

Evening Post

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Invitation

THERE is good news today.

The good news is that the President of the Union Senate, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, and the Administrators of the four provinces and South-West Africa have invited an international team of Moral Re-Armament, led by Dr. Frank Buchman, initiator of the movement, to visit South Africa.

Moral Re-Armament believes it has a message of challenge and hope for a world living under the ominous cloud of atomic warfare. It offers a universal answer to the challenge of communism. The M.R.A. message is that no achievement is impossible if humans will match scientific advance with personal change, if they will renounce self-justification and try instead to seek universal truths and understand the other person's point of view: "Not *who* is right but *what* is right."

In no country is such a rallying-call for reconciliation and hope more urgently needed than in South Africa. Our country is threatened by racial suspicions, by group isolationisms and by a clash of nationalisms. All these make for mounting tensions and the dominance of fear; the spreading suspicions and resentments seem to make eventual conflict inevitable.

The results

Is there no way out? Is there no way in which White fears and non-White suspicions can be faced and reconciled?

Moral Re-Armament says there is one way out — the way of service and truth in place of self and fear. In short, God's way.

The movement has applied ancient religious truths in a new and invigorating way. The results of its work in resolving employer-employee disputes and in reducing international and inter-racial tensions round the world have been remarkable.

For example, there is reason to believe that the recent encouraging turn for the better in relations between Pakistan and India over the future of Kashmir is partly attributable to the recent visit of an M.R.A. team to those countries and the showing of the film, "The Forgotten Factor"; it is a fact that the new Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed Ali, was so interested in the film that he saw it more than once.

Age of change

The fact that Dr. Buchman and his helpers have been invited to our country by high non-partisan office-holders such as the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Assembly gives an assurance that the visit will begin in the right spirit of dispassionate inquiry.

It will offer South Africa a great opportunity. If large numbers of South Africans will give honest and open-minded attention to the message of Moral Re-Armament and try earnestly to seek the historic meaning of the coming to these shores of settlers from West and East, South Africa may yet surprise — and lead — the world.

The European brought change to Africa. This is an age of fast change, not least in Africa. Is the individual, while recognising the facts of change all around him, to deny the need for change within himself? That is the question.

By their living answer to that question White South Africans could not only avert trouble and ensure survival; they could lead all Africa, and possibly the world, in overcoming the most vital problem of the dawn of the Atomic Age: how to put co-operation in place of conflict in human relations.