

foncier traditionnel des Diola de Basse-Casamance (Sénégal) ” (L. V. Thomas); “ Problèmes posés par les nouveaux modes d’usage des terres chez les Azande vungara du Congo belge ” (J. Vanderlinden); “ Les régimes fonciers ruanda et kuba: une comparaison ” (J. Vansina); “ Factors determining the contents of African land tenure systems in Northern Rhodesia ” (C. M. N. White); “ Effects on the Xhosa and Nyakyusa of increases in the value of land ” (M. Wilson); “ Problèmes sociaux posés par la transplantation des Mossi sur les terres irriguées de l’Office du Niger ” (D. Zahan).

Apart from the individual communications (which were duplicated and circulated to all the delegates), each participant also took on the task of introducing one of the working sessions. These sessions were devoted to different aspects of the transformation of traditional systems of land tenure. Thus there came under successive scrutiny the political, historical, social, economic, and legal aspects of the different modes of transformation of traditional systems (introduction of cash crops, of individual property, of “ paysannats ”, of resettlement, etc.). The exchanges of view in the course of the conference were supplemented by observation of different Belgian achievements in the sphere of land tenure: thus there were visits to *le service des Terres du Gouvernement general*, to the African cities of Leopoldville and the zones of marsh-land near to those cities.

The communications will be published by the International African Institute; the volume will be introduced by a broad synthetic study by Professor Biebuyck of the different aspects of the transformation of traditional agrarian systems. The volume should appear at the end of 1960.

[Communication from J. Vanderlinden]

INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LAW ASSOCIATION NEWS

FORMATION OF BELGIAN SECTION

On 4th December, 1959, the inaugural meeting of the Belgian section of IALA/AIDA was held at the University Foundation, Brussels, under the chairmanship of MM. Idenburg and Sohier. The objects of the section include the creation in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi of local sections consisting of persons who are expert in customary matters—Europeans (magistrates, sociologists, ethnologists, administrators) and Africans (judges of native tribunals, customary notables, graduates). These sections, which could be organised by provinces, would first of all define their programmes in accordance with local circumstances and the materials that are already available. In some places the codification of customary law might be initiated, in other places the recording or collecting

of customary law. The possibility of creating a new law which would harmonize the legislation at present in force with the principles of customary law would be examined. Full collaboration between indigenous people and experts will be established, it is hoped, with the support of the International Association. Each section, which will be strongly decentralised, will thus have its own working plan; but this plan will be formulated in a practical and scientific spirit, since the object is to prepare texts suitable for practical application. Each section will have to seek its own working methods and funds.

The committee of the Belgian section consists provisionally of: M. A. Sohier, President; M. J. Vanderlinden, Secretary; and Mme. Dorsinfang-Smets (Professor at the Free University of Brussels), MM. de Waersegger (member of the Cour de Cassation), Gilissen (Professor at the Free University of Brussels), Guillaume (Professor at the Free University of Brussels), Grévisse, Malengreau (Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain), Mineur (Professor at the Institut Universitaire des Territoires d'Outremer), Raë (honorary president of the Court of Appeal), Soyer (Secretary-General of the National Institute for Scientific Research in Central Africa), Van Hove (Inspecteur Royale at the Ministry for the Belgian Congo and Ruanda Urundi). M. l'avocat général Dermaut has kindly promised the assistance of the *Bulletin des Jurisdictions Indigènes*, and M. Sohier that of the *J.T.O.*

Eligibility for membership of the Association extends to lawyers and all persons professionally concerned with the study of African law, whose collaboration will be welcomed. The Belgian section and local sections will also have associate members and patrons. Correspondence for the Belgian section should be addressed to: The Secretary, 53 Avenue Armand Huysman, Brussels, 5.

[Communication from the Belgian section of IALA/AIDA]