

at the University of Warsaw, it has a scientific council presided over by Professor Kazimierz Majewski, Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The Centre has a staff of eight permanent research workers and auxiliary scientific and technical workers, whose work is focused on socio-cultural transformations of Black Africa, the Arab countries of Africa, and problems pertaining to the South African Republic. Of particular interest are the problems of transition from tribal to national systems and the rise of national culture, the relations between races and religions, pan-African tendencies, and the activities of the Organization of African Unity.

The Centre publishes collections of studies by its workers in special issues of *Przegląd Socjologiczny* (The Sociological Review) of which the first appeared in 1965 (volume 19, part 1), the second in 1967 (volume 21, part 1) and a third is in the press.

Eighth West African Languages Congress

THE Eighth West African Languages Congress was held at the University of Abidjan under the chairmanship of Professor J. Greenberg from 24 to 28 March 1969. There were over eighty participants and some fifty papers were presented for discussion in general session and in sectional working parties on Oral Literature (Chairman, Professor Robert Armstrong), Lexicography (Chairman, Dr. Pathé Diagne), and on Benue-Congo Languages (Chairman, Professor Vorhoeve). The Benue-Congo working party continued the discussions initiated on this subject at the Sixth Congress held at Yaounde in March 1966 and considered a report on a special meeting held at Leiden in September 1968. A report of the Congress, including the papers submitted and the discussions and resolutions, is being prepared under the editorship of Professor M. Houis, for publication by the University of Abidjan for the West African Linguistics Society.

The next meeting of the Congress will be held in March/April 1970 at Fourah Bay College, Freetown, under the chairmanship of Professor Houis. Further information concerning the Congress and the West African Linguistics Society can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Professor Ayo Bamgbose, Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Colloque sur les classes d'âge en Afrique de l'ouest

UN colloque sur 'Les classes d'âge en Afrique de l'ouest' s'est tenu à Paris, du 19 au 21 mai 1969, dans le cadre du Centre d'études africaines de l'E.P.H.E., VIe section, et du Groupe de recherches en anthropologie et sociologie politiques (Sorbonne). Présidence de Mme D. Paulme. La discussion s'est appuyée sur les communications suivantes: P. Charest: 'Les classes d'âge chez les Malinké animistes de Kedougou (Sénégal oriental)'. J. Capron: 'Les classes d'âge chez les Bwa (Haute Volta)'. P. Mercier: 'Les classes d'âge en milieu somba (Dahomey)'. P. Wassungu: 'Classes d'âge et initiation chez les Nawdeba (Togo)'. G. Le Moal: 'Les classes d'âge chez les Bobo (Haute Volta)'. M. Gessain: 'Les classes d'âge chez les Bassari d'Etyolo (Sénégal oriental)'. D. Paulme: 'Les classes d'âge dans le sud-est de la Côte d'Ivoire'. J. Hurault: 'Les classes d'âge dans le système social de Bami-léké (Cameroun)'. H. Raulin: 'Sociétés sans classes d'âge au Niger'. M. Bekombo: 'Les classes d'âge chez les Duala (Cameroun)'. Un volume collectif publiera les contributions à ce colloque. Une bibliographie analytique du sujet le complétera, préparée par les soins du CARDAN.

State University of New York, African Studies Faculty Committee: First Annual Conference at New Paltz

THE African Studies Faculty Committee of the State University of New York held its first annual conference at the Ashokan campus of the State University College at New Paltz,