

- Mar. 7 Kathleen Matchett at Women's Fellowship, Christ Church, Purley, Surrey.
- 20-end of Apr. Director on lecture tour of Australia and New Zealand. Contact : Professor G. Clark, Karvah, Banoon Rd., Eltham 3095, Victoria, Australia.
- 22-24 CSRC represented at Christian Group for East-West Contact Conference, Dartmouth House, Blackheath.

PETER FAHY

A CSRC Conference

In the task of providing information on the relations between religion and communism – an issue which will be recognized as one of the most far-reaching of the twentieth century – it is difficult to overestimate the significance of the CSRC as spearhead in the West. At the conference in January, a group of us heard about the Centre's work, and, through a series of excellent addresses, were initiated into new aspects of the situation in communist lands. The Centre is still crystallizing, and we were aware of being involved at the beginning of an organization whose significance is becoming apparent to a rapidly widening circle of Christians, many of them overseas and behind the Iron Curtain itself. The Christians of the Roman Empire, once they realized they could no longer assume the world was likely to come to an immediate end and that the perspectives of the future would contain infinite opportunities, must have felt the same. Communists of the nineteenth century, meeting in their small cells, confident that the significance of their movement in the future would be out of all proportion to their numbers in the present, must also have known this awareness. We looked round the proposed new site for the Centre at Keston, bounded by open common and beech trees, and we reviewed the work of the past year. We would continue deliberately to operate with the utmost economy – but not at the risk of reducing our effectiveness. Both feet were now firmly planted on the first step of a staircase of incalculable height – the policy of “hasten slowly” would continue. But our attention was directed also to issues in the communist world : deportation from Albania, the situation of Soviet Mennonites, the work of a Press Attaché in war-time Moscow, the theme of suffering in an Orthodox sermon – were all described from first-hand experience. And there was also time for conversation and strolls along the shelving lawns and by the lake at Foxbury.

ANDREW LENOX-GONYNGHAM