

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Various meetings took place in Geneva in September 1970 and were attended by more than 150 delegates and observers representing some sixty National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies. The most important meeting was the Executive Committee which, every two years, decides the general League policy between the sessions of the Board of Governors. Meetings of several advisory and statutory bodies of the institution preceded it. Below we mention particularly the work of three of them:

Health and Social Service. The work of this Advisory Committee concerned: the scope for Red Cross social work, the training of social workers and the participation of National Societies in the training of nursing aids and medical teams to serve the community. Other items on the agenda included pollution, organ transplants, drug addiction among youth, and scope for Red Cross action in these particular fields.

The present-day problem of drug addiction among youth was discussed at a joint meeting of the Advisory Committees on Youth and Health and Social Service. Papers submitted by three National Societies and the World Health Organization representative highlighted the extreme complexity of the problem which varies considerably from one culture to another and from one country to another, with the consequent impossibility of setting up a programme applicable to all parts of the world. This is however a field in which the Red Cross has a definite role to play in prevention and rehabilitation.

Youth.—Some of the problems examined by the Advisory Committee were: the need for greater youth participation in Red Cross activities, the adaptation of action programmes to the aspirations

of to-day's youth, the training of senior members and the analysis of results obtained at meetings and seminars organized by various countries. In his opening address, the League Secretary-General pointed out that the first task was to examine how to associate youth more closely with the work of the Red Cross and thereby to encourage improved relationships between adults and youth.

Concerning the Red Cross and peace, the delegates considered that one of the most effective ways by which our movement could contribute to peace was to encourage meetings of young people regionally and internationally thereby promoting among participants to such meetings a comprehensive attitude towards other nations and cultures, and favouring lasting friendship.

The Board of Governors, at Istanbul, had adopted a resolution recommending the League, in co-operation with the ICRC, to draw up a programme for youth education for peace based on an analysis to define the content thereof and the ways and means of implementing it. The first step to give effect to that resolution was a study of Junior Red Cross objectives and of results already achieved. The study had been undertaken by the Henry Dunant Institute at the League's request.

Relief.—Several subjects of major importance for the League, as the main agency responsible for the international co-ordination of relief in the event of disaster, were examined by the Advisory Committee. Some of these were: assistance to National Societies in the organization of relief and in preparing for disaster situations; regional Red Cross centres for disaster relief; recruitment and training of personnel for international relief; scientific knowledge in relief action co-ordination.

LEAGUE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Under the chairmanship of Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League Board of Governors, the 88th session of the Executive Committee took place from 23 to 25 September.

After an address by the League Secretary-General, Mr. Henrik Beer, on the institution's recent activities and on its plans for 1971-1972, a number of resolutions were adopted. In a resolution

on *the Red Cross and Events in Jordan*, the Executive Committee gave its whole-hearted

support to the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to protect and assist military and civilian victims, and invited the League and its Member Societies to back up those efforts, in particular by making available all financial and material resources as well as the personnel needed to ensure the effective conduct of a relief action and thereby help to save the victims of that conflict.

In its resolution No 2 on *Red Cross Assistance to the Victims of Air Hijacking*, the Executive Committee deprecates air piracy and:

Takes note with deep satisfaction of the humanitarian action recently taken by the International Committee of the Red Cross to protect and liberate passengers of seized planes,

Realizing that the National Red Cross Societies can through their services also contribute to improving the fate of such victims,

Invites the National Societies of the countries where seized planes have landed and where the passengers and crews are detained to make every effort to bring them relief and comfort, until such time as they can regain their freedom, and to get into touch with the Societies of the home countries of the passengers so that their families may receive information and reassurance.

In its resolution No. 4, the Executive Committee decided on the provisional admission of the Botswana Red Cross Society to membership of the League, the ICRC having officially recognized that Society in February 1970. The Executive Committee in the same resolution authorized the Committee of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen to admit provisionally the Malawi Red Cross Society as soon as the formalities for admission had been completed. The Malawi Red Cross Society was recognized by the ICRC in July 1970.