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RAND DAILY MAIL

A standard has been raised'

Judge's remark: rare statesmanship

YOUR recent article on a Transvaal judge's apology to the Basuto nation gives new hope for racial unity throughout Africa.

As a recent immigrant from Britain, my first impression was that of tension between the races, born of fear, suspicion and prejudice.

Judge Claassens has, by his honest apology, brought an entirely new factor to bear on the situation which outdates narrow nationalism and blunts the Communist's sharpest weapons—division and mistrust.

Rare statesmanship

This is rare statesmanship which must have far-reaching effects beyond Southern Africa.

A standard has been raised to which the wise and honest can repair, and thinking men of all races will surely respond to such leadership.

Thank you for the prominence you have given this event in your paper.—G. H. W. BODMAN.

If we are honest...

I THANK you for giving Mr. Justice Claassen's apology to the African races what seems to me to be its rightful prominence.

I hope that the "R.D.M." will continue to give us this sort of news.

I would also like to thank Mr. Justice Claassen for his courageous act of leadership. It was an act of statesmanship which we all, English-speaking and Afrikaans-speaking must acclaim if we are honest.

If we examine our consciences, we must admit that the judge could have been speaking for the majority of South African Europeans, when he referred to his haughty attitude of indifference and superiority.

I certainly had this attitude, and I would like to align myself with Mr. Justice Claassen in his apology.—E. R. A. PLUMSTEAD.

A new atmosphere is sought

I SHOULD like to place on record my deep appreciation of the spirit of Christian humility and courageous statesmanship shown by Mr. Justice C. J. Claassen in the statement he made recently at a Moral Re-Armament gathering in Basutoland, as reported in the "Rand Daily Mail."

Every right-thinking man and woman is gravely concerned in the security of the White man and his interests in Africa.

Everywhere men are seeking for a new approach, and I cannot help feeling that the basic principle so honestly faced by Mr. Justice Claassen, of our indifference and superiority as Europeans, is the right point at which to start.

We seek a new atmosphere in which to negotiate, and surely this can only be created by men on both sides of the colour line who know something of the fundamental adjustments in attitude that are so desperately necessary if we are to find a way to make South Africa the kind of country it should be.

Is this the beginning of a new pattern of statesmanship? — C. B. PEARCE.

THE MRA APPROACH

YOU are to be congratulated on your reporting of Mr. Justice C. J. Claassen's statement in Basutoland.

In an age when the Press all over the world seems concerned only with the negative, it is most refreshing to find an established newspaper like the "R.D.M." taking the positive approach.

It is only a matter of positive thinking, and of showing that we are prepared to bring a new approach to South Africa.

Is the MRA approach the one factor still missing in our country? — A. T. MORGAN and L. F. VAN DER WALT.