

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

good wishes for the success in Geneva and the rest of the world of the tasks undertaken “ by an institution to which ”, he said, “ we are proud to belong ”.

Distinction

The Australian Red Cross has awarded Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross from 1955 until 1964, its Medal of Honour, with citation, the highest distinction granted by this Society, for his work at the head of the Committee at a time when this institution was faced with particularly difficult decisions.
