

MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

'HURRICANE' AND 'LADDER' IN EDINBURGH

FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER:

'SERVE THIS REVOLUTION OF HOPE'

'FRANK BUCHMAN'S SECRET'

NEWS IN BRIEF

VOL. 10 NO. 261

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

SATURDAY, 17 FEBRUARY, 1962

Statesmen confer in Tokyo on global strategy

THE shouting down of Mr. Robert Kennedy, the President's brother, by some Zengakuren students in Tokyo was a very pale reflection of the riots which prevented President Eisenhower's visit in 1960.

At that time the Prime Minister, Mr. Kishi, said that Japan would have been swept behind the Bamboo Curtain but for the firm stand of the students, labour leaders and politicians trained in MRA.

Now public opinion seems to have moved decisively. *The Times* correspondent in Tokyo wrote of these new incidents: 'They are generally dismissed as the work of organised rowdies, for whom there is scant sympathy among the student body and still less among the general public, who are not proud of the excesses during the 1960 demonstrations.'

The President's brother may have recalled the miracle of change in those Zengakuren students who twelve months ago visited him in Washington and apologised to General Eisenhower, before they set out for South America with their play *The Tiger*.

Last week, too, Mr. Kishi and three of his former Cabinet colleagues welcomed to Tokyo General Ho Ying-chin, back in Asia after six months with his Chinese force and their play, *The Dragon*, in Europe.

'It is a tremendous joy to talk with the General about the strategy for the Moral Re-Armament of the world,' said Mr. Kishi. 'The situation is increasingly grave, especially in Asia. We must unite in this ideology. We have an immense programme to carry out this year.'

General Ho stated that the operations of the Chinese *Dragon* in Europe and the Japanese *Tiger* in South America are deeply affecting the thinking of both Washington and Moscow. 'MRA is the next step for Communist and non-Communist alike,' he said. 'In 1962 we must carry this answer further on a deeper, stronger and wider basis. Communism is attacking the continent of Asia frontally. MRA needs two things—committed men and money. If we have enough of these we can restore freedom in the whole world. Japan, with its economic strength and its influence in the international scene, can be a key nation for the advancement of Moral Re-Armament. We rely upon Japan.'

From their conference in Tokyo the statesmen cabled to the Japanese and Chinese task forces, meeting for the first time in Caux: 'We conferred this morning on a strategy for Asia and the world. 1962 will be a year of victory. Wholeheartedly support your forthcoming actions in Asia, Europe and America.'

Budget speech draws battle-line for West

THE Swedes are among the richest people in the world. 'They are,' writes Desmond Fennell in *The Spectator* (9 February), 'the first entire nation of rich people, in the sense that they enjoy those comforts, pleasures, freedoms and securities which fifty years ago were still the special privilege of a very small number of human beings.'

This happy state of affairs should, by today's standards, produce a nation of perfectly contented people. Yet, to put it mildly, *The Spectator* does not think this is the case. And the Swedish Prime Minister, whose party

and personal effort have been largely responsible for this amazing material progress, recently asked publicly why, in spite of it all, people were so dissatisfied and unhappy.

This same dilemma faces every rich Western country today. An American report this week speaks of 'the inadequate, ambiguous and frustrating personal relationships which typify much of family life' there. Everywhere, and not least in Britain, divorce and suicide are increasing, and the false outlets of promiscuity, perversion, drugs and drink are so common that they

give Communist society a legitimate point for ridiculing our 'Christian' democracies.

A bold challenge to turn the trend of events and make Sweden a pattern, spiritually as well as materially, for East and West was given in one of the most discussed speeches of the annual budget debate in the Swedish Parliament. It came from the Conservative Member and Chamberlain to the King, James Dickson, whose reputation for dry wit and courage is such that the House fills, as though by magic, when he begins to speak.

'A clear battle-line is being drawn straight through nations, through parties and across party policies, indeed straight through us all as individuals,' said Mr. Dickson. 'It is God or anti-God, absolute standards or relative standards. Sweden cannot be ideologically neutral.'

'Shall we deny our children the very foundations of democratic thinking? Shall we deliver them, well-fattened and over-sexed, to a lost and meaningless existence in the spiritual wilderness, chasing one will-o'-

the-wisp after another? Energetic and loud voices want to make it that way. I say it shall not be so.

'All over the world,' continued Dickson, in a reference to MRA, 'people are waking up, firmly decided to turn the tide and bring a new thinking. These people are ideologically anchored and are giving everything in this new struggle. They can neither be silenced to death, written to death nor beaten to death.'

'The hour is late, but not too late. Now is the time for the King, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, Parliament and the whole nation to put right their own faults in the light of absolute honesty, and so to deal with the Augean stables which our country has become. We must clean out the devastating effects of the materialism we are so used to that we hardly notice it any more.'

'Sweden, with an ideology based on absolute moral standards, can speak to East and West in a language which both will understand.' Mr. Dickson challenged his colleagues to take responsibility for this programme and concluded, 'With God's help I myself will do so.'

'Hurricane' and 'Ladder' in Edinburgh

PEOPLE just don't go to the theatre any more in Edinburgh,' said the wife of a theatre manager, 'but *The Hurricane* and *The Ladder* are attracting big audiences.' Box office statistics at the King's Theatre last week bore her out, for 11,606 people paid £3,479 during the two-week run to make the plays a solid hit. An usherette told one of the cast, 'These plays are different. They give people something worth thinking about.'

Stage professionals were interested in the type of audiences. For every performance a bus-load came from Glasgow, Clydeside or Paisley. Most nights saw provosts from neighbouring towns with their civic leaders. Delegates came from the Scottish mining centres, Dalkeith, Newton Grange and Musselburgh. The famous fishwives' choir from Newhaven, bright in their costumes, asked to sing to Muriel Smith, star of *The Hurricane*, at a reception after the show. Dock workers from Leith, shop stewards from the new automobile and electronics factories, parties from the Border towns made these theatre audiences impressively different.

They sat and applauded alongside Edinburgh city councillors, society leaders, professors and students from the University.

More than half of the 71 clergy who saw the plays preached about them or announced them to their congregations. The Chief Constable from the Lothians and Peebles brought 24 of his officers. Personnel came from the neighbouring Air Force bases, at one of which the commanding officer arranged for members of the cast to speak to his men.

A musician attended a reception after the plays.

There he met a colleague with whom he had not been on speaking terms for more than ten years. The breach was healed in as many seconds when he apologised.

While the newspaper headlines stressed growing bitterness in industry and union leaders feared an all-out industrial war over wage-restraint policy, Labour recognised an answer given from the stage. The A.E.U. convenor in an electronics factory said, 'This is the spirit Labour needs. This is what Keir Hardie fought for—to answer the moral and spiritual hunger in men's hearts as well as their material poverty.' A man who was thirty years in the Communist Party remarked as the curtain closed, 'These plays show the next forward step for every progressive movement in the world.'

Management responded equally to the challenge, and Edinburgh businessmen gave a luncheon for their colleagues to meet and confer with members of the cast. *The Scotsman* reported a reception given by Sir David Ogilvie at the historic Winton Castle, Pencaitland, attended by 250 guests.

The Edinburgh *Evening Dispatch* dramatic critic wrote, 'The Hurricane gives a fine opportunity to Muriel Smith for a sensitive performance as Mary, the cook. The story is familiar . . . but the players get across the footlights all the tensions, fears and hatreds that are to be found in Africa today.'

'The second play, *The Ladder*, tells the story of a success-bent man, and the traps he can fall into on the way to the top. Paul Campbell does well as the hero and Phyllis Konstam as his mother. . . . Unusual but interesting theatre.'

Former Foreign Minister : 'Serve this revolution of hope'

Political commentators are still busy summing up the recent Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Organisation of American States at Punto del Este in Uruguay. The following article by Brazil's former Foreign Minister evaluating the effect of the MRA offensive on his country appeared in the leading Rio de Janeiro paper 'O Globo'.

BY

JOAO NEVES DA FONTOURA

AMID THE CLOUDS which gather, heavier and heavier, around present-day events, with our country and the whole world deeply divided and upset, it is heartening to see the spectacular success of Moral Re-Armament.

The Brazilian people are stepping forward resolutely to take part in this great movement to save humanity.

Moral Re-Armament is not an innovation. It has its roots in the past, when Dr. Frank Buchman, that authentic man of ideals, understood that something dynamic was needed to halt the wave of corruption which was spreading far and wide even then, and more than ever after the two world wars.

MRA was applauded and backed from every direction. The celebrated Catholic priest, Don Luigi Sturzo, that patriot and man of the people, called it, using the words of the Bible, 'Fire from Heaven'. Three great Catholic prime ministers backed it—de Gasperi in Italy, Schuman in France and Adenauer in Germany.

To save democracy's freedom

It is worthwhile recording those memorable words of Schuman, 'Democracy and her freedom can only be saved by the quality of the men who speak in her name. Moral Re-Armament brings us a philosophy of life applied in action.'

Under the inspiration of these men of goodwill, MRA invaded nations, expanded in the masses and among the elite, winning men right and left.

Its penetration into Brazil does not date far back, but already it has gone enormously deep. Force after force was launched into the North-east, the North and the centre of the country. Ex-President Janio Quadros welcomed them fervently in Brasilia saying, 'For years now I have followed the activity of Moral Re-Armament. The world as it is cannot survive unless men take a stand for the ideals for which you fight.'

One of the most expressive declarations was that made by Damasio Cardoso, a leader of the Rio dockers: 'I pray to God that what has happened in my family may happen in the families of all the dockers. Either we are for God or we are against God. The choice for us is Moral Re-Armament or Communism.'

Moral Re-Armament, which unites human beings of all countries and religious confessions, can never become a sect or a disturbance of the Faith. On the contrary,

within its bounds we can find believers of all faiths. They meet in order to spread through the world the meaning of a purifying of men. Each prays to his God for the preservation of peace and for the harmony of all. There is no conflict, no hostility. It is a unity without prejudice and with no other commitment except that of restoring to the present generation and those to come the right to love one another as the word of our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us.

The harvest will be immense

Few nations need a focus from which moral strength shines out more than Brazil. The drama we are living through comes from disorder in our spirits and in our hearts. Yet the first fruits are there. We have only to keep sowing and the harvest will be immense.

Look at one event, small but very significant. At a lunch in Petropolis where hundreds were present, Marshal Teixeira Lott and Marshal Juarez Tavora were seated side by side, conversing happily together—two men who have been most fierce adversaries since 1955. Now they met each other with courtesy, not for political reasons, but for the good of their fellow men.

I myself tried to observe Moral Re-Armament from the outside as a mere spectator, and I ended up deeply impressed by the singleness of purpose and by the life-giving passion which leads it forward.

You will say that the Catholic Church has no other aim than this. That is true. Why, therefore, make any reservations about those who wholeheartedly and valiantly take up that task, helping this work of brotherhood?

I am sincerely Catholic and put the throne of Saint Peter at the apex of my veneration. I do not perceive any danger in those fighters who fight for the same ideals as those preached by the Saviour. Is not the Holy Father John XXIII convoking all other protestant confessions to the forthcoming Ecumenical Council? The human task of the church is to unite, not divide. Even less is it to push men out of its bounds—unless they are enemies who preach other dogmas or who sink in the slime of corruption.

A distinguished thinker and notable writer from the best Catholic stock—Gabriel Marcel—described the movement of Dr. Buchman as a 'Revolution of Hope'. We must serve it with all the force of our good-will.

'Frank Buchman's Secret'

The following is from an article in 'Figaro' of 29 January by the distinguished French Catholic philosopher, M. Gabriel Marcel:

A BOOK has appeared called *Frank Buchman's Secret*. It is certainly worth reading or, shall I say, worth consulting. What strikes one most in it is this—there can rarely have been a man, at any rate in our day, so emptied of self, so free from self-concern and so utterly indifferent to the impression he is making on others. Yet the important thing is that, being emptied of self, he was filled with the God in Whom he believed with his whole being.

Everywhere, and I mean everywhere, this man, whose path traversed the whole earth, left a creative spirit in his wake. It seemed as though some kind of moral radio-activity went out from him, transforming human lives. Still more amazing is that those who met him and experienced *this inner transformation*, themselves became as it were invested with the same power.

I am convinced that Moral Re-Armament will prove to have helped, in an unexpected way, to open the door to those great reforms men look for from the Ecumenical Council, which today is the focus of so many prayers and hopes. Moral Re-Armament, as I have often said, is not an end in itself or a final objective. It is a house by the roadside. But the road is a real road, not a dead end leading to disaster.

The 'Waterfront and Industrial Pioneer' publishes a review by a trade union official in its February number:

THIS book is a testament to a revolutionary. Ben Tillett and Henry Ford, Gandhi and Sun Yat Sen, German miners and Oxford dons, chambermaids and generals, ordinary men and statesmen, march through these pages. Each one met Frank Buchman and made his secret their own.

Men from every background were treated as royal souls by Buchman, and responded readily to his friendship and his challenge.

A national Trade Union President, who is also an M.P., said recently, 'He dealt with men on the real issues facing them and their nations.'

Early in the book Howard tells of a Scottish coal-miner who said to Buchman, 'In my half hour with you

I was helped more than by any other living soul.' Buchman answered: 'It is not my art, it is God's art.' Like that miner, many of us at all levels of British and world Labour can testify to Buchman's influence on us and our movement. It was lasting and far-reaching. He turned radicals into revolutionaries. 'Labour led by God will lead the world,' he said, not once but many times. How one wishes that Keir Hardie had lived long enough to count Frank Buchman among his friends!

Without doubt this book is Peter Howard's best yet. Its pages contain the secret of dealing realistically with men across the conference table, in the trade union, the classroom, or the Cabinet.

If you want that secret—read it.

R. W. S.

News in Brief

Birmingham—Mr. Bert Allen, A.E.U. District President of Birmingham, addressed two hundred from management and labour at a showing of *Men of Brazil* on the eve of the token strike of 3,000,000 engineers on 5 February. 'Thirty-six years ago we had a General Strike. Are we back to the same situation?' he asked.

'Trades unionists trained in Moral Re-Armament have the right answer to give the employers in negotiations, because they fight for what is right, not who is right. Every good trade unionist and every good employer should live by the four standards of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. On that basis the Employers' Federations and the Unions together could find the answer and put the country straight.'

Mr. Allen was recently re-elected President for a third period of two years.

Kerala, India—225,000 people have attended MRA demonstrations in the past three weeks. Last week in the Malabar port of Calicut, where more than 50 per cent voted Communist at the last election, 24,000 jammed the central square to see *Freedom*. The Chief Editor of *Mathrubhumi*, Kerala's second largest newspaper, declared: 'A growing wave of unrest and anxiety is sweeping the country. Public life is corrupted and business practices have gone wrong. There is indiscipline among the younger generation. Unless we wake up, there is no knowing where India will go. MRA has a way of seeking out the problem and finding the remedy to every situation through deeper understanding, greater love and a more abiding faith in God.'

Kenya—The *East African Standard* and the *Daily Nation* both carried the front-page headline, 'First Film in Swahili Opens in London.' Copies of *Uhuru* have now been flown to Kenya.

Kerala, India—The first edition of *Frank Buchman's Secret* in Malayalam (5,000 copies) has sold out in four weeks. The publisher says this is unprecedented. The second edition of 7,000 is printing.

FOLLOWING their run in Aberdeen and Edinburgh, *The Hurricane* and *The Ladder* are this week at the Theatre Royal, Brighton. Future showings are as follows:

19-24 February

Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool (Royal 5163)

26 February-3 March

Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne (Newcastle 22061)