

170 people from 10 countries at conference

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Wanted— A world that works

from Mohan Bhagwandas in Sydney

As Europe and America contend with the oil crisis Australia is almost unaffected. Yet there is an air of apprehension abroad and an awareness that a lot of things will have to be done differently in the next years. Australia has massive resources of minerals, metals and coal and enough petroleum at least for ten years. Her food resources are immense also. How will this be used and for whom? Australians have come to feel more than ever that they are part of Asia. What is Australia's role in the developing nations of Asia and what is Australia's ideology at this key time?

These questions faced 170 people from countries, including New Zealand and Papua New Guinea at a conference for Moral Re-Armament 'Wanted - A World that Works' at Sydney University in January.

Some motored 8000 kilometres from Western Australia and back and others covered similar distances from Northern Queensland, through floods described as the worst this century to attend the conference.

Timothy Walker, MLA, representing the Premier of New South Wales, and James Cameron, Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, and his wife, attended the opening session.

Gordon Wise, son of a former Premier of Western Australia, told this session of the recent visit he had made with others to India, Burma, Thailand, Laos, South Vietnam, Philippines and Papua New Guinea.



'In Asia I found a fund of respect for this country,' he said in his speech which was reported on the Australian Broadcasting Commission radio news. 'Australia has chosen to strike out for herself with a healthy independence of mind and policies. Yet while jettisoning from the ship of state some hoary imperial attitudes, we do not need to take on board useless lumber of condemnation or ostracism of others or of other countries.'

'That Mind behind the universe knows what is best for the components of that universe and He can give us a fresh-minted national identity and a distinctive aim and purpose. We can enrich old partnerships while we embrace new ones.'

Management and trade unionists, students, teachers, doctors, nurses and ten families with their children took part. Messages were received from A J Grassby, Minister for Immigration and K E Beazley, Minister for Education. Mr Beazley said, 'The twentieth century has proved how disastrously human society has been guided by fear, revenge, rivalry, superiority and inferiority. MRA means a fundamental redirection of these trends to a real civilisation of purpose and dignity. It lifts humanity above the immaturity of blaming, revenge, hating and hurting, to the maturity of forgiveness and the seeking of forgiveness and a new start in creating and recognising the dignity of others.'

Professional people from Sydney and other states took part in sessions on the role of the medical and paramedical people in creating the new society. Dr George Wilson, a Sydney cardiologist, said, 'It is important for a doctor to be able to deal with pride, both in the patient and in himself, to know when to step out of the way, when to refer and when to get another opinion. In my

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The Ambassador of the Republic of Vietnam, Nguyen Phuung Thiep, addresses the Sydney Conference
Photo: Mayor

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

PEOPLE from the Australian steel, aviation, waterside, sugar and other industries; from engineering, medical and teaching professions; from public service and government institutions who attended the conference, sent the following message to Clyde Cameron, Australian Minister for Labour:

At the Sydney conference of Moral Re-Armament on the theme 'Wanted - A World That Works', we have been taking an honest look at ourselves as men in industry.

● We recognise that fear, suspicion and mistrust are sabotaging the best efforts towards industrial peace.

● We take up our responsibility for the future of Australian industry and refuse to shift the blame on to someone else.

● We reject the outdated motive of self-interest and accept the modern motive of selfless service as the sane way to build a just society for all Australians.

● We commit ourselves to make honesty, trust and two-way teamwork the basis of all our dealings, and with Government.

● We propose the guideline: 'Not WHO is right but WHAT is right' as a new approach to achieve fair industrial agreements.

● We suggest a common goal for boss and worker, big enough to lift us all above our sectional selfishness and divisions: 'To make the wealth and work of the world available for all and for the exploitation of none'.

● We pledge ourselves to the furtherance of this goal in 1974.

This statement (right) appeared as an advertisement in *The Times* on 31 January and *The Guardian*, 1 February. It was donated by hundreds of people from all parts of Britain.

Reprints of the statement, as it appeared in *The Times*, are available at 2p each - 50 or more at 1p each (postage on 50 is 20p) from MRA Books, 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ.

AID FROM GERMANY

TWO GERMAN MINERS from the Ruhr, a London actress, a member of a coal owning family, the college chaplain and the grand-daughter of Lloyd George, were among those who spoke at a performance of *Cross Road* in Glamorgan Polytechnic, Pontypridd, last week.

This multi-media production, based on the life of Frank Buchman, was invited by the college's Welsh Society. Founded in 1913 Glamorgan Polytechnic began as a mining school providing mining and engineering skills for the South Wales coalfield.

A new song 'A miner's lamp shall lead the way', written by one of the cast, was given for the first time to the audience of students, lecturers and guests from Pontypridd and the Rhondda valleys.

Addressing himself to students who would one day be running factories and mines, Richard Bladeck from the Ruhr coalfield asked them to adopt an attitude that could heal hate and bitterness and which went beyond personal interest and political point of view.

'Millions in the world feel that Communism is the problem. Millions feel that Communism is the answer,' he said. 'They are both wrong. Fear and hate in the hearts of men and in nations is the problem. The answer is to start by curing these things in ourselves.'

The Rev John Burden, Methodist chaplain to the college, challenged students to become the type of scientists and engineers who 'will not only build bridges, roads and factories but help to architect a new society through new men.'

Mrs John Chidell told how her upbringing and university education had been built on the wealth of two collieries in the Rhondda. 'I am ashamed to say that during all that period I was unaware of the conditions the miners worked in and the suffering involved. It is the comfortable, indifferent and apathetic people like me who need to change. I want to restore for the past.'

'We have never properly expressed in England what we owe to Wales for her warmth and life,' said Phyllis Konstam, the actress who is married to tennis star H W Bunny Austin. 'Bring us your faith because we have not got it anymore.'

Students and staff stayed late after the show in discussion with cast and speakers.

The *Western Mail* in an interview with the German

WHO IS TO GOVERN BRITAIN?

WE IN BRITAIN are facing a day of reckoning. It is not a day of reckoning with Mr. Gormley and the miners. It is not a day of reckoning with the oil sheikhs. It is a day of reckoning with Almighty God.

Whenever men and nations deliberately dishonour God by worshipping false gods, they pay the price. *That* is the clear lesson of history. *That* is what we as a nation have done by bowing down before the idols of bed, bank and belly. *That* is why we are in such a mess. *That* is the underlying crisis.

That is why Government and people carry so little moral authority when we plead with the miners to call off their industrial action. How can a nation which lives so selfishly demand that one group of its citizens should behave unselfishly?

Whatever the miners do, one thing is sure: until we have learnt that lesson, we shall stay in a mess. Man's way has failed, is failing and will continue to fail.

POLITICIANS AND POWER

But there is another lesson of history. It is that when men and nations set aside their idols and turn again to obey the true God, they move into a new era of peace, purposefulness and creativity.

If that happened, Britain would no longer be seen as the sick man of Europe, pitied by friend and foe alike. We would be once again the flagship of freedom, a pioneer of that new society for which all men long and a tireless defender, at home and abroad, of those liberties for which Britons down the ages have given their lives.

That, in God's mind, may be our destiny. And some, both leaders and ordinary folk, are v fighting and sweating to achieve it. But too few

In our political life there are men who put their country before their careers. There are also too

they cannot deal with selfish human nature except by eliminating or chaining it. Yet can we ever sort out the present mess unless we learn how to deal with human selfishness on a massive scale?

And what of the far Right, for they are already lurking in the wings? Their answer to disruption is "shoot the lot of them". Bereft of any constructive idea about how to build a fair society, they would use the jackboot to maintain "order". And make no mistake, they would find a ready response from many who call themselves moderates, but who would pay almost any price to preserve their well-ordered world.

NO ROOM FOR PARASITES

The British people want neither of these. They want a country where every man's work is fairly rewarded and every man's basic needs met; where our leaders set principle before preferment and everyone puts service before self, where there is no room for parasites or exploiters of any class; where the love of our land and its proud heritage excludes any small aim; a free country which has decided to take the high and not the low road.

How do we put our feet on that high road? Alexander Solzhenitsyn, that Valiant-for-Truth of our age, says: "When man's spirit acknowledges earlier errors, it is cleansed and freed from them; and herein lies the highest value of man's existence on earth."

It sounds simple. The old-fashioned word for it is repentance. But it will require costly decisions from every man and woman in this country.

● It means accepting Truth as our yardstick—Christ's absolute standards of unselfishness, purity, love and honesty—and ditching the relative standard of "what I want is right" which

miners wrote that they regarded their time in Wales 'as a thank you visit: it was Welsh miners who first took MRA to German miners after the war'.

SUPPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA

DEAR SIR

In the *Sunday Telegraph* I saw the most interesting heading: 'Wanted - Militant Moderates'.

I have been a trade union secretary for the last 38 years and prior to that a shop steward and executive member in the clothing industry in South Africa.

I was taught in a hard school of trade unionism, where capitalism and trade unionism fought each other tooth and nail. Throughout the years I realised that there is a better weapon to make employers realise that employees are also part and parcel of the economic field. That is to understand each other through conciliation rather than break-down of negotiations.

I am proud of the 64 British trade unionists who issued such a wonderful statement in *New World News* - how to act as leaders in a negotiation crisis.

The Garment Workers' Union of South Africa of whom I am the National Organiser realised today that conciliatory methods are not only a success, but also kill hate amongst employers and the trade unions.

Let us go forward with this new idea of militant moderation and thus assist our fellow men in their economic future.

I am watching with interest what the militant moderates of Great Britain will achieve, and my blessing and that of many South African unionists will go with them in their battle for a happy settlement.

*Hester Cornelius, National Organiser,
Garment Workers' Union of South Africa*

I am grateful for the example set by some of the trade unionists in Britain, and I humbly express my view that the British union movement, if they can settle their difficulties by harmonious negotiations, could be an example for the whole world.

*Mrs L Mvebelo, General Secretary,
Black Clothing Workers' Union, South Africa*

HELP FROM THEATRE

'OUT INTO BATTLE...' - this phrase from a speech by Solzhenitsyn is the theme of a Theatre Study Weekend at the Westminster Theatre, London, 1/3 March, which will be attended by directors, actors and writers. One of its aims: 'To consider how theatre can be effectively used in the battle for the spirit of man, by creating an art leading away from despair and towards faith and hope'.

There will be a public reading of *Return Trip*, a new play by Alan Thornhill and Hugh Steadman Williams, on 3 March at 2.45 pm.

has been the creed of every totalitarian in history.

● It means listening to the voice of God in our hearts—and obeying, whatever the cost to our plans, pockets or pride.

● It means standing fearlessly for what we know is right, in home and factory, school and university, pulpit and Parliament.

PEOPLE AND POUND NOTES

In industry and the City, too, there are men who give their best for this country. There are also the slickers who live by greed and glorify gold. They play games in which the stakes are other men's lives. They use people as they use pound notes. The way they live fans the fires of hate in the hearts of those who have to struggle to make ends meet.

And what about the trade unionists? Again, there are many of sound heart and fighting spirit with a vision for their country as well as for their members. Others prefer keeping their jobs to standing up for what they know is right. To them, leadership means taking the line which will leave them in nominal command. Others preach revolution to achieve justice for the workers but live as indulgently as any of the capitalists they condemn.

And the rest of us—where are we? Are we any better than our leaders? Do we, too, live for money? Or the new colour TV? Or for our careers? Or for comfort? Or the good opinion of other men? Or for the short-run satisfaction of our bodies? Or are we, like many of the better-off, so bored with our piffling existences that we spend our time blaming other people for the mess we've helped to cause? If we're honest, too many of us live for purposes which are pathetically small and selfish; and only raise our heads from the sand when somebody threatens to disturb our comfort.

COMMUNISM—THE BRITISH WAY?

What then is the answer? How do we find the sure road ahead?

Some tell us that our salvation lies in Communism—the British way, of course. Just as the Czechs were allowed to do it the Czech way? And the Hungarians? And the Russians? But which Russians? The millions who perished? Or should we follow the example of China where, they say, Mao has just reshuffled his generals to help him keep power?

No, the truth is that the far Left does not go far enough. They really do seem to believe that good omelettes can be made from bad eggs; that exploitation and injustice can be cured by bitterness and violence. The record of their revolution exposes their fatal weakness; denying the power of God,

MILITANT BOSSES?

Some may say that such a programme would merely bring an increase in personal goodness. The fact is that from such a radical transformation in men would come—

- Leaders whose lives match their words and thereby earn the trust of the ordinary man
- Ordinary men and women whose unselfishness frees their leaders to speak the truth and think for the world
- Bosses as passionate for a fair society as any left-wing militant
- Trade unionists whose aim is a thriving Britain which will help feed, clothe and house people everywhere.

It would also bring a flood of creative thinking about Britain's role abroad. Could we help America rediscover the great moral basis of democracy? Stand with India as she tackles the daunting problems of poverty? Fight without self-righteousness to help South Africa end racial discrimination without bloodshed? And so live that Europe becomes a continent with open hand and heart to the whole world?

AN END TO SILENCE

Could it happen this way, you ask? But what else except a mighty cleansing force will give us the miracles in men we need?

Anyone can accept that miracle of change. Anyone can find it today and help his neighbour find it tomorrow. A minority who take that road together could give a lead to millions now silent.

The choice is man's way or God's way; between what Solzhenitsyn calls "the spirit of Munich . . . the usual state of those who have surrendered to materialism as the main aim of our life on earth"—and the way of the Cross, where men are willing to surrender themselves completely to the government of that living and loving God who is waiting, when we decide, to lead us and our nation out of the wilderness and into His new world.

Why not a Britain governed by men governed by God?

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experience I have found absolute moral standards are a liberating factor.'

A well-known pediatrician, author and lecturer on family matters, Dr Claire Isbister told the conference, 'I thought that when you took a scientific line and gave people all the facts they would decide rationally. But people don't accept things when you prove it to them, you need to win their hearts and imaginations and you need a higher power.'

Miss Shirley Jennings, Matron of the Peter MacCullam Clinic in Melbourne and President of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing also spoke.

Jim Beggs, President of the Melbourne Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation, described how he took five months leave to visit 25 ports in 15 countries 'to take the spirit of MRA to the ports of the world'. In his own port he was recently re-elected with the highest majority ever. 'Industry in Australia', he said, 'is meant to gear itself to the needs of Asia. The lowest paid worker in Australia is a capitalist in India.'

Describing his work he said, 'Most people who come to my office talk not so much about wages and conditions but about families. Family life has an awful lot to do with what goes on in industry. You can't solve industrial relations without solving human relations. God can change people as he has done in my life.'

R Lawler, Managing Director of Brisbane Hire Services, reported that when his industrial association, which includes national companies, proposed a



Jim Beggs, President, Melbourne Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation, and his wife Tui

Photo: Mayor

25 per cent increase in prices, he felt the amount was not justified and would encourage inflation in the building industry. He felt under pressure from larger companies.

'However,' he said, 'God spoke to me clearly about another resolution proposing we hold prices. I put it to the meeting and to my surprise it got through. Prices for the hiring industry were held for five months and when they did go up it was only by 10 per cent.'

The Brisbane businessman, father of eight children, said that change for him began at home with a 'humble apology' to his son who was on drugs for three years. 'I did not realise the part I played in my son's outlook. I had a dictatorship running in my house. I had to put these things right. As a manager it is easy to have my own way at work. I had to apologise to my people at work. A new spirit is coming in our company. Now we work as a team. This is what we need in all industry. It also frees you

to deal with financial issues in business.'

In consultation with colleagues and shareholders he had set up a trust fund to enable profits from a new mechanical invention to be used for MRA.

Parents and children participated in a special session on 'The role of families in building a sound society'. 'I liked Richard to make all the decisions for the family,' said Mrs R Caughey from Auckland, New Zealand. 'If the course of action did not work out I had someone to blame. If it worked out well I felt sad that I had no part in deciding. It was much better when I learnt the value of making decisions under God's direction - and much more exciting.'

Richard Caughey, a lawyer, told the conference, 'I was pretty good on the words but not on the conduct. When I was really honest my wife said, 'Thank God you are human.' They have decided to use their home to care for the many Asian students at Auckland University.'

A message was sent to the British Prime Minister, Mr Heath, from the conference, signed by Jim Beggs, Princess Lillardia of the Alupna Aboriginal tribe and Dr Malcolm Mackay, former Minister of the Navy: 'Delegates from all Australian States and neighbour nations representing trade unions, management, government service, education and Aboriginal peoples meeting in Sydney at the Moral Re-Armament Conference assure you, Parliament and the British people of our sincere concern in your present difficulties. We pray for your leadership at this time and that all involved relinquish points of view to seek right decisions under God's direction.'



Photo: Chidell

The Mayor of the Rhondda, Alderman R D Jayne, meets the German miners (report on page 2). A message from the Lord Mayor of Gladbeck in the Ruhr was delivered, expressing satisfaction at the visit of the Ruhr miners to their fellow miners in Wales. (l to r) Hubert Eggeman, overman from Gladbeck, Alderman Jayne, Richard Bladeck from Moers, Werner Hebeisen from Austria.

● 'TURNING enemies into friends' was the theme of an MRA meeting at the Science University, Penang, according to the *Straits Times*. The next day the films, *Asia's Destiny* and *A Man for all Peoples* were shown in a lecture theatre during the lunch hour on the initiative of the President of the Students Union.

● THE JERSEY PAPER *Magnet Magazine*, reviewing the showings of *Cross Road* on the island, wrote: 'Something new in the field of entertainment was attempted at Church House when a show was put on at lunchtime with lunch boxes provided. The idea proved very popular and every seat in the hall was taken... the subject was presented in an interesting and colourful manner.'

● A SOUTH COAST conference for Moral Re-Armament is being held at Worthing 29/31 March. Its theme: 'Don't Wait For Someone Else'. Peter Howard's play *The Ladder* will be presented.