

disaster relief. He analysed the Geneva Conventions and led a discussion on ICRC operations, followed by practical exercises which gave the participants a better understanding of the difficulties which ICRC delegates had to contend with in cases of conflict.

The League representative in turn led a discussion which shed light on the League's functions and responsibilities, particularly regarding the co-ordination of international relief in cases of natural disaster, the development of National Societies, and Red Cross representation in international institutions.

Altogether, the participants showed keen interest in the training received. They carefully followed the lectures which made them aware of the constant need for re-adjustment by those who want to serve the Red Cross ideal in the present-day world.

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### **REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR WEST AFRICAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

With the co-operation of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, the League of Red Cross Societies held a Red Cross Youth Regional Leadership seminar for English-speaking National Societies of West Africa, at Ibadan, Nigeria, from 1 to 20 December 1972. The League was represented by Mr. D. Andreassen and Miss J. Brown, Assistant Directors of the League's Youth Bureau, while the ICRC was represented by Mlle F. Perret, Delegate. The seminar was held in the context of the training institutes established by the League for the training of experts to assume responsibilities within National Societies and promote the Red Cross idea in the social, economic and political life of their countries. One of the aims pursued was the training of cadres for youth sections in West African Red Cross Societies.

The Ibadan meeting was attended by twenty-four delegates selected from among leaders of Red Cross Youth sections in the following six countries: Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The programme, which included theoretic-

tical courses and a great many practical exercises, called for active participation by all delegates, who for a whole week went to a village where they carried out operations for the benefit of the inhabitants.

Since the Institute had not provided for any specific course on the Red Cross, the League and ICRC representatives made appropriate use of the Red Cross material which had been made available for the occasion. In addition to the League's posters, from the first day of the meeting the ICRC's sixteen posters and three notices concerning the Geneva Conventions were affixed in the halls where the courses were to be held. The participants were also supplied with a number of documents on the International Red Cross and saw the film "Red Cross on White Field".

The quality of the courses and the delegates' regular attendance made for the seminar's complete success and showed the value of the practical and theoretical work carried out.

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### **RED CROSS MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ACTIVITIES IN RELIEF OPERATIONS**

The Swedish Red Cross organized in November 1972 at Stockholm a conference of the Scandinavian National Societies, the League and the ICRC.<sup>1</sup> Its main purpose was to examine medical and surgical activities, at national and international level, in Red Cross relief operations. Among the different problems considered were the following:

*Recruitment and training of delegates.*—A majority of participants said they wanted to step up the recruitment of delegates in their own countries, and requested the international Red Cross organizations to take steps to train delegates in international relief work and to ensure more efficient co-ordination in dealing with the practical problems involved.

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<sup>1</sup> Medical and Surgical Activities in Humanitarian Relief Works with the Red Cross—International Organization and Leadership and Preparation on National Level.