

Predikant apologises to Kerk over his Swiss visit

THE PRETORIA EAST RING of the Ned. Geref Kerk has accepted an explanation by Dr. F. E. O'B. Geldenhuys, predikant of the Pretoria East congregation, of his statement at the world Moral Rearmament conference in Caux, Switzerland, it was announced by the Ring today.

While accepting Dr. Geldenhuys's personal good faith in his action in Caux, "The Ring regrets that Dr. Geldenhuys, as a responsible leader of the Church, has by his address at the conference brought our Church and our people into dispute and that he has caused unrest in the minds of many of our members."

In his explanation Dr. Geldenhuys says he was concerned on his return from overseas to learn of the unrest and confusion caused by reports of what he was supposed to have said in Switzerland.

The misunderstandings had arisen from the fact that the report which was drafted and released for publication by the Moral Rearmament movement did not contain the full text of his address.

In the meantime he apologized that his Church "has come into dispute."

Dr. Geldenhuys says that he went to Switzerland:

To learn more of the danger of Communism;

To meet representatives from other parts of Africa;

To return to the service of his Church and his people with the knowledge and insight gained.

"As regards all three of these purposes, the visit was a particular success.

"I return to South Africa with an entirely new insight into what Communism really is and the subtle way in which it is engaged to undermine everything that is dear and sacred to us.

"I have also made valuable contacts and I have received a new inspiration for the great tasks that await us in our Church."

★ In his address to the Caux conference, Dr. Geldenhuys was reported to have said:

"Our time in South Africa is becoming short. We must raise people of all races who together will seek their common destiny in Africa.

"We Afrikaners of European descent have thought too much of how we can save ourselves . . .

"We must live a new quality of life in our families, our church . . .

"My religion was just not big enough to shake my people awake and get them marching . . .

"The innate inertia, selfishness and self-righteousness, especially in us Afrikaners, has blinded us completely to what is happening in the world."