

Report of the National Commission for the International Year of the Child, Lebanon 1979

The IYC National Commission in Lebanon was created on the seventh of September 1978 under the presidency of Dr. Ass'ad Rizk, at the time minister of Education and Public Health, and the vice-presidency of Mrs. Zahia Salman, president of the Child Welfare Association and of the National Commission for the Day of the Child in Lebanon. In 1979, Dr Rizk was replaced by Mr. N. Alkadri, present minister of Labor and Social Affairs.

The report, covering 335 pages, relates the activities of the Commission and the claims and suggestions it presented to responsible men and women on behalf of Lebanese children.

The Executive Body of the Commission included nine private social work organizations besides the National Social Service Council.

The Government delegates represented eight ministries concerned with child welfare and public welfare, the Educational Center for Research and Development, the General Directorate for Youth and Sports and UNICEF.

Seven specialized committees were created to plan the projects and activities to be performed. Thirty organizations and societies were contacted for the purpose of securing their participation in the programs of the IYC Commission.

Main Objectives of the Commission

1. Execution of programs and projects which help to stimulate nation-wide support of the child and spread information regarding his conditions, his rights and his problems.
2. Drawing up a table of the

services available to children and youth in Lebanon with the purpose of improving them according to an agenda starting 1979.

3. Carrying out studies and research work concerning children's needs in Lebanon, particularly cultural, hygienic and social needs.

4. Promulgation of a family-law including the following:

- a. Application of the U.N. Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- b. Application of the Human Rights Conference Declaration in 1968, and confirming the right of parents to use family planning.
- c. Definition of parents' responsibility toward their children.
- d. Revision and improvement of the school curricula, text-books and school buildings.

The following is a list of the most important activities carried out in 1979 by the IYC National Commission and the other participating organizations:

1. Contests for school children in music, drawing, hobbies and composition.
2. Entertainment programs for children including plays, films, songs and puppet shows.
3. Exhibits of children's books, toys and drawings.
4. An international film festival for children.
5. Summer camps and daily camps for the young.
6. Contests for adults in writing stories and songs for children.
7. Itinerant music programs for children.

8. Workshops and seminars for nursery school, kindergarten and primary school teachers.

9. A financial campaign for the help of needy children, including a national lottery.

10. A "Healthy Baby" contest.

11. An "Arbor Day" for children.

12. Celebration of the Day of the Child on the 22nd of March and of the Week of the Child in every district of Lebanon.

As a final comment we may add that the report succeeds in expounding the efforts exerted by the Commission in view of stimulating nationwide advocacy and action on behalf of children, though its size has been unduly exaggerated and its contents poorly organized.

Zaizaphoon

"Zaizaphoon" is the pen-name of Magdalene Katul Mroweh who has recently published (March 1980) a collection of articles in Arabic also titled *Zaizaphoon*. Previously published in various Lebanese papers and magazines, the articles, covering 166 large size pages, take the form of short letters or messages addressed to some Lebanese leaders and government people, to journalists and poets, and to Lebanese women as a whole, commenting in a free, simple, conversational style on certain political and social questions, problems and events which came into prominence during 1977-1979.

The author, a socially-minded woman, imbued with the spirit of the late militant social leader, Hassib Mroweh, raises her voice in support of national unity and progressive action. She defends woman's cause, confirms her claims and encourages all initiatives favoring public welfare. Comparing herself to a tiny candle trying to shine in darkness, she promises to continue her struggle, to do her "bit." The income of her work will go to the benefit of the war handicapped in Lebanon.

**Condition of Woman:
Right and Reality**

A stencilled publication of a set of resolutions adopted by the seminar organized by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers Conference at Cambridge, September 13-17, 1979, on the "Condition of Woman: Right and Reality." The participants represented non-governmental women's organizations of twenty countries and four international organizations, including UNESCO.

The IADL¹ is a non-governmental organization with a consultative status at the Socio-Economic Council of the United Nations and UNESCO. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

The following are some outstanding resolutions adopted by the conference seminar:

1. The establishment of a permanent Commission on the Rights of Woman to fulfill certain functions including the preparation of sessions and seminars concerning women's rights, with particular attention to their problems and rights in their work. Some of those problems are: racial discrimination, double exploitation of women workers, genocide, apartheid, acts of aggression, destruction of the family, forced sterilization and excision.

2. The Commission of Woman and the Family in IADL condemns the additional burdens placed upon African women by the apartheid regime.

3. The Commission on Woman in Political life recommends IADL and its member associations to support the participa-

tion of women in political life.

4. The Commission on Women and Work recommends that the role of women in agriculture be fully analyzed; that where social programs such as pension, maternity benefits and disability benefits exist, they should be extended to the agricultural sector and that under no circumstances should women be excluded from legal protections extended to men.

5. The Commission on Woman and the Family recommends the participation of women in economic life as a determining factor in their accession to equality in the family sphere and in that of work and civic rights.

In introducing the texts, the secretary general, Gerhard Stuby, says that the Seminar's work will be followed up in the preparation of the eleventh conference of IADL, which will take place in Malta, November 13-17, 1980.

**An Evaluation
of Non-Formal
Educational Programs of
Women in Morocco**

A joint report prepared for the Agency for International Development AID by Nadia H. Youssef, Nancy Sadka, and Ernest Murphy.

The report (1977) affirms the urgent need for non-formal education programs for female adolescents in Morocco, both because of the illiteracy rates among women and because of the considerable proportion of girls from the poorer segments of the population who drop out of school before completion of primary education.

It recommends the strengthening of the existing curricula of training centers, the expansion of the current vocational training system to extend industrial training to women, the expansion of commercial training opportunities for them and the establishment of special training programs for rural women in agriculture related fields.

**Biography of
Shukri Shammās:
A Tale of Struggle and
Triumph**

Written originally in Arabic by Edvick Jureidini Shayboub, this book has been recently translated (1979) into English, in 169 pages, by Mrs. Mona Marwan Iskander and Dr. Suhayl M. Nassar and edited by Mr. Tawfik H. Khabbaz. The book expounds the rare manly qualities which contributed to make of Shukri Shammās a highly successful business man, and a model son, husband, father and friend.

Mrs. Shayboub, a well-known writer, managed to give her work an enthusiastic yet objective, quality. The original has been successfully rendered through the joint efforts of two admirers, one of them being Mrs. Shammās' daughter from a former marriage.

Mr. Shammās is presented by both biographer and translators as an example "for all ambitious young men who are determined to succeed in life."

Apologia

To Dr. Morgan Godwin, co-editor of Al-Raida, whose name was misspelt in the last two issues, our sincere regrets.

1. A.I.S.D. in French (*Association Internationale des Juristes Démocrates*)

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