

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

Mr. S. A. Gonard, President, expressed the institution's appreciation for their zeal and loyalty to the Red Cross. He presented each of them with a silver platter on which the recipient's name was engraved.

The staff members concerned were Mrs. M. Beurret, Mrs. R. Parmelin and Mr. J. P. Maunoir.

On behalf of his colleagues and in his own name, Mr. Maunoir thanked the International Committee for its gift and for its confidence. He added his wishes for the success of the institution to which, he said, all who worked for it are deeply attached.

### At the Central Tracing Agency

In 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, young A. H. S., who was born in Bilbao in 1929, went to the USSR.

Having been without news of her parents since that date, she applied last summer to the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR in Moscow, in an endeavour to trace any member of her family.

The information supplied by Miss A. H. S. was very vague. She only remembered that her father, P. S., was a musician and airman, that her mother A. S. had studied to be a teacher but never actually followed this calling. She also mentioned that she had an uncle by the name of R.

The Agency contacted the Spanish Red Cross, requesting it to direct its research towards Bilbao. It was able to trace the mother whose family name, transcribed from Russian, was spelt differently in each country. She was still living in Bilbao but her husband had been dead since 1938.

Mrs. S's emotion was so great on learning that her daughter was alive that she was unable to sign the letter she dictated to the Spanish Red Cross, in which she said: " My happiness is so great and I am so moved that I can do no more than say how eager I am to see you again and to embrace you ".

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