

# REARMEMENT MORAL · CAUX

## Centre de Rencontres Internationales

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MOUNTAIN HOUSE  
RUE DU PANORAMA  
CH-1824 CAUX

Monday, 19th July 1993

Dear friends,

The house has seen the first flood of farewells and departures, and a larger replacement army of new arrivals - and also two quieter, between-session days, with little programme, and intense activity for those of us preparing the new session. Maya Fiaux commented on the smooth change-over, from the housekeepers' point of view, with many sensitively remembering a request to clean their rooms, and even help to prepare them for the next guests. Last night, the numbers rose over 350 for the first time this summer, as we launched into 'Moral Re-Armament: connecting the intimate and the global'. 'Europe in the making' ended with two days on our dreams and decisions, with Bastille Day, and a concert of French music with several friends from the village, with a sketch of British and French soldiers deciding to play football instead of fighting, and a Bosnian couple saying that they had found new hope, before returning to their problems of life in exile.

The view this morning is out onto grey cloud, menacing more rain, after a night of spectacular thunder echoing in and out of the mountains, and lightning that forced us to draw the curtains to sleep. We have had a few meals and teas out on the terrace, but we can't say that it's been much of a summer so far. My planned day out in the mountains at the start of the week took us quickly into fresh snow which defeated our efforts to reach the peak we were aiming for. Until the sun reached our slope, we were climbing in temperatures below freezing, and ours were the only tracks in the snow, but we had a sunny, rainless, stretching and mind-resting day. We reached a cabin, looked after by a woman and five young children who went wild to see the first visitors after three days of storms and snow. We met chamoix, and an adder, signs of autumn, with flowers turning to seed, the first leaves turning yellow or red, and a glorious view down a patchwork valley of green and gold to the distant lake. I only hope that others seize their chances to see something other than Caux, lovely though it is. (If you're planning to come to Caux, bring enough warm clothes - and then you'll probably bring a heat wave with you!)

It is hard to know what to say about the new session: you can't expect an objective report from me. I'm too closely involved. It is not intended to be a time for the many prepared by the few, but rather a journey of exploration together: wherever each of us is on the road of life, for every single one of us, there is a next step to take, a new discovery to make. I've been moved to experience a growing team, working with great creativity and enthusiasm, to carry out all the dreams that some of us had when we met in Oxford in May. So there are more and smaller communities, and all the leaders have had two days with training in how to handle a group and help them to become trusting friends rather than strangers. Diana and Rory Stewart have continued

the invaluable training work that they started last year, with the communities, as well as taking responsibility for the whole of this session, with the rest of what we call "The Int-Glob Mob".

The seating in the hall was changed to an almost-circle round one of the rear pillars of the hall. In front of each pillar is a large stage flat/graffiti board waiting for comments, questions, cartoons on the four themes: Community and Relationships, Silence and Listening, Healing and Transformation, Courage and Decision. We were invited to think for a moment of what our concerns were in coming, and then come up and write them on a large cardboard sheet. They ranged from concern for the break-up of a brother's marriage and the sickness of friends to the war in ex-Yugoslavia and the rich-poor divide.

It is not easy to put into words what was intended to be non-verbal, visual, symbolic. Each two-day theme has a colour, and there were buckets with sections of rope in the corresponding colours which were passed through the rows after another short moment of quiet reflection. We were asked to help ourselves to a piece of rope of the colour of the theme we felt most in need of, turn to our neighbour for a couple of minutes and say why, even if we didn't speak the same language, listening to them without interrupting, and then knot our short pieces together. Through the coming days, anyone, at any time, can weave these assembled strands together into a larger, multi-coloured rope.

Ian Kiaer, an art student from London, has produced a backdrop on the same theme, with coloured strands around a pure white core, symbolizing the powerful harmony and unity of the intimate and the global. They are friends, we were told, as we were introduced to two clown characters, Int and Glob, who will lead us through the morning 'Open Forums', where we start the day together. Int, we were told, is inward-looking, deep, but boring, and Glob is out-going but superficial... The forum will be followed by a short meditation on the theme of the day, ending with two questions, and then from 10 - 10.45 silence is requested in the house so that most can reflect, listen to their inner voice, before we meet and share in communities, the smaller groups that are attached to the work teams. The main meetings of the day, when we are all together in the Great Hall, will be after tea. After a café-cabaret in the Hall last night, with some lovely classical music and an interview with a wild wig-disguised "rock star", we are, I believe, well on the way to becoming a community together!

The international coordination group (of Yukihiisa Fujita, Michael Henderson, Joan Holland, Chris Mayor, Luis Puig and Vijayalakshmi Subrahmanyam) are all present in Caux, meeting together and with all those who want to meet them. We have one of our thrice-weekly afternoon team meetings with them today, and as always, in the wings of Caux, there is this important work of meeting, coordinating, planning for this work without any formal structure or hierarchy that spans the world. We've agreed at the Wednesday afternoon meetings to take time to think and discuss the issues on the agenda for the autumn consultation meeting in Cyprus. And on the Fridays, one of us gives a spiritual meditation.

Thankful greetings,

Andrew Stallybrass