

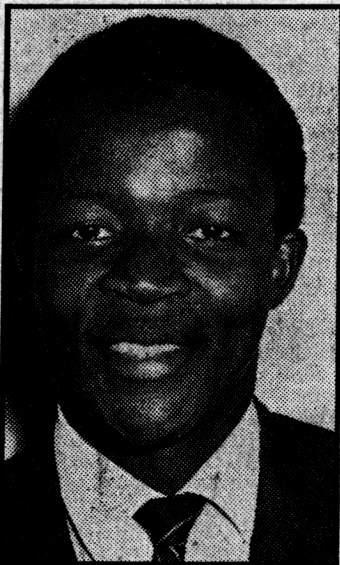
24 MAY 1966

DATE.....

NATAL MERCURY

Creating New Africa, Kenyatta Told Them STUDENTS AT MRA MEETING TURNED TO AND BUILT ROAD

IN December last year 950 students from 14 African countries, who were attending a Moral Rearmament conference in Nairobi, trooped out of the conference hall, donned overalls and began to build a road.



MR. A. PEPPETTA

Among them was a 31-year-old African born in Cape Town, Mr. A. Peppetta, who arrived in Durban yesterday after addressing students at the University of Zululand during the week-end.

Mr. Peppetta, who was educated at Hilltown, near Beaufort West, and trained as a teacher there, has visited five continents in the past seven years in the course of his moral rearmament work.

He studied the code at Caux, Switzerland, and later at Mackinac Island, in Michigan, before travelling to South America and thence to Kenya, where he has since become chairman for East Africa of the Moral Rearmament Movement.

NOT UNDIGNIFIED

Recalling the road-building incident yesterday, Mr. Peppetta, who was the chairman of the conference, said that the delegates' object had been to demonstrate that manual labour was not beneath the dignity of educated people.

"While we were working on the road, we were visited by President Kenyatta. He told us that what we were doing was the way to create a new Africa. He said we were not afraid to get dirt behind our fingernails.

"In fact, one of the main aims of the conference was to engender a will to work among the people of Africa. We also discussed ways and means of promoting national and even international unity."

Moral rearmament, said Mr. Peppetta, stood for economic, social and political justice, and for freedom of choice and equality of opportunity.

"It is not a religious movement. People of all religions practise it. It is neither in com-

petition with religion nor a substitute for it.

"It can perhaps be said to be a marshalling of those who stand for goodness and honesty against the evil elements in the world."

MUSICALS

One of the most novel methods of "getting to the public" employed by the movement was the staging of musicals.

"The script and song lyrics all carry the message of moral rearmament, and these shows have proved highly successful wherever they have been staged.

"In the United States a show called 'Sing Out '66' is enjoying tremendous success and has been seen by thousands of young people. Excerpts have been shown on television.

"After last year's conference in Nairobi we put on a similar show called 'Harambee,' which is a word popularised by Jomo Kenyatta and means 'let's pull together.'

"The musical has been invited to play in the Sudan and Ethiopia and we are planning to take it to the Congo, Nigeria and Ghana.

"It conveys the message of unity and also says that freedom is not free, but has to be earned. We can't build a continent on the cheap."

Mr. Peppetta, who left for Johannesburg last night, plans to be in South Africa for about a month before returning to Kenya.