

# Buchman: Did he Fall or was he Pushed?

JOHANNESBURG.

**S**OME mystery attaches to the forthcoming visit to South Africa of Dr. Frank ("Thank-God-for-a-man-like-Hitler") Buchman and his team of "Moral Rearmament" high-pressure salesmen for the "American way of life."

According to an MRA handout published in the "Star" last week, "The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Assembly and the Administrators of the five provinces, have invited Dr. Buchman and an international team of Moral Rearmament to visit South Africa."

The "Rand Daily Mail" headlined the affair as a "State Invitation". But, the following day, the "Transvaler" rather threw cold water on this conception. The Buchman circus was not "invited" said the Nationalist organ. "On enquiry it appears that they did not invite him, but rather took notice of the impending visit and expressed appreciation for it."

"The initiative did not come from us, and Dr. Buchman is not our guest," said Dr. Nicol, Administrator of the Transvaal.

The incident affords an interesting insight into MRA methods. The "message" from the President and the other dignitaries was obviously drawn up in the MRA office. It is couched in routine Buchmanite pseudo-religious jargon ("We believe that your visit, with its emphasis on the search for God's plan, personally and nationally, will bring about a new willingness in all of us to co-operate . . . Your message, based as it is on a change of heart and absolute moral standards, can give us the new spiritual stimulus we need . . . etc.) The Administrators, etc., are then asked to sign it, and knowing the MRA to be a useful anti-Communist organisation, they do so. Next thing they find they have invited an "international team" as State guests.

"Absolute honesty"? Judge for yourself.