

# Agreement for new state on India's strategic Northeast frontier

## Panchgani, India

AGREEMENT has just been reached on the setting up of a new State on India's strategic North-East Frontier close to China, Tibet and Burma.

Two years ago the Indian Press feared this area might become a 'second Vietnam'.

Commenting about the new State of Meghalaya, Stanley Nichols-Roy, General Secretary of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference, said:

'Politics can be played in a different way. The achievement of our State without trouble and without bloodshed is only the first step.

'Now we must run the State to satisfy the longings of the people for a just government where all are equal whatever their religion, tribe or creed.'

He was speaking at the Moral Re-Armament Conference at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, attended by people from 30 countries.

Nichols-Roy, a member of the Legislative Assembly of Assam and a leader of the Hill People in India's North-East, said that for 15 years the people of the North-East struggled for a separate State.

The earlier years were marked by bitterness and invective. Some had seen, particularly after meeting Moral Re-Armament, that their political movement had to be conducted in a better way, he said.

'I am grateful to God and our people in both the Plains and the Hills are having the good sense to arrive at agreement.' The Bill for the Reorganisation of Assam, last week passed both Houses of Parliament.

It was customary, he said, for politicians to blame businessmen, and businessmen to blame politicians for corruption. 'The world of politics and business needs a drastic change. But as



**PANCHGANI:** delegates from 30 nations meet. Left to right: Maruthi Yadav, Maharashtrian farmer; Paul Lapun, Member of the House of Assembly, Papua-New Guinea; and Osman Ibrahim from Asmara, Ethiopia  
*photo Maillefer*

a politician and a businessman, I realised on meeting MRA that the best place to start was with myself. The spirit at the MRA centre played a part 'in settling disagreements between myself and some of my colleagues.'

'The key to our problems in India is men who will go straight, who will not

be persuaded by selfish ambition and corruption or anything else on either side.'

He said he welcomed the forthcoming visit to North-East India by an MRA international force. The visit of a previous force had already given hope to his people.

## Reconciliation in South Tyrol settlement

### Caux, Switzerland

GUIDO BERNARDI, Italian Member of Parliament, spoke on last month's agreement between the Austrian and Italian Governments on the future of South Tyrol, the largely German-speaking area ceded to Italy after the First World War. In recent years it has been a scene of violence and disturbance.

At a New Year Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, the Italian MP referred to

'the very important element of reconciliation' brought about through the meeting of personalities from both sides at Caux.

He said that the people from South Tyrol had realised at Caux that their problem ought to be solved so that it could provide a pattern for nations in Asia and Africa. He was speaking to 380 delegates from all over Europe including many German and Italian students.

'We Italians,' Bernardi continued,  
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'had to make an act of humility. Through coming here we realised that we had to respect the German character of the majority of the South Tyrol population.' Previously, government officials sent to administer the South Tyrol had considered this a punishment. Often they had been chosen from southern Italians who had great difficulty in understanding the northern mentality.

Referring to the recently announced 'package agreement' which had involved concessions from both sides, he said that Caux 'had been of great value in speeding up the process towards an agreement which can bring harmony and peace to the area.'

Twenty-one students and young workers from Rome gave a performance of Peter Howard's play *The Ladder*.

## Wholly new way of doing things

### Adelaide, Australia

'THERE IS a wholly new way of doing things and the challenge of the seventies is for the world to find this new way,' said W H Coffey, Secretary of MRA in Australia in opening an international conference on Monday in Adelaide. It is being attended by people from eleven countries including the Coadjutor Archbishop of Adelaide, J W Gleeson, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Dr Frank Hambly.

'Australia and New Zealand could become an example to other countries and win the gratitude and respect of our neighbours rather than arouse envy and hostility.'

Western Australian farmer Frank Richardson, whose area had the worst drought in 55 years, said, 'While we are fighting seasonal drought we also need to think how to cure the moral drought in this and other countries.' He is attending the Adelaide conference with his brother, and his sister is at the Panchgani assembly in India.

During the conference speakers on education, industry and Australia's role overseas will include K E Beazley, Shadow Minister of Education; Mr Allbrook, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Western Australia; Alan Thornhill, British playwright; and Paul Lapun, Member of the House of Assembly of Papua-New Guinea.



Mrs K M Desai, Chairman of the Panchgani Municipal Council, addresses a session of the assembly. On the platform are Paul Lapun from Papua-New Guinea, Rajmohan Gandhi, R D Mathur, director of Asia Plateau, Mrs K Fashina and Dame Flora MacLeod  
*photo Maillefer*

## Wanted: an immediate solution

RAJMOHAN GANDHI, Chief Editor of the Asian weekly *Himmat*, said, 'Everyone these days wants a radical and immediate solution. But anything that does not create the new type of man is not radical enough.'

He was speaking at the opening session of the Moral Re-Armament Conference for East and West on 20 December at Panchgani, India.

'If we do not produce the new type of man, we will have no solution to our unemployment and poverty,' he continued. 'If we can learn to produce the new kind of man, our economic problems will be solved.'

Mrs K M Desai, President of the Panchgani Municipal Council, officially welcomed delegates from India and overseas. They included Dame Flora MacLeod, Chief of the Clan MacLeod; James Dickson, former Swedish MP; and Paul Lapun, Member of the Papua-New Guinea House of Assembly, who travelled 5,000 miles to attend the conference. Also present were trade union men from France, Switzerland, representatives from North and South America and Australasia.

As the two divided elements of the Congress Party met in Ahmedabad and Bombay, delegates at Asia Plateau were fascinated to hear that politicians could change. James Dickson said, 'I was a typical politician: rather vain, rather ruthless and rather ambitious. I did not mind using my elbows to push others out of the way in climbing the ladder. People say that politicians cannot change, but I have changed. My conviction is that this vast and great country with its population, variety and different languages has colossal importance and the possibility of giving to the whole world something entirely new.'

Harry Almond from the United States, said that no nation needs MRA more than USA 'We need the help of every nation to find that experience. We

deal superficially with the problems of the world, because we deal superficially with the problems in our own lives. You cannot cure greed with money, hate with legislation or an idea with military force alone. When we are honest about our mistakes, we find friends everywhere. From here a united force of men and women from all over Asia committed to answering hate, fear and vengeance can speak to the heart of Washington and San Francisco, as well as Peking and Moscow.'

## Financing Asia Plateau

ASIA PLATEAU, Panchgani is a Centre which opens its doors to the world. Men and women from every continent are playing a part in its construction.

A cheque for 37,500 rupees was presented to the Centre last week. It came from people from all walks of life throughout Canada. The money will go towards the cost of the large dining room now under construction.

Edward Porter from Montreal said, 'We felt that Canada should have a significant part in Panchgani. We must move in the dimension of what needs to be done, not what we think we can do. We are not raising money so much as changing lives and getting Canadians thinking out where it ought to be.'

The Canadian delegation of French and English and American Indians said that they would raise the rest of the money needed for the dining room.

Four Indian ladies together spoke of their decision to be responsible for financing the next phase of the construction costs of 4.7 million rupees. Mrs Lala, wife of the Editor of the newspaper *Himmat*, who has just returned from Europe told of the money for 67 seats for the new theatre which had been pledged by different towns and groups there. Each seat represents £280 towards construction costs.

# Philip Vundla—world revolutionary from South Africa

Thousand attend Johannesburg service

*Philip Vundla, an internationally known leader of the African people of South Africa, died in Johannesburg on 16 December following an illness after a visit to the Transkei.*

*More than a thousand people attended the funeral service and in the cortege were 250 cars and ten buses. African, Coloured and European, paid tribute, including Dr William Nkomo from Pretoria, co-founder of the African National Congress Youth League; Manesseh Moerane, Editor of 'The World', the largest African paper in South Africa, and former President of the African Teachers' Association of South Africa; and Bremer Hofmeyr, specifically representing Moral Re-Armament. The first speaker was from overseas—Dr E. Claxton, former Principal Assistant Secretary of the British Medical Association.*

*Messages have poured in from all over the world to Kathleen, his widow, and their ten children.*



Students of Stellenbosch University, where many South African Cabinet Ministers have been educated, crowd round to hear Philip Vundla. He had addressed an MRA meeting in Stellenbosch Town Hall at which the Mayor presided.

*photo Strong*

WHAT HAPPENS to a militant African leader from South Africa when he meets the revolution of Moral Re-Armament? Philip Vundla became more militant and a revolutionary not only for the African people but for all nations.

His was an extraordinary story. From a humble home, he got an education at a mission school in Healdtown, Cape Province. He was a natural leader, but because of his political activities, he was refused a Bursary to High School; the Governor said it would be like putting a knife in Vundla's hand. As a full-time organiser of the African Mineworkers Union, he was one of those who led the biggest industrial strike known in South Africa. Later, he organised a demonstration for better wages and conditions for African teachers—the biggest ever in Johannesburg. When police barred the way to the marchers, Vundla called on the women to break through—and they did.

He became a man governed by hatred and bitterness. At the same time he was a dictator, as he often said of himself later, in his own home. His wife and children were afraid of his temper.

Then the unexpected happened. During the removal of people from Sophiatown, a young white nationalist, Nico Ferreira, an official of the Native

Affairs Department, after meeting Moral Re-Armament, decided to call on Philip—described by the police as the most dangerous man in the Transvaal—in his home. He apologised for his attitude of superiority and that he had not lived and fought for the welfare of all the people of South Africa. This was a shock to Philip Vundla who started to think afresh about what he was fighting for and what was right.

## Teachers' strike

An issue arose over a strike of school teachers, called by the African nationalist leaders. Philip felt that this was wrong, because the children would suffer, and he had the courage to speak out against it. He was beaten up, stabbed and left for dead. In hospital he took weeks to recover, but was visited there by his friend Ferreira. He decided to seek no revenge on those who had nearly killed him. He said, 'They may kill me, but they will never kill the idea for which I stand.'

Some years later, a multi-racial conference for MRA was held near Johannesburg. One of the men who had attacked him came, met Philip and they talked honestly together; they were reconciled.

Meanwhile a change took place in Philip's family life. He apologised to

Kathleen for having treated her more as a servant than as his wife. He gave her a tea-set, so that they could entertain their friends. She said it was the first present for many years. His children felt the new atmosphere. They lost their fear of him and the unity in the Vundla family became infectious. There were always queues of people at his home waiting to see him, seeking his advice and help.

Philip fought for what he believed in and for the just rights of his people, but now he started to fight for the white people also. One day he asked for an interview with the chief official for African Affairs in Pretoria. He saw him in his office and apologised for his hatred and bitterness. He never yielded his political convictions, but this apology and his statesmanship was the foundation of a new respect and understanding of his leadership. He continued his work as one of the Executive of the African National Congress and later was elected Chairman of the Advisory Board representing 600,000 Africans in the townships of Johannesburg.

He was invited to attend an MRA conference in America. It took him eighteen months to get a passport. There he met Dr Frank Buchman. They talked. Buchman said to him that his

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job was to take the answer he had found to the South African Cabinet.

It seemed an impossible task. Philip said it was like climbing a mountain. But he was a fearless man. He got to know some of the leadership of South Africa, industrial and political. One day he rang up a prominent Cabinet Minister. He said, 'What time do you have tea in your office?' He got through and had tea with him. The Minister asked him if he had been screened before coming in. Philip said, 'I was not screened.' 'No,' said the Minister, 'I trust you.'

He became an African leader who could speak straight to the white leaders of South Africa and they would listen. He never relaxed his militancy and never ceased to burn and fight for the people of Africa. He said, 'We are becoming immoral, corrupt and ambitious for material things. We will never give the right leadership to our people unless we have the right things in our hearts.'

When he heard three years ago, that African children were not passing their examinations, he took hold of the situation and founded the Association for the Educational and Cultural Advancement of the African Peoples of South Africa. African businessmen and others gave money and he arranged extra coaching and help for the teachers. The children began to pass their exams and the situation changed.

### White and black

While in Britain last year he spoke at a luncheon in 45 Berkeley Square, London, and the wife of a senior official of the South African Government was there. He said, 'I can say now that I love the white children of South Africa as much as I do the black children.' She stayed and talked for a long time afterwards. In one hour he did more to change attitudes than in all the anti-apartheid propaganda from Europe.

In England he met some of the leaders of Black Power. From his own experience he showed that there was an answer to the hatred and division in the most extreme advocates of every race, whether white or black. He talked straight to them of greed, lust and bitterness as he did freely to everyone he met. He said, 'South Africa is being used to divide men all over the world on a basis of colour. But the real issue is not colour but character.' He had moved far beyond the immaturity of protest, because he saw that what was needed was an answer to the causes of

## Students ready to work with men in industry

by Claire Muthwill Paris University

I AM A STUDENT from Paris University and some weeks ago I attended the Industrial Strategy for 1970 Conference at the Westminster Theatre in London. I have been looking again through students' eyes at all I saw, all the decisions that were made, all that was said and thought by the managers and workers who were there. I have the impression that what I saw could be the real answer to students.

We stand in this gap between management and labour. Our hearts lead us towards the workers, our feelings of justice and social equality revolt against exploitation. Yet the fact that many of us will become employers means that we

all discrimination, not the partisan attitudes of one group or another.

'Violence is not the answer today,' he said. 'What you achieve in violence, you will need greater violence to maintain. Some people feel that the problems of South Africa can be solved by changing the laws. By all means let us change the laws. They are unbearable. But in some countries laws have been changed and yet the violence has grown, because men's motives remained the same. It is important to change people as well as laws. South Africa is a rich country and we can help to develop other states in Africa. If we change, we could be a sounding board of unity among nations.'

He loved the peoples of Africa enough to say things that would not be popular in some quarters. He said, 'Many African leaders say, "We can use Communism to cross the river, but when we are on the other side of the river we will abandon Communism." But by the time we reach the other side, we are prisoners of the forces we try to use.'

### NATO headquarters

In Paris he spoke at a special showing of the MRA film *The Crowning Experience* at NATO Headquarters. That international gathering of diplomats, military experts and economic planners, responded to Vundla. They sensed his calling from God and the dimension of his commitment as a world revolution-ary.

Philip Vundla pointed the way for millions when he said, 'I will stand by any man of any colour who puts aside his own ambition to give Moral Re-Armament to the world.' HPE

lean towards management. We go from one side to the other, feeling very uncomfortable and insecure. We are very proud that we are going to be the leaders of society and at the same time ashamed that our conditions will be better than those of other people.

At the conference I saw management and labour decide to bridge this gap, to work in unity in the direction of what is right for everybody. So where are we going to stand now, we students who usually go backwards and forwards without really changing anything? Management and labour working together with the support of the government is revolutionary. It means the end of our inner conflict and the beginning of the new society we are desperately looking for, a society we often seek through riots, revolts and drug-taking. Hundreds of thousands of students all around Europe and around the world are ready to support such revolution. The brains, hearts, hands and vitality of youth are waiting to be used in the right direction.

## Despatching the 'MRA Information Service'

by Elizabeth Lloyd

*Each Thursday the 'Information Service' is despatched on a voluntary basis.*

In the past few months, I have helped with distribution of the *MRA Information Service* when I have been off duty from nursing. I have enjoyed doing this, as I felt as if there was a worthwhile purpose in sending out news of various people, from all over the world doing jobs for building a new world. I have found that the people I have been helping at 4 Hays Mews—people from Malaysia, Australia, India and England—seem to have a zest for living and I feel that this enthusiasm is acquired by constant caring for people. This is instigated by the special time spent with God each day, and sorting one's life into living the four standards.

I thought that if I tried to live these four standards only by receiving guidance from God, that all the little problems that happen in my daily work on the wards, would seem more like molehills than mountains, and that my attitude in working with all my colleagues—people from various countries—would change for the better and consequently help in a very small, but significant way, to remake the world.