

The ILO approach to human rights, by C. Wilfred Jenks, *ILO Panorama*, Geneva, 1968, Number 32.

Nineteen sixty-eight, the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has been designated by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the International Year for Human Rights.

Nineteen sixty-nine, the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the International Labour Organisation and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration of Philadelphia, is to be celebrated as the International Year for Social Justice.

The sequence is an accident of history but gives appropriate expression to the intimacy of the relationship between human rights and social justice in the strategy of peace. Without human rights, guaranteed by civil liberties, such social justice as may be achieved is the gift of power, precarious because limited by the vision, interests and fears of the powerful; without social justice, such human rights as may be achieved, limited to civil liberties and economic opportunities for those who can grasp them, offer none of the fullness of life to the common man; without human rights and social justice there can be no solid foundation for an enduring peace; without an enduring peace, human rights and social justice remain at the mercy of the arbitrary interference with personal freedom and diversion of resources from social to military purposes which are the invariable consequences of armed conflict. Human rights, social justice and peace are inseparable facets of the freedom and dignity of man . . .

. . . In none of these matters is it sufficient to enunciate broad policies or formulate general international standards. The specifics of application make all the difference between theory and reality. Inquiry, reporting, complaint and enforcement procedures are no less necessary than legal standards to the sustained thrust of the war against " man's inhumanity to man ".

The acceptability of such procedures, still too often regarded as an affront to national pride, presupposes a general recognition that they are a necessary element in the arrangements whereby society protects its common values against erosion or contempt. The confidence which they inspire depends on the measure in which they combine the most scrupulous thoroughness with the most scrupulous objectivity. The ILO has an exceptional experience of the operation of such procedures in this spirit which may be of great value for their further development.

Over a wide range of economic and social rights, technical co-operation and operational programmes have become of major importance in making international standards effective in practice. Freedom from forced labour, freedom of association and freedom from discrimination

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are so closely related to matters of acute political controversy that it is not surprising that technical co-operation in these fields should have lagged far behind what has been done in such politically more neutral fields as training, management development, conditions of work, health and safety, and social security.

New forms of technical co-operation may become desirable as such co-operation impinges on acutely political issues, but the whole practice of technical co-operation for economic and social development between world organisations and governments is so new that its purpose, scope and methods must still be regarded as experimental. Major developments, far from being improbable, are to be anticipated. They may include ways of coming to grips more closely with these ticklish issues. Orderly and constructive industrial relations, for instance, are primarily an art of dialogue between partners who respect, trust and keep faith with each other. What part can the ILO play in teaching the practice as well as the philosophy of this art of dialogue?

On the eve of the International Year for Social Justice it is important to reassess the adequacy of what has been achieved in all these matters to the scale of the present and prospective need for effective action, and the adequacy of the methods of action and resources available to the immensity of the challenge which this need presents.

The objective is to get the maximum social dividend from economic growth through what the Declaration of Philadelphia describes as "the fuller and broader utilisation of the world's productive resources"; the attainment of that objective is, as the Declaration likewise affirms, "a matter of concern to the whole civilised world" which calls for "continuous and concerted international effort"; the ILO contribution to the promotion of human rights has already transformed world thinking on the subject and had a substantial practical impact, but it has only just begun. The first half-century of the ILO represents no more than a day in the progress of social justice in the world community.

Medical Schools in Africa, *World Health, World Health Organization, Geneva, July, 1968.*

What is the situation at the present time? There are eleven medical schools in eight countries of Middle Africa. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Nigeria and Uganda these schools were set up before independence. Since then others have appeared in Ivory Coast, Rwanda, and Tanzania. New ones are now planned in Cameroon and Kenya.

In Asia and Latin America, there is hardly any country of more than three million population that does not have a medical school. In the