



THREE MEMBERS of the Moral Re-Armament team now touring the Union: Mr. and Mrs. Bremer Hofmeyr and Mr. Patrick Foss, O.B.E. Mrs. Hofmeyr hails from Kenya, and Mr. Foss from Britain.

The Birthday of An Idea

By A MEMBER OF THE TEAM

Moral Re-Armament Believes It Has the Answer to the World's Problems: Team Now Touring South Africa

A SERIES of events that will take place at Los Angeles around June 4 in honour of Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman will be more than the seventieth birthday celebrations of a significant world figure. It will be, too, the birthday of an idea. It is just ten years since Moral Re-Armament was first given to the world by Dr. Buchman in East Ham Town Hall, London, on June 4, 1938. In 1948 that idea is the central force in a world ideology, and next week world statesmen, invited to Los Angeles by a distinguished committee of United States Senators and Representatives, will proclaim it to the world.

It is natural that South Africa should be interested in these events, for 20 years ago South Africa was the first country to recognise Dr. Buchman's work on a nation-wide scale. Since that time Frank Buchman has become the trusted friend of the statesman and the ordinary man in fifty countries, forming round him wherever he has gone a force of people with the answer to some of the most difficult problems of our day.

MORAL Re-Armament as it is at work in the world today has become widely known

in the Union in recent months through the visit of a team of 18 drawn from many countries under the leadership of Mr. Bremer Hofmeyr, a former Rhodes Scholar and one of Dr. Buchman's closest associates in recent years.

On their arrival in Cape Town they were received by the Prime Minister at Groote Schuur, and subsequently by the Governor-General at Westbrooke. Cape Town itself accorded them a civic reception. Replying to the welcome of the Mayor, Mr. Hofmeyr quoted six outstanding results of the world Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in Switzerland from which the team had just come. Five thousand people from 53 nations, including delegations from 21 parliaments, had taken part.

These results included:

1. The growth of an inspired ideology for democracy in the heart of Europe.
2. A new hope for democracy in Germany.
3. A new policy of teamwork in France.
4. A new incentive in the British coal industry, raising production and developing sound leadership.
5. A philosophy of teamwork

in industry based on "not who is right but what is right."

6. A new healing factor in the strife between Holland and Indonesia.

IN Cape Town they carried their message to groups representing all sides of the city's life. They addressed a gathering of all parties in the Houses of Parliament, they spoke before the Labour Club, Rotary, the University Club, ministers' fraternals of various churches, the Tokai Reformatory, students' groups and private gatherings in many homes. The Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Industries arranged a special joint meeting to hear of the rise of a new spirit in industry. At the invitation of Dr. B. B. Keet, head of the Dutch Reformed Theological College, they undertook a programme in Stellenbosch.

Their stay in the Cape ended with a conference at the Strand where the people they had been in touch with gathered to consider how moral re-armament could be applied to the political, industrial and social problems of South Africa. A delegate to the Trades and Labour Council conference which had just concluded, said: "I see here the answer to

the divisions in our labour movement. If we had had at our conference the spirit I have seen here, we should have achieved much more."

A business man, responding, said: "Communism thrives on the grievances of the workers against management. Moral re-armament opened my eyes to this. As a result my firm has altered its entire wage structure on the basis that the needs of the employees come before our profits."

Now, after short visits to Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, Fort Hare, Kimberley and Ermelo they are at work in Johannesburg and Pretoria. "The world needs moral re-armament," said the Administrator, General J. J. Pienaar, in welcoming them to the province before a distinguished gathering of political, educational, administrative and church leaders.

WHAT is their message? South Africans who met Dr. Buchman on his visit to this country will recall his emphasis on four truths which were basic to his message: that men have to face absolute moral standards; that human nature can be changed; that teamwork is an essential part of the Christian life; and that God's guidance can be the normal experience of all who want it.

Today, when the world is gripped by a fierce ideological struggle and materialistic philosophies are bidding for the right to rule the mind and will of mankind, moral re-armament believes that in those same truths applied on a national scale lies democracy's answer. Only absolute moral standards and not a vague goodwill, they believe, will prevail against the teaching that all morality must be subservient to the interests of the class struggle.

A revolution in human nature which comes by consent, they maintain, is the only adequate answer to a revolution in society which comes by violence. A national philosophy of teamwork, they say, is democracy's answer to regimentation on the one hand and chaos on the other. Over against the philosophy that material things decide the course of history, they raise the challenge that God must govern in the affairs of men.

They believe with William Penn that "men must be governed by God, or they will be ruled by tyrants."