

# Monument Carries A Message For Future, Says Dr. Malan

"THE Voortrekker Monument stands as a powerful protest against the slander directed at the Voortrekkers and indirectly at the generations which followed," the Prime Minister, Dr. Malan, said today at the handing-over ceremony at the Monument.

The handing-over was from the Central Monument Committee, which was responsible for the building of the Monument, to the Voortrekker Monument Control Committee. The Central Committee remained partly in control to complete work on the Monument, such as the installation of the friezes.

Dr. Malan said the Voortrekkers had been held up as the perpetrators of dreadful deeds, who had driven the Native from his own country and violated laws. They had been described as robbers and hypocrites who covered their "misdeeds" at Blood River in a cloak of religion.

The slander was started by well-meaning White missionaries. Accusations were still being

made against the Union, and the Monument was a reminder to the people of their duty as the bulwark and source of power of Western civilisation.

The Monument was not a pile of dead stone, but carried a message for future generations. As a living building it showed the path to a greater future.

Dr. Malan praised the work of Gerard Moerdyk, the architect, who had "erected a monument not only to the Voortrekkers but to himself as well."

The Governor-General, Dr. Jansen, said the handing-over ceremony was the culmination of about 22 years of work by the Central Committee while he was chairman.

Work was carried on under General Hertzog, General Smuts and Dr. Malan. The committee had had to find a suitable site, raise the money and control the construction.

Present at the ceremony were Mrs. Malan and Mrs. Jansen, the Administrator and Mrs. Nicol and the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. Visse.

Cabinet Ministers present were the Minister of Defence, Mr. Erasmus, the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Donges, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, the Minister of Education, Arts and Science, Mr. Viljoen, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Naude, the Minister of Transport, Mr. Sauer, and the Minister of Labour, Mr. Schoeman.

Several detectives stood about during the ceremony.