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LEADER OF M.R.A. GETS OFFICIAL CALL TO S.A.



DR. F. BUCHMAN

Recently completed tour of the East

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DR. FRANK N. D. BUCHMAN, founder of the Moral Re-Armament movement, who recently completed a nine-months' visit to India, Pakistan and Ceylon, has been invited officially to visit South Africa soon with an international team of M.R.A. workers.

The Moral-Re-Armament movement, which is non-sectarian, calls for personal change on the basis of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love as the way to world peace and progress.

The invitation was sent to Dr. Buchman at Caux, Switzerland, by the president of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Assembly and the Administrators of the Cape, Transvaal, Natal, Orange Free State and South-West Africa.

The letter from the President of the Senate (the Hon. C. A. van Niekerk) and the Speaker (the Hon. S. H. Conradie) states:

"Every responsible person must be conscious of the grave issues facing the world today and especially here in South Africa, where some of our most difficult problems are different from those in any other country in the world.

"All of us are anxious to find the right answers. Senators and Members of the House of Assembly of all parties have heard of the results achieved in many parts of the world by the application of the principles of Moral Re-Armament in homes, industry and national affairs.

"For this reason we hope that you and your team will be able to visit South Africa, and we can assure you that such a visit will be greatly welcomed."

No stranger to S. Africa

The invitation from the five Administrators states:

"We believe that your visit with its emphasis on the search for God's plan, personally and nationally, will bring, about a new willingness in all of us to co-operate for the well-being of our country and the rest of Africa. Your message, based as it is on a change of heart and absolute moral standards, can give us the new spiritual stimulus we need in South Africa today."

Dr. Buchman is no stranger to South Africa. He visited the Union in 1929 with a small team largely drawn from British and American universities. The Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr wrote later of that visit that it was "of national significance and started a major and continuing influence for racial reconciliation."

Since then the work of M.R.A. has been extended to most countries of the world. In 1950, Dr. Buchman was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the French Government and in December, 1952, the German Government awarded him their highest decoration, the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit. The awards were in recognition of the contribution that M.R.A. has made towards creating improved relationships between the two countries.

Dr. Buchman, who is now 75, has recently completed a nine-months tour of Ceylon, India and Pakistan at the invitation of government and industrial leaders. He was accompanied by an international team of 180 from 26 nations who, through meetings, plays and films, presented "democracy's inspired answer to communism."

Representatives of 65 countries

Senator Alexander Wiley, chairman of the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee, speaking in the American Senate of the work of Moral Re-Armament in Asia, described it as "advancing the principles which must be the foundation of peace throughout the world."

Moral Re-Armament has become widely known throughout South Africa as a result of the tour of the industrial play "The Forgotten Factor" from 1949 to 1951, under the patronage of the Governor-General.

Dr. Buchman is now at the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland. In the last seven years a large number of South Africans have attended the Caux assemblies, including the Administrator of the Transvaal, Dr. W. Nicol, with his Executive Committee, members of the Senate and House of Assembly from all parties, delegations from the

Transvaal Chamber of Mines and the Mineworkers' Union, and many others from all walks of life.

Since the opening on June 20, the 1953 World Assembly at Caux has been attended by 5,500 representatives of 65 countries.

Mr. Cyril Pearce, a Johannesburg businessman, spoke of the need for a change of heart in the European. "Without this change," he said, "I cannot see my country surviving. The acceptance of absolute moral standards is a basic necessity to achieve this change and national unity."

Mrs. Sophie Smuts, of Johannesburg, said, "I am deeply impressed by the initiative the Asians and the Africans have taken in the fight for a new world. I want to fight that I and my nation pioneer this new way and eliminate all that divides us."

Mr. Aidan Mwamuka, secretary of the African Association of Southern Rhodesia, on leaving Caux, said, "I go back to Africa convinced that if we apply MRA we will find solutions to our racial problems. I pledge myself to fight for the ideology of MRA in Africa."

Reasons for decision

In Johannesburg recently the Rev. George Daneel, formerly of the Dutch Reformed Church, Grahamstown, and Professor B. F. Nel, Professor of Education, Pretoria University, were the principal speakers at a meeting at the M.R.A. Centre.

Dr. Daneel spoke of the reasons which had led him and his wife to make the decision of joining the full-time team.

He said: "It is not a question of choosing between working with the church or with Moral Re-Armament. It is simply a question of obeying the call which my wife and I felt came from God."

Professor Nel, who has just returned from a visit to the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Caux, reported on what he had seen there of the creation of new unity between leaders of different nations. He said that in previous visits overseas he had met much criticism of South Africa, but that was not so at Caux. There he found people anxious to understand our problems.

His stay in Caux had made it clear that the only thing which could lead to better relations between the two sections of the White population of South Africa was a change of heart, and this in return would lead to the solution of the problems between Europeans and non-Europeans.