

*IN GENEVA***VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE ICRC**

Mr. Jacques FREYMOND will remain Vice-President of the International Committee in 1966, whilst Mr. Guillaume BORDIER has been appointed Vice-President for 1966 and 1967.

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL

The International Committee of the Red Cross has constituted its Presidential Council for 1966 as follows : President : Mr. Samuel A. GONARD ; Vice-Presidents : Mr. Jacques FREYMOND and Mr. Guillaume BORDIER ; Members : Mr. Hans BACHMANN, Mr. Martin BODMER, Mr. Léopold BOISSIER and Mr. Frédéric STORDET.

New Year Message

Like his predecessors in previous years, the President of the International Committee, Mr. S. A. Gonard, recorded the following message, which was sent to many countries :

The year now ending has not brought that improvement in the world situation which all so ardently desire. Whilst some conflicts calmed down, others broke out or became more intense and old hatreds were rekindled. Suffering and distress is still the lot of countless unfortunate human beings, both combatants and non-combatants.

The Red Cross could not relax its efforts for a single moment. For its part, the International Committee of the Red Cross fulfilled its humanitarian mission in Cyprus, in the Congo, in the Yemen, in the Dominican Republic, in Viet Nam, in India, Pakistan and elsewhere in arduous and often dangerous conditions which are imposed upon it in today's conflicts.

However, in spite of obstacles, refusals and the difficulty of getting accepted everywhere the standards of humanity as laid down by the Geneva Conventions, it is comforting to see that the hopes placed in the Red Cross are constantly increasing. More and more people depend and count upon it, especially when it is a question of preserving peace.

The placing of so much confidence implies continuous and ever-widening responsibilities. All who took part in the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross meeting in Vienna last October, were fully aware of this. Coming from every corner of a world tragically torn apart they knew how to silence that which could divide them, in a common desire to serve the Red Cross.

This active fellowship in the face of human suffering expresses the very spirit of our work. May the coming year bring new and striking examples of this.

A token of gratitude

On December 23, 1965, took place the now traditional ceremony in the course of which the International Committee of the Red Cross marks its gratitude to members of the staff with twenty years of service to their credit.

The President of the ICRC, Mr. Gonard, in the presence of several of his colleagues, expressed the institution's thanks. He congratulated all of these staff members for their attachment to the work of the Red Cross and presented them each with a silver tray. The persons concerned were : Miss A. Guyard, Messrs Ch. Ammann, A. Baechler, M. Bays, H. G. Beckh, J. Eggimann, G. Piller, J. Ruff, J. R. Siegrist.

On behalf of his colleagues, Mr. Siegrist thanked the International Committee for its gesture and confidence. He also added