
PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION - FOR YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

WHAT IS MRA'S 'WAY OF LIFE'?

'MRA is a way of life', begins the Mission Statement agreed at the Cyprus consultation last year.

At this year's world consultation, starting 27 October in Kenya, we shall try to look more deeply into that way of life - the core of what MRA offers to the world (see letter with April *Bulletin*).

This could be the next step in the renewal that is needed for MRA to re-emerge as a prophetic force in the world, purified, God willing, from any past and present misconceptions (and sins) which we may be helped to identify.

We look forward to your responses and to jog them offer here a few area headings we might use in considering 'MRA - the life' (you may think of more):

1. Personal spiritual disciplines and standards of morality. (a) Has there been slippage in our moral disciplines, along with the world; or are we finding the freedom to get closer to what God wants? (b) What are our sources of passion?
2. Our community and team life, 'corporate culture'. (a) The dynamics that operate amongst us as a group. How the body treats its members and vice versa. To what extent are we models of the teamwork and cooperation that the world needs? (b) Accountability before God, our colleagues and ourselves. (c) How to distinguish between God-given universal truths and the dogma of a group. How do we encourage new friends to feel fully part of this work and fully responsible?
3. The life of outreach and strategy. (a) MRA as an unselfish movement, not seeking its own success or power, giving support to others yet also ready and able to lead, to speak out publicly, maybe even risk mistakes. What this means at the personal level. (b) Has MRA lost the nature of a spiritual and transforming movement and moved towards being a networker of many groups working for world transformation? (c) How can we relate our work more to other people and their concerns?
4. Our philosophical backgrounds and principles. (a) Buchman (in Garmisch) said each generation could be recipients of new revelations, not just adding to the capital of ideas but transforming them. Are we on the cutting edge of new discoveries of the spirit and thinking in the world, or have we settled back into the security of basically knowing it all?

(b) Our personal sources of religious insight and experience. Finding a common deepening of faith in our diverse religious traditions.

5. Life-changing. Traditionally the central focus of MRA activity, seen as the way to genuine change in the world.

But what does 'life-changing' mean? Should it be our central thought? Is it an adequate basis for relationships, or should there be something deeper? We have learnt (a) it is not always as simple as portrayed in some of our literature; (b) our unrecognised false motives can make it go badly wrong; (c) for these reasons (and because change is painful anyway!) there is a natural caution and resistance; and (d) only God changes a person.

Yet the process of change, in people and the world, seems to have a divine sanction. What is our true and natural part in it, and how can we as individuals truly help each other?

We hear that a group intends to tackle the theme week by week during the Caux sessions.

Written reflections and contributions should be sent to me by 28 August at 60 Prince Street, Mosman, NSW 2088, Australia. Thanks in advance!

Peter Thwaites

THE MISSING DIMENSION OF STATECRAFT

Under the intriguing headline 'The Faiths That Move Mountains', *The Washington Post* has reviewed a major new publication that features MRA's contribution to the resolution of conflicts in Europe and Zimbabwe (see back page). The reviewer is Robert Coles, Harvard's well-known writer and thinker. *Religion, the Missing Dimension of Statecraft*, published by Oxford University Press, reports findings of Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies on the role of spiritually-motivated individuals and groups in the peace process. The book challenges the secular bias in Western culture and calls on governments to study the ability of politically-sensitive religious groups to heal wounds and build bridges in situations where governments are often constrained.

Dick Ruffin

ROMANIANS ATTEND GENEVA SEMINAR

Thirteen Romanians, all elected to positions in local politics, have taken part in a nine-day seminar in Geneva on 'The Ethical Foundations of Democracy'. The 13 were chosen, and partly funded, by two Romanian NGOs involved in civic education. The NGOs placed advertisements in newspapers, then tested the 130 applicants for fluency in French, and interviewed them to discover what they had achieved for their communities. The result was a highly-motivated group, who met in Switzerland with an array of outstanding academics, politicians, journalists, lawyers and diplomats; people of wide perspective and little complacency. 'We must go beyond materialistic values and rediscover a sense of human values,' the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross told the group. 'We must learn to forgive without forgetting.'

At the end, many spoke of what they had learnt. 'We need to establish a sense of calling in an Orthodox country,' said one. 'I'd never thought about the checks needed on the power that I exercise,' said a local councillor. 'I have to find the way to talk with the other group,' said another. They urged that speakers like those they had met visit Romania, and so give far more Romanians the chance to benefit from such training.

It is interesting to note that the idea of this seminar had its genesis in March 1992.

Andrew Stallybrass

PROPHETS FOR FLOUNDERING SOCIETY

Modern Prophetic Voices - from Kierkegaard to Buchman is the title of a concise new book by Dr Robin Mowat. Published by New Chervell Press (£4.95), it is scholarly, lucid, authoritative and deeply encouraging. The decision to give all for a remade world sets us on a road already charted by thinkers and statesmen such as Lincoln, Sangnier, Streeter, Schuman and Buchman himself. Dr Mowat affirms absolute moral standards and God's guidance as the true heritage for a civilisation floundering in search of moral order. The West on its present course will further corrupt, pollute and divide the world. Recalled to the practice of its Christian belief it could help heal and unite the world.

William Rees-Mogg, in his column in *The Times* on May 26, quotes amply from the book and pays generous tribute to the work of Moral Re-Armament.

Peter Everington

PAN-AFRICAN ASSEMBLY IN YAOUNDÉ

'This has been a new beginning,' said Zambian MP Stan Chilele after last month's 'Pan-African Conference for Moral Re-Armament'. Over six days, 60 participants from 10 African countries and from

Fiji, France, Switzerland and Britain gathered in Yaoundé, capital of Cameroon.

With the current tension between Anglophones and Francophones in Cameroon and a border dispute with Nigeria, three TV news items noted the presence of prominent politicians, past and present, as well as 11 Nigerians.

The Nigerians, led by Isaac and Rosa and John Amata, after a gruelling three-day road journey, shared their experiences in the fight for national unity and pledged to work with the Cameroonians to build a new Africa. Fijian Chief Ratu Meli Vesikula's story of his change from a 'man of violence to a messenger of peace' showed the way.

The Minister of Health, himself an internationally respected cancer specialist, said, 'Anglo-French differences do exist and should be recognised and appreciated. African unity has not been built because the plans have not been made by people with principles.... MRA's principles are the only basis on which African unity can be built.' Sam Pono from South Africa added, 'Our task now is to equip our leaders and our peoples with these absolute moral standards and the guidance of God.'

Robin Evans Joseph Lagu

INTERNATIONAL COURSE AT ASIA PLATEAU

'Learning to Live Together' is the theme of the next international training course at Asia Plateau, India. The course co-ordinator is Jyoti Subramanyan, who will be assisted by an international faculty. It will start on 3 January 1995, and end on 13 February. Invitations and further information are available from Asia Plateau.

From 3-9 October, over a hundred craftsmen and women - including some of India's finest - will meet at Asia Plateau for a seminar initiated by Roshan Kalapesi of Bombay. The seminar will coincide with Mahatma Gandhi's 120th birthday. Craftspeople from other countries would be welcome.

MEETING MRA AND THE WORLD IN GATCHINA

On the day that Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to Russia last month, residents of Gatchina near St Petersburg welcomed participants from nine countries to a conference entitled, 'A First Meeting with MRA'. It was initiated by Irina Roganova who teaches in Gatchina's Music School.

Former German paratrooper Heinz Krieg, recalling that it was his second visit to Russia and his first by invitation, asked forgiveness for the suffering Germany had inflicted during the war. Later, at a dinner in honour of the visitors, a director of a Gatchina construction company said, 'I was deeply

'NO BETTER FOUNDATION'

Flemming Kofod-Svendsen, Danish Minister for Nordic and Baltic regional cooperation, opened a seminar in Copenhagen last month which brought together Nordic and Baltic peoples, Russians and Poles. In his speech, he emphasized that 'the role of Christianity is much bigger than we think; there is no better foundation for politics and for contact with each other than the fact that God has given us our lives and responsibility.'

One focus of the seminar was the situation of the Russian minorities in the Baltic countries. Participants visited the Danish-German border area, where representatives of the Danish and German minorities on both sides of the border described how former tension and conflict has been replaced by trust. They took the seminar participants on a tour of German-speaking schools and youth centres on the Danish side.

During the four days of frank deliberations, trust and friendship grew between former adversaries. Several said they were ready to plan further meetings in their own countries - 'at the heart of our national tensions', as a member of the Russian Parliament expressed it.

Finn Harald Wetterfors, Keld Jørgensen

VOCATION REDISCOVERED

At a meeting in Shillong, North-East India, after the conference there in April, a Catholic priest asked to speak. He had earlier applied to his Bishop, he said, for leave of absence to reconsider his vocation. 'At this conference,' he went on, 'I have found a vocation again, and I have told my Bishop that I do not need the leave.'

ENRICHING THE NETHERLANDS

Utrecht in the Netherlands is a strongly multicultural city, and one large ethnic minority comes from Surinam (formerly Dutch Guyana). Last month an Open Forum in Utrecht, initiated by two Surinam organisations and MRA, discussed how multiculturalism could enrich, rather than threaten, the city. The panel included J Papeveld, police commissioner responsible for relations with ethnic minorities; Hennie de Pous, chair of the Christian Democratic Women of The Hague and a primary school teacher; Evan Rozenblad, a Member of Parliament born in Surinam; and Sew Rambocus, director of a national organisation of Hindustanis from Surinam. The Forum heard about programmes to help immigrants become part of the community, and there was active discussion on how to develop these further.

Aad Burger, Maarten de Pous

URGENT - PLANNING AT CAUX

We feel strongly that we need time together to find unity on the concepts for the 50th anniversary of

Caux in 1996, and to advance with preparations through the creation of working groups. So we will meet in Caux from Monday 4 July through to Thursday 7 July, just before the summer conferences start. We apologise for the short notice, but hope that countries where there is a significant MRA presence will have at least a representative there, who will be able to channel information and ideas between the planning groups and the 'grass roots'.

Media friends have responded with enthusiasm to the idea of an anniversary marked not just by celebrations but also by a search to redefine our aims and calling. Perhaps the manner in which we prepare is as important as the final event. We have to harmonize the tension between 'let a thousand flowers bloom' and 'we need clear structures'; between 'this anniversary should be a public re-launching of MRA' and 'we need spiritual renewal'; between 'we must reach the leaders' and 'we must re-express MRA as the ordinary person's opportunity'. We would value your prayers for this time. We will keep you informed - and of course there will be opportunities throughout the summer to forward ideas.

*Anne-Katherine Gilomen-Fankhauser,
Pierre Spoerri, Andrew Stallybrass*

WOMEN IN ACTION

In New Zealand 150 women met for a day on the theme: 'Creators of Peace - from vision to action'. Among the speakers were Joan Bolger, wife of the Prime Minister; Sir John Bennett, Chairman of the Maori Education Trust; and Dame Laurie Salas, Vice-President, World Federation of UN Associations. The hui (meeting) was held in the gracious centre of Te Kohanga Reo in Wellington, and hosted by Maori leader, Iritana Tawhiwhirangi, and Joan Holland.

BRAZILIANS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Three Brazilian Catholic leaders have just spent 10 days in Britain and Ireland at the invitation of MRA friends, visiting Catholic organisations and meeting a wide range of people involved in MRA work. The group was led by Mgr Osmar Ribeiro, an advisor to the Cardinal of Bahia. Before leaving Brazil Mgr Osmar appeared on Bahia TV to support MRA's Clean Election Campaign, which will be launched in October.

David and Suzanne Howell

IN THE LEAD-UP TO 1996

Twenty-one people have replied to my questions in the March Bulletin about in-service training. A summary is available from me (at Caux for July and August).

Jean Brown in Adelaide has suggested that we use the two years before '96 as a time to prepare ourselves for Caux's 50th, and a time of rededication. 'Building towards a marking moment

moved by what Heinz Krieg said. Our generation has lost a great deal through being unable to meet the rest of the world. You have restored this possibility to us.'

Russia's Nuclear Physics Institute is situated in Gatchina, and until recently the city was closed to foreigners. Many of us were accommodated in the guest hotel of the Institute, where we talked with prominent nuclear scientists.

Meetings took place in Gatchina's Youth Centre, in the former Communist Party headquarters. Among those who attended were many teachers, artists and musicians. The days focussed on MRA and its role in resolving conflict. In the evenings a series of concerts presented the tremendous riches of Russian musical and dramatic art. The Director of the Music School urged us to return: 'Only by understanding spiritual and cultural values will our children acquire a sound morality.'

During the final two days we visited St Petersburg. The President of the Centre for Open Christianity proposed that we hold an MRA conference there next year. We already plan a Russian-language course in MRA there later this year.

Ken Rundell

TO SERBIA AND BEYOND

Last month we visited Belgrade, Budapest and Vienna. The mood in Serbia is still disturbingly chauvinistic but there are good prospects that Serbia - and other parts of ex-Yugoslavia - will be represented at Caux. Milovan Djilas, who foresees continuing upheavals in the Balkans, feels that Caux could help lift the Serbs out of their ghetto mentality. We were received by the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, whom we found humble and sincere. He said: 'We Serbs along with other Yugoslavs must accept responsibility for the situation. We cannot blame others. Change must begin with us.' Unfortunately his influence with the regime is limited. In Vienna we were touched by Cardinal Koenig's eagerness to find ways of helping in the Bosnian tragedy. Everywhere we found keen interest in the *Foundations for Freedom* courses. In Budapest, thanks to George Samsondi Kiss, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is sponsoring a meeting in October of the International Communications Forum. Its emphasis will be on central Europe.

Archie Mackenzie, Leif Hovelsen

TRANSCARPATHIAN CLUSTER

We have just held a Visiting Course in Transcarpathia. Cardiologist Julianna Polianka, who attended a Course in Slovakia last year, had invited us to bring it to her town, Mukachevo, in western Ukraine. With communication almost impossible,

much guesswork and intuition had gone into 'organising' the visit. On arrival we found the venue, costs and participation all undecided. Then, in the nick of time, everything resolved, each event trailing a string of small miracles.

We began with seven people and ended with twelve. We met in the holiday camp of a local factory, up a long wooded valley. Course sessions took place in the open or in a bedroom, sitting on beds with flip charts taped to the walls. The whole course had to be delivered in seven days, which meant working everyone hard. We also played hard, with barbecues, bonfires and parties. Hilarious games and Scottish country dancing were a great success!

A Visiting Course aims to prepare the ground, then plant and propagate seeds in clusters. By the end we could see signs of 'rooting', with commitments from many individuals to take MRA into their lives and develop links of openness and trust. One girl said that the spirit of frankness and understanding had helped her. 'It was difficult to face the truth about my life,' she said. 'I always wanted to defend inadequacies, but I won't do that again.' A doctor said, 'You put my soul into words and something awoke in me. I have much to pore over, to revise and then to do.'

Parting was hard. We hope to return in September to see now dear friends.

Sheila and Erik Andrew

SYMPOSIUM TO CLEAN UP POLITICS

Symposiums will be held in Odawara and Tokyo during the international MRA action in Japan, 8-17 October. In Odawara the theme will be: 'Japan's contribution to creating peace and trust in Asia'. In Tokyo it will be: 'Cleaning up politics starts with cleaning up yourself - a national life based on moral values.' Panel members will include Mrs Yukika Sohma and others from Japan, Taiwan and Cambodia. The programme begins at the Asia Center, Odawara, and continues in Hakone, Urawa City, Kobe, Kyoto, Kansai and Tokyo. We are not sending a printed invitation as in previous years. Instead, we are inviting personally. If you or your friends would like to join us, please do let us know.

Kiyoshi Nagano

POWERFUL NEGOTIATING TOOL

At a recent MRA gathering in Melbourne, a senior manager from a major Australian company spoke. He negotiates the company's contracts in several Asian countries. 'I learned my negotiating technique from Paul Gundersen,' he said. 'He taught me that honesty is a powerful tool. Some of my colleagues thought I was unbelievably naive, but they have been quite impressed by the results.'

can be a powerful motivating tool for the profounder changes and revelations we may all need to find,' she writes. 'Should we encourage all committed to MRA to shape and be part of regular retreats among ourselves, as well as those we may be led to through our religious affiliations? Groups of no more than 12-15 in retreat together for at least 3 days, with plenty of silence, and keeping up an association in between where we are accountable to one another?'

'All over the world we might look at the theme, "Moving from the house of fear into the house of love". Fear paralyzes us. Fears about money, disillusionment, loss of meaning, children, old age, discontinuance of MRA as we know it, not coping, divisions, letting go, trusting others and so on. It leads to anger, superiority-inferiority, opinionatedness, control, a hardening of the "oughteries", worship of doctrines (of MRA, religion or whatever) over worship of the Divine (much easier).

'A time to find, focus, face and free fears. To learn liberating, living and laughing love. Is there any relationship to repair, leading to be obeyed, fun to be had, work to be completed, sorry to be said, love to be shared, risks to be taken before '96? People could arrange their own retreat patterns and, if they wished, avail themselves of the priceless trained help from outside our ranks.'

I'd be interested to hear any response to this proposal.
Joan Holland

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES
 Canada: Laurent and Lise Gagnon's new address is: 1316, rue Jean-Dequen, Sainte-Foy (Québec), G1W 3H6 Canada. Tel: +1 418 659 4334; Fax: +1 418 659 6687.
 United States: Harry and Bev Almond now have a fax: +1 413 528 1936

Calendar of Events

JUL '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Creators of Trust and Peace" - summer conference	Jul 8 - Aug 28
	<u>Caux</u>	"Past, present and future, a shared responsibility - An inter-generational dialogue"	Jul 8 - 18
	<u>Caux</u>	"Caux Forums on the Economy and the Individual - Meeting the Challenge of Unemployment"	Jul 20 - 24
	<u>Kuala Lumpur Malaysia</u>	"Vision and Empowerment" - Asia Pacific Youth Conference	Jul 22 - Aug 4
	<u>Caux</u>	Caux Round Table	Jul 24 - 27
	<u>Caux</u>	"Unity in Diversity - Consultation on Europe, a continent in need"	Jul 26 - 31
AUG '94	<u>Caux</u>	"Creators of Peace: from vision to action - A women's initiative"	Aug 4 - 12
	<u>Seoul Korea</u>	Youth conference	Aug 7 - 16
	<u>Phnom Penh Cambodia</u>	Student seminar	Aug 15 - 21
	<u>Caux</u>	"Regions in crisis, regions in recovery - Learning from one another"	Aug 15 - 25
	<u>Caux</u>	"Evaluation and perspectives"	Aug 26 - 28
SEP '94	<u>Tirley Garth England</u>	"Foundations for Freedom" international course	Sep 1 - 20
OCT '94	<u>Odawara Japan</u>	"International MRA Action" - in Odawara, Tokyo, Kobe	Oct 8 - 18
	<u>Nairobi Kenya</u>	Global Consultation	Oct 27 - Nov 7
NOV '94	<u>London</u>	"Making Democracy Work" - Seminar for Ukrainian political leaders	Nov 11 - 25
DEC '94	<u>Adelaide Hills Australia</u>	Australian Youth Camp	Dec 29 - Jan 5
JAN '95	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	"Learning to Live Together" - Indian Study Course	Jan 4 - Feb 13

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Thursday, September 15, 1994.

John Bond
 151 Kent Street
 Hughes ACT 2605
 Australia
 Tel: +61 6 281 0940

Andrew Lancaster
 10 Dooley Place
 Curtin ACT 2605
 Australia
 Tel: +61 6 281 2107

Fax: +61 6 285 3616

Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Tan; Philippines - Cardel; Japan, Rest - Fujita; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; Africa: East - Patel; South - Horn; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - I Amata; N.America: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; Latin America: Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; Caribbean - Edwards; Europe: France - Lasserre; Germany - Bräckle; Denmark - Jørgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Austria - Vock; Netherlands, Rest - J de Pous; Middle East: - Christodoulides