

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA

In co-operation with the Red Cross of the Republic of Zaire, the League of Red Cross Societies organized a Regional Training Institute for National Society leaders in Central Africa. The League was represented at the Institute, which met in Kinshasa from 6 to 22 August 1973, by Mr. Meurant, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General; Mr. Araya, in charge of African Affairs, and Mr. Grunfeld, Regional Delegate. The ICRC was represented by Miss Perret, Delegate.

The purpose of the Institute was to train officials to assume the responsibilities of leadership in the Red Cross Societies of Central Africa, with emphasis on the special problems which have to be faced by the emergent or new Societies. It was attended by twenty-nine participants selected from the personnel and voluntary workers of recognized or emerging Societies of seven countries, namely Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, People's Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the Republic of Zaire. The courses were given by Zairian instructors (sociologists, economists, management specialists) and by the League and ICRC representatives. The teaching was both practical and theoretical, with a view to enabling participants upon returning to their own countries to develop their National Societies and to implement programmes appropriate to the needs of the community.

Three days were devoted to the study of the International Red Cross, the structure of which was explained by the League and ICRC delegates. Miss Perret gave a talk on the Geneva Conventions, which was followed by a discussion on the use of and respect for the red cross sign, the conditions to be fulfilled by a National Society in order to qualify for recognition, and the preparation for

the Diplomatic Conference. Then, in five working groups, participants considered how Societies could disseminate knowledge of the Geneva Conventions among the population. They also attended the showing of the film "Red Cross on a white field".

The League delegates lectured on the way ideas about the Red Cross had evolved internationally and they directed work and discussions on subjects on the agenda: health education—relief—finance and management—fund raising—blood transfusion—past development of the Red Cross in Africa—the role of the voluntary worker.

All displayed keen interest in the instruction received; they realized the importance of Red Cross activities, particularly the dissemination of humanitarian law principles, which constituted a factor for peace in the world. In addition, they studied administration and public relations methods which would be useful to them in the discharge of the responsibilities they shoulder in their own countries under the sign of the red cross.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEAGUE

The 1972 Annual Report of the League of Red Cross Societies, with fifty-two pages and many illustrations, contains information under the following headings: Conclusions of the Executive Committee, General activities, Relief, Disaster relief preparedness, Health, Social Welfare, Nursing, Youth, Information, International relations, Administration and Personnel, and Financial situation.

In the Introduction, Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League, refers to the institution's undertakings and achievements in various fields in the course of the year. He appraises the "less