

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

RECOGNITION OF THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

GENEVA, May 15, 1961

434th Circular

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross (Red Crescent,
Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you of the official recognition, on May 4, 1961, of the Nigerian Red Cross Society by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This Society applied for recognition by the International Committee by a letter dated March 13, 1961. The application was accompanied by the Government Ordinance of September 29, 1960, which accorded the Society official recognition, together with the text of the Society's statutes.

The study of these documents has shown that the ten conditions for recognition of a new Society have been fulfilled. The documents have also been examined in conjunction with the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies.

The International Committee has pleasure, therefore, in announcing the recognition of this Society, which brings the number of member Societies of the International Red Cross to eighty-six.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Nigerian Red Cross becomes, moreover, the tenth National Society to receive recognition on the African continent.

Until Nigeria acceded to independence, the British Red Cross carried out its work in the country through its Nigeria Central Branch. It was succeeded by the new Society, which was founded on September 29, 1960. According to its Statutes and the government ordinance, it is recognized by the authorities as a voluntary aid society, auxiliary to the public authorities, in particular the Medical Service of the armed forces.

Moreover, its mission is to take action in the event of public disasters and disturbances, to prevent sickness and to train nursing and first-aid personnel. It also continues the numerous activities of the Nigerian Branch of the British Red Cross in the various regions of the country.

Nigeria acceded to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 by virtue of their ratification by Great Britain in 1957. The application of these Conventions was proclaimed by a Government ordinance also published on September 29, 1960.

The Nigerian Red Cross is placed under the patronage of H.E. Mrs. Flora Azikiwe; its President is Sir Adetokunbo Ademola. The President of the Executive Committee is Mr. Justice L. Brett. The Society's headquarters are in Lagos.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has great pleasure in admitting this new Society into the International Red Cross, accrediting it by this notice to all other National Societies and recommends it to their kind attention. It expresses its best wishes for the Society's future and the success of its charitable work.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Léopold BOISSIER

President.