

des principaux groupes ethniques d'A.É.F. Une enquête sur l'absentéisme chez les salariés et l'instabilité de la main-d'œuvre doit être conduite par M. Guilbot, Inspecteur du Travail. L'I.É.C. apportera tout son concours à cette enquête. L'étude préliminaire au lancement des collectivités rurales en Oubangui n'a plus à être prise en considération par l'I.É.C. puisque ce travail doit être confié à M. Molet, jusqu'à présent ethnologue O.R.S.T.O.M. à Madagascar.

Les études entreprises par la sous-section Linguistique par M. Jacquot ont pour but d'établir l'inventaire complet et détaillé des langues bantoues d'A.É.F. et de recueillir, pour chacune de ces langues, une documentation qui permettra d'en faire la description, en insistant sur les langues présentant un intérêt particulier par leur structure ou leur importance dans les relations intertribales. Pendant 1957-8, M. Jacquot a dressé l'inventaire des langues parlées dans les Régions de la Ngounié et de la Nyanga au Gabon, de la Sangha et de la Likouala-Mossaka au Moyen-Congo, et il a étudié les langues Bembé et Laadi. L'analyse de la documentation permet d'établir une classification des langues en groupes. Cette classification est purement linguistique et ne tient aucun compte de considérations d'ordre ethnique ou anthropologique. Jusqu'à présent on a déterminé l'existence de 12 groupes et l'inventaire n'est pas terminé. Les résultats obtenus dans l'analyse des langues Bembé et Laadi concernent principalement les systèmes phonétiques et phonologiques, la structure des mots, et la morphologie du nom.

Pendant 1958-9 une demande d'enquête de la part du Gouvernement d'Oubangui sera satisfaite en priorité. Il s'agit, en prévision d'une campagne d'alphabétisation des adultes, d'établir un système pratique d'écriture de la langue Sango. Le Directeur de l'I.É.C. a donné son accord à une proposition de M. Pepper, d'envoyer en dépôt, à l'I.É.C., les enregistrements qu'il a poursuivis en A.É.F. du temps qu'il était ethno-musicologue de l'I.É.C.

(Abrégé du *Bulletin de l'Institut d'Études Centrafricaines*, numéros 17 et 18, 1959)

International Institute of Differing Civilizations

THE thirty-first study session of INCIDI was held at the Brussels Congress Palace from 17 to 20 September 1958. The opening meeting was presided over by H.M. King Leopold III, honorary Chairman of the session and full member of INCIDI. H.E. Commodore Sarmiento Rodrigues, M. Pierre Wigny, and M. Henri Depage also spoke at this meeting. The subject of the session was 'Women's role in the development of tropical and sub-tropical countries', and twenty-five working reports from many parts of Africa and from other countries were presented as a basis for discussion. One hundred and seventeen participants from eighteen countries took part and examined in turn the legal, social and cultural, political and economic aspects of the theme of the session. The discussions were opened by the two general rapporteurs, M. A. Sohier (Belgium) on the legal aspect, and Mme M. H. Lefauchaux (France) on the social and cultural aspect. Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders was general rapporteur on the economic aspect. The working papers and the complete text of the discussions and conclusions have now been published in book form.

The subject of the thirty-second session, to be held in the Federal German Republic, will be 'The problem of cadres for the public services and for industry and commerce in tropical and sub-tropical countries'.

Christian Literature in Africa

ON 1 July 1958 the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa (ICCLA) ceased to exist, and the Christian Literature Council (C.L.C.) took over its work of editing the quarterly *Books for Africa*, the monthly series of articles and illustrations, *African*

Features, and the matter of annual grants. A memorandum¹ has been prepared by the retiring Secretary of the British Section and Executive Office, the Rev. Claude de Mestral, who is returning to Canada, where he was granted leave of absence in 1952 from the United Church of Canada to work for ICCLA. His work is being carried on by Miss Freda M. Dearing.

The memorandum is divided into three parts—Principles, Administrative Matters, and Technical Problems. In the first part Mr. de Mestral stresses the necessity for producers of Christian literature to make certain that their publications secure a firm hold on the growing African market. Such publications cannot be merely direct translations of Western works into African languages, and the process of 'Africanization' needs to be carried out in the field of Christian publications no less than in that of Christian organization. A wider range of publications is needed and more use should be made of the increasing number of indigenous African writers. The second part of the memorandum has been specially prepared for the leaders and officials of churches and missions in Africa, secretaries of missionary societies, and overseas mission boards, and discusses practical problems of finance and methods of increasing sales. The third part deals with the Literature Committees, the Bookshops, and the Presses, and contains much detailed technical advice and information. There is a note on the problem of the choice of languages by Bible societies and Literature Committees when new translations or revisions are to be undertaken. This is especially difficult where languages or dialects formerly in use have been superseded by others such as 'trade' languages. It is therefore essential that the languages to be used in any given territory for Christian literature and for Bibles should be carefully and regularly checked. There should be close collaboration between the agents of the Bible societies and the territorial Department of Education or Publications Bureau, or such organisms as IFAN in French territories.

The International Library of African Music

THE International Library of African Music, whose Director is Mr. Hugh Tracey, has distributed £2,500 worth of its long-playing records to various Universities and Institutions in Africa and in England. This was made possible through a generous grant from Mr. Harry Oppenheimer. The following Universities in Africa have received records: University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Universities of Pretoria, the Witwatersrand, Potchefstroom, Natal, Rhodes University, and Fort Hare, in addition to the Rhodes-Livingstone Institute, the Rhodes-Livingstone Museum, and the National Museum, Bulawayo. The sets in England have been sent to the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford; Manchester University; Cecil Sharp House, London; the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; and the British Institute of Recorded Sound.

The Library has recently started to produce a series of 'popular' 12-inch records, which will consist of items which have received Osborn awards during the year and other special issues which are likely to interest a wider public. The first two items in this series have already been issued and contain the prize-winning recordings of 1957.

The address of the Library is: P.O. Box 138, Roodeport, Transvaal, Union of South Africa.

Eighth Annual Conference of the Historical Society of Ghana

THE Eighth Annual Conference of the Historical Society of Ghana was held at Adisadel College, Cape Coast, on 16-18 January 1959. Mr. W. F. Conton, Headmaster of the Accra High School, was elected President of the Society for the coming year.

¹ *Christian Literature in Africa*, by Claude de Mestral. Distributed by the Christian Literature Council, 2 Eaton Gate, London, S.W.1.