

HONG KONG:

ASIANS OFFER NEW IDEA TO CHINA

ASIANS FROM COUNTRIES that were divided by blood and bitterness for years are acting together to influence the outlook of China.

Koreans, Japanese and Chinese last week were in Hong Kong meeting business and student leaders and presenting a musical *Let's Go '66* which promotes the idea of a united Asia.

China watches Hong Kong closely. Her government earned enough foreign exchange (£119 million) from trade with Hong Kong in 1964 to pay for its purchases of food grain from Canada and Australia that year. Hong Kong has a million refugees from Red China among its four million people. The city gets 26 per cent of its imports from China.

Journalists covering the arrival of this joint Asian force at Hong Kong airport expressed astonishment at Koreans and Japanese working together. For 35 years Japan occupied Korea and left deep wounds, many still unhealed. Last October South Korea's Prime Minister had chaired a demonstration for Moral Re-Armament and welcomed Japanese to Korea.

Visiting Hong Kong with *Let's Go '66* was Masahide Shibusawa, leader of MRA in Japan and member of the family that started Japan on its way to modern industrial might.

Shibusawa told prominent Hong Kong citizens at a reception dinner, 'You are the biggest nation in the world. Unless every Chinese is happy, the world will never be happy. The world has not understood China properly.'

The world had tried to minimize China's greatness. Britain and America had done this. 'For the bloody part Japan has played I apologise to you deeply', he said. 'I shall never rest until every last man, woman and child of China has enough **continued over**



photo: Demmers

QUESTIONS Russians ask

BY GORDON WISE

'SOVIET UNION TODAY', in its January issue, discussed MRA in an article entitled 'Your Questions on Communism'.

One question asked was, 'Is it possible to change human nature?'

The author answered by recounting a meeting he had had in Africa with an MRA adherent, Gilbert Bordier, a shop-keeper. 'I met him when I was out hunting under a broiling African sun. He did not sidle away from me.

'My new acquaintance pulled a brief-case out from under the seat of his jeep. He always had a stock, I learned, of MRA literature on hand. Snapping the bag open, he pulled out a yellowed sheet, a 'Manifesto to World Communists'.

The Soviet traveller, describing the encounter, wrote, "'Under God's guidance the Communists could move the world towards the greatest revolution of all time," the leaflet read. How was that to be done? By refashioning human nature—eradicating evil, asserting the good, transforming the individual and therefore his society.

'"Many people assert," the leaflet went on to say, "the problem is capitalism versus Communism, class versus class, race versus race. However, the problem is not **continued over**



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food, shelter freedom and hope.'

The visit of the young Koreans, Chinese and Japanese, said Shibusawa, was an experiment in creating a new spirit in Asia. The total population of their three countries was almost half the world. They wanted to take part with China's people in shaping a better future.

The *South China Morning Post* carried an enthusiastic report headed 'Aim to make Asia continent of hope'.

Kishi's views

Shibusawa was following a line of thought in his approach to the Chinese similar to that stressed by Nobusuke Kishi, former Prime Minister of Japan. Kishi, in an article in the Indian news magazine *Himmat* (4 February), wrote that Japan must get involved in Asian affairs and particularly that her young people must give an alternative to Communism. They must also give the anti-Communist nations an alternative to futile 'anti' attitudes.

'On the broadest base of nations and continents sharing the urge for advancement, Moral Re-Armament has

demonstrated its effectiveness in uniting Europeans and Asians for the common goal of achieving a world of freedom, justice and dynamic progress. In this pattern Japan needs to strengthen her perspective of responsibility,' he wrote. The young generation were destined to play a major part in bringing about 'a greater alternative than anti-Communism or Communism'. This would require 'larger commitment and sacrifice than either of the other two'.

It was in this spirit that the young Japanese with *Let's Go '66* had sold precious possessions and raised their fares to go to Hong Kong.

Their message and songs echoed through Hong Kong homes, streets and restaurants on peak-hour TV. Six large Chinese dailies and three English language papers carried reports and full-page feature articles. Eleven thousand students saw the musical.

Paulus Yung, President of Hong Kong University's Student Union, told the cast, 'Your show has transformed our attitude to life and the world'.

An economics student said that

since he met MRA a week ago he couldn't sleep for four nights. 'I realised how ambitious and selfish I was. I decided to change. Chinese youth in Hong Kong University are frustrated because we have no hope and direction'. He was now going to 'create a force which will take on the continent of Asia'.

Taiwan welcome

From Hong Kong the Asian mobile force flew this week to Taipei, where Secretary General Chang Chun, Secretary to President Chiang Kai-Shek, received them at the presidential palace. They are guests of the government of Taiwan during their stay.

Fifteen thousand people applauded their programme at the celebration in the China Gymnasium of the re-election of President Chiang. An estimated million viewers saw *Let's Go '66* on National Taiwan TV.

Milton Shieh, editor of Taiwan's largest daily newspaper, *Shin Sheng Pao*, was host at a dinner attended by ninety government, educational, industrial, military and youth-organisation leaders.

QUESTIONS cont

Communism or class or race, but character.'

Soviet Union Today gave further quotations, followed by a critical examination. It concluded on a note with which any MRA militant would agree. 'It is not self-perfection than spontaneously improves the world, but the active transformation of the world that changes people for the better.'

This of course is true. A revolutionary decision to change the world will involve personal change to achieve

that end. As the grand old man of the German labour movement, Hans Boeckler, founder of the post-war Trade Union Congress in his country, said, 'When men change, the structure of society changes, and when the structure of society changes, men change. Both go together and both are necessary.'

There is a spate of references to Moral Re-Armament and discussions on its credibility in many Russian and Chinese publications nowadays. These

represent a serious examination. Recently when in Paris I was told of a Soviet scientist who came to Holland. He met friends of mine and told them that he had read so much on MRA in his own country that he decided that one of the first things he would do outside Russia would be to get in touch with one of the headquarters.

'If the press in my country devote so much space to examining MRA,' he said, 'then it must be a very powerful world force indeed.'

at a glance

NEW ZEALAND

Sing-Out New Zealand, recently staged in Auckland, will visit other cities.

BRITISH GUIANA

Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket XI and T C 'Dickie' Dodds, former Essex opening bat, were welcomed last week in Georgetown to a forty-five minute preview of a musical show called *Get Going Guyana*. It has a cast of 250 from twenty-five Georgetown schools. The master of ceremonies said the musical seeks to 'show the way out of the racialism, hatred and suspicion that have plagued our country.'

BRAZIL

A new musical with a cast of eighty youth from eleven Latin American nations had its first performance in Petropolis, some fifty miles north of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A new centre for MRA is being developed there.

Rio portworkers take part in one scene and re-enact in musical, dramatic form the story of change in the once corruption-ridden, gangster-dominated docks.

The Mayor of Petropolis, the President of the Brazil Leather Workers Union, the President of the 20,000 strong Petropolis Students Association, and Uruguayan dockers were present. Traditional songs and dances of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Bolivia were performed by the youth.

INDIA

This week a former Commander in Chief of the Indian Army, addressing a rally of twelve thousand in Bangalore, said, 'A spirit of MRA must permeate every town, village and city for the nation's good.'

General Cariappa said the disintegration threatening India is not in language but in the spirit of the country. 'We have become bankrupt of leadership not only at the political level but in every walk of life.'

This month civil war has broken out in the Mizo Hills on the Burmese frontier. The Mizo tribesmen, like their near neighbours the Nagas, are

900,000 WEST GERMANS READY TO WORK FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

THE GALLUP POLL INSTITUTE of the Federal Republic of Germany recently undertook a sounding of public opinion in West Germany at the request of MRA.

Among findings of the Institute, known as the Allensbach Institute for Public Opinion Research, were the following:

- 57% of those over sixteen believe that freedom and democracy will finally win in the present struggle;
- Almost two fifths of the population (38%) are convinced that

'freedom in the world can only be saved by inner change in people. If we in the West continue to live selfishly and thoughtlessly, we are bound to lose our freedom.'

- Every fifth West German has heard of Moral Re-Armament. When asked, 'would you personally be ready to work for this idea?' two per cent said they would: The Gallup Poll Institute estimates this represents 900,000 people over the age of sixteen in the Federal Republic.

demanding independence. The Sikhs want a separate province in the Punjab where they would be in the majority. In the south of India the Tamils are pressing for autonomy. A general strike is imminent in Bombay. Bengali students in violent demonstrations against inefficient food distribution have been shot down by police.

The Bangalore rally in front of the Mysore High Court was organised by students of Bangalore and of MRA's Roving College for a New India.

Rajmohan Gandhi congratulated this city for raising a voice for national unity when so many places called for division. He appealed for one hundred thousand young men and women to give their lives to unite India and said one million families could finance them. Students, he said,

would 'not tolerate the nonsense of Indians hating and killing Indians over petty issues.' They regarded differences of language and creed as insignificant in face of the common task of creating a dynamic country.

The Bangalore rally is one move in Gandhi's nation-spanning campaign. Recently in Delhi Naga leaders met Indians active for MRA. The Nagas were impressed by their unselfishness and dedication. They said, 'Please come to Nagaland. We need you.' A prominent Congress Party leader urged that the musical *Sing It Asia*, produced by the youth, be sent by the Government to every school and college. With the support of senior Indian businessmen training centres for MRA are being built in Kerala and Maharashtra.

Film unit for Ceylon. The eleventh in a series of units sent to Asia and Africa being loaded in London. They are paid for largely by men in the motor industry. photo Strong



Around Britain

CARDIFF Lieut-Colonel A S Mena, Congolese Military Attaché in Britain, addressed a reception after the film *Voice of the Hurricane* last weekend. The film is about the clash between black Africans and white settlers.

The Congolese officer, a paratrooper, was chief of staff of a 'groupe-ment' of ten battalions of paratroopers, infantry and gendarmes. He was decorated for rescuing several hundred political prisoners in Kasai Province in 1961. He led them some 200 miles to safety in Lower Congo Province.

Lieut-Col Mena spoke to the audience of miners from the Rhondda, steel workers from Port Talbot, dockers from Bristol, mayors, councillors and the consuls of Spain and Portugal. He said he was attracted to MRA when he heard it stood for absolute honesty and purity. As a practising Catholic he felt these qualities were needed in the Congo and elsewhere.

The real dividing line in the world was not between the East and West blocs but between men of good will, and those of evil will in every nation. It ran through every race, regime and country. The colour of a man's skin did not decide on which side of this line he stood. 'We owe it to our children,' the Congolese Military Attaché said, 'to see that men of goodwill run the nations.'

Glyn Jones, reporting the occasion the next day on the BBC programme 'Good Morning Wales' said a year ago 'a remarkable Englishman died in Lima, Peru. He was an author, dramatist, orator, farmer and the former captain of the English rugby side. His name was Peter Howard and he was probably the best known member of the world wide movement of Moral Re-Armament. The basic idea of this movement is that the world situation cannot be basically remedied until individual men and women change their lives and until the moral nature of man is modernised and brought into line with his intellectual advances.

'One of the means used by the organisation to put across their ideas is cinema and on Sunday afternoon I saw two of their films. The first in

technicolor, *The Voice of the Hurricane*, was based on a play by Peter Howard and starred Muriel Smith, a singer more beautiful and compelling than 90 per cent of the synthetic lovelies of Hollywood. The theme was African unrest at the time of Mau Mau. A most moving story putting love, unselfishness and understanding in place of hatred, bitterness and the arrogance of both black and white people.

'The second film was a tribute to Peter Howard himself. It showed this most attractive man on his farm and on the platform, the running track and ski run, at all times charming and looking fierce and compulsive . . .

'People who saw and inevitably enjoyed these shows contributed by their presence to the growth of Welsh industry because the proceeds of this performance go to the Slate Fund, the fund inaugurated to face Moral Re-Armament's own London theatre at Westminster with slate from the quarries of North Wales.'

GREENOCK Sir Hugh Greene, Director-General of the BBC, should put Peter Howard's plays on television, said Mr C R D Brown, managing director of Scottish Precision Castings, Glasgow.

'These plays combine exciting and enjoyable entertainment with a provocative, controversial message,' Mr Brown said. If objection was taken to plays with a message, then plays by Shaw and Ibsen should be thrown



The Mayor of Bootle, Alderman Griffith Williams, helps in the expansion of the MRA centre at Tirley Garth in Cheshire

photo: Naudé

out, as 'all plays worthy of the name carry a message.'

The Scottish businessman was speaking last weekend at a showing of the film *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill*, based on the play by Peter Howard. He had brought it to Greenock he said, first, because it was *avant garde* theatre with a relevant purpose for humanity; second, because he wanted Greenock to join the rest of Scotland in building the Westminster Arts Centre. Proceeds from tickets sold would go to this.

A large audience included the Provosts of Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow and many shipyard workers who came despite a bus strike. They saw the film at the Greenock Arts Guild on Clydeside.

Sing-Out '66 and other films have been shown to students in Manchester schools. One girl student said, 'This is quite different from anything we have had before and is what we want.'

LEEDS 'We need a national aim if Britain is to lead the world,' headlined the *Voice of Yorkshire and Humber-side Industry*. It was reporting the experience of the managing director of Benjamin R Vickers and Sons Ltd, Leeds oil firm. Commenting editorially the *Voice* said, 'There are some remarkable things about this firm. Oils are exported to forty countries. A recent order which would normally take six months to complete was completed in six weeks by inter-departmental co-operation at every level. The Managing Director, John F Vickers, is a leading advocate of MRA in Yorkshire. This is doubtless the mainspring of his company's attitude.'

LIVERPOOL Just off 'murder mile' in Liverpool's toughest area, mod girls and long-haired youths in leather jackets last week burst into a club. The film *Sing-Out '66* was about to be put on amid catcalls. Once the film began the youths calmed down, watching every minute of it, shouting and clapping in time to the music.

After the film they said they had nothing to do in the evenings. Nearly every night the young men were involved in fights, sometimes with hats. They asked to hear more about MRA. They were ready, they said, to join on the construction of the MRA centre in Cheshire.