

The question of the utility of oral tradition was discussed at length. In this connexion the Conference was impressed by the rigorous rules drawn up by Dr. J. Vansina for the collection and interpretation of oral evidence, and came to the unanimous conclusion that work of this kind should be encouraged in every way possible.

Most of the papers contributed to the Conference illustrated the new concern with a more balanced view of African history by emphasizing the importance of the reaction of African societies to the impact of European formal and informal empire; by making use of hitherto unexploited documentary sources, Islamic sources in particular; by making use of oral tradition; by re-examining sources already used with different questions in mind, and so on. It is hoped that the papers—together with an editorial abstract of the main points raised in discussion—will be published in some form.

[Communicated by Mr. Terence Ranger]

Staff Problems in Tropical Countries

THE International Institute of Differing Civilizations held its 32nd study session in Munich from 19 to 22 September, on the subject of 'Staff Problems in Tropical and Sub-Tropical Countries'. The discussions were introduced by five general rapporteurs: M. Georges Balandier (France), Director of Studies at the École Pratique des Hautes Études (social aspect); Dr. J. S. Coleman (U.S.A.), Professor of Political Science in the University of California (legal aspect); Sir Sydney Caine (U.K.), Director of the London School of Economics (economic aspect); M. Gabriel d'Arboussier (Mali), former President of the Grand Conseil de l'Afrique Occidentale Française (political aspect), and M. Charles Ammoun (Lebanon), Lebanese delegate at UNESCO (cultural aspect). These reports were based on some thirty regional papers from the main Asian, African, and American countries. Discussions were led by Dr. Wolfgang Pohle, President of INCIDI.

L'Institut des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales Appliquées de l'Afrique Noire (Dakar)

L'INSTITUT des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales Appliquées de l'Afrique Noire a été créé en 1959. C'est un Institut d'Université dirigé par un professeur de la Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Économiques de Dakar, qu'assiste un Conseil de Perfectionnement placé sous la présidence du Recteur de l'Université. Les buts de l'Institut sont l'enseignement, la recherche, et la liaison avec les Institutions étrangères et les organisations internationales. La tâche la plus urgente était relative à l'enseignement. En effet, le personnel économique et commercial d'origine africaine est encore peu nombreux, et l'Indépendance en appelle l'accroissement accéléré. L'Université ne peut fournir, et pour longtemps encore, qu'une quantité restreinte des spécialistes en question.

Il y a deux sections de l'Université. La première, dite Section Économique et Commerciale, s'efforce d'apporter à nos auditeurs un complément de formation leur permettant d'accéder à des fonctions supérieures. La seconde, dite Section Statistique, d'un niveau plus relevé, vise à former des statisticiens qualifiés. Deux nouvelles séries seraient ajoutées l'année prochaine. La première, s'adressant aux diplômés de la Section Économique et Commerciale, aurait pour objet de les perfectionner dans l'examen des problèmes concrets qui se posent, soit aux directeurs d'entreprises, soit aux responsables de l'Économie nationale. La seconde viserait les animateurs affectés par l'Administration au développement régional et local et leur inculquerait les connaissances fondamentales sur lesquelles doit s'appuyer leur action (ceci à la demande même du Ministère du Développement du Sénégal). Il entre aussi dans

les intentions de l'Institut de proposer leur collaboration aux autorités du Mali pour effectuer des enquêtes ou des études consacrées à des questions spécifiques. L'Institut désire prendre et entretenir un contact permanent avec les organisations étrangères ou internationales penchées sur les problèmes des économies émergentes.

[*Abbrégé d'une communication du Professeur Jean Dufour*]

Documentation on Africa

FOR the past ten years the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, Paris, has been systematically analysing specialized publications from all countries dealing with the political, economic, and social sciences and disciplines and also the main periodicals containing articles relating to these fields. This analysis, which at present covers some 1,200 periodicals in many different languages, is not intended to be exhaustive but is aimed rather at identifying the most important articles. The number thus selected ranges from 20,000 to 25,000 a year. A card is made for each article, with the necessary bibliographical entries and a very short abstract. The card also bears a class number in accordance with a system of classification devised by the foundation's documentation centre. A selection from this documentary material is published every month in the *Bulletin analytique de documentation politique, économique et sociale contemporaine*.

The Centre International de Documentation Économique et Sociale Africaine, started at Liège in 1957 and known as CEDESA, also aims to gather and co-ordinate economic and social materials in the form of a documentary card index in seven languages.

African Affairs Seminar at Lafayette College

A NEWLY approved seminar for an international affairs curriculum at Lafayette College in 1960-1 will cover international politics, colonialism, and colonial revolt in Africa. Using the African continent as a case study, the seminar will attempt to make an analysis of the forces of international politics. The diplomacy of imperialism and its cultural impact upon native peoples, the dynamics of colonial revolt, and the economic geography of Africa will be considered.

United States Foreign Policy in Africa

A STUDY on United States Foreign Policy in Africa has been prepared, at the request of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate, by the Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, under its Director, Professor Melville J. Herskovits. Professor Herskovits, in his Letter of Committal accompanying the Report, acknowledges the assistance of African experts in Paris, Brussels, and London, and of the members of the two conferences held at Palo Alto and in New York last year. A political map and statistical data have been made available by the Department of State and materials on missionary activity provided by Father John Considine, of the Maryknoll Fathers, and by the Rev. Theodore Tucker, executive secretary, Africa committee, division of foreign missions, National Council of Churches of Christ. The Report is published by the United States Government Printing Office, Washington.

Recordings of African Music

'An international catalogue of published records of folk music', by K. P. Wachsmann, in the *Bulletin of the British Institute of Recorded Sound*,¹ should be of wide interest to musicologists.

¹ 17 and 18, 1-37 (full issue), Summer and Autumn 1960 (double issue).