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IMPLEMENTING THE RED CROSS PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDSHIP AND WORLD PEACE IN OUR SCHOOLS

To: Bureau and Regional Offices

1. Enclosed is a manual as prepared by the Philippine National Red Cross outlining guidelines in the integration of the Red Cross Program for International Friendship and World Peace in school subjects. Attention is directed to the objectives and the suggested activities categorized by levels.
2. It is requested that the guidelines be followed in teaching about the Red Cross in every possible subject area and in carrying out the suggested activities. Schools should avail themselves of the assistance of the local Red Cross chapters in this regard.
3. Supplementary instructional material, chiefly The Red Cross and My Country and Lessons Learned from the Red Cross and My Country, may be obtained from the Philippine National Red Cross.
4. This Department's Circular should be disseminated to all schools, colleges, and universities.

(S) JOSE T. SORRE
Secretary

Encl. :
As stated.

THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The Geneva Conventions are diplomatic agreements between Sovereign States. They are designated as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949:

- I. For the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field.
- II. For the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of the Armed Forces at Sea.
- III. Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War.
- IV. Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Each Convention deals with the protection of all specified persons not participating or no longer taking part in hostilities, in order to ensure that they receive humane treatment in all circumstances without delay.

GENERAL RULES

The object of the Geneva Conventions is to have the individual respected. They are based on a great principle, namely that persons placed hors de combat and those taking no active part in hostilities shall have their lives spared and in all circumstances be treated humanely.

The taking of hostages, executions without regular judgment, torture, and cruel or degrading treatment are prohibited acts against military personnel as well as civilians.

Also prohibited are reprisals against persons protected by the Conventions.

Protected persons must always be able to benefit from the activity of a Protecting Power or of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The wounded and sick, both military and civilians, must be protected. This will also apply to medical personnel (doctors, nurses, etc.) and to chaplains, who for their part are bound to observe strict military neutrality.

Protection also covers hospitals sheltering the wounded and sick, vehicles transporting them and the medical equipment allotted to them.

The emblem of the red cross (or of the red crescent) on a white ground is the sign of this protection. It can be employed for no other purpose whatsoever and must always be respected.

PRISONERS OF WAR

Military personnel and air-crews who are captured or who surrender must have their lives spared and at all times be treated humanely.

They must in particular receive the necessary food, clothing and medical care.

They must be able to correspond with their families.

The cause of prisoners of war will be represented by the capturing authority to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva (Central Tracing Agency) which will be allowed to visit them and arrange for them to receive relief.

If penal sanctions are taken against prisoners for offences committed before their capture, the International Committee of the Red Cross (in the absence of the Protecting Power) will be so informed. It will be authorized to follow the proceedings and assist prisoners in their defence.

In the event of a death penalty being pronounced, the sentence shall not be executed before the expiration of a period of six months from the date on which notification of the sentence has been made to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

CIVILIANS

Civilian wounded and sick, civilian hospitals and their personnel, shall be the object of particular respect and may be placed under the protection of the red cross or the red crescent emblem.

The civilian population in occupied territory must, in so far as circumstances permit, be enabled to live in normal manner. Deportations are prohibited.

Civilians may only be subjected for imperative reasons of security. In such cases, camps will benefit from conditions at least of the same standard as those prevailing in prisoner of war camps.

In occupied territory, pillage is prohibited, as is the indiscriminate destruction of property.

Guidelines for the Integration of the Red Cross
Program for International Friendship and World Peace
in School Subjects

I. Introduction

The promotion of peace is particularly important nowadays. Peace is not merely a state of non-belligerence. It must be achieved by unending daily work in the most varied spheres of human activities.

The Red Cross is by definition an element of peace. Its activities, at all levels, should be regarded as a contribution to the cause of peace and everything that the Red Cross does, whether directly or indirectly, contributes to it. By working to promote peace, there comes a striving to arouse a collective conscience free from discrimination, exclusiveness of any kind or prejudicial obstacles to racial progress and human dignity.

In this respect every effort of education should change young peoples' attitudes in the direction of developing their minds toward a collective sense of conscience free of any class spirit, any racial hatred or racial prejudice, all obstacles in the way of social progress and respect of human dignity.

It is in this context that Red Cross Youth must do more to preserve peace and this can be done attractively through the participation of its members in the schools.

II. Objectives of the program

- A. To teach the children the names of other countries, their way of life, values, customs, and culture;
- B. To combat prejudice by accepting ways of life different from one's own;
- C. To accept others as they are by recognizing their right to be different;
- D. To promote solidarity.

III. Suggested Activities

A. For elementary level

1. Articles for collection (between groups) and individual exchanges:
 - a. Preparing an international friendship album. (See composition of the Friendship Album on Page 2)
 - b. Records of national songs and anthems.

- e. Collection of clothes, shoes, toy handiwork.
- f. Various objects from school and classes (drawings, paintings, postcards, etc.)
- g. Balls designed for national or regional exchange.
(Size - 10 inches, either made of rubber or stuffed with cloth.)
- h. Preparing greetings (Christmas, Valentine, Easter or get-well cards) and stamp cards.

Procedure in sending above articles abroad:

- a. In preparing any of the above items, indicate the name of the country to which the party wishes it sent.
 - b. Contact or send the box directly to the local Red Cross chapter.
 - c. The local Cross chapter sends the box to National Headquarters which will facilitate the simultaneous preparation of the above articles and thus accelerate exchanges.
2. In the annual celebration of a local national week prepare a program and an exhibition of dolls dressed in international costume and other items of interest.

3. Secondary level

1. The teaching of the general principles and Red Cross humanitarian principles. (Various activities.)
2. Sending a list of group needs to correspond or make exchanges with other groups nearby abroad. The method of exchange should be agreed on directly between one group and the other in order to have direct contact between the two correspondents. The Red Cross establishes the contact, sees that the list of needs groups shall continue direct contact between them without expense concerning the exchange fees to the Red Cross.
3. Preparing a friendship tag to be filled up with health and school supplies by the Red Cross members. This tag will be sent to other Red Cross chapters in Wisconsin, particularly in the border areas.

C. Higher Education level (colleges and universities - state and private)

1. Training for Red Cross Auxiliary Relief work
2. Providing assistance to the elderly, sick and handicapped through hospital visitation, field trips, material assistance, etc.

RED CROSS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

HUMANITY

The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours - in its international and national capacity - to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, co-operation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Red Cross may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

INDEPENDENCE

The Red Cross is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian movement of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with Red Cross principles.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

The Red Cross is a voluntary relief organization not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

UNIVERSALITY

The Red Cross is a world-wide institution in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other.

3. Teaching of Red Cross International principles, the Geneva Conventions, Declaration of Human Rights, and the United Nations Charter.
4. Assisting the students to gain by making an interest in their ethnic and cultural backgrounds, by trying to come out against all forms of discrimination and by helping them to overcome their difficulties in adjusting to daily life.

Value of the International Friendship Album

1. The receipt of an album from abroad arouses in pupils a wish to gain further knowledge of the language, history and life of the country from which it comes.
2. The preparation of this album encourages the pupils to study their own country more thoroughly and to impart their knowledge in an attractive and original manner.
3. The album also provides the teacher with varied and attractive subject matter which is to stimulate the interest of his pupils.
4. This correspondence is a demonstration of goodwill. Through such exchanges pupils gain a more lively knowledge of foreign countries and peoples and learn to adopt a broader and more liberal attitude towards them.
5. The album stimulates the pupils in carrying out their program of activities and helps to improve their health and service projects. They exchange ideas and suggestions and encourage each other by the comparison of their activities and by an exchange of similar work accomplished in their respective countries.

Composition of the International Friendship Album

- Size - 12" x 14"
- Weight - not more than 2 1/2 lbs.
- Paper - of light color; the paper should be securely bound
- Cover - strong and should bear the Red Cross emblem (4 equal links)
- Contents - a friendly letter addressed to friends across the sea
 - information about the school
 - information about the region
 - accounts of school/communit./Red Cross work
 - way of life
 - occupations and industries
 - folklore, songs, music, and games
 - history and geographical notes
 - description of good and beautiful
 - a list of credits given and received

All illustrations should be accompanied by adequate explanatory notes.