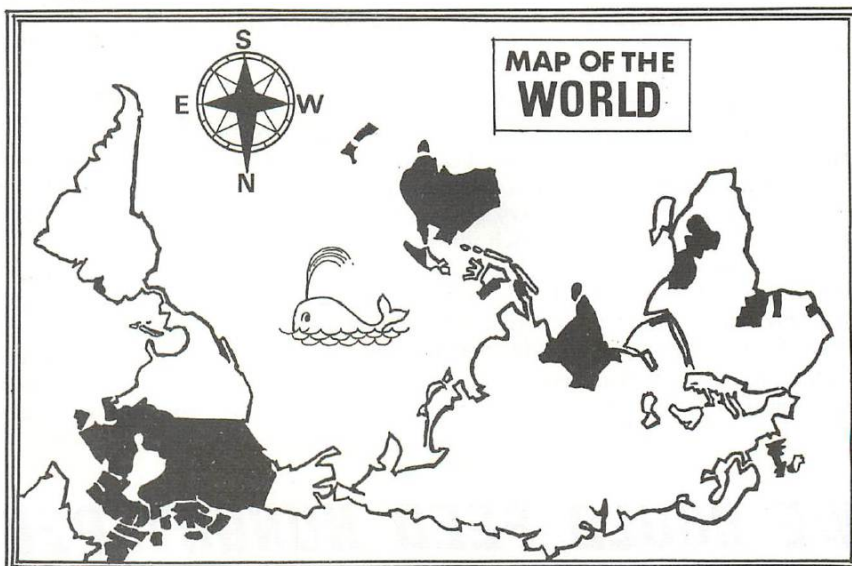


a new angle...

BY RICHARD THWAITES



...on the new Commonwealth

THE COMMONWEALTH NEED NOT DIE. We believe it ought to live. The Commonwealth is often portrayed these days as a senile, imperial carcass who has already lost her teeth and her will to live, and is about to lose her head as well. We would like to offer our elderly and respected Commonwealth a new lease of life.

We would like to offer a new purpose and a reason for living which, coupled with regular, strenuous, and sometimes painful stretching exercises, could lead our Commonwealth far beyond the regainment of her fading faculties to a vigorous role in answering human need. This has been her destiny since inception and it is our conviction that she may yet fulfil it.

As ex-colonials we have no wish for a restoration of Empire. Although the bonds of Empire were faith, flesh and blood as well as greed, gold and cold steel, mankind has evolved beyond the point where it is morally acceptable for one race or nation physically to control another.

Australians and New Zealanders like us have been independent and self-governing for two-thirds of a century and wish to remain so, as do the people of scores of young nations flexing their wings of political freedom in every corner of the globe.

Nor are we interested in a Commonwealth whose only purpose is economic convenience. Whether Britain joins the European Economic Community or not should not

affect the real, lasting destiny of the Commonwealth in the least. It may cause pain and disruption to Britain's traditional trading partners, some of whom base their national budgets on the British market. Some may interpret it as another step in Britain's retreat from responsibility to comfort. But so much recent public comment has discussed the Commonwealth only as an inefficient economic alternative to the Common Market that many people of the Commonwealth have themselves lost sight of the far greater destiny for which we believe we have been brought together.

We are not interested in conserving obsolete institutions for sentiment's sake. Our lives are committed to answering human need in every shape and size, and it is in this light that we look for the New Commonwealth.

All over the world there is hatred between races. The fear and distrust towards men of other races is part of human nature. It is part of the animal in man which pulls us backward to the prehistoric doctrine of 'survival of the fittest'. But can we tolerate or afford this primitive instinct in ourselves, while seeing in the daily press Arabs and Jews systematically planning each other's extermination; Nigeria facing the suicidal spasms of internal tribal war; China exploding her own H-bomb simultaneously with the public physical humiliation of foreign diplomats; America and Russia unable to demonstrate an answer to hate and violence in the internal problems of the racial minorities.

continued overleaf

We believe that the Commonwealth could answer the problem of race for the world. We believe that this is the Commonwealth's destiny, and the reason for its existence.

The Commonwealth is a free association of independent nations of every shape, size and colour, yet has a unique heritage of two centuries of common language, tradition, and government. Can we not now show all the world how the races can work and live together, inside nations and between them?

Unity can never be created and maintained out of self-interest alone. Unity does not come without a common objective. A common objective does not come without unselfishness. Unselfishness does not come without the help of God.

Our first common objective could be to end famine on a world scale. Australia, Canada and New Zealand are three of the world's greatest food exporters. We could export much more to the places where it is needed if we worked harder and ate less. But the permanent answer to famine must be built on a heavy and increasing traffic in men: men who will go to each other's lands to teach what they know and to learn what they don't know, men who will work with their hands where they are needed, and who can be used by God to answer the human needs in the hearts of every man and woman they meet.

This and the following articles are the convictions and experiences of young Australians and New Zealanders at

present working in Britain with Moral Re-Armament. The future of our own two nations lies with Asia, and we feel responsible for the future of our part of the world.

As we see it, Britain's role in the world is a changing one, but not a diminishing one. Britain takes for granted her tradition of faith and selfless service, which is the rarest, most precious commodity in the world market. As an invisible export, it might not immediately affect the balance of trade, but it could swing the balance of history. British people carrying this spirit across the earth would be the red corpuscles in the blood-stream of a sick world.

This would be the beginning of the New Commonwealth. We could see twenty-seven nations from the Caribbean to Ceylon, the Arctic to Australia, working together in a deliberate, planned attempt to take mankind forward the next step in evolution.

It will not come about by accident. It will come with a change in the human nature of the individual, a painful, decisive change which puts God at the helm of personal, national and international life.

Australia and New Zealand have little history but an immense future. We need and look for the example of a Britain on the give, of British people responsible for the New Commonwealth, teaching us to replace selfishness with service, self-will with Thy Will be done, in the building of a new world.

WE COULD FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE BY ANDREW LANCASTER

'Why is it that as they get richer we become poorer? Why is it as they live in plenty and comfort millions of my people starve and are without adequate homes?'

These questions confront many of the leaders of Asia daily as they wake. How is the widening gap between the rich and poor nations to be narrowed and finally closed? The answer lies with those who have the selflessness, resourcefulness—not necessarily resources—courage and faith to do it.

Australia lies south of this region where three-fifths of the world's population live. Her average output per person ranges from two and a half times to twenty times the average output per person in other Asian countries. What lies ahead of this land of such staggering wealth?

POTENTIAL GIANT

It is well within her reach to become another economic and industrial giant. Already Australia leads the world in the production of lead, rutile and zircon, important minerals vital in the manufacture of heat resistant metals. She is the fourth largest producer of zinc. Some say there is enough bauxite (aluminium ore) lying on the ground in Northern Queensland to keep the world supplied with aluminium for the next fifty years. Similar deposits of high grade iron are being mined in the North-West.

Australia is the world's second largest exporter of sugar and one of the four major exporters of wheat. She produces one-third of the world's wool and is the most important selling centre of wool. Farmers in New South Wales harvest rice at world record levels.

Obviously we have been given much because much is

expected of us by God. But I do not think Australia's task is merely to be a perpetual donor. Our job is to plan intelligently and work selflessly for the millions of Asia to be adequately fed, clothed, housed and employed.

That programme will necessitate vast changes in Australia and us Australians. Our government will need a genuine desire to see other nations progress, with possibly no gain for Australia. Our foreign aid experts will have to face and know how to deal with slack standards at home and abroad. They will need to learn to trust the indigenous people of a country and train them to do a job responsibly. They will need to be men of faith who do not give up and grow cynical when someone fails them. They will need to plan better use of manpower as well as mechanization. They will have to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds.

Australia could plan realistically at government level how the rich nations of this earth can help develop the poorer nations. And we live in a dream world if we forget that in terms of mere mineral and agricultural potential, the nations to our north are some of the richest on this earth.

The Prime Minister of Australia, Rt Hon Harold Holt, speaking at a Moral Re-Armament conference in January of this year said, 'We want in this region a constructive, assured environment in which governments and administration can plan and carry through, with some certainty, programmes and reforms based on the national use of resources, and conceived in the interests of the community.'

That policy could become a reality, but it will take the will of all our people to do it.

FARMING NEW FIELDS

THE WORLD ENVIES the agricultural resources of New Zealand and Australia. Not only do we have abundant surplus of farm products for export but also we produce food cheaper than anywhere else in the world. This, however, does not always satisfy us. Through meeting Moral Re-Armament two young farmers have discovered completely new fields in which they can feed humanity.

EFFECTIVE AID

Frank Richardson, an agricultural college graduate who comes from a pioneering farming family in West Australia, is in charge of the agricultural programme at the MRA Training Centre at Panchgani in Western India. He is giving his time to demonstrate that India's food shortage can be solved. The idea is to achieve high yields with readily available methods of cultivation and harvesting. Land which has lain neglected for many years is being put back into service while careful planning is minimising wastage and ensuring healthy crop growth. Not only hard work but also teamwork is essential. One farmer from a neighbouring village, who caught the spirit of what the centre is out to do, during a water shortage gave generously from his own well.

Frank is also preparing for the arrival of some pedigree dairy cattle, the gift of an Australian Rotary Club, as an experiment in improved breeds of livestock in India.

PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT

Garfield Hayes is the part owner of a 3,000 acre wheat and sheep farm in the South Island of New Zealand. After his father visited India in 1956 they undertook to produce on their farm the food that New Zealand and the world needed and not just the crops that would give them the greatest income. This meant growing wheat even though it was more profitable to increase their number of sheep. With the same aim they increased production by over 100 per cent in the next ten years despite a reduction in labour of 50 per cent.

For most of the last eight years Garfield has been working with Moral



Frank Richardson talks in Hindi with Devraj, the head 'mali', as fields are ploughed before the monsoon
photo Ashman

Re-Armament on five Continents. He plans to return to India, where he has met many capable Indian and foreign agricultural experts and has conferred with farmers who are convinced that India could not only be self-sufficient in food, but even become a food exporter. He sees the need to deal with the human factor which causes the gap

between the Government's plans on paper and their practical fulfilment in the villages.

Garfield has been anxious to meet during his time in Britain and the Continent men and women of every background who will give three months, a year or more to tackle this in India with him.

AUSTRALIA 1967 BY MICHAEL THWAITES

*This is the early summer of your year,
The sudden stepping into man's estate,
Out of the youthful coils of doubt and fear
A new-grown nation daring to be great.*

*For with our manhood pain of choosing came
The sharp dividing choice that never ends
To stand with those who have themselves for aim
Or those who lay their lives down for their friends.*

*Always in freedom's fight our part we bore
And must, or shame our hundred thousand dead,
Now we are summoned to a greater war
That all men born with food and faith are fed.*

*Then stand full stature, venture paths untrod
Beloved country, large in heart and hand,
Friend to the nations, servant of your God,
To bring mankind into the promised land.*

What Australasia can do for China

BY ANTHONY LEW

I GREATLY VALUE the six and a half years of my life that were spent in New Zealand and Australia. I am grateful to New Zealand for the fine education I received, the many friendships that were extended to me, and for being my home for six years.

At this hour the situation in Asia is desperate. Poverty, starvation, homelessness, corruption, callousness and violence are rife. The time is ripe for revolution. If we cherish hope for a different future we must begin radically and swiftly to deal with these problems. Yet, despite enjoying the world's oldest civilization we still do not know how to answer the inherent problems of man—his hates, fears and greed.

People who have found the secret of change in their own lives are needed to bring the same to our countries,

and the thousands of Australians and New Zealanders who learn this will be a welcome force as the servicemen have been in the past.

As an Asian I expect much from Australasia. While Australians and New Zealanders may not fully evaluate their position in the world, nations like China, which have a global aim, are planning and working for their takeover. China has cast covetous eyes on Australia's material abundance and naturally is envious and resentful of those privileged few who have so much while millions of others lack even the bare necessities of life.

But China's plan is not merely to enjoy material comforts. Her aim is to acquire Japan's industrial technology, utilize the resources of Australia and Indonesia, and harness her overwhelming manpower to control the

whole Asian continent. The crucial question is what nation will challenge her to a commitment even bigger than her own ambitions so that instead of fuelling hatred and fear she will win the love and allegiance of millions around the world?

Each year thousands of students from all over Asia go to study in Australian and New Zealand universities. Some of them are potential leaders in their countries. Will they find an idea which can change their people and land and propel them into a new future?

Australasia, with her many races and nationalities, has the unique role of demonstrating to Asia a truly workable society. If she does this, China may one day find from her an idea more challenging and satisfying than Communism.

IN A BOMBAY OFFICE

BY HELEN SHEPHERD
AND LYNNETT ROSS

WE WORKED AS secretaries and lived for boy friends, larger bank accounts and plans to travel Europe. At an MRA conference our aims took a hundred and eighty degrees turn.

We were invited to India by Mr Rajmohan Gandhi with the Australian musical production *Sing Out Australia*. After a fascinating three-months on tour we came back to Bombay to work for the Indian news weekly *Himmat* and were immediately swung into more responsibility than we had ever known.

Our office is small and hot and the fans turn twelve months of the year. But it is more than a privilege to give our services and be trained on a newspaper that is out to inspire, challenge and redirect the thinking of a nation as *Himmat* does. We make ourselves



Lynnett Ross and Helen Shepherd

photo Lancaster

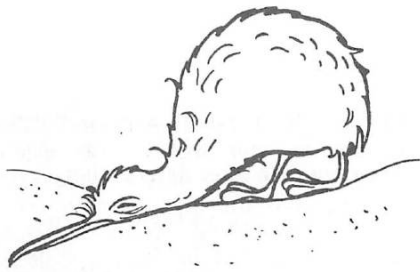
available for work any time we are needed—seven days a week.

We are also working with the young men and women who want to bring about a social and moral revolution in their country. Many of them come to help and get training in the *Himmat* office. In their homes we are given the warmest hospitality one could receive. The strength and spirit of friendship in Indians is something from which we in the West can learn.

Living here is a unique chance to build lasting links between Australia and India—neighbours and sister countries of the Commonwealth.

'IT'S OUR COUNTRY, JACK!'

'It's Our Country, Jack!' will open in the Westminster Theatre, London, on Tuesday, 18 July, not Monday, 17 July, as previously announced.



HOW TO CHANGE A KIWI

BY DAVID PORTEOUS

THE KIWI is a bird that comes out in the evening when there is not too much light. He rather prefers people not to see what he is doing. The result is that he has become little more than a national symbol, worn on the lapels of men's jackets and women's winter coats.

Because he gets most of his food from the ground he usually has his head down. Along with juicy earthworms his powerful beak often grabs pieces of dirt which these days it is

learning to digest with more and more ease. In fact, some modern Kiwis are finding it increasingly difficult to tell the difference. Others have stopped eating earthworms altogether. Earthworms are getting harder to catch these days and they don't mind a tummy ache if they can do a bit less work.

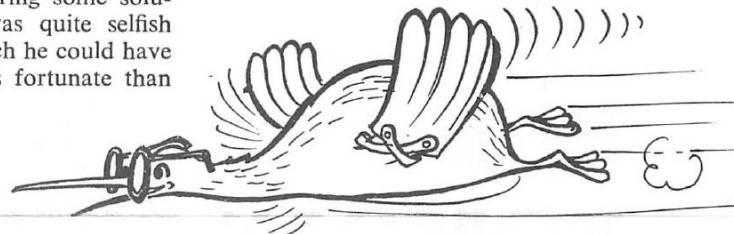
The Kiwi's biggest crime, however, was when he forgot how to fly. Before people came to New Zealand the Kiwi was able to soar and swoop above the trees with other birds. Today he is practically wingless. There was not any reason for him to fly. He lived in the most beautiful country in the world where he had all the food and comforts he needed. Besides he had heard that there was suffering and killing in other countries which he certainly didn't want to get involved in.

But the Kiwi is also shortsighted and he didn't realize what opportunities he had to help bring some solutions. Actually, he was quite selfish because he had so much he could have shared with those less fortunate than

himself. Because of his complacency the Kiwi has stayed on the ground, shrouded in obscurity for hundreds of years. But he is by no means extinct.

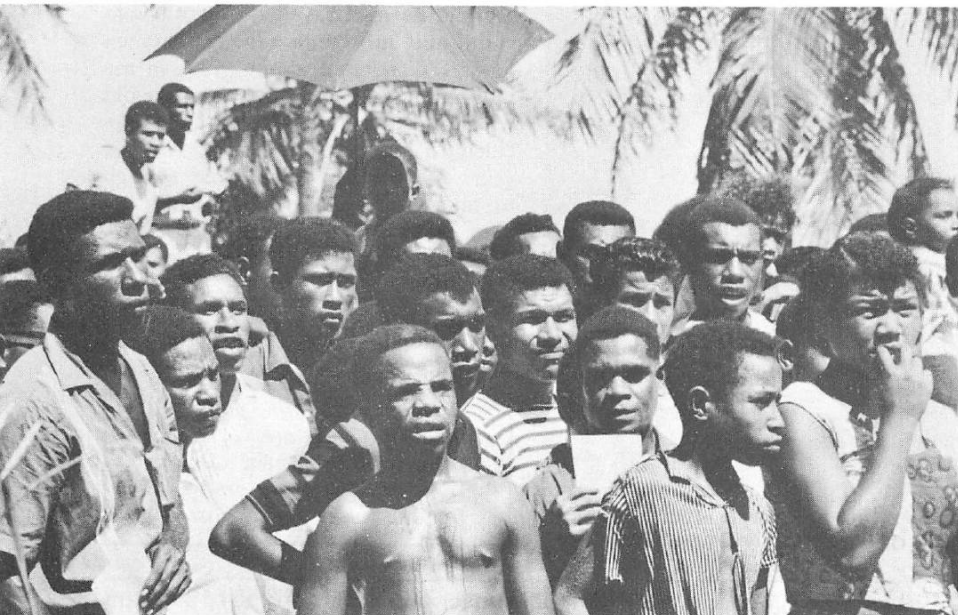
Recently the Kiwi has begun to open his ears. From across the oceans he is hearing a more and more resounding call. Countries to the north and west are calling for something—not for food or technical aid, but for the Kiwi to come himself. It is making him a little restless and he's starting to remember the days when he could fly. He usually tries to forget them quickly, but now and then he wishes he could go.

And why not? It is the best way I know to change a Kiwi. Everyone says his wings will never grow again. But maybe with God it is possible. Come to think of it I changed and I'll fight anyone who calls me anything but a Kiwi.



THE CHALLENGE OF PAPUA

The Australian and New Zealand MRA musical 'Wake Up, Matilda' is in Papua-New Guinea at the invitation of Dirona Abe, Papuan Under-Secretary of Health, JOHN WILLIAMS cabled the following report:



'BITTERNESS HAS BEEN the motor in my life. I've seen your show and I want a sound future for my country. Can you help me get rid of hatred?' The speaker was one of a handful of the militant new leadership in Papua-New Guinea battling for the rights of their emergent nation. He was talking with a member of the Australian MRA task force in Port Moresby, the nation's capital.

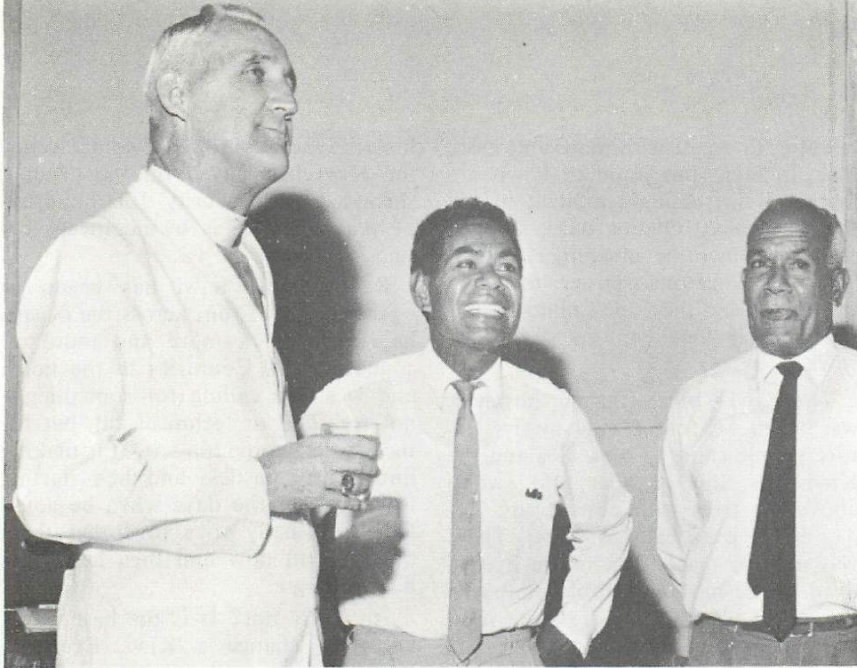
Away to the north over razor-back mountain ridges where still no road crosses the rain forests, a senior Australian businessman from Goroka, the coffee capital, talked with another of the force. 'I need your help,' he said. 'I find the gulf between me and my children harder to bridge than that between races.'

Papua-New Guinea is an Africa and Asia in miniature, with a thousand tribes and seven hundred languages. Its two million people are moving fast out of cultures unaltered since the stone age, into the twentieth century.

From all sides the cast have been told, 'You could not have come at a better time.' A recent decision by the

Listening to 'Wake Up, Matilda' songs in the Koki Market, Port Moresby photos Mayor

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Catholic Archbishop Copas, Dirona Abe, MHA, who invited 'Wake Up, Matilda!' to Papua-New Guinea and Osineru Dickson, Department at Law, at a reception

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Australian Government to limit the wages of the Papuans-New Guineans to about forty per cent of what Australians received has caused, on the day of *Wake Up Matilda's* first performance, the first protest demonstration in the Territory's history. Thirteen of Papua-New Guinea's most prominent men have caused a stir by demanding Home Rule next year as a step to Independence.

Seven of these men have been in audiences for the MRA show. The show tells of a young Indian who asks some awkward questions of a crowd

of Australians out for a good time. As the plot has unfolded, solutions found by Indian and Australians have made many realize not just the problems facing Papua-New Guinea and Australia, but the opportunity they give to speak to the crisis areas in Asia and Africa.

Those who had seen the show in the theatre earlier in the week playing to houses of fifty per cent over-capacity in tropical heat, clamoured for it to be given to the whole population. Within ten days of the cast arriving in the territory *Wake Up Matilda* was showing to thousands in football sta-

diums in the different languages of the people; in four days it was shown three times in three different languages.

Long into the night and in every hour they could take from rehearsals, the cast were talking with people of the community; students, businessmen, housewives and political leaders. Men and women found answers to bitter divisions that they had ceased to hope could be answered. Two men brought their wives to meet the cast, when both had had broken homes with years of separation. 'You've shown us how to build unity,' they said.

Catholic Archbishop Copas said, 'This force of Moral Re-Armament is truly being used by God. You are going where we have not gone.' Anglican Bishop Hand lent his home to house five of the cast. A leading nationalist who had described himself as 'white hater', also asked one of the cast to stay in his home.

Student President Ilinome Frank welcomed the force at the newly built Papua-New Guinea University. Students from this university, the Administration College, Teachers' Training College and the Institute for Higher Education—the future leadership of the country—have now asked for a two day Moral Re-Armament assembly to be held on their campus.

In Dirona Abe's mind this is just the beginning. 'The key to our country is the village,' he says. 'Villages are the strong point of our culture and they will readily accept MRA.'

Leo Kawaua agrees with him. Bare-foot in an outrigger canoe loaded with sweet potato to sell in the floating market, he had travelled three days to come and meet the men and women of MRA. 'I heard about MRA in my village,' said this eighteen-year-old who is head of his family, 'and I decided to give my life for it.' 'In five years my brother will be old enough to take over our land plot, and I'm then ready to go to India or South America or wherever I'm needed.'



The first protest march against the Administration in the history of the Territory. Both sides told members of the MRA force: 'You couldn't have come at a better time.'

POPULATION SOLUTION

Reprints of the article by Rajmohan Gandhi, published in 'Himmat', are available from 4 Hays Mews, London W1. Price 2d each or twelve for one shilling (plus postage)