

M.R.A. Task Forces in the Transkei

IDEOLOGICAL DRAMA WELL RECEIVED

Mr. C. J. Claassen, Q.C., Judge-President of South-West Africa; Dr. H. P. Malan, Senior Lecturer at Stellenbosch University; Mr. Roland Kingwill, sheep-farmer from the Karoo; Dr. William Nkomo, co-founder and first President of the African National Congress Youth League; Mr. P. Sonn, Executive Member of the Coloured People's National Union; as well as students of all races, are among the International Force of Moral Re-Armament from seven nations gathered in Umtata for this week's performance of the Moral Re-Armament ideological drama, "We Are Tomorrow."

An Afrikaner, Mr. Nico Ferreira, formerly an official in the Native Affairs Department, spoke at a meeting to welcome the international force with Mr. P. Q. Vundla, Chairman of the Advisory Board of Western Native Township, Johannesburg, and the National Organiser of South African Advisory Boards.

Mr. Vundla told how it had been Mr. Ferreira who had given him a new idea to live for. He told the meeting how he had led the African people against the removal from Sophiatown and had regarded any White man as the root of all evil.

"Because of the example of Mr. Ferreira," he continued, "I found I could change, and I think anybody can change, including Africans who are bitter and struggling but who have not got the answer."

"I have discovered many things through the four moral standards. My change benefitted not only me personally but also my family. I happen to be the father of a dozen kids, and I cannot tell you how glad I am that now they sit around me and no longer run away from me when I come home."

"All people, but particularly the African people are hungry for something new. I believe that M.R.A. is the answer."

Mr. Manasseh Moerane, Vice-President of the 16,000-strong African Teachers' Federation, spoke of his recent trip to the United States and its response to the all-African play, "Freedom." Mr. Moerane said: "Many of us with 'Freedom' came from countries that are criticised for their own policies. But when we took it upon ourselves to apologise to the other races you began to feel that there is no problem that cannot be solved by M.R.A. You began to realise that M.R.A. is not just a personal matter of what happens

to me, my wife and my children, but it is a force for remaking the world."

Following Mr. Moerane, Dr. Herman Malan, Senior Lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch, paid tribute to the new type of statesmanship men like Moerane are giving the world. He said: "We Europeans pride ourselves that we have heads and can think. But the Africans have both heads and hearts and the great contribution they will give us in this country is to teach us how to use our hearts."

The Rev. Reginald Place, of Umtata, welcomed the Moral Re-Armament force to Umtata and his church. He said: "I am deeply convinced that the message of M.R.A. is God's message for this age and I feel honoured and proud to be associated with Moral Re-Armament here in the Transkei and with the men and women of M.R.A. who have been my friends for a quarter of a century. I feel sure I should not be in the ministry today had I not been shown how to put my life right with God by absolute honesty."

"There are people in the church who wonder whether M.R.A. is of God. My answer to that is that lives are being changed through M.R.A. I have seen it and I have experienced it. The church ought to accept the message of M.R.A. as God's greatest gift for this century. If it rejects it, it is my conviction it will do so at its peril."

Members of the M.R.A. force conducted services in five churches and were received by the Umtata Rotary Club. They were also entertained earlier this week by the Umtata Municipality.

QUEENSTOWN DAILY

REPRESENTATIVE

12TH JANUARY 1957.