

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

quotes a number of facts which demonstrate the slow but sure evolution in the field of protection for the rights of man.

Professor Ezejiyor recalls the work of the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights (O.A.S.) and also the planned African Convention of Human Rights drawn up by the African Commission of Jurists. Finally he points out the prospects of a World Convention at present being studied by the United Nations.

The future, according to the author, resides in the establishment of regional conventions whose scope would be limited to definite groups united by common ideals and common fundamental interests. On a practical plan, it is on the local level that solutions might be found rather than on the universal plan where ideas and ways of life vary and all too frequently diverge.

We would mention, in addition, that Professor Ezejiyor, in the second part of his book, outlines the major precepts of protection for the rights of man which are to be found in the various legislations in the Commonwealth.

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The Red Cross World, League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva, 1965, No. 3.

In order to co-ordinate the assistance given between sister Societies, the League of Red Cross Societies has established a special Development Programme, with its own Section within the League's central administration. The Development Programme now has, in addition to its Administrative and Planning Officers, five Desk Officers. These officers have an accurate and detailed knowledge of the stage of development of all Societies in the main developing areas—and their needs. They can also provide information required by the League's technical experts regarding a developing Society. It is often this information that provides a sound basis for advice given to a Society.

In the field, the Programme has a varying number of delegates assisting National Societies in developing some aspect of their activities.

In the course of 1965, the Programme has had delegates in Algeria, Burundi, Congo-Leopoldville, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Upper Volta and Zambia.

In the majority of cases, these delegates have been made available by their own Societies as a gesture of assistance towards a sister Society. Some delegates have been on technical missions to train instructors in First-Aid, Healthy Living, Health in the Home; some have gone to give expert advice on the organisation of a Blood Transfusion Service or the preparation of Statutes; many more have gone to advise and assist new Societies in establishing a solid organisational structure at home and enable them to play a meaningful role in the broader sphere of world affairs.

As might be expected, requests for assistance far outweigh the means available at any one time. It has been necessary, therefore, to divide the Societies into different stages of development, representing a different type of assistance. One of the main challenges for the Section is to ensure that all developing Societies are given some form of assistance. There is the danger that one Society will receive an undue proportion of the aid. On the other hand, resources sometimes do not permit assistance to be continued for a good and growing project. These are examples of individual decisions which must be judged on their merits, in relation to the overall requirements.

Seminars or Conferences are an essential feature of the Programme's Plan of Action for the future. It is proposed to hold one in each Region every two years. They will always be concerned with some aspect of training. In 1964, the first one was held in Sydney, Australia, for Societies in the South East Asian Region. Thirteen Societies attended. Later in the same year two meetings for the Latin American Societies were held in Santiago, Chile, and Lima, Peru. In 1965, the Societies of West Africa met at Abidjan, Ivory Coast. In 1966, similar conferences are planned for the Societies of Eastern Africa at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and for the Red Crescent Societies of North Africa and the Middle East at a site still to be decided.

The League's Secretary General has appointed a Development Programme Advisory Panel of experienced Red Cross officers from National Societies. The Panel is headed by an Executive Chairman who keeps in close contact with the Section and spends regular working periods in Geneva as well as visiting donor Societies to discuss practical assistance projects.

The willingness of the Societies to accept continuously bigger budgets each year in addition to their normal League commitments is a strong indication that the Development Programme is on the move.