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## 'DON'T WAIT FOR THE STATE'

This was the headline of one of ten newspaper articles which appeared in Karlsruhe, Berlin and Erfurt during a packed two-week programme of a BTA (Black Teens for Advancement, Atlanta, USA) delegation to Germany in the second half of August. Accompanying the three BTA youths were their leader Edward Johnson, Dr and Mrs G Lemon, Bruce Myers and Jeroen Gunning from the Netherlands. The BTA message comes at an important time for Germany where violence in schools and among youth is growing fast. In many occasions in schools and with youth groups (one a group of Neo-Nazis) the BTA visitors told of their initiatives to answer violence. The press conferences in Berlin and Erfurt were well attended and ran for over an hour. The Senate of Berlin and the city of Erfurt sponsored the visit and are keen to continue this exchange.

With this initiative and a number of others related to the work in our cities we are at a point where we pray for man and woman power to help us. Are there people who would like to come and work with us?

Thomas and Christa Bräckle

## PAINTING AND PERFORMING IN POLAND

Over 100 people recently attended an international musicians' conference in Jaslo in Southern Poland on the theme, 'New world, new people, do we need new music?' Music professors, performers, composers, priests and students came from many parts of Europe, East and West, and from as far away as Egypt. It was the second such conference organised by Malgorzata Rudnicka with the help of the town authorities and the local High School. There were full orchestral concerts, choirs, eminent classical guitarists and soloists of many kinds. 'After seeing Malgorzata in action we felt anything was possible', writes Andrew Smith from Britain.

In July, thirty artists met for 10 days at an ancient monastery in North-Eastern Poland. 'We painted all day, and each evening explored how artists could help bring healing between countries', says Australian artist Helen Stacey. 'There was a quiet determination that the region's future be different

from its tragic past. As Polish artist Ewa Trafna emphasised, "Poland has always had a sense of mission in the world. With the changes in Europe, we are now in the centre and can do a lot for other countries".'

## CAMBODIANS PLAN THE NEXT STEPS

With Yukihisa Fujita we spent 10 days in Cambodia in July, and met with some of the initiators of the March seminar on 'Confidence-building for peace in Cambodia', and the national committee for reconciliation which came out of it. The group included two Ministers in the new Government, a Vice-Minister and several others in prominent positions. They had a mood of hope, combined with reality about the enormous task that lies ahead. They believe that a further international seminar in Phnom Penh would be a great help all round. Sam Rainsy, Minister of Finance, said, 'Cambodia has received a lot from the international community, and we should give something back.'

Rob and Cheryl Wood

## 'MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF A NEW ERA'

Under this theme, 60 people from 13 countries attended the 4th Asia Pacific Camp (APC), held in Hongkong from 21-30 July. Among them were students from China, Korea, Singapore and Cambodia, and young working people from Japan, Australia and New Zealand. A feature of the programme was a three-day visit to southern China - Guangzhou (Canton) and Zhuhai, two cities at the forefront of China's economic reforms.

For the first time, Chinese from the Mainland came across the border to join the event. As a result a precious exchange among young Chinese from Hongkong, Taiwan and the Mainland occurred. For most of us the Camp left a heartening lifetime memory. Many have already expressed interest in the next APC, to be hosted by Malaysia next July. (Copies of the APC '93 Report are available from us in Hongkong or Taiwan.)

Jenny Leung

## ANTI-CORRUPTION CAMPAIGN GOES MUNICIPAL

In June the Taiwan Government passed the Sunshine Law, which commits Members of Parliament to a full disclosure of their assets.

The China Post (17 June) editorialised: 'When the bill passed its third reading in the Legislative Yuan, the people's desire for clean and efficient government had triumphed. The pressure for a strong version of the bill was so great that no one could have blocked it. Democracy has increased considerably in recent years on this island, but so has money politics. The ruling party, which has often declared itself a party for the people, must work hard to eliminate corruption; or it will lose power.'

In the run-up to last December's elections, 650,000 Taiwanese signed an anti-bribery declaration in a campaign initiated by MRA and supported by many Taiwanese organisations. Now the campaign has been extended to the forthcoming municipal elections in November, under the slogan, 'Save Taiwan through clean elections'. Fourteen municipalities have agreed to the establishment of citizens' committees to ensure clean elections, and these committees have held press conferences. Many newspapers have carried stories about the campaign.

Liu Ren-Jou

## SECURING THE FUTURE OF CAUX

Some months ago the Council of the Swiss MRA Foundation asked seven of its members from five countries to form a committee to look at the future of Caux, in the light of the convictions of our world force.

They started from the reports of the Dingy Consultation of 1990 and drew on opinions given at the gathering after Caux last year, letters resulting from the request in the World Bulletin earlier this year, and finally from national meetings and questionnaires in Switzerland, France, Germany, Holland and Britain. The committee came to one simple conclusion - that MRA supporters all over the world are virtually unanimous in believing that Caux has a vital part as an instrument in shaping the world of the next century and in continuing to be the major focus for the world work of MRA. A report from the Coordination Group, based on their many conversations at Caux, has confirmed this conclusion.

The committee and the Council as a whole have been considering, in the light of this vote of

confidence, how best to secure Caux's future. In addition to the superb position and amenities, Mountain House has two great assets. There are no mortgages and a number of architect friends have recently confirmed that, while there is much maintenance work to be done, as might be expected in a building that is 90 years old, it is in excellent condition.

However one major concern expressed by many friends has been the non-use of Mountain House during the nine months of every year when we do not use it ourselves. So, at its meeting on August 23rd, the Council decided to mandate a research team to process suggestions, to seek professional and legal advice and to put forward proposals to resolve this question. This team will consist of some Council members and some friends with relevant professional experience. When the team has been formed, we will let you know who they are.

We imagine it may take three to five years to bring these ideas to fruition. During this time we will continue to need everyone's help in carrying Caux. We would ask you to pray for the team's progress while not expecting to hear about results too soon because, for obvious reasons, their work has to be confidential.

In taking these steps we have all felt an increasing sense that they are part of enhancing and undergirding the rôle of Caux for the foreseeable future.

Marcel Grandy  
on behalf of the Swiss MRA Foundation

## MIDDLE EAST OPPORTUNITY

Jerry and Sis Levin are leading a trip to Jordan, Israel, Gaza and the West Bank October 30 through November 13. Jerry was CNN Bureau Chief in Beirut in 1984 when he was taken hostage for eleven months. Sis worked tirelessly for his release. Her book about these efforts, *Beirut Diary*, which was also filmed for TV, has helped many to understand the aspirations of the peoples of the Middle East. Jerry is now Director of News and Information Services for World Vision US and Sis, having finished her dissertation on the role of forgiveness in conflict resolution, is Director of Peace Education for the Pasadena Chapter of the United Nations Association, USA. After their time at Caux at the 'Regions in Crisis, Regions in Recovery' session, they were keen that some of us with experience of MRA might join them. The cost is \$2200 from JFK Airport in New York. More information can be obtained from me in Washington, DC, Fax: +1 202 872 9137.

Kathy Aquilina

## FAREWELL TO GERD

Earlier this month the Holy Trinity Church in Uppsala, Sweden was packed with family and friends for the funeral of Gerd Jonzon. Professor of theology Holsten Fagerberg described vividly how Gerd gave her life to God and found the calling to which she was faithful to the end - with Bror for the last 30 years. Gerd wrote the play *Birgitta*, on the life of the Swedish saint, and was the moving spirit behind its production, during the past decade, all over Sweden, in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Poland and in Rome.

**Gunnar Wieselgren**

## HANDICAPPED SHOW THE WAY

Another 25 wheelchairs and other aids for handicapped people were delivered to the Ukrainian city of Lvov in May. They were transported free in a large trailer convoy bringing humanitarian aid from the churches of Haarlem in the Netherlands. Jan-Willem Scheijgrond and three of his fellow students from Wageningen University accompanied the convoy. Members of RADA (which means 'joy'), Ukraine's first foundation for the Rehabilitation of Invalids, divided the goods between the disabled, the local hospital 'for victims of war and repression', and a home for retarded children.

Ukraine is independent for the first time in a thousand years, and people do not easily take initiatives. But the disabled of RADA are learning to do so. Their works of art are being made available for sale to raise funds, and they are planning to set up a wheelchair production and repair plant.

**Tony Roodvoets Kees Scheijgrond**

## FARMERS' DIALOGUE

A 'Farmers' Dialogue' will be held at Caux, 5-9 January 1994. It will consider the contribution of farmers and farming families to society, and seek

out agricultural policies which can bring fair and genuine development to differing parts of the world.

The proposal comes out of the need for a change in attitudes if there is to be creative reform of the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). A greater emphasis on the moral and spiritual issues involved could open hearts and minds to fresh thinking.

The farmers who have launched the Dialogue come from France, Switzerland, Sweden and Britain. They have been active in farmer to farmer visits in recent years, particularly between Poland, Sweden, France and Great Britain; and between Europe and developing countries. They hope that farmers from all over Europe and other continents will join them at the Dialogue.

We would appreciate the help of any coming to the winter Caux session who could stay on for the Dialogue.

If you have ideas or suggestions for us, please write to 'Dialogue entre Agriculteurs' at Caux, or to me at 2 rue de Boissy, Le Rotoir, 91870 BOISSY LE SEC, France. Tel: +33 1 64 95 75 02.

**Claude Bourdin**

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**The deadline for the next Bulletin is Friday, October 15, 1993.**

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