

## Anglo-French concord for the world

### Docks, chemical, aircraft, maritime and mining industries represented

CONVINCED that Britain and France will find unity working together for Asia, French socialist Irène Laure flew from London to Ceylon last Sunday.

The trip is the sixth in 15 years for the dynamic 70-year-old, who was a leader in the French Resistance, Secretary General of the Socialist Women of France and MP for Marseilles. She joins Rajmohan Gandhi and an international MRA force moving through South East Asia.

Mme Laure led a delegation of 24 from France to Britain last weekend. They came to explore new areas of co-operation for solving Europe's problems and meeting the needs of the developing world.

On Sunday morning Frenchmen, representing the aircraft industry, the merchant marine, mining, agriculture, chemicals and textiles, spoke at the Westminster Theatre, several together with their British counterparts.

Recalling the collapse of Western Europe in 1940, Mme Laure said: 'Today the situation may be more serious. The one chance to do anything to save Europe, to have economies that are reliable and productive and to do anything for the developing countries is in the force of Moral Re-Armament.'

### Dynamite

At the end of the meeting she said: 'We have had dynamite in this room this morning. I want to insist on two points. One is the conference at Caux at Christmas. I have a great hope of seeing English- and French-speaking Africans coming together at Caux to bring the message of change not only to Africa and the Middle East, but to Europe and Asia.'

'My second point,' she continued, 'is Asia. There is very great urgency that Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and

New Zealand can form a solid block for MRA with Ceylon and India. Just imagine what this united block, with this Africa which I see and this new Europe, could do for the world. That is the challenge of Christmas and the challenge which I give you this morning.'

### No bloodshed

Also speaking at the meeting was Mme Keutcha, wife of the Cameroun Minister of Agriculture, who has represented her country at the UN. She thanked Britain and France for granting the Camerouns independence without bloodshed.

Mme Diop of Senegal, whose husband publishes *Présence Africaine*, accompanied Mme Keutcha to the conference.

Following the meeting there were practical sessions. Bristol docker Jack Carroll and Jim Worthington of the Executive of the National Seamen's Union planned with Maxime Souffez, General Secretary of the French Merchant Marine Officers' Union, who said that MRA had enabled him to get out of his French isolation. Worthington said: 'Whatever our governments do, we are determined to work closely together because it is the people that matter and it is the people who will get things done in the world.'

Similarly, following British aircraft worker Dick Cosens' call for a series of conferences in the next eighteen months at the Westminster to 'bring a radical change in the environment between our two countries', shop steward Frank Abbott and two others from London Airport met with Bertrand Saliceti, a maintenance technician at Le Bourget. Saliceti thanked MRA-trained British aircraft workers for their efforts to increase co-operation by coming to France.

MICHEL KOECHLIN, one of those responsible for Moral Re-Armament in France, announced in London that *Le Journal Officiel* of the French Republic has just published a decree signed by the Prime Minister, Maurice Couve de Murville, which grants legal and financial facilities to MRA as a body of outstanding service to the nation (*utilité publique*).

Before the Prime Minister could sign such a pronouncement, a thorough examination was made by the Conseil d'Etat. This body of prominent lawyers had studied the evidence of MRA's work in industry, civic life and international relations.

### German Prince and miners go to Holland



photo Franzon

HH Prince Richard of Hesse and German coalminer Hubert Eggemann. Fifty-four Germans last weekend visited Rotterdam to attend an MRA industrial conference.



# Entente cordiale against materialism



Sir Hamilton Kerr speaking in Paris last month  
*photo Franzon*

by Sir Hamilton Kerr

Member of Parliament 1931-66, Chairman of the all-party Franco-British Parliamentary Committee for a number of years and Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

sage of Rome, the message that all Roman citizens were equal before the law; the principle which allowed St Paul to appeal to Caesar himself.

I think of the Middle Ages, when men travelling across the plains of Europe saw tall spires rising above the walls of their cities, like fingers pointing to God, the spires of the great cathedrals, where sculptured porches told the Bible stories and where coloured windows evoked the splendours of Paradise.

I think of two saints filled with the Divine Grace, of Joan of Arc, the saint of courage, riding out alone from the little town of Vaucouleurs to offer her aid to the King of France at Chinon. I think of St Francis preaching his message of divine love on the hillsides of Tuscany, a message he carried to all created things, such as the birds he loved.

In the time we now call the Renaissance, I think of Galileo staring night after night through his telescope and maintaining the truth, against the whole weight of established authority, that the world was round. I think of the painter Michelangelo, filled with heavenly visions, working on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, and, when all men marvelled at this superhuman work, was found in tears, because he felt that he had failed to convey the full glory of God.

## Scientists and Saints

And then I think of later times, in the 19th century, of scientists like Darwin and Madame Curie whose discoveries altered human thought, and of sublime saints, like Father Damien, who gave his love and energy to the leper settlement of Molo Kai in the Pacific, and at last died himself of the disease.

The marriage of the Christian heart and the Socratic brain: I believe the world is tired and disillusioned, tired and disillusioned with the materialism and the narrow nationalism which rule men's minds today. The play which I saw so well performed in Paris, *Pitié Pour Clémentine*, shows how the com-

puter can be a good servant but a very bad master. The computer cannot make decisions for us. Men and women must first make the decisions, and the computer can then provide the information on how to carry these decisions into effect.

The great advances in material prosperity have not brought happiness or the answers which men are seeking. We have our jet aeroplanes, our motor cars, our television sets, our washing machines, but we have our young people attacking the police with Molotov cocktails in the streets, our men and women of all ages seeking escape and refuge from the stresses of life in dangerous drugs.

Between them France and England, the inheritors of the traditions of Europe, can once again state the age old truth that men cannot live by bread alone. They must have other food, the food of the Spirit.

That is why I was so impressed by the work of MRA I saw in Paris, the young men and women of many nations proclaiming that Europe was one. As I watched their acting and listened to their singing, I recalled the words in a book I had been reading that very morning before breakfast, 'I am you, and you are me. My interests are your interests, and your interests are my interests.'

What can we do, you and I, about the sickness of the world, its deep spiritual sickness?

The great psychiatrist, Alfred Adler, was once asked the secret of happiness in his life. He replied, 'Give, give all you have. All is not enough.'

If we only knew, we have so much to give, you and I, each with the gifts, both great and small, which God has given us.

What can France and England give, two heirs of the ancient wisdom of Europe? Let us revive and make a living reality the Entente Cordiale of the old day, an Entente Cordiale not so much directed to political or economic ends, but an Entente Cordiale against materialism, an Entente Cordiale in the service of the things of the Spirit.

TOGETHER France and Britain can give so much to the world. I am not thinking alone of their material contribution, of the men in Toulouse or Bristol working on the Concorde, or of the scientists in the laboratories of Paris or London looking down their microscopes in the search for some new fibre or healing drugs. I am thinking of the spiritual inheritance they both share from our old and priceless civilisation of Europe.

Professor Madariaga once wrote that the civilisation of Europe derived its strength from the marriage of two forces, the Christian heart and the Socratic brain. For let us never forget that Europe in its greatest hours always turned towards two beacon lights, the love of truth and the love of God. It discovered that the most daring speculations are permissible, provided men genuinely seek the truth, and do not use their intelligences to further their own selfish ends, such as power or popularity.

And so when I think of Europe, it is a marriage of the Christian heart and the Socratic brain. I think of Socrates' teaching in the arcades of the marketplace of Athens, always asking questions, tireless in his search for truth. I think of the Roman road builders building their long straight roads from the Rhine to the Sahara, and from the Atlantic to the Euphrates, the roads which carried the mes-

# PAPUA PLANS FOR NATIONHOOD

## Leaders invite Rajmohan Gandhi

A CALL FOR UNITY in Papua-New Guinea, as they approach nationhood, was made last month by the Catholic Archbishop of Port Moresby, Dr V Copas. He was speaking at the opening session of a Moral Re-Armament Conference held at Hohola on 17 November.

'The key to unity was mutual respect,' quoted *The South Pacific Post* next day. 'Too rigid tribal divisions must be removed in the interests of the country as a whole. The old thinking: "You are not of my tribe so I cannot accept you" is out of date in the Papua-New Guinea of 1968.'

Dr Copas added there were six essentials for strong nationhood:

- The unity of the people of Papua-New Guinea.
- Honesty and integrity in private and public life and in the Government and Parliament of the country.
- Christianity as a practical and unifying force throughout the Territory.
- Education, including a national language.
- A world vision.
- A common name, flag and national anthem.

'Let us put God in charge of Papua-New Guinea and our future is assured.

'Only when the Territory has a world vision will it be worthy of being called a nation.

'With this, other countries will look to Papua-New Guinea to show them how to live.

'This is what I hope this country will give to the world,' he said.

In the same newspaper, on 22 November, the Protestant Bishop of New Guinea, the Right Rev G D Hand, speaking at the same conference declared that moral stability was the basis for nationhood.

'We ought to expect and demand our government to uphold certain values and principles,' he said.

'Not everything in Western civilisation is good,' Bishop Hand said.

'Some is bad.

'We have to learn to discriminate not between races but between what God says is good and what is bad.

'Let us build up a Papua-New Guinean idea of a Christian family which will preserve all that's best in our relationships and not break them down.'

Both these churchmen have joined with Papuan leaders as signatories to an official invitation that has gone to Rajmohan Gandhi. The invitation, which was also signed by the Speaker of the House, two Members of the Cabinet, two Members of the House of Assembly and other leading Papuans, says in part:

'Ours is a land where the creation

## 'New front must be opened' in Middle East

A STUDENT WROTE a call for change and unity in Beirut last month which shared front page headlines in *Al-Nahar*, Beirut's largest Arabic daily, with news of student strikes.

Demonstrations had swung from right-wing Christians to left-wing Moslems over what support should be offered the Arab commandos engaged in guerrilla operations to regain their homes in Palestine. Some felt there was a lack of zeal for this cause: others felt there was impetuosity. The dispute led to riots with one person killed and two wounded in Tripoli, chief city of north Lebanon and terminus of the pipe-line carrying oil through Syria from northern Iraq.

The call for unity aroused enthusiastic comment both by high officials in the Presidency and by responsible leaders in the Directorate of Youth and Sports. It was written by a student trained at the MRA Leadership Course in Caux, Switzerland last summer, and was distributed as a handbill to all four universities in Beirut by student committees.

'We are against the marches and demonstrations,' the handbill said, 'because they represent the religious divisions in the ranks of our people and aggravate them. We do not want to take sides, nor to reply to their charges, but we must change a rotten situation.

of national unity is an urgent and necessary task. The way in which nationhood is built here could be an example to the rest of the world.

'Your visit will help to build a nation guided by God's plan. We believe Papua-New Guinea and other countries of Asia are meant to work together in solving the divisions in the hearts of all mankind.'

Under its trusteeship from the United Nations the Australian Government has conscientiously aimed to introduce the processes of democracy into the Territory. A parliament was first elected four years ago, a university has been built and a wide programme of education on all levels is being developed. But the difficulties and divisions that confront the Papu-

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'Those who pretend to be revolutionaries do not know the meaning of the word because the real revolution which must take place is a revolution in people, liberating all of us from confessionalism, from hate, selfishness and greed.

'Those who want to overthrow the regime forget something. That is that the regime is what we make it and if we want to change it—and that is what we want—we would do better to change ourselves.

'On one side there is the Christian and on the other the Moslem. But the new front which must be opened up now is that which on the one side has those who believe in sacrifice, in honesty and tolerance, and on the other there are the confessionalists, the fanatics, the selfish, the envious and the monopolists.

'We do not ask of you a demonstration or a march, but a revolution. We do not ask of you an hour or a day or a weekend, but your whole life.

'Lebanon, an Arab country, has a mission, and the Lebanese, the Arabs, have an aim. It is to establish Arab brotherhood and restore dignity to every Arab citizen. We will not achieve this noble aim unless we establish brotherhood in our own country and restore dignity to every individual in the ranks of our own people.'

HARRY ALMOND



## THEATRE CAN BE A TORCH

ROSLYN DUNBAR, the actress, speaking at the second anniversary of the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, said:

I HAVE ALWAYS looked on the theatre as being a psychological holiday for the public. People come to the theatre to get away from the grind of their everyday lives and I have always wanted to be able to alleviate a little of the tension that we all have to live under. So quite apart from the fact that I love singing anyway, this was always uppermost in my mind.

One day five years ago I went to see a film. I was in a very depressed state of mind. This film compared human beings with animals, and when I came out of that film I felt so ill I had to go to the nearest chemist and have a draught to put my stomach back into position. And that made me realize the effect that a film or a play or a book can have on every person who comes into contact with it. I suddenly realized also how many films, how many books and plays are being poured on to the market that absolutely destroy man's dignity, and point out to us the futility of our existence.

Then just over a year ago I came

to England and friends brought me here to see *It's Our Country, Jack!* And suddenly I found what my heart had been looking for, because in these fresh young people I saw faith and I saw hope. After I came out of the theatre I felt as if my soul had had a real bath.

Some people, when I was in Australia, approached me to do a show and described to me the type of role I would be asked to play, and when I turned it down, they said to me, 'Until you change your attitude on this type of role, and look upon it as an artistic achievement, you'll never hit the heights. If you change your mind you'll get plenty of work and you'll get plenty of money.'

I thought then and I think now that self denigration on the stage is neither artistic nor an achievement. So after *It's Our Country, Jack!* I realized, from seeing what could be done in a theatre of this kind, that we needn't have a psychological holiday, we can have a real cure.

After seeing the show, I met Mr

Henry Cass, and I was asked to play in *Give a Dog a Bone*. Here for the first time I met a pantomime that young people can really feed on and grow on. *Annie* came straight on top of that and I was very very pleased to play here. Night after night people would come back to my dressing room. We would sit there and discuss things that were very close to their hearts.

And I was struck every time by the fact that everyone of us walks around with burning questions in our hearts. Time after time I found that people found an answer to them in *Annie*, and that every person who left this theatre certainly went home to look at things in a fresh light.

One of the things which strikes me when I walk into the theatre is a sense of peace and hope. I believe that we can take this with us in our hearts to every person that we come into contact with in our day to day life. The way that I see this theatre is as a burning branch that can rekindle the hope and the faith in men's hearts and lead them to finding a real answer.

### Mrs Bandaranaike sees 'Forgotten Factor'

LAST WEEK all Government employees in Ceylon began a nationwide strike. As troops with fixed bayonets patrolled Colombo streets and volunteer labour kept the essential services working, members of the MRA force conferred daily with leaders on both sides of the strike.

On the night the strike began (28 November) the industrial drama *The Forgotten Factor* was seen by Ceylon Government ministers and the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs S W R D Bandaranaike.

Mrs Bandaranaike, a former Prime Minister and the first woman in the world to hold the office, commented how apposite the play was. The Minister of Transport, E L B Hurulle, said, 'This is what Ceylon needs. In fact what the whole world needs.'

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an leaders in their efforts to achieve independence without bloodshed are immense in a country where the population of two million people contains 1,000 tribes and 700 languages.

It has been evidence of the effectiveness of Gandhi's work in bringing an end to hate and division in his region that has convinced these responsible Papuans that a visit by him at this time could have a far-reaching significance, not only for the future of their own country but for the whole Pacific region.

Rajmohan Gandhi and delegates from the international Asia Arise force will be visiting Australia and New Zealand in late December. They will consult with national leaders in these countries and will be speakers at three major conferences taking place in Melbourne, Perth and Hamilton, New Zealand, in early January.

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