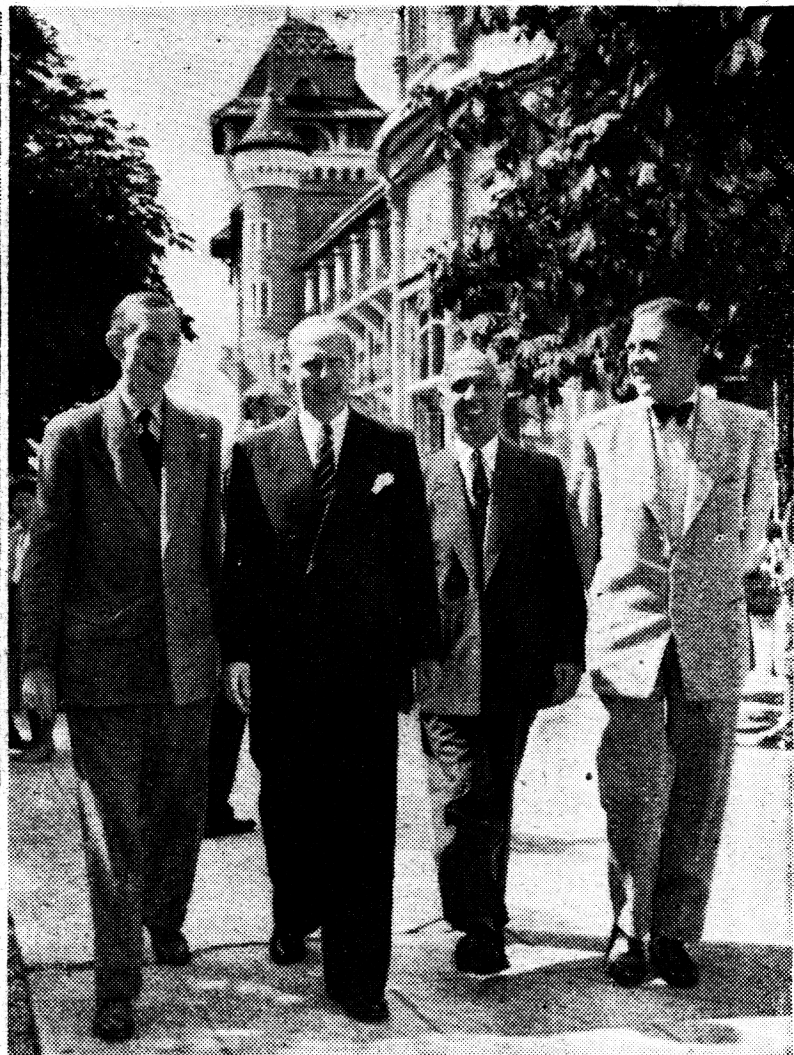




The younger generation of many nations met at the Moral Re-Armament Assembly, at Caux, Switzerland. Here are Princess Januaria de Bourbon, Stewart Lancaster, of Louisville and formerly of the American Navy, John Pribram, of Czechoslovakia, and Rose Grabe, a student from the East Zone of Germany who came to Caux to "find hope for the future of Europe."



Mr Bremer Hofmeyr (second from left) with three senior French generals. The military leaders of 20 nations met at the Moral Re-Armament World Assembly to plan the ideological security of their nations.

A Famous International Describes How

RUGBY PLAYERS ARE HELPING TO BUILD A NEW WORLD

By BRIAN BOOBBYER

Brian Boobbyer is secretary of the Oxford University Rugby Football Club, which recently toured South Africa with a Combined Universities team. He was a member of the 1949 and 1950 England XV's, and plays regularly for the famous Barbarians Club. Besides starring at rugby, Boobbyer is an Oxford cricket Blue and opened the Oxford innings last year with his South African captain, Murray Hofmeyr.

MY strange name is Huguenot; I'm not a South African, though after my recent tour of South Africa I feel like one! For some of us, that tour was a case of returning home; for others like myself, it was a great chance to see if what the South Africans in Oxford had told us about their country was true! I played against the Springbok cricketers when they came to Oxford last May, and they told us we would have the time of our lives. They were right. We did, and also met a country that loved rugby football.

Among these cricketers was Clive van Ryneveld, perhaps the finest centre three-quarter seen in Britain since the war. He had the knack of doing the ordinary thing extraordinarily well. On the softer and more grassy grounds in this country he was outstanding. Probably in South Africa on the hard grounds his lack of speed would be a handicap. But I know that the Springboks could do with his services now.

We in Britain feel it will be for the good of the game if the Springboks are occasionally defeated. Already "the Boot" has become a household name; Muller's qualities of leadership have earned high praise; and all the half-backs, especially Brewis, have made names for themselves; many have still to find their feet on our grassy grounds. But the eyes of all rugby lovers are on them, and there can be no doubt that they will do themselves justice.



The writer, on the Rugby field.—Photo: New World News, London.

We loved South Africa. Here was a country, I thought, which had all the potential qualities of greatness, but which reflected all the problems of the modern world. They were the problems of colour, race and class. As in Britain, many suggested solutions on an economic and political level to answer the present crises, but no satisfactory answer has been found. The problem in Britain is that as a nation we understand the idea of change only when it begins with the other fellow and the other nation. That was my trouble too.

I missed the last part of the tour because the army called me back to do two weeks' military service. It was certainly a grim contrast one day to be driving round the Main Drive on the Cape Peninsula, and playing on the lovely turf of Newlands, and a week later to be cleaning guns and searchlights on a very wind-swept point on the north coast of Cornwall. It was an unwelcome reminder of the failure of the free nations at this time to meet the challenge of alien ideas.

When this was over, and after playing rugby in a Festival of Britain game featuring the old and the new, I travelled on to Caux on the north side of Lake Geneva in Switzerland to attend the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament. I arrived in time for a peak week-end when nearly 1,500 people attended the sessions. The conference ended recently and 10,000 people from 89 nations attended.

I was one of the 700 students from 79 universities who were there during the summer. Most impressive were the student leaders who had come to learn from real revolutionaries how to answer Communist infiltration in their universities. They came from every major university in free Europe and even from behind the Iron Curtain. Rosa Grabe, a 20-year-old girl from Eastern Germany, said that the news of M.R.A. was the one thing that gave hope to the despairing people of Eastern Europe. "News of full shop-windows only made us bitter," she said, "and anti-Communist propaganda seemed ridiculous—when we first heard of M.R.A., it hit us like a bomb." Determined to find out more about it she escaped by night. She paid her way by selling razor blades and after six weeks she reached Caux. And what she saw there decided her to give everything she had to get training for the day when she would recross the frontier to take a dynamic ideology to her people.

Another East European figure was John Pribram of Czechoslovakia. At the age of 14 he escaped from the Germans. His parents were killed and he fled from his home. For weeks he played leap-frog with the German armies as they advanced west—Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, eventually he

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reached Spain, crossed to America, returned with the American Army, was badly wounded and had a leg amputated. And yet Pribram was one of the first of the M.R.A. task force to take this ideology to Germany after the war. M.R.A. had cured the bitterness in his heart and given him a new vision and purpose. "M.R.A.," he said at Caux, "would show everyone how to build new homes, industries and nations, and give an answer for East and West."

Louis Laure of Marseilles went in the same task force to Germany after the war. His mother was head of the Socialist women of France and a resistance leader. Of Louis' mother a member of the former German general staff said: "She has done more to build unity between France and Germany than any other single person." Louis' father was for 45 years a Marxist trained by Marcel Cachin, the veteran French Communist. The three Laures now give all their time to bring this answer to their former enemies.

Last year I was at Caux at the same time as a parliamentary delegation from South Africa. This year, 15 countries of Africa were represented at Caux. Among them were Mrs Azikiwe of Nigeria, whose husband was at Caux two years ago. Of special interest to me was Bremer Hofmeyr, former Rhodes Scholar, who since he went down from Oxford in 1931 has travelled in many countries to bring this answer to the world. The gifted Hofmeyr family include three Rhodes Scholars, one of whom, Murray,

now teaching in his old school in Pretoria. It was a treat to play outside Murray, because he always gave you a pass that not even your grandmother could drop.

There was some plain speaking from American delegates at the Assembly. The member of the U.S. Congress for North Carolina, Charles Deane, said

that America's greatest need was "an ideology for democracy to replace materialism." America, he said, was in the grip of the very thing she condemned in others, the materialism which resulted in broken homes, suspicion, hate, fear and greed. Division must be replaced by union which comes through the grace of rebirth. The statesman and the ordinary man must change and bring a new confidence and climate to

the nation's life. To the firm united but humble voice of re-born democracy, even the most difficult would respond.

I was much interested in Robert Tilge, secretary of the Employers' Federation of Northern France. He played rugby for France, and I'm told that he was a pretty rough player! He also wrestled for his country and his friends called him the "elephant;" he's as large as some of the Springbok forwards. He has travelled in America, Canada and many European countries with task forces of Moral Re-Armament. He said: "I sometimes think that management is always late by one franc, one hour, one idea, because we have always been the people who want to keep and not to give. Caux has shown that we must start a fight with ourselves. A war with our own selfishness: then we shall be starting to stop the next war and to save culture and democracy."

Many German students were at Caux, most of whom had been trained in Nazi schools. Every student in Western Germany today, 152,000 of them, has received a copy of "The World Rebuilt" giving the story and achievements of M.R.A. and many came to Caux to find out more about it. A former Hitler Youth leader said: "After meeting Dutch people here, I am deeply sorry for what we have done and for the wounds we made in the hearts of thousands of people. As we Germans change we can work together with you in the Netherlands to bring this answer. Millions in the East are waiting for it. Their future depends on our decision."

The author of "The World Rebuilt," who was also at Caux, is Peter Howard. He was one of the best English back-row forwards between the two wars and captained England in 1931, and later became one of England's leading political journalists. His books on M.R.A. have sold nearly one million copies in this country alone, and his latest book has already been translated into eight languages and been sold in 20 countries. "At Caux," he said, "the greatest news story of this century is unfolding. It is the story of renaissance. People plan for it, fight for it, and learn to live in a way which makes it not only possible, but inevitable."

Last year at Caux, a famous English tennis player, Bunny Austin, said: "The key to the future lies in the hands of those who give everything."

That is the challenge of Caux. Dr Frank Buchman, founder of Moral Re-Armament, said 30 years ago: "If you want an answer for the world, the best place to start is with yourself and your nation." When I met M.R.A. I saw that if I wanted to answer the ambition, pride and fear in the world, I first had to find the answer to those things in myself. It meant facing up to absolute moral standards in my life, and letting God take the reins. Men and women must face that challenge if democracy is to become real and inspired. I know that unless we in Oxford can integrate what we learn and the way we live with what the world needs we are out-of-date. M.R.A. has given me the inner discipline that I need and the inner liberty that I long for. It has given purpose to my study and freedom to my rugby. I returned after a week at Caux with the certainty that a new world was in the making, and with a yearning to be part of it.