



MRA

INFORMATION SERVICE

COMMON GOAL URGENT FOR FREE ASIA

PATTERN FOR PROGRESS IN A PERSIAN PROVINCE

STAGE STAR HAILED AT WESTMINSTER THEATRE

VICAR NAILS DECLARATION ON DOOR

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'THE BOLDEST ATTEMPT IN OUR TIME'

By ROLAND WILSON

MILLIONS TODAY build their hopes on some division or disaster that may take place within the Communist world. This they think will save democracy the expense of a revolutionary change in her own ways.

Parliament debates national security. It is their job to do so. They do not debate how to rekindle a natural love of country. Unnatural passion has quenched so much of our natural fire. Incidents of espionage endanger us.

The far greater danger is the deliberate daily choice by millions who put their own interests before the interests of the country. It has become our way of life. And it is increasingly propagated as the right way. Do we wonder that our Vassalls pass unnoticed till it is too late?

This last weekend I spent in Zürich. On Saturday night the vast State Theatre, where world-famous drama and opera have been launched for generations, was packed from floor to roof for the Swiss première of Peter Howard's musical, *Space Is So Startling*. Again on Sunday, in the afternoon, and once more in the evening, the crowds filled the theatre.

State President welcomes

I met the State President, Dr. Emil Landolt, who has guided Zürich's affairs for fourteen years. In 1935 he had met Dr. Frank Buchman at one of his assemblies in Oxford. That meeting lived in his memory. Welcoming the cast of the play on behalf of the city and cantonal government, he said, 'I admire your commitment and your passion in following your aim, which is to change the world and create lasting peace.'

The General commanding the Zürich Division of the Swiss Army told me he wanted his senior officers to come and see the play. His fellow officer, the Commander-in-chief of the Swiss Air Force, was also there. I met directors of the famous Oerlikon engineering firm; the general manager of the Zürich Re-Insurance Company; the Rector of Zürich University; the representative of

the Catholic Bishop and Members of the Swiss Federal Parliament, in the cheering, stamping audiences who literally would not allow the curtain finally to come down.

Beyond the Iron Curtain

The morning the play was presented the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, whose views are heeded not only in Switzerland and throughout Europe, but beyond the Iron Curtain, carried the full page 'Moral Re-Armament and Moscow'. The next day the paper reviewed *Space Is So Startling*, which it described as expressing 'the overriding theme of the longing for understanding between East and West.'

Another Zurich daily, *Die Tat*, headlined its review 'A Shaking Musical' and said 'The premiere which was sold out was fascinating. At the beginning you felt the well known scepticism of the very dry Swiss... but the public was completely captured... the theme is of the highest urgency... it gives the possibility of raising a tidal wave of renaissance.'

A week previously, when *Space Is So Startling* was being shown in Germany, Dr. Erhard, likely to be Chancellor Adenauer's successor, sent a message in which he congratulated the cast for 'lifting us out of the non-essentials into the great question of our time.'

Capturing the masses

Watching this play in Zürich I thought of the need to expand through the world a new revolutionary theme for democracy. One theatre critic described the play as 'the boldest attempt ever made in our time to capture the masses through the theatre.'

I thought of the quarter of a million people who have paid to see the plays of Moral Re-Armament in Britain during the last eighteen months; of General Eisenhower's insistence on the need to strike blow after blow with these plays across the United States of America;

of the flood tide of response from French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians as *Music at Midnight* moves triumphantly through Ontario and Quebec.

The youth of Japan are planning a new dramatic weapon to take to the capitals of Asia, in a final bid to save Asia from tyranny and liberate the riches of the East for humanity. The youth of Scandinavia are storming through Denmark with their plays, *The Wind Is Shifting* and *The Ladder* and launched them in the Danish capital this week.

Realistic programme

Members of Parliament from the State of Kerala—Christian, Hindu, Moslem—are presenting the play they themselves wrote symbolising their unity to outpace Communism, and challenging the Central Government of India to a constructive, realistic programme in their country's peril.

I thought of black and white together in South Africa challenging the extremes of Right and Left, overarching class and colour in centres such as Pretoria and Stellenbosch.

In Zürich I talked with General Hugo Bethlem, formerly Brazil's youngest Ambassador and one of their picked military men. He told me of the play *El Condor* now being presented in South Italy and Sicily by militant Peruvian students, who had earlier themselves been kindled by revolutionary students from Japan who brought their play, *The Tiger*, to South America and showed it to more than a million people.

'Stormed the theatre'

The General had come to Zürich from Catania, industrial city of 400,000 in Sicily. The previous week 12,000 of the men and women of Sicily had paid for their seats and stormed the theatre there in three days. Hundreds stood through the performances.

'I am completely convinced,' the General said to me, 'that the influence of this force in the South of Italy has saved this area from Communism. Ninety per cent of the increase in the Communist vote is in the central and northern part of Italy, the very area where the economic miracle has been taking place and where we have not yet come with our force.'

'One of the topmost leaders of the Church in the North of Italy,' the General continued, 'told me two days ago, "Moral Re-Armament is the light in the darkness that has enveloped us—a darkness produced by atheism, Communism and materialism." This man has asked us to present our films and plays in all the areas between Venice and Milan.'

The General told me how on Labour Day, 1 May, the portworkers in four of the ports of Sicily had assembled in an audience of 4,000 in the island of Lipari and had witnessed the film, *Men of Brazil*. These men had later sent a message stating their conviction that 'the portworkers of Sicily united under the guidance of God can unite Italy and Europe.'

Italy's leading newspaper, the *Corriere della Sera*, which published this message next day, said in its editorial of the same issue, 'Italy confronts a problem which is not economic, not social, not political, but which is moral and needs a moral, political, solution.'

The General spoke of Signor Saragat, leader of the Right-Wing Socialists of Italy whose leadership and party may play a key role in the political situation. 'Communism,' Signor Saragat said, 'is a serious thing. It is not possible to confront it at a cheap price. What Italy needs now is a clear moral leadership.'

While patriotic Swiss were bidding to bring a revolutionary change to the thinking of Switzerland, we received word that Mr. Kishi, former Prime Minister of Japan, pledged himself 'as long as health keeps me going to fight to the end to unite Japan and for Japan to fulfil her destiny.' We heard of the luncheon organised by Mr. Kishi at which men of the political and industrial leadership of Japan sat for three hours planning a detailed strategy for the political and economic policy of their country based on the programme of Moral Re-Armament.

Revolution beyond Communism

We live in a crisis of humanity. It is a crisis in depth and a crisis in breadth. Long established ways of thought are called in question. Over much of the world anarchy, political or moral or both, in varying degree prevails. To deal with this situation the boldest measures on a global scale are needed. It must be a revolution beyond Communism.

In Russia today they shoot teenagers who rape their women. In Britain we deal with the issue more simply. We say that a problem ceases to be a problem and can be ignored when everybody does it. The fact remains that in East and West the structure of character is breaking down on such a scale that neither the survival nor the prosperity of man can be guaranteed.

Reports from Russia

This week the State President of Zürich spoke of Moral Re-Armament bringing 'a new springtime to humanity.' We see nations collapsing, but across the world more and more utterly dedicated men are bringing to birth an answer that actually works.

Reports from Russia of a fresh ideological drive say that Communism must 'tap the moral force residing in a realistic vision of the future'. They add, however, that this will need a new type of man.

On a scale new in history Moral Re-Armament is marshalling the forces of God. Young and old, high and low, from every race, class, colour, nation, who outmatch the zest of the materialists in their certainty that a new world can in our time be built out of new men.

The evidence of this colossal initiative is overwhelming. Because it is broader, deeper and more effective than any human thrust it is bound to succeed. For nothing is so powerful as an idea whose time has come.

Common goal urgent for free Asia

FREE CHINESE AND JAPANESE military leaders have called for ideological armament as well as military armaments as a 'must' if free Asia is to survive the present critical situation.

At a World Assembly in Odawara, Japan, called by former Premiers Yoshida and Kishi and other Japanese leaders, General Chang Chun of the Republic of China, said, 'A common ideology for free Asia is a prerequisite for any system of joint security.' General Chang is Secretary General to President Chiang Kai-shek and former Premier of China.

General Sugita, till recently Chief of Staff of the Japanese Ground Forces, said, 'The only way to survive now is to unite Australia, India and Japan in a common ideological strategy.'

The Assembly took place at a time of increased Communist pressure in Laos, continuing preparations on India's northern border and intense disunity among the free nations. Yet while U.S. forces held 'manoeuvres' in Thailand and Western aid poured into India, some experts questioned whether military attack was indeed the main threat.

'Throughout South East Asia the fruits of subversion and infiltration are ripening fast,' wrote the *Daily*

Telegraph's correspondent from New Delhi. With India contained and neutralised by the threat on her northern border, he continued, 'several South East Asian Governments look like falling one by one into the hands of Communists looking to Peking for support.'

'Never has Asia been in such grave danger,' emphasised General Chang. 'Military re-armament is not enough,' he declared. Only with the ideology of Moral Re-Armament would the strengthening of military, political and economic forces be effective to answer Communism.

If Japan were to become what Mr. Ikeda called 'the third pillar of freedom' with America and Western Europe, she must discover a common global aim with the rest of free Asia, General Chang stated. 'This common aim is Moral Re-Armament.'

While the Assembly was meeting in Odawara, eighty miles away in Tokyo, an ideological offensive to unite Asia was the topic of Cabinet-level discussions.

As he left Odawara to take part in these talks, Mr. Kishi, who is a senior member of the Government Party, said, 'It is the task of us Japanese to discover how peace can be maintained and an answer brought to this continent this year. As long as health keeps me going I will fight for Japan to unite and fulfil her destiny.'

Pattern for progress in a Persian province

LEADERS OF SHIRAZ, a birthplace of civilization and centre of Islamic learning, plan to make their city a base of a modern cultural and spiritual renaissance. To this end they have invited a Moral Re-Armament force with films and literature and mobilized the resources of their city to reach the people.

Shiraz is famed as the 'City of Poets, Flowers and History'. Thousands come annually to visit the ruined palaces of Cyrus, Darius and Xerxes and to pay homage at the shrines of the poets Hafiz and Sa'adi. A great university flourished here before the first scholar taught his students in Oxford.

Modern Shiraz still earns its title 'The House of Knowledge' with its 20,000 students, Islamic scholars and Namazi Hospital, the best in the Middle East.

On the day the MRA force arrived, the Lord Mayor and City Council planned with them the best use of the films they brought in Persian. The Governor General of Fars Province, General Varahram, initiated the offensive with a rapid fire of soldierly orders. The whole campaign has been an example that could be followed by any city or province in the world.

The first step was a performance of one of the films, in the biggest cinema, for an invited audience of 1,400. Press and radio gave regular coverage—Shiraz Radio broadcasting daily announcements of the showings.

The head of the Education Department, Mr. Bahman

Habibi, arranged for the teaching staffs, the department staffs, the teachers' training college and the senior students to see the films on a carefully worked out schedule. He also undertook a widespread programme with MRA literature in pursuance of his own earlier plan for raising the ethical and cultural level of teachers and taught.

The founder of the great Namazi Hospital, to which come leaders from all over the Middle East for cure, invited the visiting force to his hospital. So did Dr. Salami of the Salami Hospital which has transformed the treatment of mental cases.

The Army Chief of Staff issued a notice to all officers and their wives to attend the film shows. The Security Chief recommended them to all civil servants and city officials in order to 'study the soundest way of solving social problems.' The High Council of Women booked a special showing for the women of the city.

The most senior of the Ulema, the council of Islamic scholars, His Reverence the Ayatollah Razavi, who is over one hundred years old and in magnificent possession of his powers, said as he received the international force: 'I have watched the onslaught of Satanic forces smashing the foundations of faith and obliterating the moral landmarks our fathers established. I thank God that in my old age I see Him raising up a force to make his truths alive again in every country.'

Stage star hailed at Westminster Theatre

OLIVER JOHNSON'S 75th birthday and his role in *Through the Garden Wall* were given tributes in *The Daily Telegraph*, *Evening Standard* and *Evening News*.

The Stage, organ of the theatre and TV profession, in its 'Limelight' spot reported Johnson's present part and said: 'He has had a distinguished career in the theatre as a character player of exceptional skill and penetration; one of the actors, in fact, that it is always a pleasure to see. The whole profession will join in offering him sincere greetings.'

Four times last week 'House Full' notices were up outside the Westminster Theatre. Audiences totalling 4,206 included many management and trade unionists from British Railways. Two thousand four hundred

pounds was taken at the box office.

The May edition of *Theatre World* reviewing the play, referred to 'the credibility and sincerity' of the cast, and the Catholic weekly *Universe* carried a discerning review.

The *Times Educational Supplement* in an article headed 'Back to Christ' reports the initiative of teachers meeting at the Westminster Theatre 'to put more fully into practice that part of the 1944 Education Act which made the teachings of Christianity the basis of our national education.'

It quotes the director of *Through the Garden Wall*: 'If you have a theatre that will restore character to men, who then bend their minds and wills to solve the key problems of the nation, that nation will be on the road to greatness.'

Vicar nails declaration on door

DESCRIBING a Southwark vicar as a 'modern Martin Luther', the large circulation paper, *South London Press*, carried an eight column headline, 'Vicar Nails up his Reply to Bishop—He Insists that New Moral Teaching is Dishonest to God.'

The paper carries a picture of the declaration being nailed up by the vicar with the wording clearly readable. It says:

'WHEREAS some would deny the faith of our fathers and destroy the morals of our children,

Be it hereby known that in this Church

WE STILL BELIEVE IN

GOD who is Spirit, not Spaceman,

and can be thought of as our Father. SIN which is disobedience to God's will and the commandments He has given.

FORGIVENESS through Jesus Christ, by which God puts us right.

GRACE by which the Holy Spirit keeps us right and shows us what to do.'

The *Church Times* also carried a picture of the declaration and said: 'The Rev. Kendall has made his own answer to recent controversy in the form of this notice which he has posted on his Church door.'

8,000 copies of a sermon, in which the Rev. B. J. Kendall makes his stand clear, have been sold.

How to detect—and cure—character weaknesses

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By DR. PAUL CAMPBELL and PETER HOWARD

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ulm, Germany—The Chancellor-elect, Dr. Ludwig Erhard, welcomed *Space Is So Startling* to his city in a message read by the Lord Mayor. 'This challenge concerns everyone,' he said. 5,000 saw the play in Ulm in two days.

Pretoria, South Africa—An African cast presented *The Dictator's Slippers* to an audience of leading Europeans in the Republic's capital. Professors, students and senior officials gathered round the cast afterwards. 'You have proclaimed a united purpose for our nation,' said one of them.

Lipari, Sicily—*Corriere della Sera* reported a May Day rally of Sicilian dockers from Christian, Socialist and Communist unions 'who are determined to create unity in the nation without the division of class'. A new atmosphere, the paper reported, had already come to Sicilian ports where MRA films had been shown.

New York, U.S.A.—The *New York Times* and leading papers from coast to coast carried the page 'MRA and Mr. K.' It will be published free as a public service in 350 dailies and weeklies. They have requested a series of pages.

Zurich, Switzerland—Joseph Stalder, winner of two Olympic gold medals and three world championships, performed gymnastics in the sportsmen's scene of *Space Is So Startling*.

Odawara, Japan—Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod told the Odawara Assembly she had been deeply impressed by the dedication of Japanese youth to MRA and the quality of leadership given by eminent men and women in Japan.

Ottawa, Canada—'Music at Midnight delights audiences' the *Ottawa Journal* headlined its review of the play's opening in the capital. The Lieutenant Governor and Prime Minister of Ontario are patrons of the performances in Canada's most populous province.