

officers of the Colonial Office, and experts from local authorities and universities in Britain, and from Belgium, Canada, Eire, France, the Netherlands, and the United States.

The purpose of the conference was the study and discussion of local government problems, the pooling of experience, and the exchange of views on ways in which progress in the development of representative local government could best be furthered. Some territories, such as British Guiana, Jamaica, and parts of Africa, already possess long-established local authorities on the English pattern, but in the majority of African territories the forms of local government now being introduced are new, the result of a gradual transition, which is still going on, from a system of indirect rule to one of government by elected local authorities.

The conference divided into six study groups concerned with the following subjects: constitutional and political factors in the development of local government; relations of local authorities with the central government and with traditional authorities; financial resources of local authorities; problems of representation; internal organization and management; recruitment and training of staff. The studies undertaken thus covered both the kind of local government to be established and the action required to make it work. It was generally assumed that the development of local government will continue to be based largely on the English model, not only because of the long and intimate acquaintance of British administrators and expert advisers with that system and its problems, but also because it very often appears to be what the colonial peoples themselves want. Many of the problems encountered in the development of local government in England have already arisen in the colonial territories, but the methods of solving them must naturally differ, and account must be taken of varying conditions and relative stages of development as well as of special problems, such as those arising out of the complex social, racial or religious structure in certain territories. The conference felt strongly that the development of a sense of responsibility and disinterestedness was essential to the success of local government.

International Institute of Differing Civilizations

THE twenty-ninth study session of INCIDI was held in London from 13 to 16 September 1955, Sir Nevile Butler, K.C.M.G., C.V.O., presiding. The international character of the activities of INCIDI was in evidence at this, as at its other sessions; representatives from Europe, Latin America, Indonesia, Pakistan, Africa, Israel, and the United States presented reports and participated actively in the discussions. The subject of this study session was 'The development of a middle class in tropical and sub-tropical countries'. The report of the session, which has now been published, gives the texts of the papers presented and a full summary of the discussions. In addition to reports concerned with specific areas—Latin America, Tunisia, Morocco, French Africa, Ceylon, Portuguese Africa, the Caribbean, Pakistan—general reports on the political, economic, and social aspects of the subject were read and discussed. The meaning of the term 'middle class' and the special qualities, status, and functions of a middle class in any society were discussed by many of the speakers. Mr. Henry Hopkinson, Minister of State for the British Colonies, in his opening address, suggested that the nature and character of a middle class were moulded by the historical circumstances in which it had emerged and that in Britain two formative influences had been the process of urbanization and industrialization, and the development of the educational system. The emergence of a middle class in other societies offered both contrasts and parallels. M. R. Millot, speaking of the evolution of the middle classes in Europe, suggested that there were at least three categories of persons who might be termed 'middle class', but that with changing social conditions other new categories appeared, while at the same time the

specific qualities traditionally associated with the middle classes were tending to be modified or even to disappear.

The conclusions adopted as a result of the discussions on the three major aspects of the problem showed that no agreement on the definition of the term 'middle class' had been reached; that the existence of middle classes in the tropical and sub-tropical world was not an entirely new phenomenon, but that in recent years there had been a marked increase in the number of persons who might be described as belonging to the middle classes; that a spirit of independence is an outstanding characteristic of the middle classes, and that this has led them to play a major role in the political evolution of their countries. Other conclusions emphasized the valuable part that the middle classes can play in economic development, and that the diversity and heterogeneity of the groups composing a 'middle class' were qualities of value for the development of modern societies, and should be encouraged. Reference was made to the need for further study of this subject.

Création d'un Séminaire de Sciences Humaines

FRAPPÉ par l'isolement des chercheurs français dans le domaine des Sciences Humaines, un groupe du Musée de l'Homme représentant les tendances les plus diverses vient d'organiser un séminaire indépendant où sont exposées les recherches en cours et confrontées les différentes méthodes.

Le 5 Décembre 1955, après un exposé de J. Rouch (C.N.R.S.), une large discussion s'ouvrit. Il fut décidé que les réunions du séminaire comporteraient: des exposés de chercheurs concernant le sujet de leurs travaux et les méthodes qu'ils emploient (l'exposé des résultats restant le fait des conférences aux sociétés déjà existantes). Ces exposés, courts, seraient suivis de discussions; des rapports préliminaires sur les missions sur le terrain, avant le dépouillement des résultats de ces missions; des exposés de chercheurs étrangers de passage; des nouvelles relatives aux missions sur le terrain; des exposés de résolutions de Congrès, etc. . . .

C. Lévi-Strauss (École Pratique des Hautes Études) a ouvert dès Décembre la série des exposés en posant la question suivante: 'Les organisations dualistes existent-elles?' Aux réunions suivantes C. Tardits (O.R.S.T.O.M.) a exposé les méthodes qu'il a utilisées pour étudier l'évolution économique d'une société à structure patrilinéaire dans le Sud Dahomey, et D. Paulme (Musée de l'Homme) quelques points d'une enquête au pays Baga. J. Rouch a fait une critique des méthodes d'enquête classiques à propos d'une étude des migrations en Gold Coast. Aux prochaines réunions L. Bernot (C.N.R.S.) et P. Reichlen (Musée de l'Homme) parleront de problèmes de classification à l'intérieur des Sciences Sociales; S. Dreyfus-Roche (C.N.R.S.) fera un exposé sur sa récente enquête chez des Indiens du Brésil et H. Lehmann (Musée de l'Homme) abordera certains problèmes d'archéologie guatémaltèque.

Les réunions du Séminaire des Sciences Humaines ont lieu deux fois par mois au Musée de l'Homme.

Colloque colonial sur l'Économie indigène

Sous les auspices de l'Institut de Sociologie Solvay s'est réuni à Bruxelles, du 9 au 13 janvier 1956, un groupe d'économistes auxquels s'étaient joints des ethnologues. Ce colloque international qui groupait des spécialistes anglais, belges, congolais, hollandais, italiens, français et portugais avait pour objet 'l'étude des moyens susceptibles de promouvoir l'économie indigène dans les pays dépendants et plus spécialement au Congo Belge et au Ruanda-Urundi'.