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'AREA OF GREATNESS' IN INDIA

A thousand people packed the largest hall in Shillong for the opening of the conference 'Learning to Live Together - Frontiers of Hope'. Shillong is the capital of Meghalaya in India's North East, which borders on Bangladesh, Burma, China and Nepal.

The conference had been called at a time of tension between ethnic groups, in which several hundred people have died. Opening the conference, the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Madhukar Dighe, drew attention to these tensions. 'Let us get rid of our belief that by some magic of politics our ethnic problems will be solved without a price being paid by every one of us,' he said. Attacking the 'unscrupulous abuse of power by educated people, politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen,' he said that 'God must be expecting ordinary people to give much more to create the society they deserve.'

The Legislative Assembly had adjourned an hour early; the Chief Minister was there with several of his Cabinet, as was the leader of the Opposition. 'Anger and vengeance have never solved any problems and need to give way to love,' said the Chief Minister. 'Then we will make the world a better place.'

Keynote speaker Rajmohan Gandhi challenged his audience to make the North East 'an area of greatness'. Greatness, he said, was not measured by guns or money or flags, but by one's concern for one's neighbour. He was followed by speakers from South Africa and the United States. The event was widely and prominently reported in the media.

Since then the meetings have grappled with some of the tough problems which the North East confronts in common with other parts of the world. In one session, a stream of people who have broken with drug addiction told their stories. Another said that until that day he had been determined to revenge his father's assassination. But he had realised that revenge would only perpetuate the problem, and he had decided to forgive.

The Editor of a large Bombay newspaper, speaking at the Shillong Press Club, urged journalists to attend the conference. 'I was moved to tears by the meeting this morning,' he told them. 'These are the kind of stories our papers should carry.'

John Bond

EASTER IN PETROPOLIS

Each day of the Easter 'encontro', attended by 15 young people from different cities in Brazil, began with a meeting for early prayer and reflection.

The main themes we discussed were, 'The Youngster in the family: relationships' and, 'Drugs, a vice or an illness? How to help?'

News of different youth meetings at the same time in the United States, Costa Rica, Argentina and Colombia gave us the feeling of not being alone, of an international family working for a new world.

Ours was more than just another meeting. A new youth team is emerging, and we will meet periodically with all the team to share thoughts and projects to be put into practice.

Danielly Anderson Adhemar Mercio

'NOBLE SERVANT' IN SOUTH AFRICA

'The whole world should know of the work of Conrad Hunte,' wrote Mike Coward, sports correspondent of *The Australian*, this week. 'Hunte, the consummate West Indian batsman, is teaching his love of God, his love of humanity and his love of cricket to the young men of the iniquitous townships of South Africa.' The article traces Conrad's work back to an encounter with MRA in Melbourne nearly 34 years ago. 'Blessed with great wisdom, boundless energy and a rare charisma, Hunte is certain that his beloved game of cricket can help to bring about significant social change in the country,' Coward writes. 'Can the noble game ever have had a nobler servant?'

JAPANESE INTEREST IN TAIWAN CAMPAIGN

The night before Liu Ren-Jou from Taiwan and I arrived in Tokyo from Shanghai, reports of the Clean Election Campaign To Save Taiwan, including pre-recorded interviews with Ren-Jou, were featured nationally on Japanese TV.

In the next days (3-5 March) we were asked by our Japanese hosts to share our Taiwan and Queensland experience in interviews with people who were grappling with the problem of electoral and political corruption in Japan. They included the chairman of the Political Reform Committee and an expert on elections and electoral law.

A key feature of the Taiwan Clean Election Campaign, as with what proved to be its 'laboratory experiment' in Queensland four years earlier, is its call to the individual to make a signed commitment against corruption. (Ref. FAC Feb 1990 & April/May 1993.)

Brian Lightowler

'DOBRO' DEMONSTRATED IN LVIV

Although in disrepair, the ancient centre of Lviv in western Ukraine still beautifully reflects the age-old history of this large city, once a major trading centre in eastern Europe. Now the streets are lined with people looking for something to buy from poorly stocked shops before their money again loses part of its value.

To be an invalid in these circumstances is especially hard. But the disabled people, who a few years ago organised a foundation 'Rada' (joy or happiness) for the rehabilitation of invalids, are not despairing. Their positive outlook attracts people from beyond Lviv and this growing network of hearts and minds is generating something profoundly good and worthwhile. The ideas of MRA which came to them two years ago made them more aware of the value of this, and also gave direction to their growing sense of responsibility for their city and new nation.

The second MRA conference they initiated, with the theme 'Goodness will change the world', brought together around 100 people last month, many of them representing the ethnic mix of Lviv - Poles, Armenians, Jews, Russians, White Russians. Others came from Poland, Germany, Sweden and Holland.

The Ukrainian word 'dobro' (goodness) goes much deeper than mere kindness and was illuminated by personal experiences - of the wheel-chaired veteran of the Afghanistan war who blamed nobody but himself for the wrong that had taken place; of a survivor of the 1932 genocidal famine who without bitterness told how he had lost 14 of his closest family at that time; of a Somalian living in Kiev who spoke of his new-found conviction that God wanted him to play a part in the peace process in his war-torn land. Important elements of contemporary Ukrainian problems were covered in groups. Solutions are not straightforward, but the smiles of hopes outnumbered the cries of pain and indignation. At the final session, after a young doctor from Mukatchewo had read the prayer of St Francis of Assisi which had been given to her at Caux, people spontaneously burst into singing the Ukrainian national anthem.

For many the conference was a moment of light in the otherwise greyness of daily life.

*Jaroslaw Grybalsky Wanda Tarnawska
Kees Scheijgrond*

DISCOVERING RUSSIAN PRESS ON MRA

Pavel Litvinov, a well-known Russian dissident who lives in New York, and I visited Moscow in the second half of March. We discovered that in recent months there had been three major articles in Moscow newspapers describing MRA, and calling for it in the life of the country. Two of these articles, and an associated radio broadcast, were by a semi-retired Russian journalist who had met Brian Lightowler in London about 1965.

We met some of the Deputies at the Duma, the new parliament, and also spoke on MRA to students at Moscow's University of the Humanities.

Several Russians are planning to be at Caux this summer, including a leading Member of the Duma, and a judge of Russia's constitutional Court, as well as teachers and students. Leif Hovelsen and Philip Boobbyer were in Moscow in April finalising the arrangements.

Bryan Hamlin

CHALLENGE IN CAMBODIA

Without a doubt, the Cambodian seminar reported in the last issue gave much broader support for MRA's work there. 'We may be victims of our own success - clearly there are now great expectations of MRA,' said one of our Cambodian hosts. In trying to shape next steps, we need most of all wisdom on how to reinforce the teamwork and convictions of friends of MRA in Phnom Penh, many of whom are busy in critical jobs. The following possible next steps emerge, but finding the available people and finance to undergird them is the challenge:

- Cambodians gaining from interaction with MRA overseas: a representative delegation in Caux this summer, and 2 - 4 student leaders at the Asian Pacific Youth Camp (Malaysia July 22 - August 1)
- Spyros Stephou was asked by Finance Minister Sam Rainsy to return for up to three months to train Customs Officers, and has bravely accepted in principle. His presence could also help work with students, women's groups etc., but others would be needed to support him.
- Involvement from some former *Song of Asia* cast members has been a developing idea, moved forward by Ed Espiritu's musical contribution at the seminar, with Julie Tan & Esther Lim. Rather than a production, those from SOA may simply need to continue their calling to the region, in teamwork with young people, using music/drama.
- David and Alan Channer, after the last two months in Cambodia, have material for three possible videos: two in Khmer to introduce basic concepts of MRA through Buddhist teachings, and one in English for use worldwide. Their budget runs at £65,000 Stg. Their work has been, and is, an integral part of all that is happening through MRA.
- Two young Cambodians are presently in Australia receiving training with the MRA Study Course. Their return provides an opportunity, but also the challenge of creating an adequate framework of support.

Renée Pan, in one of the seminar sessions, made a direct plea to 'overseas friends' to provide a continuing presence, to enable what has begun to continue. One can draw a parallel with Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and what it took; or with post-war Japan. Who? how? are obvious questions. Any insights or, better still, offers, will be gratefully received.

Mike Brown

A VISION FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS - CAUX '96
The 50th anniversary of Caux in 1996 was discussed at the Spring meeting of the Swiss MRA Foundation. We want to catch you up on the ideas so far, and ask for your dreams, convictions and prayerful support.

We feel that 1996 could be far more than the anniversary of a building or a movement. It could mark a re-launching of MRA world-wide, with a renewed sense of mission and a clear expression of a mighty, God-given purpose for the 21st century. It will involve hard work, but first and foremost it must be a gift from God, a grace, and then a united aim. The aim of Caux 1996 is to express gratitude to God and man for the extraordinary things that have happened in the first 50 years of Caux, and to express a clear vision for the future both of the work and of the world.

There is a core coordinating team of six people: three from the Swiss Foundation - Anne-Katherine Gilomen-Fankhauser, Pierre Spoerri and Andrew Stallybrass, and three from the Cyprus Consultation - Steve Dickinson (who was at the Foundation meeting), Yukihsa Fujita and Friedrich Schock.

1 Concept, suggested programme, main theme, logo:
A common theme suggested for the whole summer is 'Healing the past - preparing the future' (we're searching for a better word than 'preparing'. Any ideas?). One thought is for a 'summit week' on the overall theme and then different sessions based on each of the points from the Cyprus declaration ('Healing the wounds of history', 'Strengthening the moral and spiritual dimensions of democracy', 'Helping individuals and families...', 'Fostering ethical commitment in corporations and the professions', 'Rebuilding a sense of community and hope in cities' and 'Forging networks among people from different cultures and faiths'). The vision of the summit week is of leaders, and of course others, with younger men and women who are active in political, economic and cultural life. One cannot divide assessing the miracles of the past and the formulation of a vision for the future, but the latter demands a specific effort, notably to get people to Caux who can express it.

Work has started on a logo, for the 50th anniversary, and for a fresh presentation of Caux. We hope this will be ready by July for use on all our letters, faxes and publications concerning Caux '96. This would help prepare people's thinking well ahead of time.

2 A sponsoring committee: If some form of invitation could be available at the beginning of 1995, it could include a representative committee of sponsors. We envisage including some leading Swiss (to be asked in the coming weeks). There are several suggested from other countries - and we are open to all ideas.

3 A working committee: The nucleus of this committee will be the six people already named plus one or more representative from each country where there is an active MRA team. The international Coordination Group will also be included in all decisions. We suggest that this group should meet

just before the start of the Caux summer. It is clear to us that the test of our work will be how much is taken on by new people and by the younger generation.

4 Media: Thought has already been given to the media, to new books and a new pictorial (in conjunction with our own publications in different languages). The editors of *For A Change*, *Changer* and *Caux Information* have been asked for their help and ideas. A new video on Caux, a multi-media production in the garden of Caux, and a new musical have all been suggested, without anyone yet offering to take responsibility for them. Special sporting events and an ecumenical thanksgiving service in Lausanne Cathedral are other suggestions.

A letter with a little more information has gone to your *World Bulletin* distributor.

*Anne-Katherine Gilomen-Fankhauser
Pierre Spoerri Andrew Stallybrass*

A LIVING STORY OF CAUX FOR 1996

One element in the 50th anniversary will be a new book about Caux, that I have taken on to write; not a definitive 'history', but rather a lively 'story', more in the style of my weekly letters from Caux during the summer conferences.

Among the possible elements: the construction of the Caux Palace Hotel, something of the history of the village and tourism in Switzerland, the original plans, old photos, the archives; the history up to 1946, the refugees and escaped prisoners of war, stories of some of the 'the founders', Trüdi Trüssel, Philippe Mottu, René Thoney, Lucie Perrenoud; a section on the highlights of 50 years of MRA; humorous incidents, the amazing way Caux has been financed, thanks to the sacrifice and gratitude of thousands. Then a section on people, a series of shortish chapters on individuals, families, who have found something in Caux, and taken it back into their homes and the life of their nations.

I want to ask for your help, without any pressure, only if it 'rings a bell with you' as we say. I'm on the lookout for people who'll say what Caux means for them and has meant, in their own way, their own words. Many of us love Caux. Why? What do you say to someone who has never been there? What have been the good times - and the bad - for you? Do any of you have stories, anecdotes, experiences, of any length, on paper, I'd be more than grateful. A line, a paragraph, a page....

Andrew Stallybrass

CYPRUS CONSULTATION FOLLOW UP

The Cyprus Consultation report seems to have created great interest. The comments we have received are being evaluated for consideration at two follow-up meetings which the Coordination Group is convening during the coming Caux conference.

Each Consultation's follow up and the implementation of recommendations is most important if the consultative process is to work effectively. So it is hoped that any of the Cyprus participants who can be at Caux, or alternates whom they may recommend, will take part in these meetings proposed for Tuesday, August 2 and Sunday, August 14.

It would help if those concerned could advise me of their availability or of names of those who can be present in their place.

Chris Mayor for the Coordination Group

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES
Hong Kong: For MRA mail the following address may be used: c/- 29D Ning On Court, Taikooshing, Quarry Bay.

United Kingdom: David and Janny Peters are now living at 9 Parklands, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9TA; Tel: +44 865 86 4542.

Switzerland: Pierre and Fulvia Spoerri's address from April 27 will be Haselweg 7, CH-8032 Zürich; Tel: +41 1 251 1024. Fax: +41 1 251 2156.

Coordination Group: Correspondence and other documents may be sent C/o Chris Mayor, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Vic 3142, Australia. Fax: +61 3 822 6871.

Calendar of Events

MAY '94	<u>Geneva</u> Switzerland	"The Ethical Foundations of Democracy": seminar for Romanian politicians	May 14 - 22
	<u>Yaounde</u> Cameroon	Pan-African Conference for MRA	May 22 - 28
	<u>Panchgani</u>	Family Seminar	May 25 - 29
	<u>Gatchina</u> Russia	"First Meeting With MRA"	May 27 - 31
	<u>Utrecht</u> Netherlands	"Life in the Cities" Forum	May 28
	<u>Copenhagen</u> Denmark	Second Baltic Sea regional seminar	To be advised
JUN '94	<u>Geneva</u> Switzerland	Meeting of delegates to annual ILO conference	Jun 7 - 24
	<u>Melbourne</u> Australia	National consultation	Jun 10 - 14
	<u>Kandy</u> Sri Lanka	Asia-Pacific MRA Regional Consultation	Jun 22 - 30
JUL '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Creators of Trust and Peace" - summer conference	Jul 8 - Aug 28
	<u>Caux</u>	"Past, present and future, a shared responsibility - An inter-generational dialogue"	Jul 8 - 18
	<u>Caux</u>	"Caux Forums on the Economy and the Individual - Meeting the Challenge of Unemployment"	Jul 20 - 24
	<u>Kuala Lumpur</u> Malaysia	Asia Pacific Camp	Jul 21 - 30
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Round Table	Jul 24 - 28
	<u>Caux</u>	"Unity in Diversity - Consultation on Europe, a continent in need"	Jul 26 - 31
AUG '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Creators of Peace: from vision to action - A women's initiative"	Aug 4 - 12
	<u>Caux</u>	"Regions in crisis, regions in recovery - Learning from one another"	Aug 15 - 25
	<u>Caux</u>	"Evaluation and perspectives"	Aug 26 - 28
SEP '94	<u>Tirley Garth</u> England	"Foundations for Freedom" international course	Sep 1 - 20
OCT '94	<u>London</u>	"Making Democracy Work" - Seminar for Ukrainian political leaders	To be advised
	<u>Odawara</u> Japan	"International MRA Action" - in Odawara, Tokyo, Kobe	Oct 8 - 18
	<u>Nairobi</u> Kenya	Global Consultation	Oct 27 - Nov 7

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday May 15, 1994.

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