

# MRA activity in S.A. attacked by British M.P.

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

**LONDON — A slashing attack on the activities of Moral Re-Armament in South Africa is made by Mr. Tom Driberg, M.P., in his just-published book, "The Mystery of Moral Rearmament".**

His book is hostile to the Movement and Dr. Buchman, its founder.

After dealing with MRA's activities in other parts of Africa, Mr. Driberg writes, "But of all the African nations, the one in which humane and democratic and Christian values are violated most conspicuously is South Africa."

"Here, if there were any substance in the claims of MRA, and if these claims were to carry conviction in other African territories, Moral Re-Armament should surely stand up for human unity, human rights, and human dignity, and confront directly the monstrous crime of apartheid.

"Again, it may be that some individual Buchmanites have been among the heroes and martyrs of the South African resistance, but the main leadership of that resistance has come from the more conventional Christian denominations and from non-Christians," Mr. Driberg adds.

"In fact, the record of MRA in South Africa, such as it is, consists largely of the usual out-pouring of self-praise — of loudly proclaimed success which turns out to be, quite evidently failure.

## OXFORD GROUP

"Since 1929, when the Oxford Group acquired its name there, teams of task-forces of Buchmanites have visited South Africa on a number of occasions, and have had a warmly sympathetic welcome. During that 1929 visit, Buchman himself was with the team. One of the politicians whom he captivated was J. H. Hofmeyr. Hofmeyr, summing up the results of Buchman's visit, said that it had "started a major and continuing influence for racial reconciliation throughout the whole country, white and black, Dutch and British".

"The subsequent history of South Africa shows that this judgment — especially the words 'major and continuing' — was too sanguine; but, serious as South African racial division was even then, this was before it had been elevated to a philosophy of government under Malan, Strijdom and Verwoerd."

## RACIAL UNITY

Mr. Driberg continues, "Delegates from South Africa were present at an MRA World Assembly in Washington. Buchman's home-town newspaper, the Allentown Morning Call, summarised their contribution thus, 'Speakers from South Africa said MRA was replacing racial supremacy and bloody revolution in their nation with 'a new dimension of racial unity.'

"Hofmeyr might have been excused for thinking, a generation ago, that things were going to get better in South Africa. The suggestion that they were already getting better in 1955 — whatever 'a new dimension . . .' may mean—could have been made only by a fool or a knave.

"In his birthday message, 'A Hurricane of Common Sense,' as recently as 1960, Dr. Buchman wrote of the MRA film musical, 'The Crowning Experience' 'White and black leadership in South Africa want their Cabinet and the whole country to see this movie. They say it holds the secret that alone can cure the racial divisions that are tearing South Africa apart, dividing her from other countries, and undermining her economic life.' These words appeared just a year before South Africa left the Commonwealth.

"The most disgraceful tyranny since Hitler's — with which it has much in common — was already in power. We can be certain that the South African Government would not have allowed this film to be shown publicly if it had contained anything that seriously challenged the dogma of apartheid."