

moderate politicians who speak of "Dominion status in 1956". The College is a fully autonomous institution, and so far there have been few attempts, save by the less responsible organs of the popular press, to interfere with this autonomy. Nevertheless, until the College and its standards are firmly established the danger of outside political pressure will remain, and will impose an added strain on those responsible for the well-being of an institution on which the future of Nigeria itself depends so greatly.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR DOCUMENTATION CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN

THE International Federation for Documentation held one of its 'restricted' conferences in Copenhagen during September 28–October 4, which was attended by representatives of some sixteen countries. These conferences consist of a number of meetings of the council and of the active specialist committees of the Federation. Among the committees which met on this occasion were those on universal classification, mechanical selection, technical means of documentation, abstracting, training, and information services. Meetings were also held between members of the staff of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and representatives of the council of the International Federation for Documentation, the International Federation of Library Associations and other international bodies concerned with documentation, archives and librarianship. As a step towards closer collaboration, it was agreed that both the International Federation for Documentation and the International Federation of Library Associations should become members of the other's organization and that the next conferences of the two bodies should take place simultaneously in Vienna in 1953. It was also agreed with the representatives of Unesco that a joint consultation committee of international non-governmental organizations in the field of librarianship, documentation and archives be established, and that this committee should arrange the next world conference on these subjects to be held in 1954 or 1955.

One of the main items discussed by the council of the Federation was the report of its committee on reorganization, which was set up at the end of the conference held in Rome in 1951. This report, which was accepted after minor modification, restated the aims of the Federation in terms suitable for the present; in particular, it made clear that such a body should restrict its activities to those which are truly international in character, leaving studies of a more general nature to its national constituent bodies. Similarly, it was agreed that international technical studies should not necessarily be carried out by the general secretariat but allocated to appropriate national members who would undertake them for the benefit of the Federation as a whole. It also recommended that international specialist bodies should be accepted as members of the Federation in addition to the national co-operating bodies (Aslib in the case of Great Britain). It was recognized that, with the increased amount of research undertaken, especially in the pure and applied sciences, and the consequent volume of publication, special problems

of documentation are arising in many scientific and technical fields. As a result, a number of specialist international bodies have already been established, such as the International Council on Building Documentation which was meeting at Copenhagen at the same time as the International Federation for Documentation. The Federation felt itself to be in a position to give advice to international bodies for specialized topics, such as the various international scientific unions, on documentary aspects of their work, and decided to create facilities for such bodies to join the Federation and participate fully in its work.

Among the technical matters agreed as appropriate to the programme of the Federation for 1953, priority was given to the proposals for a guide to centres for microfilm and photocopying services, and centres for international loans and translation services; the production of manuals for instruction in documentation; a directory of the effective members of the Federation, with a description of their activities; a study of auxiliary publications, including 'unpublished' reports of scientific work; a study of costing and economics in the preparation and sale of photocopies; and a manual of documentary reproduction.

This conference, with its wide scope of technical interest, demonstrated clearly the need for improved services of documentation and information as well as the interest of scientific and technological workers in problems resulting from the mounting pressure of publication. Although a number of international organizations are operative in this and neighbouring fields, the International Federation of Documentation, in encouraging co-operation with other bodies while at the same time improving its own organization and procedures, is showing real leadership and finding a useful continuing function.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARID ZONE RESEARCH MEETING IN LONDON

THE Advisory Committee on Arid Zone Research set up by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization held its fourth meeting in the Royal Society's rooms, Burlington House, London, during September 29–October 1. Following its former policy, the Committee's recommendations were concerned to a large extent with the dissemination and exchange of information by means of reports and symposia. Reports have already been obtained and circulated on arid zone hydrology, on plant ecology, on the climatic history of arid regions and on the utilization of salt water. A successful symposium on arid zone hydrology organized jointly by Unesco and the Turkish Government was held in Ankara last April. The Committee recommended that qualified experts be commissioned to prepare reports reviewing research on energy sources, including wind and solar energy and their utilization in arid and semi-arid regions, and also on the general characteristics of arid zone soils and their modification. It also recommended that a survey of current research in the field of arid zone plant ecology be prepared. The symposium planned to be held in 1953 will deal with this field of plant ecology in arid regions, and the Committee considered its programme and plans