

Conseil Protestant  
du Congo

Minutes - Meeting 29

LEOPOLDVILLE, CONGO BELGE

FEBRUARY 19 - 26, 1950



The General Secretary is to investigate possibilities which will lead to the ultimate appointment of an Assistant.

### 932. Membership

The Congo Pygmy Mission has applied for membership in the C.P.C. It was moved that this application be tabled in view of the fact that this organization has not yet secured *Personnalité Civile*.

### 933. Moving of Secretariat

The Council received with sympathy the statement of the General Secretary outlining the necessity of removing the Secretariat and residence from its present location.

The Council resolved:

1. To authorize the present Chairman and the Secretary to begin conversations immediately with the A.B.F. M.S., on whose land the existing office and residence stand.
2. In the event of these conversations having a favourable issue, the present Chairman and the Secretary be authorized to prospect for a suitable site.
3. That if the preceding conversations and prospecting make further steps possible, then the Local Committee be authorized to study the issue in all its bearings, including finance, and report to the Council—the Council to be consulted by post if necessary.

### 934. Education

The Rev. E. H. Morrish presented a report, which was accepted by the Council with deep appreciation.

The Report of the Education Conference held in September was read and accepted by the Council.

The Minutes of the Local Committee dealing with Education were read and accepted.

1. *French Study*: Since it is of such great importance that the missionary personnel have a full knowledge of French, it was moved:



That the Council consider the adequate preparation of  
and maintenance of French to be of the highest importance  
and urge the State Board to make sure that all are ade-  
quately prepared for study in Belgium. The Board  
should conduct physical and linguistic study in the  
language followed by students in Belgium and attend  
and at required language courses there.

It is the hope of the Council that such courses can be  
provided in connection with the University of Brussels.  
The Council Secretary is requested to consult Mr. Coxill  
regarding this.

**4. Forming of Belgian Nationals:** A full discussion  
of the question of recruiting educational institutions of  
Belgian nationality took with the following questions:  
national qualifications, age limits, conditions of employ-  
ment and service, salary, and profession. It was resolved  
unanimously that

The Council express its appreciation to Mr. Coxill  
for his efforts to secure suitable educational institutions  
in Belgium.

The requirements of such educational institutions from  
Belgium should be made by the individual mission, and  
the conditions of service (qualifications, profession, service,  
etc.) should be those of the mission to which the candidate  
is appointed.

The requirements of such a candidate should be by his  
own service. Usually a well-qualified missionary  
holding educational qualifications will undertake other  
work as well as the mission to which he is appointed, and  
the mission to the extent that such work is recommended  
regarding his former responsibilities. It is impossible for  
any service to require itself to require that a certain in-  
dividual should be appointed missionary-inspector.

**5. Miscellaneous Suggestions:** Resolved that the Com-  
mittee Secretary of the C. I. C. be asked to inform the Com-  
missioner General of the various difficulties that are an ob-



periencing in recruiting educational missionaries of Belgian nationality. As a result we were unable to appoint *missionnaires-inspecteurs* at the present time, although we hope ultimately to be able to do so.

This being the case, it is not possible for us to define *circonscriptions scolaires* covering the fields of groups of missions. For the time being the only possible alternative seems to be the provisional establishment of a relatively large number of small *circonscriptions* each embracing one large mission, or a large mission and one or two smaller missions, in each of which a qualified educator would assume the responsibilities of substitute *missionnaire-inspecteurs* on a part-time basis. The Gouverneur Général should be advised of this fact and informed that without undue delay, nominations of such substitute *missionnaires-inspecteurs* will be presented for his approval.

4. *Religious Liberty in Schools*: The following Minute of the Educational Conference was adopted:

“The Conference recommends that further consideration be given by the C.P.C. at its next meeting to the implications of the clause in the “Dispositions Générales” (p. 30)—‘*La religion constitue une branche du programme des études. Toutefois les élèves seront dispensés du cours de religion si la personne qui exerce sur eux l’autorité paternelle ou tutélaire en fait expressement la demande.*’ It is the view of the Conference that while we respect liberty of conscience and desire protection of the people of Congo from every form of compulsion in respect to religious belief and practice, we could not accept such an interpretation of this clause as would require Christian schools to admit or to keep on their rolls students whose attitude toward religion would be prejudicial to the spiritual life or moral tone of the school.”

5. *Protestant Children in Mining Camps*: Resolved that the Council request the missions to send the General Secretary full and exact information regarding company



concessions closed to Protestant church and school work; that the General Secretary examine how far these conditions involve denial of religious liberty and limitations of the basic rights of the people of the Colony; and if it be thought necessary and desirable, that official representations be made.

6. *Teacher Training*: The following Minute of the Education Conference was adopted:

"It was unanimously agreed that the most urgent educational need during the next few years will be the provision of trained African teachers. To provide them, all the existing *écoles de moniteurs* must be strengthened and enlarged, *écoles de monitrices* must be organized, and other schools now under consideration should be established without delay. At least one *école secondaire, section normale* must be provided at the earliest possible date, presumably at Kimpese; and the development of a few other such schools within a few years is desirable. *It is to be remembered that the full staffing requirements of the Government become effective December 31, 1953.*

"To assure the stability of these schools through the years, to maintain the essential teaching staff and to provide adequate student bodies it is most desirable that they be established on a co-operative basis, with the full collaboration of as many as possible of the missions in the area they serve."

Resolved that the Council bring the importance of this need very strongly to the attention of the Missions, asking each Mission to enter into consultation with its neighbor missions, and to report its plans at the next meeting of the Council, or sooner if possible.

The members to the Council expressed keen interest in the possible organization of an *école secondaire, section normale* at Kimpese. They believe that the provision of such a course is an urgent necessity and trust that plans



will not be long delayed. They express the hope that terms will be arranged whereby the course will be open to suitable candidates from missions not at present co-operating at E.P.I. Such candidates should have successfully completed the three-year preparatory course of an accredited *école secondaire*.

Resolved that the Secretary of Education be asked to take up with the Educational Department of the Government the question of the use of the tonic sol-fa in the preliminary study of music as an introduction to staff notation.

7. *Ecoles laiques officielles*: Recognizing the difficulty that we have in organizing and staffing schools of higher education, it was resolved to ask the General Secretary to approach the Gouverneur Général with the request that lay schools of *école secondaire* and *école professionnelle* standard be established by the Government. At the same time missions are urged to initiate discussions tending to the establishment of a few *écoles secondaires* on an inter-mission basis wherever this is practicable.

8. *Full-time Educational Secretary*: Cognizant of the fact that funds at the present time are insufficient to open the office of a full-time Educational Secretary, the Council tabled this matter.

### 935. Christian Literature

A report on Christian Literature was presented by Dr. G. W. Carpenter, Secretary of the Literature Committee, and accepted by the Council.

The report stressed the importance of Christian Literature as one of the major fields of missionary work and witness at this time. It recommended that each mission make regular provision of funds and assignment of responsibility for the production of a growing body of literature, both for the nurture of its Christian readers and for the winning of those who are not yet Christians. Annual grants for literature should be as regular as for any



other branch of work. At present there is special need for more and better school literature for the entire elementary course. Higher classes can to a certain extent use imported books, but elementary classes must be taught in an African language and their books must be adapted to local conditions. Hence they must be prepared locally. Translation between African languages offers promise of increasing the availability of good texts, and the Committee proposes to promote such work. LECO will expect increasingly to provide books of widespread interest as increased resources make this possible; but there will remain vast needs for materials of local interest which can only be provided as each mission does so for its own area.

### **936. Lingala**

In the absence of the Rev. S. F. Westberg, Secretary a.i. of the Lingala Committee, Dr. G. W. Carpenter read the report, which was accepted.

The following motions were then passed:

1. That the Rev. S. F. Westberg be asked to continue to serve as Lingala Secretary.
2. That the French edition of the Lingala grammar be reprinted with slight revision.
3. That the Rev. Westberg devote major attention to the Old Testament translation and New Testament revision, and that Dr. Carpenter assist in promoting the preparation and production of school literature.
4. That the Council would welcome the establishment of a Lingala periodical, and invites the Lingala Secretary and LECO to explore the possibility of establishing such a journal.

### **937. Medical Work**

The report given by Dr. Hughlett was accepted by the Council.



1. Difficulties have been encountered in the establishment of desirable discipline in cases where Government leper camps have been turned over to Protestant Missions.

Some questions were taken up with the *Médecin en Chef* regarding the organizing of leper colonies by the Missions and by the Government, and their construction, direction, and discipline. The Medical Secretary will collaborate with the General Secretary in pursuing these enquiries.

2. It is urged that missions who have qualified candidates for the Government Medical School present them at the proper time to apply for entrance.

### 938. Women's Work

A report of the year's activities was read by Mrs. J. Öhrneman and accepted by the Council.

The following motion was then voted:

In order to consolidate the action taken by the General Secretary under Minute 897 section 4 of last year's meeting regarding Licensed Prostitution, we request Colonel Becquet to draw the attention of the Council of Government at its forthcoming July meeting to the letter sent by the Secretary to the Governor General on June 16, 1949, according to Minute 898 which reads:

"It was moved that the General Secretary be requested to express to the Government the Council's deep disapproval of the issuance of permits to free women (*femmes libres*) which we believe militates against our efforts to establish Christian living."

### 939. Radio

The General Secretary gave a report of the year's activities and problems. The Council then voted:

1. That the General Secretary be asked to express to the Government our appreciation of its willingness to con-