

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.

Among the subjects of addresses and discussions were: New patterns of self-government in the Gold Coast and Nigeria; Federal Union in British Central Africa; Citizenship in Portuguese Africa; Social change in the Belgian Congo; Economic and social development plans for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda; The current situation in French Tropical Africa; Relations between government and missions, and religious group conflicts.

Rhodes-Livingstone Institute

A CONFERENCE of research officers was held at the new Institute buildings in Lusaka from 4 to 10 January 1953; in addition to the Director (Dr. J. C. Mitchell) and the research officers of the Institute, Professor and Mrs. Kuper of Natal University attended in an advisory capacity; Mr. R. Moffat, Urban Native Courts Adviser, Northern Rhodesia Government, with his assistant Mr. A. Mwenya, and Mr. J. Good, psychologist to the European Education Department, Northern Rhodesia Government, made occasional visits.

Dr. Mitchell discussed tribal dances as a feature in African urban life, and in particular the *Kalela* in which all the participants wear European dress; Dr. Mitchell suggested that dances of this type reflected the social situation in the Copperbelt and represented the acting out of a phantasy in which the dancers enjoyed the prestige of European rank. It appeared that on the Copperbelt a system of social classes was beginning to develop, although tribalism was still an important social category. Other subjects of discussion, arising from reports by research fellows, were: the political organization of the Mambwe; native administration in urban areas; effects of labour migration among the Lakeside Tonga (among these people also the high prestige placed on European clothing can be illustrated by the *Malipenga* dance); Kaonde village structure, in which proximate generations are spatially separated by the siting of huts; proposals for research among the Herero. Mr. Good contributed an account of projective tests and the possibility of their use by anthropologists in the field. The difficulties encountered in urban surveys—particularly resistance on the part of persons interviewed—were described by Mr. Katilungu.

Social Science Conference in Uganda

A SECOND joint meeting between the social scientists attached to I.R.S.A.C. (Institut de Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale) and to the E.A.I.S.R. (East African Institute of Social Research) was held at the headquarters of the E.A.I.S.R., Makerere College, Kampala, from 23 to 28 February 1953.

The conference was attended by 11 anthropologists, 3 linguists, 2 economists, and 2 psychologists. Some members of a committee of social experts called by the C.S.A. (Council for Scientific Research in Africa South of the Sahara) which was meeting at Kampala subsequently, also attended as observers. They included Professor Marcel Griaule and M. le Gouverneur Deschamps (France); Dr. Clyde Mitchell (Northern Rhodesia); Professor Santa Rita (Portugal); Mr. R. H. Sutton and Professor Monica Wilson (Union of South Africa); together with Mrs. Chilver (Colonial Office) and Professor E. Franklin Frazier (Social Science Division of UNESCO).

The conference began with a public session opened by H.E. the Governor of Uganda, when reports on the work of I.R.S.A.C. were read by Professor L. van den Berghe (Director) and Dr. J. J. Maquet; and on the work of the E.A.I.S.R. by Dr. A. I. Richards (Director). Reports on personnel research and sociological research in South Africa were read by Mr. R. H. Sutton and Professor Monica Wilson respectively, and on the work of the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute by Dr. Clyde Mitchell.

At the subsequent working sessions of the conference, papers were read in the following