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ONE OF THE REPORTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN COMMISSION I, 1. "RELIGION
AND SPIRITUAL VALUES"

By Monk GIBBON

Any present enquiry into the creation or preservation of a community culture must take into consideration the unique human situation today. World communications are unprecedented. Knowledge has a wider historical perspective than ever before, and is faced with an almost infinite variety of data. Human thought appears to be back in the melting-pot. And though morals and a spiritual sense are not - in their deepest validity - dependent upon thought-fashions, nevertheless the young tend to see them as back in the melting-pot also. All this complicates the problem of evolving the culture and establishing certain general acceptances. Values have been overthrown all over the world, and even find an English priest, Father Martin D'Acy bitterly regretting the effects of an abandonment of Buddhism by young Japan.

In this unique situation, as the average level of intelligence rises, the need for intellectual and moral leadership and for spiritual vision becomes not less but greater. Democracy cannot afford to be the apotheosis of mediocrity. Nor can any culture be a closed circuit, as was so often the case in the past. We have ceased to live in a world in which the different religions each proclaim their conception of God and of his purpose in an isolated geographical setting; and we are threatened with a world in which a cynical plutocracy and a disillusioned intelligensia seem to be working separately