

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

On the other hand, the ITS receives an increasing number of requests for the obtaining of disability benefits. In this connection, the report states: " During the war foreign workers in Germany had, as one knows, to be insured against disability. The ITS often possesses information about these insurances, about the treatment given in a hospital or, at least, about the work carried out or the length of stay in a particular commune. These requests are more often than not made by benevolent societies on behalf of persons under treatment in homes or in hospitals, or by social insurance administrations of " Länder " to whom those concerned submit their claims due. The administration which deals with claims for allowances for Italian workers, for example, has itself alone forwarded nearly a thousand requests of this sort to the ITS. These concerned, moreover, cases which this particular administration was unable to settle in the normal way by other methods and which it considered to be " hopeless cases ". In spite of this, the ITS has been able to deal positively with more than a third of these cases.

In all the number of inquiries received during the period reviewed by the report exceeds 60,000. During the same half-year, the ITS has sent out 89,000 replies, thus making up for some of the delay between these and the number of inquiries made.

At present, there are 213 members on the staff of the ITS compared with 223 at the end of 1960.

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## HEADS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES VISIT THE ICRC

On November 11, the President of the Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Mr. A. Moisescu, arrived in Geneva from Budapest, accompanied by Mr. P. Radu, Vice-President and Mrs. Gorunescu.

An information meeting, presided over by Mr. L. Boissier, took place at the headquarters of the ICRC on November 13 and was devoted to the present activities of the institution <sup>1</sup>.

Speeches were made by Mr. Gallopin and Mr. Pictet, directors, and by other members of the ICRC staff.

In the afternoon, a working meeting provided an opportunity to examine varied problems of mutual interest.

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On November 20, at the headquarters of the International Committee, of which he is President, Mr. Boissier, in the presence of the senior staff, welcomed Mr. H. von Lex, President of the German Red Cross in the German Federal Republic, and Mr. W. Bargatzky, Vice-President <sup>2</sup>.

These two personalities heard a speech by Mr. Pictet, Director, on the development of humanitarian law. Then several members of the ICRC staff described some recent Red Cross actions.

Finally, the International Committee's guests visited the German section of the International Tracing Agency and were shown round by Mr. Jequier, who is head of that Service. Later a work and discussion meeting was held.

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On November 24, the International Committee was happy to welcome at its headquarters Mrs. Clare Nordenson, President of the Swedish Red Cross, who was in Geneva to visit the ICRC and the League. She was accompanied by Mr. Jan de Geer, Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Swedish Red Cross.

Mrs. Nordenson and Mr. de Geer were received by Mr. L. Boissier, and they then had talks with several members of the ICRC staff and saw a film on the activities of the Red Cross.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate*

<sup>2</sup> *Plate*