

Australian leaders meet MRA international force

AUSTRALIA'S Governor General, Prime Minister and Defence Minister have met with the Moral Re-Armament international force in Canberra in the last week.

Sir Paul Hasluck, the Governor General and former Foreign Minister, and Lady Hasluck, were guests of honour at a gala performance of the MRA musical *Anything to Declare?* The Governor General talked informally with members of the 21-nation cast backstage afterwards and then spoke to the whole company.

The Prime Minister of Australia, the Rt. Hon. John G. Gorton, and Mrs Gorton, received 30 delegates to the MRA Assembly in Canberra. The party, who were entertained at the Prime Minister's Lodge last Tuesday, came from 12 nations.

They included members of the committee from Papua New-Guinea who will be hosts to the forthcoming visit of 'Anything to Declare?' to that country.

The Solicitor General, Anglican Bishop, employers, trade unionists and students were among others who saw the MRA musical during its five-day run at the Canberra Playhouse. 2000 schoolchildren crowded special matinees, and excerpts from the show were broadcast on TV.

Also in the Canberra audiences were ambassadors and diplomats from fourteen countries, and Australian Federal MPs from opposing parties who paired in order to come during the Budget session of Parliament.

The Canberra Times opened its review: 'Above all else the quality that shone through last night's performance of *Anything to Declare?* was conviction.'

**Papua-New Guinea leaders
welcome MRA**

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The Governor General of Australia, Sir Paul Hasluck (right), meets Osman Ibrahim Shum, Ethiopia (left); Sachidinanda, India; Penelope and Peter Thwaites, Australia; and James Hore-Ruthven, Britain, after a gala performance of 'Anything to Declare?'

Sunday News, Belfast

'ULSTERMEN OFF ON MISSION OF PEACE'

THE EXPECTATIONS which many in Ulster have of the MRA Assemblies at Caux was displayed in the *Sunday News* (23 August), 'Northern Ireland's Only Sunday Newspaper', when it announced a plane party of Ulster Catholics and Protestants who set out for Caux this week.

'They go to try and find a solution which will bring peace to our embittered Province,' writes the *Sunday News*. 'Here we look at their hopes—and most important of all their past successes.'

The newspaper then describes how, as a result of the change in Mohammed

Masmoudi, now Foreign Minister of Tunisia, that country won her independence without bloodshed. 'The group of men who had such success with the minimum of terror and bloodshed are working behind the scenes today in Northern Ireland,' the paper adds.

Then it describes how two of the men whose change brought a solution to the conflicts between the Italian- and German-speaking communities in South Tyrol visited Belfast in February last.

'They spoke to a group at a dinner in

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'Risks of involvement less than risks of isolation'

—*Australian Defence Minister*

'WHEN PEOPLE and politicians cease to be concerned with great issues they cease to be able to judge which issues are important,' Australian Defence Minister Malcolm Fraser told an MRA conference in Canberra last Monday. 'When they concentrate on selfish issues then their own world is very much in jeopardy. In these issues none of us can disclaim responsibility for what occurs—as MRA recognizes in its pursuit of a better world.'

Fraser, who was addressing the 'Something to Declare' conference which opened last weekend, had earlier come straight from urgent political discussions to meet the cast of *Anything*

to Declare? on their opening night.

Speaking about the responsibility of Australians in South East Asia, he continued, 'Neither men nor nations can stand aside today from the great issues and problems that confront us. The risks of involvement are much less than the risks of isolation. We should strive harder than we ever have to provide that leadership which the world so often looks for and so seldom finds.'

Thanking the Minister for Australian aid to Asia, Miss Kalpana Sharma of Bombay said, 'Australians with a valid answer to hate and division in their own lives would be invaluable in ensuring the security of the future of Asia.'



Defence Minister Fraser speaks to Kalpana Sharma from Bombay, India

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Stormont. The guest-list included members of the Stormont Government—including at least one Cabinet Minister—people who had manned barricades last August, city councillors, Protestant and Catholic clergymen, businessmen and university leaders.

'They heard the two men speak of how their country found peace through the conferences at Caux.

'This week a planeload of people from Northern Ireland will fly to Caux on a similar mission.'

The paper cited changes of attitude expressed by Belfast City Councillor Jack Lavelle, Republican Labour Party, and Councillor Major Frank Watson, Unionist Party, following visits to earlier Caux assemblies.

Lavelle said at Caux, reported the paper, 'I go back to Belfast, not to add more fuel to the flames of hatred, but ready to sit down with my opponents to see if we cannot find a solution.' Watson said there had been an arrogance with the 50 years of Unionist power in Northern Ireland. 'For that I want to ask forgiveness from the other side.'

'Moral Re-Armament have been working quietly to breach the gap between the two communities in Northern Ireland for many years.

'Members of Moral Re-Armament meet extremist leaders from both sides. . . .

'In Caux next week influential members of our community will discuss how they can put it into practice. . . .

'Conference brings meeting of minds and hearts'—*Laotian diplomat*

A SENIOR ADVISER in the Australian Prime Minister's Department said last week in Canberra that a change in the motives of statesmen resulted in a change in international affairs.

Allan Griffith, in an address opening the 'Something to Declare' conference, cited the re-establishment of Australian-Japanese relations after the Second World War, particularly the apology of the Japanese Prime Minister, Nobosuke Kishi, to the Australian Parliament, which he termed 'the fruit of the work of MRA.'

The Laotian acting Chargé d'Affaires, T Chantharasy, recalling Paul-Henri Spaak's view that the Paris Vietnam peace talks were merely monologues, said, 'At this conference there is a meeting of minds and hearts.'

Griffith welcomed to the conference Enche Mohamed Zain Bin Ahmad, Auditor-General of Malaysia, Michael Kaniniba, Member of the Papua-New Guinea House of Assembly and Jack Davies, Aboriginal leader from Western Australia. Delegates to the conference come from 23 countries.

PAPUA-NEW GUINEA LEADERS WELCOME '21 NATIONS WITH ONE VOICE'

LEADERS OF Papua-New Guinea welcomed the MRA international force to their country in a message read to the Canberra Conference by Paul Lapun, Member of the Territory's House of Assembly for South Bougainville. Lapun was accompanied by five other members of the welcoming committee including Archbishop V Copas, MSC, and Gaudi Mirau, President of the Construction General Workers Union on Bougainville.

The message stated: 'We hope and pray that after seeing the play *Anything to Declare?* our people in Papua and New Guinea can increasingly get the idea of change, recognising each other

as brothers and sisters and children of the same Almighty God.

'We believe that Papua and New Guinea's many peoples together can give God's answer to a divided world. You who come from 21 nations and speak with one voice can help us in that task.'

Signatories include five MHAs headed by the Speaker, John Guise, who is Patron of the Committee.

Archbishop Copas told the Canberra conference, 'The forces of good and evil are definitely lined up in Papua-New Guinea. You come on the side of Almighty God and you come at the right time.'

'Thank God what we feared most has been averted'

A FORMER MEMBER of the Assam Government of Northeast India said that the ending of the bitter struggles between the Hills people and the Plains people of Assam was achieved through a sudden change in the men involved.

Sixteen of the Hills people had visited the MRA centre at Panchgani near Bombay, said L Sharma, a former government minister now attending the MRA World Assembly at Caux, Switzerland.

'They returned with a change in their hearts. When they returned the whole atmosphere magically changed. In that atmosphere of goodwill the new agreement was reached.' On that agreement the new sub-state of Meghalaya was formed and inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, in April this year.

Sharma is now Principal of the Shillong Law College and arrived at Caux last week with nine other men and women from India.

Coming from the North East Frontier Agency bordering China Miss S Swer,



Sanjoy Hazarika and his mother. Their expenses in attending the Caux conference were contributed to by three State Ministers of Assam.

who is a former principal of a college of education, said, 'The womenfolk thank God that what we feared most has been averted. The bloodshed and violence were ended just because God spoke to our leaders. There is a better way than violence to solve our problems. It was the hand of God that put it in the minds of men to realise that in order to be good leaders they should put right their own problems and change.'

Niketu Iralu, from Nagaland, a State where an armed underground movement is active, said that observers believed that the settlement in Assam had averted a Vietnam-style situation.



DR P C CHUNDER, Leader of the Congress Party (O) of West Bengal (above), comes from the trouble-torn city of Calcutta where six attacks were made on his home in the last year.

He said to the Caux conference: 'West Bengal is a problem state. Everything is a problem: health, education food. When I left, parts of the city were in flames. The trouble today is that bad people combine to make the world worse to satisfy their selfish hates, but good people do not combine.'

'Simply by escapism we cannot avoid the danger of evil. The attack going on is not only on the material values, but on the human values of what is good.'

'I have come here with great humility and I want to learn from you. I want to carry the message of MRA to my own troubled country.'

MRA IS ENTERING GREAT ADVANCE

by Garth Lean

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT is entering a period of great advance in its history.

This week the Australian Defence Minister, Hon Malcolm Fraser, addressed an MRA assembly in Canberra. Thirty delegates from the conference later were received by the Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Gorton. The Governor General, Sir Paul Hasluck, and Lady Hasluck attended a performance of *Anything to Declare?*

These leaders have been impressed by the solution which MRA helped to bring to the violent conflict on the Pacific island of Bougainville between the islanders and the international copper mining company, Conzinc Rio Tinto of Australia.

From Australia the international force of 100 from 21 nations—of whom 45 are British—goes to New Zealand at the invitation of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Previously they have been in India, where during the past few years the Asian conference centre at Panchgani

has been built. *The Indian Worker*, the official journal of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, states that the aim of conferences at Panchgani has been 'to help Indians who are deeply divided among themselves to find a healing to their internal bitterness.' 'There is evidence,' says *The Indian Worker*, 'that this is beginning to happen.'

One instance of this healing process comes from the jungles of Assam, where conflict between people of the Hills and the people of the Plains was so intense that some people felt it might produce a Vietnam situation. The Chief Minister of Assam, B P Chaliha, said, 'MRA has transformed the climate of Assam. That is a fact. I speak as an Administrator.'

In Malaysia the Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, says, 'MRA is bringing unity where there is division, freedom where there is fear, trust where there is antagonism, healing where there is hatred.'

The international conference of MRA

at Caux in Switzerland has already been attended this year by over 3000 people from 67 countries. Six charter planes (BAC 1-11 jets) are going there from Britain this summer. Next month a conference arranged with the co-operation of Jean Rey, the retiring Chairman of the European Economic Community, will draw political and industrial leaders from many countries.

Caux conferences in the last three years have assisted in the reaching of agreement between the Italian-speaking and German-speaking communities in South Tyrol. So bitter was the situation that the Italian Prime Minister described the solution as: 'A contribution to the unity of Europe.'

MRA full-length feature films have been on television in the last twelve months in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Uganda, Cyprus, Zambia, Rhodesia, Malta, Sierra Leone and Norway. Lebanon has asked for six feature films for TV transmission.

In my view

Britain can set new trend in books

BY PAULINE MATTHEWS
New Zealand

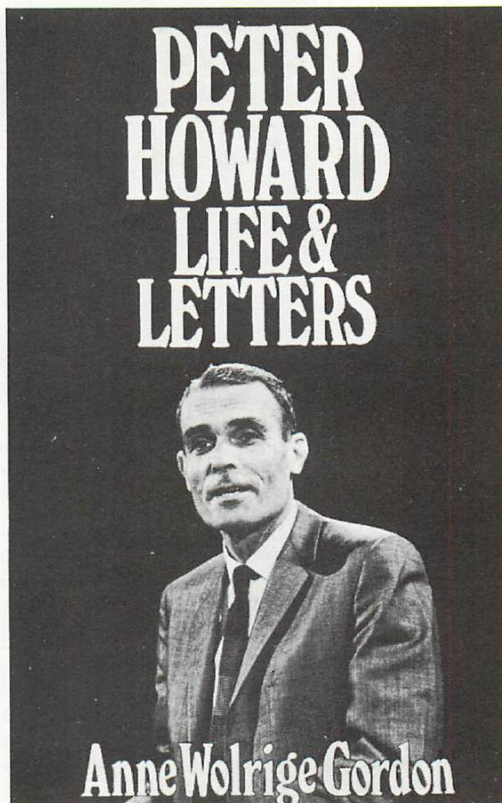
AS A LIBRARIAN recently in charge of a public library in Auckland, New Zealand, I believe that books can play a big part in shaping people's lives. I feel very concerned that the kind of books are made available which satisfy men's hearts and minds and give a purpose and joy in living.

As part of my work I used to read 20 books a month and review them at book review sessions held in the library once a fortnight. I also wrote a library page in the local paper. Two titles which captured readers' interest were *A Mixed Double* by W H Austin and Phyllis Konstam, and *Peter Howard, Life and Letters* by Anne Wolrige Gordon. I reviewed these at the sessions held in the library, in the newspaper and at a weekly meeting for Auckland librarians.

Literary censorship is much more lax than it was even 5 years ago. Judging from comments and opinions from countless readers in the library I would say that the public does not want pornography. In fact publishers are forced to reprint old favourites written in the 1920's and 1930's to satisfy the demand for enjoyable and readable novels.

Frequently people's spirits are lifted by a good book and they lose no time in recommending it to their friends. It is very encouraging when books are produced which hold one's interest, can be really enjoyed, and lift the reader far beyond himself. People are often surprised and fascinated to come across one that does this.

I feel that Britain, world-famous for its great writers, can now set a completely new trend for the world in book production. *Peter Howard, Life and Letters*, published last year and now so much in demand it is being re-issued as a paperback, is one of the books recently written to arrest and change the thinking of our time.



PAPERBACK
PUBLICATION DATE
7 SEPTEMBER 1970

Hodder and Stoughton
Price 6s.

Publicity material is now
available from:
MRA Books, 4 Hays Mews,
London, W1X 7RS.

Newspaper blocks
size 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 25s each,
or photographs at 6s each
of the front cover.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN LONDON, 5-7 SEPT.

A National Assembly for Moral Re-Armament will take place in the Westminster Theatre, London, over the weekend 5-7 September.

Patrick Wolrige Gordon MP (East Aberdeenshire) and his wife Anne, author of *Peter Howard: Life and Letters*, will take part in the launching of the new paperback edition of *Peter Howard: Life and Letters* at the Sunday morning session of the Assembly.

at a glance

Ethiopia

FACED WITH student unrest throughout Ethiopia education administrators, teachers and students are now meeting at a conference in Asmara, capital of the province of Eritrea, entitled 'There is an Answer.'

Lij Mulugeta Asserate, son of the Governor-General of Eritrea, initiator of the conference, said he used to simply blame the government and the students for what was wrong. He and the other men arranging the conference were seeking to answer the five problems Ethiopia faces: class war, tribalism, family division, corruption and mistrust.

The conference opened on 21 August and concludes on 31 August.

Britain

SHOP STEWARDS and management representatives from the motor industries of Birmingham and Coventry travelled by charter plane (BAC 1-11 Jet) to Geneva on 28 August to attend the MRA international assembly in Caux, Switzerland. Other groups among the 114 passengers were directors and trade unionists from major industries, men and women from Northern Ireland and British and overseas students.

They are attending sessions at Caux for statesmen, industrialists, trade unionists, business and professional leaders.

This was the fifth in the series of six charter return flights from London to Geneva this summer ferrying delegates from Britain to the Caux conference centre, 60 miles from Geneva.