

WORLD TRAINING CENTRE OPENS AT PANCHGANI

**'Biggest revolution
since India's Independence'**

THE INDIAN HILL STATION of Panchgani is now a nerve centre of international activity, a meeting ground for East and West.

Last Saturday before a crowd of 4,000 people Roland Wilson, Secretary of MRA in Britain, opened a new centre for MRA and addressed the first session of an assembly of nations. He said, 'Fifty years ago your vast and ancient peoples grasped the idea of liberty and launched hundreds of millions into freedom. Panchgani will launch the next idea for the world. The idea for today is Moral Re-Armament. Panchgani is India's gift to the world.'

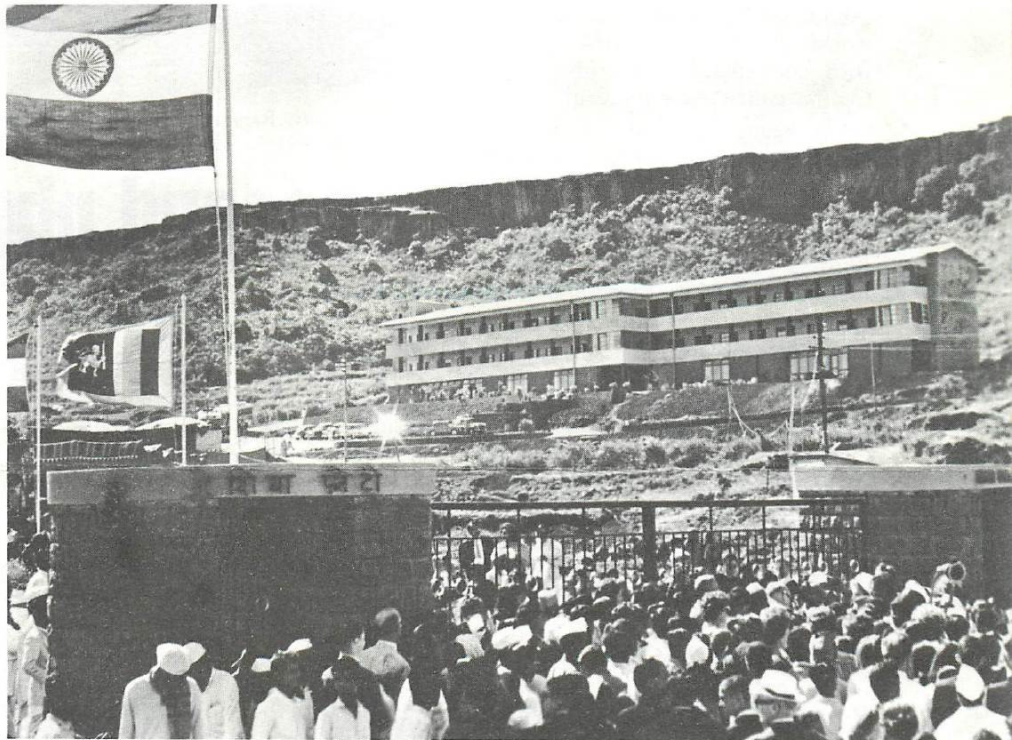
Delegates speak

Men have gone to this assembly from 23 nations to seek ways out of the impasses in which mankind is locked. The correspondent of the *Poona Herald* reported that the assembly was offering the world 'the biggest revolution since India's independence'.

Kim Beazley, MP, Foreign Affairs spokesman for the Australian Labour Party, read a message from Paul Hasluck, Foreign Minister of Australia, which said, 'We are beginning to see more clearly than ever before in our history that we should not seek only what is good for ourselves, but the good that can be shared by all.'

The Iranian Ambassador to New Delhi travelled through the night to represent the Shah at Panchgani. 'I have been sent by my Government because of the impact MRA has had in bringing about a silent revolution in Iran,' he said.

The Chairman of the Indian Praja Socialist Party, N G Goray, speaking on Indian Workers' Day, said, 'It is impossible to conceive Socialism without morality.' Sitting on the platform



ASIA PLATEAU CENTRE OPENED

photos Channer

with him were 53 workers who were attending the conference from Bombay, Poona, Delhi, Calcutta, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala, and from Britain, Sweden, France and Australia.

A Calcutta trade unionist said, 'Violence in Calcutta has captured the headlines, but MRA is capturing thousands of dock workers and challenging them to fight corruption and gangsterism.'

A delegation of 34 from the hill areas of the Mizo and Khasi tribes of North-east India travelled 2,200 miles across India to the conference. They come from the province of Assam, adjacent to East Pakistan, Burma and Tibet. It is an area which is decisive for the security of the sub-continent.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama sent two representatives. His press secretary said, 'It may be too late for Tibet, but we must think for other Asian nations now. MRA is very important because it teaches us not to hate anyone. The four moral standards of MRA are within the teachings of Buddhism. I hope in the future we will have an Asia Plateau centre in Lhasa.'

Also at the assembly are Dr Salvadore Araneta, President of Araneta University and formerly a Minister of Labour in President Magsaysay's Government in the Philippines; Patrick Wolrige Gordon, Conservative MP for East Aberdeenshire; and a delegation of 11 from Ceylon. *Speech by Mr Wolrige Gordon, see page 4.*

First phase Panchgani construction completed ..

PANCHGANI, in the hills of Maharashtra, became home last week to a world assembly for MRA. It began with the inauguration of the new Centre, called Asia Plateau.

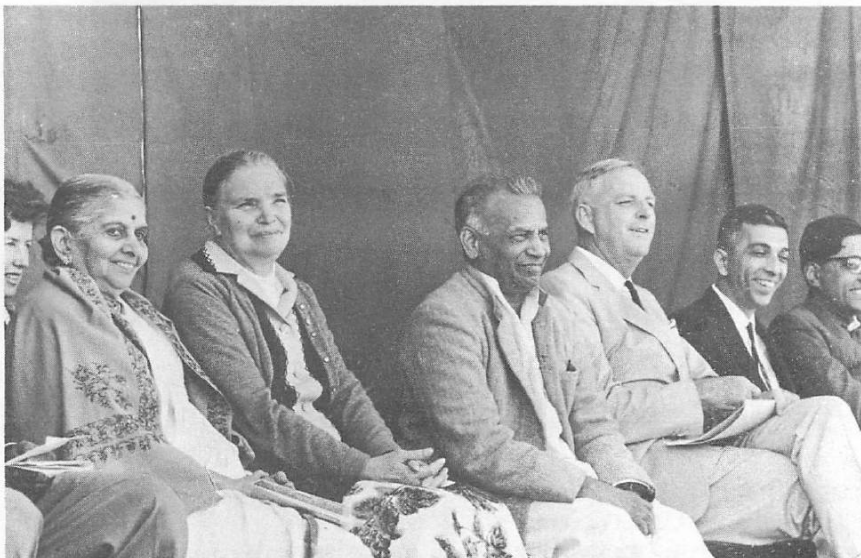
Panchgani is a hill resort famed for its schools, sanatoria and healthy climate. The Centre's three-storey main building stands amid 22 acres of terraced fields commanding the Krishna valley. A seven room guest lodge overlooks the steep and sinuous road to Poona, 60 miles away.

Completion of the construction work to deadline, despite water shortages and monsoon hazards, surprised local residents. 300 men and women worked round the clock. The contractor supervised the work, often through the night. Plumbers, electricians, sweepers and furnishers found themselves in a unique position working side by side to hit the deadline.

Feverish pitch

The correspondent of the *Poona Herald* wrote, 'On the eve of inauguration I could see work going at a feverish pitch—a man laying a dynamite charge for levelling rock on the driveway and masons getting instructions from the foreman. Painters, welders, carpenters and gardeners were going about their business in clockwise regularity. For all it was not just a day's work. There is a sense of participation in an immense historic act ushering in a silent revolution that is gripping their thoughts all the time.'

Dr Willi Meier, leading Swiss industrialist, receives a 'tilak' on his forehead, traditional blessing, as he arrives with Mr and Mrs Roland Wilson from Britain



Right to left: Rajmohan Gandhi; R M Lala, 'Himmat' editor; Kim Beazley, Australian MP; N G Goray, Chairman of the Praja Socialist Party; Irène Laure, French Socialist

.. second phase launched

PLANS for the next buildings of the Panchgani Centre were announced at the beginning of this week. The next phase of construction, to be completed by December 1968, includes another residential block and a theatre cum hall. The foundations are already laid. £130,000 is needed to cover the costs.

A widow from Poona, attending the Assembly of Nations, gave 1,000 rupees saved for her daughter's jewellery. Stanley Nicholsroy, a member of

the Assam delegation, undertook to give 100 rupees every month. British farmers pledged themselves to raise £2,500 before the end of the year.

A delegation of 11 from Ceylon, including the former Justice Minister in the Bandaranaike Cabinet, addressed the session. The legal advisor to the Employers' Federation of Ceylon said, 'I am committed to MRA because it doesn't preach revolution, but starts a revolution with the individual.'



EUROPEAN REVUE IN SWISS CAPITAL

WEST OF BERNE lies an area of Switzerland—the Jura—torn by bitter language and cultural divisions which are perplexing Swiss leaders.

The settlement of this dispute depends on the re-establishment of human relations said Swiss newspaper editor Walo von Greyerz, last week. Von Greyerz is also a member of the Committee of Twenty Four designated by the Government to solve the Jura dispute. He said, 'It cannot be done just theoretically.'

He was receiving the cast of the European revue *Bitte Hinauslehn* in the Chamber of Deputies of the Swiss Parliament in Berne.

Four months ago the cast performed in Tramelan, Porrentruy and Delémont, centres of the movements for and against the Jura separating from the Canton of Berne. The French-speaking minority is demanding a status of autonomy inside the German-speaking Canton of Berne or even outside the Swiss Confederation.

The revue is in the Swiss capital on the invitation of a committee which includes members of the Government from the Socialist, Liberal and Farmers' Parties. Members of the cast spent half an hour with the Swiss Minister of Interior, Hans-Peter Tschudi, in his office.

Der Bund described the aims of the show as 'an encouragement to get out of the soft upholstery of the European prosperity train, fling open the windows and lean out to a sick world.' It continued, 'This revue has masterly choreography, lively and bright colours and gestures which are penetrating, stimulating and well performed.'

The 15 nation cast through songs and dialogue called on the audience—representatives of foreign embassies and Government departments, military commanders and top trade unionists, teachers and university students—to think out beyond Europe's borders.

Adolf Blaser, Cantonal Minister of Social Affairs and Health, said after the premiere, 'I would not have missed tonight for anything. What amazes me about your work is that you are constantly on the attack and always with something new.'



Above: Rajmohan Gandhi arrives for the inauguration of the Asia Plateau Centre



Roland Wilson, Secretary of MRA in Britain, with P K Savant (left), Panchgani Municipal Chairman and Hiralal Jedhiya, Panchgani's head sweeper

photos Mayor

Everyone gets refreshments served by Delhi trade unionist and Bombay student



Not economic crisis, but moral watershed

by H S Addison

A FEW DAYS AGO a centre for Moral Re-Armament was opened at Panchgani in India. Its opening was a landmark in the history of Asia. It was a landmark, too, in the life-commitment of a man, still young, who bears the most famous name in the annals of his country. His grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi, was the initiator of that mighty national movement which made the British Government's decision to grant independence to India not merely an act of high statesmanship, but an unavoidable necessity.

Rajmohan Gandhi believes as profoundly as his grandfather in an independent India, standing on its own feet, conducting its own affairs, shaping its own destiny. It is therefore of some significance that the man whom he invited to open the new centre is a Briton.

With him at Panchgani is a delegation representing many faces of British life. There is a former British colonial officer, who has spent practically all his working life in Africa. There is one of the men who are shaping the future of Britain's steel industry. A group of British workers includes a docker who helped to keep the port of Bristol working when London and Merseyside were shut down by strikes. Another is a shop-steward in a large North of England factory who was recently responsible for a productivity agreement whereby production rose 150% and wages 28%.

These men are welcomed in India and listened to with respect. They command attention because they represent the kind of leadership which the world has long expected from Britain, too often in vain. Their visit to a great country East of Suez points the way to Britain's true role in the world.

The faith and hope which they have carried with them may help to put into perspective the decisions announced in the House of Commons during the past few days.

These decisions may or may not solve the immediate problems which they are intended to solve. You can

praise or pillory the men who have made them. But they leave untouched the deeper and continuing crisis which underlies them. The battle between Mr Muggeridge and a noisy minority of the students of Edinburgh University is just another aspect of that crisis.

For what Britain is facing is not an economic crisis. It is a moral watershed. Will she go the way of individual self-indulgence and national self-centredness to immediate mediocrity and eventual collapse? Or will she find again in absolute moral standards the foundations of national strength, and in God's will the key to her global role? This, thank God, is a question which cannot be decided by the decrees of any government. It will be settled by the decision of every ordinary British man and woman.

At a moment of decision in the life of his nation, a great statesman declared: 'Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair. The event is in the hand of God.' That, at this moment of decision in the life of Britain, is the privilege and task of

BRITISH MP SPEAKS IN INDIA

PATRICK WOLRIGE GORDON, MP for East Aberdeenshire, speaking at Panchgani, India, termed the opening of the new MRA centre there the most important and historic event happening in 1968.

Speaking of Britain's withdrawal east of Suez he said, 'Although the British Government does not want to play a part in Asia any more, many British people do.'

He continued, 'The real problem in Asia is the human problem and Asia's problems are not insoluble. I believe India can show the world not only how to solve her own problems but how to help others to live so that all the age-old human problems of insecurity, division and fear are solved.

all who want the moral re-armament of their country. 'Moral Re-Armament,' said its initiator, Dr Frank Buchman, soon after he launched it, 'stands for a prejudice-free level of living. It stands for a common denominator of immediate constructive action above party, race, class, creed, point of view or personal advantage. It is God's property—the new thinking, the new leadership which everyone wants.'

The true patriot gives his life to bring his nation under God's control. Those who accept that calling choose a hard and stony road. They will be unpopular with many. They will be pursued by the unrelenting hatred of all those who, for one reason or another, are opposed to absolute moral standards and the rule of God. They will be laughed at by the cynics.

But they may find marching with them a growing army of the ordinary, inarticulate, sensible people of Britain whose decisions are still based, not on the calculations of computers, but on the courage of their convictions and the call of their consciences.

Had Churchill in May 1940 fed into a computer the facts about the military situation, it would doubtless have advised him to surrender. Fortunately he did neither, and Britain moved to her finest hour.

Something happened in a tiny Northumberland fishing village the other day which may point the way. For 160 years the men of this village have manned a lifeboat. Hundreds of times, in the foulest of weather, they have gone out to sea. They have saved hundreds of lives. Recently, for reasons of economy, it was decided at national level that their boat could no longer be maintained. Sadly, and with rebellion in their hearts, the men met for a farewell ceremony. In the middle of it a signal went up calling them to their boat. A fishing vessel was missing and overdue. They left the ceremony and put out to sea. Four hours later they returned, triumphantly escorting the missing vessel.

There may be an allegory here. There is certainly a lesson. The people of Britain are far readier for service and sacrifice than their political leaders imagine. Events classify issues and help people to decide. United under the guidance of God for the moral re-armament of our nation we shall yet save our country by our exertions and help to save the world by our example.

Decisive Assignment

Fred Ladenius, born in Holland and brought up in Italy, is a political and international affairs writer on L'Osservatore Romano, organ of the Vatican. He also works for Radio Vatican and is Rome correspondent for Dutch radio and TV. RICHARD WEEKS interviewed him at a recent international conference at Caux in Switzerland.

FRED LADENIUS some years ago interviewed Nikita Khrushchev's son-in-law and fellow journalist Alexei Adzhubei and his wife after their audience with Pope John in the Vatican. On board a ship in the Bay of Naples the Russian couple told Ladenius what took place.

Mrs Adzhubei on meeting the people's Pope remarked, 'Your hands are just like my father's.' The Holy Father immediately replied, 'Please give my hand to your father.'

Ladenius said to me, 'The Russian couple were more moved by that human encounter than they wanted to show.' The Dutch journalist told me it was his most interesting assignment.

But the decisive assignment of Ladenius' career took place in Florence. It was a year after he was married and it happened by chance. The drama critic was ill and Ladenius was sent in his place to see a play called *The Forgotten Factor*, staged by MRA.

Forgotten factor

He says that seeing that play he realised there was a forgotten factor in his life. 'As a Catholic journalist I was supposed to believe in God, or at least say I believed in God. Just as some Communist journalists have to say they believe in Communism. In general, even Catholic journalists prefer to be able to criticise!

'My belief in God was rather like a child's belief in Santa Claus. I thought others expected it of me. There might after all be something in it. There might even be something to gain. It made me feel safe—like having an insurance policy.

'That really changed when I started to listen to Him—He showed me He existed. It can be a frightening experience for a journalist to be interviewed by Him!'

This experience radically affected the way he approached his work. In

journalism it is very important to be the first with the news—'Even,' says Ladenius, 'if that means writing things which are not exactly true. I realised this was not right and have often since given news later than other people because I am first careful to get the facts behind it and make sure it is true. Much to my surprise the directors were happier with this way of working.'

It also affected his attitude to the readers for whom, formerly, he cared very little. To Ladenius some of his readers were: 'A bunch of stupid people who bought a newspaper for the football results or the TV programmes. My aims were success, popularity and to write exactly what the boss liked, so that one day, when I became the head of the paper, I could write what I liked.'

He has drawn much inspiration from the writings of Father Alphonse Gratry*, the French Priest and thinker of the last century. Gratry wrote: 'It is in the morning—before every distraction begins, and the business of the day—that you must listen to God. But let us be clear about it.'

'"What does it mean to listen to God?" you will ask me. "What in fact shall I do?" "The answer is—write.

'Try not to lose what you hear and see. Do not trust your memory. It is a faculty which forgets.

'Write so as to listen better, and retain the word . . .'

Ladenius is a strong believer in the freedom of the press. 'Many talk about it,' he says, 'but in fact are little dictators themselves. I'll give you an example. I recently recorded some programmes for the largest TV company in Holland. Before they were screened I wrote an article for a Dutch paper saying that there were a few people in the Catholic church who were out to water down its challenge to fit their own weaknesses. As soon as this appeared, the TV cancelled my programmes. That to me is fascism, and I know what I'm talking about having grown up under a fascist regime.' During the war, Ladenius fought with the Italian Resistance for two years in the Tuscan Mountains.

* A book written by Fred Ladenius on the life and ideas of Father Gratry is shortly to be published.



Fred Ladenius

new pamphlet

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by Roland Wilson

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EDINBURGH STUDENTS AND FACULTY SUPPORT MUGGERIDGE

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY students last Sunday publicly supported Malcolm Muggeridge* in his battle for moral standards at the University.

'We are creating a force of people willing to stand up for what is right,' said Paul Craig, an agricultural student.

He was speaking to an audience of 500 people at the Dominion Theatre, Edinburgh, at the Scottish film premiere of *The Dictator's Slippers* by Peter Howard. 'The controversial issues in Edinburgh University this week have forced many of us to make decisions. Most of us have not been living in a riotous way. But we have been duped by a small minority. There is a host of very sound people in this country who have got to wake up.

'This means listening to God and obeying the simple points He gives me, my family and my country and where we need to change. We are creating a force of people willing to stand up for what is right.'

Energy released

Dr Donald Robertson, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at the University, said, 'Muggeridge is right when he says God can lift men from the slavery of obsession to the freedom of the sense of God. The energy so released will result in the creative social action we need.'

'I stand with our Principal and with Mr Muggeridge and dissociate myself wholly from the esoteric minority of so-called progressives who have brought our University into question. I am proud to be associated

* **Muggeridge** last week resigned as Rector of Edinburgh University to strongly proclaim his opposition to the Students' Representative Council's resolution that the Student Health Service should provide the contraceptive pill to any student who wanted it. Since his resignation, Edinburgh University students have voted (479-417) to request his return to office.

with Edinburgh University which has sent men and women to contribute skill and care to Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

'The University must answer the hunger for great living in every student's heart, and the longing for freedom.'

Evening Standard FRIDAY JANUARY 19 CRICKETER LEADS A 'BACK BRITAIN' DRIVE

Evening Standard Reporter
Former West Indies cricketer Conrad Hunte, who retired from the game last November, is leading a campaign to show immigrants how they can back Britain.

Working with him in the campaign is Negro mezzo-soprano Muriel Smith. They are part of a task force which has already attacked the problem in 13 cities, from Brixton to Bradford.

The campaign, which is part of Mr Hunte's Moral Re-Armament work, is entirely voluntary. 'We must change our attitude from "What can we get out of Britain?" to "What can we give to Britain?"' he said today.

In trying to persuade immigrants of all races to work harder for a better Britain Mr Hunte's task force is interviewing local immigrant leaders, housing and employment agencies, and showing films to multi-racial audiences.

Mr Hunte wrote to Mr David Ennals, Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, describing the campaign and saying: 'I believe in Britain. Many nations have benefited, including my own, and I am grateful.'

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