Intro: 

Attendance quite unexpected. A big surprise - our original idea: an informal gathering of interested Christians amongst our Ibo men. To give information which was asked for some time ago and to receive suggestions for next meeting of members and leaders. Very glad for opportunity - not prepared a formal speech. Felt that stated my work as director yet - would appreciate it if no press reports would be made at this stage because I knew this more as an exploratory meeting.

I know you are all eager to hear something about the C.I. - its establishment, its aims, its basis, its future plans. Before giving some practical details and inviting questions I would like to approach the whole matter from an angle which may seem quite unusual to you by asking:

What are the basic problems facing STL today?

Some of you may disagree entirely with my answer to this question but I am giving this to you as I see it as a Christian:

Our basic problems are not political or racial or economic or educational ones - they are spiritual and moral ones. And if we succeed in getting our minds and emotions and reasoning actions straight on these questions the answer to our political, racial, economic, educational problems will be forthcoming.
Can only mention the 4 basic problems in our present situation:

1) The Decline of Christendom: We may also put it otherwise and say: The decline of the Church; but then we must be very careful to realize that I am not thinking about any specific church — the institute or organization, but I am thinking of Christ's Church universal, the Church as it expresses itself in its visible structure and witness and as it is viewed by the man in the street.

— What the Church is according to Scripture:

The body of the elect, the body of Christ, the Bride of the Bridegroom, through which our Lord and King sends his saving message to all the world.

— The traits (marks) of the true Church:

1) Proclamation of the Gospel as Good News — the new being, the new creation
2) Witness to the lordship of Christ over all affairs of human life
3) Expressing the unity of all true believers in Christ — a unity which is mystical and spiritual and invisible but which must become visible, must express itself in word and deed according to the command of Christ
4) Building a new brotherhood, the only real brotherhood which can last: the brotherhood of love, of understanding, of unity, of honesty of sacrifice and service. Does not mean that racial, social or other differences are ignored or denied out — but they are bridged over...
So this the image of the Church of Christ today in our own country? How do we judge our own Church? How does the ordinary man in the street see it?

2) The Breakdown of Moral Values:

What is happening in society (not only in our country but also in many other countries of the world e.g. Africa, England etc.) is a slow but sure process of breakdown in moral values amongst all peoples of all races.

Example:
1. Scurrying of morals - loose moral relations
2. Doubtful business morals
3. Wrong concepts of justice
4. Lack of honesty, trustfulness

Where there is no trust the people perish.

Results, outcome: Demeaning influence penetrating our whole structure of society, our human relations, our judgment of right and wrong. Where the moral foundation of a community is undermined then doubt and dishonesty and fear and distrust takes over.
Lack of trust and understanding.

1. Impossible to go into all the causes and give reasons. Enough to say that all of us are guilty.

- Position today:
  - Ignorance

4. Lack of faith in the transforming power of Christ in the life of individual as well as community.
C.S.

1. No church – in fact a channel to substitute the church (nie kening).

2. No political organization or group: has no political motives, aims or actions.

3. An organization of wid. Christians who would like to create a platform for:
   - discussion
   - prayer

Solution of our problems must come from Christians.