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NEWS IN BRIEF

ON the day that the 9,000 workers on strike at Briggs Motor Bodies returned to work, 16 July, *The Forgotten Factor* opened its run in Dagenham. The 17,000 Ford workers who had been on strike as a result of the Briggs stoppage had returned to work a week before.

In a message to workers in Fords and Briggs in support of their initiative in bringing the play to Dagenham, the shop-steward conveners from ten nationally-known engineering firms, among them Bristol Aeroplane Co., Daimler, Girling Brakes, Hadfields, Darwins, and Cammell Laird and Co., said: "Thousands of our fellow-workers have seen *The Forgotten Factor*. This play should be seen by everyone concerned with the issues of war and peace, unemployment and the industrial crisis. Here at last is an idea which answers the basic problems in society and builds the new world we want, more effectively than the class war."

Wider issues were involved in the strike in Briggs and Fords than the claim for 9d. an hour increase in pay. As one shop steward said: "We know we shall not get the wage increase we are asking for. But it will serve to sharpen the class struggle." A shop-steward at Briggs said: "If we win the fight in this factory, the flood gates will be open for the whole country to move ahead for higher wages."

"The time has come in Britain for the clash with the capitalists," said one of the union officials involved in

the dispute. "This is not just an ordinary strike. This is war." The Communists have used the wages issue as part of their strategy to disrupt the rearmament drive and paralyse the engineering industries of the country by a series of nation-wide strikes. The Communist *World News and Views*, in an article on the strike in Briggs, says: "In the Briggs factory at Dagenham, united action has been under way continuously since last autumn. . . . The workers' confidence in their stewards was such that they could stop or start any line they wished and at very short notice. This was effective in holding up production and putting on the pressure for the 9d. claim."

At the mass meetings and discussions during the strike, the men trained in MRA clarified the ideological issues underlying the industrial dispute. They urged their colleagues not to be used by unscrupulous forces in the interests of purely political action. They have been behind the moves to return to work in the national interest and to settle the dispute through the normal negotiation machinery. They have now taken the initiative in inviting *The Forgotten Factor* to the district.

During the first three days of the showings of *The Forgotten Factor* this past week, many of the shop stewards in Fords and Briggs, as well as management representatives from both firms, have been to see the play.

MORALS AND MORALE IN KOREA

A young artillery corporal, trained in MRA, who had just returned from Korea, spoke at a special luncheon for members of the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees in Washington last month. Senator John L. McClellan, of Arkansas, afterwards had his remarks read into the *Congressional Record*, 2 July.

Certain plain facts need to be recalled. The war in

Korea started with the invasion of South Korea by the North Korean Army. The invasion was repulsed by United Nations' action. The forces now fighting with the South Koreans against the North Korean and elements of the Chinese Armies, are under United Nations command and are responsible to the United Nations, which Britain in common with all the democratic world is

pledged to support. The issues are not merely military, however, and the fog of propaganda which surrounds the whole affair confuses further the underlying ideological conflict.

"The Communists have a superior strategy, ideological as well as military and economic," the *Congressional Record* reported. "This ideological aspect America does not seem to understand. Containment of Communism is inadequate; anti-Communism is inadequate. We need to inspire the peoples of Asia to fight for the principles of freedom with more passion than the Communists fight for their principles.

"We need to see the vital relation between morals and morale. This cannot be left to the chaplains or to

lectures. It must be the conviction of the whole chain of command.

"If we would fight for a high moral standard and live it from the top down, the troops would respond with a new self-discipline. This would lift morale to a new and permanent high, and give us an army in which the American people could have complete confidence.

"We need to give the troops a fighting faith. We have our democratic heritage, which has a moral backbone. If we fought for these things, we would have the ground-work for a winning idea and a better ideological strategy. If our army were ambassadors of this kind, we would inspire the South Koreans far more and be able to win over more Communists."

SIAMESE PREMIER'S GIFT TO MRA HEADQUARTERS

On behalf of the Prime Minister, Field Marshal Pibul Songgram, his representative Dr. Vichien, Director General of the Department of Culture, presented the London headquarters of MRA with a silver tray, 9 July. Dr. Vichien, who with Mr. Sang, Secretary of the Thailand T.U.C., is visiting England to study MRA, said that the Prime Minister welcomed Moral Re-Armament as a force "to bring permanent peace to the world."

"Thailand is now encircled by the flame of Communism in Burma, China, Indo-China and Malaya. The Thai people are trying hard to prevent the spark of fire from our neighbouring countries from spreading."

At a reception in Clive House, at which the Siamese Ambassador and other distinguished representatives from the Far East were present, Dr. Vichien presented the silver tray made by the best craftsmen in Thailand. It was received on behalf of Dr. Buchman by Major General G. O. de R. Channer. It was, said Dr. Vichien, a symbol of the understanding between men in Moral Re-Armament in both Asia and Europe.

PERMANENT PEACE FOR EAST AND WEST

During their visit to Britain Dr. Vichien and Mr. Sang met trade union and industrial leaders as well as political

representatives of both parties. On being asked by one of the militant engineering trade unionists his reasons for being connected with Moral Re-Armament, he stated "It is the best way to unite people from all over the world. It brings unity in negotiations between men of every class, race and nation. In the past we have had the people of the East facing one way and the people of the West another way. Moral Re-Armament has enabled us to unite both as we change and turn around and meet each other."

Mr. Sang is a close friend of the Prime Minister. He spent a year in the same prison cell with him at the end of the war. He is sending regular reports to the Government on his visit. The book he wrote last year on his experiences in Moral Re-Armament is already a best-seller in Bangkok.

"This ideology is putting into practice what we have known in the East for thousands of years," he said. "We in the East receive the ideology of Moral Re-Armament with much appreciation. If it spreads throughout the world, in Europe and America as well as in the East, that means happiness and permanent peace for East and West and the whole world. It is the best thing that the West can give and the East will respond to it."

THE TASK OF MEDICINE

The Daily Bulletin, official conference journal of the American Medical Association, reported, 12 June, the address of Dr. Ernest Claxton, Assistant Secretary of the British Medical Association, at its annual conference.

"The medical profession must move from treating sick patients to treating a sick world, a British physician told the A.M.A. house of delegates. 'In this atomic age, service, kindness and goodness may not be adequate,' Dr. Claxton said. 'The profession must give the moral leadership the world needs. It is our real task and destiny to bring the world back to sanity.'"

Dr. Claxton, who attended the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Mackinac Island, Michigan, reported to his colleagues on his visit to the Assembly and the growing concern of the British medical profession with this task of giving moral leadership. He writes: "If the four absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love are the way of life of people, health will be a natural by-product, sound homes and family life will accrue, indulgence and fear will disappear, hatred will be replaced by caring. Accidents, carelessness and mental breakdown will decline and the

highest possible level of health will be obtainable.

“As professional men we have failed to be responsible for what goes on in the nation's life while we have been living almost in isolation on its surface ; drawing our many benefits while contributing only partially to the healthiness of its individuals through the treatment of the sick and prevention of disease. The ideas by which a nation lives have not been our concern, and lacking a

passionate philosophy we have often become apathetic or frustrated in our service and fallen unconsciously for the materialism of right or left which is out to enslave us. The professions have their own special place in remaking the world. We touch all classes and peoples and can by our own way of living help them to change and choose the philosophy of ' what's right '. We can be a uniting, cleansing and morale inspiring force in and between nations. That is our task and destiny.”

REFUGEES : A EUROPEAN PROBLEM

Two million refugees from every part of Eastern Europe have poured into Bavaria in the past few years, and refugees now form over 20% of the total population. The Secretary of State for Refugees in the Bavarian Government, Dr. Hans Oberländer, recently invited an MRA task force, including the international chorus from Caux, to hold meetings in the large refugee camps of Schafhof and Valka, near Nurnberg. This task force had previously visited Munich at the invitation of the Minister-President of Bavaria and the Minister of the Interior, to take part in meetings in the city and university. They had also addressed large gatherings in the cathedral at Ulm and at the textile centre of Kaufbeuren.

Schafhof contains 2,500 German refugees. Conditions are very crowded, and in some rooms parents with five grown-up children are living together. It is estimated that it will take another three years to integrate this group of people into the life of Western Germany. At the meeting, held in the public hall, there were representatives from every German-speaking population behind the Iron Curtain. People stayed till late at night talking to the speakers. A sixty-year old man, responsible for one national group, said : “ I never thought I would meet such a force. It really is the answer. It fills me with joy. I want to do everything I can in my remaining years to fight with you.” A leader of the women said : “ This evening has given me hope. I have found something for myself too. I have to lose my hatred against the other countries behind the Iron Curtain.” Others insisted that the

libraries must be filled with MRA books, and asked for library vans to bring them further literature.

In Valka camp live 3,500 people from 34 nations, the largest groups being Czechs, Poles and Ukrainians. In addition there are Russians, Hungarians, Serbs, Slovenes and representatives of many other countries. Only 6½% of the Valka population has work to do. Up to 20 additional refugees arrive daily from the East. So far, 200 Communist agents have been found in the camp.

Posters advertising the MRA meeting were spread throughout the camp in Russian, Czech, Ukrainian and other languages. Representatives of all the nations responded to the invitation, and the meeting hall was packed to capacity with many standing. Minister Oberländer came specially to introduce the meeting. He said : “ This force has achieved what others have not achieved. It has built bridges. Nothing is as powerful as the four absolute moral standards of Moral Re-Armament to unite nations. We have to change as we realise the terrible mistakes of the past years. My wish for tonight is that the spirit of Moral Re-Armament will radiate from this camp. Then some day the Iron Curtain between East and West will be able to fall.”

A teacher from the Sudetenland said afterwards : “ I hope I always remember this lesson tonight. I need it in this work with the children of different nations. Everyone of us has to change, I know. If we wish to go back to Czechoslovakia we must never think of revenge. The Czechs have suffered through us in the Third Reich, and we later. Peace we can have if we work together.”

PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS

Angus Munro, correspondent of the *Windsor Daily Star*, devoted a full page feature to MRA, 21 June. “ In every time of crisis there comes a final hour of reckoning. It is then, and only then, that man seems willing to take the one bold step that leads to solution.

“ This is true in man-to-man and nation-to-nation relations. Weeks may be spent sparring by political forces and by contesting parties to a dispute. Eventually, the point is reached when drastic action is taken. It is usually something that could have been done

much earlier if anyone had dared make the plunge.

“ Someone, somewhere, at some time, must change and, by example, change others. That's what Moral Re-Armament claims to have achieved in the lives of men.

“ MRA's major aim is to change individual lives. Once changed, a man cannot help but influence others to change. The idea of living a life guided by God is MRA's answer to Communism. The Communists make headway where democracy, supposedly championed by

nations which are Christian, has failed to deal with the problems of peace and security. While MRA stoutly maintains no political ambitions, its basic tenets include the belief that there is 'enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed.' The same thought is carried further: 'If everyone cared enough and everyone shared enough, everyone would have enough.'"

Fifty morning and evening newspapers in Britain carried reports on the Mackinac Assembly last month,

and the conference was widely reported in France, Germany and the Scandinavian countries. The Associated Press reported a strong demand on news of the conference from all parts of America and special reporters carried the news to Europe and the Far East.

Since the conference, television programmes in the United States have given viewers the opportunity of meeting personalities in MRA from Europe and Asia, including Mr. Peter Howard, who was interviewed by a panel of journalists on the work of MRA.

NEWS IN BRIEF

British Aviation—A British Liberator circled above Moscow Central Airport in the final days of the war in Europe. The pilot was one of the pioneers of British aviation, Captain William Armstrong. Now a senior executive in B.O.A.C., his task during the war was to fly VIP's to important conferences. In a book published last week, *Pioneer Pilot*, (Blandford Press, 15s.) he relates his experiences and gives his conception of the destiny of the aeroplane today. "Theirs must be the ideological war," he writes, "and the aeroplane used for this purpose can be as potent a weapon for peace as for war. The aeroplane can lend wings to the Idea which is destined to change the world."

Melbourne—Representative citizens from Adelaide, including dockers, and MP's, met in the Civic Auditorium, 2 July, to hear a report on Moral Re-Armament's action in Europe and the Far East. V. C. Alford, Federal Councillor of the Waterside Worker's Federation said, "Inspired leadership based on moral standards can unite the world." Horton Evins, Director of the Peak Construction Company, said that "honest management could answer Communism." The Secretary of the South Australian Tramway Union corroborated his statement: "The most serious threat to our way of life comes from those who refuse to face the need for

change. Moral Re-Armament can teach everyone how to change now."

Islam—*The Islamic Review*, Moslem publication in England, devotes five pages of its May issue to an article "Islam and Moral Re-Armament". A distinguished Moslem, Dr. S. M. Abdullah, Imam of the Shah Jehan Mosque at Woking, and Dr. Frank Buchman are pictured together. This appraisal of Moral Re-Armament is of particular significance in view of the sustained overtures which the Soviet is making to the Moslem world.

The Republican Convention—Readers will be interested in the unanimous nomination of Senator Richard E. Nixon of California, as Vice-Presidential candidate with Mr. Eisenhower, in view of his remarks reported in the *Congressional Record*, which was sent out with this Information Service last week. "There is no question," he said, when parliamentary delegates to the MRA World Assembly were received in the U.S. Senate, "that in the final analysis the great struggle in which we are engaged in the world, between the forces of freedom on the one side, and Communism, dictatorship, and totalitarianism on the other side, will be decided in the minds and hearts and souls of men. The Moral Re-Armament movement is one of the greatest factors which is winning that struggle for our side."

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Forces at Work in the East

An address to Members of Parliament in London by

The Rt. Rev. George West, Bishop of Rangoon

ONE day, thirty years ago, my next-door neighbour happened to look out from her verandah at a train going slowly by from Rangoon to Mandalay. She noticed a young man looking out of the special saloon carriage. It was early in the morning and he looked preoccupied. He had had a difficult time in the cities of India and in Rangoon, and was to have a difficult time in Mandalay. It was the Prince of Wales. Perhaps the failure of his visit was one of the early signs of the passing of what people have called Imperialism in the East.

In the same town, not long after, thousands of people were filled with excitement at a very remarkable personality and brilliant speaker—Mahatma Gandhi. His advent marks the rise of nationalism.

About the same time there were a few students in Moscow who came from China. They studied at the Sun Yat Sen University. The consequence of those years in Moscow can be seen in what has happened in China during the past five years.

Again, just about the same time, someone passed through Rangoon and met a few people. He went on to India and met others. I do not think anyone who met him thirty years ago will have forgotten about him. It was Frank Buchman.

The Prince of Wales, Gandhi, a group of Chinese in Moscow, Frank Buchman—thirty years ago. What has happened since then? Western Imperialism has been eclipsed. Nationalism, Communism and Moral Re-Armament : these are the forces in the East today.

Astonishing changes have taken place in India, China, Burma, the whole of South East Asia. In a comparatively short space of time one country after another has won its independence. Nationalism has become a tremendous force. There was hardly any when I arrived in Burma, and the first indication was a school strike. Gradually the whole thing gathered momentum and set people on fire. It was obviously an unstoppable force, and it could only be a question of time before Burma gained her independence. This force of nationalism lies behind almost every move in the East.

THE NATURE OF COMMUNISM

Consider what has happened to China. China is on our border in Burma, and we are wondering who is to be next. I have seen all kinds of indications of the work of Communism in Burma itself. I think the most dangerous thing about it is this—that not many people in Burma really know the nature of it. There are many things about it they like, and some they don't like, but most of them think it to be a further extension of leftist thinking. They think it is as far left as you can go. Most of them regard it that way, instead of seeing it as something quite distinctive, something based on a philosophy

of its own, with a programme and strategy independent of socialism and everything else—a materialist philosophy of life. Our greatest danger in Burma and India is in not really thinking ideologically.

Communism is one of the great fundamental forces in Asia. It affects every problem, and if we can deal with it Asia will play a significant part in world history. If we fail, Asia may go down in flames and the world with it. Some time ago I happened to be on the famous road to Mandalay, and my car overtook a group of peasants on the road. I had always regarded the Burmese peasants as charming delightful people. These were divided into three blocks. The first block were shouting "Rebel"; the second were shouting "Strike"; the third were shouting "Independence". This group was composed entirely of women bearing spears.

Some time after that the country was held up by strikes and insurrection. I met an official of the I.C.S. who had had to abandon his area and asked him what had been going on in the hill country. He said, "The information we have had of things going on in the villages is really quite remarkable. The militant Communists are training the people in Communism. Even the language has become entirely different."

THE EAST TURNS TO MRA

Moral Re-Armament has also been at work in Burma for some time. We have seen that arms, however necessary, are not by themselves enough. Nor is economic aid by itself sufficient, partly because the East regards economic aid as *our* insurance against trouble. However much the peoples of the East are grateful for it—and it really is a good thing that they are getting such help—at the same time we have still to find something to save them from going the way China has gone. In country after country men are turning to MRA. In Japan certain leaders regard the prospect of a visit from Dr. Buchman as the most significant event since the Peace Treaty. The Prime Minister of Siam has sent five tons of rice to Caux for the large numbers of people who will go from Asia to Caux to train in MRA to meet this urgent need. News from Malaya indicates that in one or two places they are beginning to see that Malayans and Chinese can be brought together in a more than superficial manner, that bitterness and suspicion can be removed by co-operation rather than coercion. In Delhi the Chairman of the National Planning Committee, now the Minister of Planning, with eighteen national leaders, has invited Dr. Buchman to visit the country.

CREATING UNITY IN BURMA

In Burma MRA has accomplished much about which the general public, in the nature of things, cannot be expected to know. After the war, Burma was determined to get independence. My wife and I, while not being personally involved in political matters, are interested in what is best for the country. We invited the Burmese leader, General Aung San, to see MRA at work in the villages—where the millions of Asia live. He came to a village on the border of Siam, where 20,000 people had gathered. There never had been such a meeting in those parts. I got up one morning early and found one of the policemen patrolling the place. He said he had never seen anything

like it—such a crowd and no quarrelling, gambling, drunkenness. The Burmese leader said, “ This is what I want for the people of Burma.”

Aung San came straight from that atmosphere to London to negotiate the Treaty of Independence with Britain. With him was a man who had been very bitter towards Britain, U Tin Tut, later Burma's Foreign Minister. Through MRA he had seen Britain with new eyes. His support of Aung San at this time encouraged him to conclude a Treaty that prevented bloodshed between Britain and Burma.

When the Union Jack came down for the last time and the Burmese flag went up for the first time, I do not think many British people thought Burma could ever be a Union. They knew all the tribes and thought they would be at each others throats, especially at the Burmese throats, because the prejudice against the Burmese was very strong. As time has passed the Burmese leaders have made friends with the minorities, and they have come into the Union. Minorities have been more or less allowed to write their own terms into the Constitution.

One minority in particular owes a great deal to MRA—the Anglo-Burmans. In Simla during the war they were terrified of independence. They went to the British Governor and said “ Get us safeguards. Get us security. Do not betray us whatever you do.” The British had to deal with the Burmans as well as the Anglo-Burmans and could not give anyone special terms. U Tin Tut arranged for four of their leaders to have a dinner party one night with some MRA people, after which the four leaders went to the Governor and said to him, “ We ask for no safeguards and no security.” They went back to Burma and were received with open arms. No discrimination was displayed towards them at all. The Minister of Education is Anglo-Burman, so is the Burmese Ambassador in Washington, the men who drive the trains, several high-ranking officers in the Army and Air Force, clerks, teachers. That is statesmanship. That is MRA working through statesmen. The world does not know enough about things like these.

THE RESPONSE OF BUDDHISM

The most recent development in MRA in Burma opens up immense possibilities for the whole East. It dates from the visit of a yellow-robed monk to America to see how MRA worked. This man is over 60, and is a great lover of peace. He is the Abbot of the influential Aletawya monastery. He went to the World Assembly at Mackinac last year. He listened to stories and evidence of how, by removing bitterness and seeing what is right in the docks, airways and mines, there is an answer. The kind of answer he liked. He saw it was happening in all parts of the world. He liked the people he saw, the life they led. He noticed the discipline, the moral principle, the application of all these to politics and economics. While he was there he said that the 80,000 Burmese monks must get this.

When the Sayadaw U Rewata returned, he came to Bishop's Court and said he wanted to have an MRA meeting in my house. He and I issued the invitation jointly. I don't know what the people thought when they got it. But they came. They had not seen people like us talk together on anything. He just told the story of what he had seen and heard. The Burmese people had never heard a Burmese monk talk like this.

One of his listeners had a strike on his hands. He was the head of the local department of the Burmese Railways. Keeping the engines running was an essential thing at that time. He arranged for the disgruntled people to come and meet the monk and some MRA people, and the result was that there was no strike. They saw where the trouble lay. One man saw that he was part of the cause of the trouble. He admitted it and they gladly forgave him. They got very interested in MRA and they heard about the play *The Forgotten Factor*. They turned it into Burmese, and they acted it in my house. The railway workers were acting what they had discovered. They put in their own songs. When it was over, one of the leading Socialists, a very able man, a Moslem, said to me : " The Prime Minister should see this as soon as possible, and all the Secretariat and all responsible people in the country."

Another consequence of the monk's visit to Mackinac was the effect on his own colleagues. When he got back he began in his own monastery to apply some of the truths he had learned. The man who was most impressed was his assistant, who saw that so much had happened to this man that he himself went to Caux. Since his return to Burma he has been at work with his chief spreading the truths he had seen among the 80,000 monks. The Buddhist world responds to MRA because it finds it is for everyone everywhere. It enhances all primary loyalties. As Gandhi said : " It is the best thing that has come out of the West."

Nationalism, Communism and MRA. These great forces are powerful elements in the struggle of ideas in the East. The first unites a nation, but divides it from its neighbours. The second divides a nation in the interests of a plan to dominate the whole world. Moral Re-Armament has the secret of internal unity in the nation and a plan to create a united world on the basis of all that is best in both East and West.

Eastern and Western people who understand MRA do not have the slightest difficulty in doing anything together. It breaks down the bitterness and prejudice of centuries. I do not know if you realise what the effect of the West has been on Asia over the last five centuries. Whatever prejudice there is goes where MRA comes in, where the Western people meet the Eastern people on the same level. When Dr. Buchman goes East I know the East will take him to her heart.

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