

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The ninetieth session of the League Executive Committee was held in Geneva in October 1974. It was preceded by meetings of various advisory and statutory committees whose opinions and recommendations were submitted to the Executive Committee, which deals with matters relating to the League's general policy between the biennial sessions of the Board of Governors. Some 130 representatives of National Societies of fifty-four countries attended the meetings as delegates or observers.

The Youth Advisory Committee laid special stress on the need for innovation, for a closer association of the young in all Red Cross activities and for the possibility of taking an active part in the consideration of the study on the "Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross" once it is conveyed to National Societies. The Health and Social Service Advisory Committee selected various subjects — including basic education in health and in the social field, assistance to the aged, to migrants, and to the physically, mentally and socially handicapped — the study of which will be given priority during the coming two years.

The meeting of the League Executive Committee was presided over by Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors. It noted the progress made in work concerning the reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross, which was undertaken with a view to ascertaining to what extent and in what way the structure of Red Cross institutions should adjust to the needs of the community. It may

be added that the promotion of the Red Cross image throughout the world, as an essential factor in securing co-operation from the public at large, was one the Executive Committee's main concerns.

It approved a report of the Organizing Committee of the World Conference on the Red Cross and Peace, which is scheduled to meet in Belgrade from 11 to 13 June 1975 and at which the Red Cross of Yugoslavia will act as host. Lastly, the Executive Committee accepted the Moroccan Red Crescent's invitation to hold the twenty-third session of the Board of Governors in Rabat next year.

Among the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee, we quote below resolution No. 8, relating to the second session of the Diplomatic Conference :

Reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law

The Executive Committee,

Considering that it is of the highest importance that National Societies and their Federation reaffirm and obtain a better position in international humanitarian law, which would enable them to develop in greater measure and without obstacles their activities on behalf of war victims, as indicated in Resolution No. 36 of the Board of Governors of the League (Teheran, 1973) and Resolution No. 15 of the XXIIInd International Conference,

Taking note of the information on the results achieved during the first session of the Diplomatic Conference on the reaffirmation and development of international humanitarian law, which are of direct interest for National Societies,

Considering that appropriate action should be undertaken in time to secure the support of Governments, participating at the Diplomatic Conference, for the adoption of provisions concerning National Societies and the League,

Considering that for this purpose the League should make use of the right to submit statements on questions concerning its members' activities, granted by Article 62 of the Rules of Procedure of the Diplomatic Conference,

1. Requests the Secretary General to prepare a document, in consultation with the working group of the League formed at that Conference, in which:

- a) the necessity to include additional provisions on National Societies in the Protocols would be stressed;
- b) the contents of the amendments submitted to the Diplomatic Conference on this subject would be exposed;
- c) an appeal to Governments to give their support to such provisions would be launched.

2. Requests the Secretary General to send this document to Governments participating in the Diplomatic Conference through the Secretariat of the Conference and to National Societies before the end of 1974,

3. Recommends to National Societies to approach the competent organs of the Government of their countries, using for that purpose the document referred to in paragraph 1, and to appeal to them to support the inclusion of provisions on National Societies in the two additional Protocols during the second session of the Diplomatic Conference,

4. Recommends that on the Diplomatic Conference the working group of representatives of National Societies within Government delegations and the League undertake an activity in order to enlist the support necessary for the adoption of additional provisions relative to the position of National Societies.