

4 - JAN 1960

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THE STAR

Former foes work together in Moral Re-armament

AMONG THE HILLS between Johannesburg and Pretoria revolutionaries have been meeting this week—men who once planned to overthrow the Government by force, men who were once associated with sabotaging South Africa's war effort, Black and White nationalists and Coloured and Indian leaders who once were mortal foes.

In an assembly of Moral Re-armament, comprising 500 delegates of all races and from all parts of Southern Africa, the former revolutionaries pledged themselves to fight together to achieve God's plan for Africa. The assembly, which opened last Thursday on a farm 14 miles from Johannesburg, ends today.

Among and typical of the scores of people, ranging from headmasters of schools and wool farmers to Native housewives, who have taken the platform these past few days, was Johann van Rensburg, son of the leader of the Ossewa Brandwag.

In his own phrase, he "apologized humbly" to the Black people for his way of living which had caused hatred.

Standing beside him on the platform was a Native, Mr. P. Vundla, who was once officially described as "the most dangerous man on the sub-continent."

COMMUNIST PLAN

He said 1960 was the year during which the Communists had planned to take over Africa. But they would fail for one reason only. Men and women who had accepted the absolute moral standards of M.R.A. would fight them to give South Africa a greater destiny.

Taking the chair at different sessions were Mr. Nico Ferreira, a former leader of Jeugbond; Dr. William Nkomo, the founder-chairman of the militant African National Congress youth league; and Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr.

His wife Agnes told the Native delegates that she bore them no bitterness despite the ritual

murder of her parents by the Mau Mau.

She told the assembly how, with militant Native leaders, she had found an idea big enough to enable them to work together to remake Africa.

Two farmers from the Karoo, apologized to their farm employees for the way they had treated them,

one saying that he knew he had been "a terrorist" on his own farm.

He said he did not expect his employees to forget, but he hoped that he would now be able to remove the hurt he had caused.

Others who addressed the congress were leaders of commerce and industry, the editor of a newspaper, prominent visitors from overseas, educationists, lawyers, Dutch Reformed parsons, scientists and sociologists.

All expressed conviction that this year was to be the Kremlin's year in Africa—or God's year.

SECOND STEP

A local M.R.A. force will next month take its second great step of the new year in its "win Africa" campaign.

A team of Afrikaans-speaking and English-speaking men and women and Natives will fly to West Africa, at the invitation of Native leaders, to give them an ideology more compelling than that which will be offered by Khrushchev.

The South African congress has kept in touch with the M.R.A. international congress, presently being held at Caux, Switzerland.—Sapa.