

1st September, 1986

Dear friends,

All good things come to an end. The end-of-school-term time of farewells is with us again! Hordes left yesterday, and many more are leaving today. Others will be leaving the day after tomorrow for a post-Caux summit session, of which I trust we will all hear echoes in due course. The house is emptying fast, and today, in between goodbyes we start tidying, sorting, getting organised for the between-sessions life of the centre. Thank you for all the encouragement of your letters, and thank you even more for your prayerful support across the miles. What a time it has been! Fun even, would you believe it?

We have averaged 512 people a night right through the conference, from the 12th July till last night, and in the accommodation team we reckon the house is full at 510 (some beds have to be held for people leaving tonight or arriving tomorrow morning). So we've had an occupancy rate of 100.7%! Daniel Mottu took a part of one of our last 3.20 pm preparation meetings to include us all on the financial situation - which is good - and I enclose a just-out-from-the-printer brochure about the big investments in the fabric of the house we need to make over the next five years. There's still ample space for miracles here - we need to raise half a million francs per year on top of our regular annual needs.

The presentation to the industrial session of the five year plan was supported by two young Swiss businessmen. One of them expressed his thanks to the founding generation. He went on, 'My wife and I came to Caux a year ago with many problems and divisions. We gave our lives to God and began again. We learnt the secret of reconciliation and forgiveness - and to accept forgiveness from Christ first of all. I want to have a part in reconciliation in the world, so I want to use my professional skills to keep this house as it should be for the future.' His work had already led to energy savings of 50%.

I also enclose the last three press stories of the summer - and include a facsimile of Nakasone's historic message to Caux. There is already a busy buzz from the teams of 'Caux Information', 'Changer' and 'New World News' as they all work on their special report issues. One photo that they may use is of the wall full of press cuttings on the third floor corridor. We've also had the French-language television here again filming, this time in preparation for a one and a half hour live show at midday on the 12th, on the village of Caux, which will obviously feature Mountain House. There has been a considerable outreach and advance with the media.

The round table industrial conference opened last Monday with a banquet, and then the distinguished industrialists joined the rest of

the conference for the opening session of this last week in the great hall. It was a brisk and stirring MRA meeting. The following two days they were in closed session in the promenoir, transformed for the occasion, with an oblong table, not a round one, and portable translation cabins installed. Their unsigned communique at the end refers to 'a shared responsibility of Europeans, Japanese and Americans with a clear moral and spiritual dimension'. Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, one of the two hosts for the time, enthusiastically evaluated the time when he addressed the full conference. The meeting had, he said, been on the same level of historic importance as the greatest moments in the life of Caux to date - though a trade war avoided might never make the headlines.

One of the most senior Japanese attending the round table stayed on to speak to the full conference. Ryuzaburo Kaku, head of the vast Canon multinational, told us that Japan must widen her objectives or perish. From 1868 until the present day, Japan had concentrated on her own prosperity. 'If we continue to pursue that national objective, we will endanger our very existence,' he said. 'Instead, our national objective must become the prosperity of all mankind.' The high level of Japanese representation, and indeed the numbers of Japanese present through the summer, and for longer periods, has been one of the important features of the summer.

There have been a series of presentations to Caux - a reminder of the diverse peoples and countries in the house with us. The Thai group, made up largely of army men, though several of them are engaged in rural development, presented an exquisite model glass boat. The group of Sudanese students likewise made a presentation, as did an Indian businessman, who gave a magnificent Islamic calligraphy by his sister of 'God, the One Who guides'. A senior South African administrator showed slides of his work for low-cost housing. But of course the central themes of the week have revolved around industry and its problems and possibilities, even if the first meeting every morning did go to 'The heart of the matter', and gave spiritual input - for example on 'The source of endurance - God's plan in everyday life', 'Coping with failure and success' and 'Home - support or last straw'.

Last Monday saw a lively and wide-ranging discussion on employment - and unemployment. Austrian MP and trade unionist Fritz Hochmair deplored the lack of long-term strategies, and the unreadiness of many trade unionists to accept less work and pay so that others might have something. This was his fifth visit, he said, regretting that he could only steal a few hours in Caux in the thick of a busy election campaign. 'Caux is my second home,' he said. 'This place of meeting, of encounter is very important to me.' Willi Haller from Germany stressed, 'It is a great illusion to believe that unemployment can be solved by economic growth and technological progress alone. Social and spiritual innovation is needed. Frank Buchman was one of those who saw this most clearly.'

The reports, when they come out will doubtless carry extracts from some of the high-level talks. I'm afraid I retained very little, since I was translating, but an Italian university professor spoke on 'Economics and human needs', Giscard d'Estaing on 'Management and leadership' and another Frenchman, a top scientist and industrialist, spoke on 'Technology and human needs'.

The final meeting of the summer, yesterday, was a reminder from all the continents that hope springs not from an intellectual analysis of 'facts', but from commitment, and an opening up to God's transforming power. When He starts to work changes in us, we find hope for the most impossible situations. Isaac Amata gave news of a government request to help train the National Youth Service Corps, in which every graduate has to do service outside his region before taking up a job. Cornelius Marivate spoke of a touch with an Afrikaans Cabinet Minister that had led to a public statement that brought healing.

A Brazilian couple spoke of their marriage in Caux 25 years ago - and of the new generation at work in the port of Rio, continuing the battle for honesty there. An Argentine student said, 'This experience means a lot to me. Mountain House is not just a building, it has a soul and a spirit. I learnt here to ask for forgiveness. I found reconciliation with the other Latin American countries, and with my father - we didn't get along and we have found a new friendship. Now I go towards a new reconciliation - I go to Britain. It is easy to talk about reconciliation, but the important thing is to feel it and to live it.'

A British Fleet Street printing worker, in Caux for the first time, said how moved he had been to hear from managers who had put their own jobs on the line to fight for the workers' rights and for justice. 'We must pull down the class barriers,' he said. An Austrian Jesuit priest noted, 'I leave here with renewed hope. Every human being can submit himself to divine leading. That is our role.' The last of the 20 speakers was Daniel Mottu, who spoke of 'God's creative silence, where we can discover the truth about ourselves, our families, our businesses, our countries'. He described silence as 'the creative élan by which we live', and suggested that a time of silence together would be the most appropriate way to end this richest of summers.

Our thanks go to so many, not least to all the honorary Swiss who have helped us to carry Caux through these stretching and exhilarating weeks. We are grateful for the innovations that have worked - the greater mix of people through the whole time, and the 'café- théâtre' evenings assembling scenes, songs, statements, skits and dances, to give something of the depth of our message, the buffet meals at lunch and supper in the main dining room. Please do send any thoughts you may have for next year; how we can do better. And we look forward to seeing some of you here at New Year, and doubtless many more next summer.

With grateful greetings to you all,

Andrew Stallybrass

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Sunday, 31st August 1986

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In the last seven and a half weeks, 2,840 people from 63 countries have attended the conferences for Moral Re-Armament, at Mountain House, Caux, Switzerland.

At the closing session of the summer conferences, Pierre Spoerri, speaking on behalf of the Foundation for Moral Re-Armament, recalled some of the messages the Foundation had received during this 40th anniversary year - including one from Nakasone, present Prime Minister of Japan, who had come to Caux in 1950 as a young Member of Parliament, and from the Federal Republic of Germany, from President von Weizsäcker, former President Carstens, and former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

'The great events in the life of Caux over these last 40 years have sprung from unexpected changes of attitude in unexpected people,' Mr. Spoerri said. He went on to outline the main tasks for Caux in the next 40 years - tasks that had been clarified through the summer's conferences by participants from many of the world's crisis points - Central American trade union leaders facing kidnapping, murder and torture in their work for social justice, British and Argentines, Greeks and Turks, Sri Lankans, Labanese, South Africans, in search of reconciliation. 'The challenge to us is to make the non-negotiable negotiable,' he said.

He stressed the importance of conflict-anticipating, and not just conflict-solving. 'Where can the seeds of conflict be discovered in time, before it is too late?' he asked. 'Where can bridges of trust be established that will allow a defusing of a situation before it becomes white-hot?'

'There is hardly a crisis region of the world that has gone unrepresented here in these weeks,' he concluded. 'Caux exists to weave these golden threads of hope. We have seen glimpses of a new world in the making - as the conference invitation intimated.'

Friday, 29th August 1986

A four-person Cambodian delegation from the refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border today presented a message from Mr. Son Sann, President of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and Prime Minister of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, to the Moral Re-Armament conference at Mountain House, in Caux, Switzerland.

'Moral Re-Armament has helped Cambodia in peace as well as in deep distress,' said Son Sann in his message, referring to his first touches with MRA in 1954. He went on to express the hope 'that our friends will continue to help us in the reconstruction of the future Cambodia'.