

VISIT TO ROME BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, spent several days in Rome from February 15 to 21, 1962.

On the 16th he was received in private audience by His Holiness Pope John XXIII with whom he spoke of various questions likely to interest the Vatican ¹. The Holy Father listened with the utmost benevolence to all that the International Committee's representative had to say and assured him of his very keen interest in the humanitarian action of the Red Cross.

Mr. Boissier was accompanied on his visit to the Vatican by Mr. Pierre Cartier, delegate of the Order of Malta in Switzerland

The following day, Mr. Boissier was received by the Sovereign and Military Order of Malta, where he was greeted by the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, the Duke of Paterno. He then visited the various sections of the Order, conducted by the Grand Master of ceremonies, Marquis Pallavicini.

On February 19 and 20, Mr. Boissier spent his time visiting the different installations of the Italian Red Cross ; he was welcomed with much cordiality and friendliness.

General Guido Ferri, President General, Professor Eduardo Rocchetti, Director General, Sister Paola Menada, National Inspector of Voluntary Nurses, and also Mr. Efsio Nonis, Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, did him the honours of the Red Cross Centre in Rome, especially by showing him the blood transfusion centre, where he was received by Professor Ignazio Liotta, the " Maraini " prevention centre, where he met Dr. Mario Cirelli, its director, the warehouses of the National Society, a rest home for nurses, and finally, the " Agnelli " school, where he was received by Countess Susanna Rattazzi, President of the School Adminis-

¹ *Plate.*



His Holiness Pope John XXIII receiving Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, at the Vatican.



Mr. Boissier, accompanied by Sister Paola Menada, General Ferri and Professor Roccetti, visiting the Italian Red Cross warehouses in Rome...

...and the "Maraini" preventive centre.



trative Council and Provincial Inspector for Rome of Voluntary nurses.

In the afternoon a reception was given at the Orsini Palace by the Italian Red Cross and by the Marchesa Iris Origo, Vice-President of the International Social Service for whom, owing to illness, Countess Flavia della Gherardesca, deputized.

The following day Mr. Boissier was received by the Italian Red Cross at its headquarters. General Ferri, after delivering a most cordial speech, invested the President of the ICRC with the Medal of Merit, the highest distinction which that Society can bestow.

After having visited the various services of the Italian Red Cross, Mr. Boissier took part at a lunch at which were present Mr. Camillo Giardina, then Minister of Health, and Mrs. Giardina. During the afternoon he visited a highways first-aid post of the Italian Red Cross.

Later on, he had the honour of being received by Mr. Gronchi, President of the Republic, and by Mr. Segni, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On his return journey, Mr. Boissier stopped at Milan, where he met Mr. Anselmi, Secretary-General of the Milan Provincial Committee of the Italian Red Cross.

Whilst in Rome the President of the ICRC noted the ever-increasing development of that Society's activities under the direction of its President, General Ferri and of his numerous colleagues, both male and female, all of whom are inspired by a spirit of devotion and attached to Henry Dunant's high ideal.