

**MORAL RE-ARMAMENT—I**

# Ideological Counter to Communism

## Claims of the Oxford Group Movement

IN 1929, a number of South African Rhodes scholars were travelling to a meeting to preach a message they had learned at Oxford University. A South African railway official labelled them collectively "Oxford Group," and stuck that on their compartment. The name became world famous. To-day the movement calls itself Moral Re-armament, and claims to be the world's biggest idea and the only true ideological counter to Communism.

Moral Re-armament has thousands of adherents in many countries. It was taken seriously by the Nazis. Many supporters of the movement were executed by the Gestapo during the war.

The Communists are now taking it equally seriously, and have tried to stop it making converts among workers. The movement, however, claims to have converted Communist leaders chosen for this task instead.

Last year, at Caux, in Switzerland, 8,000 delegates from 82 nations attended the world assembly of Moral Re-armament. The United States Congress sent a special bipartisan committee. There were 26 Cabinet Ministers present, including Japan's first post-war Premier, Tetsu Katayama, and 118 M.P.'s.

### Aims

HOW does Moral Re-armament work, what does it do and what are its aims?

These questions are difficult to answer, because the movement, incredible as it may seem, has no membership figures and no programme in the usual sense. Because it is financed entirely by money gifted to it, some degree of organisation has proved necessary in various countries, including South Africa.

But these bodies, it is stressed, are merely legal entities to make acceptance of gifts possible. "People are all important," says the movement, "not agendas or organisation."

### Changing People

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT wants to change the world by changing people. Trying to change individuals through changing systems has, it contends, been tried frequently but has always failed—witness the modern world of the Hell-bomb, and Communism, which set out to create a better world by changing the economic system, and has created, instead a world without moral values at which the individual is more enslaved than ever.

"When human nature is cured or changed, which is a miracle, but one that does happen, then anything is possible." With this simply expressed formula, Moral Re-armament claims to be able to build a permanent peace, create a classless society, and distribute wealth justly.

It has no politics, and preaches its message impartially to people who believe that other races are inferior, to Communists advocating world revolution, and to selfish capitalists. It claims to have converted a good many in all three categories.

### Stronghold

SOUTH AFRICA has always been a stronghold of the movement, but the current application of Moral Re-armament lessons to this country is connected with the movement's present all-out cold war on Communism.

Asia and Africa are regarded as the chief centres to-day of the "world ideological struggle." Lenin, Moral Re-armament notes, said: "We will use the East to conquer the West."

The movement warns that "the future of the white races in Africa may ultimately depend on what ideology captures the 150,000,000 of Native races."

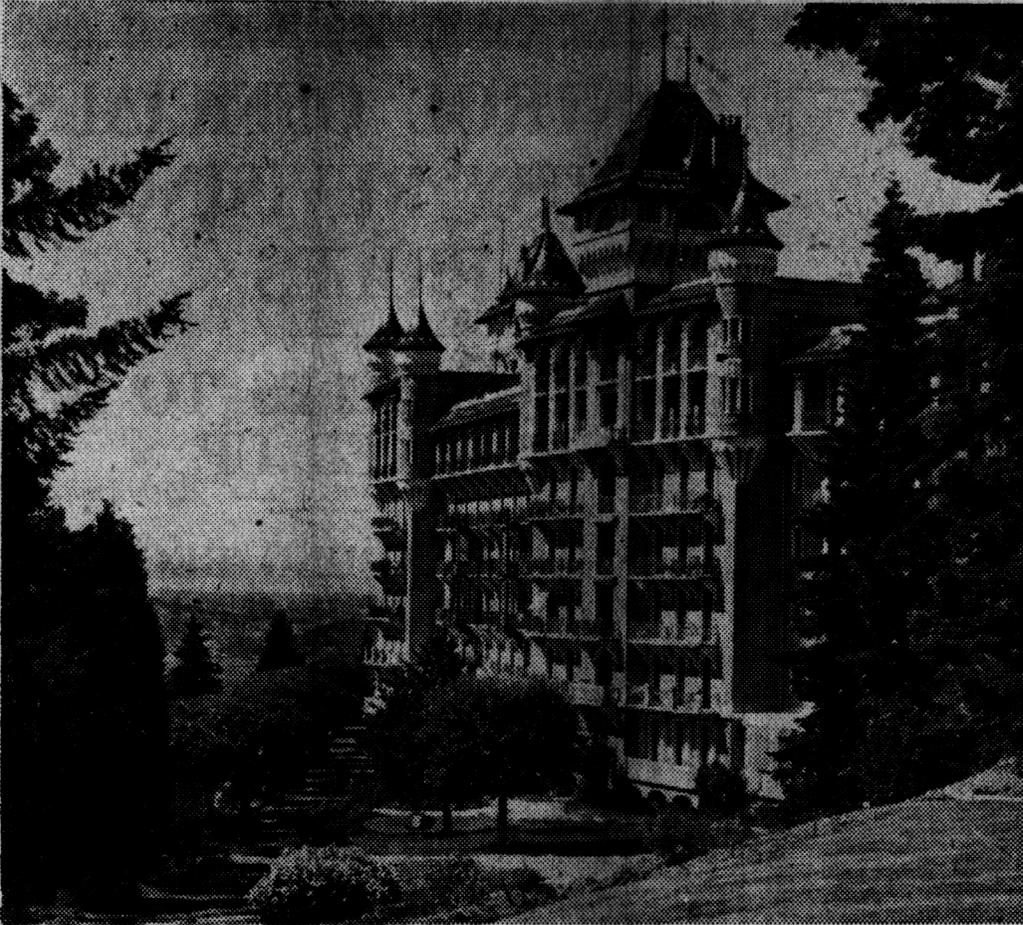
It points out that many if not most African students who go overseas return as militant apostles of the class and race war. Moral Re-armament thinks they would do better to visit Caux, or become students of the movement's "College of the Good Road."

### No Salaries

FROM its earliest days the movement has been subjected to a good deal of curiosity regarding its finances. Most people find it difficult to believe that full-time Moral Re-armament workers draw no salaries, merely living on God's bounty as represented by gifts from well-wishers, and that the movement's considerable literature

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## Mountain House at Caux



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and its other activities are similarly financed.

But in fact, the movement appears to have been astonishingly successful in attracting financial support, just by asking for it. Railways offer transport at cut prices. Wealthy individuals make handsome donations.

Organisations like Rotary finance Moral Re-armament studies, and large firms readily grant long leave, sometimes, with pay, to employees who wish to become students of the College of the Good Road.

### "Forgotten Factor"

THE Moral Re-armament play which was shown in Johannesburg, "The Forgotten Factor," is a good illustration. Audiences contributed at each performance, 10 Vereeniging factories financed performances in their town, Cape clothing firms clad the cast (who draw no salaries), a Johannesburg builder bought scenery, one typist gave her total savings of £50.

In Britain and America money was raised to buy the special lighting equipment used in the production.

The movement holds that this simply demonstrates the truth of its main thesis—that the best way to live is to live for others, and that most people are ready to respond to this message and to begin to act accordingly. Moral Re-armament, wherever it spreads, merely asks and is given.

(To be concluded to-morrow.)