

sary information to the whole of the Congo. The resolution recommended that the committee should be composed of the secretaries of the regional committees together with an appointed representative of the CPC. It was also recommended that the central committee should meet at least once annually.

One of the subjects discussed by the committees was the encouragement of original writing, preferably by Africans, and it was felt that wherever possible literature should be prepared on this basis, secondly by adaptations, and only as a last resort by translations. Other matters discussed were Mission presses, colportage work, and the desirability of increasing the circulation of the vernacular journals. Papers were also read on correspondence courses, tracts, bookshops, book clubs, planning a literature programme, and literature available and needed.

Vernacular News-Sheets in the Belgian Congo

THE publication of a news-sheet at Gandadjika in the Kasai marked the beginning of a movement to provide news and reading matter in the vernacular, and other areas are now following this example. The papers are simple, generally consisting of a few stencilled pages and containing an editorial, one or more articles of general interest, an article on the history of the area, and news about sport and other events in the neighbourhood. The editorial board is composed entirely of Congolais, the chief of the territory combining his usual role with that of guide and adviser. In some territories correspondents for each native area (circonscription indigène) send in their local news. The language is generally the local vernacular, though some articles are written in French. Some news-sheets are published simultaneously in French and in the vernacular. Donations from the native area administration provide the initial finance for these publications, one of which may be started for a comparatively small sum, averaging little more than 36,000 francs. Once started, the paper depends on subscriptions and advertisements.

Élisabethville University

THE Government University at Élisabethville, Belgian Congo, was officially opened on Sunday, 11 November 1956, in the presence of the Minister of Colonies and professors from the four universities of Belgium. Letters of greeting were read from these as well as from the University of Lovanium (Léopoldville) whose Rector was present. The Rector of the new university outlined the reasons for its foundation and the hopes for its future; he welcomed the 42 African and European students who formed the first student body. The scholastic standard for entrance to the two Congo universities, and the level of studies pursued, will be the same as in the universities of Belgium.

La sixième Conférence des Africanistes de l'Ouest

LA sixième Conférence des Africanistes de l'Ouest s'est tenue à l'île de Sao Tomé du 21 au 28 août 1956 et a été consacrée à la fois à des séances de travail et à des excursions.

Le mérite de l'organisation revenait au Gouvernement portugais et notamment au Professeur A. Mendès Corrêa, Directeur de l'Institut supérieur des Études d'Outre-Mer de Lisbonne et membre du Comité permanent des conférences internationales des Africanistes de l'Ouest (C.I.A.O.). La session était placée sous l'égide de la Commission de Coopération technique en Afrique au sud du Sahara (C.C.T.A.) représentée à Sao Tomé par son secrétaire-général, M. Paul-Marc Henry.

Une quarantaine de congressistes, la plupart portugais, participaient à la conférence qui a été divisée en trois sections: la section physique, la section biologique et la section humaine.