

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Youth and new forms of international co-operation, *Unesco Chronicle, Paris, 4, 1976.*

Youth, its problems and opinions, its needs and aspirations affects the entire Unesco programme and is one of the Organization's continuing preoccupations. For while, in the words of the Constitution, "it is the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed", it is in the minds of the young that tomorrow's world must be constructed, the world where they will live their adult lives and in which they seek more justice and equity.

Periodically Unesco holds consultations with youth on major problems of contemporary society. At the Oran meeting, the theme was the quest for new forms of international co-operation, today a necessity as the participants agreed at the outset...

... The meeting felt that young people, through their organizations, can play an important rôle in ensuring that the new relationship between nations is not « an act of charity performed by the rich for the benefit of the poor but a right to which developing countries were entitled and an act of justice for all mankind". To place the establishment of a new international economic order on the agenda of youth meetings at national, regional and international level can provide an occasion for "frank, even blunt" expressions of views which can only lead to "greater understanding and firmer joint action in the interests of committed youth as a whole", states the report.

Another form of action suggested was that of bringing pressure to bear, at international level, on governments and on public opinion in their countries, to implement measures for the practical application of decisions of the United Nations system. To this end, cooperation must be strengthened between representative youth organizations that recognize the aims and principles of the United Nations and are prepared to assist in bringing them about.

But apart from its relations with young people who were "natural partners" in its work, the United Nations system was invited by the meeting to pay greater attention to the specific needs of peoples, and in particular of those categories of persons too often neglected or treated as second class citizens in all societies: women, workers, and inhabitants of rural areas. As regards Unesco, most of the participants felt its action should have three objectives: to ensure that science and technology serve the progress of all mankind; to help Third World countries create their own technologies; and to promote democratization of teaching and education in all countries, whatever their stage of development.

The Oran meeting showed clearly that, in the opinion of young people, the new international economic order cannot be brought into being without their wholehearted participation and support.