

# MRA AND THE WORKING CLASS

Through the press and radio, at mass meetings, in the crowded theatres where MRA plays are shown, and from the lips and pens of the trade union, Socialist and Communist Party members who have attended the MRA Asian and World Assemblies, the working people of every country are being informed of the social, economic, racial, national and international changes that MRA is producing.

## Trade Union Leaders Bear Evidence To A New Faith

From the day of Karl Marx and the first Working Men's International in 1864, division has haunted the workers' ranks. Not until today with the advent of MRA has any International held together the peoples of all nations, races, classes and creeds. MRA has bridged these barriers through its application of the four principles: absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love—and now links Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America with what a militant Communist called "the international of the heart".

Ben Tillett, trade union veteran

**I**N FIVE continents today millions of workers in textile mills and steel plants; in shipyards and coal mines, in factories and on the farmlands from North America and Europe to the rice paddy fields of South-East Asia are hearing with fresh hope about the worldwide battle and programme of MRA to build a new world.

and the British dockers' champion who gave his life to raise the standards of the workers, sent this message to Frank Buchman, founder of MRA: "Tell him to go on fighting. Give him my love and I wish him the best of luck. Tell him: You have a great international movement. Use it. It is the hope of tomorrow. It will bring sanity back to the world." And in less than a dozen years since Ben's death, his docker friends all over the world have made his words come true. From Bombay to Bremen, from Yokohama to London, and from Sydney to San Francisco, the men who load and unload the ships that circle the world are building that "international of the heart" which they say "can remove the barriers of mistrust and suspicion and bring about a better understanding in industry and benefits to all."

The working people of Britain quickly felt these benefits in terms of food for their stomachs and money in their pockets. In 1950 when 50,000 tons of meat would have rotted on the London and Scottish docks because of a New Zealand strike that threatened to spread to Britain, the British dockers put the care of their much-rationed people before any political strike, on the MRA basis of "what is right". The result was that thousands of people were fed and no wages were lost. This was in contrast to a previous occasion in the British docks when a political strike cost the country two hundred and sixteen million pounds.

### BIGGEST IDEA

One of the leaders of that 1949 strike, Tom Eep, a member of the Communist Party for 22 years and 1945-46 president of the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' Union of Great Britain, is now basing his union policy and dock work on the principle of "what is right not who is right" and along

wards an age of peace, security and prosperity."

From France, Maurice Mercier, National Secretary of the Textile Workers' Union, reported at the MRA World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, which has been attended by union leaders of 48 countries representing 50 million workers, that recent negotiations with the employers were concluded in record time resulting in a new wage agreement and increase of 15 to 16 per cent for 648,000 textile workers including both the Socialist and Communist trade unions. Says Mercier, "MRA



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offers a revolutionary answer. It is greater than the resistance. It is greater than the Popular Front. It is the biggest idea of the 20th century. Not a cry of hatred, not an hour of work lost, not a drop of bloodshed—this is the revolution of joy and love to which MRA calls you. MRA offers you the possibility, wherever you are and whatever responsibilities you hold, to apply a revolutionary answer.

to carry forward the living spirit of this MRA idea".

When the African Chief, Nana Kwasi Afrani of the Gold Coast, decided to apply MRA and started by giving 4,000 acres of his own farmland to the homeless people of his tribe, an Indian labour leader declared, "You do not

By

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realise what this means for the endless millions of the East".

### SUPPORT

In Thailand, bordering Burma and Indo-China when today the ideological war is centred, the secretary General of the National Trades Union Council is outlining in his new book the special significance of MRA as a uniting force to answer the crisis in the divided labour movements across the world.

The sudden death within two weeks of one another of America's two top labour leaders, Mr. William Green, President of the AFL, and Mr. Philip Murray, President of the CIO, will be mourned by fourteen million workers in North America and Canada and many more millions around the world. In Colombo, and in Bombay, thousands of people who attended the MRA plays and meetings stood in silent tribute to these two old comrades who had fought and given their lives for the workers of their own country and the world.

William Green and Philip Murray were among the first men in America to support MRA. Both invited the force of MRA to "present their ideological plays (now showing in India)" to all their union members, at international, national, and state labour conventions in America and Canada. Although leaders of rival union organisations, they proclaimed their common belief in MRA by being together on the National Committee that brought the MRA play "The Forgotten

followed with interest its nationwide presentation to a quarter of a million workers in the steel, coal, aircraft, automobile and ship-building industries of the United States.

When labour leaders from Asia and Europe attended the World Assembly of MRA in Michigan last year, Mr. Green in a personal message said, "The American labour movement warmly supports this welcome and expresses the hope that you and others of our trade union brothers from Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and the Americas will attend this gathering and so contribute to the new world of liberty and justice we all desire."

### COVERAGE

Over 300 trade union newspapers of the American labour movement have carried the world news of MRA to their workers for the past twelve years. The labour press, not only in America but across the world, has given an inspired lead in getting the ideology and evidence of MRA out to the millions. The Socialist press of Europe has interpreted the ideology of MRA in news accounts and editorials. The Social Democrat newspaper *Bergens Arbeiderbladet* of Norway says: "MRA has taken the force of an ideology that actively, daringly, unitedly, enters into the battle against the dogmatic, reactionary class and race-bound ideologies. A new epoch has been started with the message and challenge to nations.

".....Here is growing forth an international movement which the leading politicians in all countries should observe with the greatest attention.... One of the most important questions we have to solve today is how to create a high quality human being who can and will live in a Socialist society.

"The economic and social developments must be paralleled by the creating of Socialist character. Here we have a big job ahead of us. We must solve and solve it satisfactorily, or the result (of Socialism) will not be what we hoped or believed."

### IN JAPAN

Japan's elected leaders of 1,000,000 organised workers in the trade unions of the seaman, dockers, textiles, railways, automobiles, and other key industries cabled their support to Frank Buchman in his fight "for peace and social security based

union policy and dock work on the principle of "what is right and not who is right", and along with the other militant dockers' leaders is fighting for MRA. Tom Keep says, "MRA means the ending of the longest and the bitterest war in history—the class war. And with the ending of the class war comes the ending of all war. MRA gives to us the opportunity to change the course of this world away from wars, unemployment and exploitation to

and whatever responsibilities you hold, to apply a revolutionary answer.

**In the ideological battle ground of the German Ruhr, the evidence of changed capitalists producing changed economic and social conditions has given leaders and rank and file of the West German Communist Party a new idea of revolution. Many have relinquished their philosophy of materialism for what they describe themselves as "the superior ideology of MRA that brings the greatest revolution of a change in human nature".**

It was such evidence that led Socialist Dr. Hans Boeckler, former President of the German Trade Union Congress, to state: "If men are to be free from the old and the out-moded, it can only happen as they set themselves a new goal, and place in the forefront humanity and moral values. When men change, the structure of society changes, and when the structure of society changes, men change. Both go together and both are necessary. The goal which MRA strives to reach is the same as that for which I am fighting as a trade unionist".

### OUT OF DATE

One of these militant Communists, Paul Kurowski, for 25 years in the Party, began to reassess Marxism in the light of the evidence he saw in MRA. "I see that the basic theories of Marx are out of date," he says. "Its philosophy is built on German classical philosophy and fails to reckon with the important fact that human nature can be changed. Its economic theory is equally out of date, as we have attained many of the things for which the workers were then striving and have now moved on from the industrial to the ideological age. Its tactics of class war is suicide, for it is bound to end in universal war between two groups and, therefore, lead to world destruction."

**From an African land of 30 million people, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, president of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons which includes about two hundred trade unions, political parties and tribal unions, speaking on "Rebirth for Africa", said, "I decided to pitch my tent in the rank and file of MRA. We have a war on our hands: an attempt to make life worthwhile for humanity at large, irrespective of race, or nation, or class or caste. Once we are humble enough to appreciate that we are not necessarily always right, then we should be able to ferret out. What is right and do it without fear or favour and with moral courage.**

"I have no doubt in my mind that MRA will be a living force not only in the lives of a few people, but in the lives of many. We can start changing ourselves, on the basis of the four absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. But we must be courageous, and defy convention if necessary in order

in MRA by being together on the National Committee that brought the MRA play "The Forgotten Factor" to show to the nation's leadership in Washington. Thereafter Mr. Murray and Mr. Green

tries cabled their support to Frank Buchman in his fight "for peace and social security based on the absolute moral standards common to all men of all races and nations"

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