

An appeal has just been made to all National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies to obtain the qualified personnel and financial resources needed.

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### CONFERENCE OF BALKAN NATIONAL SOCIETIES

A Conference of Balkan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was held at Opatija, Yugoslavia, from 13 to 18 November 1972. Delegates of the Yugoslav, Bulgarian, Romanian and Hellenic Red Cross Societies and of the Turkish Red Crescent participated. The League was represented by Mr. H. Beer, Secretary General, who was accompanied by Mr. V. Semoukha, Mr. Z. Hantchef, Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot and other members of the League Secretariat. Lady Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, attended the gathering, as did the ICRC, represented by Mr. H. Huber, Vice-President, and Mr. P. Gaillard, Assistant Director, and delegates of the Austrian and Italian Red Cross Societies.

The general purpose of the meeting was to study the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross as a factor contributing to co-operation between National Societies and to friendship between peoples. The agenda included a number of items on which papers were submitted by some of the Societies: *Youth Today—The Future belongs to the Young* (Bulgaria), *The Red Cross in the Field of Health—Health Education of the Public—The Role of the Nurse* (Hellenic Red Cross), *Red Cross—Factor of Peace* (Romanian Red Cross), *The Vital Importance of First Aid* (Turkish Red Crescent), and *Development of International Humanitarian Law* (Yugoslav Red Cross). When the latter subject came up for discussion, Mr. Gaillard spoke about the ICRC's activities and the effort which was being made to disseminate the Geneva Conventions. Several Balkan Societies were actively pursuing that effort in their respective countries. With regard to the Red Cross and peace, he reminded the meeting of the educational action launched by the

ICRC by means of a number of publications, in particular the school textbook which was distributed to schoolchildren in a great many countries.

The League of Red Cross Societies submitted a report entitled *Solidarity in Case of Disaster*, in which Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot stressed the importance of agreements on mutual assistance, a concept which has developed considerably in Red Cross circles in recent years.

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### **REAPPRAISAL OF THE ROLE OF THE RED CROSS**

It will be recalled that the Standing Committee of the International Red Cross, at its meeting in Cannes on 22 April 1970, considered certain aspects of a "reappraisal of the role of the International Red Cross in the light of present-day conditions" and that it requested the ICRC and the League to undertake a joint study of those problems.

Complying with that request, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies announced the formation of a Joint Committee for the Reappraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. At the same time, Mr. Donald Tansley (Canada) was appointed Director of the "Reappraisal" which will be a profound study of the present and future role of the Red Cross throughout the world.

Mr. Tansley, who is presently Executive Vice-President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will assume his new functions on 1 February 1973, in Geneva.

The purpose of the "Reappraisal"—which is expected to take from two to three years—is to collect meaningful data and relevant information leading to objective conclusions concerning Red Cross policy and organization, necessary to meet challenges which confront the Red Cross today and which are likely to develop in coming decades.

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