

P L A N N I N G C O M M I T T E E

DECEMBER 1960 CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
 C/o P. O. Box 97 JOHANNESBURG Telephone: 835-1781
 Telegrams: Ubuntu S. Africa

3rd February, 1961.

TO ALL PERSONSWHO ATTENDED THE COTTESLOE CONSULTATION

Dear Delegate,

On 27th December, 1960, the delegation of the Cape N.G. Church and the available members of the delegation of the Transvaal N.G. Church issued an explanatory statement on their participation in the Cottesloe Consultation. Brief summaries of this statement appeared in the English press and I now enclose, for your information, an English translation of the full statement.

You have no doubt also read in the press that various allegations have been made by certain organizations and persons against the World Council of Churches. Enclosed is a statement by Dr. W.A. Visser't Hooft, on one of these allegations, namely that the W.C.C. is a "humanistic" organization.

At the same time the W.C.C. also sent me a leaflet, "The World Council of Churches - Questions Answered", which deals fully with all the other allegations, and I enclose a mimeographed copy of this also. My wife has translated this into Afrikaans and copies of the translation will be sent to all our Afrikaans delegates.

Some very important meetings will be held during this year as far as the Afrikaans churches are concerned, and our Cottesloe Consultation will, no doubt, be discussed at each of them. For this reason I list the main ones below, with an earnest request that they be remembered in your prayers:-

1. The Synod of the S.W.A. N.G. Church 1st March, 1961
2. General Synodical Commission of the Transvaal
N.G. Church 2nd March, 1961
3. General Assembly (Synod) of the Nederduitsch Hervormde
Kerk van Afrika 8th March, 1961
4. The Council of N.G. Churches 22nd March, 1961
5. The General Synod, Transvaal N.G. Church 5th April, 1961
6. The Synod, Natal N.G. Church 5th April, 1961
7. The Synod, Cape N.G. Church 19th October, 1961

As regards the planning committee which was proposed by the Cottesloe Consultation, we have now received the names of the representatives of all the churches, except those of the three Afrikaans churches. The indications are that we are not likely to receive these before the synods of the three churches have met. I must mention here that the pressure on these three churches by many of their church councils (Kerkrade) to resign from the World Council of Churches is so great that the possibility of their resignation cannot, unfortunately, be minimized.

I hope to send all delegates an audited statement of the income and expenditure of the Cottesloe Consultation within the next few weeks. At this stage I do wish to mention that the funds which we received were sufficient.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

F.J. van Wyk,
HONORARY SECRETARY.

1. The Synod of the S.W.A. N.G. Church
2. General Synod of the Transvaal N.G. Church
3. General Assembly (Synod) of the N.G. Church of the Orange Free State
4. The Council of N.G. Churches
5. The General Synod, Transvaal N.G. Church
6. The Synod, Natal N.G. Church
7. The Synod, Cape N.G. Church