

## Women must care for the World

Theme for day's conference in London

Special report by Mary Meekings

EVERY MORNING when you pick up the newspaper, the headlines hit you with fresh shocks. News of war and violence, deadlocks and demonstrations, famine and fear, get drummed into you day by day. Confronted by pictures of starving children, you ask: 'What can an ordinary person do to answer the headlines?'

This was the question that brought 450 women from all over the British Isles for a one day conference at the Westminster Theatre on 1 August. They went away not only with a clue as to the real disease behind these symptoms of breakdown, but also with hopeful evidence of action being taken to bring a cure.

Women from France, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland flew in to join parties from Belfast and Bristol, Hull and Sheffield, North Wales and the Clyde, as well as from London and the South Coast.

'Women care about people,' said Mrs K D Belden, wife of the Chairman of the Trustees of the Westminster Theatre, who took the chair at the morning conference. 'The world is people—3,353,000,000 of them. There is a lot of talk about race war,

class war and generation war, and yet none of these things is inevitable—a kind of irresistible phenomenon that cannot be dealt with. It all goes back to people—people about whom we have to care, and care passionately.'

Madame Irène Laure, a former Member of the French Parliament and former general secretary of the French Socialist Women, urged the women present to make the task of remaking the world their responsibility—and speaking to 'the busy committee women', to make it their priority.

'That was what I had to decide 21 years ago,' said Madame Laure, who had been a leader of the French Resistance. 'The problem I was facing was France and Germany. It is impossible to cure the hate and violence in the world if you have not answered first the hate in your own heart. I had to solve my hatred against the German people.

'But I saw that bitterness and hate, however justified, always destroys, and I went to Germany with my husband and asked the people's forgiveness.

'Nobody told me what I had to do. It is the inner voice which speaks in your heart, and faces you with your responsibility, and then you decide yourself what you are going to do for the world.'

William Jaeger, who is an authority on industrial and trade union affairs, said there was a growing sense among men in positions of leadership that economic and technological



photo Strong

Madame Irène Laure of France

change was not enough today. It was becoming plain that no new system really succeeded unless people lived out what they talked about.

The Canadian doctor and author, Paul Campbell, commenting on the recent developments in Czechoslovakia, said that to offer the Czechs 'the nihilism, the industrial strife, the colour war, the broken home life' of the West would not be any gain to the Czechs.

'Is not our response to the crisis in Czechoslovakia, in Vietnam, in Biafra, in Nigeria, in China, to engage our brains and hearts to build a civilisation where we make our decisions on the basis of what is right, not on who shouts the loudest or makes the biggest bang, a civilisation where we work to meet the needs of all men for food and education, clothes and homes, purpose and faith?'

Dr Campbell gave as the key for practical action for the 450 women present, the discipline of listening to



Mrs Kistasamy (left) with Mrs Yvonne Marie Blenkinsop, delegate to the House of Commons for the safety of the trawling industry

photo Legget

continued on page 2



God for personal and national direction, which he described as 'the highest function of the human brain'. 'There is adequate, clear, immediate, direct information for you, wherever you live, whoever you are, whatever your circumstances,' he told them.

A group of men and women of different races who were taking initiatives to create an effective multi-racial society, were introduced by Conrad Hunte, former Vice Captain of the West Indies Cricket Team. 'The many races who live in these islands with their different colours, customs and creeds, are not an obstacle but an opportunity to kindle this country to her greatest role yet,' said Hunte.

'It is said that women usually get what they want,' he went on, 'and if they really want a new society that is colour blind and character conscious, we shall get it.'

Miss Madge Saunders, from Jamaica, whose special work is among the West Indian immigrants in Sheffield, said there was a conflict between today's youth and the disciplines their parents brought from Jamaica.

She called for women 'with the courage to build sound home life; women with healthy understanding who will give a purposeful challenge to our young people.'

Speaking with her was Mrs Ashraf Ali, the President of the Moslem Women's Association. She quoted a verse from the Koran which says, 'God will not change the condition of his people until they change themselves,' and said this was the goal of her Association.

Mrs S Kistasamy, the wife of an Indian from South Africa now teaching in London, spoke with her neighbour, the wife of a senior local government officer, who first brought her to the Westminster Theatre.

'I am a busy housewife with five children,' said Mrs Kistasamy. 'But a large family is not an obstacle to any large scale enterprise. I use my home to show the films of Moral Re-Armament, and raise funds, and people of many nationalities come together.'

'I have learnt to do the jobs in the home, such as painting the kitchen and fixing the plumbing, instead of nagging my husband to do these things for me. Since meeting Moral Re-Armament I am no longer a selfish spoilt young woman, but I am ready to stand beside my husband whenever he needs me.'



Mrs Taleyarkhan from Bombay



Miss Madge Saunders from Jamaica

Mrs Ashraf Ali, President of the Moslem Women's Association *photos Leggat*



A speaker from Kenya was Miss Eva Ricketts, head of the Department of Home Economics, University College, Nairobi. 'I passionately believe that every last man, woman and child can be adequately fed, housed and clothed,' she told the conference.

Her department trains women from all over East Africa, many of whom are now in key posts dealing with nutrition and home-making. Miss Ricketts said that when she was faced with the task of teaching nutrition, she found that the only text books available were written for Western food patterns, so she wrote one herself.

'If every woman cared enough,' she said, 'I believe the problems of world nutrition could be solved, and homes become the growing points of nations, healthy in mind and body.'

India was represented by Mrs Taleyarkhan from Bombay. 'My country needs food for the millions of empty stomachs,' she said. 'But equally we need food for the empty hearts and minds.' She told how Moral Re-Armament is spreading fast in India under the leadership of Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of the Mahatma, and described it as a uniting force, in a country where there are so many religions, communities and languages.

'Britain has played a profound part in the development of every corner of the world,' she said, 'and in years to come she will play an even greater part. I believe the women of Britain are the most courageous women in the world. They have never failed to pick up a challenge, and today the challenge is to live and give Moral Re-Armament to the world. We need you. Please do not fail us.'

A Hertfordshire housewife, Mrs G Warrington of Hatfield, said she and her husband had brought 500 people to the Westminster Theatre in the last year. She and her husband wanted every family they know to have the chance of finding the new family life they themselves had found through the Westminster Theatre stage productions.

Mrs Warrington is one of 196 women who have decided to raise £100 each to support these productions. Mrs Nigel Morshead, the wife of the Treasurer of the Theatre, explained that this scheme (Enterprise 100) makes it possible for students from all over the world to see the plays at the Westminster at the 5s student rate. Enterprise 100's target is 1,000 ladies each raising £100.

# Key to national efficiency offered



MISS ETHEL ROBERTS, who is responsible for the training of Civil Service supervisory and secretarial staff, called for a new emphasis on people's needs and potential. This was a key to increased national efficiency.

She was speaking at a conference this week in the Westminster Theatre, London. We publish extracts of her speech:

'Is your place of work the place where you earn your living? Or is it the place where you give to the needs of humanity?

'Does efficiency mean making people more like machines with the automatic production of a conveyor belt? Or is it to teach people to learn how to live fully in their lives, not just to end work at half past five or six, but right through their working lives?

## Where the loss lies

'I believe that the greatest loss of productivity is in man himself. There are three main factors which cause loss of productivity and which prevent people from being efficient.

'Obviously there is a lack of skill in technical things. Secondly, a man's idea of his function is too small, whether in management or as a worker. Every man should see his

job in the perspective of the nation and the world. If management saw their job in the perspective of the needs of humanity they would find decisions a lot easier to make.

'Thirdly I have noticed, in interviewing people when I was a Personnel Officer, that people are often only half as efficient as they could be, and they go through life only half as creative as they could be.

'They hang on to something like bitterness, hatred and resentment or they feel they know the answers. They have closed minds.

'Management and labour have a joint responsibility to create the conditions where men and women can develop fully their God-given capacity. Man is born to be creative. Of course, we need good wages for everybody but for satisfied living man needs to feel he is being creative, and that he is needed.

'Perhaps we put productivity in the wrong priority. Perhaps we need to think about the development of man.'

## THE NOBLE ART OF PARTICIPATION

THERE IS a lot of talk about participation, which as someone said is, 'a great idea if they all does it.'

Take the MRA Information Service. It is not just compiled by gnomes at Hays Mews in London but is the experience and conviction of the men and women of Moral Re-Armament in this and other countries.

The editors feel sure that much must be going on that never reaches these pages. Fascinating stories were told at the Women's Day meeting last week, of the initiative of ordinary housewives answering problems which are baffling governments. But why wait for a meeting to tell us about it? Why not write in and tell us what you are doing, for a wider audience?

Talking of wider audiences, there are still people who have not read the Information Service and may not have been aware of its existence. Your participation can be not only in sending in the news, but in getting it out.

The edition this week, for instance, will be of interest to all the women

who came to the Westminster Theatre on 1 August—and those who didn't. Having read it they will naturally want to take out a subscription (50s).

It is easy to be daunted by the fact that one hasn't got any envelopes of the right size (6" x 9") to put the Information Service in and send to one's friends. All you have to do is to look into the stationers or grocer on your way to the office and buy half-a-dozen.

This will enable you to send out six

of this week's edition, two for the following three weeks, or three for the following two weeks. After that your friends should be falling over themselves to buy their own copies, take out subscriptions for themselves.

While there are many people in this world of sin whose motto is, 'Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow', we feel sure they are not to be found in the ranks of our subscribers, so we look forward to hearing from you. THE EDITORS

## DOCKERS MEET IMMIGRANT LEADERS

CONRAD HUNTE, former Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket IX and Martin Murray, Vice President of the West Indian National Association, conferred last weekend with dock-workers from Liverpool and immigrant leaders from the Northwest on how to make Britain a model of a multi-racial society. They met at Tirley Garth, the Moral Re-Armament centre near Tarporley, Cheshire.

Those present included former Bolton Councillor, Campbell Benjamin, who is a leader of Bolton's West Indian Community and R P Chauhan, President of the Indian Association of Ashton-under-Lyne. Hunt said at one session 'The problem is not colour but the selfishness in everybody. If we can change this, Britain can become a pattern of how different races can live together.'



# Hatred can be overcome says Ethiopian

'IF A WHITE MAN goes from Caux re-armed with the standards of Moral Re-Armament, Africans will receive him with flowers and not with spears,' said Mohamed Ahmed Idris, an Ethiopian headmaster, addressing a session of the World Assembly at Caux in Switzerland.

'I used to hate certain people', he said, 'particularly the Americans. I see now it is not necessary to hate. It is only answering wrong by wrong and it will not help.'

More than 60 Americans present heard the Ethiopian headmaster. Miss Meta Nicholson from Jackson, Mis-

issippi, came to the platform. Miss Nicholson, co-founder of the organisation 'Education for character', apologized for the part she had played in creating differences between the races. She said she would dedicate her life to rebuilding society.

## American speaks

Miss Randy Thomson, American first class honours graduate in Anthropology from Vassar College, who gave up a \$3000 post-graduate fellowship to work with MRA said: 'I was full of ideas of how people in Africa and Asia needed to change in order

to meet their economic and political needs. In the light of the absolute moral standards of MRA I saw where I was wrong and how my own self-righteousness and that of my country lay behind much of the hatred around in the world.'

Nine months working with MRA in India had shown her that those who compromised on alcohol and sex had nothing to offer people in developing countries. 'The question of liquor,' she said, 'determines for many Indians whether there is enough for the children to eat. Freeing men from responsible use of sex, making it largely a source of personal pleasure is the last thing India and the world needs. MRA challenged me to demonstrate by the way I lived that it is possible to live purity and to create relationships whose glue is a united commitment to take on the world.'

## In my view

### HUMAN RIGHTS

THE CHURCH today is making the news. The Pope has made his long awaited statement. Churchmen all over the world are up in arms on one side or the other of the family planning fence. Many predictions, suppositions, hopes and fears are being expressed, at least as adamantly by the rest of Christendom as by Catholics.

In fact the argument is so heated that we are in danger of not seeing the wood for the trees and missing the point altogether.

When people stop thinking out beyond themselves to what they can do for other people and the world they don't think of nothing. They think about themselves and how they can get the most out of life with the least inconvenient consequences. This I know from personal experience.

I am a girl of 20 and I don't know what the future holds. But I do know that for the rest of my life I am going to play my part in bringing an answer to the basic problems of hate, fear, greed and lust which cripple this and every country.

It is a task which takes all my

time, energy and thought and as I decide to go all out it gives me the satisfaction I need. I think one reason that people get so worked up about one aspect of life is that they don't know what to do with the rest of it. Yet deep down they are searching for something worthwhile to live for.

The men of every demonination of every church have a tremendous chance to fill the gap in people's hearts if only they would take it.

## No wrangling

Instead of wrangling over the rights and wrongs of birth control now is the chance to give a clarion call for true human rights—the right of every human being to listen to God and obey him, the right to live by absolute moral standards which are not trimmed to suit personal convenience, the right of each one of us to live ourselves as we would wish the rest of the world to live, the right to put right the mistakes we make and turn our enemies into our friends.

To the clerics of every land I would like to say, 'Now is your chance. Take it. Speak out.' If they did the issue of birth control would fall into its proper place and we would need every single person on this earth to rebuild it to God's design.

MARGARET WILSON

## FILM FESTIVAL OPENED IN COLOMBO

THE PRESIDENT of the Ceylon Senate, Hon A Ratnayake, in a warning last week that Ceylon faced a threat of self-annihilation through her divisions, appealed to people to listen to the message of Moral Re-Armament.

Introducing a showing of *The Crowning Experience* at the opening at the MRA Film Festival in Colombo, he said that MRA 'stands for change from the existing order'.

Ceylon was divided into political groups, languages, races and castes fighting each other, 'so that we face the threat of self-annihilation'. The world was divided also between the democratic and communist and socialist nations, who were each out to capture world power.

'If you change your environment, you change your nation and the world,' he said. 'MRA appeals to you to change yourself, your heart and your family. It is the great message of Jesus, the Lord Buddha and the Prophet Mohammed.'