



MRA

INFORMATION SERVICE

BEATLES' RIVAL

'The Beatles aren't the only ones who possess gigantic fan clubs it seems. A high proportion of Uxbridge and New Denham residents have chosen a London theatre as their idol—“The Westminster”.'

—Uxbridge Post, Middlesex.

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SOMETHING GROWING UNDER THE 'BANYAN TREE'

UNDER the 'Banyan tree' of India's elder leadership, where little was reputed to grow, a young leadership is now springing up.

In the last four months Rajmohan Gandhi and his colleagues have taken an initiative that has left many older leaders breathless with its pace. These young men have addressed 162 colleges and schools from Cape Comorin to Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay. Over 400,000 workers and villagers have gathered in public squares, business, civic and political leaders in auditoriums, to hear them speak, and all have flooded theatres to see Moral Re-Armament shows.

At a great rally on the Sands of Chowpatty on 16 February Indians gave a reply to the world's oft-repeated question, 'After Nehru what?' Called by Rajmohan Gandhi and the youth of Bombay, 75,000 men and women gathered on these sands on the shores of the Arabian Sea. It was here that Mahatma Gandhi proclaimed his determination to fight for the nation's freedom.

Bands and banners

Towards a massive platform over which the flags of 23 nations waved, three different processions converged from Bombay's schools and colleges. They carried their banners and emblems and shouted slogans. Bands led them through the streets of the city.

Rajmohan Gandhi, speaking at this historic site, said, 'Let us today salute Nehru. However, it is not only correct but essential to ask who will lead after Nehru. We are determined to raise a force of able, intelligent young men and women who will live straight and who can be relied upon; who will not be corrupted by money or power and who can lead this nation. This can be done sooner than people think.'

On the platform were two hundred youth of Bombay, young men and women who have decided in the last few weeks to fight with Rajmohan Gandhi for a new India. Behind them emblazoned against the night sky were the keynote words: 'New India, New World'.

Songs specially composed for the rally in Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati and English were vigorously applauded by the crowd.

'Freedom was a great slogan,' Gandhi said. 'Now it is nearly an empty phrase. A new India—this shall not be an empty phrase.'

Gandhi said that India at Independence had many friends and few enemies. 'Today we have a ring of nations that are either determined enemies, or at best unreliable, surrounding us,' he said. 'We must meet these nations with strength. We must show them that India is a revolutionary nation which is destined to lead the world and that it is in their interest to fight on India's side.'

'Invitation to aggression'

'We must strengthen and increase the size of our armed forces. And let us today thank our soldiers, sailors and airmen for their courage in defending our land. But corruption, jealousy and division inside India is an open invitation to aggression.'

Gandhi called for revolutionaries to expose and fight tyranny and injustice of every kind, but revolutionaries with clean hands. 'This army of revolutionaries is now speedily being gathered,' he said. One after another, 43 students from the schools and colleges of Bombay marched to the microphone to announce their determination to assume responsibility for changing India.

'Our greatest enemy is not aggression from without but disintegration from within,' said one of the students. 'We, the youth of India, have decided to end this disintegration.'

Two days before the meeting on the Chowpatty Sands, Bombay students from 25 colleges and schools opened a public attack on corruption and hypocrisy. Through the première performance of their play, *Niye Lahar (New Wave)*, the cast of eighty challenged Bombay citizens to join with them in this struggle.

With humour and realism these young Indians shot shafts, stirring the patriotism of the packed audience.

Continued over

The play ranges from the palatial dwellings of the wealthy to the grimy pavements and market places of the poor. It deals with extreme selfishness and extreme hate, and shows the way of building a new society without violence.

'It is up to the youth now,' wrote Rajmohan Gandhi in India's largest circulation paper, *The Sunday Standard* of 2 February, in an article entitled "From Stagnation to Greatness".

Why 'L'Unità' kept tickets for its readers

L'UNITÀ, the national Communist daily of Italy, carried the following article in its Turin edition of 17 February on Peter Howard's play, *Through the Garden Wall*, now touring the State-owned theatres of Central and Northern Italy.

'In his own country,' wrote *L'Unità*, 'Peter Howard is the best known exponent of the so-called theatre "for creating peace", up to his neck in the reality of our time and committed in an intense battle to bring about an easing of international tension.

'Pina Renzi, Luigi Pavese and Nino Pavese are the interpreters of *Through the Garden Wall*. The success which the company has met with this play deserves to be told.

Workers attend

'It was presented in Rome immediately after the New Year. A period notoriously inauspicious because, as is well known, after Twelfth Night is a time of very poor box office returns both for the cinema and the theatre. But Peter Howard's play began to grow from day to day. At first the audience was composed of the usual habitués of the theatre, the bourgeois frequenters at every first night. In fact, gradually as the days went by the Roman public became more selective, and more and more workers appeared in the theatre.

'So for the first time in Italy the company decided to give special attention to the workers. In Rome one whole evening was given over to democratic organisations, and the same principle was repeated in Tuscany, in Umbria and in Emilia. Everywhere the workers responded to the theatre's appeal. A popular play and a popular success.

Committed author

'It was this that Peter Howard wanted and for this that he thanked the company which was carrying his play throughout Italy. Howard is, in fact, at the head of English authors committed to the creation of such plays. For years the creation of peace has been his chief concern.

'Last month Peter Howard was in India, where with Gandhi's grandson he took part in the march "for peace and for Indians' civil rights". This march, in which thousands of Indian citizens took part, traversed

'Mao Tse-tung urges Chinese youth in their thousands to become "remoulders of the world," and to spread Chinese Communism to all nations.

'India can be imbued with a new dynamism if the young shake off the shackles of small ideas, small pleasures, small hates and small aims and decide to become fearless fighters for a new world. As they do this, and only if they do this, India will win in the contest with China to which history calls us.'

five thousand miles, from Kerala to New Delhi.

'Now in the same Westminster Theatre, where last year *Through the Garden Wall* ran for 252 performances, Peter Howard has presented his new play, *The Diplomats*.

'At the offices of *L'Unità* a limited number of tickets can be obtained for the two performances. The newspaper is keeping them for its readers and subscribers.'

Catholic daily's comment

In Reggio Emilia *L'Avvenire d'Italia*, one of the major Catholic dailies of Italy, wrote:

'Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. But we hope to be understood if on the day when the time of penance begins we speak about a play. In fact, we must say and underline that as a true and very rare exception the work presented last night had the characteristics of a good story, showing a plot of feeling and principles which are fully acceptable. "Rara avis" in the theatrical production of today.

'That is why we feel we can without remorse inform our readers about this play through this Catholic newspaper. It is a pleasant play, played with a very light touch which, however, contains deep meaning, permeated with the knowledge of human nature, of its weaknesses as well as its resources.'

'Brilliant dialogue'

Genoa's leading newspaper, *Il Secolo XIX*, devoted an article on its editorial page to Peter Howard and his play. Under the headline 'Problems of Our Age in an Outstanding Play', the article said: 'While Howard is deeply and thoroughly committed to his ideas, as a playwright his work has flair and a lightness of touch. In the play his thought comes across through his extreme frankness, lively irony and the brilliant repartee of a dialogue which maintains great interest.'

Throughout the central regions of Italy the company has begun to see the results of their campaign to bring audiences back into the theatre through Howard's play. In the Marches' town of Fermo, long by-passed by companies on tour from Rome, *Through the Garden Wall* was so successful that the theatre has booked in further companies for April and plans a full theatre season for the coming year.

BURY THESE LIES

THE following article appeared in *The Times* on 13 February:

'A Statement on behalf of the Council of Management of Moral Re-Armament was issued yesterday by the Rev. J. P. Thornton-Duesbery, Master of St. Peter's College, Oxford. It was in reply to the attack made by Dr. James Robertson-Justice on Tuesday.

'The statement said:

'The outburst of the newly installed Rector of Edinburgh University in publicly attacking the late Dr. Frank Buchman and Moral Re-Armament is an example of modern McCarthyism and witch hunting unworthy of a representative of a great intellectual institution.

'I was a friend for 40 years of Dr. Buchman, and for 25 years I have been a member of the Council of Management of Moral Re-Armament, on whose behalf I speak.

'I thank God we have not yet been herded into some evil fascist pattern where Christians need permission from Dr. James Robertson-Justice before tackling godlessness and dirt in Edinburgh or elsewhere. His ignorance of public life must excuse tactlessness, tastelessness and lack of common courtesy in attacking a great Christian movement in the presence of the Consort of our Queen, who at her Coronation pledged herself to God and country to defend faith.

'Doubtless unwittingly, Dr. Robertson-Justice risks involving the Royal Family in a matter of conscience which arouses the deepest feelings in millions of hearts. It is an affront to the conscience of the nation and

represents the perversion of trust and the bigotry of ignorance rather than malice.'

A statement signed by senior retired officers of the three services was carried by a number of national papers.

The *Daily Telegraph* printed it as a letter. It read:

'Sir—It is time that this lie about Moral Re-Armament being pro-Nazi was stopped once and for all. It has been dug up again by Dr. James Robertson-Justice.

'We fought against the Nazis. Many of our friends died fighting the Nazis. Men in Moral Re-Armament gained every decoration for valour, including the Victoria Cross and the George Cross.

'Moral Re-Armament was banned by the Nazis in Germany, and its adherents were persecuted or killed in every country under Nazi rule.

'At the end of the war, among the records of the Gestapo, British Intelligence found their directive on Moral Re-Armament. The document denounced Frank Buchman and Moral Re-Armament for "uncompromisingly taking up a frontal position against National Socialism" in that "they encourage their members to oppose the cross of the Swastika with the Cross of Christ."

'Moral Re-Armament stands for the patriotism and integrity on which the security of our country depends.'

Signatories of the letter were: Captain G. R. Waymouth, Major General G. O. de R. Channer, Colonel the Hon. Malise Hore-Ruthven, Air Vice-Marshal P. E. Maitland and Air Vice-Marshal T. C. Traill.

'Not sugar daddies but sacrifice'

FOUR union officials arranged a seminar in Los Angeles this month to define organized labour's role in the moral re-armament of mankind. It was addressed by Mr. Peter Howard, the author and playwright.

Mr. Howard, who is in charge of Moral Re-Armament, said: 'Our work is revolution. We stand strongly for trade unionism but we also fight that the unions should be united within their own ranks. We passionately believe in civil rights and the need for laws to guarantee them. But we do not believe laws go far enough. We are out to end the hatred, arrogance, and violence in the human heart that often make legislation fruitless.

'We rejoice at the prosperity of American unionism but ask them not to forget the millions in this country and abroad who go to bed every night hungry. It is a passion for people and their human needs that makes MRA tick. We are against "yellow" unions and scabbing.'

Howard, who was a member of the National Union of Journalists, continued, 'Moral Re-Armament is not out to take over the labour movement. We want the labour movement to take on Moral Re-Armament because labour must safeguard the freedom of the world.

'Moral Re-Armament is financed from the conviction and sacrifice of tens of thousands of people around the world. Those who give their full time to its work receive no salary.'

Howard said he had turned over to MRA royalties from his plays and books before they were written, a sum now totalling more than £400,000. 'There are no "sugar daddies" financing us. Moral Re-Armament cannot be bought or bullied by anyone.'

'We must all fight to see that in the ranks of Labour there is such a quality of family life, of union life, of personal life that the world says, "If we could live like that crowd live—free from prejudice, free from injustice, free from colour divisions, free from hate—the whole world would come to maturity." We must step forward into a new age where we live together as brothers. That is our vision for Labour. That is our revolution.'

Officials and members from unions throughout Southern California took part in the seminar. They represented the space industry, the waterfront, the film and stage unions, the steelworkers, bookbinders, retail clerks and sleeping car porters.

Winners of teenagers' competition

In our Teenagers' Competition for the best 250 words on 'What do I aim to achieve with my life?' first prize goes to William Evans, 15, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. He wrote:

My first aim is to replace the image of apathy and sex-mania with which we youth are branded with one of purpose and fire.

It means drawing a battle line through the life of everyone I meet, and challenging them as to whether they are on the right side. In this way I aim to be part of a permanent force which will begin to change the thinking and living of our generation.

I would like to be part of a new generation springing up, armed with a passion for what is right; a generation which will not stand for the sloppy social and moral conditions of our world, but will fight to change them.

They will bring an idea which will unite men and management, and ensure that everyone has a decent house to live in and enough food to eat. They will bring a faith and a fire which will include every colour, class and creed. In short, they will bring a new world.

From Kenya and U.S.A.

Second prize was won jointly by two entries. Jill Hopcraft, 18, wrote from Naivasha, Kenya:

I aim to use every gift God has given me to the fullest throughout life, fulfilling my duties as a citizen of Kenya—where, I believe, youth with the aim of building a united country, in which only character and ability count, can take a leading part in the construction of this new nation.

By doing this we could show the world what a united country, without hate, can achieve.

Philip Cowan, 15, of Sheffield gave his aim:

I want to bring better relationships throughout my chosen battlefield—industry—as a mechanical designer.

The wastage in our present system of time, labour, and especially

material, is what I propose to concentrate on. Though no economist I fail to see why our wastages and surpluses should not go to underdeveloped countries.

Among U.S. entries Charles S. Cook, 17, of Michigan, stated:

Since the majority of the populace considers money as their chief aim in life, I would like to help them obtain their goal by becoming a stockbroker.

Honourable mention to excellent entries from Marjorie A. Maas, of Birmingham, Michigan, U.S.A.; Susan Stebbing, Isle of Wight, and Beatrice Schwaller, language student of Acton, London, who wrote in German.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Luxembourg—The Prime Minister, Minister of Education and City of Luxembourg are sponsoring Moral Re-Armament for their country. The Presidents of the Christian, Socialist and Liberal Parties jointly arranged for Scandinavian and German task forces to present MRA plays as part of this programme. The Ministers of Defence and Education arranged special performances for the army and schools. The Minister of Art and Science is giving financial backing. A public performance will be given in the Trade Union headquarters.

SELF-EVIDENT?

'A nation loses self-government when its people lose self-control.'—Dr. Paul Campbell, Canada.

Who's afraid?

by Mrs. M. B. Lewis, a London housewife

WHO has taken away love of our own country and put in its place easy-going, cynical apathy? Who has made us into a people whose conscience is moribund?

A doctor never gives up fighting to save a patient's life. Britain may be decadent, but there is a force of men and women alive today who are determined to save the nation from becoming a slave state—who live by the conviction that God intends all men to be free and to live together under His direction.

A moral crisis is attacking this country. The ordinary man must rise and fight with the same spirit that swept through him at the time of the Battle of Britain, and simply not allow the wrong thinking connected with the 'new morality' to strangle our souls. How dare men like Mr. Driberg, who profess to be Christian and who hold positions of responsibility, suggest that the magistrate was wrong in not allowing the book *Fanny Hill* to continue to be published.

We all long to live in a world free from hunger and fear. But to think that by supporting good causes alone, by keeping our Churches and mis-

sionary societies going, by having better education and social services, without insistence on moral integrity with all these things, is to live in Cloud Cuckoo Land and to play right into the hands of the enemies who wish to destroy us.

'Who's afraid?' is a good Dorset motto. Who's afraid of writing to the papers and saying what we really feel about immoral famous people who make outrageously untrue public statements and are then applauded as heroes? Who's afraid of protesting to the BBC about dirt on television and demanding better programmes? Of talking to their M.P.'s, their Mayors and Councillors? Of living straight at home and at work? It is not too late. There is great inherent courage in every Briton.

For the sake of our children and their future, let us cast off our indolence and love of comfort and wake up and fight. We shall have to give up our selfishness but we shall gain the gratitude of the world.

Further contributions by readers on 'What love of country means' or other subjects will be welcomed by the editors of this Information Service.