



# 'Help us sow seeds of common sense'

## —Lord Mayor of Belfast

*Last week the cast of 'Anything to Declare?' arrived in Belfast from performances in Londonderry. They came at the height of the crisis over the 'one man, one vote' local election reforms which led to the resignation of the Prime Minister, Captain Terence O'Neill, this week.*

'YOUR VISIT will help us sow the seeds of common sense we all need,' said Alderman Sir William Geddis, Lord Mayor of Belfast, welcoming them to the capital.

'I pray that the hearts and minds of our people all change,' he told the 20-nation cast.

Later at Stormont, the Northern Ireland Parliament building, the Rt Hon Phelim O'Neill, Minister of Education, and other MPs also received them.

Speaking for the cast, Miss Martine Algrain, a Paris student who took part in the 1968 May riots, said: 'I am not a Member of Parliament. I am not even 21. I am just an ordinary French student. This time last year I was on the barricades in Paris and not very keen on Ministers of Education.'

### False alternative

'But after the demonstration there was disillusionment and deadlock. I know that we in France are now looking to see what you will do in Ireland.'

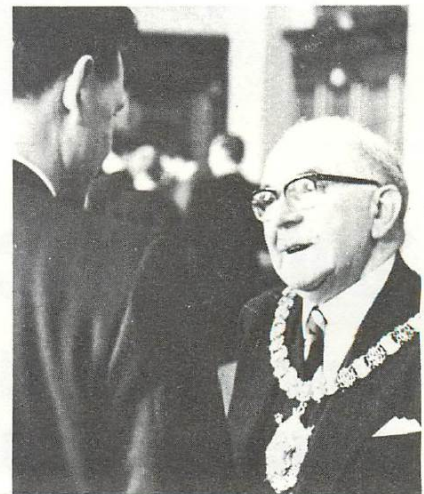
'I realised I had been faced with a false alternative. The choice is not between apathy and anarchy. There is a third way. It is a change in people and the passionate determination to put right what is wrong, starting not with the other person or other group, but with ourselves.'

'I hope that those who are on the barricades now and those who sit at

home complaining may soon be taking an answer together, that works for everybody, to the world.'

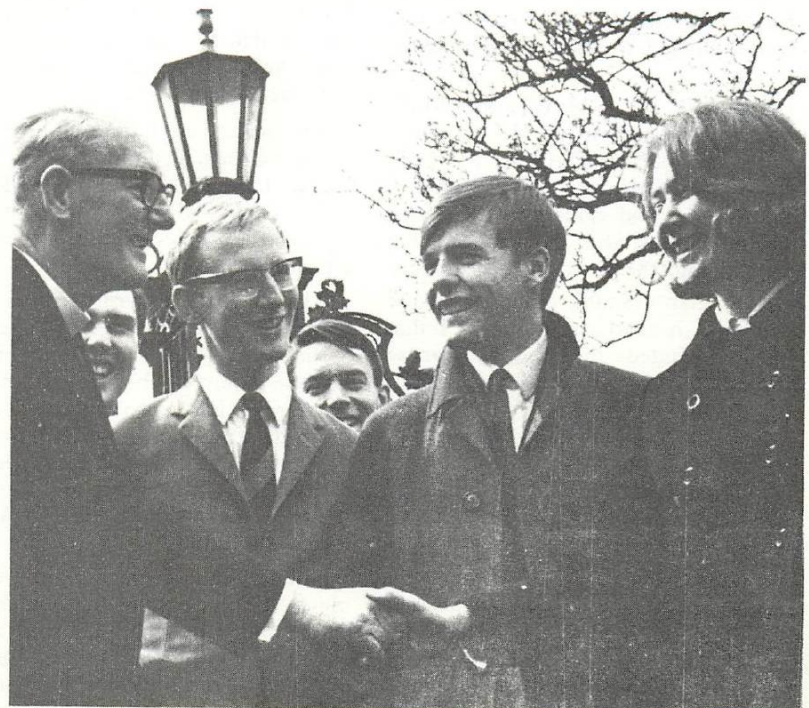
The Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev Dr R C H G Elliott, speaking at another occasion, said, 'It is a breath of fresh air to have people like you bringing a message of hope, a world view, and the Gospel of Christ.'

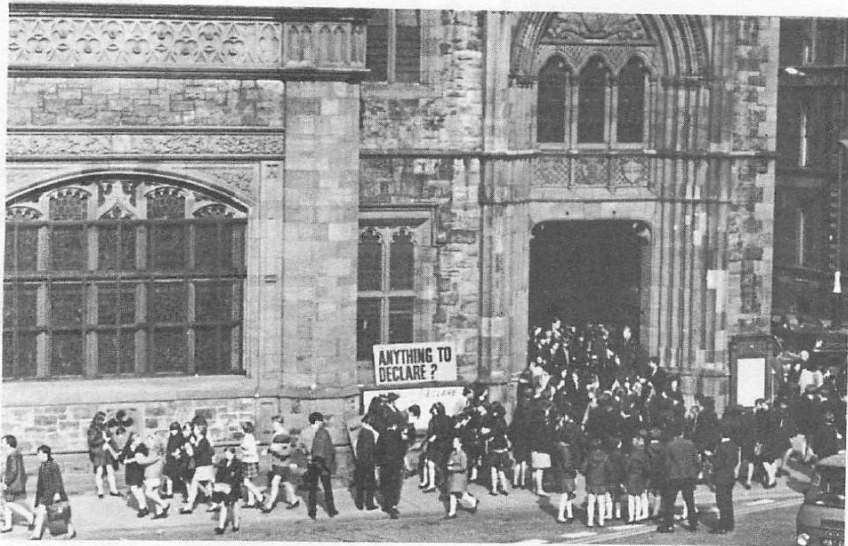
'If religion is to mean anything,' he continued, 'it must not stop at the fatherhood of God. There must also be the brotherhood of man. We need to look out of our windows at the world. It is a world problem we face.'



The Lord Mayor of Belfast photos Franzon

The Rt Rev Dr Charles Tyndall, Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, greets Martine Algrain from the cast of 'Anything to Declare?' Bishop Tyndall with the Catholic bishop and other Church leaders together talked to the people of Derry last Saturday





2,500 senior school children were among audiences who saw 'Anything to Declare?' in the Guildhall, Londonderry. Last week Catholic and Protestant principals of all schools participated in a joint action to help the peace and to set standards of mutual respect. Many school principals and youth club organisers have commented on the continuing effect the performances of 'Anything to Declare?' have had on their students. *photo Franzon*

# 'Doctor Africa'

## Rajmohan Gandhi addresses international conference in Ethiopia

ON 25 APRIL A CONFERENCE entitled 'Modern Men to make Modern Nations' opened at Asmara, Eritrea, Ethiopia.

People from many African nations joined 500 citizens from Asmara and surrounding districts for the opening session.

Asmara's Lord Mayor, the Mufti who is the leader of the Moslem community, Department Heads, the Consular Corps, Military Police Officers, headmasters and students were at the opening session with 500 people from Asmara and the surrounding districts.

Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma, headed a group from India, which included the Indo-Ceylonese cast of *The Forgotten Factor*, an industrial drama.

Speaking at the conference, Gandhi said, 'Africa cannot only transplant hearts, but also transform them across the world. Some call Africa the patient, but Africa is meant to become Doctor Africa.'

From Nigeria came Mrs Fashina, who organised the women in the Independence struggle. She said, 'Freedom has disillusioned us because we built it on the false foundations of hatred and

bitterness. We are at war with each other and have lost so many of our men and women because we were not prepared to live absolute standards.' With a Nigerian from the embattled Eastern region standing by her side, she pleaded for MRA to 'help Nigeria with the modern men and women we have heard here today'.

The brand new Expo buildings were the scene for the conference which was initiated by H H Ras Asrate Kassa, the Governor General of Eritrea and organised by a committee of leading citizens.

The international visitors, who came from 20 countries, were received earlier by the Governor General in the Throne Room of the Imperial Palace. After referring to the Emperor's long-standing conviction for MRA he said, 'It is my earnest prayer that God will use MRA to bring peace and tranquillity to all the troubled hearts of Africa, Europe and Asia.'

The students of Asmara are presenting two plays during the conference; *The Ladder* by Peter Howard and *I am the Third* by Osman Ibrahim Shum. 'When God comes first, the other person second, and I am the



The Lord Mayor of Asmara welcomes Rajmohan Gandhi. In the middle is Mesfun Hailu, a member of the committee for MRA in Ethiopia.

third, we will be able to solve our problems,' says Osman, a student himself, explaining the title of the play, which deals forthrightly with dishonesty and decadence in society.

*The Forgotten Factor* by Alan Thornhill had its first performance at the Teatro Asmara on April 23. It was attended by the Lord Mayor of Asmara, H E Dedjazmatch Haregot Abbai, who earlier received Rajmohan Gandhi.

The African premiere of the film of Peter Howard's last play *Happy Deathday* took place as part of the opening ceremony.



DESIGNERS & DYNAMITE....

# The student struggle

by Timothy Aitken

*Against the background of student unrest around the world Timothy Aitken wrote in the Bombay 'Free Press Journal' of the student leadership conference to be held in Panchgani from 10-24 May. We publish excerpts of his article below:*

FROM TOKYO to London, from Paris to Peking, students are in revolt. All over the world youth refuses to accept the 'Status Quo'.

Is it just another cycle in history? Will today's students grow older and settle down comfortably to preserve yet another fossilized establishment? Or will this contagious upsurge of youth effect a real change in world events?

An apparently immovable, unchangeable society produced a sense of powerlessness among students who wanted change and this was reflected in the increasing violence. Universities were disrupting in Peking, Prague, and Warsaw as well as Paris, Berlin and New York. There were thousands of differences in detail but there was also a shared source of inspiration that springs from what political scientists might term 'alienation' and what most authorities call 'anarchism' or 'disrespect'.

Yet it seemed that students them-

## German students shift battleline

THEOLOGY STUDENTS at Göttingen University are voicing their concept of the Church's revolutionary role in society. They are doing this at a time of increasing protest and violence in the German Evangelical Church.

'The new revolutionary we are looking for,' they say, 'must have the answer in his own life to the toughest problem facing society—that of egotism. The front line of the battle is thus clearly shifted. No longer does it run between reactionary and revolutionary, between professor and student, between 'us' and 'them', nor, and this most of all, between people or groupings of people. Instead it runs right through the motives of each individual person.'



May, 10th to May 24th, 1969 - "Asia Plateau", Panchgani, Maharashtra.

## student leadership conference

selves had no concrete programme on which they hoped to build a new world order that would remain flexible.

**During May there is a Student Leadership Conference at the MRA Centre in Panchgani. Its objective is to get students and professors working together to bring practical answers to problems that beset education not only in India but right across the world. This conference also intends to strike at the very roots of the problems involved in real leadership.**

What does it take to make a leader who once he is in power will not forget what he was struggling for? For

only leaders who are sensitive to society can effect the change that is obviously needed. The conference will examine the basis on which any change in society must be founded—human nature.

**Students blame professors, Professors blame students. Both blame politicians, but can students learn the skill of enlisting professors and politicians in transforming India and Asia and so the world?**



CLERKS & MARX...

Some protest movement leaders want to cut back the role of the Church in society and use it simply as an instrument to comfort individuals and social groups during what they term the final stages of the break-up of capitalism.

Sit-ins are threatened in theological colleges and one senior pastor has been obliged to resign from his own Parish Council by the violence of young revolutionary theologians.

In contrast to this, the Göttingen students assert, 'The new revolutionary does not need an enemy; he does not seek to liquidate his opponent but to win him to the new world-wide struggle between selfishness and care, between good and evil. This struggle begins in his own life. It may in fact

not be possible to expect a change in Bonn which one is not ready to put into practice in one's own Theological College or at home.

'The necessary political transformation,' they conclude, 'begins with the change in men. The aim of God's healing action is the liberation of men and the setting up of His rule over them as the only sound government.'

The Göttingen students have organised showings of *Galloping Horse*, a film of Rajmohan Gandhi's work in India, in Göttingen, Essen, Darmstadt, Karlsruhe, Heidelberg and Münster. Some of these students are now planning to attend the Moral Re-Armament conference entitled 'Christian Counter-Attack' at Caux, Switzerland, in August.

# Modern truth for Modern Man

by Dr John Morrison

Rev J M Morrison BD, B Litt, author of 'Honesty and God', addressed a meeting of clergy, ministers and Christian workers this week in the Westminster Theatre. Below are excerpts from his speech:

HISTORY AT EVERY TURN contradicts the notion that man is now 'mature' and able satisfactorily to direct his own destiny. Human nature keeps providing more and more problems and fewer and fewer answers.

The great historian, Dr Arnold Toynbee, in his book *Civilisation on Trial*, stresses the fact that while man is relatively good at dealing with non-human nature and has made impressive progress in scientific knowledge and technology, 'what he is bad at is his dealing with human nature in himself and in his fellow human beings'.

Modern truth, then, must deal with human nature.

## Half truth

To arrive at modern truth we need to avoid the pitfall of the half truth. How often one hears quoted from St John's Gospel: 'The truth will make you free.' That is a striking example of a half truth. What Jesus actually says in the passage (John 8:31-2) is:

'If you continue in my word you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'

—an entirely different proposition.

What turns the half truth into Gospel, Good News, Modern Truth, is the IF. Jesus links it to another word people try very hard to ignore nowadays—Sin. 'Everyone who commits sin,' He went on, 'is a slave to sin. . . . If the Son makes you free you will be free indeed.' (John 8:34, 36).



There is a conditional aspect of Christianity, an experimental aspect, an aspect which deals with human nature. It brings us to our first modern truth, namely that human nature can change.

This is very basic truth. It is also very far reaching truth.

Brunner's book *The Church and the Oxford Group* talks of Moral Re-Armament as an effective commando force and arm of the Church in the battle to win the world for God's Kingdom. His presentation of the evidence of changed human nature is impressive.

'The missionary command does not run "Invite everyone to your Sunday services by the ringing of Church bells" but "Go forth into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature".'

This, Brunner says, MRA is effectively doing through its practical, modern approach and its finding the right point of contact with thousands and hundreds of thousands who no longer know anything of the Church.

The Westminster Theatre is a striking example of how these truths can be presented in a way that reaches modern man. Night after night, week-end after weekend, it is filled with people from all over Britain and from all over the world, who find change, who find faith, who find how to apply that faith to the solving of all kinds of problems.

Wherever Christian faith has been real this infectious change has always been a distinctive feature of it.

In addition to the conditional experimental aspect of this modern truth of change, there is the unconditional, absolute aspect, namely God Himself. God Almighty is very much alive today in spite of the premature (or should it be immature) obituaries from some churchmen who should 'know better'.

Possibly the most startling truth for modern man is that God speaks.

The whole basis of the Old Testa-

ment could be summed up in the words 'Thus saith the Lord'. The New Testament takes God's guidance, the Spirit's leading, as fundamental and frequent. Jesus tells his disciples to expect it (Mark 13:11) and Paul says the same (Colossians 1:9-10). Phillip, Paul, Ananias, Cornelius, Peter—the Book of Acts is a record of God guiding men. God speaks and miracles happen.

If our idea of prayer is to do all the talking we shall hear little of what God is saying. The modern truth (and the Biblical truth) of the matter is to listen and obey.

The thoughts that come in quiet listening should be tested by Christ's absolute standards, examined in the light of Scripture and by the wisdom and friendship of other Christians. But the key truth is that God speaks and on our part the important point is to take time to listen.

The latest book on Bonhoeffer, *The Life and Death of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, by Mary Bosanquet, gives a good deal of his thinking and experience regarding 'silence before God'. This needs practice and work, he says.

## Courage

'We have to learn the language of God. It takes daily courage, daily energy. . . . Not one of us lives such a hectic life that he cannot spare the time, even if it is only ten minutes in the morning or the evening, to be still and let the silence gather round him, to stand in the presence of eternity and to let it speak, to enquire from it about our condition, and to gaze deep into himself and far out, beyond and above.'

Spiritual riches flow from these hours, replenishing and revitalising us.

Frank Buchman, from a lifetime of listening to God and obeying, emphasised the same truth:

'The lesson the world most needs is the art of listening to God.'

It is this art that cabinets need as well as individuals.