

Emperor Haile Selassie plans with MRA committee

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY Haile Selassie I has given audience to members of the Ethiopian Committee for Moral Re-Armament in Asmara. He heard an account of the developments that have taken place during the last year in Ethiopia, together with plans for the future, under the initiative of the Governor General of Eritrea, including an international conference in Asmara.

His Imperial Majesty said that he was glad to hear of the progress of Moral Re-Armament. 'You must develop what you have begun and keep on

fighting,' he said. 'I am at your back. MRA is something which must be firmly planted in the minds of the masses. At this time moral standards are especially important.

'What is given by God can be strengthened by education. In order to aid your programme, it is very useful to publish books and pamphlets.

'It is every man's duty to act so that he can stand in the clear with his conscience. To achieve this aim, MRA can be of great help. Your plan to clear the way and make arrangements for the people of MRA from the world

to meet together in conference is something we are very pleased to hear.' His Majesty promised a personal gift towards the expenses of the conference, which will be held in April.

'The aim of Moral Re-Armament is something which is indispensable,' he continued. 'If we help MRA we help ourselves; and when we say ourselves we mean the people of Ethiopia as a whole. In order to accomplish what you have started, work hard! Let God who is the initiator of moral standards, help us.'

His Majesty called for the books and pamphlets of MRA which are in Amharic and Tigrinya and took some copies for personal distribution, saying, 'I always enjoy reading these.'

News of the audience was reported on the radio, newsreels and on the front page of *The Ethiopian Herald*.

Sensitive zone can become sensible

Assam's Chief Minister sponsors conference

INDIA'S key North-Eastern state of Assam 'could be the reconciler of Asia and the world,' said Rajmohan Gandhi speaking in the capital city of Shillong last week. He was addressing the opening session of the MRA Asia Arise Assembly called by the State's Chief Minister, B P Chaliha.

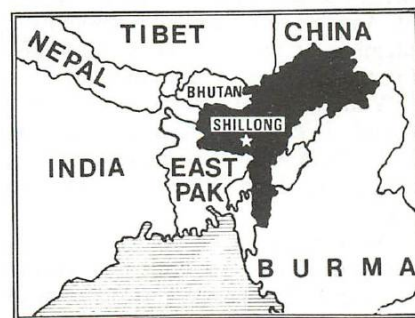
Gandhi referred to the October agreement on the reorganisation of Assam and suggested that the plains and hills governments assign two or three of their best men to go together to other parts of India, Asia and the world to help turn enemies into friends.

'The North-East,' Gandhi said, 'has been called the sensitive zone of India. The hills and plains people of Assam can make it a sensible zone.'

Assam is a state of contrasts, both in scenery and people. The plains are green and tropical with palm trees bordering the tea plantations. Then as the narrow roads wind up into the hills the scenery changes. The palms become pine trees and in the villages wooden houses replace the neat mud huts.

The people are different too. In the plains they are of Indian origin while in the hills are the tribal people who came originally from countries such as Cambodia and Burma.

These very real differences have been the cause of growing unrest which has become a major issue in India. Assam borders on East Pakistan, China and Burma and in recent years has become the site of mounting



MAP BY COURTESY OF 'HIMMAT'

guerilla activity as dissatisfied tribal peoples, often encouraged by China, attempt to break away from India.

The reorganisation agreement, which must be ratified in June, will give the Khasi, Garo and Jaintia tribes of Assam a semi-autonomous state. It has come after many years of negotiation, marked by increasing bitterness and violence, between the hill people, the Assam state government, and the central government in Delhi, and it represents a real change of atti-

Continued on page 2

tude and effort at reconciliation by all parties concerned.

Welcoming the conference delegates from 14 nations as they arrived in Shillong, Mr K P Tripathy, Minister of Finance and Law for the State of Assam, said, 'We are looking forward, with your assistance, to solving the large number of problems that plague us. Unless there is a real change of heart all permutations and combinations of politics will not work. This change of heart is what Moral Re-Armament is creating in a major way throughout the world.'

Six hundred people, including the State Minister for Tribal Affairs, Chatra Singh, the Minister for Education, representatives of major hill tribes from Assam, Manipur and Nagaland and a party of picked students from Gauhati University in the plains, met at the opening session of the conference, which has as its theme, 'New Aims for Asia'.

A prominent plains leader, Dulal Chandra Baruah, told the conference delegates that he was looking forward to welcoming them in his city, Jorhat, where they will go on 27 January.

Message from Britain

The following message went from Britain to B P Chaliha, Chief Minister of Assam, and Stanley Nichols-Roy, Member of the Legislative Assembly, for the opening of the conference:

'Your secret of turning enemies into friends is urgently needed in Europe as much as Asia. It is the one task big enough to bind our two continents together.

'Men will have to change to do it and your news gives hope of a change in people that answers violence with the force of God's miracles.'

CONRAD HUNTE—former Vice Captain of West Indies Cricket XI

H W (BUNNY) AUSTIN—Member of winning Davis Cup Team 1933-36

JOHN VICKERS—Chairman Vickers Oils

LES DENNISON—Chairman Building Trades Operatives of Coventry

MURIEL SMITH—American mezzo-soprano and star of 'The Crowning Experience'

ALAN THORNHILL—Playwright

ROLAND W WILSON—Secretary of Moral Re-Armament in Britain

Foreign policy should meet needs says Australian MP

THE BRITISH have made three tremendous ideological achievements East of Suez in recent years which they seem not to recognise, said the Australian Labour Party's foreign affairs spokesman last week.

Uncoerced

K E Beazley, MP, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs, said at the MRA conference at the University of Western Australia: 'The first was when they enabled the people of Malaya to decide their own future uncoerced by terrorism.'

This was due to the British victory in the Malayan emergency—a victory based on skill and counter-insurgency tactics and the support of the Malay people, he said.

'The second was that, at the invitation of East African Governments, they prevented insurgency taking over in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

'The third was that by standing firm on confrontation, they brought Sukarno down bloodlessly as far as external powers were concerned.'

Beazley went on to describe the idea

of enlightened self-interest as an inadequate basis for foreign policy.

'If we say to Britain: "Please don't withdraw, South-East Asia is strategically important to us," we beg the reply: "It is no longer important to us".'

Self-centredness in Australian policy meant there was little perception on how consonant British policy was with the true dignity of Malays, Indonesians, overseas Chinese and Africans.

That had made Australia 'the instrument of the miseducation of the British public.'

Freedom years

At no gain to itself, the British Government, between 1950 and 1965, carried through the second phase of the liberation movement—the post-independence liberation of peoples from coercion and tyranny. That has not been appreciated.

'We can not escape the fact that no policy can last which is not designed to meet needs. In Asia, a policy for Asian needs is the only one likely to last,' he said.

February assembly plans announced

WHAT LEADERSHIP by responsible citizens can now be given in Britain? How can we structure a new multi-racial society in Britain? How can we provide a world ideology for industry, which puts local and national problems in their proper perspective and aids in their solution?

What is the role of universities in our changing society and how can demands for participation by students and workers be made a reality?

Sessions

These are among the issues that will be tackled at the February assembly, 'A hero's task awaits the common man—on earth', in London. This conference marks a new departure for the Westminster Theatre and people from

all parts of Britain and Europe are expected to come and spend long enough to plan in depth.

The opening session of the conference on 'What the World Needs in 1969' is on Saturday, 1 February at 11 am* in the Westminster Theatre. At 7.30 pm conference delegates, who attended the matinee performance of *Anything to Declare?* will meet to explore the application of the revolution of MRA. There will be another major conference session on Sunday morning, and a final meeting at 3 pm on the theme 'Remaking Men'.

Similar Saturday-Sunday conferences are scheduled each weekend in February.

*This represents a change in the time indicated in the invitation.

'ANYTHING TO DECLARE' CAST MEMBERS:

At work from Europe to Asia

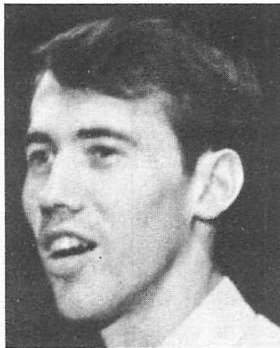
'ANYTHING TO DECLARE?' is an entertaining demonstration in song, dance and skit of what Europe's rôle in the world should be. Taking its theme from Common Market President Jean Rey, it urges Europeans to 'lean out' of the window of their comfortable and self-satisfied existence to face and take responsibility for the needs of all mankind.

The show has been on the road for nearly a year and a half, taking its message of hope and its challenge to the students and workers of France, the dockers and businessmen of Holland, and international delegations in Geneva. While many new people have joined the cast in recent months, a number of its original members are giving practical expression to its ideas as they work in Asia, the Middle East and the countries of Europe.

Beirut

Two of the cast are in the Middle East. One of them is John Mills, 23, from Australia, who was invited to Beirut by a Lebanese law graduate who took part in the Leadership Training Course in Caux last summer.

'Our task,' says John, 'is to raise an élite of young men and women who



John Mills

will put their countries before their personal plans and demonstrate by their leadership and way of living an effective road for the future.' To further this aim, John and his colleagues will bring a delegation from the Middle East to Caux this summer.

Another two members of the cast are serving with the French Army. Loic Morice, a student priest, writes:

vice after eight months with the European revue. This experience has helped me greatly in my job, as I am in touch with many people through my work in



Loic Morice

the office of the Captain commanding the Third Battery.

'I was appointed to this post because I had "a well-developed civic spirit", and it was at the heart of the international force that makes up the revue that I discovered what it meant to be a Frenchman among Englishmen and others. I thank God that He let one particular Englishman change me, for this man had the courage to challenge my way of living, which was not easy.

'I have had the chance to speak with some of my comrades of the experiences we shared in the revue, and that has helped them also to look honestly at their lives. One of them said to me recently, "At the New Year I began to discover God." He did that by facing his life in the light of absolute standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love.'

Panchgani

Four of the cast are in India. Sarah Pelham-Burn, from England, is helping to prepare for the conference opening on 15 February at Asia Plateau, Panchgani. She has been teaching the children of the workers on the building site, doing house-keeping and visiting the surrounding villages.

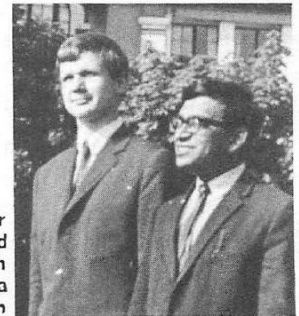
Gunnar Söderlund is a 17-year-old Swede who was an electrician with the

cast. He follows in his father's footsteps to India. His father, a Swedish transport workers' leader, was one of the European trade union men who answered Rajmohan Gandhi's request for help in that country.

Nagpur

Gunnar writes from Nagpur, where he came after travelling with the play *The Forgotten Factor* in Ceylon: 'I am here because I am very interested in the future. It is in Asia, where two-thirds of the world's population live, that the future of the world lies. Will they only give the world more Vietnams? Or could they demonstrate a new type of living which could change the course of history in a positive way?

'We in Europe have materially given much in the past and people here seem very grateful. But are we ready to sacrifice everything—our lives, our comforts, our careers—to see that every man has something to eat, some-



Gunnar Söderlund with Vijitha Yappa of Ceylon

thing to wear, a roof over his head, and something great to live for?

'Our living as Europeans does not show that at the moment, but it could if we started to change in our own hearts and lives.'



Sarah Pelham-Burn

Swedish politician rejects moral neutrality

JAMES DICKSON, a Swedish Member of Parliament who often visited Britain in support of Moral Re-Armament, has retired from political life after 27 years in the Swedish House of Commons. In 1955 he was among many statesmen who visited the nations of Asia and Africa with the MRA Ideological Mission.

One Swedish newspaper wrote about Dickson, 'He is a salty wind in the debates that are going on in Swedish society.'

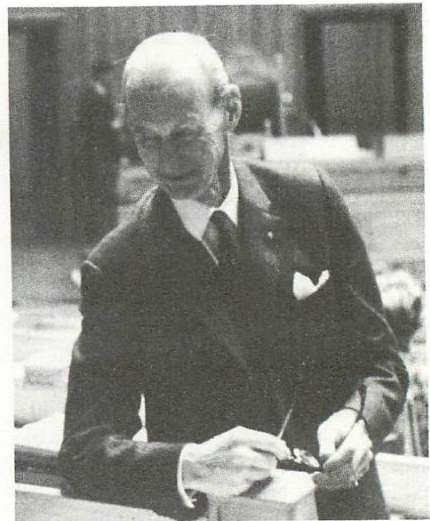
Dagens Nyheter reported a typical Dickson approach when he 'struck his name from the list of speakers because the entire House had left for lunch. He went with the others to the Parliament restaurant, knocked on his glass and made his speech in the middle of the dining room. He admitted: "I

know what it feels like to break the rules."'

Expressen said, 'Now Parliament is losing one of its most colourful personalities of the last 25 years . . . James Dickson is deeply engaged in Moral Re-Armament. And now when he leaves Parliament he will work harder than ever for the MRA ideology.'

Defender of freedom

Dickson has always been a resourceful defender of freedom. In 1940 he crossed Scandinavia to join the British in defence in Norway. Towards the end of the war in 1944 he captained a Swedish ship crossing the Baltic to rescue 800 Estonians from their country caught in the war between Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany.



Since the war Dickson has repeatedly said that there is no neutrality between good and evil, even if you are a citizen of a neutral country. 'You cannot be neutral ideologically. To get the right and clear picture of oneself and one's own nation, one always needs a world perspective.'

Move by Mayor of Halifax in support of Westminster Theatre

THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS of Halifax, Alderman and Mrs E Whitehead, together with the Yorkshire Friends of the Westminster Theatre, were hosts at a unique occasion in their town last week for a representative audience from Halifax and area to learn about the Westminster Theatre. This followed their visit to the theatre last summer when in London

for the Royal Garden Party for civic heads.

In welcoming the guests, about 100, the Mayor said that he had been so impressed by what he had seen at the Westminster Theatre that he wanted others to hear about its aims and outreach.

Hugh Williams, head of the script department of the theatre's Arts Cen-

tre, and Australian journalist Gordon Wise, spoke of the theatre's aims and the new attitudes its plays were creating in industry.

Among those attending the occasion were civic heads from the neighbouring communities, Town and County Councillors, the President of the Halifax Chamber of Trade and officials of local women's organizations.



Elizabeth Prescott memorial concert

ON SUNDAY, 9 February, at 3 p.m. there will be a memorial concert for Elizabeth Prescott at the Westminster Theatre. Elizabeth Prescott, who accidentally drowned last June, devoted herself to bringing the Westminster Theatre, and its music programme in particular, to the notice of the public. She made many hundreds of friends in doing so, and her family and friends thought that a concert would be the appropriate way to remember her.

The artists who will be taking part in the concert are John Lill, the brilliant young concert pianist, often heard on radio and seen on television;

Muriel Smith, the distinguished American mezzo-soprano; Stanley Wootton, leading viola player and regular broadcaster; and James Lockhart, one of Britain's most sought-after accompanists and recently appointed Musical Director of the Welsh National Opera Company.

The proceeds of the concert will be devoted to promoting music at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre, particularly to encouraging rising young musicians. At the concert there will be a further opportunity of giving for this purpose and in Elizabeth Prescott's memory.

Tickets are available at 15s and 7s 6d.