

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

THE influence of "The Forgotten Factor" on the gold-mining industry was described by the President and Vice-President of the Mine Workers' Union of South Africa before the 1,000 delegates at the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament which opened here states a cable message from Caux-sur-Montreux, Switzerland.

Mr. R. P. Erasmus, Vice-President of the miners' union, recounted in detail his part in the 1922 strike, when he led the armed forces of the miners. He told the Assembly that "The Forgotten Factor in South Africa had opened up a new era of life for him. "After 'The Forgotten Factor'," he continued, "my mine manager came to me and said, 'Erasmus, never again will I treat any man as of less value than myself.' The situation in the mining industry today is completely different from a year ago."

He ended by quoting the last words of the late President of South African Republic, Paul Kruger, who died at Clarens on Lake Geneva just below Caux: "Take the good out of the past and build the future on it." Turning to Frank Buchman who was presiding over the session, Mr. Erasmus said, "You have planted a tree and its roots are going through the world. We as South Africans will help you by giving that tree water so that its roots may go throughout the nations."

Mr. Paul J. Visser, President of the Mine Workers' Union, expressed his conviction of the continual need for Moral Re-Armament in South Africa.

Fifty-four German industrial, political and trade union leaders have arrived by special plane from the Ruhr to take part in the Assembly. Among them is Mr. Anton Storch, Labour Minister of the German Republic, who is representing the German Chancellor, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, at Caux. Addressing the Assembly, Mr. Storch said he had come to Caux despite current German Cabinet decisions on the Council of Europe and participation in the Schuman Plan discussions, "decisions of the utmost importance not only for Europe but for the whole of humanity." He had

come wondering whether Moral Re-Armament had a practical solution for the problems of the day.

"I find here," said Mr. Storch, "people who, freed from the weight of the past, are able to solve these problems in a new spirit. Through my political and other work I have come to the conviction that it is only through the rebirth of the way practised here will all men be freed and made responsible so that they can set up a social order as God intended it to be."

Mr. Storch was speaking after an impressive address by Madame Irene Laure, former French Member of Parliament and President of the Socialist Women of France. Madame Laure described how her hatred of the Germans had been removed following her visit to Caux.

Shri Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs in the Indian Cabinet, and President of the 1950 I.L.O. Conference; and Mr. Khandubhai K. Desai, President of the Indian T.U.C., also addressed the Assembly. Mr. Ram declared that there was no other way then Moral Re-Armament out of the confusion and conflict between nations and individuals today, "Even the most materialistic leaders of the world," he said, "will have to go this way. If a statesman does not wish to hasten the annihilation of mankind he must make moral standards the basis of his actions. We must create a new society. We must satisfy much more than the material needs of people. To change the individual. Moral Re-Armament had a special appeal to the people of India who have fought for their independence."