

# MRA Information Service

# HIDE OUT

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VOLUME 17 No 31 LONDON 12 APRIL 1969 9d



photo Hovelsen

Eggemann (Germany), Frischknecht (Switzerland) and Barrier (France) at Caux

FIVE TRADE UNIONISTS convened a European industrial conference at the MRA centre in Caux, Switzerland, over Easter to plan joint constructive action in the face of the present continent-wide unrest.

They were Otto Cadegg, trade union secretary from Berne, Paul Frischknecht, executive member of the Metal Workers' Union in Geneva, Georges Barrier, deputy workshop foreman of the Paris Metro, Rene Prou, metal-worker from Nantes and Hubert Eggemann, foreman-miner from Gladbek in the Ruhr.

Over 350 delegates from 18 countries accepted the trade unionists' invitation, among them employers and workers from major sectors of European industry—coal, steel, transport, textiles, shipbuilding and housing.

Frank exchanges between management and labour representatives revealed that new techniques without a change of attitude and motive on both sides were not enough. But men trained in Caux had been effective in solving disputes, establishing new industrial agreements and, in one case, preventing inflation in a national crisis.

Leopold von Buch, German mining engineer, said, 'Five million people in the Ruhr are searching for incorruptibility, freedom and a new society. This

flame is being kindled by MRA. In the past MRA challenged management to take its full responsibility towards the workers and has demonstrated an effective alternative to class war. MRA-trained men are catalysts in bringing new motives to both sides of industry.'

Von Buch was supported by Hubert Eggemann, who led a delegation of miners, steel workers and students from the Ruhr. He said, 'We have already established the idea of participation in our coal industry but we workers feel that our responsibilities go far beyond our own industry—we are responsible for the direction our country takes.'

The German group gave a performance of Peter Howard's play *The Ladder*. Introducing it, Eggemann said, 'This is a weapon which we have decided to take to the Ruhr and elsewhere in our country in the next months.'

## Dutch pledge support

The leader of the Dutch delegation, Cor de Pous, a district secretary of the Christian Trade Unions of Holland, immediately pledged the support of his group, saying that he wanted to back them fully wherever the Germans would be in action.

The Secretary-General of the French

## Joint action planned by Swiss, French & German trade unionists

Transport Federation (CGC), Maxime Souffez of Nantes, said that many situations had become more complicated and seemingly without solution because of the greed and lack of both honesty and courage in the men involved. 'I have discovered,' he said, 'that through moral change answers are available and can be found much more quickly than we expect.'

Among the French employers who took part were M Pierre Gailly, steel industrialist from Charlesville and Robert Carmichael, former President of the European Jute Industry. Gottfried Anliker, general manager and a director of Anlikers, the Lucerne construction firm, said that often management and labour lived in a vacuum where they pursued only material benefit. 'The application of MRA for us employers means that we find adequate goals, and we achieve effective teamwork so that our factories produce first class goods at competitive prices.'

After listening to the speakers, a Pakistan industrialist spoke of the present crisis in his own country and said he had been encouraged by the evidence he had heard in Caux. 'We are facing the same problems as you are,' he said. 'Men with the thinking I have heard here would be the greatest help in our country.'

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## Key is trust not bribery

ALDERMAN Sir Nicholas Garrow, OBE, opening the Easter Conference at the MRA centre in north west England at Tirley Garth, said Britain must export 'not only goods, but sound ideas'.

'Britain can be a remaker of the modern world,' he told 300 delegates from 24 nations, 'but only as attitudes change. Either we sacrifice our selfishness for the nation, or we sacrifice the nation for ourselves.'

Many examples of this change of attitude were reported to conference delegates. We publish one below:

A PACKAGING COMPANY employing 500 men in the South of England has more than doubled its production since 1960 without taking on more employees.

In 1960 it was 'a maelstrom of discontent, work to rule and miserable people'. For the last three years it has been 'the best performer in the packaging industry'.

This was reported to the conference by the man who was the managing director during that period.

He is William Green, now managing director of a northern factory of the same group. He attributes this

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A computer engineer from Czechoslovakia said, 'I have often heard of God but I have never done much about Him. In my profession I am trained to think through the logical steps needed to perform a specific task. Here in Caux I learn to think through the logical steps to carry out God's plan for both society and the individual. For this you need to systematically listen to the voice of your conscience every day and apply absolute moral standards in your life.'

The Conference Chairman, Otto Cadegg, announced that similar sessions would take place in Caux through the summer. He said, 'We need new motives on both sides. Our economy of profit must become an economy of service. Our ultimate aim is a society where there is no exploitation.'

It was announced that the next industrial conference would take place in Caux, 14-16 June.

change not just to new machinery but to new motives in management and labour.

'It was what a lot of people have done working together in mutual trust,' he said. It was partly due, he added, to the effect of Moral Re-Armament on his home life.

Some time after taking over the packaging company, Green had been invited to see an MRA film, *Mr Brown Comes Down The Hill*. After the film a young man had spoken and asked how successful a man could be in creating the right relationships in a plant if he did not have right relationships at home.

'If he had hit me with a 14 lb sledge hammer it could not have had a greater impact,' said Green. During

the hour and a half drive home he and his wife had remained silent. Each had known what the other was thinking. From that day, Green decided, his style and manner at home with his family would be different. The relationship with his son had been transformed.

'I felt I ought to do something to carry that change of attitude into the works,' he said. 'My policy was based on creating trust and becoming one team— management and labour.'

Trust, concluded Green, was a better motivator than bribing people. It had never been more needed than in British industry today. 'I want to motivate people with something more than money so that they give their best because they want to. We must approach the stage of more complete identity of aim for management and labour if we are going to create this trust and an answer to the needs and suffering of the world.'

## The New Power needed

From a talk by Alan Thornhill, author of the play 'Hide Out', at the Westminster Theatre on Easter Sunday

THERE ARE TREMENDOUS struggles for power going on in the world. Black power is a force to be reckoned with, for good or ill, as is white power. There are various forms of rebel and establishment power, ideological struggles for power in Africa, Asia and nearer home, and great struggles for power in British industry.

Some of the things being fought for are right and the issues are very real. But more and more people are realising that if we go on fighting these battles for power as we are fighting them now, we are going to drain the power and life from all of us.

Easter Day is the great demonstration of another kind of power—a different kind of power altogether, and yet a power that is as practical, as realistic and a great deal more effective.

That power is operative to roll away rocks and stones from people's hearts, from families and from industries every day.

Frank Buchman often used to say, 'Are you in power?' Either the power of the living God was flowing through

you and available, or it was blocked by something. All of us can ask ourselves Frank Buchman's question: are we in power? I think it is a case of finding out what the blocks are. One thing Frank Buchman said was, 'To be valid, a religious experience must have a moral backbone.' We can all decide to make that power of the living God practically available for our nation and for the world.

I was very interested in Arnold Toynbee's turnover article in *The Times* of 5 April. It is the fruit of his experience of eighty years and he comes to this simple, basic conclusion: 'The change of heart is the heart of the matter. It will bring with it a change of conduct for the better in all human relations on every plane of human activity.'

In *Remaking the World*, the collected speeches of Frank Buchman, that very thing is proclaimed again and again: 'Human nature can be changed. That is the basic answer. National economies can be changed. That is the fruit of the answer. World history can be changed. That is the destiny of our age.'

# FOOD FOR INDIA'S MILLIONS

Three British farmers, Patrick Evans, Walter Hosegood and John Sainsbury, recently took two months off from their farms to go to India at the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi. While they were there they visited many villages and met and talked with over a hundred farmers and agricultural experts. They also spoke to gatherings in universities. Below, Patrick Evans, Chairman of the Bromyard Branch of the National Farmers' Union, evaluates what they saw and learned.



photo Channer

IN BRITAIN we have become too used to thinking of India in terms of starving millions.

This is not to deny the battle to fill men's stomachs, or the unspeakable conditions in which so many still live. But we need to fix men's sights on the abundance that agriculture can offer, and already there is a prospect of India feeding herself in four years' time.

Rising yields from new varieties of wheat, rice, maize and jowar have given solid ground for this calculation, and population is not the basic problem. For the millions in the villages could be the producers not only of more food, but of fresh capital to build up the country's economy.

The Punjab is generally regarded as the leading area in agricultural development. New varieties of crops, more fertilisers and irrigation are making a revolution possible.

## Pace of change

Wheat production in India has gone up 35% in 1968—over four million tons. The Bhakra Dam stands as a symbol of the new India, 740 feet high—irrigating six and a half million acres from scratch, and supplementing another three and a half million acres.

*The Times of India*, in a recent series on the changing village in the Punjab, underlined the pace of progress. In a sample of 45,000 families, the farmer's gross income has been

multiplied by three over the last six years. Wages are up 200% in two years—to about £3 a week, plus two meals a day. Social habits are changing, and some men are even building houses on their farms and away from the villages.

The villages of India can be the powerhouse of a peaceful revolution. Mahatma Gandhi—the embodiment of the best of Hindu tradition—said once that 'hate is the subtlest form of violence'. He knew the root had to be tackled in human nature. And his grandson, Rajmohan, is leading a revolution answering hate in which the farmers are playing a key part.

## Production doubled

In the Kudal valley in Maharashtra the revolution started with three brothers. After 15 years of feuding, they became united. They began to farm with new conviction of what rising yields could contribute to the country, and what a strong India could give to the world. They doubled their production of rice and sorghum.

While we were in the Kudal valley, Maruthi Yadav was invited to Ceylon to take part in a Moral Re-Armament Assembly in Colombo. His brother-in-law, Ghole, was the mainspring in collecting money for his fare.

His village had been the scene of a major police raid for drunkenness and illicit liquor—Ghole himself spent as much as £2 per week on drink—till he decided to cut it out altogether. And

farmers, school teachers and an agricultural advisory officer all gave precious rupees so that the experience of their valley could play a part in building unity between India and Ceylon.

These men are typical farmers—the real salt of the earth with anything from 6 to 15 acres each. They are farmers in the traditional mould, but they are shrewd and quick to apply the new developments. In men like these the new technology can be married to solid character.

Moral Re-Armament gives the ordinary man the chance to take his destiny into his own hands. The world's largest democracy can make more sense to Asia than China, and spell out a clear lead to the world.

India wants help from Europe in patterning a united society on a foundation of absolute moral standards, and the links with Britain are still extremely strong in the hearts of a great number. Europe has a real part to play if we can face the facts of our own economic cul de sac in food production and tackle world needs in the service of men.

## Conference planned

A conference in Caux, Switzerland, this summer will explore agriculture's responsibility to feed the world.

The conference to be held over the weekend of 27-29 June, has been called by two members of the Swiss Parliament and the Director of the Swiss Milk Producers' Union.

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## Howard book published soon

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HODDER AND STOUGHTON have announced that the book *Peter Howard: Life and Letters* by Anne Wolrige Gordon, his daughter, is to be published on 19 May. 'This book, like Peter Howard's own life, will disturb, challenge—and bring hope,' state the publishers.

Advance orders may now be placed with your bookseller or MRA Books, 4 Hays Mews, London W1X 7RS. Price 45s (postage 2s).

Publisher's leaflets with photographs and a description of the book may be obtained without charge from MRA Books.

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## Nearing its target

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THE FIRST COPY of the new film *Happy Deathday* was flown to Caux in Switzerland for an Easter private preview to aid completion of the fund raising for the film's production costs. Of the £45,000 needed, £38,963 has been raised. Miss Paulette Burnier from Lausanne, a member of the Swiss Committee raising 50,000 Swiss francs, introduced the film. She has given 6,000 francs personally.

Fred Ladenius, a maker of films for Italian TV and a representative of Dutch TV in Italy, urged that *Happy Deathday* be dubbed into French, German and Italian.

It is hoped that a further preview of the film will be given at the Whitsun conference in the Westminster Theatre in London.

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## Engineer gives his time and savings

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AN ENGLISH ENGINEER announced last week that he had resigned from the firm where he has worked for 37 years to go to India to work without pay for Moral Re-Armament.

Edmund Rutter, aged 59, of Hexham-on-Tyne in Northumberland, told

of his decision at the MRA Easter Conference at Tirley Garth in north west England, chaired by Alderman Sir Nicholas Garrow, who was for 15 years Chairman of Northumberland County Council.

Rutter, for 28 years foreman of a Hexham engineering firm, said he had been invited to India by Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma, to help train Indians to maintain the MRA conference centre at Panchgani.

Rutter, who has drawn half his savings for his fare to India, said, 'I believe the need out there is so great it is even more important than demands at home.' His workmates had also contributed generously, he said.

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## 'Bishop's Move' seen on Good Friday

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ALAN THORNHILL'S play, *Bishop's Move*, was performed at the Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green, near London, on Good Friday by the All Saints Players.

Introducing the play, the Vicar of All Saints Church, the Rev Melville Scutt, said, 'Some may be wondering why we should put on a play on Good Friday? The reason is that Good Friday and Easter contain the story of St Peter and his "second chance" and that is also the theme of this play.'

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**13 April** 'Ordinary people are making history.' Speakers will include Jim Worthington, a member of the National Executive of the National Union of Seamen, William Jaeger and Gordon Wise, Australian journalist.

**20 April** 'How to live intelligently on this planet in this century.' Dr Paul Campbell, author of 'Modernising Man', will be the main speaker. The Moelwyn Male Voice Choir from Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, will sing.

**3 pm** Concert by the young Brazilian pianist, Nelson Freire. 'The Times' described his performance last year as 'dazzling'.

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## BBC Middle East broadcast

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THE BBC ARABIC SERVICE has broadcast a four and a half minute programme about the MRA musical review *Anything to Declare?* to an estimated three million listeners in the Middle East.

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## 'Striking dialogue and tense scenes'

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FIVE GÖTEBORG CLERGYMEN and laymen sponsored a public performance of Peter Howard's play *The Ladder* on Good Friday. The play was produced in connection with an Easter Conference for Moral Re-Armament attended by people from Sweden, Denmark and Norway, and students from Pakistan and India.

Sweden's biggest provincial paper, *Göteborgs-Posten*, said in its review, 'The Ladder is a passion play about Christ who, in modern dress, carries His Cross through the world to remind people what the principles are that they are betraying. It is a drama of how faith creates changed people.'

'The message is presented in striking dialogue and emotionally tense scenes.'

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## Constructive Revolution

Assemblies at the Westminster Theatre on Sundays 11 am