

MPs from South Tyrol at Caux

THE OPENING SESSION at Whitsun of the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Caux, Switzerland, brought together people from 31 nations including Ambassadors from the United Arab Republic and the Lebanon and a delegation from the South Tyrol in Northern Italy.

The South Tyrol, a storm-centre of conflict between Italian- and German-speaking people, was represented by parliamentarians from both groups.

Two hundred and fifty thousand German-speaking people live in South Tyrol, a part of the Austrian Empire ceded to Italy after the First World War. The problem of this minority within Italy has flared up repeatedly in the last 50 years. It has had international repercussions.

Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, MP, representing the German-speaking minority in the Italian Parliament, came to the conference with two Italians sent officially by the President of the Regional Parliament, Dr Armando Bertorelle. The Italian parliamentarians were Guido Lorenzi, President of the Christian Democratic Party in the South Tyrol Regional Government, and Franco Paolazzi, a member of the Regional Parliament.

Dr Mitterdorfer, who was on his third visit to Caux, said, 'Here you can sort out the priorities among the many problems to be solved in a country like mine. The first precondition is the acceptance of inner change of oneself. Through this inner change in myself I find I get the clarity of how to deal with the things facing my country.'

Among those from Britain were Patrick Wolrige Gordon, MP for East Aberdeenshire, and his wife, whose book *Peter Howard: Life and Letters* was given its continental launching. All available copies were sold out



Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, MP, and representative of the South Tyrol People's Party in the Rome Parliament; Guido Lorenzi and Franco Paolazzi, regional MP's in the South Tyrol and members of the Christian Democratic Party
photo: Franzone

within a short time of the book's appearance.

Mitchell Bingham, an artist from Miami, USA, announced that he had already bought 100 copies in London as he felt it was urgently needed to meet the critical situation in the world and especially in America. His daughter, Miss Lucretia Bingham, also an artist, said, 'In America we so often find ourselves living for something smaller than ourselves—money, drugs or sex. Here I have found a God bigger than myself and I have renewed my faith and true commitment to Him.'

News was given of delegations planning to participate in the coming Caux sessions from many parts of Europe, Asia, Africa and America.

Turkish Prime Minister warns of Rich-Poor gap

PRIME MINISTER Suleyman Demirel of Turkey has called the growing gap between the economically advanced and the developing countries 'a danger to the peace and even the existence of the human race'.

In a message read to the World Assembly at Caux last weekend he also said that the generation gap was destroying people's hope for the future.

Mankind was suffering, he said, from the failure of moral and cultural values to keep pace with technological development. Modern technology derived gigantic power from the atom. Modern philosophy, drawing strength from the faith and ideas of individuals, could change the world.

'There will be created,' the Prime Minister concluded, 'a new moral climate in which mankind will remain immune to hateful conflicts and achieve unity through bonds of honesty and love.'

The President and the Prime Minister have recently received representatives from Moral Re-Armament in Ankara to discuss Turkish participation in the conference at Caux this summer.

Muriel Smith
Donald Scott
Patricia Bredin

**High
Diplomacy**
a new musical

Opening 5 June
WESTMINSTER THEATRE

Modern men make modern nations

Report on MRA international conference in Ethiopia by Charles Piguet

'This conference could mark the beginning of a new era for Ethiopia', said Kegnaz-mach Ghebremedhin Tesemma, Auditor General of Eritrea.

- It has shown Ethiopia giving new hope to other countries, including Nigeria and India.
- It has seen the birth of a new unity between teachers and students.
- It has been a demonstration of Christians, Muslims and men of other faiths working together for a great common aim.

TURNING ENEMIES INTO friends is an art that many nations would do well to practise. Listening to the news, however, it would seem that they are more inclined to exasperate their enemies, losing what friends they have in the process.

Goodwill missions by diplomats and statesmen are shipwrecked by the pride, selfwill and hate in politicians and people. An Ethiopian talked to me about the fruitless efforts made to solve the Nigerian conflict by a com-

Mesfun Hailu, a member of the organising committee, said before the conference began, 'Our conference ought to tackle our divisions and make a contribution to the solution of the problems of Africa.' After some weeks at Asmara I can say that Hailu's hopes have been realised.

Sheikh Surur, the highest ranking Muslim in the provincial administration, at the final meeting of the conference said, 'I believed Asmara should become a lighthouse for a divided Africa, and a bridge between Asia and Africa. This has come about through this conference.'

A gleam of hope

In public meetings two Nigerians talked of the fight they are waging together against corruption and hate. One of them comes from the West, and the other is an Ibo from the region that has seceded. 'I hated other Nigerians,' he said, 'but I have lost my hatred.' These two men, Clement Eze

meetings, but I have told them all about it, and they understand.'

The youngest of the group of Ethiopians who were at the MRA world centre in Caux last summer for the Leadership Course took part in the conference with his whole family. Barriers that had always divided them had fallen away, he said.

For the first time in her life the mother of the family had had the courage to talk to her husband about her resentments and fears. Her marriage had been arranged by her parents when she was only nine years old. 'I looked happy on the surface,' she said, 'but I was really very unhappy. Now that we are open with each other and do not hide our feelings, I see that I can work alongside my husband and my children. Together we can give our country the new spirit we have found.'

Her husband added, 'I have given my wife permission to speak to you because I believe we have something to accomplish together. On my side, I



Students of Asmara welcome delegates from Asia at the airport



Mrs Keziah Fashina, former member of the Lagos City Council, Nigeria, said, 'I have asked the forgiveness of another Nigerian for hatred. She replied, "You give me back the conviction that God has a plan for Nigeria."'

mission consisting of the six heads of state in the OAU (Organisation of African Unity, with its headquarters in Addis Ababa). 'The only thing that can be done now,' he said, 'is to work man by man to free people's hearts from hate.'

A conference of Moral Re-Armament has just taken place at Asmara, capital of Eritrea, on the initiative of provincial leaders and with the support of the Emperor. It goes to prove that Ethiopia might be the birthplace of this new political wisdom, so desperately needed by the African continent and the world.

and Peter Izelein, said the war against hate and corruption will have to be waged on both sides, long after the shooting war is over. They gave examples of people who had refused substantial bribes, running counter to current practice.

People and families in large numbers have been affected. The old porter at the Expo buildings where the meetings were held said in his own language, when thanked for the work he had done, 'I am the one to say thank you. My life has been transformed by what I have seen and heard. My family have not been able to come to the

have decided to stop ill-treating my employees and to set right what I have done wrong.'

Afro-Asian bridge

What is this bridge between Asia and Africa of which Sheikh Surur also spoke?

Rajmohan Gandhi and a party from India and Ceylon came specially from Asia, and this has certainly contributed to building such a bridge. Gandhi proposes that Africa and Asia should unite to transform the state of the world. This unity between the two

Continued on page 3

The greater Jihad

by Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Surur

Sheikh Surur is a leading Muslim in Eritrea, northern province of Ethiopia. He gave this speech at the MRA international conference in Asmara.

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT, I firmly believe, by the Divine message it carries, will prove to be the effective instrument for relieving the sufferings of the world. These sufferings are due to the moral collapse which results from materialism. Robbed of moral values, men grope their way in darkness, seeking a satisfaction that can only be found through faith in God and the principles of Moral Re-Armament.

Continued from page 2

continents could also be established between the Indians and Africans who live side by side in East Africa. In one of Ethiopia's neighbours, the condition of the Asian communities is a cause of international tension. But here the presence of leaders of the Indian community at the conference, and the participation of Indian teachers in what is happening in the schools through MRA, is the beginning of fruitful co-operation.

The same co-operation has been established between all the communities in the city, and especially between Christians—Copt or Catholic—and Muslims.

Africa could mobilise the spiritual resources which have become apparent during these past weeks in Asmara. She could bring into action the qualities of spirit which brought about a few years ago a reconciliation between the Balua and Lulua tribes in the Congo, and which, through change in both French and North African, led to the peaceful independence of Morocco and Tunisia. She could thus not only solve her own problems but also point the way for the Great Powers.

When the Ethiopian runner Abebe Bikila twice carried off the Gold Medal for the Marathon at the Olympic Games, the papers commented on the ease with which he finished the course. Ethiopia which has made itself the champion of African unity, may win a prize in another race—the race against time to make effective in Africa the policy of the humble heart.

God has His ways with His creation. If nations are to live, they must have among them a group of people who raise the challenge of right and wrong. Otherwise the people perish. Those who put right what is wrong are doctors of men, and save the life of nations. From this conviction has sprung the work of Moral Re-Armament.

Morals in their essentials do not vary from one people to another, or one faith to another, even though the way they are interpreted may differ considerably. Dr Buchman saw that principles were of no use to a man unless he was ready to undergo a radical change in himself. It is as though he drew his inspiration from that honoured verse in the Koran, 'God will not change what is in a

people until they change what is in themselves.'

I regard the greatest struggle in a man's life as the struggle (jihad) with himself. Our holy Prophet said, 'We have come back from the lesser jihad to the greater jihad'— meaning the struggle with self.

If every single person would straighten himself out and then change others, we would quickly build a formidable force. MRA is a question of setting right what is wrong. It is not a party, nor a political organisation looking for members. On the contrary, it is an idea to be lived. For this reason it cannot under any circumstances be exploited, or used for the benefit of any particular section. It solves difficulties on the basis of what is right, not who is right. I pray Almighty God that I shall see the day when responsible men, all over the world, apply these principles. Then by God's grace our world will be set free from its present bitterness and fear.



EDUCATORS AT THE WESTMINSTER THEATRE

Robin Mowat, Principal Lecturer, College of Technology, Oxford; Miss Elva Miranda, domestic science teacher, London; Dr Elizabeth Bradburn, Lecturer in Education, University of Liverpool; Miss Constance Smith, former Headmistress of Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay; and Miss Joyce Kneale, Primary school teacher, London
photo Strong

'Practise what you preach' say teachers

TEACHERS from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Guyana, Australia, New Zealand met in London during the Whitsuntide weekend to examine the role of education in the creation of a new society.

Reviewing the fact that we are more backward in the field of human nature than we are in technology, education, they said, must enable children to understand human nature and to discover that it can change.

The teachers pledged themselves to demonstrate an answer to the question on the minds of most young people today, 'What is life for?'

Children, the teachers said, must be offered a moral basis for their lives by those who practise what they preach.

In a working session on the aims of education the teachers agreed that an education which does not consciously endeavour to answer bitterness, hatred, selfishness—the root causes of conflict—is entirely inadequate for today.

They asserted that the present demands for freedom and participation are best met when teachers and taught accept God's authority and direction in their lives.

'They cracked the shell of selfishness in which we have encased ourselves'

FRANCE will choose a new President on 1 June. There are seven candidates in the running and an all out nationwide campaign is being waged through TV, radio and Press. Into this high tension atmosphere the European musical revue *Anything to Declare?* moved last week to the heart of the industrial west country of St Nazaire and Nantes. They too appeared on TV and spoke on the radio. The Press carried their revolutionary idea to hundreds of thousands of homes.

Quest France, published in Rennes, said, 'Without political excitement they say what is in their hearts to say and make us want to say what is in ours. Their joy is sincere and contagious. These people are the real thing. They cracked, perhaps only for a moment, but perhaps for longer, the shell of selfishness in which we have encased ourselves.'

France's shipbuilding capital, St Nazaire, has always been considered

as the barometer of the nation's economic life. The works councils of six companies, including Chantiers de l'Atlantique, one of the biggest shipbuilding companies in the world, sent many representatives to the play.

On the following day *Presse Ocean* wrote, 'Whilst entertaining the spectator it makes him aware of the responsibilities of the people of St Nazaire in the face of others less privileged. It makes him conscious of his responsibility, as a man, for a world which at times he realises has gone astray.'

In Nantes City Hall, the City Council was host to the international cast. The eighteenth century chamber was packed with the leaders of educational, professional, commercial and industrial life. Referring to the MRA musical *India Arise's* visit two years ago to the City, Miss Anju Chinai of Bombay said, 'Mr Rajmohan Gandhi when he was here asked Nantes to send 25 citizens to

help him in his campaign to build a clean, united, hard-working, incorruptible nation. Three have already come and we are most grateful. We now eagerly await the other 22.'

At the close of the performance in Nantes, 10 local citizens mounted the stage to express their gratitude for all that MRA had contributed to that key region of France. René Prou, a metalworker, called for a collection to further MRA's work in India.

Miss Martine Algrain, a Paris student, spoke. She said, 'Not in the ballot box, not in the streets will the real future of France be decided, but in the heart of the ordinary Frenchman and Frenchwoman.'

Music as a bridge

From 'The Times', 26 May.

MURIEL SMITH'S mezzo-soprano voice has the quality, as one of her friends has said, that would make a sung version of the telephone book sound interesting. Now in her forties, she opens in London on 5 June in a new musical—*High Diplomacy*—playing a peace conference delegate from a newly emergent state.

In 1957, at the time of the racial violence in Little Rock, Arkansas, she was offered a part in the film *Porgy and Bess*, but felt that it was completely the wrong time to do it. 'It gave my people the wrong kind of image, and there was nothing to give the other side of the picture.' Instead she accepted an offer to play the part of Mary McLeod Bethune, educational adviser to three American presidents, in the musical *The Crown-ing Experience*. It ran for four months in Atlanta, Georgia, as part of an American tour, and when the Mayor of that city was asked later by a congressional committee how integration there has been so peaceful, he replied that the musical had a great deal to do with it.

For the past seven years, Muriel Smith has been touring Latin America, becoming a household name in Brazil. . . . She says: 'I do feel I am using music as a bridge between races, and I feel freer now than I have ever felt in my life.'



MRS PATRICK WOLRIGE GORDON signing copies of her book, *Peter Howard: Life and Letters**, at Caux in Switzerland last weekend. Millions in Britain have already heard of the book through Press, radio and television. The *Daily Telegraph* writes of Peter Howard: 'There seems, indeed, to have been few more remarkable conversions since Paul of Tarsus set off for Damascus.' 'Of very great human interest . . . utterly absorbing,' was the verdict of the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*.

* *Hodder and Stoughton 45s From your bookseller or MRA Books, 4 Hays Mews, London W1X 7RS. Postage 2s* photo Franzon