

THE INDIAN EXPERIMENT

Russi Lala, Editor of 'Himmat', the Indian News Magazine, came to Europe in July to launch the publication of Himmat's book, 'A New World for My Grandchildren' by Mrs Charlotte van Beuningen. Last Sunday he addressed a meeting in the Westminster Theatre, London, on 'The Indian Experiment':

THE INDIAN EXPERIMENT in freedom, which is being tried out, may decide which way Asia goes. I was speaking to one of your statesmen the other day. He said, 'India is one of those very few countries where Sandhurst has not followed Westminster.'

The importance of India's democracy is that within a framework of freedom, in 22 years it has worked—disorganised at times, shaky at times, but it has worked. The Indian Press today is among the freest in the world and in five years of editing, not once has the Government tried to exert the slightest pressure on us, and it could have.

India produces machinery now which goes to America and to Germany. Even though India may be called disorganised, one can be at peace that a letter posted in Bombay invariably reaches Delhi, 750 miles away, the next day. These are points which some people in the West seem to forget when they read of food and famine and so on.

We have got to produce food. We have got to produce a political stability in the land. Above all, we have got to stop the disintegration of India, because if India disintegrates, the whole free world will be shaken.

The work of Moral Re-Armament in India is primarily geared to the point of keeping India one, united, changing, advancing in the democratic framework and giving to our leaders the secret of obeying the inner

voice and being obedient to God as they know Him.

There is a place called Mizo Hills in the extremity of Eastern India. It goes like a pendulum into Burma.

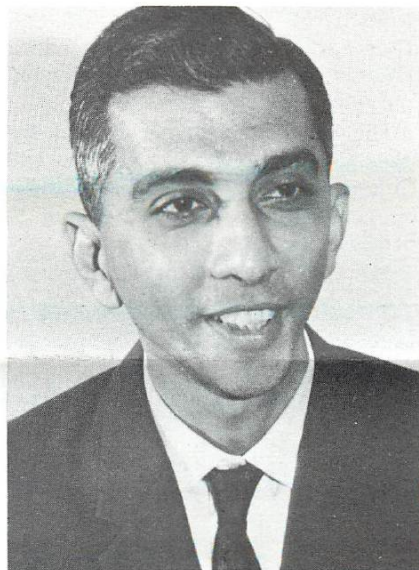
There was a delegation of five Mizos at the May conference in Panchgani, the MRA centre in India. One of them was a very young man and I have seldom seen in my life a face more anguished than his. He said his one uncle was killed by the Indian army and the other was killed by the underground. He came full of hate and he said when he left, 'I leave my hate at the doors of Panchgani as I go'. He has gone to give that answer to his people.

The Union Home Minister, Y B Chavan, one of the most powerful men in our country, tells us, 'Whatever else you do, continue your work in the North East. It is vital for India.'

Britain: golden calf or golden link?

I believe that Britain, with its traditions, its links of language, law, history with India, has a tremendous part to play. I have great faith in this land. I have stayed here for some years and it pains me greatly to see the efforts of certain determined men to make Britain into a golden calf, rather than a golden link between nations. I am referring to two things in this land.

The first is the Duncan Committee report. Last week it recommended that Britain should not spend money, or else spend as little money as conceivable, on its diplomatic representations in countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America, where Britain does not have the trade returns from the Export Market. Strengthen the commercial consulars everywhere, where



Russi Lala

photo Strong

trade is there, which is fine—but cut down all your other representations and you will save 5 to 10 million pounds out of a total British budget probably of 5,000 million pounds.

If that Committee Report is accepted by the Government, it will mean Britain will turn more inwards and more materialistic.

The reason why Britain has influence in the world today is not because of its exports or its economic might. As you know, both Germany and Japan have outstripped Britain already.

Continued on page 2



People of Assam Hills listen to MRA meeting

photo Channer

Madras Archbishop shows 'Voice of the Hurricane' film

THE ARCHBISHOP of Madras, the Most Rev Rayappa Arulappa, arranged a showing of the film *Voice of the Hurricane* on 16 July in the grounds of the Cathedral of San Thome where, according to legend, St Thomas the Apostle was martyred and lies buried.

The Archbishop invited 350 of the leaders of the Catholic schools and colleges with the diocesan staff to be his guests at this performance in St Bede's School.

Mr and Mrs Bremer Hofmeyr of South Africa introduced this film by

Peter Howard which, they made clear, offered an answer to the violence rampant in the world today. It was based on the realities of Africa.

At the conclusion the Archbishop thanked them in the warmest terms for the film. He said: 'We are very grateful that MRA never forgets us. From time to time they bring us films like this which give us great inspiration. One of the things we can learn from MRA is to listen to God. All of us know that this is what we ought to do. They challenge us to put it into action.'

International students offer new thinking and action

STUDENTS from 41 colleges and universities and 36 nations attended the MRA student-worker conference in Caux, Switzerland, during the last three weeks.

They met with industrialists, trade unionists and politicians to discuss the part of universities in reshaping society.

They heard evidence of changes in individual men which had provoked far-reaching changes in political, economic and social structures.

The purpose of a university, they said in a statement issued as a Universities' Charter, was to bring a

revolution in society by creating a new type of man. Violence might provoke changes, but human fear, ambition and selfishness remained to create new conflict.

'The place to begin is in our own lives and universities with a permanent revolution of motive, attitude and living,' they said. 'Universities could bring an answer to the ambition and power play which run governments and businesses. They could bridge the gap between generations, races, rich and poor, one nation and another. And they could restore conscience to nations and compassion to relations between men.'

Mrs Henrine Banks, Dean of Women at Bethune-Cookman College in Florida, USA, told the assembly that it had given her real hope to hear students expressing such convictions. 'I wish all of you could stand on the platform of the colleges in America and say what you have said. I think it could make a great difference.'

A number of the students said they had changed their plans in order to accept an invitation from Rajmohan Gandhi to go to India and Asia with an MRA force in the Autumn.

Other students will join a mobile force to tackle problems in Europe, particularly in the universities.

Many students plan, on their return to university, to work for new relations between students, professors and administration, and to take responsibility for their universities and society.

Continued from page 1

The influence Britain carries in the world is because of her links with Asia, her links with Africa, with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the world. If you cut those links, you will not be a world power anymore, however much you trade.

I was pleased to see an article by Leonard Beaton in the *London Times*. He says that the people who have prepared this report had no understanding of the immense national asset which Britain has in her Foreign Service, which is world-wide, efficient, sensitive and intelligent. 'Of course', he says, 'the value of such a body of men is not so obvious in a period in which a country has no significant objectives.'

What should these 'significant objectives' be?

It pains me greatly as a person who loves this land to see this business of a permissive society going on. You have more easy divorce. More easy abortion. More easy homosexuality, easy taking of drugs, more obscenity, in the name of freedom.

What shook me was the statement by Mr Jenkins, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He said that a 'permissive society' should be better called a 'civilised society'. He said that the last two parliaments have started to change the face of Britain.

I honour the British Parliament. The world owes a lot to it and I honour some of this legislation which gives the framework for progress, like the Race Relations Bill. But I do not think that easier divorce, homosexuality, abortion, or obscenity, changes the face of Britain. It contorts it.

Mr Jenkins says that a decisive 2% shift of the national income from consumption into exports would put Britain right.

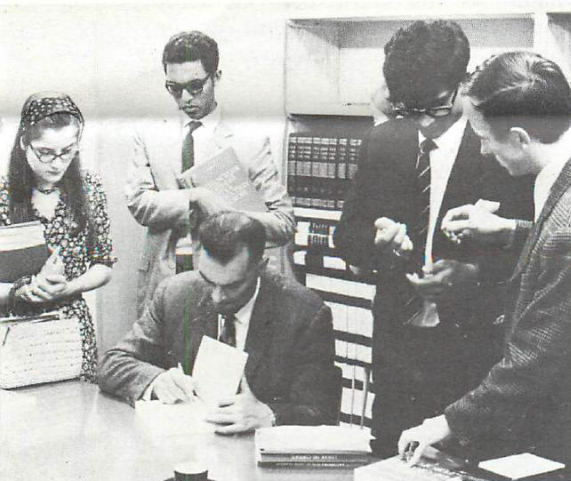
Do you think a permissive society is more likely to make a spurt in production, or a more disciplined society? Who produces more?

When a nation produces divorce laws that treat the marriage contract lightly, can other nations readily trust her to honour her business contracts?

I have a feeling that Mr Jenkins may have overshot in the last days. And I feel the good forces of this land should unite and strike hard now.

I feel there is a measure of public opinion in this land that needs to be mobilised.

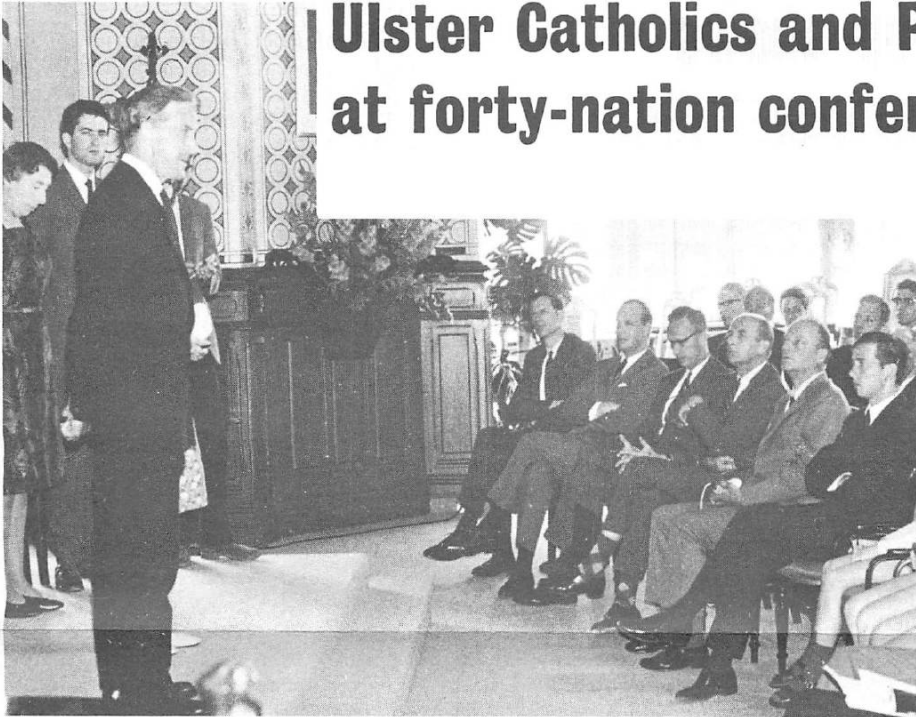
Moral Re-Armament can be the catalyst to get all the good men fighting for this land again, for her to play her rightful role in the world.



Students from the conference at Caux spent a day in Lausanne where they met students and professors. Professor Henri Rieben signs his book for the students who visited the European Economic Centre

photo Franzone

Ulster Catholics and Protestants at forty-nation conference



Left: Lionel Pennefather from Derry addresses conference. Right: Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, MP, representing the German-speaking minority of the South Tyrol in the Italian Parliament
photo Franzone

FROM NORTHERN IRELAND, a party of 19, representing the Catholic and Protestant communities in July, attended the MRA World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland.

Last week they returned to Northern Ireland from Caux where they had been meeting with 600 people from 40 countries. They announced that further delegations will come to Caux from Northern Ireland in August and September.

Among those at Caux were two headmistresses from Catholic schools in Derry; the Vice-Principal of the Technical College in Armagh, the country's ecclesiastical capital; a Unionist city councillor from Belfast; professional men, and students from Queen's University.

Lionel Pennefather from Derry, five times Irish champion in the National Sheepdog Championships, was present with his wife. As Protestants they spoke together with the Catholic representatives from their city.

Mrs Pennefather said, 'During the recent riots I watched one of the marches. I knew I should do something, but felt helpless and almost apathetic before the bigness of what was happening. I realised here that one cannot hope to bring an answer to the country's problems if one has the bitterness deep in my heart is why I have been ineffective to answer the bitterness of those in the streets.'

A Derry headmistress, Miss Margaret Magill, said, 'Two Christian communities are fighting each other in my country on very unchristian lines. Our youth are subject to all the bad influences. The churches, both mine and the Protestant ones, are losing their youth to atheism, Marxism and all sorts of other "isms". Whatever little I can contribute to unite us, I want to do, so that together we can retrieve the youth we have lost.'

South Tyrol MP offers to meet N. Ireland leaders

A feature of the Irish visit to Caux was the meeting with Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, MP, who represents the German-speaking minority of South Tyrol in the Italian Parliament. South Tyrol is one of the most explosive situations in Europe. It was ceded to Italy on the break-up of the Austrian Empire after the First World War.

Dr Mitterdorfer said that he would like to share with the leaders of Northern Ireland the experiences that he and his colleagues were finding through Moral Re-Armament of an answer to division and bitterness.

Plans are being made so that this can happen soon.

Speaking for the Irish in response to a speech by Dr Mitterdorfer, Peter Hannon, one of a well-known North of Ireland family, said, 'Many of the problems of division around the world are centred in what seems numerically small situations—250,000 German-speaking people in South Tyrol, one and a half million people in the North of Ireland.

'I am a Protestant. I asked a Catholic friend for the facts of the situation in Derry. He looked at me and said, "Facts only confuse the issue, feelings are what count." In our country each side can take the same set of facts and sincerely interpret them in entirely different ways.

'We from Ireland are learning here that unless we have a practical programme to deal with bitterness, prejudice, hatred, greed and selfishness, we are never, never going to touch the root of the problem.

'The first objectives of the Civil Rights movement are now almost all passing into law. Some members of the Government have asked me why, if reforms are granted, the people are not satisfied?

'A further factor is needed. As Dr Mitterdorfer said, unity will never be achieved as an end in itself. Unity is the by-product of a common purpose. That is what we, Catholics and Protestants, have been finding at Caux.'

New type of Religious Instruction

WHEN WE SAW the Minister of Education of South Australia, she told us she would like to see Religious Instruction retained in the schools, but was powerless to do anything about it without changing the Act of Parliament, and she could find no support to justify this. 'Religious Instruction in this State is a dead issue,' she told us.

Against this background we were asked to take RI lessons for all the classes in the two senior years at Prince Alfred College, one of the main independent boys' schools in

As in Britain, the future of Religious Instruction in Australian schools is in the balance. For instance, all the Churches in South Australia, except the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, have withdrawn support for Religious Instruction in State Schools, because they felt it to be an unprofitable use of time.

Last month in Australia seven young men working with MRA, aged 18 to 26, were asked to take the Religious Instruction classes at Prince Alfred College Adelaide, in South Australia.

They came from Australia, Britain, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland.

They sent the following report:

South Australia. In all, we took 10 classes of 40 minutes each, each class composed of approximately 30 boys. Two of us took each lesson, which consisted of about 20 minutes talking, followed by questions.

Our approach was to start on a world scale, pointing out the great divisions and hatreds. We showed, giving facts, how people who have let God guide their lives have been effective in creating unity in the most difficult situations. We challenged them to live in a way that would make them effective in ending the divisions in homes, industries, nations and between nations. This led to questions.

Many of the questions were very thoughtful, showing that our talks had created interest. One student asked, 'What sort of society do you want to make?' Others asked: 'How can you answer hate?', 'Is your aim to get everyone agreeing with your ideas?', 'What is the answer for the things you can't put right?', 'How can you bring an idea to unite the world, when there are Communists and others out to create disunity?', 'Are absolute honesty and absolute love always compatible?', 'What does it mean to give your life to God?', and many other questions.

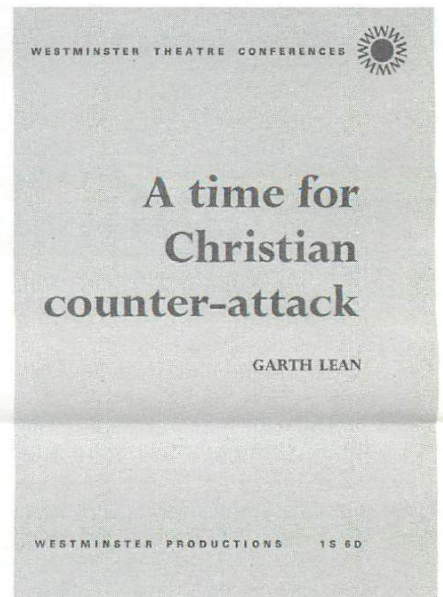
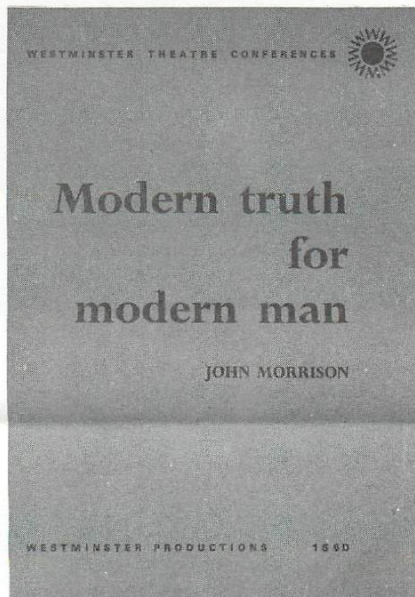
The Chaplain sat in on almost all the classes and was very helpful in answering questions. Boys stayed on at the end of each class—some for as long as 40 minutes—talking with us.

We found the boys were interested by what they could do to end injustice all over the world. They were struck by the fact that they might be able, under the leadership of God, to demonstrate an answer to the problems that plague nations. Religious Instruction is meant to become the most relevant and fascinating subject in the school curriculum and a vital factor in countering the moral illiteracy that threatens our society today.



THE MAYOR of the London Borough of Islington (Councillor D W Bromfield) shakes hands with Alderman Sir Nicholas Garrow (former Chairman of the Northumberland County Council) at the reception for civic heads at the Westminster Theatre after *High Diplomacy*. The Mayor of the London Borough of Lambeth (Alderman Donald Campbell) looks on. Two hundred and seventy-two mayors and chairmen of councils in all parts of England and Wales came to see *High Diplomacy* during July, together with their wives and members of their families.

photo Strong



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