

## Translation News

### **Meeting of Translators' Commission for the Old Testament in Slovak**

For the first time since work was assigned on the translation of the Old Testament into Slovak, the Translators' Commission met, on February 20, in the office of the General Bishop in Bratislava, to evaluate the work done so far and to draw up directives to guide the further work on the translation. As in every translation of the Bible, this Commission has great difficulties to overcome, since many of the expressions needed to express the archeological facts of the Bible are lacking in Slovak. The Translators' Commission is aware of the fact that to a certain degree it must repeat what was done by the translators of the Kralice Bible: it must form a new vocabulary of words for a whole large sphere of religious life. Even though a Slovak translation of the Old Testament was recently issued by the Roman Catholic Church, the Translators' Commission cannot rely greatly on this translation, on the one hand because it is not close enough to the original Biblical language (through the influence of the Vulgate), and on the other hand because it uses many Slovak expressions which do not describe the reality meant in the Bible. Modern foreign translations will be of more help to the Commission in their translation. It is anticipated that in the course of this year the Commission will be able to present to the public the first version of a substantial part of the translation, even though it cannot be expected that the final form will appear for several years.

### **UBS Translation Conference in Amsterdam**

The Translations Subcommittee of the United Bible Societies met in Amsterdam, Holland, as guests of the Netherlands Bible Society, from May 21-23, 1957. Joining in the discussions of an agenda, which was one of the longest and most important since the formation of the subcommittee, were not only the regular members of the committee, but also Dr. Age Holter, Translations Secretary of the Norwegian Bible Society, several Dutch scholars, and some Bible Society officers of the BFBS and ABS who had come especially for a general conference which began on the evening of May 23.

In addition to general reports on the progress of several important translation projects, including a survey by Dr. Holter of progress being made in two revisions into Norwegian, the subcommittee spent most of its time discussing ways of working out a program whereby a number of translational helps, e.g. section headings, subject index, models for concordances, reference systems, and a table of weights and measures, all of which have been worked on in various ways by different societies, might be studied by qualified committees of all the societies having special translations departments and then published under the auspices of the United Bible Societies. This would greatly increase the scope and usefulness of such helps and be a long step forward in the process of providing the assistance which has been increasingly requested by translation and revision committees throughout the world.