

MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

FOUR HAYS MEWS · BERKELEY SQUARE · LONDON W.1

Vol. 1

Saturday, 31 January, 1953

No. 26

MOSCOW BROADCASTS ON MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

INDIA: CONGRESS PARTY CONVENTION ADJOURNS FOR MRA

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER CHALLENGES AMERICA

SOUTH AMERICAN LABOUR LEADERSHIP

NEWS IN BRIEF

34

IN the last seven weeks four broadcasts in MRA have gone out from Moscow stations. The fact that two of them were broadcast on the Moscow *Home* service suggests the Soviet's concern at the infiltration of MRA in the USSR.

People sometimes ask, does MRA penetrate behind the Iron Curtain? In point of fact West German, Berlin and Austrian Radio stations frequently broadcast on MRA and much MRA literature finds its way East of the Curtain. In Berlin alone thousands of Peter Howard's book *The World Rebuilt* went to students from Eastern Germany studying in the West, when 152,000 copies were distributed to all German students eighteen months ago.

It is also known that German prisoners-of-war in Russia have first heard of MRA in special camps, some beyond the Ural Mountains, where they received train-

ing in Communism before repatriation. In some of the training schools they received six hours instruction and warning about MRA in the standard course. A result of this, however, has been that a number of returned prisoners-of-war have sought out Moral Re-Armament because they wanted it in their own lives. An instance of this was reported in our issue of 16 August, 1952.

There are also many other contacts between the outside world and the USSR than across the frontiers with Europe. Sixty million Moslems, for instance, live in Soviet territory. Ideas and information of all kinds reach them from the Middle East and other parts of the Moslem world, where there is intense interest in Moral Re-Armament.

The present broadcasts from Russia also indicate, from their content, the interest inside Russia to the news of Dr. Buchman's visit to Asia.

EXTRACTS FROM THE MOSCOW BROADCASTS

These broadcasts, in attacking MRA, show a realistic awareness of the scope of its advance. Just as the leaders of Nazi Germany attacked MRA for "providing the Christian garment for world democratic aims," so do the Kremlin spokesmen describe it as a world force to be reckoned with.

They also identify MRA with a radically different approach to the problems of the world today. The broadcasts should be read against the background of Mihailov's Report to the Lenin Memorial Meeting in Moscow last week. One of his main points, quoting the words of Stalin, was that "The abolition of class is not achieved by the subsiding of the class struggle but by its intensification."

Here are some extracts from the broadcasts which show

how, from time to time, the revolutionary nature of MRA breaks through their hostility:

"Moral Re-Armament demands the cessation of the class struggle, and a general social reconciliation."

Moscow Overseas Programme, 8 January, 1953

"They are preaching the idea of a community of interests of all peoples."

Tashkent Radio, 6 January, 1953, in a broadcast to India and Pakistan in English.

"Moral Re-Armament supplants the inevitable class war by the 'eternal struggle between good and evil.' . . . This is the tenor of Moral Re-Armament, the natural political result of which, according to these newly-proclaimed prophets, should be nothing less than the transformation of the world."

Moscow Home Service, 9 January, 1953

"Some time ago a book by a certain Howard, *The World Rebuilt*, was published in London . . . unceasingly proclaiming the struggle against materialism to be the main aim of this new ideology . . . Howard writes: 'Moral Re-Armament stands for the full dimension of change: social change, national change, international change, all based on personal change.' . . . This basic principle of Moral Re-Armament, the

transformation of the world by means of change in the individual."

"Moral Re-Armament, in addition to building bridgeheads on each continent and training cadres capable of spreading this ideology among the masses, has now started on its decisive task, total expansion throughout the world."

Moscow Home Service, 21 November, 1952

INDIA: CONGRESS PARTY CONVENTION ADJOURNS FOR MRA

Very important?

A centre-page article in the *Manchester Guardian* on 20 January surveyed the recent advance of MRA in India. It refers to the presentation of the MRA plays during the closed sessions of the Congress Party's Convention at Hyderabad, and comments, "This would seem a measure of the official recognition now accorded to MRA in India."

The article continues, "But more interesting is the significance of the timing of MRA's mission to India in the wider context of the Far Eastern political scene. As one Government official put it: 'Red China has chosen to raise her standard of living the quick totalitarian way; India, the slow, democratic way. Perhaps the Western democracies feel we need all the practical help we can get to prevent us following Red China's example.'"

The main item on the Congress Convention's agenda was the Five-Year Plan. Extensive exhibits emphasized Gandhi's cottage industry programme and illustrated the irrigation and development schemes charted in the Plan. Pandit Nehru in his presidential address stressed the crucial responsibility of Congress for its successful

442

carrying out. Other speakers emphasized that it tested the effectiveness of contrasting democratic and totalitarian approaches towards economic progress, not only for India but for all Asia.

At the request of the Congress Party Committee the Subjects Committee which prepared the resolutions for the entire convention adjourned on 17 January to make the auditorium erected for the Convention available for the Moral Re-Armament plays. In the temporary bamboo city of Nanalnagar, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, white-capped Congressmen mingled with civic and social leaders. Lighting was provided by hundreds of coloured lanterns. An estimated 15,000 people crowded down the aisles and sat on the mat-covered ground.

Dr. Buchman and the group with him were the official guests of the State at the Government Guest House. They were received officially by the Chief Minister and Members of the State Cabinet. They were invited to sit at Congress working sessions, a privilege which emphasised the importance attached to their visit by the leaders of India.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER CHALLENGES AMERICA

In his inaugural address President Eisenhower called the American people to practise the faith which could alone fit them for world leadership.

"We are not helpless prisoners of history," he said. "We are free men. The one capital offence against freedom is the lack of a staunch faith.

"In the swift rush of great events we find ourselves groping to know the full sense and meaning of the times in which we live. In our quest of understanding, we beseech God's guidance.

"The strength of all free peoples lies in unity, their danger in discord . . . This truth must be clear before us; whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America. The peace we seek is nothing less than the practice and fulfilment of our whole faith, among ourselves and in our dealings with others. It signifies more than stilling the guns, easing the sorrow of war. More than an escape

37 52

from death, it is a way of life . . . This is the work that awaits us all, to be done with bravery, with charity—and with prayer to Almighty God."

Filling in this picture Gould Lincoln, veteran political columnist of the *Washington Star*, underlines the importance of industrial relations and of the appointment of Senator H. Alexander Smith, a supporter of MRA for many years, as Chairman of the Labour and Public Welfare Committee of the Senate. "World peace is not the only great objective of the Eisenhower administration," writes Lincoln. "Peace in the industrial world of the United States runs a close second. This is certainly the idea of Senator H. Alexander Smith. He, however, is not proposing to rush pell-mell into the draft of labour legislation. It is his purpose to talk as speedily as possible with leaders of both labour and management."

"In the opinion of Senator Smith," Mr. Lincoln

continues, "relations of labour and management should be removed from partisan politics . . . 'The objective,' Senator Smith points out, 'is better relations between labour and management. I do not intend to take any steps which would result in sharpening the claws of two contenders.'"

Senator Smith's first job was to pilot through the confirmation of Martin Durkin, former president of the

United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters of North America (AFL), and a Democrat, as Secretary of Labour. In spite of attempts by some sections of the press to fan controversy between Senator Taft and Mr. Durkin, as well as between Senator Taft and the President, the appointment was confirmed after a 28-minute hearing, and the front pages carried photographs of Taft and Durkin shaking hands.

SOUTH AMERICAN LABOUR LEADERSHIP

The Congress of ORIT, the inter-American section of the ICFTU, took place recently in Rio de Janeiro. A correspondent writes: "It was apparent throughout the Congress that the greatest need was for an over-arching idea strong enough to bridge the obvious divisions and create a basis for confidence and co-operation, especially between the unions of North and South America. South Americans have still to be convinced that a universal ideology exists with a more effective answer to their problems than the solutions offered by Peronism and Communism. They are looking for an ideology which satisfies the deepest needs of the human heart and develops the leadership which can build social justice.

"Several of the men elected in Rio to positions of responsibility have taken part in Moral Re-Armament Assemblies. Luis Monge, the new Secretary-General of the ORIT, is a brilliant young man of 28 who comes from one of the most democratic countries of South America—Costa Rica. He has been several times to MRA Assemblies at Caux. The Brazilian representative on the Executive Committee of the ORIT, J. B. de Almeida, head of the Maritime Federation of Labour, has taken much initiative in bringing Moral Re-Armament to Brazil. He recently helped to start the publication of the MRA Information Service in Portuguese. Luis Colotuzzo, the new President from Uruguay, has also been to Caux."

FRANCE SOIR: CHECKING A CRISIS IN THE BUILDING TRADE

"Eleven men sat that evening around Jacques Hilst, the head of a building firm in Roubaix; ten workers and Jean-Marie, the foreman. The employer suddenly decided to talk," reports the Paris daily newspaper, *France Soir*.

"'You know we are going through a crisis which will last until February,' he said. 'We have no credits. What are we to do? Other firms have dismissed a third of their workers. I had decided to do the same. This morning I said to myself: "Jacques if you get rid of one man you are not fit to run this business." But I have found another way round it: I will take on work in other districts even at a loss to the firm to keep the men on.'

"Some minutes of silence. Then one of the men spoke up. 'If you are prepared to tighten your belt to spare some of us, there is no reason why we should not make some effort too,' he said. The men volunteered to work in other districts and forego travel expenses and suggested that for three months they all worked one extra hour per day without pay."

"The results achieved by the Hilst firm are an example of what can happen when employers are inspired by Moral Re-Armament," comments the French newspaper. In addition to weathering the immediate crisis, Hilst and the works council he has set up in the

company have done the following:

1. The firm now has an insurance scheme operated by the workers themselves.
2. Every worker of 15 years service gets a gratuity of £100 on retirement.
3. The bonus for recovery of waste material had fallen to 2%. It has now been raised to 3½%.
4. Every man gets a holiday bonus ranging from £10 to £80. This is distributed according to the technical qualifications, good-will, and character of the men, as well as the number of hours worked.
5. North African labourers are now getting the same wages as the French workers, which is unknown in any other firm.
6. The trade union which had become moribund is active again.

"This business is going to publish a journal, *The Concrete Mixer*," the correspondent concludes his story. "The title is symbolic. It is the name given to the room where the twelve works council men meet. It stands for the mixing, day after day and week after week, of the employers' cement and the workers' rubble.

"Out of this 'concrete mixer', with the reinforcement of confidence between man and man, a new order is being built."

NEWS IN BRIEF

This Issue—This issue of the MRA Information Service completes our first year of publication. During this year the Service has gone out from London to 66 countries. Editions in other languages are published in Holland, Brazil (in Portuguese), in Norway, Sweden and Denmark, in France, Germany and Switzerland. We are grateful to our readers for their support and would value your comments and suggestions for future improvements and developments in this Service.

Fred Copeman was one of the speakers at a meeting of seven hundred from all parts of Britain in London earlier this month. Copeman, who commanded the British section of the International Brigade in Spain and has represented Britain on the Comintern, wrote the story of his life and his meeting with Moral Re-Armament in his best-selling book *Reason in Revolt* (Blandford Press 2s. 6d.). He is on the National Executive of the Constructional Engineers Union. He has just been re-elected Chairman of the shop stewards' Site Committee at Coryton, where he works on the building of the new oil refinery, by an overwhelming majority.

Ontario—The annual convention of the Ontario Federation of Labour, AFL, meeting in Windsor, Ontario, last week, invited John Dibblee, Personnel Director of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, to address them on the subject of Moral Re-Armament. G. Russell Harvey, Canadian AFL director, introduced him. "This is a distinct privilege, asking an employer to address a labour convention," he said.

Race With Time—A cable from America last week asked for 10,000 copies of the latest issue of the *New World News* pictorial quarterly for use throughout the country. Canada has placed a special order for 600 in view of the story and pictures on the new 300 million dollar hydro-electric power project at Niagara, in which the influence of MRA has been markedly felt in industrial co-operation. 5,000 copies have gone to Asia for the use

of the task force operating there. This issue contains a summary of the world scope and message of Moral Re-Armament and brilliant pictures from Asia and Africa. Price 2s. 6d. a copy; Annual subscription, 10s. od., post free. Combined subscription with the MRA Information Service; 25s. od. a year.

California—Jerome Hines, six-foot-six-inch leading bass of the Metropolitan Opera, was guest singer at the California State Society's pre-inaugural dinner in the Presidential Ballroom of the Statler Hotel, in honour of Vice-President Richard M. Nixon.

For his encore Hines chose *Somewhere in the Heart of a Man* from the Moral Re-Armament musical play *Jotham Valley*, which he had seen two years before in the nation's capital and which, he told the dinner guests, "has the thing we all need in these days."

The Spectator for 16 January carried an interesting letter on the results of Moral Re-Armament in providing an answer to Communism. "As I understand it," wrote the correspondent, "MRA does not fight Communism: it changes Communists. I myself have heard speak men who have been members of the Communist Party for 20 years or more, who have now found what they themselves call 'a better idea' and are Communists no longer. Such men, from many countries, have accepted absolute moral standards and the principle that 'when men listen, God speaks' in their own lives and have become constructive forces in their own nations, working for the establishment of an inspired democracy in place of Godless materialism."

Escape to Live—Our readers will be interested to hear that Longmans, Green & Co., have recently brought out a paper-covered pocket edition of Edward Howell's famous war story of his escape from prison camp in Greece into the most exciting adventure of the twentieth century. The new edition of *Escape to Live*, which brings Howell's story up-to-date, costs 6s., postage 2d.

We wonder if YOU know



New, revised, cheap edition

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Price 1s.

Postage 2d.

Printed throughout in three colours

A simple guide to the world we live in— and what to do about it.

FROM MRA, FOUR HAYS MEWS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1



Printed in Great Britain by Lowe & Brydone (Printers) Ltd., for New World News, 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1

Subscription rate Twenty Shillings a year, post free to all countries