

## DISTINCTION

Mr. Juan José Gómez de Rueda y Abril, on his return from Mexico, where he passed several months during which he took part in the highly effective activities of the National Red Cross, presented a report on November 5, 1964 at an ICRC's plenary session. He described the problems facing a National Society in a country which is fully expanding, the urgent tasks it is required to undertake and its need to continue and strengthen the bonds with the Geneva institution.

This report gave rise to wide discussion and was followed by the presentation of the ICRC's silver medal to Mr. de Rueda.<sup>1</sup> The International Committee in this manner wished to demonstrate its appreciation of his unceasing efforts and devotion to the work of the Red Cross. The President, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, expressed these sentiments as follows, to which Mr. de Rueda replied affirming his deep attachment to the Red Cross.

*In presenting you with this award, I would like to recall that, in 1946, you were appointed delegate of the Mexican Red Cross in Europe in succession to your most venerated mother, Mrs. Abril de Rueda, who had performed those duties since 1920 and whose memory I would like to recall, since she herself played such a prominent rôle in the Red Cross world and has been an inspiration to you throughout your career in the service of mankind.*

*In addition to your duties as delegate of the Mexican Red Cross, you shortly afterwards entered the service of the two international institutions of the Red Cross, sharing your time between them, as adviser for Latin America. Thanks to your experience, to your widespread contacts and your literary talent, you have given us very*

---

<sup>1</sup> Plate.

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

*valuable service, for which I would like to thank you today most sincerely. Need I recall that, from 1953 to 1963, namely, a period of ten years, you gave no less than 235 broadcast transmissions in Spanish which had such a resounding effect throughout Latin America? Is it necessary also to recall the preponderant part you took in elaborating the principles of the Red Cross and our movement's doctrine, as well as your participation in conferences and committees of experts in which your advice had such weight? You summarized all these facts and ideas in your book which appeared last year under the title, "The Red Cross in my life, my life in the Red Cross", and which will remain a valuable source of information for all Spanish-speaking people concerning our movement.<sup>1</sup>*

*In the last few months, you have just undertaken a long journey overseas, to your own country and to several others, which you have now described to us and there again you devoted all your time and energy to the Red Cross.*

*You are leaving us today after many years of most fruitful co-operation. We know, however, that you will continue to serve the Red Cross and that we will always be able to depend on your active support.*

*Rest assured that we, for our part, will not forget you and that you will always retain our esteem and friendship.*

---

<sup>1</sup> See article in the *International Review* of August 1964 on this work, originally published in Spanish, entitled « La Cruz Roja en mi vida y mi vida en la Cruz Roja » (Editorial Castalia, Valencia, España 1963).