MRA Information Service

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EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA GIVES 'FULL SUPPORT' TO TWELVE-MONTH ACTION

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY the Emperor of Ethiopia told the six-man committee for Moral Re-Armament in Ethiopia at an audience last week that their task 'may not be easy but you will go forward and we will expect some concrete results in twelve months. You can be assured of our full support'. Present also at the audience were H I H the Crown Prince, the Governor-General of Eritrea, and others of the Court.

During the audience a report was given of the first three months' work and future intentions, and His Majesty graciously donated 6000 dollars $(\pounds1,000)$ for the printing of MRA books in the Amharic and Tigreinya languages. In the first three months of the year's campaign, MRA films have been shown to military and air force units, educational authorities and schools, trade unions and industrial management representatives and to ex-rebels who are now in rehabilitation camps under a special amnesty agreement.

Sheikh Surur, a senior civil servant recently returned from the Panchgani Conference, submitted his report and recommendations which stated that answers were being found in India to parallel problems in Ethiopia.

Last week a showing of *Men of Brazil* to 500 trade union leaders from 32 unions was arranged and attended by the President and Executive of the



20,000-strong Confederation of Ethiopian Labour Unions.

There were also film shows on Air Force and Navy Bases at the initiative of the commanding officers.

CAUX CONFERENCES SCHEDULED DURING 1968

CONFERENCES THIS YEAR at Caux in Switzerland will attempt to bridge some of the world's major international gaps—the gulfs between rich and poor nations, Eastern and Western Europe, Europe and the Middle East, class and class, race and race, and generation and generation.

A special session from 31 August to 23 September for industrialists, trade unionists and politicians, is scheduled with the theme: 'Europe: the challenge of a global task.'

The Caux conferences will begin at Easter, 11-15 April, and continue through the summer. Conferences already planned are as follows: medical conference, 25-26 May; sessions marking the Thirtieth Anniversary of MRA, 1-4 June; meetings arranged for delegates attending international conferences in Geneva, each weekend in June; educational conference, 29 July-11 August; sessions entitled 'Training for responsible leadership in the modern world' in three 3-week courses during July, August and September.

During July and August there will be a special programme for youth, including action at Caux, in different parts of Switzerland and in other European countries.

General aims

A number of plays will be presented in the Caux Theatre, including the European musical, *Anything to Declare?* The third annual Theatre Festival will be held in September. There will also be a Fine Arts Exhibition in the Grand Hotel, part of the Caux Conference Centre.

The general aims of these conferences during 1968 can be summarized under the following headings:

• To enlist people of all ages in a commitment to give a new direction to society.

• To maintain a balance between the

demands of technological progress and the needs of men.

• To bridge the gulf between the industrial nations and the rest of the world by answering the personal and national selfishness which frustrates so many economic plans.

• To demonstrate the new motives needed in Eastern and Western Europe so as to dispel mistrust and prepare for common action in meeting the needs of mankind.

• To re-establish trust between Europe and the Middle East and to find ways of co-operating with the countries of Asia, Africa and the Americas in raising the standard of living, ending present conflicts and ensuring a future of growing peace and prosperity.

• To develop and apply an answer to violence, class war, race war and the conflict between the generations, and so make possible a new social order that is just and satisfying to all men.

FREEDOM OR DICTATORSHIP FOR EUROPE

by Michel Sentis

THE MOST OUTSTANDING TASK that faces Europe is to show that democracy can work.

Democracy has always depended on the right balance between discipline and freedom. Democratic systems have functioned as long as they had the firm discipline inherited from the Christian traditions of Europe. But when the discipline loses its vigour, democracy collapses.

Face facts

Recently I spoke with a member of the French Government who said that only a person, superficial in judgment or ignorant of the facts of political life, could hastily condemn the Greek people for what had happened in their country. He added, 'Let's face the facts: this could happen any day to any country in Europe.'

This danger exists in most European countries because the quality of inner discipline has been lost. The rest of the world is watching the European nations and if they lose the power to function as democracies, then there is little hope for democracy in other parts of the world.

Europe must make it clear that, in terms of politics, there are only two paths open to nations—Moral Re-Armament, or the historic road which leads to anarchy and dictator-

at a glance

Grosvenor Books announced that the second printing of *Annie*, the story of Annie Jaeger edited by Clara Jaeger, is selling rapidly. The first printing of 5,000 was sold in the first two weeks of publication.

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The film *Give a Dog a Bone*, following presentations by Classic in their cinemas in Dublin, Nottingham and Belfast, has been shown for seven days in the Victoria News Theatre, London, a few minutes' walk from the Westminster Theatre. ship. Europe must make it clear that inner moral discipline is the only means by which nations can preserve personal and political freedom.

A second task facing the continent is to show that there is an answer to class war. In Europe there are great numbers of people who carry banners against war in certain other countries, but they are in favour of a war in their own countries between class and class and race and race.

Jean-Jacques Odier wrote a play called *Pitié pour Clémentine* because he feels that France is a supreme example of the folly of class war. France accepts an endless series of strikes as a normal part of life. The purpose of *Pitié pour Clémentine* was to reverse this trend. The group which planned the campaign included members of the Government who helped decide which regions of France to visit. The musical visited Loire-Atlantique and Lorraine—two centres of class war and industrial conflict.

Reverse policies

The European nations must take the initiative in reversing world economic policies and create an economic system based, not on the endless appetite for more of the affluent nations, but on the hunger for bread and the thirst for hope in those who lack everything. Statesmen, industrialists, trade unionists and youth will need to dedicate their lives to bring about such an economic re-orientation in their different countries. It is a task within the capacity of Europe and worthy of its greatest traditions.

SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE PORT OF MARSEILLES

THE PORTS OF EUROPE are in a race today to carry through great development projects. Each one tries to get the biggest share of the maritime commerce which is so important for Europe. I have recently been in Marseilles one of the ports deeply engaged in this race and decided to win.

Traffic

The Economist said that the best card Marseilles had in its competition with ports on the Channel and the North Sea was the depth of its waters. Marseilles hopes to be ready to receive tankers of 250,000 tons at the same time as Rotterdam or even before. Its waters are deep enough to allow tankers of 500,000 tons to dock and its oil pipelines start directly from the quayside.

Once the port's development projects are carried through by 1978 this Mediterranean port will have a yearly traffic of about 170 millions. In 1966 it was 63 million tons. Development work goes ahead with amazing speed: three weeks ago a great part of the quay where ironore will be unloaded was still 16 feet below sea level. By 1 April an iron ore ship coming from Australia is expected to unload at this quay.

People in Marseilles, however, speak about the difficulties resulting from the closure of the Suez Canal. Marseilles has been more severely affected than any other port in France. Yet on all the levels of the port administration as well as in the leadership of the unions, there is a spirit of dare and enterprise.

This may be the reason why the initiative of the trade union men from Nantes and St Nazaire who have gone to help Rajmohan Gandhi tackle the problems of India, has found in Marseilles great response and interest. One of the dockers' leaders expressed a common view when he said, 'We must give our support to this idea. It is a task meant for all men of good will'. DOUGLAS COOK



Melbourne portworker Jim Beggs (left) addresses Merseyside dockers in Birkenhead dockers' club

photos Maillefer

Melbourne portworkers' leader meets with Mersyside dockers

A MELBOURNE portworkers' leader, Jim Beggs, last Sunday night told Merseyside dockers that MRA was the new revolution needed on the waterfront. It would not only result in improved wages and conditions, but in an expansion of the fight for the brotherhood of man.

Beggs said that while he had once been concerned only for the rights of his own union, he had now seen the great needs of the unions in the ports of India and wanted to do something about them.

Some of the men he was speaking to were out of work because of the unofficial tugboatmen's strike in the Port of Liverpool.

The Melbourne docker, last year's

Vice-President of the Melbourne branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation, had arrived in Britain last Saturday from India, where he had been invited by Rajmohan Gandhi, and from Lebanon and Cyprus. He was speaking at the Valley Road Dockers' Club in Birkenhead and plans in the next two months to visit the major ports of Britain.

Beggs was invited to speak at the Club with members of the cast of *Anything to Declare?*, the European revue now giving performances in Liverpool.

On Friday, 23 February, an estimated 2 million viewers saw on the BBC's 'Look North' television programme three young actresses from the revue singing the song, 'Go, go with an answer'.

This week the cast met the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, the heads of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches in Liverpool, port employers and senior trade union officials.

John Mills, Australian member of the cast, said at a reception given them by the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Rev Stuart Blanch, that their charter was 'Thy will be done on earth as in heaven.' Bishop Blanch replied, 'I applaud that.' The Bishop said about the visit of *Anything to Declare*?, 'I am always very glad when operations of this kind are set in motion and we can have unorthodox methods of approach.'

photo Henderson





The Revolution of the Ordinary Man

"WE THE REMAKERS of the World"—is that not the thinking and the willing of the ordinary man?"

This was the challenge which Frank Buchman flung down when he launched Moral Re-Armament nearly thirty years ago. And this was the secret of Annie Jaeger's Revolution. It was largely because of the pioneering work done by her and her son Bill in East London that Dr Buchman was invited to make that historic speech in East Ham Town Hall, next door to the borough from which a cloth-capped Keir Hardie had gone in triumphal procession with his followers to Westminster in 1892.

Link

Annie was an ordinary woman. She rejoiced in the fact. It was her link with practically everybody she met. She could say with Abraham Lincoln, 'God must love ordinary people—He has made so many of them'. She believed that the ordinary man and woman, led by God, could do the extraordinary thing. She also believed that to do the extraordinary thing under God was normal living for ordinary people. It was what they were meant to be doing every day, all the time.

She demonstrated the simple answer to a problem which has baffled the statesmen of the industrialised West for a hundred years-how to make democracy -- 'government of the people, by the people, for the people', as Lincoln defined it-real and meaningful in a mass society. True democracy to her was the ordinary person taking responsibility for his country by changing where he needed to change and tackling the problems of his home, his factory, his neighbourhood and his community. She took people from apathy, complaint and protest to conviction, commitment, and cure.

Today, as in Annie's time, we face ' a crisis of leadership. Certain kinds of leadership have been tried almost ad nauseam by governments during recent years. One has been leadership by moral exhortation. Cabinet ministers have appealed to patriotism, to

moral principles, to Christian brotherhood, to democratic responsibility. Their sincere and earnest words have fallen like stones into mud flats, leaving not a trace behind.

Too slow

Then, when that has failed, they have turned to material incentives, trying to induce people to do from self-interest what they appear to be unwilling to do from worthier motives. They entice industrialists to development areas by offering them ready-made factories and cheap machinery. The response is slow-far too slow to match the urgency of the need. The trouble is that the appeal to material self-interest is subject to the law of diminishing returns. There comes a point at which the carrot of extra reward ceases to seem worth the extra effort involved to get it. A leading doctor in the North East said on TV the other day that many young doctors would not come to a development area even if they were offered an extra £1000 a year to do so.

The appeal to self-interest is the last resort of leaders who have lost faith in human nature. This century has seen a strange revolution in our views of human nature. Sixty years ago it was generally believed that human nature was basically good, and that given the right environment and education it would burst into the full flower of glorious life. Today it is widely assumed that man is an animal who lives by bread alone, that all he wants is more bread, and that he responds only to appeals to his material self-interest.

Clearer insight

Annie Jaeger's view of human nature was more realistic than either. No one had fewer illusions about it. No one had a clearer insight into its weaknesses. To realise that one has only to read the newly published book about her—edited by her daughter-in-law, but written almost entirely in her own words. But her realism included God. She had a limitless faith in the power of God to transform human nature. So where-

by **H S Addison**

ever she went she brought faith, hope, vision and immediate and revolutionary change. Ordinary men and women began to see with delighted surprise that they could become what they were meant to be.

Britain today is ready for the leadership of the ordinary man, doing the extraordinary thing because he is led by God. The ordinary people of this land—the Annies and Bills of today—need not wait for the politicians. They themselves have the opportunity, right here and now to be saviours of their country and remakers of the world.

HELP NEEDED OVERSEAS SAYS SHEFFIELD COUNCILLOR

WHILE PRESENT problems at home needed to be tackled this was no barrier to giving help abroad and to taking on the needs of every nation, race, colour and class.

This was said last week by Councillor J Pate, a member of Sheffield City Council, who has just spent two months in India where he met factory workers and union leaders.

Councillor Pate was speaking at a reception in Sheffield in his honour, which was attended by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Alderman Harold Lambert, other members of the City Council, and representatives of trade unions and industry.

The Sheffield steelworker was a member of an MRA delegation invited to India by Rajmohan Gandhi.

India needed aid but even more she needed the answer to a disunity which led to one union leader receiving 117 stab wounds in inter-union rivalry, said Councillor Pate.

BIRTHRIGHT by PETER HOWARD

England, a thousand of your men Have praised you with their voice and pen, And millions more their blood have shed. Your life, you owe it to your dead. But who will now arcuse and save Your birthright from a common grave?

Island of grey and green and gold When autumn mists your fields enfold. Island of sap and blossoming When earth first sprays her lap in spring. Island of coal and cliff and sea, Of commonplace and mystery.

The smooth green of the southern downs, The gaunt grey shapes of northern towns, The mediaeval bells that chime. And wood fires in the winter time – O England, we of you are part, Your bloodbeat fills and warms our heart.

The humble, nameless, godly folk For centuries they drew the yoke, Their stubborn arms and hearts upbore A nation out of peace and war. They laboured loyally as they died And left an empire to our pride.

Yet not by might and not by power Can England answer at this hour; Nor can we from the past inherit A living victory of the spirit To seize the moment that remains Ere Britain crumbles into chains.

Yes, we could bear in war to die, Slain by the blows of tyranny; Uphold our banners while our breath Remained—courageous unto death. Better to fall beneath our shield, The Cross, than to a dragon yield.

But bitter when an isle, once free, Rots from within, and liberty Unearned is lost; the land which braved The centuries becomes enslaved; The blight and blindness of small men To turn the ages dark again.

So not by power and not by might Can England resurrect the right. By renaissance alone can bring Freedom to commoner and king. God redirect us and forgive. Lord, teach a nation how to live.

England, a thousand of your men Have praised you with their voice and pen, And millions more their blood have shed. Your life, you owe it to your dead. But who will now arouse and save Your birthright from a common grave?

Read by H W 'Bunny' Austin at a public meeting in the Westminster Theatre, London, last Sunday, on the third anniversary of Peter Howard's death.

BRITISH Agricultural Engineer Goes to kenya

A PHILLIPSON, an agricultural engineer, recently left his post at the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, to go this week to Kenya. He is to become senior machinery superintendent at the Kenya Agricultural Development Board.

'No preconception'

Phillipson said he had decided to go to Africa because of what Peter Howard had once said about faith and obedience to God. Speaking at the Westminster Theatre on the third anniversary of Howard's death, he said, 'I remember Peter Howard about five years ago saying from this platform that he had no preconception of what he was going to do with the next chapter of his life and that what he heard from God is what he would do and obey. I have never forgotten that.'

With his family supporting him in his plan to go to Kenya, Phillipson said that he also 'mustn't have any preconceptions'. There was not, he said, any real security about the job he was taking up in Kenya. 'If I am told by God to go, then I must obey,' he said.

Michael Low and Alan Knight who are directing the Narosurra Farm Mechanisation Scheme in Kenya had inspired Phillipson to give the benefit of his technical assistance and knowledge to Kenya, he said.

80 farmers met

Last weekend 80 farmers, including the Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Engineering, met in London to say farewell to Phillipson and to plan that European farmers in increasing ways aid, through MRA, the agriculture and food-growing potential of Asia and Africa.

The Director of NIAE was the guest speaker at the reception. The senior agricultural engineers of Britain, which is the world's chief exporter of tractors, were present.

Film for Phillipines' schools and colleges

PLANS are now being made for the systematic screening of *Give a Dog a Bone* in the schools and training colleges of the Philippines. This development follows the two and a half weeks' visit to the Philippines by British schoolteachers, Constance Smith and Jill Robbins, who have been showing the film to educational and school authorities in the Middle East, Ceylon, India, Malaysia, Singapore and Australasia.

During their Philippines' visit, 8,000 school children saw this film of Peter Howard's pantomime. The Far Eastern University included it in their Foundation Week celebrations which had as their theme, 'New Directions in Education',

The Lay Administrator of Santa Tomas University said of *Give a Dog a Bone*, 'This is a jewel of a film, technically and musically. The colour is glorious and the message is so clear'.

HIS WARTIME MESSAGE REACHED TWENTY MILLION

RICHARD N HAILE, for many years a council member of the Institute of British Photographers, twice its President and a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, died on 20 February.

Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Westminster Theatre Trustees and an



old friend, gave an address at the funeral service in his home town of Bognor Regis last Monday.

When statesmen of pre-war Britain were calling for Moral Re-Armament as the need of the day, Haile acted to bring it to his town, his profession and his country. On the first anniversary of MRA, he took carloads of people to East Ham Town Hall and in the summer of 1939, as warclouds darkened, 4000 people poured into Bognor for an assembly on the theme: 'Moral Re-Armament, the Strength of Citizenship'.

South Coast

A year later the Continent of Europe had been overrun. Churchill gave the roar and British's lion heart needed all the strength it could get. On the South Coast Dick Haile was concerned, not with what would become of him and his business, but to prevent the same thing happening on his side of the Channel.

He had learned the art of listening to the Living God and one morning he wrote down, 'Morale is the need. Write a message on Morale that will go to twenty million people'. Hardly trusting the guidance God had given

RICHARD HAILE'S photograph of TOD SLOAN, revolutionary for MRA and Keir Hardie's fellow fighter from the docks



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him, he put down some points which were distributed to every home on the local council housing estate.

Distributed

Then 350 Lord Mayors, Mayors and civic authorities throughout the land took up the message—'Morale, How To Play Your Part'—and issued it to their people. Some distributed it house to house to every home in their towns. Others had it published as a page in the local newspapers. Some printed it as book markers in public libraries. In the end it reached 20 million people in Britain.

Later it was distributed overseas to the Commonwealth and the United States.

An outstanding portrait photographer, Dick Haile understood the ideological power of the visual long before this became generally recognised. He had sensitiveness to the needs of people and the dare to go out to meet them. He once wrote, 'We must have a programme and personal progress together—both a target and a clean rifle. If we put up the target first, no matter what we feel like, we'll soon be asking God for fitness and power to hit it'. He was a crusader for a new world.

PETER PHELPS

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