



M Achille Peretti MP, former President of the National Assembly and Deputy Mayor of Neuilly sur Seine, meets the director of *Song of Asia* (dressed as an Indian village elder) after the Paris premiere. Photo: Lars Rengfelt

'Song of Asia' in Paris

MORE THAN 1500 Parisians attended the two performances of *Song of Asia* in the French capital. Six MP's, a Senator, the Ambassadors of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Morocco, Costa-Rica, Korea, as well as the representatives of India, Indonesia, Iran and Turkey were present.

A priest who has taught in China said: 'This show must be translated into Chinese for the people of that country and also Chinese communities in North America.'

Dimitri Panine, Russian author who once shared prison-camp life with Solzhenitsyn, in a frank two-hour discussion with the force, said: 'The West has not got good constructive ideas to battle against those ideas that are destructive. But the West can be lifted up and made different. We need a revolution of the spirit that works without violence.'

Some of the Asian cast visited

Versailles' Teachers' Training College and had long dialogues with many students. Another group were guests in the home of Madame La Marechale Leclerc de Hautecloque, widow of one of the most famous soldiers of World War Two.

A five minute interview with members of the cast was broadcast at a peak-listening hour on *France-Inter*, a national radio station which has over two million listeners. The leading Parisian morning daily, *Le Figaro*, carried a one-column article and photo on *Song of Asia*. *Herald Tribune*, the major European English paper, and *L'Aurore* also published articles on the show.

During their time in Paris, the members of the cast had a chance to visit the city and to become familiar with France's past and more recent history. A young Indian journalist in the group expressed the appreciation of all in saying: 'The combination of intellect, faith and heart in France is persuasive. France's men and women have had a revolutionary faith, not just a personal one. This faith helped to create a new social order.'

After Paris, *Song of Asia* left for the industrial mining region of Lorraine.



Mr and Mrs Dimitri Panine (left) meet the cast in Paris.

Photo: Lars Rengfelt

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

at a glance

TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Students from Bombay have convened 'A conference for tomorrow's leaders' at the Moral Re-Armament Centre, Panchgani, Maharashtra, between 24 May and 2 June. They say in their invitation that this conference is for:

- Those who want to shape the future
- Are fed up with the status quo
- But have the guts to pay the price in their own lives.

The programme will include group discussions, public speaking, work on the centre's farm, drama workshops and sports.

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

'A Day of London Theatre', enabling school children to see what really goes on behind the scenes in a London Theatre, is to continue at the Westminster this summer. The day-long programmes, which will include a special schools' production of *Return Trip* by Alan Thornhill and Hugh Steadman Williams, will be given Mondays-Thursdays from 16 June to 10 July. Details can be obtained from the theatre's Educational Programme Director.

RETURN TRIP

Bishop A W Goodwin-Hudson, Vicar of St Paul's, Portman Square, London, and Rev Frank Wilson, founder and Executive Director of 'Life for the World', jointly hosted a play reading of *Return Trip* on 30 April. The play reading, which was held in St Paul's Church, was given by professional cast, some of whom had played in its world premiere at Caux last July. They were directed by Michael Malnick.

Introducing the play, Bishop Goodwin-Hudson said that there were

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An international team travelling with the film *Cross Road* spent a week in the heart of industrial Yorkshire, invited by men of industry and business.

An oil-processing company chairman and a steel industry trade unionist, a school teacher and a sixth-former were among those who asked the group to come to their cities and towns.

'CROSS ROAD' in Yorkshire

CROSS ROAD, which traces the life and work of Dr Frank Buchman, pioneer of Moral Re-Armament, was invited to Leeds by John Vickers, Chairman of Benjamin R Vickers and Sons, a company which processes oil for use in the wool textile industry. Staff from his company as well as other business and professional men were in the audience.

Four generations of the Vickers family have known and worked with Dr Frank Buchman. The audience were able to meet John Vickers' father, 92-year-old Farrar Vickers, who is pictured in the film, as well as his granddaughters, Virginia and Anne, who were taking part in the singing group.

Geoffry Lean, Environment Correspondent of the *Yorkshire Post*, spoke with the international group. He said, 'My work includes writing about such issues as the world food shortage, nuclear terrorism, the energy gap, pollution and the issue of who is to control the world's remaining wealth which lies under the oceans. The technical and financial gaps between success and failure in solving these problems are in most cases very small, but the enormous gaps between peoples' attitudes are driving us further and further from a solution.' He said that he was 'entirely committed to MRA' because it offered the most thorough philosophy for the world with which he had to deal.

Gold medal

From Leeds, the travelling group went the next day to Prince Henry Grammar School in Otley. They were invited there by one of the teachers, Mrs Elizabeth Loy. Two hundred and sixty students aged between 14 and 16 sat wide-eyed as they listened to Samuel Pono and Miss Bulie Ndamse from South Africa. One of the sixth-form students, Mark Waddington, was so intrigued with the show that a few days later he travelled to Sheffield to help the group present *Cross Road* there.

Meanwhile the international group had been invited to Huddersfield by Mr and

Mrs Ronald Gross. Mr Gross is an industrial chemist with ICI.

During the performance Dorothy Whitely, a Branch Chairman of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, said, 'In 1939 I saw an MRA film like all of you here this evening. I felt the world was in a mess and wondered what I could do about it. I had been a trade union member for 11 years, but not active. The idea of listening to God intrigued me and the thought I had was, "get on your trade union council committee." From that time things just snowballed. From being a timid person I started to fight for what I believed to be right, often fearful but convinced that this was what God wanted me to do in the fight to remake the world.'

Miss Whitely will be awarded the Gold Badge as Woman of the Year at the union's next annual conference for services to her union.

A vicar from a nearby village who brought a group from his congregation, commented, 'This film touches you on the raw. But this may not be a bad thing. People are so self-satisfied and they need this challenge to a deeper commitment.' The next evening *Cross Road* was presented in his drawing-room to another group from the village, including a local councillor and his wife, the manager of a business and other responsible people in the community. The businessman said, 'People need hope that they can do something about the problems and this film gives that.'

Honorary fellow

As in Otley, the group were again invited to a school, this time by Catherine Binks, Deputy Headgirl of All-Saints Catholic Comprehensive School. One hundred and fifty sixth-formers saw the film.

Anne Vickers told the students how she and her sister had found unity when she apologised to her sister for being jealous of her. Afterwards one girl student said, 'I have not been speaking to my sister. We argue the whole time. I think I should go home and try this idea of listening to God.'

From Huddersfield the group moved to Sheffield, famous world-wide for its steel industry. Among those who invited them was South Yorkshire County Councillor John Pate, a shop steward who has recently been made an Honorary Fellow of the Sheffield Polytechnic in recognition of his contribution to the community.

Speaking at the performance of *Cross Road* Councillor Pate said: 'I have been a shop steward in the AUEW for almost thirty years—a union known for its militancy. There is need for militancy in the fight for what is right.'

'Through applying MRA in my own

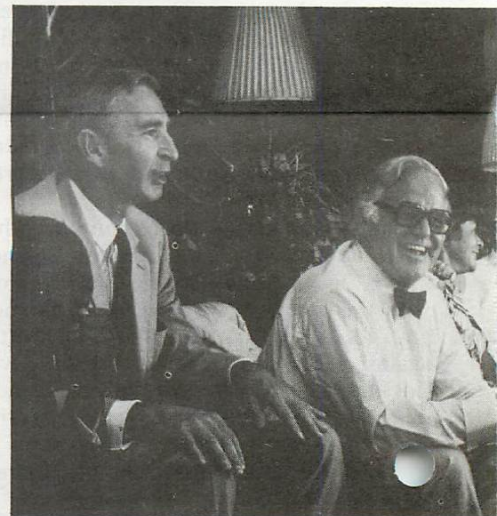
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'Something unusual' in the German Parliament

'SOMETHING UNUSUAL which hadn't happened for 25 years' took place recently in the German Federal Parliament, according to the influential *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

It happened during a bitter debate in the 25-year-old parliament on the national budget and economy, which was interrupted 677 times by members of parliament, whose names were recorded by the official stenographers. Of these, 551 were Christian-Democrats, 125 were Social-Democrats. At one point the Christian-Democrat members walked out as millions watched on TV.

Then came the surprising incident noted by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. Adolf Scheu, a 68-year-old Social-Democrat member of the parlia-



Adolf Scheu (second from left) answers questions from parliamentarians at Caux.

ment, who has several times taken part in parliamentary sessions at Caux, appealed to his fellow Christians.

'Many members of this House are Christians,' he said. 'Does the way we treat each other show that we are really Christian democrats? I put this question to myself and others concerned. How are we practising and living Christianity in this House? I think we are doing badly. Aren't we Christians playing false to our principles when we bedevil the other side or make them look ridiculous?'

Scheu asked: 'Couldn't the Christians in our Federal Parliament work out a code of ethics as has been done in the Capitol in Washington?'

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

reporter commented: "This man's calm simplicity was not a protest against "them" but a declaration about "all of us"."

Scheu said in a statement which he distributed later in written form to all members of the parliament: "We all more or less realise that it will require special efforts to overcome the deep crisis of parliamentary democracy in the whole Western world, and specially here in our Federal Republic.

"We also know that all of us in this parliament and our political leaders need to change if we are to master the problem. We shall find a new certainty about the road we must tread, as individuals and together, if many of us start to change ourselves.

"That of course is not easy. Human nature waits for other political parties and nations to change. But things can only change when I begin with myself and go on changing. I recall to your mind the pictorial way our former President Heinemann put it in this House when he was sworn in: "When I point my finger at the other person and say 'You must change', there are at the same time three fingers pointing back at me".

Scheu said that in appealing to Christian MP's he in no way wanted to exclude those who had other views. He

tion or silence when gaping rifts open between party groups or individuals in almost every session, in matters of life and death for our country?

"Up to now in committee work it is almost good form for the Government side to say "no" to Opposition proposals just because they come from the Opposition. The Opposition also tears to pieces every proposal just because it comes from the other side.

Worth trying

"Where are the Christians who should be stopping this? Instead of asking *what* is right, we only ask *who* is right. No wonder many of us in this House go about frustrated and with a bad conscience.

"But why is it that one can hardly speak about a Christian force that will really shape policies in this House?

"One reason, I believe, is that Christians in the Federal Parliament value too little the possibility of basing their political activity on their Christian faith. Or they think that politics and ethics, politics and obedience to faith, have nothing to do with each other. In theory we would reject such a view, but we hardly connect the two in our practical daily doings.

"The other, deeper reason, in my view, is our egoism. What could happen if a number of us began to let our personal and political speaking, writing and actions be directed by creative Christian principles? Wouldn't it be worth trying? I am trying it at the moment and a number of others of us also.

God's will

"That does not mean that we lose touch with reality as if we could stir a single dish of some kind of universal mash in a parliament. Of course we have to deal with factual differences of opinion soberly and if necessary vigorously. What concerns me is *how* we go about our fights and arguments. Couldn't we try to make an objective moral pragmatism the norm in this House? Or, to put it more simply, couldn't we try to apply stricter standards to our relations with each other and our disputes with each other?

"The more desperate the state of the world becomes, and the more insoluble the national and international problems, the more important it becomes, in my view, for politicians to seek for higher plans, to ask in the privacy of our rooms or when we are together what God's will could be. If someone thinks that's too pious, he can in quiet moments listen to his Inner Voice and learn the truth expressed by an important man of this century: "When man listens, God speaks. When man obeys, God acts." This results, as I have myself experienced, in remarkable things happening.

"What is happening in the Swedish

European MPs sign invitation

A special session for politicians in parliaments and regional governments has been announced for this summer's World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland. The politicians will focus on the theme 'The human factor in politics and international relations'.

Signing the invitation to the session are: Mikku Asunta MP, Finland; Bertrand Denis MP, France; Fritz Hofmann MP, Switzerland; Georges Mesmin MP, France; Karl Mitterdorfer MP, Italy; Tore Nilsson MP, Sweden; Willy Sauser MP, Switzerland; Adolf Scheu MP, German Federal Republic; Anton Skulberg MP, Norway; Jean Thornton-Duesbery, Member of the House of Keys, Isle of Man; Ralph Vibert, Senator, Jersey; Otto Wulff MP, German Federal Republic.

The session will run from 15-24 August.



Young people during a previous session for Parliament.

had experienced that many convinced atheists lived a better quality of life than many Christians.

"But the non-Christian must expect from us deeds rather than lip-service, particularly in politics. Are we often mainly the guilty ones by our participa-

'Christians in the Federal Parliament value too little the possibility of basing their political activity on their Christian faith.'

parliament is interesting. There the connection between the Christians of different parties is so close that they discuss subjects that are coming up in parliament and at times come to common conclusions about them.

"It means a new beginning for Christians and through Christians. When I think of the dangerously increasing polarisation or of the dreadful expression that common action by democrats is "a load of rubbish", I have the feeling that my modest contribution won't work any miracles. All the same I believe in new possibilities, or rather in possibilities of renewal.

"It is not a question of a few people getting a human and moral "brush-up" (though this wouldn't hurt any of us!). What is needed is to develop in Western parliaments—and perhaps also in the German Federal Parliament—teams of men of good will who try to put Christianity into practice, even in the rough-and-tumble of politics.

"We all believe in the negative power of small minorities. How often we gaze at them, full of fear and horror! Cannot we begin to hope that positive minorities can develop a decisive power for change and renewal?

"I am clear how risky it is to make a speech like this, and realise that you can always pin me down to it in future. But I have no fear of that. You will at least contribute to my daily change."

RH

AT A GLANCE *continued from page 1*

too few sectors of British life open to the work of God and that Christians should ponder how to gain greater access to the people of this country. He had long felt that drama should play a more important part in the Church's witness.

Speaking at the close of the play, Frank Wilson painted a picture of the reality behind the story of *Return Trip* – the reality of the misery of the drug scene – and the reality of scores of young people finding a cure through a return to God. He introduced a young ex-addict whose own story closely mirrored that of Paul Barrow, the ex-addict in the play.

The same cast gave a second reading of *Return Trip* at the Westminster Theatre Restaurant the following evening.

Copies of the script of Return Trip available from MRA Books, price 60p.

BRAZILIAN STORY

Work is going on in Geneva and London to complete an audio-visual production made in the *favelas* (shanty towns) of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It tells the story of families living in wooden shacks with no water, no electricity, no drains and no security.

Through a dramatic change in their own attitudes and motives these people helped thousands of others to improve their living conditions and to find a spirit of community.

An international production team have been working for six months to make this 30 minute documentary. Music will be by Remo Usai, who wrote the music for the film *Men of Brazil*. It will be ready for distribution in July.

CROSS ROAD *continued from page 2*

life I came to see that I needed to apply Christianity in my job and in the industry in which I worked. Militancy need not be for class war, division and confrontation but for God's plan to unite and enlist men so that industry serves the needs of the whole nation.

'Practically, it means rising early enough to let God speak to me before the day's work begins which means getting up regularly at 5.15 am and even 4.30 am on Saturdays when I have to be at work earlier.

'In that quiet hour I find that God inspires and directs me to care for the men that I represent and help create the right spirit in the department and in the factory.'

Michael Smith

Extra money at no cost to you

by Ian Blellock

former Chairman of Widnes Trade Council

OVER THE YEARS I have often been at MRA conferences or gatherings when a request has been made known for a docker to attend a conference in Brazil, or for a construction worker to come to Canada, or a party from industry to go to Asia.

On these occasions I have never failed to be impressed how men from the shop floor, sometimes quite new to the work of MRA, have given generously and sacrificially to help their fellow workers meet the financial needs of complying with such requests.

I believe the experiences of our men and women in British industry in applying the ideology of MRA is an inspiring message which is deserving of export.

I well remember an old Liverpool docker, Charlie Martenson, who having heard the story of the transformation of the Rio docks, and the intention to film the story immediately pulled out half-a-crown to make the first subscription, although he was out of work at that time. So started the first step, to raising the money to make *Men of Brazil* – a film that has effected the lives of many over the years.

Many of the men committed to MRA are men who work on the shop floor, men who have known unemployment, low wages, short time working and the struggle to bring up a family under cruel conditions.

For many, dock workers, miners, car workers etc the days of low wages have gone. They now receive more than the clerks, nurses, teachers etc. Despite the rate of inflation, they are better off now than they have ever been. They still live in the same small home which is big enough now the family has grown up and left and they are able to enjoy a higher standard of living than they ever thought possible.

Many are now paying a considerable amount of income tax for the first time in their lives.

It is these men and women, committed to MRA, I have especially in mind in sharing my own experiences in giving not just to help a good cause but to back a world-wide revolution.

I have always appreciated the work and sacrifice of many of our 'full time' field workers in MRA who have given up the chance to earn 'big money' in

industry in order to be free to go anywhere at any time. The same goes for those who work at the London centre and Tirley Garth, in Cheshire.

From time to time I have been inspired to make gifts to both these people and to these centres. This I have continued to do over the years, because as a draughtsman, I was privileged to receive a steady wage.

Early on I realised that by giving regularly each week, or each month, a set sum, whoever I gave it to – a full time worker or to the Trustees at Tirley Garth – they could claim the income tax back if I signed a 'Form of Covenant'. If I was paying income tax at the standard rate, (now 35%) and if I gave 50p per week which is £26 per year, then just over £13 a year could be claimed back from the income tax at no extra cost to me.

Too good to miss

Being part Scot, this seemed too good to miss and over the years, those I have been able to help have benefited from this action.

To us ordinary men in industry, the men on the shop floor, this sounds at first like high finance.

Let me assure you it is very simple and completely painless.

The essentials to bear in mind when contemplating this step are that you intend to give a set sum each week, or each month, for a period of seven years. So long as that is your intention at the time of signing the covenant then at the end of each tax year the income tax you have paid on your contribution can be claimed back by the person or Trust who receives it.

If for some reason or other you are genuinely unable to complete the seven year period, the covenant can be broken by mutual agreement between you and the person or Trust you are supporting. This includes death of course, which frees your widow from any such commitment automatically.

The message is simple, first, commit yourself to regular giving, and then increase that amount by some 50% by filling in the form.*

*Forms can be sent on application to Leslie Fox, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF