

JUDGE'S APOLOGY TO AFRICANS FAILS TO IMPRESS LEADERS

But Afrikaners are indignant

MANY Afrikaners are indignant because Mr. Justice C. J. Classen, of Pretoria, recently apologised to the African people for his haughty attitude in the past. But leading Africans do not appear to attach serious importance to the judge's remarks.

The judge told a Moral Rearmament gathering in Maseru: "When I faced the absolute moral standards of M.R.A., I realised that as an Afrikaner my attitude, particularly to the African races, had been one of indifference and superiority. I wish to apologise for that haughty attitude of the past."

Mr. W. M. Sisulu, a former secretary-general of the A.N.C., declined to comment. He said

the utterance did not have any meaning to him.

Mr. S. Segale, Transvaal leader of the A.N.C. Youth League, said he had heard of the story but did not attach any particular significance to it.

Mr. P. Lengene, former chairman of the Johannesburg Joint Advisory Boards, said that the judge had spoken as a Moral Rearmament man. If he had spoken as an ordinary citizen, there might have been ground for comment.

A number of leading Africans told a reporter that they had not read the statement.

In any event they felt it was uttered in the spirit of Moral Rearmament.

Afrikaner views

The Rev. C. G. Malan, D.R.C. minister at Linden, told a reporter of the Afrikaans newspaper, *Vaderland*, that the Europeans and particularly the Afrikaners had nothing to reproach themselves for in the past.

"There were perhaps individuals who behaved irresponsibly in the past. The Afrikaner has nothing to reproach himself with. He has indeed made sacrifices and given a lead.

"Personally I would say that the only sphere in which we might have done more was in missionary work. There cannot be any really serious objections of conscience on other grounds."

Mr. Murray Gerber, a leader of the Afrikaans Youth League, said that the judge's statement was quite unnecessary and did not have the approval of the white youth.

Afrikaans leaders of the past had built on a foundation of guidance and uplift of the African peoples.

"We should not let our feelings of conscience get out of hand."

He said that the white people had always carried the responsibility of the black man on their shoulders.

"It is precisely now that the white people are busy trying to ensure that the Bantu receive their just due."

Die Vaderland reports that an Afrikaner who is an expert in racial matters said that it was precisely the Basotho people who were exceptionally race-conscious.