## CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO

## MINUTES—MEETING 19

LÉOPOLDVILLE, FEBRUARY 10-14, 1941.

504. Meeting. The Conseil Protestant du Congo met at Léopoldville, Congo Belge, February 10—14, 1941. 505. Present. The following were present:

American Baptist Foreign Mission Society;

REV. J.E. GEIL, Councillor.

DR. GEORGE CARPENTER, Substitute

African Inland Mission; REV. H.W. COXILL Proxy.

American Presbyterian Congo Mission;

REV. ALLEN M. CRAIG, Councillor. British & Foreign Bible Society:

DR. G.W. CARPENTER, Ex-Officio.
Berean African Missionary Society; Rev. H.W. Coxill Proxy.
Baptist Missionary Society; Rev. C.E. Pugh, Councillor.

REV. V. DE C. THOMPSON, Councillor. REV. E.D.F. GUYTON, Ex-Officio.

Congo Gospel Mission; Rev. H.W. Coxill Proxy.

Congo Inland Mission; Rev. H.W. Coxill, Proxy.

Christian and Missionary Alliance;

REV. M. KNUDSON, Councillor.

Disciples of Christ Congo Mission; REV. F. ROWE Councillor.

Friends Africa Gospel Mission; REV. H.W. COXILL, Proxy.

Mission Baptiste Norvégienne; REV. J. OHRNEMAN, Proxy.

Methodist Episcopal Congo Mission;

REV. E.H. LOVELL, Councillor. Svenska Missionsförbundet; REV. J. OHRNEMAN Councillor. REV. J. SODERGREN, Councillor.

DR. E. MATTSSON, Ex-Officio.

Unevangelized Fields Mission; Rev. H.W. Coxill, Proxy.

Unevangelized Tribes Mission; REV. H.W. COXILL, Proxy. La Librairie des Missions Evangéliques;

DR. G. W. CARPENTER,

Manager.

Conseil Protestant du Congo;

General Secretery. REV. H. WAKELIN COXILL, Educational Secretary. DR. G. W. CARPENTER, Women's Committee. MRS. H. W. COXILL,

Proper credentials were presented where necessary, and the Secretary read letters regarding all representations by

proxy.

The following visitors attended certain of the meetings of the Council by invitation:- Dr. W. Rule (APCM); Rev. E. Berg (SMF); Rev. L.J. Taylor and Rev. E. Gill (BMS).

506. Officers. The REV. E.D.F GUYTON, President of the Council, presided. The REV. V. THOMPSON was elected

Minute Secretary.

507. Time of meetings. It was agreed that the meetings of the Council should be held daily from 8.45 to 11.30 and from 2.30 to 4.45; and that a break should take place from 10.15 to 10.30 each day. Sub-Committees should meet at other times.

508. Devotions. Devotional sessions were held daily during the Meetings, led by one or another of the Councillors attending. The gatherings closed with a united Communion Service, to which all local missionaries were invited; this was held on Friday evening, February 14th., and was conducted by the President.

509. Greetings. The Secretary read letters and telegrams of greeting which had been received from absent Concillors and other friends. These were received with deep appreciation.

510. Special Committees. The following sub-committees were appointed on nomination by the chair for the duration of the present meeting:

REVS. PUGH, KNUDSON, MATTSSON. Nomination: REVS. CRAIG, GUYTON, OHRNEMAN. Finance: REVS. GEIL, LOVELL, ROWE. Comity: Constitutional Amendment: REVS. CARPENTER, THOMPSON. REVS. CRAIG, ROWE, THOMPSON. Bookshop:

511. Elections. Acting on proposals made by the Nominating Committee the following Officers and Secretaries of Committees were elected by the Council:

President:	REV. C.H.P. ANKE	R (M.E.C.M.)
Vice-Presidents:	REV. J. OHRNEMAN	(S.M.F.)
	REV. W.C. BOYER	(C.&M.A.)
Native Church Comm:.		(A.P.C.M.)
Women's Committee:		(B.M.S.)

Women's Committee: Mrs. R.C. SALMON 512. Admissions to Membership. After full and careful consideration of their applications and other relevant data

a The Council elected to membership as a participating Mission L'UNION PENTECOSTALE DES MISSIONNAIRES DE GRANDE BRETAGNE ET D'IRELANDE.

b Acting on proposals presented by the Comity Committee the Council suggested that the AFRICAN EVANGELISTIC BAND of South Africa should approach the Disciples of Christ Congo Mission in order that an amicable arrangement may be reached as regards boundary between the fields of the two missions. As soon as such anarrangement has been made the Council agrees to the acceptance of the African Evangelistic Band as a Participating Mission.

513. Legal Status. The Secretary reported that progress had been made toward getting "personnalité civile" for the C.P.C. in order that the Council need not act under that of the Union Missionnaire Hospitalière as heretofore. (Minute 500; 1940) A special form of application, acceptable to the Government, had now been prepared for the Council and would be submitted as soon as the required signatures had been obtained. The Council instructed the Secretary to act in this matter until a satisfactory conclusion had been reached.

514. Secretary's Report. a. The Secretary gave a full and comprehensive report of the work carried on by the Council, through its Secretary, during 1940. It was noted that many additional problems, responsibilities and opportunities of service have had to be faced as a direct outcome of war conditions. In accepting this Report, the Council congratulated the Secretary on a very heavily charged

year of useful service in many directions, carried through most satisfactorily.

b. The Secretary read the Minutes of the last Local C.P.C. Committee meeting, held at Léopoldville, October 4th, 1940; these were approved with the following addendum:

It was brought to the notice of the Local Committee that the Government had offered to loan certain sums of money to a few missions which, owing to the war, had been cut off from their normal means of support.

515. Furlough and Staffing. a. The Secretary stated that for personal reasons in connection with their children Mrs. Coxill would be leaving Congo for England as soon as possible and he asked that someone might be found at once to help him in the work of the C.P.C. Office which could not be carried on by one person alone.

b. The Council gave long and very sympathetic study to this question. After many ways and means had been explored it was decided to approach a certain mission asking if one of their young missionaries might be available to give the help needed. The Council believed that the missionary they had in mind would not only be qualified to help Mr. Coxill immediately but that he would also be qualified to take over the work of Bookshop Manager a year later, during Dr. Carpenter's furlough. Other provision would then have to be made for the C.P.C. Secretariat. The Council eventually agreed that a telegram, stating its request, be sent to the mission concerned. This mission replied by telegram that it was, unfortunately, impossible to comply with the request.

c. Following this negative reply and realising the urgency of the need the Council heard with relief and satisfaction a suggestion made by Mr. Pugh, (B.M.S.) that should the Council feel able to ante-date the furlough of the Secretary from May 1942 to May 1941, then the B.M.S. would offer the services of Mr. and Mrs. Veysey Thompson at the Secretariat during the absence of the Secretary.

d. The Council decided to ante-date the Secretary's fur-

lough and accepted the generous proposal of the Baptist Missionary Society that the Rev. Veysey Thompson be invited to serve as Interim Secretary of the C.P.C. during the furlough of Mr. and Mrs Coxill, and that the approval of the B.M.S. be sought for this arrangement.

e. It was agreed that the Rev. F. I. Rowe (D.C.C.M) should be asked to assume the Editorship of the Congo Mission News for the period of Mr. Coxill's furlough. (Note on furlough plans. Subject to necessary modification, it was envisaged that Mrs. Coxill leave Congo as soon as possible and endeavour to bring their children to Africa via Capetown. Mr. Coxill could join them there after his proposed visit to Eastern-Congo, for a period of vacation. Mr. and Mrs. Coxill would return to Léopoldvillé before May 1942. The Council realised that at a time like the present, rapidly changing circumstances, over which we have no control, might at any time demand a complete change of plans.)

516. Travel plans, 1941. (See minute 483; 1940) As the General Secretary had been unable to leave Lèopold-ville and to take the journey authorized at the 1940 Council meeting, and as the Council still believes that such a journey to the Eastern Congo would be beneficial to the societies and stations visited, as well as to the Council in its relationship with them, the Secretary is requested to make such a journey before leaving for his vacation.

517. Finance. a. Accounts. The Secretary presented a Statement of Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1941. The statements and the C.P.C. books had previously been examined by the President and on his recommendation and after consideration by the Council were accepted and approved by the Council with appreciation.

b. Position. The Council noted with satisfaction that the accounts presented by the Secretary showed that due to certain economies on the one hand and slightly increased gifts from missions and individuals on the other, income was a little in excess of expenditure for the year; and this despite certain additional war-time expenditure.

The two Council puplications; the Congo Mission News and L'Evangile en Afrique have been published regularly for another year without any financial loss.

c. Budget. A revised budget for 1941 and projected budgets for 1942 and 1943 were prepared and submitted by the Finance Sub-Committee, and after consideration, these were approved by the Council.

It was pointed out that the amount of the annual provision made to the Furlough Sinking Fund was based on the rate of exchange and the cost of ocean passages which obtained in 1934, when the Sinking Fund was instituted; these figures are no longer valid. The Council, while now requiring a larger income for this purpose, was unable to provide for it in the Budget without exceeding the estimated incomes for the year, it was therefore decided that we appeal to the member missions and Council friends to have the need in mind and that any surplus of income over expenditure that may occur in 1941 shall be placed to the credit of this Fund.

d. Purchase. The Concil authorized the purchase of a new standard model typewriter for use in the C.P.C. office; the cost of this to be met from funds in hand to the credit of the Congo Mission News.

e. Assistance. The Council instructed the Secretary to address the non-member missions, asking for financial collaboration for the coming year in view of the fact that the Secretariat has rendered many of them invaluable aid in handling financial as well as other matters for them.

f. Statements. It was agreed that copies of the Financial Statements, balance sheet and budget, etc., be sent to all C.P.C. Councillors.

Manager of the Bookshop presented his report for the year 1940 together with statements of accounts. In accepting these the Council recorded its satisfaction at the clear and concise statement presented, and also its sincere thanks to Mrs, Carpenter for the work she also has rendered and which has helped so considerably to the successful year's working of the Bookshop.

b. Audit. The Council requested that the Local Book-shop Committee should arrange for the auditing of the

Bookshop accounts and report to the Council.

c. Management. Dr. Carpenter reported on the way in which he had been enabled to remain on as Manager through the appointment of Monsieur and Madame Baiotti to serve at the A.B.F.M.S. Station at Léopoldville-Ouest during the furlough of the Rev. and Mrs E.G. Hall. The Council expressed relief and great satisfaction that this arrangement had been made possible, and approved the financial arrangements involved.

The Council recorded its approval of the guardianship undertaken by its General Secretary of Monsieur and Madame Baiotti at the request of the Governor of the Province.

d. Resolutions. The following resolutions brought forward by the Bookshop Sub-Committee were approved by the Council:-

1. That the offer of the D.C.C.M., to sell to the Bookshop the Bolenge Ruling Machine for \$500.- payable at \$100.- per year without interest, be accepted, and that the D.C.C.M. be requested to secure the necessary authorization from their Home Board for this transaction.

2. That in view of the delays which have arisen in the above connection, the D.C.C.M. be asked whether the stock of paper now at hand at the Bookshop may be ruled at Bolenge so as to provide "cahiers" which are greatly needed at once.

3. The Council put on record its pleasure at the satisfactory financial state of the Bookshop, and expressed the sincere hope that ways and means may be found by which the services of Dr. and Mrs. Carpenter may be kept for this very necessary and much appreciated work.

e. Furlough Arrangement. The Council requested the Rev. AND MRs. F. Rowe (D.C.C.M.) to assume responsibility for the Bookshop during 1942 and 1943 to cover the furlough of Dr. and Mrs. Carpenter, and gave instructions that such a request for their release for this service be forwarded to their Society.

519. Standing Committees: Education and Literature. This

report was combined with Dr. Carpenter's report on the Bookshop; education, literature and the activities of the Union Mission Bookshop being so intimately connected.

The Council expressed their accord that should it be found possible for the Educational Advisor to undertake his proposed trip to Central Congo Belge in connection with his office, such a trip should be undertaken.

520 Standing Committees: Medical. Dr. Elon Mattsson, Secretary of the Medical Committee, presented his report which was accepted by the Council; at the same time the Council expressed its sincere pleasure that Dr. Mattsson has been willing to accept the position of Medical Secretary of the C.P.C. is succession to Dr. Kellersberger.

521. Standing Committees: Women's Work. Mrs Coxill, Secretary Women's Committee, presented this report, which was adopted. The report spoke of considerable correspondence dealing with different aspects of the work for women and girls.

The work of Mrs Arnot, in Nigeria, who has built up a self-supporting industry in native embroidery executed by the women on and around the station, has been publicised and specimens of her work have been sent to different parts of the Congo to those interested, Dr. Reisner has been approached and asked to send one of the recent publications of the Agricultural Missions Foundation—The Daughters of Africa—a study of Girl's clubs for African girlis,—to a selected list of addresses. To meet freequent requests for war-time recipes a column for these had been started in the Congo mission News. A long circular was sent out in June giving a digest of the answers received to a questionnaire on Boarding Schools for Girls. This digest seems to have been widely appreciated. The "Women's World Day of Prayer" was brought to the notice of all women workers in Congo and many meetings organized.

Help was sought in connection with the Fédération Internationale des Amies de la Jeune Fille on behalf of a young, local Belgian girl in unhappy circumstances. Suitable

arrangements were made and much gratitude was expressed for the help given.

City Bible Women. Mrs. Kellersberger having expressed the wish that her name no longer be used in connection with the fund that has hitherto be known as the Kellers-Berger Bible Women's Fund the Council felt that they could not do otherwise than accede to the request. Concurrently the Council wished to exprss yet again to Mrs. Kellersberger the Council's indebtedness for her generosity in founding this fund and in continuing to support it. They wish to assure her that this fund has been of great use to the two missions working in Léopoldville, and would continue to be so.

Thanks to Secretary. The President expressed to Mrs. Coxill the Council's gratitude for her work as Women's Secretary, and their general appreciation for the many other duties which she has carried so successfully in the work of the C.P.C. Secretariat. The Council expressed the hope that her return to England would be a safe and happy one, and that ways and means would be found for her speedy return to her husband and the Secretariat.

522. Council Periodicals. It was noted that many of the Continental mission stations in French Equatorial Africa and elsewhere have been regular and appreciative subscribers to L'EVANGILE EN AFRIQUE and the CONGO MISSION NEWS. The Council agreed to accept the principle that should these missions owing to being cut off from their normal means of support, be now unable to continue their subscription, the periodicals should, none the less, be sent to them as heretofore: the cost being a charge against Council funds. At the same time it was agreed that an appeal be made to our more fortunate missions and friends to help, by special gifts, to make this free supply of L'EVANGILE EN AFRIQUE and the CONGO MISSION NEWS possible.

523. Missionnary Relief War Fund. The Secretary reported on the inauguration and the activities of the MISSION-ARY RELIEF WAR FUND of the Council and made a state-

ment on receipts and payments. In adopting this report deep Christian sympathy was again expressed with the missions now cut off from their home countries and the Council reaffirmed its desire to help them.

The Council agreed that the Fund should continue to be administered at the discretion of the General Secretary according to the knowledge he has of the immediate needs of the missions as they occur, but at the same time he should try to build up what reserve may be possible in order to meet any emergencies which may, and probably will, arise.

While the Council hoped that all the needs of the missions being helped by the M.R.W.F. would be met by a continuance of voluntary contributions, the Secretary was asked to request the member-missions of the Council to consider the possibility of the inclusion in their field budgets, of an amount to be kept in reserve to help meet any urgent future need which might arise in connection with these or other Congo missions as a direct outcome of the war. These reserves would, of course, be over and above the voluntary contributions now being made.

- 524. Occupation of the Field. The Sub-Committee on Comity brought forward the following proposals which were adopted by the Council:
- a. Concerning a problem that had arisen between two missions and which had been brought to the Cuoncil, it was agreed that the Secretary visit the stations in question and seek to find a solution in company with the missionaries concerned. Failing this, it is suggested that efforts be made to form a committee from neighbouring societies whose arbitration would be acceptable. The Council was quite definite that on no account should the matter be carried to the Government by the Secretary, as requested.
- b. That missions be requested not to take matters affecting internal affairs to the Governement, but that everything should be done to try and settle such differences within the Mission. Failing this, the differences should be brought to the notice of the C.P.C. for sympathetic consideration and

counsel.

c. Having heard the report presented by the Secretary regarding problems connected with the Four Square Gospel Mission, the Council supported and approved the

actions taken by its Secretary.

- 525. Directory of Congo Missions. It was decided to postpone to a more favourable time the publication of a directory and year book of Congo missions. The Secretary was, however, asked to circularise the missions asking each mission to prepare, in the meantime, the material which will be required for such a publication. It is planned that the booklet, which might be revised about every five years, shall include:
- a. A directory of active missionaries. Name, nationality, dates of first arrival, furloughs, etc., Government honours, special qualifications, field and home addresses, children.

b. A directory of retired missionaries. To include dates

and particulars of the pioneers, living and dead,

- c. A Station directory. Main facts about each mission station.
- d. A mission directory. Name of mission, stations, when founded, legal status granted, officers, home and field addresses.

e. An Index.

- 526. Sporadic "Religious" Movements. The Council agreed that all missions be urged to act openly and with sincerity towards the Government in connection with any sporadic "religious" movements which have arisen or which may arise among the natives and which are or which may become dangerous to law and order, doing all that is in their power to aid in their suppression.
- 527. Constitutional Amendments. The Sub-Committee on Constitutional Amendments reported back to the Council and their recommendations were accepted. A draft copy of the Constitution amended as proposed last year. (See Minute 501 b) is being sent to all C. P. C. Councillors for ratification.

The following in a proposed addition to Article

## 17: INTERIM ACTION.

Section 1: ACTION BY CORRESPONDENCE - (as heretofore)

Section 2: Local Committee. The Council may from year to year constitute a local committee consisting of Councillors or Legal Representatives within reasonable travelling distance of Léopoldville, and may refer to this Committee matters requiring interim action. The General Secretary may alos submit to this Committee matters on which urgent decisions are required. All actions of this committee shall be subject to review by the Council, and shall be reported in full not later than its next meeting."

528. International Missionary Council. a. Addittion to Article IV. The Council approved the proposed addition to Article IV of the Constitution of the International Missionary Council upon which action was requested by the I.M.C. The addition in question reads as follows:

The Committee of the Council may appoint an Ad Interim Committee to serve in the period between the meetings of the Committee of the Council with such powers as that Committee may determine. The membership of the Ad Interim Committee shall always be on an international basis with representatives from at least five countries on at least three continents (see Hemmen Minutes, page 6).

b. Grant. The provision in the budget for the grant of \$15.00 to the International Missionary Council for the current year was approved by the Council.

c. Recommendations and requests. The Secretary submitted to the Council a number of recommendations and requests that had been received during the year in correspondence from the Secretaries of the I.M.C. These were approved by the Council. It was agreed to include certain of them in the Minutes of the meeting in order that they may be further considered by our Congo Missions. The Council regretted that more time could not be given to these and similar subjects at the present meeting.

d. From I.M.C. correspondence.

1. "The letter recently sent by the Chairman to all the Madras delegates in its comments on what should characterise Christians in time of war reflects, we are glad to believe, the widely prevailing attitudes and practices of the leaders and members of our various National Councils. We would reiterate all that has been said as to

the supreme importance of prayer and of sacrificial effort on behalf of all missionory work imperiled by war conditions. ... It is desired that each Council report to Officers special needs and opportunities, and also tell of service being rendered by the Council and its co-operating agencies."

2. "The existence of a war-torn world with all its dislocations, curtailments, impoverishment and suffering, together with suspicion, fear, bitterness and hatred, accentuates greatly the necessity of the mission and work of every National Council. Under such conditions, while fulfilling the Christ-imparted condition of bearing one another's burdens, the most important single thing for each Council to do is to maintain and strengthen its own work, and to take its full share in the united tasks to which we were summoned at Madras."

"A fresh study of standards of Church membership and the problem of ensuring their observance, emphasized at Madras, calls for co-operative action on the part of different Councils throughout the lands of the Younger Churches. Involved in this is the larger matter of the proper training of converts. Here the assembling and making available of the most rewarding experiences in the field of each Council will be a timely and an enriching experience. Discussions at Madras and subsequently at the meeting of the Bible Societies of the world in Holland last summer, accentuate the importance of giving renewed attention the world over to the thorough devotional and scholarly study of the Bible. Each Council is requested to secure full information regarding the practice of Churches in their respective fields as to the three subjects—discipline, training and Bible study, and forward a report to the International Missionary Council."

4. "Madras afforded a clear lead on the subject of Christian literature. It was brought out conclusively that whereas the Churches have been teaching millions of people, young and old, to read and think, and whereas governments have been teaching tens of millions to do likewise, there has been no programme and effort commensurate for providing those who read with adequate suitable Christian literature."

5. "Madras authorized the appointment of a committee to study the situation in regard to the training for the Christian Ministry of the Younger Churches. It was recognized that each area requires different treatment."

6. "Moreover, it was agreed at Madras to direct the attention of missionary societies to the desire expressed by the delegates from the Younger Churches at Madras for the strengthening of the missionary forces. This calls not only for augmenting the number of new missionaries, a matter of most urgent importance, but likewise the giving of special attention to the preparation of missionaries both before and after reaching their fields."

- 7. "Mrs. Leslie Swain of the North American Council has been requested by the Officers to make an axtended study of the Christian Home and will welcome the collaboration of workers in the different Councils specially interested in this vital topic."
- 8. "No subject is more needed, or the study of which is likely to be more rewarding, on virtually every field, than that of cooperative planning in evangelism and also in other important phases of the Christian programme. It is hoped therefore that this matter on which so much depends may have a large place in the plans of each Council."
- 9. "It is gratifying to report that the Councils in the lands of the Older Churches, notwithstanding the many and serious difficulties confronting them, are uniting their forces as never before in doing much creative thinking, and, here and there, are taking significant advance steps. It is well to recall that it was in time of war that some of our great missionary societies were founded. In these days again the call comes to us to do all within our power to strengthen and expand the spiritual programme of the churches. God grant that, as this coming year of so great possibilities unfolds, it may be the experience of every one of the Councils, as we are persuaded it already is of some of them, that there be new discoveries and larger realization than ever before of the wonderworking power of intercession—that truly Christlike Ministry—'He ever liveth to make intercession."
- 529. Christian Literature for Africa. a. The Council having heard that Miss Margaret Wrong, Secretary of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, hopes to be able to pay another visit to Africa during the next year or two, instructed the Secretary to send to Miss Wrong a very warm invitation to come to the Belgian Congo during that visit. It was felt certain that such a visit would not be without fruitful results to our work.
- b. The Council also instructed its Secretary to convey to the International Committee, through Miss Wrong their very sincere thanks for the further grant made by that Committee towards the publishing of L'EVANGILE EN AFRIQUE.
- 530. Foreign Missions Conference. The Council expressed its wish that its appreciation of the appointment of Dr. Emory Ross as General Secretary of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America be recorded, and that Dr. Ross be informed of their pleasure at his appointment.

531. Mission to Lepers. Having heard of the appointment of Dr. E.R. Kellersberger as General Secretary to the American Mission to Lepers, the Council wished to record their appreciation that one who has done so much for the lepers of Congo and who is so widely loved and respected, had been chosen for this position.

532. Memorandum to Minister of Colonies. a. The Council having read the Memorandum prepared and presented by their General Secretary to His Excellency the Belgian Minister of Colonies in December 1940, during Monsieur De Vleeschauwer's visit to the Congo, wished to record its approval of the form and substance of that Memorandum.

b. The Council also approved of the distribution of the Memorandum as already carried out by the Secretary and sincerely hopes that this Memorandum will help to obtain better and fairer treatment from the Belgian Colonial Government for the large Protestant population of the Congo.

533. Reelection of General Secretary. The Council requested the Rev. H. Wakelin Coxill to accept re-election to the office of General Secretary to the Congo Protestant Council. At the same time it assured him of their complete comfidence in him and of their very sincere appreciation of all the help he has rendered to the cause of Protestant Missions in Congo during this term of Office.

534. Vote of Thanks to the President. The Council by a standing vote expressed their thanks and appreciation of the services of their retiring president, the Rev. E.D.F. Guyton; thanking him both for his guidance of this Council Meeting and that of 1940, and for his valuable aid and counsel at all times during his term of office.

535. Next Meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council shall be held during 1942 at a place and date arranged to suit the largest number of Councillors possible.

536. Adjournment. The Council adjourned after prayer by the President, and the meetings were brought to a close with a united Communion Service on Friday evening,

February 14th; which was conducted by the President E.D.F. GUYTON VEYSEY THOMPSON H. WAKELIN COXILL Chairman. Minute Secretary General Secretary