

MRA

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Archbishop gives support for 'India Arise'

"I HOPE that you will find in Paris a real response to your call," said the Archbishop of Paris, Mgr. Veuillot, to Rajmohan Gandhi and the force of *India Arise* whom he was receiving in his residence last week. He added, 'Your coming is for me a testimony of faith, hope and life, which I accept and I am greatly moved. I would like this meeting to be a sign of brotherly friendship because we have one thing in common—it is the same ideal.'

The visit of Gandhi and his compatriots in France had been arranged by an invitation committee headed by Maurice Schumann, recently appointed as Minister of State in the new Government. Among other members of the committee are Andre François-

The Archbishop of Paris meets 'India Arise' force

photo: Channer

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GANDHI CALLS FOR A RE-CHRISTIANIZED EUROPE 'it would revolutionize the world'

RAJMOHAN GANDHI last week in Paris appealed for a re-Christianized Europe. A de-Christianized Europe would be a source of grave misgivings, he said, in an interview in the Catholic daily *La Croix* on 8 April.

The interviewer, François Bernard, wrote: 'The Mahatma knew how to galvanize his country morally, to take stock of its own essential values and find again its independence. Rajmohan Gandhi would like to bring about the same sharp awakening so that his compatriots tread again the same road, not to drive away the British, but to drive away poverty, corruption and hatred by dealing with them at their root in man's heart. To do this, he has embraced Moral Re-Armament.'

Gandhi was quoted in *La Croix* as

saying, 'I think that Moral Re-Armament is an instrument created by God. It is an open door, a gateway not a goal. Through it many Christians have been brought back to Christianity. Many atheists have found a faith in God. Many Hindus, Moslems and Buddhists have discovered faith in a personal God. The movement has helped many people to understand that God is not a mysterious being, but a loving father. Many have been healed of their fears and their appetites and God alone can heal in this way.'

Describing the impressions Europe had made on himself and his friends, Gandhi said, 'Many of us, where Europe was concerned, thought only of your technical ability and had no idea of the tradition of service and

care for others that Christianity has given your countries. We consider it to be an inestimable privilege to have been received by the Holy Father. We have been very moved by his compassion for the poor of the whole world. But we are concerned by the threat of a de-Christianized Europe. A re-Christianized Europe would revolutionize the world in the right way. A de-Christianized Europe with its technical power would, on the contrary, be a source of grave misgivings.'

The interview concluded with Gandhi's reply to a question about the Mahatma, 'He lived his life. He had qualities of soul and a discipline of work I would like to have. But my task is not to follow a man, even my grandfather. We must follow God.'

WELCOME BY SENATE VICE-PRESIDENT

THE VICE-PRESIDENT of the Senate, Madame Marie-Helene Cardot, welcomed the force of *India Arise* at the Palais de Luxembourg at the beginning of its seven-day visit to France. Madame Cardot assured the cast of her support for their work and said, 'You can count on us here in the French Senate. I hope your visit will be effective.'

The Head of the French Senate Mission to India said, 'We are happy to welcome the people of Moral Re-Armament, whose initiatives have often helped countries.'

En route from Holland the *India Arise* force made a ten-hour stopover in Brussels where Rajmohan Gandhi met the Foreign Minister of Belgium, Pierre Harmel.

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Poncet of the French Academy and General Paul Ely, former Chief of Staff of National Defence.

'We have in our country,' continued the Archbishop, 'a tradition of moral and religious values which are true. But we have other trends which are dangerous to the future of our nation. This is why I feel united with you when I see you committed to your task in service to your nations, and to India in particular. India today needs young men and women like you who have the courage to stand up and to be at the service of your brothers. I congratulate you that you put in the forefront of your nation this commitment to honesty and faithfulness and loyalty to your brothers.'

'As Archbishop of Paris, and in the name of the Christian people of Paris, I say that we are in need of what you can do for us. Therefore I wish you a good reception in this city and that your ideal of moral straightening will be heard and listened to. All I can do to make sure you are understood I shall do.'



photo: Channer

General de Boissieu, Commander of St Cyr Coetquidan (French Military Academy), talks with Rajmohan Gandhi. The Academy received the 'India Arise' force this week. The musical, 'India Arise' was presented in Nantes, leading city of western France

HUNTE MEETS THE JAMAICA GOVERNOR

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL of Jamaica, Sir Clifford Campbell, received Conrad Hunte, Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket XI and other representatives of Moral Re-Armament in King's House, Kingston, last week. Sir Clifford told them, 'You are pioneering the spiritual revolution which the whole world needs, and your work is growing throughout the world. It is the force which is bound to win, and I am glad to hear how Jamaica is rising to take part in it.'

He was referring to the Training Assembly held in Kingston earlier. Two hundred young Jamaicans, with others from Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Haiti and Barbados, took part in it.

This week Hunte arrived in London with the *India Arise* force. He joined them on the Continent from the West Indies.

VOLKSWAGEN HALT PRODUCTION

VOLKSWAGEN PRODUCTION in Brazil stopped last week so that day and night shifts could see an open air performance of *Sing-Out Deutschland* in Sao Paulo. Volkswagen do Brasil with 12,000 workers is the country's largest private industry. The President Mr Schultz-Wenk and all his directors were present. He described the performance as 'fantastic, magnificent.'

The Minister of Education's rep-

resentative thanked the young German cast for coming to Brazil with the spirit of Moral Re-Armament.

Dockers of Rio roasted a bull for a traditional 'churasco' dinner at the dockers' housing estate, Villa Portuaria, where an open-air Sing-Out was given. The Harbour Superintendent was present with the dockers.

After a performance at the Catholic University the Dean said: 'At this time when the Pope is striving to give aid and justice to the poor populations of the world, these young Germans show us what it means to care for others.'

Sing-Out Deutschland's cast were official guests at a football match between Rio's two most famous clubs in the Maracana Stadium, world's largest. An estimated million people saw them being welcomed on TV.

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Beyond tanks and tear gas

— A look at the Middle East

A NEW APPROACH to the Middle East that would be 'intelligent, effective and save millions of pounds' was suggested by William Conner, an expert on Arab affairs, to a meeting for Moral Re-Armament at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre. Conner has been, in the past eighteen months, the guest of leaders in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Jordan and Libya. He said it meant dealing first with the fears that were rife in the region. These were:

1. Arab fears of foreign occupation and exploitation, which they had experienced for centuries.

2. World Jewry's fears of Arab aggression.

3. European fears that oil supplies might fall into hostile hands. These fears have produced a total breakdown of confidence in the Middle East, as well as the morass in which Britain is floundering at the moment in Aden.

'The press has been full of the tragic picture of Britain bewildered, buffeted and blamed as she extricates herself once more from an outpost of a great past. She is carrying the can, many feel, for world security in



William Conner

photo: Strong

this area and getting nothing but kicks for it.

'In the Middle East', said Conner, 'we are more expert at dealing with matters economic, military and political than at dealing with questions that are basically ideological. We still persist in ignoring this fact of modern life which has been plain for some time. We are trying to deal with mili-

tant ideas with tanks and teargas alone.

'We are better at coming to a situation with a cool head than with an open heart, which is equally necessary in understanding such an area of passionate feelings.'

'Could it be,' Conner asked, 'that by moving out of Aden and into Bahrein we are only delaying the development of a similar situation in a year or two's time?'

'Suppose we began to make our long-term policy the answering of the fears and bitterness of the past, the class war and the human needs that are colossal in that whole area? This would be intelligent, effective and would save us millions of pounds.'

Thirty-one years ago Dr Buchman, founder of Moral Re-Armament, had said, 'The God-controlled nation will add to her armament an army of life-changers and to her national defence the respect and gratitude of all her neighbours.' That was as true today as when he said it. To think of conserving such things as oil interests by any other means was entirely out-of-date today, said Conner.

'Britain has very long-standing links with the Arab world. If the moral re-armament of the world began to be a factor in Britain's policy, we would be amazed at the speed of the response from the Arab world. This is the direction in which a world role awaits Britain, greater than anything we have known in the past.'

'ACTORS' CHURCH' address on HAPPY DEATHDAY

In an address at a lunch-hour service last month at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, known as 'The Actors' Church', Prebendary Clarence May took as his theme Peter Howard's play, 'Happy Deathday'.

The play will re-open on 27 April at the Westminster Theatre after the damage caused by fire has been repaired.

He said that the play portrayed the conflict between parent and child, and the conflict between science and religion, but pointed to a 'future where science and religion will find a mutual companionship and share it together.'

'This very important play,' he said, 'does not offer ready-made conclusions, but brings you right up against the things that are happening in life, so that you reach your own conclusions. It leaves us at the end with God's own message to us in the words of the 103rd Psalm.'

Concluding with a prayer for the continuation of the services rendered by the Westminster Theatre, Prebendary May said, 'Thank God for this theatre that uses the art of the stage to bring home to people the realities of religion and life.'

* * *

The management of the Westminster Theatre this week announced a special offer for churches of two seats for the price of one until 31 May. This offer is for parties of ten or more on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, and on Wednesday and Saturday matinees. Applications for tickets may be made to Michael Hutchinson, Westminster Theatre, Palace Street, SW1.

Change, Christianity and Crockford's

Crockford's Clerical Directory caused a minor sensation last week by stating that 'the leaders of the Church of England today stand well to the left of centre on most of the great social issues of the time.'

This does not mean, *Crockford's* hastened to add, that most bishops are Labour Party supporters, but only that they support the 'Progressives' on questions like the revision of the law on homosexuality and the abolition of capital punishment.

The *Sunday Telegraph* finds nothing surprising in this situation. 'The established Church,' it writes, 'has always favoured the Establishment. Now that the pervading social forces are Left rather than Right it is natural that bishops should appear as radicals favouring racial equality, sexual emancipation, pacifism and penal reform. . . . The explanation is not that the bishops are placemen, but rather that they have an ingrained professional tendency to look with favour on the powers-that-be and to come to terms with prevailing social forces.'

The trouble about this, in the *Telegraph's* view, is that no one is left to point out 'the moral failings of our rulers or the inadequacies of current intellectual fashion.' 'Ideally,' it states, 'the mind of the Christian moralist should be concentrated on what is permanent. In so far as it has a bias it should be against the characteristic vices of his contemporaries rather than

the outmoded faults of past generations. This means today that he should be alert to point out the moral dangers of egalitarianism and unreflecting permissiveness in matters of private morality.'

It is hard to envisage St Paul or St Francis, Ignatius of Loyola or our own John Wesley 'coming to terms with the prevailing social forces.' Still less would they allow a preoccupation with social reform, however necessary, to dampen their enthusiasm for the reform of men, which is the Church's primary task and, for the Christian, the basis of all other reform. And this is what *Crockford's* rightly or wrongly, fears to be taking place. 'It must be recognised,' it says, 'that many of the clergy are not intellectually and morally strong enough to retain their sense of mission in a world of flux.'

The danger is not that Church leaders should take a particular side on a particular reform, for honest Christians can be found on both sides of most issues. The danger is that an enthusiast for 'sexual emancipation' may lose the certainty that God can 'make and keep man pure within' or that a fighter for racial legislation can forget the truth that Jesus Christ can free every man, whether white or black, from hate. The betrayal is when Christians are so determined to secularize Christianity that they have little time or desire to Christianize society.

The Church, in a word, is not meant to be just the Conservatives at prayer, or the Progressives at protest. First and foremost, it is men of very class and condition who are on fire to see Christ regnant in every human heart.

Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma, in an interview with the French Catholic daily, *La Croix* spoke for many Asians when he said, 'We are concerned by the threat of a de-Christianized Europe. A re-Christianized Europe would revolutionize the world in the right way.' (fuller text, see page one).

Asked about his own work, he said: 'Moral Re-Armament is, I think, an instrument created by God. It is an open door. A gateway, not a gaol. Through it many Christians have been brought back to Christianity. Many atheists have found a faith in God. Many Hindus, Moslems and Buddhists have discovered faith in a personal God. It has helped many people understand that God is not a mysterious being, but a loving father. Many have been healed of their fears and their appetites, and God alone can heal in this way.'

The Archbishop of Paris told Gandhi and his fifty young Indians, 'We are in need of what you can do for us.' Will the leaders of our English churches be equally open-hearted?

GARTH LEAN

Broken Hill negotiations — MRA challenge welcomed

CRITICAL NEGOTIATIONS have been taking place at Broken Hill in Australia that will affect the miners' pay and working conditions for the next three years.

The negotiations are going on between the Barrier Industrial Council representing the workers, and the Mining Managers' Association.

Secretary of the Barrier Industrial Council is J Fitzpatrick. In welcoming the cast of the MRA musical *It's Our Job, Australia*, he said it was significant that Moral Re-Armament had been invited to Broken Hill at the time of the negotiations.

Broken Hill, in a desert region, has some of the world's richest lead, zinc and silver mines.

'There will be much benefit to the trade union movement as well as other citizens,' he said. People in Broken Hill, trained in MRA, had already aided the city by bringing world leaders in Labour and trade unions there. This had enabled Australian union men to know what was happening in the trade union movement in other parts of the world.

E T McReynolds, Secretary of the Men's Branch of the Australian

Labour Party, which had unanimously voted for *It's Our Job, Australia* to come to the mining city, said Broken Hill was 'the sounding board for the nation.' He added, 'Broken Hill accepts willingly any challenge thrown down. Moral Re-Armament will give Broken Hill a challenge which will be taken up to the advantage of all concerned.'

James Coulter, spokesman for the cast, said Broken Hill had put Australia on the map industrially and had always had an international outlook. Why should not it lead Australia to set the pace for the world?