

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

The heads of the three institutions which, together with the National Societies, constitute the International Red Cross, met on April 22, 1968 at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. These are the Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC and Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies.

They discussed various Red Cross problems. The following points were on the agenda:

- The current activities of the ICRC and the League, including the efforts of the Red Cross for achieving peace, the co-ordination of relief, Vietnam, the Nigerian conflict and the Near East.
- The organization of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, to be held in Istanbul in 1969.

This is one of the regular meetings provided for in the statutes of the International Red Cross.

MEETING OF LEAGUE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS

At a meeting from April 19-20, 1968, in the headquarters of the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva, the President and Vice-Presidents of the League approved plans for continued Red Cross relief work in Vietnam. Since last January donations to a value of

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some 3 million Swiss francs have been announced by National Red Cross Societies, for approximately equal division between North and South Vietnam.

In the field of disaster relief, the committee expressed concern over difficulties encountered recently in the co-ordination of Red Cross relief in certain disasters, where large amounts of spontaneous gifts were sent to countries whose National Societies had not made international appeals. The League is to continue promoting disaster preparedness planning and improving communications to avoid unnecessary relief shipments and secure better co-ordination.

National Societies in Africa, the Near East, South-East Asia and Latin America will again receive in 1969 and 1970 a variety of technical assistance aimed at improving their humanitarian services under the League's Development Programme. Projects approved by the President and Vice-Presidents will be submitted next September to the League Executive Committee for final approval. They range from help to National Societies to get on a sound administrative footing, to training of personnel and supply of equipment for first-aid, health education, home nursing, disaster relief and blood transfusion.

Countries which will receive aid in 1969-70 from National Societies other than their own include: Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malawi, Malaysia, Senegal, Togo and Uganda.

The President and Vice-Presidents approved plans for a European Regional Red Cross Conference, proposed by the French Red Cross, and to be opened in Cannes, France, on April 14, 1969.

One of the main topics of the conference will be co-ordination and pooling of aid from European Red Cross Societies under the Development Programme. It will coincide—in time and place—with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the League which was set up by five National Societies during an International Medical Conference in Cannes in April 1919.
