

THE NEXT 300 YEARS IN SOUTH AFRICA

On the eve of the general election, a Moral Re-Armament Assembly of 250 people of different races met over Easter in Umtata. The Assembly was held at the invitation of the Paramount Chiefs of Tembuland and Western Pondoland.

Dr. William Nkomo, first President of the African National Congress Youth League in South Africa, gave the keynote for the Assembly when he said, "We are starting the second three hundred years of history in South Africa, and we are starting it under the leadership of God."

Bitterness the seed-bed for Communism

Professor Du Toit of Pretoria University responded to Dr. Nkomo: "This is Easter Sunday, and at the same time it is Van Riebeeck's Day, the day the white man came to South Africa. What the next three hundred years will be like depends on how I live with the other races. By my superiority and arrogance I have filled the hearts of Africans with bitterness, resentment and a sense of frustration. This bitterness is the seed-bed for Communism. Hate and bitterness are the very things Communism thrives on. This morning I wish to apologise to all the Africans here and in the country for my share in the division and bitterness that exist between us."

A new type of man

The Reverend George Molefe, headmaster of the Newell Bantu High School in Port Elizabeth, told the Assembly, "This country is sorely in need of a new type of man, and I hope that we shall all accept that challenge, a challenge which will resound throughout the world. During the last four months, three international political conferences have been held in Africa. This conference here at Umtata will shake Africa and bring an answer that will awaken the world to Africa's true destiny. I am determined to be a new type of man. I am thinking of countless broken homes, of immorality cases in the press, of court convictions of all the racial groups in South Africa. During this Easter I want to bury compromise with sin - with dishonesty, selfishness, hate, and over and above all impurity. Hate, dishonesty and selfishness are the offspring of impurity. Impurity is the greatest ally of Communism the world over. I wish to be part of the answer which will lead this country of ours, Africa, and the world to a new destiny."

No political answer

Mr. P. Q. Vundla, well-known African political figure, attended the conference with his wife and son. He said, "This force has the answer, and the only answer, to all our problems. It is not a political answer and it could never be a political answer. Change is the answer. The question

of colour does not matter to me, because I know how it is being exploited. It is exploited for power. I have decided to work with people who are prepared to fight for what is right. That is the decision I have made, and I can never turn back."

Mr. Fred Rubidge, a sheep farmer from the Karoo, said, "No matter whether I am black or white, or which political party I belong to, unless I accept absolute moral standards I am of necessity part of the division of this nation. I have decided forever to live beyond the realm of self-protection, else I will deny my nation its destiny. Moral Re-Armament is not here to solve racial discriminations. These solve themselves as we face the challenge of absolute moral standards."

Youth an effective part of the cure

African and European students from all parts of South Africa and from Bechuanaland were at the Assembly. Mr. Gladstone Ntlabati, a student from Fort Hare University College, speaking of his recent visit with Moral Re-Armament to America and Europe, said, "Everybody thought that the only answer for this country was a bloody revolution, and that we would get some aid from people outside. But my conviction is that South Africa will solve her problems."

Mr. David Kingwill, an honours graduate from Grootfontein Agricultural College, said, "I commit myself to fight with the force of MRA, and I have decided to sell my life insurance policy to help finance this answer."

Answer to divorce

Mr. Jack Ballard, headmaster from Pretoria, speaking of the future security of Europeans, said, "Either there will be a bloody revolution in this country or there will be a renaissance of the Holy Spirit. It is for us to choose which of these two things is going to happen.

"My wife and I were on the brink of divorce. We could not get on in our home - until Moral Re-Armament came to Johannesburg and we saw people who obviously had an answer. I spoke to someone after the meeting, and I am grateful that he did not give me any marriage guidance. He told me, 'If you go home and listen to God on the basis of absolute moral standards you will find the answer.' We did that, and in one hour of being absolutely honest as a couple together we found the answer to the basic problems in our lives and in our home.

"I lived for my own comfort and pleasure, and I was completely wrapped up in myself. That broke our home. I realised that as an English-speaking South African I lived for my career, my future and my language, and I was completely divided from other sections in this country. To African people I was completely indifferent. The answer MRA brought to our home has given us a passion to remake this country. It is the answer for our children, and we can give them nothing greater than that."

"MRA the only hope"

Chief Tutor Ndamase, son and heir of the Paramount Chief of Western Pondoland, said, "There is much to be done to change the hearts of men, to destroy or remove hatred, selfishness, dishonesty and impurity. This country is full of hatred amongst different races and within the same race. Moral Re-Armament is the only answer to all these evils. As the Moral Re-Armament spirit spreads from man to man, the people will change and eventually the world will change. I have been convinced by checking my life with the standards of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love, and by the practice of listening and obeying God's guidance, that the change must start from me, and I must influence other people through my right way of living. Moral Re-Armament is the only hope for the future of the world, the God-guided force which can bring unity to the world."

South Africa a sounding-board of the answer

Mr. Roland Kingwill, a leading farmer, summed up the Assembly: "This Easter we experienced the birth of a force which will make this country a sounding-board of the answer for the nations, which was Dr. Frank Buchman's vision for South Africa during his visit in 1929. Transkei Chiefs, African, European and Coloured businessmen, teachers, farmers, professional men and youth of different races have with equal responsibility accepted the challenge to commit their lives and property fully and permanently for the remaking of the world under the guidance of God."