

MISCELLANEOUS

ted workshops and special housing so that they may lead a life worthy of full members of the community.

10. Legislation for protection against accidents at work, in the home, in the street and elsewhere should be adapted to conform to the most recent scientific knowledge in order to provide the population with the best protection.

11. Every form of rehabilitation should take into account the disabled person's individual circumstances and make the widest possible allowance for the disabled person's co-operation and association in the implementation of necessary measures for rehabilitation.

12. All persons engaged in rehabilitation, such as doctors, teachers, trainers, social welfare workers, etc., should receive thorough instruction and follow refresher courses.

13. In order constantly to improve rehabilitation, research in this field should be intensified. Results of such research and of international experience should be compared and used to the full.

14. FIMITIC recognizes the need to develop rehabilitation and improve rehabilitation services in developing countries and it supports the efforts of international organizations in this field.

A LAND OF REFUGE

This illustrated pamphlet¹ deftly describes the work of installing some 15,000 M'Boki refugees in the Central African Republic by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees which was assisted by the League for that operation. As the High Commissioner, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, observes, M'Boki is a concrete example of what the High Commission for Refugees can achieve in Africa with the support of the authorities of the countries of asylum, of UN institutions and of other organizations concerned in international efforts made for refugees. In his introduction he says:

While it took many years in other parts of the world to have the principle accepted that helping refugees was a humanitarian

¹ "The Promise of M'Boki", publication of the UNHCR, Geneva, 1969.

and non-political action that should not be construed as an unfriendly gesture towards the countries of origin, in Africa, practically all Governments, notably through the Organization of African Unity, accepted these principles from the beginning. As a consequence, many of the refugee situations could be "depoliticised". There have been tense and difficult moments but at least through the wise action of Governments such incidents as occurred were prevented from causing lasting damage. Not less important has been the attitude of the authorities in receiving refugees, in taking immediate measures to provide them with medical care, food and shelter, or in calling in outside help when the local resources were not sufficient. Similarly, the action in offering the refugees good land and providing them with administrative services and including them in the educational system provided the essential basis for solving the problems. Furthermore, the confidence placed in UNHCR as co-ordinator of international assistance made possible the establishment of an international partnership that has unquestionably proved its value. Of this partnership, M'boki is a telling example.

As in other refugee situations in Europe and in Africa, we found the League of Red Cross Societies ready to shoulder the operational responsibilities during the difficult emergency phase and the first period of the resettlement operation. The presence of devoted and competent Red Cross volunteers, whose work cannot be too highly praised, proved a vital element in the maintenance of health. Furthermore, the League undertook the co-ordination of the technical activities for the settlement until the end of 1968.

The High Commissioner finally declared that in the early stage it is necessary to provide refugees with the food they need while they work the land and await the first harvests. Furthermore, assistance is incomplete unless it also includes health and education.
