

RHODESIA:

'We need one another'

WHILE THE SMITH-NKOMO TALKS held the headlines, and suspicion and impatience was growing in the African townships, Alec Smith, the Prime Minister's son, and the Rev Arthur Kanodereka, a member of the ANC executive, spoke together of Rhodesia's destiny. They were talking to a packed audience before a showing of the film, *Freedom*, in Harare Methodist Church.

Arthur Kanodereka introduced the Prime Minister's son to his people as 'my friend Alec Smith'. 'I used to hate his father,' he said. 'I thought he would only listen to the gun. I thought, if we could only bring him down, we would be able to come up. But at Caux, Alec and I studied together, worked together, prayed together. God has made us black and white so that we can search how to live together. In this country we need one another.'

Rhodesia's destiny

'In Europe some see this country as a playground in a struggle, in the war between East and West,' said Alec Smith. 'God sees Africa, not being torn apart but bringing an answer to both East and West. We have a destiny to fulfil — to prove that a nation can be led by men led by God.'

'Arthur Kanodereka and I are friends,' he said. 'It was not always that way. If anyone had told me a few years ago that I would be here, I would have said they were crazy. But people can change. I have discovered this in my heart. And then we can work for what is right for this country. Arthur has helped me to love this country more than ever before and to know it as I didn't even know it before.'

Finish with fear

Arthur Kanodereka welcomed the guests to his church and told why he brought the film *Freedom* to Harare. He described how it had been shown at critical times in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and the Congo, and said, 'Now we are showing it in Rhodesia right at the high point of our problems. Selfishness and bitterness have got to go. Fear has got to finish. Then we can make a new nation. We will have the answer in this country, and an answer for every country.'

Blacks and whites sat together watching the film. They hung on every word of its climax, where God's will is made clear as Africa's answer to tribal rivalries, massive

bloodshed and ideological take-over.

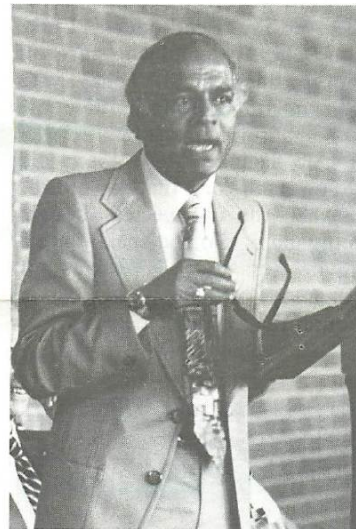
At the end the whole audience joined in the singing of the African anthem, 'Nkosi Sikelel'i Afrika'.

The Rev Andrew Ndhlela, Chairman of the Methodist Synod of Rhodesia, which was in session, had asked for the showing of the film so that members of the Synod could see it. He also spoke before the film and the Rev A Hendricks, Chairman of the Methodist Conference in South Africa, spoke at the end.

The Rev and Mrs Kanodereka invited the 300 guests to stay for refreshments after the film. They had arranged the event in faith, having only \$3 and a little sugar in their house towards what was needed. On the day of the show a representative of Colgate-Palmolive, Hosea Mapondera, provided 300 bottles of soft drinks and 800 cakes as a gift.

**NEW
WORLD
NEWS**
FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Australian conference — 'From crisis to cure'



The Fijian High Commissioner, Raman Nair, called on the Australians to 'involve themselves in the whole process of development in the Pacific'. 'It is people with clear, pure hearts, with friendship, love and affection that can weave a new fabric for a dynamic, stable and creative society,' he said.



General I Sugita from Japan lays a wreath at the Australian war memorial. 'The Canberra Times' carried this 4-column front page photo, and a story on his 'demonstration of respect and of his belief in the links made between his country and Australia since the war'.

Photo: 'The Canberra Times'



Ieva Ivara from Papua New Guinea addresses the MRA conference in Canberra.

Photos: Dennis Mayor

A part in Nigeria's future

THIS NEW YEAR — my 86th — I received a letter from a young woman in Nigeria, the principal of a primary school. She is a warm friend of mine.

It is ten years since I first met Bola. Returning from shopping one day, I noticed some students from the Training College near our home. Among them was an African girl. Knowing how lonely some overseas students can be, I went up to her and said, 'My husband and I are inviting some friends to a film about Africa this week. Would you like to see it and bring your friends? Come and have tea with us tomorrow and tell us who are coming.'

Decided to stay

That was the beginning of a friendship. Bola came to see the film *The Voice of the Hurricane* in our town. Afterwards she told us her husband was working in Ghana and their young children were being looked after by her family. 'You know,' she said, 'I was so homesick that I'd almost made up my mind to break off my training and go straight home. I had been asking the Lord to send me someone I could talk to. Now I've decided to stay.'

During the next few months Bola often dropped in to tell us how she was getting on. We could see what a gifted teacher she had in her to be. She loved her work, and chatted freely when she saw how interested we were.

'Song of Asia' in North-West



Two of those who signed the message of welcome to 'Song of Asia' meet with the cast at Tirley Garth during their time in the North-West of England: Sir David Barritt, Chairman of the Cammell Laird shipbuilding company (left) and Councillor J Owen Doyle, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, a crane driver in the port (right).

Photos: Pankaj Shah

THE CAST of *Song of Asia* left for Holland this month after four months in Britain. After performances in Dutch cities and a visit to Belgium they will go to Switzerland and Sweden.

Their final performances in Manchester drew councillors, civic officials, leaders of the immigrant community, industrialists, trade unionists and students. Bus parties came from Stoke, Liverpool, Sheffield,

Three years later, when she finished her course and flew home, it was a joyous occasion.

Lucky children

From Nigeria Bola wrote to tell us she had started a school with just a handful of pupils. A few months later the numbers had grown to 400. Then we heard that the children, having seen the film of Peter Howard's pantomime *Give A Dog A Bone*, had put on their own performance with Bola herself as the producer, and that the local TV had featured it on Children's Hour.

A friend in Lagos wrote to me that the young cast, all eight or nine years of age, were completely unselfconscious and word-perfect. 'It was delightful,' she said, 'and the children were all getting the point of the pantomime.' And my friend added, 'I take my hat off to Bola. Any child who starts off in her school is a lucky child.' Today, with 700 children in Bola's school, they are putting on the pantomime again.

I cannot help feeling grateful that I did listen to the still small voice that day outside my home, when the unexpected thought sounded in my mind: 'Go and speak to that girl and invite her to tea.' Perhaps my obedience then may be playing some part in helping to build the future of Nigeria.

EILEEN BALL



At a glance

STAN SMITH, American Wimbledon winner and international tennis star, took three New Year resolutions for 1976 and included the delegates at the MRA international conference in Canberra in them.

They were:

- to communicate better
- to think more of others
- to improve his attitude on and off the court.

The most important resolution was the last one, he said. 'I need to have a stronger faith in the optimism of God's plan for my tomorrow. I think if we all examine what God's plan is for us and let Him guide along the way, this optimism of the future will be transparent in our actions day by day.'

The occasion was a talk the American tennis player gave to the conference which included a delegation from the United States. He went on to say, 'The United States and Australia form a pretty good team as f



A spark of hope

NINE ASIAN COUNTRIES were represented in the group of ten from *Song of Asia* who were received in Bokrijk Castle by Governor Louis Roppe of the Belgian province of Limburg.

On their visit to Belgium the cast were also welcomed at *Het Belang van Limburg*, Europe's largest regional daily and the first to use multi-coloured printing. Journalists and staff rushed from their offices to hear the cast sing.

On the invitation of the Directress, the Asians addressed an assembly at the Humiora High School. Cigdem Bilginer, militant student from Turkey, appealed for the kind of aid which would help democracy function.

During a dialogue between the cast and the students one girl asked: 'What do you expect from us, the young people in Belgium?' An Indian student answered: 'We hope that people will honestly review the basis around which their lives revolve and always realise that in the decisions we make and the way we live we can effect situations which had first seemed impossible.'

The Asian force also spoke and sang to students of Limburg University. Rob Moesen, a chaplain of the university, thanked them on behalf of the students present. He said: 'In the university we are overburdened with intellectual and scientific baggage. You brought us a spark of hope, light and enthusiasm in life. I hope that your message of moral re-armament will impact students and that you are going to bring about change in the world.'

as aiding the world with developments. These ties can be a tremendous bond. The team that the US and Australia make can do quite a bit not only in economics but in relationships with other people.'

SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS, a quarterly review published in Taiwan, reviewed Bunny Austin's book *Frank Buchman As I Knew Him* in its winter 1975 edition.

The reviewer wrote, 'Austin has rendered a valuable service to the concerned world by helping to recall and refresh the memory of this great American and by renewing to the nations the courageous words of insight of this remarkable but selfless man of God who pointed to a higher alternative which remains open to man and his future society.'

TWENTY-SIX NATIONS were represented at a showing of the films *Belfast Report* and *The Smile of the Apsara* at a YMCA annual residents' dinner in Croydon, London. The films were introduced by Ronald Lane, Hostel Secretary, and the local Chairman for the YMCA Board and the General Secretary were present. 'I will go back to my country as a new-style revolutionary

— without the sword,' said one of the young men present.

THE PREMIERE of the Swedish version of *Cross Road* — the film presentation built around the life and work of Frank Buchman has taken place in Stockholm.

Nils Gosta Ekman, an editor and author of the book, *Experiment with God*, introduced the film by telling how he as a young journalist was asked to write an obituary of Frank Buchman, but when the article was ready the chief editor refused to publish it. Nothing was allowed to be written about Frank Buchman for many years in the Swedish dailies.

'This was the only time during 40 years as a journalist that one of my articles was refused. I decided to write *Experiment with God* to break the conspiracy of silence around Frank Buchman,' said Ekman.

Young people from Gothenburg and Stockholm sang at the premiere. They declared that they were ready to take the film wherever it was needed in the country.

In the audience were people of all ages, including many students.

IRISH RADIO in Dublin described *Song of Asia* as 'a sort of multi-national anti-hate show'.

Britain's forgotten assets

by R M Lala

'There was something in the character of the ordinary people of this land which came out to withstand a danger. Now in the 1970's the British have other challenges. How do you deal with a section that believes in planting bombs? The apathy of those who will not go to trade union meetings? Or the complacency of the privileged who hesitate to sacrifice their way of life? How do you deal with inflation which is threatening even the political institutions of this land?

Beyond all these questions is the larger question of whether Britain today has the moral fibre to survive these challenges, not only for her own sake but for what she represents to the world.'

a 6-page leaflet available from Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road, London, SW18 3JJ. Price: 10p plus 7p p+p.

Some pebble!

from Erica Evans

'THE SMALLEST PEBBLE thrown into a pool will change the whole pattern of the water.' So said Her Majesty the Queen in her Christmas message.

The seven months since the Festival Hall Meeting *Home Truths for International Women's Year* have certainly rippled with news. The cassette made of that day is being played all round the world.* From Canberra to South Africa and Ottawa women have written, and almost every week letters come in. On the Pacific coast of Canada it was heard by a columnist and former woman's editor of the *Victoria Times*. Immediately she made it the subject of the next column including the text of the Housewives' Declaration.

The tape was played to Benedictine nuns of a closed Order, and the Salvation Army published the Declaration and a photograph in the Christmas edition of *The Deliverer*. In one village the cassette is being passed round from cottage to cottage and from many areas requests have come from Mothers' Unions and other organisations. 'That was not just a meeting so much as an experience,' said one woman who heard it.

From Auckland this week comes a copy of a new version of a Declaration put together by women of different backgrounds and

SOME PEBBLE contd p4

*available from Grosvenor Books



A Charter for the Women of Southern Africa

- We are privileged** to be women of Southern Africa with its diverse races and cultures. We want to live together, understand and complement one another.
- We are grateful** for this wonderful country and for those who have toiled and sacrificed to develop it. At the same time we refuse to let the hurts and bitterness or entrenched prejudices of the past shape our future.
- We believe** in sound homes where husband and wife are partners for life and both have their unique contribution to make; where children will grow up secure, with a faith in God, knowing right from wrong, and where they will learn such qualities as loyalty, trust, unselfishness and a respect for people of other cultures.
- We regard** running a home and bringing up children as a stimulating challenge — a vocation and not a drudgery.
- We want** to become involved in the needs and problems of our fellow women. This includes caring for children of all nations and races and for their home conditions, as much as we care for own.
- We deplore** the "throw away" mentality. Let us fix, mend and use again. We shall adopt a simpler life style and shop from need and not from greed.
- We admit** with shame that we are litterbugs. Our city streets, picnic spots and sports stadiums are proof of this. We determine to fight this physical pollution as well as the corruption of our peoples' spirit and morals.
- We realise** that drastic changes in human relations are essential. This will become effective when enough of us start with ourselves. We shall find the way forward not by denouncing "who is wrong" but by working together for "what is right".
- We profess** our total dependence on the renewing power of God to bring change in attitudes, motives and values. This is the key to a better world.

The cross of the moment

WITH THE NEW YEAR already out of its swaddling-clothes and spring preparing to flex its muscles, I wondered what ideas for 1976 might be in the minds of ordinary people of good-will as they look at the modern scene and perhaps ask themselves, 'What can I do?'

So I made a list for myself, not as a mental exercise but as a record of decisions, of settled convictions, of life-style choices rather than New Year resolutions:

1 Some people say there is a 'crisis of capitalism'. Others think it is a 'crisis of socialism'. But millions of people in the world have lived all their days in crisis conditions. It is a moral crisis we face. Democracy in a free country like ours is not simply a matter of casting votes. As well as voting, democracy involves a generally responsible attitude to life, to work-a-day affairs and to all relationships in society. It has a moral content. There needs to be an equal distribution of socially responsible attitudes — including every individual in every class or grouping.

2 The importance of high-quality leader-

ship which inspires the masses and sets a tone. You cannot expect satisfactory policies from men without moral conviction.

3 Equally, the ordinary man counts. 'You can't make a good omelette out of bad eggs.' Everyone should ensure that he personally is out to build a just, free and responsible society. And since there is truth in the saying that 'a nation gets the leadership it deserves', we can all strive to have what Dr Frank Buchman called for in 1959: 'The whole-hearted, single-minded, completely dedicated commitment to provide our nations with leaders who are hate-free, fear-free, greed-free men and women who know the strategy, the power and the unity that comes when the will is totally given to God for the building of a new world.'

4 Distrust, as well as hatred, must be cured. Distrust is as deadly as hatred and far more wide-spread. Confronting groups do not always hate one another, but there is so often a lack of trust between them — and therefore so much we are sadly denied. Distrust between individuals and between groups is rooted, I think, in poverty of faith in God. The deepest answer is ultimately the only answer.

5 Necessity of a world-view. Perhaps the greatest challenge confronting an affluent society is the need to find some way of building trust between the rich minority nations and the poor but developing and

thrusting third world which no longer accepts its lot but demands a better life. To deal with this imbalance is part of the unfinished business facing the world. The ordinary man, even if he cannot see what he can do about it directly, can at least decide to put an end to greed, self-indulgence and waste in his own life.

6 We must overcome the modern epidemic disease, paralysis of the will, which shows itself in an inability to do what our minds tell us urgently needs to be done. Aldous Huxley, when asked in 1961 whether he was pessimistic or optimistic about the rest of the century, said, 'I think I am both. We have it in our power to do extraordinary things if we want to. The question is, do we want to enough?' And Huxley added, 'The central technique for man to learn is the art of obtaining freedom from the fundamental human disability of egoism.'

W H Auden, observing how human nature resists the challenge of change, wrote in his usual pointed style:

*We would rather be ruined than changed,
We would rather die in our dread
Than climb the cross of the moment
And let our illusions die...*

But 1976 may be the year in which many in this still fortunate country do find the spirit to 'climb the cross of the moment' and start living the new life beyond that experience.

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SOME PEBBLE contd from p3

denominations. 'We have been quite overwhelmed by the response,' they write. 'It seems to have struck a chord. One church leader's wife congratulated us for our initiative in saying the thing so many women want to have said. In faith we had 10,000 printed, and we are now in our second 10,000. It has been supported by a group of mayoresses who are using it in their areas, as well as by church and other leaders. It has been bought and used by many organisations; put up in hospital wards, hostel rooms and libraries; sent as a Christmas card by a Rotary president and others; written about in three newspapers; spoken about by a mayor on a radio interview. We are only at the beginning. We are told that the IWY Committee is launching out on a ten-year plan so we have plenty of scope!'

Women in South Africa have also written a Declaration (see p3). Through the press and through connections all round the country and as far as Rhodesia, suggestions came in from women of every sort of background. It was officially launched at the International Conference of Women in Grahamstown, which was opened by Mrs Vorster. The Woman's Editor of the *Johannesburg Star* heard the tape played at a Business and Professional Women's Dinner, and produced a full page that week on the declaration in a special Woman of the Year supplement.

Miss Saidie Patterson, Chairman of

'Women Together' in Northern Ireland wrote thanking us for the stories given at the Festival Hall. 'I certainly used your story of "a cup of rice for Bangladesh" with our women... The first evening I told it, I collected £20 from them to help three families whose husbands had been murdered coming from work.' She had 200 letters after a broadcast she and other women gave on Woman's Hour. Many wrote in with offers of help and gratitude for the good news coming out of Northern Ireland. The broadcast was repeated on Radio 4.

The President of the Bakery Council of Canada was quoted in their newsletter: 'I was sent from Britain a "Housewives' Declaration" which has received wide attention and support. I had the thought on reading it: why not a Bakers' Declaration? ... I was searching for something that would be a baker's personal statement of intent.'

The following are four of its points:

WE SHALL FACE today's difficulties as a challenge to change and inventiveness not as an excuse to demand more for ourselves.

WE WILL CARE ENOUGH to provide quality products and efficient service; employment for our people and happy places of work.

WE SHALL GUARD against any practices that would shortchange our customers or fellow bakers and shall work to put right whatever is wrong within our ranks.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE our responsibility of service in a food rich country in a food poor world.

Mlle Paulette Burnier, a nurse from Lausanne, was invited to be a speaker at a meeting of the 'Association pour les Droits de la Femme'. The first speaker was a journalist who had been sent to East Berlin and was full of the ideas from there. The second speaker, the Chinese wife of a Swiss, had been sent by an international organisation to Mexico to the UN International Women's Year Conference. Mlle Burnier spoke last, drawing extensively from the Housewives' Declaration and the Festival Hall. At the end of a free discussion, she was strongly attacked by a principal of the Association, who contested the idea of women's responsibilities and duties when they were fighting for women's rights. Women gathered round Mlle Burnier afterwards with questions, and she also had the chance to have supper with some of the younger women who had initiated the meeting. These are all being invited to a series of MRA films in Lausanne.

Recently in Montevideo a woman who had represented Uruguay at the UN Conference in Mexico said that she had seen the message sent there from the Festival Hall last June. So the new pattern spreads on, and as the women from Auckland say, in the next ten years there will be plenty of scope!