

Commission in amalgamating the legal systems will be of great interest to lawyers. An indication at this stage of what the Commission will do is best found in the words of the President of the Commission:—

“The Commission will of course take into account the existing practices of the two territories. However, we shall seek to propose Somali solutions which should be suitable to local conditions, necessities and customs. We shall also endeavour to find practical, simple and easily applicable formulas, without however sacrificing the clarity of legal concepts.”¹

INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LAW ASSOCIATION NEWS

FORMATION OF BRITISH SECTION

The inaugural meeting of British members of the Association was held on 16th December, 1960, at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, with Professor J. N. D. Anderson, a Vice-President of the Association, in the chair. Members representing a number of institutions concerned with African affairs were present.

The major subject before the meeting was a proposal to constitute a British Section of the Association. After thorough discussion it was unanimously agreed that a local British Section should be formed, and the Chairman was instructed to approach the Association for recognition of the Section (which has now been duly accorded).

Among the functions which it is envisaged might be performed by the British Section are:—

- (i) the co-ordination of existing activity in the United Kingdom through the interchange of information on present or projected schemes of research into the law of Africa;
- (ii) the stimulation of interest in the study of the law in Africa;
- (iii) the arrangement of meetings from time to time to discuss particular aspects of the law in Africa.

INFORMAL MEETING IN LAGOS

The International African Law Association was invited to send two observers to the Lagos Conference on the Rule of Law (reported above), and the President, Dr. P. J. Idenburg, and the Co-Secretary-General, M. J. Poirier, duly attended as observers on behalf of the Association. Dr. A. N. Allott, the other Co-Secretary-General, also attended the Conference in his capacity as representative of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. The Conference itself was under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of the Federation of Nigeria, Sir A. Ademola, a Vice-President of the Association.

¹ Statement made to *Il Corriere della Somalia* of 31st October, 1960.

The opportunity was taken, during the course of the Conference, to arrange an informal meeting of members of the Association attending the Conference; this meeting, by the kind invitation of Sir A. Ademola, took place at his residence. This was the first meeting of IALA members on African soil, and offered the occasion for an interchange of views on ways in which the work of the Association might be extended and its membership strengthened in African countries. It is hoped that as a result a meeting will be held for members in West Africa later in the year. It is also likely that, as a result of contact made at the Conference, international collaboration (especially between the French-speaking and English-speaking sectors) in the study and reform of the law in West Africa will be established. Many of the problems facing West African countries—e.g., codification, the place of customary law in the legal system, adaptation of law to new economic and social circumstances—are common to them all, and may usefully be discussed interterritorially.