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THE SERENE SMILE IN PHNOM PENH

The world première of the Khmer film *The Serene Smile* took place in Phnom Penh earlier this month. The occasion, at the Cambodiana Hotel, which was hosted by Moral Re-Armament, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Centre for Culture and Vipassana, and Buddhism for Development, brought together leaders of the Buddhist hierarchy, cabinet ministers from different political parties, Members of Parliament, diplomats and the press. Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng said the film would help to restore self-esteem, hope and prosperity to Cambodia. He presented an award to David Channer. Highlights of the occasion were televised.

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation and CIDSE (a consortium of Christian donor agencies including Christian Aid, UK) have purchased a total of 500 copies of the video for distribution in Cambodia. Minister of Religious Affairs Hien Vanniroth, summing up the film, said, 'The serene smile exists only when greed, conflict and delusion have been abandoned.'

The King and Queen of Cambodia, who saw *The Serene Smile* privately, were 'moved and impressed', according to a source close to the Royal Family.

David and Alan Channer

Allan Griffith, who was visiting Cambodia, adds: '*The Serene Smile*, which embodies sayings of the Buddha on the virtues of compassion, truthfulness, peace and forgiveness, is supremely artistic. The film explores the values of Buddha and the ethical norms required in a peaceful democratic society. It is destined to help restore Cambodia's spiritual legacy and foster dignity and hope in a nation which has, for three decades, known little but insecurity, hardship and isolation.'

IMPRESSIONS FROM MOSCOW

Last month we spent two weeks in Moscow. The war in Chechnya is changing Russia for the worse, damaging the political balance in the country. Sergei Kovalyov, who spoke at Caux in August '94, has campaigned courageously against the excessive use of force in that war. In reaction, Communists and Nationalists in the Russian Duma (Parliament) joined forces and removed him from the chairmanship of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights. Kovalyov's own party, Russia Choice, issued a statement: 'It is not within the Duma's power to deprive Sergei Kovalyov of the right to remain the conscience of Russia.'

The next few years will be very rocky for Russia. We felt that we should build our friendships with democratic politicians, people in the media and in the universities, particularly those who are training people in aspects of the Orthodox faith. The media has shown remarkable independence and courage recently.

We felt it important to get to know colleagues and supporters of Kovalyov. We met nine deputies of the Duma from the two main democratic parties - Russia Choice and Yabloko - and were impressed by their quality. Three had been with Kovalyov in Grozny at the height of the bombing. Like him, quite a few of them are former scientists who were inspired by physicist Andrei Sakharov to go into politics. One of them is Dr Nikolai Vorontsov, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Natural Science and a member of the Swedish Academy of Sciences, who has nominated Kovalyov for the Nobel Peace Prize.

We saw people on the editorial boards of *Moscow News*, *New Times*, *Evening Moscow* (a large circulation daily), *Banner* and a new journal entitled *Conflict and Consensus*. Philosopher and essayist Grigori Pomerants contributes to three of these publications. In recent articles he has developed themes which he spoke about in Caux last summer, including the need for the balance between 'Martha and Mary - action and contemplation' in our modern societies.

Pomerants and his wife Zinaida will lead a delegation of 8-10 people from Moscow, including two university administrators and a journalist, for the Unity with Diversity session at Caux in July.

We also met with six other friends as a group, all of whom had been in Caux last summer. Some were hoping to be at the MRA conference in Gatchina, held at the end of March.

Lief Hovelsen and Bryan Hamlin

CROATIAN STUDENTS MEET

A year-long wish came true last month when more than 20 young people met at the Emaus Retreat Centre near Zagreb for four days, invited by Lenka Gudac, Tomislav Mayerić, Tomislav Boroščak and other friends. A Monsignor friend from Eastern Croatia sent two youngsters who told how they had been freed from the grip of drugs. Senior students from the Economics Faculty attended, as well as from the Fine-Arts High School. From moments of painful recognition to hilarious laughter came healing. The following week, the parent of one participant met

one of the organisers in the street and asked what had happened; evidently the relationship at home had been transformed as a result of the weekend. It was fun to be invited to be there with Melanie Trimble and Edward Peters.

Margaret Schock Marianne & Christoph Spreng

THIRTY YEARS OF MRA IN COLOMBIA

In March 1965 the first MRA team came to Santafe de Bogotá, Colombia, to fulfil Peter Howard's speaking engagements following his sudden death in Perú. The response of the Colombians was such that Peter Orglmeister and we stayed there a further four months. This was the beginning of a commitment which has taken us almost every year to Colombia.

We celebrated this anniversary with a reception to thank Colombian friends for their hospitality and friendship. On March 15, supported by Luis and Evelyn Puig and three Brazilian ladies, we welcomed 95 people, ranging from former ambassadors to shanty-town dwellers to a Colombian for whom Peter (Hintzen) had cared during the Colombian's three and a half years in a Dutch prison. We spoke of our love and vision for this nation which is only too aware of its many problems. Luis Puig added news from other Latin American nations.

Heyde Durán (see *All her Paths are Peace*) and her team had arranged 15 speaking engagements in universities, schools and for public servants in Bogotá, Cali and Palmira. There were also TV, radio and newspaper interviews. The Papal Nuncio, hearing in Cali about this MRA presence, was quoted on radio and in the press, 'To combat drugs and guerrillas, Colombia requires moral re-armament.' In each place a team was formed to plan how to carry on.

Peter and Digna Hintzen

HOLY WEEK IN THE HOLY LAND

This eight-day stay was our third visit to Israel/Palestine. We spent most of our time in Jerusalem and, as once before, were the guests of Yehezkel and Dalia Landau, an Orthodox Jewish couple.

Although we had a real sense of God's leading and peace, we found the situation tense. Two Israeli buses were suicide-bombed while we were there, and there were curfews and army roadblocks. At the same time we were grateful to discover a genuine sense of teamwork developing between Palestinians and Israelis who were at Caux last summer. Our primary purpose was to spend unhurried time with these friends.

At the beginning of our visit we gathered in the home of Nadera Kevorkian, a Palestinian professor, in the Armenian quarter of the Old City. Then on our last evening in Jerusalem we all met again in the Landau home in modern West Jerusalem, assessing the visit and looking ahead to Caux. These two hosts have been featured in an interview in *Changer, FAC and Caux Information*. We also met young Palestinian Muslim militants, the Vice President of Bir Zeit

University on the West Bank, a Jewish settler (from an introduction from Russia) and the former Chief Rabbi of Ireland. We also met with Berta Passweg and a friend in Tel Aviv.

We were there for the beginning of Holy Week. It was a joy to visit Bethlehem (where we met some shepherds with their sheep!), and to take part, with thousands of Christian Palestinians and foreign pilgrims, in the Palm Sunday procession from the Mount of Olives into Jerusalem. Some of the best singers in the procession were Fijian soldiers from the UN Force in southern Lebanon. We visited the holy mosques of Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount.

Four people plan to come from Jerusalem for the Cities conference at Caux.

Jeroen Gunning and Bryan Hamlin

'THE CHANGE ALTERNATIVE' IN AUSTRALIA

Experimenting with a new seminar format, 60 Australians met near Adelaide to exchange life experiences of where *The Change Alternative* has become real for them. Panel discussions, silent reflections on set questions and group discussions focussed on community challenges, family life under stress and inter-ethnic relations - all areas of unprecedented change where we are being forced to 'reinvent Australia on the run', as social commentator Hugh Mackay puts it. The music of *Mills & Miles'* new CD gave a distinctive format, with David Mills interjecting examples from his own spiritual journey.

One Aboriginal commented that if people in his community, where they know 'what prejudice feels like', could be as honest as were those at the seminar, change would come - and he is taking steps to organise a local seminar as a result.

SEARCHING DISCUSSIONS WITH POLITICIANS

'Restoring the human spirit in our cities' was the theme of a public meeting which brought together 120 Canberrans last month. Principal speakers were John Smith, President of God's Squad Motorcycle Club, and fellow-worker Keith Waters. David Mills provided the music. During their 3-day visit to Canberra, John and Keith met 43 Members of Parliament and Senators, with whom they had searching discussions on the role legislators can play in shaping a moral climate adequate to grapple with the social problems in Australian cities. They also spoke to 1500 students.

John Bond Andrew Lancaster

CAUX CITIES CONSULTATION, AUGUST 4 - 11

An international planning group met in Tirley Garth in March to prepare for this summer's Cities session, which has the theme 'Restoring the Human Spirit in our Cities'. The notes and draft programme for that session are available from Rob Corcoran (Richmond, USA) or Gerald Henderson (Liverpool, UK)

NEW ADVENTURE FOR VOGELS

After 41 years based in Latin America, mainly in Brazil, Laurie and I feel led to live in Britain. It is a new adventure of faith and prayer to which we are looking forward. The years in Latin America have been a privilege. We have received so much from such a diversity of people - far more than we have given. And we have seen that long-term commitment gives sense to life and brings peace and deep satisfaction. We can be reached via 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF.

Elsa Vogel

REMINDER ABOUT NOMINATIONS

Last month's *Bulletin* outlined a process for finding candidates to serve on the Coordination Group. May we remind you to send nominations by May 1 to Robo Ukoko-Orogun at 12 Palace Street, London, SW1E 5JF, UK (Fax +44 171 828 7609). Decisions about who will serve will be made at the special

consultation in Caux, July 26-27, at which there will also be a general review of the role and mandate of the Coordination Group. Joan Holland and Chris Mayor have agreed to serve through 1996 to assist the establishment of a staggered rotation based on three-year terms.

May we also remind you that names of suggested participants for this special consultation in Caux should be given to Alice Cardel at 401 East 88th Street, Apt. 5-F, New York, NY 10128, USA (Fax: +1 212 370 0534) by June 2.

As details of the Global Consultation at the end of October in Europe have not yet been finalised, the invitation to that occasion will be sent next month.

Support Group

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES
Australia: *Global Express* now has an email address: globalex@melbourne.dialix.oz.au

Calendar of Events

APR '95	<u>Caux</u> Switzerland	Caux Work Weeks - general work week followed by garden work week	Apr 15 - 29
	<u>Ontario</u> Canada	The Media and Ethnicity - International Communications Forum	Apr 21 - 23
	<u>Yutz/Thionville</u> France	Caux 1995/96 planning meeting	Apr 27 - 30
MAY	<u>Caux</u>	Meeting of 50th Anniversary Council	May 3 - 4
	<u>Tirley Garth</u> UK	Planning : Caux 'communities'	May 30 - Jun 1
JUN '95	<u>Yaoundé</u> Cameroon	Pan-African Conference for Moral Re-Armament	Jun 5 - 10
	<u>Caux</u>	Montreux TV-Symposium journalists stay at Caux	Jun 7 - 14
JUL '95	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Scholars Program	Jul 6 - Aug 9
	<u>Melbourne</u> Australia	Life Matters - eight-day Study Course at Armagh	Jul 7 - 16
	<u>Caux</u>	Unity with Diversity, A Consultation on Europe	Jul 8 - 16
	<u>Caux</u>	The Society of Tomorrow	Jul 18 - 26
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Round Table	Jul 19 - 22
	<u>Philippines</u>	Asia Pacific Youth Conference	Jul 24 - 31
	<u>Caux</u>	Special Consultation to review Coordination Group	Jul 26 - 27
AUG '95	<u>Caux</u>	Restoring the Human Spirit in Our Cities	Aug 4 - 11
	<u>Caux</u>	Regions in crisis, Regions in recovery - Learning from one another	Aug 14 - 24
SEP '95	<u>Tirley Garth</u> UK	Foundations for Freedom - International Course	Sep 7 - 26
OCT '95	<u>Tirley Garth</u>	Farmers' conference	Oct 14 - 15
DEC '95	<u>Tirley Garth</u>	Families' conference	Dec 28 - Jan 2

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Monday, May 15, 1995

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: **Asia:** South - C Iralu; **Malaysia** - Santa Maria; **Philippines** - Cardel; **Japan**, Rest - Fujita; **Australia** - A Lancaster; **Pacific** - Annette Porteous; **Africa:** East - Patel; South - Horn; **Zimbabwe** - Sibare; **Nigeria**, Rest - Agbin; **N. America:** Canada - Weeks; **USA** - Ruffin; **Latin America:** Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; **Caribbean** - Fiona Edwards; **Europe:** France - Lasserre; **Germany** - Bräckle; **Denmark** - Jørgensen; **Finland** - Koponen; **Norway** - Eskeland; **Sweden** - Söderlund; **Switzerland** - Mottu; **UK** - C Evans; **Austria** - Vock; **Netherlands**, Rest - J de Pous; **Middle East:** - Christodoulides