

as widely as possible the text of these Conventions, and to do the same for the European Convention on Human Rights, especially in so far as that Convention supplements the Geneva Conventions ;

(b) to assume collective responsibility for the observance of the Geneva Conventions, so that the Council of Europe member States which are Parties to those Conventions shall be bound to consider themselves jointly responsible for their observance ;

(c) to acknowledge that it is the duty of the organs of the Council of Europe, particularly the Committee of Ministers, to ensure observance of the Geneva Conventions, which would *inter alia* enable that Committee to draw the attention of member States, whenever it appeared necessary, to those provisions of the Geneva Conventions applicable in any given situation ;

(d) to instruct the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the International Red Cross Committee, to study the respective fields of application of the Geneva Conventions and of the European Convention on Human Rights, with the object of determining how best these texts can supplement each other in the interests of the increasingly effective protection of the fundamental rights of the individual in time of war or during any internal troubles whether armed or otherwise ;

(e) to instruct the Secretariat of the Council of Europe to examine whether it would be appropriate to ask the United Nations to prepare a special convention—as it has done for genocide—which would make the taking of hostages a crime against humanity, punishable as such.

WORLD HEALTH DAY

World Health Day, which is celebrated each year on April 7, is the anniversary of the coming into effect, in 1948, of the World Health Organization's constitution. The chosen theme for 1966 is Man and his cities. Dr. M. G. Candau, Director General of the WHO, on that day, made the following statement :

MISCELLANEOUS

Over the last hundred years, mankind has doubled in numbers, but during the same period the world's city population increased five times.

These figures amply illustrate the swift advance of urbanization that is so characteristic a feature of the world today. In the process, health may tend to be forgotten. World Health Day 1966 is to draw attention to human needs, particularly mental health needs, in our complex urban settings today and to the contribution that health workers in co-operation with other professional people can make towards creating a more harmonious human environment in cities today and tomorrow.

All over the world, the mushrooming city growth has given rise to slums and shanty towns, in which as much as one third of today's city population are herded together in conditions contrary to the requirements of healthy living. But even when a minimum of basic physical requirements are met, the modern city threatens the health of its citizens in a number of ways.

Many a person coming to the city from the country has to learn to put up with less space, less daylight, less fresh air, less greenery, more noise, but less liberty to make noise. Both work and play are different. Old-established patterns of communal living are disrupted. The newcomers may fail to keep up with city ways, and adjustment problems of various kinds may arise. Psychosomatic and neurotic disorders are undoubtedly largely associated with the congestion and noise, the hectic rhythm of city life, its vast anonymity and its many strident appeals to the individual to do this or that. Furthermore, as a counterpart to the glamour of the modern city, to its employment possibilities, its educational wealth and its cultural achievements, we have delinquency, crime, prostitution, alcoholism, and the excessive use of drugs.

The health worker clearly has his part to play in dealing with these problems. At the present state of knowledge, many questions still remain unanswered in this field. But much can be done, by the professions, the authorities and by civic groups, but also by the citizens at large to make our cities better places to live in.
