Hull News

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Broadcast of Play

"It is haunting, it is sardonic, it is effective," wrote Sir Beverley Baxter in his review of "The Vanishing Island," the Moral Re-Armament musical play by Peter Howard. Sir Beverley was attending the London Hippodrome, where the play was being presented after its tour through 28 countries in 12 months.

"The Vanishing Island" will be heard from main national stations next Sunday at 9.15 p.m.

Ivan Menzies, a favourite of New Zealand audiences with his inimitable character roles in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and Reginald Owen, veteran actor of stage and screen, are two of the principals in this compelling musical.

In the course of its world tour, "The Vanishing Island" has been seen by nearly half a million people, while millions more have watched it on television or heard it through radio broadcasts. So great was the hunger for the idea it portrayed that the spectacle of thousands being turned away from the doors became a daily experience as the tour progressed.

In one capital no fewer than 60,000 applied for the 6,000 seats available. In another 3,000 revolutionary Asian students crammed a hall equipped to seat 2,000 and followed the play with rapt attention. Its audiences have included kings, presidents and prime ministers, and ordinary men and women from every walk of life.

What is the story behind this remarkable play and the unprecedented response it has evoked around the world? The author tells of it in his latest book, "An Idea to Win the World."

"The story of the play is very simply how a free country, through moral softness, blind vanity and the confusion of compromise, sells democracy short; how ruthless imperialism of tyranny engulfs her; and how one man selflessly gives the free country the answer—an ideology lived so compellingly by Eiluph'mei that the inhabitants of Weiheitiu change. The play is not, of course, the story of any one country. It is the story of every country and of every human heart in the world today."