

THE HEALING STREAM FLOWS TO SOUTH AFRICA

BY DEREK GILL—SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST

The vision for the showing of the film *The Crowning Experience* in South Africa was that it would flow as a healing stream through this land of bitterness and fear. In its preview performances South Africans—black and white—have felt the healing of the stream.

The first South African performance was in Johannesburg, the skyscraper city of gold. In the theater, packed to the last seat, were leaders of commerce and industry, Afrikaners and British South Africans, church leaders whose names are household words, politicians and policemen, professional men and women and housewives. Although sharply divided on so many issues, these people had one thought in common as they took their seats in the theater; it was that South Africa could well face catastrophe unless a miracle happened.

The miracle has begun to happen.

That first night an unheard of thing occurred in sophisticated Johannesburg. At the curtain, the audience broke into applause. Everyone said, "This is it. This is the answer." A leading Government official said, "This is our salvation."

The response was the same in Pretoria, the administrative capital of the Union. It was an overwhelming response. In four glittering preview nights (and three matinees to cope with the crowds) *The Crowning Experience* was shown to four thousand selected people who could change the course of history not only in the capital but from the Cape to Cairo.

Nationalist Party Organ

Die Transvaler, organ of the Nationalist Party, described the film as "something exceptional." It continues, "The picture proclaims the ideology of Moral Re-Armament which is described as the only real opponent to Communism. Over against the complete rejection of faith in God by Communism, we find a new ideology which accepts faith as its foundation."

The Diplomatic Corps turned up in strength to see the film. The Pope's personal representative in Pretoria was present. "A marvelous film," he said. Judges of the Supreme Court and generals of the Army responded as

enthusiastically as did the politicians, civic leaders and heads of government departments.

At the first showing to a non-white audience, the film was introduced from the stage by two Africans who had once believed that the only way to freedom was through bloody revolution. Dr. William Nkomo, a founder of the African National Congress Youth League, declared, "This film will show you that we can find, even in South Africa, a new pattern of life—God's pattern."

The healing stream has begun to flow across the scarred land of South Africa. It has begun to flow to the great cities, chained and chafed for so long in bonds of greed and fear. The stream will soon fan out through the Valley of a Thousand Hills; and where today the proud Zulus speak across the kraal fires of their hurts and hates, tomorrow they will be singing the film's theme song, *Sweet Potato Pie*.

Tomorrow a healed South Africa will help to heal the world.

The Crowning Experience:

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"LIMELIGHT" AWARD

Limelight, the Hollywood motion picture trade weekly, has given Moral Re-Armament a "Special Award" for its production of the color film *The Crowning Experience*.

In a front-page article *Limelight* stated that the award was given MRA for "*The Crowning Experience* and its contribution to world peace and international understanding."

Limelight awards are given annually for "outstanding motion picture performances—both before and behind the cameras."

KENYA OPENS DOOR TO AFRICAN FILM "FREEDOM"

The Acting Governor of Kenya has approved the Moral Re-Armament all-African film *Freedom* for public exhibition throughout Kenya. This followed the unanimous recommendation of an Appeal Tribunal which reversed the previous decision of the Film Censor Board. *The Hollywood Reporter* described how "the recommendation followed a public outcry in the press demanding to have the film exhibited."

Soon the film was being shown to packed houses in Nairobi. It comes at a crucial transitional stage in the history of Kenya, a time when election campaigning is increasing division and hostility. The film is especially relevant following this month's political riots. One man said as he left the theater, "This is a timely weapon. It will save our nation from anarchy, bloodshed and Communism".

The commercial premiere was in-

troduced by Mr. J. G. Kiano, first African Minister of Commerce and Industry, at the invitation of the distributors. With him spoke Nahashon Ngare who was Mau Mau leader of 230,000 Kikuyus during the Kenya Emergency, and Colonel Alan Knight, who was Commandant of the Athi River Detention Camp where Ngare and other hard-core Mau Mau were detained. They described how the film was made in Nigeria and has since been shown in 47 countries and translated into 12 different languages. They were interrupted by applause as they told of its bringing an answer to division, fear and mistrust in many parts of the world.

Standing on the stage with these speakers, the general manager of the theater told the audience, "When you go home after seeing this film you will have had a change of heart."