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CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTER OPENS SEMINAR

Symbolising Cambodia's effort towards national reconciliation, the two-day MRA conference in Phnom Penh (March 18-20) was opened by Foreign Minister, Prince Norodom Sirivuddh, and closed by Interior Minister Sar Kheng - both men Deputy Prime Ministers from rival political parties which for decades have been embroiled in traumatic civil war.

Some 300 people crowded into the Cambodiana Hotel - politicians, Buddhist monks, ambassadors and many students, who lined the walls when seating ran out. There were also three parliamentarians, from France, Britain and Australia, who had travelled to Cambodia especially to be at the seminar.

Following Prince Sirivuddh's passionate plea for an end to the current fighting with the Khmer Rouge, Finance Minister Sam Rainsy delighted students with his tough talk on 'the disease of corruption' and with his vigorous but respectful sparring with a political opposite, Chheang Vun, MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Finance and Banking Committee. Sam Rainsy had been chairing a session on 'building a transparent and accountable environment for democratic and economic development'.

'In this coalition, two parties got married,' said Mrs Saumura Tioulong-Sam, Rainsy's wife, herself Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia. 'And in a marriage we have to learn to trust each other, to ask ourselves if we are being honest to the other and to serve a larger goal than our own self-interest.'

Information Minister Ieng Mouly chaired an afternoon session on 'the practicalities of national reconciliation', and Education Minister Ung Huot brought applause and laughter in his handling of an hour of speakers from the floor.

'Kindly help us find moral standards in our national life,' Vice-President of the Parliament, Son Soubert, asked the audience, 'even though in the end we leaders have to accept a change of heart ourselves.'

Mike Brown, Phnom Penh

GUWAHATI YOUTH CAMP

Last month 80 people, mainly school and college students from Guwahati and Tezpur, camped for four

days at a school on the Brahmaputra River opposite the famed Kamakya Temple. Five speakers came from Guwahati University.

The 'inner development' sessions of the camp were the responsibility of the teachers who had attended the Teachers' Workshop at Asia Plateau last October, former campers and some of us from MRA.

At one session an addict shared how after six months rehabilitation at Mount Gilead Home in Nagaland he had begun to recover. This followed five years' addiction which had wrecked his family's life. He had learned to be honest, willing and obedient, step by step, daily admitting his need for help, receiving it humbly, having said a firm goodbye to the use of self-pity as an excuse. In the following days six young men said they had found courage from his talk to be honest for the first time about their own slide into the drain of addiction.

The camp culminated with a pledge-taking ceremony at Madan-Kamdev, the awe-inspiring ruins of a massive Hindu temple built in the 10th century, during which each person wrote out what he had resolved to leave behind in his life. These pieces of paper were then burnt in front of one of the temple's foundation stones.

Niketu Iralu, Nagaland

BURMESE STUDENT SEMINAR IN BANGKOK

In late January, Ren-Jou Liu and Lin Fu-Yueh from Taiwan and Jeyathesan Kulasingam from Malaysia were facilitators at a three-day seminar for Burmese students in Bangkok.

One student whose brother had been killed by the army during the students' uprising in Rangoon in 1988 described how at that point he had decided to turn to the armed struggle. 'But it hasn't changed anything; our people face more and more problems.' Then he had met the 'MRA family'. 'I promised myself that I would donate my life for my people and my country.'

Another, referring to the difficult circumstances under which the seminar was arranged, told how youth from different organisations had 'accepted MRA's moral values and agreed to hold hands in their endeavours to rebuild Burma.'

JAMAICANS SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

High in the Blue Mountains, overlooking Kingston Bay and surrounded by coffee plantations, 25 of us met for a weekend with the Governor-General, Sir Howard Cooke. The first session was led by the General Secretary of the United Church of Jamaica.

Next day Sir Howard presided over an informal gathering of 45 people, chosen by him from many areas of the country's life to discuss ways of restoring spiritual values to Jamaica. He spoke of the cynicism about politicians, and the spiralling violent crime; and stressed, 'This is a time for hope, for action.'

Business leaders and senior public servants responded. An insurance broker said he would no longer cocoon himself from society to pursue his business interests. Simon Clarke, Jamaica's UNESCO representative, said that he needed to clear out the clutter in his life - starting with his wardrobe!

Caux was a place to find inspiration for the task, Sir Howard said, expressing his hope that Jamaica would be well represented there this year. It was decided to raise £25,000 Sterling to achieve this.

It so happened that two days later Mr Clarke chaired a National Commission set up by the Prime Minister to examine attitudes and values in the country. This has received much media publicity, one columnist writing, 'Society is in a change mode and we, politicians included, must be careful we do not squander this opportunity the search for solutions is on.'

Ann Edwards

CAUX FARMERS' LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

Mike Burnett, a former President of the Scottish National Farmers' Union, has written about the Caux Farmers' Dialogue in Scotland's *Press and Journal*: 'I cannot remember being more challenged and encouraged by any farmers' gathering I have ever attended.' Noting the number of small farmer-to-farmer organisations represented, he commented, 'I was amazed at how they were working to help disadvantaged farmers in other countries without any expectation of financial gain.... As someone who has felt the odd donation fulfilled my obligation to less fortunate farming colleagues, it was humbling to see the level of commitment others were prepared to give.' On BBC Radio Scotland he compared the Caux conference with an earlier agricultural conference he had attended: 'That conference was fat cats deciding whether to have cream or milk with their fish, whereas Third World countries still face starvation.'

Finlay Moir

LEARNING ABOUT CHINA

The Great Wall, the Summer Palace, the Temple of Heaven and the Forbidden City, all tell you of the ancient civilization of China. However, we can learn more about present China through meeting people and visiting families. Led by Liu Ren-Jou, Brian Lightowler from Australia, Wang Hsu Kuang and Wei Ching Chiu from Taiwan and three of us from Hong Kong spent 10 days in Beijing and Shanghai. We visited the Chinese Enterprise Management Association, the Chinese Association for International Understanding, the Shanghai Youth Federation and the All-China Youth Federation in Beijing. We also met with a journalist of Beijing's *Economic Daily* who brought his wife and little boy. This visit definitely enhanced our understanding of modern China and the friendships we made were most valuable. We hope that more frequent visits to China will help the world to know China and help China to understand the rest of the world better.

Bekie Chan, Hong Kong

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CAMPAIGN

In Western Australia, 300 people came to a public meeting and heard a range of speakers tell of change in their lives that had given them hope for 'the transformation we all want to see in Australia and the world'. The meeting was part of a two-week campaign by a team led by Rev John Smith of Melbourne and his wife, Glenna, which has reached thousands of students and a host of others.

David Lancaster

ON IN-SERVICE TRAINING

'One means of increasing our effectiveness is through the renewal and reinforcement of the skills and knowledge of those fully committed to our work. To help accomplish this we encourage making use of the increasingly available mature professional resources outside, as well as inside, our work. This could include aspects of spiritual and personal growth, skills in counselling, conflict resolution and group dynamics, and language and regional studies, etc.'

This paragraph from the Cyprus Consultation Report leads to a request for your ideas to develop the concept.

First may I thank those who have already contributed. However, many more ideas are needed.

Would you ask yourself these questions and send me your responses?

- What kind of training could help you now to be more effective?
- What training would have been helpful at an earlier stage?
- What training would you like to see available for your future development?
- Can you identify needs in others that could be met by some kind of in-service training? Be specific.

As well as personal responses we would appreciate receiving more general philosophic contributions on the topic of in-service training. Have a go!

Send to Joan Holland, c/- Coordination Group, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, VIC 3142, Australia.

Joan Holland

COORDINATION GROUP

At Caux last summer we circulated a questionnaire inviting comment on our role and ideas about how we should work. We have appreciated those which have been returned to us and they have already helped focus our agenda. If anyone would like a copy of this questionnaire, or would like to make comments or ask questions about the CG, please write to us.

As mentioned in the Cyprus Report, the Consultation received a full briefing about our work during the first year and we appreciated the encouragement given. We also are grateful for the addition to our ranks of Philippe Lasserre.

Communications from MRA friends around the world in recent weeks have increased noticeably. We hope this means more people are becoming aware of our role and our availability. Our secretariat is still rather limited so we ask those who do send us material to excuse delays in our replies. Rest assured that we appreciate hearing from you and are keeping your concerns before us.

We have undertaken to maintain a CALENDAR of EVENTS for the BULLETIN each month and need the help of everyone in sending us information on events in their region. A better knowledge of each other's initiatives is important and, where they involve the need for support of personnel or finance from other countries, often need some coordination. Regional distributors of the BULLETIN have copies of a form which can be filled out and sent to us.

Each of us in the Coordination Group plans to be at Caux throughout the summer when we shall again be available to meet with friends, privately if necessary, to help in any way we can. Days at Caux tend to get filled so we would appreciate advance notice of any meeting requests or questions to be considered.

*Yukihisa Fujita Michael Henderson Joan Holland
Philippe Lasserre Chris Mayor Luis Puig
Vijayalakshmi Subrahmanyam*

EVENING PROGRAMMES CAUX 1994

Fifteen, from Britain, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA, met in Stockholm last month about the evening programmes and cultural input for Caux 1994. We considered productions being prepared, concerts and other events as well as longer-term ideas for productions, etc. Apart from the impressive array of possibilities developing for next summer, we looked at many points of organisation, among which we would like to mention the following:

- In the search for improved coordination, we suggest a weekly meeting of those involved at the production end, together with representatives of the session organisers.
- We agreed that the evening programmes throughout the summer should start at 20.00.
- We discussed at length what many feel to be a growing need for adequate facilities for social activities, particularly in the evenings, and we endorsed plans for the creation of a 'social area'. It was also recognised that some 'older people' might be needed to be available later in the evenings for talks and discussions. Several volunteered themselves for this.

Gunnar Söderlund and Philip Tyndale-Biscoe will act as reference for the coordination of the evening programmes, while Andrew Smith will coordinate the musical input for the summer. If you know of anyone who might have a role in this aspect of Caux, could you let Melanie Trimble or Gunnar know.

A six-page report of our meeting has been sent to session organisers and is available on request.

Philip Tyndale-Biscoe, Stockholm

CORRECTION

In the last issue, the dates for the Caux session 'Unity in Diversity - Consultation on Europe, a continent in need' should have read July 26-31 (not July 6-31).

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

South Africa: Sam and Virginia Pono now have a phone: +27 12 805 0330

Australia: Chris and Janet Mayor in Melbourne now have a separate fax line: +61 3 813 1940.

France: Charles and Juliette Danguy now have a tel/fax: +33 82 56 27 95.

Britain: A reminder that the fax number for *For A Change* in London is: +44 71 828 7609.

Calendar of Events

MAR '94	<u>Phnom Penh</u> Cambodia	Seminar/ Round Table	Mar 18 - 20
	<u>Melbourne</u>	"Effective Living" training course - Phase 2	Mar 13 - Apr 23
	<u>Lviv</u> Ukraine	"Building bridges, Healing wounds, Understanding each other" - International conference for Moral Re-Armament	Mar 17 - 20
	<u>Bogota, Cali</u> Colombia	Three conference days in Bogota ; one week of activities in Cali	
APR '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Caux Work Week"	Apr 2 - 9
	<u>Tirley Garth</u> England	"Life of Belief" course	Apr 4 - 9
	<u>Shillong</u> India	"Learning to live Together - Frontiers of Hope"	Apr 7 - 14
	<u>Madison</u> Virginia, USA	Caux Scholars Reunion	Apr 8 - 10
	<u>Panchgani</u>	"Creative Leadership"	Apr 26 - 28
	<u>Yutz/Thionville</u> France	Working session on Caux summer programme	Apr 28 - May 1
MAY '94	<u>Yaounde</u> Cameroon	Pan-African Conference for MRA	May 22 - 28
	<u>Panchgani</u>	Family Seminar	May 25 - 29
	<u>Gatchina</u> Russia	"First Meeting With MRA"	May 27 - 31
	<u>Utrecht</u> Netherlands	"Life in the Cities" Forum	May 28
	<u>Copenhagen</u> Denmark	Second Baltic Sea regional seminar	To be advised
JUN '94	<u>Geneva</u> Switzerland	Meeting of delegates to annual ILO conference	Jun 7 - 24
	<u>Melbourne</u> Australia	National consultation	Jun 10 - 14
	<u>Kandy</u> Sri Lanka	Asia-Pacific MRA Regional Consultation	Jun 22 - 30
JUL '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Creators of Trust and Peace" - summer conference	Jul 8 - Aug 28
	<u>Caux</u>	"Past, present and future, a shared responsibility - An inter-generational dialogue"	Jul 8 - 18
	<u>Caux</u>	"Caux Forums on the Economy and the Individual - Meeting the Challenge of Unemployment"	Jul 20 - 24
	<u>Kuala Lumpur</u> Malaysia	Asia Pacific Camp	Jul 21 - 30
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Round Table	Jul 24 - 28
	<u>Caux</u>	"Unity in Diversity - Consultation on Europe, a continent in need"	Jul 26 - 31
AUG '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Creators of Peace: from vision to action - A women's initiative"	Aug 4 - 12
	<u>Caux</u>	"Regions in crisis, regions in recovery - Learning from one another"	Aug 15 - 25
	<u>Caux</u>	"Evaluation and perspectives"	Aug 26 - 28
SEP '94	<u>Tirley Garth</u> England	"Foundations for Freedom" international course	Sep 1 - 20
OCT '94	<u>London</u>	"Making Democracy Work" - Seminar for Ukrainian political leaders	To be advised
	<u>Odawara</u> Japan	"International MRA Action" - in Odawara, Tokyo, Kobe	Oct 8 - 18

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Friday April 15, 1994.

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