

## West Indian and Nigerian warn on violence

AN OUTBREAK of violence in Britain could set back progress towards a multi-racial society at home and undermine Britain's authority as an arbiter abroad.



Isaac Amata

This was the warning sounded by West Indian cricketer Conrad Hunte and former Nigerian student leader Isaac Amata speaking to students from London, Oxford, Kent, Manchester and Edinburgh Universities in London last Sunday.

During the past year, Conrad Hunte has visited 33 cities in Britain, meeting responsible officials. He has worked also closely with leaders of the overseas communities. He said that many have joined the venture of creating a new pattern of racial co-operation in Britain and warned that violence could seriously handicap this work.

Isaac Amata branded violence as 'primitive'. He said that it was the way in which tribal peoples had tried to settle disputes in former times. It sprang from ambition, lust and hatred.

In 1964, as Amata travelled through the colleges of Nigeria, he found many intellectuals advocating 'bloody revolution' as the solution to the country's problems. Today, he said, Nigeria swims in a bloodbath with thousands slaughtered or starved to death.

Fifteen thousand Nigerian students are in Britain at the moment. Amata said, 'We look to Britain to help us find the road to sanity and peace. It will be an evil service if Nigerian students learn more about violence than statesmanship.'

EVELYN THOMSEN

## Open letter sent to French Prime Minister

THE FRENCH PRIME MINISTER, Maurice Couve de Murville, earlier this month received an open letter urging a new look at the situation in French factories, farms and universities.

The letter expressed the views of men and women who are now conducting a six-week campaign in Paris to bring Moral Re-Armament to bear on the main industrial and political divisions of France.

Based on contacts with people throughout France the letter's signatory, Michel Sentis, wrote, 'Every Frenchman is aware that nothing will move forward unless some of us are ready to make sacrifices.'

'But before he will accept that he is the one to sacrifice, he will need objectives big enough to mobilise the best in him: objectives behind which the nation will whole-heartedly rally.'

'Up till now, frankly, the vast majority of Frenchmen have been offered no aim beyond increasing their own comfort.'

'Consequently, when face to face with some reform, passions are let loose which are out of all proportion to their bearing on the world situation. We are concerned with our little corner because no one has made us think for the whole of humanity.'

'Yet, in this confused world, con-

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Members of the cast talk late into the night with Paris economic students after a performance of the European revue, 'Anything to Declare?'

*photo Franzen*



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sumed by hatreds, menaced by the abuse of power, immersed in indifference, we could make the voice of wisdom heard. Inspired by our joint traditions of revolution and faith, we could yet show the example of a nation which has surmounted century-old obstacles by forging its unity.'

Outlining the roles French university students, factory workers and farmers could play in serving mankind, the letter concluded, 'It is with humility, Mr Prime Minister, that we submit these ideas. But we do so because we have faith in France; in the generosity that lies deep in every French heart, and because we feel the urgent need to mobilise this generosity in the fulfilment of the mission which falls to France at this hour.'

At the focal point of the campaign in Paris are two theatrical productions, the European revue *Anything to Declare!* and the French satire *Pitié Pour Clémentine* by Jean-Jacques Odier. They play alternate nights for six weeks in the Théâtre des Arts. Performances have been attended by industrialists, trade unionists and militant students.

*France Soir*, France's largest daily newspaper, wrote of *Pitié Pour Clémentine*, 'There are some scenes which our "Chansoniers" would not disown, songs which are to the point and well sung with lively music. Faith bursts out on one side of the footlights, on the other a public goes out refreshed.'

Two weekends ago trade unionists and industrialists from across Europe met in Paris.

As a French metal workers' leader, René Prou commented, 'MRA has a decisive goal to play in the dialogue which must take place in France in the next months. France could set an example for the world.'

In an appeal for industrial participation to go beyond the factory gates a German coal miner, Hubert Egge-mann, said, 'We of industry must be as concerned for the world as we are for what goes on around us.'

The dialogue began as the General Secretary of the French Dockers (Force Ouvrière) and the President of the British National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers' Union sat down in earnest conversation with a French shipping director.

The Head of the Coal Board for Southern France was there with miners from the German Ruhr, and the General Secretary of the French Mer-

chant Navy Officers with shop stewards from London Airport.

The British delegation to the con-

ference included three managing directors and four trade union officials and shop stewards.

## Faith that remakes nations

ELIJAH WAS TOLD that there were 7,000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal and there are certainly more than that in our islands. Two hundred and fifty of them were in the Westminster Theatre on Wednesday, 16 October, at a conference for clergy and ministers entitled 'Let's Turn the Tide'.

They were not only from our island either. They came in from Scandinavia, Switzerland and other countries as the vanguard of the Church militant, putting Christendom on the march.

Those who spoke made it plain that people long for the Church to be in the front line of the battle between good and evil in the country. Its truth, if proclaimed boldly, could give the answer to the problems of industry, of race, of youth, of homes and families.

One man who spoke was Howard Grace. He told how as a London student leader and a convinced atheist he had protested about the way the country was being led and the corruption in the Government. But at the same time as president of his student body he had fiddled the voting figures in his student Union.

It was at this point that he met Moral Re-Armament and he said, 'I realised if I was really serious about creating the sort of world I used to protest for, I needed to start with myself.' His apology to the Union created more interest than the discussions of the past four and a half years and resulted in a decision to run the Union on a basis of absolute honesty. Through this application of absolute standards he said that Jesus Christ was becoming daily more real to him.

Christians who put their faith into practice are needed in every country. Howard Grace has just left to work with Moral Re-Armament in Asia on the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi. Students from all over Britain have contributed to his travelling expenses.

Christianity in action was the keynote of the meeting. Mrs John Rainbow said as a young girl she had come to the Westminster Theatre with a party from her church. It resulted in her finding a faith and deciding to give her life that others find the same.

She is now responsible for sending

the films of MRA, which do just that, throughout the world. Five of that group with whom she came to the theatre are now in full-time Christian work.

The Westminster Theatre continues to give faith and to set out to change human nature through its plays. Susan Betts from Kent said a year ago she came into the theatre and that visit had changed her life.

'For the first time in my life, though I had been a Sunday School teacher and a Church-goer, God became a real person to me who cared,' she said. 'This theatre could give hundreds of girls like me a practical faith and a purpose in life.'

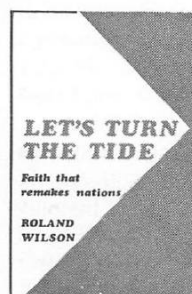
The Reverend Alan Thornhill, author of *Bishop's Move*, spoke about the Westminster Theatre. 'I feel that every one of us who love our church and our country should make great use of this theatre to light new fires in the faithful and to bring faith to people who have no faith.'

'I believe it is also true that our theatre at its best all down history has had an aim of not only making profits, but also of making prophets.'

Roland Wilson, who has given his life to the work of Moral Re-Armament all over the world, said, 'Today's world hungers not for less truth but for more. A fanatical following of evil can only be met by an even more passionate pursuit of good. A faithless age looks for a faith that is firm not a faith that falters. We certainly need a knowledge of human nature. But an essential part of that knowledge is to know from experience that given the right ideas and incentives human nature rises not falls.'

The Assembly decided to meet again on Wednesday, 20 November.

MARGARET WILSON



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# Indian bus owner ends bribery

A social revolution, caused by a change in the character and ways of people, is now under way in Indian villages. In one Maharashtrian valley the change was so swift that village leaders told a New Delhi cabinet minister that it was like 'a galloping horse'.

The ending of bribery and personal feuds and a united purpose is unleashing new energy for food production. Below we publish the story of Deep Chand, bus owner, trade unionist and farmer.

**SYDNEY COOK** writes:

DEEP CHAND is the Sarpanch (head man) of a village near Delhi.

His tough, weather-beaten face is as inscrutable as an Indian farmer's face can be. He is cautious and rarely speaks first in conversation. No words are wasted, and those he uses ring true. He is a Jat, one of India's famous warrior races, and his village lies in Haryana, a state where they work hard and count their money and crops.

During the week he works in a Delhi chemical factory. He and fifteen other men also run a co-operative bus company, with two buses plying a daily route and two on hire to wedding and other parties. And he is a farmer. At weekends he returns to his village where he lives with his wife and nine children.

Deep Chand looks poor, but he and his colleagues each put 3,000 rupees into their bus co-operative. They borrowed 75,000 rupees from the Government. They have already recovered their own money, and are paying back the Government at the rate of 40,000 rupees a year.

## 'Forgotten Factor' in Panchgani

ALAN THORNHILL'S industrial drama, *The Forgotten Factor*, was performed last week in Panchgani, the town in Maharashtra where the MRA Training Centre is situated.

The play has been produced with a combined cast of Indians and Ceylonese, representing different castes and religions. Next month it will visit Ceylon on the invitation of national leaders.

A member of the cast, Miss Shereen Deen from Ceylon, said about the forthcoming SE Asian tour of the play, 'It is historical that India and Ceylon are taking on neighbouring countries together despite all our difficulties.'

At the factory, he is a fitter in the tin-making plant. He is the men's elected representative on the Works Committee, and is in the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Communist-led trade union. The factory sent him and a colleague as its representatives to the October MRA Assembly in Panchgani, Maharashtra.

The day he arrived, he was asked what he expected to find. He said, 'If we can get better team work in the factory, we shall produce more. If we raise production, prices will go down and the country will benefit. Also, as Sarpanch, I want to know how to solve disputes in our village. When there is no agreement, the dispute goes to a higher court in Delhi. This wastes time and money and creates bitterness.'

For several days he listened and watched. He heard men and management from Bombay and Poona, who decided to work for eight hours instead of two hours a day. One worker, earning 350 rupees a month, was spending 150 rupees on drink and gambling. He will now save the 150 rupees, giving an extra 100 rupees to his family and 50 rupees a month to MRA.

Then a Mizo from the troubled hills of Assam spoke. He had written a letter of apology to a political opponent, a top leader in Assam. MRA he said, had brought a new spirit into the negotiations between the hill people and the Centre in Delhi. 'But for MRA,' he said, 'there would be blood flowing in the hills of Assam today.'

Deep Chand was leaning forward on his chair, drinking in every word. When the Mizo and his friends sang a song of their people, the inscrutable face relaxed and the cautious Haryana farmer was applauding and laughing gaily.

One day he spoke to the Assembly. As he made his first point, it was the turn of the other delegates to lean forward on their chairs and listen to him as eagerly as he had listened to the Mizo. He said, 'In the last few years

in business I have given in bribes between 15,000 rupees and 20,000 rupees. As a result of my time here. I have decided that we are not going to give any bribe, no matter whether our work is done in a week or a month or not at all.'

Further, as village Sarpanch, he had made some legal judgements which were weighted in favour of his friends. This he would put right as far as lay in his power.

## Farmers' food plan

He described his visit to a village near Panchgani, where farmers told him of their own MRA-inspired five-year plan for food production, because they wanted to produce as much as they could and help overcome India's food problem. This was in spite of the hilly nature of the ground. 'In Haryana we have more water, better seeds and flat land. At the next meeting of the sixty-four heads of villages in my area, I shall tell them of the farmers here, and we shall see how we too can help our country by producing as much as possible,' said Deep Chand.

What he had seen at the Assembly, he went on, had shown him that a new society can be created. From now on, he would make sure that the Harijans (formerly 'untouchables') of his village are included in this revolution. In the factory, too, he would fight to end all barriers of caste and group, and get everyone pulling together for the sake of the country.

It was a cheerful and determined Deep Chand who set off from Panchgani for Delhi. The decisions of men like him promise a revolution not only for his country but for the world.

In the villages of India live 75 per cent of the 500 million people. From them may come something greater than Americans or Russians will discover by reaching the moon—how men are meant to live together on this or any planet.

## Our family has answered the class war

THERE IS A FALLACY that a husband and wife have to have the same background, character and interests to make a marriage work. How dull life would be if that were true! In our family we have proved it to be a lie.

My father comes from a working-class family in Scotland. He has dedicated his life both to the industry of the world and to Nigeria. He was brought up in a tradition of high standards: even when he was unemployed for two years and felt most like giving up, he cleaned his shoes every day.

My mother comes from a leading family in Northern Ireland who were financially successful through various family businesses.

I respect my parents both for their change and for their stand for what they believe is right.

My sister and I were brought up in the belief that, in this century, age-old hates and prejudices are irrelevant and unneeded. Resentment and division are out of date.

I have only fully appreciated the great gift that our family has for the world in the past few weeks. When a family who represent the upper class, the working-class, Scotland and Ireland unite under God to remake the world, that is the most revolutionary revolution.

Any family who decides to be honest and live unselfishly has something to offer to management and labour, Nigeria and Biafra, North and South Vietnam or anywhere where ancient hates and divisions exist and where bitterness is so costly. Without unity in the family we cannot hope for the world to look to Britain once more for an answer.

Any family who finds the gift of unity under God has a vital role to play at this crucial time in history.

EDITH-ANNE RAMSAY

## U.S. TEACHERS FIGHT FOR CHARACTER

MISS META NICHOLSON, a court reporter from Jackson, Mississippi, came with two others from her state to the Moral Re-Armament Conference, 'New Horizons for Education,' in Caux, Switzerland last July.

Since she returned to America she has been working with Education for Character which recently held a rally in Detroit, Michigan.

Participants described the rally as 'an inspirational challenge to educators from the United States and Canada to work together in pushing for ever-stronger programmes for character building in school classrooms.'

An elementary school teacher attending the rally said that 'education can

produce mental giants, but without sound character, educational goals will miss their mark.'

Education for Character was founded 15 months ago. It provides a means whereby concerned teachers can 'share ideas and programmes for building character in the classrooms and enlist other teachers to join them in developing materials, plays, music and other methods of motivating children to live absolutely straight and unselfishly.'

The film of Peter Howard's pantomime, *Give a Dog a Bone*, and Moral Re-Armament books are among the materials recommended by Education for Character.

## 'Have a go' girls support pantomime

ARE YOU WONDERING how to raise money? Being interested in children and the Westminster Theatre we decided to raise £100 to bring 'children in care' to the annual pantomime, *Give a Dog a Bone*. How? One idea was a coffee morning.

We had never before raised money or held a coffee morning but we decided to 'have a go'. We invited neighbours and friends into our small cottage of three up and two down.

Busily we stencilled invitations and delivered them personally wherever possible. We stood over steaming pans of bramble and apple jelly and watched pounds of sugar bubble its way into toffee. Our friends generously cooked and baked for us and the great day arrived.

### Festivities

Gradually people appeared and after being refreshed by coffee they began to buy. In the middle of our festivities a chauffeur presented us with a contribution from a neighbour whom we had never met. Our local shopkeeper supported us in a similar way and by the end only a few sweets and pots of jam remained.

As well as thoroughly enjoying ourselves we had made new friends, rais-

ed enough money to bring 24 children to the pantomime and gained enthusiasm to take on a bigger enterprise next time. JOYCE BOWL and SUSAN BETTS

## Challenge given to Oxford freshmen

FORMER RUGBY international Brian Boobbyer told 75 Oxford freshmen that the power of God in a man's life was the answer to student power, black power, white power and the human lust for power.

'A man who chooses to be guided by God's power can cure what is wrong, instead of exploiting it or ignoring it.' That idea was 'more revolutionary than violence,' he said.

He quoted Peter Howard, who often had said, 'The prayer, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" is more revolutionary than anything Karl Marx ever thought of: if it is lived, and not just a pious drone.' That sort of life had interested him as a sportsman, Boobbyer said, because it was 'tough-going, down to earth, and had a goal'.

Boobbyer, former Oxford cricket and Rugby blue, had been invited by the Chaplain to speak to the freshmen of Hertford College when they were welcomed by the Dean of the College.