

The Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
37th Meeting of the Executive Committee
January 20 to 24, 1976

Tuesday, January 20, 1976.

The Meeting was opened at 9.a.m. by Hymn No. 290. The Bible Study was conducted by Ato Yonas Deressa who read Nehemiah 2:12-20 and Acts 20:17-20.

EC-37-1: The President of the ECMY declared the 37th Meeting of the Executive Committee opened.

EC-37-2: The participants were introduced by the President.

EC-37-3: The Agenda was approved with the addition of the following item:

"Mekane Yesus Seminary membership in the Association of Theological Institutions in Eastern Africa".

EC-37-4: The President of the ECMY presented his Report. Some questions were raised and discussed, whereafter the Report was accepted by the Executive Committee.

EC-37-5: The Rev. Olana Djini presented the Report of the Central Synod. The administrative problems of the Synod were discussed at some length and the Report was accepted.

EC-37-6: The Rev Tasgara Hirpo, President of the Western Synod, presented an oral report. He mentioned that:
a) 12 pastors had been ordained the previous December;
b) the urgency of starting development work in Assosa District;
c) the ongoing road construction between Bodji and Aira and Bodji and Ghimbi, and the building of a bridge over the Uwa River.

Answers were given to some questions that were raised and the Committee accepted the report.

EC-37-7: Ato Yalem Tesfa Mengistu, Executive Secretary of the North Ethiopia Area, presented a Progress Report which was accepted by the Executive Committee.

EC-37-8: Ato Gutema Rufo, President of the Shoa, Kafa and Illubabor Bethel Synod presented the Synod's Report. Some questions were answered and the Report was accepted.

EC-38-9: Memre Sileshi W/Mikael, Executive Secretary of the Addis Ababa Synod, presented a Progress Report and the Executive Committee accepted it.

EC-37-10: The Rev. Kalbero Wayero, President of the Kambata Synod, presented a Progress Report. Some questions were raised and discussed and the Report was accepted.

EC-37-11: Ato Legesse Wolde, President of the South Ethiopia Synod, presented the Progress Report of the Synod and it was accepted.

EC-37-12: The Finance Director of the ECMY, Ato Berhe Beyene, had in a letter to the President of the ECMY requested that the question of extending the term of loans from the Pension Fund be considered in view of the new salary policy of the Church. It was noted during the discussion that other factors also indicated the the loan policy be reconsidered. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved that loan takers be required to pay every month a quarter (25%) of their gross salary to the Pension Fund beginning January 1, 1976. It was further resolved that the future basis and administration of the Pension Fund be studied by a committee consisting of Ato Tedla Gutema, Mr. Rolf Berglund (Convener), Ato Tadesse Gurmu, Dr. Fasil Nahum and Ato Hailu Wolde Semaiat (Consultant), and that a report be presented to the 38th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

The following questions to be considered by the committee:

1. Should the Pension Policy of the Church continue, if so, on what basis ?
 - a) legal
 - b) moral
2. How does the ECMY, Pension Policy compare with the policies of the Government and other Organizations?
3. What changes would be needed in our present policy ?
4. How should the ECMY Pension Fund be administered in the future ?
5. Is it necessary to change the pensionable age ?

The session was adjourned for lunch at 1 p.m. and the work was resumed at 3 p.m.

EC-37-13: Ato Hailu Wolde Semaiat, Chairman of the Pension Board, presented a Report on the activities of the Board. After some discussion the Report was accepted.

EC-37-14: The following persons were elected to represent the ECMY at the LWF Sixth Assembly:

Mrs. Elizabeth Karorsa, possible substitute Miss Tsige Wongel Tekleab, Ato Emmanuel Abraham, possible substitute the Rev. Gudina Tumsa, the Rev. Tasgara Hipo, possible substitute the Rev. Berisha Hunde.

EC-37-15: The All Africa Conference of Churches had asked for a Contribution of U.S. \$3000 to be paid over a five-year period towards the building of the new Headquarters of the AACC in Nairobi. It was resolved that the amount of US. \$600 be entered for this purpose into the budget of the Central Office for 1976, and that the same amount be budgeted during the following four years.

EC-37-16: The proposal of the ECMY Central Office Staff Committee for a post of Music Secretary to be established within the Evangelism Department to serve the Synods in the area of training song and music leaders was approved.

The day's session was closed by singing Hymn No. 242 and a prayer by the Rev. Daffa Jammo.

Wednesday, January 21, 1976.

The work of the day started with a Bible Study by Ato Yonas Deressa. Hymn No. 160 was sung and Ato Yonas read Acts 20: 27-28 and 1. Cor 9:27, The Bible Study was followed by Hymn No. 176.

EC-37-17: The Rev. Tarfa Tiba, President of the Western Wollega Bethel Synod, presented a Progress Report on the work of the Synod. The presentation of the Report was followed by some questions which the Rev. Tarfa answered and the Report was accepted.

EC-37-18: As introduction to the discussion on the work in the former North Ethiopia Synod Area a Report prepared by the Rev. Jurgen Wesenick was considered. After a lengthy exchange of views, it was resolved:

1. that the work in the Northern Area be placed under the ECMY at large, that the Programme be administered by the Evangelism Department and that the name of the Programme be; "The ECMY Evangelistic Outreach for the Northern Area";
2. that initially the Programme be for a period of three years;
3. that the Synods be requested to send experienced workers for a specific period of time to carry out this task undertaken by the whole Church;
4. that a special Fund be established for Evangelistic outreach, that the resolution of the Yirga Alem Assembly (GA-8-78-65), that offerings of one Sunday a year be earmarked for Evangelistic Outreach, be put into effect forthwith and that the first offering be collected and paid to the Fund before June 30, 1976;
5. that the Synods send workers to begin this Programme before June 30, 1976;

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EC-37-22: Mr. Karl John Lundstrom read a Report of the Preparatory Committee For the 9th General Assembly. The Synods indicated the number of delegates they intended to send to the General Assembly.

The work of the day was adjourned by singing Hymn No. 306 and a prayer by Ato Legesse Wolde.

Friday, January 23, 1976.

The session started by singing Hymn No. 255. The Bible Study conducted by the Rev. Kalbero Wayero was on 1. Tess 2:1-12 followed by Hymn No. 121.

EC-37-23: The Synods appointed the following persons to be members of the Scholarship Committee:

Ato Idossa Gemachis, Central Synod
Ato Megersa Yadetta, Western Synod
Dr. Solomon Gidada, Western Wollega Bethel Synod
Ato Tarfasa Yadessa S.K.I. Bethel Synod
The Rev. Paul Hoffman, Addis Ababa Synod.
Miss Gerd Landro, South Ethiopia Synod

The Rev. Paul Hoffman to convene the first meeting of the Committee.

EC-37-24: The question of a Fourth Seminar on Christianity and Socialism was raised. After discussion of the form and format of the Seminar, it was resolved that a Workshop of two weeks be held on Christianity and Socialism beginning on Monday, June 7, 1976. A Preparatory Committee consisting of the General Secretary, the Evangelism Director, Pastor Paul Hoffman and Pastor Johny Bakke was appointed.

EC-37-25: A Report and Recommendations on the Ministry and Theological Education was presented by the Rev. Johny Bakke. It was resolved that:

- 1) the Report be sent to the Synods for study and recommendations;
- 2) that the Synods present their findings by June 30, 1976;
- 3) that a committee consisting of the General Secretary, the Director of the Evangelism Department and the Staff of the MY Seminary compile the recommendations of the Synods for presentation to the Executive Committee's Meeting in September, 1976.

EC-37-26: It was resolved that a reminder be sent to the Synods and the Programmes that the Agenda for the 9th General Assembly, previously sent out, be brought along to the General Assembly, that the reports be brought up to date for presentation at the General Assembly and sent to the Central Office by February 15, 1976.

EC-37-27: It was resolved that the Assembly theme be:
"I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is God's power unto
Salvation", and that topics for Bible Studies be prepared
by the Preparatory Committee.

EC-37-28: The Constitution of the Mekane Yesus Seminary, prepared by
the MYS Board, was read and approved with the following
amendments:

1. In the Heading: the words "and by laws" to be deleted

2. Article VII. 5 to read:

"The Executive Committee of the Seminary shall be elected
by the Board from among its members with a minimum of
five members".

3. Article VII. 8 to read:

"The Chairman and the Secretary of the Seminary Board
shall be elected by the Seminary Board for one year
with eligibility for re-elections. The Chairman and
the Secretary of the Seminary Board shall also be the
Chairman and the Secretary of the Executive Committee."

4. Article IX. Section 1 to read:

"The Seminary Board shall administer the Seminary through
a Staff Council and duly appointed Principal and Vice
Principal"

The Session was adjourned for lunch at 1 p.m. and was
resumed at 3 p.m.

EC-37-29: Mr. Rolf Berglund Financial Adviser of the ECMY, presented
the budget estimates for 1977 with the recommendations of
the Finance Committee. After a long discussion it was
resolved:

1. that the allocation of grants from abroad be approved
as proposed by the Finance Committee;

2. that the South Ethiopia Synod request that \$11,137 be
transferred from the capital budget to the running budget
be approved provided the Donor Agency concerned agrees
to it;

3. that the budget of the S.K.I. Bethel Synod be presented
to the Financial Adviser by January 30, 1976, for approval
by the Church Officers.

The day's session was closed at 6.30 p.m. with a prayer
by the Rev. Tarfa Tiba.

Saturday, January 24, 1976.

The work of the day started by singing Hymn No. 206 and a
Bible Study on Prayer by Ato Tarfasa Yadessa.

Continuation of EC-37-29: Budget for 1976.

Budgetary matters were again discussed at length and it was resolved:

4. that the running budget proposals be submitted to the Donor Agencies as presented by the Finance Committee;
 5. that the Synods prepare a breakdown of the budget figures for 1976 and 1977 in order to give a more realistic view of the relation between local resources and grants from abroad. The figures to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and presented to the 38th Meeting of the Executive Committee;
 6. that requests from abroad for Church buildings be deleted from the budget proposals with the exception of the request for \$28,200 for 45 Church buildings in the Kambata Synod.
 7. that the Budget Proposals for Capital Investment for 1977 from the South Ethiopia Synod be presented for approval to the Church Officers after the proposals had been screened by the Synod Board;
 8. that requests for Capital Investment for new development projects or extension of existing projects and institutions be considered only after assurances for taking over of the projects or institutions had been given and agreements signed between the Church and the Government Departments concerned;
 9. that upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee the Church Officers approach appropriate Agencies abroad to cover the needs for 1977 in accordance with the decisions of the Executive Committee;
 10. that the time plan for budget work decided by the Executive Committee be strictly followed;
 11. that the budget estimates for 1976 be returned to the Finance Committee for re-editing in the light of the decisions of the Executive Committee.
- CE-37-30: Ato Tarfassa Yadessa presented a report on the situation of the Church in the Gambela District of Ilubabor Province. It was resolved that the Rev. Gudina Tumsa, the Rev. Tasgara Hirpo and Ato Gutema Rufo, who had visited the area at an earlier date, together with Ato Tarfassa Yadessa immediately prepare a report in English for the Church Officers, and that the Church follow closely further developments in the District.

EC-37-31: The following were named members of the Mekane Yesus Seminary Board:

The Rev. Olana Djini,	Central Synod.
The Rev. Tasgara Hirpo,	Western Synod
The Rev. Debla Birri,	W.W. Bethel Synod
Ato Sium Tesemma,	SKI. Bethel Synod
The Rev. Gudina Tumsa,	A.A. Synod
The Rev. Kalbero Wayero,	Kambata Synod
The Rev. Tobias Salmelid,	South Ethiopia Synod.

Ato Hailu Wolde Semaiat, and the Director of the Evangelism Department were appointed by the Executive Committee.

EC-37-32: Mr. Rolf Berglund, Financial Adviser of the ECMY, presented a Progress Report concerning Salary Regulations for the ECMY beginning 1977.

The Report and suggestions were accepted with the exception of points (d) and (c) with the understanding that the deadline be changed from March 15 to June 30, 1976, and that the Salary Scale be presented to the September Meeting of the Executive Committee.

EC-37-33: It was resolved that a Fund be established for severance pay, etc.

EC-37-34: A Progress Report on the Five-Year Plan of the ECMY was presented by Mr. Rolf Berglund, Financial Adviser. It was decided that a report on the Five-Year Plan be presented to the 9th General Assembly and that a Paper be also presented on Self-Reliance underlining this important matter. Ato Tarfassa Yadessa to prepare the Paper and the Rev. Paul Hoffman to react to it.

It was further resolved that the final date for Synods and Institutions to submit their parts of the Plan be June 30, 1976. Preliminary information on the Plan to be submitted to Mr. Rolf Berglund before February 29, 1976.

EC-37-35: Dr. Norvald Yri, who had been an Observer at the World Council of Churches Assembly, presented a Report on his observations.

EC-37-36: Upon the recommendation of the Mekane Yesus Seminary Board, the Executive Committee resolved that the Seminary seek membership in the "Association of Theological Institutions in Eastern Africa".

EC-37-37: Upon the recommendation of the Development Committee, the Executive Committee approved the following guidelines for processing small Projects outside the normal budget procedures of the Church:

a) the maximum amount to be approved inside such a Project to be Eth. \$10,000;

- b) any such Project to be of an emergency nature normally not foreseen during the time of regular budgeting but necessary to implement in a shorter period of time than the normal budget work allows;
 - c) after presentation to the Central Office by the Synod concerned, such a Project to be processed by the Development Department of the Church and submitted to the Church Officers for approval and forwarding to prospective Donor Agencies;
 - d) the Projects to be limited in time and with no implications on future operating budgets.
- EC-37-38: The following priority list for requests to be sent to the LWF, Geneva, was approved as recommended by the Development Committee:

Priority I.

1. Continuation request for Christian Education Material subsidy: Eth. \$100,000;-
2. Continuation request for Central Synod Evangelistic Outreach Programme: Eth. \$28,092;-
3. Continuation request for Administrative Costs for the Pension Board; Eth. \$34,600;-

Priority II.

1. Library Books for the Central Synod Christian Education; Eth. \$4,039;
2. Addis Ababa Synod Evangelistic Outreach and Training Programme: Eth. \$181,523;
3. Congregational Church Buildings in the Kambata Synod: Eth. 28,200;

Priority III.

1. Request for books for Community Centres in Addis Ababa: Eth. \$2,400.

- EC-37-39: The Rev. Gudina Tumsa reported on the work of a Committee of various Churches which was planning a Congress for Church workers, and recommended that the ECMY Synods and congregations make plans for participation in the Congress.
- EC-37-40: The General Secretary reported that a Council for Cooperation of the Churches in Ethiopia was in process of formation. After discussion it was resolved in principle to hold membership in the Council and that a report on the formation of the Council be presented to the Meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in March, 1976.

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EC-37-41: Resolved that the 38th Meeting of the Executive Committee
(The Pre Assembly Meeting) be held from March 24 to 26, 1976.

EC-37-42: The Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Executive Committee
were read and approved.

EC-37-43: Ato Tesemma Zawde led the Meeting in prayer, Hymn No. 221,
was sung and the President declared the 37th Meeting of
the Executive Committee closed at 7.50 p.m.

Emmanuel Abraham
President

Dr. Olav Saeveraas
Associate General Secretary

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

1. The Church Officers:
 1. Ato Emmanuel Abraham
 2. Fit. Baissa Jammo
 3. Dr. Emmanuel G/Selassie
 4. Ato Hailu W/Semaiat
2. Central Synod:
 5. The Rev. Olana Djini
 6. Mr. Ingvar Karlsson
3. Western Synod:
 7. The Rev. Tasgara Hirpo
 8. The Rev. Daffa Djammo
 9. The Rev. Gemechu Dannu
 10. Ato Deressa Amaro
 11. The Rev. Djallata Wase
4. Western Wollega Bethel Synod:
 12. The Rev. Debela Birri
 13. The Rev. Tarfa Tiba
5. North Ethiopia Area:
 14. Ato Yalem Tesfa Mengistu
 15. Mr. Douglas Ritze
6. Shoa, Kafa & Illubabor Bethel Synod:
 16. Ato Gutema Rufo
 17. Ato Sium Tesemma
7. Addis Ababa Synod:
 18. Memre Sileshi Wolde Mikael
 19. The Rev. Johannes Launhardt
8. Kambata Synod:
 20. The Rev. Kalbero Wayero
 21. Mrs. Arja Vekho
9. South Ethiopia Synod:
 22. Ato Legesse Wolde
 23. Ato Tesemma Zawde
 24. The Rev. Osvald Hindenes
10. The Evangelical College, Debre Zeit:
 25. Mr. Ragnar Norheim

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11. Mekane Yesus Seminary:

- 26. The Rev. Johnny Bakke
- 27. The Rev. Paul Hoffman

12. Tabor Seminary:

- 28. The Rev. Tobias Salmelid

13. Louis Harms Hostel

- 29. Ato Addisu Tolossa
- 30. Ato Desta Buba

14. Central Office Staff:

- 31. The Rev. Gudina Tumsa
- 32. Mr. John Eriksson
- 33. Mr. Karl Johan Lundstrom
- 34. Dr. Norvald Yri
- 35. Mr. Rolf Berglund
- 36. Ato Yonas Deressa
- 37. Dr. Olav Saeveraas
- 38. Terfassa Yadessa

37th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, January 20-24, 1976

EC-37-40: The General Secretary reported that a COUNCIL FOR COOPERATION OF THE CHURCHES IN ETHIOPIA was in process of formation. After discussion it was Resolved in principle to hold membership in the Council and that a report on the formation of the Council be presented to the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in March 1976.

The Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
37th Meeting of the Executive Committee
January 20 to 24, 1976

AGENDA

1. Devotion
2. The President opens the Meeting
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. The President's Report
6. The Central Synod Report
7. The Western Synod Report
8. The North Ethiopia Area Report
9. The S.K.I. Bethel Synod Report
10. The Western Wollega Bethel Synod Report
11. The Addis Ababa Synod Report
12. Kambata Synod Report
13. South Ethiopia Synod Report
14. The Yemiasrach Bmta Report
15. The Evangelical College Report
16. The Mekane Yesus Seminary Report
17. The Tabor Seminary Report
18. The Mekane Yesus Youth Hostel and Centre Report
19. Report of the Board of Pensions
20. Loan Policy of the ECHY Board of Pensions
21. Nomination of Delegates to the LWF Sixth Assembly
22. ECHY Contribution towards the All Africa Conference of Churches Headquarters Project.
23. Policy Decision on the work in the former NES Area
24. Report on the Restructuring of the Administration of the Church and the Constitution (EC-36-24)
25. Appointment of Members of the Scholarship Committee (EC-36-53)
26. Recommendations of the ECHY Consultation on the Ministry and Theological Education (EC-36-55)
27. Approval of the Constitution of the Mekane Yesus Seminary and appointment of Seminary Board Members.
28. Preparation for the 9th General Assembly of the ECHY.
29. Need for a Music Secretary
30. Fourth Seminar on Christianity and Socialism.

The Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus
27th Meeting of the Executive Committee
January 20 to 24, 1976

The President's Report

1. I am happy to report to the Executive Committee that we have had visits from two important personalities from the Lutheran Churches during the past few weeks. Dr. Olof Sundby, Archbishop of Sweden, was in Addis Ababa for two days on November 29 and 30, 1975. Dr. Sundby who was attending the 5th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi took the opportunity of his presence in neighbouring Kenya to respond to our invitation to visit the ECHMY. We had profitable discussions conducive to a closer relationship between our two Churches during his visit. You are all aware that the Church of Sweden is actively co-operating with our Church through its Missionary Society, the Church of Sweden Mission.

Dr. Carl Mau, the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, paid us a visit at the end of December when we had consultation on matters of common interest. You are all aware that LWF World Service has taken an active part in relief and rehabilitation work in our Country for the past four years, first in Bichena District of Gojjam and more recently in Wollo and other areas affected by natural disasters. This is apart from the continual financial assistance afforded us in the execution of various development activities the ECHMY has undertaken in various areas of Ethiopia. Canon Burgess Carr, General Secretary of the All Africa Conference of Churches, also made one of his periodic visits to Ethiopia in December when we had the opportunity to exchange views.

We have also had visits from a number of friends members of the Lutheran Churches in America, Germany and Scandinavia in the course of November and December either on their way to the WACC Assembly or on their way back to their countries. The visitors were bent on obtaining more information on the ECHMY and her activities and we in the Central Office were happy to communicate it to them. We are confident that these contacts will lead to better understanding among the member Churches of the LWF.

37th Ex. Com., Jan. 1976 - President's Report

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2. As we all know, the 6th General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation is due to be held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, in June, 1977. As a member Church of the Federation, the ECHMY has been invited to attend the Assembly and three delegates have been assigned to our Church. It has also been requested that at least one should be a woman delegate. As the General Secretary of the LWF has asked us to name the delegates and send them their names as soon as possible, I recommend that the Executive Committee elect three persons to represent our Church at the Assembly.

3. The All Africa Conference of Churches is constructing its Headquarters building in Nairobi and the General Secretary has informed us that the Executive Committee of the AACCC has resolved to ask each member Church to contribute US\$3,000 over a five year period and to send them our first contribution without delay. I would therefore ask the Executive Committee to act on this matter in the course of this Meeting.

4. It would be recalled that the membership of the Church Officers' Meeting was fixed at seven persons at the last General Assembly, but two members resigned in the course of the past year. I recommend that the Executive Committee consider this matter and decide as to whether or not it deems it desirable to appoint two new Church Officers before the next General Assembly.

I regret to inform the Executive Committee that the Finance Director, Ato Berhe Boyana, has given notice that he would resign his office as from April 1, 1976. The reasons he has advanced for his intended resignation are that (a) he does not agree with the General Secretary's Memorandum of July 21, 1975, and the way action was taken on it by the Executive Committee, and that (b) it would be difficult for him and his family to live on the proposed reduced salary.

5. More than three years have now passed since the administration of the North Ethiopia Synod broke down and since the Church Officers took charge of the overall control of the administration of the former Synod. The Church Officers have

all the while been studying how the administration and the work in the North could be restructured. With this in view, the Rev. Jurgen Wosnick was requested to make a final study of the situation, ascertain the number of congregations, the number of members in each congregation and so the number of Church members in the former Synod. His report was received at the beginning of July when the Church Officers considered it. It was then sent to all the Synod Presidents in November so that they could make an appraisal of the report and after consultation policy decisions could be made at this Meeting of the Executive Committee. I feel the Report has gone deep into the problem and come up with realistic suggestions which should help us take constructive steps with respect to the Church's activities in Northern Ethiopia, with especial reference to Wollo.

I have also to report to the Executive Committee that the administrative structure and therefore the administration of the Central Synod has not been ideal during the past year. We are thankful that a large number of people in the Nakante District and the adjacent areas are experiencing the saving grace of our Lord and Saviour. But especially since the establishment of the Addis Ababa Synod and the consequent partition of the Central Synod, the administrative setup of the Synod has been top heavy in some respects, and as the leading Officers of the Synod, viz. the President and the Vice President, are residents of Addis Ababa and have thus not been able to take active parts in the day to day work of the Synod, they sent in their resignation last August.

The Church Officers have tried to probe into the problems of the Synod by appointing two committees to study the situation in detail. The committees have presented their findings which have proved to be basically administrative. We are hoping to obtain before long the services of one experienced leader from the Western Synod on loan and another on a permanent basis to help us reorganize the administration of the Synod.

6. In line with the Executive Committee's policy decision of last August (EC-35-18) and the desire of the Ministry of Public Health, the ECOMY Seleklela Medical Programme was handed over to the Government in December to be used as a minor Health Centre. The Church has contributed \$36,000 towards the administrative costs of the Health Centre for the budget year 1968 E.C. (1975-76).

7. The new Standard Agreement prepared on the basis of last year's Consultation and the understanding reached with the Co-operating Churches/Missions was sent to the Co-operating Agencies last October for comments and possible suggestions for amendment. I am happy to report to the Executive Committee that most of them have either signed the Agreement with us or signified their consent to it and readiness to sign it with minor additions or modifications.

8. Members of the Executive Committee are aware that Norwegian Church Relief came to the assistance of the people in the drought-stricken areas of Borana and Konso in 1974 at the request of the ECOMY. We are indeed grateful that thousands of our distressed people were saved from starvation due to the aid so generously given by our friends in Norway.

NCR has now completed its relief work, but the ECOMY has requested this Welfare Organization to continue to help the Church in the projected rehabilitation programme which we are planning to undertake. I am happy to report that NCR has accepted our invitation and a Letter of Understanding has been signed between us to carry out the rehabilitation programme over a period of three years in co-operation with "EPID" of the Ministry of Agriculture. Under this arrangement the ECOMY will undertake administrative responsibility and NCR will provide financial support as well as expert personnel.

I pray that the Spirit of our God and Saviour may guide our deliberations so that we may be worthy instruments to do His will in the work of His Kingdom and in service to our fellow men.

Emmanuel Abraham