

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

When the United Nations declared 1968 as " International Year for Human Rights " the International Council on Social Welfare expressed its desire to participate by selecting the following theme: *Social Welfare and Human Rights*, for the XIVth International Conference on Social Welfare¹ to be held near Helsinki from 18-24 August 1968.

In spite of the philosophical and legal implications of this theme, it will be dealt with from the point of view of applied social science and social welfare techniques.

Among the themes on the programme for the general meetings, we would, in particular, draw attention to the rights of the " client ", the rights of the child and the rights of the aged. Among the subjects for the study groups the following are of special interest: social welfare and the right to health, social welfare and the rights of the physically handicapped, social welfare and the rights of the mentally handicapped, rights and duties of persons under restraint, alcoholism and drug dependency, migrants, refugees and human rights.

These are only some of the themes to be discussed, and we can appreciate the full impact which the Conference may have on both public and private social welfare institutions, and National Societies in particular.

In addition, and in accordance with a now established tradition, a day of the Conference will be reserved for meetings of international organisations. On this occasion the Finnish Red Cross, in co-operation with the League and more especially its Health and Social Service Bureau, will organise a meeting at its Training Centre on Thursday, 22 August, for the members of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies participating in the

¹ This title now replaces that of International Conference of Social Work whereas the Organisation itself has adopted the name of International Council on Social Welfare.

Conference. In addition, a reception will be given by the Central Committee of the Finnish Red Cross on the evening of 21 August to enable Red Cross delegates to meet the organisers of the Conference and the representatives of Finnish social welfare bodies.

The programme of the Red Cross Meeting will be sent later to the National Societies. Attention must be drawn to the fact that it will, in particular, comprise a lecture by a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the protection of the human being in case of conflict or strife, a report on the activities of the League and in particular on the IVth Red Cross International Seminar on Welfare Service, as well as visits to several institutions of the Finnish Red Cross.

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The League Health and Social Affairs Bureau has conveyed the foregoing information to National Societies in the hope that as many of them as possible will attend this International Conference at which attention will be drawn to the work of the Red Cross and the importance of the Geneva Conventions in social welfare.

HEALTH IN THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

World Health Day takes place each year on April 7. This happens to coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the World Health Organization whose theme is Health in the World Tomorrow. For this occasion, Dr. M. G. Candau, Director General of WHO, delivers the following message:

The seventh of April this year marks the twentieth anniversary of WHO. It also provides an opportunity to review the past and to anticipate the future.

Looking back, the Organization and its Member States have witnessed the general improvement in world health which is largely due to their combined efforts.