

# M I S C E L L A N E O U S

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## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

In November 1963, by unanimous decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was decided to designate 1965 as the *Year of international co-operation*. Based on the theme of peace and progress through co-operation, symbolized by two joined hands surrounded by an olive branch, various events would take place. Some of these would include the following :

a commemorative session of the United Nations General Assembly ;  
issues of special stamps and the striking of a commemorative medal ;  
lectures given by leading personalities on subjects connected with international co-operation ;  
educational programmes effected by publications, television broadcasts appealing to members of the teaching profession, as well as to the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and private institutions throughout the world.

The Red Cross movement has also been called upon to contribute towards the success of this universal enterprise, and, in certain countries, the National Society is part of the Committee which has been formed with the participation of several governmental and non-governmental institutions. This, for example, is the case in New Zealand, where the government has also appealed to the National Red Cross to organize a series of events which, each month and in various spheres, will have the object of recalling that in a world in which distances are becoming less great, men are drawing closer to each other.

With this end in view, Mr. René Maheu, Director-General of UNESCO in Paris addressed the following message, at the beginning of the year, to all the young throughout the world :

*... International co-operation is both a necessity and an ideal.*

*It is a necessity for modern civilization, because the opportunities for development which this civilization offers can only be exploited,*

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*the problems of development which it presents can only be resolved, by organizing the communication of knowledge, the pooling of resources and the conjunction of efforts within increasingly extensive and complex systems which transcend national boundaries.*

*It is also an ideal—and by this I do not mean a dream, but a moral imperative—for men are coming to realize more and more that they are morally as well as physically interdependent. Each of us is increasingly aware that he cannot be completely happy if others are destitute or live under bondage, that he cannot be really at peace with himself if others are waging war against one another—in short, that he cannot attain his full stature as a man if injustice and want are preventing other men—all of them—from attaining that stature. I say all of them, for, once we admit in our thoughts or in our deeds that some shall be excluded from humanity's family, we lose a part of our own individual humanity.*

*Such is the twofold justification for this international co-operation, which institutions like Unesco are designed to serve, and I call upon you to dedicate yourselves to it from now onwards, with all your enthusiasm and generosity.*

*Please do not misunderstand me. I do not ask you to abandon those tasks which you are to undertake within the context of your family, your career, your country. I only ask you to remember, when carrying out these tasks, that you also belong to a larger family, a broader life and a vaster community, which is mankind. I ask you to realize that the meaning and value of your existence go beyond the immediate confines of your own personal destiny and that you are taking part in the same splendid adventure as the rest of mankind, an adventure which calls for understanding and effort from all. Lastly I ask you to regard every man you meet as a brother, that is, as your equal in dignity, with the same needs and the same hopes, regardless of his race, country, language, social status or beliefs.*

*You are growing up in a period of technological miracles. Your generation will reach the stars, but it is Man that I should like you, above all, to reach, to respect and cherish, in yourselves and in others.*

*May 1965 allow you to progress towards this goal through co-operation and concord, justice and peace!*