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CAPE TIMES

*Letters to
the Editor*

Unjust Attack On Moral Re-Armament

From Mr. F. X. JURGENS
(6, Gie Avenue, Langerug,
Worcester, C.P.):

IT is perhaps a pity your "South African Bookshelf" (*Cape Times*, January 6) should contain your critic Hedley Pocock's derogatory comments on the Moral Re-Armament movement, at the very moment an M.R.A. youth conference is being held at the Roma University, Basutoland, where the youth of all races in Africa are having an opportunity of getting to know one another — the *sine qua non* for any peaceful development on this continent.

Perhaps in fairness to your readers your critic will also write a review of the book "The Open Secret of M.R.A." by J. P. Thornton-Duesbery, Master of St. Peter's College, Oxford, and a fellow Anglican of Mr. Tom Driberg. (Blandford Press, 1964)

Driberg's Pamphlet

It is an examination of Mr. Driberg's pamphlet, "M.R.A. A Critical Examination", announced for sale at the World Book Fair on June 15, 1964, in connection with his then forthcoming book, presumably the one now reviewed by Mr. Pocock.

One will be particularly interested, for the sake of objective truth, in seeing whether your reviewer will, after reading the second book, still regard the first as a "searching study . . . a well documented and just appraisal that convinces by its balance."

71 Attacks

The contrary seems to be case. According to the Master of St. Peter's College:

There is documentary evidence of 71 public attacks made by him [Mr. Driberg] upon Mr. Buchman, the Oxford Group and Moral Re-Armament since that day in 1928 when he obtained his first big scoop in Fleet Street by attacking them. Of these, the present pamphlet [and therefore presumably the book of which it was the announced fore-runner] is typical.

The views of your critic and Mr. Thornton-Duesbery are diametrically opposed regarding the trustworthiness of Mr. Driberg's criticism. The M.R.A. is doing a great work in the Republic; perhaps your readers could be helped to get facts about the movement in true perspective?