

CAUX: the first 20 years

PLANS FOR SUMMER 1966

The following message was sent 4 July by the Council of Management of Moral Re-Armament in Britain to a meeting of the Swiss Foundation which is responsible for the conference centre at Caux:

THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT OF MORAL RE-ARMAMENT in Britain wish on this twentieth anniversary of Caux to put on record their gratitude for what Caux has given to their country.

A British journalist described Caux as 'the headquarters of the hope of the world.' We share the world's thankfulness that in 1946, through the vision and sacrifice of Swiss citizens, some of whom have now passed on, a power-house of God was established at the heart of war-shattered Europe. From the power-lines of Caux flowed the electric warmth of hate-free living and the light of fresh aims and purposes for nations.

Winston Churchill at that time expressed the needs of Europe and the world in his Zürich speech. Caux launched an answer to those needs, for all the world to see and share.

British gratitude

Each country knows and values the gifts it received. Through the thousands of British people, young and old, of every class and background who came to Caux, Britain discovered the key to her post-war industrial production, an answer to class conflict that has worked unfailingly wherever it has been applied for twenty years, fresh ideas and aims for education, and a much needed world outreach in her thinking and planning. Men were changed by the power of God, and new policies emerged.

Britain's kindred peoples in Asia and Africa sent their representatives to Caux and links were established which have strengthened the forces of freedom for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

During a period of mental and moral disintegration Caux has made faith vibrant, practical and relevant, and set up standards of sanity and decency in private and public life, the effect of which has gone far beyond

those who themselves came there. A fresh pattern has been set for statesmanship.

The Council of Management in Britain want to pay tribute to the Swiss for making all this possible, and so much more which cannot be expressed in a brief statement. They have asked their representatives to inform the Council of the Caux Foundation that they have today transferred to the Foundation the sum of S Fr 40,000 towards the needs of Caux, as a practical mark of appreciation.

They consider that the greatest days of Caux lie ahead, days in which the world will witness the fruition of the sacrifices of the Swiss and other pioneers, and the development to fulfilment of the groundwork that has been laid through the last twenty years.

THE COUNCIL OF THE SWISS FOUNDATION for Moral Re-Armament this week announced that sessions are being planned throughout the summer at Caux.

The first, devoted to agriculture, will take place this weekend. Amongst those present will be the directors of one of the most interesting agricultural developments in Kenya.

An international conference will be held in August for representatives from the ports of Europe.

The summer programme will include plays and films in various languages.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Caux. Personalities from a number of other countries have already announced their intention of taking part.

The Council also expressed its gratitude to all those who by their sacrifice have made possible the existence and the development of Caux.

That'll be the day

MRS PETER HOWARD last month addressed 179 business and professional women at a Women of the Hour luncheon at Winton House outside Edinburgh.

Mrs Howard belongs to the family of the Greek statesman, General Metaxas. A Wimbledon doubles champion she married Peter Howard, newspaperman and author, who later became world leader of MRA until his death in 1965.

Extracts from her speech follow:

'THAT'LL BE THE DAY!' If someone would like to know where this quote is from, I will be glad to tell you. It connotes that the future needs to be different from the present. And I hope everyone feels here that is necessary and possible.

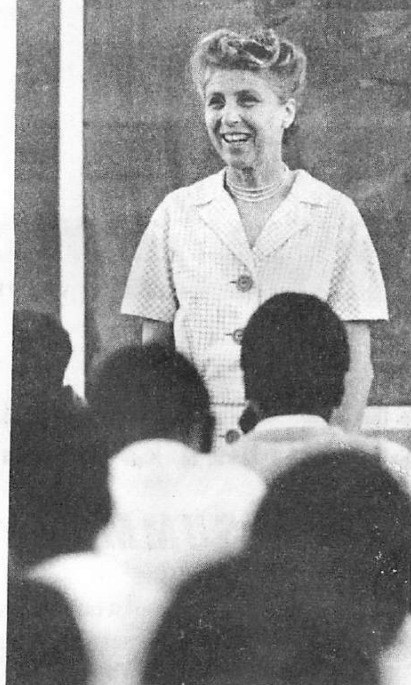
After thirty-four years in this country, I have come to see that the ordinary men and woman are the custodians of the nation's soundness. That gives me hope. Things go so far. Then, one day, it becomes: 'too far'. And the moment of change is there. The ordinary men and women decide the rot must stop and it does.

But not everybody feels like me. There is a concerted attack all over the world on Britain at this moment. An article in the *New York Times* on 8 June ends: 'What is bound to worry some who love this country is the feeling of unconcern about problems that are Britain's to solve—her slow slide toward economic perdition, the selfishness, the signs of impatience to renounce not only imperial pretensions but also more modest responsibilities abroad.'

He overcame

There is a great deal of this going on and I do not agree with any of it. The future is going to show the pattern again of the ordinary men and women of this country rising up to safeguard the soundness of the nation and continuing to give of their best to the world.

I love this country and I count it a



African youth listen to Mrs Peter Howard in Nairobi
Photo: Channer

privilege to be here. I would like to tell you a few things about my husband. He suffered much in life. As a child, from birth, he had his leg in irons. He knew physical pain. He lost his only brother at Arnhem.

But he overcame these things. He captained England at rugby football. The suffering of his early years gave him great compassion and wideness of heart. One teenage friend of his said last week, 'You always felt needed by him; you were always included. You became part of a great task with him.' He was able to travel hundreds of thousands of miles and was trusted by Prime Ministers and bishops and leaders everywhere. Countless people wrote and said after his death, 'We have lost our best friend.' Even now, a year later, from far corners of the earth, I still hear of the effect of his life upon people, a clerk in South Africa, a Cabinet Minister in Australia, tenement dwellers in Brazil who are putting up a plaque in his memory.

Last week my daughter was at our home in Suffolk. A man drove up in a car with a large bunch of flowers. He had been a waiter in a hotel in Switzerland ten years ago. My husband had met him, had seen that he was lonely, had talked to him, shown him photos of us and had given him hope in the future. This man had gone to work on the land at the age of eleven, working from four in the morning till nine at night. Now he is the head waiter in the most popular night-spot in Copenhagen. He comes

from Denmark to put flowers on my husband's grave before going to a big conference in Paris.

People ask me what I am going to do now. It is simple. Years ago my husband and I decided together to take on the remaking of the world and, insofar as we could see it, to do God's will each day. And we never turned back. He has gone ahead. Yet most of the time I have a quiet certainty that there is only a thin veil between us, that what we call death is really such glorious life that we can't understand the wonder of it. I could never want to pull him back from that.

One other thing that happens when you hand over your life to God is that fear goes, not perhaps all our fears immediately, but many fears continually and increasingly. Fear needs to go in this country, especially in us women.

I am sure we have felt anxious or sorrowful or bruised about the nation's troubles in some way in the last years—especially those of us with young children who face such a dark future ahead. I was heartened by a Russian journalist who came to one of my husband's plays and said, 'If Britain could show us how to make industry go, it would interest us behind the Iron Curtain more than any other one thing.'

It is certain

I have worked long enough with Moral Re-Armament to know that this is not only possible, but certain. If you apply it, you get people who work together. The catch is that it is expensive, very. Not in money—it costs a commitment for life to something greater than all of us, a decision to lay down our lives for our neighbours for ever. It also means you never give up. It means a willingness to let the other person's shoe pinch you. It means shedding bitterness every time it comes up. It could cost risking a precious relationship. And of course you have to stand up to the battering of men who don't want things to go the way you do, and even if they lose one struggle, will go undermining, plotting, manipulating, smearing, and watching for every chance. I have seen that sort of thing at very close quarters many times in the last years. I understand it because I know my own human nature. There is an answer. The difficult fellow who won't behave to suit you

can change, if you have.

I often hear it said that the age of miracles is over. I happen to know it is not. I have met people all over the world who are doing the work my husband did, without a penny of pay. I assure you it interests people to hear that men and women can find a totally new aim, become unselfish and labour without reward for long hours every day, for life. They want to know what the incentive is, if it isn't money. You can't explain. Faith can't be analysed. Change has to be experienced. I call that a miracle.

This nation is wealthy beyond our knowing in character and quality and commonsense. We can take on adding to it, measure pressed down and running over. It is a time of very great need in history. And this is the moment to decide. We can end the cult of smallness and affect the future if thousands take the steps they know to be right.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home has said, 'Britain is nothing unless she has a mission and a purpose beyond the horizon of these shores.'

A friend of mine, who is just back from a world tour of 50,000 miles, told me that everywhere people were asking when is Britain going to do what we expect, when is she going to give a lead once again?

As I see it, God's genius is that everybody in the world is needed. Everybody has a part, anyone who wants to pay the price. The world could find sanity and healing swiftly.

Mrs Howard then read the following unpublished poem by her husband:

New move in Southern Sudan

THE SPEAKER OF THE SUDAN Parliament has sent an MRA film unit into the Southern Sudan, where the civil war between Arabs and Africans is at last receding. This was announced over the National Radio last week.

The film unit, made up of Sudanese African and Arab students, has gone to three cities which have been secured by the Army after a long siege by guerilla forces. The task of the MRA group is to build a climate of trust between the two races after years of violence.

They take with them films in Arabic and English.

The move was made following the training given to Arab and African students with an MRA international force in East Africa. These students returned to Khartoum with a determination to help heal the divisions in war-torn Southern Sudan. The Government listened to their proposals and the Speaker commissioned them this week to go to the South, regarded as a 'test case of relations in the Afro-Arab world.'

Progress of Arts Centre

IN ONE YEAR £256,000 has been raised for the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre. This includes cash, investments and covenants and £44,000 in pledges which are being redeemed.

Seventy-six companies and six charitable trusts have contributed. Gifts have come from forty-six countries.

'Behind this remarkable progress,' says the Honorary Treasurer, P N Morshead, 'is the enterprise of tens of thousands of individuals who have given generously and raised funds in countless original ways'.

On one day last week he had banked £2,385 raised at a Glasgow Midsummer Market and a Belfast

Antique Fair. The next day £650 came from Wales from a fete arranged by the Mayor of Caernarvon.

The walls are up to roof level and some of the heavy equipment is in place. £294,000 is still needed to complete the Building and Development Fund, reports Morshead. The Arts Centre will be opened this autumn.

Next major event is a Summer Fair at Aston Bury, near Knebworth, Hertfordshire on Saturday, 16 July from 2.30 to 6 pm. Friends of the Westminster Theatre from ten London boroughs are arranging stalls and a programme that includes Elizabethan dancing in this sixteenth century home of Mr and Mrs Paul Petrockino.

Britain by Peter Howard

ISLAND of Kings and common folk,
This is your hour of destiny.
The world is dying. Yet your choice
Can turn the tide of history.

Your strong heart and your ancient ways
Can forge the future if you dare,
If birthright has not made your sons
Too proud to change, too cold to care.

O quiet and valiant hearts of dust,
That, flowing onward in a flood
At Arnhem, Dunkirk, Alamein,
Brought us our life-chance with their blood.

O valiant heart upon a hill,
The centuries ruling in your pain,
That on a Cross the secret gave
To live true nationhood again.

Obedient unto death; not proud,
But humble to his Father's will.
God grant us manhood new to dare
With Him to climb the Calvary hill;

To live new greatness, patterning
Service and change and unity,
So nations know their heritage—
A common wealth of liberty.

JAPAN

NIPPON TELEVISION, Japan's biggest network, broadcast songs from *Let's Go '66* to an estimated ten million last Sunday evening. Hundreds of people in the studio clapped to the beat set by the 115-strong chorus.

Princess Chichibu, sister-in-law of the Emperor, was guest of honour at a luncheon at the MRA Asian Centre, Odawara, last week. She said after hearing thirty minutes of songs from *Let's Go '66*, 'With this beat and spirit you will quickly capture the entire young generation of this country. I envy your spirit.' With her was the

Mayor of Odawara and leaders of the Japanese Athletic Association.

Let's Go '66 is frequently given at student music festivals and hoote-nannys. Last month the cast performed at the Centennial World Convention Banquet of Freemasons. *Asahi Evening News* said the musical had 'impressive freshness of style'.

AMERICA

SING-OUT '66 is being multiplied at speed in the United States to meet the demand for MRA at home and overseas.

Henry Cass, resident director of the Westminster Theatre, London, is producing three casts of *Sing-Out '66* in Douglas, Wyoming. Four hundred youth are joining this MRA action for the next year. Hundreds more

who attended the Estes Park demonstration returned to their home-towns to carry on their own Sing-Outs.

The *Rocky Mountain News* has published four full page articles on the MRA demonstration.

ARGENTINE

LA RAZON, Buenos Aires daily newspaper, wrote on 7 May that MRA was 'a moral revolution above and beyond all known "walls".'

The paper was reviewing the Spanish language edition of Peter Howard's *Design for Dedication*. 'For him,' the paper wrote, 'there is no command more revolutionary than that which comes from the Christian ethic—a

command which will not only make possible the putting right of the enormous economic and social differences between men, but also above everything else make a reality that men care for each other.'

BRITAIN

LT GEN Gholam-Reza Azhari, Commander of the First Iranian Army Corps, speaking at the MRA Operations Centre at Tirley Garth last weekend said, 'Here you are giving Britain

that new strength and new world aim we want to see. You have the antidote which immunizes a country against corruption. You are rallying youth to the right purpose for their generation. You have the secret of uniting a nation and of binding nations together.'

Referring to Miss Irene Prestwich, who had given the Tirley Garth estate to MRA, the General said that she had 'set an example which I hope ladies in Iran and other countries will follow. She has made her home a lighthouse for humanity.'

MAN OF FOUR CAREERS

HE TOOK A THIRTY-SIX MILE taxi journey, London to Aldershot, to be sure he was on time to join his regiment the day World War I broke out.

With this sense of urgency and adventure, Major Stephen Foot DSO lived his life. He died last month in London, aged 79.

After the first war, like many survivors of the Battle of the Somme, whose fiftieth anniversary was commemorated last week, Major Foot wanted to do something to get the world on a sane course.

A large number looked with hope to the League of Nations. Major Foot turned to education. He had already succeeded in becoming the Shell Oil Company's youngest overseas manager. He had been a general staff officer, awarded the DSO for his pioneer work in developing the tank as a weapon. At the War Office in 1919 he drew up the standard plan for

mechanised war long before the Germans invented the blitzkrieg.

To do something to educate humanity away from future wars, the versatile Foot became a housemaster at Eastbourne College. He started the idea of a Careers Master to advise senior boys about their future. This has since been developed as a national association. He came to realize however, in his own words, 'that all these educational processes are very slow, but man's passions and hatred are very quick'.

One day at a conference in Eastbourne he met the President of the Norwegian Parliament, C J Hambro, who was also Norwegian representative at the League of Nations and later its President. Hambro told Foot that the work of Frank Buchman was the most important thing going on in the world for peace. Foot's snooty attitude to Buchman's work was shaken.

In his best seller, *Life Began Yesterday*, translated into ten languages, Foot described what it meant to conquer fear of ridicule—especially from colleagues and relatives—and to step out on a new adventure into the purposes and power of God.

During the next thirty-three years he travelled widely with MRA forces in Canada, the USA, Europe, and in Africa where he spent ten years.

Foot was one of the first men in MRA to meet Kenyatta. 'What great things this man can do if he is inspired by ideas that have a really firm foundation,' wrote Foot, fifteen years ago.

'Changes are taking place,' he said, 'in individuals of the most varied backgrounds, black as well as white, including white men full of race prejudice and black men bitter against the white.' In this he saw hope of turning inevitable clash into possible co-operation in a new plan for Africa.