

16 APR 1961

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SUNDAY TIMES, JOHANNESBURG

D.R.C. attacks

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SUNDAY TIMES REPORTER

PRETORIA, Saturday.

MORE than 500 delegates to the Transvaal Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk Synod in Pretoria today condemned the Moral Rearmament Movement as a spiritual danger to the members of the Church.

The Synod decided that members of the Church should be given a "serious warning" about the "impurities" of the Movement and urged instead to give their full support to "the Church which was established by Christ himself."

The Synod came to the conclusion that the Movement was dangerous because it could mislead members of the Church from advocating the pure Gospel, and result in their losing their "first love and loyalty to the Church."

Moral standards

It was further decided that—apart from the seemingly good work done by the Movement—the Synod could not approve of it because:

It has no fixed religious policy;

Its four moral standards—of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love—pave the way for

a "neonomistic morality" which denied "the offer of Christ."

The Synod added: "The Movement does not openly profess religion, and does not openly preach the Gospel of Christ, but 'tries under one or other form of camouflage to lead people to believe in a new life through subjective testimony.'"

Ideology

"It says that the world can be reformed by an ideology instead of by the living Christ alone. It gives to individuals and individual movements the honour for a change in way of life which should be given to God alone.

"It binds its members more to the Movement than to the Church, and sometimes even judges the Church; it undermines the 'unique authority' of God's word by its interpretation of the word 'guidance' as meaning direct leadership by the Holy Ghost; and it consistently changes form, misleading well-meaning Church members."