

## READERS' VIEWS

*M.R.A. states its viewpoint*

# Man's obedience to God is primary

*To the Editor of The Star*

SIR.—The Star on November 27 referred editorially to Moral Re-Armament in relation to the great debate going on in our country.

While M.R.A. is not a political movement, I write to make clear the point at which certain political and ideological movements have come into conflict with it.

National Socialism in its early days did much to raise up the stricken German people.

In 1935 Winston Churchill could still speak hopefully of it and as late as 1936 the great liberal Lloyd George told the astonished world that Adolf Hitler was the George Washington of Germany but it is totally clear today that as man became more and more powerful, God was more and more relegated.

This was Nazism's fundamental point of conflict with M.R.A. The Gestapo issued a secret document which I have studied and in which it instructs its officers to liquidate M.R.A. in the countries the armies occupied. I am personally named.

It said in German "They (Moral Re-Armament) encourage their people to place themselves fully beneath the Christian Cross and oppose the cross of the Swastika with the Cross of Christ. They preach revolution against National Socialism and have evidently become its avowed frontal Christian enemies."

### *Economic aims*

Communism has proclaimed certain worthy economic aims and has done much in Russia towards fulfilling them but, despite the presence of Churches in Russia, Communism is, at its ideological core, anti-God. Lenin said clearly: "The class struggle will never succeed until the myth of God is removed from the mind of man."

For this reason it attacks Moral Re-Armament, which believes that man's first loyalty is to the God Who created him, for standing directly in its path of world domination.

Moral Re-Armament also draws the fire, not of liberals (The late Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr was a great liberal and a great friend of M.R.A. but of those "liberalistic" elements which make their religion the attainment of some political end, even a worthy end, but cut or disregard the moral root that is necessary to nurture the tree of freedom.

I do not believe that freedom will endure without clear-cut moral standards nor will clearcut moral

standards survive today's onslaught apart from faith in a God Who made and rules a moral universe.

I believe in the sincere patriotism of masses of people in the Broederbond.

### *Overshadowed*

I believe it was founded with a great ideal and has done many great things for our Afrikaans-speaking people. The danger comes, I believe, when human control becomes so dominant that consciously or unconsciously man's primary obedience to God begins to get overshadowed by his commitments to other men, particularly men who have his social and economic advancement in their hands.

This human dependence in all our groups and parties is South Africa's *malaise*. If we perish as a people it will be because of our man-worship. If we grow great it will be because we have eradicated this evil before the character of our people died from the disease.

It will only be eradicated as we return to the secret places in our hearts where God's yea is yea and His nay is nay, so that each man moves "with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right" or in another great word,

*"That we with Thee may walk uncowed*

*By fear or favour of the crowd.*

Moral Re-Armament has rightly been called an ideology, not because it has its own temporary scheme of things as man-made ideologies do, but because it stands for the totality of God's claim on every facet of a man's being and on every phase of human society.

That claim is absolute and not open to negotiation.

BREMER HOFMEYR.

### *To a correspondent*

"A.B.N.," Johannesburg: You have omitted to sign your letter. The Star does not publish unsigned letters.