

SUDAN STARTS NEW AFRICA MOVE

THE CHAIRMAN of the Supreme Council of State in the Sudan, Sayed Ismail Azhari, this week inaugurated performances of the all-Africa musical *Harambee Africa* in the open air National Theatre in Omdurman on the banks of the Blue Nile.

The Sudan Government has invited the sixty-member cast as guests of the government, covering their expenses and air transportation from Nairobi. The show, whose purpose is to develop African unity and overcome tribal violence and corruption, was first produced last December at an MRA conference in Nairobi attended by 950 people from fourteen African nations. In the cast were Kenyans, Ugandans, Tanzanians, South Africans, Zambians, Basothus, Nigerians and Sudanese.

The Supreme Council Chairman on arrival at the theatre took the salute

as an army band played the National Anthem. Among the audience of 3,400 were members of the Supreme Council, the Minister of Education, Ambassadors, the Commissioner of Khartoum Province and heads of Government departments.

The ninety-minute programme was broadcast live on radio and television.

On their arrival in Khartoum the *Harambee Africa* cast were welcomed by the Minister of Education, Sayed Hassan Awadalla, on behalf of the Prime Minister, Sadik el Mahdi, and the three ministries inviting the musical. He said, 'I feel that the whole African continent is gathered here at Khartoum Airport.

'We hold a high opinion of *Harambee Africa*. It was Jomo Kenyatta himself who uttered the now famous phrase, "Take Harambee to all nations". We are proud the Sudan is

the first nation to respond to that call.

'The future of the continent wholly depends on the fulfilment of the aims you are striving to achieve. We believe the Sudan, so centrally situated, will pull with *Harambee Africa* towards the unity of the continent.'

Sayed el Imam el Hadi el Mahdi, grandson of the famous Mahdi of history, gave a breakfast in his palace where the cast could meet the elder statesmen and religious leaders of the Sudan. As the MRA force entered the palace they were greeted by Ansar Youth (followers of el Mahdi) shouting with military precision, 'God is the greatest and to Him be the praise'—their traditional rallying cry.

Following their tour of the Sudan *Harambee Africa* will visit Ethiopia from 26 to 31 August on the invitation of Emperor Haile Selassie.

'Let's stop scoring political points'

'IF WE STOP trying to score political points against each other in our councils we will build more houses, build better houses and build them more quickly,' said Councillor David Medicott of Aberdare, South Wales, last weekend. 'We must meet the urgent need of our country. We can make Britain strong, clean and united. To that end I have decided to commit my life.'

The Welsh councillor was among many local government leaders meeting at Tirley Garth in one of a series of MRA weekend conferences that have dealt with the industries at the heart of Britain's economic crisis.

Local authorities control education, the highways, public health, the police and community welfare, and spend £4,000 million a year.

In a lifetime of trade unionism and public service he had attended hundreds of conferences, said Medicott. Often he came away disillusioned or with more problems added. This visit was different. 'This time we civic leaders,' he said, 'are going back to sink our party differences in local government in the interests of the country.'

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The Mayor of Congleton, Councillor F Heapy, talks with West Indian Test cricketer Conrad Hunte at the Tirley conference photo: Strong



Indians and Kenyans call for British help

by Dr Paul Campbell

AN AFRICAN EDITOR said to me last month, 'Supposing America is wholly successful in Vietnam, ends the war, establishes democratic government and gets prosperity and peace flowing again, and in the meanwhile India falls under dictatorship of Left or Right. What happens to Asia? And Africa?'

The future of Asia's millions may well be decided by what the British can do in India, not by what the Chinese and Russians and Americans do in Vietnam. India is the prize in Asia. Here will be decided the great question for two-thirds of the earth: can free men answer their problems of poverty, illiteracy and disease—in freedom? Or is the sword, the whip and the lash the only way to remedy the situation?

Rajmohan Gandhi is totally convinced that free men under God can far more effectively bring in a new day in India and in the world than any totalitarian system. He has already begun the training of some five thousand young people in India for this constructive revolution.

Speed

He has a weekly newspaper, *Himmat*, which is read and heeded by the present leadership of India. He has stature as a leader and the magic of his name and lineage which, in a divided India, recalls men to the great days of common aim and purpose during the Independence struggle.

But he needs to find a way of speedily energising and uniting the 500 million people of India. Part of his strategy is to enlist the educated minority in a programme of moral rearmament and modernisation. For this he urgently needs the help of trained British people.

He asks for teachers who will come to India not for a year to teach but with a commitment to raise up a new generation of leadership, fear-free, hate-free and greed-free. He asks for doctors who will work for people to be free, fit and responsible. He asks for youth from Britain who will train a generation of young educated Indi-

ans to take charge of the modernisation of their country, and live sacrificially, selflessly for their people.

Such teachers, doctors and youth have been trained in Britain and are at work under Gandhi's leadership now. Australia has also contributed such a force. But this is only a beginning. There is need for thousands. One Britisher working in Bombay with Gandhi said to me, 'Tell the people of Britain that if you want to live straight, work hard, leave behind your creature comforts and your "nose-in-the-air" attitude, there is a job here with overwhelming rewards. No matter how much you give, it will be only one-third of the returns.'

Rebuff

What India is to Asia, Kenya is to Africa. The Kenyans are developing a pattern of stable government, multi-racial co-operation and effective land reform projects which are giving a lead to the continent. They have rejected the Red Chinese diplomatic advances.

Although China has failed in her effort to divide Africa with a yellow band across the centre of the continent from Dar es Salaam to the mouth of the Congo, the Russians are advancing with great skill. The Soviet Union has just put two hundred tanks and jets into Somaliland. Britain considers withdrawing from Aden. The Red Sea could become a 'red' lake. That would open up a highroad from Moscow to the heart of Africa. This plan cannot be fulfilled unless Kenya is destroyed or taken over.

The ideological struggle for Kenya will undoubtedly intensify over the next ten years. Responsible Kenyans pleaded with us for teachers and doctors who would not just teach but would dedicate themselves to raise a generation of ideologically clear and committed leadership. These men have a conviction that Africa with the goals, philosophy and practice of Moral Re-Armament can be the unexpected force in this country to supersede the materialism of the Western and Communist countries.

They have called for a conference in Caux in September on 'African development: the next ten years'. They want to consider with Africans from every corner of the continent the political, social, economic, moral and ideological challenge. They told me Caux is the ideal place for people from every section of Africa to meet and plan strategically for their continent.

Asian and African nations look to Britain for Moral Re-Armament, without which they perish from the pressures of corruption, confusion, subversion and poverty. They need men, money and a modernised Britain to give them Moral Re-Armament.

There are three possibilities open to Britain.

We can give in and co-exist with the bitterness in and between classes and nations. And some do just that.

We can fight it out in industry, in Parliament and globally. And that means the risk of national bankruptcy and global suicide.

Or we can live Moral Re-Armament—the next step forward for Left and Right alike.

Chaos

What we shall never do in time is to try to patch things up with makeshift remedies, to pretend basic differences do not matter, to think that this challenge to the spirit, the character, the integrity and the goals of the British people can be met by economic, political and military measures alone, peppered with exhortations and warnings.

Commitment by the British people to Moral Re-Armament means Britain committed to a world-wide revolution—economic, social, political and cultural—rooted in a revolution in men. We shall choose either to put ourselves under God's direction or condemn ourselves as a nation to increasing chaos and controls.

I am against selfish nationalism. I am all for Britain forgetting herself and going all out with an intelligent strategy to win the battle at home and the battle for Asia and Africa.

KERALA

SOUTH INDIA'S state of Kerala has welcomed the Indian patriotic musical *India Arise*. Invited by Keralian newspaper proprietor George John and leading welfare worker George Matthew, the play opened in Kootickal, source of 85% of India's rubber.

Kerala, most literate state of India, has experienced Socialist, coalition and Communist government, but its political divisions are so great that it is now under Presidential rule.

K M Cherian, managing director of *Malayala Manorama*, the state's largest daily, said to the cast, 'Kerala has tried many things, but the spirit you carry and the commitment each one of you has made for this nation is the only answer for India.'

India Arise has also been invited to Bengal and Assam.

ZAMBIA

THOUSANDS OF PUPILS from 24 schools saw MRA films, arranged last week in the Copper Belt by the Zambia National Union of Teachers. Repeat performances were given for school heads, teachers, parents and their friends. The weekly mine newspaper gave space to advertise the showings.

Mr Sichelemba, Chairman of the Mufulira region of ZNUT, said, 'These films are very educative and express the ideas we all need. In Zambia as in any other country in Africa we must all learn to forgive one another.' He stressed that in the film *Freedom* forgiveness was the beginning of unity for a nation.

Further requests for showings of MRA films have come from ZNUT branches in other parts of Zambia.

GERMANY

DR ROHDENS, journalist and biographer of Dr Adenauer, said that *Sing-Out Germany* was ready for public performance. He was speaking at the latest series of public rehearsals of the musical at the Meisenhof Youth Centre, loaned to MRA by the Kloeckner Steel Company.

The one and a half hour presentation, including thirty songs, was given by a cast of 120, outfitted in costumes donated by the textile industry.

Colonel Wittman, Chief of Staff of the Second Army Corps, said, 'I will see to it that *Sing-Out Germany* is performed before troops in the south of Germany.'

In the audience at the rehearsal were Prince Richard of Hesse and an official delegation from the Federation of Coal Employers in the Ruhr.



Five plays offer new perspective in South Africa

by Bremer Hofmeyr

A LEADING SOUTH AFRICAN actor was offered a part in a play in Johannesburg's top theatre immediately after he had played in Peter Howard's *Through the Garden Wall*. The man needed the money but declined the part because, he said, 'I am not prepared to utter the filth that the script put into my mouth.'

South African theatre, as theatre throughout the world, has its share of propagandists who present old-fashioned vice and dirt as modern culture and art.

Johannesburg

Against that background Moral Re-Armament is presenting five plays this year. A professional company was established and produced *Through the Garden Wall*. It starred the first lady of South African theatre, Margaret Inglis.

After five successful weeks in Jo-

hannesburg the play went on tour. It broke entirely new ground for South African professional theatre by going into the great African township Soweto. No white professional cast had ever done this. The response was so unrestrained that the show was stopped for thirty seconds at a time with laughter or applause.

Now Peter Howard's *Music at Midnight* is in production and opens in Cape Town on 24 August, when Parliament assembles. Then it goes to East London, Kimberley, Pretoria, Soweto and Johannesburg.

A third play of Peter Howard's, *The Ladder*, is being presented by the Leather Workers' Union. This is a non-racial trade union and the actors are Indian from Pietermaritzburg. The first performance was for the National Conference of the Union. The invitations to the delegates, as well as to management, were extended by the President, the Secretary and the

Treasurer of the Leather Workers. The play was introduced by Syd Robinson from Britain, Secretary of the International Federation of Shoe and Leather Workers. Since the conference it has been playing for the general public.

The fourth play is an all-African musical with a cast of 60 from Johannesburg and Pretoria. It is directed by Cornelius Marivati, a lecturer at the University of South Africa.

The fifth play, *Springbok Stampede*, is a musical in Afrikaans and English with a cast of 48 from universities and high schools. It has done a 3,000-mile tour, and plays at weekends until the next holidays, when it once more takes the road.

Took no fee

The Star, South Africa's largest daily, started its review: 'Seldom in Johannesburg has a group of youngsters so positively captured the hearts of an audience as the 48 students of the musical *Springbok Stampede* did last night.' It is directed by Gordon Wales, who played in *West Side Story* in London and *Through the Garden Wall* in Johannesburg. He has taken no fee for this production.

The aim of the plays is to enlist all South Africans on the basis of an equal and total commitment to the reshaping of human society in Africa and the world.



Sir Nicholas Garrow, Chairman of the Northumberland County Council, and Lady Chapman, addressed the conference. The Mayor of Chester, Mrs Florence Grogan (centre photo, extreme left) said, 'Never have I enjoyed a conference so much.' She is holder of the traditional title, Admiral of the Dee photos: Pennington/Strong

Lady Chapman, whose husband is President of the Conservative Party in Jarrow, County Durham, came with a party of civic leaders from North-East industrial Britain, brought by Sir Nicholas Garrow, chairman of the Northumberland County Council.

'The spirit here is the answer to the Squeeze, the Freeze and the mini-Britain attitude,' she said. 'It is also the answer to the cynicism and despair one sees among one's friends which can so easily cripple the spirit we need in our industries.'

'I want you to know that I am in this battle wholeheartedly.'

Sir Nicholas Garrow, 42 years a Socialist member of the Northumberland County Council and for the last 14 years Chairman, said that when he first entered local government he had been content to score debating points over political opponents. 'The result was no extra schools, clinics or homes.'

In the Northumberland County Council, as a fruit of Moral Re-Armament, they had learnt to work as a team. 'One result,' he said, 'is that 120 schools have been built and opened since the war.'

In his speech, reported in the New-

castle *Sunday Sun*, the Labour Chairman ended, 'I have determined to commit what strength and length of days I have to MRA.'

In working sessions the Aldermen, Mayors and County and Urban Councillors thrashed out how local government could help end apathy, gangsterism and economic disruption.

Summing up the weekend for the 450 delegates from 28 countries, Sir Nicholas said, 'We in Britain have the human and material resources to solve our problems—once the will is there. This conference has given young and old that will.'

Step to European Arts Festival

TWO YEARS AGO HENRY CASS, the brilliant Director of Productions at the Westminster Theatre, went to Caux for the first time to see the German version of Peter Howard's play *Through the Garden Wall*, directed by actor-producer Victor de Kowa. After seeing the perfectly equipped theatre at Caux, high above Lake Geneva, he said, 'This place is the ideal setting for a theatre and arts festival. It could become a yearly event like Salzburg or Glyndebourne.'

This September a start is being made and Westminster Productions are sending over a cast of professional actors to present two plays by Peter Howard, *The Real News* and *The Dictator's Slippers*.

As Brecht's influence has grown in Europe and America since his death, so Peter Howard's voice must be heard again and again in every coun-

try of the world because Howard, instead of fostering class and racial war, answers the divisions of our times. The penetrating truths in his plays need to be heard on an ever-widening scale.

Peter Zander has been engaged to direct the plays. He is a young actor-director, drama lecturer, teacher and adjudicator. In the cast will be Mark Heath, who will be remembered for his magnificent performance as the Black Man in *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill*.

It is also very apt that with a woman prime minister in India. Surya Kurami, the famous Indian actress and dancer, has accepted to play the part of Desstani in *The Dictator's Slippers*. Miss Kurami's uncle, T Prakasam, was one of the great men of India and a close friend and co-worker with Mahatma Gandhi. Miss

Kurami is not only a movie star and dancer and singer but she also won an award in New York for her distinguished performance as the Queen in *The King of the Dark Chamber* by Rabindranath Tagore which ran there for two years.

Other members of the cast include Patrick Ludlow and Philip Newman. Ludlow has played in practically every West End theatre and on most Broadway stages and appeared in over fifty films and currently has been David in Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*. Philip Newman is well known for his parts in *Travelling Light* and *The Unexpected Guest* in the West End and in many television plays. With them is a distinguished supporting cast.

Also one of the finest stage crews is flying over to create the sets from designs from Simon Nicholson.

Phyllis Konstam