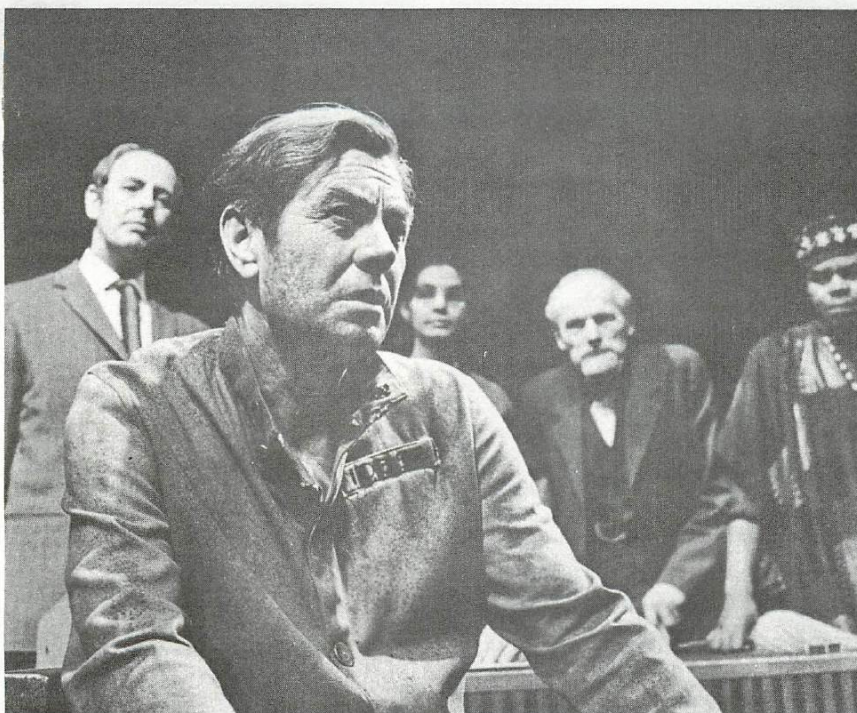


THE DICTATOR'S SLIPPERS

A
DOUBLE
BILL
BY
PETER
HOWARD

THE LADDER

NOW AT THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE, LONDON



'What did the will say?' The Prisoner (Philip Friend) replies, 'It nominated Adamant's Polyglot (the Dictator's) successor.' Behind: (Geoffrey Colvile), Desstani (Surya Kumari), Dr Hippocrat (David Steuart) and Irasca (Mark Heath)
photos Houston Rogers



Hero on the ladder (Philip Friend) to the Man with the Bag (David Steuart): 'I really want to help. But you know what it's like . . . So much is expected of a man in my position.'

* * *

In the casts of both plays:

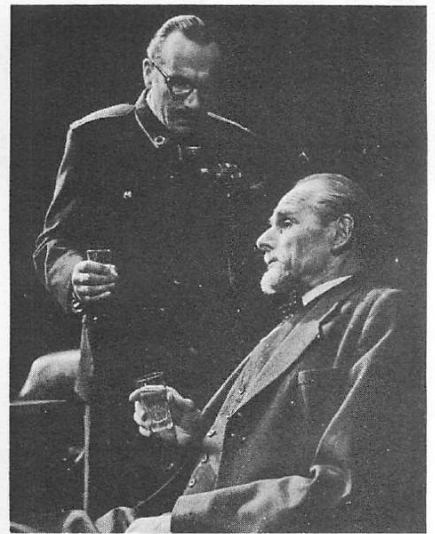
PHILIP FRIEND
PHILIP NEWMAN
DAVID STEUART
GEOFFREY COLVILE
JOAN CROYDON
MARK HEATH
SURYA KUMARI
DONALD SIMPSON
LISA RAYNE
CHRIS CHANNER

DIRECTED BY HENRY CASS

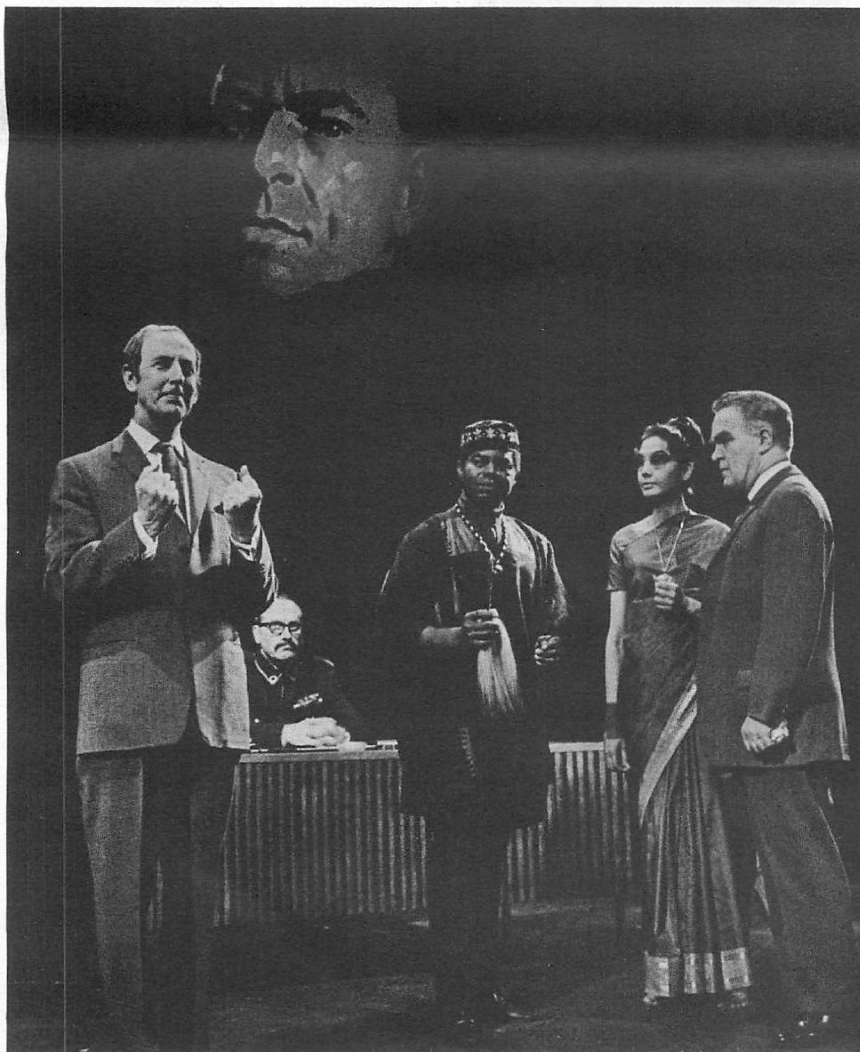


THE LADDER

The Mother (Joan Croydon), the Politician (Geoffrey Colville), the Businessman (Philip Newman) and a Bystander (Robert Robertson) seize the Hero (Philip Friend).



THE DICTATOR'S SLIPPERS Dr Hippocrat (David Steuart) tells Saturn, Chief of Police (Philip Newman), 'Only five people in the country know he is ill. You and I are two of them.'



THE LADDER 'There's nothing you cannot do, if you set your mind to it, son. Nothing. You'll get to the top,' the Mother (Joan Croydon) tells her son, The Hero (Philip Friend)

THE DICTATOR'S SLIPPERS Whilst Bullbluff (Donald Simpson), Desstani (Surya Kumari) and Irasca (Mark Heath) listen, Polyglot expounds, 'I suppose it's true to say that I have more power in my hands than any living man except Adamant himself'

MEGHALAYA— Bloodless founding of new state

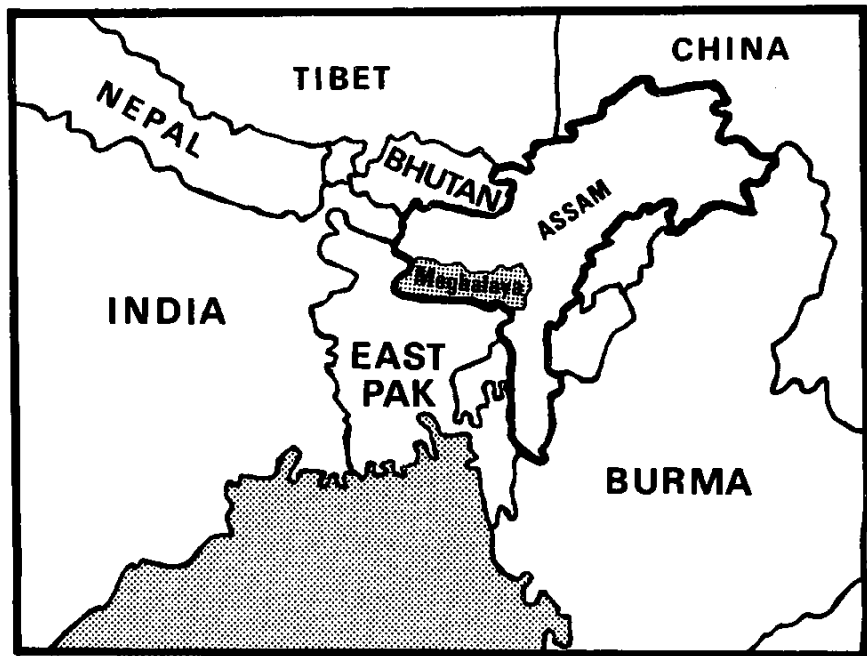
Indian Prime Minister and hundred thousand at Inauguration

THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, Mrs Indira Gandhi, last week inaugurated the new hill state of Meghalaya in India's Northeast close to China, Burma and East Pakistan.

One hundred thousand people gathered in the garrison ground, encircled by pineclad hills, while the sun blazed down between the clouds which have given Meghalaya its musical name—'Abode of the Clouds'. The inauguration of Meghalaya marks the peaceful conclusion of a struggle by the Hill people for greater political right.

Among the official guests at the function were the cast of *Anything to Declare?* who sat in a special front enclosure. They have been in Assam over the last three weeks at the invitation of the Chief Minister of Assam, B P Chaliha, and other leaders of both the Hills and Plains people. The huge crowd, drawn from all the tribes of the Northeast and dressed in their colourful traditional costumes, heard Captain Williamson Sangma, Chief Minister of the new state say, 'We can set an example for the rest of the country on how to work together in spite of differences in language, culture and creed.'

An editorial in the *Frontier Times*,



main daily newspaper of Shillong, capital of Meghalaya, states, 'It is a day for us in the presence of our Prime Minister and when the eyes of the rest of India are on us to proclaim a different way of settling political differences. A

policy of a change of heart and the new statesmanship that overarches differences of race, language, religion and point of view have made today's celebrations possible. Such a policy, where former enemies become friends and barriers of prejudice are broken down, has validity beyond the borders of Assam. Thousands in the Northeast are grateful to the political figures who, by applying the ideas of MRA, overcame the bitter division that kept them apart. Millions across the world will come to share their hope as leaders and people extend the practice of reconciliation, the upholding of moral standards in private and public life.'

At a reception given by the cast of *Anything to Declare?* for their hosts in Shillong, Stanley Nichols-Roy, who was sworn in on the day of inauguration as one of the five ministers in the new state, said, 'I dedicate my life to try to bring an answer. In Assam and in our new state we will need courage and conviction to live to see righteousness prevail in the counsels of nations. If we are humble enough to acknowledge our mistakes before God and man and learn from them then we can play our part in the new world you talk about.'

The entire MRA force were guests at the Governor's garden party in honour of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Will the Northeast now help the rest of India?

ON THE EVENING before the inauguration of the new state of Meghalaya, Rajmohan Gandhi asked the people of Assam and the Northeast to help the rest of India out of its present difficulties.

Gandhi, Chief Editor of *Himmat* and one of those who invited *Anything to Declare?* to India, was speaking to an overflowing audience at the close of the MRA revue's final performance in Shillong.

He said, 'People in Assam and the Northeast often asked, "When Assam is in trouble will the rest of India help us?" Today the question is, "Now that the rest of India is in trouble will the people of Assam and the Northeast help? Will they show the answer?"'

Referring to the new hill state of

Meghalaya Gandhi continued, 'Something that has impressed the whole country and the world is how the Assamese people and the hills people maintained their friendship in these last months. This remarkable partnership offers a ray of hope to the country. People everywhere are saying, "Could not the same spirit exist between Punjab and Haryana, between Mysore and Maharashtra?"'

'Of course the need for partnership will increase during the coming months,' Gandhi continued, 'but something tells me that the leaders of Assam and Meghalaya will by the application in their lives of the kind of ideas they have seen tonight on the stage, show an

Continued overleaf

New state's watchword: Performance, not promise

from our correspondent

MEGALOMANIA is delusion about grandeur. Meghalaya is the new sub-state in the Northeast hills of India. Its leaders have few delusions and certainly no illusions about the difficult task facing them in the months ahead.

I spent till after midnight one evening last week talking with architects of the new state—Khasi leaders for whom this is the triumph of more than fifteen years of persevering work. They had heavy problems, administrative and otherwise, on their shoulders—all the machinery involved in setting up a state where none existed before. Their government had as yet no office space, not even a telephone. But most of their talk was not about these things but about the moral qualities needed in the leadership of Meghalaya. Could they serve their state better by being in or out of the cabinet? That was their spirit.

Unexpected way

The bloodless achievement of Meghalaya seems to mean less to them than the selfless running of it. Performance, not promise, is their watchword.

Yet the outsider cannot entirely lose sight of the fact that statehood was achieved here in an unexpected way. On all sides one meets senior citizens, Hill people and Plains people, who say it came about because of a change of attitude and reconciliation on the part of some who had previously been bitterly divided. B K Nehru, Governor of Assam and Nagaland, said that Assam was on the threshold of a new chapter in its history. He hopes that the same spirit which had marked the deliberations on Meghalaya would continue to govern the mutual relations between the autonomous state and Assam. 'Seldom,' he added, 'have such far-reaching constitutional changes been brought about with so much of good will and understanding.'

Shillong, capital of the new state, is the kind of place that reminds a

Continued from overleaf

example to the whole country and to the world.

'Democracy has a moral basis,' Gandhi concluded, 'and if the moral basis goes it is only a question of days before democracy goes.'

visitor of the best of his own country. Tall pines stud the hillsides which are dotted with red and green corrugated roofs of attractive bungalows. Lovely gardens, sprawling golf course and a boating lake where huge gold fish glide undisturbed convey the impression that all is well. Here is Assam in miniature. The different peoples—Assamese and Bengali from the Indo-Aryan race, Nagas and Mizos related to the Dayaks of Borneo, the Khasis who come from Cambodia, the Nepalis, the Mikirs, the Garos supposed to have their origins on the Tibetan plateau—mingle here. The different religions worship in their own way. The people one meets on the roadside reveal the differences in appearance, costume and dialect.

But below the calm surface there is many a tragedy—legacy of centuries of domination of first one group, then another, over the others. Some people have friends or relatives out in the jungle fighting underground, in Indian jails or dead.

The new state means that a minority in Assam now becomes the majority in Meghalaya. Will they treat others better than they feel they have been treated? Will stability be the product of the new autonomy and will it be followed by the investment from outside that is needed if the area is to advance? If we wholeheartedly identify ourselves with India—as many of us want to do—will other Indians accept us fully as equals? Or will we be written off in time of real danger? These are some of the fears and questions that have troubled the minds of responsible men here.

Domination or new outlook

One Khasi leader said this week, 'The idea of domination of one group over another will only really be solved by change in motivation, the new outlook of what a smaller community can do for a bigger one. We will solve our problems when we get a true motivation of what we can do for India and the rest of the world.' That is why many of these men from the different Hill communities have associated themselves with the Chief Minister of Assam, B P Chaliha, and other Assamese leaders in their invitation to the MRA force with the

musical revue *Anything to Declare?* to come to the Northeast at this time. As I write, this group of 85 people from 21 countries is at work in Dibrugarh, Duliagan and Tinsukia in the plains, as well as in Shillong.

At the heart of the MRA revue is the true story of Mme Irène Laure, a leader of the French resistance movement in World War II. Her country and her family had suffered at the hands of the Gestapo. Humanly she was owed an apology. But it was she who went to Germany after the war, apologising for her hatred and bitterness, and helped lay the foundation for the new unity between France and Germany.

Cured of hate drug

Somehow this story has touched a chord in the hearts of people here. Some men who might have been dead are alive because other men found this way of reconciliation. One Naga is described by his friends as being like a man suddenly cured of drug-taking—the drug of hate. He is now developing a constructive programme in his college. Another man said, 'If I had not found an answer to revenge through meeting you, I would have killed a man.'

A Mizo teacher, a refugee from the hills, put right dishonesty about bus fares and ration cards. He is quoted in the *Frontier Times* as saying, 'If we get honest about small things like that the Northeast can be turned into a powerhouse that will generate honesty, unselfishness, purity and love for the world.'

Christians form a quarter of Shillong's population. In All Saints Cathedral prayers were offered publicly for all those who had found a new life through the visit of the MRA force.

A South Indian says, 'I realise that I had not considered the Northeast a part of India and I am sorry.' A Hill leader said, 'On this basis we can be part of India emotionally and not just by compulsion.'

B B Lyngdoh, a leader of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference, told the cast, 'You are here on the eve of a new era for the hill people. We are making a new experiment in human relations. Your coming will contribute to its success.'

Britain needs miracle of the spirit

Anne Wolrige Gordon
speaks in Newcastle



MRS ANNE WOLRIGE GORDON, authoress and playwright—whose play *Blindsight* opens next month at the Westminster Theatre—said last week, 'You can legislate to make immorality legal, but you cannot legislate to make people unselfish, law-abiding and happy.'

'You hand out the forbidden fruit free of charge, and there is violence in the human heart when it does not taste good.'

'Freedom of spirit only comes from a change in the human heart: a change which provides that intangible ingredient for which every human being is searching.'

Describing her father as 'an agnostic Fleet Street journalist—hard drinking, hard living and tough writing', she said, 'It would be difficult to think of a one less likely to experience a change of heart. But he met Moral Re-Armament and in the course of preparing a scathing attack upon it in his newspaper, it changed his life.'

She was speaking at a lunch in the Civic Centre of Newcastle upon Tyne on the invitation jointly of Alderman Sir Nicholas Garrow, for 15 years Labour Chairman of the Northumberland County Council, and Sir Robin Chapman, President of the Conservative Association of Cleadon and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County of Durham. At the head table with the hosts and their wives were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Newcastle, Councillor and Mrs W R S Forsyth; the High Sheriff of Newcastle, Councillor Mrs A L Storey; and representatives of the three political parties, Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic clergy-men and a Jewish rabbi.

'The heart of England can only be brought back to life by a miracle of the spirit. I wrote my father's life story to show a cynical and unbelieving age that

it can happen. But a book is not enough. It takes people to transform the climate of a country. I can think of no people better equipped to do it than those of the Northeast.'

Mrs Wolrige Gordon quoted her father's words: 'We are in a struggle without scruple for the soul and character of the world. The question to be decided this century is whether it is to be God's earth or man's hell.'

Also visiting Newcastle for the luncheon were Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod, Chief of the Clan MacLeod and grandmother of Mrs Wolrige Gordon's husband, Patrick Wolrige Gordon, MP, and Mrs Howard, widow of Peter Howard.

AUSTRALIANS RAISE MONEY FOR VISIT OF INTERNATIONAL FORCE

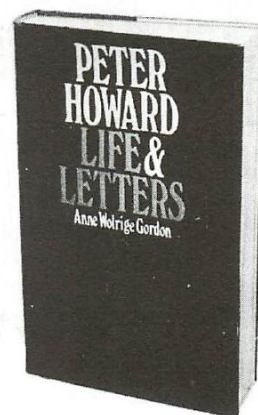
FROM ALL THE STATES of Australia 110 people met in Melbourne at Easter to plan for the visit of the international MRA force with *Anything to Declare?*

With representatives from politics, the press, civil service and industry they planned to hold a world conference for MRA in Canberra next August.

They undertook to raise the money for the journey of the international force (now in India) to Australia from Malaysia and for their tour of Australia and Papua-New Guinea.

A foreign aid director who has worked for Australia in Asia decided to give half his salary over the next six months.

A mining engineer and his wife are selling their shares in a large mining



Hodder and Stoughton 45s

Anne Wolrige Gordon, Peter Howard's daughter, tells his story, the good and the bad, often in his own words. His journey from agnosticism to faith, and on to maturity, emerges naturally from his letters. This book, like Peter Howard's own life, disturbs, challenges—and brings hope.

From your bookseller or from
MRA books, 4 Hays Mews,
London W1X 7RS. Postage 2s

company which will realise 1200 Australian dollars. A girl bank clerk in Sydney is taking 12 months leave without pay to prepare for and work with *Anything to Declare?* A hospital matron gave \$500 from her savings. A chemical engineer and his wife gave \$600 they had saved towards home improvements. A secretary in a federal cabinet office said she was taking two months leave without pay to help prepare for the visit of *Anything to Declare?* to Malaysia.

Miss B Burnside echoed what most felt when she said, 'With the many uncertainties in Southeast Asia, India, Malaysia and Australia need together go on the offensive for democracy. This is what the visit of this force will enable us to do.'



Through European Eyes

by Christopher Evans, young British farmer with the MRA international force in India.

IT WAS quite a simple request: 'Take on responsibility for the travel to Assam'—little did we know!

Indian Railways is a big organisation, the second biggest railway network in the world, carrying 6 million passengers a day and employing 1.3 million people. It can be very cheap at 1d a mile, or very luxurious at £1 a mile.

It also has seven separate railway authorities and one of our first discoveries was that we had to make arrangements with three of them since this journey was to take us from Chandigarh across five states, covering over 1,250 miles to Shillong in Assam. Fortunately there is a special phone network connecting all these authorities which was used to great effect by the officials in Delhi. Before we had enough bedrolls to enable the whole party to sleep in comfort we had to ask

for supplies from yet another authority.

The Railways worked hard to make special coaching arrangements for us. Altogether they laid on six special coaches and two goods wagons. This was complicated by the fact that at Lucknow the gauge of the lines changed so everything had to be shifted into a new batch of special coaches. That took five hours and we were still wondering how to use this time when we had a phone call to say that a friend of Rajmohan Gandhi in Lucknow had offered to entertain the whole force to a meal at his brewery and show us around that historic town.

When we were about half-way through negotiations it emerged that for most of the journey there was no dining car in our train. One and a half days of sandwich meals were looming large when we heard that a businessman

with a factory on the route had offered us a meal as we passed through. So accordingly, when we arrived at 11.00 pm at a small station in Eastern Uttar Pradesh we were met with a large cooked meal. We ate in the company of trade union and management men from the factory who knew about MRA and wanted to meet us. They stayed on the train until after midnight when they left to get back to their homes.

And so it was that 70 people and 3½ tons of stage equipment, escorted by an armed guard, eight strong, arrived at their destination after three days of travel.

Looking back, I learnt one big lesson; there is more attention to detail involved in transporting 70 people across the Himalayan foothills than in herding 70 cows around a Shropshire farm.

at a glance

Australia

THE Melbourne *Age* in its Saturday Review (21 March) published a 580-word article on Peter Howard, *Life and Letters* entitled, 'He knew no barriers.'

* * *
MISS J BRINE, an assistant matron at the Royal Perth Hospital, Western Australia, said, 'Nurses spend so much time nursing the results of the ills of society. We should also be curing the causes of these things. Nurses need to speak out on these issues. The fight of an informed public has an enormous effect.'

For this reason Miss Brine said she was arranging a series of talks called 'Topics of the Day.' The occasion was chaired by Mrs Kim Beazley, wife of the Shadow Minister of Education.

Holland

'FOR years I have been a member of the Film Censor Board,' writes the Rev A G Barkey Wolf in the Dutch news magazine *Accent*. 'Almost always I returned disappointed and depressed over what I had seen: dirt and violence.'

On the film *Happy Deathday* he con-

tinued, 'It is the eternal achievement of Peter Howard that he left before his death as a last legacy this message for our generation and that he expressed it in *Happy Deathday*.'

* * *
A TEN MINUTE television Moral Re-Armament programme on the permissive society kept the telephone of the MRA office in The Hague ringing till long after midnight. All but one endorsed what the broadcast had said and many requests for further information as well as orders for *Peter Howard, Life and Letters* came in.

'The permissive society,' said Fred Ladenius, Dutch and Italian television commentator, 'is caused by rebellion. And this society is not as free as many maintain. If you do not say "no" to yourself, you become a slave of the people or things from whom you seek satisfaction. Rebellion is the hallmark of our age and it is equally the hallmark of immaturity. With rebellion you achieve little. What we need in order to get a new society is revolution.'

Ladenius said that MRA's revolution succeeded in bringing about a new type of man where other revolutions were leading to frustration.

Ethiopian Press reports on positive action in Nigerian settlement

THE ETHIOPIAN national daily, 'Ethiopian Herald', published news of Nigeria under the headline 'Nigerian Police get training in Moral Re-Armament'. Below is published part of the report:

Three years ago the Nigerian police authorities requested the Moral Re-Armament (MRA) films to be shown to various police units and in particular to the Federal CID training wing. This has been done systematically in Lagos, and last year in police barracks in six out of the twelve state capitals.

Many who see these films have asked for regular news of MRA. Newsletters now go to about 500 men in all parts of the country at intervals of six weeks.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Dickens Sanomi, who attended the MRA World Conference in Caux, Switzerland last year, sent a letter that went with this news in January. He is Officer Commanding the Anti-Fraud Training School of the Federal CID training wing. The letter went to men stationed all over the country, some of them in the area affected by the war.