

IN GENEVA

VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE ICRC

Mr. Guillaume BORDIER will continue as Vice-President of the International Committee in 1967 ; Mr. Frédéric SIORDET has been appointed Vice-President for 1967 and 1968.

PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL

The International Committee of the Red Cross has constituted its Presidential Council for 1967 as follows : President : Mr. Samuel A. GONARD ; Vice-Presidents : Mr. Guillaume BORDIER and Mr. Frédéric SIORDET ; members : Mr. Hans BACHMANN, Mr. Martin BODMER, Mr. Léopold BOISSIER and Mr. Jacques FREYMOND.

New Year Message

Like his predecessors in previous years, the President of the International Committee, Mr. S. A. Gonard, recorded the following message, which was sent to many countries :

Once again, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross sends you good wishes at the close of a year which has not been one of real peace. Fierce conflicts have continued in various parts of the world. This has above all been the case in Vietnam, theatre of a war in which suffering and ruins have accumulated. But in the midst of all this distress, the Red Cross, expressing the spirit of peace, has remained the rallying sign of men and women of goodwill, as a testimony of hope and confidence.

In the vicissitudes of the past year, the International Committee of the Red Cross has intervened, each time it was able to do so, to relieve distress and bring some comfort to the victims of discords which have rent mankind apart. However, if it has felt the satisfaction of coming to the aid of many in misfortune, it has also at times encountered incomprehension which has prevented it from fully accomplishing the humanitarian tasks incumbent upon it. That is why, at this end of year, when men are more inclined than usual to listen to the voice of their hearts, the International Committee appeals to the goodwill of all, so that the principles and ideals of our movement may be better understood and applied, so that hatred and passions may be silenced finally before the desire and ideal of peace which we are attempting to promote.

The activity deployed under the flag of the Red Cross in all parts of the world is one of the most encouraging phenomena of our times. It deserves to be more widely known for, uniting the most varied peoples of the world in friendship, its example is capable, during the present anxieties, of restoring a small measure of hope to us.

Guests of the ICRC

Miss Alice Girard, President, and Miss Helen Nussbaum, Executive Director of the International Council of Nurses, the central headquarters of which have been transferred to Geneva once again, paid a visit to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

They were welcomed by Miss Anny Pfirter, Head of the Medical Personnel Service. They were informed of the various ICRC activities and had discussions with the Directors-General of the ICRC, Mr. Roger Gallopin and Mr. Jean Pictet, concerning questions of common interest to both organizations. They also visited the Records Department of the Central Tracing Agency.

Token of gratitude

On December 22, 1966, took place the by now traditional ceremony at which the International Committee presents a token of gratitude to personnel having twenty years of service to their credit. This year there were three such staff members to whom