

MRA Information Service

Opening at the Westminster Theatre
7 April to 23 May

The Dictator's Slippers The Ladder

Double Bill by Peter Howard

Evenings 7.45 Matinees: Wed and Sat 2.30
Box Office 01-834 0283

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Medical consultant

SHAPING TOMORROW'S SOCIETY

'We, the Remakers of the World—is not that the thinking and willing of the ordinary man?'
Frank Buchman quoted in Easter conference invitation

THEY CAME FROM all corners of Britain and from 21 other countries. They came by car, train, plane and boat. They poured in to Tirley Garth in the North of England last weekend, in the conviction that ordinary men and women, under God, can be the builders of tomorrow's society.

Students from 12 universities, sixth formers, and whole families, as well as representatives of industry, local government, press and the professions were among the three hundred people who assembled at the MRA conference centre

near Tarporley in Cheshire over Easter.

A group of 24 from Northern Ireland representing both communities brought their production of Peter Howard's play *The Ladder*. Members of the cast, which includes senior professional men, students and families of industrial workers, said afterwards they were ready to take the play anywhere it was needed.

'We will solve our problems in Ireland when we take on the problems of the world,' declared Belfast architect Brian Hewitt. 'This is beginning to happen.' Busy though he was in his work, he had



Schoolteacher

decided to 'lay my business at the Cross' to travel with the play. 'I am willing to go anywhere with this cast,' said Bangor doctor George Dallas. Dr Dallas said he gives 60 per cent of his net salary to Moral Re-Armament, and had decided not to take out a life insurance policy, but to 'invest in the future of humanity rather than my own future.'

The conference heard from Dr Reginald Luxton, leading Manchester consultant, just back from 16 weeks tour of South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand, and Canon Julian Thornton-Duesbery of Liverpool Cathedral, just returned from Assam. 'Out of great poverty, India is giving a richness to the world,' said Canon Thornton-Duesbery, who took part in MRA conferences in Panchgani and Delhi. 'I want to sit much looser to all my material possessions so they can be used for the advancement of God's Kingdom.'

Working groups at the conference planned to meet their representative leaders on the real election issue for Britain—God or materialism—and to invite them to *The Ladder* and other new plays at the Westminster Theatre.

Above all, delegates prepared through discussions and personal decisions for the basic work of Moral Re-Armament—tackling the problems of society through changing people. They decided to enlist, in the words of Frank Buchman for Britain, in 'a quiet army of life-changers moving up and down the face of the land.'



Immigrant leader

Schoolgirl



The Governor of Assam and Nagaland, B K Nehru, speaking from the stage after a performance of 'Anything to Declare?'

India-MRA Intern

'Installing Un Division Pre

European revue 'Anything to Decla

Refugee with faith in the future Assam could be a bulwark of liberty

In the hills of the North east of India are the Nagas, Garos, Khasis, Mizos and other hills people. In parts of the region there has been fighting between the Indian Army and the people.

Elizabeth Lester writes from Shillong, capital of Assam, now visited by an MRA international force.

A YOUNG MIZO HEADMASTER told us, 'We still believe very much in liberty, truth and purity.' We met with him and his wife in their tiny sitting room over tea.

A few years ago they had to leave their homeland when violence engulfed their district, the Mizo Hills, a rugged area, wedged between East Pakistan and Burma, and yet the region with the highest literacy in India. They came to Shillong—homeless and not a paise (penny) in their pockets.

All they had was a deep faith in the future for their people. They realised that the hope lay in the many hundreds of Mizo children—wandering, uncared for—and they started a school, first for the small children, then by strong requests from the parents for older children too.

They have a tiny home and three small children. They let part of their home for Rs 80 a month (£4.8.0.). This goes straight towards helping students from the Mizo Hills to get settled down.

They hear and know much of what goes on in Britain and the West. They are profoundly interested and puzzled too by much of what they hear. 'What are mini-skirts? Why do they wear them?

What are hippies? I don't understand,' said his wife. This is the picture they have of the West and yet they are people hungry for the answer to hurts and hates, people torn and separated from home and family—people of simple, staunch faith.

Pulling out troops, retiring into our own shell in no way lessens the effect we in the West have in these lands thousands of miles away. We have so much materially—many of them have nothing—and yet they have a simple faith in God and hope for the future of their children. We will betray them if we betray our faith—if we yield to our affluence.

In thanking a group of us who spoke and sang in his school, he said, 'Our future does not depend on what happens between Aijal (the capital of the Mizo Hills) and Shillong or between Aijal and Delhi—it depends on what happens in the hearts of the people.'

Here the future does not depend on trips to the moon, or the development of the intellect, or even on political decisions. It does depend on whether we can proclaim clearly and simple—by the ways we have explored, experimented and lived—the answer to violent hates and bitter hurts, to sapping lusts and greed and fear.

'What we need most is moral reformation—Moral Re-Armament—our morals need building again,' said the headmaster. If we can give what they most want, this area could be a bulwark for liberty, truth and faith in a turbulent and faithless world.

Nagaland, a state in the Northeast of India, is experiencing a conflict between an 'underground' favouring Naga independence from India and the Indian Army.

A NAGA STUDENT, speaking at an MRA meeting held in Shillong last week, said, 'I had a definite plan to kill the people whom I considered responsible for the suffering and death of many beloved cousins. I realised I have been too sensitive as to how others have hurt me that I have forgotten how much I have hurt others. MRA has shattered my evil plan and given me a complete plan to heal the wounds I have inflicted on others. I will take the first step by apologizing to the people I have hurt so bitterly.'

Earlier in the week, an audience including members of the Meghalaya Cabinet, the Chief Secretary of Nagaland and workers and management from tea estates and oil companies responded to a showing of *Anything to Declare?* L P Dutta, Rector of the Dibrugarh University said, 'You propose to put right what is wrong in nations and individuals by installing unity and love where division and hate prevail. To you we accord the heartiest welcome.'

Forty Parliamentarians at meeting for international force

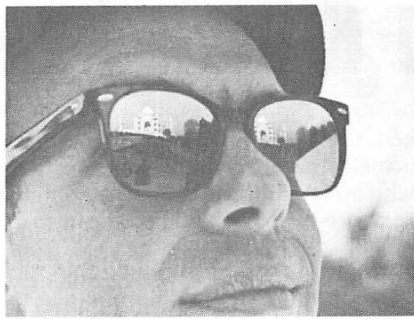
THE SPEAKER of the Assam Legislature Assembly, Mohi Kanta Das, last week welcomed members of the international force of MRA to the Assembly buildings. At a meeting attended by 40 Members of the Legislature Assembly, he said, 'I need not emphasize the necessity of MRA in our world where we

national force unity where vails'

re?' visits Assam

are surrounded by strife and threatened by nuclear war. If we are to save humanity today we must cast off our differences and join hands to do our best to preserve our civilization.'

Stanley Nichols-Roy, Minister-designate in the Cabinet of the new Meghalaya state, who was formerly a member of the Assam Assembly, told the Parliamentarians, 'As an opposition member I used to make many speeches about what was wrong. At Panchgani (an MRA world conference centre) I saw I was talking of dishonesty but being dishonest myself with my wife and colleagues. It did not solve anything. I had to start with honesty with them, then I could think clearly. It brought new hope that something can be done. We can learn together how to set right what is wrong in the world'.



'DO YOU LIKE INDIA?' That is the first question I have been asked again and again by schoolchildren, their eyes shining with curiosity, by housewives and by their husbands. Indians are obviously proud of their country and nothing gives them more pleasure than to see their enthusiasm shared by others.

I left Europe with a picture in my mind of India as a country of misery, suffering and dirt, and I have certainly seen enough of those things to exasperate, shock and sadden me in turn. But at the same time I have seen that the 'Green Revolution' of which economists speak is not a myth. That soon India will be able to feed herself and even to export food. I have visited modern factories headed by enterprising Maharashtrians and Punjabis. And on Republic Day, I was deeply moved to see the Indian nation marching together behind the white and orange flags.

Turbanned Sikhs, Nagas with sloping eyes, small tough Gurkhas famous for their fighting spirit, South Indians with nearly black skin, Rajasthani women whose full coloured skirts swirled around their ankles—it was the demonstration of a whole society—many races, languages and religions on

Through European Eyes

by Catherine Guisan
Switzerland

the march. India seems to be working on the kind of unity for which Europe has struggled for the last 25 years.

Coming from a country where hard work is considered a national virtue and from a family where one proves one's worth by the number of one's activities, I had to adjust myself to a wholly different pace of life. Here there is nothing of the super-organisation which characterises our way of life in Europe and there is ample opportunity for people to find a new and unexpected way—perhaps God's way—of doing things. Indians seem to enjoy life (even if they do not have our comfort and luxury) and they still know how to 'communicate'.

Recently in Delhi I had the chance to visit quite a number of Indian MP's. Without exception they all invited us in, often giving us more than an hour of their time and offering us tea or coffee. I learned how many children they had and where they came from.

At university in Switzerland, I was very interested in the problems of development and I was aware of the responsibility of the West. But since being in India, I have seen that if Europe has much to give, it has also much to learn.

A WAY MORE MODERN THAN VIOLENCE

Representatives of 13 universities meet in Oxford

OXFORD seemed less eventful than usual with the exodus of students for the vacation. But in St Edmund Hall, alive with memories of six centuries of British society, 60 students were planning to change that society. Not unusual for students perhaps, but the aim of this group, who represented 13 universities and 8 nations, was to find a more effective method of bringing change than the violence of frustration.

The invitation committee to this working party expressed their aims this way, 'The problems of today—the gap between haves and have-nots, race, class war and environment pollution, make it clear that unselfishness is a condition of man's growth and survival. Our concern will be with how to create this essential

maturity in man's character. Men have changed in their motives, will and attitudes, and large-scale problems have been resolved as a direct result.'

From the Sorbonne and from Northern Ireland, places where violence has been used in an attempt to change society, came students convinced from their own experience that changes could come to society without violence.

Alec McRitchie from Trinity College, Belfast, Northern Ireland, apologised to his sister, a converted Catholic, for his bitterness towards her. He lost his bitterness towards the whole Catholic community. When rioting broke out last year he went to a youth club which was used as a headquarters for Protestant extremists. He told how he lost his

bitterness to three young men who were there, all of whom had been wounded with gun shot and were filled with hatred. One of them had a similar relationship in his family. He also set this right and put away his weapon. 'We want to bring not only social justice but an answer to hatred to Ireland,' McRitchie said.

Bernard Rivière, a medical student from Paris, said, 'Three universities with 20,000 students have been created in Paris in the last few years. The student movement in Paris is taken as a model by the students of the world, but it is a model that we would like to see different.' Rivière raised the money for a French translation of the film *Happy*

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Open letter to British Parliament

It has just been announced that a Government Bill which is to have its second reading in the House of Lords on 9 April will enable the Government to authorise payment of grants for the mistresses or illegitimate children of students.

WE WERE SHOCKED to read of the proposed allowance for the mistresses and illegitimate children of students. We who are all under twenty-five feel we have a right to make our views heard.

Contrary to contemporary opinion we do not believe it is our right to have everything we want. We are all normal young human beings but we believe and have proved from experience that God who made us with all our instincts can give us the power to control them and so stay free. Many of us puff and blow

and say we don't believe in God but actually we are looking for something which many of our elders are, for one reason or another, withholding from us.

Those of our generation—leave alone anyone else—who are just beginning to earn and to pay taxes will be loath to have their money used to subsidise those who seem unable to study without what has been called the 'benefit' of sexual intercourse.

In twenty years' time our generation will be leading this nation. If we cannot curb our own passions now we shall certainly not be able to stand firm in the welter of international affairs then.

We who write are fortunate enough to have been given a faith by our parents and in some cases our teachers and we

cannot stand aside and see a philosophy of slavery and defeatism being imposed on people of our age in the name of freedom.

We have decided that the future of this country is our responsibility as much as yours. We are ready and eager to work with you in any way which will make of Britain the kind of nation to whom others turn for true leadership.

Yours sincerely,

VIRGINIA VICKERS, Leeds
MARGARET WILSON, London
ALEC MCRITCHIE, Londonderry
JENNIFER DOUGLAS, Larne, Ulster
LESLEY DOUGLAS, Larne, Ulster
STEPHEN O'CONNELL, Harrow
JEAN SIMPSON, London
MARGARET GRAY, Newcastle upon Tyne
BARBARA GRAY, Newcastle upon Tyne
KENNETH NOBLE, Manchester
ROBERT NOBLE, Manchester
ANN PEACOCK, Stevenage
JOANNA SCIORTINO, London
IRENE BURDEN, South Wales
ELIZABETH LODGE, Huddersfield
PETER WESTHEAD, Lincolnshire
BOB BALDWIN, London
ANNE LAVELLE, Belfast
STUART BOURNE, Whitley Bay
RICHARD HOWARD, Cheltenham
EDWARD HOWARD, Cheltenham
DAVID STERLING, London
HUGH CHANNER, Brentwood
PETER RIDDELL, London
MARGARET RAMSAY, London
ELIZABETH DUVAL, Leyland
EDWARD PETERS, Sheffield
CATHERINE LINTON, New Zealand
ANNEKE DE POUS, Holland
JANE LOVERING, Australia
ANDREW LANCASTER, Australia
GILBERTE MAUREL, France
FRANCINE TAYLOR, Guyana
DAVID MILLS, Australia
ISABELLE VIONNET, Switzerland
LINDIA PIERCE, India
ELAINE GORDON, Republic of Ireland
MANFRED MULLER-RIENZBURG, Austria

More modern than violence

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Deathday which deals fundamentally with problems created by science, race and families. He plans to show it regularly in the Quartier Latin.

A Ceylonese engineering student studying at King's College, Cambridge, summed up the conclusion of many of the students, 'It is no use expecting people or society to change, and becoming frustrated with them when they don't unless we are prepared to be radically different in our own lives.' He began by repaying the warden for unpaid telephone calls and an unnoticed error in his college bill. He said, 'I am going to enlist the students of my university in dealing with industrial and racial problems of this and other countries.'

Among the speakers at the universities' working party were Jack Carroll, former TGWU branch Chairman in the Port of Bristol; Geoffrey Sanders, a Bristol building contractor and Conrad Hunte, former Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team.

The working party thanked the manciple and the domestic staff of the college for their services. The manciple commented, 'We have more conferences here than in any other college in Oxford, but it is rare to be thanked. You even make your beds which is unusual. If we have helped your conference we are happy.'

MERRILYN BEAZLEY

Common objective with foreign workers

HOW THE FOREIGN WORKERS in European countries can find their rightful role in an integrated society was a main theme of an Easter conference in Caux, Switzerland. It brought together trade unionists, employers, educators, students and young workers from many parts of Europe. 'We are not here in Caux to decide what the million foreigners working in Switzerland owe to the Swiss, or what 5 million Swiss owe to us,' declared Guido Scognamiglio, Italian born full time organizer of the Swiss Metal Workers' Union in Berne. 'The urgent need is for a common objective—big enough, modern enough and fascinating enough to unite peoples of different nationalities and outlook. I am convinced that the solutions we are finding here can benefit other countries who are facing similar issues.'

The Chairman of the Works Council of a textile firm in Winterthur, W Schurter, said, 'The foreign workers' problem has arisen because of materialism on both sides. If we are to get out of the present crisis each side must play its part. This means much more contact between us and I want to use my home as a meeting place for this purpose.'

Among the 350 delegates from 17

nations were groups from the Ruhr and South Germany, Paris and Lorraine, Rome and Florence. The representative of the Arab League in Geneva, Mr El Rafei attended the conference with his family. Also taking part was Mr John Tilney, British conservative MP and his wife who is President of the British National Council of Women.