

# CONFERENCE FOR THE MORAL RE-ARMAMENT OF AFRICA

Johannesburg, Easter 1962.

**April 24, 1962. The South African Broadcasting Corporation reported on its national news service as follows: "Moral Re-Armament is soon to launch its biggest ideological offensive of all time in Africa. South African members of Moral Re-Armament are to tour the continent shortly to campaign for a hate-free, fear-free, greed-free Africa. This was announced during the Easter weekend after a meeting of a thousand delegates at Witkoppen, just outside Johannesburg."**

The Easter conference in Johannesburg formed part of a world-wide action on every continent to answer the threat of corruption, dictatorship and war.

In Asia a force of Japanese who once moved with forces of subversion in their country are now impacting Asia with a uniting idea for East and West and all men everywhere.

In Europe French and Germans met in Strasbourg together with a force of Greeks and Turks from Cyprus planning how to carry their experience of a uniting ideology to Algeria, North Africa and the Middle East.

In America fifty Chinese led by General Ho Ying-chin, former Prime Minister of China, are carrying an ideology to America through their play **The Dragon**. It presents the realities of Communism, the

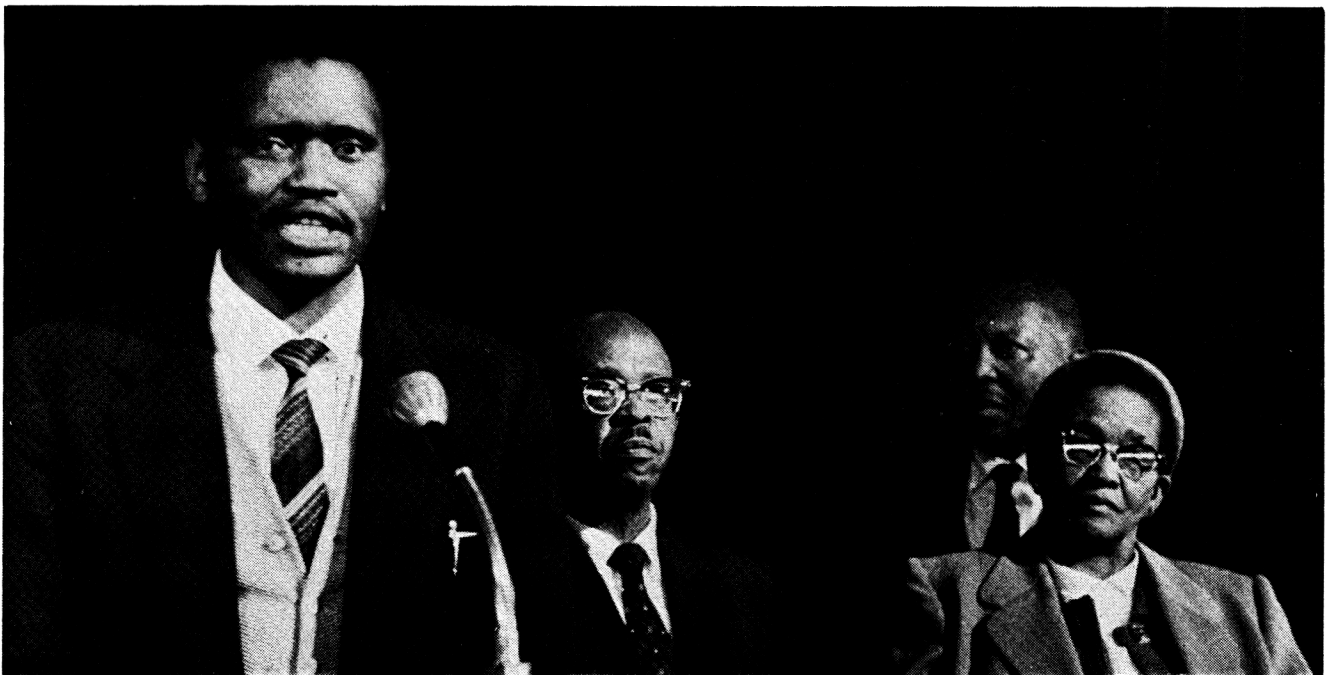
failure of anti-Communism and the answer of an idea that remakes men and nations.

In South America where this year one and a half million have attended MRA assemblies and plays, students from the revolutionary universities are producing the men and the ideological weapons to make Moral Re-Armament the final revolution for their continent.

In Kenya leaders of the rival KANU and KADU parties met to form a united strategy to give Kenya the unity without which independence will lead to anarchy.

Around the world this Easter men have been taking up the challenge of Dr. Frank Buchman: "I want to see the world governed by men governed by God".

**Delegation from Basutoland urge Moral Re-Armament to help them make their country a pattern for Africa.**



# TO TRANSFORM THE FACE OF AFRICA

**MR. BREMER HOFMEYR** — who worked with Dr. Buchman for 28 years.

Something wholly new is needed in the world. Together we are tackling what has never been attempted in the history of mankind — to remake men on a world scale and unitedly turn the tide of human affairs and restore God to leadership.

There have been saints and heroes through history — far better men than any of us here. And men's lives have been changed throughout history. But never have men seriously and unitedly around the globe tackled the remaking of the world together.

Frank Buchman accepted that challenge. He was alone. Men said it could not be done. But he changed men. He built a force. He proclaimed a world answer.

He died at the age of 83. But he saw in existence around the world a united force of men and women pledged never to turn back no matter what any other person might say or do.

Let us be realistic. What would happen to Africa if every person here made the same commitment of his life as Frank Buchman did? I don't say we can all be Frank Buchmans. We are not meant to. But I do say we all need to make the same choice that he made — that he would give his life wholly to God, listen to God for direction every day, and live for one thing — to remake men and remake nations.

It is a colossal choice but is any lesser choice truly Christian? And if we all make that decision we can transform the face of Africa. Frank Buchman spoke of Africa as "the answer continent". His vision for our country was "a sounding board of unity". If the experience of change we have found here becomes normal, Africa can tip the balance of the whole world Godwards.

It may be that God wants to make of the trouble spots the triumph of an answer. Look what has happened in desperately difficult situations like the Congo. When we were there first, the Speaker of Parliament was literally shouting for bloodshed. This same man now

shows the films of Moral Re-Armament officially on the floor of Parliament. The President of the Senate introduces the films and says: "We must throw our hatred and divisions into the Congo River to be swept out to sea."

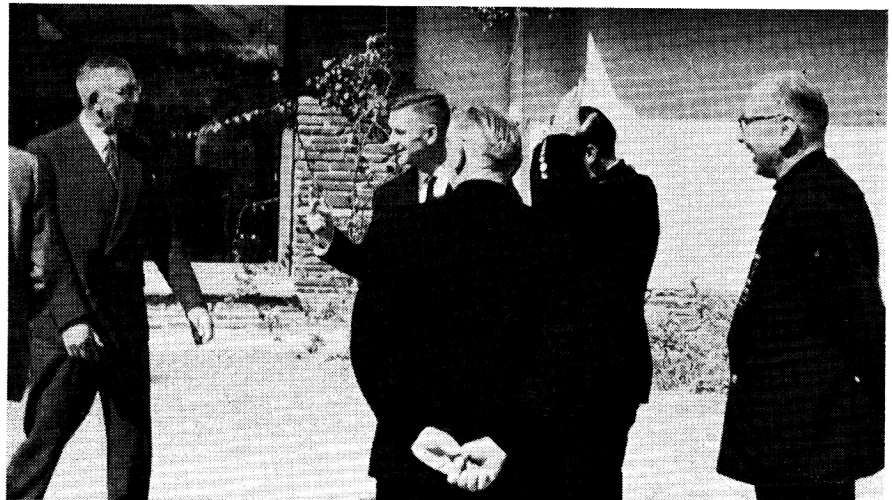
The army was in mutiny. General Mobutu, who had to take on the job of rebuilding the army, sends his top men to us for training and wants every soldier re-armed morally.

Think of what we are seeing in Kenya. 25,000 people come to see the film "Freedom" in Kiswahili the first night and 30,000 the second night. It is the first major film ever made in that language, spoken by 30 million people. KANU and KADU are bitterly divided, but they unite to take the film to the nation.

One could speak of Ruanda-Urundi, the Sudan, Nigeria, Liberia. Africa is calling for the answer.

The opportunities are staggering. A way has been pioneered. The answer is on the march. The choice lies with us.

**DR. HANS VAN RENSBURG**, who commanded the "Ossewa Brandwag", meets the miners from the Ruhr at the assembly. It was the change in the life of his son, he said, that convinced him of the effectiveness of what is being done. At an assembly session he went to the platform and shook the hand of the Chairman, Mr. Manesseh Moerane. "I am absolutely convinced of the honesty and selflessness of this struggle", he said.



# A Revolution at the Cross

**JUSTICE C. J. CLAASSEN — Judge of the Supreme Court, South Africa.**

A few months ago I met a young Communist in Brazil. He said to me that in every Communist attack, in every bit of propaganda, they always have three points that are directed against South Africa and its people. And the points he mentioned are all true about my life. I know what is true about me is true about my nation.

The first thing was this: I have always pretended to be a Christian and never really lived it. It was hypocrisy of the worst order. That is the thing that has made the Christian religion hated right throughout Africa. It is called the "white man's religion" and not for the rest of Africa.

Second, I had lived an ideology of colour and had just naturally assumed in the way I was brought up that as a white man I was superior to every other person created by God. These things have created hatred and bitterness throughout the continent of Africa and have prepared the people of Africa and Asia for a foreign and godless ideology.

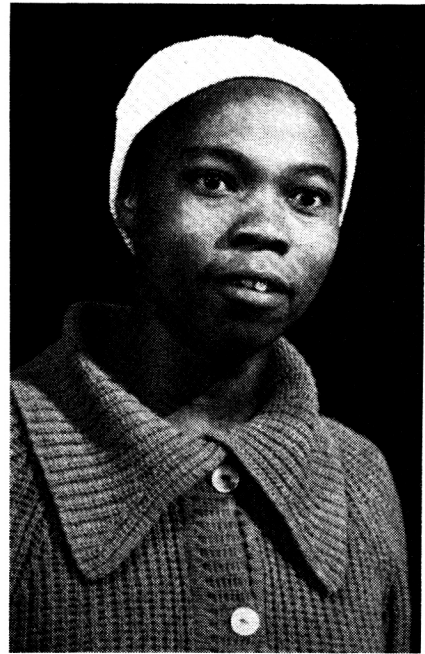
The greatest tragedy in South Africa is the thousands of people who know that the ideology of MRA is the God-given answer for this day and age, but they refuse to live it and refuse to admit it publicly because it does involve the Cross of Christ and the Cross is unpopular. It is unpopular with the ordinary man, with the churches and in politics. And although these thousands of people do know that this is the answer they have not the courage to stand up for it because it may cost positions and the loss of some friendships.

Thirdly, I was raised in poverty and therefore it became the passion of my life to collect as much money as possible and to keep it for myself, to share it with nobody. That, too, has created much bitterness and division.

My family, my wife and three sons have invested thousands of pounds in bringing this ideology to Africa. We know this is the full answer for Africa and for the world and that is why we are giving our time, our money and our lives to this revolution.



**Justice Claassen and Mr. P. Q. Vundla, Chairman of the Advisory Board, Western Native Township, addressed the conference together.**



**MISS JUNE CHABAKU — formerly Transvaal Provincial Secretary of the African National Congress, women's section.**

I was prepared to die for my country because of the injustice and hatreds towards my people. I organised demonstrations during the Sophiatown Removal, during the Bus Boycott and against Bantu Education.

I fought against people in Moral Re-Armament but they invited me to their home. I was quite shaken by the welcome they gave me. A challenge came to me. I had to put many things straight with myself, with my friends and with my enemies.

Through Moral Re-Armament my passion has been rid of fear and hatred. I have decided to lay down my life to fully change myself, South Africa and the world — never mind what people say.

It is people like me who have caused South Africa to be what it is. If I can change, thousands more can change.

# Statesmanship in the Transkei

Amongst those attending the Conference from the Transkei were Chief Charles K. Sakwe, Mr. P. M. Makiwane, Editor of "Umthunywa", largest African newspaper in the area, Mr. Tom Swartz, Chairman of the Union Council for Coloured Affairs, Mr. J. H. Ntloko, Agricultural Officer, and Mr. C. E. Bam, leading businessman.



Chief Sakwe, elder statesman and Mr. P. M. Makiwane, Editor of Umthunywa, largest African newspaper in the Transkei.

## MR. MAKIWANE,

The Moral Re-Armament force recently visited Umtata. I felt that I also must accept the challenge and fight as a convinced man.

I have been living a divided life from my family. My children have become estranged. I have now decided that I must put that position right and heal the relationships between my wife and myself and the rest of my family.

I want this force to come officially to Umtata. But I know it would be foolish to want other people to change their lives if I were unwilling to change myself.

We are on the verge of a new experiment — a certain measure of self-government — in the Transkei.

People are at this moment working and forming the constitution. I fought to establish an association so that we could make recommendations to the authorities for improvements and especially for more pay. Conditions were greatly improved but no one is ever satisfied with his pay and that it is big enough. The Africans now have to handle much more money but it is being abused and corruption is widespread and the position is critical. Anyone who handles large sums of money needs to change along the lines of Moral Re-Armament.

The global scale of Moral Re-Armament has struck me here. I didn't realise that the problems of

# BASIS FOR LASTING UNITY

ADVOCATE J. J. TRENGOVE.

I am at this conference because I believe with all my heart that on the basis of Moral Re-Armament and on no other basis people of all races and of all colours in this country of ours will find true freedom and lasting unity. And that is why I have committed myself to this work.

I believe that if we as South Africans of all races and of all colours take up the task together, and move shoulder to shoulder to the foot of the Cross, where I as an Afrikaans-speaking South African am prepared to forsake those things that are dearest and nearest to me, and as I become willing to accept the four moral standards and God's guidance as the real passion and power of my life, we in this country will find the unity that will enable us to bring an answer not only to this continent but the world.

Unless we meet on this basis we will not be able to build the hate-free, fear-free, greed-free Africa for which we all yearn.

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the Transkei and of the United States and of Europe were at heart the same — the problem of absolute moral standards.

That is why I have decided—and I am glad to tell the conference — that I will work with all of you here and put my life and my actions under the guidance of God.



# South Africa must take on the whole Continent

**MR. MANASSEH MOERANE** — formerly President of ten thousand African teachers of South Africa.

Moral Re-Armament is a force of men and women who have taken upon themselves the responsibility to put right what is wrong in the world. It is a force that is turning the tide of history in every nation in the world. I have had the privilege of seeing this force in action in many nations. In Africa I have seen it at work affecting the history and the destiny of 16 different nations in the last two years.

We need to think of our own country, South Africa, and of the vision and destiny that South Africa is meant to pioneer for this continent. I am convinced that our country has something to give to the whole continent. Its destiny is for us black and white to unite and change to give to the whole continent an ideology dequate to answer the crisis of our age.

That has not always been the way I thought. But to put this philosophy into practical action in my life freed me to be able to fight for what is right regardless of what my

friends or my enemies say. I know now that we black and white in this country need each other if we are really going to satisfy the needs of this country and take on the whole world.

The way I was fighting I was actually being used to destroy this country. If men like me and others had followed the course we were following at that time I believe this country would be in revolution right now. Why should a country like ours be in a negative revolution when together we can take on the whole continent.

THE LADDER, a play by Peter Howard, was performed four times during the conference. Because of the profound effect on all who saw it, there were many demands that the play be taken throughout South Africa. The cast includes Justice C. J. Claassen, Mr. Derek Gill, Mr. Gerald Lapan, former Secretary of the Coloured Tenants' Association of Coronationville, Mr. J. J. Trengove, Mr. P. Q. Vundla, Chairman of the Advisory Board, Western Native Township.



# BRAVE MEN CHOOSE



**DR. WILLIAM NKOMO** — A founder and first President of the African National Congress Youth League.

I have always been a revolutionary, and for me the only answer to the problems of our country was in bloody revolution. I mobilised the strength and intelligence of the youth towards that fight.

I met Moral Re-Armament through a group of Afrikaner students from Pretoria University who came to my home. For some of them it was the first time to be in the home of an African. They were revolutionary fighters — white nationalists. I saw for the first time that it was no use claiming to be a leader of my people if I was not prepared to face myself and to change.

My commitment is not to do something better for the African people but to save our country and continent from the doom which will come if we remain the same.

We are not saints. But we are called to be revolutionaries. It is the depth of my commitment which will bring a change in the structure and living of this continent. Here are the men and women, who, if they make a decision, will bring the new motive we want.

In London I was told of the 50,000 troops from Red China ready to invade our country at a

moment's notice. I began to be afraid and didn't want to be in the vanguard. I wanted to be in the middle so that when the heads are cut mine should not be cut first.

I have decided today and I am prepared to stand even in the face of being beheaded, to fight and pledge myself shoulder to shoulder to stand with everyone in this crucial hour for the remaking of the world.



**MR. VAN DEN HEEVER** — Principal, largest coloured school in Athlone, Cape Town.

Moral Re-Armament is a challenge to me. I thought it was a threat to the things I and my friends were fighting for. The conviction came more and more to me: It is you. You must change. It is not the world, not South Africa, not the other people. It is you. I became scared. I feared what my friends would say — influential friends — what they would think of me. I was asked, "Are you going by fear of man to be guided by man, or are you going to be guided by God?"

I said, "This challenge I accept. I want to dedicate my life to God wholly and completely."

Here I have seen the South Africa I always visualised — the South Africa all the world would like to see.

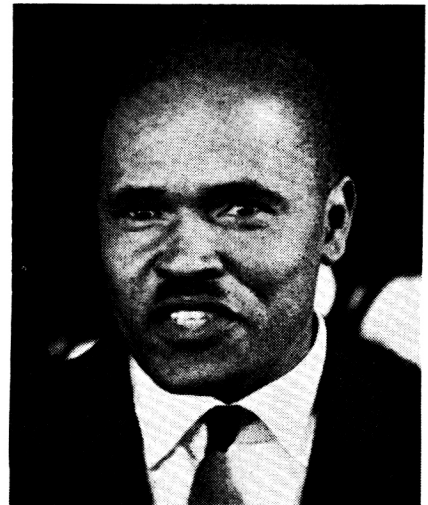
**MR. MHLOME** — Official of the Bantu Administration, Langa, Cape Town.

This is indeed a great moment in my life, because, like many others, I have got to make a choice. I have got to choose whether I must remain where I have been and perish or whether I accept the challenge and live.

Many years ago I became interested in politics. I became an active and staunch supporter of the Communist Party of South Africa which was still legal in those days. But for fear of losing my job I had to do it underground. When the present Government came into power that Party was outlawed. So I went over and joined the African National Congress and carried on the fight there against corruption of my people.

A few weeks ago Moral Re-Armament came to Langa and I was asked to interpret the ideology they brought. Moral Re-Armament made a great impact on me. I felt that I must do something about it.

I have decided that I must accept this challenge. I am giving my life to serve and further the fight with you all and I am sure we will win in the end.



# The Greatest Revolution of All

**MR. LESLIE PETERSEN** — Chairman of the Student Representative Council, University College of the Western Cape, 1960.

I have found it hard to make ends meet. My own people who had money, I hated. The exploitation of my people by my own people as well as other races had convinced me that only a bloody revolution could bring change.

I then went to the University. I had a very revolutionary mind and found I could organise the students there to do something worthwhile with their people. I was elected Chairman of the Student Representative Council. We had differences with the Rector and I resigned from the committee and the rest of the committee also resigned. It completely broke down the student body and administration. At that time I felt we were not getting a square deal.

I met the German Miners at a meeting in the Cape Town City Hall. I had arranged a meeting of a certain underground organisation that very afternoon but I managed to cancel it.

Here at this conference a struggle was going on in me. I was told that people could change and that I can be changed. The thing is that if I want to change the world effectively I have to start with myself. I decided to give it a trial. I don't, or I didn't believe in God, but I listened to the inner voice. To me it became a challenge not only to change myself but to fight for change in every everyone else I met. I saw here something that was superior to everything else I believed — something that changed people because it changed me. Unless I am prepared to change I cannot hope to change the world.

**MR. MICHAEL MAFATE** — formerly Deputy National Organizer of the Pan African Congress.

All my life, ever since I went to college, I have been interested in politics. That was during the time we were in Sophiatown. We decided to boycott Bantu Education. Then I decided to put all my efforts into the African National Congress Youth League. Still I was not satisfied. I didn't like the sight of Europeans and Indians. Bitterness in me made me feel they were part and parcel of the oppression of this country.

When I came into my organisation, my leader, Sobukwe, never told me to hate Europeans. But instead I organised small children and others to hate the European. My leader was never like that. In prison, when we were preparing for the 21st of March, I prayed to God, "Help me, let me run amok in Eloff Street and kill everyone white."

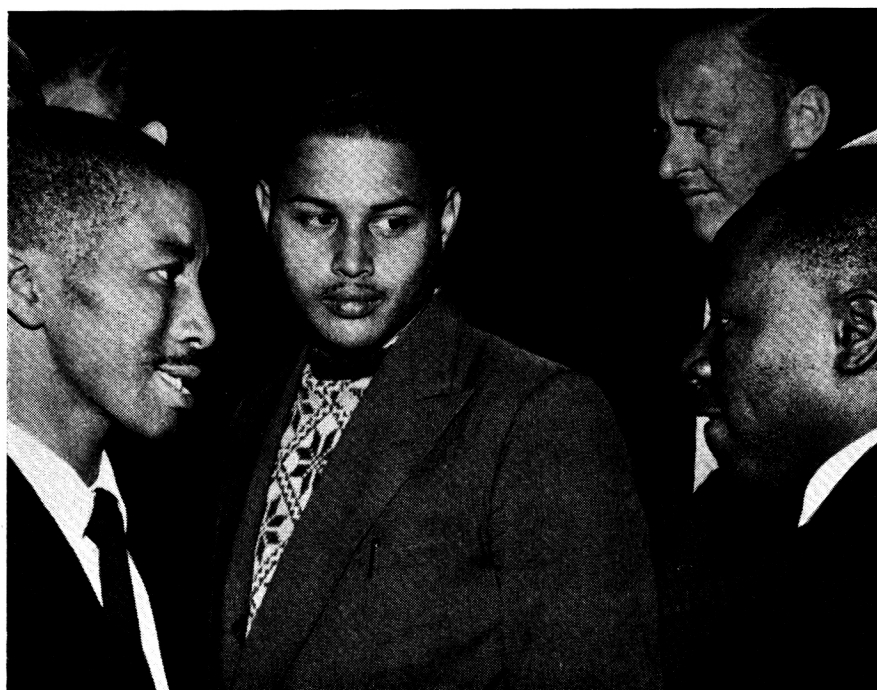
I heard of Moral Re-Armament when I was at Adam's College and later when I went to jail during the Defiance Campaign. I knew it was a challenge. But the four absolute standards were too much — there was a deep bitterness in me. In my heart I knew, there is something wrong in me. I cannot tell people to live straight, not even in my own organisation, when I am not straight myself.

Yesterday I met Justice Claassen. I promised him I would tell my wife honestly the things I had done in my life, and I did tell her.

The world powers are threatening each other with atomic weapons. If they start to fight we have all had it. But if conferences like these were held every month and every year the world would change.

I am here with my colleagues. I want to promise you that I am going to work hard, live straight and honest in my organisation and fight to remake the world. And I am challenging my friends to do the same.

**Mr. Michael Mafate, Mr. Leslie Petersen and Mr. Manasseh Moerane.**



## Basutoland must not be another Congo

**MR. CHARLES T. CHAKELA —**  
Member of the Standing Committee of  
the Council of Chiefs.

I devoted all my life, my family's wealth and everything to political life. My ambition was to see Basutoland govern itself. There were times when we wanted to use force and there were times when we wanted to use violence.

Every moment I have spent here I have been gaining a lot. I have the conviction that this ideology should be backed by everyone who wishes to help Basutoland, which is a small country marching towards independence and which will govern itself in a few years time. Without it Basutoland may turn into another Congo and many people may lose their lives.

It is through changing ourselves that we can definitely affect and change the whole nation.

Communism promises a lot of things which don't materialise. If we can throw all our weight into

Moral Re-Armament we will have a wonderful Basutoland—a pattern of life which can be adopted by every nation, a pattern we can be proud of.

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**CHIEF JONATHAN MOPEDI MOLA-  
PO —** Member of the Standing  
Committee of the Council of Chiefs.

Everyone is responsible in the world for the mess and the ills of the world — not just one race and class.

African leaders who accept the ideology of Moral Re-Armament and apply the four moral standards to their own lives can bring an answer to hatred, bitterness between tribes, between parties, even between the people.

It is no answer to throw out the white people from our country. Before asking others to change I must change myself. That is why I say I have committed myself to this fight with you all until we have won.

**Miners from the Ruhr meet Paramount Chief Moshoeshoe II of Basutoland in Matsieng.**



## THEY SPEAK TO CONTINENTS

From the pits of the Ruhr came six German miners. Square-shouldered, and wearing the traditional brass-buttoned costume, they focused the vital purpose of the conference.

"We have come here," said one, "because we believe that the way Africa goes will determine the future of our country.

"We are no less convinced that South Africa has a critical role in determining the future of the African Continent."

In previous weeks, they had travelled the country from the sprawling African townships of the Rand to the shadowed cloisters of Stellenbosch University.

They had met chiefs from the Great Places of the Transkei, while in Basutoland, 6,000 had come over the hills on ponies and on foot to hear the "white men with an answer."

In Cape Town's City Hall, the thousands who came to hear the Germans spilled out into the corridors. It was the same story of overflowing halls in Pretoria, Springs and elsewhere.

The Miners recalled the words of Chancellor Adenauer, who had sent them out across the globe: "A nation without an ideology is always on the defensive; but a nation with an idea is always on the offensive."

Standing with the Germans, who included men who had been veteran Communists and others who had zealously followed Hitler, were Norwegian Resistance fighters.

Together, the former enemies issued the ringing challenge to South Africans of all races, creeds and colours "so to pattern your nation that the people everywhere will say, 'This is the way we are meant to live'."