

Moral Re-Armament Team Welcomed by Administrator

The Moral Re-Armament Team which recently visited Ermelo, was given an official welcome to the Transvaal by the Administrator, General J. J. Pienaar, at a reception at the Administrator's Residence on Wednesday, May 5.

Among the guests were Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr, the Deputy Prime Minister, and his mother, Mrs. D. C. Hofmeyr; Mr. J. M. van H. Brink, M.E.C. and Mr. S. A. Lombard, the Provincial Secretary; Mr. H. F. Cuff, the Secretary for Defence; Dr. A. J. Norval, President of the Board of Trade and Industries; Prof. Rautenbach, Rector of Pretoria University; and the Reverend J. Reyneke, Groot Kerk, Pretoria; Mr. R. H. Morley, Pres. Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce.

General Pienaar expressed the wish that the visit to the Transvaal of the group would be as fruitful as he hoped it would be as pleasant.

"We are not unaware of the approaching dangers," said the Administrator. "We are alarmed at the progress materialism has made during the last decade, and we cannot escape the conviction that Western civilisation is in danger."

Moral re-armament was what was needed, he said.

Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr, the leader of the team, replied as follows:—

"This is one of the happiest days in my life. After 17 years, I am back in Pretoria. In those years I have worked in many countries of the world, and it has always been my hope that when I returned I might bring a group like this, for I have longed to share with my country the things it has been my privilege to see happen, bringing new hope to nation after nation.

GREATEST NEED OF OUR DAY

"As I have moved around the world, I have realised that the greatest need of our day is for democracy to rediscover its inspired ideology. These people are part of the world force who have given their lives without any material reward to give again to democracy its Christian heart and its fighting faith.

"We came out here from Caux

in Switzerland, a group of hotels made available as a world centre for this work by the sacrificial giving of thousands of people from Switzerland. 5,000 People came to Caux from 53 nations. Delegations came from 21 parliaments. The head of the parliamentary staff of the London Times, when he saw what was happening said simply, 'This is the headquarters of the hope of the world.' General Eisenhower's representative reported to him, 'Caux is the one bright spot in the dark picture of Europe.'

"What was the secret? It was the secret of change. Moral Re-Armament is a programme of life that issues in personal, social, racial, national and supernatural change. It is above party, class, creed, point of view and personal advantage. It is in the words of Admiral Byrd, the explorer, 'Every man's chance to get into the fight to save civilisation.'

HOLLAND

"Now what have been the effects in the world? The Dutch representative to the world food conference in Washington was recently speaking of the difficulties between Holland and Indonesia a short time ago. 'It is no secret that the Cabinet saw no way out,' he said. 'One of them came to Caux and as a result a way out was found. It was a way of faith and hope and love against a way of despair, mistrust, confusion and hate. We went to Indonesia. An agreement was signed in two months. I think when history is written we must not forget Caux. Without a few men there who had the vision, the course of history would be other than what it is.'

"I might add that in gratitude for what some of us from South Africa were able to do in giving this answer, people in Holland made a plane available which carried us on the first stage of the journey as far as Nairobi.

FRANCE

"Then take France. As you know France turned a very difficult corner in her history in November and December. Much of that goes back to the fact that one of her extreme rightists and one of her extreme leftists were together at Caux and found the secret of teamwork for the sake of the nation based on 'not who is right, but what is right.' It over-arched their difficulties. The head of Military Intelligence of a neighbouring nation said, 'I have been studying my information from France and I have been coming to the conclusion that the turn they have taken for the better is attributable to the work of Moral Re-Armament.'

ITALY

"Italy has recently been in the news. From Italy came 200 people including 28 members of the Constituent Assembly. They represented five major parties. They said that they found at Caux the secret of teamwork which they very simply called a miracle. At the height of the elections the Vice-President of the Constituent Assembly was speaking. 'The 200 Italians who went to the Assembly at Caux,' he said, 'have brought back new hope for Italy.'

"I could say much more; of the leaders of world Labour who were there, and who with leaders of Management began to develop a new philosophy for industry; of 150 leaders of the new Germany, prime ministers, ministers of education, Church leaders, who found new hope for a Christian and democratic Germany; of British miners from the coal face who have become prophets to their people and paved the way to carry this programme to the mines of the Midlands, Yorkshire, North Wales and now it has been requested for the Rhondda Valley.

"The world picture is as black as it possibly could be, yet we have seen this tremendous hope. I believe that the human race is setting out on a great trek towards the new world."