

Conference of Social Scientists on the Social Effects of Industrialization in Africa

A STUDY conference is to be held at Abidjan, French West Africa, in September–October 1954 under the auspices of UNESCO at which papers on various aspects of industrialization and urbanization in Africa will be presented and discussed. The participants will be some ten or twelve social scientists who have carried out field studies concerned with this topic, and observers from various governments and research organizations have been invited to attend. Professor Daryll Forde, Director of the International African Institute, is responsible for organizing the Conference and the *Survey of recent and current field studies on the social effects of economic development in Africa*, prepared for UNESCO by the Institute, as well as the report of the team who recently completed a survey in Stanleyville (see *Africa*, xxiii, 4, p. 347, and Report of the Administrative Director, p. 265 above) will be used as working papers for the Conference.

Since the purpose of the Conference is to promote comparative study through an exchange of views on current research methods and findings, it will not pass resolutions or draw up recommendations outside the research field. A report of the Conference, based on the papers presented and the views developed in the discussions, will be published by UNESCO.

Inter-African Soils Conference

AN Inter-African Soils Conference will be held in Leopoldville (Belgian Congo) from 9–15 August 1954 at the invitation of the Belgian Government and under the auspices of C.C.T.A. Every member country of C.C.T.A. is invited to send as delegates a maximum of eighty experts on agronomy, soil science, and soil conservation; invitations have also been sent to organizations likely to be interested in the Conference. The work of the Conference will be divided into three sections, concerned respectively with: classification and mapping of African soils; soil research of all kinds; soil conservation.

The Vth International Congress of Soil Science will take place in Leopoldville immediately after this Conference. The technical secretariat of the soils conference is the B.I.S. (Inter-African Bureau for Soils), 57 rue Cuvier, Paris V^e, to which requests for information should be addressed.

Inter-African Conference on Rural Welfare

A CONFERENCE on Rural Welfare was held in Lourenço Marques in September 1953 under the auspices of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa South of the Sahara (C.C.T.A.). The Conference, which was opened by the Governor-General of Mozambique, was attended by delegates from Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Union of South Africa, Gold Coast, Kenya, Tanganyika, Rhodesia, Uganda, Basutoland, and Swaziland. The Chairman of the Conference was Professor Alvaro Eugenio Neves da Fontoura, of the Escola Superior Colonial, Lisbon. The delegates submitted reports on the two main topics with which the Conference was concerned: (1) social structure, which included population problems, family structure, status of women, housing, nutrition, medical services, communications and transport; (2) economic factors, including land tenure, agricultural practice, development of local resources, credit and mutual aid societies, co-operatives.

These reports were considered by a 'steering' Committee which agreed upon a basis on which the Conference could discuss the general objectives of the policy of rural development and the means of attaining those objectives. The Conference then divided into three commissions for the detailed discussion of topics grouped under Social Structure, Economic

Factors and Social Services, and Community Organization, and each commission formulated a number of recommendations. A plenary session approved motions proposed by the head of the French delegation relating to the continuation of international co-operation in the matter of rural welfare and the holding of other similar conferences.

World Health Organization: Regional Office for Africa

THE report of the Director, published in August 1953, gives a brief account of the organization of the office for Africa in Geneva and its transfer to Brazzaville in October 1952, and describes the work of the year 1952/3. Many initial difficulties had to be overcome—in particular, shortage of housing, high costs of living, and ill health among members of the staff. In addition, though communication with Europe was good, trans-African postal services and other means of communication were slow and unreliable. Recruiting of professional and office staff has also been difficult. The report emphasizes the need for the appointment of an Information Officer, whose duties would be to familiarize himself with what has been done in the field of public health in different territories, to keep the Regional Office informed on events in the field of public health administration, and to be responsible for external information, making known to the African world the policy, aims, and methods of the World Health Organization.

The report makes special mention of the appointment of a cultural anthropologist, M. Jean-Paul Lebeuf (see *Africa*, xxiii. 2, p. 158), and of the importance of the study of the habits and reactions of human beings by a specially trained social scientist. During the year under review M. Lebeuf attended a meeting of the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara (C.S.A.) at Kampala, and also travelled in the Cameroons and attended the UNESCO International Seminar on Public Libraries in Africa, held at Ibadan, July 1953.

Dr. Carothers, attached to the Regional Office for the purpose of studying psychiatric and psychological problems, visited Belgium, England, France, and the United States and several areas in Africa; he also attended the meeting of the Centre International de l'Enfance in Brazzaville in December 1952.

Dr. J. Karefa-Smart, Public Health Medical Officer, delivered an address on 'The West African Village and its Problems' at the West African Area Conference of the Y.M.C.A. held at Accra in March and April 1953.

The report concludes with a warning against attempting to introduce into Africa 'western' systems of public health administration and social programmes without considering whether such systems and programmes are suitable for application in the African environment, and against starting expensive and elaborate schemes which cannot be maintained or cannot at a later date be taken over by the population itself.

UNESCO Seminar on the Development of Public Libraries in Africa

UNESCO has held four seminars on Public Libraries development of which the last took place at Ibadan, Nigeria, from 27 July to 21 August 1953 (see *Africa*, xxiii. 2, p. 159). The purpose of the seminar was to study the principal public library problems in Africa and to draft proposals for the development of public library services, particularly in connexion with mass education. Twenty-nine librarians and educationists took part, from a great number of African territories as well as Egypt, France, and the United Kingdom. Eight members of the seminar were Africans, the rest being Europeans working in Africa. The Librarian and Acting Principal of the University College of Nigeria was host to the seminar, and the Director was Mlle Yvonne Oddon, Librarian of the Musée de l'Homme, Paris. The main work of the seminar was carried out in three working groups concerned with: (i) organizing public library services on a regional or national scale; (ii) provision and use