

THE BIGGER STRUGGLE

In the past ten years, the Nationalists have succeeded in inspiring, both in the Union and overseas, so much distrust of their policies, that now there is widespread belief that anything they attack, anything they criticise must be virtuous. When, for instance, the Nationalist Press hit out at the Roman Catholic Church an increase in the number of conversions was reported. A vicious attack this week on the international Moral Re-Armament movement is sure to stimulate national interest in the aims and the philosophy of M.R.A.

The thought is abroad, more particularly in the locations and the kraals that any group which is pilloried by the Nationalist politicians and their Press must be amicably disposed to what the non-Europeans call "the struggle". We are thinking especially of their opposition to Communism. By attacking Church denominations and other religious bodies which are throwing all their weight against Communism and, in the same breath, attacking Communism itself, the Party is making confusion the more confounded. What we must fear is that irresponsible Nationalist Party disapprobation and, as often at not, calumny may persuade the less politically mature of their opponents to regard Communism as a worthwhile philosophy.

As democrats we have no quarrel with Nationalists for holding the views that they do, for every man is entitled to his opinion; but what we do deplore is the indiscriminate onslaught on everything and everyone which and who are not strictly in line with political Nationalism. All men of commonsense and goodwill are engaged in the ideological struggle with Communism; but aid is too often being given to the monster — unwittingly of course — for the sake of political expediency.

Appealing to the Nationalist politicians and their Press is rarely if ever rewarding, but there are surely enough thinking Nationalists who well understand that beyond the comparatively trifling contest of the Provincial Elections a great global battle is raging for the minds and the souls of men. In this small area anyway, let us hope that, during the period of our election fever, nothing will be said or done which will advance the cause of the enemy.