

# 'Pull-out over arms sale issue callous'

SINGAPORE, Sunday

IT would be a step of callousness if any Asian or African country chose to withdraw from the Commonwealth because of the arms sale to South Africa issue.

The editor of a leading international Indian weekly, Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi, said this today while calling for a new slant on the discussions when the Commonwealth Heads of Government resume their talks tomorrow.

Mr. Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and Moral Re-Armament leader in India, said it would be wrong for Asian or African countries to withdraw from the Commonwealth because "the white races need the right kind of revolutionary help that the Asian and African nations can give."

Mr. Gandhi, who was speaking at the Cultural Centre today at a screening of MRA documentaries, said: "There is a certain amount of talk of whether or not to arm South Africa militarily. What is lacking is a discussion on how to re-arm South Africa morally."

## Great pity

"I believe it will be a very great pity if instead of taking the Commonwealth idea that all races are equal in South Africa, we take the ideas of separatism and fragmentation into the Commonwealth.

"I had a thought the other day that the quickest route from Dar-es-Salam, Nairobi and Lusaka to Pretoria in South Africa is via London.

"And that if we can enlist the British in this task of changing South Africa we shall succeed more if we try to do it without the British."

## Article

Mr. Gandhi, in a special article on the Commonwealth conference entitled "A Time For Mending" in the latest issue of his weekly, "Himmat," said: "The truth is that many in the world, not just Africans, have never allowed for the possibility of changing South Africa's whites, so isolating them has been the goal.

"Is this not the moment when the world would like to see a conference work out some answers instead of merely con-



MR. GANDHI

...call for new slant at talks

demning those we believe are wrong?

"Condemnation will be old hat. A bid to influence South African thinking will be headline news."

Mr. Gandhi said he wondered what would happen, for example, if President Kaunda or President Nyerere said something like the following to Mr. Heath:

"You may expect me to announce my withdrawal from the Commonwealth. We will not pull out.

"Can you help us, however, in our battle to establish a multi-racial free society in southern Africa? We ask not for guns to kill, but your partnership to ensure that black, white, brown and yellow can walk the streets of Johannesburg and Durban as brothers."

Mr. Gandhi said a move of this sort would be "explosive statesmanship."

He said the nations of Asia and Africa ought to think of how the situation in South Africa could be changed through Moral Re-Armament — several South Africans present at a MRA conference in Switzerland last July had voiced this hope.