

## WORLD RED CROSS DAY

As in previous years, World Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant. The National Societies of a number of countries organized special celebrations in commemoration of the author of "*A Memory of Solferino*".

Several reviews published articles on this anniversary and in a "Red Cross Week", various Central and local Committees held exhibitions dealing with one aspect or another of their humanitarian activities. In some countries, the postal authorities issued special stamps, in agreement with the national Red Cross Society. As mentioned elsewhere, the international Red Cross broadcast was transmitted directly or relayed by a very large number of countries; the French-speaking programme of the Swiss Television Service commemorated the day with a film on Dunant's life.

As in past years, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Dag Hammarskjöld, published a message, which we reproduce below, on the occasion of World Red Cross Day :

*Of all the demands for emergency aid to which the Red Cross has been asked to respond in recent years, none has involved so much individual sacrifice as meeting the appeal for assistance in the Congo.*

*In answer to my own personal appeal immediately after the Congo crisis began to unfold last July, doctors, nurses and auxiliary medical personnel, recruited by the International Red Cross from twenty-three member societies throughout the world, began arriving in the Congo to staff hospitals and dispensaries which otherwise would have been unable to function.*

*There is no doubt that these medical teams, composed of a total of 168 men and women inspired by the highest humanitarian motives, have saved hundreds of lives and averted what might easily have become a medical catastrophe in the Congo.*

*But administering to the sick and maintaining vital health services is not the complete story of what the World Red Cross movement is*

*doing to relieve suffering and aid the objectives of the United Nations in the Congo. The League of Red Cross Societies, again through the efforts of its national organizations in seventeen countries, has participated in a massive feeding operation in South Kasai province and other afflicted areas. In addition, medical and other relief supplies, distributed with the help of Red Cross field representatives, have been instrumental in easing the situation in a number of areas. The Congolese Red Cross alone is daily distributing milk supplied by the United Nations among 150,000 mothers and children.*

*All of this is being accomplished while the Red Cross continues to meet its obligations and commitments in other parts of the world.*

*In recognition of this great humanitarian work, inspired by Red Cross founder Henri Dunant, I wish on this World Red Cross Day to express my personal gratitude—and I am sure the gratitude of men of good will everywhere—for yet another demonstration of the untiring and selfless response of Red Cross workers to relieve human suffering.*

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