

RAPID ADVANCE OF M.R.A. IN GERMANY  
(From our Berlin Staff Correspondent)

Berlin, Nov. 1.

Are there signs of the influence of Moral Re-Armament in the Germany of today? To this question one can unreservedly reply "Yes". Practically every German newspaper-reader today knows what the word "Caux" means. They know the name Frank Buchman and are familiar with the initials MRA (Moral Re-Armament). But that is not all. Both in Western and Eastern Germany and in Berlin there are groups of Germans whom one could well describe as in a sense, active workers for Caux.

In Western Germany this work is proceeding freely in the open and is supported by many people of key positions in various spheres of public life. The same is true in West Berlin, but the work in the Eastern zone and East Berlin is carried on more quietly, as in these areas there is a risk of MRA being forbidden. Several hundred Germans visited Caux last summer, including Minister-Presidents, Cabinet Ministers, employers, trade unionists, journalists, students, artists, professors and many others.

The famous booklet "Es Muss Alles Anders Werden", for which paper was given by Sweden, is already known to our readers. Tens of thousands of Germans of all ages and all grades of society have read it, and it has become in a sense a seed of the spirit in Germany.

In Berlin some months ago Dr. Pechel, editor of "Deutsche Rundschau", gave a series of addresses on Caux. One evening it suddenly happened that a group of youth who had not themselves been to Caux but knew Moral Re-Armament got up and one after the other spoke from the platform after Dr. Pechel. The heaven began to work. People asked to know more. Many people wrote their names and addresses on a list which was sent round the room. Since then more and more meetings have been held in various parts of Berlin and the movement seems to be winning support in wider and wider circles. Here and there churches are opening their doors for MRA.

Moral Re-Armament meets the most serious opposition in the Communist Press, and this with intense violence. At the same time the movement has obtained a firm foothold in several industries where it has been found that the new spirit gives splendid results. There have also been programmes about MRA over "RIAS", the most popular American radio station in Berlin.

Recently a large group of MRA workers has traveled through Western Germany. It consisted of about 250 people from 25 nations, including youth from Scandinavia. Dr. Buchman was also present. They performed the revue "The Good Road" in Ulm, Stuttgart, Munich, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, Essen, and Wuppertal. Dr. Karl Arnold, Minister-President of Nordrhein-Westfalen, sent a personal invitation to the cast of the Revue, in which he wrote "Germany is hard pressed and grievously wounded spiritually and economically. I know what the forces which can be mobilised by Moral Re-Armament mean for Germany's spiritual health. It shall be our firm resolve so to work that God's image, graven on every human heart, shall decide our future way of life."

Week ending December 4th.  
ROUND-THE-WORLD REPORT

BRITAIN:

Packed performances, with over a thousand turned away night after night, tell only the beginning of the story of Britain's response to "The Good Road" at His Majesty's Theatre, London. Bus-loads have brought mayors and councillors, editors and factory delegations through the fog and rain of winter from Gloucester, Portsmouth, Bristol, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, East Anglia and Scotland. In the Midlands and in Wales, management and trade union leaders are organising training programmes in ideological preparedness to apply the message of "The Good Road" to British industry and coal-mining.

The "News Chronicle" reported: "Both Wales and Scotland are clamouring for a visit from the Oxford Group's revue, 'The Good Road', now running at His Majesty's Theatre... I went to see it last night and was astonished in many ways.

"The crowded audience interested me chiefly - a typical West End audience, easy-going, out obviously for a night's entertainment. But it was not by any means exclusively a London crowd. It came from all parts of the country. Trade union representatives from Wales and elsewhere, I was told, were present in force...

"'The Good Road' is first-class entertainment... The word 'change' rings right through all the brilliant tableaux and scenes of the revue.. One of the finest stage shows in London... You are convulsed with laughter as often as you are moved to tears... A stupendous enterprise, this show."

GERMANY:

Last week a new factor emerged in the conflict for control of German industry now making headlines in the Ruhr. Amid the tangled ruins of the mighty Krupp armament works, "The Forgotten Factor", a drama of today's war of ideologies, had its German Premiere with an all-German cast. Surrounded by ten square miles of twisted girders and the fallen concrete and machinery of machine sheds, the rebuilt Capitol Theatre was filled with Ruhr leaders - members of the Land Government of North Rhine-Westphalia, Coal Board representatives, miners and managers, city councillors and industrialists. They came at the invitation of Minister-President Karl Arnold of North Rhine-Westphalia and Dr. Gustave Heinemann, Lord Mayor of Essen.

Minister-President Arnold introduced the play. "The hard school of bitter suffering through which this nation has gone can have a higher meaning," he said, "It can drive us to find why the world is in its present condition. A new order can be set up only when we first set up a new order in the heart of men. This new order must then be worked out in social, political and economic life. The rebirth of the individual multiplied a millionfold will bring to birth a new age. I have been especially encouraged by the readiness to sacrifice in this cause of Moral Re-Armament shown by the youth of North Rhine-Westphalia, and especially of the Ruhr. This is the ideology which can bring us the moral and spiritual healing we need in our nation, and provide a real basis of peace with other nations."

"The eyes of Germany, and of many nations, are on Essen," said Lord Mayor Heinemann, as he read from the sheaf of telegrams of congratulation which greeted the opening performances of the play. The Minister-Presidents of Bavaria, Wurttemberg-Baden and Lower Saxony, members of the Executive Board of the Socialist-Democrat Party of Germany, the Vice-President of the Finnish Parliament and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff were among those who sent messages. The support of the British miners for a uniting ideology in the pivotal Coalfield of Europe was expressed in cables from National Union of Mineworkers leaders in North Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

Meanwhile, news of the effect of the visit of "The Good Road" in Western Germany continues to arrive in London as scores of German youth tell in letters to the east of renewed hope, honesty in schools and homes, and meetings to plan for their communities. In the enclosed article the Berlin correspondent of the important Swedish national daily newspaper "Svenske Dagbladet" describes the influence of Moral Re-Armament in Berlin and both Eastern and Western zones of Germany.

U.S.A.:

400 business men, labour leaders and other responsible, representative New Yorkers gathered in the Embassy Theatre, New York's best newsreel cinema, recently, according to a "New York Herald-Tribune" report, to see the documentary film "Days of Decision". The report continues; "Because stable families, labour-management teamwork and national unity are moral rather than economic concepts, the United States must send more than economic aid to Europe, Mrs. John Henry Hammond said yesterday. The Marshall Plan must be backed by spiritual aid, she said, if the democratic way of life is to withstand the assault of Communism..."

"One way to give spiritual aid to Europe, Mrs. Hammond continued, is by doing a better job with our own democracy, thus providing better proof of its value to the rest of the world. In this way... Americans can get in the fight for the democratic way of life by helping to spread the message of Moral Re-Armament through their own country as well as by backing the movement's members and projects in other countries."

CHINA:

A Far Eastern correspondent reports that there is "one last chance for China-change. Change at top levels. Real change in attitude, in relationships among every kind."

Peking observers, he writes, have been greatly impressed with the change in Chen Li-fu, Vice-President of the Legislative Yuan, since his return from the Moral Re-Armament World Assemblies in California and Ceux this summer. They have noted two things especially: "Chen's new democratic outlook, and his admission that the Kuomintang party have not always been honest." Many feel confident that if this change continues and extends to others at the top, the nation can be saved.

In a letter to an English friend, Chen Li-fu himself writes: "I have come back to China with stronger conviction than ever, that MRA is the very remedy to cure sickness of all kinds-economic, Political, social and inter-national. The world is heading for a catastrophe which may be the end of human civilization. Without moral awakening of all peoples of the world, no atomic weapon or international union of any kind could save humanity from ultimate destruction. It is hoped that those who have unswerving faith in MRA will carry the crusade to every corner of the globe. "Recently I have delivered a number of speeches, including a few broadcasts, expounding the significance and dwelling upon the importance of MRA. Wherever I go and whomever I meet, I have never failed to touch on this subject."

U.S.A.:ROUND-THE-WORLD REPORT"America - Spiritual Instrument"

At the annual meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers Conference in New York, Congressman Walter Judd of Minnesota received a standing ovation as he gave an analysis of the world ideological struggle. His intimate knowledge of China has made him a spokesman in the United States Congress. He said, "America is innocent and amateurish in ideological understanding. Our greatest failures have been in the political, ideological and moral fields. What diplomatic figures do we have equal in stature to our generals and industrialists? This situation is not the result of any one man's design but the result of our neglect. We need to outthink, outwork, and out-sacrifice communists. We need the moral compulsion to bring into the world the solid foundations which our forefathers brought into this nation. The great question for us is how deep is our faith and how strong. Remember Lincoln's words, 'Under God a new birth of freedom', and I emphasize 'under God'. We have been more interested in preserving the material results than we have in preserving the spiritual causes of those results. America must qualify as a worthy spiritual instrument."

Britain:More Potent Than Any 'Ism'

The "Aberdare Leader" writes of the work of a Czech ex-Cabinet Minister in Wales. "'It is more than a coincidence, it is fate that I am here tonight,' said Dr. Feierabend, former Minister of Agriculture and Finance in the Czech Governments under Dr. Benes, at a showing of Moral Re-Armament films organised by Merthyr miners and factory workers recently. Describing how he was compelled twice to leave his country, he went on, 'I feel the need for Moral Re-Armament more deeply than you can perhaps understand. With all my heart I want to invite this programme to my country where it is needed even more urgently than in Britain.'

"Other speakers, including Mr. Dai Thomas, secretary of the Tydraw N.U.M. Lodge, Rhondda, emphasised that Moral Re-Armament is bringing hope to millions, and arming democracy with an idea more potent than any 'ism'."

At gatherings representative of mining and industrial life in Doncaster and Burslem over the weekend, Mme. Irene Laure, formerly Marseilles Deputy in the Constituent Assembly and General Secretary of the Socialist Women of France, spoke with her husband about the "ideology of destruction" which is using strikes as a political weapon to split France. "I have always carried on the class struggle. I have learned that you can change the structure and system of things, but unless you change the hearts of men you accomplish nothing." She described a conference in North France where delegations from the four great French Trade Union groups, including Communist Party members, and from management, "came in separate train compartments, found the answer to class hatred, and left as friends, determined to work together for France." M. Laure, an ex-Marxist, trained by Marcel Cechin the veteran French Communist leader, stated that "the ideology of Moral Re-Armament, which is founded on faith in God, will bring unity to any nation and to the whole world."

GERMANY:Press Comments on "The Good Road"

The "Munchner Merkur" states: "Here at last we are shown a really inspired democracy which grows out of true humanity valid for all. What we can no longer hope for from European federations and world leagues, we can hope for from MRA. In the ruins of Germany it can kindle the flame of freedom which false prophets have extinguished."

The Frankfurt "Abendpost" writes: "'The Good Road' is the expression of a new promise. Enthusiastic, radiant players bring us the power and force of a positive ideology. The fascinate you with a number of gripping scenes and pictures fall of good music, fun, humanity and vision. They show the spectator again and again one thing: you must change your life, you must walk on the Good Road. Only a real change of heart will give us a chance to overcome crises and to build a new world."

HOLLAND:Dutch Press

Over 35 articles have appeared in the Dutch press about the showings of "The Good Road" in The Hague. The Catholic newspaper, "De Tijd", wrote, "The Revue is carried by an undisguised sense of dependence on God. In it is a fire equivalent to the fire that could be seen in the eyes of the Russian soldiers when, after the surrender of Berlin, they raised their flag on the Brandenburger Tor. This sweeping spirit can only be for the good of all of us."

"De Nederlander", the national daily paper of a Protestant Political Party describes "the very unusual performance". "It has a convincing power that none can fail to experience. Seldom have we heard so many languages in the theatre and there has never been experienced the same

atmosphere of gaiety and courage. With an enthusiastic idealism the Good Road was shown that can re-establish the moral power to democracy and lead us out of the chaos under which the whole of humanity is suffering."

AUS TRALIA:National Leaders Call for MRA Assembly

The following personal invitation calling for an Australasian Assembly for ideological preparedness during January 1949 has been cabled to London.

"Responsible people everywhere are recognizing that moral spathy is our country's basic problem. The remedy lies in moral and spiritual re-armament. The object of this Assembly is to meet this urgent need by helping Australia to find a way of life based on a ideology with fundamental Christian values above sectional advantage. We are impressed by increasing evidence that Moral Re-Armament is furnishing the democracies with such an answer, which is essential to their survival. The Assembly will provide an opportunity to hear first-hand evidence of the world-wide advance of MRA, a platform from which to rally all constructive forces in Australia, and a chance to plan for the future of our country."

This cable is signed by: Arthur S. Drakeford, Minister for Air; Sir George Knox, former speaker and Member of the Legislative Assembly; R.R. Broedby, Assistant Secretary, Australian Council of Trade Unions; John Cain, leader of the Opposition and former Premier of the Victorian Parliament; The Hon. H.V. Macleod, Member of the Legislative Council; W.H. Nicol, Federal President of the Australian Workers' Union; J.C. Jessop, Chairman, Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works.

AFRICA:Foundations of Co-operation

In Windhoek, capital of South West Africa, land of mountains and dried up water courses, the main item of news last month was the arrival of an MRA task force from South Africa. An afternoon tea-party at Government House preceded a public meeting, extensively publicized by newspapers and motor vans with hoardings. To a representative audience the team spoke in Afrikaans, English and German of the world force of Moral Re-Armament. Afterwards they addressed members of the City Council, police, an exservice men's group, the Coloured Teachers and Parents Association women's organizations and groups of different denominations.

One of the leading citizens stated, "I believe your coming has laid the foundations of the lasting co-operation of the communities here."