

TV AND RADIO REACH 10 TIME ZONES

In recent months political crises in Russia have captured news media headlines around the world. But behind the scenes teams of Russians in various cities across that great land are seeing in MRA a way to serve their country and build for a better future on a solid base of moral and spiritual values.

At least 30 Russians came for Caux's 50th anniversary conference and participated actively in the various sessions throughout the summer – see the October/November *For a Change*. In addition, the fourth Baltic Seminar took place at Caux in the first week of August, bringing together politicians and academics from Russia, the Baltic States and Poland, and mediated by a Nordic team.

But it hasn't been all behind the scenes. There has been some remarkable media coverage of MRA in Russia in recent months. In April, the Russian Christian magazine *Truth and Life* published an interview with Grigori Pomerants and his poetess wife, Zinaida Mirkina, along with pictures of Caux. Zinaida says, 'The movement attracts us because it is fed by the Spirit and is international.... You can feel the mutual understanding. The difference in language is compensated by a common prayer language.'

On May 11, Russian Television's channel 2 broadcast nation-wide a 20-minute programme on MRA entitled, 'Is it possible to forgive one's enemy?' The programme was moderated by Leonid Mlechin, deputy editor of *Izvestia*. Containing interviews with Leif Hovelsen and from the Irène Laure video, the programme concluded with the moderator saying, 'We can eternally hate yesterday's and tomorrow's enemies or we can forgive..... Are we able, each one of us, together and individually, to forgive when we've been dreaming of revenge?' The very next day, Moscow's largest daily newspaper *Vechernaya Moskva* carried a large article with photos of a reconciling meeting at Caux of two men – Heinz Krieg and Viktor Rodionov – who discovered that they had fought on opposite sides of the Russo-German front in World War II.

In July, the journal of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations in Moscow published a seven-page article entitled: 'Moral Re-Armament: is there a place for morality in

politics?' It was written by Sergei Chugrov, the journal's deputy editor, and Grigori Pomerants. Also, following her two weeks in Caux in July, Alexandra Ponomariyova of Radio Russia's religion department has broadcast several programmes based on interviews made at the conference.

Bryan Hamlin

ETHNIC BRIDGEBUILDING IN NORWAY

The alienation of inner city youth and the attitude of the police towards them came into sharp focus when a group of nine from Leeds and Newcastle visited Oslo (October 9–14).

From Leeds came young men who had experienced up to 10 years of unemployment, but had also taken initiatives giving direction and employment to hundreds in their predominantly Black Caribbean community. The group was led by Denzil Nurse, a community and cooperative development worker.

Chief Superintendent John Broughton from Northumbria Police gave a whole day of training in community policing and bridgebuilding at the headquarters of the Oslo police. He also addressed 50 graduate students at the Norwegian Police College.

Together with Mohamed Mansouri, head of the Islamic Cultural Centres of Denmark, the group from Britain took on a one-day seminar in the MRA house in Oslo on the theme: 'Norway as a multicultural society – problem or opportunity?' Among those attending were the heads of the Crime Prevention and Aliens sections of the police; representatives of the Ministry of Local Government, municipal authorities, the Church, voluntary and ethnic organisations; the head of the Islamic Council of Norway; and many teachers and social workers.

This was the fourth visit from Britain of people with first-hand evidence of ethnic bridgebuilding and community development. Along with MRA, their hosts this time were the Oslo police, an executive member of the Islamic Council of Norway and the head of Non-fighting Generation, an inter-racial youth group combatting street violence.

Knut & Birgit Dale Anders & Methe Eskeland

FFF INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN BRITAIN

The fourth International Course of Foundations For Freedom took place at Tirley Garth over two and a half weeks in September with 22 participants. This time we had a good mix of nationalities – roughly two-thirds from Central and Eastern Europe, the rest from Brazil, Jamaica, Lebanon, USA and UK.

For the last three years we have followed a pattern, starting with some background on Britain and MRA followed by a theoretical look at freedom, the geo-political and philosophical forces that shape the world and the question 'Can the individual make a difference?'. We then move on to the role of politicians, the role of trust in business and economics, and a three-day study of the life of a city (half the group went to Birmingham and half to Liverpool) focussing on community and partnership. The Course concludes by going deeper into some spiritual issues – through input by Peter Hannon on conflict resolution; a look at the importance of family life from a psychologist's perspective; a session on how to pass on values; and one on the role of the Church, given this year by an Anglican Bishop. A spiritual thread undergirds the whole Course with each morning starting with a short meditation and time of quiet.

There is an increasing interaction between the International Course of FFF and the Visiting Courses. About half of the participants this year had previously taken part in other FFF Courses in their own countries, including three Ukrainians who took part in a FFF seminar organised by the 'School for Young Politicians' last May. Eight of this year's participants will be MRA Co-Workers in Britain, and we hope there can be cross-fertilisation with other aspects of MRA's work.

Mike Lowe

LEBANESE STUDENTS VISIT BRITAIN

Last month, as the world's attention was again focussed on tragic events in the Middle East, five students from the Lebanese University spent two weeks in Britain. They were accompanied by Judge Ghassan Rabah who selected them from different regions and from the Muslim, Druze and Christian communities. The Judge is part of a network of people who, inspired by MRA, have made a priority of rebuilding the social fabric of their country after a decade and a half of war. 'You can rebuild buildings, but unless you rebuild people, it will be in vain,' he says.

Among those they met in Oxford, as well as students, were the Lord Lieutenant and the Dean of Christ Church who last year invited Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan to give a University Sermon in the Cathedral.

In Wales they visited Tower Colliery, the only remaining deep coal mine, and were interviewed on the BBC Wales radio programme *A voice for all*.

At Keele University the Vice Chancellor met them; while in Durham, they were welcomed to the University's Centre for Middle East and Islamic Studies. Ethics in industry was the subject of a discussion with the Managing Director of Vickers Oils in Leeds.

In London they addressed 200 sixth formers at Twyford School, Ealing. They also had discussions with an MP, the desk officer for Lebanon at the Foreign Office and the Principal of the Muslim College, Sheikh Zaki Badawi.

They stayed mostly in private homes, and were accompanied on their tour by British students, some of whom visited Lebanon a year ago.

At a farewell reception at the Westminster Theatre one of the students said that before coming to Britain she had wished she were not Lebanese because of all the difficulties she had faced. 'Now,' she said, 'I realise I am Lebanese and feel more and more committed to my country.' Another said she had learned the value of silence. A third that he had found the British 'listened very well'. 'If you listen,' he said, 'you can understand.' He appealed to Britain, as one of the countries which had drawn the map of the Middle East, to help his country to take steps towards real freedom and independence. The First Secretary of the Lebanese Embassy said that he felt 'proud to be Lebanese. The future of Lebanon is the future of these young people. This programme is extremely important and must be followed up.'

Peter Riddell

LAUNCH OF NEW BOOK IN THE HAGUE

On October 11 Peter Hintzen's new book *Germany – troubled heart of Europe* was launched at the Netherlands Institute for International Relations in the Hague. Hans van den Broek, European Commissioner for International Relations with Central and Eastern Europe and former Dutch Foreign Minister, described the aim of the book as 'to give a better insight into the whys and wherefores of Germany in the new Europe'. He said that Peter Hintzen's 'life calling was to work with others to improve the relationships between people and, in that way, to work towards a better world.' The Institute's Director, Professor A van Staden, chaired the occasion which was attended by over 100 people, among them academics, diplomats (including officials from the German Embassy) and representatives of the Dutch Foreign Office. Professor van Staden called Peter 'a great Dutchman and a great European'.

When presenting a copy of the book to Hans van den Broek, Digna Hintzen referred to Peter's experience when working in Germany after the war where he decided to open his heart to the German people instead of judging them. She said that he had written the book from the conviction that those who don't know history 'grope in the dark as far as the present is concerned'.

The book's final chapter about post-war reconciliation in Europe devotes several pages to the role of Caux.

Aad Burger

FROM THE EDITORS

John Bond (who is in Zimbabwe at present) and I edited our first issue of the World Bulletin just over six years ago or, if you prefer, 61 issues back. At that time we wrote that Australia was probably as suitable as any place could be to gather news and insights from Australasia, Asia and the Pacific. 'But,' we asked, 'can we do this for Europe, the Americas, Africa and West Asia?'

We said we believed we could or rather that we were determined to find how to do it. You are the best judges of whether we have succeeded.

We also said we needed help. We still do. In fact sometimes as we sit here half a world away we are tempted to wonder if we'll have enough material for an issue! So please send your news and insights generously. Share your questions, tell us about events in your region, write about initiatives which need support. Items do not have to be long; in fact it's probably better if they are not.

So we write with warm appreciation for what you

have made possible for us all these last six years and to say how much we look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Andrew Lancaster

SWISS RAIL OFFER STILL OPEN

The SWISS TRANSFER TICKET system, which many of you used during the summer, is still operating. Tickets can be obtained from the Conference Secretariat in Geneva. A notice to this effect will be sent with the confirmation letter for applicants to the Caux New Year conference.

Charles Danguy

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

Taiwan: Correction: the address of the new MRA office in Taipei is 11 F-4, No 5, Sec 2, Tun Hua South Road, Taipei, Taiwan, ROC. "Sec 2" was accidentally omitted in the first announcement.

France: all telephone numbers in France change on October 18th at 11pm. In fact, dialling does not change from abroad for the Paris area; only in 'the provinces'. Current numbers outside the Paris area that will be changed are: DANGUY (phone & fax): 03 82 56 27 95. KOEHLIN: 03 88 60 21 84. ODIER: 04 50 42 97 33. PORTER (phone): 02 21 05 15 15; (fax): 02 21 05 62 37. SENTIS (Phone): 04 85 37 62 84; (fax): 04 85 37 60 42. When dialling from abroad, omit the first 0. (Lotty will have an updated list for the next MRA World addresses list.)

Australia: From November 1, John and Helen Mills will have a separate fax number: +61 8 8379 3926

(Calendar of events next page)

Calendar of Events

OCT '96	<u>Odawara Japan</u>	Conference for MRA	Oct 19 - 20
	<u>Belarus</u>	FFF Visiting Course	Oct 8 - Nov 8
	<u>Haquenau France</u>	After Caux 1996. What next steps?	Oct 30 - Nov 4
NOV '96	<u>Minnesota USA</u>	Farmers' Dialogue	Nov 14 - 17
DEC '96	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	Healing the Past, Forging the Future – family conference	Dec 26 - Jan 2
	<u>Prague Czech Republic</u>	Youth gathering/FFF regional meeting in Prague	Dec 28 - Jan 3
JAN '97	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Learning from the 20th century, preparing for the 21st	Jan 3 - 7
	<u>Fitzroy Falls NSW Australia</u>	Teenage camp: 'Signposts for the future'	Jan 11 - 17
FEB '97	<u>Britain</u>	'Making Democracy Work', for young Ukrainian MPs	Feb end of Feb
MAR '97	<u>Sydney Australia</u>	International Communications Forum	Mar 15 - 16
APR '97	<u>Victoria Australia</u>	Global Consultation on enlistment and training	Apr 19 - 26

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Friday, November 15, 1996

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Santa Maria; Philippines - Cardel; Japan, Rest - Fujita; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; Africa: East - Patel; South - Horn; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - Agbin; N. America: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; Latin America: Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; Caribbean - Fiona Edwards; Europe: France - Lasserre; Germany - Bräckle; Denmark - Jørgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Austria - Vock; Netherlands, Rest - J de Pous; Middle East - Christodoulides