

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE PRESIDENT'S  
VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA**

Following an invitation which was extended to him over a year ago, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, went to Yugoslavia and was there from May 11 to May 19 on an official visit to the Yugoslav Red Cross, which is this year celebrating the twentieth anniversary of its reconstitution. Mr. Boissier, who was accompanied by Mr. René-Jean Wilhelm, adviser in the Legal Department of the ICR, was warmly welcomed to Belgrade by the Central Committee of this important National Society, particularly by its President, Dr. Gregorić, by Mr. Stisović, President of the Red Cross of the Republic of Serbia and by Mrs. Rupena-Osolnik, Secretary-General.

After a day of discussion with the leaders of the Yugoslav Red Cross and with Federal authorities, Mr. Boissier had the pleasure of paying a visit to the Red Cross Societies of four of the six Republics forming the present-day Federation of Yugoslavia. He went first to Ljubljana and Koper in Slovenia, then to Zagreb in Croatia and finally to Skopje in Macedonia, where he was able to see at first hand the extent of the disaster which struck this town and also of the assistance given through that international solidarity which is one of the main pillars of the Red Cross.

The welcome which he received from these regional Societies, the institutions to which they conducted him and the information which they supplied, enabled the President of the ICRC to observe the development and many activities of this National Red Cross Society, which provides valuable assistance to the public authorities in several fields, particularly in that of health and which also attaches considerable importance to the wide dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and the principles which inspire them.

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Mr. Boissier, for his part, described to his hosts the manifold tasks, practical or doctrinal, which the International Committee undertakes in the world today.

In the course of his stay in Belgrade and the capitals of the other Republics he visited, Mr. Boissier had discussions with government authorities, in particular with Mr. Marković, State Secretary for Health, Mr. Gigov, Vice-President of the Federal Assembly and Mr. Sarajčić, Deputy Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. He also met senior university staff concerned with problems relating to humanitarian or constitutional law as well as to parliamentary institutions.

To conclude this visit to Yugoslavia, the National Red Cross organized a reception at its central headquarters to say farewell to its guests from Geneva. In the course of this, the President of the ICRC and President Gregorić spoke in praise of the links uniting all members of the Red Cross movement for the promotion of the work of mutual assistance and peace which it pursues throughout the world.