

Do not sever ties plea by Dutch cleric

By a Staff Reporter

THE REV J. WINDIG, a former member of the Hervormde Kerk Synod in the Netherlands, has appealed to the Ned Geref Kerk Moderature to reconsider its decision to sever ties with the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands.

When it became known last month that the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands had voted in favour of continued support to the World Council of Churches' programme to combat racism, the Broad Moderature of the Ned Geref Kerk in South Africa decided unanimously to recommend to its synod that relations with the Dutch churches be severed.

Mr Windig, one of 400 delegates attending the Moral Re-Armament conference in Pretoria, said that it was wrong to discontinue dialogue because of a disagreement.

"How will we ever know what is the attitude of the South African Ned Geref Kerk if all ties are cut? For this reason I have personally pleaded with the Synod of the Hervormde Kerk in the Netherlands to maintain contact with South Africa.

"The Hervormde Kerk's decision not to accept the WCC recommendation to withdraw all investments in South Africa was apparently overlooked in the uproar which followed the Reformed Churches' Synod decision to support liberation movements.

"As a foreigner I do not feel qualified to comment on the South African situation, but opening church doors to people of all races would take some of the heat off the debate," said Mr Windig.

● The Hervormde Kerk and the Gereformeerde Kerken in the Netherlands voted 56-25 in favour of continued support of the WCC anti-racism fund.