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MRA Conference In Kenya Will Welcome White S. Africans

A NEW type of pan-African conference is to take place in Kenya. A thousand young men and women from 20 African countries will assemble at Kenyatta College, Nairobi, from December 8 to December 22.

In contrast to almost every pan-African conference where the aim is to oust South Africa, this conference will welcome Black and White South Africans and treat them with respect. More than that, an African from South Africa has been invited to be the chairman of the conference and he has accepted. He is Mr. Andrew Pepeta from Cape Town.

The conference was initiated by a group of East Africans who in August attended the Moral Re-Armament Assembly in America.

NEW THINKING

Their thinking goes contrary to the typical African conference agenda which generally concerns the subversion of South Africa, the invasion of South-West Africa and various threats to Rhodesia. These young Kenyans say in their invitation brochure: We will demonstrate that

Freedom is not free. We have to sacrifice to pay the price for liberty.

Unity comes from change. Only new motives in men will make resolutions a practical reality.

Violence is outmoded. A new society can be created without resorting to force or dictatorship.

Wealth comes from work. Development aid is no substitute for the hard work that is the only guarantee of progress.

Prosperity need not lead to decadence. Free men must decide the disciplines that will guide them and their nations.

Africa can pattern a common purpose for all mankind. Africa can make her unique contribution to the growth of civilisation.

SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP

Moral Re-Armament is sponsoring a group of 25 from Southern Africa. The conference fee and air transport costs R160 per person. They are inviting individuals and firms to sponsor delegates. Donations by cheque must be made out to Moral Re-Armament and sent to PO Box 383, Durban.

Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr, chairman of the Council of Moral Re-Armament, who has worked in 26 African countries, outlined the plans for the conference at two luncheons this week — one for Members of the Provincial Council in Pietermaritzburg, and one for businessmen in Durban. He referred to his contact over 15 years with Jomo Kenyatta, now

President of Kenya.

Kenyatta was associated with Mau Mau through which Hofmeyr's father-in-law was murdered, but he paid tribute to the remarkable change that had come in the life of Kenyatta.

Hofmeyr cited five things that Kenyatta had done in the past six months:

1. He told the Russians to take their arms and leave Kenya.

2. He has taken the Communist Lumumba Institute and put it under the Ministry of Education where he can control it.

3. He has publicly attacked the Communists in Parliament.

4. He has issued a State Paper defining African socialism and specifically rejected Marxism as the basis.

5. On Independence Day he said: "Our policy is non-alignment. This does not mean that we cannot be friends with the West. We can be friends with anyone who will be a true friend. But we would be very naive if we did not face the fact that Communism has imperialistic aims in Africa."