

A *barriada* in Lima

PERU

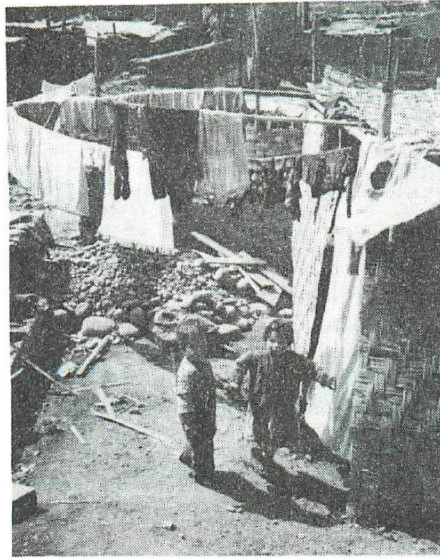
FROM ELDER STATESMAN TO BARRIADAS

AN INTERNATIONAL team of MRA moved into Peru earlier this month.

The country is preparing for elections in May, the first in 14 years, after which the present military government will return Peru to civilian rule. Elder statesman of Peru, former President of the Republic, Jose Luis Bustamante y Ribero received some of the group in his home. He said that at a time of increasing world tension, the principles of Moral Re-Armament were urgently needed.

Others of the group met Ramiro Priale, for many years General Secretary of the APRA party, and Julio Cruzado, President of the Trade Union Confederation of Peru.

Father Frisanjo, a dynamic priest who has created a foundation to build low-cost housing, invited the group to meet some of his co-workers. The housing estate is known



as the 'City of Paper' because much of the finance has come from selling waste paper for recycling. Father Frisanjo commented, 'After 24 years of doing this work, I have come to the conclusion that the thing we most need is to bring a change in people. That is what I have found in MRA.'

The audio-visual presentation on MRA at work in the slums of Rio de Janeiro was widely used. One showing was for 300 women representing thirty slums (*barriadas*) around Lima where at times there is no water for three or four days. The audio-

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visual deals not only with rehousing, but also with resolving the conflicts between people.

The MRA film *Men of Brazil*, a true story from the docks of Rio de Janeiro acted by the dockers themselves, was shown in the home of Mario Guimaraes, Director of the Confederation of Workers of Peru, for his family and friends. After the film there were many questions. In reply to one of them, Mr Reinaldo, a Lima taxi-driver, said, 'I met MRA 25 years ago. It has had a profound effect in my life and on my family. I do not drink or smoke or spend money on unnecessary things.' He asked for the film to show it to his community.

USA

HOW TO BRING CHANGE WITHOUT FORCE?

A UNITED STATES Congressman pledged himself last month to create a public opinion which supported 'what is right' even if it was unpleasant. As America moved into the '80s and '90s, said the New Jersey Democrat, James Florio, 'there is a need for leaders in various segments of national life who will come forward, willing and able to question, and to avoid the desire to be liked; who lay out options and not amoral options, who say not just what people want to hear but what they need to hear. And we need a public supportive of what is right, even if they don't like it.'

Congressman Florio was speaking at a conference on 'What can we do?' at the Glassboro County State College in Southern New Jersey. Planned by a group of 15 local citizens, its aim was 'to search for the links between the ordinary person in his home and work and the great issues which will determine the way nations will go.'

Sessions were chaired by members of the college's administration, faculty and student bodies.

Leo Beebe, Dean of the college business division and formerly vice-president of Ford Motors in Europe, chaired a session on 'Concepts in conflict and their resolution'. Speakers dealt with the question of how people and nations with fundamentally differing views could work together.

'All of us experience conflict every day,' Mr Beebe said. 'I do often in my own home. But conflict can lead to creative solutions if we really listen to the other party.'

'Most people do not give up privilege willingly,' said Earl Hinton, the college's Director of Minority Affairs and area civil rights leader, chairing another session. 'But to maintain the current system is unacceptable. If we are going to save civilization, we have to discover how to bring change without force.' The session had given him hope, he said.

Congressman Florio's predecessor in Congress, South Jersey Republican John Hunt, took part. 'The next decade will determine whether we are to remain a great nation or not,' he said. 'The issue is whether people stand up and do what God tells them.'

'Honesty, purity, unselfishness and love,' wrote *The Gloucester County Times* next day. 'What do these absolute standards have to do with international harmony, labour relations, politics and economics? Everything, answered the 80 participants in a three-day conference at Glassboro State College.'

John Morrison

USA

Ten minutes to adventure

FEATURE FILMS, made by MRA, are being shown 12 times during March and April on Cable Television in Portland, Oregon. The 'film festival' of 'realistic and relevant films you won't want to miss' is announced in a full page display in *The Cable Guide*. Chuck Atkins, Community Access Co-ordinator, says, 'The films are classics. They deserve as much exposure as we can provide.'

Interviews have also been recorded at the Cable studios for use later in a further series on Moral Re-Armament. These include a conversation with Gordon Wise and William Jaeger, two men who have wide experience of Moral Re-Armament in industry, who have been visiting Portland. Cable companies in other parts of the United States have expressed interest in showing MRA productions.

The increasing interest in MRA in the northwestern United States prompted the move there seven months ago of a British couple, Michael and Erica Henderson, on the invitation of local people.

This month *The Oregonian*, the city's largest daily, interviewed Mr Henderson. The

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Ideological counterpart of the Brandt Commission?

by A R K Mackenzie

THE BRANDT COMMISSION was set up two and half years ago as a body of world leaders free from governmental ties who could take a fresh look at international development issues.

The Chairman, former W German Chancellor Willy Brandt, consulted German psychologists about numbers. 'If you want to get unanimity around a table on a subject like this,' they said, '18 is the maximum you can risk having.' He chose nine from the North and nine from the South.

Among those from the North were Edward Heath, Olof Palme and Pierre Mendès-France; Kay Graham, the owner of the *Washington Post*, and one trade-unionist, Joe Morris, President Emeritus of the Canadian Labour Congress.

Among those from the South were Eduardo Frei, the former President of Chile; Shridath Ramphal, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, and L K Jha, the Governor of Kashmir and former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. There were three representatives from the OPEC countries.

The group met at regular intervals over the last two years. It was no mean achievement to reach unanimity between such a diverse group. Yet finally the Report was agreed and launched in London, New York and other capitals last month.

The Report covers the whole range of world economics and especially the acute problems that divide North and South, the rich and poor areas of the world. Its long-term recommendations include reform of the international monetary system and of trade organisations. Short-term recommendations centre on a four-point emergency programme for governments over the next five years—centering on food, energy, increased financial assistance for the poor countries, and the beginnings of reform of international institutions.

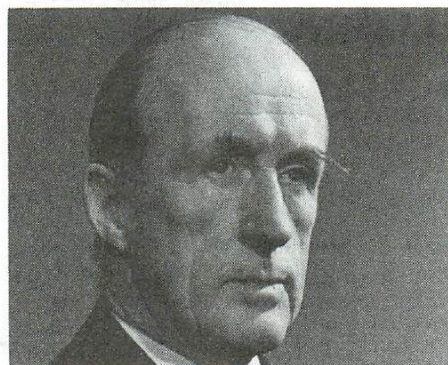
Petrol and firewood

There are three governing ideas behind these recommendations. The first—and much the most important—is that of mutual interest and interdependence between rich and poor countries. So often relations between North and South in the United Nations are like a football match—confrontation all the way and no holds barred. So it was something new that these world leaders came to the unanimous conclusion that mutual interest should govern the relations between nations.

Take food for example. There are about 4.4 billion people in the world today—within 20 years there will be over six billion. Moreover, nine-tenths of that increase will be in

the poor countries and half of these already do not produce enough food for their populations. Thus, there is real mutual interest in tackling the food situation if shortages are not going to result in widespread famine and death in the poorer countries and, on the other side of the world, food prices are not to rocket right through the ceiling.

Similarly we found a community of interest between producers and consumers of energy. And, as we studied the energy situation, we became aware of wider implications. For example, most Europeans would



A R K MACKENZIE was personal assistant to Edward Heath on the Brandt Commission and formerly British Minister for Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations. We reprint his talk to an international group of young people at the MRA centre in the North of England.

be surprised to know that there is a world firewood crisis.

Firewood is the only heating and cooking fuel for hundreds of millions who live in the poverty belt of the world from Africa through Asia. These are the areas where the population is exploding fastest, so there are more and more people pursuing less and less firewood. Women and girls are having to go ever further away from their dwellings to collect fuel—a human rights problem in itself.

But the shorter firewood is, the more tree cover is cut down. This removes protection from the land, so that in hot dry climates the earth becomes so hard-baked that cultivation is difficult; while in wet climates, the land is no longer protected from the force of the rain, and erosion and floods result.

The only alternative that these millions have to firewood is dung. But when people burn their animal dung for heat they are destroying their natural fertiliser, so their crops are poor. So while the energy problem for us in the West may centre on the price of the 'tiger in our tanks', for millions it is as basic as firewood.



Another example of interdependence—perhaps the most controversial of all—is in the sphere of trade and commerce. Trade relationships between the rich and poor countries have traditionally been based on confrontation and competition. But in the industrialised world we now have 18 million unemployed and the figure is climbing. We have massive unused industrial capacity.

Goodbye to alibis

At the same time there are vast unsatisfied needs of every kind in the poor countries. Somehow these two things have got to be brought into relationship with one another.

I personally see no prospect of our industrial capacity ever being used to its fullest unless it can satisfy the markets of the Third World. That raises a whole series of other questions—how, for instance, do you give the Third World the buying capacity to get the things they need? The Report explains how this can be done by providing stabler prices for the commodities the Third World produces; by giving them more open markets; and by increased financial assistance which they can repay as their economies develop.

So mutual interest as against a doctrine of class war on an international scale is one of the themes of the Brandt Report.

A second theme is the 'package' approach to development, the idea that every country should contribute something to world development. The idea that rich countries give charity to the poor countries while they do nothing is out of date and demoralising. Naturally and rightly, rich countries will contribute the most, but India, for instance, is already contributing technical expertise and goods to countries poorer than herself.

The third basic idea governing the Report is the idea of 'automaticity'—that the poor nations need to be sure of automatic transfers of assistance, rather than dependent on haphazard grants. The Report suggests that the world must move towards international income tax for this purpose.

I have drawn three personal conclusions from working with the Commission. One is that the next 20 years will see more changes than any similar period in world history so far. Whether you approach from the angle of population explosion, from the energy shortage, from the new industrial geography, it is



A. Porteous

Left: A woman pumps drinking water in the village of Jamkhed in central Maharashtra. Jamkhed is the base for a project which gives health care, agricultural assistance and help in establishing cottage industries to 70 villages.

The project was started by Dr Aroli, a highly-qualified doctor and his wife who felt led by God to undertake this work. Last year they received the Magsaysay Award.

Dr Aroli spoke to participants in a recent MRA training course at Asia Plateau, and the course participants then spent three days in Jamkhed learning about rural development. One purpose of the training course was to bridge the gulf between city and village.

ASIA PLATEAU, INDIA

Manager stops blaming workers

A SENIOR production manager, the secretary of a factory's trade union, a personnel officer, a machine-shop helper who can neither read nor write—these are among the 12 who make up one of the discussion groups at the industrial seminar at Asia Plateau, the MRA centre in the Indian hill-town of Panchgani.

They discuss the aims of industry, the merits of worker participation, the effect of the atmosphere of the home on the factory. Discussion grows animated. The time allotted runs out. Debate continues in several languages even as the different group chairmen report back to the whole seminar.

This was one feature of the daily scene at this month's six-day seminar. Delegates travelled from as far apart as Assam in north-east India and the port of Cochin in the far south.

'What distinguishes these seminars from a great many others which I attend,' said L D Giri, General Secretary of the Triveni Engineering Workers Union, Allahabad, 'is that it touches your heart and re-directs your inner motives. Things learned at other seminars are soon forgotten, but the change of direction you experience here will last for years to come.' Mr Giri was attending for the second time.

'I always blamed the workers and unions for not being interested in productivity,' said the personnel manager for a group of factories in south India. 'I have seen here that we in management are to blame. We have lacked the ability to give our workers a sense of belonging. If they don't feel involved beyond the receipt of their wages it is our fault. At this seminar you see problems from a different angle because you start with self-appraisal.'

Healthy and infected

FORTY-EIGHT trainee nurses attended a four-day seminar at Asia Plateau last month on the theme, 'Caring for a Sick Society', as part of their BSc course.

The nurses first looked at what was wrong with society. Unemployment, poverty, corruption, housing shortages and over-full hospitals were put forward as symptoms of society's disease.

They considered how to create a caring society where the homeless are housed, the hungry are fed, and everyone finds a purpose for their lives.

Were they equipped personally to work for such a society? Some decided that jealous and resentful feelings had to be resolved. Rifts were healed when they apologised to colleagues—and, they write, friends in hospital are asking what has happened to their class.

'After learning of MRA,' said one of the two tutors who accompanied the class, 'you are in an infected state and you want to infect others.'

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article traced the growth of MRA in the world, the setbacks in the United States after the deaths of Frank Buchman and Peter Howard, and its re-establishment now in the United States. 'American leadership is working unitedly and closely with those responsible for our work around the world,' says Mr Henderson. The same week he and his wife did a half-hour phone-in on MRA on a local radio station, KB00.

Earlier they were interviewed on the radio stations run by Oregon Education and Public Broadcasting Service whose weekly TV programme, *World Press in Review*, is hosted by Mr Henderson. The interview, on a programme called *Talkabout*, ranged from Frank Buchman's historic work to unite France and Germany to MRA's present role in Zimbabwe.

'I am willing to bet,' Mr Henderson told interviewer Shirley Howard, 'that anybody listening to this programme, if they take ten minutes in quiet, measure their lives by absolute moral standards, ask God—or their

conscience or whatever they call it—what to do, and act on the thoughts they get, will be embarked on a most exciting adventure.'

Interviews in press and radio all referred to the fact that the Hendersons are living in a house left to Moral Re-Armament in the will of the late Robert Stoltze, a composer and former professor of music at Lewis and Clark College. Mr Stoltze, who had met the Hendersons at the MRA World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, wrote to them shortly before his death, 'I am not a religious or theological person. Playing the piano is my thing. Yet 30 years ago I was captured by the idea that what was in the Bible might be true and work for a person like myself. It does, and it has been the most exciting experience.'

The former Stoltze house in Portland is supported by gifts, some of them regular, from different people in the area who are helping fulfil the professor's wish to see it become a centre for the expansion of Moral Re-Armament in the northwestern United States.

clear that change on a major scale is inevitable. There is no way that the status quo can be maintained. Either we develop a strategy for peaceful change now, or we put it off and change will be much more painful later.

My second conviction is that in the continuing debate both rich and poor will have to adopt new ways if there is to be progress. *Le Monde* once wrote, 'At the United Nations the air is thick with alibis for inaction.' Both sides will have to be more honest about where their policies and points of view need to be different.

Thirdly I believe it would be fatal to ignore the moral element in seemingly economic problems. So often we experts think that when we have worked out a nice theory on paper or passed a law in parliament, that is enough. But we are at least one dimension short in bringing an answer.

The mass of the problems that the Commission was dealing with seemed at the start to be purely economic. But as we went into them we realised that there was a moral factor involved if the remedies were to be effective. The Report states, 'The necessary political decisions will not be possible without global consensus on the moral plane.' It goes on further to say that a new international economic order will need people with a new mentality and wider outlook to make it work.

Moral dimension

I believe that is profoundly true. I also believe that this is where the work of the Brandt Commission and that of Moral Re-Armament merge. In 1948 the administrator of the Marshall Plan said that MRA was 'the ideological counterpart of the Marshall Plan' because it added the moral dimension which makes economic aid effective.

I believe we are in the same situation with the North-South dialogue now—we need a moral dynamic to help implement the economic remedies. And that is what MRA is all about. As Frank Buchman once defined it, 'Moral Re-Armament stands for the full dimension of change: economic change, social change, national change and international change, all based on personal change.'

DENMARK Copenhagen spring

A NEW MRA CENTRE was opened in Copenhagen this month. The ribbon was cut by three of Denmark's grand old ladies, Rigmor Harhoff and Paula Nissen from two of the country's well-known business families, and the artist Grethe Glad.

Speaking at the occasion on March 1, Canadian visitor Paul Campbell said that with the ideas of MRA applied in homes and industry, Denmark could be 'the north star of Europe'. 'May this home radiate change,' said Willy Rentzman, personnel director of Christiani and Nielsen, Copenhagen. 'Can we live our faith so contagiously that the people we meet will want to find God's way rather than their own?'

This sunny Saturday symbolised a new spring in the work of MRA in Denmark,

where there has been no centre since 1969. During the past 10 years, accommodation, office and meeting space have been provided in private homes.

The decision to buy a house was made at a meeting of people from all over Denmark 18 months ago. Most of its cost has now been raised through gifts large and small. One woman abandoned the idea of buying a winter coat and gave the money she would have spent. A young soldier gave his £300 savings, while other people sold their valuables. The house has three bedrooms—one of them doubling as an office—a kitchen, dining room and two sitting rooms.

Three days after the opening, members of the local executive of the Labour party and of the Frederiksborg city council came to an occasion at the centre. The next guest to stay there was an African ambassador to Scandinavia, in Copenhagen for a speech on the new economic order at a public meeting in Parliament House.

Ann Lone Uhrenholdt

LONDON A day in the mainstream

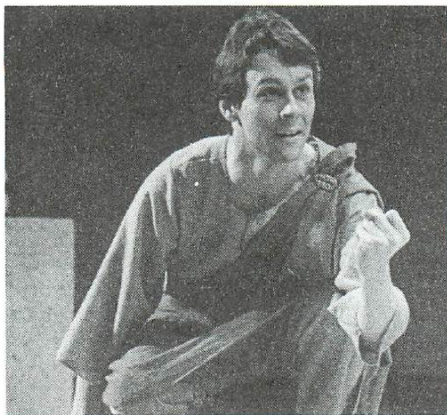
THE PLAY at the Westminster Theatre, London, ends. Question time begins. 'Is it a true story?' asks one of the young audience. The theatre's Education Director, Joy Weeks, says that over half of the 6,052 children who saw the musical *Ragman* this month had never heard of St Paul before. The musical is about the impact of Paul on the corrupt world of Artemis of the Ephesians.

Ragman, which closed last week, was the focus of the final Day of London Theatre programme of this academic year. During the morning, schools watched a demonstration of the secrets of professional theatre before seeing the play in the afternoon.

'The morning programme was exactly right for the 13-14 age-group we brought,' wrote one teacher. 'The girls' interest did not flag for a moment, thanks to the variety and the pace. My colleague who teaches Religious Knowledge felt that the content and presentation of *Ragman* made a strong impact and would help the girls considerably in understanding Paul's situation.'

Volunteers came from all over Britain to help look after the schools. Some were students from other parts of Europe, in Britain for training with MRA. Others were retired teachers.

Harry Pople, who was head of the art department and organiser of pastoral care in a comprehensive school, and his wife, Kitty



Steven Mann as Paul in *Ragman* D Channer

Pople, a former school governor, came from Bristol for two weeks. 'The programme sets out to give thought-provoking and positive material, which young people enjoy and need,' said Mr Pople, explaining why they did this. 'It is in the mainstream of all that we imply by culture. It's bound to be good for schoolchildren's stability and to feed back to their homes.'

The programme drew a wide cross-section of schools, private and comprehensive, bringing together pupils who would rarely meet.

'Do you always do religious plays?' asked a child in the question time.

'No' replied *Ragman*'s producer, Nancy Ruthven. 'But those of us who work in this theatre are convinced that a Christian faith is one of the most important and exciting acquisitions in life, and we're not ashamed of it.'

'I felt an atmosphere in this place,' said a teacher as the schools left that day. 'I'm glad to have its source confirmed.'

The Labour Movement and the task ahead

'THIS FRANK and indeed exciting insight into many aspects of MRA makes good reading for trade unionists,' writes Lord Plant of Benenden in his forward to the new pamphlet, *Is it true what they say about MRA?* 'It answers many questions but, above all, its sound philosophy of liberty under law and social justice opens up a way to overcome much of the bitter antagonisms of race and class and ideology.'

Lord Plant was Chairman of the British Trades Union Congress from 1976 to 1977, and was for eight years the British Workers' Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

'I saw some of the effectiveness of MRA at the ILO conferences,' he goes on. 'Men from different countries changed and did their best to understand other points of view.' He particularly instances Zimbabwe.

The pamphlet is written by J S Hodgson who in over 30 years full-time with MRA, has worked alongside trade unionists and socialist leaders in many countries. It is in the form of an open letter to a Member of Parliament who had written him to ask about MRA.

'People like you and me in the Labour movement are justly proud of our past victories,' he writes, 'but if we are honest we know our job is far from complete.'

'In the advanced countries we have a worthy record of achievement but Labour can never be satisfied while hundreds of millions go to bed hungry every night. Moreover, the human race is still split by bitter antagonisms of race and class and ideology, and the threat of nuclear catastrophe remains.'

'Most people who criticise us Socialists look at our past record but we have got to look ahead. The greater part of our task lies in the future—but are we equipped for it? The machinery exists—our inheritance from the pioneers who launched the Labour movement and their followers who developed it. But is the vision there, and the passion to finish the job—to win freedom, justice, peace and plenty for all? And is the necessary unity there? Or shall we in the end have to acknowledge that in its crippling divisions Labour carried the seeds of its own defeat?'

'I believe MRA could help us to become the force we want to be and that this country needs us to be.'

'Is it true what they say about MRA?' published by the 'Waterfront and Industrial Pioneer' is available from Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ, price 25p, or 35p postage paid; 10 copies £2 plus postage; 50 copies £9.40 plus postage.