

Meeting of the African Conference Planning Committee
of the National Student Christian Federation, at the
Church and World Institute, Temple University,
Philadelphia, from October 8 - 10, 1965

AGENDA

1. Contents of Matters to be discussed, relating to the Conference
 - a) How Many to Attend
 - b) Location
 - c) Time
 - d) Theme
 - e) Position Paper on Theme
 - f) Manner in which Groups Should Respond to Theme
 - g) Lists of Topics for Study Groups
 - h) Workshops discussing Certain Aspects of Problems
 - i) Follow-up for Planning
 - j) Christian Community in Conference
 - k) Worship --- Schedule
 - l) Follow-up after the Conference
 - m) Certain Resolves of the Conference
 - n) Need to Speak to the Churches in Africa
 - o) World CC Action of Emergency (Refugees)
 - p) Resources - Films, bibliography, exhibits, artists for posters, books etc.
 - q) Speakers
 - r) Leaders
 - s) Student Recruitment - what other political and country groupings
 - t) State Department
2. Finance Forms
3. Contacts - Roman Catholics, other members of the Committee - other African Groups

The Meeting was reminded that although a decision might be come to, according to the present agenda, the whole emphasis of the Conference might change a number of times before the date of the Conference, as had happened in the case of the Latin American Conference.

Poster design:

Jan Hildenbrandt
Marylin Matney
Jackie Skiles.

Meeting of African Conference Planning Committee of the
National Student Christian Federation, at the Church
and World Institute, Temple University, Philadelphia,
from October 8-10, 1965

PRESENT:

Modupe Aduyoye (Chairman)	Oscar Lee (Saturday p.m. and Sunday)
Jose Chipenda	
Maurice Assad	
David Wiley (Friday evening & Sat p.m.)	
David Robinson	Alice Simpson (Sunday only)
Bill Minter	Hector Turay
Wilson Uwakaneme	
Gerhard Elston	
Don Morlan	
Mia Aurbakken	

The Chairman felt that the discussion should center around the definition of purpose of such a conference. Reference was made to various European conferences, but it was felt that any such reference would tie the meeting down, and that the idea of the purpose of the conference should only come out of this meeting, without reference to any other conferences.

Mr Turay asked whether there was in mind, any topic for the conference - a topic which would make such a conference timely. Through the discussion of such a topic, it would perhaps be possible to come to the main problem around which such a conference would center.

The Chairman sketched the background of the WSCF and the John Knox House conferences - since the first meeting six years ago, the African students have planned the conferences themselves. He also referred to reports at the WSCF Conferences of the various conferences on Africa, which had been held in Europe - and the extent to which they had been of value to students there.

Mr. Assad asked whether the aim of the conference would be free expression - or indoctrination.

The Chairman felt that the aim of the conference was free expression - though there should be some general aims to limit discussion. He again referred to the Argentina (WSCF) conference and questioned whether a conference as large as that had been would not be too unwieldy, and whether it would not be far too expensive for the NSCF. He explained the motivation for the Conference:- The NSCF had tried at the last quadrennial to fulfil their duties as host country (176 Africans were present) but it soon became clear that the discussion at the quadrennial was basically American oriented. The reason for the projected conference then, was to have it completely African-oriented.

Mr Assad pointed out that a conference would be useful for students to define their involvement with their churches and nations. Both sides MUST be maintained in such a conference. He felt there was a danger of losing the *raison d'etre* of a Christian movement, through diffidence.

The Chairman felt that what Mr. Assad had said was important - that this should primarily be a Christian conference - he pointed out that there was real hostility among African students, with regard to Christianity. (It had even been doubted that there be morning worship at the Latin American conference).

Mr Assad referred to the Strasbourg Conference - "Life and Mission of the Church", a large conference but one that ran on different levels, as an example of a highly successful undertaking. There had been a) Platform lectures, b) tutorial groups, c) regional group discussions. Representatives of the Pope had attended and it had been a truly ecumenical conference. In the Tutorial groups there had been discussion of specific problems. Different kinds of worship were used - and the meaning of worship at such a conference, was raised.

Mr. Minter pointed out that Christians and non-Christians had met at the Latin American conference and that there had been no embarrassment between them.

Miss Aurbakken pointed out that it was important to remember that Christians MUST participate in a non-Christian world - that Africa is a non-Christian continent and that this must be borne in mind.

The Chairman pointed out that many Africans felt that Christians in the SCM were not sincere - he felt that there should be two themes to such a conference - a) the problems of all who felt responsibility for the problems of Africa - b) the need to help African Christian students to take responsibility for problems in Africa.

The question was raised whether the projected conference was to be a conference of Christians, or a Christian conference. Mr. Ukwane felt that Africans, whether they were Christians or not, were all in some way related to the church in Africa.

Mr. Turay felt that what was wanted was an African Conference - and that to talk about it being Christian or non-Christian, was to obscure the real purpose of the Conference.

Discussion then followed on the size, and aim of the conference. Some present felt that it should be a small conference with intensive study, and then with good follow up. Others felt that there should be a large group, though the expenses here would be a problem. It was felt that a conference small enough for the NSCF to pay all expenses, would not be valuable, and that it would be better to let the students help with the finances, and have several conferences on regional levels (Mid-west, East Coast, Illinois area) so that students

from all over the US would be involved.

The alternative was to have a small conference with the select few who might then go back to their regions with a stronger sense of obligation.

Mr. Assan felt it was better to have one good conference, rather than several mediocre conferences - he felt that this would arise, if one had regional conferences, because of the paucity of speakers. It was generally felt that it would be better to have one large, good conference where there were outstanding speakers whose papers could then later be used by those present, at a local regional level.

Mr. Elston felt that it would be better to get greater representation from fewer schools, as there would then be a better follow-up. He also pointed out that the Latin American Conference had turned out differently from the John Knox Conferences. He pointed out that there were already a lot of African organizations in the US, that did a lot of planning of conferences. He felt that the questions to be considered were, whether a National conference was wanted, or not; whether the proceedings would be published (there was a possibility that not everything could be published).

FINANCES :

Those attending the meeting felt that money was available. That in any case plans for the conference should be made, and that money would be found.

PLANNING:

It was felt that people should come from various regions - California, Mid-West and the East Coast. It was also generally felt that little leadership would be needed at such a conference - some felt that there should be big names to attract people - others felt that the issues should be alive enough to attract them.

Discussion followed on what questions were likely to come up:

- a) Economic Development
- b) Economic Development and Independence being ends in themselves
- c) Ultimate aims of Africa
- d) Independence of Africa - assuming that colonialism will eventually disappear.
- e) South Africa - violence and non-violence
- f) Sudan and Nigeria - where communalism arises
- g) Division of Africa
- h) It was felt that it was important for students to think about the role they should play in their new countries.

Those present felt that by having such a conference they would be filling a need for the African students. The conference should therefore focus on the common concerns of all Africans.

Matters that could be discussed would be:

- a) the Ideologies of Africa
- b) The Technological impact on Africa
- c) social problems
- d) The role of the Student upon return to Africa

It was felt that Africans as well as interested experts should be present. It should only be a short conference - 2 or 3 days. It should not be an ambitious conference in that it should not expect those present to go away knowing everything.

Mr. Elston ASSUMED THAT

Mr. Elston assumed that this would hopefully be a WSCF conference, sponsored by NSCF,

SATURDAY MORNING: 9 October, 1965

The following ideas for themes came forward:

Theme: African Revolution (Assad)

Theme: Nation building (Aurbakken)

Theme: The Church in Africa.

(Felt it should be an all-encompassing conference, covering the religious economic and social aspects).

People felt the following needs of Africa should be discussed:

-Need to take on responsibility for the problems of Africa

-Need for Africans to get to know each other

-Individual responsibility of students, on return to Africa, which would continue throughout his life.

-Need to have a conference where information and opinion on Africa could be consolidated, so that it could influence other groups. That through these groups conference could help fulfil the needs not already being fulfilled. It was felt that no resolutions should come out of the conference, simply a feeling that more knowledge, as to the problems of Africa had been gained, on which to build in the future.

-The need for a distinct Christian role in a non-Christian world.

Theme: Christian Witness in Developing Africa. (Assad)

Theme: The Role of the Church, Christian, Individual (Wiley)

Theme: The Future of Africa - what perspective

a) theological

b) secular

(Morland)

- Theme: Principles or Values, Programmes, Persons for
Post-Independence Africa in a Technological World.
(Elston)
- Theme: Ideology and Action in New Africa (Assad)
- Theme: The Significance of an Educated Class in Africa (Chairman)
- Theme: The African in Technological Africa
in Technological Age
- Theme: Ideology and Western Values in Africa (Wiley)
- Theme: Africa and the Educated Man (Chipenda)
- Theme: New Ideology in Africa and the Technological Impact
African Man and Changing Values in a Technological Age
- Theme: Africa in Transition - an Approach to Nation Building
(Mr. Elston's theme could be used as a sub-head). (Turay)

Discussion followed on values and ideology:

It was pointed out that technology is not moral, it is what man does with it that makes it one or the other.

Also that it is not whether a method comes from the East or West, but whether it is the best way to do that particular thing in that particular country; that life is dynamic and not mechanical.

Mr. Elston pointed out that values and ideologies could not really be separated; Miss Aurbakken agreed, saying that Ideology is used as a tool, to help the man back in the village, to reach certain goals, to implement the value, to enlarge upon it. Mr. Oduyoye pointed out that African values are not so much AFRICAN, as rural values - of hospitality and human concern. Mr. Elston pointed out that technology creates necessity which in turn creates value patterns.

- Theme: African Independence in a Changing World Culture
The African's new role, aims, values
- Theme: Changing Africa in a Changing World (Minter)
Sub-head: Values - Ideology and Men in a Technological Age.
- Theme: World Culture and Nation Building in Africa, with sub-head
as mentioned above. (Mr Elston)
- Theme: Nation Building in Africa; Values, Persons and Ideology
in a Technological Age (Minter)
- Theme: Human Possibility in New Africa (Morland)
- Theme: Will Africa be Able to Teach the World How to Maintain Humanity
in a Technological Age ?

Mr Wiley suggested the following breakdowns:

- a) Political institutions
- b) Economic Institutions
- c) Family institutions
- d) Social Institutions.

AFTER LUNCH the discussion on themes and ideas followed:

It was generally felt that the need for individuals to take decisions and assess what he was now capable of (and therefore would take responsibility for) in the technological age, must continually be remembered. Also to be remembered are the developing complexities and interdependence that come with increased technology. Mr. Lee stressed two factors in the world today which HAVE to be taken into account:

- a) Urbanization and
- b) Mobility - Man has morally to deal with alienation from the old. Only through understanding what is happening and the alternatives that have to be faced can one gain a new integration. One can only handle choices when one has achieved a certain integration in society - a way of looking at life in totality. One has to learn to live and work with alienation in a creative sense.

More themes arose out of this:

- Theme: African Breakpoint: Values, Persons and Ideology in a Technological Age
- Theme: Mother Africa: Values, Persons in Technological Age (Robinson)
- Theme: The Person in Africa (Elston)
- Theme: Justice in Africa
- Theme: Human Justice in Africa, Achieving Justice in Africa
- Theme: African Destiny: Persons, Groups, Nations
- Theme: Whither Africa: Values, Persons, Ideology in a Technological Civilization.

The Title finally decided was:

AFRICA'S AFRICA; VALUES, PERSONS, AND IDEOLOGY IN A
TECHNOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION

Tentative suggestions for lectures at the conference were:

1. The Impact of Technology on African Mind
2. Industrialisation and Changing Life in Africa
 - a) Scientific Method
 - b) Material result
3. What is Africa Doing ?
 - a) As starting new patterns in life
 - b) African participation in new patterns of social development
4. What has Africa to Add to Human Civilization
New structures for Christian Service
5. Leadership and Responsibility in Africa
Problem of Reluctance of Christians to take Responsibility
as leaders when living in minority.

PRACTICAL DETAILS OF CONFERENCE:

Number to attend: About 150
2/3 should be Africans

Tentative dates in February and Easter were suggested, but the
final dates were June 6 - 12.

Place: Stony Point, Holiday Hills or Netcong, Central New Jersey.

Press Coverage:

Possibly a magazine article could be arranged
TV conversation program
Important issues may interest press
Could kick off at Overseas Press Club with Keynote Speech
and the Charter bus to Camp.

Other Organizations to be Involved:

ACOA; AAI; CCUN; AIRC; USISA; AMSAC; African Student Groups,
Civil Rights Groups, Peace Corps.

Finances:

- Felt everyone should be asked to contribute something
- Scholarships should be available
- It should be kept in mind that many non-sponsored students had often not been invited to conferences in the past; and also got little money

- It was hoped that Denominations would contribute for their students.
- A tentative budget for the conference had already been sent to different Boards, noting three categories of participants:

- a) Africaⁿs
- b) Americans involved with Africa
- c) Other Foreign students.

It was noted that the budget for the Latin American Conference had been, as a maximum, \$30,000, and as a minimum, \$18,000.

Possible Speakers:

Eduardo Mondlane (Mocambique)	Dr. Naidoo (SA)
John Hooft Franklin (US)	Sir Francis Ibiam (Nigeria)
D'arbussier (Senegalese)	Karega Smart (Sierra Leone)
James Robinson (US)	Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia)
Jim Lawson (US)	Hans Aurbakken (Algeria)
Z.K. Matthews (SA)	Dick Gregory (US)
Paul Verghese (Indian)	Marof Achkar (Guinea)
Bishop Samuel (Egypt)	Godfrey Amachree (Nigeria)
	Gladstone Nthlabathi (SA)
	Gwen Carter (US)
	Trevor Coombe (SA)

A Note was made that Mr Tucker and Mr Loecher should be contacted about the conference.

Topic Sug estions from the Quadrennial

Christian Faith and Culture	Home Country Affairs
Unity of Africa	Indigenization of the Church
International Relationships	Missionaries, Understanding and
African Prosperity	Misunderstanding
Role of African Students in	Christien Socialism
Shaping Modern Africa	

As conversation continued, it became clear that the following themes recurred, and therefore were felt to be problems that should be tackled in some way.

- Africa's Africa - African -ness
- Building of the Nations - Socialism
- African Unity - OAU
- Economic Co-operation
- Southern Africa - Independence
- Evaluation of the Christian Church in Africa.