

## What we want in Asia

*best form of aid—  
changed lives*

BY R D MATHUR

MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS of the human race live East of Suez. That part of the world is like a volcano that has just begun to erupt. What happens in the next five years to the 700,000,000 people of China, the 500,000,000 people of India and the millions of Australasia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, may well change the whole way of life for the entire world.

They say that in Indonesia alone more than 800,000 people have died in the struggle for leadership in the last two years. Some say it was a trial of strength by forces run by Peking and Moscow, and the forces of Moscow have won. Whatever the truth it is a story of a great human tragedy which can and must be averted in other parts of the world.

In Vietnam, America and her allies, as well as Vietnamese, northerners and southerners, continue to bleed. It costs, I am told, \$240,000 to kill one Viet-cong. Russia continues to increase her supply of arms to the Viet-cong. The Western powers are satisfied that Russian officers and troops are not directly and openly battling on the other side.

In China those revolutionaries who had sacrificed everything and who had millions murdered to produce a better future for the people of that land, are discovering that they cannot get along with each other. Millions are having to die again in the power struggle of those who, till yesterday, were comrades.

Whoever is right or wrong and whoever wins in this struggle, the truth is that there are thousands of mothers



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every night whose sons never return. There are thousands of wives who, overnight, become widows and have to spend the remaining years of their lives without hope and in gloom.

**The millions of Asia cannot be treated like pieces of wood or masses of stone. They have their longings for a great life, their pains and fears and their affections and loyalties. The task of bringing a hope-filled and better future to these millions could be the concern and pre-occupation of every man who has a heart and a soul.**

In India, 43,000,000 people in the state of Bihar are facing under-nourishment or starvation. The question before many of the mothers there is not whether to give two eggs or one egg to their children, but to which of six children should be given a spoon-

ful of rice, and which should be put to bed without a meal.

I get absolutely fed up when I hear experts and intelligent men in the West saying glibly that the problem of hunger in India can be answered by killing all the cows and by distributing the pill. Even if all the cows were slaughtered, overriding every religious and sentimental feeling which in these matters often cannot be explained by logic, that would feed India for hardly a week. I do not want through the pill, family planning and sterilisation to make a nation of irresponsible people.

Senior men in India told me just recently that some foreign governments were putting pressure on India and saying they would only supply food if a massive sterilisation pro-

gramme was launched in the country. They have even offered helicopters to carry the doctors from village to village to educate the people in contraceptives and sterilisation.

What we in India need is not education in irresponsibility and immorality which will break down the character of the nation which is desperately in need of character, but men and women who will teach our people how to live purity in their families and how to use their energies and strength in building up a great nation. And teach them how to be free from the chains of lust that blind men and nations.

We need hundreds of helicopters in which men and women could go from village to village all over India and teach the secret of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. The challenge to us Indians, as well as to the entire world, is whether India could be an anvil on which an answer for the world could be forged. The greatest form of aid that any nation at this hour can give to India is the creation of changed lives.

Frank Buchman, the initiator of Moral Re-Armament, before the experience of change that transformed his life, was looking after underprivileged children. His directors refused to give him enough money and wanted to cut down on the food of the children. Frank Buchman got bitter and furious and in one of his letters to those directors he said, 'It is not a question of wanting a few more dollars to look after the children. The real issue for me is whether every man, woman and child who comes to Christ's door will have enough food for his stomach, a shelter for his head and a complete and full life.'

We in Asia have tried everything—dictatorships, Communism, materialistic democracy—and we have made a mess of things. Two new factors have appeared on the Asian scene now:—One, for the first time in our history, some of us have become conscious that we need other nations and the world, and we are ready to sacrifice our pride for the sake of a better future for our people.

Two, we have become conscious that no political alignments or military groupings or bigger efforts will answer our situation. We, on our knees, now need a total turning towards God. We must humbly seek His guidance and boldly carry it out. Some of us have decided to do this. What would give us faith and hope is

if people would take on again the re-Christianisation of the West.

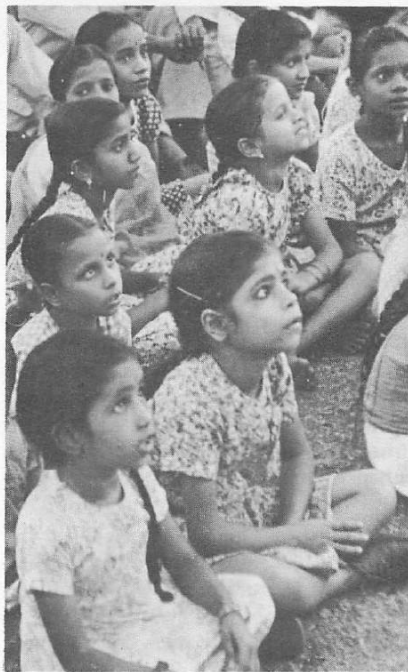
A top policy-maker in India told me in New Delhi that both Russia and America now have a common policy towards India, whether it be on the question of atomic proliferation or of food. There is considerable pressure to impose their ideas on the Indian people. Many are thinking that if that continues, India will have to make her peace with China, which they feel is the only nation which has stood up to the pressures of America

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**WHEN DR ZAKIR HUSAIN WAS installed on 13 May as President of India, he pledged himself to the service of 'absolute values'. He said:**

'For sheer size the tasks ahead of us are so demanding that no one can afford to sit back and just watch or let frustration become endemic in our country. The situation demands of us work, work and more work, silent and sincere work, solid and steady reconstruction of the whole material and cultural life of our people.

'This work, as I see it, has two aspects: work on one's self and work for the society around. They are mutually fruitful aspects of work. The work on one's self is to follow the urge towards moral development as free persons under self-imposed discipline, which alone can render that development possible. Its end-product is a free moral personality. We can neglect this end-product only at our peril.'



What will their future be?

and the Soviet Union, so as to prevent 'rouble-dollar imperialism'.

God is more powerful than the might of all the nations combined, and the answer may be for India to seek total alignment with Him.

The question that faces us today is a very simple one. Can India, with the help of the rest of the world, be, in the next five years, an answer nation? If that does not happen, she could turn into a greater Vietnam where the rest of the world may have to rush bombers and tankers and get engaged in a war that may alter their economies and way of life in the wrong direction.

I believe that with God we could decide to do it in the next two years. We could answer the famine in India. We could bring an entirely new spirit in the docks so that food ships could be emptied with speed and food could reach the millions. We could create a corps of men and women in Parliament from every party who will learn to change people and put the future of the nation before their own thirst for power.

We could reach the millions through films that could bring faith and absolute moral standards as the basis of life of every home in India. We could create an army of men and women who could answer, through change in man, the violence on the streets of Bengal and other parts of Asia. We could inspire the youth to produce plays, and dramas with which they could transform the way of life and aims and motives of our people.

In this age, when mankind has developed so much scientifically and technologically, it does not make sense that while billions are being spent on reaching the moon, on this very earth millions are facing the prospect of going to bed hungry.

The block may be human nature. A revolution that can change human nature on a colossal scale in every continent could be the next great stage for the Communist and non-Communist world. Moral Re-Armament has consistently proved that human nature can be changed, that conditions can be changed. Now it is up to the sane people and governments of every nation to apply it on a massive scale so that in countries like India, what 100 years of British rule failed to achieve, and in China what 18 years of Mao's control has failed to achieve, could be achieved in two years by men and women who have given their lives to God.

# Baalbeck Festival honours Arts Centre



The Vice President of the Baalbeck International Festival Committee (right) presents photographic panels to the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre. Among those present are the Chairman of the Westminster Theatre Trustees; the wife of the Lebanese Ambassador; and the Director of the Arts Centre

photo Blair

THE VICE PRESIDENT of the Baalbeck International Festival Committee, Mrs Salwa Es-Said, last week on behalf of the International Committee presented the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre with two photographic panels of the Festival. They are the work of the Armenian artist, Manoug.

Baalbeck, in the Lebanon, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited towns in the world and in the ruins of the Roman temples the world famous cultural festival takes place each year.

'Your aims are very noble. We understand your battle,' said Mrs Es-

Said to Kenneth Belden, Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre. 'You have a beautiful Arts Centre. I congratulate you.'

Thanking the Festival Committee, Belden said he looked forward to bringing a play to Baalbeck. 'We stand for a theatre of humanity, hope and constructive ideas,' he said, 'instead of the nihilism and pessimism of today.'

Others present at the ceremony in-

cluded Mrs Nadim Dimechkié, wife of the Lebanese Ambassador to Britain; Alan Thornhill, British playwright who has just returned from Beirut; Miss Phyllis Konstam, leading lady of the Westminster Theatre; and Louis Fleming, Director of the Arts Centre.

Belden gave a warm invitation to Lebanese students in London to avail themselves of the Westminster Theatre's special student rates.

## 'GIVE A DOG A BONE' IN . . .

### MIDDLE EAST

A HUNDRED political and educational leaders in Cyprus last week saw the film of Peter Howard's pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone*. They included Cabinet Ministers, government officials, a director of education, twelve headmasters, teachers and also businessmen, a film distributor, a cinema owner, representatives of both the Greek and Turkish communities.

A director of education said about the film, 'This is not only excellent for our schools, as youth are the raw material to build on, but it is what all of us need at this time.'

The performances were arranged during the visit of two British school-teachers who are on a year-long journey through the Middle East, India, Ceylon, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand to present and sell *Give a Dog a Bone*.

The teachers, Miss Constance Smith, former headmistress of Penhros College, North Wales and Miss Jill Robbins, are among teachers in Britain

and overseas who have raised £33,500 to film the pantomime so that it can be shown to millions of children in Asia and the world.

### BRITAIN

In Glasgow 900 people including representatives of the Education Department of the City and the teachers' training colleges earlier this month saw in the Cosmo Cinema a preview of *Give a Dog a Bone*. Those unable to get into the cinema went into nearby Burlington House, where a simultaneous screening of the film was arranged.

In the audiences were 600 teachers and pupils, headmasters and headmistresses from fifty Primary Schools and twenty-six Sunday Schools as well as students from high schools and colleges. A special bus came from the motor car industry centre of Linwood. Men from civic life, industries and trade unions were present with their families.

Thomas W Glen, MA, EdB of the

Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School introduced the film.

Miss Alison Ewan, Edinburgh psychologist, who had given her life savings for the making of the film, urged the audience at the cinema to give generously so that copies of the film could be sent to the millions of children in Asia and Africa.

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The Midlands premiere of the pantomime film was introduced by a Sparkbrook teacher, Miss Priscilla Cole, at Dr Johnson House in the centre of Birmingham. She said that in a multi-racial society with people of different creeds and cultures 'we must interpret the ideals we feel are best in a way that is relevant to all children.'

'Peter Howard has done this superbly with song and dance, fun and laughter in the film.'

Miss Joyce Kneale, a London teacher, described the changes in character and outlook in her pupils through the application of the ideas expressed in *Give a Dog a Bone*. They began to take a pride in their school, borough and country and a concern about the needs of people in other countries.



Ethiopian airmen, sent by the C-in-C of the Imperial Ethiopian Air Force, arrive in Nairobi to take part in MRA Action programme photo Kobler

## SUDAN GOVERNMENT SENDS REPRESENTATIVES

'SO LONG AS these young men and women appreciate we must sacrifice for freedom and that it is worthy of maintaining, it will flourish,' said the Sudanese Ambassador to Kenya at a performance of *Harambee Africa* in his Embassy garden.

Ambassador Sayed Mirghani told his guests, who included diplomats from the African nations, that the Government of the Sudan had invited the MRA musical to his country last August. 'The best evidence of their success is that there is an *Harambee Sudan* and fifteen representatives of it are here sent by my Government.'

Before the performance the Ambassador received the cast in his residence.

*Harambee Africa* has been seen recently by 2,000 students in five of the principal high schools of Nairobi. One headmaster speaking from the stage after a performance in his school said, 'The entertainment, which was excellent was only part of the evening. More important are the ideas of *Harambee Africa* which we are challenged to put into practice personally.' Students in a number of schools are forming their own *Harambee* productions.

## 'GIVE CONVICTIONS TO BOMBAY SCHOOLS!'

TWENTY SEVEN PRINCIPALS and teachers from six cities in India and Ceylon have been attending a four-day education conference, sponsored by MRA at Mahableshwar, India.

At the final session they heard from students working on the construction of the MRA conference centre at Panchgani and from other students at a training camp in Mahableshwar. So impressed was Y M Trilokeker, education adviser and a former member

of the Bombay University Senate, that he invited these students to come with him to schools in the well-to-do and slum areas of Bombay and give their convictions to the students.

The chief sub-editor of the *Indian Express* commented that he had reported many conferences attended by youth, but had never seen 'such discipline and enthusiasm as here.' 'I had lost hope for the country, but this has given me some.'

## SCOTS WORKERS INVITE 'INDIA ARISE'

TRADE UNION OFFICIALS from the shipyards and car industry, including the convenors of Fairfields' and Lithgows', have invited *India Arise* to Glasgow and the Clyde. The musical opens in Greenock Town Hall on 2 June.

In their letter of invitation to Rajmohan Gandhi they wrote:

'Many here in the shipyards and factories of Clydeside have close associations with your great country, and feel for the needs of your vast population.

'Today in a world crying out for unity and liberty your fight for the moral re-armament of all nations is our fight too. We workers understand the struggle for freedom and justice now going on in Asia.'

Following the Clydeside performances the musical will go to Aberdeen on the invitation of local citizens including men from the Aberdeen Fishmarket and 20 workers in Hall Russell's shipyard. They are joined by the leaders of the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches.

The invitation to Edinburgh, where *India Arise* will be presented on 13 and 14 June, comes from trade unionists, churchmen, teachers in school and university, and the Presidents of all overseas associations of Edinburgh University.

The editors have invited Miss Usha Chandiram and the cast of 'India Arise' to edit the next issue. Its theme will be: 'We want Britain back—with a difference.'

## MUSIC OF DELIUS Westminster Theatre

Arts Centre

Sunday 4 June at 3 pm



Eric Fenby, Professor of Harmony at the Royal Academy of Music, will give a short account of Delius' life, illustrated through his music at a concert at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre on 4 June at 3 pm. Eric Fenby (piano) will be accompanied by Lionel Bentley (violin). Fenby became the musical amanuensis, then later collaborator, of Delius in the composition of choral and orchestral works by a unique method.