



Conseil Protestant
du Congo

Minutes - Meeting 30

LEOPOLDVILLE, CONGO BELGE

FEBRUARY 18 - 25, 1951

The Acting Chief Chaplain expressed a desire to receive information and suggestions as to possible group leaders among the soldiers where the units are small. The most spiritual men should be sought as leaders.

The Council expressed its sincere gratitude to Chaplain Quenon for his fine and inspiring report on the work of the Chaplaincy and affirmed its confidence in his leadership.

973. Education

The report of the Secretary of the Committee on Education, Dr. O. Stenström, was accepted with appreciation.

A realization of existing weaknesses and of the need for strengthening our efforts became evident during the discussion of this important phase of our activity. The following resolutions and recommendations were adopted:

I. The Council disapproves of the policy of distinguishing between *écoles primaires ordinaires* and *écoles primaires sélectionnées* at *deuxième degré* level, for the following reasons:

- a. It discriminates against certain pupils at an age too early to ascertain their true ability.
- b. It has a discouraging effect on those not selected, thus tending to create a lack of enthusiasm for their studies.
- c. It demands personnel that is greatly needed elsewhere.
- d. It tends to foster class distinction.

The following is suggested as a desirable substitute for the *Sélectionné* program:

- a. *Ecole primaire* — 5 years. This is to be available to all. Its objective would be to prepare for village life on an increasingly high level of economic development.
- b. *Cours complémentaire* — 2 years. Offered to the small select group who have shown themselves

mentally capable and morally worthy of further training. This course would prepare students to enter Secondary Schools.

2. Recognizing the difficulties confronting the Evangelical Missions in Congo in organizing and staffing schools of higher education, it was resolved to request the General Secretary to present to the Governor General in writing the request that lay-official *Ecoles secondaires* and *Ecoles professionnelles* be established by the Government in the important centers of the Colony.

The following committee was appointed by the Council to co-operate with the General Secretary in writing such a memorandum: Col. H. L. Becquet, Dr. G. W. Carpenter, Rev. W. D. Reynolds, Dr. O. Stenström.

3. The question of a *stage* for graduates of *Ecoles de moniteurs* was referred to the Missions with the request that they send their suggestions to the Educational Secretary for the C.P.C. The following questions were suggested as a basis for discussion:

- a. Is a *stage* advisable?
- b. If so, of what duration?
- c. Will it form part of the normal course or be a *cours pratique* such as is found in the medical course?

4. The Council draws the attention of the Missions to the pressing need of establishing *écoles secondaires, section normale*. The graduates of these schools will be competent to direct *écoles primaires* and so will release missionaries from the direction of these schools for service in higher schools. Any plans for developing higher education, up to university standard, will depend on the ability of the Missions to produce graduates of secondary schools capable of taking advanced training and of directing primary schools, as there is little prospect of obtaining enough missionaries to direct all the various forms of schools envisaged in the official program.

5. By reason of the increased demands upon the time and service of missionaries resulting from the enlarged educational program, there may be a tendency to lose sight of the fact that evangelism is the missionary's primary and most urgent task.

It is therefore recommended that the evangelistic emphasis be kept before all pupils in the teacher-training schools and that the dominant note in the educational program be *Evangelism through Education*.

It was noted with satisfaction that there are now 530 students in Protestant *Ecoles de moniteurs*.

974. Medical Work

The report of the Secretary of the Committee on Medical Work, ad interim, Dr. W. S. Hughlett, was read by Dr. G. W. Tuttle, and was accepted by the Council. The following resolutions were adopted:

1. *Worship in State hospitals*: That the General Secretary be requested to take up with the Government the question of equal opportunities for Catholics and Protestants for worship in State Hospitals, including the erection of a chapel for evangelical Christians.

2. *Leper Camps*: That the doctors in attendance at this C.P.C. Meeting, in co-operation with the General Secretary, prepare a statement of Protestant Mission Policy in regard to leper camps.

975. Christian Literature

The Secretary of the Committee on Literature, Dr. G. W. Carpenter, gave a report which was accepted with appreciation. The following points were stressed particularly:

- a. Necessity of early production of the various textbooks required in Protestant schools.
- b. The encouraging progress in this field during 1950.

- c. The importance of finding and encouraging African writers and of spreading the usefulness of literature by translation and publication in other vernaculars.
- d. The need for constant interchange of information as to work in progress.

A summary was given of work in preparation at LECO or projected for publication through LECO, together with such information as was available on the work of other mission presses.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. That the Missions be urged to send to LECO, manuscripts in English or French of all the publications they now possess, relative to the life of the Church, ministerial training, and the new school program.
2. The Council recognized the need for the production of a new edition of the CONGO PROTESTANT MISSIONS MAP and suggests that a three-colour map be produced under the auspices of LECO.

976. Lingala

A report, prepared by Rev. S. F. Westberg, Secretary a.i. of the Committee on Lingala translations, was read by Dr. G. W. Carpenter.

In view of other heavy responsibilities, Mr. Westberg found it necessary to resign from the Secretaryship of the Lingala Committee. The Council regretfully accepted this resignation, with deep appreciation for Mr. Westberg's services.

Rev. H. R. Widman of the M.E.U. was asked to accept the Secretaryship of the Lingala Committee.

Since Rev. William Deans of the Immanuel Mission at Nyankunde, Irumu, has introduced a Lingala periodical, LITATOLI, it was suggested that the missionaries who are interested assist the Editor by submitting short articles

suitable for publication and by introducing the paper to their local African constituency.

977. Publications

1. CONGO MISSION NEWS. It is desirable that the circulation of this publication be greatly increased especially among the constituency in the homelands.

2. L'EVANGILE EN AFRIQUE. The circulation of this periodical has again increased and is now nearly six thousand copies.

A plea was put forth by the Editor for material from either African or Missionary personnel dealing with the Life of the Church and with Personal Experiences in the life of individual members of the Church of Christ in Congo.

3. CONGO HEARTH. This publication appears in Kikongo and in Lingala.

978. Congo Bible Society

Dr. Carpenter was asked to find out what would be entailed in the establishing of a Bible Society in the Congo, a copy of his findings to be sent to all Missions, and that the matter be further considered at the 1952 C.P.C. Meeting.

979. Women's Work

The report of the Secretary of the Committee on Women's Work, Mrs. J. Ohrneman, was received with appreciation.

A Women's Meeting was held on Thursday afternoon, February 22, and the following Minutes were presented to the Council which accepted them:

1. *Social evils of the Native Cities.* There has been no success so far in the efforts made to eliminate the evil of prostitution. It was urged that this grave question be a matter of further study during the present year.

of any subversive movement among the Africans in the territory where they work.

8. *Modern Fetishes:* That the attention of the Missions be called to the existence and spreading of talismans, mascots, books on black magic, etc. which come from France, Belgium, England and the U.S.A.

9. *Alcoholic Beverages:* That the General Secretary express to the Government the deep concern of the Council regarding the increased sale of alcoholic beverages which result in destruction of individual and family morality, and in increased crime.

The Committee was requested to resume the practice of sending periodical circular letters to African Christian leaders in Congo.

1008. Protestant Chaplaincy

The report of the Chief Chaplain, Rev. H. Quenon was read by the General Secretary and received with much interest. The General Secretary was asked to convey to M. Quenon the congratulations of the Council on his appointment as Chief Chaplain, expressing its appreciation of his report and requesting that he convey the fraternal greetings of the Council to his colleagues in the Chaplaincy.

The General Secretary was asked to confer with M. Quenon regarding means of closer collaboration between the Chaplains and Protestant Missions near military posts and as to possible provision for more frequent visits by Chaplains to the various military posts in their respective areas.

1009. Education

The General Secretary gave a full report on the representations he had undertaken with the Government carrying out the decision made by the Council last year, that he present to the Governor General in writing the request that lay-official *Ecoles secondaires* and *Ecoles Profession-*

nelles be established by the Government in the important centers in the Colony.

The counter-proposals made by the Government were read to the Council. These contained an offer of substantial new grants for "lay teaching personnel," who should be of Belgian or Luxembourg nationality.

On recommendation of the Committee on Education, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That, since we find it impossible to obtain missionary schoolinspectors of Belgian nationality in the foreseeable future, the Government should be asked to provide for inspection of our Mission schools. The responsibility of reporting the annual statistics could, however, be retained by the Missions.

2. That the General Secretary be asked to approach the Government concerning a further adjustment period because, in spite of a serious effort to increase our teaching personnel, we have not yet sufficient qualified European or African staff for our schools.

3. That graduates of *Ecoles de Moniteurs* should be required to complete a two-year *stage* and graduates of *Cours d'Apprentissage Pédagogique* at least a one-year *stage* before being given their credentials.

4. That it be reaffirmed that all protestant mission schools, even though they are aided by the Government program of subsidies, are mission schools and should continue to be centres of evangelism.

It was noted with interest and satisfaction that some trained primary school teachers are returning to pastoral work. The bond between Church and school must be kept strong, and it is urged that each mission should have regular times for evangelistic effort both on the mission station and also in the district schools.

5. That we rejoice because more educational *men* are now under appointment for our mission schools. We hope that this will release women, who are now working in the

boys' schools, for concentrated work with the girls. Until the young men coming out of our schools can marry educated Christian girls, we cannot hope to see the spiritual condition of the Christian community on the high level that it should be. Therefore, the ratio between girls and boys enrolled in our schools should be more nearly equal, and we strongly recommend increased emphasis on girls' schools.

6. That hearty commendation be given Mrs. C. E. Boone and Mrs. P. J. Uhlinger on the arithmetic book in Kikongo which was printed this year. It is abundantly illustrated and so designed that it can be translated into any language and reproduced at a reasonable rate by the offset method. Three illustrated Christian education books in Swahili have been prepared by Miss Parham of the M.M. S. C. and will be available to other language groups.

7. That the Ruanda-Urundi Alliance be invited to consider the possibility of holding a work-conference for the planning and preparation of Christian educational materials, possibly in June or July 1953, this with the assistance of the World Sunday School Association.

8. After study of the Government's reply to the request for inauguration of *écoles laïques officielles* it is felt that the requirement that lay teachers must be of Belgian nationality precludes the acceptance of the proposals. Should such a condition be waived, however, a further study of the proposals would be possible. But it is felt that even under such conditions it would not be possible to provide sufficient post-primary schools for the protestant community. The desire of the Council was reaffirmed that the Government should provide *écoles laïques officielles*

1010. Examination Boards

The General Secretary reported on correspondence

from the Government, regarding the establishment of *Jurys centraux* in all provinces opening the way for Congolese, who have attended other schools than the State recognized ones or acquired corresponding knowledge by private study, to sit for an examination with a view to obtaining official diplomas, including a diploma for monitor. Protestant mission educationalists will be invited to serve as members of these juries.

It is also the Government's intention to institute a Consultative Educational Board on which the Protestant Missions will be represented.

1011. Boarding Homes for Missionaries' Children

The General Secretary reported on the question of schools for missionaries' children, which has been before the Council periodically for several years. It appears that the Government lay schools for white children (*athénées*), especially the one at Léopoldville, may be increasingly useful and may obviate the necessity of establishing further mission-operated schools of this type. Construction on the new C.P.C. land of a home (*internat*) for missionaries' children attending the lay school at Léopoldville may become desirable. No specific action was taken.

1012. Medical Work

The report of the Secretary of the Committee on Medical Work, Dr. G. W. Tuttle, was read by Dr. E. R. Wide and accepted by the Council. The following recommendations were adopted:

1. That the General Secretary in consultation with the Medical Secretary and the Legal Representative of the Member Mission, to whom the new agreement regarding the establishment of Leper Camps was sent, be requested to draw up a revised agreement. This agreement is to be reviewed at the next C.P.C. meeting.