

in collaboration with the Organization of American States, was considered as an example of the contribution which one geographical region can make to another. The Seminar was held in September-October 1954 with the participation of 13 Latin-American countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico and Uruguay).

FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE

During the year close co-operation with UNICEF and the specialized agencies was instrumental in bringing about concerted action towards meeting the needs of families and children in rural and urban communities in less advanced countries. Special mention must also be made of the collaboration with UNICEF and WHO in the organization of maternal and child health centres in a number of countries.

The inter-agency Working Group on Long-Range Activities for Children held its third meeting in June 1954 and considered two major items; inter-agency collaboration to promote free and compulsory education, and the reports of the three assessments of children's services undertaken by the United Nations, in co-operation with UNICEF and the specialized agencies concerned, in Burma, El Salvador and Syria.

The main purpose of the surveys was to assist the Governments in reviewing their existing services for the benefit of children, and to advise on the initiation and development of comprehensive national programmes, applicable to both rural and urban areas.

A Seminar on Foster-Home Placement took place in Paris in May-June 1954 and a regional seminar in Denmark was devoted to day care.

A Study on Adoption of Children, published in 1954, dealt with the practice and procedures for the adoption of children in 15 countries (eight in Europe, two in North Africa, and five in Latin America) selected in view of their different legal systems and differing social and cultural patterns.

REHABILITATION OF THE HANDICAPPED

The programme in this field emphasized the prevention of handicaps and the organization

and staffing of modern rehabilitation services. It was aimed at preventing permanent impairment and eliminating or reducing handicaps which would otherwise result in large numbers of persons becoming economically dependent on society.

During 1954 the main activities carried out under this programme consisted in giving direct assistance to governments, with a view to strengthening national rehabilitation programmes in countries in the process of developing more comprehensive services for the handicapped, and assisting less developed countries to initiate basic services for the handicapped as part of a general programme of health education and welfare.

Among the techniques used most frequently to give such assistance were advisory missions, workshops for the training of technical personnel and the setting up or improvement of demonstration centres (in Egypt, Yugoslavia and Israel) to serve as model projects for a country or region. Seminars and study groups served as a means of exchanging information and experience among personnel engaged in work for the handicapped.

Within the framework of this general programme, a working paper concerning an international programme for the rehabilitation of the deaf and hard-of-hearing was prepared and discussed at a meeting of the inter-agency Technical Working Group on the Rehabilitation of the Handicapped, held in September 1954.

An illustrated brochure entitled Services for the Physically Handicapped was published in 1954. It was designed to provide a brief summary of the subject for the general public and for those working in governmental and voluntary agencies.

PREVENTION OF CRIME AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

The social defence programme was increasingly directed towards assisting the under-developed countries through making available to them the experience of countries more advanced in the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders. The regional consultative groups which met during the year recommended the establishment of regional institutes to provide a medium for the exchange of