

Usha Chandiram is free

Bishop of Berlin urges full recognition of MRA

DR KURT SCHARF, Bishop of Berlin and Chairman of the Council of the German Protestant Church, this month called for the full recognition of Moral Re-Armament by the Church.

In the Hitler period Dr Scharf was forbidden to preach or publish books.

He urged the clergy he was addressing in Hamburg to abandon any doubts they may have about MRA. He said that from personal contact with leading personalities he was convinced that MRA was dedicated to Christian goals.

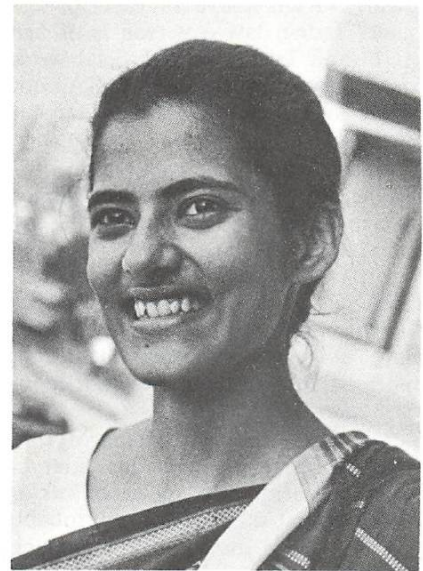
MISS USHA CHANDIRAM flew in to New Delhi a free woman last week to rejoin the MRA force.

She is one of two young women MRA workers, both of age, who were seized by the Madras Police in September and since have been held under close surveillance in their fathers' homes. The Police Commissioner claimed they were not freely working with MRA.

This seizure and the subsequent court action have attracted national and worldwide attention.

Rajmohan Gandhi appealed that the women be allowed to speak for themselves in court. Despite writs of *habeas corpus* served on the fathers, this never happened.

On 15 November, the following open letter, written by Miss Chandiram, was released to the press in New Delhi: *continued on page two*



Miss Chandiram in Bombay en route to New Delhi from Bangalore

Photo: Channer



Usha Chandiram is welcomed by cast members of 'India Arise' at New Delhi Airport. On the left are Rajmohan Gandhi and R D Mathur Photo: Leggat

'Since so much has appeared in the press about me, I want the chance to clarify.

'On Wednesday 9 November, my parents let me go. That day I rejoined the force of MRA.

'I am darned grateful to God that what I kept praying for was actually happening. I want to thank Mr Rajmohan Gandhi for what he did.

'It has come to my notice that the Madras Police Commissioner informed the Court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Madras that on 2 September I made a statement to the police that I had joined MRA being "misled and deceived". I said no such thing. In fact I made no statement of any kind save the following, "I am above 18 years of age (under Indian law a person is of age at 18) and I want to do social work for my country through MRA, out of my own free will." This statement I gave in writing.

'I have read in the papers that during the recent High Court proceedings in Bangalore, the legitimacy of my letter dated 24 September, to three ladies, friends of mine, working with MRA, was attacked before the court. (In this letter, smuggled out of her place of detention, Miss Chandiram appealed for freedom. See *MRA Information Service* No. 5.)

'The learned Judges of the Mysore High Court, referring to this letter in their judgment, also spoke of taking "into account a not wholly improbable possibility of someone else having put these ideas to her." It may interest the general public to know that the letter was thought of and written by me and that any suggestion to the contrary is incorrect.

'The problem of student violence has been dissected by many wise people. As a young person myself may I point out that it would be wrong to blame young people alone? I believe violence is outdated, but it is no good for a hypocritical older generation to say to youth, "Be patient and go slow."

'When younger and older generations leave each other free to be guided by God, then unitedly we will solve this country's problems. Can't we have the guts to fight against forces that are out to destroy our nation's freedom? These forces are not without power. If today the freedom of individuals can be snatched away, tomorrow it could be the nation's freedom.

'But I feel most strongly about those who know what is right but

New attitudes in Canal Zone

PANAMANIAN Government Ministers and six US Generals attended the opening performance of the MRA musical *Up With People* in the US Southern Command Headquarters in the Panama Canal Zone. General Robert W Porter, Jr, Commanding General, Southern Command, introduced the show.

The Canal Zone Governor General, Robert J Fleming, Jr, said after the performance that he had seen a new type of American youth on the stage. 'You have reorientated my perspective on America.'

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Henry Ford, said the musical had made him stop thinking of 'you as North Americans and us as Panamanians.' He hoped the musical would return to Panama.

The Foreign Minister of Panama, Fernando Eleta, this week congratulated the US Ambassador for bringing the musical to Panama City. He said this from the stage at the final per-

formance of the musical, attended by six ambassadors among an audience of 5,200. Two weeks ago the American Ambassador had been doused with red paint when he visited the University of Panama. At the close of the performance 250 students from the Balboa High School, scene of the anti-American riots last year, joined the cast in singing the finale. A businessman commented afterwards that a 'new relationship was born tonight between the US and Panama, created by MRA.'

During the week the cast spoke at assemblies at every high school in the Canal Zone.

Other casts of the musical have been performing before university and college audiences in California, New Jersey, Indiana and Ohio.

ABC Radio announced this week that it will broadcast nationally the music of *Up With People* on 24 November, the American Thanksgiving Day.

At liberty to fight

THE WRITS of *habeas corpus* issued by the Judges of the Mysore High Court, served on the fathers of the women, were four times ignored. A letter written by Usha appealing for freedom was smuggled out of her place of confinement and read in court by Gandhi's lawyer, R M Seshadri. Justice K S Hegde, one of the two judges who issued the writs, was shortly afterwards promoted to higher office in New Delhi. Judges Narayana Pai and Ahmed Ali Khan took over the case. Gandhi had to petition afresh for a new writ of *habeas corpus*.

Venkataranga Iyengar, counsel for the fathers of the two women, in his case against Gandhi's petition for a writ of *habeas corpus* said on 5 November, 'The Hindu philosophy is that father, mother and teacher are gods and should be treated as such by their sons and daughters. God is a foreign idea to this country.' He was referring

who, confused by compromise and preoccupied with comfort and security, do not care.

'As for myself, I want to use my life, working with MRA, to fight to keep India's freedom, or restore it if it is lost.'

to Usha's belief in God, expressed in her smuggled letter.

In his reply Gandhi, who on this day conducted the case for the petition, said, 'I deny that to treat father, mother or teacher as God is part of Indian philosophy. If it is, it should be immediately discarded. The idea that an adult son or daughter should be forced to crush his or her personality and be made to subjugate himself or herself completely to the will of his father, is one that goes completely against the fundamental rights that belong to every citizen.

'I can understand the desire of worldly-minded parents to find comfortable and secure jobs for their children. But if their sons and daughters wish to sacrifice promising careers and live to remake the country, it is something for the parents to be proud of. Janaki and Usha are seeking not the liberty to flout their parents, but the liberty to fight for India.'

The judges first reserved judgment and later dismissed Gandhi's case. Miss Chandiram was then given her freedom by her parents and immediately rejoined the MRA force in New Delhi.

Future tasks of European economy

—A congress in Caux

Under this headline the 'Neue Zürcher Zeitung', a newspaper read by leading political, industrial and financial circles in Europe, published an article on 11 November about the Caux conference. Extracts are given below:

A SPECIAL CONFERENCE, concerned with the future issues facing European industry, brought in the last days of October leading employers and trades unionists to Caux—many from the mines, docks and ports, and from the textile and metal industries of various European countries. Over 800 people, amongst them considerable industrial delegations from France and Switzerland, took part in the deliberations, initiated largely by the French.

Frederick Philips, the Chairman of Philips Electrical Industries, Eindhoven, describing how European industry found increasing competition on the part of Asian nations, said it was impossible to bar the way to their growth and it was our responsibility to improve their living conditions. All these questions had to be rethought and the possibility of a division of work between countries and continents envisaged. 'That is why constructive meetings between employers and trades unionists, as they are possible here in Caux, are essential.'

Rene Lucien, the President of Messier, who produce the landing gear of the Mirage plane and work for the Concorde project, expressed the gratitude of many present that people could meet here without hav-

ing to represent sectional interests. The confidence, he said, which men of the French steel industry from Firminy had found here in the past, made possible the necessary re-organisation of their industrial plant without bitter fights and without hardship. 'That is the reason,' he added, 'why nearly three hundred French have come again now.'

The paper then quoted Maurice Mercier, Secretary-General of the French Textile Workers', Force Ouvrière, on what happened through Moral Re-Armament in French industry* and described the interest which Gottfried Anliker, Swiss building contractor,** and his delegation caused amongst the foreign delegates. The article continued:

British trades unionists from the docks, ports and mines reported how through better understanding between management and labour, through avoiding unofficial strikes and friction between trades unions, production had gone up. This, they say, was their part in answering Britain's economic crisis.

Similar reports were given by employers and trades unionists from the big docks and metal industries of Nantes and St Nazaire. The trades unionists belong to the Communist CGT, the Christian CFTC and the Socialist 'Force Ouvrière.'

Closing the conference, the President of the French Jute Industry, Robert Carmichael, called on the representatives of management and labour to take their full part in the shaping of the society of tomorrow. A conference from the 26 December to 8 January 1967 will provide an opportunity to tackle this with representatives of the developing countries, from youth, political life and education.

'THE RUHR WILL LIVE'

IN THE RUHR at a demonstration of ten thousand in the Westfalenhalle, *Sing-Out Deutschland* gave a performance of 15 minutes. The demonstration was organised by the Ruhr Mining Employers' Association and the Mine Workers' National Union to help counter the crisis in Ruhr industry. Its theme: 'The Ruhr Will Live.'

Walter Arendt, head of the National Union of Mine Workers, spoke of the crisis in the Ruhr industry and said a solution had to be found soon. He reminded the nation that the miners had had a key part in the reconstruction of Germany.

When the announcer said, 'You remember how enthusiastic we all were about *Sing-Out '66*—and now here is *Sing-Out Deutschland*,' the 10,000 broke into applause.

The audience included His Eminence Cardinal Jaeger and top representatives of the Ruhr Mining Employers' Association.

The head of the organizing committee said afterwards, '*Sing-Out Deutschland* certainly was the climax of this demonstration.'

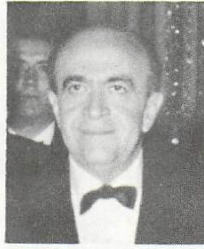
This unique event had been announced in the *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. The paper called it 'The biggest demonstration of the Ruhr mining industry.' About the aims of *Sing-Out Deutschland* the paper said, 'They want to shake the future of our nation and of the world. For them it means constant learning and a strict discipline. Many people are looking for solutions, but they all hope that others will begin. In MRA you do yourself what you expect others to do.'

A few days earlier on 9 November, the MRA show, *Sing-Out Deutschland*, was performed in the Auditorium Maximum of Hamburg University. The mass circulation tabloid, *Das Bild*, termed it 'a triumphant success.'

* MRA Information Service Vol 15, No 8

** MRA Information Service Vol 14, No 48

Iranian Prime Minister opens conference



IRAN'S Prime Minister, Amir Abbas Howeida, addressing the opening of a series of bi-weekly conferences for the moral re-armament of Iran, said that the character of man himself must be modernised if he is to make use of the global possibilities opened by technology. It was for this reason that he welcomed the ideology of Moral Re-Armament.

His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah had recently been accorded the new title of Aryamehr (Friend of the Aryans) in token of his people's gratitude for twenty-six years of reign and of unremitting effort to raise Iran to her true position, said the Prime Minister.

The revolution in human character for which Moral Re-Armament stood provided the moral and ideological basis for the success of social and economic reform.

Attending the meeting were Cabinet Ministers, Senators and Members of Parliament, university and school students, scientists and representatives of the Iranian trade union movement. They saw the film *The Crowning Experience* in its Persian version.

Lebanon President sees 'great hope'

'MRA IS ONE OF THE GREAT hopes of the world,' said the President of the Lebanon, Charles Helou, last week. He was receiving a former President of the Lebanon, Alfred Naccache; Philippe Mottu, a founder of Caux, the MRA centre in Switzerland; H A Almond, a Middle East expert; Alan Thornhill, British playwright, and Marcel Grandy from Switzerland.

In the evening 300 people attended a meeting in the Ministry of Education conference hall to hear Mottu speak at the invitation of Le Cénacle, the leading forum, representative of all the religious communities, professions and sectors of the national life. Mottu's theme was, 'The Destiny of Man in the Modern World.'

The delegation were later received by Archbishop Nebaa and Auxiliary Bishop Hadda.

Earlier, in Cyprus, members of the delegation were received by General Martola, Commander of the UN Peace Force.



Oxford: BMC and University men see MRA show

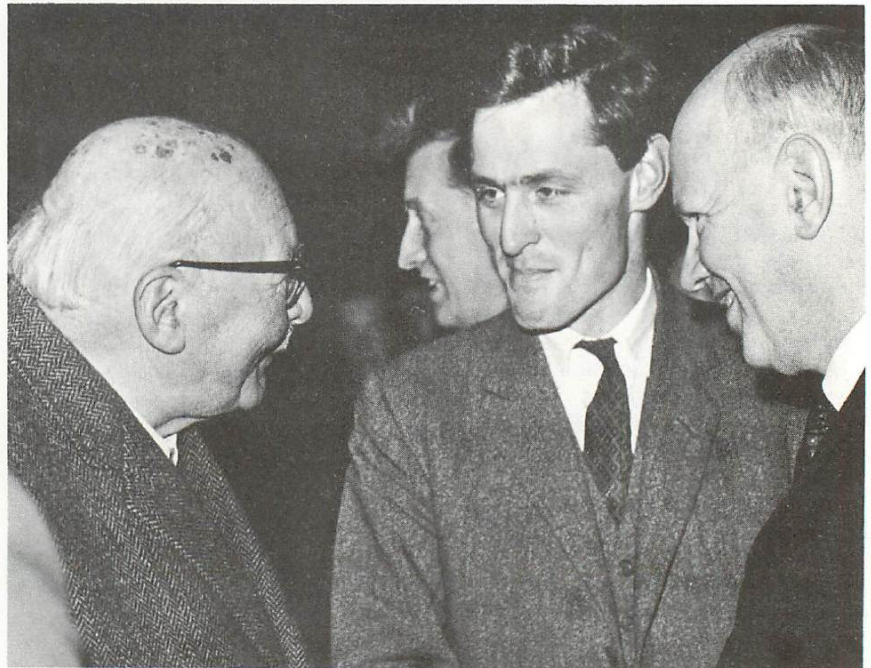
'I wish you every success' says Chief Constable

TWO PACKED HOUSES in the Main Hall of the Oxford College of Technology saw *It's our country, Jack!* this week. The Lord Mayor of Oxford, ten members of the Council, management and trade union leaders from the motor factories stayed on to talk for an hour or more after the curtain fell. Dons and undergraduates from the University, and the entire senior staff of the College of Technology, which will itself soon become a university, made a large proportion of the 1,600 who attended.

The cast were welcomed to Oxford by the Chief Constable, C G Burrows, who was until June of this year Secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers of England and Wales.

University and Technical College students met this week with Conrad Hunte, Vice Captain of the West Indies XI, to plan future action.

The musical's next public performances will be in the Oliver Bird Hall, Solihull, 5 and 6 December, and in the Guildhall, Civic Centre, Southampton, 8 December. Leaflets from MRA, 4 Hays Mews, London W1.



'Most brilliant, unexpected people I know,' commented the Lord Mayor of Oxford after a performance of 'It's our country, Jack!' this week in his city. The Lord Mayor, Air Vice-Marshal W F MacNeece-Foster CB, CBE, DSO, DFC, MA (left), is talking with the Marquis of Graham and Garth Lean
Photo: Strong