a solution of their own problems.

The peoples of the world are seeking new paths. Communists and anti-Communists are seeking new advances. The Cold War period is being followed by a world divided into zones of Super-Power hegemony. Non-alignment is a worked-out mine.

Despite what we know and feel about our helplessness, God may want to use the Indian nation for His purposes in this century. Not because of our virtue—if we are honest there is far too little of that! Not because of our wisdom—for that, too, we lack. But He will use us if we take one step towards Him.

DO YOU WISH to have a hand in changing India? Whoever you are, whatever your background or profession, there is a role for you.

The first thing to do is to measure your life against the standards of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love. Perhaps you don't believe in absolute moral standards. You may still have points in your life where you are conscious of something that is wrong. That is the point to start work upon.

The inner voice of God is available—an ever-ready source of information and direction in every man's heart. Perhaps you don't believe in God. In that case, no harm can come to you from simply, honestly listening. We find that He does not give us great emotional storms of ecstasy. He gives us very practical suggestions. Nor does He give a 20-year plan to save India in nine bound volumes with appendices. It is the next step we are shown. It could be a simple apology.

Your apology could set off a chain reaction in India and the world. This would bring the freedom, the will and the unity to do for Bihar what needs to be done.