

TRADE UNIONS BREAK WITH M.R.A.

Allege interference in Africa

BRUSSELS, Sunday. — The executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the major non-Communist federation of unions, announced yesterday it had decided to advise trade unionists to sever all connections with the Moral Rearmament Movement (M.R.A.).

The Board, which has ended a week-long session in Brussels, circulated a statement to the Press which read:

"A reference to the activities of the Moral Rearmament Movement (M.R.A.) among trade unions in Africa was made at the 18th meeting of the I.C.F.T.U. executive

board. M.R.A. efforts to interfere with the trade union movements in Tunisia and Northern Rhodesia were noted, as well as attempts to gain influence among Nigerian unions.

REPEATED PROTESTS

"After hearing further statements showing that M.R.A. in spite of repeated trade union protests has continued to interfere in internal trade union affairs and pursue interests opposed to those of the workers, the Board issued a recommendation to supersede its recommendation of December, 1953, to the effect that affiliated organisations should impress upon their members that they should not misuse their trade union titles when making speeches in support of M.R.A.

"It was the unanimous opinion of the board that in view of the continued interference of M.R.A. in industrial matters, trade unionists should now be advised to sever all connections with the movement."

Commenting on the statement, an I.C.F.T.U. spokesman said a full report by the I.C.F.T.U. on M.R.A. would be issued in a few weeks.

"SUPERIOR ARBITRATOR"

The spokesman claimed that M.R.A. was trying to act as a sort of superior arbitrator in industrial disputes and trade union relations.

(No comment on the I.C.F.T.U. statement was immediately available at M.R.A. headquarters in London.)—Sapa-Reuter.