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STAR

Overseas

# South Africans in American M.R.A. activities

**SIR,**—South African newspapers gave much publicity to the riots in the Watts area of Los Angeles. I believe it will interest your readers to know that some South Africans are doing something about Watts.

Twenty South Africans took part in the Moral Rearmament "Demonstration for Modernizing America" along with 5,500 Americans in the past four months.

These young Americans take the view that, while man has made fantastic strides in science and technology, basically he still is actuated by much the same outdated hates and fears and selfishness that drove him in the cave and the jungle; and that if man is to survive on this planet he must find the same giant strides in character as he has found in science.

Out of the demonstration has come a musical show with a cast of 180, including some young South Africans. It went on a "whistle stop" trip across the country, ending in Los Angeles. It played before 15,000 people in the famed Hollywood Bowl—a natural amphitheatre in the hills.

## Battlefield

They were invited into Watts and went. They presented programmes at the high school and the junior high school to 2,200 at a time. This was the first move of a major group predominantly White into the Negro area where the destruction still resembles a battlefield.

The school principal said to the force: "I cannot thank you enough for coming. This was our first school assembly since the riots. We did not know what was going to happen. You have changed the spirit of every boy and girl in the assembly."

The cast has now gone to

Japan and Korea and the Vietnam Ambassador in Washington has asked that it goes to his country as he does not believe the situation is capable of solution without adding the force of a moral ideology to the force of arms.

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