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## MOSCOW HEARS FROM THE GANDHIS

Rajmohan and Usha Gandhi were welcomed to Moscow last month at a reception, organised by 40 friends of MRA, at the headquarters of the nationwide *Memorial* movement. The event was featured on the national TV news. They were welcomed in the Parliament building by their official host, Sergei Kovaliov, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, and three of his Committee. On each occasion the Russian edition of *For A Change*, with its theme of forgiveness, was used effectively.

Rajmohan was the keynote speaker at two seminars. The first, at the Russian Academy of Sciences, dealt with the Muslim contribution to Indian, Russian and Central Asian culture. The second, at the University of the Humanities, focussed on MRA's contribution to inter-religious and inter-ethnic peacemaking. It brought forth many responses from the audience.

The Gandhi name is held in high regard in Russia and officials met with Rajmohan to discuss common problems of India and Russia, in particular the relationship of the majority population to its Muslim minority, and Russia's relationship to the newly independent - and predominantly Muslim - countries of Central Asia.

There were also several receptions for the Gandhis in private homes. Moscow Radio interviewed them, and they appeared on a live TV phone-in programme, answering questions for 35 minutes. Four articles about them have been published in Moscow or are due.

Leif Hovelsen   Bryan Hamlin   Philip Boobbyer

## CAUX ROUND TABLE IN CHINA

A meeting of the Caux Round Table (CRT) took place in Tokyo and South China, April 18-25. The theme of the Tokyo programme was 'Co-operation and changes required of Europe, the USA and Japan to achieve *Kyosei*' (working together for the common good).

The participants discussed how to be catalysts for change in major world imbalances, principally the rich-poor gap within countries and between countries, trade friction among major trading areas, and long-term burdens such as pollution and national deficits. A revised version of the Minnesota Principles was embraced as a guideline

towards *Kyosei* and towards reconciling global economic conflicts.

CRT participants discussed the principles with Masaya Miyashi, President of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations; with Masaru Hayami, Chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives; and at a symposium of 250 people co-hosted by MRA Japan and the Keizai Koho centre. The latter event was televised to Japan and East Asia by NHK (Japan Broadcasting Co) as a 90-minute programme. An English copy of the video will be available.

Thirty-eight of us went on to Southern China at the invitation of Governor Zhu Sen Lin of Guangdong Province. Guangdong's 64 million people comprise 5% of China's population and generate 10% of its GNP. The CRT delegation was led by R Kaku, Chairman of Canon.

In Guangzhou (Canton), a one-day economic seminar with the CRT delegation was attended by Governor Zhu and the Province's Foreign Minister, and Mayors and Deputy Mayors from several cities including Guangzhou. Mr Kaku, whose aim in arranging the visit was to expose the Chinese to MRA and to business leaders who value morality in their dealings, took substantial time to explain MRA and its four standards. A change in our own attitudes, he said, was the most important means of overcoming boundaries of race, religion, nation and system.

Governor Zhu spoke towards the end, and said that the views expressed by the Chinese had been narrower than those of the CRT. The next day he sent a message saying that the Provincial Government wished to send an official delegation to the CRT. Mr Tadenuma, Mr Kaku's advisor, commented later, 'We were guided by an unseen hand.'

Yukihisa Fujita

## HEALING THE HEART OF AMERICA

This theme for the National Cities Conference, June 16-20, in Richmond, Virginia, has attracted wide interest. The Mayor of Richmond, announcing the conference to the media, said, 'It is testament to the power that comes from opening one's heart to healing that this conference is here. If I change, if I

learn how to care more deeply or listen more intently, then I bring that to virtually everything I touch, whether it is regional discussions, the national agenda or settling neighbourhood disputes.' He has instructed city departments to help with the conference's logistics. Businessman Harry Jacobs, Co-Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee, told the media that the theme 'is not just a moral and spiritual issue...it is an economic issue as well.' He is giving the resources of his prestigious public relations company to publicise the conference. Richmond's Chief of Police has invited police chiefs around the country to take part. At the conference he will head a workshop on 'Police and Community Relations'. A well known song-writer has offered to write a theme song. Local businesses are helping to underwrite some of the special events.

The Mayor will host the opening banquet and the public gala musical celebration on the Saturday night. The conference will include a 'Unity Walk', bringing the wider Richmond community into a series of visits to previously unmarked sites where Native Americans and European settlers confronted each other, where African slaves disembarked and were sold, and where freedom was proclaimed. It will end with a ceremony of hope and reconciliation at the Capitol.

Ben Campbell of the 'Hope in the City' committee which will host the conference, said, 'The hardest thing about healing is the level of commitment it takes, and the danger that is involved.' We are committed to getting *Healing the Heart of America* on to the national agenda, and participation is being mobilised in cities across the country. This is only one step on the journey, but much depends on it. We do value your prayers and thoughts. One of our speakers, Rajmohan Gandhi, writes: 'The Richmond conference will be significant for America - and also for South Africa and India, the Balkans and Cambodia. In today's context, non-violence means healing.'

**Rob Corcoran**

#### ATTORNEY-GENERAL ON DEMOCRACY

More than 2000 students attended a meeting about MRA at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, this month. Among the speakers were Ratu Meli Vesikula from Fiji, General Joseph Lagu from Sudan, Conrad Hunte from Barbados, Pierre Oko Mengue from Cameroon and several Kenyans of different ethnic backgrounds. Later the students saw the film *Freedom*.

The speakers were among 80 people from 11 African countries and beyond, attending a 5-day MRA conference in Nairobi entitled *Time to listen....Time to act....Now is the time*. The conference was called on the initiative of eight elected student representatives from Nairobi's two universities. Among the themes addressed were:

'The origins and basics of MRA', 'Beyond violence to a world of caring and sharing', 'Building bridges to our neighbours', 'The statesmanship of the humble heart', 'Families - the building block of a nation'.

In view of recent events in the region, the healing of ethnic hate was central to most of the sessions. When the Attorney-General, the Hon Amos Wako, addressed the conference, *The Daily Nation* summarised his talk: 'Wako points way to genuine democracy'.

'The world,' Mr Wako declared, 'is full of leaders who ascended to power through the use of democracy but ended by killing the same democracy by becoming tyrants and dictators.'

The chief participants were interviewed by press and radio, and the opening session, which featured an Ethiopian choir, was covered by television.

**Stephen Muriu Ashwin Patel Alan Knight**

#### 'NEEDED IN MOSCOW' - RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR

Three thousand people saw the play *Retournements (The Turn-around)* by Vladimir Volkoff during its six-week run at the Nouveau Théâtre Mouffetard in Paris. The audiences doubled after the Christian press, Catholic and Protestant, gave the play outstanding reviews.

*Retournements* portrays a dramatic encounter, in the sixties, between a ruthless KGB officer (Marie-Pierre de Gérando) and an ageing Orthodox priest of the Russian diaspora in Paris (Michel Orphelin). The presence on stage of a third character, a woman sacristan, adds colour and mystery. The play, with its straightforward life-changing dialogue, is drawn from a chapter of Volkoff's thriller, published in 1979.

The collapse of the Eastern bloc, and the disillusion among former Communists, made the play more topical than ever. 'I'm an agnostic, but I am shattered', said a young woman. The Russian ambassador to UNESCO said that what he had seen on stage was needed in Moscow today. Some of us put quite a bit of money into staging the play, but we have been extremely encouraged.

**Jean-Jacques Odier Michel Orphelin**

#### INTERNATIONAL TEAM IN UGANDA

I have just spent two months with Dorothy Tingu in Uganda. We were joined by Ahunna Eziakonwa from Nigeria, and P V Abraham from India. At Makerere University 200 trainee teachers responded enthusiastically to the film *Freedom*.

We were twice interviewed on Radio Uganda, and spoke at schools in Kampala and Mbale. We were invited to the International Women's Day celebrations, where the President of Uganda paid particular attention to our display and took literature away with him. The following week 50 people attended a seminar in Kampala, where MRA was introduced through singing and dancing, speakers, films and discussion.

Hester W Groeneweg

#### IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC....

Czechs and Slovaks who have been to Caux - some of them 20 years ago - came together for the first time in Brno last month. The day was hosted by three doctors, Marta Heroldova, and Jiri and Lydie Luklovi. Jiri Rezek, who teaches English to businessmen, said, 'I went to Caux last year hoping to find something above everyday life. This is it. Ethics are lacking in the business world today, and we teachers can help by teaching ethics.' In Prague, *Listen to the Children* is being published. A publisher in Brno has translated half of Agnes Hofmeyr's book, *Beyond Violence*, and is seeking financial help to publish it.

John and Jeanne Faber

#### .... AND ROMANIA

We spent ten days in Bucarest last month at the invitation of Romanian friends who have been to Caux. Again we had the privilege of staying in their homes. We met leaders of the free trade-union confederation Fratia, who were preparing protest strikes against massive price increases. We met again with politicians and others in the Pro-Democracy and University Solidarity organisations. People seemed even more discouraged than last year, mainly because corruption is making the rich richer and the poor poorer. At an open meeting, three Romanian friends spoke and gave hope for change based on their own experience.

Andrew and Eliane Stallybrass    Emmina and  
Jean Carrard    Charlotte Georg    Christine  
Jaulmes

#### MISSION TO ESTONIA

At the request of leaders of the co-operative movement of Estonia, a two-day business seminar, 'Moral Foundations for a Market Economy', was held last month in the Co-operative headquarters in Estonia's capital, Tallinn. In seven sessions, a group of eight professional people from Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland gave their

experience to 40 local managers of member co-operatives drawn from 20 cities. The seminar was initiated by Heidi Pajusoo who is responsible for international training at the Co-op headquarters. 'I went to Caux last summer,' she said. 'My visit gave me back my self-respect and an expectancy that I could do something worthwhile with my life. I decided to tackle the moral issues in my country.'

The President of the National Co-op organisation, expressing his gratitude to the visitors, said, 'This element is needed because neither money nor material property alone is going to see us through.' The group was also received in the parliament by the Chairman of the Economic Commission.

Paul Gundersen

#### 'LIKE A MAN MARRIED MANY YEARS...'

After trying to be faithful to our friends in Colombia over the past 28 years, it was a memorable moment for Peter and me when, at a reception in the Hague, the Colombian Ambassador decorated him with the National Order of Merit for his services to Colombia.

The citation said that Peter, through his numerous publications, had helped to improve the image of Colombia abroad; and that, as a leader of Moral Re-Armament, he had selflessly contributed to the solution of conflicts through dialogue and international understanding.

Thanking the Ambassador, Peter said that his relationship to Colombia was not that of a young man blindly in love, but of a man married many years, who knows his wife's good points and weaknesses and still loves her deeply.

Digna Hintzen

#### IF YOU ARE COMING TO CAUX...

Sixteen Europeans plus one undaunted American met in April in Eastern France to plan for this year's Caux conferences. Together we reviewed the sessions, the work teams and their needs (still many), finances, and the Caux Scholars Program.

A report of our planning meeting, which is available from the *World Bulletin* distributors, begins: 'We are grateful for the regular renewing of enthusiasm for this great undertaking, and pray that, with God's Spirit, we will come at it afresh so that everyone finds something new.'

If you are coming to Caux, or feel you should come, and do not know where best to serve, may we encourage you to read the report and commit yourself, before coming, to one area of the house.

Charles Danguy    Andrew Stallybrass

## FROM THE COORDINATION GROUP

The reports we have received, plus our own participation in a number of actions, have helped us become better informed about our world work, and areas for concern. It has been good to note initiatives developing in some situations in which our only contribution has been to be aware of the issues and pray for a solution. God be praised!

We are now making ourselves freer so that we can respond to what the year ahead may require of us. Our charter is to serve you all. We hope you will keep sending suggestions and insights as we search out our specific role. Some of us will be at Caux throughout the summer conferences; most of us will be there all July. We see this as a fruitful time to come to grips with issues put before us.

Yukihisa Fujita Michael Henderson Joan Holland Chris Mayor Luis Puig Vijayalakshmi Subrahmanyam

## CAUX SCHOLARS PROGRAM 1993

This year's Program, from July 11 to August 13, will include candidates from Somalia, Russia, Bangladesh, South Africa, Cambodia, Taiwan, Rwanda, Canada, Ghana, UK, Germany, The Netherlands, USA and Zimbabwe. Cynthia Sampson and Muhammed Abu-Nimer, from George Mason University's Center for Conflict Resolution and Analysis, will present the course, along with Professor Hubert Locke of the University of Washington (Seattle). The Program will incorporate a seminar organised by Margaret Smith (USA) and Peter Hintzen (The Netherlands) and three case studies on MRA's role in facilitating negotiations in different regions. The Scholars will also participate in the *Regions in Crisis* session. Eight of the candidates have financial needs. Please pray for these. We believe that these young people will have a positive impact on their communities when they return home.

Wilbur Wright Kathy Aquilina (Washington DC)

## 'WHY IS MRA NEEDED, ANYWAY?'

MRA is an idea with a universal application. It emphasises that everyone needs to change and

everyone can change. This often focusses some issue round which our will is wrapped. Many try to resist its implications for them by pigeonholing MRA as a worthy social and religious movement with certain limited objectives. This is a trap. It can easily lead us to neglect issues of ultimate concern for short-term goals. The tail begins to wag the dog. We ourselves know how this can happen; and the painful process of rediscovering the universal aim. Frank Buchman once said, 'Some of you are concerned with too little - one situation or one country - without really taking to heart the aching hunger of mankind for peace and a new kind of world.'

Terry and Barbara Guilbride

## FACTS

### ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

Until further notice, Mike and Jean Brown's new address is: 63 Plymouth Way, Burlingame, CA 94010, USA. Phone and fax numbers as before

The *For A Change* fax number is now the same as for MRA London: +44 71 828 7609

Peter and Rosemary Thwaites in Sydney now have a tel/fax: +61 2 909 8188

Gordon and Marjory Wise, whose new address was in the last issue, can also be reached at: 18 Morpeth Mansions, Morpeth Terrace, London SW1P 1ER. Tel: +44 71 828 6634; Fax: as above for MRA London.

Patrick and Frances Colquhoun in Cambridge now have a fax: +44 223 563821

Peter and Sue Riddell have a new address: 12a Norham Road, Oxford OX2 6SF. Tel: +44 865 52102; office numbers (shared with Edward Peters) as before, Tel: +44 865 516558; Fax: 865 311950

## FROM THE EDITORS

We thought it was time for a change in the 'look' of the *World Bulletin*. We hope that its new style is both readable and attractive without detracting from its purpose of being a vehicle for information,

**The deadline for the next Bulletin is Tuesday June 15, 1993.**

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