

South Africa and the world

CAUX

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Dr William Nkomo of Pretoria, who was the founder and first President of the African Congress Youth League, took part in the conference with white and black compatriots and other Africans. He said:

There was a time when I felt driven to bloody revolution as the answer to the problems in South Africa. But when I saw the change in the lives of white South Africans such as you see here, I felt it was the answer for our country. I turned from planning for bloody revolution to the greater revolution of this change of heart I saw in Moral Re-Armament. The Afrikaaners are a people of strong moral integrity. That is why they have survived through every adversity. But they need to know that South Africa is only a small part of the world. If more and more South Africans can find what we are finding here at Caux, we will make South Africa the sounding board of an answer for the nations. I want to say to these men that I shall be prepared for the rest of my life to fight shoulder to shoulder with them, free from hatred and bitterness.

I read in a newspaper today that a firm has decided not to go to South Africa and is urging other firms to withdraw from the country. I have also noticed that certain trade unionists are appealing to workers not to emigrate there. But I want to appeal to leaders of the workers and management to take on South Africa in a new way. I believe that any effort to stop the economic development of South Africa will mean that the very people that some of you are trying to help—my people—will suffer from starvation, malnutrition and lack of suitable housing because of lack of capital for the country. But if men like you everywhere will under God bring a new humanity to industry and commerce, bring something new in social conditions, you will make a contribution to produce God's family on earth.

Many people when they meet me say, "What can we do to liberate you?" Some people offer me guns and other military support. Some of our people have fallen for that kind of thing, and today there is bloodshed in Mozambique and on the borders of South Africa. When Africans ask me what they can do, the first thing I say is, "the greatest thing you can do for every South African is to live great and make a success of your hard-won independence. If you do that you will convince the people of my part of the world that the African is capable of greatness and under God can make a contribution to mankind."

There are people today who use the moral weaknesses of men to undermine stability and integrity. Those who are weak, they buy with money or liquor or women. But those who are bought are bought for smaller ends than what is God's destiny for them. That is Africa's problem. So if you want to help Africa, give the kind of help we receive here that makes us strong and adequate leaders for the times in which we live. Money and economic development are good. We do need homes, we do need food. But when you have given us homes and food and education, you have not given us everything. I have

seen men who have been given all these things become immoral and sell out their nations. If you give them the secret of greatness that we see here, then you have given them the important thing.

I have felt strangely moved in my heart to see and hear the Asians here. We have had the Asian people living with us on the continent of Africa for a long time. They have been given the acumen of business more than many Africans can boast of. The result is that jealousies have arisen between us. In my own part of the world there were riots and bloodshed between the Africans and the Asians. I would like to say to them how sorry I am that I have sometimes shared the bitterness together with my compatriots and that sometimes differences have arisen between the people of Africa and the people of Asia. Frank Buchman said this was Africa's hour. I would like to say, this is equally the hour of the great nations of the East.

I feel that my spirit has been strangely warmed by the good company around me. I speak to you as brothers and sisters, no longer as foreigners from different countries and different races. I feel basically there are two races, the race of men who honestly try to live by the will of God and the race of men who undermine God's will. We here are attempting to become members of the one race that will live by the direction of God's will. If we do that, we will no longer be thinking of isolating South Africa but help South Africa to be God's land of sunshine.