

## 'Task force' heads for Scotland

THIS WEEK'S QUIZ: What is light and versatile, mobile and self-supporting, but leaves a permanent mark?

'We represent 15 countries, four continents, black and white, rich and poor. We were all born in the middle of this century and we are deeply interested in the development of our world towards the year 2,000. We feel there are many things that need to change, but rather than complain we want to learn to relate our own experiences of change, no

matter how small, to a rapidly changing world situation.

'With people of all ages we want to enlist our generation in the challenge of tackling the issues of hate, greed, fear, violence, democracy and freedom. We believe that each person can choose to change and to be free.

'To do all this we need an international task force which is — light and versatile, mobile and self-supporting but which leaves a permanent mark!'

This force met for the first time on 20 September in Tirley Garth, Cheshire, to put together a dramatic presentation.

Some are students, others have given up well-paid jobs. They come from every background — from cabinet maker's son to

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# NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

## A NEW ERA OF REGENERATION



Subbiah Kistasamy speaks at the 'Action '75' meeting.

Photo: Channer

As the British papers headlined 'crisis', *Action '75* last week celebrated its first birthday — and the launching of its next phase. The well-attended meeting in London was chaired by Albert Ingram, life-long trade unionist and Chairman of *Action '75*. *The Daily Telegraph*, the following day in a front page report, described *Action '75* as 'a campaign launched a year ago by moderate trade unionists to bring about a fundamental change in industrial, political and economic attitudes'.

*The Waterfront and Industrial Pioneer* in a double-page feature to mark the anniversary says:

'The answer to the degeneration of the pound is a regeneration of our country.

'Over the last 12 months countless numbers of men and women, aware of the dangers of economic collapse, have sacrificed to give a year for Britain rather than a year for self.

'Policies of co-operation between the unions, government and industry are beginning to work, the tide of inflation is being turned, and a year of relative industrial peace has been recorded.

'However, the alarming level of unemployment, the intolerable weakness of the pound, massive monetary borrowing and Britain's lack of an adequate national or world purpose present a serious threat to our endeavours towards recovery. 1976/77 is therefore a year of commitment when we, both individually and as a nation, must move beyond survival to start building a new era of regeneration.'

We print the contributions of two of the speakers at the meeting.

### Subbiah Kistasamy — 'This is my country'

I AM AN IMMIGRANT. And it is nice to be a subject that is debated in the House of Lords!

It is also nice that legislation is being passed in Parliament to look after minorities.

But I believe that one of the things that people of this country could do is to give motivation to people like us. I can say this, because it was the theatre here, the Westminster Theatre, and functions like this, which gave a new motivation to a person like me.

I don't know what feelings pass through the minds of people when they think of Southall, Notting Hill, East Ham or Bradford (areas with large immigrant populations).

Imagine the traumatic experiences of people like me who come from white-dominated South Africa, who come from a country which is a white man's world. It is a tremendous challenge. It is very difficult indeed.

Nobody, nobody whatsoever, dare challenge my right to the citizenship of this country. This is my country. I will fight for it if need be, and I will work for it regardless of any detractors. And it is possible for me to do this simply because I do not live in a world of reaction to what is happening around me, but rather I live in a world that tries to bring solutions to the issues that we have in our lives.

I think, coming from South Africa, and being very sensitive to the issue of race, I felt this was a period of history in this country when we could fashion a society which included everybody, of every race and every cultural background, to form one nation.

And that could be a demonstration to Rhodesia, it could be a demonstration to South Africa, to the United States, or even to India itself.

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IT COULD BE SAID that I am a troublesome woman from a troublesome country. But what of our history? No country in Europe has ever had such a struggle for bread and work as Ireland, both North and South.

I had a wonderful mother. My mother was a suffragette, and each evening after we said the family prayer around her knee, she always said to us, 'Children, if you see something wrong and you do nothing about it (pointing to each one of us) you are committing a crime against the whole of humanity.'

At the age of 12 I lost my mother. She died in childbirth and I stood by her bedside. I watched my mother die because my family were too poor to have adequate medical attention. Then when I became 14 I went into one of our big weaving factories. What did I find there? Poverty was the order of the day. Women working till six o'clock, and babies born at eight o'clock and they were back on the job in 48 hours.

We weren't allowed to sit at the job. We weren't allowed to sing. We were just a pair of hands or a number on a payroll, and remembering those words, in my early teens I never missed an opportunity to try to speak out for my people. And it didn't matter whether we were Catholic or Protestant, we were all paid the same pittance.

One day many years ago I met a great man, the founder of Moral Re-Armament, Dr Frank Buchman. I was at a conference and it was full of employers, and boy did I hate employers. I was asked to speak, so I thought here was a platform where I could have a go, and believe me I did not miss the employers and hit the wall!

## Every bloody one

So the next morning I met Dr Buchman and he commented on the speech. He said to me, 'I don't think you like the employers.' Well, I says, 'You're putting it mildly, Dr Buchman.' For I says, 'If I had a gun here I would shoot every bloody one of them.' 'Well, now,' he says, 'here's all the guns you need. And here are these rascals, shot dead. Where do you go from here, when they are all shot dead?'

Now, you know, friends, that the real danger lies not in things. But in men and women, how they think, how they live and how they work and how they feel. As one who attends many, many conferences, I find in those conferences that there's more problems sitting around the table than there's on the table for discussion. So often rows start at the breakfast table. And then they are carried into the factory. Over the years we have been trying to teach our menfolk, now I'm not having a go at the menfolk — Lord bless us, we couldn't do without them — but we have to try to teach our menfolk to pass more pubs and less resolutions! And I think they are beginning to learn.

Now to come back to my sorry, unhappy country. When you think of it, one in every thousand killed. And one in every hundred maimed. And when I say maimed, I mean no



Photo: Channer

## Saidie Patterson—

*'The impossible has happened'*

**Miss Saidie Patterson, MBE, was the first woman chairman of the Irish Labour Party, and was the Chief Organiser of 90,000 women textile workers in the North. She is a life Vice-President of the 'Women Together' movement, and a leader of the Irish women's peace movement.**

limbs, no arms and no legs. What makes our womenfolk so unhappy is our children. Because these children are tomorrow's Mums and Dads. I'll not be living to see them, tomorrow's Mums and Dads. But we've got to do something about it. When you think of it, many of those children on tranquillisers, many, many using the gun, many in training schools and in borstals and in jails and many teenage alcoholics whom we are trying to dry out. We have got to learn, friends, that a man's character is more important than the colour of his skin, or where he worships on Sunday or where he doesn't.

Seven years ago when our troubles started we formed an organisation known as *Women Together* and over the seven years, quietly we have been working behind the scenes. Sowing the seeds, and keeping that flame burning, going to homes where there was bereavement. There's not a home in the city I live in that I have not been there. Catholic and Protestant women go, talk, try to give sympathy and try to give practical help, which is a language most people understand, until their claims come through.

Quite recently we had three children murdered, murdered in Andersonstown (a Roman Catholic area). Now the Falls Road is entirely Roman Catholic, the Shankill Road is entirely Protestant. Those are the two most famous roads in the world at the present day.

The day that those three children were buried, I went over to the funeral. And it was heartbreaking, to see those three tiny white coffins. It was the Angel Mass and the Priest was wonderful. He talked about what the Master said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me', and 'He gathers the lambs in His arms'.

After the service, we came out of that church, quite a number of people gathered round me, because, remember, as a Prot-

estant, it hasn't been the done thing that Protestants go to Catholic churches, or vice-versa. But the Reverend Mother had asked me to come. And when I came out, many of my generation who were spinners or weavers in my heyday, gathered round me and we started to talk. I said to them, 'You know, Jesus Christ was murdered. He was murdered. And God, it was His only begotten Son, and He didn't save Him. We've listened to that Mass and we believe that those children were sinless. They were called back again, and God didn't save them, they were called back. In our Methodist hymn-book there's a hymn that says, "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform", and how do we know but that is not what has been happening today?'

## Human chains

Just a short time after that, the Provos (Provisional IRA) on the Falls started to hijack buses and cars to protest about their friends who were in Long Kesh, which is one of our jails. The women in this area made up their minds that this was going to stop, and the women came out onto the road and made human chains, and stopped the hijacking of these buses. One woman even got into the driver's cab and drove the bus down to the Army post. This was a history-making day because none of these folk ever went near an Army post.

Then the women had a large gathering that following Saturday in Andersonstown. And we had two leaders of the peace movement there and it was just a simple service, reading our declaration and singing a couple of hymns. There were women from the Shankill and they shouted up to the platform, 'Come to the Shankill Road!' Now that was a miracle.

The next thing, we started to organise the

Shankill Road. And I was asked, as a person who lives on that road, to help to organise it. Believe me, friends, in the words of Churchill, it was blood, and it was sweat and it was tears to do it, because there was a bitterness there that has to be seen to be believed.

Well, I believe the Good Lord can speak to you. If you sit quiet it's just amazing the thoughts that come to you.

## Spat upon

The thought came to me to go to a number of hardliners. I went to the first. And I dare not tell this vast audience all that was said to me, but I was spat upon and I was told in no uncertain manner that there wouldn't be a bloody Fenian (Catholic) ever walk up the Shankill Road. Well, I said, 'We're living in a democracy. And anyone has the right to walk on the Queen's highway.' Well, of course, the lady in question thought I was dishonouring the Queen. And I got a very nice spittle on my coat. So I just looked at her and I said, 'Just where you spat on me, that is where our Queen of England pinned a medal when she was decorating me for work done on behalf of women and children in this country.' And I said, 'What's more, the greatest peace-maker this world ever knew, and I refer to our Saviour, He was spat upon. And who am I? Good morning.'

I left and I went to the second. She wasn't just so bad. I got in. But we had to get her on her knees, and we did a little praying. And I could hardly pray because the woman was saying, 'Oh no, Lord! I couldn't forgive them. Oh no, Lord! I couldn't help them.' Now, God does move in a mysterious way, and her daughter came in with two small children. We got off our knees, and I turned to her daughter and said, 'What kind of world do you want to build for those two children? Take the Shankill Road, a road we love, a road where there is not a house that hasn't been robbed or people shot looking for protection money. And it's the same on the Falls Road.' This is what we are living in, friends. So the daughter said, 'I want to build a better world for my children.' I said, 'Your granny doesn't. For their granny is telling the Lord — she is not telling me — she's telling the Lord she couldn't do it and she won't do it. And you know, you are just as near to God as you are to your neighbour. But the Lord got 10 or 15 minutes of "Oh no, Lord, but not today".' But when the daughter agreed to come the mother says, 'Well, I'll come too'.

So I arranged to meet them the next morning to plan where we would go from there. Then when I got onto the road, the Shankill Road, to go home, I met the first woman coming down quite perky tossing her head, and she didn't want to speak. But I stopped her and I said, 'You'll be glad to know that Tilly is coming to help me.' 'Well, Jesus Christ, if Tilly's coming to help you I'm coming too!' she said.

Now friends, that started it. The Shankill women asked our Catholic friends to come from the Falls. And the women on the Falls had the courage to come to the Shankill. And the Shankill women opened their hearts

to the women from the Falls. Isn't that what it's all about?

I got two leaders of the peace movement and we walked up and down the Shankill Road. And we looked at the pubs that had been bombed, and the places where people had been murdered. And I suggested to them — I knew every crowd that came from the different areas all carried place banners — but I said, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could get two children to carry a banner with a magic little word, and that little word is "sorry"?' And they did. And the day of this march the Catholic people came up one side of the crossroads and the Protestants from the Shankill and the Woodville and from Ardoyne and all around were there to receive them. You want to see that, friends. It had to be seen to be believed.

## Children of the King

Now when they came to the pubs I said to them, 'Don't bless yourselves because we from the Shankill are not ready for the blessing yet. But bow your heads in sorrow.' And they did. Well I'm telling you, friends, I have stood at the barricades for 50 years but I've never seen anything like this in my life.

The church bells rang in every church in the Shankill. The church choirs came out and sang right along the way. 40,000 turned out at the Woodville Park and 30,000 lined the roads. And I chaired that meeting. And my speech was that 30 years, 40 years ago, in the early 'thirties, we walked on the Shankill Road — Catholic and Protestant — going to the workhouse for the right for bread and for the right for work. Today we walked on that Shankill Road not as Catholics and Protestants but as children of the King of Kings.

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## MY COUNTRY contd from p1

All those attitudes that developed over a period of hundreds of years through colonialism and everything else have now had to come to an end, to change completely, so that we regard every person in his own right, as a God-given person, who has a right to live where he chooses to live, and earn his livelihood where he chooses to earn his livelihood.

I believe we can be a part of this.

## Fully-fledged and free

It is not theory so far as I am concerned. Both my wife and I who come from South Africa know what it is to be freed from race prejudices, know what it is to be freed from hatreds. And we have used our home so that people of every race and of every cultural background can come and share our experiences and learn to be fully-fledged citizens, not only of the countries they come from, but also of the world. We have entertained over the last seven or eight years nearly 2,000 people from every corner of the earth, of every racial background. And they have sat with us in our home as part of our family and have shared our common humanity under God.

For peace and reconciliation.

Friends, it's a miracle that has happened in Northern Ireland, it's the impossible that has happened. But we definitely need your prayers because there is still trouble going on. Peace won't come easy. We have got to make peace every day. And we are aiming now to have a captain in every street.

A dirty street is a defeated street. And our streets are dirty because neither Catholic nor Protestant sweepers will go into each other's areas because they're a target for the gunman. So the women are cleaning the streets.

There's one thing we can do in Ireland and that is write. Give us a blank wall, a bucket of whitewash and a brush. You'll get all the sectarian slogans you want! Now we're cleaning the walls. And we're arranging to have peace celebrations in all the streets for Hallowe'en, for the children. I'm getting hardliners to cook the hot peas and to make the hotdogs.

Friends, our hands have been put to the plough but we need the help of every one of you. And we try in our simple way to do what we can. If we can get the address of any soldier that has been killed, we write to his mother or wife or send flowers. It doesn't bring back the life of that lad, but at least it lets some people know that we are not all violent. And I ask you, friends, I appeal to you, to remember us all in your prayers, and wherever there's marches in your part of the country please attend. Because this is the thing that is demoralising the paramilitary (extremist) organisations on both sides.

Friends, this is the last revolution that I'll ever fight in and we're going to win, and win the battle of what's right, and we're not only going to build God's new Ireland, but we'll take it to the world.

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I am proud to say it, and to say that it was possible to do it because we were freed from the hatreds, from the bitternesses and frustrations and the reactions in which we have been engulfed all through our lives.

I work as a teacher in Newham as Head of the Geography Department in a secondary school. Two years ago I took on this job. When I became the Head I had hardly any resources in the way of textbooks, audio-visual equipment, exercise books, paper, anything. There were two young men trying to do their best. There was a demoralised atmosphere in the classrooms, discipline was bad. What more do you need?

In two years, it is now one of the most fully equipped departments in the school. We have classes doing a high academic standard of work. We have two O-level classes in Geography, one O-level class in Geology, and one CSE class in the fourth year. And we are doing A-level courses as well.

And I think this comes as a result of a feeling that one of the contributions that we, as immigrants, can make to this country is the pursuit of excellence, and to elicit from every person the best that they are capable of giving.

I feel proud to be part of this country and to participate in the regeneration of this nation.

# Ingredients for Rhodesia

BLACK AND WHITE spoke together to a 'report-back' meeting at the University of Rhodesia by the 15 Rhodesians who attended the International Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Caux, Switzerland.

'We went to Caux to find the ingredients for a successful multi-racial society,' said Desmond Reader, Professor of Sociology at the University of Rhodesia. 'Such a society could show the answer to social tensions elsewhere. In the recent developments, the preconditions for creating such a society seem to have been provided. Now we must spread out, acting as cells in our communities, and change this country.'

His wife, Dolores, spoke alongside him. 'I have had to get rid of my defensive habit of listing all the good things the whites have done, and forgetting the rest. Until we can build a society where there is no need to list

right and wrong, our job is not done. The future of this country can only be built on personal change and sacrifice.'

'I have decided to love all people, irrespective of differences in culture, in background and in race,' said Dixon Maramba, a headmaster. 'I must play my part in building a new state, where there is concern for others, and where people are guided by God in all walks of life.'

'I have initiated changes towards moral teaching in my school, and have started to teach the children these things. They are learning three key words — "sorry", "thank you" and "please". The results are tremendous. You need only ask one of the teachers to know the changes towards achieving the society I would like to see in this country.'

Abson Kumbawa, a youth director for the

Methodist Church, spoke with his wife, Grace. 'People in Caux don't think of colour, they think of people,' he said. 'One day I met with a Swiss man. We talked for a long time, sharing our experiences. He was shedding tears. He had something that was bothering him, and he felt that here was someone he could share with. To me this was something tremendous.'

His wife, Grace, added, 'If there is not a good relationship in the family, a person has got to react somewhere. For a long time I was at war with my father. I did not want to see him. When I began to listen to God, a voice said: "Are you ready to welcome your father into your home?" At last I learnt to love him. I found a new love for my husband too.'

## A tremendous shock

Sir Cyril Hatty, Minister of Finance in a previous Rhodesian Government, said 'We are in a situation which forces us to live absolute moral standards — honesty, purity, unselfishness and love — as our only hope. If we listen to God, He will show each of what we can do. Then we will find an answer.'

Among the other speakers was George Daneel, a Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church and a former Springbok rugby player. 'We all hope for a peaceful settlement,' he said. 'That may be only a political answer. We must make it work in our homes, our schools, our offices. As an Afrikaner, I considered myself the master, and the black man my servant. It was a tremendous shock when I realised that this attitude was the cause of the bitterness in the black people of South Africa.'

'There is a way for our country far better than we have so far had,' said Alec Smith, the chairman, summing up the meeting, 'and these people who have come from Caux have shown us how to set to work to build it.'

## TASK FORCE contd from p1



The task force — from 15 countries and 4 continents.

Photo: Azzopardi

Cabinet Minister's daughter. They have decided to make themselves available to answer some of the urgent requests for help in bringing change in this and other countries.

This week they left for Scotland. Some of the group will be guests at the Gaelic Mod in Aberdeen, the annual festival of Highland culture. Aberdeen is the centre of the oil industry and the fisheries which have become national and international issues. Others will go to Glasgow, city of ship-building and engineering, and to the coal-mining district of Fife.

On 6 October, over a hundred people from the area around Tirley came to meet with the group before their departure for Scotland. It

was an evening of humour and depth that included new songs and sketches drawn from their own experiences. One hit of the evening was a song about the search for resources inspired by a quote by Jimmy Reid (well-known militant trade unionist), 'The untapped resources of the North Sea are nothing like the untapped resources of the people of this country.'

After the presentation one man said, 'Tonight gave the simple truths that are going to win the future. Let no-one draw you away from the directness of what you say about the need for change in people, about God satisfying and giving a destiny in place of emptiness. What we saw gave what this country and the world wants to hear.'

## Kit Prescott

THE DEATH of Christopher Prescott ('Kit') was front-page news in *The Rhodesia Herald* last month, the same day as the announcement of Prime Minister Ian Smith's acceptance of the Kissinger proposals.

A pioneer of the Oxford Group from his days at Oxford University, he was 'known to many Rhodesians for his work with Moral Re-Armament'. In recent months he had been working tirelessly behind the scenes to help black and white reach across the colour line, and to prepare men's spirits for a settlement there.

A memorial meeting will be held in the Westminster Theatre at 12 noon on Thursday, 21 October.

We will give a fuller evaluation of his life and work in a later issue.