

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

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

This Council comprises, as we know, voluntary institutions working for humanitarian ends. Thus, for example, the *International Review* published, in July 1965, a study by the Secretary-General of the ICVA, Mr. M. Potulicki, on the International Centre for the Co-ordination of Legal Assistance which is one of its bodies.

The Council's work has until now been directed by two commissions, the Commission on Refugees and the Commission on Migration. A third commission has been constituted: the "Commission on Emergency Aid". Quite recently yet another has been formed, the Commission on "Social and Economic Development". The scope and functions of this last are as follows:

1. To be a forum for discussions of common concern in socio-economic assistance, such as agricultural and industrial development, health and social services, general education and vocational training services, community development, and such activities as are related thereto.
2. To provide information relevant to non-governmental development assistance programmes.
3. To promote development assistance and voluntary agencies' action and cooperation in the fields covered in point 1, through appropriate studies and research projects.
4. To promote cooperation with and among voluntary agencies in developing countries.
5. To encourage cooperation in the use of volunteers in development aid.

6. To serve as a medium for relationship to other non-governmental bodies, and to governmental and intergovernmental organizations, for the fields covered in point 1.
7. To hold such meetings and take such other steps as may be necessary to realize the functions outlined above.

CHILD WELFARE PROBLEMS IN AFRICA

The Centre International de l'Enfance organized a colloquium which was held in Dakar in December 1964, the proceedings of which are summarized in a recent publication.¹ The following two problems were studied: why is the lot of children in towns, where personnel and material resources are greater, no better than that of children living in rural areas? With what specific problems does life in towns beset children at different stages of their development?

The papers submitted dealt with various subjects. Particular attention was given to maternity and child welfare, for instance in Algeria and Senegal. Mr. F. J. Bennett and Mr. D. B. Jelliffe presented a study on "Urban maternity and child welfare services in Uganda" which contained practical remarks on health education. This subject, as we are all aware, is one which is of particular importance for our movement as it is one of the aspects of the long-term working programme of the Junior Red Cross in various places. We therefore give below extracts from the study by these two authors on health education in Uganda; they are, incidentally, valid for other developing countries.

In Kampala there are several bodies responsible for health education, including the paediatric service of the Makerere Medical

¹ *Living Conditions of the Child in Urban Environment in Africa*, Centre International de l'Enfance, Paris, 1966, 276 p.