

LATIN AMERICAN RED CROSS REGIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

The second seminar in Latin America, one which was dedicated to the memory of William H. S. Dabney, late Under-Secretary General of the League, followed the meeting of the Red Cross Regional Training Institute held in Mexico in 1971.¹ It was jointly organized by the League of Red Cross Societies and the Colombian Red Cross and was designed to meet the National Societies' need for trained staff. The meeting was held at Fusagasugá, near Bogotá, Colombia, from 6 to 25 November 1972. The Director was Dr. Guillermo Rueda Montaña, Vice-President of the Mexican Red Cross. The League was represented by Miss Y. Hentsch, Under-Secretary General; Mr. J. Gómez Ruiz, in charge of the Latin American sector; Mr. J. Vittani, of the Relief Bureau; Mr. R. Bermúdez, Delegate for Latin America, and Mr. M. Miracle of the American National Red Cross. The ICRC was represented by Mr. E. Leemann, Regional Delegate.

The meeting was attended by members of the Red Cross Societies in the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela. Their active participation and the unflagging interest taken in the theoretical and practical work carried out showed the value of such meetings, responding as they do to a general need in a rapidly changing continent. Group work leads to a better understanding of present development and ensures greater receptivity to new ideas regarding organization and new programmes for Red Cross action.

¹ See *International Review*, November 1971.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Each day, a lecture on a given problem was followed by a discussion within three working groups, in which two representatives of the international institutions co-operated. The findings and suggestions were submitted to plenary sittings, and in the ensuing deliberations guidelines emerged on subjects such as:

Methods of group work, assessment techniques.

Cultural aspect and importance of the environment.

The Red Cross and its projects for the welfare of the community.

Plans for a blood donor service.

Red Cross Youth.

Disaster relief.

The Red Cross and nursing care.

After a study of the means and aims that would make for the most effective organization of a National Red Cross Society, each delegation submitted a statement on the work and internal structure of its Society. The ICRC delegate submitted statements on the ICRC and its mission, the Geneva Conventions, the development of international humanitarian law, and ICRC radiocommunications. The statement on the Geneva Conventions was discussed by the groups, and a number of interesting questions were dealt with at the following plenary sitting.

The seminar closed with a preliminary assessment by the participants themselves of the results so far achieved, by referring to the main subjects from which a number of training institutes in different parts of the world drew inspiration: organizational methods and structure of a National Society, International Red Cross, the Red Cross and international organizations, the Red Cross and relief, the Red Cross and community welfare, and social problems.