

governments, is of concern to all medical circles whose co-operation is desirable on as wide a basis as possible through medical studies, dissemination of ideas and even through co-ordinated approaches to governments.”

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

In July 1954 the Revue internationale published an article by Mr. R.-J. Wilhelm entitled « La Croix-Rouge des monuments » concerning the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; this Convention was signed in The Hague on May 14, 1954, by 37 States. The text and the regulations for its implementation were quoted in the article in question. This Convention, described as « humanitarian » by its authors, could be considered, as Mr. Wilhelm pointed out, a tribute to the Red Cross and the 1949 Geneva Conventions, in that it secures for works of art the same regard as the Red Cross had succeeded in obtaining for the benefit of war victims. This was, moreover, how it was viewed by the delegates meeting in The Hague, as they demonstrated by declaring their intention to have recourse as much as possible to the solutions advocated by the Geneva Conventions and adopted in the draft which was submitted to them.

In a subsequent issue we had occasion to mention the meeting of the contracting parties to The Hague Convention which took place in Paris in 1962 under the auspices of UNESCO and to which the ICRC sent an observer.¹

More recently, in October 1967, UNESCO gave information which was the more interesting as it referred to the present situation and the implementation of this Convention in the Middle East, i.e. where there are so many treasures of the past.²

¹ See *International Review*, September 1962.

² See *UNESCO Chronicle*, Paris, 1967, No. 11.

Two officials, one Swiss and one Dutch, have accepted appointments as Commissioners-General, accredited respectively to the Arab States and Israel, to supervise the application in the Middle East of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. In accordance with that Convention they were appointed after discussions at UNESCO headquarters between a representative of Switzerland as a neutral power, on the one hand, and a representative from each of the five States party to the conflict on the other.

Each Commissioner-General, in co-operation with representatives of the party to the dispute to which he has been accredited, will supervise the application of the Convention on that party's own territory or on territory occupied by it. Contracting parties to the Hague Convention undertake to respect cultural property in their own countries or in the countries of other contracting parties, by abstaining from using such property for any purpose likely to expose it to destruction or damage, and by taking measures necessary to safeguard and preserve such property. They also undertake to prevent and put a stop to any form of theft, pillage, mis-appropriation and vandalism directed against such property. They undertake also to abstain from requisitioning it or taking any reprisals affecting it. There are at present fifty-six States parties to this International Convention.

Instruments of ratification of the Convention and Protocol for the protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (1954) were deposited by the Federal Republic of Germany with UNESCO on August 11, 1967.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL HEALTH ORGANISATION

When Simon Bolivar summoned governments to the Congress of Panama in 1826 he hoped to lay the foundations for realizing his life-long dream, Pan American unity.