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DATE

NATAL DAILY NEWS

DIE TRANSVALER SEES NO REASON TO REJOICE OVER BUCHMAN VISIT

DIE TRANSVALER says to-day that it cannot participate in the high expectations that have been voiced about the proposed visit to South Africa of Dr. F. Buchman and other members of the Moral Rearmament Movement.

The newspaper says the manner in which the proposed visit was announced augured more harm than good from their work in South Africa. "There has immediately been confusion about the question whether they have been invited by the President of the Senate and Mr. Speaker and the five Administrators or not," says Die Transvaler, adding that it now appears that these people at most took favourable notice of the visit.

It was incorrect, therefore, to say that Dr. Buchman and his friends would virtually enjoy official status. Had that been so, a statement from the Government could have been expected. Under the circumstances it was to be hoped that the Government would not feel required to issue a denial.

CONTROVERSIAL

Die Transvaler says the proposed visit is a controversial matter for two reasons. Firstly, the Liberal Press sees in it an ideal opportunity to justify the idea of racial equality, because according to this Press, the Moral Rearmament Movement admits no colour bar and believes in equality. "So far as we are concerned, we can but hope that this is not true, because if it is true, then representatives of this movement cannot possibly expect a

hearty welcome from those who believe in apartheid."

Die Transvaler comments that the movement has been busy in South Africa for some time, the workers being South Africans. If these people had not been able to bring about changes in the Union, how could people from outside, however, gifted, hope to do so?

A basic change in respect of cardinal questions would mean either the surrender of principles or compromise.

DIFFERENCES

To affect a change the Movement would have to convert all believers in apartheid to Liberalism or vice versa, or find a middle way which would mean some surrender by both sides of their point of view.

"This is something which we cannot propose. There are fundamental differences in life which can be reconciled only at the cost of self-respect resulting in a sham peace," says the newspaper.

Die Transvaler goes on to say that the millenium has not yet arrived. The lion and the lamb are still enemies. "Therefore it is as well to warn the public against a call for peace when there can be no peace and against a too ambitious striving to bring about reforms."