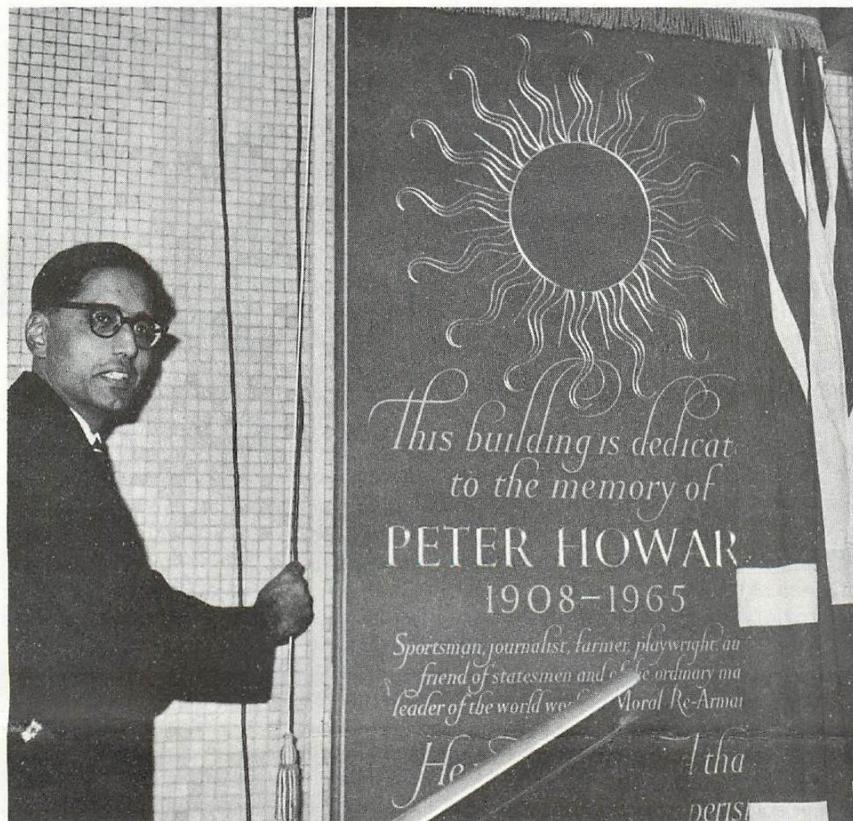


Photo: Press Association



Gandhi opens Arts Centre

**'A voice will go
out to which humanity
will respond'**

SHRI RAJMOHAN GANDHI opened the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre on 26 November before people from 33 nations.

As he unveiled the memorial stone to Peter Howard, in whose memory the Centre has been built, the six hundred invited guests crowded out the big foyer—one of the largest theatre foyers in London. Gandhi said, 'A voice will go out from this Centre to which all humanity will respond.'

Mrs Michael Barrett, granddaughter of Lloyd George, unveiled the plaque marking the gift of Welsh slate with which the building is clad. She performed this in place of Goronwy Roberts MP, Minister of State for Science and Education, who was prevented from coming by the sudden death of a close colleague. The Aber Valley Male Voice Choir sang the Welsh National Anthem.

Sayed Butth Diu, President of the Liberal Party of the Sudan, unveiled

a panel embossed in leather. The leather panelling in the foyer of the Centre is a gift from the Sudan Government Tannery.

The guests then moved from the foyer into the two hundred year old theatre around which the Arts Centre has been built.

The whole Arts Centre was dedicated to God's service by the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt Rev Roderic N Cooté. Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, was represented by Monsignor Bruce Kent, Chairman of the Catholic Chaplaincy to London University.

The Chairman of the Westminster Memorial Trust, Kenneth Belden, said that the dedication would 'make clear from the start our aims here and how we intend to go on.'

In his address Gandhi said, 'The Westminster Theatre Arts Centre is going to be a great voice of Britain. It will invite millions everywhere to listen to the voice of God. The wea-

pons released by the Centre will strike every corner of the world. Men and women trained in it will do likewise.' (Full text: pages 3-5).

Patrick Wolrige Gordon, Conservative MP for East Aberdeenshire to whom Peter Howard's daughter Anne is married, thanked Mr Gandhi for 'coming all this way from India in the midst of an all-out battle in his own country for the freedom of his country, in which he plays such a tremendously prominent role.'

Mr Wolrige Gordon continued, 'Anne and I know something of the nature of that battle. We know its anguish and we know its absorbing interest and challenging difficulty and we understand the supra-national importance of him winning it.'

Peter Howard, said the Scottish MP, was deeply aware that the moral re-armament of humanity 'was a battle in which every man, every woman of every race, every nation, is needed. He wanted to give every-

body the chance of an answer and he wanted to give anybody who wanted to take part in providing that answer, a chance to do it.'

Miss Surya Kumari, Indian star of stage and screen, recited three of Peter Howard's poems.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Keith Holyoake, in a message read at the opening ceremony, described the Arts Centre as 'an oasis of artistic expression for many generations to come. The Westminster Theatre is one of the many institutions with a strong appeal to students from the Commonwealth. With the magnificent addition of its new Centre for the Arts, its value to British and Commonwealth cultural life will be immeasurably increased.'

Others who sent messages included the President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios; the Speaker of the Ceylon House of Representatives, Sir Albert F Peries; and the General Secretary of British Actors' Equity Association, Gerald Croasdell, OBE.

J Blanton Belk, Executive Director of MRA in the United States; Basil Entwistle, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mackinac College; and Garrett Stearly, one of the men leading MRA in the US, flew to London for the occasion. On their behalf Mr and Mrs Belk presented a beautiful 17th century Flemish tapestry to the Arts Centre from the United States.

Mr Entwistle conveyed a message from his fellow trustees. It said that Mackinac College shared with the Westminster Memorial Trust 'the faith that the resources of human



Guest of honour at the inaugural banquet was HH Prince Richard of Hesse. He said that the Arts Centre would have an important part in building a world where God's will would be done.

artistry and intelligence can and must be marshalled for the creation of a spiritual dynamic to remake men and nations.'

Mr Belk expressed his gratitude that the Arts Centre had been named in memory of Peter Howard because he had 'awakened the American nation to Moral Re-Armament.'

'It is fair to say,' continued Mr Belk, 'that our country, from sea to sea, is eager to be changed, to be trained and enlisted in the moral rearmament of the whole globe.' America now needed to be flooded with products from the Arts Centre so that she could be equipped, with other nations, to remake the world.

Kenneth Belden, Chairman of Trustees of the Westminster Theatre, thanked the thousands of people who had made the Centre possible, who had raised money throughout Britain and forty-eight other countries. Eighteen months ago the Trustees from the stage of the Westminster Theatre had called for £550,000 to build, equip and maintain the Arts Centre. Since that time £318,000 had been raised. 'We have not borrowed a penny to raise this building. We have received no subsidy. It has been done by voluntary giving.

'But we have not finished yet,' he added. 'We need £1,000 a day from now till February to meet the outgoing payments on the building.' Money was also needed to finance the music programme, film-making and theatre school, and £200,000 to invest as a capital fund for the Centre's further upkeep and development. 'We need to raise £250,000 in the next four months,' he emphasised.

Guests present at the opening included Robert Carmichael, President of the French Jute Industry; Frederick Philips, President of Philips Electrical Industries; James Dickson, senior Swedish MP and Chamberlain to the King of Sweden; Sir Felix Aylmer, OBE, President of British Actors' Equity; and representatives of the high commissions and embassies of Ceylon, Congo, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, the Lebanon and Nigeria.

The following day, John Fraser, Labour MP for Norwood, opened the Lambeth Snack Bar which has been given by Lambeth citizens. He said the Centre would provide for every creed, culture and race. It was appropriate that a cosmopolitan borough like Lambeth, with its 8,000 Commonwealth citizens, should make a contribution to a cosmopolitan cause.

On Tuesday evening 144 student body presidents and officials from thirty-seven colleges and twenty national and overseas student organisations attended a performance of *It's our country, Jack!* At a reception afterwards, Louis Fleming, Director of the Centre, read a message from Geoffrey Martin, President of the 290,000-strong National Union of Students, sending the 'best wishes of the NUS for the success of the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre'.

The first production in the newly equipped Westminster Theatre is to be Peter Howard's family pantomime, *Give a Dog a Bone*, which opens on 8 December.





Rajmohan Gandhi receiving a gift from Peter Howard's grandchildren after his address

Photo: Strong

A Battleground

RAJMOHAN GANDHI'S address at the opening of the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, 26 November, 1966

PETER HOWARD genuinely believed that the combined efforts of a great army of men and women of all nations, races and classes, united in their resolve to live unselfishly and as God directs, could create a brand new world for humanity.

He was convinced that modern man, if he shed the primitive passions of hate, fear and greed, could provide food for the hungry, clothes for the naked, and homes for the homeless. He saw a world where care for one another became so normal that men and women no longer moved about with their hates and hurts unhealed.

With an astonishing and unceasing commitment Peter Howard lived, fought and died to bring about the new world in which he believed. God the King of every home and nation. This was his steady target.

The Westminster Theatre Arts Centre is a memorial to Peter Howard. The Centre, and the men and women working in it and with it, will be fighting Peter Howard's battle. A God-controlled world will be their objective.

As an Indian and Asian I feel profoundly thankful for this Centre. Through the films and plays it will create the Centre will, I know, woo, challenge, inspire and defy millions in my part of the world, as in every other part, towards a way of life that will solve our problems.

As a man who hopes to live for a few decades more, I am grateful for the promise of the Centre. As a man committed to share fully the battle of those who have raised this Centre and are going to use it, I am grateful for the immense opportunities it will provide.

One of the most remarkable men of all time called the world a stage. I hope I shall be permitted in this Centre of the arts to suggest that the world is more a battleground than a stage.

On 7 November, from my third floor flat in the heart of New Delhi, I saw six smoke clouds rising up, heard gun shots and felt tear gas in my eyes. Hundreds of thousands demonstrated that day in New Delhi against the Government. A good proportion of them had surrounded the House of the Indian Parliament. Lives were lost in the firing that had to be resorted to. The violence of that day was not imagination; it was reality.

Tyranny is reality too. Less than three months ago two young women, colleagues of ours, first inspired to work with Moral Re-Armament through one of Peter Howard's plays—*Space is so Startling*—were arbitrarily, with physical force and against their will, seized by the Police of Madras. The young women were deprived of their liberty and of their freedom of occupation. The force of Moral Re-Armament was deprived of two workers. One of them, Usha Chandiram, is now back with us. She won

her freedom after seventy days of tough, costly and non-stop battle. In an amazing manner the battle of this young girl has made Moral Re-Armament real, alive and vivid before millions of our countrymen and women.

A force of men and women who decide that the power in a country and in the world should now be decisively transferred from Man to God will cut deeply and unavoidably into the wills of those who run nations. Men who want the best from their countries and humanity will say yes. Men who want position and its perquisites for themselves will say no.

Moral Re-Armament has been raised up at this hour to draw God's battleline across nations and to sift out the hearts and motives of men before God's judgment seat.

Famine and hunger are the harvest of a vast-scale seeding of selfishness. A revolutionary answer is needed. Paper plans have failed. Good intentions are overwhelmed. The truth proclaimed by Frank Buchman and Peter Howard, that governments to rule well must learn the art of changing people, is the one hope left. A tidal wave of unselfish men, grappling with the problem with care, concern and teamwork, is the only solution.

If men of power cling to what has been proved to be not the way, then fresh leadership must be raised to do what needs to be done. But it can only be the leadership of God-governed men. God has to be King in India and in the whole of Asia.

Human nature, in spite of what we are sometimes advised, has not suddenly become entirely decent and noble. The age of selfishness, in fact the age of spiritual

wickedness in high places, is not over. To believe otherwise is to believe in Marxism which says that environment improves man. 'In the world and yet not of it' is still a phrase that describes the quality needed in those who, like Peter Howard, would want to change world conditions.

The astonishing combination of sacrifice, generosity and toil on the part of such a large number of people in Britain and throughout the world that has made the Centre possible is a powerful foundation for its future role. I am aware also that the last penny of many a fighting soldier went into the purchase of the original land and theatre at the end of World War II. Sacrifice and fearless battle will be the challenge the world will receive from this Centre.

The weapons released by the Centre will strike every corner of the world. Men and women trained in it will do likewise. Peter Howard, who loved his country passionately and profoundly and helped people everywhere to love it, nevertheless belonged to the world. What captured men towards him was his minute-by-minute battle to help his and every nation reach its highest destiny.

'If God asks ...'

When I had the privilege of accompanying him to South America during the last months of his life, I often heard him say to statesmen and pressmen, who wanted to know how long he was planning to stay in their country, 'If God asks, I am prepared to live here for the rest of my life.' This quality of his and all other committed revolutionaries who are prepared to live permanently, and to die if need be, in other nations, is the hope of humanity.

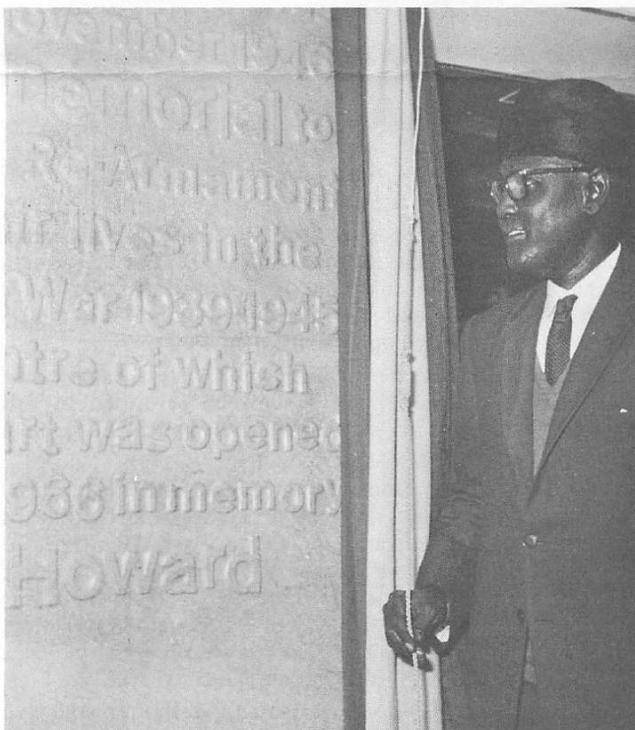
Patriotism is necessary but not enough. You cannot love the world if you don't love your country. For those of us who have loved ourselves for so long, loving our countrymen and country is certainly a step forward. But I don't see how the splintering process which will ruin the prospects of our race and encourage tyranny everywhere can be averted without a decision to think and live for the world. The nationalism which says that anything my country thinks or does is good, that anything good must originally have been thought of by my country, that anything foreign is bad, that anything bad is foreign, is merely an extension of self-worship. It is unimpressive and dangerous.

Peter Howard succeeded in presenting a great image of Britain, but that was not his paramount aim. This was to bring a new day in the life of every nation.

The Westminster Theatre Arts Centre is going to be a great voice of Britain. It will invite millions everywhere to listen to the voice of God.

Complete obedience to this voice was Peter Howard's decision and life. I don't think that obedience to God can be proved by references to Him or by invoking His blessings on my plans. 'I am a very ordinary man. But my life is not my own,' said and meant Howard. It meant a decision to live and work anywhere in any part of the world and to work with any people. It meant the willingness to yield points of view and to put right things that had been wrong in his life. It also meant the willingness to disagree with and stand up to any man or power for the sake of God.

Howard could never understand the philosophy that urges appeasement of evil and calls appeasement tact.



Sayed Buth Diu, President of the Sudan Liberal Party, unveils a panel of Sudan leather commemorating the servicemen of MRA who died in World War II and Peter Howard. Drawing back the Sudanese flag, Buth Diu said, 'The Sudan, by virtue of its central position, partly Arab and partly African, feels bound to work urgently towards the unity of the African continent. MRA lays the groundwork for this role.' Photo: Keystone

When Greek meets Greek, or so they say,
 There comes the heave and shove.
 But when a Briton meets a Greek,
 He simply falls in love.
 And all the squalls and Channel mists
 Break into blue sky smiles
 When the cold fogs of England
 Join the sunshine of the Isles.

Oh Doë dear, you find me out
 As we go through the mill
 With all my bumps and grunts and groans
 And yet you love me still.

For fifteen years we've marched along
 And we are marching yet
 Through days of laughter, battle, tears
 And days without regret.

Greece, motherland of freedom,
 Grey olive and wise owl
 And England, with her deep-root oak
 Her enduring bulldog scowl.
 We'll reap the harvest of the blood
 The sons they loved have sown
 Together we can turn the tide
 While neither can alone.

PETER HOWARD

An Anniversary poem for his wife—one of three poems by Peter Howard recited by Indian actress Surya Kumari (right) Photo: Strong



I remember once news coming in that a certain government had prohibited its employees from taking part in the work of Moral Re-Armament. To a friend from that country who asked him what he should do, Howard said, 'Either the ban should go or the government should go.' He knew too that opposition to Moral Re-Armament was not always due to misunderstanding or lack of information. Often it arose because certain men preferred godlessness to obedience to God and wanted to assert their will over the will of others and over the Will of God.

Being asked to open the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre is easily the greatest honour I have received. I am aware that this is also an honour conferred on my countrymen. Two nights ago the Vice-President of India, Dr Zakir Husain, and the Speaker of the Indian Parliament, Sardar Hukam Singh, were present at a showing of *India Arise*, a play with the same aim as the plays of the Westminster Memorial Trust. There were other distinguished Indians in the more-than-packed hall. I was able to tell them of the privilege that was given me and of what I believe this Centre would do for the world.

Tyranny in the saddle

India is between anarchy and tyranny. Making freedom our god was folly. Freedom obtains in a society where God is God and where a great number of men and women live unselfishly for one another.

Without a massive and immediate expansion of the revolution of Moral Re-Armament, tyranny in India, already round the corner, will be in the saddle. Yet I believe, in spite of the present situation and of all

that I know is wrong in India, in the high destiny of our nation, and I don't rule out the possibility that our country will move towards it.

India needs Britain. The world needs you. Asia urgently requires the secrets of honesty, unselfishness and teamwork which you can teach. It is often suggested these days, and by men in power in democratic nations, that what Asia needs is more of Soviet influence. I am not against Russia. I believe the Russian people have gifts and qualities which, under God, are meant to be used in a way and on a scale not yet thought of for the benefit of mankind. But I am not sure that to Sovietize all Asia is the answer to Chinese Communism.

The Moral Re-Armament of Asia, bringing about a revolution which dwarfs the changes brought by Communism and which goes beyond the dangers of class war and race war, is the answer. I am convinced that this revolution cannot come to Asia on the scale now needed and with the speed now required without Britain playing a substantial part.

There is no doubt in my mind that in the coming decades more British men and women will be sought for by nations everywhere.

Almighty God, Who sees and knows everything, Who is aware of the hopes, fears, hates, jealousies and greeds of all men everywhere, and Who knows what men's defiance of God can do in this nuclear age, still loves this world. He longs to change it. Moral Re-Armament is His instrument conceived for this day and age. If the choice for India is Moral Re-Armament or tyranny, the choice for the world might not be different either.

'Much to be thankful for'

Mrs Peter Howard:

I WOKE THIS MORNING with a great sense of thankfulness. I was thankful to God for His everlasting battle in the world which we are called to fight. And I thank Him for those who have taken on that battle for life.

I thought of a great American patriot to whom Peter and I owed so much. His name was Frank Buchman and he lived for every country as intently as he did for his own. His statesmanship gave a chance of maturity and sparked the power of thought in all he met.

I was thanking God for this house which we love so dearly and for the enlargement of it. All who enter are meant to continue to find sure foundations for their bounden duty and service to the Living God. I pray that coming generations will understand and accept the full dimension of His calling.

I thank God for Peter and I was thankful that his achievement towers like a rock in the world already; that he never tried to win people's allegiance without their change; that he would not compound with the second-rate some demand. And that he fought instantly against evil.

Then, because of all the things that have happened in the last two years, I thanked God that he reached the hearts of a multitude whom no man can number.

I was very thankful for this country where so many strangers have been gathered in over the centuries—I am one of them—and where there is still a strong belief that man's devouring need is liberty. This country has been home to me for thirty-three years and I was thinking of some of the things it is for me—a place where the glory of the gardens will never pass away, where still the ploughman homeward plods his weary way, a place of hosts of golden daffodils and dark satanic mills, of very gallant gentlemen and happy warriors who play the game.

These are days of thanksgiving. They are also days of remembrance. If we heed God together we can bring in the day where those who hunger after righteousness shall be filled, and where the meek shall inherit the earth.

'This impossible but adventurous task'

Mrs Wolrige Gordon, daughter of Peter Howard:

I AM TREMENDOUSLY GRATEFUL that in an age when people are increasingly worshipped, a centre for the Arts has been opened which offers to all men a faith in God, a faith so true, so modern and so complete that it satisfies every individual and will affect every nation. And I am particularly grateful and honoured that it should be opened in memory of my father.

My father was British. He loved this country and he believed that she had a world role to play in the world. Not necessarily in politics, in power or in success, all of which he had tasted and found lacking—because he knew that these were passing values—but in the realm of character in men and faith in Almighty God, which he knew were eternal values.

I am particularly pleased that his friends from all over the world can be here. Some of them have known him for a very short time, some not at all. Some all his life, almost from the day he was born. His best man, who was also at school with him, is here with his wife. He wrote to me a few days ago and said, 'A few years ago I complained to Peter that the only thing wrong with Moral Re-Armament was that it was too difficult. He replied that it was not too difficult, it was impossible. And that only one person on earth had ever been able to live it fully.'

This impossible but adventurous task of Moral Re-Armament led my father to governments and governed, leaders and led, in all corners of the earth. Not to gain from them their approval or even their support, but to enlist them in a battle for good over evil, for God over mammon in the world. That was the challenge he put to everybody he met, regardless of their status in life, regardless of their age. I believe that this Arts Centre will find many more like him from Britain and around the world who will discover that the pen is mightier than the sword and who will learn to live for the world without becoming worldly.



24 foot wide mosaic wall at the end of the foyer made by skilled craftsmen in Venetian smalti glass from the design by Henry and Joyce Collins



The Rt Rev Roderic N Cote DD, Bishop of Colchester, dedicates the Arts Centre. Behind him stand Kenneth Belden (right), Chairman, and Trustees of the Westminster Theatre Photo: O'Brennan



Mrs Barrett unveils the Welsh plaque Photo: Keystone

'Built to Thy Glory'

IN HIS PRAYER of dedication the Bishop of Colchester said:

Enter O Lord we beseech Thee this house, which is built to Thy glory, that it may be hallowed by Thine abiding presence. Within the hearts of Thy faithful people establish for Thyself an everlasting habitation, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Here may the faithful find salvation, and the careless be awakened.

Here may the doubting find faith and the anxious be encouraged.

Here may the tempted find help, and the sorrowful comfort.

Here may the weary find rest and the strong be renewed.

Here may the aged find consolation and the young be inspired.

In the faith of Jesus Christ, the memory of Peter Howard and those who have laid down their lives in war, we dedicate this Arts Centre to the glory of God, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Nigerian programme-seller Photo: Strong



Architect John Reid shows journalists the dining room in the Arts Centre Photo: Strong



British trade unionists on platform at Arts Centre opening Photo: Strong

'We commend this theatre to the Government'

ONE HUNDRED & FORTY-SEVEN British Trades Unionists from thirty different unions in the docks, shipyards and main industrial concerns of Britain sent a message to the opening of the Arts Centre. Many of them were present. The message was read by Les Dennison, Chairman of the Building Trades Operatives of Coventry. With him stood Jack Carroll, docker and delegate to the Bristol Trades Council.

The message stated, 'It is widely accepted that the economic future of Britain depends to a large extent on the ideas and attitudes of people like us.

'We feel, therefore, that the time has come to make public the debt we owe to the Westminster Theatre. We want to speak for the 200,000 industrial workers who, month after month, over the past five years have seen its plays and attended its indus-

trial conferences in London or in our own areas.

'We are practical people. For years we have fought for better wages and working conditions. We don't respond to pious exhortations or hot air. But these plays from the Westminster have had a profound effect on the way we think and do our job. They have helped us find a new motive for work, responsibility for the country and for its job in the world. They have the power to change difficult people on both sides of industry. They have given us a working philosophy which we have applied on the job and in negotiation.

'The Government is calling for new attitudes in industry which will increase productivity. We commend to it this theatre, right in the City of Westminster, which is producing plays that create the will to win. We enthusiastically welcome the opening of the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre where this vital work can be greatly extended.'



Patrick Wolrige Gordon MP, his wife and son arrive at the Centre Photo: O'Brennan

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Copies of the sixty-page gold-covered souvenir programme of the ceremonies of the opening of the Arts Centre are still available for those who would like to have them at 5s each (postage 1s) from: MRA 4 Hays Mews, W1