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New force for unity in Africa

AFRICA is seeking a new dimension of racial unity. With this objective five hundred representatives of all races from the territories of South, Central and East Africa took part in a five-day Assembly, recently, in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia.

The Governor of Northern Rhodesia, Sir Gilbert Rennie, as patron of the Conference made the opening speech. He said: "We meet under the auspices of Moral Re-armament, which has demonstrated throughout the world a new approach, and the effectiveness of that approach in bringing together men of all races and classes." Among the many political representatives at the conference were Sir Roy Welensky, leader of the elected members of the Legislative Council of Northern Rhodesia, Mr. Godwin Lewanika, founder and first President of the Northern Rhodesian African Congress, and the Hon. A. P. Pant, Indian High Commissioner in East Africa and Central Africa.

Thirty-five South Africans of different races—some of whom had travelled as far as 2,000 miles to the Conference—took the platform together. The European representatives apologised for their superiority and prejudice, which had contributed to the division in the nation. Dr. W. F. Nkomo, founder of the African Congress Youth League of South Africa, said: "This is 'the new thing coming out of Africa.' There were two problems: how I could change, and how Afrikaners could change. Both these things have happened, so that I stand here with students of Pretoria University. They are welcome visitors to my home. It is a miracle to see us stand here. I was keen to see the League I started become militant to the point of bloodshed. We cannot found a new world on that. We need something new, something electric that will move the whole world. We must start in our own hearts."

KIKUYU LEADER'S GIFT

Mr. David Waruhiu, of Kenya, whose father was the first Senior Kikuyu Chief murdered by the Mau Mau, announced to the Conference that he will give his share of his father's lands for a training centre for "leaders who will bring unity to Kenya." "I want to get the answer of MRA to Kenya and the whole of Africa," he said. "We need the type of man prepared to sacrifice everything in the cause of unity. As I stand here," he continued, "I see mothers and children streaming to places of refuge where they are guarded so that they will not be burned in their huts—so that they will not be murdered. Are we going to let that spirit come into Central Africa? The battle over Federation is nearly over, but there is a greater battle coming—the battle for unity. Unless you and I change our attitude the battle will be lost. Had my father been murdered before I met Moral Re-armament I would have been deeply embittered, but I have decided to work for unity, and today I feel no bitterness."

BRIDGES BETWEEN RACES

The Hon. Jethubhai Patel, Member of the Legislative Council of Kenya, spoke with Mr. Waruhiu and Mr. Ian MacLean, Executive Officer of the Kenya Coffee Board. "MRA is the only answer to the trouble in the world; it has been the answer to clash in my own life and home," said Patel. "The same thing works in society. After my change, I felt I should go into the Legislative Council. I see my job very clearly; it is to build bridges between different races."

Mr. MacLean responded: "We have given from the head downwards instead of from the heart outwards. We have often reminded Africans of what we have given. That is the perfect way of creating division. I commit myself now to the task of building new relationships based on Moral Re-armament."

Mr. A. Mwamuka, secretary of the Southern Rhodesian African Association, said: "In MRA I find a bigger answer than retaliation. I have learned to work as a team with the Europeans."

FOUNDATIONS OF A REDEEMED AFRICA

Resolutions drafted by the African leaders at the Assembly stated: "We are convinced we need for the solution of our problems changed leaders who, far from being actuated by motives of self-realisation and self-aggrandisement, dedicate themselves to

interests of Europeans and Africans are complementary, not antagonistic. Only this kind of change which we have found at Lusaka, based on the four standards of MRA, can lead to a change of heart in the people of this continent and lay the foundations of a redeemed Africa."

The South Africans of the different races pledged themselves to work for a similar inter-racial conference in the Union. Mr. C. J. Claassen, of Johannesburg, a Supreme Court Justice, said: "Dr. Buchman has spoken of new statesmen as 'men who forgive their enemies, men who can clearly decide.' Here we have seen that practically demonstrated. Against a background of stark reality we have seen the Holy Spirit working in the lives of men, the miracle of men reborn, in all classes and races and colours. We have come home to the heart of the true Africa and the true Africa has entered our hearts."

COLIN JOHNSTON.
EDWIN MORRIS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ulster's loyalty

Sir,—Dr. Malan's speech on his arrival at Southampton for his Coronation visit to Britain in which he referred to Ulster was a misrepresentation of the facts, and in the circumstances was most undignified and discourteous.

No doubt his statement was made at the instigation of Mr. Strydom and Dr. Donges but he is indulging in wishful thinking if he hopes those of British stock in South Africa will bow to his will and allow themselves to be "trapped" in the way he suggested Ulster had been "trapped."

Ulster, small though it is, can support itself and is the most loyal place in the Commonwealth. It has no need to send its representative abroad to borrow £2,000,000 from a small place like Sweden.

I would also like to say in regard to the prohibition on loyal Natives taking part in the Coronation procession, that it is actions of this kind which have led to the rising of the Mau Mau. The Queen invited all her Commonwealth subjects, Black or White, to take part. The Maoris, etc., did so. They were considered good enough to join up. Why then were they not allowed to take part in the procession?

In closing I would like to quote Sir Winston Churchill who referred to Ulster in these terms: "But for the loyalty of Northern Ireland, the light which now shines so strongly throughout the world would have been quenched."

ULSTERNIA.

Indian problem

Sir,—The Natal and South African Indian problem is one which should be faced with great determination, courage and statesmanship. We cannot allow the Indians to invade our land to the detriment of White Christian civilisation, as this is the Land of our Fathers, for all ages to come. The Indian bid for political ascendancy should be nipped in the bud, as already attempted by the Nationalist Government. Secondly, a policy of gradual emigration should be followed in respect of those who can well afford it. A law should be passed to that effect. Also should the naturalisation of Indian children be limited. On no account should immigration be allowed.

Our policy over many years should be the gradual decrease of the Indian population on the grounds already explained, considering the contract by which they came, namely to have returned within a stipulated time. Secondly, because we do not intend to make this land an Indian settlement, South Africa is to be regarded solely as a European settlement, with trusteeship over the Native races.