

# Rhodesians gather to honour MRA founder

By Henry Macnicol

THIS WEEKEND in Freudenstadt, on the edge of Germany's Black Forest, Rhodesians will take part in an international assembly to honour the centenary of the birth of Dr Frank Buchman, the American who launched the worldwide work of Moral Re-Armament.

The Rev. Arthur Kanodereka of Harare has been invited by the Germans who have convened the Freudenstadt assembly, to give the address at the "Festgottesdienst" (the solemn service) on Buchman's birthday.

It was in Freudenstadt that the idea of Moral Re-Armament was born. You can see there the wooded "Frank Buchman Weg" where, in 1938 — in a world arming for the Second World War — the thought struck him:

"The next great movement in the world will be a movement of moral and spiritual re-arming for all nations."

In Germany, after the disaster of that war, Buchman's work bore fruit: first in the reconciliation of France and Germany, countries which had fought three major wars in 100 years.

A senior British diplomat who visited Rhodesia earlier this year, Mr A. R. K. Mackenzie, assessed Buchman's work succinctly.

"He did three things," he says. "First, he recognised the nature of the

## LOOKING AROUND

crisis of our times long before most people had grasped that it is essentially a moral and ideological crisis.

"Second, he initiated a worldwide answer in the force of Moral Re-Armament.

"Third, he did the hardest thing of all: he spent his life to train a force of people throughout the world who would take this answer to their nations."

The gathering at Freudenstadt is evidence of that worldwide force. Men and women from every continent and walk of life will be there.

### MESSAGE

My own last visit to Freudenstadt was with Africans from many parts of the continent, in the 1950s. They included two from Rhodesia. Our mission there illustrated what Buchman's message had done and is doing in Africa.

We were travelling with a play called Freedom, which had just been written by the African delegates at the MRA World Assembly at Caux.

MPs, student leaders, trade unionists and heads of women's organisations were in the group. The play dealt — in African terms, expressed by Africans who loved their countries and peoples — with the forces which must be overcome if in-

dependent, free nations are to survive.

With typical African directness and humour, the story of Freedom tackles not only the evils of imperialism but of corruption, tribalism, and ideological subversion; and its climax rings with the conviction of an African answer.

In Rhodesia in recent weeks, a film of the play has been asked for by leaders of all the African nationalist parties and has been seen in Bulawayo, Salisbury and other centres in the townships and at political gatherings.

"Africa," Buchman said, "is not meant to be torn apart between conflicting materialistic ideologies of East and West. Africa is meant to speak to the world with an answer."

His vision of "a hate-free, fear-free, greed-free continent, peopled by free men and women" has gripped the minds of African leaders from Tunisia and Morocco to South West Africa.

It has also brought black nationalists from East and West Africa and patriotic Afrikaners from the republic into united action to save the continent.

This is the kind of evidence the Rhodesian representatives will bring to the Freudenstadt assembly this weekend. The Rev. Kanodereka himself is known for his out-

spoken message: "I have found that you just cannot change a man by hating him".

He speaks as one with experience in the Mount Darwin operational area, in the political struggle (he is treasurer-general of the UANC), and his church in Harare has been a meeting place for black and white for the past two years.

With him in Freudenstadt are Sir Cyril and Lady Hatty. Sir Cyril, who was Minister of the Treasury in Sir Edgar Whitehead's Cabinet, has gone to Germany with his wife, "to support the Kanoderekas in their leadership there".

### WORLD STRUGGLE

"The battle for the future of this country," said Arthur Kanodereka before leaving, "is a tough one. It is between the bridge-builders and the bridge-wreckers."

He sees this as part of a world struggle — in which forces of division breed on the moral compromise and corruption of our day.

Moral Re-Armament counters this threat with its emphasis on absolute standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. It confronts the materialism of West and East with its commitment "to restore God to leadership in the life of men and nations".

This is the relevant challenge of the man who is being honoured in Freudenstadt this weekend.