

*services have been requested and has accepted tasks different from those which it carries out traditionally,*

*Has decided to congratulate the International Committee of the Red Cross for the work which it has undertaken in favour of peace and wishes it every success in the steps which it is taking.<sup>1</sup>*

The success of the VIIth Inter-American Conference and the fact that delegations were present in such large numbers at Puerto Rico show how alive the Red Cross is throughout the American continent in which there are still so many important tasks for it to accomplish.

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## **RED CROSS CENTENARY**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

At the beginning of this year, Dr M. G. Candau, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), addressed the following message to the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies :

*At the start of the centenary year of that historic event, the foundation of the Red Cross, it is fitting that the World Health Organization should pay homage to an institution whose role and achievements it is well able to appreciate.*

*The last hundred years have amply demonstrated the sagacity of the men who in creating the Red Cross sought to unify, foster and*

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<sup>1</sup> La Delegación de Nicaragua se toma la libertad de presentar ante la consideración de la VII.ª Conferencia interamericana la siguiente resolución :

« Considerando que en estos mismos momentos la paz del mundo está siendo amenazada, considerando que es de importancia primordial que la paz del mundo sea conservada invariable por el bienestar de la humanidad, considerando que el Comité internacional de la Cruz Roja se aleja de su labor normal en busca de paz, ha decidido a ofrecer sus servicios, Decide felicitar al Comité internacional de la Cruz Roja por la acción que ha iniciado en favor de la paz y le desea el mayor éxito en sus gestiones. »

*protect throughout the world those devoted individual efforts which, scattered, would be incapable of meeting the needs that in our modern world may arise at any moment from armed conflict or natural disaster. In addition to applying the humanitarian conventions of which it is the originator and guardian, the Red Cross has been a universal source of comfort and succour in circumstances where it alone was able to answer calls for help through its International Committee and the national societies of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun that together form the League.*

*There is more than symbolic significance in the fact that the headquarters of the World Health Organization were established in Geneva, the birthplace of the Red Cross and the world centre of its activity. From the very beginning, this proximity has favoured a constant and fraternal co-operation that has been all the easier to realise since some of the basic principles of the older body are reflected in the WHO Constitution. Instances of co-operation in the recent past spring readily to mind : there was occasion to render immediate and extensive assistance to a large country that had newly achieved independence but whose people at the same time found themselves suddenly deprived of even the indispensable minimum of health protection ; there was also in another country the urgent need to provide treatment and rehabilitation services for thousands of sufferers from mass poisoning. In addition to such emergency measures—and there have been many others—the daily contact maintained between the Red Cross and WHO makes it possible for effective if unobtrusive concerted action to be taken at a moment's notice.*

*The World Health Organization is proud of its association with the great enterprise that sprang from the generous mind of Henry Dunant, and expresses the wish that in the centuries to come the Red Cross may continue to exert its efforts, which are among the most noble that man has ever pursued.*

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