

# THE TRUTH ABOUT MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

The Moral Rearmament movement has launched a full-scale offensive against Africa. Earlier this year Moral Rearmament held a conference at Lusaka. Amongst those who attended and were apparently converted were seven Afrikaans students from the University of Pretoria, a South African judge, Mr. J. C. Claassen, Dr. W. Nkomo, of Pretoria, and Mr. Bennet Ncwana, of Port Elizabeth.

Moral Rearmament takes a special interest in class or national conflicts. Wherever there is a big strike, or a struggle for national liberation, Moral Rearmament teams can be expected to move in with their message of submission, trying to break the workers' spirit.

When the Africans of Northern Rhodesia were threatening a general strike in protest against Central African Federation, Moral Rearmament hurried to the spot. One of their victims was Mr. Godwin Lewanika, formerly president of the N.R. African Congress, but defeated at the last election.

When the civil war broke out in Kenya, Moral Rearmament again

exerted its influence in support of law and order and constituted authority. A few of their Kikuyu victims were flown to Caux for a M.R.A. jamboree, and their words and examples were quoted in attempts to bring the African people to submission.

The defiance campaign and sharpening racial tension in South Africa have naturally attracted the attention of the Moral Rearmamenters. Two years ago they toured the country with their fake play, "The Forgotten Factor." In the near future M.R.A. chief, Dr. Frank Buchman and a team of super-salesmen, will be visiting this country to "change our hearts."

What is the Moral Rearmament movement? What are its principles and aims? How does it work? Where do its finances come

from? What sort of people back it? What sort of people become its victims?

## Four Standards

In its books and pamphlets, M.R.A. claims that all that has to be done to solve the world's problems is to live according to "God's guidance" and base one's thoughts and actions on the four standards

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of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. If everyone were to follow these rules, they claim, all conflicts between nation and nation, class and class, and even man and wife would be eliminated.

For all the impressive array of their victims, M.R.A. doesn't seem to have made any real progress, does it?

Nobody would deny that people would benefit if they were better disposed towards one another, more unselfish and considerate. But on the other hand, does anybody believe the world is in the mess it is simply because people's hearts are in the wrong place?

## Capitalism

It is the capitalist system, not evil-hearted men and women, that is responsible for poverty, unemployment and war. Change the capitalist system and these evils of our society will disappear. But you cannot change the system simply by changing the hearts of a few capitalists.

It is in the nature of the capitalist system that a handful of people own the means of production while the majority of people own nothing except their labour-power. The capitalist makes a profit by exploiting the labour of the workers. He doesn't do that simply because he is evil-hearted (although sometimes he is) but because that is the way the capitalist system works.

Even if an evil-hearted capitalist did change heart, he couldn't alter the fundamentals of the capitalist system unless all the other capitalists also changed heart at the same time and entered into an agreement with themselves and the workers to abolish the capitalist system.

But M.R.A. is fundamentally anti-Communist, so that line of argument gets one nowhere anyway.

M.R.A. doesn't aim to change the system. It doesn't aim to replace capitalism with socialism. It says there is no reason why we shouldn't have peace and an end to class and race hatred and war even under capitalism. Nobody who understands that it is precisely the capitalist system that leads to class and race hatred and war, can ever be taken in by this line of nonsense.

It is the capitalist system which is based on the profit motive and cut-throat competition between one man and another. It is the capitalist system which compels each man to fight for himself and the devil take the hindmost. It is the capitalist system which en-

courages naked self-interest at the expense of the common good.

M.R.A. proposes to treat the symptoms of the disease without eliminating the cause. Any doctor can tell you the patient will never recover that way.

## Sinister Aims

But M.R.A. is not merely a misguided body of sincere zealots,

like the Salvation Army. It is far more sinister than that. M.R.A. is fundamentally a religious, mystical and undemocratic movement, and can offer no practical suggestions for dealing with the urgent problems of our political and economic life.

In the 1930's the M.R.A. movement was known as the Oxford Group. It played a big part in promoting appeasement of Hitler and Mussolini.

The Nazis permitted Oxford Group pamphlets and books to be published and circulated widely in Germany at a time when progressive and humane literature was being withdrawn from circulation and pulped or burnt in public.

In 1936 Dr. Frank Buchman paid a visit to Germany. Kenneth Lindsay, an Independent member of the British Parliament, who was attending the Olympic Games in August of that year, met Buchman at the Adlon Hotel.

"D'you know Heinrich Himmler?" said Buchman. No? Say, you ought to know Heinrich. He's a great lad." (Buchman, needless to say, is an American.)

Himmler was the head of the Gestapo, responsible for the torture and murder of millions of innocent men, women and children in all the countries of Europe brought under the Nazi heel. According to Fritz Thyssen, the German steel magnate, in "I Paid Hitler," Himmler was actually a member of the Oxford Group.

A few weeks later in New York, after returning from Nazi Germany, Buchman made his famous declaration:

"I thank heaven for man like Adolf Hitler who built a front line of defence against the anti-Christ of Communism."

On another occasion Buchman said: "Social problems can be solved . . . through a God-controlled fascist dictatorship."

## Appeasement

Continuing with his policy of appeasement, Buchman recruited to his banner in England notorious Munichites such as Lord Halifax (Chamberlain's Foreign Minister), Sir Samuel Hoare (who signed the Hoare-Laval pact which led to the conquest of Abyssinia), Stanley Baldwin, Lord Salisbury (then President of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations), Lord Rennell of Rodd and the Earl of Airlie (both at one time members of the pro-Nazi Anglo-German Fellowship), and Sir Henry Lunn, who formed the anti-Soviet anti-Jewish "United Christian Front" of which the chairman

was Captain Ramsay, a Tory M.P. interned as a Nazi sympathiser during the war.

Buchman's movement, renamed Moral Rearmament, remained conciliatory to the Nazis after the outbreak of the war. Even when the M.R.A. line changed after Pearl Harbour, Buchman and his associates could not completely bury their Nazi sympathies.

Sir Alan Herbert, then M.P. for Oxford, and himself a right-winger in politics condemned the M.R.A. in a speech in the House of Commons in October, 1941:

"I know what I am up against with this vast, wealthy and ruthless organisation . . . The language and technique of the Oxford Group Co. Ltd. is strikingly and sadly similar to that of the Nazis . . . There is in (Buchman's) teaching and in his record a strange tendency towards flabbiness on the one hand and fascism on the other."

As late as January 1943 the U.S.A. Draft Appeals Board, rejecting the applications for exemption from military service of a number of Buchmanites, condemned M.R.A. and Buchman's speeches as follows:

"Such declarations seem to us to be expressing the aims and philosophy of the Axis powers and to be the antithesis of our own war effort."

Moreover, no M.R.A. leaders are known to have been in the war-time resistance movements in Europe. On the other hand, M.R.A. supporters included Dr. Mueller, who led the Nazi movement in the Lutheran Church, Rudolf Hess, Himmler and Quisling.