

MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

FOUR HAYS MEWS · BERKELEY SQUARE · LONDON W.1

Vol. 1

Saturday, 5 July, 1952

No. 11

REMOVING THE CAUSES OF CLASS WAR

“NERVOUS COMRADES”

SHOP STEWARDS' CONFERENCE

DANGERS IN GERMANY

NEWS FROM CAPE TOWN, MELBOURNE, WASHINGTON

THE appointment of Mr. Gromyko to the Soviet Embassy in London, the build up of the Chinese forces, the Soviet note to the Egyptian Government urging the breaking off of negotiations with Britain, are signs of a new offensive in the cold war. The strategy of Communism has not varied over the years. “The shortest road to London and Paris,” said Lenin, “is through Peking and Calcutta.”

Millions who fear the threat of war are tempted to wishful thinking about the real aims of world Communism and hope for slackening of the international tension. Many millions more, who fear dictatorship and loss of freedom, are driven into a sterile anti-Communism and helplessness about the future.

Moral Re-Armament takes up a more fundamental position with regard to Communism. It recognises that

there are many Communists in the world, in France, Germany, Italy, Britain and America, who are sincere idealists in their beliefs, as are others in other parties. There are also the Moscow-trained men who have always aimed at one thing only—world control through the class struggle. The economic strategy of Communism springs from this ideology carried on relentlessly to its logical conclusion.

Moral Re-Armament supersedes the ideology of the class struggle by removing its causes, and deals with the fundamentals of the greed and bitterness in unchanged human nature. “Moral Re-Armament,” said Dr. Buchman, “is a revolutionary way of life resulting in personal, social, national and international change.” It has always fought for absolute moral standards and the guidance of God to be lived out by men of every class, race and party.

“NERVOUS COMRADES”

The Worcester *Evening News* in an editorial entitled “Nervous Comrades,” 11 June, commented on the *Daily Worker's* recent offensive.

“A frightened bleat from the Communist propaganda sheet yesterday disclosed that the Moral Re-Armament movement has become so active among British workers that the would-be commissars are getting nervous about it.

“This is indeed significant, for Moral Re-Armament refuses to oppose Communism as a political theory, but steadfastly offers an alternative way of life. Instead of the hate and strife preached by the Communists it shows

how better results can be obtained by tolerance, friendship and understanding. The point is that a non-political moral movement is competing successfully with the Communists for the imagination and support of ordinary people.

“There is surely a lesson in this for all politicians and especially for all Christian movements in the country. It is that people need something more than a political faith and a vague Christianity to be brought out of its wrapping on Sundays. The best of all the normal political movements, no matter how admirable their policies, cannot satisfy the unspoken needs of mankind.”

SHOP STEWARDS' NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On 22 June, 400 shop stewards and trade union officials from the docks, mines, engineering, aircraft and motor industries met in London.

They planned for shop stewards' training in the 300 factories where MRA is at work in Britain, and to launch an offensive in every major factory in the country.

Delegations came from the Bristol Aeroplane Company, Rolls Royce in Glasgow, Daimler, Rootes and Morris in Coventry, from Sheffield steel firms, Reynolds Tubes in Birmingham, I.C.I. and Fords. Members of the Trades and Labour Councils of Glasgow, Cardiff, Bristol, Barry, Bedford, Coventry, Bath, Acton, Battersea, West Ham and Hayes were present. Thirty national unions were represented. They called for an international conference of trade unionists to plan how to bring a uniting ideology and to clarify the present confusion in industry.

TRANSPORT

James Haworth, National Treasurer of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association and Chairman of the Conference Arrangements Committee of the Labour Party, said, "Moral Re-Armament does not supply ready-made solutions to problems. It fits men and women to solve the problems on the basis of absolute moral standards and what is right." He reviewed the problems of the transport industry which were complicated by party political interests. "Only the application of Moral Re-Armament principles will enable us to find the right solution, the solution which will be the best for the people of this country," he said.

TEXTILES

Robert Getgood, former Chairman of the Irish T.U.C., appealed for an international conference of textile workers and industrialists to meet the rising unemployment

in the textile industry of every European country.

In Ireland, Getgood said, 60 per cent of the workers in the industry were either unemployed or working short time. "At bottom this is not an argument with the boss," he said. "It is a challenge to find an answer to a moral crisis." He said that the Government decision to spend £25-26 million on textiles from the defence budget was not alone going to solve the problem. The practical application of the ideas of Moral Re-Armament from both sides of the industry was necessary. The maximum work should go to the areas with the greatest need. It was not a question only of giving contracts to the best firms, but to the firms where most were unemployed so that the orders for goods would be distributed in areas according to their needs.

As a result of this policy being adopted in Northern Ireland, said Getgood, not one firm so far has had to close down.

COAL

Bill Birmingham, Branch Secretary at the Mosley Common Pit, Manchester, who had been a member of the Communist Party for twelve years, spoke for the group of miners from South Wales, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire. He said he had seen the practical effects of Moral Re-Armament in home and industry. "As trade unionists we are concerned with wages, conditions and difficult employers. We are also concerned with the future of the world," he declared.

THE FORGOTTEN FACTOR AT COVENTRY

Coventry, the pioneer successively of lace, bicycles, and motor-cars, is a key area for both export and armaments. It produces more cars than any other city in the country, and its machine tool industry is vital to the whole of British industry.

It is a prosperous town. The pool of skilled labour there is large and valuable to the manufacturer—and the employers have competed for it to such effect that wages are 50 per cent higher than the average wage for the same job throughout the country. Currently firms are facing a major wage demand.

Coventry responded enthusiastically to the showing of *The Forgotten Factor* early in June.

Motor firms represented by management and labour and hundreds of workers, were Daimler, Jaguar, Humber, Standard, Alvis, Lea Francis, Armstrong Siddeley and Rover. Hundreds from the great machine tool firms of Alfred Herbert Ltd., Coventry Gauge and Tool, A. C. Wickman Ltd., the electrical firms of GEC, BTH, and English Electric and the oldest of all Coventry firms, Cash's Name Tapes, were also present. For the Saturday matinee fifty came from Sentinel, Shrewsbury, the diesel engine firm.

On the Sunday after the play, four shop stewards from Coventry attended the National Shop Stewards' meeting in London (see above). The convener of one of the big motor factories stated: "This is the best idea which has come to Coventry for years. We are getting behind this." The same day, the chief personnel officer of a group of companies in the area was in touch with MRA. "Twenty of our shop stewards attended the play one evening," he said. "The next day they reversed a decision that had caused us acute embarrassment. Now they say they want to negotiate on the basis of 'what is right'. That puts it up to us."

Last week 600 workers in the machine tool factories met to discuss their demand for a 20% wage increase over the district rate. A section of the meeting proposed not waiting for a reply from management, but to reinforce the demand by an immediate ban on overtime and a mass demonstration in the city. This proposal was winning the day, when an A.E.U. member, who has since the play been attending MRA training courses, urged that the ordinary negotiation machinery should be used. After his speech the vote was taken and 90% of the meeting voted with him.

“Only MRA gave me the courage to do this,” he said later.

At the request of management and labour an MRA force is remaining in the area. Many homes are being visited, weekly training sessions are being held for management and labour, trades union branches and

boards of directors are being addressed, parties are being prepared for visiting MRA assemblies in Britain and abroad. Meanwhile, there is a growing demand that *The Forgotten Factor* should return to Coventry—and be shown in the famous Hippodrome, one of the largest and best theatres in the provinces.

DANGERS IN GERMANY

“*Mitbestimmungsrecht*”, the question of workers’ joint control in industry along with management, agitates the German industrial scene. Joint policy-making by combined boards of eleven men—five from management, five from labour and one elected “neutral”—is already passed as a law for the great steel and coal industries of the Ruhr. A law proposing to build a similar set up into all factories of over 100 workers is the subject of hot debate among industrialists and trades unions and between Chancellor Adenauer and the German Trades Union Congress of the Federal Republic.

With these topical points in mind 200 of the top merchants, industrialists and business men of Hamburg, members of the Overseas Club, met in the Atlantic Hotel to hear reports on the industrial and world-wide work of Moral Re-Armament.

The President of the Foreign Trade Committee of the Bonn Parliament, Herr Kuhlemann, outlined his impressions of a visit to the World Assembly at Mackinac Island. On arrival in Hamburg he had spoken on the “Echo of the Day” programme over Hamburg, Berlin, Hanover and Cologne stations with an estimated audience of five to six million listeners. Herr Kuhlemann is also Vice-President of the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, member of the Bonn Parliament and President of the Industrial Association of Hanover. He described the reception of visiting members of Parliament from fifteen countries in the Senate by Vice-President Barkley, and the one-and-a-half-hour interview with the Committee

for Inter-State and Foreign Commerce, the opposite number of the Bonn Committee of which he is Chairman.

The German industrial leader took sharp issue with two tendencies in German life today: (1) *Ohne Mich—Count me out.* (2) *Rueckversicherung—Insurance against the future.* The *Ohne Mich* attitude was hopeless and meant a lack of responsibility for industry and nation as a whole. “We must have a sense of responsibility for ourselves and our national situation as Germans,” he said.

The *Count me out* attitude, said Herr Kuhlemann, leads naturally to the *Insurance against the future* attitude. This involves the giving of substantial sums to the Communist Party by industrialists, as well as deals with the East Zone, in the hope of avoiding liquidation later. Both are the deadliest dangers in present-day Germany, the speaker said.

Hans Dütting, managing director of 27,000 Ruhr miners in the Gelsenkirchen Coalmining Co., and Paul Dikus, chairman of shop stewards in the same company, described vividly how former opposition and enmity between them had turned into friendship and teamwork. They had created the atmosphere in which true “joint control” and responsibility was possible. They had reached results which changed Moscow-trained Communists to a new way and a new set-up in industry and nation. Many of the businessmen conferred later on plans for spreading MRA by applying it in their factories and promoting it by literature, and by regular contributions in cash or kind.

SOUTH AFRICA

The rejection by the Malan Government of the petition from the Transvaal Legislature was only to be expected. But it merely emphasises the growing disunity in South Africa today. To meet the need for a unifying idea public meetings for Moral Re-Armament were held in Johannesburg on 11 June and Cape Town on 19 June.

The meeting in Johannesburg was attended by 800 people and a message from the President of the Senate, Senator Niekerk, expressed the hope that the work of Moral Re-Armament would bear rich fruit.

Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr, cousin of the late Deputy Prime Minister of the Union, spoke about the crisis of

disunity in the world. “The reason for all these troubles is that we have not yet found a great enough idea on which we can work together to make a new world,” he said.

The Mayor of Cape Town presided over a meeting of the City Council and municipal officials in the City Hall Library to hear of the work of Moral Re-Armament. He said that after being sceptical he had come to realise that MRA was a real and live force which was operating much more widely than many people imagined.

The *Cape Times* quotes from the Mayor’s closing address: “If I have done anything in the past which

was not right, or if I have hurt the feelings of my colleagues, I want to say I am sorry. And if this meeting can find some small satisfaction in having at least one convert, I am not ashamed to admit that I am that man."

Mr. Douglas Buchanan, Q.C., of Cape Town said there was no body of people in Africa more worried than those

in the Union Parliament. They were worried because of the tremendous gulf that was opening between whites and non-whites in Africa. "I should have been depressed if I had not met MRA," he said. "I believe it is our fault if the Africans say they do not want us. Unity is our one hope and MRA offers the last chance."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Melbourne—The reception room in Collingwood Town Hall, centre of the Melbourne industrial area, was the setting for the fourteenth anniversary celebration of Moral Re-Armament on 15 June. The Mayor of Collingwood welcomed the guests. Councillor V. C. Alford, member of the Federal Council of the Waterside Workers' Federation, took the chair. Eric Charrett, production manager of the Government Housing Factory, said that honesty between labour and management and reduction in managerial costs had resulted in a production increase of 10 per cent per man. Frank Cooney, vice-president of the Victorian Tramway and Motor-omnibus Employes' Union, said, "Peace is the fruit of the reconciliation between man and man. When we have that we can fight for the brotherhood of men under the guidance of God."

Oxford—Brian Boobbyer, the Oxford cricket and rugby blue and English rugby international, wrote in the *Oxford Mail* on 20 June, on his leaving the university: "As the fourth and last year is coming to an end the question I ask myself is this. What has a person with four years' university training behind him to give to the world at a time of crisis? Unless we relate what we do to what the world needs, then our time at the university has been wasted."

"Whether we like it or not we are living in an ideological age. The controlling factors in the world situation are the ideas which move the hearts and minds of

men. It is the task of the university to create the new men to fashion the new civilisation.

"The motto of this university will become real when people sacrifice the demand for their own way and so become the modern pioneers of the greatest idea of all.

"Moral Re-Armament has shown me how to integrate all I've learnt in Oxford and from sport, in the remaking of the world. I want to devote my life to it when I leave Oxford because I believe that it is the most effective and far-reaching way of using all that God has given to me."

Washington—Twelve members of parliaments who had attended the Moral Re-Armament World Assembly at Mackinac Island, were received, with other delegates to the Assembly, on the floor of the United States Senate, 12 June. Vice-President Barkley welcomed the visitors. Their visit is recorded in the *Congressional Record*, the official report of the United States Congress. A reprint is enclosed: further copies may be obtained from MRA Information Service, price 4d. postage extra.

Subscriptions—Many readers are receiving the Information Service through the good offices of friends. They may, however, care to contribute towards its running expenses or towards the cost of sending introductory copies to a widening circle of people. The annual subscription is 20s. Subscriptions and gifts may be sent to MRA Information Service, 4 Hays Mews, London, W.1.

Now Published

The first of a new quarterly series

A WORLD FORCE, A WORLD IDEA

40 pages of brilliant pictures give the world-wide impact of Moral Re-Armament in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas; in politics, industry, and the home.

Single copy—2s. 6d. (postage 2d.)

Subscription—10s. 0d. (4 issues a year, post free.)

Combined Subscription—25s. 0d., for *New World News* and the *MRA Information Service*.

PLEASE SEND YOUR ORDERS TO: MRA INFORMATION SERVICE, 4 HAYS MEWS, LONDON, W.1.