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P/7/c

PLENARY MEETINGS

Teheran, 8, 14 and 15 November 1973

Item 7 (c) of the Agenda

Report of the Commission on Community Services

Introduction

The Commission C elected the following officers:-

Chairman: Mr. Fernando F.V. Sison
Chairman, Philippine National Red Cross

Vice-Chairmen: Dame Anne Bryans
Vice-Chairman, Executive Committee,
British Red Cross Society

Dr. Nikola Georgievski
President of the Assembly,
Red Cross of Yugoslavia

Rapporteur: Dr. Tahar Cheniti, Deputy Treasurer,
Tunisian Red Crescent

Drafting Committee: The Chairman
The Rapporteur
The Secretaries to the Commission:
Miss Y. Hentsch
Miss F. Perret

Agenda

Discussions followed the proposed Agenda. The Commission noted the report on the action taken to give effect to the resolutions of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross and then turned its attention to items 3 and 4 combined, namely:-

- Red Cross contribution to national plans for development and provision of Community Services: health (including blood transfusion), social welfare and youth.
- The Red Cross and environment problems.

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Summary of discussions

Discussions centred on the following four points:-

- I. Assessing community needs
- II. Establishing criteria to help National Societies to select the community services they can undertake
- III. Youth participation in planning, implementing and evaluating community services
- IV. Ways and means of providing National Societies with adequate finance and qualified staff.

New discussion methods were used in dealing with these subjects. They consisted of:

- two introductory presentations
- four workshops
- a podium debate
- three panel discussions
- an exhibition
- four plenary meetings

An informal report by a National Society on one aspect of the subjects under discussion was presented in each workshop, in preparation for the discussions at plenary meetings.

The discussions on the four points listed may be summarised as follows:-

I. Assessing community needs

The Commission stressed the need for National Societies to co-operate closely in the fields of health and social development with both governmental bodies and voluntary agencies engaged in these activities.

This co-operation facilitates the establishment of priorities and the utilization to the best advantage of all too often limited resources, the ultimate aim being to render effective service of a high standard to all sections of the community.

II. Criteria to help National Societies to select the community services they can undertake

It was generally agreed that National Societies should select their activities on the basis of pre-defined community needs and available resources, and that duplication of work carried out by governmental or private agencies should be avoided.

The Commission recognized that it was difficult to establish criteria which would be valid throughout the world.

It was stressed that the Red Cross was expected both to provide traditional services and to set up new programmes to meet the needs of a society developing at an ever-increasing pace. National Societies were, however, well placed to carry out pioneering work in detecting certain new needs and initiating measures to meet them, preparatory to government action.

III. Youth participation in community services

The Commission was very strongly in favour of the total integration of young people in all aspects of Red Cross work, from planning to decision-making, implementation, and evaluation.

It was stressed that the education received by young people to-day fitted them to assume increasing responsibilities and facilitated their integration into the whole range of National Society programmes.

It was for National Societies to promote - at all levels of their organization - understanding between adults and young people and to encourage discussion and dialogue as a means of moulding attitudes and bridging the generation gap.

It was suggested that the concept of including the 18-25-years age-group in the membership of Red Cross Youth should be reviewed, since in most countries 18-year-olds were already young adults.

IV. Financial means and qualified staff

It was recognized that, in very many countries, the Red Cross was taking a fresh approach in the light of new needs. This made it more necessary than ever to enlist the active participation of people of all conditions and ages.

The immense human potential represented by the extreme diversity of persons wishing to work in the ranks of the Red Cross was one of its greatest strengths, particularly since it was made up essentially of volunteers. The Commission stressed the need for the proper training of these volunteers and of the permanent staff of National Societies, and welcomed the training programmes already set up at the national and international levels.

It was suggested that National Societies should strive to project to their public and governments a proper Red Cross image designed to win their co-operation, facilitate project financing, and secure for each National Society its proper place in national development plans.

ENVIRONMENT

In the context of the recommendation contained in the opening address by H.I.M. Shahanshah Aryamehr, the Commission recognized throughout its discussions that the protection and improvement of the environment were one of the major problems of our time and that the Red Cross was directly concerned, since the quality of the environment to a large extent conditions the physical and mental health of mankind.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION

The Commission listened with interest to a report by the Red Cross Working Party on Blood Transfusion, whose draft resolution it unanimously adopted.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

During its deliberations, the Commission heard a brief statement by the WHO Regional Director for the Middle-East, who described the various activities carried out by his organization in the promotion of Health and social welfare. These activities are linked to those of the Red Cross, particularly in the context of the protection and improvement of the human environment, disaster relief and blood transfusion.

RESOLUTIONS

The Commission adopted the attached resolutions on:

- Community services
- Environment
- Blood transfusion.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross,

Aware of and appreciating the existing cooperation and working relationships between National Societies, their Governments, the U.N. Specialized Agencies and non-governmental organisations,

Noting that National Red Cross Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities; that they have the mission to cooperate in the fields of health and social development at all levels of the Community; and that they can call on the help of large numbers of volunteers,

Considering the need to better coordinate all available assistance for more meaningful results of the services provided by National Societies;

RECOMMENDS

1. that National Societies call on Governments to give continuous attention to the U.N. Resolution Nos. 1580 (L) of the Economic and Social Council and No 2626 of the U.N. General Assembly and to involve National Societies at all levels in the planning and participation in "country programming";
2. that National Societies seek through their Government closer co-operation and support of the U.N. Development Programme and Specialized Agencies such as WHO, ILO, UNESCO, FAO, World Food Programme and UNICEF, thus strengthening collaboration between Governments, U.N. Agencies and the Red Cross;
3. that all Governments give every possible support to the Red Cross to increase its potential of assisting in the Social Development of its country;
4. that Governments take into account Red Cross experience when drawing up National Development Plans so as to ensure coordinated efforts and positive results for all concerned;
5. that those international and non-governmental organisations and foundations, which are able to do so, assist Red Cross in carrying out its Development Programme with the participation of all, thus expressing their solidarity with peoples of all ages in all countries.

Draft Resolution

Environment

The XXIIInd International Conference of the Red Cross

Having taken note of the Report by the Working Party of the League of Red Cross Societies concerning the Red Cross and the Protection of the Human Environment and also of the resolution on this subject adopted by the League's Board of Governors at its XXXIInd Session,

Recognises that all aspects of Environmental Protection and Improvement constitute one of the major problems of our time,

Declares that the Red Cross is directly concerned by this problem since the physical and mental health of man is largely conditioned by the quality of the Environment,

RECOMMENDS that at national level Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies develop and plan their activities according to this perspective of defence and improvement of the Environment, in harmony with the Government authorities,

Emphasizes finally that the struggle against threats to the Environment must also be pursued at the international level,

Invites the Red Cross to cooperate at that level in the development of means of contributing to the protection of the Environment.

Draft Resolution

Blood Transfusion

THE XXII INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

Taking note that almost half of the National Societies conduct a blood service today, 14 of whom supply their nations' complete blood service needs,

recalling that the International Red Cross Conference in 1936, 1948, 1952 and 1957 adopted resolutions commending the development of blood services to all national societies and, beginning with the 1948 resolution, also enunciating the principle of non-remunerated blood donation,

observing with satisfaction that the governing bodies of the League of Red Cross Societies have steadily encouraged national societies through resolutions adopted in 1946, 1950, 1952, 1956, 1958, 1959, 1963 and 1966 to stimulate the development of blood services based on the principle of non-remunerated blood donation,

desiring that every nation benefit from the major medical and scientific advances achieved in recent years in blood research, technology and programming,

believing with influential opinion leaders around the world that the non-remunerated donation of blood in a nationwide non-commercial blood service produces the safest medical therapy and strengthens a nation's social structure through the value it places on this freely chosen individual act of humanitarian service,

AFFIRMS that a service based on voluntary blood donation, motivated by humanitarian principles, is the safest and most effective way of supplying blood needs,

urges the governments of all nations to adopt the highest standards for a safe blood service to their citizens and formulate those standards on the concept of non-remunerated blood donation,

recommends to each National Society and its Government that they undertake a strong mutual effort to attain the humanitarian objectives of a total national blood service based on the broad voluntary participation of the people.