



Afro-Scandinavian Conference 1961

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnámál – Dómsmálaráðherra – Forsætisráðherra – Bréf – Afro-Scandinavian Conference 1961 – Trauno Tirkkonen – Tønnes Andenæs – Úrklippur

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

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TAUNO TIRKKONEN
PROFESSORI
HELSINKI

Helsinki den 15. oktober 1961.

Herr Statsminister Bjarni Benediktsson

Reykjavik

Broder

För den stora gästvänlighet som under min vistelse i Reykjavik kommit mig till del i ert vackra hem, tackar jag Dig och Din värda Fru. Denna min sista kväll på Sagoön kommer att städse förbli ett vackert minne samt ett ytterligare tecken på de vänskapsfulla band, som sedan länge rått mellan Island och Finland.

Med varmaste hälsningar från tillgivne

Tauno Tirkkonen
Tauno Tirkkonen

Oslo, 26. sept. 1961.

Statsminister. Bjarni Benediktsson,
f. f. Oslo.

Da jeg leste om Dem i et flyvepostkort
og leste at forholdet Island-Norge
er det aller beste, blir jeg så glad
at jeg fikk lyst til å gi Dem denne
enkle, lille, men verdifulle bok.

Det er en fin håndbok til bibelen,
både for unge og eldre.

Mitt høyeste ønske er at den igjen
må komme inn i folkeskolene våre.
Den brukes på privatskolene og vi håper
at den også må få sin plass i de
offentlige skoler igjen.

Det er også mitt inderlige ønske
både for Danmark og Island.

Med Arbødighet
og hjertelig hilsen.

Med til fire.

UNIVERSITETSFORLAGET

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Statsminister Bjarni Benediktsson

Reykjavik

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POSTGIRO DANSK NR. 149 54
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TELEGRAMADR.: UNIVERSITYBOOK

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VÅR REF.:

OSLO 10, 28. september 1961

KARL JOHANS GATE 47

Kjære Benediktsson,

Jeg kommer til Reykjavik natt til mandag 2. oktober.

Manuskriptet til din tale i Aulaen glemte jeg å nevne, vil vil gjerne få den trykt i Norge.

Det var hyggelig at du tok deg så god tid på Studentbyen. Det var meget populært blandt de islandske studenter, og ikke minst for de norske verter.

Beste hilsen


Tønnes Andenæs

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C O N F E R E N C E A F R O - S C A N D I N A V I E

Copenhagen, 9 -11 Octobre 1961

A F R O - S C A N D I N A V I A N L I B R A R Y C O N F E R E N C E

Copenhagen, 9 -11 October 1961

L I S T E D E S P A R T I C I P A N T S

Association Internationale pour le
Développement des Bibliothèques en
Afrique (A.I.D.B.A.)

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A F R O - S C A N D I N A V I A N L I B R A R I E S C O N F E R E N C E

C O P E N H A G E N

9 - 11 October 1961

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GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

DANMARKS BIBLIOTEKSSKOLE

AFRO-SCANDINAVIAN LIBRARY CONFERENCE

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Participants in the Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference, convened in Copenhagen from 9 to 11 October 1961, considering

- that one of the essential tasks of a democratic society is to promote culture among its citizens, who must be as widely and as completely informed as possible ;
- that education and culture render a people easier to lead but more difficult to oppress - easy to govern, but impossible to reduce to slavery;
- that reading - and therefore libraries - are among the tools of instruction and cultivation;
- that the libraries state is extremely poor in most of the African States;
- that one of the obstacles to the development of public reading, namely political dependence, is now abolished in many African countries and that a considerable effort must now be exerted towards restoring Africa' s cultural heritage;
- that the Public Library is dedicated to the use of all social strata without exception;
- that the various categories of libraries are mutually complementary;
- that the development of public reading is dependent upon the taste which has been inculcated since childhood;

RECOMMEND :

- that the Government of the African States consider public libraries as a profitable investment not only for the development of democracy but also for the social-economic advancement of the people;
- that a National Library system be established according to plans elaborated by the central authority. Such a system should by all means encourage local initiative. It should comprise public libraries able to meet the most urgent needs, national libraries for the preservation of the nation's written heritage in the domain of history and civilization, and research libraries for universities, laboratories and institutes of physical or social science.
- that in each State a general library Act be passed and that plans be drawn up for the gradual development of libraries;
- the formation of qualified librarians in the shortest possible time, with the guarantee of a career and remuneration corresponding to their title or professional qualifications;

- the creation in the African States of an autonomous direction of all libraries either connected with the Ministry of National Education and Cultural Affairs, or independent;

- that a special effort be made in favor of children's libraries which must be included in the general scheme of public libraries, and also that services be extended for the promotion of literacy and education among adults;

- a close cooperation between the various categories of libraries; as well as a collaboration between public libraries and other educational services (primary, secondary, higher, technical, professional, cultural associations, etc...).

- Recommended to this effect that sufficient funds be included in the budget of National Education, for the development of a library network.

- that adequate means be employed for developing the reading habit among Africans, by permanent advertising, and the progressive education of readers;

- Recommend in this connection the publication of books of all sorts in the African languages, and as far as possible the development of instruction in these languages - previously studied as to vocabulary, writing, grammar, etc...

- that the most important works of universal literature be translated as quickly as possible into the more important African languages;

- that a department of literature in the African language be provided in African public libraries and that special interest be given to works relating to Negro-African-Art.

- that an inter-African cooperation be established as rapidly as possible in favor of the less organized African States;

- that a department for the blind be provided for in the African libraries;

- that African librarians remain eager to pursue their studies in a constant effort towards self-improvement .

RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING OUTSIDE TECHNICAL AID

- Considering that the African States must assume multiple and difficult tasks which require a great financial effort,

RECOMMEND that the African States solicit and accept technical and financial assistance from any State or national or international organization, without distinction, provided that such assistance is not linked with political conditions infringing upon their sovereignty.

- that in order that such assistance be as effective as possible, it could be envisaged simultaneously under three forms:

- a) the formation of librarians
- b) the construction and equipment of a pilot library
- c) the sending of experts to organize the libraries

AFRO-SCANDINAVIAN COLLABORATION

The Conference recommends the five Scandinavian governments to examine the possibilities of financial aid from governmental and other sources to enable interested African States to build, equip and operate public libraries, including children's libraries;

- to examine the possibilities of putting Scandinavian library experts at the disposal of interested African governments as advisors and instructors for a limited period, the costs to be paid by their respective Scandinavian home countries,

- the Conference asks the Danish government to present these recommendations to the governments of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden

Recommendation for complementary conferences (1962-1964)

- Considering that national archives constitute the main source of African History and that said history has not yet been written, and that the archives might disappear as well as the depositaries of the oral tradition,

- considering that archives and documentation centers and libraries are mutually complementary;

- considering that all efforts must be directed towards the development of various categories of libraries;

RECOMMEND that a conference be held in 1962 convening archivists and historians of Tropical Africa in order to examine the means of protecting African archives and of writing the History of Africa

- that an enlarged conference be held in 1964 of all categories of African librarianship and documentation.

Recommendation for a Continuation Committee

- In order to pursue the action of the Copenhagen Conference the Participants recommend the creation of a Continuation Committee composed of twelve members, five Scandinavians and seven Africans:

Scandinavia:

E. ALLERSLEV JENSEN
Anders ANDREASSEN
Bengt HJELMQVIST
Helle KANNILA
Jørgen SCHLEIMANN

Africa:

K.E.W. DADZIE
Ahmed Abdel HALIM
Jules ISAMBASA
Joseph KI-ZERBO
A.I.A. KOTEI
Gbole Nanu NWIKINA
Amadou TRAORE

Copenhagen, October 1961

Jørgen SCHLEIMANN
Executive Secretary
Afro-Scandinavian
Committee

K.E.W. DADZIE
General Secretary
of A.I.D.B.A.

CONFERENCE AFRO-SCANDINAVE
DES BIBLIOTHEQUES

(Copenhagen, 9 - 11 Octobre 1961)

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RESOLUTIONS

DANMARKS BIBLIOTEKSSKOLE

CONFERENCE AFRO-SCANDINAVE DES BIBLIOTHEQUES

RECOMMANDATIONS GENERALES

Les participants à la Conférence Afro-Scandinave des Bibliothèques réunis à Copenhague du 9 au 11 Octobre 1961, considérant,

- que l'une des tâches essentielles d'une société démocratique est de promouvoir la culture des citoyens qui doivent être informés aussi largement et complètement que possible,

- que l'éducation et la culture rendent un peuple facile à conduire mais difficile à opprimer, facile à gouverner mais impossible à réduire en esclavage,

- que la lecture et par conséquent la bibliothèque, est un des moyens pour s'informer et se cultiver.

- que la situation des bibliothèques reste misérable dans la plupart des Etats Africains,

- que l'un des obstacles à l'essor de la lecture publique, à savoir la dépendance politique est maintenant abolie dans de nombreux pays africains et qu'un effort considérable doit désormais viser à restaurer le patrimoine culturel africain,

- que la bibliothèque publique est destinée à toutes les couches de la population sans exception,

- que les diverses catégories de bibliothèques sont complémentaires les unes des autres,

- que le développement de la lecture publique repose sur le goût qui en aura été donné aux citoyens dès leur enfance,

- Recommandent aux Gouvernements des Etats Africains de considérer que la bibliothèque publique est un investissement rentable non seulement pour l'essor de la démocratie mais pour la promotion socio-économique des populations,

- Recommandent qu'un système national de bibliothèques soit établi selon un plan mis au point par l'autorité centrale. Ce système devrait encourager de toute façon l'initiative locale. Il devrait comprendre des bibliothèques publiques répondant aux besoins les plus urgents, des bibliothèques nationales de conservation destinées à préserver le patrimoine national écrit, en particulier dans le domaine de l'histoire et des civilisations, et des bibliothèques d'étude pour les Universités, les laboratoires et les Instituts de Sciences exactes et humaines,

- Recommandent que soit adoptée dans chaque Etat une loi générale sur les bibliothèques et qu'une planification soit établie pour le développement graduel de celles-ci,

- Recommandent que soient formés dans les meilleurs délais des bibliothécaires qualifiés auxquels devront être assurées des garanties de carrière et une rémunération correspondant à leurs titres ou qualification professionnelle,

- Recommandent la création dans les Etats d'une direction autonome des bibliothèques rattachée au Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, des Affaires Culturelles, ou constituée en service autonome,

- Recommandent qu'un effort soit spécialement consacré aux bibliothèques enfantines qui doivent faire partie intégrante des bibliothèques publiques, mais aussi que des services d'extension puissent permettre d'aider l'alphabétisation et l'éducation des adultes,

Recommandent une coopération étroite entre les diverses catégories de bibliothèques, ainsi qu'une collaboration entre les bibliothèques publiques et les autres services d'éducation (primaire, secondaire, supérieure, technique, professionnelle, les Associations culturelles, etc...),

- Recommandent à cet effet que dans le budget de l'Éducation Nationale une part soit prévue pour le développement du réseau des bibliothèques,

- Recommandent d'employer tous les moyens adéquats pour développer le goût de la lecture chez l'Africain, par une publicité permanente et l'éducation progressive des lecteurs,

- Recommandent à cet égard, la production de livres de toutes sortes dans les langues africaines et dans la mesure du possible le développement de l'éducation dans ces langues préalablement étudiées au point de vue vocabulaire, signes graphiques, grammaire, etc...,

- Recommandent que la traduction des livres les plus importants de la littérature universelle soit effectuée le plus vite possible dans les plus importantes langues africaines,

- Recommandent qu'une section de littérature en langue africaine soit prévue dans les bibliothèques publiques africaines et qu'une place de choix y soit réservée aux ouvrages concernant l'art négro-africain,

- Recommandent qu'une coopération inter-africaine profitable aux Etats les moins bien organisés sur ce plan soit établie dans les meilleurs délais,

- Recommandent que dans les bibliothèques africaines une section soit prévue si possible pour les aveugles,

- Recommandent aux bibliothécaires Africains d'avoir le souci constant d'étudier et de se perfectionner continuellement.

Recommandation sur l'Assistance Technique Extérieure

- Considérant que les Etats Africains ont à faire face à des tâches multiples et complexes qui demandent un gros effort financier,

RECOMMANDENT

- que les Etats africains sollicitent ou acceptent l'assistance technique et financière de tout Etat ou organisme national, international sans distinction, à condition que l'aide ne soit pas assortie de conditions politiques portant atteinte à la souveraineté des Etats Africains,

- que pour permettre à cette assistance toute son efficacité, l'aide soit envisagée simultanément sous trois formes:

- a) formation de bibliothécaires
- b) constitution et équipement d'une bibliothèque modèle
- c) envoi d'experts pour l'aménagement de bibliothèques.

Collaboration Afro-Scandinave

La Conférence recommande,

- que les cinq gouvernements scandinaves veuillent bien étudier les possibilités d'aide financière de source gouvernementale et autres, pour permettre aux Etats Africains intéressés de construire, équiper et faire fonctionner les bibliothèques publiques, y compris les bibliothèques enfantines:

- que les cinq gouvernements scandinaves veuillent bien examiner les possibilités de mettre à la disposition des gouvernements africains intéressés, pour un temps déterminé et aux frais de leur pays d'origine, des experts bibliothécaires en qualité de conseillers et d'instructeurs;

La Conférence prie le Gouvernement Danois de bien vouloir présenter ces recommandations aux gouvernements de Finlande, d'Islande, de Norvège et de Suède.

Recommandation
pour des Conférences complémentaires (1962-1964)

- Considérant que les archives nationales constituent la source principale de l'histoire des pays africains et que cette histoire n'est pas encore écrite, que ces archives disparaissent, de même que les dépositaires de la tradition orale,

- Considérant que les archives et la documentation sont complémentaires des bibliothèques,

- Considérant que tous les moyens doivent être mis en oeuvre pour le développement de diverses catégories de bibliothèques,

RECOMMANDENT

l'organisation,

- en 1962 d'une conférence des archivistes et historiens d'Afrique Tropicale pour examiner les moyens de sauvegarder les archives africaines et d'écrire l'histoire de l'Afrique,

- en 1964 d'une grande conférence africaine de toutes les catégories de bibliothèques et de la documentation.

Recommandation pour un Comité de Continuation

Afin de poursuivre l'action de la Conférence de Copenhague, les Participants recommandent que soit institué un Comité de Continuation de douze membres, comprenant cinq Scandinaves et sept Africains :

Scandinavie:

E. ALLERSLEV JENSEN
Anders ANDREASSEN
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Mlle Helle KANNILA
Jørgen SCHLEIMANN

Afrique:

Kwakuvi E.W. DADZIE
Ahmed Abdel HALIM
Jules ISAMBASA
Joseph KI-ZERBO
S.I.A. KOTEI
Gbole Nanu NWIKINA
Amadou TRAORE

Fait à Copenhague, le 11 Octobre 1961.

Les Présidents de la Conférence,

Jørgen SCHLEIMANN
Secrétaire exécutif
du Comité de Coopération
Afro-Scandinave

Kwakuvi E.W. DADZIE
Secrétaire général
de l' A.I.D.B.A.

R e p o r t
on the

AFRO-SCANDINAVIAN LIBRARY CONFERENCE

Copenhagen, October 9-11, 1961

Part I: THE STUDY TOUR

The library conference was preceded by a one-week study tour of Scandinavian libraries and educational institutions for the African participants, who arrived in Copenhagen on October 2.

In the evening of the same day a small informal reception for the participants was given in the Panorama Lounge of the Royal Hotel, where most of the participants were staying.

On the following day, October 3, the African participants visited the Copenhagen municipal library system: first the new main public library of Copenhagen and then the branch libraries of Vigerslev and Vanløse, including the children's libraries at all these places.

A lunch was offered by the officials of the municipal library during the visit to the branch library of Vigerslev.

The participants were briefed on the municipal library system of Copenhagen, and Mr. Carl Thomsen, chief librarian of the Copenhagen Municipal Library, personally conducted the study tour.

On October 4 the African participants paid a visit to the new municipal library of Hørsholm, a town of 10,000 inhabitants located 25 kilometers north of Copenhagen. After briefings by the chief librarian, Miss Mine Islev, and by the chairman of the library board, the participants were offered lunch on the premises of the Hørsholm Library.

.../...

After lunch the participants visited the "folk high school" of Hørsholm, where they were briefed by the principal, Mr. Erik Halvorsen, on the history and principles of adult education and other means of general instruction in Denmark, with special reference to the Danish folk high school movement. (The folk high school is a kind of residential adult college.) The participants were invited for coffee by the Hørsholm High School.

The day finished with a visit to the Danish museum of modern art, the "Louisiana", at Humlebaek in North Zealand, where an international exhibition on "Movement in Art" was presented, featuring, among other things, works by Calder and Tinguely.

The next day, October 5, included visits to the new municipal library of Roskilde, a Danish provincial town of 30,000 inhabitants located 30 kilometers west of Copenhagen, and to parish libraries in the Roskilde area.

After a briefing on the county library system in Denmark and on the Roskilde central library (county library) by the chief librarian, Mr. Oluf Abitz, the African participants were invited to lunch, which was also attended by the Mayor of Roskilde, Mr. Løve Jørgensen, and the chairman of the library board.

In the afternoon the participants visited the Roskilde Cathedral, where the kings and queens of Denmark are buried, and, then, the parish libraries in Borup and Ejby-Dalby. The latter library is located in a modern school building, and the participants were briefed on the co-operation between public libraries and schools in Denmark through the school library system.

At the end of the afternoon the participants visited a modern scientific library, the library of the Atomic Research Center at Risø, where they were briefed by the chief librarian, Mr. Torkil Olsen, and offered tea at the Research Center canteen.

On October 6 the African participants visited the Royal Library in Copenhagen, Denmark's national library, where they were welcomed by the National Librarian, Mr. Palle Birkelund, and briefed by members of his staff on the various activities of the Royal Library.

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The conference arranged lunch at Dragør Strandhotel in a little fishing town just outside Copenhagen.

In the afternoon the African participants went on a sight-seeing tour to North Zealand, during which they visited the castles of Kronborg, the setting of Shakespeare's play "Hamlet", and Frederiksborg, one of Denmark's national museums. (This was a change from the original program, according to which this sight-seeing tour was to have taken place on the afternoon of Saturday, October 7.)

The following day, October 7, the African participants went to Sweden - visa arrangements had been made in record time thanks to the courtesy of the Copenhagen police and the Swedish Embassy in Copenhagen - where they visited the main municipal library of Malmö and a few of its branches, including that of Limhamn, where the participants were offered lunch by the municipal library officials. The chief librarian of Malmö Municipal Library, Miss Ingeborg Heintze, personally conducted the study tour; she encountered old friends among the visiting librarians, as Mr. K.E.W. Dadzie, Secretary General of the International Association for the Development of Libraries in Africa (A.I.D.B.A.), and Mr. Gbole Nanu Nwikina, of Enugu, both had been studying at Malmö Municipal Library some years ago on U.N.E.S.C.O. scholarships.

In the afternoon, after returning to Denmark the participants paid a brief visit to the Library of the University of Copenhagen, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, the oldest of Denmark's principal libraries; later they visited Copenhagen University itself, where they were informed about the extra-mural activities of the university, the so-called People's University, by the chairman of the program committee, Mr. John Danstrup. Mr. Danstrup also spoke about the adult educational services which are made available by the main political parties in Denmark - a civic action initiated by the Danish labour movement.

Sunday, October 8, was free.

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The study tour program was a very crowded one and left the African participants very little free time. It would probably be

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advisable in any future arrangements of a similar nature to include one free day in the middle of the week, thus giving the participants time to relax and acquaint themselves with the city and its people and, also, to do their shopping.

The idea of placing the study and sight-seeing tour before and not, as is usually done, after the conference, proved to be a sound one. All the African participants welcomed the opportunity of acquainting themselves with Scandinavian library work and Scandinavian social conditions before meeting with their Nordic colleagues at the conference table; all the African participants benefited from this opportunity, none of them missing a single visit or excursion (except for two cases of illness).

It should be noted here that the success of the study tour was due largely to the sympathy and spirit of hospitality and cooperation with which the libraries and educational institutions in Denmark and Sweden responded to the appeal of the organisers of the conference. An atmosphere of friendship and human warmth was created during these daily bus excursions. The only false impression the African participants carried home with them was that of the Danish autumn climate: it was an exceptionally warm and sunny "Indian summer" season.

The study tour in Scandinavia also permitted the participants from various regions and language-areas of Africa to get personally acquainted with each other and, to a reasonable degree, with each others' problems. Given the tremendous diversity existing in Africa, this was a greater advantage than may be apparent at first sight and saved much time during the actual conference which otherwise would have been taken up with setting forth the different general positions.

The African participants were people of greatly varied qualifications and background. To most of the participants from French-speaking Africa, the modern public library service, examples of which they saw in Scandinavia, was a real revelation. The study tour was a source of primary importance and inspiration to them. But also their compatriots from the - in terms of library development - far more advanced English-speaking West African countries found in Scandinavia solutions to problems of library development which they discovered to be applicable to African conditions. The Scandinavian children's

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libraries were examined with particular interest, and the librarians from Ghana devoted much time to the study of the Danish Bibliographical Office, since bibliographical services represent the only lack still subsisting in the very highly developed Ghanaian public library facilities.

Part II: THE AFRO-SCANDINAVIAN LIBRARY CONFERENCE

The Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference was opened at the Library School of Denmark on October 9 by the Danish Minister of Cultural Affairs, Mr. Julius Bomholt, in the presence of a number of prominent representatives of the Danish library world and of the press.

Mr. Bomholt welcomed the conference participants to Denmark and promised in his inaugural speech that the Danish government would seek to allocate funds, under its new expanded program of aid to underdeveloped countries, for the construction of a pilot library somewhere in Tropical Africa.

After the inaugural session the conference got down to work, and during the three conference days of October 9-11 the participants held six working sessions. An extra (seventh) working session lasting till midnight on October 11 was necessary in order to draw up the conference recommendations, which were approved unanimously.

The conference heard reports by E. Allerslev Jensen (Denmark); Adekunle Areje (Nigeria); Johannes Bygstad (Norway); Kwakuvi E.W. Dadzie (A.I.D.B.A.); Mme Renée Fall (Senegal); Ahmed Abdel Halim (Sudan); Preben Kirkegaard (Denmark); Joseph Ki-Zerbo (Upper Volta); S.I.A. Kotei (Ghana); Sigurd Möhlenbrock (Sweden); Gbole Nanu Nwikina (Nigeria); Edward Oko Oddoye (Ghana); Robert L. Pearce (Nigeria); Marcel Poussi (Upper Volta); Mrs. Anine Rud (Denmark); Jørgen Schleimann, Committee for Afro-Scandinavian Cooperation (C.A.S.C.); and J.T. Strickland (Sierra Leone).

Reports written by Amadou Mahtar M'Bow (Senegal); Åge Bredsted (Denmark); and Miss Evelyn J. A. Evans (Ghana), who unfortunately were unable to attend the conference in person, were also presented, as were a background paper by Kalu Okorie (Nigeria) and two articles on African reading habits from the Tunisian weekly "Afrique Action".

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A lively discussion followed the presentation of the various reports, and many interventions threw light on the particular situation, needs or achievements in the library field of the different African countries represented at the conference. The discussion was directed jointly by Messrs. Dadzie and Schleimann.

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On Monday afternoon, October 9, the Danish TV filmed part of the working session; this sequence was featured the same evening in the TV Newsreel.

Also during the conference a panel discussion was recorded for the Danish Radio. The discussion was broadcast on Saturday, December 16, under the title "Africa Needs Books for Millions of Readers". In the panel discussion, which was directed by Jørgen Schleimann, participated Ahmed Abdel Halim (Sudan), Preben Kirkegaard (Denmark), S. I. A. Kotei (Ghana), and Gbole Nanu Nwikina (Nigeria).

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On Tuesday afternoon, October 10, the conference participants were officially received at the Town Hall by the Mayor of Copenhagen, Mr. Sigvard Munk.

The Danish government gave a reception on the evening of October 11, in honour of the conference. The reception took place at Christiansborg Castle, the Danish House of Parliament. The Prime Minister and Mrs. Viggo Kampmann attended the reception, and Mr. Kampmann confirmed in a speech to the conference participants the desire of the Danish government to help Africa in furthering its library development. The Danish Prime Minister also promised to present the recommendations of the Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference to the other Nordic governments.

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Also on October 11, Mr. Ezekiel Mphahlele, director of the African program of the Congress for Cultural Freedom, announced at the closing session of the conference that the Congress would establish a scholarship to train a librarian from French-speaking Africa at a library school in an English-speaking African country, thus helping to promote African unity and cooperation across the language barriers.

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The conference decided to set up a Continuations Committee to ensure that the work of this first Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference would be pursued and developed in the future. It was decided to choose the members from among those present at the Copenhagen conference, and a committee of 12 - seven from Africa and five from Scandinavia - was elected.

Members of the Continuations Committee are: Mr. E. Allerslev Jensen, Director of the State Inspectorate of Libraries, Denmark; Mr. Anders Andreassen, Director of the State Inspectorate of Libraries, Norway; M. Kwakuvi E.W. Dadzie, Directeur des Archives Nationales of Mauritania, Secrétaire Général de l'Association Internationale du Développement des Bibliothèques en Afrique (A.I.D.B.A.); Mr. Ahmed Abdel Halim, Assistant Librarian at the University Library of Khartoum, Sudan; Mr. Bengt Hjelmqvist, Director of the State Inspectorate of Libraries, Sweden; M. Jules Isambasa, Directeur des Archives Nationales of Congo-Léopoldville; Miss Helle Kannila, Principal, the Library School of Finland; M. Joseph Ki-Zerbo, writer and Professor of History at the Lycée of Ouagadougou, Haute-Volta; Mr. S.I.A. Kotei, Librarian, Ghana Library Board; Mr. Gbole Nanu Nwikina, Deputy Librarian, Regional Central Library, Enugu, Nigeria, and Secretary General of the West African Library Association; Mr. Jørgen Schleimann, Danish journalist and Executive Director of the Committee for Afro-Scandinavian Cooperation; and M. Amadou Traoré, Directeur Général de la Librairie Populaire of Mali.

Among the conference recommendations were proposals for holding a conference in Africa on the problems of archivists and historians of Africa, in 1962, and for a meeting - also in Africa - of all categories of African librarians and documentalists, in 1964.

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In closing its work the conference expressed its profound gratitude to the Ford Foundation, which made the conference possible through a generous grant. Thanks were also addressed to the Congress for Cultural Freedom, the Danish government, the Library School of Denmark and other institutions and persons having contributed to the success of the Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference.

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The Copenhagen conference was, in fact, successful. It achieved a positive result - almost before having formulated its main question - when the Danish government declared its readiness to set up a pilot library in Tropical Africa.

The Danish government is continuing the planning of this African pilot library, which will, it has been announced, be one of the projects for which the government is trying to allocate funds through a nationwide subscription campaign in the Spring of 1962.

The Danish government has also informed the governments of Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden of the recommendations of the Copenhagen conference; and it may be said that the Danish aid to the African library movement is being expanded into a concerted action of all the Nordic states, as a common program of assistance to the under-developed countries is at present being prepared by a Nordic inter-Ministerial committee.

On the non-governmental and private level as well, the Copenhagen conference provided a clear indication of strong interest in cultural co-operation between Scandinavia and Africa. Not a single Scandinavian librarian declined our invitation to the conference, and yet they were all busy people in leading positions. Only one Scandinavian was unable to attend the conference in person, but he served on the preparatory committee and sent a written contribution.

It is significant - and offers the best of prospects for future cooperation - that the Continuations Committee includes the library directors of Denmark, Norway and Sweden as well as the head of the Finnish library school. It is no exaggeration to say that the Scandinavian participants in the conference were the most competent and influential leaders of the Nordic library world. It was therefore to be expected that the impact of the conference in Scandinavia would be a strong one, and reports in the Scandinavian press after the conference suggest that this was, in fact, the case.

How representative was the African delegation to the conference is of course harder to judge. But the very fact that 13 African countries were represented, covering West, Central and East Africa, with a fair distribution as between French- and English-speaking participants, is a source of great satisfaction.

The African delegation included intellectuals of continent-wide reputation as well as students of librarianship, trained librarians with years' experience as well as people of good will interested in promoting the African library movement but without any professional training or experience. Of course this resulted in reports and interventions of varying quality and general interest. But for all the participants, the conference meant an opportunity to express themselves, to clarify their views and deepen their convictions, which was undoubtedly of great value in itself.

The Scandinavians did not participate too actively in the conference deliberations. They often preferred to listen. This may be due to the fact that the Scandinavians are not the most articulate and conference-minded people in the world, but it was without any doubt also due to the fact that they knew too little of African conditions. The discussion thus remained largely a discussion between Africans.

In a number of excellent, well-documented, moving and convincing reports and interventions at the conference, the African participants revealed different aspects of the African reader's situation to-day, his thirst for knowledge, his passionate desire for books and reading materials, the financial and organisational obstacles to satisfying this desire, the poverty in Africa, the shortcomings of book production and book distribution, the lack of public reading facilities, the enormous need for public libraries as the only means of bringing books in sufficient quantity within the reach of a reasonable number of African readers to-day.

The Scandinavians listened. Librarianship took on new dimensions; it acquired the fresh quality of a re-discovered calling when the Africans spoke. The Scandinavians are not likely to forget the difficulties of their African colleagues soon. A fund of good will was created in Scandinavian minds during the library conference, a fund on which the African library movement can draw for a long time to come.

Of course, Africa and Scandinavia are worlds apart, but the existence of certain similarities in the popular origins of the library movement, of certain basic needs to be met, of certain fundamental problems to be tackled, of errors to be avoided, of methods to be adopted, indicates that Africa can benefit from Scandinavian experience in the library field. This seemed to be another lesson taught by the Copenhagen conference.

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In fact, the recommendations of the Copenhagen conference constitute a common declaration of faith in library work and an affirmation of the desirability of future Afro-Scandinavian cooperation in the library field. Further evidence of the interest of Africans in Scandinavian help to promote the African library movement consists of the fact that "Afrique Nouvelle", one of Africa's leading weeklies, published a special issue on the Copenhagen conference.

The Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference was a unique event, not only because it was the first attempt to establish Afro-Scandinavian contact and collaboration in the library field, but also because it was the first international conference concerned with problems of library development in Tropical Africa which grouped a significant number of participants from both the French- and English-speaking parts of Africa.

Many African participants stressed the importance of this aspect of the Copenhagen conference, and rightly so, as the inequality of library development as between French- and English-speaking Africa has led to an unhappy state of affairs, which makes inter-African library cooperation an acute necessity. The Copenhagen conference performed pioneer work in promoting African unity in the library field.

Part III: THE PREPARATORY CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

Originally scheduled to take place in Paris, the Preparatory conference on African Bibliography was held at the Library School of Denmark on October 12-13, following the Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference and sponsored by the Committee for Afro-Scandinavian Cooperation and the Association Internationale pour le Développement des Bibliothèques en Afrique. The bibliography conference was chaired by M. Kwakuvi E.W. Dadzié, Secretary General of the A.I.D.B.A., and Mr. Knud Larsen, professor at the Library School of Denmark.

Most African participants in the library conference took part in the Preparatory Conference on African Bibliography as well. The conference heard reports on the general tasks of bibliography and documentation and on the functions of a national bibliographical office by Prof. Larsen, Mrs. Bodil Normann, Director of the Danish Bibliographical Office, and R. Mølgaard Hansen, Librarian at the Danish Technical Library. Reports were also presented to the conference on bibliography and documentation in Africa by Ahmed Abdel Halim, assistant librarian of the Uni-

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versity Library, Khartoum, and Kwakuvi E. W. Dadzié, Director of the National Archives of Mauritania. The reports were followed by general discussion.

Visits were arranged to the Danish Inspectorate of Libraries, to the Danish Bibliographical Office, and to the Danish Technical Library.

A series of recommendations of the Preparatory Conference on African Bibliography was unanimously adopted.

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It should be stressed that the decision to hold the bibliography conference in Copenhagen was taken in response to a unanimous wish expressed by the African participants in the Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference. This decision was the result of an emergency situation which came into being when the French authorities failed to provide facilities for holding the conference in Paris as originally planned by A.I.D.B.A. in collaboration with the French Library Administration. As the convening of the bibliography conference was of major interest to participants from the - in terms of library development - more advanced countries like Ghana, the Afro-Scandinavian Co-operation Committee agreed to co-sponsor the conference and provide facilities for it to meet in Copenhagen. It goes without saying that the organisation of an additional conference with only a week's notice raised certain practical problems. In fact, it almost doubled the work of the library conference staff, but the professional skill of Mr. Irving Jaffe, Mlle Françoise Robinet and Mlle Jeanne Gastaud, all of the Congress for Cultural Freedom international secretariat in Paris, and the efficiency of their team-work made it possible for the conference wheels to run in smooth perfection.

The African participants clearly appreciated the holding of the Preparatory Conference in Copenhagen and recommended the convening of an African Conference on Bibliography to be organised as soon as possible for the purpose of studying the means by which all books already published on Africa, and those to be published in the future, could be inventoried.

Although no mention was made of this, there would seem to be a certain overlapping between the recommended bibliography conference

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mentioned above and the conference of African archivists and historians proposed by the Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference for 1962. In fact, the examination of the problems of African bibliography might well be included in the program of an eventual conference of archivists and historians.

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On Monday, October 16, an additional study tour was arranged to the main public library and three branch libraries of the Copenhagen Municipal Library for those African participants who had arrived too late to take part in the pre-conference study tour of Scandinavian libraries and educational institutions.

On Tuesday, October 17, the same participants visited the Royal Library and the National Archives of Denmark, both institutions located in Copenhagen.

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Some participants in the library conference, including the Scandinavian librarians, left on October 12, while most of the African participants stayed on for the bibliography conference and left on October 14. The last remaining African participants departed from Copenhagen on October 17.

Part IV: DOCUMENTS

Attached to this report are copies of conference reports and background papers, the majority of which are available in both English and French.

Also attached are programs and agendas of the various parts of the conference, as well as a collection of articles, radio and press accounts of the study tour, the Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference and the Preparatory Conference on African Bibliography. This collection will be completed as new material appears.

COMMITTED FOR AFRO-SCANDINAVIAN COOPERATION
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES IN AFRICA

Copenhagen 12 - 13 October 1961

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Participants of the Preparatory Conference of African Bibliography convened in Copenhagen October 12th and 13th 1961

- Considering the importance of bibliography as an instrument of research and information in the promotion of culture in its branches

- Considering the poor state of Bibliography and Documentation in Africa,

- Considering, on the other hand, that the development of Bibliography is a prerequisite for the writing of an authentic and objective African history from the African viewpoint,

- Considering that the legal deposit is the principal source of a national bibliography,

RECOMMEND that the African States examine the problem of Bibliography and Documentation,

- Propose to this effect the creation in each State of a Legal Deposit Administration as well as a National Centre of Bibliography and Documentation, both organizations to be connected with the National Library (Conservation)

- RECOMMEND that an African Conference on bibliography be organised as soon as possible for the purpose of studying the means of checking all the literature (books) already published on Africa and those to be published in the future

and lastly,

RECOMMEND the formation of qualified documentalists

Copenhagen, 13th October 1961

The Chairman of the Conference
Kwakuvi E.W. DADZIE
Secretary General of the
International Association for the
Development of Libraries in Africa

COMITE DE COOPERATION AFRO-SCANDINAVE

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LE
DEVELOPPEMENT DES BIBLIOTHEQUES
EN AFRIQUE

CONFERENCE PREPARATOIRE DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE AFRICAINE

- Copenhague 12-13 Octobre 1961 -

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

Les Participants à la Conférence préparatoire de Bibliographie Africaine réunie à Copenhague les 12 et 13 Octobre 1961,

- Considérant que la Bibliographie revêt une importance capitale en tant qu'instrument d'information et de recherche facilitant la promotion de la culture dans tous les domaines,

- Considérant que la Bibliographie et la Documentation sont dans une situation médiocre en Afrique,

- Considérant, d'autre part, que le développement de la Bibliographie conditionne largement la rédaction d'une Histoire Africaine authentique et objective dans une optique proprement africaine,

- Considérant que le dépôt légal est la source principale de la Bibliographie nationale,

- RECOMMANDENT aux Gouvernements des Etats Africains de se pencher sur le problème de la Bibliographie et de la Documentation,

- PROPOSENT à cet effet, la création dans chaque Etat, d'une Régie de dépôt légal ainsi qu'un Centre National de Bibliographie et de Documentation, ses organismes devant être rattachés à la Bibliothèque Nationale de Conservation,

- RECOMMANDENT que soit organisée dans les meilleurs délais une conférence africaine de Bibliographie afin de rechercher les moyens pour recenser toutes les publications déjà parues sur l'Afrique et celles qui paraîtront ultérieurement.

- RECOMMANDENT enfin la formation de documentalistes qualifiés.

Fait à Copenhague
le 13 Octobre 1961

Le Président de la Conférence

Kwakuvi E.W. DADZIE

Secrétaire Général de l'A.I.D.B.A.

.COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE TAKES FIRST CONCRETE STEPS
TOWARD AFRO-SCANDINAVIAN COOPERATION IN LIBRARY FIELD

Copenhagen, October 12th - The first concrete steps toward establishing a program of Afro-Scandinavian cooperation in setting up and developing libraries in Tropical Africa were taken at a Conference held at the Danish Library School here this week between librarians and library directors from over a dozen African countries and all five Nordic states.

The initiative for the meeting came from the Afro-Scandinavian Cooperation Committee, of which Mr. Jørgen Schleimann, Danish journalist and former librarian, is Executive Director; it was organized in collaboration with the International Association for the Development of Libraries in Africa, which was represented at the Conference by its Secretary-General, M. Kwakuvi E.W. Dadzie. The Conference was made possible by a \$17,500-grant from the Ford Foundation and additional support by the Congress for Cultural Freedom.

At the closing session last night, the Conference - which was the first of its kind ever to be held - decided unanimously to ask the governments of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland to study the possibilities of financial aid from governmental and other sources in order "to enable interested African states to build, equip and operate public libraries, including children's libraries".

The participants also voted to ask the Nordic governments to see whether Scandinavian library experts could be placed at the disposal of interested African States as advisors and instructors for limited periods.

The Conference decided to ask the Danish Government to present the above recommendations to the governments of the other Nordic powers. This decision was taken because of the fact that Danish Cultural Affairs Minister Julius Bomholt, in inaugurating the conference on Monday, had promised that his government would seek to allocate funds, under its new expanded program of aid to under-developed countries, for the construction of a pilot library somewhere in Tropical Africa.

The Danish Government's desire to help Africa in furthering its library development programs was confirmed last night by Prime Minister Viggo Kampmann at a Government reception held for the conference participants at Christiansborg Castle - the House of Parliament.

At the same time, it was announced at the closing session last night that the Congress for Cultural Freedom would establish a scholarship to train a French-speaking African at a library school in English-speaking Africa, thus helping to promote African unity and cooperation between librarians of African countries, cooperation which is hampered by language barriers.

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With respect to foreign assistance in general, the conference recommended that in pursuing their library development programs African countries should accept aid from any foreign governmental or other source provided only that such aid is not accompanied by political conditions infringing upon their sovereignty.

This aid, the conference recommended unanimously, should take three forms: training of librarians, construction and fitting out of model libraries, and the sending of experts to advise them in their library development programs.

In addition to its resolutions concerning external assistance, the Conference adopted a series of recommendations addressed to the African states stressing the urgent need for building and expanding the African library systems, developing reading habits among Africans and reading facilities in African languages, training qualified librarians and many other related tasks.

The participants in the Conference appointed a Continuations Committee to ensure that the work of the Copenhagen meeting will be pursued and developed in the future. Members of this Committee include M. Joseph Ki Zerbo, writer and history professor of Upper Volta; Mr. S.I.A. Kotei, of the Ghana Library Board; M. Amadou Traore, Director-General of the Peoples Book Shop of Mali; Mr. Gbole Nanu Nwikina, Deputy Librarian of the Regional Central Library at Enugu, Nigeria; Mr. Ahmed Abdel Halim, Assistant Librarian at the University Library in Khartoum; and M. Jules Isambasa, Director of the National Archives of the Congo-Leopoldville.

Also on the Committee are the Directors of the State Library Inspectorates of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, respectively: Mr. E. Allerslev Jensen, Mr. Anders Andreassen and Mr. Bengt Hjelmqvist; and the Principal of the Library School of Finland, Miss Helle Kannila. In addition, the two organisers of this first Afro-Scandinavian Library Conference are on the Continuations Committee : M. Dadzie and Mr. Schleimann.

Finally, the participants unanimously recommended the holding of two further conferences in the coming years: one on the problems of archivists and historians of Africa, in 1962, and, the other, a large meeting of all categories of African librarians and documentalists, in 1964.

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•fornöyd med **BP**



Islands statsminister taler i Aulaen søndag:

Stadig sterkere samband mellom Island og Norge

Ofte blir vi minnet om og tenker på vårt frendefolk i vest, islendingene, som vi er så sterkt knyttet til i felles tradisjon og på grunn av levekårene som på mange måter arter seg likt i Island og i store deler av Norge. Førstkommende søndag får vi en enestående anledning til å utvide vårt kjennskap til Island og islendingene. Da holder Islands statsminister, Bjarni Benediktsson, foredrag på et møte som Foreningen Norden og Norsk-Islandsk Samband arrangerer i Aulaen om «Islands norske arv».

Statsminister Benediktsson kommer fra Rivedal i Sunnfjord, der han på sitt lands vegne overrakte statuen av den første landnåmsmannen, Ingolfur Arnasson, til det norske folk. Gaven er et symbol på Islands historiske samhörighet med Norge og på islendingenes oppriktige følelser overfor nordmennene, sa statsministeren i en pressekonferanse i formiddag.

Han uttalte sin glede over at forbindelsene mellom Island og Norge stadig blir hyppigere og sterkere. Bl. a. skyldes det bedre kommunikasjoner, flyforbindelsene som har betydd så mye og, i løpet av den nærmeste fremtid, bedre telefon. Det skal legges en ny kabel.

Etter atskillelsen fra Danmark, er Islands forhold til vår nabo i sør blitt det aller beste, men også her i Norge kan vi glede oss over bl. a. bedre kulturell kontakt med Island. Ikke minst betyr det at Islandsk ungdom i større utstrekning enn tidligere søker høyere utdanning i Norge, det gjelder bl. a. ingeniører, meteorologer og fiskerlektører.

På møtet søndag blir det også tale av Islands ambassadør, Haraldur Gudmundsson og orienteringer



Statsminister Bjarni Benediktsson fotografert av VG i formiddag.

om planer for utvidet norsk-Islandsk samarbeid av formannen i Foreningen Norden, forlagsdirektør

Henrik Groth og formannen i Norsk-Islandsk Samband, doktor philos. Hallvard Magerøy.

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ISLANDSK STATS BESØK PÅ SOGN IV

I går var den islandske statsministeren, Bjarni Benediktsson, på studentbesøk. Han uttrykte ønske med en gang han kom til byen om å få gå på besøk til den islandske studentkolonien på Sogn IV — hvor de har sine hybler og en felles dagligstue møblert med islandske møbler og isbjørnskin. Den islandske ambassadøren, Haraldur Gudmundsson var også med på besøket.

Den islandske studentkolonien teller 15, noen studerer meteorologi, noen studerer veterinær medisin og noen studerer språk, i det hele tatt fag som ikke det islandske universitet underviser i. På bildene ovenfor ser vi hele den islandske kolonien sammen med de to gjestene på balkongen utenfor den islandske dagligstuen på Sogn IV, og på det andre bildet ser vi fra venstre

den islandske ambassadøren i Norge, Sigridur Gudmundsdottir, den islandske statsministeren og hans sønn, på besøk hos studentekteparet Sigrður og Jon Thor Haraldsson.

Bjarni Benediktsson var meget fornøyd med besøket og syntes de islandske studentene hadde det meget bra i Oslo. Han reiser tilbake til Island i dag.

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IKKE FORHA

Fra vårt Telemarks

— Forlydender Hydro skal sette drift i Kodal i Ve lag 200 mann, må av lufta. Foreløpig nær klart om fo apatit, jernmalm og verdige, og vi må r års undersøkelser klart om vi kan s utvinne de nevnte assisterende direkt ved Eidanger Salp Det eneste som er er at det i Kodal forekomster av apatit med jern og titan som inter Hydro. Apatit bru

Kr.F. kraftig
tilbake i sørlands-

Hetsen mot
biskop Norderval

Norsk sjøm