

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Cameroon

A Round Table discussion was held at Yaoundé on 31 July 1970 on the occasion of the Cameroon Red Cross Society's General Meeting. It was chaired by Dr. S. P. Tchoungui, President of the East Cameroon Council and General President of the Cameroon Red Cross.

Some hundred delegates of the Society from all parts of the Cameroon and representing 33 local Committees met in the capital.

The ICRC was represented by Mr. P. Gaillard, Assistant Director, and Mr. A. Tschiffeli, regional delegate for West Africa, whilst the League of Red Cross Societies was represented by one of its Vice-Presidents from Dakar, Mr. R. Alcantara, President of the Senegal Red Cross, and by Mr. C.-A. Schusselé, Director of International Relations and Research, from Geneva.

Various questions were debated including: Development of Humanitarian Law, ICRC Intervention in Internal Conflicts, League Assistance particularly to the Junior Red Cross, and Dissemination of Knowledge on the Geneva Conventions in schools and the armed forces.

In his opening speech to the Cameroon Red Cross General Meeting, Dr. Tchoungui reviewed the ten years of the National Society's existence and he thanked the ICRC for having sent his country the 11,400 copies of "The Red Cross and My Country" now in use in the Cameroon schools. He then referred to the National Society's future programme in the following terms:

The mission still to be accomplished is a long term one and Red Cross needs are all top priority. We must face up to them through a programme drawn up after methodical study, a programme which is related to the resources available to our National Society.

That programme includes:

- 1) Staff training at all levels of the Cameroon Red Cross bodies;*
- 2) The organization of a store of emergency supplies to meet natural or man-made disasters;*

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- 3) *The dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions in primary and secondary schools, in the armed forces, and among the population ;*
- 4) *The construction of a Red Cross headquarters to house the services of our National Society and a conference hall with seating for about 1,000 people.*

That sums up the fields to which we shall direct our efforts in the next few years. And if we are to achieve our objectives, if our Society is to make progress, our members and sympathizers must ever increase their enthusiasm, their energy, their dedication and their generosity.

The spirit and example of every one of us will be the determining factor of that progress, coupled with education which also is of primary importance.

In a word, the Red Cross as an institution, and its role today and tomorrow, depend on men whose acts reflect the principles for which it stands. Consequently, the moral responsibility of the members of our National Society is great and it is on us first and foremost that the future of the young Cameroon Red Cross Society depends.

Cyprus

Some time ago, in Cyprus, Mr. Gaillard, ICRC Assistant Director, received from the Red Cross Society then being formed in that country a report on one of its most useful activities. We have pleasure in bringing it to the attention of our readers.

The Cyprus Red Cross, at that time a branch of the British Red Cross, established its Convalescent Home for Sick Children in 1957 knowing how difficult it can be for some parents to nurse children after their discharge from hospital. Children often have to be discharged whilst still in need of special attention, in order that beds may be available for others in more urgent need. Many children on leaving hospital have to return to overcrowded conditions where the parents, through lack of money or time, are unable to give them the special food and attention they require if they are to be fully restored to normal health, a result of which can mean a breakdown in health and a return to hospital.