

(iii) is shown to be fit for the Bar by—(a) a degree in the legal system in force in West Cameroon given by the Federal University of Cameroon or by a University accepted by the Chief Justice, followed by at least one year's pupillage with a member of the West Cameroon Bar; or (b) a licence to practise as *Avocat-Defenseur* before the courts of East Cameroon, together with a sufficient knowledge of the law and procedure in force in West Cameroon; or (c) call to the Bar or admission as a solicitor, without having been removed from such profession, in any country having a sufficiently analogous system of law and sufficiently high standards for such call or admission.

By article 9, the Chief Justice may authorize, subject to 30,000 fr. stamp duty for each case, any member of a foreign bar, assisted by a member of the Bar of West Cameroon, to appear in any particular case. Apart from this, under article 8 practice is restricted to members of the West Cameroon Bar.

## INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LAW ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Annual General Meeting for 1963 was held at the University of Ife (Ibadan Branch), Ibadan, Nigeria, on Friday, August 28, 1964. The President, (The Hon. Mr. Justice G. B. A. Coker) was in the chair. The Treasurer's report and accounts for the year 1962 were presented and adopted.

The following amendment to Statute VIII was proposed and carried: *Delete* third sentence and *substitute*:

"Retiring members of the Council shall be eligible for re-election but so that a member shall not be eligible to hold office as President for more than four consecutive years. The retiring President shall be *ex officio* a member of the Council during the year subsequent to his tenure of office."

The following officers and members of the Council were elected for the year 1964: As President: the Hon. Mr. Justice G. B. A. Coker; as Vice-Presidents: the Hon. Sir A. Ademola, Mr. Justice Ollennu, Dr. P. J. Idenburg, Prof. J. N. D. Anderson, Prof. F. Luchaire, Prof. A. A. Schiller, Dr. P. Contini; as Secretaries-General: Prof. M. Alliot (French-speaking), Prof. A. N. Allott (English-speaking); as Treasurer: Mr. E. Cotran.

The President, in his report, said *inter alia* that this was an historic occasion. After several years of effort, the Council had at last succeeded in arranging for the Association to meet in general meeting on African soil. He hoped that this would be the precursor of many similar meetings.

He desired to thank the University of Ife for their kindness in permitting the Association to hold its meeting on the premises of the University and in conjunction with the University's conference on the integration of customary and modern laws in Africa.

The President explained the circumstances which had led to the unavoidable postponement of the General Meeting scheduled for December, 1963.

As regards activities, he reported that not as much as he would have liked had yet been achieved in this field, but there were now hopeful signs that the activities and importance of the Association generally would be greatly increased in the future. The Council had some proposals to put forward to this effect.

*Conferences.*—The Association had assisted with the planning of several conferences on African law organized by other bodies, as by putting conference organizers in touch with those in various countries who might be interested in participating, by proposing themes and preparing detailed agendas for conferences, and so on.

*Collaboration with other bodies.*—It was desired to establish friendly co-operation with the Commission of African Jurists (now Commission of Jurists) of the O.A.U., and the Secretaries-General were instructed to initiate discussions with the Commission in this regard.

It was reported that a new Institute of the law of French-speaking countries had recently been established in Paris. The President, on behalf of the Association, extended a friendly welcome to this new body and stated that the officers would be exploring ways of collaborating with it.

The Association was formally represented on the directing council of the International Congress of Africanists.

The President mentioned that the Council felt that it might be desirable for the Association to establish a register of forthcoming conferences in the field of African law, in view of the large number of meetings of this character which were now being held or being planned. This might help to avoid clashing of dates or overlapping of subject-matter.

*Publications.*—The Journal of African Law continued to function as the official organ of the Association and every member received the Journal in return for his subscription. The Council hoped that it might be possible to extend the scope of the Journal's coverage, especially as regards the non-English-speaking parts of Africa.

The Council had discussed a proposal for an Encyclopaedia of African Law, which would be a country-by-country survey of the basic legal institutions of each African state. The Secretaries-General had been instructed to draw up detailed proposals for the structure, contents, and organization of such an Encyclopaedia, and these would be submitted in due course to the Council and to the members. This was the sort of task in which every member could help; if local national sections of the Association were in existence, these could be of enormous assistance in taking over responsibility for the appropriate parts of the Encyclopaedia.

The Council also felt that the existing provision of law libraries in Africa was a matter calling for urgent investigation.

*Technical legal assistance to African countries.*—The Council had constituted an expert advisory panel, consisting of experts in French law, English law, and in codification and integration problems in Africa, to give advice to governments contemplating the unification of legal systems of different national origins. The panel had originally been constituted in accordance with a possible request for assistance from the Federal Government of Cameroon, but it would be avail-

able to any government or combination of governments needing its expert advice on the very difficult theoretical and practical problems arising from the unification of laws.

*Research.*—A Public Law Commission had been established under the convenorship of Dr. Idenburg to prepare a restatement (with commentary) for publication of the constitutional laws in force in the various African states. A further report was awaited from the commission.

*Prize essay in African law.*—The Council proposed that the Association should institute forthwith an essay competition open to those interested in African law on a particular theme relating to African legal development. The meeting agreed that the theme suggested by the Council, “The machinery of law reform in Africa,” should be adopted as the subject of the first competition, which should be held in 1965. Council was authorized to appoint such a sub-committee as it might think desirable to judge the essays submitted.