

Prince Richard of Hesse

Prince among revolutionaries— revolutionary among Princes

ON WEDNESDAY, 12 February, Prince Richard of Hesse died at his home at Kronberg-im-Taunus, Germany. He was 66.

Prince Richard was the grandson of Queen Victoria's favourite daughter, Princess Victoria, 'Vicky', who married the Emperor Wilhelm I of Germany. His mother was Princess Margaret of Hesse, a woman of charm and culture. She was a friend of Dr Frank Buchman for many years and when, in her old age, she knew she was dying asked if she could come to the Moral Re-Armament conference centre at Caux where she spent three of the last weeks of her life.

Prince Richard inherited from his mother her charm and grace, hiding behind a modest and retiring nature a passion to play his part in the world work to which he had given his heart.

After the second world war Prince Richard became a member of the Caux Foundation and saw Caux as a British journalist once described it, 'The Headquarters of the Hope of the World': a place where statesmen and ordinary people could meet and find answers in an atmosphere of trust and understanding. He annually attended the sessions, often paying several visits a year, taking his place among his fellow revolutionaries with a warmth, humour and humility that won every heart.

In 1955 he travelled with Frank Buchman and a party to Australia and

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Prince Richard
with Dr Konrad
Adenauer



'He kept his promise'

Indian conference delegates pay tribute

THE OPENING SESSION of the MRA assembly at Panchgani in Western India, with delegates from 20 nations, remembered Prince Richard of Hesse.

'He was a prince among revolutionaries and a revolutionary among princes,' said Rajmohan Gandhi, 'The idea of MRA came to Dr Buchman in Germany and Dr Buchman died there. Prince Richard was at his bedside and said, "Frank, I am here for life." He has kept that promise.

'When I saw him a few months ago he said, "I have been between life and death. My clear conviction is that apart from the undiluted answer of MRA, there is no other answer for the world.''

Madame Irène Laure of France said, 'The friendship between my husband, who was for 45 years a Marxist, and Prince Richard was not something that happens every day. One aim they felt in common—the unity of France and Germany. She pledged herself to continue with this task.

Roland Wilson of London said that when the materialist revolution was getting rid of crowned heads of Europe after World War I, Frank Buchman gave the ancient Royal families, of whom Prince Richard was one, the chance to be God's instruments in the greatest revolution of all. Prince Richard took up that task and now he has gone others from those families may take his place.

He gave his life for all classes of people

THE INTERNATIONAL assembly at the Westminster Theatre paid tribute to Prince Richard of Hesse last Sunday morning. Some who spoke had known him well. Others had only met him once. But all had been touched and kindled by his statesmanship and faith.

Prince Richard's many friends in Britain were represented at the funeral service in Frankfurt by Captain Loudon Hamilton, MC, who recalled how 'early in 1920, Prince Richard as a young man of eighteen met Frank Buchman at a hotel in Switzerland. Prince Richard was deeply depressed about the conditions in Germany and the hopelessness, seemingly, of the outlook for his country. Frank Buchman gave him the inspiration at that time as to what Germany could be and do for the world.

'Yesterday I was privileged to be

present at the service just outside Frankfurt. A packed church, a large following up through the snow, on foot, in respect for a really noble man, not just one of social rank, because Prince Richard had found something far greater than that, and gave it to everybody.

'Four of the Ruhr miners were there. Members of the Royal Houses all over Europe. Somehow there was a spirit there that was above class or nationality, or social rank, or any such thing, in honour of a very great man.

Gave hope to Germany

'Messages poured in. The Rector of the church spoke in tribute to Prince Richard and said that the man who gave Prince Richard the vision and conviction and courage to do what he did was Frank Buchman. He said he

not only brought a personal experience of Jesus Christ to Prince Richard—and this Rector knew Prince Richard well—but he also brought hope for the whole of Germany.'

Several of the young Germans in the cast of *Anything to Declare?*, which is at present running at the Westminster Theatre, spoke. Among them was Peter Eggeman, the son of a miner from the Ruhr, who said: 'Prince Richard used to come to the Ruhr and work alongside the miners. He gave his life for all classes and all kinds of people.'

Princess Helen of Roumania told of the years of friendship between Prince Richard and her family and of the way he always cared for people and put them at their ease. 'He showed that people in his position can care for everybody in the world,' she said.

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New Zealand. From New Zealand they journeyed to the Far East where they were received by the Prime Ministers of Japan, Thailand and Burma and the Presidents of Taiwan, the Philippines and Vietnam. His wise speaking and unfailing good humour will long be remembered by those who were with him.

Love for Britain

In the following years he continued to travel to many lands, often with delegations of German miners and industrialists, and played no small part in helping to cement the new friendship between France and Germany. His love for Britain was great and he often spoke with a greater passion than many of her own citizens of what a morally re-armed Britain could do for the world.

Perhaps the greatest years of Prince Richard's life were his last. He was with Frank Buchman as he lay dying and promised to give all his energies to see fulfilled his vision of 'nations governed by men governed by God', a promise he faithfully carried out.

Prince Richard will be missed by thousands in many lands and of every background for his princely ways, his quiet humour, his keen insight, his warm friendship and his complete dedication to the fulfilment of his vision of a Germany and a world re-made. HWA



Brian Boobbyer, Rugby International, Conrad Hunte and American Rhodes Scholar Steve Dickinson at Worcester College, Oxford
photo Maillefer

HUNTE SPEAKS ON RACE AT OXFORD

WORCESTER COLLEGE, Oxford, with its thirteenth century buildings, spacious courtyards, and ancient trees was the setting for a thought-provoking encounter between West Indian cricketer Conrad Hunte and 60 from the University and city of Oxford last week.

Steve Dickinson, an American Rhodes Scholar, invited Hunte to speak on 'Race and Revolution'. His audience included Rhodes Scholars from the United States, South Africa, Ceylon and Nigeria.

Hunte's speech sparked a number of questions from the floor.

A Nigerian student asked: 'Is MRA

relevant for black revolutionaries in America, Britain, Africa and Asia?'

Hunte replied, 'I believe that MRA is the possession of God, not of any white men or black men.'

An English teacher asked: 'Does MRA mean change by Western standards or by the standards of the people concerned?'

Hunte said: 'MRA stands for a full dimension of change—social change, economic change, political change, international change—all based on personal change. It is the simplest secret of how to turn enemies into friends and a decision to pass it on to everyone I meet.'

Ordinary men take action

HISTORY IS MADE when ordinary men take action and this past weekend in London was history-making.

Speaking at the Westminster Theatre on Saturday to delegations from Holland, France, Ireland and from all over Britain, Les Dennison, plumber and Chairman of the Building Trades Operatives of Coventry, said that four months ago he had been given what he felt was an impossible task of completing sixty flats by 14 February.

'Yesterday (the 14th) I handed them over complete,' he said. There had



Fernand and Paul Maton, from Belgium
photo Franzon

been many problems, Dennison went on, such as failure on the part of sub-contractors to keep promises, and he had often been angry and at a loss as to what to do. But 'I was always able to come back to get a source of inspiration which men cannot give, only God,' Dennison said. He was grateful to the men he worked with and for the guidance of God which together made it possible to complete the job on time.

On Sunday morning Paul Maton, who is in the cast of the musical revue *Anything to Declare?*, spoke with his father, a surveyor with a firm in Belgium. Paul, who not long ago successfully eluded police efforts to stop him when he ran away from home, spoke of the new unity and purpose he and his family had found since he met MRA last summer.

His father, Fernand Maton, said that Paul's change had prompted him to take more responsibility for Belgium, which meant working to heal the division between French and



French and British trade unionists arrive at the Westminster Theatre photo Strong

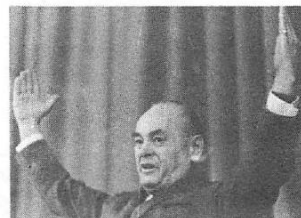
Flemish-speaking people. At a recent professional meeting, Maton, a French speaker, and a colleague who speaks Flemish, had been able to introduce a new spirit by presenting their talks in both their own tongue and that of the other group.

One of the most interesting features of the weekend was the presence in London of eleven trade union men from the French aircraft industry.

They were invited by the British Action Committee for European Aerospace, made up of ordinary workers, technicians and people concerned with the health of the aircraft industry. The two groups met over the weekend to grapple with the problems of European collaboration in aerospace, tackling the same issues that their governments face.

Dick Cosens, a shop steward with Hawker Siddeley Aircraft, said that unless a new joint aviation project is launched shortly by France, Germany and Britain there will be serious redundancies in France and Germany and further brain drain in Britain. 'We need to create a truly European aircraft industry,' he said.

Charles Martin, General Secretary of the Engineers and Cadres Federation in France, said that all the members of his union want the collaboration and that he believed that the British workers did too. 'The Concorde will fly,' he said with certainty, 'and we will all be pleased to see the word Concorde in all the skies of the world.'



'The Concorde will fly' says Charles Martin photo Franzon

Turning enemies into friends

'TURNING Enemies into Friends' is the theme of the International conference at the Moral Re-Armament centre in Panchgani, India, which began last Saturday.

Workmen had been racing the clock to complete the second residence building in time. The new building was opened by Madame van Beuningen of Holland, who was part of a large European delegation to the conference. Eighty-nine years old, Mme van Beuningen has given her life to the work of MRA all over the world, and has played a large part in raising the money to build the centre.

Rajmohan Gandhi, speaking to the hundreds who had come from villages around and to the delegates from 20 countries, said, 'American rockets have gone around the moon, but rockets from Panchgani have gone to many nations. Before the opening of the centre a year ago, the world had a certain picture of India—of corruption, hunger and division. Now the leaders of nations are beginning to say that through Panchgani and Moral Re-Armament, India is teaching the whole

world the lessons of honesty and unity.'

A Government representative of Madras State, now renamed Tamil Nadu, brought a message from the newly elected Chief Minister, Mr Karunanidhi.

The Municipal President of Panchgani welcomed the delegations, amongst whom were 14 from the North East of India representing both the Hills and Plains people, and Sinhalese and Tamils from Ceylon.

A widow from Poona, Mrs Indumati Kirtane, told how she had given nearly her entire capital towards the cost of the centre. Twenty-seven people of Panchgani and other parts of India and abroad contributed or pledged on the spot Rs 13,000—£650. A contractor gave Rs 2001, and the wife of a leading official of the Assam Government pledged herself to give Rs 50 each month from her household budget.

Roland Wilson of Britain, who opened the first building at Panchgani last year, presented a cheque for £1,000 from men and women in Britain.

Mayor of Lambeth unveils plaque

THE MAYOR OF LAMBETH, Alderman W C Dennis, JP, unveiled a plaque at the Lambeth Snack Bar, in the foyer of the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre on Saturday. The plaque reads, 'This Snack Bar was equipped and presented by citizens of the London Borough of Lambeth.'

Alderman Dennis, who was accompanied by the Mayoress and ten councillors from the Lambeth Borough Council, said that part of the £5,000 raised by the Friends of the Westminster Theatre in Lambeth had come from the old age pensioners.

He then outlined the way Lambeth citizens had raised this money for the Westminster Theatre, how they have organised coach parties which have brought 2,000 people to the theatre, and how they have also made it possible for hundreds of under-privileged children to come to the Christmas pantomime. He concluded with a



The Mayor of Lambeth Alderman W C Dennis, with A R Bigland at the Lambeth Snack Bar

photo Strong

twinkle, 'This shows that people are interested in other things than doing the Lambeth Walk.'

A R Bigland, Chairman of the Lambeth Branch of the Friends of the Westminster Theatre, welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress and members of the Council.

Major Strauss, Treasurer of the Lambeth Branch, presented a further cheque for an electric lift for the

Snack Bar. He said that the money had been raised through showings of the film *Give a Dog a Bone* in Lambeth. The cheque was received by K D Belden, Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre.

Following the ceremony, the Mayor and Mayoress met members of the cast of the musical revue *Anything to Declare?* who are staying with families in Lambeth.

'Enterprise 100' celebrates its First Anniversary

THE WATCHWORD of 'Enterprise 100' is: 'If you want something done, ask a busy woman!' The aim: a thousand such women who will each raise £100 to underwrite the productions of the Westminster Theatre. 220 women have already signed on and £17,500 has been raised so far.

They have enlisted the help of countless friends and neighbours, and proved that the initiative and tenacity of women is hard to beat. A headmistress from North Wales took a stall in the open market on a Bank Holiday. An old age pensioner sent one shilling for every year of her life. A doctor sold a valued ring.

A student from Vietnam raised her £100 in a one-day Fair—she wanted to express her gratitude for what the Westminster Theatre has meant to her student friends from Vietnam. A clergyman's wife sent the first hundred pounds of a family legacy. A dentist's wife was helped by her 13-year-

old daughter, who gave a week's earnings from a job she took to earn the money to buy a camera.

A Scottish housewife gave musical evenings in her home—a student from the Academy of Music who was staying with her performed and got five friends, all different instrumentalists, to take part.

Last week when the country was gripped by snow and ice, they came from all over the British Isles to the Westminster Theatre to celebrate the anniversary of launching 'Enterprise 100'—women from Edinburgh and Cardiff, Welshpool and Norwich, Bristol and Brighton.

They were taken behind the scenes and given a privileged insight into the way a professional theatre operates. Len Maley's brilliant lecture demonstration on how a play is cast, directed, staged and produced was followed by the chance for more detailed study. The ladies were given the choice of

attending one of a series of four talks by experts in costume, stage design, make-up and stage-management. Each gave a rapid and fascinating survey of their craft, with time for questions.

At a special anniversary lunch in the theatre's Tapestry Room the ladies met K D Belden, Chairman of the Westminster Memorial Trust, and Mrs Belden, and talked with the theatre's heads of departments. In thanking them for the magnificent work they have done, the Chairman said he hoped that all those who had already raised £100 for the Arts Centre would make 'Enterprise 100' an annual event.

Why is it that the Westminster Theatre has got such practical backing from hundreds of ordinary women? It is because they see that it is setting a new trend, away from the trivial and sordid, to a theatre of humanity and hope, and they mean to be in the forefront of its support and development. MM