

Asia's question to British Industry:

Have you the answer for Calcutta?

A VETERAN Indian trade union leader, Satya Banerji, challenged British industry to plan for the world, and not for sectional interests only.

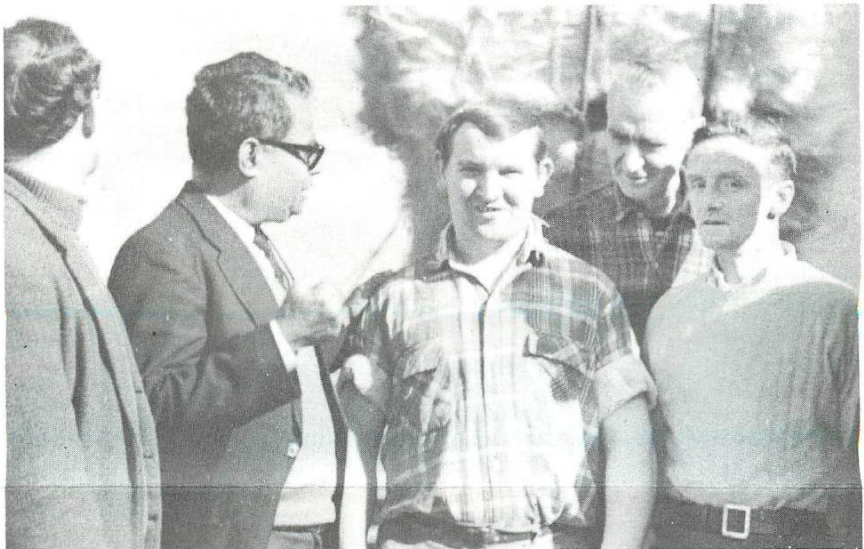
Convenors of major car factories, men involved in some of the hottest recent disputes, directors of the British Steel Corporation and other companies heard Banerji, who is President of the Hindustan Drivers' Union of Bengal, outline the problems of his own city, Calcutta, with one million homeless (one-fifth of the population), riots a daily occurrence and 200 political murders in the last year.

Banerji, who had just paid a ten-day visit to Northern Ireland, said, 'Seeing the charred ruined houses, bullet holes four inches deep in concrete, black splashes left by petrol bombs and the children playing in the streets, I felt quite at home.'

Indians, Banerji continued, looked to the West not only for goods but for ideas. But they saw the same problems as in their own country—division, frustration, and the purposelessness of a permissive society. In the communist world they saw hatred and disunity. They expected Britain to produce 'answers and not the problems associated with industry.'

He was addressing a conference at the Moral Re-Armament conference centre at Tirley Garth, convened by a committee of management and labour on the theme 'Industry—Deadlock or Destiny'.

Moral Re-Armament, he said, gave a global answer to the problems of industry and nations. 'As I am responsible for labour, so I am responsible for industry. I am as much a part of industry as management. Both of us, management and labour, need to change and unite on a common ideology to meet the needs of men and direct human energy in a gigantic way to give a new direction to our nations' policies. We need to put people before profit, power-politics and ambition.' *Cont. on page 4*



Top: Satya Banerji (second from left) with dockers in Belfast unloading sisal. Left is Jim Austin, Dockers' Vice-President of the Irish Transport Workers Union
photo Wise

Above: Banerji with Lloyd Grant, office comptroller at Unbrako, Coventry and an immigrant leader
photo Hartnell



Right: John Vickers: 'damnable nonsense'
photo Hartnell

Asia conference 'For People who Care'

In the Bhangi Colony, in the heart of Delhi, live 18,000 Harijans (formerly 'Untouchables'). Here Mahatma Gandhi used often to stay and hold meetings.

Today a revolution is underway in this colony which could affect the future of India by giving a new dignity and destiny to the 100 million Harijans.*

Delhi Harijans at Panchgani

JUST ABOUT two years ago the name of Moral Re-Armament was heard for the first time in this colony consisting largely of cleaners, sweepers, porters, messengers, dustmen, drivers and building workers. They work for the New Delhi Municipal Corporation and earn on an average, just over Rs 100 a month. But today there would be hardly anyone

at all there, who is unfamiliar with MRA. Gambling, drinking, hooliganism and violence have gone down visibly. Some months ago a group of women even obliged a liquor shop owner to close down by staging a 'gherao'—a sit-in.

Three of the Bhangi Colony men who had intrigued the late President of India, Dr Zakir Husain, when he heard their stories, have attended the conference, 'For People Who Care', at Panchgani. They are Chaman Lal, Mange Ram and Babulal.

Chaman Lal, who works on the city refuse dump, used to be one of the most feared men in the colony. Tall and dark, with large eyes, he has done everything wrong that is possible—from snatching jewellery off ladies, blackmarketing cinema tickets, gambling, fighting and beating up policemen.

His indulgence in drink and consequent lack of care for his family,

brought about the death of three of his children. His wife got fed-up with him—he used to beat her—and went back to her mother's home with the other children.

After meeting MRA Chaman Lal apologised for all his past and his wife came back to him. She now says that for the first time since their marriage they now have adequate clothes and cooking utensils. He has even bought her a ring and has also helped neighbours out with money. Recently he has decided to stop smoking altogether which means for him a virtual pay-rise of at least Rs 20 a month.

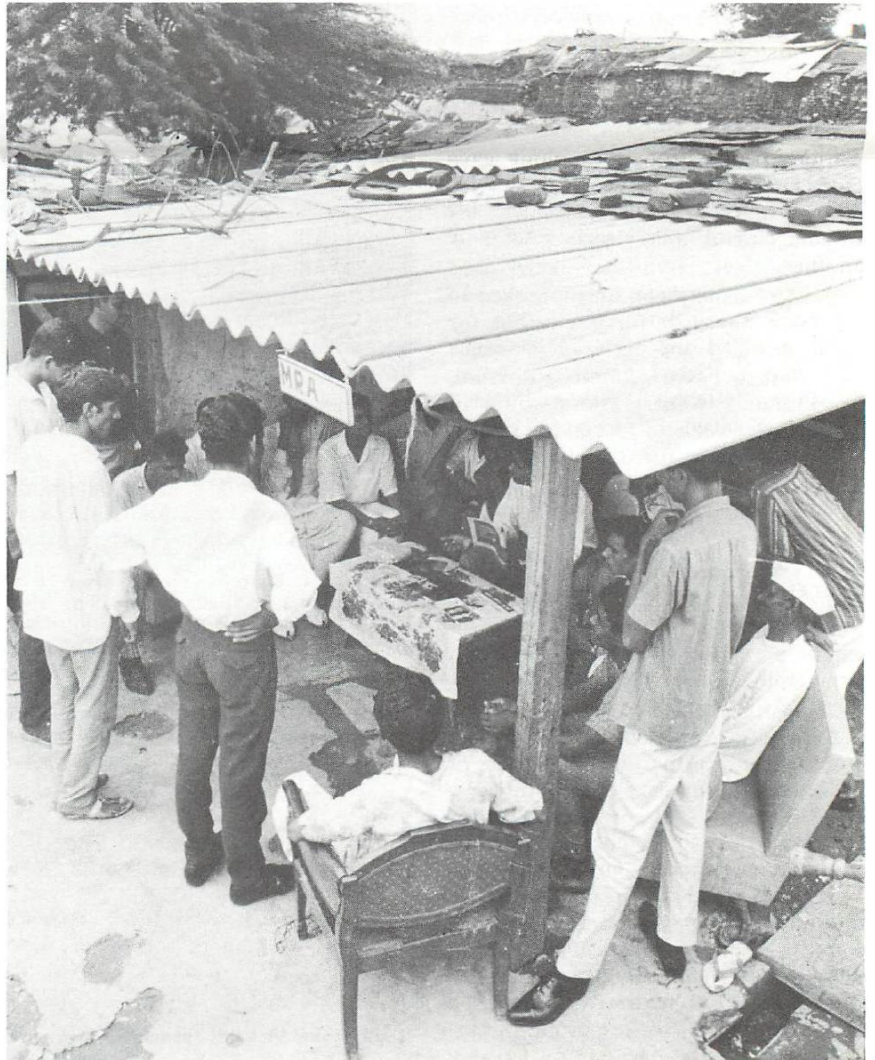
Mange Ram works in the anti-malaria squad of the Corporation. His aim once had been to fight for a separate country for the 100 million Harijans of India.

'I wanted,' he says, 'to solve the problems in my family by force. When I met MRA I realised that no problem



Chaman Lal

photos Channer



MRA office in Harijan Colony

** The documentary film 'Galloping Horse' has brought this dramatic story to audiences throughout the world.*

can really be answered thus. So I apologised to my wife—and you know what it means for a man to say sorry to his own wife. But the problems in my family ceased. Now I am convinced that any problem of the world at all can truly be solved through MRA.'

Babulal, a messenger, looked a very angry man when he first came to Panchgani 15 months ago. This time his eyes had a calm in them which was not there before. After returning from Panchgani last year he said he had tried to change his brother-in-law, who was a drunkard.

Babulal's sister said that often her husband would come home so drunk at night that he would throw the children's food away saying, 'No one is to eat tonight.' At first Babulal's brother-in-law did not believe anyone could change. One day he saw a fight begin and Babulal did not join in. This convinced him of Babulal's change because hitherto Babulal would always participate in a free-for-all, if ever there was one going. Now Babulal says, 'Hatred is a big force in the world today. It tempts me very often. But with a sincere apology and prayer to God I find freedom from it.' That is the secret of the calm in his eyes now.

For the 800-mile journey to Panchgani from Delhi, these men who earn hardly more than Rs 100 a month, enlisted many people to raise money. Various people from the colony gave clothes on a two-week 'temporary loan'—so each one would wear a shirt given by one friend and trousers lent by another. Yet another friend even stopped chewing betel and contributed the money saved thus. An officer in Air India included the New Delhi office staff and collected about Rs 50. A British family living in New Delhi gave what they saved by forgoing coffee, jam and butter for breakfast. Their three-year-old son gave half of his piggy savings when he heard of the efforts made by all.

Streak ahead

At Panchgani, these men, representative of the ordinary man of India in his millions, bewildered some people by being able to grasp MRA. A senior Indian MP said that nothing could be more convincing than hearing Chaman Lal tell what happened to him through MRA.

Whether it is an atheist student or a hardened politician, they understand what people need. To a somewhat voluble politician Chaman Lal quietly quipped, 'We in India talk far too much. If only we would put that same exercise into our hands, India would streak ahead.'

SURESH CHANDRA

Every man is hungry to do something for the world says Philips' president

FREDERICK J PHILIPS of Holland, President of Philips Electrical, the world-wide industrial concern, has been attending the conference 'For People who Care' at the MRA world centre at Panchgani, India. The Philips organisation employs nearly 300,000 workers in 60 countries and has manufacturing concerns in 48 of these.

'I am proud to be one of those industrialists who are fighting this battle of Moral Re-Armament,' said Philips. 'It is very important that we employers look further than our own companies and feel responsible for the world. Some of us are so busy that we are not conscious of the important part we can play.'

Speaking of his experience with workers, he said, 'Every man, if he gets



Frederick Philips

the challenge and sees the importance of what he is doing, likes to work.

'He is hungry to do something for the world and not be limited to his own small job. But it depends fully on the man he is going to work for and also whether he sees the connection between the work he is doing and the needs of the country and the world. MRA gives employers the vision and care that every man is needed.'

President Kaunda sees Peter Howard pantomime

THE FIRST LIVE PERFORMANCE in Zambia of *Give a Dog a Bone*—Peter Howard's well known pantomime—was presented last week by pupils of the Dominican Convent Primary School, Lusaka.

The opening night was attended by President Kaunda and Mrs Kaunda as well as Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and leading citizens, many of whose children were participating. Also in the audience was the Catholic Archbishop of Zambia, His Grace Emmanuel Milingo.

The presentation of this delightful musical play was devised in a highly imaginative way so as to include all the 270 pupils of all races of the Primary School. As the play ran for ten performances, including a special one for the Religious Community of Lusaka, two complete casts of animals, chorus and orchestra (percussion) were formed with three pupils taking each of the leading roles in turn.

As the school has children of many nationalities in it besides Zambian, a part of the chorus were dressed in the

national costumes representing the nationalities in the school. In order to increase audience participation the chorus was arranged on floor level in front of the stage facing the audience.

The *Zambia Mail* carried a picture of the cast and the *Times of Zambia*, reporting the President's attendance under a headline 'Playgoer Kaunda', described his enthusiastic reception of the play which it said was 'about moral re-armament', and went on to mention other personalities in the audience and the excellent performance of members of the cast. Radio Zambia also mentioned the President's presence at the show in its news bulletin.

The Editors wish to announce due to increased costs that the cash sale price of the MRA Information Service is increased from 9d to 1s per copy.

This price increase does not affect the annual subscription which remains at 50s and for overseas airmail, 65s.

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Trade unionists, instead of fighting a defensive battle, should 'go on the offensive' to give a new direction to industry and nations.

'I have decided to give my whole time, whole energy, and my whole resources to wage this total attack on evil, and not be engaged again in a partial struggle to fight against a few wrongs I want to see righted. In this age we need a global answer even to deal with small, local problems,' concluded Banerji.

John S Craig, Financial Director of the Scottish and North-West Group of the British Steel Corporation, said, 'Industry must take on to change the whole moral climate of the country. Our task is to be a spur to governments by thinking ten years ahead of them.'

John Vickers, Chairman of Benjamin R Vickers of Leeds, said that the idea propagated by some business schools that the task of management was solely to

maximise profits and to leave social and humanitarian considerations to government was 'a damnable lot of nonsense'. 'I could not operate on that basis for one day,' he said. 'We are out to be efficient and profitable because that is the cheapest way to finance our future growth. But with us, people come even before profit.'

Vickers criticised management who planned for all kinds of changes but do not plan for the human consequences of the changes which they advocate, for instance, of take-overs and mergers. As an example of sound practice Vickers cited a recent productivity agreement where the chairman had personally involved himself until every man affected was satisfactorily found new employment.

Industries represented at the conference included steel, docks, engineering, transport, aircraft, chemicals, ship-building and mining.



Mrs Charlotte van Beuningen with Russi Lala, Editor of 'Himmat' photo de Maar

Book publication was urgent . . .

'LIFE IS SUCH FUN': this runs like a red thread through 89 year-old Mme Charlotte van Beuningen's book *A New World for my Grandchildren*, published in India by *Himmat Publications*.* Mrs Russi Lala, wife of the editor of *Himmat*, pointed this out in a speech at the launching of the book in Britain at the Westminster Theatre, London.

Mrs Lala said, 'Mme van Beuningen has a zest for life and the answer to make life work. My husband saw the urgency of this answer and the necessity of bringing it to India and to the rest of the world. That was why he decided to take on the publishing of this book.'

'It is a human story of a woman—how she was brought up in Holland, her marriage and her family. And then when she met MRA, her life took a new depth, meaning and purpose. When she listened to God, she got the courage to do the most impossible things—tackling the commandant of a German concentration camp and saving the lives of thousands of inmates, or being in the Congo at the time of bitter fighting there.'

Bas Woltjer, a Dutch librarian, said the name 'van Beuningen' has been connected with the Dutch establishment over centuries. But Mme van Beuningen had a common purpose through Moral Re-Armament with workers in Europe, Asia, and Africa and America.

BENTE SIGMOND

* Price: 9s 6d (postage extra)
From *Moral Re-Armament*
4, Hays Mews, London W1X 7RS



William Taylor, convenor at British Motor Corporation factory in Longbridge talks with Les Dennison, President of the Building Trades Federation, Coventry and Jack Bentley, retired Staffordshire miner photo Hartnell

Play Reading

The Westminster Theatre
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The Friends of the Westminster Theatre present

THE MUSTARD SEED

by J J Carey

Sunday 26th Oct 7.30 pm

Tickets: 5/- students: 2/6

In a totalitarian state, four prisoners of different faiths spend their last night together in a condemned cell. To add to their distress a bogus 'Priest' is planted with them. What effect does he have on them - and they on him?

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