

Cameroon

We think our readers might be interested in the report recently issued by the Wouri section of the Cameroon Red Cross on its current activities. This publication, sent to us by the ICRC regional delegation at Yaoundé, gives a vivid account of the Douala committee's humanitarian work in co-operation with the National Society's central committee. Patients in several hospitals, including one for leprosy cases, in a number of maternity wards and in a centre for the rehabilitation of the disabled, and detainees in Douala prison, have received comforts from the Red Cross, which also assists a kindergarten by providing certain supplies. The section is equally active in first aid, training regional teams and organizing three-week retraining programmes for Douala first-aiders (31 of whom qualified for admission to training as instructors). Several schemes for information dissemination are worthy of note, such as, to quote but one example, the broadcasting of forty-two half-hour programmes on the Red Cross by Radio-Douala. Blood donation is also a growing activity—the number of donors, all members of the Red Cross—has doubled in one year.

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The ICRC regional delegation also sent us, more recently, the reports of the Cameroon Red Cross on the Society's ninth general assembly, held in Yaoundé in July 1972. These reports give proof of the effectiveness of the work carried out in Cameroon under the Red Cross sign, and we wish to draw attention to those which more particularly show the variety of the tasks performed in that country.

At the opening meeting of the general assembly, Dr. S. P. Tchoungui, General President, delivered an address in which he stressed the principal objectives pursued: "assistance to lepers; our institution's continued consolidation throughout the country

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through the establishment or enlargement of branch associations; the smooth operation and the effectiveness of our three sections: first aid, information and Red Cross Youth; the construction of our national headquarters and the establishment of a national training centre ”.

Mr. Tchoungui recalled the visit which the President of the ICRC had made to Cameroon in August 1971 and the setting up of a permanent delegation of the International Committee in Yaoundé. Accompanied by members of the Governing Board, the ICRC regional delegate, as mentioned in our last issue, had conducted an information campaign on the aims pursued and the results obtained by the Red Cross movement since its inception. Mr. Tchoungui referred to blood donation campaigns, the work of Red Cross Youth and the support it received from a great many teachers. “ We have not relaxed our efforts regarding donations and relief ”, he added. “ Hospitals, dispensaries and public and private rehabilitation centres have received Red Cross donations in the form of medicaments, dressing material, clothing and toilet items. Financial aid has also been given to the needy.”

The report of the National Director for First Aid shows the spirit of initiative reigning in that section, both with regard to the training of first aiders and instructors and in the field of first-aid and medico-social work. The report of the Administrative Secretary mentioned the National Society's various activities connected with the training of cadres and education and training programmes for the young. It referred, too, to the ICRC's second consignment of 54,000 copies of the school textbook “ The Red Cross and My Country ” to the Cameroon Red Cross, to help spread knowledge of the Red Cross principles and the Geneva Conventions among schoolchildren.
