

## FIVE VIEWS IN TOKYO

Two hundred and fifty people met in Tokyo last month to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the launching of Moral Re-Armament. Participants included a delegation from South Korea and others from Taiwan, Western Samoa and Britain.

Bunpei Hara, former President of the House of Councillors, opened proceedings, and Yukika Sohma reviewed MRA's reconciling work and its impact on Japan. Having worked tirelessly in this field for much of the 60 years, she gave no sense of retiring, but she did ask everyone present to take up the baton.

Jeong Yeon-Yuk of Korea who, with his wife, has spent two years training with MRA in Australia, said that he is working for his country's peaceful reunification, for the development of regional teamwork in East Asia, and to create a global MRA youth network. A young Japanese high school teacher, Yoko Hosaka, spoke of her shock at discovering the feeling against Japan among young people in other Asian countries; but a number of individuals had given her confidence to build bridges.

A panel of five people spoke on the theme "What should we do for a better tomorrow?" Tsutomu Hata, MP and former Prime Minister, spoke of Caux, which he described as a place where one could talk in depth and where apologies for wrongs were possible. Moichiro Kanamori, Chairman of the Kinki Nippon Railway Company, called for a strengthening in business ethics. Ryuichi Saya, Chairman of the All Toshiba Labour Union Federation, told of the effect of employees who had attended Caux conferences. Not only had they brought improvements at work and in their family situations, he said; they are also helping needy places such as Cambodia. Shizue Takayanagi, Director of the New Families Education Association, said that when she stopped trying to impose her own demands on her son he began to blossom. And Chie Takahashi, Co-ordinator at the Japan International Co-operation Centre, said she had lost her self-pity after seeing the conditions in India, and she is now using her gift for languages to forge links with developing countries.

A lively question and answer session followed.

*Hugh Wilkinson*

## ANOTHER LIGHT FOR RUSSIA

Annejet Campbell's two books, *Listen to the Children* and *Listen for a Change*, have been published in Russian in one beautifully produced volume. The book was launched by the publisher, St Andrew's College, at a reception for 95 people on November 7, the 81st anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution – now the National Day of Accord and Reconciliation. It was held at the Marina Tsvetaeva Museum in central Moscow.

The Rector of the college, Dr Alexei Bodrov,

introduced Mrs Campbell, who was interpreted by Dr Bella Gribkova of Nizhni Novgorod University, translator of the books. Mrs Campbell described how 100 years ago her grandfather, Anton Philips, had come to Russia to sell his new light bulb. In St Petersburg the Court Chamberlain ordered 50,000 bulbs for the Winter Palace. Mrs Campbell also brought chuckles from the audience, particularly two Duma deputies, when she said that Karl Marx was a nephew by marriage of her great-grandfather, who often gave him money, and had long discussions with him.

The following day, 40 people heard Annejet speak at the estate of the playwright Chekhov outside Moscow. The audience was fascinated by her stories of change in families, as was the audience which packed the salon at the Museum of Man a few days later. On this occasion they heard both from Annejet and from journalist Eduard Rosental, who told in lively detail of MRA's role in Franco-German reconciliation. After the session, the museum's Executive Director offered the museum as a meeting place for those interested in taking the ideas of MRA further. Both these occasions were arranged by the pianist Victor Ryabchikov.

Then on to the city of Chekhov for a meeting, mainly for teachers, initiated by the Mayor, who had heard Annejet speak at the Chekhov estate. He particularly asked for a repeat performance of the song, 'When I point my finger at my neighbour...'

*Bryan Hamlin, Philip Tyndale-Biscoe, Igor Chegi*

## LITHUANIA HEARS ABOUT RECONCILIATION

Returning from Lithuania after our fifth visit we feel full of hope for the country. Our first visit came through meeting a Lithuanian lady at a service in our church. The country then was in dire economic straits, formerly magnificent buildings were crumbling, and departing Russian tanks had left gaping holes in the roads.

Five years on, the country is transformed economically. The city of Vilnius is being restored to its former glory. And a growing number of Lithuanians are spreading the ideas of MRA.

One of them had gone to see the Deputy Mayor of a large city to ask about holding an MRA conference there. The meeting was frequently interrupted by council business, and no conference was fixed.

However, he later discovered that after the meeting the Deputy Mayor had discussed MRA with her colleagues, and decided that they were not doing enough for the homeless. As a result, they instituted soup kitchens and accommodation for the disadvantaged.

The editor of *Sandora*, an ecumenical magazine widely distributed through the Catholic Church, was in Caux this year, and its next edition will include pictures and interviews with some of those attending the 'Agenda for Reconciliation' session.

*John & Diana Bennett*



FROM BANJA LUKA, BOSNIA, WITH  
HOPE

The first international inter-religious seminar in Banja Luka since the Bosnian war was held last month. With the theme, 'Building the future, healing the past', it was hosted by Sisters of the House Novi Nazaret, whose house was shelled in 1995 and has just reopened.

The event was set up jointly by teams from the Catholic Cursillo movement in Croatia and the MRA Centre in Caux, Switzerland. The invitation, under the patronage of Catholic Bishop Franjo Komarica, stated: 'We need to draw inspiration from our respective faiths – Muslim, Orthodox and Catholic – to build the future and heal the past in our families and neighbourhoods, and between communities and nations.'

Much prayer and selfless service by friends in Zagreb, Banja Luka and Sarajevo had gone into preparing the event. Sixty-two people took part – Orthodox, Muslim and Catholic. Many have been helping their bombed and strife-torn city through voluntary work in social organisations, and shared the attitude of Bishop Komarica throughout the painful years: 'I am called to help any human being in need, regardless of creed.'

The Muslim community, now a minority in that part of Bosnia, was represented by the Imam of Bosanska Gradiška. He spoke of the flowers decorating the assembly hall: 'As they make a lovely bouquet, thus our different peoples are meant to live together to make a beautiful whole.'

Suffering had prepared people for a new start, a care beyond boundaries, and group conversations were central to the gathering. The documentary *For the Love of Tomorrow* was screened, and there was a reading of the play *Letter to Wollongong*.

After the seminar, a Banja Luka priest remarked: 'There was no finger-pointing, nor were ready-made recipes offered, as visitors tend to do. Instead, each person has been encouraged to listen inwardly and search for the next step with God's help.' The Imam said that he had felt at ease, because 'people here have met with sincere motives and pure souls'.

Some remarks by Father Andrija of the Cursillo movement are worth recording: 'When souls are shaken and shocked, God is near and speaks... When we think of forgiveness, the fear may arise that evil will remain unpunished... I have to see what evil does to me; it makes me want to react with evil. It paralyses me and alienates me from life. Forgiving means bidding goodbye to evil, in order not to be guided by it anymore... A process of reconciliation may take time as the other side has to recognise their faults also. With forgiveness however, I don't need to waste time. Forgiveness gives me the freedom to love now. When we attain this freedom, we realise that those who have done evil are themselves its victims. In forgiving we do not lose anything, rather we receive a gift.'

*Đurđica Fuckan, David Channer,  
Marianne & Christoph Spreng*

#### GOVERNORS-GENERAL AND RADIO TALK-BACK

Michael and Erica Henderson have spent three weeks in Jamaica, at the invitation of the Governor-General,

Sir Howard Cooke. His aim was to encourage MRA's development in Jamaica and promote Michael's books, *The Forgiveness Factor* and *All Her Paths are Peace*.

Michael spoke on 'The Forgiveness Factor' to the Conference of Caribbean Islands Governors-General. He was interviewed on national television and radio, and a talk-back radio program brought a very positive response. He gave a lecture at the University of the West Indies, hosted by the Guild of Undergraduates, and we are now receiving enquiries about the Caux Scholars Program. He spoke at Rotary clubs, churches and schools. At a reception/book launch, he spoke of his motivation for writing books, describing the books as 'a constant challenge to those aspiring to live out their faith in an increasingly demanding world'. Erica spoke to 1000 primary school children, and the three magical words, 'please, thank you and sorry' echoed around the hall.

Everywhere they received a warm reception. Friends who hosted the Hendersons enjoyed the fellowship and new bonds of friendship were formed.

*Robo Orogun*

#### 'STILL A LOT TO DO' SAYS EX-AMBASSADOR

On October 23, the reception rooms of the MRA house near Paris were filled with 130 guests, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the gift of the house to MRA by Robert and Diane de Watteville. Among the guests were the local MP, two deputy mayors of Boulogne, where the house is located, and many friends, old and new, including some who were there in 1948.

Christiane Mallet-Watteville read the charter that her parents had written when they dedicated their house to the task of reconciliation. Former German ambassador Helmut Wegner underlined the role the house played in the rapprochement between former enemies. 'There is a spirit of good will and reconciliation here,' he said. 'In a world torn by many conflicts, we still have a lot to do.'

An exhibition in the entrance hall included photographs of many who have visited the home, such as philosopher Gabriel Marcel, former communist trade unionist Maurice Mercier, Japanese politicians, African freedom fighters, and the future King of Morocco.

A cherry on the cake: the same day, in its series '50 years ago in *Le Monde*', the Parisian daily published the text of an article that had appeared in 1948 on the launching of MRA in France in Le Touquet.

*Philippe Lasserre*

#### IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

It is time to update the world address list. Every year people send changes after the deadline and then are upset that these are not included! Please send changes to me by 15 December at: Amaliastraat 10, 2514 JC, The Hague, Holland. Fax: +31-70- 361 72 09 Email:<lotty@compuserve.com>. Please indicate the format in which you would like to receive it – MSWord6, WordPerfect, Amipro2, Amipro3, etc.

*Lotty Wolvekamp*



## LET'S DOUBLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

We print 5,000 - 6,000 copies of *For a Change* per issue. Recent issues on Australia, and on Islam and the West, have sold out. Orders are coming in for the current issue on Caux. Sales revenue is up £5,000 on last year. And there are about 450 hits on our web site each week. ([www.mra.org.uk/fac](http://www.mra.org.uk/fac))

We have 3,000 subscribers. Of these, the Oxford Group in Britain pays for 1,200, which go to tertiary education libraries in Russia, other CIS States, and Eastern Europe, and to the British media and London embassies. We have received much appreciative comment, particularly from the libraries. Increasing our outreach to other countries will mean increasing our subscription base. To this end, may we ask regular readers to encourage at least one friend to subscribe to the magazine during the next 12 months?

*Mike Smith, Mary Lean, Ken Noble*

## SINEWS AND FEATHERS FOR THE ICG

In recent years the expenses of the International Co-ordination Group have been met through donations from MRA bodies and individuals.

Next year it is expected that the ICG will merge into an International Council with a small secretariat. If this is to serve our world operations effectively we shall need a continuing provision of funds.

Some MRA bodies and individuals are better placed than others to offer financial assistance. We believe it would be a valuable expression of solidarity if many made even a modest commitment, and we would like

to encourage national MRA teams, and any individuals, to consider giving whatever they feel able. Could you look at this question with your own team and legal body?

Rather than moving funds unnecessarily, it would be best for each donor country to advise the IC of what they feel able to give, and to hold those funds until the IC needs to draw up on them. If you would like to indicate support from your team, and if you have questions, please be in touch with Suresh Khatri at GPO Box 12-418 Suva, Fiji. Tel/fax: +679 30 1573. E-mail: [slkhatri@is.com.fj](mailto:slkhatri@is.com.fj)

*Chris Evans, Philippe Lasserre, Chris Mayor and John Moore*

## FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

**United States:** until May 31, 1999, the temporary mailing address for Dick and Randy Ruffin will be 1007 Hemlock Court, Monmouth Jct., NJ 08852

The area code in St. Paul, Minnesota has changed. MRA Twin Cities office phone is +1 651 646-8617, fax: +1 651 646-8650. Steve Dickinson's home office phone is +1 651 228-7247

**United Kingdom:** David and Elizabeth Locke are now at: Tirley Garth, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 0LZ. Tel: +44 1829 73 2301. E-mail: [dandelocke@aol.com](mailto:dandelocke@aol.com)

**The Netherlands:** Aad Burger's e-mail address is: [114002.1534@compuserve.com](mailto:114002.1534@compuserve.com)

**CORRECTION:** Claire Leggat's phone number as stated in the October WB piece about the consultation in South Africa was incorrect. It should have been: +44 1883 712234.

# Calendar of events

DEC '98	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	'To venture or not to venture – that is the question' – New Year conference	Dec 26 - Jan 2
DEC '98	<u>Moldova</u>	FFF Regional Meeting	Dec 28 - Jan 3
DEC '98	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Asia Pacific Youth Conference	Dec 28 - Jan 4
JAN '99	<u>Batemans Bay Australia</u>	'Launching out – beach camp for young teenagers	Jan 6 - 12
JAN '99	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Study Course – 'Daring to Live Effectively'	Jan 8 - Feb 12
FEB '99	<u>Armagh Melbourne</u>	'Life Matters' course for young adults	Feb 12 - 21
MAR '99	<u>Chapel Hill South Africa</u>	MRA Global Consultation	Mar 4 - 11
MAR '99	<u>Tirley Garth UK</u>	Global Club	Mar 26 - 28
APR '99	<u>To be announced</u>	Spring planning meeting for Caux 1999	Apr 30 - May 3
JUL '99	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	Summer conference: 'Cleaning the slate, the promise of a new start'	Jul 10 - Aug 22

*The deadline for the next Bulletin is Tuesday, December 15, 1998*

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