

Published by:  
THE YUGOSLAV COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S YEAR — U.N. 1975

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Printed on the occasion of International Women's  
Year — U.N. 1975

The Human Right to  
Free Choice on  
Childbirth in the  
Socialist Federal  
Republic of Yugoslavia

Belgrade  
May 1975

*The building of a self-managing socialist society in Yugoslavia, aimed at the emancipation of work and man and the realization of the most humane human relations, also embraces questions pertaining to the status of the family and women and to the most intimate sphere of man's life. By placing free decision on childbearing within the context of overall socio-economic development, it has been possible to gain a deeper insight into problems and to find solutions which are in the interest of both the individual and society.*

*Man's right to decide freely on childbirth is guaranteed by the 1974 Yugoslav Constitution and the constitutions of the republics and provinces and it points out the duty of parents to fulfill their parenthood responsibly, on the basis of man's self-managing position, through solidarity in the work organization, local and interest community and beyond, without closing themselves off within the individual family.*

## *SOME GENERAL INFORMATION*

### *1. Country and Population*

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a federal state of voluntarily united nations and their socialist republics (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia) as well as socialist autonomous provinces (Vojvodina and Kosovo which are situated within the Socialist Republic of Serbia). It is based on the authority and self-management of the working class and all working people, on the socialist self-managing democratic community of working people and citizens and on the equality of nations and nationalities.

Yugoslavia covers an area of 255,804 square kilometres. According to the latest 1971 population census, it has a population of 20,552,972. The average population density is 80.5 people per square kilometre.

Different historical development in individual regions, as well as the influence of different civilizations and cultures on the Yugoslav nations and nationalities worked to create considerable regional differences in terms of the level of socio-economic development.

Before World War II, Yugoslavia was a pronouncedly under-developed agrarian country in which 75% of the total active population worked in agricultural production, and it had a low productivity of labour. After the end of the national liberation war in 1945 and during the country's socialist construction, new Yugoslavia recorded marked socio-economic develop-

ment. Since then the national income per capita has increased fourfold.

Certain general data may illustrate the differences which exist between individual republics and provinces, indicating the problems which emerge with respect to family planning.

	1970	1971	1971
	Regional income per capita	% of employed women in the overall employment figure	% of total agricultural population
SFR of Yugoslavia	100,0	31,5	38,2
Kosovo	31,2	19,0	51,5
Bosnia-Herzegovina	61,3	25,0	40,0
Montenegro	62,5	26,4	35,0
Macedonia	65,8	25,6	39,9
Serbia Proper	91,6	29,4	44,1
Vojvodina	50,3	31,4	39,0
Croatia	127,0	35,0	32,3
Slovenia	191,6	41,4	20,4

The country's rapid industrialization in the postwar period radically altered the social structure of the population. In 1953 67.2% of the population was working in agriculture, but, by 1971 this per centage had dropped to only 38.2%. During the same period of time the urban population grew from 21.7% in 1953 to 38.6% in 1971.

The per capita consumption of electrical energy, for example, well illustrates the country's rapid postwar development. As compared to 1939, when the ratio was 1 inhabitant to 5.1 kWh, in 1972 this ratio rose to 380.8 kWh per inhabitant.

In 1971 there were 8,890.000 economically active members of the population.

Employment in the non-agrarian sector rose rapidly. In 1953 the employment figure was something over 1,800.000 and by 1972 it had risen to 4,120.000. It is of interest to note that the employment of women progressed somewhat more rapidly than overall employment. Working people are guaranteed a 42-hour work week and a half-hour rest period during the work day.

#### Employment Trends

		Employed (annual average)				
Population		m	a			
		0	£	§	du	#
Per centage of employed out of the total active population						
a) (in thousands)						
1952	16798	1734	421	24,3	1684	22,2
1962	18819	3318	959	28,9	250	37,2
1964	19222	3608	1053	29,2	3535	42,5
1972	20722	4210	1372	32,6	4115	48,2
b) Medium annual average in %						
1953—1972	1,1	4,5	6,1	—	4,6	—
1953—1962	1,1	6,7	8,6		6,8	
1963—1967	1,1	1,4	2,7		1,3	
1968—1972	0,9	2,0	3,4		1,9	

Source material: **Yugoslavia's Material and Social Development**, Federal Institute for Statistics, Belgrade, 1973.

Yugoslavia is a multinational community. According to the 1971 population census it is inhabited by: 508.843 Montenegrins, 4,526.782 Croats, 1,194.784 Macedonians, 1,729.932 Moslems, 1,678.032 Slovenes, and 8,143.246 Serbs. The nationalities include: 1,309.523

Albanians, 477.374 Hungarians, 127.920 Turks, 86.656 Slovaks, 58.627 Bulgarians, 58.570 Romanians, 24.640 Ruthenians, 24.620 Czechs, 21.791 Italians, 13.972 Ukrainians, 78.484 Romanies, 12.785 Germans, etc.

Members of individual Yugoslav nations live not only within their own national republics, but also in larger or smaller groupings in all other republics. Members of the nationalities can also be found in several republics.

Neighbouring states, with the exception of Albania, are inhabited by minority groups of Croats, Macedonians, Slovenes and Serbs. Over 1,500.000 Yugoslav immigrants today live on all the continents.

Montenegrins, Croats, Moslems and Serbs all speak one language which has two variants: Serbo-Croatian, or Serbian and Croato-Serbian, or Croatian. Macedonians speak Macedonian and Slovenes speak Slovenian. All three languages, as well as the two scripts of Latin and Cyrillic which are used by the Yugoslav peoples, stand on an equal footing and are official. Equal too, are the languages of the nationalities (national minorities) in those areas where they live, and the use of these languages in schools, the judiciary and administration, etc.

#### YUGOSLAVIA'S POPULATION ACCORDING TO NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP IN 1971

	Population in thousands	
1.	2.	3.
TOTAL	20.523	100
<b>Nations in SFRY</b>		
Montenegrins	509	2,5
Croats	4.527	22,1
Macedonians	1.195	5,8
Moslems in an ethnic sense	1.730	8,4
Slovenes	1.678	8,2
Serbs	8.143	39,7

1.	2.	3.
<b>Nationalities in SFRY</b>		
Albanians	1.310	6,4
Bulgarians	59	0,3
Czechs	25	0,1
Italians	22	0,1
Hungarians	477	2,3
Romanians	59	0,3
Ruthenians	25	0,1
Slovaks	84	0,4
Turks	128	0,6
<b>Other nations, nationalities and ethnic groups</b>		
Romanies	78	0,4
Ukrainians	14	0,1
Wallachs	22	0,1
Others	51	0,2
<b>Undeclared nationality</b>		
According to Article 14 of the Yugoslav Constitution <sup>1)</sup>	33	0,2
Yugoslavs <sup>2)</sup>	273	1,3
Regional membership <sup>3)</sup>	15	0,1
Undetermined	47	0,3

Source material: **Yugoslavia's Material and Social Development**, Federal Institute for Statistics, Belgrade, 1973.

*Nativity.* In the past twenty odd years, natality has dropped from 28.8 live-born babies per 1.000 people in 1950, to 18 in 1973. As in many other countries, this decline in natality went hand in hand with socio-economic development, industrialization, urbanization and other changes. It is characteristic for the Yugoslav population that a decline in the natality rate began later than in other countries of Western and Northern

<sup>1)</sup> Citizens are entitled not to declare their national membership.

<sup>2)</sup> During the census citizens may declare themselves as „Yugoslavs“, although this is not considered as self-determination in terms of national or ethnic membership.

<sup>3)</sup> Citizens who instead of declaring their national membership choose to declare regional membership (for instance: from Srem, Herzegovina, šumadija).

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Europe, and that there are major differences in terms of the number of live-born babies per 1.000 inhabitants according to region.

Economically developed regions today have a low natality rate (from 13 to 17% in Vojvodina, Croatia, Serbia Proper, Slovenia), while other regions have a medium-high natality rate (from 19 to 23% in Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia) or high natality rate (36% in Kosovo).

In regions with low natality rates the decline began near the end of the XIXth and beginning of the XXth century, while in regions with medium-high natality it began on the eve of World War II and in Kosovo in 1960.

Today about 65% of the population lives in low--natality regions, 29% in medium-high and 6% (in Kosovo) in high natality regions.

The rural-urban migration as well as the departure of Yugoslavs as migrant workers directly affects the aging of the rural population and the natality rate.

*Infant mortality.* In the past few years infant mortality has dropped from about 120 to each 1.000 live-born children in 1950 to 43.5 in 1972. While the infant mortality rate is still relatively high, especially in comparison with other European countries, population reproduction is becoming more and more humane and rational, for infant and child mortality is rapidly declining.

Large differences between individual regions also exist in infant mortality. A high infant mortality rate exists in Kosovo (76.8) and in Macedonia (76.3), i.e. in regions with a relatively high natality rate. Medium--high mortality rates exist in Bosnia-Herzegovina (46.0) and in Serbia Proper (34.5), while all other regions have a low infant mortality rate, which means under 30 (from 28.5 — 26 in Montenegro, Croatia and Vojvodina to 19.3 in Slovenia). A marked drop in infant mortality began in 1954.

*Mortality.* Population mortality has been on the decline throughout the postwar period. This holds

YUGOSLAVIA'S NATURAL BIRTH RATE 1950—1973 (PER ANNUM)

	SFRY	Bosnia- Herzegovina	Montenegro	Croatia	Macedonia	Slovenia	Total	Serbia Proper	Vojvodina	Kosovo
Live-born children per 1,000 inhabitants										
1950—54	28,8	38,2	32,7	23,2	38,4	22,8	27,4	21,6	23,2	43,5
1955—59	24,8	35,4	30,1	20,8	34,0	19,4	22,0	19,6	18,4	42,2
1960—64	22,0	31,4	26,7	17,2	29,4	18,0	19,8	16,6	16,2	41,5
1965—69	19,5	25,0	22,1	15,7	26,5	17,8	18,3	15,2	14,4	38,3
1970—73	18,0	21,0	19,4	14,6	22,8	16,7	17,7	15,0	13,0	36,4
Deaths per 1,000 inhabitants										
1950—54	11,8	12,0	10,0	11,7	14,5	10,9	12,4	12,4	12,4	18,0
1955—59	10,4	11,6	8,5	10,1	11,7	9,7	10,2	9,3	10,3	15,7
1960—64	9,4	9,0	7,3	9,7	9,8	9,6	9,5	8,7	9,7	13,0
1965—69	8,7	7,0	6,3	9,7	8,2	10,1	8,8	8,5	9,5	9,4
1970—73	8,9	6,7	6,1	10,4	7,6	10,4	9,3	9,2	10,3	8,2
Natural birth rate per 1,000 inhabitants										
1950—54	17,0	26,2	22,7	11,5	22,9	11,9	15,0	14,7	10,8	22,5
1955—59	14,2	23,8	21,6	10,7	22,3	9,7	9,7	10,3	8,1	26,6
1960—64	12,0	22,4	19,4	7,9	19,6	8,4	10,3	7,0	6,9	28,5
1965—69	10,0	18,0	15,8	6,0	18,3	7,7	9,5	6,7	4,8	28,9
1970—73	9,1	14,4	13,3	4,2	15,2	6,3	8,4	5,8	2,7	28,2

From 1967 to 1973; earlier data is from the Federal Institute for Statistics.

especially true for high mortality rate regions which are less developed (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia). Mortality in these regions today is considerably lower than in developed regions, especially under the influence of the pronouncedly young age structure of the population. It must be stressed,

however, that if one analyses mortality per inhabitant, the mortality rate in Yugoslavia is balancing out. This is best seen from data on the expectation of life at birth which in Yugoslavia has grown from 56.8 years in the 1952—54 period to 65.4 years in the 1970—72 period. Regional differences in these periods are also quite considerable, for example:

	Slovenia		Kosovo	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1952—	63.0	66.1	48.6	45.3
54	65.4	72.9	64.6	66.5

The decline of these differences is, above all, the result of the development of health services in both more and lesser developed regions.

*Natural birth rate.* The differing natural birth rates in various regions of Yugoslavia was conditioned by the natality rate. What are today low natality regions had a low natural birth rate (from 3 to 6%), regions with medium-high natality had a high natural birth rate (from 13 to 15%), and Kosovo a very high natural birth rate (28%). Namely, the level of the natural birth rate» in regions with high and extremely high natural birth rates is influenced by the still declining mortality rate of the population.

It should be stressed, however, that Yugoslavia has an increasingly moderate natural birth rate (today about 9%), and that it is still tending to decline. In the 1950—54 period the natural birth rate (on an annual average) amounted to about 17%, while in the 1970—73 period it was about 9%.

*Population growth of Yugoslavia.* There has been a growth in the population of Yugoslavia over the past five decades, heavily influenced by World Wars I and II. In World War II alone, Yugoslavia gave 1,700.000 lives. It was only in 1950 that it equated the total population figure for 1940. In the period between 1948 and 1971 Yugoslavia's population rose from 15,900.000

to 20,500.000. The growth rate is similar to that of the natural birth rate. It was somewhat higher just after the war and today has dropped to about 8%> (0.8%). Namely, migration affected the growth of the population, for practically throughout the postwar period in Yugoslavia, as well as later on, there were more emigrants than immigrants (a negative balance of mobility). It is estimated that about 10 to 20% of the natural birth rate, which today amounts to about 180.000, emigrates rather than immigrates on an annual basis.

Similarly, individual socialist republics, depending on the level of their economic development, have had a positive or negative balance in their internal migration. Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo have had a far higher number of emigrants than immigrants, as compared to other regions in the country.

One can see from this data, as well as from other statistics which we have not enumerated here, that in the past decades Yugoslavia's population has been increasingly motivated by general and social trends to opt for family planning. This transition from high to lower natality, from extensive to rational reproduction (lower infant and child mortality and less exhaustion for the women-mother) was effected even before social action was undertaken; it was done irregularly and with outdated, often medically harmful means. The social drive for spreading knowledge on how to prevent undesired childbearing and on free and responsible parenthood emerged and is developing as an integral part of general social trends. In addition, the size of families is beginning to decrease as a result of the stands adopted by the marriage partners.

*Public health care.* Health insurance guarantees all rights pertaining to the health care of active insurees (employed persons) and members of their families, pupils and students, as well as all other categories of insurees. The rights of insured farmers who are not covered by the obligatory provisions of health care are guaranteed according to the regulations of each insurance community. Insurees are entitled to free medical check-ups, treatment in polyclinics and in-

-patient medical institutes, medicine, orthopedic devices and artificial limbs at minimum cost, free emergency medical assistance, home nursing and home treatment. During sick leave and illness, active insurees are entitled to monetary reimbursement equivalent to their average income over the preceding year reduced by 10 to 15 per cent. In the case of injury at work this monetary reimbursement is not per centually reduced. There is no time limit on the duration of this care. On the basis of republican and provincial laws, as well as the federal law. Social Security provides free preventive child care, medical treatment for children up to the age of 15, preventive care for all against all infectious diseases of an epidemic nature, treatment for cancer, tuberculosis, venereal and other diseases.

At present Yugoslavia has 274 hospitals with about 118.000 beds, 3.684 out-patient clinics, 565 specialized polyclinics, 2.382 dental clinics, 447 tuberculosis clinics, 1.400 clinics and counseling centres for women, 1.400 childrens clinics and close to 600 school polyclinics and out-patient clinics. Health services are organized according to region, so that in principle each municipality has a health centre with a standard number of doctors specializing in all branches of medicine, etc. At present over 25.000 doctors and over 3.800 pharmaceuts are working in Yugoslavia.

Consequently, there is one doctor to every 840 inhabitants in Yugoslavia today. It should be stressed that considerable differences exist in this respect between developed and less developed regions and between urban and rural regions.

*Maternity and child care.* The law provides special care for women of childbearing age and for children themselves, from their birth until adulthood. During pregnancy women are entitled to free medical examinations, maternity sick leave and maternity leave from 105 to 210 days, depending on the public and province. In addition, the mother enjoys reduced working hours (4 hours a day) for eight months after the child's birth, and up to three years if the health of the child or mo

ther so requires. Reduced working hours are considered as full working hours for one's pension. During and one year after pregnancy women cannot be assigned to night duty, nor work overtime, and they are spared heavier work. The delivery of babies is free of charge, regardless of the insurance status of the mother. Employed workers are entitled to a children's allowance depending on their family income. Some 835.000 Yugoslavs receive children's allowances for 1,853.000 children.

By law, workers up to the age of 18 cannot be assigned to heavy jobs which would endanger their health. Their yearly vacations are increased with respect to other insurees. Apprentices are entitled to work and attend school according to a certain schedule. In 1971 there were about 220.000 apprentices who enjoyed these benefits. During their years of study, they receive a supplement for work and free schooling.

*School network.* The expansion of the schooling network is extremely characteristic of Yugoslavia in the postwar period. Eight years of schooling is compulsory for all children from the ages of 7 to 15. Schooling is free of charge. Upon completion of elementary school over one third of the children go on to secondary school, so that in the 1971—72 school year 3.317 secondary schools were attended by 969.866 pupils. Tremendous differences exist in the inclusion of children and youth at all levels of schooling today as compared to the prewar period. This progress is best illustrated by the number of young people who continue their education upon completion of secondary school. In the 1938—39 school year, there were only about 17.000 students in Yugoslavia, while in the 1971—72 school year this figure rose to over 190.000 young people attending institutes of higher learning and faculties.

## *2. Socio-political System*

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's self-managing society is based on the authority of the

working class and all working people and on free and self-managing relations between people as creators and producers.

All the means of production in Yugoslavia are socially owned. The common basis of social work is satisfaction of the personal and common needs and interests of the working people, the development of the material basis of the entire social community and socialist social relations. These relations are directly and independently managed by the working people, in the interests of the social community as a whole and in their own interest. Man's work is the sole basis for appropriating the products of social work and for earning the right to manage over social means. It is the basis for acquiring personal property and those goods which serve the personal needs of each man and his family.

From 1950 onwards, the self-management system becomes the basic organization of authority and management over social affairs in Yugoslavia, from the work organization up to the highest representative bodies. The Constitution guarantees the worker's broad self-managing rights in management over production, the results of his labour and social reproduction in general. These relations are founded on the socio-economic position of working people as guaranteed them through work on socially owned means and direct and equitable decision-making, together with other working people in associated labour, on all matters concerning social reproduction. Thus, the working people can fulfill their own personal material and moral interests as well as enjoy the right to benefit from the results of their present and past labour and the achievements of overall material and social progress.

Working people are constitutionally guaranteed the right to enjoy the fruits of their labour and the material progress of the social community according to the following principle: "Each according to his abilities — to each according to his labour".

Workers effect their self-management rights in associated labour, organized in the basic organization of

associated labour. This is, in fact, the form in which workers, on the basis of their labour, decide directly and equitably on mutual relations in work, manage over the affairs and means of social reproduction and decide on income and other questions tied in with their socio-economic position. The basic organization of associated labour is the basic cell in associating labour and the corner-stone of all other forms of associating labour and means.

Workers in organizations of associated labour dealing with public spheres (such as the fields of education, science, culture, health, housing, etc.), and the benefitters of their services establish self-management interest communities, where they lay down the bases of their mutual relations through self-management agreements and compacts. Since these fields also deal with needs of general social importance, certain questions pertaining to their founding and work can be determined by law.

The local community is a self-management community of associated working people and citizens within the framework of one community, part of a community or several such communities. It decides on fulfilling common needs such as children's centres, consumer protection, improving the area, etc. Local communities are of great importance for satisfying, through solidarity, the daily common needs of working people and their families. They are places where socio-active parenthood is effected, where all questions directly determining the implementation of man's right to free and responsible parenthood when and if desired, are regulated democratically and on a self-management basis.

Socio-political organizations hold an important place in Yugoslavia's political system. The Communist League of Yugoslavia represents the class revolutionary vanguard. It is geared, above all, to ideologically and politically mobilizing the working people in building up the self-management socialist society. Together with other socio-political organizations, it ensures the leading role of the working class as the basic force of



society. The Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia, as the front of organized forces, the Trade Union Confederation, the Union of Socialist Youth of Yugoslavia, etc., all represent an important basis for varied socio-political activity on the part of working people and citizens.

The commune (municipality) is the basis of the socio-political system in Yugoslavia. It is founded on the authority and self-management of the working class and all working people. It is the basic self-management socio-political community in which the working people create and ensure their living and working conditions, steer social development, effect and dovetail their interests and fulfill common needs (material, social, cultural and so on), in which they ensure the realization and preservation of man's freedoms, rights and duties. There are 500 communes in Yugoslavia.

The new 1974 Yugoslav Constitution and constitutions of the republics and provinces introduced changes which guarantee working people in basic organizations of associated labour the right to decide on the distribution of the whole of income, and citizens (working through the communes), greater influence on the country's overall policy.

Many major social questions are regulated via self-management agreements and social compacts. Those issues whose very nature does not permit direct decision-making through the highly developed delegate system are decided at the level of the commune, intermunicipality community, province, republic and federation.

Yugoslavia's socio-economic and political system and its social relations are aimed at expanding the conditions for further developing the self-managing socialist society, at effecting social progress which, on the basis of the further development of productive forces, high productivity of labour and man's allround development as a person, would enable the continued advancement of social relations in which the communist principle: "each according to his abilities — to each according to his needs" would be implemented.

### *3. Certain Questions on the Social Status of Women*

As the socialist society and its socio-economic development advance, certain topical questions concerning woman's social status are also being settled. The initial approach to this problem sets out from the fact that Yugoslavia's political system is developing on the basis of production and self-management relations in the social base, and that the social status of women, as workers in associated labour, is essentially a question of their status as workers, regardless of their sex. Such an approach encourages efforts to treat woman's social status as an integral part of current socialist self-management efforts to effect a revolutionary change in the socio-economic position of the worker, irrespective of sex, and to turn the worker in the full sense of the word into the vehicle of income where he would manage over personal and general social affairs and goods.

Broad-based social commitment in altering the social status of women is not focusing on effecting equal but rather on introducing new rights and duties equal for all citizens of the socialist community. They can be effected only through the action of all working people and progressive forces. Resolving contemporary problems concerning the social status of women is part of overall efforts in socio-economic relations, and it enjoys the full and responsible support of all progressive forces in the country in working towards the ultimate outcome of the present revolutionary struggle.

The struggle for the better education of women and more equitable professional orientation among new generations of young women, the struggle for acquiring the skills demanded by socio-economic and technological development, stems from the need to open up true long-term prospects for including women in all jobs, depending on their skills and aptitudes.

The employment of women in the public sector evolved relatively rapidly, which is an indication of the emancipation of Yugoslav women. Thus, for instance, in 1960 755, 520 out of a total of 2,806.735 em-

ployed in the public sector were women, or 26.9%. By 1974, there were 1,456.305 women employed in the public sector, or 33.7% of the total figure. The employment of women is particularly high in non-economic fields, amounting to 56.5%, while in the field of culture and welfare the 1974 figure for employed women amounted to 59.5%.

Data on all levels of schooling well illustrates the emancipation process of women in Yugoslavia.

Survey of pupils and students in 1938—39 and in 1972—73  
(full-time and part-time)

		o H	§1	Young Women in %
Elementary school <sup>1)</sup>	1938/39	1,470.973	626.458	42,6
	1972/73	2,856.491	1,335.101	46,7
Secondary vocational school <sup>2)</sup>	1938/39	80.607	26.298	32,6
	1972/73	528.647	216.479	41,0
Teachers school	1938/39	4.267	1.852	43,4
	1972/73	10.174	6.553	64,4
High school	1938/39	125.100	43.410	34,7
	1972/73	193.275	105.353	54,5
Other schools <sup>3)</sup>	1938/39	9.753	6.700	68,7
	1972/73	165.271	62.482	37,8
Higher institutes of learning <sup>4)</sup>	1938/39	16.719	3.808	22,8
	1972/73	210.241	83.824	39,9
Advanced schools	1938/39	259	148	57,1
	1972/73	91.517	39.827	43,5

Source material: **Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia 1974**,  
pages 331, 332.

New socialist Yugoslavia's socio-economic development has introduced major changes in social relations. Women are widely included in political and econo-

\*) compulsory

<sup>2)</sup> schools for skilled workers, other secondary vocational schools, technical schools

<sup>3)</sup> special schools, schools for adult education and schools for supplementary education

<sup>4)</sup> faculties, colleges and academies.

mic life. Full involvement in the country's socio-economic development and associated labour is a basic need for women and at the same time the only true framework for settling the problem of motherhood. Woman's growing social status in associated labour and self-management has also influenced free decision-making on childbearing and on reducing the number of abortions, it has influenced family size. Thus, the political and social assumptions for family planning have been gradually formed and with the passing of the Yugoslav Constitution and the constitutions of the republics and provinces in 1974, it has developed into free decision on childbirth as a human right.

The social significance of freely deciding on child-bearing is so great for the process of emancipating women in Yugoslavia, that without it, as an integral part, this process would be inconceivable today.

The struggle of progressive forces for the social emancipation of women is an integral part of efforts to realize basic human rights and human dignity. It is through this struggle and the social emancipation of women that concrete form is lent to general human emancipation from inherited forms of exploitation.

*THE EVOLUTION OF THE MOVEMENT FOR FREE,  
DESIRED, RESPONSIBLE AND SOCIALLY ACTIVE  
PARENTHOOD AND ITS DEVELOPMENT INTO A  
BROADER SOCIAL DRIVE*

The spreading of progressive thought on family planning in Yugoslavia was preceded by major long--term action on the part of progressive social forces, especially the progressive women's movement, even before World War II.

Social engagement working for free choice on childbirth, as an important social question, emerged in Yugoslavia with its first organized activities some forty years ago. Although diverse in intensity and duration, all these activities had one common underlying thread linking them: the struggle for man's social emancipation. This struggle evolved as an integral part of the struggle of the most progressive social forces for man's full emancipation from all forms of exploitation, including in the intimate sphere of his life, for an end to double morals in sexual life, for spreading knowledge on how to prevent undesired conception, for eliminating discrimination against women.

Somewhat more organized activities on family planning in Yugoslavia began in the 1930s, although for understandable reasons it is impossible to determine the exact date. With the employment of women, progressive women's, workers's and socialist movements as well as progressive social forces at the time actively approached the problem of regulating childbearing. These activities were chiefly localized in the most developed regions and, as the employment of women grew, they evolved through lectures on the then known possibilities of contraception and the hazards of abor-

tion. This pioneer work helped to spread an awareness of the then known methods and means of contraception and contributed to the struggle for the right to abortion. All these activities are distinguished by and important for the fact that they emerged as a result of consistent marxist views in the very approach to man's emancipation and that within the scope of his social emancipation he master the laws of his own reproduction. This demand was reflected in the stand of the then illegal Yugoslav Communist Party, put forward at the Fifth National Conference of the YCP in October 1940. It asked, among other things, for women to be allowed abortions until such time as more favourable conditions were created for childbirth.

Old Yugoslavia's official policy in the field of regulating childbirth was based on religious and especially Catholic beliefs. As a result, any attempt to effect some liberalization in this field came upon resistance, persecution and prohibition.

Starting with its initial activities, the development of the movement for free decision on childbirth must be viewed within the context of growing employment for women, as an indivisible part of this process, regardless of the means and methods by which and how it was effected. As in other countries, this movement began to develop in Yugoslavia precisely as a result of certain industrialization, and following this line as a result of more wide-spread education among young generations.

The motivation for regulating childbirth in old Yugoslavia, apart from the employment of women, was conditioned by other factors, such as the then land--ownership relations which prevailed in certain agrarian regions (the system of one child — heir), capitalist exploitation, almost entirely unprotected motherhood, especially in the case of illegitimate children, the unequal position of women, etc.

The progressive woman's movement of Yugoslavia fought in its initial activities for the social emancipation of women and within this context for the right to prevent abortions along with the parallel right to

abortion as a means for regulating childbirth once undesired conception takes place. When analysing their programme today, we can see that abortion was primarily treated as a social problem, as an important factor in the emancipation of all people. In fighting for the social emancipation of women, the progressive women's movement actually also fought for the emancipation of the human being from all forms of exploitation, for humane, equitable and responsible attitudes by partners to the sphere of man's intimate life, towards marriage and family, as a precondition for better understanding and a happier life for both the individual and the entire community.

It has been quite a long road to family planning, in a broader, social sense. Immediately after the war, in which 1,700,000 people or 1/3 of the total population of Yugoslavia lost their lives, there was a population boom. Somewhat later on, as a result of the growing inclusion of women in economic and socio-political life, problems concerning the regulation of childbirth assumed growingly acute form. The main vehicle of progressive views on regulating childbirth at the time was the Commission for Women in the Yugoslav Trade Union Confederation's Central Council. The Commission worked together with other social organizations acting as active factors in changing legal regulations and in initiating family planning drives. Calling for the abolition of discrimination against women and their oppression, broad public discussions and debates were initiated from the social, medical and legal standpoint on the need for preventing abortions, important not only for the social emancipation of women, but also for the social emancipation of all. These debates also called for an end to double morals for both men and women. An effort was made to overcome dilemmas with respect to the full legalization of abortion as being false dilemmas. The stand was to make abortions in health institutions and on the basis of social indicators accessible to women so as to remove not the consequences, but the causes.

The growing number of abortions, especially those only partially performed, and the rising number of ensuing illnesses and deaths among women makes abortion, above all, a personal problem for women and their partners, but it increasingly became a broader social problem as well, transcending the framework of health. This was particularly evident in preparations for passing a new Penal Code, for it was the backdrop for broad discussions on abortion, especially from the legal point of view. The debates held on abortion then in the 1950s in the Federal Assembly and earlier in social organizations and professional associations, helped to form a broader social approach to this problem.

Women's organizations have helped to have the idea accepted that real free choice exists only before conception, and that it is extremely important to steer action towards preventing undersired conception. In view of this socio-political approach, the first major direct result achieved under the influence of women's organizations was the passing of the draft Decree in 1951, according to which women could not be penalized for abortion, while strong sanctions were provided for doctors performing abortions outside of health institutions and for quack doctors performing abortions.

Between 1950 and 1960, with the growing employment of women, the boom in abortions in developed areas was so great that it grew into a major social issue, with significant socio-economic repercussions on work organizations primarily employing female labour force, on health care funds, etc. With the increasing importance of this problem, commissions to discuss it were occasionally established within the Federation of Women's Organizations.

In 1961, within the scope of the women's movement of Yugoslavia and other relevant social factors, direct preparations began for the founding of a special coordination body for family planning. This body, which has a social character, was composed of representatives from the republics and provinces, the Trade Union Confederation, the Youth Union, professional associations and institutions, etc. Its founding was pre-



ceded by more advanced social activity, especially in certain republics where coordination committees or similar bodies for family planning had already been founded as part of women's conferences (SR of Slovenia and SR of Croatia).

With the founding in October 1963 of the Coordination Committee for Family Planning attached to the Yugoslav Conference for the Social Activity of Women, parallel with activities focusing on preventing undesired pregnancy, initiatives were taken to develop activities in the field of sexual education. Solutions were sought which at the same time would represent the interests of the individual and society, and which would focus on the following questions: how to create the conditions, through education, for people consciously to decide on the number and spacing of their children; how to enable women not to deprive themselves of motherhood because they are employed, i.e. to ensure that the role of motherhood does not conflict with woman's functions in society, which are based on her position as a producer and citizen; how to create the conditions for carrying out the prevention of undesired pregnancy with modern means and methods, and not through abortions.

All these questions emerged as a social problem indicating the need for developing social stands on family planning. A growing demand developed for settling the so-called conflict between women's participation in production and social activities and their obligations in motherhood. An increasing need was felt for transcending traditionalism and outdated ideas which hamper man to contribute, through his work and its results to the fuller affirmation of his personality while at the same time opposing the erratic functioning of the laws of nature. The starting point was that all this fundamentally affects man's health and relations in the family, the development of man's natural aspirations, as a free builder of socialism and self-management, to pass decisions on the intimate sphere of his own life, thus consciously accepting the beauties of

parenthood and the obligations and responsibilities it entails.

Broad-based social drives were initiated to assist people to acquire knowledge from the field of the humanization of relations between the sexes and to learn about the means and methods of preventing undesired pregnancy. This would eliminate erratic tendencies in this field of his life so that through family planning each child would be a desired child. In working for this stand, certain erroneous ideas were gradually overcome, ideas which identified family planning exclusively with restricting childbirth. As the prevailing view in the world was also that each person has the right to use the knowledge and means at his disposal to either restrict or prepare for childbirth, work focused on the affirmation of this stand, although even today some misunderstanding exists in certain areas on this subject. While developing family planning on these bases, the accent was on supporting man's natural desire for offspring, in terms of emotionally fulfilling his life, offering love to the child and thus bringing into the world a wanted child as a result of the conscious desire of the potential parents or those with already one or more children, depending on their own choice.

In keeping with the needs of social development, in 1967 the Federal Council for Family Planning was formed. It grew out of the work of the Coordination Committee for Family Planning attached to the Conference for the Social Activity of Women of Yugoslavia, as an independent coordinating body of a social nature. In 1973 it developed into a special form of work within the Federal Conference of the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Council for Family Planning is composed of representatives of republican and provincial family planning councils on a parity basis. It also embraces representatives from the following organizations: the Conference for the Social Activity of Yugoslav Women, the Federal Conference of the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia, the Union of Socialist Youth of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Red Cross, the Fede-

ral Council for the Education and Protection of Children of Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav Conference for Social Activity, the Association of Social Workers, the Association of Yugoslav Gynecologists and Obstetricians, the Yugoslav Association of Pediatricians, the Association of Medical Nurses, the Centre for Demographic Research, the Institute of Social Sciences, the Federal Institute for Health Care, the Federal Institute for Statistics, the State Secretariat for National Defense and others. All these organizations, while working on their own fields of endeavour, directly contribute to the implementation of jointly determined programmes in the field of family planning.

The Federal Council for Family Planning is by nature a coordinating body which at the federal level deals with the problem of family planning from a social standpoint, developing in particular its work in the fields of education and information, in the medical field of family planning, certain aspects of welfare, the legal regulation of family planning, the problem of population development, etc. The Council is financed out of means from the federal budget, contributions from its members, contracts with certain institutions for organizing joint drives, etc.

Socio-political organizations and societies play an important role in practical everyday work on implementing the goals of family planning. They are the driving force behind many activities, exerting a direct influence on public opinion. They help to present the problems and possible solutions more comprehensively to responsible factors, including the highest representative bodies in the country.

With its programme orientation, the Federal Council for Family Planning worked especially on developing educational work in the field of humanizing relations between the sexes; the development of activities for responsible parenthood — wanted children through conscious choice prior to conception; systematic advancement of legislative regulatives in the field of family planning, especially the building up of social stands on family planning and the regulation of conditions for

terminating pregnancy, as a broader social platform for the passing of the Resolution on Family Planning in the Federal Assembly.

Several years of work on the problems of family planning in Yugoslavia preceded the passing of the Assembly Resolution and helped to clarify basic social stands on family planning. It also pointed towards the tasks of certain social factors. These activities laid seed to the basis for building up stands on which the Federal Assembly could pass its Resolution on Family Planning on April 25, 1969.

The passing of this Assembly Resolution was of fundamental importance for the development of family planning in Yugoslavia and influenced further work in this field. The starting-point of the Resolution stresses the human right to family planning, as one of man's elementary human rights. The very first paragraph states: "Enabling parents themselves to decide on the number and spacing of their children is one of the fundamental human rights and duties of man". Long years of work went into building up this stand and getting it accepted. Initially, the accent was on broader social engagement to regulate childbearing by preventing undesired conception rather than by abortion. As activities in this field gradually increased in both form and content, this basic demand was built into society's stand on family planning, as an elementary human right.

The Resolution on Family Planning, apart from the clearly stressed socio-political aspect of family planning, also elaborates the educational, health and social side, and this worked to make family planning in Yugoslavia a growingly important question with certain socio-economic and ideological dimensions.

After the passing of this Resolution and other legislative acts of importance to family planning, in which responsible parenthood and work on the humanization of relations between the sexes are integrally presented in a considerably more favourable social situation for the advancement of family planning, social action evolved in three fields: first, in developing educational work on the humanization of relations between the

sexes by including this subject in the educational system of children, youth and adults, by dealing with this topic appropriately in the mass information media; second, in systematically promoting health and social preventives against undesired pregnancy; and third in advancing the legal regulation of family planning, from the Federal Constitution, corresponding republican and provincial laws, to the statutes and other legal acts of the municipalities and work organizations. Within the scope of this multifold activity on promoting family planning it is important to note that at the proposal of the Federal Council for Family Planning the Yugoslav Constitution established childbirth as a human right. Article 191 of the Yugoslav Constitution stipulates: "It is man's right freely to decide on childbirth. This right can only be restricted for reasons of health" The same formulation appears in the constitutions of all the republics and provinces, with the exception of the SR of Slovenia, where it states somewhat more broadly: „It is man's right freely to decide on childbirth. This right can only be restricted for reasons of health. In accordance with the fulfillment of this right society undertakes to ensure corresponding educational, welfare and health assistance in keeping with the law.

The passing of the federal, republican and provincial constitutions actually marks the end of a period in which one could still debate on whether free decision on childbirth is a human right. Since these constitutions emerged through public discussion, or what we may call public referendum, their promulgation opened up a new period, a period of implementing the constitutional provisions, including those pertaining to free choice on childbirth.

As a constitutional right, decision on childbirth offers a particularly broad basis for socio-political and other activity in creating the conditions for

## II

### *FREE, RESPONSIBLE, DESIRED AND SOCIALLY ACTIVE PARENTHOOD ON THE BASIS OF MAN'S SELF-MANAGING POSITION*

The right freely to decide on childbirth, which is guaranteed by the federal, republican and provincial constitutions, also means the duty to fulfill the role of parenthood responsibly, along socially active principles, on the basis of the self-managing position of the working people and through solidarity and reciprocity in the work organization, local community and beyond, without relegating the raising of children solely to the individual family circle.

From the viewpoint of socio-economic development, the social assumptions for free and responsible parenthood and more humane relations between the sexes are part of current trends in social transformation, especially:

- the speedier development of productive forces,
- the development of economic relations in which the working people, by deciding on the results of their labour, create better conditions for their country's even speedier development as well as a better standard of living,
- changes in family and marital life in view of equitable relations in marriage,
- the broad-based participation of both sexes in self-management and in socio-political life in general,
- the need for affording people the possibility, when deciding freely on childbirth, to have their family

the size they desire, so that each child is a wanted child, for this is in the interests of both the individual and society.

Yugoslavia's concept of family planning as a human right, is not merely relegated to birth control and the prevention of undesired pregnancy or abortion. This concept has matured into including responsible parenthood, for this is the basis of a happy family life and harmonious social development and it is important for overall social efforts to establish the working man's decisive role in deciding on the income created and in determining social priorities for the harmonious socio-economic development of the Yugoslav socialist society.

Responsible parenthood also means concern for all children who are the future of the entire society. This is of special importance for dovetailing the working man's personal interest with the common interest, on the basis of the active self-managing position of working people and citizens.

Opting as a society for the stand that broader socio-economic changes directly affect the promotion of human rights in practise, the starting point to be taken was that the attainment of human rights is interdependent and interrelated, so that one right alone, such as that to decide on childbirth, cannot be effected without altering man's position in general.

In elaborating the concept of family planning, Yugoslavia is currently working on constituting the right of the still unborn child to be wanted. It is felt that the still unborn child has the right to be born wanted so that it may experience its first awareness of the outside world and its subsequent life under the wing of parents who are happy to have a child. A desired child, as a conditionally conceived category, presumes the human obligation to oppose the erratic functioning of biological laws and to decide consciously, prior to conception, on childbirth and the size of one's family. The right to decide on childbirth also includes a fully responsible attitude to childbirth and readiness to accept,

along with the joys of parenthood, the parental obligations which the child's birth brings as well.

The self-management position of working people in Yugoslavia enables them, through participation in associated labour and self-management, to exert, via social involvement and decision-making on the distribution of income, a direct influence on the advancement of child care in the places where they live and work. This is an important basis for individual decision on childbirth and it is especially effected through involvement in local communities, self-managing interest communities, etc.

Family planning, which touches upon the most intimate sphere of man's life, is ultimately effected as a decision reached by two partners on the birth or non-birth of a third person, or as the decision of one person, when a woman decides to have a child out of wedlock, or still yet as a decision reached after conception by a married or unmarried woman not to give birth to the child. When a third person is born and a child comes into the world, society then joins the parents in protecting the interests of the child. Needless to say, nothing can replace personal parental love and care. Society intervenes when it is necessary to ensure individual or collective care for the child, when such parental care is lacking or absent, regardless of the reasons why. When a child is born unwanted and when even later its parents do not accept it, society guarantees the child the minimum conditions for its allround development.

In view of the present level of family planning, timely information on the means of birth control and access to corresponding advisory councils are of primary importance for the birth of a wanted child.

Family planning in Yugoslavia, in terms of its aims and programme orientation, differs considerably from activities undertaken in this field by many countries, activities which are of a pro-natal or anti-natal nature.

The Yugoslav self-managing society and demographic trends start out from the self-management position



of the working people, who both as parents and as producers assume the role of subjects. The realization of demographic goals is part of man's self-management rights and is closely tied in with social planning. As both a producer in associated labour and a parent, man decides on all major questions pertaining to his personal and communal life, including whether to have children and if so how many, the engagement of social funds in the field of child care, depending on the material possibilities of the local or broader community. This interrelated planning in the field of personal and collective life is a process of making people aware that on the basis of their self-managing position, by effecting their personal interests in this field they are also effecting society's interests and thus creating at least approximately equal conditions for their child to start out life with so as not to make it depend exclusively on the material possibilities of its parents. The socialist self-managing society makes it possible constantly to dovetail the fulfillment of man's right freely to decide on childbirth with social development.

Viewed in this way, family planning, meaning socially active parenthood, is an integral part of socializing care for children, although this does not mean shifting this responsibility onto the state and alienating it from the parents. The fulfillment of part of parental and family obligations via social institutions for children actually helps to dovetail the changes which have occurred in the modern family with those in socio-economic development and the needs of children, especially in terms of guaranteeing one's children more or less equal conditions when coming into the world. Of course, in order to implement this social concept, progressive forces in our socialist society must commit themselves still further, especially in the under-developed regions.

Free decision on childbirth in Yugoslavia, as a human right, obligates corresponding social services, including scientific-research work, to embrace in their activities advisory work and to offer services from the field of birth control, to work on developing and cultivating humane relations between the sexes. This activity natu-

rally presupposes demographic research, analytic and statistical work. No-one in Yugoslavia determines the number of children who will be born. Society gears its action towards more humane relations between people, free, responsible and socially active parenthood, so that each child who is born is a wanted child. In regions where family planning activities are most developed, the accent is on humanizing relations between the sexes in the aim of attaining rational reproduction among the population through populational and sexual education. This serves to bring wanted children into this world and to protect woman's health. All family planning activities are directed towards enabling the population to reproduce under conditions which embrace social, health, moral and other relevant norms.

Social action in Yugoslavia does not start out from an ideally sized family. The criteria of population number has been transcended and replaced by the criteria of population quality. A direct aim and value ideal are certain relations in society, especially relationships towards children, both in the family and in the broader social community, all based on the self-managing position of the working man in associated labour.

Family planning, as a fundamental human right in the self-managing Yugoslav society, is not identified with population policy. It is in a specific way tied up with population policy in a broader social sense. Counciling has played an important role in developing social stands on population policy in Yugoslavia. The Federal Council for Family Planning, together with several other organizers, worked on counciling in September 1973.

In keeping with the needs of socio-economic development, the socialist society can and in fact does introduce socio-economic measures which indirectly influence free choice on childbirth. These measures, within the scope of social development plans, could be defined explicitly as population policy although they all also fully respect freedom in deciding on childbirth.

The implementation of the aims of family planning, as part of socio-economic development, especially

mother and child care, and as an integral part of the daily behaviour of people as producers and self-managers on the one hand and as future or present parents on the other, is an extremely lengthy process. Social action aimed at free, responsible and socially active parenthood and the corresponding engagement of social services along these lines, has been considerably more organized these last two decades and while the results achieved so far are extremely significant, they are still far from being what organized, progressive forces in the Yugoslav society are aspiring towards.

### III

#### *ACTIVITY IN MAJOR FIELDS OF ENDEAVOUR ON IMPLEMENTING THE HUMAN RIGHT TO DECIDE FREELY ON CHILDBIRTH*

Free decision on childbirth, in the broadest sense of the term, is part of socio-economic development and is consequently part of special care for mother and child. Future parents are shown that they effect parenthood and a happy family life through active participation in socio-economic and political life in society. In giving people a choice prior to deciding on conception, family planning obliges parents to assume full responsibility prior to deciding on the size of their family.

The right freely to decide on childbirth developed on the basis of the pronounced need for the systematic functioning of social services, so as to help people within the scope of general social changes to regulate their biological reproduction and, in keeping with the demands of modern socio-economic trends, to alter ideas on relations between the sexes, marital and family life, family size, etc. In the aim of implementing this right several fields have been particularly developed: education, health, welfare, normative regulations and the mass information media.

##### *1. Educational Activity*

Education in Yugoslavia is based on the achievements of modern science, especially marxism, as the fundaments of scientific socialism. It aims at preparing people for work and self-management, at educating working people in the spirit of the achievements of the socialist revolution, socialist ethics, self-management de-

mocracy, equality of the nations and nationalities, socialist patriotism and internationalism. Education and upbringing is an essential factor in the development of the Yugoslav socialist society. The socialist community of Yugoslavia ensures the conditions for the development and advancement of education, the humanization and promotion of socialist social relations and the all-round development of the free and humanized personality.

When working on the realization of more humane relations between the sexes, the speedier transformation of the family in keeping with modern trends in contemporary development, the fundamental approach of family planning in the Yugoslav society starts out from the belief that people must be given the conditions to have access to corresponding knowledge and means so as better to effect their mutual relations in the intimate sphere of their life and be better prepared freely and responsibly to decide on having children. The implementation of this social stand is one of the major assumptions for man's richer life, responsible parenthood and the birth of wanted children. Consequently, educational work on the humanization of relations between the sexes holds a central position in family planning. Educating and raising people for humane relations between the sexes and preparing them for marriage and a family is of particular social importance and, as a major component in forming an all-round developed personality, it is an imperative need within the scope of the overall education of youth. The Yugoslav socialist society's approach to education in this field is one in which it is considered as an integral part of general social education, and especially as education on inter-personal relations, on man's position in society and particularly the position of women and children in society and the family.

Youth and increasingly parents are justly demanding that educational work, and especially the schooling system, include subjects which would prepare young people for humane, equitable and responsible relations between the sexes, so that parallel with preparing them

to be producers and self-managers, work would also concentrate on preparing them to establish and cultivate humane and responsible relations between the sexes. This is viewed as an important basis for attaining full human happiness, raising healthy children, and as part of socialist social relations.

Growing demands for the more complete socialist education of youth, one of the basic aims of which is to form an all-round developed personality in the socialist self-managing society, also call for the forming of positive stands concerning the opposite sex, marriage and family. Consequently, the education of young people cannot be effected outside of the influence of constant and organized social concern for all educational factors.

Today there is no longer any dilemma about the need for introducing systematic preparation for humane, equitable and responsible relations between the sexes into elementary and all secondary schools, junior colleges and faculties, especially teachers colleges. Numerous polls show how much young people need to learn about sex.

Work in the field of humanizing relations between the sexes is called for not only in the provisions of the federal, republican and provincial constitutions but also in the stands of the Tenth Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia. Its Resolution on Education and Upbringing stipulates, among other things: "The whole of the socialist education and upbringing of youth and adults, which evolves directly, must be organized so as fundamentally to contribute to the formation of a free, fully developed socialist being... Education plays an important role in enriching man with cultural and other humanistic values, in his physical development and in preparing him for humane and responsible relations between the sexes and in the family".

The Resolution on Family Planning adopted by the Federal Assembly in 1969 states: "Sexual education should be included in the educational work of all educational institutions, always bearing in mind the age of the children and youth and their psycho-physical de-

velopment. Regular teaching programmes in all educational institutions should also be elaborated, depending on the kind of school or faculty. Corresponding programmes should also be elaborated for other environments with a major concentration of youth, such as youth work drives, student and youth centres, pre-con-scription training courses and health education in rural regions and other forms of rural youth meetings, as well as in counselling centres for young parents, schools for parents, "schools for life", etc.

Determining the programme bases for action on introducing education for humane, equitable and responsible relations between the sexes into teaching and school programmes at all levels, has been founded on the stands of the Resolution on Family Planning and Federal Assembly Resolution on Education on Self-managing Bases (passed in 1970), which states the following: "Within the scope of the educational system, youth should be prepared for a healthy attitude towards relations between the sexes, for harmonious and responsible relations in marriage, for executing parental duties in the family".

The basis for introducing the humanization of relations between the sexes into the educational system lies not only in the afore-mentioned documents and their important social stands but also within a broader context of stands taken at several important Yugoslav gatherings of experts and public workers. The Federal Council for Family Planning was directly engaged in preparations for these gatherings, studying the following themes: "Relations Between the Sexes", 1968 in Belgrade; the session of the Section for Education attached to the Federal Conference of the Yugoslav Socialist Alliance, discussing the theme "Education for Humane Relations Between the Sexes in the Light of the Implementation of the Tasks Laid Down in the Federal Assembly Resolution on Family Planning and Federal Assembly Resolution on Education on the Bases of Self-management", 1971 in Belgrade; the consultation on "The Inclusion of Work on the Humanization of Relations Between the Sexes into Teaching Plans and Ele-

mentary School Programmes", April 1972 in Zagreb; the consultation „The Building of Social Stands on Population Policy in Yugoslavia", September 1973 in Belgrade; the consultation "The Raising of Youth for Humane and Healthy Relations Between the Sexes, for Harmi-nous and Responsible Relations in Marriage and the Family", December 1973 in Ljubljana; and the consultation „Obstacles in Implementing the Constitutional Principle of the Human Right to Free Decision on Childbirth", November 1974, Bled.

All these gatherings stressed the need for affirming socialist moral stands and principles in the field of relations between the sexes, in view of the fact that this exerts a considerable influence on both the life of the individual and community.

An analytic review of all that has been achieved so far in including the tasks and stands of the afore-mentioned Assembly resolutions and meetings into educational and teaching programmes in elementary and secondary schools, reveals that the activity of responsible republican and provincial organs for education was of differing intensity, scope and range. There was some activity, however, in all republic and provinces. In the field of elementary schooling, more or less successful elaboration of concepts and formulation of programmes was achieved and these are already being carried out in places. Certain measures (SR of Slovenia) are only now being taken in the field of secondary school education. Work on the humanization of relations between the sexes in advanced schools and higher institutes of learning is not particularly developed, but partial investigation shows that activity here, too, has begun. There are multifold reasons for this. This delicate sphere requires, above all, the emancipation of teachers and greater depth and quality to their overall knowledge. Certain republics and provinces have organized seminars with teachers and biology, pedagogy, psychology and other teachers and this has proven to be an extremely good method of work. The Yugoslav Peoples' Army has also begun to organize activities in this field, both for



youth doing their military service and young people studying at military institutions.

The Inter-Committee Deputy Group of the Federal Assembly toured all republican and provincial centres to enquire how the principles and aims of the Assembly Resolution on Family Planning are being carried out four years after its adoption. On the basis of its report, submitted to the joint session of all three chambers of the Federal Assembly, stress was again laid on the topicality of the tasks laid down in the Resolution on Family Planning concerning the need for education in the field of humanizing relations between the sexes.

Parallel with efforts to have work on the humanization of relations between the sexes adopted by schools, the need for special forms of work with youth and adults has given rise to extra-curricular educational institutions, known as "schools for life" and "schools for parents". The former usually operate in places where there has already been considerable engagement on the part of youth organizations, friends of youth societies, the Red Cross and adult education centres. The programme of these schools is composed of three phases: preparation for a profession, preparation for life in society and preparation for marriage and a family. The schools for parents offer a series of lectures on an interesting theme concerning child-upbringing. Certain differences exist between the programmes for parents of pre-elementary school children and those of school-age children. These schools were chiefly founded at the instigation of social organizations which, in view of their own programme orientation, were interested in having these questions acted on. This form of work with youth and adults has produced excellent results. It is not, however, equally distributed in all parts of the country, but rather basically covers those regions in which regular school programmes have begun certain activity on the humanization of relations between the sexes.

Television and radio, as especially important information media, are increasingly studying problems stemming from relations between the sexes, especially

in their educational programmes. Several television programmes devoted to this problem were well received by audiences in Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia and elsewhere.

In 1971 and 1972 Slovenia introduced an experimental educational programme on television, geared towards parents and youth. The programme devoted two series to sexual education. The first was prepared in cooperation with English television. The aim was to use the largest medium for spreading expertise knowledge among the largest audience and to examine viewers' opinions on this form of education. An effort was made to develop a modern method of group dynamics and television viewers were encouraged to present their stands democratically in groups and then address them to the television or some other interested institution. The views of parents, youth and experts on sexual education were considered to be of special interest. In answer to the question who should handle sexual education the following replies were given: schools 85%, family 82%, television 56%, literature 52%, film 38%.

Publishing activity also makes its contribution to the field of humanizing relations between the sexes. Numerous handbooks have been printed for school teaching, youth and parents. Some 70 periodicals devoted to pedagogy are published in Yugoslavia and they often include this subject. Generally speaking, however, there are still untapped possibilities for including this field of study in publishing activity.

Experience and awareness so far have proven that the raising of youth for humane, equitable, responsible and healthy relations between the sexes is an explicitly social function, with a clear preventive aim, for human sexuality is not only the personal affair of the individual, but rather also a pronouncedly social category. The application of marxist scientific views on this aspect of inter-personal relations, as an important component of human life, has proven to contribute more directly and fully to the overall formation of the young

personality on the basis of marxist science and in **tin** spirit of socialist morals.

Viewed as a whole, we are only just embarking o developing activities concerning the humanization < relations between the sexes, both within the framework of schools and in many other forms of work on human awareness. That is why the implementation of established social stands on these questions presupposes systematic and long-term joint involvement by competent social forces and professional services.

## *2. Health Services*

New postwar Yugoslavia, through a series of preventive measures, from permitting abortions to including birth control in the work of general practitioners, at first endeavoured to legalize abortion and later, when it had become a widely spread means of regulating childbirth, to replace it with birth control.

Health services work on developing their activities, thus securing the necessary conditions for implementing the constitutional principle on the human right freely to decide on childbirth. This presumes, above all, spreading knowledge on the biological reproduction process and the importance of timely birth control, as well as on all aspects of regulating fertility, including abortion, sterilization and treatment of subfertility. This helps people to acquire knowledge and use means to decide consciously on parenthood, which is of social importance especially for women and their psycho-physical integrity, and for a healthy young generation.

*Contraception.* While certain health institutions have been working on spreading contraception since 1952 (the Gynecological Clinic in Ljubljana), the basis for including it within health services was provided by the results of counseling, which was organized in 1958 by the Association of Women's Organizations. The 1960 Regulation allowing abortion obliges commissions for approving abortions to work preventively on spreading

contraception. As of 1968, contraception has been an integral part of compulsory (in fact minimum) health care, and the passing of the Constitution made health institutions and all profiles of health officials duty-bound to work on contraception. Incomplete data allows us to conclude that the use of contraception is on the upgrade. In 1968, for instance, 534,141 visits were registered for obtaining advice on birth control and in 1971 this figure rose to 818,385.

NUMBER OF CONTRACEPTIVE COUNCILING 1968—1971

	1968	1970	1971		
				o z	o f) a u-u zS
SFR of YUGO-	534.131	725.322	818.385	252.800	3,2
SLAVIA					
Bosnia-Herze-	50.453	84.423	102.346	29.540	3,4
govina					
Montenegro	7.567	5.689	7.069	5.351	1,3
Croatia	58.252	68.134	75.569	18.713	4,0
Macedonia	34.521	48.342	52.503	33.871	1,5
Slovenia	69.465	96.939	109.382	227.283	4,0
Serbia	313.873	421.795	471.516	138.042	3,2
Serbia Proper	182.530	231.899	266.239	96.593	2,7
SAP of Vojvo-	127.620	179.284	194.529	35.371	5,4
dina					
SAP of Kosovo	3.723	10.612	10.784	6.078	1,7

Source material: Federal Institute for Health Care, Belgrade.

If one views Yugoslavia regionally, the use of contraceptives is poor in those places where fertility and infant mortality are high, where there is a low employment rate of women, high illiteracy rate, especially among women and where there is a low national income.

The number of institutions dealing in birth control is growing. On the basis of a poll carried out in 1970 by the Federal Institute for Health Care, 362 out of the 500 polled health institutions are working on contraception. Most active in the spreading of contraception are gynecologists, doctors with a completed graduate course in social gynecology and general practitioners.

The number of gynecologists, gynecological beds and network of preventive institutions has grown rapidly in socialist Yugoslavia. The following data demonstrate the present number of gynecologists and number of women of child-bearing age:

#### GYNECOLOGISTS IN 1971

	No. of gynecologists	No. of women over the age of 15	the age of 15 per gynecologist
SR of Yugoslavia	1.035	7,724.058	7.462
Bosnia-Herzegovina	122	1,265.101	10.369
Montenegro	21	186.424	8.877
Croatia	231	1,795.776	7.774
Macedonia	77	549.203	7.132
Slovenia	115	688.529	5.987
Serbia	469	3,239.025	6.906
Serbia Proper	348	2,093.637	6.016
SAP Vojvodina	102	789.616	7.741
SAP Kosovo	19	355.772	18.724

Source material: Federal Institute for Health Care, Belgrade.

One can conclude on the basis of the results of social drives, and the recently published results of scientific-research work by the Centre for Demographic Research in Belgrade, printed in the "Poll on the Fertility of Married Women and Family Planning", that

married couples, and especially women, want to plan the size of their family without having to use the preventive involvement of health and social services. The above-mentioned poll showed that 78% of married women are against uncontrolled birth, and that 65% of women in towns and 50% of women in villages use contraception, primarily "classic methods", as modern contraceptive means have still not reached them. This leads to numerous abortions, the abandonment of newly born or older unwanted children, etc.

The same poll shows that the majority of married couples plan their families without contact with health institutions. Such couples used the following contraceptive methods and means:

— Oral tablets	8.6%
— IUD (Inter-uterus devices)	2.0%
— Condoms, diaphragms and chemical devices	4.5%
— Coitus interruptus (interrupted sexual intercourse or rhythmic method/fertile — infertile days)	79.0%
— Other method or combination of methods	5.9%
TOTAL:	100.0%

The Yugoslav industry produces oral, chemical and mechanical contraceptive means and is continuously working on improving their quality and assortment.

The further spreading of birth control is affected by the unequal and insufficiently developed network of health institutions, especially in certain rural regions, by the assortment and quality of contraceptive devices, and certain other causes. As an illustration, let us look at the following data from the Centre for Demographic Research:

g PER CENTAGE OF MARRIED WOMEN USING ANY FORM OF CONTRACEPTION ACCORDING TO URBAN AND RURAL REGIONS 1970

	Elementary School										
	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
Yugoslavia	55,9	41,5	55,1	56,1	61,5	60,5	72,6	65,0	68,0	71,0	69,9
Urban regions	65,1	47,4	52,6	62,8	71,4	66,7	73,9	64,9	65,5	73,1	75,8
Rural regions	51,1	40,7	55,7	53,4	58,0	53,0	68,1	(65,9)	76,3	62,5	(16,1)
Bosnia-Herzegovina	48,6	43,5	57,8	46,6	69,7	56,1	68,2	(25,2)	69,2	(42,9)	66,7
Montenegro	41,5	27,2	36,4	40,8	44,8	60,0	(60,0)	(57,2)	52,9	(71,5)	(66,6)
Croatia	68,2	52,1	59,2	67,6	64,9	69,3	76,9	85,7	84,5	77,3	(70,0)
Macedonia	42,3	27,6	36,4	44,1	32,0	49,0	(26,7)	58,3	58,8	68,8	(71,4)
Slovenia	63,7	(100,0)	(57,2)	66,7	64,4	53,4	67,6	(83,3)	77,8	(100,0)	(44,4)
Serbia	54,6	41,2	55,0	57,3	57,3	61,5	77,9	51,6	55,7	66,0	76,8
Serbia Proper	60,5	53,3	57,8	61,8	63,2	64,9	77,8	56,3	56,5	(69,2)	77,8
Voivodina	59,9	47,8	60,4	51,8	62,9	64,3	77,1	43,8	61,1	(58,3)	(80,0)
Kosovo	15,1	10,3	22,9	19,6	12,7	26,4	(100,0)	—	(20,0)	—	—

Source material: Research work: "The Fertility of Married Women and Family Planning", Centre for Demographic Research, 1970. "Population" (Stanovništvo), no. 3—4/1971. Dr Miroslav Rašević "The Influence of Education on Population Fertility and Birth Control".

The health care education of youth, parents and the entire population in the field of family planning is increasingly being carried out by health work organizations on a continuous basis and in keeping with the concrete conditions of the environment. This activity is also being devoted increasing attention in the work programmes of socio-political and social organizations and institutions working on the health education of the population (corresponding forms of work by the Socialist Alliance and Trade Union Confederation, the Union of Socialist Youth, the Red Cross, adult education centres, schools, local communities, etc.). Health care and health education institutes publish material in the aim of informing people about the modern means of birth control, the health hazards of abortion, etc., and they follow up the results of these activities.

*Abortion.* Even before World War II abortion was a widely spread method of regulating childbirth. According to the estimates of medical experts, even fifty years ago there were about 300,000 abortions a year, only 50,000 of which were done legally in health institutions for reasons of health. Because of the severe medical consequences of unprofessionally performed abortions, especially among the poorer sections of the population, progressive forces called for making abortion an accessible means to women. They were joined by progressive doctors who stressed the need for advising people about abortions in the aim of reducing the number of those illegally performed, resulting in a high death rate among women.

Abortion in Yugoslavia is relatively wide-spread. According to approximate data today too there are about 300,000 abortions performed each year in health institutions, although there has been a tendency towards stagnation over the past few years. Data from the Centre for Demographic Research shows the situation with respect to abortion according to republics:



AVERAGE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS PER MARRIED WOMAN IN URBAN AND RURAL  
COMMUNITIES, DEPENDING ON THE WOMAN'S SCHOOLING IN 1970

Elementary School

	s o										
Yugoslavia	0,92	1,31	1,16			0,9		0,97	1,05	1,02	0,53
Urban commu- nities	1,63	2,08	1,66			9		0,83			0,56
Rural commu- nities	0,83			0,83	1,19			1,01		1,17	(0,23)
Bosnia-Herze- govina	0,9	1,14	0,97	0,70		0,74					(0,11)
Montenegro	1,17	0,47	0,84	0,61		0,95		<b>1,13</b>			0,57
Croatia	0,84	0,85			0,72	0,38	0,70	(0,57)	1,64		(0,33)
Macedonia			0,31	0,44	0,40	0,47	0,81	0,60	0,62	0,44	0,30
Slovenia	0,60		0,52	0,68	0,27	0,20	0,54	0,21	1,08	(0,14)	(0,43)
Serbia Serbia			0,85	0,37	1,41	1,10	(0,40)	1,05		1,04	
Proper	0,41		1,07	0,45	1,47	1,05		1,62	1,31	(0,85)	0,92
Vojvodina	0,67		2,11	1,88	1,65	1,48	1,50	0,29		(1,50)	0,78
Kosovo	0,41		2,39	2,11	0,24	0,23	1,94				(2,00)
	0,28		1,91	1,78							(1,00)
	1,57		0,29	0,24		0,47	0,33	(0,52)			
	1,78										
	1,72	0,21				0,62	1,32	—			
	0,23	0,67									
		0,30					(1,00)				
		(100)					0,63				
		1,43					(0,29)				
		1,86					0,32				
		1,99					1,69				
		0,22					1,53				
							2,18				
							(0,50)				

Source material: Research work: "The Fertility of Married Women and Family Planning". Centre for Demographic Research, 1970. "Population" no. 3—4/1971. Dr Miroslav Rašević: "The Influence of Education on Population Fertility and Family Planning".

On the basis of follow-ups on abortion, as a social and medical problem, certain important conclusions can be drawn. The number of registered abortions is constantly growing. In 1960 there were 133,000 abortions and in 1968 (the year up to which unified statistics on abortion were registered for the entire country) there were 245,800 registered abortions. One positive tendency has been the declining number of incompleated abortions done outside of health institutions. Now the ratio between abortions performed in health institutions and those done unprofessionally is 80:20. In 1968, there were 46 abortions to every 1,000 women of fertile age in Yugoslavia. When one looks at this regionally, however, the picture varies (while there are 81—87 abortions to every 1,000 women of fertile age in Serbia Proper and Vojvodina, in Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Montenegro this ratio is 38—40:1,000 women of fertile age). There is a considerable rise in the number of abortions among minors (for instance, from 2.8% in 1968 to 5% in 1970, or in Slovenia in 1963 3.8% of abortion cases were under the age of 19 while in 1972, 7% of the total number of abortions performed in health institutions entailed minors.

The mortality rate among women as a result of abortion, although still high, has dropped significantly. In 1967, 132 women died as a result of abortion, while in 1970 this figure was 79. Mortality among women resulting from abortion almost entirely refers to abortions begun outside of and completed within health institutions. The mortality rate among women as a result of abortion is 40% of the overall maternal death rate of women. A comparative study on the medical effects of two methods of abortion, curettage and the vaccum method, done by the Institute for Family Planning in Ljubljana, showed that the latter is a better method than curettage, because it is faster, has a lower perforational rate, there is less loss of blood during the operation, less danger of infection, and therefore of rehospitization, providing it is done in the first ten weeks of pregnancy. Curettage is obligatory after this period as a secondary procedure.

Before the Constitution established the human right to free decision on childbirth (in 1974), commissions attached to corresponding health institutions approved abortion. These commissions were composed of medical personnel and a social worker. The law explicitly demanded that these commissions also deal in the preventive sphere. The legal regulation of abortion came as a result of dynamic economic development which encouraged people to limit childbirth, and as a consequence of heavy pressure on health making it difficult for health institutions performing abortions to refuse. The present laws on abortion are under reexamination, and a debate is currently in progress on the next proposal of the Association of Yugoslav Gynecologists which suggests that the tenth week of pregnancy be adopted as the upper limit for abortion, as a constitutional and unrestricted right; that after the ten week limit abortion be restricted to protect the woman's health; that commissions for interrupting pregnancy continue to exist and that they focus on contraception, that the role of the social worker grow and be continuous in the work of the commissions and that republican and provincial laws regulate contraception, abortion, sterilization, artificial insemination and adaptation in this work.

The decentralization of health services down to the commune ensures minimum health care for all. The direct vehicles of health care are the health centres, which, in addition to various branches of medicine, also encompass public health nursing.

The health care of mother and child is one of the main thrusts in the activity of health services, which in new Yugoslavia is given significant priority within general health care, of which it is an integral part. It is effected through health centres, partly in the offices of general practitioners, and partly through specialized health institutions, such as clinics for women, counselling offices for women, for children, for school-age children, students, etc.

As of 1955, certain health institutions in republican and provincial centres have been making an important

contribution to preventing abortions and developing contraception, as well as treating sterility from the clinical, educational, social, medical and scientific-research points of view. The Institute for Family Planning was founded in 1961 in Ljubljana as a specialized health institution. It works on medical and sociological questions pertaining to family planning, and represents an important educational base for various profiles of doctors and other medical and social workers. Since 1972 it has been working as a clinical research centre of the World Health Organization.

Work on preventing abortions and treating sterility is part of the programmes of all gynecological — maternity clinics, some of which have even set up special departments, centres or offices for family planning.

Health institutions for the health care of mothers and children are the main vehicles in carrying out the programme of mother and child health care. Working as methodological centres for this purpose, they also deal in family planning.

### *3. Welfare with special reference to some of the problems of Yugoslav citizens temporarily employed abroad*

Through solidarity, reciprocity and socialist humanism, working people in organizations of associated labour and other self-management organizations and communities ensure their economic and social security and create increasingly favourable conditions for life and work. These social policy aims are effected by constantly improving and equalizing the conditions of life and work, working to overcome differences stemming from material under-development and other unequal conditions of life and work, equalizing the possibilities for education and work and preventing and removing social differences not based on the applied principle of distribution according to labour.

Social welfare is assuming a growingly important role in spreading ideas on responsible parenthood and

the possibilities of family planning, as an important activity aimed at preventing socially negative phenomena. Institutions for the promotion of social work and professional associations of social workers are involved in building up social stands on the role and tasks and methods of the multi-disciplinary action of individual services of public welfare on family planning (social services within health institutions, work organizations, centres for social work, children's counselling, counselling centres for youth and adults, etc.). This is ensured through corresponding research work on the methods of work used by social workers in the field of family planning.

Professional social welfare departments and corresponding professional organizations organize permanent supplementary training on work with family planning for the existing professional welfare cadres, in view of the fact that today there is a growing accent on making the primary activity of welfare cadres that of social preventives.

Professional associations of social workers have programmes in which they direct their social-welfare activities towards individual tasks in the field of implementing the human right to free decision on childbirth, while endeavouring to embrace a broad circle of citizens and influence progressive changes in stands on family planning.

All social factors in the field of social welfare are working to reinforce preventive social drives with respect to the position of the family and exert an influence on the speedier development of the network of pre-marital and marital counselling, especially for adolescents, schools for parents, schools of life, regional institutions for pregnant women, maternity homes, etc.

In view of the importance of the psychological aspect in family planning, efforts are being made to gain greater insight into the tasks and methods of work of psychologists in health institutions, educational and especially pre-school institutions, social welfare services, counselling and other institutions.

Social workers act as members of a team in commissions for abortion. They help citizens to implement their rights in deciding on childbirth, in keeping with the new constitutional provisions.

Family planning has been introduced as an integral part of teaching plans and programmes in all advanced schools for social workers. Here, family planning is treated as a means for preventing many grave social problems. Numerous investigations have confirmed that unwanted babies and abandoned children predominate among juvenile delinquents.

Today there are about 4,000 degree-holding social workers, half of whom are employed in communal services for social work, about 300 in economic organizations, about 350 in health institutions, etc. There are 110 centres for social work, which as communal institutions work as teams.

*Yugoslav citizens temporarily employed abroad.* The move of Yugoslav citizens towards the more developed countries of Europe and the world encompasses the relatively younger portion of the population. According to the 1971 population census there were 671,908 Yugoslavs temporarily employed abroad, 211,161 or 31.4% of whom were women.

The age structure of all those temporarily employed abroad was as follows:

Up to the age of 20	54,275	or 8%
From the ages of 20—24	161,151	or 25%
From the ages of 25—29	132,970	or 20%
From the ages of 30—34	117,372	or 17%
From the ages of 35—39	89,113	or 13%
From the ages of 40—44	57,397	or 9%
From the age of 45 onwards	55,669	or 8%

Until 1973 the number of Yugoslavs temporarily employed abroad was on the upgrade, and then it began to stagnate. It is estimated that in 1974 more Yugoslavs returned home from temporary employment abroad than left.

With the growing employment of Yugoslav workers abroad, the Yugoslav community stepped up work on the problems which this engendered. This helped to score numerous successes in this field: the necessary organs were formed for settling problems pertaining to temporary employment abroad, services were trained to prepare workers prior to their departure abroad.

Despite the major results achieved in settling the problems of Yugoslav workers abroad, one of the many still unsettled questions is insufficient action within the scope of family planning.

The Federal Council for Family Planning formed a special work group for the problems of Yugoslav workers abroad in an endeavour to respond to the numerous problems and undesired consequences stemming from insufficient information on and access to birth control means.

In approaching this problem the Federal Council for Family Planning started out from the belief that it is essential to offer Yugoslav workers departing for or already working abroad as comprehensive information on family planning as possible, especially concerning customs in the domaine of the family and major legal norms in the countries in which these workers are temporarily to live and work. In order to achieve this, cooperation was effected with corresponding organs and institutions in Yugoslavia and in the countries of immigration (Sweden, Denmark, West Germany, Austria and others).

One of the many steps taken was the publication of a brochure on conscious, desired parenthood for Yugoslav workers abroad. This brochure is made available through information centres for Yugoslav workers which have been founded in the major centres of the countries of immigration. Each republic and province in Yugoslavia has founded a correspondence office attached to a larger medical institution. Yugoslav workers are informed about the existence of these offices in a variety of ways, so that they can write directly about any questions concerning the family

sphere. The addresses of these offices are listed in the aforementioned brochure. Although this correspondence service has not developed major activity in all republican and provincial centres, its work has so far proven to be quite effective.

Groups of authors have been organized in republican and provincial centres and they write in publications for Yugoslav workers on particular aspects of family planning. Officials of the Federal Council for Family Planning have taken part in several meetings with social workers (who work only among Yugoslav workers in the Federal Republic of Germany, for other countries of immigration have yet to introduce this). These meetings stress questions from the sphere of family planning as the gravest problems, especially un-desired pregnancy. This problem is especially acute as even these social workers are not equipped for settling these questions. Consequently, during regular seminars and meetings with social workers, officials of the Federal Council for Family Planning have helped to provide them with the basic knowledge needed to work in this field.

A special form of assistance in increasing involvement in this field is the sending of groups of experts through information centres for Yugoslavs to the countries of immigration. Two experts, a social worker and a gynecologist went twice each to Austria and the Federal German Republic. These visits were very well received by Yugoslav workers, who came in large numbers to the Yugoslav clubs, factory halls and other places to hear informative lectures and films on family planning. The Federal Council for Family Planning will continue to send experts within certain other groups or delegations, and especially within the Yugoslav Red Cross group, in the aim of offering better assistance in this field to Yugoslav workers temporarily employed abroad.

#### *4. Normative Regulation*

The laws of old Yugoslavia severely banned abortion as an Uegal method of restricting birth when ap-



plied for social or personal reasons. Unlike their more wealthy counterparts, poor women could not get abortions from gynecologists and were forced to turn to non-professionals, often at the cost of their lives. According to a special provision in 1930 abortion was permitted only for medical reasons. There was developed activity among progressive forces to permit abortion for social reasons as well. There was a specially strong demand in Slovenia to alter the then Criminal Law provision on abortion. A congress of doctors held in Belgrade in 1935 discussed the need for legally regulating abortion for social reasons. The Yugoslav Communist Party also worked on this problem. At its Fifth Conference in Zagreb in 1940, Vida Tomšić included the legalization of abortion on the basis of social indications in demands for improving the status of women.

With the country's liberation and the revolutionary transformation of social and economic relations, the postulates were created for fulfilling all human rights, including that to free decision on childbirth, to free, desired and responsible parenthood, to more humane relations between the sexes. The legal regulation of the abortion question grew as a social need, for abortion had become a widespread means of regulating unwanted childbirth.

Women took massive part not only in the country's national liberation struggle, but also in its postwar construction and revolutionary, transformation, so that problems which until then had been treated as the personal problems of women, such as abortion, increasingly became the problems of society as a whole.

From 1951 until the passing of the Federal Assembly Resolution on Family Planning on April 15, 1969, legal regulations concerning childbirth chiefly focused on abortion with a pronounced view towards social indications, as a condition for permitting abortion. There was also stress on drastically cutting back unprofessional and illegal abortion. The passing of the first Criminal Law/ in 1951 exempted women from

penalization in the case of performed abortions and instead punished the persons performing the abortions. The engagement of women's and trade union organizations, as well as professional associations in 1952 brought the first Decree on Abortion which introduced social indications. In 1960 the Decree introduced the obligation of counseling women on contraception. The last General Law on the Conditions for Abortion, passed in 1969, included personal indications as another reason for abortion.

The Federal Assembly Resolution on Family Planning laid down the human right to free decision on childbirth and the spacing of one's family, for which the social community is to secure certain conditions. This Resolution also elaborates tasks in the field of education and child rearing, health, social welfare and normative regulations, so as gradually to create these conditions. The socialist self-managing society has accepted childbirth not only as a biological but also as an increasingly social function. The intention is to increasingly make women the subject in fulfilling the functions of motherhood, and at the same time the subject in socializing all matters concerning family life which, she traditionally used to handle. In the socialist society these are to become part of organized social concern, part of the process of disalienating man while building up socialist social relations.

At the proposal of the Federal Council for Family Planning, the February 24, 1974 Yugoslav Constitution introduced a provision on free decision on childbirth, which stipulates that this is a human right which can be restricted only in the interests of the woman's health (Article 191 of the Yugoslav Constitution). This constitutional provision clearly stresses free decision in a field in which people by nature feel free. It should be viewed, however, in a broader context, for it points out the need for availing citizens of knowledge and means so as to be able freely and responsibly to decide for or against childbirth, thereby making broader use of this, constitutionally guaranteed human right.

The basic principles of the Yugoslav Constitution stipulate: "The freedoms, rights and duties of citizens laid down by this Constitution are an indivisible part and expression of socialist self-management democratic relations in which man is emancipated from any exploitation and oppression and through his labour creates the conditions for all-round development, the free expression and protection of his individuality and respect for human dignity. Human and civil freedoms and rights are restricted only by the equal freedoms and rights of others and the interests of the socialist society. The socialist society ensures the conditions for the fullest possible realization and preservation of the freedoms and rights laid down in this Constitution. Any activity which undermines these human and civil freedoms and rights is contrary to the interests of the socialist society"... (from the basic principles of the Yugoslav Constitution).

The above-quote intimates that when viewed in this context, the human right to free decision on childbirth means that the Yugoslav working man is himself the master of his social position and that he should be the same in his private life, mastering the erratic behaviour of the laws of nature.

The constitutional regulation of childbirth introduced in 1974 by the federal, republican and provincial constitutions, not only reaffirms the already complexly expressed stands taken in the Resolution on Family Planning, but also is an integral part of man's rights and duties, personal and social relations in the self-managing socialist society in which work and its results are the basic criteria for man's value.

#### *5. Mass information media*

The mass information media play a major role in spreading knowledge about the advantages and possibilities of preventing undesired pregnancy, and the availability of abortion. Yugoslavia publishes 1.392 papers with a circulation of 7,152.000 and 1.617 periodicals

with a circulation of 9,879,000; it has 174 radio stations and 8 television centres, which are assuming an increasingly important role as a means of spreading information in this field.

The women's and youth press has played a special role in popularizing the activities of family planning. These papers have tried to counter conservative ideas in the field of family planning, especially open attacks by part of the Catholic clergy.

The information media, which reflect positive social trends concerning attempts to alter woman's social status, were often one step ahead of practise in the field of family planning, ahead of the achieved level of organizing professional services and training cadres for work in this field. This especially applies to the thematic orientation and commitment of specialized periodicals geared primarily to the female reading audience. Periodicals dealing with the questions of woman's social status played a pioneer role in spreading progressive ideas concerning family planning. Earlier these periodicals were published in all the republics and some of them for a considerable time served as concrete information on when and where contraception counselling services operated, answering questions and influencing opinions, etc.

The daily press occasionally took polls, consulting health, education and public experts, on certain stands concerning family planning. This was an especially active method prior to the passing of the Resolution on Family Planning in 1969.

Some weekly papers took broad-based polls on the appropriateness of including sexual education in the teaching programmes of elementary and secondary schools. Those polled offered various views on the question, including completely negative stands. Taken as a whole, the engagement of the information media helps to popularize the stands of the Assembly Resolution on Family Planning and certain activities concerning such planning.

The information media basically plays a positive role in spreading scientific knowledge on family plan-

ning and on sex in general, as well as in condemning phenomena which are contrary to our concept of the beauty of love, ethics, sex, etc. Despite this positive contribution, however, a proper selection is not always made in terms of themes as a result of which some papers foster primitivism and poor taste.

Specially made films in the field of family planning are the least used information media. Several short films have been made, but they have been given insufficient exposure.

As compared to earlier stands which made it a taboo to write about the phenomenon of sex in the information media, today certain periodicals have gone to the other extreme, as witnessed by exaggerated writing on sexuality as a major personal and social question. There is also a tendency towards a certain commercialization of sex which continues to conserve the oppressed position of women.

Taken as a whole, the information media, and especially radio and television as the most important mass media of information, are still not sufficiently involved in working on questions pertaining to family planning.

#### *6. International Cooperation*

International cooperation and activity in the field of family planning existed even before the founding of the Coordination Committee for Family Planning (in 1963) and the Federal Council for Family Planning (in 1967). Long before that, Yugoslav representatives raised questions in this field at international gatherings of women's organizations, professional associations etc, where they presented Yugoslavia's stands on this problem. Yugoslav representatives took active part in building up the concept of family planning as a human right in the United Nations, and population policy as the sovereign right of each state, while not restricting the basic human right to childbirth.

With the founding of a special social body for family planning, Yugoslav representatives took part in

multilateral and bilateral international gatherings on family planning, especially within the scope of Population Year designated by the United Nations in 1974. In addition to participating at the World Conference on Population in Bucharest, Romania, representatives of the Federal Council for Family Planning also took part in several gatherings organized by the United Nations and its organs, including the seminar "The Status of Women and Family Planning" in Istanbul in 1972, the Women's Forum in New York in 1974, etc. They also attended several international gatherings directly organized by individual national family planning organizations in Ankara, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Tunis and elsewhere.

At the request of the United National Social Commission, Yugoslavia was elected as one of ten countries working on monographs devoted to practical experiences in work on family planning, with special reference to the social aspects of family planning and the role of social services in implementing family planning policy. This monograph was done by a working group from the Federal Council for Family Planning.

The Federal Council for Family Planning has been a member of the International Federation for Parenthood Planning since 1967. The initiative for corresponding Yugoslav organizations to join this international organization was given ten years earlier, but actual membership came only later because at the time it still had a neo-Malthusian undertone, especially with respect to restricting childbirth. After it altered its statute in 1963, when action for human rights developed, talks were resumed on the joining of representatives from corresponding organizations in Yugoslavia. Today, the Federal Council for Family Planning cooperates, through its representatives, in this Federation's drives when they are in keeping with the programme aims of family planning in Yugoslavia.

In connection with the problem of family planning among Yugoslavs who are temporarily employed abroad, the Federal Council for Family Planning invited representatives of national family planning organiza-

tions from the countries of immigration as well as from certain countries of migration to talks in Belgrade on current problems. The invitation was accepted by representatives from Denmark, Holland, Sweden, Turkey and Italy and later contact was established with representatives of other countries.

#### *7. Some problems in present activities*

Despite the explicit, progressively defined principles and aims of family planning in Yugoslavia and progressive legislature which is of direct significance for the promotion of family planning, even better results are still lacking. This is due to insufficient coordination and functional integration, inadequate dovetailing of work on carrying out programmes ultimately aimed at creating the conditions for people to fulfill their constitutional right to free decision on childbirth.

The great problem at present is the inadequate training of cadres, especially in educational institutions.

Practical action in all fields of endeavour concerning family planning still lack the elaboration of concrete work programmes, adapted to local conditions and regional peculiarities.

Social activity and the work of social services on family planning have still to transcend certain ambiguities concerning the content and aims of family planning. As a result, the whole of current action considerably lags behind the real needs of people for solutions of a practical nature, in terms of the accessibility of corresponding medical and other advice in the field of medicine, law, social welfare and a better assortment and quality of contraceptive devices. The greatest lag prevails in the humanization of relations between the sexes and its adequate inclusion in the teaching of children and youth of all ages, at all levels of schooling, in noncurricular forms of raising and educating youth and adults and in the information media.

Family planning is still frequently identified with population policy, and that anti-natality or pro-natality policy, depending on the natural birth rate in given regions.

#### IV

#### *FAMILY PLANNING IN YUGOSLAVIA'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*

Family planning in Yugoslavia, as a complex social sphere of problems and a major field of inter-personal relations, is part of the country's all-encompassing socio-economic development and the new position of all people of both sexes. It is also the postulate for the emancipation of women in all dimensions of their social status, the realization of equal rights in education and employment, in political life and in the family. It completely negates the patriarchal view of the family according to which the sole "natural" function of the woman is to be a mother and housewife.

The very concept of socio-economic development calls for family planning to be included in the regular activity of social services. The development of the social system in terms of decentralizing the authority of management and material means, works to make the commune and local community the growing vehicle of family and child care. In addition to concrete interventions where and when required, they are devoting growing attention to preventive work, which is adapted to local conditions. Social action is focusing on creating the conditions for enabling man freely to decide on his parenthood, and consciously and responsibly to have children.

The Yugoslav experience shows that in deciding on the size of their family, people are primarily motivated by the conditions of their economic and social position and use available methods and means to regulate family size. They are least motivated by being offered more or less quality means of contraception for regulating fertility. This is also explained by the



fact that even before World War II many Yugoslavs were motivated by their difficult living conditions, and their economic position in society, so that they regulated their family size by the then available methods and means.

Insufficient motivation for regulating childbirth, which is characteristic for the most under-developed regions of Yugoslavia, still engenders a high natality rate, infant mortality, unprofessionally performed abortions, inadequate mother and child health care, and the most undeveloped relations between the sexes in their humaneness and responsibility. All this is directly reflected in the relatively difficult position of women in society and the family and acts as a limiting factor in fulfilling the human right freely to decide on childbirth. This is especially affected not only by certain ambiguities concerning the nature and aims of family planning, but also by prejudices, tradition, conservatism, religious belief, etc.

One can say that today the motivation for birth control in Yugoslavia stems, above all, from socio-economic changes. Objectively viewed, the actual spreading of awareness about contraception today exerts little influence on demographic trends, but greatly influences the humanization of relations between the sexes, the emancipation of both men and women, and especially the birth of unwanted children.

The whole of activity on promoting family planning evolves as a long-term drive in which, given an inter-disciplinary approach, all aspects of family planning are integrated. Efforts are aimed at directly contacting all citizens, and especially youth, direct producers in urban and rural areas, and Yugoslavs temporarily employed abroad, through counseling, information and for youth through regular schooling, through systematic upbringing and education in the field of humanizing relations between the sexes.

The Yugoslav concept of family planning is a comprehensive social concept, an orientation towards the responsible involvement of all social services and numerous social factors, for this is part of overall socio-

-economic development. As a lasting social and human endeavour, family planning ensures major health, economic, social, political, emotional and other advantages. Emerging as a result of industrialization and planning in agriculture, as a result of the more massive education of new generations, family planning is effected as an aspiration conditioned by individual desire but with repercussions on the whole of society. As a unique social phenomenon family planning reflects deeper changes in the process of Yugoslavia's socio-economic development.

With the building up of Yugoslavia's social system more favourable conditions have been created for developing family planning. The self-management organization of interest communities in the fields of education, science, health, social and child care, etc., and in this connection the implementation of the Yugoslav Constitution and decisions of the Xth Congress of the Yugoslav Communist League, their functioning and development presume the establishment of radically new relations in the basic organizations of associated labour and local communities, radical change in the working man's position to decide on the means and overall results of his work and the satisfaction of personal and common needs. Through the development of direct self-management, through assemblies of self-management interest communities, the conditions are created for timely insight into needs and through agreed upon relations between corresponding social services, based on previously determined programmes, for securing the means and mechanisms for implementing the social concept on the speedier advancement of family planning and humane, responsible and equitable relations between the sexes. The creation of self-management interest communities now permits through delegates more direct influence on introducing adequate content into work programmes and their implementation. The Socialist Alliance of Working People, through its corresponding organs — the council and coordination committees for family planning, are making a major contribution to determining suitable policy and action.

The socio-economic development of the Yugoslav self-management organized society allows for broad-based possibilities of social action in creating more favourable conditions in certain areas and through the legally determined obligatory minimum in the aim of giving priority to prevention in programming and financing. The conditions now exist for working through self-management organs of self-management interest communities, at all levels, through clearly formulated stands concerning family planning in their self-management acts and action programmes and further elaborating established social stands in the aim of creating better conditions for people to have the number of children they desire, in the interests of a better life for both children and parents.

Today Yugoslavia has transcended former views according to which investment in social services does not at the same time mean economic progress. The speedier development of schooling, health, especially preventive health, the elevation of the cultural level of the population, is all reflected in overall socio-economic development and is of major importance for steering certain family planning activities in given regions. Viewed in this context, family planning is an integral part of these trends and its future development in Yugoslavia will depend on the degree of its integration in all processes of the country's socio-economic development.

In view of the fact that the Yugoslav Federal Assembly has passed the Resolution on Family Planning which complexly elaborates major social stands on this question, that the federal republican and provincial constitutions all establish the human right to free decision on childbirth, and given current action in corresponding domains of the country's socio-economic development, one can say of the Yugoslav society that it treats the creation of conditions for fulfilling the human right to free decision on childbirth as an extremely important component of its own social and economic development.

V STATISTICAL DATA

Tables 1 to 6

1. Trends in the Number of Household Members in Yugoslavia, 1948—1971.
2. Yugoslavia's Population, 1921—1971.
3. Patients, Clinics and Women's Guidance Counseling Centres in 1971.
4. Per centage of Childbirths with Professional Help, 1961—1971.
5. Cumulative Fertility Rate of Married Women from the Ages of 15 to 49 According to Schooling, 1970.
6. Doctors and Medical Nurses per Inhabitant in 1971.

**Table 1**

TRENDS IN THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN YUGOSLAVIA 1948—1971

	1948.	1953.	1961.	1971.
Total in thousands	3.610	3.945	4.649	5.375
In per cent	100	100	100	100
From 1 member	12.5	12.2	13.6	12.9
from 2 members	14.1	14.4	15.4	16.3
from 3 members	15.5	16.4	17.2	19.0
from 4 members	15.9	16.8	18.6	21.3
from 5 members	13.7	13.6	13.7	12.9
from 6 or more	4.4	4.3	4.4	3.8
members in urban communities	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.2
in rural communities			4.5	4.3

Source material: **Yugoslavia's Material and Social Development**, Federal Institute for Statistics.

Table 2

## YUGOSLAVIA'S POPULATION

1921—1971

Year	SFRY	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Montenegro	Croatia	Macedonia	Slovenia	Total	Serbia			Kosovo
								Serbia Proper	Vojvodina	In thousands	
1921.	12,544	1,890	311	3,427	809	1,288	4,819	2,843	1,537	439	
1931.	14,534	2,324	360	3,789	950	1,386	5,726	3,550	1,624	552	
1948.	15,842	2,564	377	3,780	1,153	1,448	6,528	4,154	1,641	733	
1953.	16,991	2,843	420	3,936	1,305	1,504	6,979	4,464	1,699	816	
1961.	18,549	3,278	472	4,160	1,406	1,592	7,642	4,823	1,855	964	
1971.	20,523	3,746	530	3,326	1,647	1,727	8,447	5,250	1,953	1,244	
Index											
1971—	163,6	198,2	170,4	129,2	203,6	134,1	175,3	184,7	127,1	283,4	

Source material: Population statistics for the corresponding years. Data pertains to the present-day territory of Yugoslavia.

Table 3

PATIENTS, CLINICS AND WOMEN'S GUIDANCE  
COUNCILING CENTRES IN 1971

	43 a Zoo 1.382	No. of women over the age of 15	No. of women over the age of 15 per clinics	W M O O P	Medical Staff	
					Secondary and higher training	a 3 O 4 3 h J o
SFR of Yugoslavia		7,724.058	5.589	460	1.222	480
Bosnia-Herzegovina	162	1.265.101	7.809	72	201	102
Montenegro	21	186.427	8.877	4	15	3
Croatia	301	1.795.776	5.966	72	172	104
Macedonia	170	549.203	3.230	31	164	35
Slovenia	210	688.529	3.278	40	86	9
Serbia	518	3.239.025	6.253	241	584	227
Serbia Proper	187	2.093.637	11.195	164	332	97
SAP Vojvodina	293	789.616	2.695	62	177	119
SAP Kosovo	38	355.772	9.362	15	75	11

Source: Federal Institute for Health Care, Belgrade.

Table 4

PER CENT OF CHILDBIRTHS WITH  
PROFESSIONAL HELP  
1961—1971

	1961.	1965.	1968.	1969.	1970.	1971.
SFRY	53,6	61,4	67,4	68,7	71,1	73,4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	30,2	40,8	50,3	52,4	54,7	58,6
Montenegro	49,4	58,5	62,7	65,4	69,6	74,2
Croatia	80,3	86,8	91,0	92,1	93,5	94,9
Macedonia	41,0	50,1	56,6	58,1	60,9	63,6
Slovenia	98,4	98,1	98,2	97,8	98,8	99,0
Serbia	52,6	59,1	64,5	65,9	68,3	69,0
Serbia Proper	54,0	67,2	75,6	78,7	81,4	83,9
SAP Vojvodina	93,8	95,0	96,6	97,3	97,4	97,7
SAP Kosovo	17,0	20,4	26,0	26,3	29,0	31,3



Table 6

## DOCTORS AND NURSES PER INHABITANT IN 1971

	44 O сл ■(→)	2 3 a as H.S	a o Q	Number		
				0b	Number	
			No. inha per	No. f. in/ habi- tant: = aurs dical		
SFRY	20,533.997		11.360	1.809	31.018	663
Bosnia-Herze- govina	3,756.995		1.505	2.496	4.184	898
Montenegro	531.998		207	2.570	764	696
Croatia	4,427.007		2.810	1.576	6.779	653
Macedonia	1,654.002		830	1.993	1.997	828
Slovenia	1,728.006		1.262	1.369	3.322	520
Serbia	8,455.989		4.746	1.782	13.972	605
Serbia Proper	5,248.978		3.076	1.706	9.164	573
SAP Vojvodina	1,952.007		1.350	1.446	3.510	556
SAP Kosovo	1,255.004		320	3.922	1.298	967

Source: Federal Institute for Health Care, Belgrade.



*1. The Federal Assembly Resolution  
on Family Planning*

At separate sessions of the Federal Chamber and the Chamber of Welfare and Health held on April 25, 1969, the Federal Assembly passed the following Resolution on Family Planning:

It is one of the basic human rights and duties for parents to be able to plan the size of their families and the spacing between births.

For this to be feasible society should make it possible for married couples to get information about modern methods of birth control and provide them with adequate means to plan their families so that they can decide how many children they will have and at what intervals.

The new status of women in society has changed the structure of the family and family relations and has essentially affected the role of women. One of the consequences of these changes is a reduction in both birth rate and infant mortality. The size of families is increasingly coming to be governed by a desire for a more decent life and is part of man's strivings to attain a higher standard of living. Family planning is in the interest of both the parents and society. The creation of conditions under which each birth will mean a wished-for child is of special importance for women, for their psychological integrity, for the creation of conditions of conscious parenthood, and for ensuring healthy children.

Family planning, as a lasting human and social effort, will bring about very significant social, health, economic, political and other advantages.

Birth control is still largely exercised by the most primitive method — artificial interruption of pregnancy. Because of this, a method of birth control which enables people to control the laws of biological reproduction and thus eliminate spontaneous and uncontrolled elements in this delicate and vital sphere, is an important aspect of the struggle against artificial interruption of pregnancy, which has a very harmful, some-times even fatal effect on the health of women.

This calls for an extensive study of family planning and birth control problems, and for a coordination of educational measures and action as a component part of health measures for preventing undesired pregnancies.

The realization of society's views on family planning and birth control, as a means of providing the necessary conditions for the execution of society's policy in this field, calls for an active role and certain obligations on the part of the social services, research institutions, social and other organizations, associations and institutions.

Among the numerous questions of essential importance for the health of women and sound family relations, particular attention should be paid to family planning and birth control problems, especially in view of the following facts:

- 1) A survey of demographic trends shows that birth control and certain forms and methods of family planning are already successfully being used in many areas of Yugoslavia;
- 2) Interruption of pregnancy, which is not only a backward and primitive method but also a harmful and dangerous one, is still the most widespread means of birth control, and contraceptive measures are slow in expanding;
- 3) Provisions pertaining to pregnancy interruption have been aimed at preventing illegal interruption of pregnancy and at ensuring that abortions are made in

hospitals on the basis of health and social indications. These provisions should, however, lay greater stress on health care, the protection of women's mental health, and the protection of interests of the family and society. They should support and lay main stress on the prevention of undesired pregnancy as the principal form of birth control;

4) Making contraception possible has proved itself to be the most suitable method of family planning.

## II

Accepting the view that deciding on the number of children and spacing of births through the use of the latest methods of birth control is the right of the parents, it is necessary to point out the principal tasks and duties of the public services, research institutions and other organizations and institutions.

1) Within the framework of the educational system, special attention should be devoted to preparing young people for a better understanding and humanization of inter-sex relations, for harmonious and responsible material relations and parental duties in the family. Sexual education should become the concern of all educational institutions, due attention being paid to the age and psychophysical development of the pupils. On this basis and according to the level and kind of school relevant curricula should be worked out for regular instruction in all educational institutions. Pertinent programmes should also be drawn up for other environments with considerable concentrations of young people, such as young people doing national service in the Yugoslav People's Army or taking part in youth labour projects, student and youth centres, premilitary training and health courses in the countryside and other village youth organizations, advisory centres for young parents, schools for parents, etc.

Workers' and people's universities should include these problems in their curricula and should spread this knowledge in every way.

Education in this field primarily stems from the need for humanization of inter-personal relations, respect for the human personality, and the promotion of health. In developing education on inter-sex relations, an important role should be played by the press, radio, television, cinema, lectures, etc.

2) Health and welfare institutions, and especially general practitioners, should pay particular attention to the systematic spread of information on the use of contraceptive in line with the needs of marital partners. It is particularly necessary to follow and study new methods of contraception and new contraceptives. In the training of educational, medical and welfare personnel special attention should be devoted to this aspect of birth control and prevention. In the implementation of the views laid down in this Resolution a decisive role will be played by specialized staff trained for the purpose.

3) Steps should be taken to solve financial problems in this sphere as successfully as possible, relying on health insurance funds, other sources of finance for preventive health care, the funds of unions of education, and other resources, including personal contributions by those concerned. The need for federal allocations will, at the request of a Republic or Autonomous Province, be considered by competent federal agencies, which will, in conformity with general social interests, propose appropriate solutions to the Federal Assembly.

### III

1. The right of parents to decide on the number of children and on spacing between births should primarily be realized through the use of contraceptives. Interruption of pregnancy as the least desirable form of birth control, is only an extreme means which should be resorted to to enable women to interrupt undesired pregnancy when this has already occurred.

2. In the event of undesired pregnancy, the health and social services should advise the parents not to interrupt pregnancy, with the explanation that any

interruption of pregnancy, even when performed in a health institution, is a surgical intervention which is bound to have certain physical and psychic effects on the health of the women. This should at the same time be used as an opportunity to advise partners how to prevent undesired pregnancy. If a woman still insists on interrupting pregnancy, abortion will be performed in conformity with medical and other regulations.

3. In order to promote interest in the use of contraceptives, users of health services should be made to bear part of the costs of medical intervention. In determining their share, the material potentialities of those concerned should be taken into account.

In order to ensure a more humane relation to women in performing abortions in health institutions, it is necessary to simplify the administrative procedure and adjust it to different environments. Because of this federal legislation should only regulate basic principles regarding the conditions under which pregnancy may be legally interrupted.

4. In view of existing differences in the level of development of the health service, its activity in contraception and its accessibility to marital partners, the general level of health culture, tradition, prejudices etc. in individual Republics and Autonomous Provinces, these matters should be regulated in agreement with relevant social factors in a way which best suits any particular environment. Special attention should be paid to the specific needs of rural areas.

5. Social action in the field of family planning, especially educational measures and birth control, should, on the basis of scientific information, be coordinated with demographic research, statistical reporting and analyses of relevant indicators in this field, and with other relevant activities.

#### IV

Taking this stand on family planning and on birth control, the Federal Assembly points out that its realization requires the full involvement of educational,

welfare and health institutions, socio-political and other organizations and associations, administrative agencies and other social factors.

The Federal Executive Council and competent agencies shall attend to the implementation of this Resolution and regularly inform thereon the Federal Assembly.

*2. Provisions of the Yugoslav Constitution and constitutions of the Republics and Provinces on free decision on childbirth*

"It is a human right freely to decide on childbirth.

This right may only be restricted for reasons of health".  
(Article 191 of the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

and

"It is a human right freely to decide on childbirth.

This right may only be restricted for reasons of health.

In accordance with the fulfillment of this right, society undertakes to ensure corresponding educational, welfare and health assistance in keeping with the law".

(Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia)

*3. Glossary of self-management*

*Associated labour* — basic category of the socioeconomic order of Yugoslavia which covers: social ownership of the means of production, the right to work with socially-owned means, the right of the workers to manage production in its entirety, including the right of decision-making on distribution, the right of the workers to associate for the purpose of achieving

their common economic interests, direct integration of the means of social reproduction, the inalienable right to self-management.

*Chambers of Work Communities* — chambers in the assembly system of Yugoslavia through which the remnants of the classical system of political representation and traditional bourgeois parliamentarism, are transcended. Associated labour thereby gains the decisive influence in the assembly system on the basis of the collective delegations of work organizations.

*Commune* — the basic self-managed socio-political community which provides an organic link between all forms of the organization of the working class and working people along self-management lines. Government in the commune is controlled by the working people who come together both as self-managers at work and as self-managers in the satisfaction of their social, cultural and other requirements. The working people in the commune, which is an integral part of the unified social organism, participate by way of the system of delegates in all forms of government at all levels in the community

*Communities of Basic Organizations of Associated Labour* — these communities are formed for the purpose of jointly promoting production and business operations, coordinating plans and development programmes, regulating mutual socio-economic relations between basic organizations of associated labour as partners with equal self-management rights.

*Communities of Interest* — are a self-management-based form for integrating labour in material production with labour in the spheres of education, science, culture, health and other social and public services. Through these communities, the delegates of workers engaged in material production, and the delegates of social and public services, regularly, in an organized manner and on terms of equality, discuss and agree on the regulation of their mutual relations, on the free exchange of their labour, on joint programming, on the financing of

common requirements, in line with the common interest and joint development policy.

*Complex organization of associated labour* — a form of organization of associated labour developing from the direct integration of work organizations or basic organizations of associated labour which are part of the former organizations and their transformation into wider forms of organizations of associated labour. The forms of complex organizations of labour found most frequently are: associated work organizations, work organizations integrated into technological systems (railways, PTT), industrial and other kinds of large combined plants.

*Conference for the Social Activity of Women* — a social organization founded at the Women's Conference held in April 1961 in Zagreb which acts within the frameworks of the Socialist Alliance of Working People of Yugoslavia for the purpose of raising all the economic, political and cultural questions on the solution of which depends the full social equality of women in socialist, self-managed Yugoslavia.

*Conference of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia* — the highest forum of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia between two congresses at which current policy is defined and elaborated on the grounds of the guidelines laid down by the Congresses. Conferences discuss the most important problems in various spheres of society's life and international relations on which the LCY must formulate policies.

*Delegates, system of* — the basis for the constituting of assemblies (in communes, autonomous provinces, republics and at federal level) on the basis of collective delegations of work organizations, local communities and socio-political organizations. In this manner, and in contrast to the classic bourgeois parliamentary system of deputies, the direct presence of the working people in the assemblies is assured, the engineering of majorities by one category of the population, or one type of labour, over others is avoided and the functional



synthesis of the short-term and long-term interests of different parts of society and of the whole, is guaranteed. Self-management and governmental power are merged through the system of delegates in a specific and institutionally novel fashion. This is the universal principle governing the entire socio-political system of Yugoslavia.

*General acts of organs of socio-political communities* — laws and other regulations enacted by socio-political communities and their organs; by-laws and social compacts, declarations, resolutions, recommendations, contracts and so on, which regulate social relations or generally establish policies.

*Independent organization of associated labour* — a large-scale work organization which comprises several basic organizations of associated labour; basic organizations of associated labour amalgamated on self-managed economic foundations.

*Intelligentsia in self-managed, socialist society* — in relation to this concept, the revolutionary theory and ideology of the League of Communists rejects sectarian and dogmatic replies to the question of the place of the intelligentsia in the social structure of society and does not draw a line between the working class on one side, and the technical or any other kind of intelligentsia, on the other. The Yugoslav working class is the class of yesterday's wage-labourers which, by carrying out the revolution, created for itself the possibility of becoming the master of the conditions, means and results of its labour and of gaining control over key positions of power in the state. It is thereby gradually incorporating all sections of the technical intelligentsia and the intelligentsia generally into equal production relations and an equal socio-economic position. Consequently, the majority of the intelligentsia in Yugoslavia stands on the positions of the working class and consciously strives for the advancement of the self-managed socialist society as a system that abolishes the contradictions between intellectual and manual labour, and the con-

licts between various sections of society and leads to a free community of free persons who are not determined by class positions or the restrictions of class society. The League of Communists is in conflict with a small number of so-called autonomous intellectuals who, concealed behind »leftist platforms«, offer society a melange of Stalinist dogmatism and ultra-leftist anarchy, paternalistic humanism, a non-historical and abstract conception of liberty, petty-bourgeois elitism and »enlightened bureaucracy« (see: »Praxis«).

*Inter-republic committees* — a constitutional institution attached to the highest executive organ of the federation, the Federal Executive Council, which establishes greater responsibility on the part of the republics and provinces for discharging certain federal functions. Through their delegations in the inter-republic committees, the republican executive organs, after consulting and achieving agreement, give their approval to sub-legal acts passed by the Federal Executive Council, thus exercising one part of the rights and duties of the republics and provinces relevant to the discharge of certain federal functions.

*Local community* — a form of association, on self-management grounds, of working people and citizens in the area of a settlement, part of a settlement or several settlements joined together. In the local community, the working people and citizens make decisions on the pursuit of their common interests and the satisfaction of their common needs. They do not exercise the functions of government and in this respect differ from the socio-political communities (communes, autonomous provinces, republics and federation).

*Local self-contributions* — a form of self-initiative and extra-institutional compact among the citizens in one locality, settlement or town for the purpose of satisfying their joint wants (construction of schools, hospitals and other public and communal institutions, laying roads and water mains, and so on) on the basis of their own personal financial resources.

*Organization of associated labour* — denotes all forms of independent, self-managing organizations within which the workers engage in economic or other social activities with socially-owned means; forms of association set up on the basis of integration of the labour of workers who work with socially owned means; in them the workers manage the labour and the business operations of the organization and the affairs and means of social reproduction; they regulate their mutual labour relations, make decisions on the income they realize through various forms of the association of labour and ception of »organization of associated labour« is a general one which embodies the following concrete forms: basic organization of associated labour, work organization and complex organization of associated labour. Organizations of associated labour were formerly designated by the words »enterprise« (applicable to the economy) and »institution« (applicable to non-economic activities).

*Organs of workers' self-management* — the institutional organs of workers' self-management are: the assembly of the working people, the workers' council and its autonomous executive organs.

*Political chamber* — the assembly system of Yugoslavia makes provision not only for delegates' chambers but also political chambers (which may have different names in the assemblies of the republics and provinces). These chambers exist only in the commune and republics assemblies and are the political support of the delegates' chambers. Their basic function is to execute assembly policies and to help synthesize the long-term and short-term, the individual and the common interests of the working class and working people.

*Popular university* — and adult educational and cultural institution existing as a rule in every commune for the purpose of satisfying the educational and cultural needs of the population of that commune.

*Secondary distribution* — society-wide distribution; distribution between all activities in society and its total requirements, and the economy.

*Self-management base* — designates the activating force of the socio-economic and political system of Yugoslavia. The self-management base consists of the associated direct producers of material goods who exercise the inalienable right to self-management, of the basic organizations of associated labour where the workers directly exercise their self-management rights. The self-management base also comprises all the other working people who work under conditions of self-management. All citizens engaged in self-management also comprise the self-management base of society.

*Self-management general acts* — acts by which organizations of associated labour and other self-managed organizations and communities, on the basis of the Constitution and laws, independently regulate, on self-management grounds, their mutual relations, coordinate their interests or regulate matters of wider social significance. Self-management general acts include: social compacts, self-management agreements which generally regulate self-management relations, statutes, and other general acts of self-managed organizations and communities.

*Self-managed organizations and communities* — organizations of associated labour, organizations of business associations, banks, insurance communities, agricultural and other kinds of cooperatives, contractual organizations of associated labour, self-managed communities of interest, local communities, as well as work communities that do work for state and other organs and organizations.

*Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia* — created in the National Liberation War and socialist revolution under the name of »People's Front« is a democratic organization joined on a voluntary basis by all socialistically-minded working people and citizens. This organization represents the broadest socio-political basis of self-management and wields important influence on society's orientation towards the development of self-management.

*Socio-political community* — is the constitutional term used to designate the communes (municipalities), republics, autonomous provinces and the federation. They are both political-territorial units and self-governing communities in which the working people and citizens exercise their self-managing rights. The highest body of government and self-management of every socio-political community is the democratically elected assembly.

*Socio-political organization* — a political organization of the working people with a socialist programme (the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia, the Trade Unions, the Veterans' Association, Youth League, etc.).

*Social organization* — a form of voluntary organization of the people for the purpose of pursuing their interests, managing certain social affairs and developing different activities of general social interest (social-humanitarian, cultural, scientific, professional, tourist, sports and other similar organizations).

*System of consultation for the achievement of social compact and self-management agreement* — the integral system established by the Constitution consisting of a) self-management compacts and agreements in the work organizations; b) consultations for the achievement of compact and agreement among self-managed work organizations, their communities and associations; c) consultation for the achievement of compact and agreement within the frameworks of, and also between, socio-political communities (communes, republics, provinces and the federation). The basis of the entire system is the inalienable right of the working people to self-management.

*Workers University* — an educational and cultural institution in which the workers acquire general, specialized and ideological-political knowledge and satisfy part of their cultural needs.

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Printing Services Organized by  
RADNIČKA ŠTAMPA  
Newspaper enterprise  
Belgrade, Trg Marksa i Engelsa 5/V

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Proof-reader CHRISTINA  
PRIBICEVIĆ-ZORIĆ

Printed by  
"SLOBODAN JOVIĆ"  
Belgrade, Stojana Protića 52