

CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO

MINUTES - MEETING 11

LEOPOLDVILLE, JANUARY 16-17, 1934.

288. MEETING.

Available members of the Conseil Protestant du Congo met at Léopoldville, Congo Belge, from January 16 to 17 at the call of the Secretary.

289. PRESENT.

The following were present:

ABFMS Revs Henry Erickson (C), G.W. Carpenter (C),
BMS Revs C.E. Pugh (C), F.G. Exell (P), P. H. Austin (Cp)
SMF Revs John Sodergren (C), G. Reinholdson (C), Bertil Hôök (Cp)
CPC Rev. H. Wakelin Coxill (Secretary)

(Abbreviations used above; (C) Councillor; (P) Proxy;
(Cp) Coopted.

290. DEVOTIONS.

After a period of silent prayer the meeting was led in prayer by Messrs Carpenter and Austin.

291. OFFICERS.

In the absence of the Council's president the Rev. C. E. Pugh was elected Chairman by ballot and the Rev. Henry Erickson was elected Recording Secretary, also by ballot.

292. NATURE OF MEETING.

It was decided that we consider ourselves as meeting in a SPECIAL EMERGENCY CAPACITY necessitated by a cablegram and certain letters recently received by the Secretary: matters not demanding immediate action to be referred to absent councillors for their approval or otherwise.

a. Cablegram in question, received 9th January 1934;

SUBJECT YOUR APPROVAL AMERICAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS YOU ARRANGE MOTT MEET GROUPS ELISABETHVILLE MUTOTO LEOPOLDVILLE DURING JUNE MOSS DONOHUGH LIKELY ATTEND ROSS ARRIVES MARCH TWENTYEIGHTH LERRIGO.

b. Extracts from letters referred to above;

1. From Dr. J.R. Mott, dated New York, December 1st 1933.
" I have been having most helpful consultations with your colleague, Mr. Emory Ross. By this time he will have reported to you that I am hoping to be able to respond favourably to the invitation to visit the Congo area, at least briefly, next June right after my visit to South Africa."

2. From Dr. Robert M. Hopkins, Sec; World's Sunday School Association; New York, December 6th 1933.
"We have had many conferences with Emory Ross

"since he has been here, and as you doubtless know long before this letter reaches you, the proposal is now made that there be held quite an extended conference at Leopoldville next June. Mr. Ross is insisting that I attend the conference, and I should like to do so. The only thing likely to keep me away will be our financial condition."

Nothing had been received from Mr. Ross.

293. GROUP MEETINGS. a. It was agreed that we approve of the proposed visit of Dr. Mott and others and that arrangements be made for them to be able to confer with various groups of missionaries.

b. In view of the previous decision to hold a conference (at a later date in 1934) at Mutoto, we recommend that the relation of these proposed group meetings to the proposed conference be worked out by the C.P.C. secretary and the committee on conference arrangements.

c. The Councillors present approved the sending of the following cablegram which was prepared in code and dispatched to Dr. Lerrigo on January 17th:-

ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE DISTRICT CONFERENCES CABLE US
YOUR PLANS Dr. JOHN R. MOTT ASSUMING ROSS WILL COME IN
CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL
CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO BOARD CONSENTS PROVIDED IT
IS INVOLVED IN NO FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THE FULL
RESPONSIBILITY DEVOLVES ON HOME BASE QUESTION ADVISABILITY
EXPENDITURE

294. SECRETARYSHIP. The special meeting of the Council gave considerable discussion to a letter which the secretary had received from Dr. J. H. Oldham just prior to the receipt of the cablegram from Dr. Lerrigo. A copy of this letter is attached hereto. During most of the discussion on this subject Mr. and Mrs Coxill, in accordance with their own wishes, withdrew, after at the request of the meeting Mr. Coxill had read the minutes of past meetings relating to his appointment and certain letters, and he had also expressed his willingness to do entirely as the Council wished.

a. Agreed that this special meeting of the Council rejoices in the presence of Mr. Coxill as C.P.C. secretary and deprecates any pressure being brought to bear upon him to vacate the office or cause him to feel that his occupancy is only temporary.

b. Mr. Pugh was asked to formulate and send a letter to Dr. Oldham informing him of the position taken in this matter. This letter, a copy of which is included herewith, was later submitted to the meeting and approved.

295. BUYING AGENCY.

At the request of the B.M.S. Field Committee the Council discussed the possibility and advisability of uniting a Buying Agency with the C.P.C. Bible Depot and Bookshop and the secretary of the C.P.C. was empowered to confer with the Bible Society regarding this.

296. UNIFORMITY.

Acting on the request of the Aba Conference (Min; 11) that the C.P.C. prepare uniform Church-membership and other cards needed by the missions, the Council appointed Messrs GEIL and AUSTIN to collaborate with the secretary in preparing specimen cards to submit to the next meeting of the Council and request Dr C.C. CHESTERMAN to submit medical cards.

297. FINANCE.

The secretary submitted to the Council a financial statement for the year 1933, showing that there had been an excess of expenditure over income during the period, the situation being seriously aggravated by the unforeseen fall in the exchange value of the American dollar. The fact was also noted that there had been heavy furlough and travel expenses to be met during the year. The need of finding increased income was evident as was also the need of further economy, if possible, during 1934.

- a. As one means of increased income it was felt that Annual Memberships should be more encouraged among missionaries and others.
- b. The secretary was asked to endeavour to prepare an interim balance sheet just prior to the next meeting of the Council.
- c. By special request Mr. Harry Watkins kindly attended the meeting for a short time to confer with the Council regarding the accounts and accountancy of the C.P.C.
- d. It was decided that the B.M.S. Secretary, or his nominee, Mr. Harry Watkins and the C.P.C. secretary be appointed a consultative committee on C.P.C. finance. This committee was charged with the exploration of means of safeguarding C.P.C. funds.
- e. The secretary was asked to endeavour to secure the services of Messrs Watkins and Blackburn as auditors of the 1933 C.P.C. accounts.
- f. On motion of the Secretary the Council tendered a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Harry Watkins for his services in connection with the books of the C.P.C. and the U.M.H.

298. CONGO-ANGOLA
RELATIONS

In line with the expressed wish of the 1933 Council meeting (Min; 279) that the secretary encourage a greater measure of fellowship and cooperation between the evangelical forces in Angola and Congo was the suggestion that the Congo Mission News carry regularly a page of Angola notes. This suggestion was approved, provided the missionaries in Angola so desired.

299. L'EVANGILE
EN AFRIQUE.

A suggestion from Miss Margaret Wrong, of the I.C.C.L.A. that L'Evangile en Afrique carry a 4 page supplement specially adapted for use in Protestant Mission schools was considered and approved, provided special funds for the purpose are made available.

300. LITERATURE FUND.

The secretary was empowered to disburse from the Literature Fund of the C.P.C. for the publication of the Kimpese Educational Report in English and French and for the new Lingala Grammar and Vocabulary, when ready.

301. NEXT MEETING.

Agreed to hold the next meeting of the Council at Léopoldville in June 1934 when it is hoped there will be a full representation of the Council and when it is anticipated there will be certain representatives of the I.M.C. and the Home Boards at hand to confer with the Council at certain of its sessions.

302. ADJOURNMENT.

The special meeting of the Council adjourned with prayer by Mr. Exell.

Charles E. Pugh
Chairman.

Henry Erickson
George Carpenter
Recording Secretaries.

H. Wakelin Coxill
General Secretary.