

thinking that he might be a child connected with Lidice. He was then placed and brought up in a State home.

In August 1963 the German Red Cross in Hamburg, drew the attention of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency to the case of Joseph Strone or Stroner.

An enquiry was immediately opened and thanks to a photograph of the child, sent to the Czechoslovak Red Cross, that organization discovered the young man's present address, who had in the meanwhile taken the name of his adopted mother.

His own mother, his brothers and sisters have now had the joy of having news of him at last after twenty years.

New Year Message

The message of Mr. S. A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, was this year recorded by the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Service and sent to 127 countries in all the five continents. It was recorded in six languages and the French or English versions were sent to countries speaking other languages so that each broadcasting organization could make a translation. The message is as follows :

During the year which has elapsed, the Red Cross has added a series of actions of aid to the list of those which it has accomplished over the past century. To mention but one undertaking, I would recall that throughout the year our flag has flown in the desert in the Yemen on a completely equipped field hospital, which has unceasingly cared for all victims of the fighting.

The year 1964 also possesses special significance, since it marked the centenary of the first Geneva Convention. This was indeed to be the basis of all humanitarian law aimed at safeguarding the victims of armed conflicts. It is not possible to estimate how many thousands, how many millions of people the Conventions have snatched from death.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is pleased to see that the movement of fellowship which emanated from Geneva has wide-spread effect, since more than a hundred States, that is to say nearly the whole world, have acceded to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and that Henry Dunant's ideal everywhere arouses fresh enthusiasm.

However, since our institution is constantly called upon to intervene in conflicts and troubles which have continued ever since the end of the world war, it knows how fragile are the achievements which have been made over suffering. It is also fully aware of the grave perils which continue to threaten the world.

On the threshold of the New Year, may I appeal to all men and women of goodwill by their understanding to support the work of the Red Cross in spite of present antagonisms, so that their sympathy may help in further vanquishing suffering and strengthening the confidence of mankind in its future.

Testimonies of recognition

For some years past the International Committee of the Red Cross has made a point of marking twenty years of service by members of its staff. A ceremony took place on December 17, 1964 at which several members of the ICRC were present. Mr. S. A. Gonard expressed the gratitude of the institution of which he is President to the following: Miss A. Besson, Mrs. D. Braun, Mrs. M. Dumur, Mrs. E. Huguenin, Mrs. S. Kallenbach, Mr. R. Lafond, Mr. A. Perret, Mr. J. Santandréa, Mrs. M. Schmauss, Miss S. Schumacher, Mr. W. Uhlig, and Mr. M. Rouge

Mr. Gonard praised their loyalty to the work of the Red Cross and presented to each one a silver salver individually inscribed by name. Then Miss Besson, on behalf of her colleagues thanked the ICRC. "Mr. President", she said, "you have recalled the nature of our various activities here and this general survey brought us back to the time, now already remote, when the war had not yet ended, when we were part of a veritable army of colleagues distributed in different parts of the town and even in various towns in Switzerland, as is demonstrated by the presence here of Mrs. Huguenin, then in charge of the Zürich auxiliary section . . . It would be useless to seek the traces of twenty years of activity on our faces, since they are to be found in our hearts, in our determination to give ever more and better service. We want to give our experience daily to serving the ICRC, a modest contribution to the immense task it accomplishes on all fronts."