

Star,

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Trade union attack on Moral Rearmament called "absurd"

"MANY OF THE POINTS in this attack are familiar to us because they were used by Moscow Radio in their broadcast against Moral Rearmament," said Mr. S. Banerjee of India, president of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, an 800,000-strong socialist trade union, when he referred at the Moral Rearmament World Assembly at Caux, Switzerland, yesterday to the attack on Moral Rearmament by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

A report by the I.C.F.T.U. on Moral Rearmament said its followers were not recruited from the masses but from the "ranks of leaders," that they follow their leader, Dr. Frank Buchman, blindly and unconditionally, that they include many ex-Communists who are "an easy prey to mysticism," and that the achievements they claim in the industrial field are largely imaginary.

UNITED TRADE UNIONS

Mr. Banerjee said his trade union was a member of the I.C.F.T.U. The I.C.F.T.U. report had said that it was his union which had made the inquiry about Moral Rearmament, but he was unaware of any such instruction from his union.

The charge of interference by Moral Rearmament in trade union affairs was absurd, because everywhere Moral Rearmament united trade unions.

"This ideology may well prove to be the road on which millions from East and West can travel together to a new world of social justice, security and peace."

MRA AND THE MASSES

Replying to suggestions that Moral Rearmament worked in an undemocratic manner he said that in India it had been the masses in the textile industry, the docks, and the shipping, engineering, railway and other industries who had supported Moral Rearmament.

He was completely satisfied that the whole work of Moral Rearmament was operated on a voluntary basis. No full-time worker in Moral Rearmament received any salary whatever and the yearly accounts were audited by registered chartered accountants and deposited with the proper authorities.

He agreed with the British trade union leaders headed by Mr. J.

Haworth, president of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, who in a cable to the chairman of the British Trade Union Congress had said the report of the I.C.F.T.U. misrepresented the facts and that the implications were "untimely, unjust and untrue."

"New World News Agency" reported today that 18 Swedish national and regional trade union leaders had cabled a protest against the I.C.F.T.U. report to the president of the Swedish Trades Union Congress.