

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

RED CROSS SEMINAR IN UGANDA

At the suggestion of the ICRC, a seminar was held in Kampala from 16 to 27 February 1976. It was attended by sixty participants, including twenty-one members of the armed forces, ten from the police force, eleven from the prisons service and eleven from the Ministry of Provincial Administration, while the Ministry of Health sent a number of observers. The ICRC was represented by three delegates, Mr. Gaillard-Moret, Mr. Bédert and Mr. Borel, and the League by Mr. Weyand.

The seminar was divided in two parts, the first part being devoted to lectures followed by discussions on the history and organization of the Red Cross movement, the principles of international humanitarian law, the Geneva Conventions, current ICRC and League activities and the deliberations of the Diplomatic Conference. The second part consisted in first aid courses and practical first-aid training directed by Mr. Weyand.

After the official opening of the seminar by leading Uganda Red Cross officers, Dr. P. Nsereko, dean of the Faculty of Law, Makerere University, spoke on the principles of international humanitarian law. He was followed by Mr. Otto of the Law Development Centre who analysed the similarities and differences between African tradition and international humanitarian law. The ICRC delegates next addressed the participants on various subjects. The lively discussions which ensued and the excellent results obtained by the participants at the final examinations bore witness to the keen interest they displayed in the topics presented. Extensive documentary material had been earlier distributed to them and the films that were shown gave additional illustrations of ICRC activities for the protection of victims, and of Red Cross action for peace.

At the closing session, in the course of which certificates were distributed, the Head of State, Field Marshal Idi Amin Dada, in his address, thanked the ICRC for organizing the seminar and expressed the hope that the Uganda Red Cross would become ever more efficient and active. He

Philippines: In Manila the honorary ICRC delegate reviews the services of Miss Irene F. Francia, the recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal. (Centre, the chairman of the Philippine Red Cross International Affairs Committee.)



Lebanon: the ICRC field hospital, Beirut.





Kampala: Marshal Idi Amin Dada accompanied by delegates of the ICRC and the League. (Centre, the General Secretary of the National Red Cross Society.)

UGANDA

Participants in the Red Cross seminar.



emphasized that it was the duty of the participants attending the seminar to pass on the knowledge they had acquired to those who were serving under their orders and to help in promoting, first of all, the diffusion of the Geneva Conventions. He concluded by saying: "I would like to remind you that Red Cross is non-political, non-sectarian and is purely based on the fundamental principles of humanitarianism. It is for this reason that the Red Cross is officially recognized by Governments and its activities accepted . . . I appeal, once again, to the people of Uganda and the world at large to support this world-wide movement for the good of humanity."¹

PHILIPPINES

As mentioned in our May 1975 issue, one of the recipients of the twenty-fifth award of Florence Nightingale Medals was a Filipino nurse, *Miss Irene F. Francia*. She was presented with the medal during the eleventh national assembly of the Philippine Red Cross Society in Manila on 11 December.

After Mr. Robert Oefeli, the ICRC honorary delegate in the Philippines had addressed the assembly describing Miss Francia's exceptional service and the significance of the award, the medal was pinned to her blouse by Mr. Mamintal A. Tamono, chairman of the International Affairs Committee, who expressed the congratulations and best wishes of the National Society he represented.¹

¹ *Plates.*