

## WOMEN'S

# Speaking up for youth

by MARGARET LESSING

**D**ON'T write off youth," says an author of books for young people, Mrs. Mary Wilson, who arrived in South Africa on Monday after a four-month tour of the Far East.

"The old order may be crumbling, but the building of a new one is going on simultaneously," said this niece of Britain's famous explorer, author and administrator in Arabia, Gertrude Margaret Lothian Bell.

Mrs. Wilson is well known herself for her series of books, "God's Hand in History," which she first told as stories to answer her six-year-old daughter's searching questions.

Today that daughter—named Margaret, after her great aunt—is 18 and Mrs. Wilson has just completed the last of her history series to bring her stories right up to date.

Gentle, blue-eyed Mrs. Wilson, who has travelled the world meeting young people, is a daughter of Admiral Sir Herbert Blake Richmond, the naval historian. Her grandfather was Sir William Blake Richmond, the painter, and her great-grandfather was the British portrait painter, George Richmond, R.A.

On this visit she has been to Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, India and Kenya. Everywhere she was impressed by the spirit of the youth she met.

In Delhi, she talked with Mrs. Pandit, sister of the late Prime Minister Nehru, and saw at first hand work among young people being led by Raj Mohan Gandhi, nephew of the late Mahatma.

"Leading Indians are disturbed at the breakdown of the administration in their country," Mrs. Wilson said. "Mrs. Pandit—a warm-hearted woman—spoke of her

own deep concern for her people, particularly those in her own constituency whom she represents in Congress. "In Formosa, the people feel abandoned by many countries in the West. They find it hard to understand why so many Western democracies refuse to recognise them. They are determined to fight for the freedom of their people in Red China."

But, perhaps it was in Australia where Mrs. Wilson found the greatest change. "Many people say that in 50 years Australia will be as powerful as the United States," she said. "They are turning away from the old isolationism and are showing a real desire to help Asia. In the main, they are right behind their troops who are supporting the Americans in Vietnam."

Mrs. Wilson stopped off in Kenya on her way to South Africa to visit Prime Minister Kenyatta and to meet young Africans from eight countries who were attending an All-African Youth Conference.

"There is a much greater appreciation of the work of South Africans than the people of South Africa realise," she said.

Mrs. Wilson is accompanied by her husband, Mr. Roland Wilson, one of the directors of Moral Re-Armament in Europe. She talked to a group of prominent women in Pretoria yesterday and will talk to members of the Johannesburg Moral Re-Armament today. This gathering will be attended by many representatives of women's clubs and organisations in Johannesburg and from the Reef. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson will leave South Africa on Sunday for their home in London.



Mrs. Mary Wilson... "Don't write off youth."