

INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LAW ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Association for 1962 was held at Paris on 16th November, 1962, with Dr. P. J. Idenburg, Acting President of the Association, in the chair.

The first business of the meeting was to review the progress made by the Association since the previous Annual General Meeting. It was clear that, after a somewhat slow start due to shortage of finance, the Association was now moving into a period when it would be able to fulfil its objects of promoting the study of African law and legal problems, both at the international and national levels. Representatives of the Association had been present at, and participated in the work of, various international conferences concerned with African law, notably at the Accra conference on legal education; and the Association was assisting with the follow-up action to the Accra conference. The special number of this Journal devoted to legal education in Africa had been produced as a result of the Association's participation in these meetings, and with the aid of a subsidy from the Association.

As to the future, the meeting discussed an interesting proposal by Dr. K. Rabl of Germany that the Association should form a collection of documentation relating to the constitutional laws of new African states. The meeting decided that a preparatory committee should be immediately appointed to examine this proposal further. It was agreed that such an investigation sponsored by the Association should be concerned not so much to amass a collection of the written constitutions of African states (which are generally easily accessible and which are already the subject of various collections), but to subject them to a critical and comparative commentary. At the same time, recognizing the fact that those in the English-speaking and French-speaking sectors of Africa respectively often experienced difficulty in ascertaining or comprehending each other's laws, the meeting felt that translation of the constitutional documents into the opposite language would be of assistance in facilitating inter-African understanding. It was also agreed that the preparatory committee should consider whether the collection could include an examination of administrative laws and regulations (*e.g.*, those controlling the activities of public corporations).

It was also announced by the President that, by courtesy of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lovanium, a general meeting of the Association, the first to be held on African soil, was being arranged to coincide with the colloquium on African land tenure, scheduled to be held at Leopoldville at the beginning of April, 1963. All members of the Association would be welcome to attend this general meeting.

The members of the Council elected for 1963 included: as President of the Association, the Honourable Mr. Justice G. B. A. Coker, of the High Court of Lagos, Nigeria; as Vice-Presidents (in addition to those already members of the Council) the

Honourable Mr. Justice N. M. Ollennu, of the Ghana Supreme Court, M. Keke, Minister of Justice in Dahomey, and M. Luchaire, Director of the Institut des Hautes Etudes d'Outre-Mer in Paris; as acting Secretary-General, M. F. Terré.

The general meeting agreed that the next Annual General Meeting of the Association should be held in Nigeria, and that the Association should organize a colloquium to coincide with this meeting and which all members of the Association would be invited to attend. In the colloquium it was proposed to examine, under the broad theme of "Inter-African Legal Problems", certain practical examples of international legal difficulties confronting contemporary Africa. It was suggested that the discussions might embrace an examination of problems in: international law (*e.g.* nationality; international access; international waterways and harbours); administrative law (*e.g.* labour law; law regulating migration); private international law; and private law (*e.g.* unification of commercial laws).

As regards the membership of the Association, the Secretary-General, Dr. Allott, reported that the majority of members now came from or were domiciled in African countries, and that the membership was widely dispersed throughout Africa. The membership included a number of corporate members, among which were learned institutions, ministries of justice and other government departments, institutes of administration, and commercial concerns. The presence of these bodies as corporate members of the Association greatly added both to the significance to be attached to the views of the Association, and to the responsibilities of the Council to its members.