

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

Speaking at the world assembly of Moral Re-Armament held recently at Caux, Mr. Piet Naude, farmer, Eastern Transvaal said:

Moral Re-Armament is bringing the answer in South Africa to the division between Europeans and Africans. When I started the farm I had one ambition and it was to become a top farmer. To help me to reach that end I decided to keep my thumb on the African workers, so that my neighbours would say, "By gosh, he is a man." Then I met MRA and I saw that I wanted to get the best out of my workers only to fill my pocket. I wanted to give back as little as possible. When I faced the four moral standards, I had many things to put right. I had to apologise to some of the African workers whom I had ill-treated. I also had to pay some money back to them. This brought quite a new relationship between us.

I also began to give them better food, and before I left for Caux. I started to help them to build better houses. MRA has given me a deep care for my African workers and I have no labour shortage on my farm today, although this is one of

the big problems in South Africa. I am only one of many farmers who have started to live this way.

Some time ago I was invited to meet an African labour leader. He is a bitter man and he hated the South Africans who spoke Afrikaans. He was fighting for the idea, "Africa for the Africans." It was very difficult for me to meet this man. When I met him he told me of the feelings he had against Afrikaans-speaking people. He accused them of many things. I knew that much of it was the truth, and I admitted it. I told him about my change and I said "I am sorry for my behaviour" I then told him about the restitution I had made to my workers and I suggested we should take a time to listen to the Big Spirit to find out "not who is right, but what is right." That quiet time was a challenge to me as well as to him, and both of us decided to fight for better relationships. Today he is fighting for unity. If this can happen in South Africa and to South Africa what could happen to the world?