

Notes and News

World Population Conference

A CONFERENCE, organized by the United Nations Department of Social Affairs, will be held in August 1954, the object being 'the exchange of ideas and experience on population matters among experts in the field concerned'. A preparatory committee, consisting of representatives of the United Nations, interested specialized agencies, and some internationally recognized population experts, is charged with arrangements for the conference and the formulation of a programme. Among the topics proposed for discussion are: mortality and fertility trends in under-developed and in more-developed areas; demographic aspects of economic and social development in under-developed countries; international migrations, and internal migrations in relation to population distribution and structure; ageing of population and its social and economic consequences; social aspects of demographic changes; methods of observation, analysis, and applications of demographic data.

Invitations to individual experts to take part in the conference will be issued by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the nomination of governments, scientific organizations, and interested specialized agencies. Each person taking part in the conference will have an opportunity to present a communication up to 4,000 words in length, and invitations to present papers at particular sessions will be arranged by an organizer for each session.

Questions relating to the programme and to the participation of individuals may be addressed to: Professor Frank Lorimer, American University, Washington 16, D.C., U.S.A.

North American Assembly on African Affairs

THE Conference on African Affairs, organized by the Africa Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., took place in June 1952 at Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. In his foreword to the Report of the assembly¹ Dr. Emory Ross, lately Secretary of the Africa Committee, lays stress on the importance of Africa, and of relations between Africa and the West, in world affairs today. He points out that Christian missionaries, owing to their long and widespread contacts with Africans and with Europeans concerned with Africa, possess a unique body of knowledge of the problems and potentials of African peoples. The Africa Committee had therefore decided to sponsor group discussion of Christian responsibilities in and concerning Africa. The assembly at Springfield was the result of that decision. In organizing the assembly, the Africa Committee determined that the widest and best possible representation of Africans was imperative; that the participation of governments, academic institutions, and industry was desirable, and that the assembly should be as internationally representative as possible. These decisions were carried out; 34 Africans from 13 different areas were present at the assembly; 8 governments and the United Nations were officially represented; the 23 Europeans present included, besides government representatives, missionaries, university professors and students, anthropologists and teachers; members of the assembly came from 7 European countries and 19 African territories, and included Roman Catholics, Protestants, Jews, and Moslems.

¹ *Africa is Here*, Report of the North American Assembly on African Affairs. Africa Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions of the Churches. New York, 1953, pp. v, 224. \$1.00 post free.