

A FIGHTER WHO WANTS TO FORGET

THE first Prime Minister of Kenya, Mr Jomo ("Burning Spear") Kenyatta, is opposed to racialism and wants Kenya to forget the past.

Kenya became independent this week after 68 years of British rule.

Mr Kenyatta's aim, says the M.R.A. magazine New World News, is to become leader "of all Kenyans — not one tribe, race or party."

The article in the latest issue of New World News is by the well-known M.R.A. writer, Peter Howard, who has succeeded Dr Frank Buchman as leader of the Moral Re-Armament Movement.

ALL HUMAN

A Howard play "The Dictator's Suppers" is to be shown in Port Elizabeth and Umtata next month.

Mr Kenyatta recently met White farmers, many of them South Africans, at a special meeting in the White Highlands where till recently no African or Asian could own property.

He told the farmers: "We are all human beings and make mistakes. But we can all forgive. That is what we need to learn in Kenya."

"Where I have harmed you, I asked your forgiveness. We must put the past behind us."

"We must work together and try to trust one another."

MAU MAU

But Kenyatta is also the person who was convicted by a court of responsibility for the Mau Mau. He was arrested in 1952 and kept in detention till 1961.

The Mau Mau oaths and the deeds perpetrated were savage and satanic. The movement aimed not only at Whites but also at Africans who wanted a less violent road to freedom.

TO FORGET

M.R.A. lauds Kenyatta

for generosity

More than 11,000 people were killed by the Mau Mau, many of them cruelly tortured. The operation against the Mau Mau cost R100,000,000. More than 1,000 Mau Mau were hanged.

But, says Peter Howard, many Kikuyu people say that if the Government had not imprisoned Kenyatta, but tried instead to find with him an end to the bitterness and hate, the whole tragedy could have been halted.

Today Mr Kenyatta — once described by a former Governor as "a leader to darkness and death" — sits at a desk in Nairobi. On the wall behind him hangs a large copy of the new flag of Kenya.

FLY WHISK

He wears a cap of blue, green, red, white and yellow beads and on the little finger of his left hand there is a large gleaming topaz ring. Everywhere he goes, he carries with him his fly whisk with silver handle and his ebony walking stick with a carved elephant's head.

On his release from prison he told a large crowd at Gatundu: "The past is past. We have all suffered. Let us leave the past behind and start to build our nation anew."

His brother, James, who was reared by Jomo, says that as a young man Jomo always had a fondness for the soil. He loved farm life. Later he

He was shown the film while in detention by Mr Nahashon Ngare, a Kenya nationalist leader, and by Dr M. T. Moe-rane, Editor of a Johannesburg newspaper. The two men made a special trip to see Kenyatta and screen the film for him.

It is this new line of thought which ensured peaceful elections for Kenya and is helping prepare the country for effective self-government where all races play a part, says Mr James Kenyatta.

ECONOMICS

And on the economic front Mr Jomo Kenyatta's new soft-spoken attitude is having profound results:

- Four banks have advanced a joint loan of R1,000,000 to the Kenya Development Finance Corporation.

- The previously stagnant property market is beginning to recover.

- Trade delegations from Japan, West Germany and other countries are now visiting Nairobi.

- Bank deposits are R20,000,000 above the figure of a year ago and loans and advances R16,000,000 higher.

But Kenyatta has not been unopposed and his toughest opposition has come from the former Mau Mau.

OATH-TAKING

There have been fresh outbursts of oath-taking—directed not at Whites, but at Kenyatta's Government. It is believed led by men opposed to his policy of friendship to White, Yellow and Black alike.

Some of the leaders are also men dissatisfied at not being given posts in the new government. The Government has promised harsh action against oath-takers.

But, says Peter Howard, whether he succeeds or not, Mr Kenyatta has challenged the outlook of Africa as well as his countrymen. And he has won the respect of all races—even extreme South African settlers.



Mr JOMO KENYATTA

worked as an interpreter, a farm clerk, and farm foreman.

From 1931 to 1946 he was a student of anthropology in London. There he also wrote his book "Facing Mount Kenya".

Mr Jomo Kenyatta paid for the education of his brother, James.

Mr James Kenyatta says that one of the factors which changed the thinking of his brother was the M.R.A. film "Uhuru" which was written and acted in by Africans.