

Planning for millions on Earth

WHILE MAN LANDS ON THE MOON . . .

PRECISION has a fascination of its own. For the Apollo space programme there is an atomic clock manufactured with an accuracy of one second in a thousand years. Space navigation is done by speedy and precise computers, everything in the Apollo 11 journey has the magnetism of precision and preplanning.

Yet it is a commonplace to contrast the success of the Apollo 11 journey with the failure of man's living on Earth. The American Ambassador to the United Nations, Charles Yost, speaking on the eve of the American moon-shot, said, 'The human race suffered from both scientific and moral schizophrenia: we fly to the moon . . . yet at the same time we tolerate massive wrongs against the quality of human life.'

How can man break out of this?

The first steps in the mastery of space have led men to demand a new level of accuracy, precision and long-range planning. Could the mastering of the mammoth problems on earth lead men to a new precision in obedience to the voice of God?

The problems are certainly great enough to defy human wisdom alone. In a famous statement Frank Buchman said, 'Definite, accurate and adequate information can come from the Mind of God to the mind of man.' The most effective communications satellite available is the inborn ability of each man to listen to the voice of God. The most intelligent source of long-range planning and immediate action is the Holy Spirit.

1969 would then not only be the year when men first walk on the moon but the year when men in the Western, Communist and Third Worlds seek the precise and accurate Mind of God on the problems facing this age.

BRIAN LIGHTOWLER



Asia Plateau, MRA world conference centre. Arrow points where theatre will be constructed
photo Hartnell

Next phase in Asia . . . Theatre construction in Panchgani

by David Young

WITH THE FIRST MOON landing behind us, communicating ideas that will build unity here on earth now assume greater urgency.

In India where television has not yet reached people and where it may be some years before the public in most of the country will see TV programmes, the theatre and the film industry still have the power to reach vast audiences in their own languages. However, more attention is paid to the production and distribution of films and plays than to their content.

An audacious bid to produce plays relevant to the urgent situation in

Asia is now being launched at Panchgani in Western India. There, at the Moral Re-Armament Conference Centre, Asia Plateau, work begins in Autumn on the construction of a theatre and auditorium. Plays and films will be produced to reach millions of ordinary people in every town and hamlet.

Building the Centre began early in 1967. The aim of creating this Centre was to halt the trends towards anarchy and breakdown in India and at the same time to train a responsible leadership in every walk of life for the

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Brazilian Official has great hope in Britain

Nelson Marcellino de Carvalho is a founder of the Portworkers' Union of Brazil who worked for 39 years in the Port of Rio de Janeiro. He is now working for the Brazilian Government's Food Supply and Transport Administration (SUNAB). De Carvalho, who is one of the chief characters in the MRA film 'Men of Brazil', said at the Westminster Theatre last Sunday:

WE HAVE SEEN BRITAIN as a lion, valiant and strong and always on the attack. It is thanks to the sacrifice and service and the work of people from this country that we were able to complete the film *Men of Brazil*.

The object of this film is to tell the true story of what happened in our

lives in the port of Rio and to show how through the change in the character and in the lives of certain men in the port we were able to unite two rival unions. And how from this union came tranquillity and peace in the port. It is to give each one of us a fire and a determination to put right what is wrong in our country.

This film is now translated into 22 languages, including Hindi. There are 250 copies of the film going around the world now.

I am very happy to be here in London at the side of this valiant team and to see that they are continuing like us with the same faith and the same determination that Britain has got to show today. Not the lion which



Nelson Marcellino de Carvalho discusses the Transport Conference at the MRA Centre at Caux in Switzerland with Tom Ham, British dockers' leader
photo Strong

is sick and ill and beaten by vice, not the lion which is looking after his own interests and looking for money. And not the lion which is defending all the permissive legislation which I hear about here. But the lion that I knew as a young man and the lion which I know is going to win. And the lion that all of you want to see Britain become today.

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future. The test is the results in the country and in people.

Leaders in Delhi have been among the first to recognise, for instance, the change in the situation in the Assam Hills area on the sensitive border of North East India due to some of the Hill Leaders coming to Conferences at Panchgani and overcoming every obstacle to bring a solution.

Harder sometimes to evaluate, perhaps, is the effect on food production through farmers who get the will to work and the secret of working together. Seventy-five year old Narayan Rao Jadhav, whose family were united after coming to Asia Plateau, set things going to double the food production of his village near Panchgani last monsoon. He listened to his inner voice, which told him to put all his land under cultivation for the sake of *India's food needs*, rather than sitting back and expecting his sons to look after him in his old age. His working six hours a day brought forth similar actions in many in his village.

Last year when the world watched Russia move in Czechoslovakia, India took a neutral position. Narayan Rao felt that while his country still depended on foreign aid she could never take a firm stand on international issues. 'But,' he said, 'if everyone doubles his food production like we have done, then we shall be able to stand for what we believe without try-

ing to please anyone.' Common sense coming from the common man.

Having been responsible for the first phase of the construction, I do not underestimate the difficulties and the problems of building work under the conditions in that area. Many worked heroically to overcome them.

Many say you cannot get work done without bribery. But you cannot build a Moral Re-Armament Centre with bribery. A man responsible for collecting local taxes in Panchgani came one day to see Rajmohan Gandhi, who had taken the initiative for setting up the Centre.

Taxes paid

This man said he wanted to know more about Moral Re-Armament. 'You see,' he explained, 'anyone starting something like this Centre sooner or later comes to see me to try to make an arrangement for avoiding taxes in return for a suitable reward to me. I waited for the people of Moral Re-Armament to come, but no one did; and their taxes have all been paid. That is why I am interested to know more about this.'

At a time when many in India ask the question, 'What is the world going to do for us?', Rajmohan Gandhi and his colleagues are saying, 'It is more important what we are going to do for the world.' He was invited to take a force of people from India to

Ceylon where they engendered a spirit of trust and hope in the relations between these nations.

The initiative and determination that has already achieved so much through these conferences can soon reach more rapidly and more effectively a far larger audience when the proposed theatre is completed at the end of 1970.

£280 per seat will cover the cost of the 450 seat theatre. (The total cost of the theatre with dining room facilities will be £224,000.) A town, a company or an individual will be remembered by the name on the seat they provide. The citizens of Panchgani were the first to offer the cost of a seat.

Since then others in many countries as well as India have undertaken to provide seats. They represent a cross-section of the world—children in Stockholm, an engine driver in Switzerland, a capitalist in Denmark, housewives in Hove, teachers in the Nordic North, citizens of South Africa, to name just a few.

We have bridged the gap between the earth and the moon. The unfinished task is to bridge the gap between man and man, between nation and nation. It will certainly take as much will and work as the moon shot. It need not take as much money. It will take the creative talent of ordinary people who will not give up until the task is done.



AT CAUX. From the left: Louis Ignacio-Pinto, President of the Supreme Court, Dahomey; Robert Carmichael, former President of the European Jute Industry; Ogbai Habtemicael, student, Asmara, Ethiopia; Tzehaye Berhe, Asmara student; Beraki Tewoldemedhin, Haile Selassie University, Addis Ababa; Magdi Bissada, from Egypt, student in Asmara; Woldemichael Abraha, Eritrea; and Ahmed Surur, Haile Selassie Secondary School, Asmara

photo Franzon

Ethiopian Students Find a Way More Radical than Violence

STUDENTS from Ethiopia, now at the MRA centre of Caux in Switzerland, are representative of a new leadership arising in school and university.

Beraki Tewoldemedhin is a student at the University of Addis Ababa. He has been unable to complete his first year studies, as the University has been closed down following student demonstrations. Most students feel violence is the only means of achieving their demands.

Beraki, who attended the recent MRA conference in Asmara in Ethiopia, is determined to demonstrate an alternative way. He says, 'Change starts with me. Ask God and He will tell us. Together we can find an answer to hatred and corruption in our country and this is what we want.'

Who changes first?

Ogbai Habtemicael, a student from Prince Makonnen Secondary School, Asmara, asked, 'Is it teachers or students who need to change first?' 'Both need to change,' he said. He told of a fellow student who returned two books to the school library which he had 'borrowed' two years ago.

This student said to the Vice-Principal of the school, 'I am sorry. If each of the 900 boys in our school did what I have done, that would be 1,800

fewer books in our library and our younger brothers would suffer. That is why I have decided to be honest.'

Since that time three meetings between teachers and students from different schools in the town have taken place. Problems were discussed in complete honesty on the basis of 'What teachers and students can do together to build a new Asmara.' A new partnership is growing up at a time when in the rest of the country and in many parts of the world, the hostility between the two is a major problem.

The group at Caux includes Christian and Muslim and is a pattern of the new society that they seek to create in their country.

A NEW MOTIVE FOR INDUSTRY

A series of weekend conferences will be held at the Moral Re-Armament Conference Centre at Tirley Garth, Tarporley, Cheshire

August 2-3, August 9-10, August 17-18

For further details write to:
The Conference Secretary,
Tirley Garth, Tarporley,
Cheshire.

THE SUNDAY TIMES,
20th July 1969, on page 2,
published the following:

The Oxford Group

In the biographical entry for Frank Buchman in *1000 Makers of the Twentieth Century* in the Magazine of June 15, it was stated by the contributor that the movement started by Frank Buchman and now known as Moral Re-Armament eventually lost its Christian content to become a vehicle for an anti-Communist ideology.

MRA explain that they are not anti-Communist as such but that the aim of Moral Re-Armament is to answer materialism and atheism wherever it is found in the world by promoting a Christian revolution. For our contributor to say that the movement has lost its Christian content is therefore an error based on a misconception which we are happy to correct. The Oxford Group has continued to carry on the active Christian work and teaching of Moral Re-Armament since Frank Buchman's death, and the Magazine apologises to its officers for the distress and embarrassment which has been caused.



Mrs Charlotte van Beuningen with Russi Lala, Editor of 'Himmat'

photo de Maar

'A New World for My Grandchildren' Published

LAST WEEK'S Dutch launching of a newly published book brought together representatives of the Former Political Prisoners' Organisation under the Nazi Occupation and the Canadian colonel of one of the armoured regiments that spearheaded Dutch Liberation.

They were living links with a dramatic war-time episode related by Mrs Charlotte van Beuningen in her autobiography, *A New World for My Grandchildren*, which was published by *Himmat Publications* on the occasion of her 89th birthday. Her part in saving the lives of concentration camp victims was one of the services honoured by the Queen of the Netherlands when she conferred on her the Order of Knight of Orange Nassau.

In her book this remarkable woman graphically describes her adventures and initiatives with Moral Re-Armament on every continent since before the war.

Mrs van Beuningen wrote the book because, as she said, 'I have at the moment 20 great-grandchildren. When I see these children and think of the hundreds of millions of children in Asia and Africa who suffer from hunger and have no house to live in, my heart bleeds that they must grow up in this world. I have decided to fight till my last breath for a new and just world, a world in which God rules and the people live according to His commandments.'

R M Lala, Editor of *Himmat*, the Indian news magazine, said that they had published the book because it was the story not only of a spectator of a remarkable period of history, but of one vitally involved in her life and times.

Het Vaderland, leading Hague newspaper, wrote, 'The book is very attractive, written in easily readable English and grips the reader from the very start . . .'

'Naturally Dr Buchman plays a leading part in this book and one gets to know this exceptional figure well through reading the book.'

'Sixth formers can set the trend'

'EVERYONE IS BIDDING for sixth formers,' Joanna Sciortino, a sixth former from Penrhos College, North Wales, told a conference of teachers and sixth formers in London last weekend.

'Student power is after us and the Minister of Education has interviewed us, but the important thing is that we should know where we are going.'

'If we live Moral Re-Armament we can set the trend for our schools and *create a force which will*, when we get there, form our universities, instead of our just being formed by them.' Miss Sciortino added that she had shown the film *Happy Deathday* to her friends at school. She said of this film of Peter Howard's last play, 'It should be part of every sixth former's education.'

Other sixth formers told how they had been asked to take lessons on MRA, had brought teachers to the Westminster Theatre and had initiated play-readings of Westminster Theatre plays.

Irene Burden, a South Wales delegate, said she had always felt people were just not interested in God and absolute standards. 'When I decided to live what I had previously only talked about, people were fascinated,' she said.

A teacher in a boys' secondary school in Bristol described her experi-



ence with members of the revolutionary Sixth Form Progressive Alliance in her school. 'Their enthusiasm is tremendous and they sacrifice for what they believe in,' she said, 'but when you challenge them with a bigger aim and absolute moral standards, they immediately respond. If your commitment is as great as theirs, you can win.'

Jane Bygott from Somerset, who goes to Sherborne School, announced a conference at Tirley Garth, the MRA conference centre in Cheshire, during August, where students will meet militant workers. MARY LEAN