

## SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC POLICIES

Organized by the Lebanon Family Planning Association, this conference was held on 1-3 April, 1982, at the A.U.B. Medical Library and attended by representatives of the Lebanese ministries, delegates of universities, of U.N. agencies, vocational and cultural institutions, research institutes, LFPA officers, observers and journalists.

Twelve lectures were presented, dealing with demographic and family-planning problems. The final report and recommendations were formulated in the last meeting, on April 3, then presented on the same day at a press conference in 24 points, briefly given below:

1. The demographic problems in Lebanon should receive adequate attention from the government because every development plan initiated by the authorities depends on statistics, surveys and demographic censuses regularly carried out.

2. Lebanese demographic laws are now obsolete and need revision.

3. Creation of a council for social research and development of human resources is a necessity in the country.

4. Money received from outside sources should be gradually transferred to important investment projects instead of its being used in immediate consumption projects.

5. Constant flow of displaced people from rural areas to Beirut and other cities leads to serious problems.

6. Demographic concentration in Beirut and other large Lebanese cities creates social and hygienic problems.

7. Development Services Centers established by the Social Welfare Services in a number of Lebanese districts are expected to meet the needs of rural people by means of extended activities in social, educational, vocational and hygienic fields.

8. The plan laid out by the Board of Administrators of Industrial Complexes regarding the execution of industrial projects should be carried out.

9. Conservation of the environment should be a matter of primary concern for both the public and the private sector.

10. An extensive study of Lebanese emigration, its causes and effects, is strongly recommended.

Regarding women's needs, it was recommended that:

- a. A strategic policy be adopted with the aim of increasing women's participation in economic development.

- b. Women with family responsibilities should be

given the opportunity to do part time work if they desire it.

c. The Family Planning Association should receive steady encouragement; its demands in every respect must be fulfilled. In consequence, a special administra-

tive body should be created for the purpose of coordinating the activities of Board, employees and volunteers in the Association. Such a body would be affiliated with the Development and Construction Council or with the Social Welfare Service.

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