

## Notes and News

### *Grant to the International African Institute from the Ford Foundation, New York*

MEMBERS of the Institute will know, from the Administrative Director's Report to the Executive Council at its meeting in 1953, that the Institute's financial position had been causing some anxiety. Although the growing interest in African studies, as well as developments in Africa itself, were presenting many opportunities for the expansion of the Institute's activities, rising costs coupled with a stationary or falling income were threatening not only to prevent expansion but to enforce a restriction of its work.

Fortunately, however, as was reported in the July issue of this journal, the efforts of members of the Council have secured a number of valuable contributions from various sources—in particular from the Phelps-Stokes Fund, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and a number of British and Belgian firms.

Still more recently the Ford Foundation of New York has made a most generous response to representations put forward on behalf of the Institute. On the basis of a lengthy report on the various activities and needs of the Institute, submitted by the Director, and the recommendations made by Professor W. O. Brown following his study of our activities last year, the Ford Foundation has allocated a grant of \$50,000, expendable over a period of approximately two years. It is to be devoted in part to maintaining the Institute's library, bibliographical and information services, and *African Abstracts*, and in part to organizing and financing field research in Africa.

This award is doubly welcome, not only as valuable material assistance, but as evidence of interest in and recognition of our work on the part of the Ford Foundation. Members of the Institute will, we are sure, be glad to know of this good fortune and will join with the Council and Officers in gratitude to our American friends for their generous and timely assistance.

### *International Research Office on the Social Implications of Technological Change*

A SEMINAR was held in Paris in March 1954 at which experts in various disciplines (ethnology, sociology, economics, psychology, &c.) discussed economic motivations and incentives in traditional and modern environments in the context of 'underdeveloped' countries. The theme of the seminar was chosen with both theoretical and practical aims in view, viz. to make a contribution to the study of economic motivations, and to assist towards the solving of urgent problems attending the economic development of underdeveloped countries.

Specific subjects studied included the definition and comparison of customary or traditional and non-traditional environments; the nature of traditional techniques; attitudes to work and incentives to economic activity; relations between subsistence economy and market economy; the nature of rural economies and the effects of 'modernizing' factors; the rural exodus and the lack of balance between urban and rural areas; influences exercised by industrial undertakings, adaptation to new professions, effects of non-traditional environment on behaviour and social relationships, and the present state of research on these topics.

At the conclusion of the seminar the trends of the discussions were summed up by the Chairman, Professor Raymond Firth, who suggested that, in spite of differences of approach by various disciplines, most studies were in fact progressing by very similar methods, and through the variety of descriptive material presented it had been possible to arrive at a clearer definition of the problem of economic motivation. The fundamental question was the possibility of the emergence of a new motivations equilibrium adapted to the needs of

economic development. He pointed out the need for co-ordinated interdisciplinary study of this and related subjects, and referred to a list of projects for new research which had been drawn up in collaboration with Professor G. Balandier and other members of the seminar. These suggested studies would be of three types: the study of motivations; the study of processes; the study of groups. A programme of researches on these lines should lead to a consideration of the whole range of problems created by industrial and economic development, and might be regarded as a first step towards the elaboration of a general theory of social change.

(A summary of the discussion at the Seminar with the full text of the list of research projects has been prepared by Professor G. Balandier, who acted as rapporteur, and circulated in English and French by the International Research Office (International Social Sciences Council), 19 Avenue d'Iéna, Paris.)

### *West African Institute of Social and Economic Research*

THE West African Institute of Social and Economic Research held its third annual conference from 22 to 25 March, 1954. The conference was in two sections, the Sociology section at the University College, Ibadan, Nigeria, the Economics section at the University College, Achimota, Gold Coast.

Delegates to the Sociology section included: Monsieur B. Holas (Institut Français d'Afrique Noire, Centre Abidjan), Professor L. G. Cowan (School of International Affairs, Columbia University), Professor Lewis (Atlanta University, consultant sociologist to the Volta River Project Planning Commission), Dr. G. Jahoda and Mr. J. H. Nketia (Department of Sociology, University College of the Gold Coast), representatives of the Statistics, Education, and Social Welfare departments of the Nigerian Government, and of the C.M.S. and R.C.M. missions, members of the University College, Ibadan, and of W.A.I.S.E.R. The opening paper at the conference was given by Dr. K. O. Dike, the Deputy Director, on 'The Aims and Achievements of W.A.I.S.E.R.' Other papers presented dealt with the following subjects: The position of the Oba in modern Yoruba society (P. C. Lloyd, W.A.I.S.E.R.); the training of Local Government officers in Nigeria (I. A. Duncan, Nigerian Government); the family structure of Banyang Society (M. J. Ruel, W.A.I.S.E.R.); American interest in Africa (Professor L. G. Cowan); Bilingualism in Nigerian Society (Dr. L. F. Brosnahan, University College, Ibadan); the Egungun Society among the South-West Yoruba (P. Morton-Williams, W.A.I.S.E.R.); the role of the drummer in Akan Society (J. H. Nketia, University College, Gold Coast); Nigerian Social Medicine (Professor A. O. Ajose, University College, Ibadan); Benin religion (R. E. Bradbury, International African Institute); the population Census of Nigeria 1952-3 (J. Longden, Nigerian Department of Statistics); Social research in Nigeria 1841-1950 (P. E. H. Hair, W.A.I.S.E.R.); Education and Nigerian national advance (A. Ogunshye, University College, Ibadan); Inter-Tribal Unions in Kumasi (Dr. G. Jahoda, University College, Gold Coast).

The Economics section was under the direction of Professor J. W. Williams, Professor of Economics in the University College of the Gold Coast and representative of W.A.I.S.E.R. in the Gold Coast. Delegates included: members of the Economics Department of the University College, Gold Coast, representatives of the Gold Coast Government, of the Statistics and Marketing and Export Departments of the Nigerian Government, of Gold Coast missions, and members of W.A.I.S.E.R. Papers were presented as follows: Standards of living in the Gold Coast (W. B. Birmingham, Economics Department, U.C.G.C.); Labour Migration in the Northern Territories (R. B. Davison, Economics, U.C.G.C.); A Survey of an Ashanti Village (Mrs. R. Lawson); Industrial Relations in the Gold Coast (J. B. Heigham, Labour Department, Gold Coast); the Finance of Local Industry (Professor