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'GLIMMER OF HOPE' FOR SOMALIA

Following the Uppsala Seminar on Somalia last January and the opportunity Caux afforded for responsible Somalis to confer, there have been further steps in building a united leadership. Farouk Mawlawi, the UN Department of Public Information Director who accredited MRA as an NGO, served a year in Somalia as UN spokesman prior to his recent retirement. In December he arranged a meeting for Professor Galayd of Syracuse University, a former Somali Minister of Industry, to meet with Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Linsane Kouyati. This led to a two-hour conference, arranged by Ambassador Kouyati, with the six top UN experts on Somalia to meet Professor Galayd, Mrs Nurta H Hassan and Mr Osman Jama, who had served 18 years as a Somali Cabinet Minister. At a UN-hosted luncheon which followed, one official remarked that what the Somalis said was the first glimmer of hope they had had. The three Somalis later had a similar time with senior officials of the State Department in Washington.

Harry Almond

'ACTION OUT OF SILENCE'

We were in Moscow for two weeks in November, teaming up with Philip and Vendela Tyndale-Biscoe who were there on a three-month language course.

Our main aim was to meet the 17 Muscovites who were in Caux last summer, and to see other friends. We were the guests of Judge Ernest Ametistov of Russia's Constitutional (Supreme) Court and his law professor wife, Olga, who had been in Caux for the European session.

Some of our friends had been busy reporting on their Caux visits. Philosopher Grigori Pomerants, who with his wife attended the 'Regions in Crisis' session, had written a superb three-page account of their time in the weekly magazine *New Times*. Headlined 'Action out of Silence', it shows great insight into MRA and the ways of Caux. In 1948 *New Times* was the first Soviet publication to carry an article on MRA. At that time it was not so complimentary.

The basic text of the seminar Professor Pomerants gave at Caux was carried in two other publications. Radio Russia interviewed him and his wife for 40

minutes in a programme entitled 'Faith', which in turn led to an interview with Leif. Retired *Novosti* writer Eduard Rozental had articles on Caux in the newspaper *Russia* and in *Ronika*, a new publication for Russia's emerging business sector.

Also in Caux this summer was Sergei Kovalov who had spent seven years in the Gulag. He has since been appointed Human Rights Ombudsman of Russia. Viacheslav Igrunov (Caux 1992) is now deputy chair of the Russian Parliament's inter-ethnic committee which deals with relations with the Baltic States and Ukraine. He expressed gratitude for MRA's helpful role and hopes that Caux might help in the healing of some of these difficult relationships.

We also met younger Russians working to rejuvenate the Orthodox Church. We hope that some of them will get to Caux next summer.

There is much to be concerned about in Russia still but the conviction of many Russians gave us hope. Grigori Pomerants wrote in one of his articles, 'We need a moral renewal. Everyone of us needs moral re-armament. Everyone needs a change from the inside. There is no other way to survive than through a moral and spiritual renaissance.'

Copies of the Russian articles can be had from us, plus an English translation of the *New Times* article.

Bryan Hamlin Leif Hovelsen Peter Thwaites

'INTRODUCING MORAL AUTHORITY'

'Seeking a national life based on moral values' was the theme of the 18th international MRA action in October in Odawara, Tokyo and Kobe. It was inaugurated by Professor Matsuoka of Kanagawa University, who said that 'moral wars waged by the common people' were needed, rather than military or economic ones.

At a public symposium in Odawara, co-hosted by the Asia Center Odawara and the National Institute for Research Advancement (NIRA), Sam Rainsy, then Cambodian Minister of Finance, stressed that his country needed the power of law, transparency and accountability rather than the power of the gun and money. With him was his wife, Tioulong-Saumura Sam, Deputy Governor of Cambodia's Central Bank.

Masahide Shibusawa, a representative of the Odawara Center, expressed MRA's strategy as 'an attempt to change the framework of confrontation by introducing moral authority.' When a conflict is intensified, he said, neither side can afford to concede even a little. 'If you create a formula under which both sides concede to a higher moral authority, solutions become possible.' MRA had played a vital role in post-war Japan, he said. 'But while at Caux reconciliation with the French was seen as a prerequisite for Germany's survival, the Japanese delegations to Mackinac and Caux had little contact with other Asians. When it comes to spiritual regret, there is no doubt we lag behind Germany. As one who was involved, I feel overwhelmed with shame.' Introducing the new book *Religion: the Missing Dimension of Statecraft*, he expressed his gratitude that MRA's historic involvements have begun to be rightly evaluated. 'The Caux 50th will be an opportunity to re-evaluate the fruits. I hope that a blueprint for new activities across the world will be produced,' he concluded.

At a public symposium on the theme of cleaning up politics, panelists included Yukika Sohma, former Senator Shidzue Kato (now 97), Chairman Kaku of Canon, Rainsy and Tioulong-Saumura Sam, Liu Ren-Jou from Taiwan and leading Japanese political commentator, Masayuki Fukuoka.

Kiyoshi Nagano Yukihsa Fujita

REVISITING ETHIOPIA

Following the Kenya consultation, we were invited to revisit Ethiopia and Eritrea after 25 years of civil war and communist occupation. It was emotional and inspiring to hear the stories of faith and bravery under fearful pressure. So many spoke of the need to restore moral foundations to enable democracy to take root. The role and resource materials of MRA are keenly welcomed. In Eritrea, several whom we knew as students are now national leaders and feel responsible to carry forward the spirit and standards they so effectively applied in the guerrilla war of independence. P V Abraham of Kerala, who taught many of them and won their respect, has been invited to return to Asmara in December for some weeks.

Jim and Sally Baynard-Smith

GANDHIS RENEW INDIAN LINKS

Rajmohan and Usha Gandhi braved the snow during their first visit to Alberta this month. Some travelled 1000 kilometres to meet them. They spoke at Rachel Boccock's high school and at packed 'house parties'.

Motoring south to Calgary, the Gandhis were hosted by Wing and Ming Wong. In the Rocky Mountains,

Tina Fox, a Councillor, and Chief Ernest Wesley of the Stony Indians welcomed them. Introducing Rajmohan, Band Councillor Henry Holloway, spoke of the MRA world journey he had gone on as a teenager with Chief Walking Buffalo. Now he and Rajmohan were meeting again after 34 years. 'Indigenous people around the world must speak of our wellness and our healing, of peace starting within ourselves,' he said.

Rose Crane, of the TsuuTina Nation, entertained the Gandhis for dinner with 27 members of her family. Rose and her late husband, Leonard, joined Rajmohan in a March across India in 1963.

The *Western Catholic Reporter* and the *Edmonton Journal* both carried articles on the Gandhis' visit.

Jack Freebury Bill and Phyllis Boccock

UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT BRITAIN

Ten Ukrainian parliamentarians visited Britain for two weeks in November for a seminar, 'Making Democracy Work', arranged by MRA's *Foundations for Freedom* programme. A full report is available. The event gave us some remarkable touches in British public life. It also brought the wholehearted support of the British Embassy in Kiev, without which the visit would never have happened. The full budget was covered by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, whose funds come from the British government.

The relationships with the Ukrainian visitors were warm and can be developed on future visits to Kiev. The group, cross-party as it was, was very polarised on arrival. There was a marked change in atmosphere among them during the fortnight. As one of them remarked at the end, 'A united Ukraine will be the best guarantee of our security.' Ukraine is at a decisive stage of its development and prayerful wisdom is needed on how to follow up on this event.

Regarding the FFF programme as a whole, we are deeply grateful to the 85 individuals, trusts and companies which have given the almost £47,000 needed to cover this year's programme. A 16-page report '94/prospectus '95 will be available by the end of January.

Edward Peters

AGE NO BAR TO ANDES CROSSING

Eighty-four year old Swiss-Brazilian businessman Erwin Zimmerman recently spent two weeks in Peru and Colombia at the invitation of MRA friends.

Dynamic public notary and former politician Heyde Duran (see 'Sisters of Courage' in Michael Henderson's new book) took him to her native city of

Palmira, Colombia's third industrial and commercial city. In three packed days he was guest speaker at an inaugural meeting of a business women's association; was received at the palace of the Governor of Valle de Cauca for two hours; showed *Men of Brazil* to 18 of the local team; and was the main speaker at a special meeting on 'Ethics in Business' called by the Palmira Chamber of Commerce.

That same night, Heyde opened *El Occidente* to find an appeal by the editor-in-chief to President Samper 'to unite the good sons and daughters of the Republic in a moral re-armament of Colombia!' Erwin Zimmerman returned home, convinced of the value of this kind of intra-Latin America visit.

Digna Hintzen

AUSTRALIAN STUDY COURSE 1996?

At the recent planning meeting in Canberra we looked ahead to goals and action for 1995/96. We want to keep Caux 50th as a clear focus, so should we review the 1996 *Effective Living Course*? At present we are considering having a Course of 12-weeks - starting at the end of January and finishing mid April. We would not have the usual Phase III - a programme of action with MRA. Instead, our aim would be that some of the participants assist with the Caux 50th, as Libby Boxer assisted with Caux '94. In order to proceed along these lines, we will need support in running the Course, as has happened in previous years. We hope especially there might be some from Asia who would like to do this. As we seek God's leading, we would be grateful for any thoughts on how to proceed.

John Mills Rob and Cheryl Wood

PLANNING FOR CAUX CITIES CONSULTATION

There will be an international planning meeting for the 1995 Caux Cities Consultation (Aug 4-11) at Tirley Garth, UK, from Sunday midday March 12 through March 14. Two from the United States will be there, on their way back from South Africa. Please consider who might represent your region at the planning session, and do not wait until then to feed in ideas for the Consultation. The printed invitation, which should be used in conjunction with the 'Caux Programme', is now available.

Immediately preceding this planning meeting there is a weekend conference at Tirley Garth (March 11-12) on 'Restoring the Human Spirit in our Cities'. We hope that those coming for the Caux planning will be

able to participate in the whole weekend. You are welcome at Tirley from Friday March 10.

Further information is available from me on fax +44 51 475 1001 in Liverpool.

Gerald Henderson

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

The Support Group for Central and Eastern Europe (see WB, Feb 94) will meet at Tirley Garth from February 5-9. Any thoughts you may wish to send either of us will be welcome.

Bryan Hamlin Edward Peters

CREATIVITY FOR '95, '96 AND BEYOND

We would like to invite all those who can to join us in Stockholm to look at the coming summer in Caux from the creative/cultural angle. It would be helpful to have all ideas, suggestions and hopes on paper by then. Please send them to us.

The coming summer is our priority, but we also want to start mapping out Caux '96. Thirdly, we will consider projects and ideas which may not be connected to Caux, but where we need each other's help.

We propose meeting from Friday February 17 at 16.00 until Sunday February 19 at 14.00. Anyone wishing to stay a day or two longer or arrive the night before is warmly welcome.

*Philip Tyndale-Biscoe Gunnar Söderlund
and all at Alnäs*

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

During this year a number of us around the globe have been able to use E-mail (computer-to-computer communications) to good effect. We continue to look for the most cost-effective channels of communication. In Australia we are closing down all other personal subscriptions, and trialing, with immediate effect, a shared Compuserve mailbox with the number 100351,1024 (previously my personal address).

To ensure that the intended person retrieves your message/file, please put his/her initials or abbreviated name at the beginning of the subject. Examples: **CMayor: Coordination Group memo**, **ALanc: World Bulletin**, **All: General memo**.

Several colleagues here will have access to this mailbox, and therefore confidentiality will be of roughly the same level as with a multi-user fax machine. We look forward to ever more effective communications! I welcome any enquiries by E-mail or fax.

Jonathan Lancaster, "Armagh", Melbourne

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES
UNITED STATES: From January 1 the address for

the new New York apartment and for Rob and Betsy Lancaster is: 240 East 47th Street, Apt 26E/F, New York, NY 10017-2137. Tel: +1 212 906 0081. From that date faxes should be sent to the office only not the current apartment - at +1 212 370 0534.

CANADA: Phone numbers in the new MRA World Addresses should be: RAM, Montreal: +1 514 733 3480; Gagnon, Quebec Tel:+1 418 659 4334, Fax: +1 418 659 6687.

MALAYSIA: Julie Tan's address is 8F-5-4 Tanjong Court, Lebuhraya Thean Teik, 11500 Penang. Tel: +60 4 826 6898

Calendar of Events

DEC '94	<u>Suva Fiji</u>	Fiji - I care - two-day youth session	Dec 15 - 16
	<u>Caux</u>	Winter Family Conference - Creators of Trust and Peace	Dec 26 - Jan 2
	<u>Adelaide Hills Australia</u>	New Horizons, New Beginnings - Australian Youth Camp	Dec 29 - Jan 5
JAN '95	<u>Caux</u>	Farmers' Dialogue, 1995	Jan 4 - Jan 8
	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	An Experiment in Learning to Live Together - Indian Study Course	Jan 4 - Feb 13
	<u>Petropolis Brazil</u>	Meeting of the Americas and the Caribbean	Jan 27 - Feb 5
FEB '95	<u>Tirley Garth UK</u>	Central and Eastern Europe Support Group	Feb 5 - 9
	<u>Alnäs Sweden</u>	Caux 95/96 creative/cultural planning meeting	Feb 17 - 19
MAR '95	<u>Tirley Garth UK</u>	Restoring the Human Spirit in Our Cities	Mar 11 - 12
	<u>Tirley Garth</u>	Planning meeting for Caux Cities Consultation	Mar 12 - 14
JUL '95	<u>Philippines</u>	Asia Pacific Camp (date to be decided)	
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Scholars Program	Jul 6 - Aug 9
	<u>Caux</u>	Unity with Diversity, A Consultation on Europe	Jul 8 - 16
	<u>Caux</u>	The Society of Tomorrow	Jul 18 - 26
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Round Table	Jul 19 - 22
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Conference for Industry and Business	Jul 28 - Aug 2
AUG '95	<u>Caux</u>	Restoring the Human Spirit in Our Cities	Aug 4 - 11
	<u>Caux</u>	Regions in crisis, Regions in recovery - Learning from one another	Aug 14 - 24
SEP '95	<u>Tirley Garth UK</u>	Foundations for Freedom - International Course	Sep 7 - 26

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, January 15, 1994.

John Bond
151 Kent Street
Hughes ACT 2605
Australia
Tel: +61 6 281 0940

Andrew Lancaster
10 Dooley Place
Curtin ACT 2605
Australia
Tel: +61 6 281 2107

Fax: +61 6 285 3616

Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Santa Maria; Philippines - Cardel; Japan, Rest - Fujita; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; Africa: East - Patel; South - Horn; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - Agbih; N.America: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; Latin America: Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; Caribbean - Fiona Edwards; Europe: France - Lasserre; Germany - Bräckle; Denmark - Jørgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Austria - Vock; Netherlands, Rest - J de Pous; Middle East: - Christodoulides