

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

world, structure and action in specific circumstances, it summarizes in a clear manner which will appeal to a wide public. It is available in English and French.

To describe as clearly as possible the tasks and institutions of the Red Cross, and also to stimulate the visual memory, the talk is accompanied by two slides, two diagrams which serve as a backcloth and remain on the screen throughout the lecture. These two diagrams are reproduced under the flaps of the cover of the booklet.

“ IN THE MINDS OF MEN ”¹

This book is divided into three principal parts corresponding to the three main activities of Unesco. The first deals with Unesco's efforts towards international communication and co-operation, the second with its operational contribution to the economic and social development of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Arab States, and the third with Unesco's normative action and its work in promoting conventions on human rights, international solidarity and peace.

Fifteen eminent persons from different countries have contributed to this book, and because they come from very different backgrounds—both in the geographic sense and on the level of ideas—an extra dimension is added to a collective work which makes it an invaluable tool for all those concerned with the evolution of international relations over the past twenty-five years. Opening the book is a historical account of the Organization. It contains a reference to the ideals inspiring its founders when they gave it a Constitution which lays down: “ Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed ”. Next come various articles on Unesco's work in education, science and culture.

¹ Published by Unesco, Paris, 1972, 352 pp.

“ All Unesco’s work is born of anguish and hope ”, writes Jean d’Ormesson; “ anguish in face of the possibility of the end of the human adventure, hope in man and the possibility, however doubtful, that he could reconcile knowledge and wisdom.” He points out that at Unesco’s war-shadowed beginnings in a world struggling after a conflict on an unprecedented scale, the idea of culture... was no longer a luxury but for all, a matter of life and death, and recalls Unesco’s twenty-five years of work for culture: international conferences and symposia, joint cultural programmes, preparation of reference material and catalogues of works of art, campaigns to save mankind’s common cultural heritage as in Nubia, translations of literary works.

The section under the heading “ Normative Action of the Organization and Peace ” covers Unesco’s work in promoting conventions on human rights and in protecting and developing mankind’s cultural heritage. Mrs. Alva Myrdal traces Unesco’s work of examining the tensions which can lead to war, in furthering the new discipline of peace research and in campaigning against racism.

Peace is the keynote of the conclusion by Mr. René Maheu in the chapter “ In the Service of Minds in History ”. He writes that it is human rights, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of 1948, which inspire all Unesco’s work. All its efforts are directed to the furtherance of a civilization of universality. “ Peace has no value and, strictly speaking, no reality for Unesco unless it is founded on justice, which is nothing other than human rights in action... Peace is justice acknowledged and this, we know full well, can be attained only by radical changes in the structure of societies and the organization of the world. From Unesco’s point of view ... the cause of peace and the cause of progress coincide ”. He concludes by the affirmation that, just as action for development cannot be dissociated from the attainment of human rights, so, too, the cause of development and the cause of security are intertwined. They are two inseparable aspects of peace.

J.-G. L.

