

evenings by well-known performers and visits by the Junior Red Cross to orphanages, old people's homes and hospitals.

The manifestations which took place in 1968 in a large number of countries gave proof by their very diversity of the growing success of World Red Cross Day.

JUNIOR RED CROSS

As we have already said, the League's Junior Red Cross Bureau has a five-year plan which it started to put into effect in 1965. The plan has a different theme for each year. The first three were: Health Education; First-Aid and Accident Prevention; and Health in the Home. The theme for the fourth year was lately announced: Leadership Training. The aim is to bring to the fore youngsters of leadership calibre. We give below an extract from a document issued by the League in which it examines the impact of Junior Red Cross leadership training programmes.

Anyone following events on the radio, press or television in recent months would have felt concern over what is apparently a youth revolt. In cities around the world young people are protesting against conditions in their countries and demanding a voice in the changes that must be made. When their demands are ignored, they often resort to violence.

While protest is a sign of concern and involvement, violence often leads to a worsening rather than improvement of a situation. Are there not other ways of voicing discontent and of working for change? Other ways do exist, but it seems that young people are either unaware of them or find them ineffective.

What has this question to do with Red Cross? For one thing, we say that our programmes give young people—through the

channel of constructive action—a chance not only to “protest” against ignorance, poverty, illness, and isolation, but also to help effect the necessary changes.

The question is, however, are these programmes actually achieving this? Do they give young people the knowledge and skills they need to effect change? Do they train them to become leaders? Teaching young people how to organise meetings or give first aid instruction, or how to work in the frame of an established programme is one thing. Allowing them a chance to take part in the planning and decision-making involved in their activities—and teaching them how to do this—is perhaps even more important. Are leadership training programmes open to enough young people? Are they, in fact, doing more than paying lip service to youth leadership?

This leads to the question of adult youth leaders, those responsible for training young people and offering them flexible, creative guidance. Are they receiving the training and support which they need for their work? Can we develop good training programmes without the help of qualified, active leaders?

We propose that these questions be studied in the next two years of the JRC Five-Year Plan.

Junior Red Cross members also expressed their opinions on the future orientation of the Red Cross movement as a whole. “Rendez-vous 67”, the international youth meeting in Ottawa in August 1967¹, was an opportunity for participants from 46 countries to compare points of view and draw up resolutions as paraphrased below.²

The delegates did not limit themselves to Rendezvous 67 topics. Their suggestions were both pertinent and topical. They dealt with education itself: they considered that the history of the Red Cross should be included in the school curriculum. Current affairs and the main contemporary problems should also be a part of this curriculum to give the pupils a better knowledge and understanding of other countries.

¹ See *International Review of the Red Cross*, November 1967.

² “Rendez-vous 67—Youth’s View of Red Cross”, by Ch. A. Schusselé in *Youth*, No. 1, 1968; League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.

They thought that the Red Cross should offer bursaries to deserving students to attract them into our movement. They suggested that there be more student exchanges between countries organised by the Red Cross Youth. They wanted young people themselves to analyse the teaching systems and institutions of their own countries. National Societies should encourage Governments to increase the international content of their educational courses.

The young people also thought that the Red Cross should give pupils and students a better knowledge of its principles and programmes.

From a more practical point of view they had no hesitation in suggesting that, within its means, the Red Cross prepare programmes on sex education, family planning and mental health.

They expressed the wish that the Red Cross Youth step up work for underprivileged children, in particular in shanty towns and the poor districts of large cities and that international youth teams focus their attention on social welfare, first in their own countries and then abroad.

They also stressed that the Red Cross should develop valid programmes in universities and teacher training colleges to provide the Red Cross Youth with new, enthusiastic and well trained officers.

The young participants reached an interesting conclusion concerning developing countries and the changes they were obliged to make in their customs. They felt that the way of life should not be changed when it was closely linked to religion or culture, except where changes would be calculated to improve health, economic conditions and living standards.

In their last recommendations the young delegates laid considerable stress on the problem of communications and public relations. They recommended that each National Society should form a national Red Cross Youth Council. On behalf of this Council, a national reporter should regularly report to the Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League so that appropriate descriptions of the activities of National Sections throughout the world would appear in the magazine "Youth". In this connection, they asked that this magazine be given widespread publicity.

The participants in particular advocated more up-to-date, more intensive and more general publicity for Red Cross Youth activities by all modern media such as television, the radio and the press.

They expressed the wish that at all levels closer liaison be established between youth and adults as well as with other youth movements for a common goal of peace and welfare.

They wanted Red Cross Youth to be represented by young people on all Red Cross Committees at the local as well as the national levels and also on the Junior Red Cross Advisory Committee of the League.

They made a special point of public relations and recommended that Red Cross Youth have its own Public Relations Director at the national level. Here they had in mind presentation of a more realistic and clearer picture of the problems facing Red Cross Youth, in the light of national conditions.

The delegates recommended that the number of programmes for youth be increased, in particular in the field of first aid.

They expressed the wish that the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League periodically review the basic principles and ideals of the Red Cross.

This is the broad outline of the recommendations adopted at **Rendezvous 67**.