

## UPPER VOLTA

Under the title of *Promotion of Health and Social Welfare*, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Red Cross of Upper Volta organized a meeting at Ouagadougou, from 2 to 14 August 1976, of the Red Cross Leadership Training Institute. It was attended by more than 20 participants from eight French-speaking countries of Africa: Benin, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Upper Volta. The League regional delegate for Africa, Mr. M. Ekué, was moderator of the meeting, and an ICRC delegate, Mr. D. Dufour, gave three lectures, each followed by discussion. The first outlined the history of the ICRC and the parallel development of international humanitarian law; the second dealt with ICRC activities throughout the world, and the third with the similarities and divergences between humanitarian law and African oral tradition. Mrs. Yolande Diallo's study, published by the *International Review* in February 1976, and entitled: "Humanitarian Law and Traditional African Law", aroused much interest among the participants. A second study by Mrs. Diallo on the same subject appeared in our August issue.

Several subjects were on the agenda of this gathering. Lectures carried titles such as "Medical and other social needs", "Reporting and publicizing the activities of the Red Cross", "Protection for mother and child", "The place of the Red Cross in Western Africa"; in addition considerable time was allotted to practical exercises in the field and for group work. This meeting of the Training Institute was an opportunity for those taking part to acquire a better practical and theoretical knowledge of Red Cross work.

At the same time another meeting in Ouagadougou, also organized by the League and Upper Volta Red Cross, was attended by leaders of the Junior Red Cross of the same French-speaking countries. Mr. J. Cassaigneau, assistant director of the League Youth Bureau was the moderator. The French Red Cross Youth and First-Aid Department was represented by its director, Mr. C. Blavet.