

MRA

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TO CHANGE MEN IS AIM OF SEINENDAN

POLITICAL SCHEMES ARE NO ANSWER TO ECONOMIC DEADLOCK

CONGOLESE PRESIDENT: 'THIS WORK IS OF GOD'

HUNDREDTH PERFORMANCE OF 'MUSIC AT MIDNIGHT'

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'More than an affluent society or a welfare state'

FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY DELEGATES from 24 nations in North Africa, the Middle East, Asia and all parts of Europe gathered last week-end for the opening sessions of the Moral Re-Armament Assembly in Caux, Switzerland. Theme of the conference is 'The Decisive Task Facing Modern Man'.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of the German Federal Republic expressed in a message to the assembly his gratitude for their deliberations 'on the special situation that exists in Berlin. May your endeavours to achieve what all freedom-loving people have at heart meet with success.'

The President of the Swiss Confederation, M. Paul Chaudet, in a message said that the assembly called for 'a great common effort to improve the condition of humanity. I deeply wish that your action to create better understanding between men shall be fruitful and that your appeals will be heard.'

Workers from the shipyards of Belfast and Clydeside, men and women of the Welsh mining valleys, life-long fighters from the Labour Movement of Scotland, hospital nurses, city businessmen and financiers reported to the assembly a massive mobilisation of men and women of Britain, focusing on the London play *Music at Midnight*.

Mr. Stanley Hoar, managing director of a London investment company, addressing the delegates, declared, 'Britain, we hope, is in sight of coming into the community of Europe. The important thing is to bring to the new Europe a new spirit which will create new motives and a new world purpose; otherwise we may sharpen the antagonism of the Communist world, create fears in the United States of an unpredictable third force, and

make Africa suspicious of possible renewed colonial domination. With a new spirit, we can build a creative, convincing society which will win the Communist world and build a lasting peace of freedom and justice for all men everywhere.

'We must bring in,' he continued, 'a Britain which is more than an affluent society or a welfare state—a nation morally sound, socially united, as well as economically stable and politically inspired—a nation, moreover, humble and responsible because it is governed by men governed by God. With such qualities we can win the Communist world. The curtains will go up. The walls will come down.'

A Moroccan delegation in Arabic dress told the assembly that 'The ideology of Moral Re-Armament is spreading fast in Morocco. We need many films and ideological weapons to reach the whole country. Then we can bring these ideas to Algeria.'

They referred to the words of the late king Mohammed V, 'Our neighbour Algeria is on fire. MRA is the water that can put that fire out.' Speaking through their representative, Mr. Labi Dandari, they asked the forgiveness of French delegates for their hatred and bitterness.

The French, mounting the platform with them apologised for the attitude of superiority and the atheism which they had exported to North Africa and pledged themselves to do all in their power to heal the wounds of Algeria's suffering.

Delegates planned a series of conferences in September which will deal with industry, press, politics, youth and education and the arts.

'Before you send us dollars, send us ideology'

THE LAST WEEKS have been a severe setback for the American conception of co-operation with the South American Hemisphere, a co-operation based on the cornerstone of the Alliance for Progress. Peru, looked to to become a model of economic growth and political

stability, experienced a military coup and the annulment of the first orderly, democratic elections in her recent history. America reacted instantly, severing diplomatic ties and cancelling the Peruvian portion of the economic aid programme.

Reporting in the *Sunday Times* of 22 July, Mr. Tom Stacey, just returned from Latin America, dissents from the State Department's belief that economic aid will stem the tide of poverty and unrest in the South. 'At the root of the Latin American threat to world security is the strain between it and the United States. All other problems are subordinate to this. If the mistrust and resentment towards the U.S. can be removed the threat will be gone.'

Two weapons which can revolutionise American attitudes and policy toward the Southern Hemisphere arrived last month on Mackinac Island, at the Moral Re-Armament Assembly for the Americas. They are plays. One of them, *El Condor*, is staged by university students from Peru, Brazil and Bolivia. The other, *The Blessings of God*, is written and acted by sugar workers and dockers from Brazil's stormy North East.

Jarbas Leiros, for 22 years a member of the Communist Party and responsible for this action in the port, takes a lead role in the dockers' drama. He told delegates that as 'a sworn enemy of America', he had been ready to 'sink ships in the harbour so that no aid from America could enter Brazil'. The North American premiere of *The Blessings of God* followed showings of it in the most Communist suburb of Recife, Brazil.

'Before you send us dollars, send us an ideology,' appealed Waldemar Agra, editor of the portworkers'

journal of Recife and author of the play. Though his area, suffered in 'blood and flesh the consequences of an unjust society,' he continued, 'aid by itself, without a fundamental moral change in men, merely creates confusion.'

El Condor, written by men who once led the pro-Castro faction of San Marcos University in Lima, Peru, is a tale of political machinations, student unrest and American attempts to create stability without solving the fundamental problems of the country. Henrique Tamashiro, one of its authors, said that he and his comrades had again and again taken to the streets to achieve their objectives through violence. 'In the north of Brazil we saw millions of people dying of hunger and living in ignorance. We students will go on fighting to put such things right. What we had forgotten was that the roots of what is wrong in our unjust society are found in the wrong things in our own lives. Now we will fight with America that she give the right lead to democracy.'

Before leaving for North America, *El Condor* was videotaped for national television transmission by Diarios Associados, the TV and newspaper chain. An estimated 900,000 saw the play at performances in the state capitals of Recife, Salvador and Joao Pessoa and over four television stations in the North East of Brazil.

To change men is aim of Seinendan

'THE FUNDAMENTAL AIM of the Seinendan is to change men,' said Mr. Suchiro Ohnishi, President of the Seinendan Council of Japan, last week in London 'Through the change of the individual, we can bring about change in his immediate community and then in the entire country.'

Mr. Ohnishi speaks with authority. Not only does he lead the largest youth organisation in the non-Communist world, the 4,300,000-member Japanese Youth Federation (Seinendan), he is also Chairman of the executive body co-ordinating all youth organisations in his country.

'Our aim is to create men who do not just squat or march in the streets, but demonstrate, by the way they live, the right quality of life for the country,' he continued. 'We do not regard the Communists as enemies. We are out to equip men with the moral standards by which they can look at Communism, understand it and decide for themselves.'

Ohnishi, with two of his colleagues of the Seinendan Central Committee, Hajimu Takashima and Toyoki Morishita, was en route to the opening of the World Assembly at Caux. Invited to Helsinki for the World Youth Festival, they will take part instead in the Moral Re-Armament Assembly, because they have seen the effect of similar assemblies on their colleagues and organisation.

This influence dates back to 1957, when one hundred

and seven of the national leaders of the Seinendan were trained for two months at Mackinac Island, Michigan. At that time, Mr. Ohnishi was one of the fifteen who journeyed to Moscow for the Youth Festival held there that summer.

Ohnishi said that in 1956, seventy per cent of the Central Committee of his organisation were men who followed the Communist line in policy decisions. 'The ordinary member of the Seinendan, when he voted for a Communist candidate, did not understand what that candidate was out for. No one took seriously the deep penetration of these men into our organisation.'

After 1957, he said, men trained at Mackinac had opened the eyes of the membership across the country to this struggle for power and had provided an alternative leadership. 'Today we have honest elections and the people know what they are voting for. There have been no Communist candidates elected to the Central Committee for three years.'

Ohnishi said that he had undertaken the additional heavy tasks of chairman of the co-ordinating body of all youth organisations 'in order to take responsibility that the youth of Japan go in the right direction to bring about world peace. When we Japanese youth put aside our bitterness and our reliance on other men to fight for what is right, then we can work for unity in the world.'

POLITICAL SCHEMES ARE NO ANSWER TO ECONOMIC DEADLOCK

THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY, and with it the ability of the British economy to adapt to changing circumstances, will, to a large degree, decide the fate of the present government. The same will apply to any government that follows.

A 'depressing account of the material and moral states of industry' has been given to the Secretary of the Treasury by independent observers of the National Production Advisory Council on Industry from all parts of the country. Mr. Macmillan is attempting to relieve the stagnation by creating a National Incomes Commission, designed to clarify industrial disputes over wages and productivity by advising where the national interest lies.

Describing this measure, an editorial in *The Times* of 27 July comments, 'In so far as there is no power within the nation able or willing to control their excesses, both trade unions and employers have become technically irresponsible. Wage demands are continually made and continually met with little regard to the interests of the people as a whole or the wellbeing of the economy. Prices rise steadily. Neither Mr. Selwyn Lloyd's pay-pause, nor the efforts of any of his predecessors, Conservative or Labour, have been able to call a halt to the downward slide. The Prime Minister, searching around for some authority that will be accepted by all, has settled on public opinion.'

'Yet he must surely know by now that it is not enough for a society to be affluent for it to be healthy. The nation itself uneasily senses this. The 'You've never had it so good' philosophy has been rejected. It cannot be replaced merely by 'New ways to have it better.'

Wage Limitations

The T.U.C. General Council, through its Secretary General, Mr. George Woodcock, has rejected the Commission. It refuses to concede to a government commission the right or the ability to decide what is in the national interest. It sees in such a commission the means of carrying out a policy of 'wage limitation'.

Political schemes appear unable to resolve the economic deadlock. Yet without a solution to this problem, the future for both sides of industry is grim. An unexpected factor is needed. The editors print the following editorial from the July edition of *The Waterfront and Industrial Pioneer* in the belief that it reveals that factor:

'The employers of the motor and engineering industries are today being presented with the finest opportunity they have ever had to secure peace in industry and a new era in industrial relationships. Failure to take advantage of the present situation is very likely to

result in permanent deterioration in employer-worker relationships.

'That there is a changing atmosphere in industry among the workers on the shop floor is clearly shown by their rejection of strike action at Ford's, the demand of the men at B.M.C. that the electricians settle their strike without throwing thousands out of work, and the Con-Fed ballot rejecting strike action to secure a pay increase so long as there were still other means left to secure this end.

'Rejecting wild men'

'It is evident that the workers are at last rejecting the lead of the 'wild men' of industry who have for so long been able to create chaos in the economy but at the same time it is now a matter of vital necessity that the vast mass of reasonable shop stewards, who do a remarkably good and efficient job of preventing trouble, should receive the active support of the men.

'At the same time the desire of the workers to find peaceful solutions to their differences must not be taken by the employers as an opportunity to adopt a tough attitude in revenge for the troubles of the past. To do so will be to experience a very rude awakening! The worker is no less militant than ever he was; he is, however, in the early stages of searching for a new way of settling his disputes. His actions today are being directed less from passion than from reason. Any pressure by the employer is likely to cause explosive reactions, to give the Communist shop stewards and their allies the chance to say, 'We told you so', to re-establish their influence even more firmly, and lead to permanent and increasing deterioration in our industrial relationships. The willingness of the worker to adopt a responsible attitude and to seek peaceful solutions to differences must be matched by the willingness of the employers to meet them half way.

New kind of statesmanship

'If both sides of industry adopt the technique of looking not for 'who is right' but for 'what is right' in every dispute a new era of peace, prosperity and expansion can be secured.

'Now is the hour for the leaders of industry to show that they are big enough to say, 'Let us forget the past. We have both made our mistakes. Let us start now, together, to find and work to secure what is best for the industry and the nation. Let us search not for what benefits each of us separately, but for what benefits us both.' To do this would be to show a new kind of industrial statesmanship that would give a lead to industry throughout the world.'

Congolese President: 'This work is of God'

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE PRESIDENT of the Congo and Mme Kasavubu received the international force of Moral Re-Armament, now travelling through Africa, in the Presidential Residence on 28 July.

Dr. William Nkomo of South Africa, founder and first president of the militant African National Congress Youth League, told President Kasavubu, 'In the Congo the battle for Africa will be won or lost. With Moral Re-Armament that battle will be won, and the Congo will answer the untruths published about her in the world press.

'I used to call myself a leader of my people,' continued Nkomo. 'But I was living in moral defeat. I became honest with my wife and decided to live straight. No man who can be bought by money, women, liquor or position can be an effective leader, for it is our moral weaknesses that are used by those who seek to destroy our nations.'

After an hour's conference, the President led his guests and a number of Congo's leading figures into a special performance of the film *The Crowning Experience*. The President told them, 'This work is not the work of men. It is the work of God.'

During the morning, at a ceremonial parade for the new Minister of Defence, the MRA force were given seats of honour with the Cabinet and the commanders of the Congolese and U.N. forces. Following the parade they were guests of General Mobutu, Commander-in-Chief of the Congolese Army, in the officers' mess.

Each night they presented films and speakers at the army and air force camps, and in Leopoldville's finest theatre. The German ambassador gave a reception for them to meet the heads of the American, British, French, Swiss, Dahomey and Liberian diplomatic missions. 'What you are doing for the army,' he said, 'is the most important thing that

could be done in the Congo today.'

The entire Brazilian Air Force contingent of the U.N. forces saw the film *Men of Brazil*, introduced by Damasio Cardoso, star of the film and docked from the port of Rio. One officer commented 'Every visiting U.N. official should see these films in order to understand our task here.'

100th performance of 'Music at Midnight'

REPEATED curtain calls greeted the hundredth performance of *Music at Midnight* at the Westminster Theatre on 28 July. 'House Full' notices were up outside the theatre.

During the same week Miss Nora Swinburne celebrated her fiftieth anniversary on the stage.

Miss Swinburne told the crowded Tuesday night audience, which gave her a sustained ovation, 'I have received letters from all over the country, from workers, doctors, butchers, bakers and candlestick makers, all telling me the unbelievable things this play has been doing. I could never have believed it could do so much good. For two hours you make people think about selfishness and hate—and about God. You cannot do that any other way these days, can you?'

'Now in the autumn of my life it is a very great joy to me to have found this play, which I am very proud of and feel very deeply about.'

At a party given with her actor-husband, Esmond Knight, for the cast and other guests from the theatrical and film world, Miss Swinburne spoke of the present series of plays at the Westminster Theatre as promising 'something marvellous and very important for the whole future of the drama—more important than many of us yet see or understand.'

London—A special train party of 150 from South and West Wales for the 100th performance of *Music at Midnight* included 84 officers and men from the German troops in training at Castlemartin, Pembroke. They were greeted at Paddington Station by Air Vice-Marshall Traill and Lt.-Col. Kraus, the German Military Attaché. The soldiers heard a simultaneous translation of the play over a short-wave system—the first of its kind ever to be used in a West End theatre.

West Indies—*The Crowning Experience* has been released in over one hundred Caribbean theatres in British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Surinam, Antigua, Curacao, Grenada, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Tobago. The Mayor of Port of Spain, capital of Trinidad, is launching the commercial distribution of *Men of Brazil* throughout the West Indies and *Freedom* in Trinidad 'to prepare the people for independence' on 31 August.

Usumbura, Burundi—The Governor of Usumbura called a mass meeting for Moral Re-Armament in the football stadium of this capital city. Opening the meeting he said, 'Here are men and women who bring the experience and the wisdom Burundi needs.' The MRA force were also the guests of the Governor of Kitega, the royal capital of Burundi. A second public meeting reached the entire population.

Rio de Janeiro—*El Condor* was telecast simultaneously on 14 July to the greater Rio area and to the industrial city of Belo Horizonte. The following night *Men of Brazil* was telecast for Rio and Salvador, capital of Bahia province in the North East. In Salvador performances of the MRA films were given in universities, schools, trade union halls, theatres and public squares, climaxing with a showing of *Freedom* in the Governor's Palace.