

MORE THAN A THOUSAND ATTENDED "PEACE CONFERENCE" OF A SORT

MORE than a thousand people of all races filled the Harry Margolis Hall, Salisbury, on Tuesday, 10th May, for a meeting on the theme "Southern Africa — What Kind of Change?"

Special buses, organised by residents, brought hundreds from Harare, Highfield, Mabvuku, Mufakose and Kambuzuma. Another bus-load of fifty students came from the University.

EIGHTEEN SPEAKERS

As eighteen speakers of different races held the audience spell-bound for two and a half hours, it was a demonstration of the longing of Rhodesians, black and white, to build a nation led by God where people of every race have a part.

A banner entitled "Building the Future" stretched above the stage. One of two African choirs present led off the meeting with a traditional dance and song.

Throughout the meeting the speaking was interspersed with songs from the two choirs, and from the visiting MRA force of 25 people from 14 countries.

Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi, Chief Minister of the 800,000 Shangaan people in



Mr Naboth Machopa of Highfield addressing the MRA mass meeting in the Harry Margolis Hall, Salisbury, last Tuesday, on "Southern Africa — What Kind of Change?" Also on the platform are (Left to Right) Miss Bulie Ndamse, whose father, the late Curnick Ndamse, was a Cabinet Minister in the Transkei; Miss Melanie Muchimwe, a teacher from Fort Victoria; Mr Donald Barnett, a Salisbury accountant; (seated) Sir Cyril Hatty, a former Southern Rhodesia Cabinet Minister, Miss Renske Wanroy, Gwelo; and (seated) Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi, Chief Minister of Gazankulu.

in us. We have failed to solve the problem because of selfishness and lack of honesty. If we accept the importance of inter-

ster, a changed white Rhodesian.

God has called us to challenge a situation that is chaotic. People are dying almost every day. But black and white belong to each other. If we are a Christian nation we must stand up and be counted.

Councillor Roy Wright, the Mayor of Salisbury, opened the meeting. "Neither the ideologies of Communism or Capitalism appear to fulfil the conditions to ensure an orderly world society", he said. "MRA teaches that success can only be gained through a re-orientation of individual thinking. This may well prove to be correct.

MRA started with a few individuals, but has grown to be quite a force in the world. The ripples created by their individual actions might provide a better solution to the world's difficulties that we have hitherto tried."

APPLAUSE

A burst of applause greeted the six young Rhodesians, three white and three black, who came together to the microphone. "We have decided to stand for what is right, whatever our friends say, and be responsible for the future of this country," said an African secondary school teacher

lives, and how they are affecting attitudes in their homes, schools, offices, and — as one professional footballer told — in his football team.

Then Mrs Valerie Blorc, wife of the General Manager of the Selukwe Chrome Mines, spoke. "I was born in this country", she said. "I have been blind and indifferent to the problems here. But I know from my own experience that change is possible. Thanks to my friends in MRA I am not as blind as I was.

I feel responsible for the hurts and discrimination that we whites have caused here, and I want to ask your forgiveness.

FINEST HOUR

The meeting was ended by Conrad Hunte, from the West Indies. "This could be Rhodesia's finest hour", he said. "Could not forgiveness on one side of the colour line, and repentance on the other, translated into social and economic terms, be the solvent of Rhodesia's difficulties? Those men and women will not have died in vain who have been fighting for what they believe to be right, provided that we who do not have to fight live the truth.

The truth is the choice you and I must make every day in our hearts and lives, in our jobs and in society".

The meeting ended with the whole audience standing for a full-throated rendering of