

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

"YOU will never be able to realise how much good this play has done for South Africa," said Brigadier H. D. Klopper, D.S.O., Director-General of Land Forces in the U.D.F., after a performance of "The Forgotten Factor" specially given for the delegates at the All-Africa Assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Heidelberg, Transvaal, recently. He referred to the message of the play as "the first honest attempt I have ever seen to produce something better than 'agreeing to disagree.'"

Brigadier Klopper spoke of the urgency of a world situation in which mankind is only held back by fear from total self-destruction. "If we would only listen to the message of this play," he said, "there is still something left for us as human beings."

A message from the Hon. J. F. T. Naude, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, was read to the Assembly. Mrs. Naude wired: "May the good spirit I experienced at Caux and which characterises the activities of Moral Re-Armament make its way in our country so that our utmost difficulties and special

problems may be solved in this spirit."

Mr. R. P. Erasmus, vice-president of the Mine Workers' Union, addressed the delegates: "The two greatest men I have known," he said, "are Paul Kruger and Dr. Frank Buchman. Frank Buchman is the prophet of this age. He is showing a tormented world how to rid its heart of hatred. I, who have hated deeply, have purged my own heart of bitterness. I appeal for all of us to do this together. Otherwise together we shall go down to destruction."

His appeal was immediately taken up by two of the South African delegates present. Mr. Charles Burns, formerly an officer in the British Army in India and now resident in Johannesburg, said, "I come from a background of those responsible for a great deal of the bitterness in this country. Many people in Britain are sorry for the past," he said, "but not sorry enough to say so, because we have been too proud. I do not want to say so now."

As he turned from the platform, another South African delegate, Mr. J. J. du Preez,

Principal of the Agricultural School at Britz, rose to shake his hand. "I speak as one who has had cause to be bitter," Mr. du Preez said. "I lost a sister in the concentration camps. But I too am willing to apologise for any careless word I have spoken which may have caused division, and I pledge myself with my friend here to build a new age for South Africa."

Delegates Depart

The delegates to the first All-Africa Assembly for Moral Re-Armament left Heidelberg on April 1 after the last of a series of 25 sessions which have been held during the past ten days in the Town Hall of Heidelberg.

15 nations have been represented at the Assembly. 450 delegates took part including groups from the Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya, the Rhodesias and all four provinces of the Union.

The main issue on the agenda was the question of national and international security in an age of increasing tension. The overall theme was "An ideology that can win the world".

A group of senior officers of the South African Army headed by Brigadier H. B. Klopper, Director General of Land Forces, and an official study group from the South African Police have taken part in the discussions.

Several South African trade unions sent official delegates; these included the Mineworkers' Union, the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Typographical Workers' Union. Management was represented by members of the Gold Producers' Committee, a group of mine Managers and a delegation from ISCOR.

Parliamentary interest in the outcome of the assembly was shown by the messages sent to Heidelberg by the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, the President of the Senate and other leaders from both parties.

Mr. H. F. Klopper, M.P., (H. N. P. Vredefort), who addressed the Assembly at one of its final sessions, made an appeal to the South African people to study and practice the philosophy of Moral Re-Armament in order to be able to radiate it to other nations.

Educationalists and leading representatives from the Church among them Archdeacon Gordon Hannon from Ireland and Canon Martin Capon from Kenya took an active part in the conference.

A representative group of farmers from Kenya, Northern and Eastern Transvaal, the

Orange Free State, the Karroo and the Cape brought evidence of solutions to two basic problems of agriculture—soil erosion and labour relations.

In the final session today many of the delegates expressed their determination to put into practice in their local situations the ideological training they had received at Heidelberg.

The permanent South African task force of Moral Re-Armament moves on from Heidelberg to Rhodesia this week where they are asked to present the play "The Forgotten Factor" to audiences gathered by a national Committee of Invitation which is headed by the Prime Minister of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Godfrey Huggins.