

AFRICAN STATES "HUNGRY FOR THE RIGHT IDEAS"

MR. R. P. KINGWILL BACK IN SOUTH AFRICA

AFRICAN STATES are hungry for the right ideas declared Mr. R. P. Kingwill, of Gordonville, who arrived on his farm on Sunday after spending two and a half months in Burundi, Katanga, the Congo and Northern Rhodesia.

Mr. Kingwill told The Advertiser the time was ripe for South Africa to play its part in the development of many of these territories. There was a vacuum to be filled.

"The Communists are eager to fill that vacuum," he said. "They are all too eager to take the brightest and best students to their universities and indoctrinate them there.

"To my way of thinking, South Africa could well offer bursaries to students in African states and train them here in veterinary science, agriculture and other subjects vital to their countries, and so build up goodwill between our countries."

Mr. Kingwill was a member of the Moral Re-Armament team present at the granting of independence to Burundi on July of this year.

Burundi, he said, is a small mountainous agricultural country in the heart of Africa. The land for cultivation was meagre.

The MRA force was present at the church functions and parades and speeches at the stadium. It was an indescribable day.

"At the stadium I looked across the vast crowds to the hills with banana plantations on the lower slopes, with the houses of the hill farmers higher up and in the background high grass covered mountains — a marvellous picture of beauty and of life in Africa. Behind me was the roomy, orderly town of Usukuma and beyond it Lake Tanganyika."

"The Belgian Governor spoke with generosity and the King and Prime Minister of Burundi replied and emphasised the aims of the new nation of responsibility, peace and co-operation with everyone. A 21-gun salute was fired.

The soldiers formed into columns and marched around the stadium and back to their camp. They were followed by the organised youth Party in coloured dress marching to their own band, then the equivalent of boy-scouts, girl-guides Brownies, in uniform marching in step — saluting their country and signifying their determination to live for their nation.

As they marched in their

hundreds I thought, "All Africa is marching forward on eager feet. If that march is to be with discipline and in charity and co-operation depends much if we in South Africa live with discipline, in charity and with co-operation.

In the Congo, Mr. Kingwill said he found little, if any, evidence of anti-white feeling. The Congolese, too, were hungry for the right ideas.

"The head of the army told me, 'MRA has made it possible to build up this proud army.'

"Here the struggle is between West and East for political control; but you cannot see any evidence of the friction and strife among the people as is suggested in newspaper reports.

"I am firmly convinced that MRA is leaving its mark on African states and is helping to shape human relationships."

Mr. Kingwill said that communications were not good in the Congo and most of his travelling was done by air.

Mr. Kingwill said that a high official in UNO had told him, in private conversation, that the two greatest discoveries of the modern age were atomic power and MRA. The high official had added:

"On the advance of Moral Re-Armament would depend whether atomic power would be used for the destruction or progress of civilisation as we know it,"