

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

International Nurses Day was celebrated on 12 May by the national nursing associations of many countries, which commemorate on this date Florence Nightingale's birthday. It was in 1965 that the International Council of Nurses declared that 12 May should become known as International Nurses Day. Every year, a different theme is chosen and it has been decided that for 1973 the theme will be *The Nurse's Role in Safeguarding the Environment*. This is, indeed, a problem of some urgency that may affect considerably the survival of mankind, while, on the other hand, nurses assume extensive responsibility in this particular sphere where they have the possibility to play an active part.

The message addressed on this day by the International Council of Nurses concluded with the following words:

“ As influential members of the health team, the health community, nurses can make their voices heard in policy-making and decision-making bearing directly on environmental problems. And by virtue of their unique relationship to individuals they have an opportunity to set examples by their own actions and to help in the fundamental education of every human being. Nurses are in a unique position to expound the importance of environmental action and show the specific steps people can take to protect their own health, the health of their families, community, and planet.”

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

In January 1973 the World Food Programme (WFP) celebrated its tenth anniversary.¹

¹ *World Health*, WHO, Geneva, January 1973.