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## ASIA PLATEAU TRAINING COURSE

The international training course at Asia Plateau has just finished. One participant called it 'a turning point in my life'. 'My strength has been renewed like an eagle,' said a Canadian First Nation elder, who had arrived burdened by the problems of her community. A Cambodian youth leader said, 'I see that forgiveness is the way for my country.' Two Taiwanese spoke of their new-found concern not just for Taiwan's problems, but also those of mainland China. A Tibetan headmaster said, 'Coming here meant missing religious ceremonies of great importance. I don't regret my decision.' A Burmese student, who had spent three years in the armed struggle before deciding to work non-violently for change, said, 'We need this moral training, because non-violence is hard. It calls for discipline and responsibility. It means knowing yourself.'

There was a moving reconciliation between two participants, one of whom had arrived determined to prove the evil done by the other's country.

Most of the participants are remaining, and will visit Hyderabad, Bangalore, Salem, Jamshedpur and Shillong, invited by the MRA teams in those cities.

Meanwhile Asia Plateau's programmes continue. Fifty army 'chaplains' (Hindu, Moslem, Sikh and Christian) arrived for a day from the Army's Institute of National Integration. This Institute trains those responsible for the soldiers' religious and welfare needs, and sends groups to Asia Plateau regularly.

Then 30 children came for a camp organised by Bhanu Kale of Pune. They loved the nature walks through the extensive forest which has grown here where 25 years ago there was only bare earth. Later 250 children came from the surrounding villages for an afternoon of games and songs arranged by the course participants.

Seventy-five people from 15 industries attended a four-day seminar on Creative Leadership. These seminars are held eight times a year, each with up to 150 participants, but even this does not satisfy the demand. Their impact can be seen from the steady flow of letters from participants, describing the outcome of decisions made here. Every quarter, extracts from these letters go out across the country in Asia Plateau's Hindi newsletter, a lively publication edited by Harbir Choudhury.

In recent weeks, events at Asia Plateau have been featured in articles in *The Indian Express* and *Sakal*, the main Marathi daily here.

**John Bond**

## NEW DIMENSIONS OF PEACE-KEEPING

In the third week of January, Yukihiisa Fujita was

invited to be a 'commentator' at the 'Tokyo Symposium on New Dimensions of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations', jointly organised by the International Peace Academy and the United Nations University. Médecins Sans Frontières and MRA were the only two NGOs invited to participate. Among the main speakers were: Yasushi Akashi (Special Representative for the UN Secretary General for former Yugoslavia), Sir Brian Urquhart (former UN Under Secretary General), General John Sanderson (former Commander UNTAC), Li Zhaoxing (Chinese Ambassador to UN) and Hisashi Owada (Japanese Ambassador to UN).

After a wide-ranging talk in which he touched on MRA's role in post-war Europe and Japan and more recently in the Zimbabwe/Rhodesia conflict, Yukihiisa concluded by stating that 'an agenda for peace must be accompanied by an agenda for healing or an agenda for reconciliation. The NGOs' catalytic role of bringing chain reactions of reconciliation and comprehensive social change could be enhanced if governments and intergovernmental organisations had a deeper understanding of this role.'

Olara Otunnu, former Foreign Minister of Uganda, President of the International Peace Academy and one of the symposium hosts, spoke after the presentation by a panel of three including Yukihiisa on 'The role of NGOs in the Peace Process'. He said that sometimes the NGOs' grasp of the local situation was not mature enough and could be counter productive. A more humble attitude would also be more effective. To this Yukihiisa repeated his point about not seeking credit or justification, even to the point of anonymity, and of the need for NGOs to be accountable to the local population.

## BEING FREE FROM FALSE COMPLEXES

In December 150 students and 20 professors and lecturers met for an MRA weekend at the University of Buea, Cameroon. Pierre Oko Mengue (who with his wife Jacqueline spent three weeks at Caux last summer) was one of six who attended from Yaoundé. 'The most important result', according to a letter from Pierre, 'was the beginning of a reconciliation between Francophones and Anglophones.'

Speaking at the conference, Pierre had told of his belief that Francophones like him had been affected by the colonial policy of assimilation: 'As long as you are not like me, and do not act like me, you are no good. Whereas the Anglophone is savagely opposed to the assimilation which I vainly try to impose on him.' He continued, 'I want from today, to cure myself of this disease. That is why from the bottom of my heart I sincerely ask your forgiveness. We must all free ourselves of false complexes.'

In the coming months MRA friends in Cameroon plan to take a team to visit Nigeria, Chad, Congo, Central African Republic and Gabon. They also plan a second international conference - primarily for their neighbours in West and Central Africa - in Yaoundé, June 5-10 - at which the main theme will be 'dialogue'. 'Why this theme?' asks Pierre. 'We feel that dialogue is most lacking in Africa today, and that the absence of dialogue is one of the profound causes of her affliction.'

**Robin Evans**

### **PRESPOSTEROUS - OR IS IT?**

At a recent meeting General Joseph Lagu said that we are all responsible for the future of Africa. It is a continent I have never been to. Yet God, it seems, sets no limits on our areas of concern for the world. Indeed, the whole idea, 'We, the remakers of the world', seems preposterous. It comes alive in our care for the individuals we meet. Last year I wrote in *For A Change* about the Sierra Rutile mine in Sierra Leone. *The Guardian*, London, carried the article on January 18 under the headline 'Digging deeper'. It said the mine manager Derric Hanvey had helped to set up community development projects after attending 'moral re-armament' industrial seminars in India. He had been impressed by the emphasis on industry's responsibility for the wider community.

Two days later, January 20, the mine was overrun by rebel forces opposed to the military regime and had to be evacuated. Four of Derric Hanvey's friends are still being held hostage by the rebels. The situation needs much prayer. The Sierra Leone son of the mine's personnel manager, it turns out, lives in London and has now become a friend.

**Michael Smith**

### **MOVING TO MEGHALAYA**

During our visit to Shillong in December for the public memorial service for Stanley Nichols Roy (who died in California last October) his widow, Helen, on behalf of the whole family, proposed that we take on "Whispering Pines", their Shillong home, to be our home and also that it be used as an MRA centre for the region, initially for two years. A large company had offered to pay a lucrative rent, but Stanley's family felt the home should be used to serve the purposes and values of MRA that he believed in and worked for so faithfully to the very end. We came to feel that it would be the right next step for us to accept this unexpected offer.

As we prepare to take this step we feel torn between the sense that we are doing the right thing at this stage and our awareness of *Asia Plateau's* need for support. We are deeply grateful for all the wonderful years at Asia Plateau and would like to ask for your prayers that the right support is found for the running of this superb centre.

**Niketu and Christine Iralu**

### **CAUX '96 PICTORIAL**

We are deep into the fascinating task of preparing the pictorial on Caux, to be published in three or more languages at the beginning of 1996. We hope to

bring to new life the great events of the last 50 years and how such a diverse global community has carried the practical and spiritual needs of the house.

We have selected hundreds of pictures from various archives and are working through a large store of reading matter. We would welcome your input. What decisions did you make there which affected your life and work? Please tell us unforgettable moments or quotations from Caux you have kept and valued; ideas and experiences which express the heart of our message. How would you evaluate the significance of what has happened there? And please don't edit out the funny bits.

And, especially, how can the Caux experience be brought to bear on the great needs of today's world? We would like to commission a number of people to write short, authoritative pieces on this particular angle, and welcome ideas about whom to approach.

We want both text and pictures; it would probably be better to photocopy your precious photos and have us ask for them before you mail them across the globe. All this as soon as possible, please!

**Mike Brown**, 9 Serpentine Road, Belair SA 5052, Australia, fax: +61 8 278 2014

**John Williams**, 8 Green Street, Burwood VIC 3125, Australia, fax: +61 3 830 5865

### **SPANISH MAGAZINE**

Fifteen years ago a review in Spanish, *Noticias y Perspectivas* (News and Perspectives), was launched in Switzerland. Designed for the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, its aim was and still is: (1) To formulate the universal character of MRA's battle. (2) To give the main local (continental) news of its work. (3) To contribute to the battle for change in people and countries. (4) To be a 'visiting card', as well as a means of maintaining links with delegates met at international conferences such as the ILO.

It has grown, and now 4000 copies are published, of which 1500 are addressed personally to people in each Latin American country. To every country where there is a team at work we send 200 copies for strategic use. The magazine is published annually, after the Caux conference, using *Changer* as the main source of information.

Thanks to the conviction and dedication of Solón Espinoza Poma from Lima, Perú, (one of the producers of *El Condor* in 1962 and former chief editor of *El Peruano*, an important Peruvian newspaper) the magazine is now published in and distributed from Perú. This has entailed immense work these last weeks and fascinating teamwork across the oceans! And it has made it a truly Latin American instrument to diffuse the ideas of MRA. Copies can be obtained from: Solón Espinoza Poma, Monte Ciprés 264, Surco, Lima, Perú or Rearmament Moral, Case Postale 3, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

**François Maunoir**

### **MRA GLOBAL REPORT**

The 1994/95 'world report folder' has gone to the printers, will be ready at the end of March and can be ordered from your local MRA body or from Grosvenor Books in London. In four pages, with full colour, it

lives up to its title, and offers seeds of hope. There are short items on training for younger people in Asia and the 'Foundations for Freedom' courses in Europe, Baltic initiatives, the 'Principles for Business' of the Caux Round Table, peace efforts in Bougainville and Somalia, the clean elections campaign in Brazil, and Russian media coverage.

In early April we will also have copies of the Caux 1996 advance programme, which will be a similar document: 4 sides, A4, with colour photos.

**Andrew Stallybrass**

### STOCKHOLM INNOVATION

Friends from around Sweden, together with others from Britain, France and Finland who gathered at Alnäs in January, endorsed a plan to turn the existing artist's studio at Alnäs into a suitable venue for all types of cultural activity and to facilitate, encourage and support artistic creativity for our world fellowship. Our shared vision is that Alnäs become a well-spring of creativity for our world fellowship. Already concerts, art exhibitions and theatrical performances are planned for the coming months and the family here will be augmented by others who want to be part of this process. At the same time, the home remains, as always, open to all who wish to come and use it.

**Philip Tyndale-Biscoe**

### A BRAND FROM THE BURNING

Nineteen years ago Aldersgate produced *Ride Ride*, Alan Thornhill and Penelope Thwaites' musical about John Wesley.

Consequently Aldersgate was invited to participate in making a television series on Wesley's life. This was agreed and we found some seed money for the project. We also brought Bob Feaster, President of, and Publisher for, the United Methodist Publishing House of America (UMPHA) into the enterprise. An outline script was prepared and BBC Wales were to co-produce; unfortunately, when all looked set they had to withdraw, and the same thing happened three years later with the BBC in London. However, John Wells, who had completed his script, finally came to the conclusion that the only way forward was to mount a workshop production which might lead on to a television and video version. With Bob Feaster's financial backing, such a production (a collaboration between John Wells and the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford) was presented three times at The Other Place in Stratford in early January.

Fifty from UMPHA came over for it and some of the Aldersgate Board attended. All felt this was an authentic and moving portrayal of John Wesley's life. The US Board then decided that with the agreement of the Royal Shakespeare Company they would tour the United States, then make a film and video of it.

**Ronald Mann**

### C. & E. EUROPEAN SUPPORT GROUP

The Central and East European Support Group met in Tirley in early February. This support group formed a year ago in an attempt to meet the needs of a growing and diversifying work in that region, in order to deal with some practical questions and as a

service to friends in those countries and to those in the wider MRA team who are reaching out to the Eastern part of Europe.

The meeting in Tirley focused on: (1) FINANCE: a general East European Fund can no longer be relied on to pay for the stay in Caux of guests from East Europe. Those bringing people to Caux should be responsible for raising the money for their stay, and work for this through their area service group. (2) PUBLICATIONS: a list is available of recent MRA literature published in E. European languages. Ideas for future publications are being pursued, and any feedback of what literature is most valuable in that region would be appreciated. (3) CAUX: 400 from the former Soviet Union, and 700 from other parts of C. E. Europe, have visited Caux since 1990. This year, the opening session ('Unity with Diversity'), one of the industrial forums and the 'Regions' session are most likely to attract participants from that area of the world. (4) Seven 'area service groups' (formerly 'area reference groups') are available to facilitate exchanges of information concerning their countries, and to act as reference for the Caux secretariat. They are: **Baltic Republics** (liaison - F H & A Wetterfors), **Ukraine** (E Peters), **Russia, Belarus & rest of CIS** (B Hamlin), **Poland** (R Dilly), **Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania & Bulgaria** (P Colquhoun), **Hungary** (A Mackenzie), **former Yugoslavia & Albania** (C & M Spreng). We hope that these 'service groups' will initiate any specialised planning gatherings of people involved in the countries they are supporting. A full report of the meeting is available.

**Edward Peters Bryan Hamlin**

### CAUX SCHOLARS ATTRACTS INTEREST

The Caux Scholars Program has attracted enquiries and requests for applications from a number of leading US universities, including Stanford, Harvard, Duke and Wellesley and from a very interesting group of individuals around the world: Vietnam, Liberia, Nigeria and South Africa, Sweden (a Somali), UK, New Zealand and Japan. If you know anyone who is considering applying, please encourage them to do so as soon as possible. The deadline is April 11. The faculty will include Larry Hoover, Tamra and Claude D'Estree, Barry Hart, Margaret Smith and Bryan Hamlin, plus guest lecturers. Randy Ruffin and Eri Kamura will cover the administration and there will be two Caux Scholar alumni acting as interns. We hope to have four to five 'pairs' of people acting as resource people for the scholars, and so far have three. Anyone who is able to be in Caux for the entire five weeks of the course (July 6 - August 9) and would like to care for a group of 5 students and help them make the connection with Caux, please write to me at: 1156 Fifteenth Street, NW, Washington DC 20005 USA.

**Randy Ruffin**

### HINT FOR E-MAIL USERS

May I suggest that any reader who has an E-mail facility begins sending any material (especially longer articles you may have for the *World Bulletin* - to save retyping!) via E-mail, and that in addition you send a

one-line fax saying this is what you have done, lest E-mailboxes go unopened for several days. (It will also mean that the non-arrival of an E-mail message will be detected immediately, and action taken.) Ultimately this 'belt and braces' approach - i.e. of E-mail plus fax - should not be necessary, but for the time being such a precaution might prove prudent. Good E-mailing!

**Andrew Lancaster**

**FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES**  
**Canada:** Correction - the postcode for the MRA office in Ottawa is K2P 1X3.  
**United States:** Three new E-mail addresses --

Bryan Hamlin: [bhamlin@aol.com](mailto:bhamlin@aol.com)  
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**India:** from March 1, Niketu and Christine Iralu's address will be: "Whispering Pines", Pohkseh, Nongthymmai, Shillong, 793014, Meghalaya.  
**United Kingdom:** All British telephone (and fax) area codes have changed: after April 1 the old numbers will not function. (This is not an April Fool's joke.) All numbers starting with 0 now require a 1 (one) after the zero. So the inner and outer London area codes, for instance, are now 0171 and 0181 respectively. The following areas have entirely new codes:  
 Bristol: 01179 Leeds: 01132 Leicester: 01162  
 Nottingham: 01159 Sheffield: 01142

## Calendar of Events

FEB '95	<u>Tirley Garth</u> UK	Central and Eastern Europe Support Group	Feb 5 - 9
	<u>Taiwan</u>	Young people's camp - Life changed to Life Changer	Feb 7 - 14
	<u>Alnäs</u> Sweden	Caux 95/96 creative/cultural planning meeting	Feb 17 - 19
	<u>London</u> United Kingdom	Meeting of Global Consultation Support Group	Feb 22 - 26
MAR '95	<u>Copenhagen</u> Denmark	Caux Round Table interim meeting	Mar 6 - 9
	<u>Tirley Garth</u> UK	Restoring the Human Spirit in Our Cities	Mar 11 - 12
	<u>Tirley Garth</u>	Planning meeting for Caux Cities Consultation	Mar 12 - 14
	<u>Gatchina</u> Russia	Meeting with Moral Re-Armament	Mar 31 - Apr 3
APR '95	<u>Caux</u> Switzerland	Caux Work Weeks - general work week followed by garden work week	Apr 15 - 29
	<u>Yutz/Thionville</u> France	Caux 1995/96 planning meeting	Apr 27 - 30
JUN '95	<u>Yaoundé</u> Cameroon	Pan-African Conference for Moral Re-Armament	Jun 5 - 10
JUL '95	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Scholars Program	Jul 6 - Aug 9
	<u>Melbourne</u> Australia	Life Matters - eight-day Study Course at Armagh	Jul 7 - 16
	<u>Caux</u>	Unity with Diversity, A Consultation on Europe	Jul 8 - 16
	<u>Caux</u>	The Society of Tomorrow	Jul 18 - 26
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Round Table	Jul 19 - 22
	<u>Philippines</u>	Asia Pacific Youth Conference	Jul 24 - 31
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Conference for Industry and Business	Jul 28 - Aug 2
AUG '95	<u>Caux</u>	Restoring the Human Spirit in Our Cities	Aug 4 - 11
	<u>Caux</u>	Regions in crisis, Regions in recovery - Learning from one another	Aug 14 - 24
SEP '95	<u>Tirley Garth</u> UK	Foundations for Freedom - International Course	Sep 7 - 26

*The deadline for the next Bulletin is Wednesday, March 15 1995*

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: **Asia:** South - C Iralu; **Malaysia:** Santa Maria; **Philippines:** Cardel; **Japan:** Rest - Fujita; **Australia:** A Lancaster; **Pacific:** Annette Porteous; **Africa:** East - Patel; South - Horn; **Zimbabwe:** Sibare; **Nigeria:** Rest - Agbih; **N. America:** Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; **Latin America:** Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; **Caribbean:** Fiona Edwards; **Europe:** France - Lasserre; **Germany:** Brackle; **Denmark:** Jørgensen; **Finland:** Koponen; **Norway:** Eskeland; **Sweden:** Soderlund; **Switzerland:** Mottu; **UK:** C Evans; **Austria:** Vock; **Netherlands:** Rest - J de Pous; **Middle East:** - Christodoulides