

Caux conference draws world-wide interest

by Pierre Spoerri

CABLES, MESSAGES and letters are already pouring into Caux, world conference centre in Switzerland, from places as distant as Australia and the United States, Nigeria and Lapland. They reveal a growing world-wide interest in the aims set for the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament starting at Whitsun (weekend of 25-26 May) and continuing right through the summer until the middle of September.

The Assembly proposes:

To multiply the men who will grasp the thorniest divisions of our time—divisions of class, race, language and generation—and export the unity they produce to the four corners of the earth.

To articulate world tasks so big that they redirect the energies of those in revolt and those in reaction and set new standards of conduct and action for all.

For the opening weekend and the first two weeks of September, men from the political and economic life of Europe and other continents will meet in Caux; at the end of June, leaders of agriculture.

East and West

In July (5-27 July) students and other representatives of the younger generation will work out with trade unionists, managers and industrialists, and delegates from Eastern Europe and the Third World a realistic concept for a new society and how it can be created.

From 1 August to 11 August educators from Europe, America, Asia

and the Arab world have called a special session to 'explore the science of character-building'. This will be followed by a session called 'Christian Counter-Attack' arranged by priests, clergymen, Christian workers and theological students of all confessions who believe that the churches have a special task in the reconstruction of Europe.

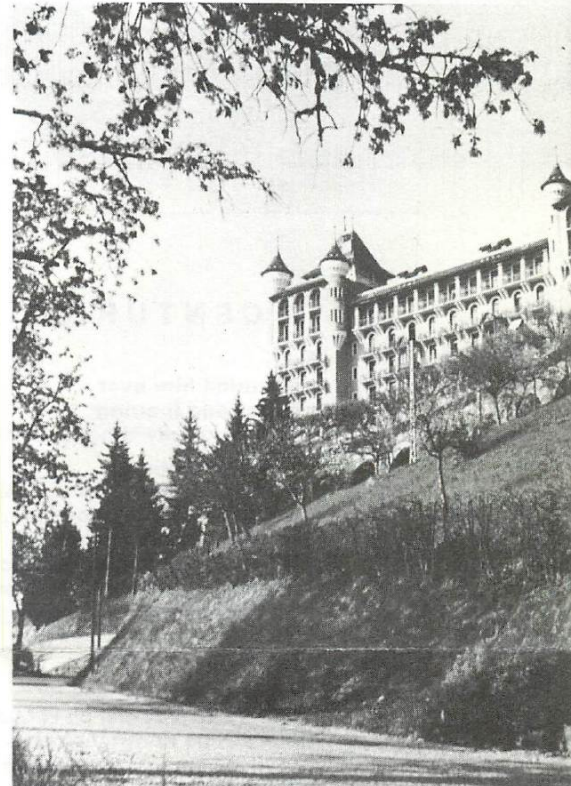
Main theme

The main theme underlying the World Assembly through the summer will be 'how man having achieved the feat of leaving the gravitational field of the earth can now achieve the no meaner feat of moving beyond the gravitational field of his own selfishness, his hates and his small thinking and living.'

In communist and non-communist countries the need to create new men to make a new society possible has become a common issue. It is expressed in the credibility-gap in families, industry and political life which is so often the origin of the revolt of the younger generation.

Caux has shown that unity—between representatives of different racial and linguistic groups, nations, generations and classes—born out of a revolutionary change in man, is an international currency. Experiences of this kind made in one country or one continent can release chain-reactions of peace-building in other countries and continents.

One Chief of State is thinking how new initiatives could be launched from Caux this summer to point the way to solutions in the Middle East conflict.



Mountain House, world conference centre for MRA at Caux in Switzerland

A group of parliamentarians involved in one of the bitterest linguistic disputes of Europe is calling a meeting in Caux of all parties concerned. This group of parliamentarians are convinced that only in the framework of a Moral Re-Armament world assembly can the deep antagonisms in the conflict be overcome.

'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' Neither affluence nor generally successful economic associations have given the European nations what they lack—an aim greater than national interest or prosperity. The task of planning for the next historic step for the whole of humanity, not in general terms but in concrete, practical ways will bring together in Caux this summer the most passionate East and West Europeans of all generations.

DWIGHT D EISENHOWER



Air Vice-Marshal T C Traill, CB, OBE, DFC, MA, who served under General Dwight D Eisenhower during the planning and execution of 'Torch', the

General Eisenhower talks with Japanese students and General Hosa Inoue (left), a Japanese commander in the last war. The Japanese students apologized to Eisenhower and the American people for the violent Tokyo student demonstration in 1960 against Japan's alliance with the USA. The riots had stopped President Eisenhower's visit to Japan. The students met Eisenhower before leaving for S. America

North African landings, paid tribute to the American leader last Sunday in London.

He said of Eisenhower, 'The two things that stood out were his dedication to his job and his integrity. He had a moral strength which enabled him to rise to each new responsibility. One might say he rose triumphant but he was a humble man and triumphant may give a wrong impression.'

He quoted from President Eisenhower's words of encouragement to a MRA force of young Japanese, members of the Zengakuren student organization, when they were leaving for South America: 'I am for you 100%. We have got to have an absolute conviction and be ready to sacrifice. Mankind is not going to live in peace until they have a higher moral plane on which to conduct their affairs.'

The air marshal said it was Eisenhower's conviction of the power of God and his own dedication that made him a great man.

Traill, who was awarded the US Legion of Merit while serving on the Staff of the US Army Air Force commander, General Carl Spaatz, was speaking at a meeting in the Westminster Theatre in London.

A CENTURION . . .

I handed him over
Relief and longing
Unseating my time-built dignity.

I played at dice,
And the setting sun caused a halo
Round the head above me.
He ignored my authority,
He challenged my existence,
He hung there and loved me.
I gambled and tried to forget.
He asked for water,
I gave him vinegar.

All crumbling.
Can a life's denial be refashioned
In a single minute's heart-whole yes?
Can the sacrifice of humility
Bring Peace,
Where a cynic's laughter echoed free?
Can I so hardened and so foul
Hold hard
His secret in my empty hands?

'Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.'
Father forgive me, for I know what I have done.
Crowned the Son of God with my bitterness and scorn.
Surely He was the Son of God.

Extracts from a poem by JEAN McALL

Concert at the Westminster Theatre Arts Centre

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'The Times' described Freire as a 'young lion of the keyboard'.

Concert tickets: 20s, 15s, 10s 6d, 7s 6d, 5s. Special party and student rates.

French educators hold conference

SEVEN BRITISH TEACHERS joined 100 educators from the region of Liévin in northern France for a conference on the theme, 'Teachers face the task of remaking the world', over the weekend of 22 March. The conference, which followed the visit of *Anything to Declare?* to Liévin in January, took place on the initiative of teachers, Felix Lisiecki and Marie-France Cuercq.

The conference, reported in *La Voix du Nord* and *Nord Matin* was under the patronage of Mr Dupas, a primary school inspector. Professor Théophil Spoerri, former Rector of Zurich University, was among those who spoke.

On Saturday evening the educators attended a French production of the play *Give a Dog a Bone*, presented by the pupils of Lisiecki.

Easter—the heart of an ideology

by Kenneth Belden

AT EASTER my thoughts often turn to Frank Buchman. Easter was the heart of all he fought for and many learnt the meaning of Easter from him.

The first two Easters that I spent with Frank Buchman were both in Denmark. Denmark is a wonderful country. The Danes are born artists, and their country has a charm that is hard to equal. They always try to tell you how cynical they are. But in fact, they are a shrewd, clear-sighted and extremely warm-hearted people. And in those early months of 1935, they took Frank Buchman and his message to their hearts through mighty days in Copenhagen and then, at Easter, in Haslev.

The assembly at Haslev was a turning point. Frank Buchman loved the great festivals. He had Easter eggs for everyone. But he was bidding for the future of a people through those Easter days.

B H Streeter was there, one of the great scholars of Europe, and recorded later that what he saw there convinced him that Frank Buchman's work 'was not merely an instrument of moral rebirth and psychological liberation for individuals, but was capable of moving nations as such by initiating a new mental attitude in economic and political conflicts . . . There has been born a new spirit in facing the conflicts which threatened the collapse of civilisation'.

It was from people whose lives were changed at Haslev that the moves came to answer unemployment in Denmark, and later it was these men and women who became part of the soul of Danish Resistance in the war.

Men who fought at Frank Buchman's side for the next thirty years were present that Easter. Jens Carl Just was there, who later gave his home in Strandvejen to be the centre for Moral Re-Armament in Copenhagen. Throughout the war he flew the Danish flag from the house despite Gestapo protests, and every day the King rode past on his horse and saluted it.

A new leadership

It was six weeks after that Easter of 1935 that 10,000 people from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland met in the Whit Sunday sunshine in the great courtyard of Hamlet's castle

of Elsinore. Frank Buchman spoke there the words which you can read today on the mosaic wall in the foyer of the Westminster Theatre, ending with the lines: 'Some nation must produce a new leadership, free from the bondage of fear, rising above ambition and flexible to the direction of God's Holy Spirit. Will it be your nation?'

The following year we were in Denmark again with Frank Buchman for the Easter assembly at Ollerup, the assembly for which George Fraser wrote the song 'Bridge Builders'—Danish engineers have built some of the greatest bridges in the world.

Berlingske Tidende, the Copenhagen daily, described the crowds pouring into the assembly hall, and commented, 'This was no haphazard concourse of people. It was an army on the march . . . Last Easter a few Danes spoke of their decision to change; this Easter thousands were here who had carried decisions into their daily lives and occupations.'

True patriots

It was at this assembly that Frank Buchman used for the first time the memorable words, 'The true patriot gives his life to bring his nation under God's control.' It is still the supreme task for all who love their country. Such a nation, Frank Buchman said, 'will demonstrate that spiritual power is the greatest force in the world'.

Easter is the heart of Frank Buchman's ideology, reflected in words like these. In recent times the idea has been spreading that the ideological conflict is a thing of the past, that we are happily moving out of the ideological era into one of greater mutual comprehension. It is an idea that appeals to some, as it is intended to, since it encourages the agreeable feeling that the struggle of the future may be less arduous than that of the past.

There are of course many grounds for understanding and co-operation between people of different ideologies: the ground of our common humanity, for one, the ground of our common need to tackle the vast issues in the world or the unimagined challenges of space.

But in the realm of the ultimate choice between the ideology of God's sovereignty and the ideologies of

man's materialism, the cleavage is in the nature of the universe. Both cannot be true. Men will have to choose. And indeed the legitimate material aims of man can never be fully met without the ideology of God's control. There is no other way to answer the supreme problem of humanity—man himself.

Triumph of God's sovereignty

Easter is the triumph of God's sovereignty. On Good Friday the flood of man's inhumanity, man's pride, and man's materialism seemed to have overwhelmed the light of the world. On Easter Day the light blazed forth for eternity.

We are moving into a period of human history filled with more daunting dangers and more limitless opportunities than perhaps any previous generation has been privileged to grapple with.

Frank Buchman believed that, for everyone, Easter meant that every stone could be rolled away, every limitation that entombs us shattered, and that every man and woman could move forward to remake the world in the resurrection power of Christ. That was his idea of the meaning of Moral Re-Armament. It was never more valid than it is at Easter 1969, for all who wish to claim it and fight the battle for the world.

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Stockport workers and managers see European revue

TWO THOUSAND five hundred and twenty people have seen the European



A shop steward at the Girling brake factory (left) talks to French engineering worker Michel Bielak after a performance of the show *photo Franzon*

revue, *Anything to Declare?* in Stockport, a nerve centre of the British engineering industry.

Faireys, Hawker Siddeley, Henry Simons and Mirrlees National have factories there. In 1967 Stockport was a centre of national attention with the long industrial struggle in Roberts Arundel.

Following the two performances of the musical in the Davenport Theatre this week, shop stewards, workers and factory directors talked with the cast.

A Conservative councillor commented, 'We need to learn about ideology and how to change men.' He was one of a number of civic leaders, including mayors and council chairmen, who attended the performances.

Coach-loads came from Manchester, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and from the Stockport schools where the cast had given pro-

grammes earlier in the week. Students came from the Macclesfield College of Further Education, where they had recently staged a three-day strike.

Norman Egan, a lecturer at the Stockport College of Technology, said from the stage at the end of the performances, 'We invited the cast to come here because we believe Stockport is meant to export the spirit they bring to the rest of Britain and the world.'

The *Stockport Express*, in its article about *Anything to Declare?* linked the coming of the revue with a Stockport woman, Mrs Annie Jaeger, who 30 years ago gave up her hat shop in Hillgate; 'a woman whose passionate energy sent her storming through the nation on a new crusade.'

'Annie's ideas plucked the young socialist from an anti-Gaullist barricade during France's May rising. They enlisted the talents of a Harvard biochemist, an Argentinian banker's son,' said the writer of the article, Kevin Dowling, describing the varied personalities of the cast. The musical, he concluded, 'should be challenging, varied and informative.'

In my view

LIKE THE REST of my generation I have been searching desperately for a greater sense of freedom and happiness. But we have searched negatively through reaction and self-indulgence. We are relying more and more on psychiatry, drugs, sex and materialism. We have enclosed ourselves in a tight



Charmian Eberle *photo Strong*

FREEDOM IS A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE

by Charmian Eberle

network in which we complicate everything to suffocate the truth and our consciences. We want world peace and yet divisions in families are increasing. We fail to stop hating and living on selfish ambitions.

Through meeting MRA and spending a great deal of time with the cast of *Anything to Declare?* I have found a new answer for myself, for Britain and for the world.

These students in the cast are from different classes and nations and yet they have learnt to live together through applying their ideology into every-day life. Bad feelings and arguments are solved through honesty and by asking the question, 'What is right and not who is right'. They are all individuals and yet they are joined by a faith and an aim which keeps them together and makes them a hard-working and constructive team.

The cast have helped me to listen

to my conscience. Although previously my conscience hit me, I could not stand against the current. Now discipline and apologies are opening new doors for me and I have learnt the true meaning of freedom and happiness. It is the freedom of conscience and a constructive happiness when each minute of the day becomes a precious moment in one's life.

It is a positive freedom that can be discovered, not through argument or intellect, but in every human heart. I have become more sensitive towards people and am learning to reach through to their hearts and feelings because that is where true equality lies between men.

I have realised the importance of youth. It is full of mental and physical energy. I have decided to use it to the fullest and become part of a revolution where love will unite the world and not hate.