

LEAGUE NURSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A great need for well-trained auxiliary nursing personnel exists in many countries, especially in the developing areas, and it is the duty of National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies to participate in recruiting and training them.

This was one of the main themes of the League of Red Cross Societies Nursing Advisory Committee, one of several of the League's Advisory Committees, at a two-day meeting in Geneva on June 19 and 20, 1967.

This 16-member committee meets every two years. The meeting brought together 13 delegates representing the National Societies of the following countries: Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Italy, Norway, Rumania, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Observers from the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Council of Nurses and the World Health Organisation attended the meeting.

The Committee, which is responsible for suggesting Red Cross policy in the field of nursing, agreed to recommend a set of basic guidelines on the recruitment and training of Red Cross auxiliary nursing personnel to be circulated to all National Societies, schools of nursing and international organisations concerned with nursing.

These guidelines stress the need for nursing auxiliaries to be recruited, trained and supervised in their work by fully trained nurses, and that the programmes of National Societies in this respect be planned, bearing in mind the total health programmes of their own countries.

Another of the Committee's recommendations concerned the role of nurses in disaster relief operations, which calls for training in the social sciences so that they may be better equipped for working in cultures and creeds other than their own.