

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

WORLD CHILD WELFARE CONGRESS

In accordance with the Statutes of the I.U.C.W.,¹ on the occasion of a session of the General Council, the highest authority of the Union, the latter can convene a World Child Welfare Congress. This Congress which meets in principle every four years, as provided by the Union's Bye-Laws, is held independently but in the same place as the General Council, which it follows.

As announced in the *International Child Welfare Review*,² the Union's Executive Board has decided that the next Congress will take place in Stockholm from 6th to 10th September, 1969 and that its theme will be:

“ The Child in the World of Tomorrow—How to meet his needs in a changing society ”

It will not be possible at this meeting to treat all questions relating to the child of tomorrow, but it is intended to concentrate on the most urgent priorities as well as on the basic aspects of child development, and, in particular, to study the tasks of child welfare organizations throughout the world.

The Congress will open with introductions by speakers who will present the setting in which the theme is to be considered and major issues raised by the theme. Analyses will be made of the rapid changes in the structures of most societies today which modify established social norms and affect the responses to the needs of the child. How can we assure that from birth the child in various parts of the world will not only be welcomed and protected in the dependent years but accepted as an integral part of adult life? How can we secure for the child an education adapted to his abilities, his need for love and security and to the requirements of a society in which he will be called upon to assume responsibilities later? How can we

¹ International Union of Child Welfare, Geneva.

² Geneva, 1968, No. 1, Vol. XXII.

assure the child the mental equilibrium needed to adapt to a constantly changing world? What role does the family play in preparing the child for adult life?

It is from these perspectives that the task of child welfare should be considered. In fact, very often this role is still not clearly defined. It is necessary to determine the contribution which can be made in planning programmes and actions on national, regional and international levels.

Child welfare today assumes completely new dimensions: it no longer remains sufficient just to aid the child in distress. We must prevent difficulties in adaptation and development. New methods of action in child welfare and neighbouring fields such as education and medicine, for example, have to be outlined and put to the test.

Problems pertaining to children in rural areas and those living in semi-urban and industrial areas call for specific approaches and these will be treated separately by three highly-qualified speakers.

At Section meetings, participants will also have the opportunity of discussing relevant questions raised during plenary sessions. Each Section will have two sub-divisions, one for English and the other for French-speaking persons. Small groups will also be set up so that consideration may be given to points which participants may find of special interest.

Lastly, arrangements will be made for delegates to visit social institutions and to take part in excursions.

International co-operation in the field of social welfare has proved to be of great importance in promoting understanding between the peoples of the world. Exchanges of ideas and experiences help child welfare workers in various parts of the world to recognize universal problems and common goals, to work in closer co-operation in carrying out international projects and, against the background of world development and the world's needs, to arrive at a better evaluation of child welfare activities in their own countries.
