



MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

'I HOPE "EL CONDOR" WILL GO TO CUBA'

'A REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE' SAYS
HAROLD HOBSON

'JOHN WESLEY, ANGLICAN'

DALAI LAMA SENDS DELEGATION

VOL. 12 NO. 322

FOUR HAYS MEWS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

SATURDAY, 20 JUNE, 1964

THE BEST ROAD TO REUNION

by DR. MORRIS MARTIN*

THE Oecumenical Movement, to which the late Pope John XXIII gave such an impetus, is one of the few hopeful phenomena in the modern world. During the next months the comings and goings in Rome of members of the different Commissions of the Second Vatican Council which he called, will mark the third and possibly most important Session of this Council.

The opening two years ago roused immense hopes everywhere. An Asian Archbishop told me of the sense of expectancy even in the Communist countries, that the great world Christian community was preparing to pronounce upon this dangerous and discovery-packed age and to give its guidance to the world. Then he spoke of a sense of disappointment that had followed as every problem was not immediately resolved.

But he pointed forward to the last subject of the Council's agenda, the Commission regarding which is now at work in Rome. Its title is 'The Church in the World'. There is a listening world alert to hear what will be said from Rome on this confusing and confused era in which we live.

Council's purpose

The greater the crisis, the greater are men's longings that a quick answer will be found. The Council has raised many hopes, not all of which can possibly be fulfilled within the foreseeable future. Those who speak of a swift reunion of all the Churches are not facing facts, nor do they comprehend the genuine purpose of the Council. Such reunion, if it is to come, still lies well in the future.

But there is an immediate stage of advance which is of supreme importance for Christians today. It is oecumenical co-operation. For this the situation has been prepared. It was the vision that Pope John had when he felt himself compelled by an inner necessity from God to summon the Vatican Council.

Co-operation between Christians was never more important than today. Christians are in a minority. The forces which oppose faith are better armed, more intelligent and more determined than they have been for many centuries. Television, radio, theatre, are increasingly controlled by forces indifferent to, and in many cases hostile to, Christian moral standards.

Christians themselves have been intimidated and thrown on the defensive by what they conceive to be the unanswerable premises of the amoralists and the anti-moralists. Even within the ranks of the ordained ministers of religion there are those so anxious to be 'with it' that they appease the enemies of authentic and genuinely up-to-date Christianity.

Basis of co-operation

It would be far wiser to speak more about oecumenical co-operation than about oecumenical reunion. Frank Buchman, forty years ago, sensed the need for a presentation of the Christian message that would be a basis of co-operation between all men who had faith in God in this age when increasingly faith is being put in man. During the twenties leaders of the Oecumenical Movement were among his friends, especially Archbishop Söderblöm of Uppsala, Sweden, one of its pioneers. Not long before his death he wrote Frank Buchman:

'The work that God has chosen you to do cannot be too highly appreciated. Unity? What is Unity with outward arrangements and organizations? I have felt from the very beginning of our modern strivings for unity in 1914 how necessary it is never to build only on human arrangements and fellowship in thoughts and plans. There must be, as you wrote, and as you act, a deeper unity. I am deeply moved by the stories you tell and I feel the reality of which you write. . . . You are concerned with the only thing that matters in Religion and Life—Christ's absolute rule in our hearts and words and deeds. A changed life is more eloquent than lots of sermons.'

*Dr. Martin, M.A., D.Phil., Wadham and Merton Colleges, Oxford, was for 20 years private secretary to Dr. Frank Buchman. He writes from Rome.

Throughout his life Frank Buchman continued the work of building oecumenism. It has been the keystone of MRA practice and policy. As Frank Buchman constantly emphasized, any Christian who is sincere in seeking to discover and to implement God's Will, is an infinitely more valuable member of his particular Church than those who have no such ambitions.

Moral Re-Armament is not a Church, nor even in the slightest degree a sect. It is a way of life, a moral and spiritual discipline, an attack upon the materialist premises of the modern world which all men could use to their advantage. Nothing could be more false than the suggestion sometimes made that MRA leads to religious 'indifferentism', to the view that one religion is as good as another. Nor can one single line that Frank Buchman ever wrote or said be quoted to give colour to the charge that he was an 'indifferentist' who wanted

to prove it a matter of indifference to what Church a man belonged.

Nor did he admit under cover of oecumenism the surrender of any basic moral and spiritual principles, or for the sake of cheap approval the compromising of the absolute values of Christ. There he and MRA were and are decidedly not indifferent. In MRA no man will find indifferentists. He will find oecumenists.

Oecumenical co-operation has long been the practice of Moral Re-Armament in order to hold up the more strongly to a secular world the common moral heritage of Christians. It has been found to be a basis upon which men of all faiths can join together their efforts to turn back the tide of anti-God in a world that with all its skill, its intelligence and its inventions, has brought mankind closer to the edge of self-destruction than any age in history.

'I hope "El Condor" will one day go to Cuba'

'WHEN we find twelve-year-old drunks rolling in the gutters, we must leave the conference table and take concrete action,' wrote a Miami, Florida, newspaper on 12 June.

One hundred civic leaders and officials had been meeting there to discuss how to deal with such evils.

Judge Ben Sheppard of the Juvenile Court recommended the region's Youth Council of top high school students to enlist the experience of the cast of *El Condor*.

This is a play about South American students who leave their Castro-style revolution for one that wins over and changes their enemies, the North Americans. It has travelled 30,000 miles on three continents and was invited to Miami after touring Italy, Canada and the United States.

Spanish recording

El Condor was written by former Marxist students of revolutionary San Marcos University in Lima, Peru. It has been in such demand that it has been performed with translations in Italian, French and English but never till now in its original tongue for a purely Spanish-speaking audience.

Cuban actors and actresses well known throughout Latin America made a Spanish recording of the play in Miami.

Señor Orlando Alvarez, Cuban producer, organised the talented cast of artists and gave the studio and tape for the recording. Before Castro took over, Señor Alvarez owned Havana's largest radio station and produced the island's most popular T.V. programme.

One of the Cuban actresses said, 'I hope *El Condor* with God's help can one day go to Cuba. We have so much hate. You can bring the only thing that can win.'

El Condor began its continental tours in South Italy. Archbishop Nicodemo of Bari told them their work had

been 'tremendously appreciated and effective'. 'You are accomplishing a mission of truth to put the whole world again on God's road,' he said when he received the whole cast in his palace.

In Naples, where *El Condor* was also performed in the 'red' industrial towns of the Bay region, *Il Mattino* commented: 'They don't bring any new revelation, but they do present exhortations and maxims which call to mind those so clearly set forth by John XXIII in the Encyclical "Mater et magister".'

A Communist professor gave his view: 'Moral Re-Armament takes half-hearted Christians and bitter Marxists and enlists both in a complete revolution.'

L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, recorded their visit to Sicily and 'The Homage of Moral Re-Armament to the memory of Don Sturzo'. Don Sturzo was the priest, patriot and philosopher whose political thought laid the foundations of post-war Christian-Democracy in Italy, Germany and France.

The *Corriere della Sera* of Milan, Italy's most influential secular paper, said, 'The most praiseworthy thing in this great initiative is the concept of the importance of the theatre as a way to speak to men's consciences. This is something which for quite a while the Leftist currents have understood.'

The Latin American play was equally welcomed when it flew to French Canada. *L'Action*, the Catholic daily of Quebec Province, carried a headline, '*El Condor* an Amazing Production with Appeal for Everyone'.

M. Emilien Lafrance, Quebec Minister of Family and Social Welfare, said: 'Record crowds received them with greatest enthusiasm. This play has opened a new era in the history of South American countries and of my own.'

'I decided to apply its lessons in my own life, and have taken steps to see that the personnel of my ministry, over two thousand officials in different parts of the province, see the play.'

'A remarkable performance' says Harold Hobson

HAROLD HOBSON, drama critic of the *Sunday Times*, on 7 June reviewed Peter Howard's play, *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill*.

He wrote: 'We are launched into a narrative of Christ's return to earth, which is at times naive and at others touching in its simplicity. Mr. Howard seems to me better at drama than at argument. The reverse miracle of whisky into water and a scene gently satirising some modern bishops are theatrically effective.'

'On the subject of personal responsibility Mr. Howard has some excellent, if temporarily unpopular, things to say. Mr. Brown himself is played with quite extraordinary tact and poise by Eric Flynn: a remarkable performance. John Richmond as a bishop and Lillias Walker as a harlot are very good.'

The Daily Telegraph commented: 'It is Christianity pure and simple and it certainly makes a change.'

The *Daily Express* said that the play 'bites deeply, stirs the mind and troubles the heart.'

The Times spoke of a 'Likable stage Messiah', and the *Evening Standard* wrote that the play was the 'most gripping' yet by Peter Howard.

The *Caterham Weekly Press*, on 5 June, said in its review: 'A variety of colourful characterizations, including four bishops, pressmen, policemen, people in a bar, and a young man known as Mr. Brown, make up the cast of Peter Howard's latest play, *Mr. Brown Comes Down the Hill*.

'Mr. Howard . . . is indeed a man with a very strong message.

'Only one who has dug as deeply into his own heart and mind, as has Mr. Howard, could dig equally deeply into the minds and hearts of others.

'If the world of today is really as this writer sees it,

and it is, it is more than time for his message.

'One cannot talk of a plot in this play for it is to be seen around us in our daily lives; the problems and the answers to problems being presented in a hard-hitting, soul-searching, and truly dramatic way. The characters in Mr. Howard's plays are not mere examples of the playwright's art; they are flesh and blood people who ask the questions that bother us all. Somewhere in every part lies the answer to those questions.

'In the present production Mr. Brown is the man with all the answers; the man at the top; the man who knows everything and the man with the marks of torture and suffering in his hands.

'Eric Flynn as Mr. Brown, Alan White as Andy, John Richmond as a bishop and Lillias Walker as the lady with love for sale, all to some extent exert their influence over Mark Heath as the Black Man.'

'To mention the foregoing members of the cast and leave out such favourites with the Westminster audience as Bryan Coleman and Pauline Loring, each making at least their third consecutive appearance in one of Mr. Howard's plays, or Richard Warner as a doctor, Robert Hartley and Kenneth Waller as pressmen, Donald Simpson and Noel Carey as bishops, Guy Standeven and Mike Lewin as policemen and Gina Curtis and Astley Harvey as bar patrons would be unjust, for the cast shines with a dedication to its work that many other companies would do well to emulate.

'The settings by Hutchinson Scott are of frightening immensity and simplicity and do much to add to the convincing arguments used by Mr. Howard. Henry Cass, who in the 1930s was producer at the then Croydon Repertory Theatre, also added the benefit of his long and distinguished experience as director.'

Muriel Smith 'crackles with venom'

A NEW film, *The Voice of the Hurricane*, starring Muriel Smith, had its world première on 2 June in New York.

The film tells the story of a bloody uprising in an African country against white settler control and superiority.

The *New York Herald Tribune* said she 'turns in a spirited and rewarding performance. Her big scene where she hurls her hatred for white man's greed at the M.P. crackles with venom.'

The *Daily News*, largest circulation New York paper, said: 'The picture has been well made by the producer and has been effectively directed into a drama that has considerable holding power and that ends on a hopeful note.'

The *New York World Telegram*, praising the 'striking'

acting and 'stirring' singing of Muriel Smith, wrote: '*The Voice of the Hurricane* concludes that both the black and white man are wrong in their attitudes and only a return to God will bring world peace.'

'The film is a gripping, social drama of conflict in present-day Kenya with definite implications for Americans,' commented the *Christian Herald*. 'The setting of jungle, veldt and African drums effectively set the mood for this absorbing, well-acted film.'

The *New York Times* commented on Muriel Smith's 'most serene and impressive' acting.

The *Motion Picture Daily* refers to 'the elegant decor, effective music' and says, 'Rickard Tegstrom's Technicolor photography is excellent.'

Variety writes, 'Muriel Smith is impressive,' and refers to her dignity and dedication.

'John Wesley, Anglican'

A NEW book, *John Wesley, Anglican*, by Garth Lean, is being published on 22 June.

At the moment when the Methodist and Anglican churches are nearer reunion than at any time since Wesley's death, this new study of the founder of Methodism is timely and provocative. Mr. Lean, who is author of *Brave Men Choose* and, with Sir Arnold Lunn, of *The New Morality*, gives a vivid account of the development of this great Englishman and of his relations with friend and foe, with the politicians, the people and the churchmen of his day. The author draws out of Wesley's story fresh insights for the present age.

If Wesley did much to save England from a revolution of blood and to prepare for her greatest age, what can be done to arrest decline today?

'Few would pretend,' says Lean in his closing pages, 'that Britain is less lost in materialism today than it was in the eighteenth century; indeed, this evil now seems dominant not just in a ruling class, but in the whole nation.'

'Spiritual regeneration is possible, but it will not be achieved merely by two churches, each on the defen-

sive, deciding to get together. The uniting of the three Methodist churches in 1932, admirable as it was, did not arrest their decline nor greatly influence the nation.

'Wesley's secret was that he sought and found God's fresh ways of bringing reality to his generation. He did not pretend that nothing new was needed, nor did he water down Christ's commands into a "new morality" in an attempt to titivate the intellectuals or to court the young.

'He found reality for himself—and gave up ease, friends and cherished opinions to take it to the whole nation. He forgot himself and worked at God's pace, not his own, until the very day he died; and he enjoyed every day of it.

'What is the equivalent for Christians in our day and generation? One thing is certain: the right way will need efforts as arduous, and will bring opposition as bitter, as any that Wesley had to face.

'But the strong spirits of youth will rally to such a venture, so that men will say with Wesley: "For what pay would you procure men to do this service, to be always ready to go to prison or to death?"'

Riots stopped, slums cleared in Rio

THE Secretary of the Confederation of Favela (Shanty Town) Workers of Rio de Janeiro stated on 11 June: 'During the recent revolution the men of the favelas refused to obey Communist agitators who were promising weapons. They did not riot. This was due to the MRA films and training we have had in the favelas.'

He spoke at a meeting with Madame Sandra Cacalcanti, Director of Social Services of Guanabara State Government which controls Rio. At this time people of one of the largest favelas were being transferred to a newly-built community. Madame Cacalcanti also paid tribute

to the 'very great service to our work rendered by MRA'.

At the initiative of the Rio and Sao Paulo favela leaders, the Governor of Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest industrial state, set up in March a working group to eradicate these swarming slums. In Rio 10,500 new homes have been built so far.

General Hugo Bethlem, a former Brazilian ambassador, gave these facts and other evidence of moral and spiritual renaissance in many countries to a Brazilian T.V. audience estimated at four million. He urged 'permanent moral revolution' to cure corruption and communism and establish a democracy that works.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Castrop-Rauxel, Germany — Ruhr newspapers reported enthusiastic audiences of Italian workers seeing the Italian version of *Men of Brazil* here. The *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* in this mining town said in a headline 'Contact with foreign workers is task not only of city but of citizens.'

Lisbon — The Portuguese-dubbed *Crowning Experience* opens soon in one of Portugal's finest cinemas. The film, starring Muriel Smith, deals with race hate and Communism.

Winnipeg—*Kanadyisky Farmer*, widely read Ukrainian-language paper, carried a full page on MRA. There are half a million Ukrainians in Canada.

Leopoldville—Unesco has recently supplied the Congolese Ministry of Information with copies of the *Crowning Experience*.

Dalai Lama sends delegation

HIS Holiness the Dalai Lama has sent a delegation of young Tibetans to a 'Training Camp for a New India'. The camp runs from 4 June till 3 July in the mountain town of Nahan in the Himalayan foothills.

It is one of a series in different parts of India arranged by Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi.

The General-Secretary of Himachal Pradesh Congress Party, speaking of the vacuum of leadership left by Mr. Nehru's passing, called the establishment of this training camp in Nahan providential.

Group discussions are being held on current problems and events. A camp newspaper is produced and sold daily in the camp and town. The students are taught to present ideas to large audiences through dramas, musicals and skits. Trades and handicrafts are taught. Physical training is given. Mental alertness and moral incorruptibility are instilled.