

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

As in past years, the message of Mr. L. Boissier, President of the ICRC, was this year recorded by the ICRC Broadcasting and Television Service and sent to 95 countries in all the five continents. It was recorded in six languages (French, German, English, Spanish, Italian and Arabic) and the French or English versions were sent to countries speaking other languages so that each broadcasting organization could make a translation. The message is as follows :

We now have the whole of the Red Cross with its 157 million members on the threshold of the year in which the Centenary of its creation will be celebrated. No other date in history deserves recalling with such satisfaction and with so much confidence by all the peoples of the world.

I mean all the peoples, since it is not a question of an event where one nation triumphed over another nation, or where one civilization imposed itself over another. A hundred years ago there were neither victors nor vanquished. Better still there were only victors, all those men to whom a solemn promise had been made that those amongst them who might become victims of war would be given aid, without any exception.

This promise has been kept and the International Committee of the Red Cross has come to the aid of millions of soldiers, wounded, sick or captured in the succession of wars over the past hundred years. The work has also, since 1949, been extended to civilian populations on territory occupied by the enemy, as well as to the victims of civil wars and of internal disturbances. Did not the United Nations only recently ask the International Committee to intervene in the Cuban question to visit vessels bound for that island? Such an intervention far exceeded the mission of the Committee, a neutral and impartial intermediary which never involves itself in the disputes and rivalries of States. Yet, the Committee did not decline this request if, as it was thought for several days, a nuclear war was threatening humanity with its incalculable evils.

Prevention is always better than cure and the Committee would not have been unworthy of its past by helping to save peace. Since

today it is well a question of peace. The Red Cross has proved over the course of a hundred years that one could overcome the suspicion and fears separating the nations. A year ago, its delegate Georges Olivet and his two companions died in the Congo, attempting to give such a proof.

The Committee then asks you all to celebrate the Centenary of 1863 with the Red Cross, by giving it the support and the strength which will help it the better to serve a cause which, it must not be forgotten, is also your own.

TESTIMONIES OF RECOGNITION BY THE ICRC

For some years past the International Committee of the Red Cross has made a point of marking twenty years of service by members of its staff. At a ceremony which took place on December 20, 1962 and in which several members of the International Committee took part, the President, Mr. L. Boissier expressed the institution's recognition of the zeal and loyalty of sixteen staff members, to each of whom he presented a silver salver individually inscribed by name.

These consisted of the following :

Miss F. Aubert, Miss R. Baumann, Mr. H. Brandt, Mr. E. Cuenin, Mrs. G. Durouvenoz, Miss F. Fisch, Mrs. A. Kaiser, Mr. E. Marchand, Mr. R. Marty, Mrs. C. H. Mathez, Mrs. B. Mèche, Miss L. Reymond, Mrs. B. Riederer, Mrs. R. Rusconi, Mrs. J. Stirn and Mrs. M. Witzig.

Mr. Cuenin, on behalf of his colleagues, thanked the ICRC for the confidence it had placed in them. " This work ", he said, " nearly reaching its centenary, appears to us to be more than ever vigorous and worthy of the greatest devotion. This is no doubt due to the profoundly human character of its principles, but also to the dynamism of those who have successively been its animators."
