

# Reports

## News from the Centre

By the time this issue of *RCL* is being read the three-day week will be a thing of the past. Let us hope there will be no repetition of it. Many of our readers were as worried as we were by the late distribution of the first issue of 1974, but our printers were just as much affected by short-time working as were so many other people.

Sir John Lawrence left London on 5 February to develop in South Africa the work which Michael Bourdeaux began during his visit there last year. Sir John's itinerary included 34 meetings, with others likely to be arranged. His tour took him to Johannesburg, Welkom, Bloemfontein, East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Durban, Pietermaritzburg and his various meetings were with the staff of the S.A. Council of Churches, the Dutch Reformed Church, the S.A. Institute of Race Relations, Congregational and Methodist Church leaders, the Presbyterian Church, Bishop Amooore, the Archbishop of Cape Town, Dr. Vorster and many other people.

Michael Bourdeaux visited Rome and Milan in February and had important meetings with Father van Straaten of Aid to the Church in Need, *Russia Cristiana* and representatives of Les Chrétiens de L'Est. These meetings were connected with the plans to make Keston College an international Centre where the coordination of the research bodies in the field of Religion and Communism may be systematically developed. He also lectured to five hundred religious, a world congress of the Consortium Perfectae Caritatis.

At the beginning of March Peter Fahy represented the Centre at a Conference in Lucerne where he made contact with representatives of many churches in Germany.

After many months of work the contract for the purchase of Keston College by CSRC was ready for signing in March 1974. The diocese of Rochester have no further need for this building which will be most suitable for the Centre's needs. You will be hearing much more about this exciting development in due course as our plans for an international fund-raising campaign mature.

Once again we have had to take a step in faith and in the sure conviction that a widening circle of members and friends will share our concern

for Christians and all believers in communist countries who are suffering persecution for their faith. The acquisition of Keston College will give us the room to develop research work in other areas – the Ukraine, Belorussia, Latvia, and all East European countries – as and when funds permit. We shall also have better storage for our considerable archives and library, both of which will continue to grow.<sup>4</sup>

#### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

March 20 –		Director on lecture tour of Australia and New Zealand. Contact : Prof. G. Clark, Karvah, Bannoon Rd., Eltham 3095, Victoria, Australia.
end of April.		
April 2		Development Director at Dartford Clergy Chapter.
May 6	a.m.	Director at Bristol Cathedral School.
	7.30 p.m.	Director at Collegiate College of Theology, Cardiff.
13	5.00 p.m.	Director at St. Anthony's College, Oxford.
20	12.30 p.m.	Director at East London Baptist Fraternal (to be confirmed).

## BBC Documentary on KGB

On the day that Solzhenitsyn was expelled from Russia – a timing that is almost unbelievable – an outstanding documentary film was shown on BBC-TV. Entitled quite simply “KGB”, the film lasts well over an hour and is produced and introduced by Mischa Scorer. One of the film's two chief advisors was Peter Reddaway, a Council member of CSRC. The CSRC itself provided material and advisory assistance.

The film, which is to be entered for the Cannes Film Festival, focuses with gripping concentration on the history, structure, character and targets of the KGB, the “Committee for State Security”. Commonly understood as the Soviet “secret police”, the KGB in fact, with its proliferating departments and an estimated half a million officers, also covers international activity. It is reckoned to draw on the assistance of hundreds of thousands of informers in all walks of life.

In the creation of this film, Mr. Scorer drew on a wide range of documentary material (including photographs of the Orthodox artist Yuri Titov in the Kashchenko mental hospital and the Baptist pastor Nikolai Baturin recently sentenced to four years. (see *RCL* No. 2, 1973, p. 17). He also drew on the experience of Soviet émigrés who had brushed with the