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EVENTS are moving swiftly in Asia. China has withdrawn from the free world. There is constant pressure in Korea, Indo-China, Malaya and Indonesia. The democratic nations will have to find a drastically new approach to affect the situation.

The shortage of rice is a key factor. For the millions of Asia it is their basic diet. It is the first concern of every government in the East to secure sufficient supplies to feed their people. The present shortage is principally due to the devastation of the war. In addition two of the three main rice exporting countries—Siam, Burma and Indo-China are at present in the throes of internal conflict. Rice has become a weapon in the ideological war.

China has just made a spectacular offer of 200,000 tons of rice to Ceylon at a figure below current world prices in return for her rubber for the next five years at a price above that prevailing in the world market. This is a crucial issue for Ceylon. The rice will help to feed her population. Her rubber exports are essential to stabilise her trade.

Against the background of this crisis a diplomat

in a key British Embassy in the Far East summed up the work of the Asian Assembly in Colombo: "We have seen a new unifying force at work in Asia. We have seen the answer to all the warring ideologies above class and different backgrounds. We have seen the answer to corruption and exploitation, based on personal change."

On the same platform the Professor of political science at Tokai University, Professor Togano, said: "This is the only force that will save Asia from war and bloody revolution."

The Minister of Food grasped its importance and invited Dr. Buchman to address the rice-workers at the rice-paddy transplanting demonstration at Mawaneela. The government is anxious that the transplanting of rice becomes a universal practice in view of the increased yield it brings and has arranged these demonstrations to stimulate production. Dr. Buchman said on this occasion: "There is enough rice in the world for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed. If everyone cared enough and everyone shared enough, wouldn't everyone have enough?"

A UNIFYING FORCE AT WORK IN ASIA

One of the most significant features of the visit of the MRA task force to Ceylon has been the impact on the villages. Ninety per cent of Asia's population live in villages. During this past month Dr. Buchman and his colleagues have addressed scores of meetings in Ceylon—in the villages as well as in the centres of commerce and industry. "The vast masses of rural people will join in this fight," said D. B. Ellepola, until recently Director of Rural Development.

In a little less than a month the leaders and the masses have responded to the ideology of MRA and made it their own. The Prime Minister and thirteen out of the fourteen members of his Cabinet attended the plays which were performed each night in the Regal

Theatre. The Moral Re-Armament force were guests of honour at the opening of the Senate and spoke at meetings in the parliament building. Three thousand railway workers came to one mass meeting. Two thousand five hundred port workers and their wives crowded into the largest hall in Colombo harbour to hear them. DeWitt Mackenzie, the Associated Press columnist, said of this meeting: "I have travelled the globe for 40 years and never in my experience seen a meeting like this." The leader of Colombo's dockers said: "Moral Re-Armament must become a binding factor between us all. I shall seek to co-operate with the management to make the working of this port such as will bring prosperity and well-being to the whole island."

The Asian Assembly was attended by 32 nations and distinguished delegations from Korea, Japan, Thailand, Burma, India, Malaya, Papua, Australia and New Zealand. Dr. Hongkuy Pyen spoke on behalf of the Korean delegation. He said: "We face two great needs in Korea which cannot be met and answered except through Moral Re-Armament; how to win final victory, and how to rebuild our war-torn country. It is not enough to win the military war. If we are to secure final victory, we must win the ideological war, and we need this inspired democracy of Moral Re-Armament to do that."

A government delegation came from Thailand and a parliamentary group came from Japan. A Socialist member of the Japanese Diet brought a message from five Cabinet Ministers and fifty-five Members of Parliament: "We members of the Diet, at the beginning of the next session want to demonstrate together in our public and private life the principles of Moral Re-Armament." The Japanese leaders went on to invite Dr. Buchman and his colleagues to Japan in the spring.

DR. BUCHMAN ARRIVES IN BOMBAY

Dr. Buchman is now in Bombay where he received a cable from the Prime Minister of Ceylon, the Hon. Dudley Senanayake, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike, and six Cabinet Ministers,

the Ministers of Finance, Home Affairs, Transport and Works, Justice, Labour, and Social Services and Health. They state: "Ceylon is deeply grateful to you and all who participated in the Moral Re-Armament Asian Assembly in Colombo. We assure you of our sincere interest in this world force. We feel the hour calls for the continuance of this movement in Asia in the interest of unity, security, and peace."

Dr. Buchman was greeted on arrival at a civic reception by the Mayor and the Chief Minister and the principal ministers in the Cabinet. The Mayor, the Sheriff, the Congress leader, Mr. S. K. Patil, and the Chairman of the Tata Industries, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, were among the crowd of distinguished citizens who welcomed the task force at the dockside. Indian leaders in New Delhi cabled: "We have heard how you and your team have captured hearts in Ceylon. We know that India also will take you and the great idea of Moral Re-Armament to her heart. We in Delhi eagerly await your coming." The signatories were Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Member of the National Planning Commission, Chairman of the Fiscal Commission, 1950; Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Deputy Chairman of the National Planning Commission and Minister for Planning River Valley Projects; Sir Shri Ram, Former Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Commerce; Shri Khandubhai Desai, President of the Indian National Trade Union Congress.

EMPLOYERS PLAN UNITED ACTION IN EUROPEAN INDUSTRY

Forty-five industrialists from eleven countries met in Paris on 8 and 9 November to consider the part European industry can play in bringing peace and plenty to the world. The conference was held on the initiative of Henri Desbrùères, President of the French Nationalised Association for the Construction of Aircraft Engines; Robert Carmichael, President of the French Jute Industry; Robert Tilge, Secretary of the Employers' Federation of Northern France, and Frederick Pain, President of Phillips and Pain Fire Extinguishers.

The spontaneous action of these industrialists gives hope that the attempts to rise above the national divisions in Europe will be successful. Such a move as the Schuman Plan, for example, can only succeed if everyone engaged in industry, not only government officials, accepts the implications in his day to day work of being part of a supra-national community.

The Times in its report of the conference on 14 November stated: "The industrialists agreed that far-reaching changes in the structure of industry could not take place without a new moral climate in the factories and admitted that too often the atmosphere was one of misunderstanding, jealousy and selfishness. The employers had a primary part to play in creating this

new climate. Factories must no longer be regarded as mere economic units, but as schools of civilization in which people mattered more than things. Ample evidence was produced to show that when this new moral climate was established, every problem in industry could be solved on a basis of complete frankness."

A British delegate stressed three outstanding features of the conference.

First, the employers did not gloss over the hatred, fear and bitterness which are the main obstacles to joint European action, but faced and dealt with them. The consequences of disunity in Europe were poignantly brought to mind by the fact that the meeting took place over Remembrance weekend and that French, German and British industrialists were present together.

Secondly, they met not to bargain for markets, but to plan how to meet the needs of the ordinary man throughout the world.

Thirdly, they pledged themselves to work with labour in solving industrial problems and in finding industry's contribution to the solution of social problems.

This programme attracted men as diverse as Frits Philips, Vice-President of the Philips Electrical Industries; André Peltzer, President of the Belgian Textile

Employers' Federation; Bernard van Delden, Chairman of the Export Committee of the National Association of Textiles, Germany; Rudolf Huber, Director of the Oerlikon Machine Factory, Zurich; John Nowell, President of the Cut Sole Manufacturers' Association, 1951-52, Great Britain; Aake Wetterlind, a Swedish textile manufacturer; and Alfred Nielsen, Chairman of the Danish Lumber Association.

German and Italian employers described measures taken successfully to deal with the problem of unemployment. A French representative gave details of how the new spirit of teamwork and joint responsibility in his factory had brought increased production and earnings.

The Scandinavian representatives came from a series of interviews with their Prime Ministers and members of cabinets. They reported on the practical support their

governments and industries were offering to the MRA task force at present working in Asia to develop international unity.

No time was wasted in making anti-communist speeches. Instead the delegates considered their own responsibility for the present confused state of Europe. They also considered in detail the changes in their own approach required to initiate a change in the whole atmosphere of industry. This atmosphere, they agreed, depends decisively on the attitude of the employers, and any change in their attitude calls forth profound changes in the attitude of the workers and their families. In particular they determined in future to do things *with* the workers, rather than *for* the workers. The outcome of their deliberations was, as one observer put it, a militant force in industry committed with all its resources to creating unity in the heart of Europe.

PROFILE OF AMERICAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

A correspondent from Washington writes of the President-elect of the United States, General Eisenhower and his Vice-President, Senator Richard Nixon:

"Eisenhower can be expected to build a strong team of men to direct the nation's affairs. His genius for winning men of opposite points of view and differing temperament into a working harmony made a lasting impression in the European theatre during the last war.

"During the Presidential campaign he welded together a division in his party without losing the authority given him by the defeat at the Chicago convention of the 'Nationalist' element in that party. He can be expected to try the same unifying process in the country as a whole. And those who know Adlai Stevenson will anticipate an intelligent but not intransigent opposition from the twenty-seven million who voted his way. There is, many Americans feel, great value in new leadership in both parties. Since the campaign heat has cooled, areas of agreement in domestic and world affairs are seen to be formidable and far-reaching.

"No one can prophesy the events of the coming years but certain lines of action are indicated by the nature of the General and the character of his election campaign: first, he will do all possible in concert with America's allies to end the Korean war. He will not stand for an appeasement policy that perennially enables the Communists to call the tune.

"Secondly, he will accept his plain mandate and activate new policies in Asia. But he is unlikely at the same time to forget the years in which he fought for the unification and strength of Europe.

"Thirdly, economy is on the cards in America. He has pledged a reduction in the forthcoming budget, a large proportion of which is dedicated to military

preparedness. Yet he knows what it takes to equip an army and is unlikely to let the necessity for economy allow the free world to drop below the danger point in strength. He will also agree with those in Europe who believe that increased international trade and a healthy economy in each country will help to end the need for grants from the U.S.A.

"A member of the United States Senate said last year, after a visit to General Eisenhower, 'He is almost fanatical on the need for an over-arching ideology to unite the free world.'

"Something of the man himself is suggested by his statement during the campaign about his own faith: 'The founding fathers had to refer to the Creator in order to make their revolutionary experiment make sense. It was because "all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights" that man could dare to be free. Our forefathers proved that only a people strong enough in godliness is a people strong enough to overcome tyranny and make themselves and others free. Today it is for us to prove that our own faith perpetually renewed is equal to the challenge of today's tyrants.'

"Only through trust in oneself and trust in God can a man carrying responsibility find repose. If each of us in our own mind would rely upon the simple virtues of integrity, courage, self-confidence, and an unshakable belief in his Bible, would not some of our problems tend to simplify themselves?"

"Senator Nixon, who during the campaign became far more than the usual vice-presidential candidate, has for many years appreciated the importance of the ideological factor in international affairs. When the Conference for the Reconstruction of Pacific Relations assembled in his home state of California last year he

announced the opening of the discussions in the Senate. This conference was the precursor of the present visit of Dr. Buchman to Asia.

"He referred then to the outstanding impression recent conversations with General Eisenhower had made on him. 'General Eisenhower said that he believed that in meeting the world challenge which communism now presents, the ideological factor was at least as important, if not even more important than the military and the economic.'"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philip Murray. Leaders of the Ceylon Workers' Congress, the Ceylon Trade Union Congress, workers from the docks and key plantations, women and men from the rice-paddy fields, diplomatic representatives and management and government leaders from all races and 33 nations paid tribute to the memory of Philip Murray, the late President of the C.I.O. News of his passing was cabled to Dr. Frank Buchman in Colombo where he was leading the Asian Assembly for MRA. 1,200 Ceylonese who overflowed Colombo's finest theatre to see the final performance of the MRA musical play *Jotham Valley* heard news of Murray's passing announced by Duncan Corcoran, a Scots trade unionist friend of the C.I.O. chief. The Asian audience listened intently to Corcoran as he described the life and leadership of the late C.I.O. president from his early days in the United Mine Workers with John L. Lewis and William Green down to the present, and his world initiative with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to lift the level of the workers throughout Asia and the world. The demonstration of unity between East and West which the audience represented was a perfect tribute to a man who fought and gave his life for all humanity.

"The World Assembly for the reconstruction of Pacific Relations deserves the careful attention and support, not only of those in the Congress but also those in the executive departments who are charged with American relations in the Pacific area. For I believe that with a relatively small investment of time, effort, and money in the ideological field, we will save ourselves and the free world billions of dollars and millions of lives, and help to usher in that new era of security and progress for which we all are looking.'"

Miami Labour Citizen. The American Federation of Labour newspaper in Miami, Florida, published a special supplement on MRA at the time of the A.F. of L. convention earlier this year. Copies may now be obtained from MRA Information Service, 4 Hays Mews, Berkeley Square, London, W.1, price 6d., postage extra.

Books in the East. An article headlined "War for the Mind of India" in the *Continental Daily Mail* of 10 November states that one million Russian books were sold in India last year. Of these, 80 per cent were Communist propaganda. Priced at a fraction of the price of Western books they are within reach of the average city office worker. By contrast, the majority of Anglo-American books, states the article, are film magazines, and works of fiction.

The hunger of Asia for a satisfying ideology is apparent, however, from the demand for the literature of Moral Re-Armament. The interest aroused by the recent Asian assembly in Ceylon has been so great that the 10,000 MRA books and pamphlets sent from Britain at the time of the ten day sessions have proved insufficient. In the last month, 25,000 books and 50,000 pamphlets have been sent to India. A further 50,000 books have just left from America.

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