



EUROPE-AFRICA RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE

Berlin, 18th -19th November 2005

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The pictures on the front page:

Top:

Drawing of the Berlin - Congo conference 1884-'85, with one African looking in on the scene from the outside as it were.

Bottom:

Europe - Africa Reconciliation Conference 2005, with the Congolese delegate responding to the confession of the Belgian delegation (standing) and blessing them.

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Brief report by Pieter Bos, the Netherlands.

0 SUMMARY.

The fourteen nations that met in 1884-'85, exactly 121 years ago, for the infamous "Berlin-Congo Conference," met again, once more in Berlin. However, the difference was enormous. Then they met, making Africa the topic of European politics, with imperial and commercial spin off, with no one present to represent Africa.

Now they met again, inviting 22 representatives from Africa and paying their expenses, with no other goal than to repent of their pride and greed, and for the devastating effect that their attitudes and actions had had in the 120 years since then.

This time round intercessors represented the European and African nations taking spiritual and moral responsibility for these attitudes and effects, without underestimating the political, social and economic consequences.

The 1884-'85 Berlin-Congo was re-enacted, in the sense that again a table was arranged according to a historic photograph and was again hosted by Germany. The fourteen original nations gave brief, factual and humble confessions without making any excuses. The response of the, 22 African nations present was overwhelmingly gracious.

What had been hoped for and prayed for, really did happen!

The yoke that Europe put on Africa was broken.

The Africans then felt free to express what they felt was necessary to make a way forward: to be recognized as equals, for partnership, for fair trade and for many other things.

1 THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the 1860's and 70's, Africa was "discovered" by Europeans as a potential market and empire. (Of course earliest European exploration and exploitation, religious and commercial colonialism and of course slavery, began significantly earlier.) European nations started to speed up their actions towards Africa. In short: — King Leopold II of Belgium, with his "Geographical Association" stirred up scientific, commercial and philanthropical interest, and proposed that the Congo basin be a free trade zone; — the USA was the first country to recognize "Congo Free State"; — the Netherlands were the main commercial presence in the region; -- the UK and Portugal lined up for their kind of free trade whilst France and Germany sought to oppose that. The German Chancellor, Count Von Bismarck thought it an opportune moment to call a broad conference in order to avert war... and so Africa became a European political issue! Participants in the conference were: Germany (host), United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden/Norway, Italy, Russia, Turkey, Austria/Hungary, USA.

Officially the only topic on the conference's agenda was the free trade issue. During the three month conference a mere ten half-days of meetings was sufficient to reach agreement, including the recognition of "Congo Free State"! But unofficially the nations lobbied for African interests, and so, not explicitly but in effect, the carving up of Africa was started.

The effects were disastrous. Europe looking down on Africa and on Africans was now "legalized." Tribes and kingdoms were divided or combined, deeply disrupting social and political structures. Agriculture and national infrastructures were Europe-centred. Africa no longer belonged to the Africans, and for Europe, Africa was nothing more than a resource.

2 WHAT STEPS LED TO THIS RE-ENACTMENT?

In 1999 some thirty European prayer leaders met in Emetten, Switzerland, at the initiative of John Dawson, founder of the International Reconciliation Coalition. The aim was to wait upon

God to discern what European historical events might require reconciliation efforts. He brought the Berlin-Congo Conference of 1884-'85 to their attention. Prinz Heinrich VII Reuss did thorough research, with deep personal identification, and others followed.

In 2000 a group of European intercessory leaders came together, strengthened by several African representatives, to plan the "re-enacting and undoing of Berlin 1" in 2001.

But it soon became clear that that it was far too early. Preparatory conferences took place in Ambilly, France, (2002), Brussels (2003 and 2004), Lagos, Portugal (2004) and Berlin (02/2005). These were necessary to reach consensus and to establish mutual understanding and a platform. The Lagos meeting was an especially key event as at the beach, where reportedly, the first Africans were brought ashore in Europe as slaves, that arrival was spontaneously re-enacted in the opposite spirit, welcoming them, and the Holy Spirit confirmed this in an overwhelming way.

(In the course of this process we became aware and want to recognize here that earlier efforts towards Europe-African reconciliation have been made, and that ours is not likely to be the last.)

3 THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

The evening before the actual conference started, the African delegates (see annexe 1) met separately, just among themselves, to verbalize their expectations, their pain and their spiritual condition to come to this conference at all.

The European members of the EARP-council (annexe 2) had ensured that the costs of travel, accommodation and hospitality for the African delegates was covered. They considered the event as "theirs", as they, the Europeans, felt led to re-enact Berlin I in the opposite spirit. The conference opened with welcomes from the "main players" UK, France, Belgium and Germany. All the nations were welcomed; 22 African nations were represented, 18 by Africans from the continent and 4 by Africans from the European Diaspora. Altogether we were about 80 Africans and 420 Europeans (incl. USA).

Chris Seaton (UK) shared the history of the process so far (par 2) and the European perspective. He emphasized what David asked in 2 Samuel 21: "We are really guilty; what must we do; whatever you ask we must do." Even a cursory view of the "statements of confession" (annexe 3) gives an idea of the gross injustice and inhumanity of colonialism in Africa. Then Segun Johnson (Nigeria/UK) brought an African perspective of the Scramble and of its results, in a very factual and, of course, sobering way.

The European colonial experiments sowed seeds of greed, avarice, deception, fear and opportunism in our continent, bearing bitter fruit in African leaders ever since. Crops were demanded, totally disrupting the regional economy and ecology. Infrastructures and governments were imposed that were Europe-centred, and remained so after de-colonialization. The main effect was that Africa no longer belonged to the Africans, and for Europe Africa was nothing more than a resource. The manner in which modern state government was introduced in Africa gave room to race superiority, post-colonial dependency, and a lack of vision for a home grown beautiful and enduring future. Africans lost not only their continent but also their self-esteem. Only an African can estimate how deeply this has afflicted them. Also modern Africans, wherever on the globe, still suffer the consequences.

In the evening we gathered into national groupings, to consider per nation, what the national shares had been in the scramble. As one nation after the other shared, some really gruesome and abominable details surfaced, even from days after de-colonization. The Africans were not present at this time.

Saturday was the day! The church hall had been re-arranged with a long double table in the midst of the sanctuary, with 2x22 seats. Nation after nation, from the "lesser powers" to the worst culprits, made an official, often written, Statement of Confession, always very humbling, as honest as possible, and often with tears. Several of the delegates also alluded to the fact

that neo-imperialism in diverse forms is rampant. See annexe 3 for these Statements of Confession.

Then came the moment when the Europeans gave the meeting over to the Africans, saying: "Whatever you require, we will do".

Langton Gatsi (Zimbabwe), the council member, who had selected the 20 African delegates, gave the first response. He added to all the European guilt the guilt of the Africans before God: their idolatry, immorality, bloodshed, and corruption. He confessed also the guilt of trading their brothers into slavery, even trading their whole inheritance for mirrors, liquor and weapons. This was unexpected, but it underlined the gravity of the moment: we did not just stand as Europe in the presence of Africa, but also as two continents in the presence of God.

It was only then he started to release forgiveness; and after him Segun Johnson (Nigeria/UK), Timoteo Arao (Angola) and many others did the same. Hudson Mukunza (Kenya) referred to Joseph addressing his guilty brothers, just to surface the truth, on order to walk in peace towards the future.

The whole audience was electrified, as over such gross and continent-wide abuse such deep and costly and humble forgiveness was flowing,

When earlier I repented of the Dutch sins, I had felt utterly superficial; now that I heard the forgiveness I realized afresh how enormous the suffering of Christ must have been to wash away even all these sins. Mine and many others' tears flowed.

Then Langton Gatsi came to a conclusion, the one we had hope for over the years of preparation, but of which we knew that it could not be assumed superficially: in the name of Jesus, on the basis of the confessions and the repentance, on the basis of the forgiveness released, on the basis of the shed blood of Jesus, he **broke the yoke of colonization, of the contempt for the Africans and of the poverty over Africa, and declared Europe released of her guilt.**

A South African delegate exclaimed: "*Free at last, free at last. Thank God, we're free at last!*" We embraced across the table, worshiped, we danced (mainly the Africans) and we celebrated the release of the Lord.

Lev. 26:13 applies:

"I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with your heads held high."

4 THE WAY FORWARD.

In the afternoon the African representatives, still around the table, answered the question put to them by the Europeans, according to 2 Samuel 21:3: "*How shall we make amends so that you will bless us again?*" One after the other spoke (see annexe 4). Each delegate was very eloquent. All felt again the weight of the moment.

Many assessments and expectations came repeatedly and from different delegates:

- The problems between the continents are spiritual in nature; money and politics cannot restore (13 times); prayer, acts of reconciliation, correction of mistakes can (10 times) total: **24** times
- Economic equality, fair trade, investment in Africa, stopping the brain drain **17** times
- Recognize us as equals, move from competition to co-operation, we invite you **13** times
- Sensitize the politicians, both in Europe and in Africa, of what has happened here, let us have similar conferences on African soil **13** times
- Stand with us, support us with medical / educational assistance and in prayer **12** times
- Stop supporting corrupt governments, stop selling weaponry, stop the cash flow of corrupt moneys (6 times), stop the negative press (5 times) total: **11** times
- Assist us with leadership and management models and training **7** times
- We offer to pray for you, to help strengthen your prayer movements **3** times

Some quotes: - *Sensitise your home situation, both in Europe and in Africa, to what happened here to day - Treat us and receive us as equals - Do not give aid but trade - Stop the brain drain and the patronizing - You are welcome with us, not (just) to help us!*
Langton Gatsi said: *Let us identify the areas where God has given you/us authority. Then we can go forward together. Only then will God have the glory!*

We all understood the historical magnitude of what had been achieved. We also understood the magnitude of what still needs to be done to effectively turn the tide of 1884-'85.

In the heavenlies the power of Berlin I had been broken; the relationship is no longer clouded by guilt. Berlin II releases the two continents to walk that out together, under "the cloud of reconciliation", under God's inspiration. What a task!

Annexe 1**DELEGATES REPRESENTING THE AFRICAN NATIONS:**

Algiers	Farida Boukhalifa (France)
Angola	Timoteo Arao
Burkina Faso	Francois Ram Zango
Burundi	Severine Singirankabo (Germany)
Cameroon	Mawit Mutombu Floribert
Dem. Rep. Congo	Joshua Beya (South Africa), Jean-Pierre Buhendwa, Nestor Kamuanga (Belgium) Nestor Pakasa (France)
Ethiopia	Mezmur Tesfaye Zemichael
Gabon	Laurent & Marianne do Rego Milollou
Ghana	John Jonas Adjei (Cameroon)
Ivory Coast	Joseph Akinyele (Nigeria)
Kenya	Hudson Mukunza
Lesotho	Mrs. Nthunsi Borotho
Nigeria	Segun Johnson (UK)
Central African Republic	Nicolas Guerekoyame
Rwanda	Gabriel Hertis (South Africa)
Senegal	Gunn Kwesi
Sierra Leone	Christian Bell
South Africa	Jackson Khosa, Gerda Leithgöb, Richard Mitchell (UK)
Sudan	Patrick Elor Ogwal (Uganda/UK)
Tanzania	Wilfred Ufwinki
Uganda	Laban Jjumba
Zimbabwe	Langton Gatsi

Annexe 2**EUROPE – AFRICA RECONCILIATION PROCESS**

Core group:

Lynn Badcock	African Enterprise – Brussels, Belgium/UK
Segun Johnson	Liberty Church, Tottenham – London, UK/Nigeria
Langton Gatsi	One Way Ministries – Harare, Zimbabwe
Roger Mitchell	Passion – Lancaster, UK
Samuel Rhein	La Lumière de la Vie – Antibes, France
Michael Schiffman	Touch the Nations – Pattensen, Germany
Chris Seaton	Peaceworks – Bognor Regis, UK
Raymonde Vandeput	Antioch – Brussels, Belgium

Council:

Pieter & Helene Bos	Serving the Nations – Almere, The Netherlands
Christa Behr	Jeruzalem, Israel/Austria
Nestor Kamuanga	Assemblée du Plein Evangile – Brussels, Belgium/DR Congo
Gerda Leithgob	Herald Ministries – Pretoria, South Africa
Wolfarth Margies	Gemeinde auf dem Weg – Berlin, Germany
Richard Mitchell	Global Missions & Apostolic Network Intl. – Chatteris, UK/RSA
John Mulinde	World Trumpet Mission – Kampala, Uganda
Matthew Okuboyejo	Christ Intercessor's Network – London, UK/Nigeria
Brigitte Reuss	Austria

Annexe 3

CONFESSION STATEMENTS. .

Germany (Wolfhard Margies and Michael Schiffmann).

We believed that we were able to make things better and that we would do just that. We came in order to show the other European nations how to do things right. Our insincerity in this claim was unlimited. Bismarck appeared as an honest broker between the European and African interests, but in reality it was all about power and influence. We played the African nations off against each other in order to gain benefits. The biggest lie ever was the heading of the general file of the Berlin Congo Conference: "In the name of the Almighty God". The Germans thought of themselves as being friendly and willing to help – but none of it was true. Even 200 years before the Congo Conference we had been gaining from the slave trade and exploiting Africa. The influence we did not have in Europe as a young nation, we sought to achieve in Africa. We abused African countries as trophies of our strength and greatness. The biggest sin was trying to heal the German soul, torn between inferiority and striving to dominate, through the robbery of Africa.

God could have healed us, but we used you in our futile attempt to heal ourselves. We did not give you anything but robbed you of everything and we were not healed in the process. We exported poisoned theology and you were badly served. The damage that Germany did to Africa is immeasurable – we do not know how you can ever forgive us, but we need your forgiveness. There had only been a false repentance in our country before WWI. We had attacked you and soon after that we attacked the whole world. Our sins are so immeasurable – please, we need your forgiveness. We also continued to abuse Africa even after the two World Wars in order to feel better. As the nation of the reformation we should have known better. Even today our industry regards Africa only as an inexpensive source of supplies for their own gain.

Out of pride and other attitudes we used this conference to destroy your destiny. We used the fate of Africa to feel better about ourselves. As the country where the reformation was born we should have known better, but instead we sinned against you. As would be colonial masters we brought death to your nations and treated you in an inhuman way. We killed 70.000 Hereros. We deeply regret that. To this very day our industry is still using Africa as a way of obtaining cheap resources.

We are guilty of the sin of not loving you, of not learning from you, of not standing by your side. We confess our sin and ask you for forgiveness.

(Another person). I am child of German farmers in Angola. I want to stand here as a German from Angola. And I want to ask you for forgiveness that we did not love you. That we did not learn from you. And that we did not listen to you. Our sins extend up to heaven. We ask you to forgive us.

Belgium (Michel Barbez and Ignace Demaerel).

As the Belgian delegation we wish to come before our African friends, and especially before our Congolese friends as well as our friends from Rwanda and Burundi. The weight of sin upon our nation is enormous. Our nation was guilty of being part of the leadership of this conference. Our nation and our governments coveted your nations, your soil and your possessions, regarding them as their own property. They did not show you any respect. Their hearts were hardened towards you and were guilty of enormous sins towards you.

We ask you for forgiveness from the bottom of our hearts for the theft, the robbery of your rights, your goods, all kinds of abuse of against your territory and your inhabitants; for the pillaging of your minerals, of your flora and fauna, and for the corruption that we exported to you.

We ask forgiveness for what our Foreign Minister said recently concerning the existing corruption in the Congolese government, something that we taught you through our own

practices. We ask forgiveness for the systematic pillaging and using your inhabitants as slaves for this pillaging.

We ask forgiveness for the spirit of control and for the manipulation that we used from the beginning of the colonial time. We wish to denounce and ask for forgiveness for the spirit of imperialism that manifested itself in a satanic way at the highest level operated over your nation, including the tyranny that was the result of it. We ask forgiveness for the pride we manifested, for the arrogance, the contempt, the rejection, the spirit of superiority towards Africans. We considered ourselves superior which is a great sin against you.

We also confess the physical acts, the sadism, torture, and genocide. We do not know the exact numbers, but we are aware that it is between 8 and 10 million. That breaks our hearts. All methods of punishment were practiced; whipping, mutilation, chopping off of hands, abduction and imprisoning children... we ask forgiveness for all these things. Our sin against you is very great.

Also we ask for forgiveness for the dehumanisation, that the Belgians brought to you. For the robbing and destroying of your cultural and ethnic identity. Forgive us that we tried to belittle you, thinking that you were not able to manage your own resources.

We ask for forgiveness also on behalf of the Flemish People, the northern part of Belgium, for our complicity in suppressing and denigrating and sucking empty the Congo. We too are also very guilty in the sins against Congo.

We contributed to the division and the separation of the tribes. In our history books we lied concerning the historical facts and were silent concerning our sins.

We confess that the attitude of the church and of the missionaries in many cases was not sincere, and that we propagated the superiority of the white churches, Catholics and others. We confess that, when Congo became independent, we abandoned your nation. We did not give you adequate support. Even today Belgium does not do enough to support Congo and Rwanda and Burundi.

And we need to confess that even today in Belgium, the Congolese and other Africans do not have equal schooling and job opportunities as the Belgians. This expresses another terrible sin in the Belgians, even among Christians, the sin of racism. This is a terrible sin indeed. We ask for forgiveness.

United Kingdom (Brian Mills and Chris Seaton).

We as the nations of Great Britain & Ireland confess and repent of the sins we have committed against Africa and Africans from many nations, and against the Living God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit. We repent with a deep sense of guilt and shame of the following:

1. Competition with our fellow European nations for imperial domination in the world that contributed to the Scramble for Africa and the Berlin West Africa Conference of 1884/5
2. The imposition of the Empire Spirit upon Africa carrying as it does racial, cultural and linguistic superiority, the will to rule and an exclusive spirit
3. Taking rather than giving – we greedily pillaged the nations, taking the riches and resources of the lands of Africa such as gold, silver, copper, diamonds, oil, rubber and cash crops like cotton, coffee, tea, cocoa and ground nuts
4. Dehumanising and degrading Africans, treating them as goods, calling them “black ivory”, perpetrating the evil of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, failing adequately to judge and reform slaving within Africa and categorising Africans as inferior people
5. Robbing Africans of their destiny and identity through an ideology of superiority which was carried through education, government and employment opportunities
6. Covenant breaking as we lied and deceived African leaders into signing away their rights and their lands for trivial returns
7. Allowing our nation to be a seedbed for a global demonic spirit that today through globalisation in Africa perpetuates the locking up of the destiny of nations
8. Shedding innocent blood through wars of conquest, economic and social displacements and unjust governance

9. Imposing concentration camps in South Africa which created the ground for apartheid and was recycled by the Nazis
10. By the roots of our arrogance and selfish ease, we gave room to the fruits of freemasonry & the occult that we were already approving in our own lands.
11. Creating unjust trade patterns: taking primary resources from Africa and selling them back as manufactured goods to the detriment of the balance of payments in African economies
12. Corrupting the agricultural patterns of African nations so that instead of growing food for its people, we encouraged cash crops to be grown for European markets
13. Cultural domination through the imposition of the English Language in education, politics and all areas of life
14. Inflicting the unresolved spiritual wounds of our own islands upon Africa through our damaged children, e.g. Henry Morton Stanley and Frederick Luggard
15. Presenting the gospel to the African peoples without separating adequately the unholy alliance of the Church from the Empire and the Empire Spirit, which included imposing denominations and failing to recognise that God had opened Africa to Britain for the expansion of the Kingdom of God

“We have plundered many nations, shed innocent blood and built our realm by unjust gain. We have plotted the ruin of many tribes and peoples. We have piled up stolen goods, making ourselves wealthy by extortion and have by deceit and treachery made false covenants.”
Habakkuk 2:6-10

France (Samuel Rhein, David Bonnet):

Samuel: As the representatives of France, we want to ask for Africa’s forgiveness. Most of the nations that we have already heard from were passive but our nation was not. We exported our competition with the UK to your continent. The list of sins is so complicated that we do not even want to try to list them. But we would like to let our hearts speak because each of the sins that have already been mentioned is ours as well. So we would just like to simply speak to you - Africa - and I am not even sure that it is possible but we ask for your forgiveness.

David: When we sat around the conference table in Berlin we came with the idea that we were the ‘thinkers’, the masters of the world with our thirst for power. I want to say that it is not with the same heart that we come to you today, but rather with shame for what was decided around that table in 1884. We ask for forgiveness for not having considered you as human beings. With our intellectual pride we thought that we were better than everyone else and wanted to quench our thirst for power, so we ask for your forgiveness for not even considering you as persons. I would like you to know that we are tremendously sorry for what we did and that we are even paying the price today for what we made you suffer when you consider what has been happening in France recently (the fires and rioting in the suburbs).

We ask you for forgiveness and we say to you: “We love you”. It is true that we feel overwhelmed by all that we did. We do not even know where to begin because the sins we committed against you are so horrific.

Samuel: Allow me to cite: “the mental manipulation, the control through philosophy and the domination by language, the playing of one tribe off against another, favouring certain dictators, the ongoing stealing... the Africans, Africa, the minerals of the African soil”. Forgive us for our lies, forgive us for our violence. Yesterday someone reminded me that in the Islands off the East coast of Africa, including Madagascar, we branded human beings, brothers and sisters, with white hot irons

We do not wish to ask for general forgiveness from Africa, but I prefer to speak to each nation that France counted as one of its colonies. I would like to ask for forgiveness from Togo. I would like to ask for forgiveness from Senegal. I would like to ask for forgiveness from Niger. Forgiveness from Mauritania, forgiveness from Mali. I would like to ask for forgiveness from the Ivory Coast, forgiveness from Guinea, forgiveness from Gabon. I would like to ask for

forgiveness from the Republic of Congo. I would like to ask for forgiveness from Chad. I would like to ask for forgiveness from the Central African Republic. I would like to ask for forgiveness from Cameroon. Forgiveness from Burkina Faso, forgiveness from Benin. I would like to ask for forgiveness from one of the last nations that we oppressed in Africa: Morocco. I want to ask for forgiveness from Tunisia and Algeria, as a Frenchman, in the name of France. When I was a young man we were still shooting Algerians. My nation has never apologised. So today, Algeria, I would like to ask for forgiveness, in the name of France, for the torturing and mental manipulation. I also ask for forgiveness from Rwanda, a country more recently destroyed by a terrible genocide.

The Netherlands (Pieter and Helene Bos).

We, as Christian representatives of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, supported by the Dutch prayer movement and the Dutch Evangelical Alliance, acknowledge and confess,

— That we, from the mid 17th century, introduced in South Africa the SLAVE TRADE as well as SLAVERY.

— That we modelled APARTHEID. By this we created the lie that white people were superior to others. This resulted in a lack of respect for African people, for their intelligence and their culture, thus robbing them of their dignity.

— That at the time of the Berlin Conference, Dutch merchants, with almost 50 trading stations, were the most powerful commercial presence around the mouth of the Congo river. For their trading purposes they demanded such goods from the Africans that the local agriculture and trading infrastructures were crushed, causing immense suffering.

— That we, at the Berlin conference, did not support an English proposal to discuss the humanitarian aspects of the European presence in Africa, out of an attitude of contempt for the Africans, and to safeguard our commercial interests.

— That in certain areas of Dutch, European and international diplomacy the attitude of imperialism still pervades.

Lastly, it is terrible that only now, more than a century after colonization and more than half a century after your independence, we at last come to acknowledge the wickedness of our ways. And even now there is only a limited national support.

We confess these sins to God, and to you, representatives from Africa, and we ask for your forgiveness.

Spain (Maria Hernan Tapias, Deborah Williams)

As representatives of Spain, we ask for your forgiveness for having participated in the Congress in Berlin in 1884-1885.

- We ask for forgiveness for the consequences of colonization. We ask for forgiveness for the sin of greed, for robbing your land, your inheritance. We ask for your forgiveness for the sin of pride. Please forgive us for idolatry.
- Please forgive us for having robbed you of your honour and your dignity.
- Please forgive us for separating your families. Mothers, please forgive us for the pain we caused in your hearts. We ask for your forgiveness, young people, please forgive us for taking away from you, your family security and protection.
- We ask for your forgiveness for looking down on you, for demeaning you.
- Please forgive us for failing to defend you.

Please forgive, forgive!

Portugal (Charlotte Seaton, after dialogue with brothers present at the conference from Angola)

On behalf of Portugal, I confess and repent of the sins we have committed against Africa and Africans from many nations, and against the Lord. I repent of the following:

1. Being the leading European nation to colonise Africa with all its evil consequences

2. Being the first nation to bring slaves from Africa to Europe, holding slave markets in Portugal and transporting African slaves to the Americas
3. Enjoying an abusive trading role with Africa for centuries, including being the last European nation to abandon the Transatlantic Slave Trade and the last to abolish slavery in our possessions
4. Treating Africans with great cruelty and inhumanity, including taking women for ourselves, killing Africans with little conscience and disregarding African culture and identity
5. Behaving wickedly in Africa with pride, arrogance, cruelty, greed, jealousy and hatred
6. Imposing our language not just as a lingua franca but as a replacement for all African languages spoken in your possession, calling your languages, "the language of dogs"
7. Denying the value of African distinctiveness in their identity, culture, history and language and brutally robbing you of these things
8. Coveting the riches of Africa and treating Africa as a source of wealth for ourselves, including the large immigrations of the 20th century, where we rushed to your lands to make ourselves rich
9. Bringing a spirit of division to the people and to the land
10. Competing with and coveting against the modern European nations as they scrambled for Africa, causing more division
11. Wrongly preaching the gospel by encouraging Africans to stay poor whilst we continued to rob you
12. Arrogance in the education systems we created in Africa, teaching only Portuguese history and glorying in past conquests
13. Presenting the Africans with the option of assimilation as the only way of acceptability
14. Vindictiveness as we left Africa without any satisfactory means of social, economic or political stability and security leading to civil war and appalling poverty

United States (Ron Archer, Larry Glasner):

As the American Delegation we confess that America, by its silent participation and assent chose to 'de facto' embrace Imperialism as a philosophy, as a strategy, as a means of accomplishing our own global aspirations, and supported the Imperialistic aspirations of the European Governments and all the resulting consequences. This significant step as a nation positioned us to enter into our own neo-colonial, neo-imperialist initiatives in Africa and elsewhere in the world. Our responsibilities for the suffering and arrested development of Africa run very deep:

- 1 Though being a former colony ourselves...
- 2 Though we had already ended slavery in the USA...
- 3 Though we had fought a civil war of emancipation...
- 4 Yet, as an observing Nation to the Berlin Conference on West Africa, we gave silent assent to the European Nations gathered in Berlin to pursue their colonial/imperial ambitions in Africa.
- 5 America was first to give political recognition to the IAA (International African Association / International Association of the Congo) the pseudonym of Leopold's Belgian Congo.
- 6 Though we were often aware of the abuse of power or of atrocities being committed, our silence gave assent to our European brothers in the brutalization of African peoples and Nations.
- 7 Our recognition lent political & economic legitimacy to the colonizing efforts of the European nations involved in colonialism.
- 8 America benefited enormously from slavery.
- 9 Africans were not invited or allowed to immigrate to our country but came in the bellies of ships, treated as chattel; as property to be bought and sold, to be used, abused and mistreated in our pursuit of power and wealth.
- 10 We were not truly concerned for Africa or African but only for our own "self Interests" in Africa.

- 11 America's involvement in the Cold War, war by proxy; selling arms to both sides in conflicts; seeing African nations as pawns in our greater war against Communism & Socialism, The Soviet Union, and the Warsaw Pact, denied our own Declaration of Independence: *"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*
- 12 We have impoverished, imperiled and enslaved African nations through our technology and through our loans – requiring exorbitant interest rates to repay their national debt and limiting their ability to participate and compete in the international community and markets.
- 13 The model of "Church" we've exported has not truly reflected God and His Christ/Messiah and Kingdom to African people or Nations
- 14 We have pushed our own Religious and Cultural Models of Christianity, the conflict and competition of Denominationalism rather than seeking to allow Africans and African Nations to contextualize the Christ of the Gospels into their own language, culture and lifestyle.

For this and so much more we sincerely repent before God and you all and ask for your heartfelt forgiveness – as difficult and painful as that might be.

Italy (Davide Passavanti, Monika Mayer)

On behalf of our nation Italy we stand before God and before our African brothers.

We confess the pride of Italy thinking herself to be better than other nations. We confess that we have been covetous as we also wanted to have colonies.

We have brought to Africa a false religion, worshipping Mary, instead of the true faith in Jesus Christ.

We have brought rape and prostitution.

We have committed murder, bloodshed, violence and cruelty.

We have acted in injustice and unrighteousness and without conscience.

We have brought strife and separation, corruption and misuse.

We have broken and misinterpreted treaties with Africans.

And especially we ask our brothers from Ethiopia and Eritrea for forgiveness because we broke into a Christian brother nation which has been Christian since the earliest centuries.

Unlike other nations we didn't come under the cover of christianisation into Ethiopia and Eritrea but we were striving for power and brought war and separation to brothers and we interfered in the succession to the throne. Where they expected help from us (their "Christian Italian brothers") in the fight against Islamic threat we even used that threat for our purposes and deceived our fellow Christians.

We confess these sins and we ask for forgiveness!

Denmark (Jan and Kristina Poulsen)

On behalf of the Kingdom of Denmark we hereby declare and confess, that we have sinned against God and you, the African people, by being a part of the Berlin – Congo conference in 1884 and the consequences of doing so.

The nation of Denmark did this out of greed, pride and for its own benefit. We confess that we as a nation have taken advantage of the African people, in particular in West-Africa, by being highly involved in the Transatlantic slave trading. We acknowledge that transportation conditions were completely inhuman.

We want to confess that Denmark has forced African people to be slaves in the Danish colonies. Even though the abuse, idolatry and even killings that took place in the colonies were reported to the Danish King, he chose not to act on them and stop the injustice.

We ask you, those who are representing the African nations gathered here today, to receive our confession. We as ambassadors of Denmark want to repent of all that we have done wrong towards your people.

We want to declare that we are equals and that you are a beautiful people made in the image of God.

Sweden/Norway (Björn and Maria Isacson)

The nations of Sweden and Norway want to declare that we have sinned against God and our African brothers and sisters and their continent:

In attempting to appear neutral and passive in relation to the rest of the world, we have in practise actively, in our pride, taken advantage of and assisted in the slave trade, in the colonisation and in the greedy exploitation of your continent. By doing so we have committed the sin of negligence against evil, falseness and cowardice.

We have stolen your resources and robbed you of your dignity.

In our extensive missionary work in Congo and other nations on the African continent we have looked down on you with prejudice. We have not just brought you Jesus, but also a strong spirit of dominion, empire and division.

On behalf of Sweden, Norway and our people we want to ask for your forgiveness and mercy!

(The statement of the Swedish parliamentarians to be added)

Russia (Lada Turovska):

Russia pushed herself into this dynamic, but did not stand on the side of justice.

Russians consider Africans as second-rate humans, as a lower race.

Up until today Russia has abused African nations in the Cold War, and even up to today she is selling arms to Africa.

We confess these sins and ask for forgiveness.

Turkey (Adu Sarfo):

In the name of Allah we fought war after war in Africa. From our point of view there were no lords but us. The word Turk means Destroyer, Wrath, Allah's Whip, and that's how we feel about Africa.

We brought confusion and destruction to Africa, exploitation through heavy taxing, idolatry, bloody justice, and a destructive mentality of self-sacrifice. We brought manipulation and suppression.

We dislocated humans through the slave trade; we have Islamized through pressure, and abused those who resisted.

We confess these sins as sins, and ask for forgiveness.

Austria/Hungary (Maria Prean):

We come in the name of Jesus humbly before our brothers and sisters of Africa and stand in the gap for our nation because of the sins of our forefathers.

We confess that the nation of Austria participated in the Berlin Conference, mainly through her presence, not doing anything against the decisions. We were too weak at that point to colonize any country; we would have done so if it were possible.

We confess that Austria produced the weapons for the colonization.

We confess that an Austrian was involved in the slave trade. We confess our pride over people coming from Africa and we repent of any downgrading of Africans to be second-rate humans.

We confess that some of our missionaries tried to change Africans into Europeans before they could become Christians. We brought religions and denominationalism to Africa instead of the gospel.

We robbed the African of their game, and even killed Africans, as if they were animals themselves, because they hunted game as they had done over the centuries before we flooded in. We abused pictures of misery in Africa for fund raising purposes of European so-called mercy ministries.

We confess these things as sins, and ask the Lord and our African brothers and sisters to forgive us and our nation.

Annexe 4

THE WAY FORWARD - AFRICANS EXPRESSING THEIR HOPES.

Algeria (Farida BOUKHALFA):

- There is racism in the church; therefore judgment will come in the church, in Africa and in Europe. The Lord wants action.

Angola (Timoteo ARAO):

- We need cooperation instead of competition and exploitation, in reciprocal receptivity.
- We receive you in Angola and in Africa, receive us as equals
- It is not the politicians but the intercessors who are the determinant factor. Angola is a rich country. The problems we are facing are caused by curses.
- I recognize our potential and your potential. Europeans are different from Africans; we need one another, on an equal footing, but mainly spiritually.
- I believe that in the near future your politicians and our politicians will surrender to this divine truth; and people will be loosed of their limits and prejudices.
- The only hindrance to reciprocal receptivity is the limitation imposed by the privileged; but the time of witchcraft controlling this has gone.
- This message of mutual receptivity must be widely shared.

Burkina Faso (Francois RAM ZANGO):

- The church has a key to any and all solutions. The world is shaking; if Europe's Church does not stand, another religion (!) will take over. Church of Europe: STAND WITH US NOW! 'Authentic Christians like you' must open your mouths and act upon this.
- We are in need of medical and educational assistance. Only 40% go to school. 6000 € for a classroom for 60 kids. How many will Europe build?
- We need Fair Trade AND Processing Technology. Cotton export pays little and returned items are very expensive; it is the same with sugar. Can you be the voice of fair trade?
- If the Church does not rise up the younger generation will turn its back on it, and the curse will continue.

Burundi (Mrs Séverine SINGIRANKABO):

- We need and demand that you work to correct the mistakes and provide a fair dialogue and practical acts.
- Missionaries and NGO's from Europe join in well. Pray for reconciliation and the mini initiatives of NGO's

Cameroon (Floribert MAWIT MUTOMBU):

- We need a similar conference IN Africa!
- We are suffering from an invasion of religions.

Central African Republic (Nicolas GUEREKOYAUME)

20th century successes concerning reconciliation must continue to feed our collective memories. We must not forget that people without a memory are people without hope. Numerous voices have been raised to say that Africa needs to forgive. But for the African forgiveness to be real and sincere there has to be recognition of the damage caused.

We ask only for reparation in recognising, repenting but above all the showing of solidarity by the rich countries.

- 1 Representatives from the colonial nations assume responsibility and seek solidarity
- 2 at the colonial nations concerned invest in Africa without too many conditions.
- 3 at periodical meeting (at least every 2 years) be organised to evaluate the progress made since this conference
- 4 That copies of the conference report be made available to the political leadership of each nation for information.

Democratic Republic Congo (Joshua BEYA):

- In the name of Africa we say thank you to Europe for bringing us the Bible, because it contains everything that we need to develop ourselves.
 - To my Belgian brothers, I ask you if we could organize Christian conferences - in Congo and in Belgium to see together how the church can really involve itself in national life - in politics, in commerce, in education and in such a way that we can bring the love of Jesus Christ to our respective nations. As Christians we can then rewrite history through the blood of Jesus Christ in our respective countries.
 - To give back hope to the hopeless and peace to our respective populations.
- God is ready to help us. Thank you

Ethiopia (Mezmur TESFAYE ZEMICHAEL):

- We badly need prayer, according to Psalm 121. Disappointing election has led to a lot of chaos and bloodshed. Thousands of young people are in custody. There is division amongst the different tribes and there is a great danger of a cruel war again between Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- There are many very profitable investment opportunities right now; European businessmen are invited to cooperate with Ethiopian businessmen.
- However, we need FAIR TRADE and COOPERATION.

Gabon (Laurent and Marianne DO REGO MILOLLOU):

- The state has virtually given up on education and health.
- Expectation for change is not from the banks or the government, but from the Church to help the people. The Church is growing vitally but is poor and has little impact. Can the European church help to increase our impact?
- Who can help the churches to start hospitals? (e.g. for a population of 1.500.000 people, there is only one scanner available.) (e.g. could the Church mediate in sending second-hand medical equipment to Africa)
- Who can help the churches to start universities, where professors can come; then they could stop sending their children away to Europe, which is very expensive AND causes a huge brain drain!
- More precisely: Could university structures be established twinned to universities or schools of higher learning in Europe, including joined management and shared teaching programmes, in the sectors of health, high technology, and in many other sectors, with an aim of transferring technologies, and of really training people of quality for the African companies of tomorrow.

It is imperative that these actions are done not in a colonial spirit of domination, but in respect for one another, for the sake of a real contribution to the development of our nations, taken in hand by Africans themselves. Such action would progressively decrease migratory pressure. The nations are not ready to change their ways with regard to Africa. But the Church of Europe can act through the Church of Africa for the sake of the good of Africa.

Ghana (John Jonas ADJEI):

- The church has become quite a power, inseparable from society.
- What happened here needs to be made known to all the governments represented. Leaders who do not align with God run the risk of being removed by Him.
- Economically the Asians are already invading Africa; Europe cannot stay behind; the climate for investment is favorable!
- Christian NGO's are important and welcome; the church should stand IN the world.

Ivory Coast

(A citizen of Ivory Coast, living in Germany, who chanced to be present by Gods leading, spoke on behalf of his nation. No records are available of what was said by this representative).

Kenya (Hudson BUGASU MUKUNZA):

- Two things are key to the way forward, RELATIONSHIP and PRAYER. Africa will not relate to Europe anymore in monetary terms. The riches of Africa are many. Let us see the fruits of repentance from the brethren in Europe and not first ask for money and things. In my generation we will not come to Europe with a beggars bowl anymore. Our desire is to meet and see genuine Christians in Europe we can relate with without reservations. We can visit them and they can come to us without any fears or suspicions.
- What we desire first, is RELATIONSHIP; then blessings will flow from the Lord to all of us. Teach your children about Africa and learn to appreciate Africa and Africans.
- Secondly, we desire PRAYER. The problems of Africa will not be solved by money. Pray out of genuine hearts. We from Africa will also pray for you. Yes we may have monetary needs but we need more proper relationships, and not money. Any help is good when it is accompanied by proper relationships.
- Let us get together build relationships and pray for each other. The Lord bless Africa, the Lord bless Europe.

Lesotho (Mrs. Nthunsi T. BEROTHO):

- Sensitize the Church and Christian leaders of Europe AND Africa to the breakthrough of today; let the Church of Europe and Africa own this process to go forwards. This process took years. It will continue to do so.
- A change of mindset in the area of government, management and business. The Church should take a lead in impacting society in these fields. The Europeans who were involved in the preparation of this event have an experience that can be beneficial in the process of creating awareness and raising Christian leadership within the nations of Africa that can own the vision.
- Leadership that will own the vision within the nations, can be used of God to carry the process of reconciliation to Christians forward, to the secular world and governments. A balance of practical and spiritual inspiration is needed. Exchange programs could be a good idea, targeting young people.
- Prayer in Africa is fantastic and of continental scale. This can help Europe!.

Nigeria (Segun JOHNSON):

- Let the leaders in this conference sensitize the European parliaments to a real change in the economic and political realm, from exploitation to cooperation.
- Let the Nigerians (Africans) in the Diaspora initiate this change of the opposite spirit by strategizing the change through speaking to communities by the use of the media (equipment –cameras etc-, studio time, broadcasting kits) to re-educate and re-orientate Africans, having been mis-educated over the last 100 years, from their thinking in terms of dependence and corrupt leaders.

- Make a request to European national governments and the EU parliament: stop the brain drain policies, please! (E.g Financial Times, 14th November: “A bid to drain the best talent by giving them citizenship”!)
- For a follow up of this conference will it be necessary to visit some African nations at some point? Or do we want to visit their embassies in Europe as a start?

Rwanda (Gabriel HERTIS):

- Spiritual revival is what is missing in Europe. Go back to your history, to the Macedonian call: cry for help again. We will come back in 10 years and see whether you have changed, whether anything has been implemented!
- We do not need “help”. You need to restore Africa: Come and give Africa’s history back again, our history-dignity-identity-humanity-freedom back, so that we can be ourselves!
- Include more African members in both EARP Core Group and Council.
- Lobby European nations on the need for acknowledging and taking responsibility for the wrongs done to Africa. Here Africans can help because as the victims they know best what they have suffered under the oppression by Europeans (teaching seminars to European Christians first).
- Begin to refer to Africans as one people and stop to consider Africans according to their nationalities (which is a repetition of the divisions imposed on Africa).
- Organise Christian gatherings of (Europeans and Africans) every 5 or 10 years to evaluate the achievements and discuss ways to improve the work.
- Provide material, intellectual and financial contribution in the organization of a conference on reconciliation among Africans, and with their leaders (political and traditional) somewhere on African soil.
- Give particular attention to the spiritual roots of the conflicts in the Great Lakes and East African regions and get involved in the efforts of reconciliation in that part of the continent.

Senegal (Gunn KWESI):

- The body of Christ in Senegal will applaud the message of this conference, but
 - let European governments stop supporting corrupt African governments!
 - let European governments stop the transfer of national wealth from Africa to European banks.
 - let European governments stop any complicity with the kind of traffic harmful to Africa
 - let European governments support our investigation in that area.
 - let European governments help us to organize leadership conferences to expose and to discourage that practice.
 - let European governments assist us to set up services and seminars to show how to invest in Africa for a durable development.
- >> 'Help us eradicate injustice from our leaders'

Sierra Leone (Christian BELL):

- Sensitize your people and politicians and business people: A new era has started! Let your politicians know that they can no longer “buy” our politicians or businessmen with bribes.
- Let your politicians know that Africa no longer want weapons (most weapons so far come from outside Africa).
- Sensitize your banks: do not accept huge amounts of money from corrupt politicians, to not finance “blood diamonds” deals.
- Tell the authorities and agencies in Europe: NO AID (ignore our begging) BUT FAIR TRADE; we have enough resources to sell, but need a fair price. E.g. Coffee and Cocoa farmers provide jobs for thousands of people in the developed world, while they themselves remain poor.

- Europeans must with immediate effect discontinue all the negative legacies of colonialism, e.g. –manipulation, exploitation and brainwashing. A “William Wilberforce” with a “Marshal Plan” is desperately needed.
- Leadership training programmes should be introduced at all levels- primary, secondary and tertiary institutions
- Innovation should be promoted; genuine Investors should be encouraged.
- Europeans should endeavour to make Africa attractive for Africans in order to prevent an influx of African youths into Europe, with all its negative consequences.

Also we need help to extensively sensitize all of Africa to the concept opposing our colonial past: “Love God, love your neighbour”. This will reverse the “sick” state in which Africans find themselves. Such a campaign should create an atmosphere of love, self-discipline and patriotism.

South Africa (Richard MITCHELL):

- Reconciliation inside our nation is already going on, easier in our nation, because the colonizers are present.
- These Identificational Confessions destroy the generational curses! Sons must honor the fathers, and Africa must honor Europe because they brought the gospel. When the hearts of parents and children turn as now, everything changes.
- God’s callings on African nations did not change, not even through what the Europeans did.
- We must position ourselves in each other’s continents in humility.

Sudan (Patrick ELOR OGWAL (Uganda/UK))

- A similar conference should be organised in Africa where the effects of the Berlin conference of 1884-5 were manifested. This will physically symbolise a "U" turn in relationship between the two continents.
- Europe should acknowledge that the only way forward is to accept to work with Africa in partnership in trade and other sectors, and abandon unfairness.
- Europe should teach their people the history of Africa and not shy away from it. This should be included in the school syllabus.
- European journalists should stop negative journalism on Africa.

Tanzania (Wilfred UFWINKI):

- You are welcome; come as equals! The economy is taking off very well, the picture here will shock you! We are now stable, having found more gold after you left!
- Simple request: We have been left behind for a time. If the educated were given certain tools, equipped with technology they could get on: agricultural production, processing equipment, technology for agricultural and processing industry, (old) tractors, all kinds of appropriate technology, transport network and roads and so on.
- Banks are mainly for the rich; we need micro financing, institution for the middle level.

Uganda (Laban JJUMBA):

- Co-operation between Ugandan and European businessmen in some quite profitable fields, where investment and skill is needed. E.g.: Tourism industry. (Right now Asian businessmen come with money and much experience!) Christian businessmen could do this. E.g.: Food processing: in order to break into European markets we need Christian businessmen and pastors.
- Promotion of prayer movement by partnership; we can help prayer movements outside Uganda to raise European prayer movement

- Turn the negatives we confessed into positives, as soon as possible. Begin to encourage the media to paint a beautiful picture of Africa. Lobby our embassies to change their restrictive practices. Turn black-and-white image in the media and Embassy policy into colored pictures. Tell the media in Europe: let them tell that we are beautiful. The EU has prevented delegates to be here through her visa policies!
- Stop your governments supporting corrupt governments in Africa for European purposes. There are concentration camps in Northern Uganda. NGOs work there. Pressurize Ugandan government to remove them, as soon as possible.

Zimbabwe (Langton GATSI):

- Let us identify the areas where God has given you/us authority. There we can go forward together. Then only God will have the glory!