

Let's go beyond the fight for our rights

Ceylon journalist calls for national unity

A FEW MILES across the Palk Strait from Tamilnad, Tamil-speaking South India, lies Jaffna, capital of the Tamil-speaking part of Ceylon.

Jaffna is the centre of one of the most explosive political issues in Ceylon—the relationship between the over two million strong Tamil minority and the Sinhalese majority. In Jaffna last week a Member of the Ceylon Parliament announced the formation of a new party pledged to Dominion status for the Tamil people under the Queen.

In 1959 serious rioting had broken out between the Sinhalese and Tamil people of the island following the Bandaranaike Government's decision to make Sinhalese the official language of Ceylon. However, in a bid to build up national unity during the last three and a half years one of the Tamil parties, the Federal Party, has served in the government of Dudley Senanayake and there has been an improvement in Tamil-Sinhalese relations. But in September a dispute caused them to withdraw their support from the Government.

Invitation

Prominent Tamil journalists, applying the ideas of Moral Re-Armament, have recently written articles calling for unity between the Tamil and Sinhalese people. They invited the Asia Arise force to come to Jaffna to stage the dramatic productions, *Asia Arise* and *The Forgotten Factor* and hold meetings.

On 17 November the international group arrived in Jaffna from Kandy and Colombo. *Elanadu*, main Tamil paper of Northern Ceylon, headlined their arrival with the words: 'A Revolution to Change the Hearts of Men'.

On 19 November at the opening of the Asia Arise conference in Jaffna Town Hall a Tamil journalist, Guy de Fontgalland, said, 'We begin today a new revolution in the North—a revolution far beyond the fight we have been putting up for our rights and demands and all that we thought had been denied to us.' De Fontgalland told how at the MRA Assembly in Panchgani, India, he had found the cure to his bitterness and frustration. 'We must say sorry to our Sinhala friends for all the bitterness we have had towards them and work towards full unity, to show the world one nation as one people.'

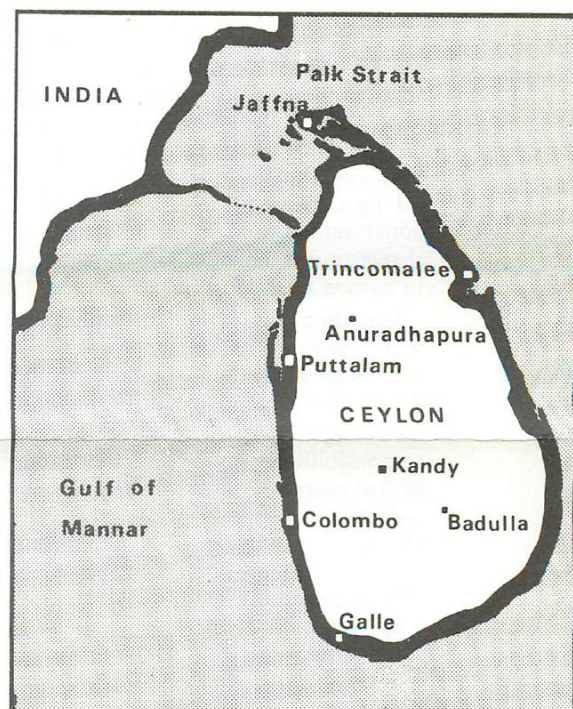
Response

Political leaders and prominent citizens crowded round De Fontgalland after his speech to congratulate him. One man offered to organise public meetings throughout the whole area for him to address.

Devar Surya Sena, whose father, the first Speaker of the Ceylon Legislative Assembly, was one of the early Sinhala fighters for the country's independence, said, 'I want to apologise for the shocking treatment by my people of Tamils during the 1959 riots. It is God's destiny that the Sinhala and Tamil peoples together heal the divisions of Asia.'

Vijitha Yapa, a Sinhalese Buddhist from a leading political family in the south, at an earlier meeting in Jaffna made a similar apology to the Tamil people and dedicated himself to work for national unity.

One of the Joint-Secretaries of the Tamil Congress, Mr Paramanthuraja, thanked Rajmohan Gandhi, Chief Editor of *Himmat*, for 'the moral force and courage' with which he had 'put



map Smith

the revolutionary germ of MRA at the right place in the right hour,' saying it would start a new community which would unify the nation.

Elanadu in an editorial on 23 November said, 'The people of Jaffna must not let Rajmohan Gandhi's vision of Jaffna being the pace-setter in answering Asia's divisions go in vain.' The paper was referring to Gandhi's address to Rotary. He had said, 'We are now at a point where we need men who will care for the entire world and for other races, castes, classes and nations. People have clung with passion to their particular group, but I believe the community of Jaffna is meant to set the pace in creating unity. We are meant to see hearts of stone transformed into hearts of flesh.'

FRANCE:

New men make participation work

by Richard Weeks

FEARS FOR THE FRANC have put France back in the headlines. Since the events of May and June an apparent if uneasy calm has descended on the country. The month of October has passed with only a suggestion of the strikes and demonstrations which were predicted. Many, it is true, continue to live as if nothing had happened; at the same time it is clear that the elements which fed the flames in *May and June* have not been eliminated by increased wages or by educational reforms. Men of industry say that attitudes on both sides are likely to harden in the future.

On shop floor and in university many continue to feel that violence is the only way; that nothing can be done while present structures remain.

A company chairman, with national responsibilities, says, 'The next four or five years will show whether French industry can find a way out of its troubles, or whether it will crumble and in so doing bring down the whole of European industry.'

On all quarters, left and right, high and low, the most used word is 'participation'. It is what students and workers demand. It is what the government has declared to be its policy. But will it ever become more than a policy, an embittered demand or a reluctant concession?

Trade unionists

Men trained in Moral Re-Armament are beginning to make participation a reality. One such trade unionist from Loire Atlantique says: 'The working class must desire more than the satisfaction of its own demands. It must grasp that its task is to give a better life to all humanity.'

He was one of a group of trade unionists who two weeks ago met for two and a half hours in the MRA centre in Paris with the chairman of one of the largest companies in the country. This was one of many such meetings whose significance it is hard

to estimate. Dialogue, much talked of, is becoming fact.

In a letter to their Prime Minister ordinary French citizens wrote that France must now take on a task big enough to require the participation of every Frenchman. For six weeks an international force from 18 countries, including people from Asia, Africa and South America, have challenged France to take on such a task.

Industrialists

This they did through 41 performances of *Anything to Declare?* and *Pitié Pour Clémentine* and through personal contact with Frenchmen from every walk of life. To the theatre have come industrialists and workers, professors and students, and Members of Parliament.

Most significant perhaps were the groups from the Renault factories at Billancourt and Flins, including several works council members. Renault was right at the heart of the attempt to bring down the government in May.

At the University of Nanterre, which gave the spark to the May events, members of the cast of *Anything to Declare?* met the Dean, the Cultural Director and Trotskyist students. Among those they met in other faculties and colleges were many student body presidents.

An hour's extracts from *Anything to Declare?* were given in the Belgian House of the Cité Universitaire, at the invitation of the director. The audience, at least as international as the cast, went on discussing long after the performance.

A coach load of 50 from a teachers' training college in Versailles came to see one of the plays. They invited some of the cast in their college, and many have since signed up for the Christmas conference in Caux. One of the professors, M Boulade said: 'Participation will not work if it does not come from new men. New structures will have to be accompanied by new

students, and what is more difficult, by new teachers.'

His son, after seeing *Anything to Declare?* decided to change and become honest. 'It is up to us to forge the future,' he said. He will shortly be joining the cast.

Throughout these six weeks groups have come from every region of France. From Loire Atlantique, Lorraine, the Pas de Calais, men and women have brought with them evidence of Moral Re-Armament applied in action. Coaches have come from as far away as Brussels and Lyons.

French and Belgian radio have both broadcast interviews with members of the cast of *Pitié Pour Clémentine*.

A significant element in this action has been the growing interchange between France and Britain. Notable among those who came from Britain were Sir Hamilton Kerr, former MP for Cambridge, and delegations from the British aircraft industry. The next step will be the arrival in London of a French delegation for a weekend conference on 30 November.

Sir Hamilton Kerr said that this new partnership between France and Britain must not be something small and inward looking but must be used for the benefit of the whole world.

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'Scientists and Cambridge are no replacement for the Creator'

'SOME SCHOLARS think God is gone,' said Dr Paul Campbell, author of *Modernising Man*, to a conference of clergy at the Westminster Theatre on 20 November. 'They say He is no more than the scientist working in the laboratory next door. Dr Edmund R Leach, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, writes in *The Times* of Saturday, 16 November: "We must now learn to play God in a moral as well as in a creative or destructive sense."

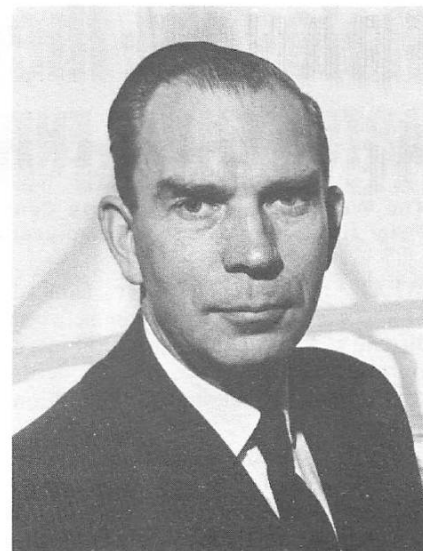
'Now I have the highest respect,' Campbell continued, 'for both scientists and Cambridge. But I find it difficult to believe that even a combination of the two is a viable replacement for the Creator.'

Quoting Dr Leach, who says that the God of the Bible is credited with being 'creator, judge, trickster or mediator,' Campbell went on, 'I would add that God is also like Christ. Immediately we are removed from futile

speculations on God's shape and size and very existence into the real world of man's nature, his transformation and his destiny. At once we are at the heart of the dilemma of today's world, both Communist and ideologically uncommitted. For if men can be changed then the burden of war and famine, of bitterness and loneliness, of massive purposelessness and frustration can be lifted.

'More than at any other time in history an intense, subtle and brazen bid is being made to outlaw God from the human family. The materialists, the nihilists, the humanists and atheists, the churchmen who do not change men, are using every medium and device of the human mind to make God and faith irrelevant, odd and out of date, if not indeed a danger to the progress and liberty of man.

'He who would change men in today's world must jettison all secondary pursuits and fight this global battle,



Dr Paul Campbell photo Strong

buoyantly, exuberantly and trenchantly. He must live on an all-out basis and nothing less. It must be "this one thing I do".'

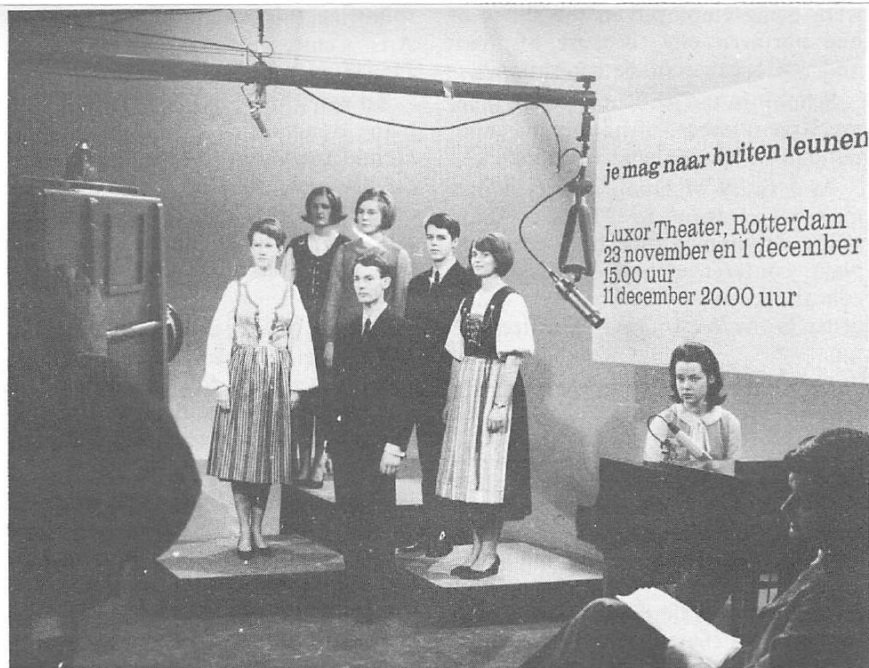
The full text of Dr Campbell's speech will shortly be published in a pamphlet entitled 'Remaking Man in Today's World'. Price 1s 6d.

Diplomats see European revue in Holland

THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR to Holland, the dean of the diplomatic corps in The Hague, attended the Dutch premiere on *Anything to Declare?* in Rotterdam last Saturday.

Ambassadors from seven other countries and diplomats from a further nine nations were present. H E Maristany Sanchez, the Cuban Ambassador, said, 'I want you to know that I represent all the diplomats not present here today.'

The European revue has been invited to Rotterdam, the world's largest port, by a committee of dock and shipyard workers. One member of the invitation committee said, 'Rotterdam may be leading in technological fields, but is lagging behind in human relations. It could and should export the ideas of MRA tested in action.'



Dutch National TV on its main channel broadcast last week a ten minute MRA programme prior to the visit of the European revue, 'Anything to Declare?'. Eight of the cast flew from Paris to sing and speak in this programme which was broadcast just before the 10.30 pm news. The interviewer was Fred Ladenius, Dutch journalist from Rome (extreme right). In the centre, left to right, are: Eva Måsen, Sweden; Alison Hutchison, Scotland; Rosemary Phelps, England; Peter Thwaites, Australia; Chris Gill, England; and Sylvie Haller, Switzerland. At the piano: Penelope Thwaites photo Burger

Relevant theatre:

ARTS CENTRE ENTERS THIRD YEAR

The Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, dedicated to the memory of Peter Howard, was opened two years ago by Rajmohan Gandhi.

WEST INDIAN cricketer Conrad Hunte said that co operation between Britain's races could be 'a modern miracle and more relevant to the needs of the world than man's exploration of space.'

Speaking on the second anniversary of the opening of the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre Hunte said, 'A senior man of the authorities of this country has told me that through the action of this Centre there has been no racial violence in Britain to date and that a growing number of the immigrant leadership are playing their full part in every area of this country's life.'

Several leaders of the 'Third World' (Asians, West Indians and Africans) who have been to the Centre were taking constructive action and had found a new hope in Britain, said Hunte.

Pakistani and West Indian women were being employed in the shops of one northern city 'because of merit and not because of patronization.'

Schools in the Midlands where there are large numbers of immigrant children had developed new attitudes.

As a result of Hunte's visits with a multi-racial team to 33 cities thousands of immigrants had come to plays, conferences and discussions on education, employment and law and order in the Westminster Theatre.

Industrial action

TOM HAM, a London dockers' leader, said, 'Many people go to a conference with their own viewpoint.' The importance of the Westminster Theatre, he said, was that in its plays a man saw his own character and personality portrayed in a way that enabled him to be objective and he saw alternative viewpoints portrayed in a way that he could understand.

Through the plays of MRA, he continued, there had come 'a growing unity between employers and employees. There is a degree of suspicion, but we are now able to pull together as a team.'

In the last six years 350,000 trade unionists have attended plays at the Westminster Theatre. In the last year hundreds of branch officials, members of the national executives of major trade unions and management representatives have seen the musical *Annie*, the current production *Bishop's Move* or the pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone*.

Future finance planned

A £5 A MONTH covenant for the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre will raise in a year £100 through remission of tax. One hundred and fifty people following this scheme would give the Arts Centre an assured income of £15,000 per annum.

To reach this goal, Sir Dermot Milman launched a campaign on the second anniversary of the Arts Centre. Sir Dermot, who is a senior officer of the British Council, has been responsible for three International Fairs that have raised £20,000 in the last three years.

Twelve years ago a musical of MRA, *The Vanishing Island*, he says, transformed his life, awakened his interest in MRA, and proved to him the power of the theatre in altering the thinking and lives of people.

Few are aware that a year after the Centre opened, £500,000 had been raised without subsidies of any kind (or debts ever being incurred) and the Building Fund completed.

Theatre trustee H W 'Bunny' Austin outlined the expanding programme of the theatre, listing possible future productions, and underlined the need to create many more films and plays.

As Stanley Kiaer, Secretary to the Memorial Trust, said, 'This theatre is a weapon in the battle to modernise man. It could reshape the thinking of man for generations to come. What we take on together we can achieve.'

Other speakers included Alan Thornhill, the playwright, and four of the actors and actresses from the musical *Annie*, Margaret Burton, Roslyn Dunbar, Len Maley and Norman Ghent.

Margaret Burton, the star of *Annie*, sang the song 'Open Your Heart' from the show. Roslyn Dunbar said that while most plays offered a 'psychological holiday' to theatre-goers, the Westminster offered 'a cure'.

LEN MALEY, well known as Pa Merry in the film *Give a Dog a Bone*, reported that 'A Day of London Theatre,' started in January 1967, has now been enjoyed by 5,000 school-children, all of whom saw a play at the theatre. A future programme called 'Theatre through the Ages' is planned which will show the way in which theatre has always been an important force in society.

WESTMINSTER Theatre Restaurant, now in its third year of operation, is increasingly popular with theatre-goers and many people who work in the vicinity. Nan Walker, personnel supervisor, said that over a two year period there was remarkably little turnover in the staff of the kitchen of the Westminster Theatre Restaurant. She believes that by giving labour the dignity it merits the restaurant can offer something new to the catering industry, which has the highest labour turnover in the country. Leone Exton, managing director, says that the high standards of care and cleanliness in the dining room itself win the clients, who return frequently.

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