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UNITED NATIONS CENTER

Many of you may wonder what steps have been taken towards realizing the vision of a Center for Reconciliation serving the United Nations community and beyond. This vision, which was given so clearly, continues to evolve, but the birth process, amidst the complexities of New York real estate, is slow and at times painful. We are searching and praying for the right place, for the funds needed and for the inner eye to see God's full purpose.

What is clear is that such a Center is needed, that many in the UN community deeply wish for a greater presence of MRA, and that the Spirit of God sustains our quest and impels us forward.

James Jonah, Under Secretary-General of the UN for Political Affairs, met recently with Allan Griffith, Archie Mackenzie, Joseph Lagu, Joe Montville and others of us. He said that we would fill a vacuum for no-one else now brings to the concerns before the UN the moral and spiritual perspective and the factor of trust so urgently needed.

We have been moved and encouraged by generous gifts and pledges for the Center from 84 individuals and 5 MRA bodies. Over \$200,000 has been given in the last two months. We are conscious of needs elsewhere in the world and pray for each of these. But we are naturally eager to realize this vision. Would you join us in praying daily for all that is needed? Not only for fresh sources of funding and for the place that best serves God's concept, but also for the hands and hearts of those God has prepared to serve in it, and for the patience and wisdom of those of us on the spot.

Dick Ruffin Rob and Betsy Lancaster

AMERICAS GATHERING

People of nine nations of the Americas and of different states of Brazil took part in the fifth 'Gathering of the Americas' at the MRA Centre, Petrópolis, Brazil, January 23-30.

The first days were spent listening to one another and taking time in quiet on the problems, opportunities and resources available in each nation of the continent.

'I arrived one person. I am leaving quite another', said a Uruguayan of a traditional landowning family. A young Argentinian professional said, 'I return to my country with a renewed commitment and vision.'

The presidents of the city and state federations of Favela Associations of Rio de Janeiro chaired a public meeting. At this occasion Congressman Jones Santos Neves asked for help for the 'Clean Election' campaign MRA is initiating. 'In October 1994 we need a totally different kind of Congress', he declared. The President

of the Federation of Women's Associations said her organisation would launch it publicly.

Later in the week participants of the gathering took part in an hour-long radio programme in the capital.

Younger participants plan gatherings in Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, Central America and Brazil during Holy Week, aimed at university students, young workers and professionals. In addition, three conference days are planned during March in Bogota and a week of activities in the city of Cali, both in Colombia. For information (in Spanish) contact Dra Heyde Durán, Tel/fax: +57 1 255 5088.

Laurie Vogel Luis Puig

EAST AND WEST AROUND TABLE

A fascinating action of the Caux Round Table took place this month in Berlin at the invitation of Horst Kramp, President of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Prof Dr K H Standke, President of the OstWestWirtschaftsAkademie, which has trained 3,000 people over the last three years from Central and Eastern Europe in management techniques.

The 18 participants from America, Japan and Europe spent a day with 12 executives and others prominent in the economic life of Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, discussing the challenges of job creation. There was also a working breakfast with the President of 'Transparency International', which aims to counter corruption in international business transactions; and a debate with the Vice-President of the Treuhand Anstalt, which is privatising the state-owned industries in the former GDR. We were given dinners by Manfred Stolpe, Prime Minister of the State of Brandenburg, and at the headquarters of the pharmaceutical firm Schering AG; and were received by Senator Dr Norbert Meisner, who carries government responsibility for industry and technology in Berlin. Some of the party spent a thought-provoking evening in the Kreig home.

Those of us coordinating this programme - Rob Lancaster, Yuihisa Fujita, Peter & Digna Hintzen, Lotty Wolvekamp and myself - were inspired by the way the 15 core members of the CRT who were present feel responsible for the growth of this 'value-based group of business executives', and to hear their appreciation of all that takes place at Caux. Agreement was reached on formulating the 'Caux Round Table Principles for Business'. They will be finalised and printed before the summer. The CRT will meet next at Caux, July 24-28.

It was great to experience the Bräckle family's hospitality and to spend a thought provoking evening with some of the CRT party in the Krieg home.

Maarten de Pous

HEALING IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Last month the Scandinavian Institute for African Studies (SIAS) held a forum in Uppsala, Sweden, which brought together 30 Somalis, representing nearly all factions and groups. Before the main forum, two Somalis who had attended last year's 'Regions in Crisis' session at Caux initiated a smaller gathering of Somalis, sponsored by SIAS and MRA. Its theme was that reconciliation must be born in people. *For the Love of Tomorrow* and *Freedom* were shown. Apologies were made for hurts and divisions.

Among those invited to present papers at the main forum were Jim Baynard-Smith and Harry Almond. The convenor's report on the forum says that it was characterised by a 'spirit of peace and reconciliation' and an 'urgent appeal for forgiveness'. It also noted 'the significant bridge-building role of religious initiatives, both traditional and international, in rejecting bitter emotion and injecting a spirit of honest partnership and healing, which informed and lubricated the discussions of the forum.' Specific plans were laid for the next round.

Mohammed Ali Mirreh

*Ahmed Egal Harry Almond Jim Baynard-Smith
Finn Harald Wetterfors Gunnar Wieselgren*

PATRIARCH PARTICIPATES

Noeuring Oum, Executive Secretary of the Cambodian Buddhist Association of Minnesota, organised a party of 17 Cambodians and Americans to Cambodia from November 23 to December 10. In Battambang we worked with Heng Monichenda, Buddhist monk, and Tep Choeun, who took part in the Armagh Study Course, distributing the handbook *Which Way Cambodia*, and conducted a workshop for Class 11 students on 'Rebuilding the moral foundations'. In Phnom Penh the Khmer Students and Intellectuals Association sponsored a workshop on 'Finding your role in rebuilding Cambodia' where we were joined by the Venerable Maha Ghosananda.

John Morrison

ON THE EMMAUS ROAD

Last month a group of Bosnian and Croatian friends who have attended Caux conferences organised a seminar on 'The moral and spiritual values of Moral Re-Armament in family-life and society'. It was held at a Catholic retreat-centre, 'Emmaus', near Zagreb. They invited 30 people from different parts of Bosnia and Croatia. To their delight, 50 came. They also invited our 'band of six'. Participants included students, farmers, clergy, psychologists, artists, teachers, professors of economy and philosophy, lawyers, travel agents, refugees, doctors and social workers. The Lutheran Church sent two lively observers. The young people had prepared and decorated the house; and they sang, cooked, served and translated.

There was a refreshingly open exchange, and we saw the beginnings of real healing. Someone admitted:

'Many of us were cowards under the old regime, in order to survive.' Another described what he had learnt when, at one point, despite the temptation of power and wealth, he had 'not been ready to sell his soul'; and what he was beginning to discover now. One of the organisers commented, 'Now we are getting to the heart of the matter.'

The day after a showing of *For the Love of Tomorrow*, a doctor said she had been unable to sleep all night. She told us of her inner journey, of the shortcomings she had discovered in herself, and of the steps she was beginning to see. At the end it was suggested that we could each start on a pilgrimage of repentance and reconciliation, beginning in ourselves. In the increasingly difficult situation this road will be dangerous for some of our friends. But Father Vrane, Director of the Emmaus Centre, has suggested that the newly-born team could gather there whenever needed to gain strength and perspective.

*Juliette & Charles Danguy Micheline &
Michel Sentis Marianne & Christoph Spreng*

SUPPORT GROUPS MEET

With openings increasing in Central and Eastern Europe, and local teams growing, it seems wise to divide the co-ordination of our work there into three areas. Some of those active in the 'northern tier' of countries (the countries formerly under Soviet rule, and Poland) met at Tirley Garth this month. We looked at the needs of those countries, and at how we can challenge the arrogance and self-centredness of our Western nations. Gatherings focussing on the 'southern' countries, and on the former Yugoslavia, will take place at Caux in August.

A newly-formed *support group* also met at Tirley. Its role is to take an overview of our work in the region, particularly the financial and legal questions. We decided to set 200,000 Swiss francs as the prayer target to be raised for the stay in Caux of visitors from Central and Eastern Europe.

The 'area reference groups', which are available for consultation are as follows:

Russia & CIS: B Hamlin (liaison), P Boobbyer, P Gundersen, L Hovelsen, D Mottu, H Nowell, E Peters, K Scheijgrond, P Spoerri, W Tarnawska, P Tyndale-Biscoe Baltic Republics: F H & A Wetterfors (liaison), P Gundersen, B Jonzon, K Jørgensen, J Koponen, K Rundell, J Wilhelmsen Poland: R Dilly (liaison), C Bourdin, R Grzybacz, W & M Kecik, J Lester, M Lowe, W Tarnawska, Wilhelmsen Former-Yugoslavia & Albania: C & M Spreng (liaison), C & J Danguy, M & T Grandy, A & R Mackenzie Czech Republic & Slovakia: J Faber (liaison), P Colquhoun, P Kormann, V Saxer, F Vock, U Wolfer Romania & Bulgaria: P Colquhoun (liaison), A Stallybrass Hungary: A Mackenzie (liaison), L Hovelsen, G & E Sámsondi-Kiss.

Fuller reports are available from either of us.

Bryan Hamlin Edward Peters

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED SEMINAR

The *Foundations for Freedom* programme will hold seminars in Ukraine, Slovakia and Belarus this spring and summer, and another international course in Britain in September. A prospectus and invitations are available from me at 69 Victoria Rd, Oxford OX2 7QG, UK. A seminar for Ukrainian politicians on *Making Democracy Work* will take place in London in October. The full £11,750 cost of this seminar is being covered by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, a British government-funded agency supporting the development of democracy in many parts of the world.

Edward Peters

JAPANESE PIONEERS

In January Jens Wilhelmsen and I represented overseas friends at the funerals of Yasutane Sohma and the mother of Masahide Shibusawa. These families both have long links with MRA, and have contributed significantly to the development of their country, and to establishing understanding between Japan and the rest of the world. We also attended the funeral of Professor Kawaguchi, who passed away after a long illness, aged 56. He met MRA more recently, and worked courageously to improve Japan's relations with her neighbours. It was a privilege to be present at these ceremonies. And our 10-day visit gave the opportunity to refresh links with many people. At the Asia Center at Odawara we were entertained by Masa Shibusawa and the Center's Director, Keisuke Nakayama, who are looking for ways to enhance its role, building on the MRA spirit.

Geoffrey Craig

FARMERS GIVE A STEER

Since 1946 I have attended Caux conferences. Never can I remember a conference like last month's *Farmers' Dialogue*. The 150 participants had all come for the one purpose, and the house had specially been kept open. As a result, there was an immediate 'esprit de corps'. The practical running of the house was harmoniously organised. Meetings were attended by all the participants, including the surprisingly numerous visitors from the nearby region.

This, I feel, gives us a steer as we consider the best use of the Caux facilities. This kind of meeting could be multiplied. If groups in our international MRA framework feel a specific gathering should be arranged outside general conferences, it is possible, provided the organisers plan not only for the content of meetings but for the running of the house. The structure and the know-how are here to serve.

Charles Piguet

PLANNING IN TANZANIA

Fourteen initiators of the 'Creators of Peace' conference met in Dar Es Salaam ('Haven of Peace'), Tanzania last month at the invitation of Minister of State Anna Abdalah Msekwa. We were received at the home of the Prime Minister, the Hon John Malecela; and the Mayor of Dar Es Salaam hosted a dinner for us. After the planning session, Tove Niklassen of Denmark, Christiane Garin of Switzerland and I

journeyed to Zanzibar to meet Minister of State Adam Mwakunjuki and others who manage development programmes on the island. Instant rapport was struck with the women of two villages who had begun a chicken cooperative. Four journalists accompanied us.

Who from your region should share in this conference? Invitations have been sent to nearly all centres.

Should you need more information, please contact me at 8314 Fulham Court, Richmond, Va 23227, USA; Tel +1 804 261 6501. Fax +1 804 261 0054.

Paige Chargois

DIDGERIDOO IN THE BALLROOM

Sounds of the didgeridoo reverberated around the Armagh ballroom as Aboriginal elder Reg Blow and many other Melburnians welcomed the 18th *Effective Living* study course which began last month. The 16 participants come from Britain, Taiwan, Cambodia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Fiji, Japan and Australia. One Cambodian had lost six of his family at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. 'A good thing about my culture is that we offer hospitality,' he said. 'A bad thing is that we take revenge. I have decided to break this in my own life and forgive the people who caused my suffering.' Jim and Jo Purvis have come from UK to support the course, as have Christine Karrer from Switzerland and Fetu Paulo from Samoa.

John Mills Rob & Cheryl Wood Jane Mills

CREATIVE KINDERGARTENING

If young families are to come to Caux, adequate kindergarten facilities are vital. Up till now the Caux kindergarten has been manned, on the whole, by young volunteers of goodwill but lacking the training to provide a satisfying programme. At any time there needs to be at least one experienced person with whom parents are happy to leave their 1-3 year-olds, and who can give their 3-7 year-olds an interesting time. These people could also train the younger volunteers, many of whom have benefitted greatly from their stay in Caux, even if they haven't attended any meetings! Is there anyone amongst your friends who might enjoy doing this for a few weeks this summer? You can write us at Amaliastraat 10, 2514JC The Hague, Holland, or fax +31 70 361 7209. Volunteers are also needed for the 7-11 age group, especially people who speak French or German.

Josiene Burger Digna Hintzen

BOOKLET ON BASICS

Forward to basics - values for democracy is the title of a new booklet by Kenneth Noble, which articulates the moral and spiritual values needed to enable democracy to work. It includes chapters on corruption, family, race relations and on purpose in life. It has been published as a contribution to the public debate in Britain on the Prime Minister's call to 'get back to basics', and has gone to many people in public life. Copies are available from Grosvenor Books, London.

David Locke

INVITATIONS AVAILABLE

Invitations in English are now available for the Caux conference session 'Unity in Diversity - Consultation on Europe, a continent in need', July 6-31. They can be obtained from the Geneva office or from Gerald Henderson in Liverpool, England. Copies in French and German will be available from Switzerland soon. They are designed to be used with the general 1994 Caux Conference Programme.

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

New Zealand: Nigal and Jane Cooper have moved to 13 Clough Road, Paroa, GREYMOUTH; Tel: +64 3

762 6767. Garfield and Helen Hayes have taken over the fax. Their tel/fax number is +64 3 436 0831.

Germany: Correction: Thomas and Christa Bräckle's address in Berlin is Paulsenstr. 9. not Pualsenstr. 9.

Australia: Mike and Jean Brown now have a fax: +61 08 278 2014.

South Africa: The new postal address in Johannesburg is PO Box 48572, Roosevelt Park, 2129. Tel: +27 11 673 8173. This is also Jackie Euvrard's address. The PO Box at Johannesburg Post Office is no longer in use, nor is the Jeppe Street office.

USA: The new address of John and Louise Morrison is: 1234 Palace Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105; Tel/fax: +1 612 698 7382.

Calendar of Events

FEB '94	<i>Panchgani</i>	"Creative Leadership"	Feb 4 - 8
	<i>Kingston Jamaica</i>	Weekend seminar	Feb 11 - 13
	<i>Stockholm Sweden</i>	Planning meeting for Caux evening programmes	Feb 18 - 20
MAR '94	<i>Phnom Penh Cambodia</i>	Seminar/ Round Table	Mar 18 - 20
	<i>Melbourne</i>	"Effective Living" training course - Phase 2	Mar 13 - Apr 23
	<i>Lviv Ukraine</i>	"International conference for Moral Re-Armament"	Mar 17 - 20
	<i>Bogota, Cali Colombia</i>	Three conference days in Bogota ; one week of activities in Cali	March
APR '94	<i>Caux</i>	"Caux Work Week"	Apr 2 - 9
	<i>Tirley Garth England</i>	"Life of Belief" course	Apr 4 - 9
	<i>Shillong India</i>	"Learning to live Together - Frontiers of Hope"	Apr 7 - 24
	<i>Panchgani</i>	"Creative Leadership"	Apr 26 - 28
	<i>Yutz/Thionville France</i>	Working session on Caux summer programme	Apr 28 - May 1
MAY '94	<i>Yaounde Cameroon</i>	Pan-African Conference for MRA	May 22 - 28
	<i>Panchgani</i>	Family Seminar	May 25 - 29
	<i>Gatobina Russia</i>	"First Meeting With MRA"	May 27 - 31
	<i>Utrecht Netherlands</i>	"Life in the Cities" Forum	May 28
JUN '94	<i>Geneva Switzerland</i>	Meeting of delegates to annual ILO conference	Jun 7 - 24
	<i>Kandy Sri Lanka</i>	Asia-Pacific MRA Regional Consultation	Jun 22 - 30
JUL '94	<i>Caux</i>	"Creators of Trust and Peace" - summer conference	Jul 8 - Aug 28
	<i>Caux</i>	Caux Round Table	Jul 24 - 28
	<i>Kuala Lumpur Malaysia</i>	Asia Pacific Camp	Jul 21 - 30
AUG '94	<i>Caux</i>	"Creators of Trust and Peace" - summer conference	Aug 1 - 28
SEP '94	<i>Tirley Garth England</i>	"Foundations for Freedom" international course	Sep 1 - 20

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Tuesday March 15, 1994.

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