STATEMENT

The XIth World Assembly of OMEP meeting in Paris at UNESCO 18-23 July 1966 had "The Role of the Adult in the Child’s Life" as its theme.

After prolonged discussion:

I - The Congress declared that early Childhood Education as the basis of human development is a guarantee for a better world.

II - The Congress emphasised the importance of environmental influence from early infancy for a successful outcome.

III - The adults in the child’s world are responsible for the conditions in which children can develop and mature to their optimum.

IV - A stable and united family is highly important for the full development of the child. The mother aided by the father plays an essential role in the family.

V - It is time that facilities for active motherhood are implemented by legal enactments whilst respecting her human rights.

VI - The child as a social being has need to enrich his experience during later infancy by contact with other environments.

VII - Facilities for early childhood education are needed everywhere. Children amongst others of the same age and with competent adults will by their close contact with the family complete the child’s education.

VIII - When the family has problems it cannot solve, services should exist which can temporarily replace the family.

IX - Whenever a young child has to be cared for outside the family, provision must exist and the conditions should be such that the child’s total needs will be recognised and met by those conscientious in their educational role.

X - All who are involved in the young child’s development require a special training: parents to be - parents - teachers - doctors - all who work in special institutions.

XI - Society must protect the young child from the traumatic experiences of the modern world and create those conditions which will enable the child’s vital needs to be fulfilled for a happy and well balanced childhood.

OMEP appeals urgently to the adults of all the countries in the world to increase the awareness of its immense responsibility for young children.

OMEP commits itself to inform as widely as possible and with all the means at its disposal and with your help, all who are directly or indirectly involved - not only parents and teachers, but lawyers, administrators at all levels, town planners and society itself.

OMEP urges action with International Organizations which are OMEP’s natural friends in order that the Rights of the Child can be realised in order to safeguard our children with whom the future lies.