



ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

EGYPTIAN AUTHOR ON ROLE OF WRITERS

END CLASS WAR IN CLASS ROOMS

THE UNEXPECTED FROM SOUTH AFRICA

MRA INFORMATION SERVICE

VOL. 12 NO. 311

FOUR HAYS MEWS, BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON W.1

SATURDAY, 18 JANUARY, 1964

'THE DIPLOMATS' IN LONDON

THERE is deadlock at an international conference,' wrote the *Daily Express* on 1 January.

'Sir Malcolm Wisdom, the "grand old man of peace", contrives to bring the clashing diplomats under his roof.

'But they re-open their quarrels, and Sir Malcolm is sadly hindered by a great row between his daughter and her fiancé, his secretary.'

The *Daily Express* was reviewing Peter Howard's play *The Diplomats* at the Westminster Theatre. 'Its target is dishonesty and humbug in public and private life,' the paper said.

'This high-spirited but tough play,' the paper added, 'was well served by a cast including Bryan Coleman, as the pompous knight, John McLaren, Peter Illing, Phyllis Konstam, and Brian Hawksley—whose French diplomat was as smooth as the silk of his dressing gown.'

The London *Evening News* said that the play 'begins with an hilarious first act. Later the mood hardens to the moral that peace and diplomatic honesty begin at home, in the individual.' *The Diplomats*, it said, is 'acted heart-warmingly well'.

The *Evening Standard* remarked that *The Diplomats* 'gives us a rich slice of low-down on diplomats'.

'Mr. Howard caricatures with skill three guest ambassadors and their host, Sir Malcolm Wisdom, in his country home. Sir Malcolm looks absurdly like "Supermac".'

'A very funny play' said *The Scotsman*.

Stage and Television Today wrote: 'So evenly balanced was the acting that it would be difficult to say who takes the honours, but if anything these go to Bryan Coleman as Sir Malcolm Wisdom.'

Weekly press comment includes the following:

The Westminster and Pimlico News: 'Subtle and satisfying, *The Diplomats* is an exceedingly well written play . . . it scores because of the lighthanded touch of the author and some good teamwork by the experienced cast. . . . It is an enjoyable evening's entertainment.'

East London Advertiser: 'Those theatre-goers who like to see a play which provides food for thought and raises a laugh at the same time, should go along and see *The Diplomats* at the Westminster Theatre.'

India's millions want 'restitution not resolutions'

WITH Mr. Nehru seriously ill, the Home Minister, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda, has been carrying on part of the Prime Minister of India's daily work.

Three weeks ago Mr. Nanda called together heads of civic and voluntary organizations in New Delhi. He asked them to meet with the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru's leader in India's independence struggle, to deal with corruption.

Rajmohan Gandhi has been making practical the preaching of his grandfather. He told these civic leaders, as he told thousands on his recent 'March across the Nation', that restitution for wrongs done, not resolutions, is what India's millions want to see, and will follow.

'It is as futile to expect committees to deal with nation-wide corruption as it would have been to expect

a committee for national independence to liberate our country 30 years ago,' he said.

He reported practical examples of ending corruption—a hundred people who had returned money to Delhi Transport for ticketless travel; businessmen who had given back money they had embezzled; stolen cash sent back to cottage industries; large numbers of Delhi students who had been honest with professors and principals about cheating in exams.

Gandhi proposed that prominent Indians follow the example of these Delhi youth. He suggested that before 15 February:

- a hundred businessmen in Delhi get honest with the tax authorities about their tax evasions;
- a hundred politicians, preferably legislators or

higher, become honest about false election expense returns;

—a hundred government servants get honest about bribes taken;

—that the youth who had decided to end corruption be asked to broadcast over All-India Radio.

Gandhi already has three task forces thrusting forward his 'Revolution of National Character':

1. The musical *Space Is So Startling* has gone West to Bombay, after a run in the capital;

2. Japanese students have taken their ideological drama, *Across the Rubicon*, East through India's industrial belt to Calcutta;

3. In New Delhi, Indian students have put on a play of their own dealing with corruption. (See *News in Brief*.)

St. George or the Dragon

THE 'new morality'—the idea of adapting moral standards, especially on sex conduct, to suit each individual—has been attacked by Scots and Irish church leaders.

The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of Ireland, in a pastoral letter which they directed to be read last month in every church, wrote: 'Within the last year statements have been made by public men and books have been written in the interests of the so-called "new morality" which are in direct opposition to the authority of the Holy Scripture and the teaching of the Church concerning chastity.'

'A generation full of possibilities for great and noble living has been seriously assailed by influences fundamentally destructive in their effect on character and conduct. . . . We call on all our people, clergy and laity, old and young, and all who share our concern, to reverse this trend towards moral decay by a new dedication to Christian standards.'

A statement by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Professor James Stewart, was quoted at a London conference by the Reverend John Morrison of Edinburgh. Professor Stewart had said, referring to the 'new moralists,' that those who blurred the 'divine and everlasting difference between right and wrong' were spreading a 'tawdry fallacy'.

Mr. Morrison said, 'I agree with Professor T. F.

Torrance, Professor of Dogmatics in New College, Edinburgh University, who stated that the Bishop of Woolwich's books contained "no Gospel, from beginning to end, not a word on forgiveness and human need, and rubbed out the offence of the Cross".'

Dr. Leslie Newman, Minister of the Dome, Brighton, called for an attack on today's 'dragons' destroying society, notably the so-called 'new morality'.

'We need an army of modern St. Georges, morally aflame to go out into every part of the nation's life.'

Dr. Newman, who is Methodist Chaplain to the University of Sussex, was addressing the European Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in London.

'Nothing is so uncharitable as unchastity,' he continued. 'I've seen it smash up home after home. Free love brings no love. A man who is easy about sex before marriage will not be a loyal partner in marriage. It makes a man not his brother's keeper but his brother's exploiter.'

The Reverend Hallen Viney of Portsmouth said, 'Once Christians were pace-setters for social reform. Hospitals, schools, trade unions grew out of Christian conviction. But today keeping the organization going has become the deadly preoccupation of many churchmen.'

'A non-fighting church is a non-Christian church. The church must become again the vanguard of social reform.'

'War and Peace in a Garden'

L'UNITÀ, the national Communist daily of Italy, put the above headline on its announcement of the Rome première of *Attraverso il muro del giardino*, the Italian version of *Through the Garden Wall*.

L'Unità said that its author, Peter Howard, was 'conscious of the need for a revolution that renews everything, though from a Christian perspective, and he is conscious of the need to suppress the divisions that split humanity into blocs and keep the world on the edge of atomic catastrophe. Howard does not want to abolish the ideological conflict. He wants a discussion, a dialogue. "Bridges are better than blocs." This moral and social commitment is mirrored in *Attraverso il muro del giardino*.' The play, said L'Unità, 'is a genuine success'.

Catholic and Socialist papers joined Communist in

lively comment. 'The theme is good and so is the aim,' wrote the organ of the Christian Democratic Party, *Il Popolo*. The Nenni-Socialist *Avanti* singled out the character of the doctor in the play, 'behind whom,' the paper said, 'it is not difficult to recognize the figure of Pope John XXIII.'

Quotidiano, Catholic daily of Rome, commented that the play 'is permeated with a profound knowledge of human nature and experience of world events.'

The première was filmed by Italian Television and recorded by the National Radio. A flood-lit fifteen-foot wall erected outside the Teatro delle Arti announced the play to the public.

Through the Garden Wall will tour Italy, with the support of the Italian Government.

Egyptian author on role of writers

MADAME SANIA KURRA'A, whose writing is known throughout the Middle East, addressed the Moral Re-Armament Assembly in London on the role of writers.

Freedom, she said, could not be sustained by written laws alone. 'They have always to be supplemented by a moral code.' It was the duty of the writer to awaken this moral sense in the individual, 'which is actually the one and only pre-requisite for the development of the human race.'

Mme. Kurra'a is author of sixteen books, editor of the literary weekly *Alwan Guidida* which circulates through the Arab world, and a director of the International Press Bureau, Cairo. She has also written scripts for films, one of which, after a long and successful run, is still showing in Cairo and other Middle East cities.

'The most important means for conveying this moral sense could be mass media in all their forms from journalism to drama and poetry,' she said. 'But instead

of doing this the general trend is in exactly the reverse direction, towards the scandalous and the obscene. Many writers underrate the level of the masses.'

In her writing she always bore her own daughter in mind, Mme. Kurra'a said. 'I am as much responsible to every potential reader as I am in regard to my own daughter.'

'To plant the lily and eradicate the weed are both necessary functions of the gardener. To plant love and eradicate hate are both necessary functions of the writer. This will lead to the revolution the world needs—a revolution of conscience which will run through every branch of art.'

'It is this revolution that I see at work through Moral Re-Armament, and especially through the plays and films associated with the Westminster Theatre.'

Mme. Kurra'a is at present writing four plays for broadcast by the BBC's Arabic service during the holy month of Ramadhan.

End class war in class rooms

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT' of 10 January, reported under the headline 'Moral Stiffening':

'Miss Constance Smith, headmistress of Penrhos College, North Wales, addressing the European Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in the Westminster Theatre last week, challenged parents not to underestimate their power. The words honour and patriotism need not be jingoist, she said.'

'Fully integrated people were needed to run our society, conscious of Britain's role in the world and her duty to under-developed countries. The education of children must extend to their hearts and emotions as well as to their heads, and the best training for the emotions was to forget your own.'

'Miss Smith went on to welcome the Newsom Report, and in particular the Certificate of Secondary Education;

this would lessen the psychological division between the clever and non-clever child, and would terminate a situation which was becoming "like a class war".'

'The other speakers agreed that character training must not be a haphazard by-product of our education any longer. It was essential in the face of "television and certain men in high places who make our job doubly difficult". Teachers must demand a renaissance of culture and the arts, and rouse public demand for the best.'

'Religious knowledge must be taught and examined properly throughout all schools, so that children should have honesty and sense of purpose with which to fight the current moral anarchy. The balance of moral forces must be altered to effect a world where statesmen and the ordinary man are ruled by conscience and not by self-interest.'

Call for 'new Home Guard' for women

ABSOLUTE MORAL STANDARDS would save Britain millions of pounds, Mrs. Wilson of London, told the European Assembly.

'Absolute standards of honesty, for instance, would save thousands of pounds in shoplifting, which puts retail prices up.'

'We spend millions as tax-payers to house and feed people at our expense—in prisons—because we do not insist on the difference between right and wrong being taught to children,' she declared. The prison bill is estimated at £20,000,000 a year. Each prisoner costs £500 annually.

'Why does our Education Minister, Sir Edward Boyle, still refuse to give a lead on moral issues?' Mrs. Wilson asked. 'If he and other national leaders made a clear

statement, then young people might know what is needed most—more teachers and nurses or more call girls.'

'Our annual turnover on tranquillisers, contraceptives and strip-tease establishments could switch to more productive channels.'

'Absolute moral standards are not the invention of Queen Victoria or Dr. Buchman. They are needed in every walk of life, in science, in mathematics. Without absolute standards of calculation we should never have got men into space—or women either.'

'We need a new Home Guard for women', she said. 'What are women meant to be? Sex kittens and glamour girls? Or are they the supreme revolutionaries whose duty is to protect, preserve and re-create all that we hold most dear?'

The unexpected from South Africa

CHOU chugs across the continent of Africa. Nkrumah kneels on his opponents. Dr. Banda burns a body—the coffin of the Federation. Riots rend Zanzibar. And some unexpected news comes from South Africa.

The Times wrote six weeks ago, 'It needs great faith in human capacity to turn from a collision course to believe that the South African Government might even now consider an alternative to its present policy.'

Men and women of all races in South Africa have that faith and also the determination to create an alternative. They have called on their Prime Minister, Government and people to do three things: make South Africa's technical skill, experience, wealth and education available to the whole continent and so develop it for all men; enlist the best brains in all races to put this into effect; re-examine traditional policies based on plans for self-preservation which are sub-Christian and ultimately suicidal.

Precedents shattered

To voice these views they are presenting a play, *The Dictator's Slippers*. Precedents were shattered when it was given last week in Port Elizabeth, industrial city of Cape Province.

For the first time the Opera House threw open its doors to African, Asian and Coloured people. Some motored 300 miles to be present. Prolonged applause nightly greeted Dr. William Nkomo, founder of the African National Congress Youth League, when he said from the stage, 'The one discrimination we need is that between right and wrong.'

'A glittering success', commented *Oosterlig*, the Afrikaans paper. 'It presents eleven Africans and one

European in the cast,' wrote the *Eastern Province Herald*, 'and in a strange setting of the normally "Whites Only" Opera House.' The *Evening Post* said, 'This play should be a stimulating experience to those white South Africans who know Africans only as employees or as a political "menace".'

Nine white South African students gave their holidays to work backstage with the African cast. Loud cheers greeted their introduction after a showing in New Brighton, a centre of revolutionary African leadership.

Addressed police

In Port Elizabeth, the District Commandant invited Dr. Nkomo and Mr. P. Q. Vundla, a founder of the African National Congress, to address white and coloured police.

The play has also been given in the Transkei, the region regarded as the test of whether Apartheid can work. Paramount Chief Victor Poto and other leaders urged the cast to return when the first self-governing parliament opens.

Chief Poto leads the opposition to the Verwoerd Government-backed Chief Matanzima. Once a believer in Apartheid, Chief Poto now advocates multi-racialism and democracy for the Transkei and all South Africa. A pro-Government newspaper blamed MRA for this change.

Verwoerd and Chou

Meanwhile a former official of the Department of Bantu Administration and Development, Mr. Nico Ferreira, offers a new perspective to Nkrumah and Verwoerd—and to Chou En-lai—at a London conference. 'Rule based on one race, class or party is too small a concept to answer the needs of Africa, and unite all her peoples above group and tribal interests in one great goal. Anyone in the world who still lives in terms of race or class is supporting Apartheid which is an out-of-date, false and

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Delhi—Forty-five students from ten Delhi schools and colleges presented *Badalti Tasveeren* (Changing Pictures), a new play dealing with corruption and poverty in India.

Switzerland—*Schweizer Illustrierte*, pictorial weekly, published in its New Year number a double-page feature entitled 'Grandson of Mahatma fights in his country for a moral and social revolution.'

Calcutta, India—Japanese students gave their ideological play *Across the Rubicon* in Lucknow, Kanpur, Allahabad, home of Prime Minister Nehru, and Dhanbad, the coal-mining centre of India. They are now in Calcutta.

Quebec, Canada—Monsignor Albertus Martin, Bishop of Nicolet and Secretary-General of the Commission of Liturgy of the Ecumenical Council, is planning further performances of the play *El Condor* in his diocese.

Los Angeles, U.S.A.—Dame Flora MacLeod, Chief of the Clan MacLeod, was made honorary citizen of Los Angeles at a dinner hosted by the Mayor.

Competition—We remind readers of our competition for teenagers on 'What do I aim to achieve with my life?' Closing date for entries: 8 February. Length: not over 250 words. First prize: two guineas. Second prize: one guinea.

dangerous philosophy.

'As a white South African I believe that preserving our privileged position has stood in the way of providing bread, work, faith and freedom to all Africa.

'Chou En-lai is in Africa mobilising black against white, Dr. Verwoerd is mobilising white against black. Both need to realise that the real issue is not colour but character'.

This speech was reported in the Afrikaans paper *Die Burger*, the mouth-piece of the National Party in the Cape.

ROAD SENSE

'How can the Government expect people to uphold the Highway Code when it allows the BBC to run down the moral code?'—Bermondsey parent.