

AFTER THE TRAGIC END OF Mr. JOHN F. KENNEDY

The International Committee took a sincere part in the tragic event which was mourned on November 22, 1963 by the people of the United States and by the American Red Cross. Mr. John F. Kennedy was not only President of the United States, he was also Honorary President of the National Society to which a short time ago, on the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross, he addressed a message which was published in the *International Review*. One will also recall the stirring message full of confidence which he sent this September to the Centenary Congress of the International Red Cross in Geneva.

On November 23, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, sent the following message to Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, the new President of the USA :

pray accept most profound sympathy on occasion tragic and grievous loss sustained by you and the entire american people and by their friends throughout the world stop we of the redcross have had many occasions to appreciate the energetic support comma great humanity and loyal friendship of his excellency john f. kennedy comma patron of the american national red cross society stop the international committee of the red cross in geneva mourns his passing = Boissier president of the international committee of the red cross.

On the same day, Mr. Léopold Boissier expressed to General Gruenthal, President of the American National Red Cross in Washington the condolences and sympathy of the ICRC in the following terms :

international committee horrified tragic news grievous loss sustained by amcross and the american people stop we recall with emotion the

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

*loyal support and great humanity of his excellency john f. kennedy
and shall always remember his moving message which you read to the
international redcross centenary congress stop have expressed our
sympathy to his excellency president lyndon b. johnson comma
grateful if you would kindly convey to mrs kennedy and family the
expression of international committees deepest sympathy stop
regards = Boissier president of the international committee of the
red cross.*

A WORK OF PATIENCE AND METICULOUS DETAIL

This year, which marks the Centenary of the Red Cross, the Central Tracing Agency is visited by larger numbers than ever before of people wishing to inform themselves on its activities. Whether it is a question of members of National Societies, groups of university students or of tourists passing through, they are all struck by the sight of millions of index cards and the voluminous archives which still remain an invaluable working instrument for the Central Agency. Indeed the necessary information is extracted daily from these sources for establishing the identity of deceased military personnel, the handing over of attestations of captivity and tracing civilians separated by war etc.

The problem of homonyms.—However, the visitor's attention is more especially held by a large board which illustrates better than any long report one of the Central Agency's greatest difficulties. This board shows two index cards in facsimile which at first sight seem identical. In fact these cards, which date from the war years, each contain the same name, the same first name, the same place and date of birth, the same rank and unit, the same family address, the same place and date of capture and the same country of internment. Only closer study reveals a difference in the prisoner's serial