

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT



Sent by their government for training in Moral Re-Armament, 25 Laotians have just spent three weeks in Delhi, Bombay and at Asia Plateau, Panchgani. Two of the party are staying on in India to join the cast of 'Song of Asia'. As the delegation left Panchgani its leader, Naratha Souvannavong, said, 'We would like to expand the practice of the MRA ideology in Indochina so that we can have peaceful living. Even if our country had peace only recently and we face many obstacles, we will do everything to engrave what we have learnt here in the hearts of the Lao and Indochinese people.' photo: Cummock

'Where in the world are we going?'

THIS WAS THE THEME of a conference last month called by teacher training college students in Melbourne. Sixty people from fifteen countries came together - Australians, Aboriginal and white, Asians and people from the Pacific and Africa. They represented many walks of life - teachers and students, doctors and nurses, shop assistants, carpenters, wharfies (dockers).

The Australian Minister for Education, K E Beazley, put forward a five point programme on which education could be based. Teachers, he said needed to learn:

- 1 To listen with attention.
- 2 To listen to understand.
- 3 To listen and to remember.
- 4 To listen to act.
- 5 To listen to God. 'None of us can meet the needs of another person. If you have any sort of faith, you know that God can.'

Pastor Ron Williams of the Aboriginal people said: 'Not many of our people die of old age nowadays. They die of drink, in fights and in gravel pits. There has been much suffering in the past for us Aboriginal people and also now. But God does forgive. God is a God of all grace and does not run out of resources.'

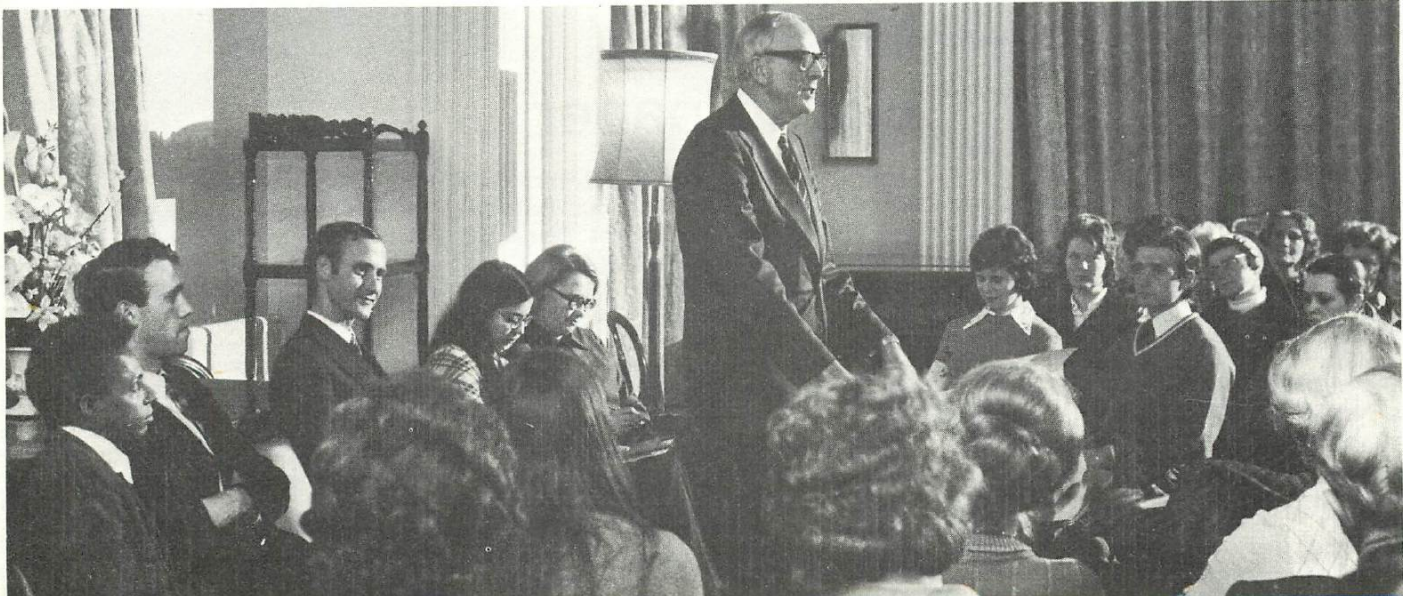
Executive Director of the Victorian Employers' Federation, Ian Spicer, spoke at the conference: 'We employers have placed competitive issues before all else. We need an entirely new way of doing our business.' At the same session, the President of the Melbourne Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation, Jim Beggs, said: 'The Tolpuddle Martyrs called us to the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. We are a long way off that because materialism has become our goal. We must have the new world as our goal.'

A Malaysian student from the University of New South Wales said: 'If we students go on being as corrupt as

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A Malaysian student requests speakers for her university.



The Australian Minister for Education, K E Beazley, addresses the conference.

photos: Mayor

A compelling need

'As a committed realist of the Christian faith I am convinced that there is a compelling need to revitalise on a global basis the spiritual and moral norms which underlie and control the thoughts and actions of mankind.

'Our world is undergoing a moral crisis which stems from greed, hatred, fear, racial discrimination, prejudice, religious bigotry and social stratification. Far too long has our universal family been divided: part being strong and the other weak: part free and the other enslaved - part poor and the other rich - part possessing knowledge and the other ignorant - part oppressing and the other being oppressed. If we are to reshape the world for the betterment of mankind, we must first of all seek to change ourselves through serious soul-searching and a scrupulous self-examination with a view to creating better human beings for a better world.

'Man's nature cannot be changed except by the power of God, and only then will a new world order emerge. If we acknowledge that liberty, in all its ramifications, is one of the most precious ideals of the Christian religion - liberty of mind, soul and body - then we must also acknowledge the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.'

DR WILLIAM R TOLBERT JR, PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA
in a message presented by Henry Fahnbulleh,
Assistant Minister of State for Presidential Affairs

Qualities Japan needs

A DELEGATION of twenty nine representing Japanese middle-management and labour relations were among the ninety industrialists, economists and journalists from nineteen countries attending a special session on the theme 'Industry's rôle in creating a new society'.

The Japanese are members of 'The quality of working life study group', under the auspices of the Consolidated Labour Institute.

'We have developed greatly technologically over the last hundred years,' said Professor Shin-Ichi Takezawa, Professor of Industrial Relations at Rikkyo University, 'but the quality of life has not only to do with technology, it has to do with the hearts of men. We are so glad to have this opportunity to come to the headquarters of the hope of the world. We want to share and find out with you the qualities which we ourselves and our generation need, to face the world now.'

He continued, 'Though we will be able to learn from the technological developments through our visits to factories in Europe, I am sure that it is only here we can learn the spiritual development which is more important than technology in humanising work in Japan, and the rest of the world.'

Neville Cooper, Director of Administration, Standard Telephone and Cables Ltd of London, underlined the need for a strengthening of ties of understanding between the USA, Europe and Japan. He said that he hoped the Japanese would return with others for next year's industrial session. 'We face the same

issues and I find that we have much the same outlook. We might on a basis of human friendship together find how to solve our problems and help the rest of the world.'

He referred to the developing theories of 'economic man', 'social man' and 'complex man'. This session was being held in Caux, he said, 'because here we deal with the whole man, we each become more of a whole man, and whole men are put into action to tackle the problems of the world.'

Mr Cooper concluded, 'We must develop throughout the world a growing network of men and women who will fight on the basis of the principles we learn here, to reconstruct the world. This has nothing to do with the formation of yet another organisation. It has everything to do with people freely and naturally taking up this task together. For this we need all the continents.'

More than bits of paper

DAS BANDHOO, Vice President of the 30,000 member South African Federation of Leather Trade Unions, said that his union executive, which is half white and half black, had succeeded in obtaining the pay rate for the job regardless of colour.

Mr Bandhoo who is himself of Indian origin, stated that the British TUC investigating Committee had helped British employers to realise that 'there may be discriminating laws, but there is no law to say you cannot pay the rate for the job'. But any change of laws would need to be founded on a change in attitudes, he stressed. 'At the stroke of a pen, the government could give equal rights to

How did it happen?

MAHMOUD MANDOUR, an Inspector of Social Work for the Egyptian Ministry of Education and Local President of the Youth Hostel Organisation of Egypt, called on people and nations to throw selfishness into the sea!

His son, the President of Cairo University Students' Union, had attended the

CAUX - 'Here with the

all, but if I cannot get on with my neighbour, if there is no change in us, even the law will stay up in the clouds.' Despite pieces of paper, the class war still remained a force in Britain and the caste system in India, he said. 'But if we could have a change of heart, if we could love each other, then the laws themselves will crumble away.'

He concluded, 'God has given us a beautiful country, beautiful weather, minerals, everything. All we need is a change of heart. Then there is hope, not only for the black man, not only for the white man, but that South Africa could show the world the secret of how to live.'

Stop the excuses

THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES use corruption in the 'Third World' as an excuse for not giving the aid they should, claimed an Australian dairy technologist decorated for his work on programmes in developing countries.

Stanley Barnes, who has received the Gold Medal of the Australian Society of Dairy Technology, addressed a session devoted to the Asian and African continents.

'In the west, we tend to highlight the problems of corruption that do exist,' he said, 'and we often make them an excuse for not doing what we ought to be doing.' He quoted examples from his own experience of projects finished ahead of time, with quality maintained and no bribes paid. He also referred to the problems created for those in the developing countries trying to establish honest administrations by those wester-

assembly last year as a member of an official delegation. He had returned so different that the father had to come to find out how it happened.

On behalf of his son and himself he presented a collection of Egyptian wool rugs to the MRA Centre. 'I feel a member of your family,' he said. 'I am sure that God will help us to gain peace all over the world, and love between peoples and nations, through our good efforts. If selfishness were thrown in the sea, he concluded, 'there would be no war, no poverty, no ignorance.'

we deal whole man'

ners 'who try to buy privilege with their wealth'.

He concluded, 'There are honest and straight men in these countries who are trying to do the right thing. We face the challenge whether we will fight alongside them, or whether we will take the easy way and try to buy our way into these countries.'

Put out the bush fire

A GROUP of men in Australian industry - management, labour and unions - called for 'a united assault on the materialism that is destroying our society from within' in a message of support to the industrial session of the Assembly. They said:

Unless we control our own greed and selfish grab, that erodes pay and profit, makes money worthless, incites industrial anarchy, causes company collapse and provokes division, all Australia will be engulfed in bushfire inflation. We believe the rate of inflation is in direct proportion to the measure of greed and grab we tolerate in ourselves and condone in others.

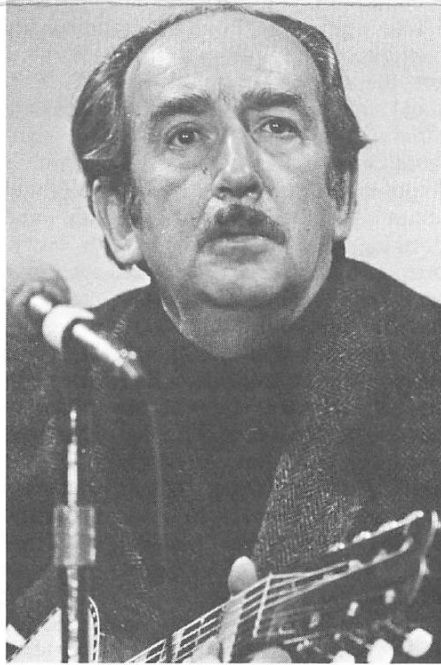
'We are convinced that the world-wide malaise is basically moral. We pledge our support by effecting practical change in our own thinking and living and policies, to enable trade unions, management and government to work as one to shape a fear-free, greed-free, hate-free world.'

The message was signed by 22 men from different parts of Australia including officials of trade unions and management organisations.

Art is our ally, says Russian writer

ALEXANDER GALITCH, a leading Russian intellectual and one of the collaborators with Sakarov on the Committee for Human Rights, spoke of a 'revolution of the heart' in his first major speech since leaving the Soviet Union two months ago.

Mr Galitch, whose protest songs are circulating secretly on tape throughout Russia, described this revolution now in progress among scholars, scientists and ordinary people in his country. 'The first battle for us all was with ourselves - to cast out fear. It is not political. It is a struggle with lies. Sakarov is a man who had many decorations and rewards. He gave it all up for honour and honesty, to fight against oppression everywhere in the world.'



Alexander Galitch

'The most rational people in our rational age are now turning their gaze to art and religion,' he said. 'They seek in them the answers to the eternal questions of good and evil and find there consolation and support.'

Mr Galitch said that a religious awakening of true Christianity was the only hope if Russia was to become the

friend and ally of the world. 'Art is man's ally in this combat,' he continued. 'For every true work of art is illumined by divine light and by its very nature is resistant to evil, violence and lies. In our mad century, when humanity is threatened with conquest by evil, goodness is also a talent, love for one's neighbour a great art and honesty and courage the greatest works of the human spirit.'

He had heard about Moral Re-Armament - 'this amazing movement' - from the attacks on it in the Soviet press. He called for a 'considerable effort so that the idea of MRA, of a revolution of the human spirit, enters the consciousness of millions all over the world'.

Asked how people of the West could best help, he replied: 'Do not be silent. Speak out. Tell them what you are doing. I intend to do so.'

Secret tapes

The Great Hall in Mountain House was transformed one evening into his Moscow apartment. In a programme of film, slides and music with his friend, the Norwegian artist Victor Sparre, he brought to life some of 'the Russia you know so little about'.

Accompanying himself on the guitar, he sang and spoke about the country he loves, and about the sufferings of her people - the millions who gave their lives in the last war, and the millions more who died in the camps.

Since winning a Festival of Folk- and Protest songs in Siberia in 1968, he had been forbidden to appear publicly. Yet he continued to give concerts two or three times a week in homes and drawing-rooms, with impossible numbers of people crammed in. Every time, a dozen or so of the audience would record the songs, and soon tapes of his songs were circulating widely.

Voice in the night

Asked how he became a Christian, Alexander Galitch said, 'It is a miraculous story. Not so many years ago, perhaps six or seven, I was in a very bad way. I even thought about suicide. And then in the night I heard a voice that told me that I must go in the morning to the beach. I was in the country, near Moscow, and I did not sleep at all that night. In the early morning I went to the beach and the voice told me that I must go the left side of our house. I went to the left side and in the grass I found a little silver ikon with the Holy Mother. That is not a simple miracle, I thought, it is something God is sending to me. So I understood that it was a sign that I must take it and follow it all my life.'

Who cares?



Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod meets co-producer Valerie Gross at the final night of 'Who Cares?', an Edinburgh Festival Fringe production. 'Who Cares?' is described as 'Excerpts from the dynamic works of Peter Howard—a man who cared—woven through a story with the help of mime, music, puppet and film.' The cast of 10 of this multi-media show—all from Edinburgh—includes a bio-chemist, a display manager, an actor, students, teachers and a Church of Scotland Minister.

photo: Finlayson

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we are, it won't be good for the future of Australia. I will pay back fares I have evaded. I have always hoped to stay in Australia and therefore have not worried about Malaysia. Being with you this week has begun to give me a love and concern for my own country.'

A Filipino post-graduate student spoke of how critical she had been of others, but that she had begun to see she needed to change herself and decided to do so. A student from Canberra said he had been encouraged to hear stories of how God had used people—'Next time I want to come back with stories of how God has guided me.' One man who had formerly refused to join his union decided to do so and to take responsibility for it.

Boniface Yambukia, a technical trainee from Papua New Guinea, said: 'I have hurt others, expected more from others and seldom wanted to give. My principal nearly threw me out of college because I was causing so much trouble. It was then I met MRA and learnt about caring for the community and the needs of the country. I listened to my inner voice; I apologised to my instructors. I paid back money to my school and decided to stop drinking and smoking because I saw how this led my friends to treat their wives badly. I did these things to create a corruption-free Papua New Guinea.'

This was one of a continuing series of conferences attended by some of a growing force of people in the Australian and Pacific region who will seek God's guidance in their lives, professions and for this part of the world.

Jane Lovering

●THE CIVIC PARTY from Britain who attended the Caux Assembly were received in Paris on the way home by the Mayor of St Cloud, Jean-Pierre Fourcade, who is also the French Finance Minister. They presented to him a copy of their six-point programme for British election candidates (see *New World News* last week). This occasion was the eighth civic reception given to the British visitors on a continental tour whose aim, they said, was 'to end their British insularity and create new ties in the Community'.

●CROSS ROAD, the multi-media show built round the life of Frank Buchman, will shortly be available for world distribution on film.

All the outside and special camera work, the composition and recording of background music and the editing have now been done—and all bills to date paid. Last week the completed material went to the laboratories for the final stages, and first copies of the film are expected in mid-October. The remaining phase of this operation will cost about £3000. Hundreds of people from all over the world have already contributed to the making of this film and anyone else who would like to do so can send cheques made out to The Oxford Group and marked 'Cross Road Account'.

ALL IS NOT LOST. My trip to Asia Plateau gave me hope. I attended the conference 'Exploring a Fresh Way'. I got the answer to my problems—'Personal change first and then help change others'. I made a decision to put right what was wrong, and live straight. I wrote a number of letters to rectify old issues. I have stopped smoking and drinking. I shall be honest with everyone. I had refused, and will continue to refuse, examination papers prior to the examinations.

I saw the film *Freedom* with some other Nigerian students, a Sierra Leonian and a Ugandan. One of the Nigerian boys said, 'Freedom is to me what iced water is to a farmer working in the heat.' He has written to call off a two year quarrel between him and his eldest brother. The Sierra Leonian said that *Freedom* is what Africa needs—a change of heart.

We are building a new India, Africa and world as a result of Asia Plateau. We are retrieving a misguided generation.

ATHANASIOS EKECHUKWU
a Nigerian student of commerce in India, writing in his Bombay college magazine 'Media'.

New American commitment

A PARTY of 30 Americans, aged 16 to 74, from different races, religions and backgrounds, living in States from Maine to Florida, from New York to California, travelled together last month to the World Assembly in Caux.

Their purpose was 'to find, live out and voice a new American commitment—to forge with the Europeans and delegates from other continents the people-to-people links which could assure united, peaceful future for us all'.

In a report of their nine days in Caux and visits to cities, factories and homes in other European countries they write: 'We heard evidence how individuals who had put wrongs right, starting with themselves in face of absolute moral standards, had found God's wisdom to bridge age-old class barriers in their communities, countered inflation, altered social conditions, then gone on with care and compassion to tackle wrongs beyond their borders.'

'We believe that, with the inauguration of a new president, a corner has been turned in the course of our country. We no longer may leave its government to others. We hold that the need of the hour is for all Americans to accept the responsibilities as well as the privileges of freedom. We are embarking on a determined quest for the values, weapons and strategy which, lived out, can cure the ills of the worldwide human family.'

'We will join all of like commitment in exploring a new era where the ordinary person can affect world conditions, where blame and finger-pointing are superseded by another practice—the art of inspiring leaders and led to rise to the quality of greatness called for by these times.'

One of the American party, journalist Frank Sherry, wrote in the *Troy Times Record* that the uniting factor in the diversity of the group was their commitment to start with themselves in seeking to put right individual and social wrongs. 'This demanded the hard-thinking many are loath to do if you would bring cure to the causes in human nature of the problems plaguing governments, communities and individuals.'