

Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross took place in Bucharest, from 15 to 21 October 1977, and was attended by some 700 delegates, representing 104 National Red Cross Societies, the ICRC, the League and 83 governments. Various governmental and non-governmental organizations had also been invited to send observers. The Conference was chaired by Major General Constantin Burada, President of the Romanian Red Cross.

OPENING CEREMONY

At the opening ceremony on 15 October, the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr. Nicolas Ceausescu, gave the following address in the presence of 3,000 persons :

“I take special pleasure in expressing my joy—and also on behalf of the State Council and of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania—that Bucharest, the capital city of my homeland, is the venue for this outstanding international Conference and in conveying to all the participants in the Twenty-third International Red Cross Conference warm greetings and best wishes for success.

The International Red Cross Conference takes place at a time when mankind is faced with highly complex questions—political, economic and social—when zones of conflict and tension, including armed conflicts among States, continue to exist in the world. Painful realities of our time, such as economic backwardness, hunger, malnutrition,

disease, still cause suffering to scores upon scores of millions of people, strongly afflicting human beings on vast areas of our planet.

Romania considers that rallying the advanced, progressive forces should take precedence in international life, together with the efforts made by nations to seek solutions to all these serious questions so as to bring benefits to the masses and co-operation among nations, in order to achieve the progress, welfare and happiness of mankind, and peace in the world. . .

We are living in an historic epoch of radical, political, social and national changes in the lives of people all over the world, in all fields of human activity and knowledge and in the development of science. . . All nations wish for a world free of wars and devastating conflicts, where differences would be settled by way of negotiations and agreement, a world the ultimate aim of which would be to be of service to man and to bring about his welfare and happiness. . .

It is our opinion that the Red Cross can contribute to a large extent to the cause of progress and peace; it cannot stand aloof from the concern of nations seeking to solve the serious world questions I have referred to. Besides, the basic aims of the Red Cross strongly plead in favour of the idea that it should make it a point of honour to struggle for the attainment of the priority desiderata of mankind and to build a better and juster world on our planet. We believe that to struggle for these cardinal ideals of humanity is the best way that the Red Cross can fulfil its noble mission, the way it can get even greater praise and gratitude from mankind, from the peoples throughout the world.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the International Red Cross and the National Red Cross Societies for the support they gave to the Romanian people after the terrible earthquake of March 4. For us it was—and we still see it in that way—an expression of solidarity among peoples, an illustration of the fact that, beyond the differences that exist among States, differences of size, of political nature or of any other kind, the international organizations—and I refer here to the Red Cross—can play an active role in making humanitarian principles of solidarity and co-operation among peoples triumph.

In a world confronted with so many imperative demands, the National Red Cross Societies can co-operate successfully in attaining the lofty humanitarian goals by which they are inspired. I express my conviction that the measures you adopt and the conclusions you reach

during the debates will mark a step forward in fulfilling the noble mission incumbent on the Red Cross, enhancing still more the contribution of this important social movement to the worldwide effort for the dignity, liberty and happiness of all men and women.”

The Chairman of the Standing Commission, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, thanked the Romanian Red Cross for its welcome:

“The Standing Commission was indeed pleased to accept the invitation of the Romanian Red Cross Society to meet in this beautiful and historic city of Bucharest which has, in spite of a recent and devastating natural disaster, welcomed the delegates to this, the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, with open arms and smiling faces.”

He then stated his conviction as a man of the Red Cross, his confidence in the ideals which motivate the movement, and his attachment to the fundamental principles which guide it: humanity, or compassion for those who suffer; impartiality, or lack of discrimination as to race, nationality, religious beliefs or political opinions; neutrality, “the most precious asset of Red Cross”; independence; equality; unity; and universality. “Our debates in the past week have been far-reaching and valuable, but throughout them all the desire for unity has been evident because we all have made great endeavours to understand the views of all. We have not forgotten and will not forget the great universality of the Red Cross, a worldwide institution in which all Societies have equal status.”

These simple words strongly impressed the audience and the reminder of the fundamental principles served as an epigraph to the Conference proceedings which bore the clear stamp of the Red Cross spirit.

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Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, then addressed the Assembly:

“On accepting the task of organizing this Conference, the Romanian Red Cross, with the help of the Government of this generous country, has rendered signal service to the cause of the Red Cross. Allow me to

express to both the deep gratitude of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

I should also like to pay the same tribute to the Romanian people who, led by their President, bravely answered the challenge of the forces of nature on that tragic day of last March and who have already rebuilt, at the cost of exceptional efforts, the greater part of the town which welcomes us today.

Many speakers have spoken or will speak about the deep significance of our Bucharest meeting. During our last session at Teheran in 1973, our hearts were heavy at the sounds of war. Today, alas, the world situation is still profoundly troubled. As I speak to you, men, women and children in many countries are suffering or dying in hospitals or on the battlefield. Today, as yesterday, victims in deep distress call out for help. The Red Cross is therefore constantly on the alert. As members of our movement, we are permanently mobilized to help all victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters.

It is true that men and women of good will, and national and international organizations nearly everywhere in the world, are devoting their efforts to reconciling the antagonisms which divide our world. At times, the gulf between conflicting opinions is so wide that these efforts may appear to be derisory. Yet they must be encouraged and we must never lose hope. We ourselves, as members of the Red Cross, inasmuch as we participate in many activities, contribute to those efforts to promote greater understanding in the world.

I should like to recall one positive result of our efforts; in June last, agreement was reached on the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, in the drafting of which the Red Cross was associated for so many years. Let us hope that the new rules will be quickly accepted; and let us also hope that the respect of the old ones, as well as the essential humanitarian norms in general, will continuously be present in the minds of the competent authorities thereby giving proof of their determination to act in accordance with acceptable standards of civilization.

While the development of humanitarian law was a major theme of the preceding International Conferences, this meeting focuses on another theme—which, also by a striking coincidence, reaches a kind of fulfilment this year. I am referring to the “Re-appraisal of the role of the Red Cross”, a critical self-examination to which the Red Cross submitted of its own will in order to be able to serve even better in the future.

Our debates will show the extent to which the report which served as a basis for this re-appraisal succeeded in distinguishing the major issues. In any case, one could not remain indifferent to the study perseveringly carried out by the author of the report in order to educe what it is that characterizes our movement, what distinguishes it from others; in short, what gives it its unique character—and this I say with the modesty appropriate to a Red Cross worker.

To the newcomer to our movement this unique character might first be apparent in its external signs, in its structures, for instance, in this Conference where representatives of governments and of private societies sit together, or in our organization consisting of an international federation of national bodies and a uninational committee with an international vocation.

But on taking a closer look, this newcomer will see that what really distinguishes the Red Cross from all other movements is that it is in duty bound—as laid down in the international Conventions and in its Statutes—to give its protection and its assistance impartially to all victims of armed conflicts and natural disasters, with no distinction as to race, nationality, political opinion or religious beliefs. For the Red Cross there are not only, on the one hand, “good people” to be given relief and, on the other, “bad people” to be abandoned to their fate; there are only victims.

It is true that our movement does not have the monopoly of human solidarity, but in it it has—or should have—pride of place. As I have just recalled, it is the only movement to which governments have given the difficult and delicate task of maintaining this solidarity in all circumstances, however bad.

I have said that this is a difficult and delicate task. When weapons thunder and when hatred is at its very height, experience shows that it is not easy for those in the throes of battle to accept assistance from an institution which cannot and will not take sides in the conflict. To carry out its mission, it is essential for the Red Cross to abstain from taking any political stand whatsoever. It must remain completely neutral.

May this Conference contribute to bringing more clearly into evidence the specific character of the Red Cross—its role as a neutral, impartial and independent institution—to permit governments to understand it better and enable all Red Cross bodies, with their assistance, to achieve

this role more effectively. This is the wish put forward by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

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Finally, Mr. J. A. Adefarasin, who had just been elected President of the League of Red Cross Societies, delivered the following address:

It is a great privilege for me to express to President Ceausescu my very profound gratitude for the cordial hospitality which has been extended to the delegates of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies and to government representatives. . .

How can I, on this occasion, avoid referring to the vitality of the Romanian Red Cross, one of the oldest public welfare organizations of the country. . . May I now, on behalf of all National Societies, express our whole-hearted admiration and sincere gratitude to all those who united their efforts to ensure the smooth running of our work.

I can already say that the League meetings which have just taken place, and in which many of you took part, were particularly significant for a number of reasons.

The Twenty-second Conference, organized in Teheran four years ago by the Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society was the final opportunity to present the Red Cross world's point of view on the new Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, while the Twenty-third Conference is called upon to draw conclusions from the Tansley Report regarding the future of our movement.

It should take a decision on the basic role of the Red Cross and on the resulting activities in the spheres of protection and assistance.

Under the term "protection", many National Societies have already taken measures regarding the dissemination of international humanitarian law.

The same applies to "assistance." Here again, the proposals in the Tansley Report led to co-operation within the International Red Cross on the one hand, and with other bodies, such as the United Nations, on the other.

Another point of undisputed importance at the Conference is the contribution of the Red Cross to peace.

I would not like to go without drawing attention to the leading role which young members of the Red Cross—the pillars of our movement—

can play in furthering peace and to the ways in which this youthful energy can serve the Red Cross.

We live in a world hit by tragedies of all kinds caused by the forces of nature; we live in a world beset by violence where crises and trials of strength weigh more heavily each day on the lives of all those aspiring to peace and safety, where the shadow of war is ever present, where conflicts may worsen and spread all over the world.

It is therefore vital for the role of the Red Cross to be clearly defined, so that prompt and effective action can be taken. The organization to which we are proud to belong must continue its humanitarian mission.

In conclusion, I would, in my capacity as President of the League of Red Cross Societies, express my sincere gratitude to the Romanian Red Cross which has kindly agreed to host the Twenty-third Conference. It is a great pleasure for me to see so many delegates of National Societies and governmental representatives present here.

May our work under the principles of unity and universality keep its constructive character and give our movement a new impetus so that it may be ready to meet the requirements of tomorrow.

THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference split into three Commissions, each of which was to study a certain number of the items on the agenda and to prepare draft resolutions to be submitted in plenary meeting. The Chairmen of the Commissions were Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed (President of the Malaysian Red Crescent), Jonkheer G. Kraijenhoff (President of the Netherlands Red Cross) and Dr. R. Brzozowski (President of the Polish Red Cross).

Commission on Protection and Assistance

The Report on the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law was submitted to this Commission by the ICRC Vice-President, Mr. Jean Pictet. Hearty expressions of thanks were addressed to the Swiss Government and to the ICRC for their part in and their work during the Conference. A resolution was adopted inviting States to ratify the Protocols as early as possible.

The report on the European Red Cross Seminar on the Dissemination of Knowledge of the Geneva Conventions, held at Warsaw in March 1977, was also warmly received. The hope was expressed that similar events would take place in other parts of the world.

Draft resolutions were adopted on the dissemination of knowledge of the Geneva Conventions and of the Principles of the Red Cross, on Red Cross radiocommunications, on measures to expedite international relief, on the taking of hostages, on famine and various other subjects.

General and Organizational Commission

The report presented by Mr. Alexandre Hay, President of the ICRC, on the activities of the ICRC since the previous International Conference of the Red Cross in Teheran in 1973 did not give rise to any discussion. The National Societies of Lebanon, Congo and Iran expressed their thanks to the ICRC.

A moderately worded resolution on the application of the fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories in the Middle East was adopted by a large majority. It expressed the Conference's deep concern for the situation of the Arab civilian population of the occupied territories and called upon the Occupying Power to acknowledge its obligations under the Convention.

The Commission moreover adopted a resolution condemning all forms of torture, considering that torture offended the conscience of mankind and, by the hatred which it engendered, threatened peaceful relations between peoples. Other resolutions were adopted on weapons of mass destruction and on the financing of the ICRC.

Commission on Community Services and Development

The matters discussed by the Commission, all of which were the subjects of resolutions, were of a technical nature concerning primarily the activities of the League and National Societies in the fields of blood transfusion, health and social welfare, development, and environment.

The only questions of direct consequence to the ICRC concerned information and youth. In this respect, the delegates of the National Societies were unanimous in acknowledging the excellent co-operation

between the ICRC and League and which was reflected on the overall image of the Red Cross movement.

In connection with the draft resolution on the joint effort of National Societies and governments for improving health and social well-being, some delegations expressed reservations as to certain assertions on overpopulation in the world and its consequences.

Plenary meetings

All the resolutions approved by the Commissions were adopted in plenary by acclamation, except two which had to be put to a vote. Those two resolutions had previously also given rise to difficulties at the Commission stage, as was mentioned above. In brief, the decisions taken at Bucharest in the form of resolutions have to do with all aspects of Red Cross activities: development and teaching of international humanitarian law, disaster relief, blood donation, environment protection, contribution to peace and so forth. These resolutions will be published in the December 1977 issue of the *International Review*.

Election of Standing Commission

Finally the Conference elected for the next four years five of the nine members of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, namely: Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh (United Kingdom), Chairman; Professor Werner Ludwig (Democratic German Republic), Vice-Chairman; Dr. Ahmad Abu-Goura (Jordan); Mr. Rito Alcantara (Senegal) and Mr. Kai Warras (Finland). The other four members of the Standing Commission are the representatives of the ICRC and the League.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Before the opening of the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, the Board of Governors and the Council of Delegates of the League of Red Cross Societies held, also at Bucharest, their statutory meetings in the week from 10 to 15 October 1977.

Board of Governors

New League President and Vice-Presidents

On 11 October, the Board of Governors elected Mr. J. A. Adefarasin, President of the Nigerian Red Cross Society and Chief Justice of the High Court of the State of Lagos, to be President of the League General Assembly.

Mr. Adefarasin was elected for a term of four years and succeeded Mr. J. Barroso, who was the League's Chairman for twelve years.

On taking leave of Mr. Barroso, the Board of Governors expressed to him its deep gratitude for having presided with so much distinction over the League's destinies for twelve years and paid tribute to his great devotion to its cause.

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The same day the Board of Governors elected the League's Vice-Presidents for the next few years. The new Vice-Presidents are: Dr. F. Stanton (United States of America), Marchioness Casilda de Silva de Santa Cruz (Spain), Dr. V. A. Baltyiski (USSR), Jonkheer G. Kraijenhoff (Netherlands), Tunku Tan Sri Mohamed (Malaysia), Mr. R. J. Kane (Canada), Mr. Carraud (France) and Dr. B. Raspopović (Yugoslavia).

The new members received the congratulations and good wishes of the whole of the Red Cross.

Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates, composed of representatives of the National Societies, ICRC and League, carried out a preliminary survey of the main subjects which the International Conference was to deal with in the next few days. Most of these had some connection with the recommendations of the Report on the Re-appraisal of the Role of the Red Cross. Several draft resolutions were formulated for submission to the Conference, on such subjects as torture, health, environment, famine, education and teaching.

The Council of Delegates adopted by consensus the report presented by the Working Group on Peace. It took a decision requesting the League to include the interpretations of the Working Group in the

report on the World Red Cross Conference on Peace at Belgrade. The decision also mentioned that the implementation by the Red Cross institutions of the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace should fully respect the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and take the aforesaid interpretations into account. Finally, in its decision, the Council of Delegates considered that the Working Group had fulfilled its mandate.

The Council of Delegates decided to establish a Commission whose members would be solely representatives of the Red Cross, appointed by the Presidents of the League and of the ICRC, and whose task would be to follow up the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Red Cross as a Factor of Peace.

The Council of Delegates moreover decided to constitute a working group to study all questions relating to the emblems of the Red Cross movement. This working group will consist of representatives of the National Societies of Iran, Malaysia, Niger, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, USA and USSR, and of the League, the ICRC and the Henry Dunant Institute.

CONCLUSION

The Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross was undoubtedly a great success. In spite of the difficult nature of the subjects dealt with and the conflicting views expressed, the cohesion, unity and universality of the Red Cross were strengthened by the comprehension shown by all the delegates and by their determination to co-operate and to be loyal and steadfast to the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

Such were also the sentiments expressed by Mr. A. Hay, ICRC President, in his closing address :

“... I think it can be said of our Bucharest meeting that it was a “good conference.” The proper spirit was manifestly there, and the discussions were lively. The theme of the re-appraisal of the role of the

Red Cross—which was at the centre of the Conference debates—allowed us to advance, by getting the governments to be associated this time with our work, along the path of a clearer understanding and a stronger awareness of what the Red Cross truly stands for and of what it can and wants to do in the years ahead. The time available was certainly too short to seek at this stage to draw conclusions on a number of important questions. We shall continue to devote more thought on these matters.

While I was making preparations for this Conference, I was somewhat apprehensive of a possible split in our movement regarding certain questions of a controversial nature. I was happy to see that this danger was averted to a great extent and that our movement has without a doubt emerged more united today than it ever was before the Conference. We are all convinced that the unity of the Red Cross is our most valuable asset; unity is essential to our action and to our credibility and moral authority in this world. The majority of the resolutions obtained unanimous approval: that is a sign of our unity.

We have been given new impetus, by the Conference which had just ended, by the discussions on the topics which have taken place and by the spirit in which they were approached, to fulfil our daily tasks. May this impetus continue with constant vigour, for a living institution must keep on revising its thoughts on its own problems and must adapt itself to changing circumstances in the world if it is to remain true to its mission.”

HENRY DUNANT MEDAL AWARDS

At the plenary session on 15 October, Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, presented the Henry Dunant Medal to four persons: Baroness J. Mallet of the French Red Cross, Sergeant Saing Aung Hlaing Myint of the Burma Red Cross, Countess Etta von Walderssee of the Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Duke of Hernani of the Spanish Red Cross.

The Henry Dunant Medal was created by the Twentieth Red Cross Conference at Vienna in 1965. It is designed to recognize and reward exceptional services or acts of devotion to the Red Cross cause by one of its members. It is awarded every two years to a maximum of five persons. Winners of the awards are chosen by the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross.

Baroness Mallet

The presentation of the Henry Dunant Medal to Baroness Mallet of the French Red Cross paid tribute to over 50 years of service to the victims of war and to handicapped children.

During the First World War Baroness Mallet served as a French Red Cross nurse in the surgical section of two hospitals. The Second World War saw her assisting refugee mothers and children in south-west France, and organising medical services for prisoners of war. Under her leadership tuberculosis screening was carried out in 141 POW camps and working detachments in France. As Director of the POW medico-social services of the French Red Cross, she organised hospital units and convalescent centres throughout France and, heading a staff of over 3,000, ran medical and social services for repatriated prisoners and their families throughout the war.

During the last 30 years Baroness Mallet has devoted her energies to providing facilities for the treatment and rehabilitation of sick and handicapped children, in homes and rehabilitation centres.

Sergeant Saing Aung Hlaing Myint

Sergeant Saing Aung Hlaing Myint, a Burma Red Cross volunteer, was awarded the Henry Dunant Medal for an outstanding act of courage.

In January 1977, Sergeant Myint, a 21-year-old student convalescing from malaria, saw an army lorry fall from a ferry into the rapid current of the Irrawaddy River. He plunged into the water, and at a depth of 18 feet extricated the unconscious driver from the cab of the lorry, swam back to the ferry with the driver and restored him to life by mouth to mouth respiration.

Etta Countess Waldersee

Countess Waldersee was awarded the Henry Dunant Medal for outstanding service with her National Society, the Red Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany, in war and peacetime.

During the Second World War Countess Waldersee served as a special delegate for tracing questions concerning prisoners of war. In the chaotic conditions that prevailed in the immediate post-war period her moral courage and authority helped resolve many difficult situations. She played a leading role in the re-formation of her National Society in 1950, when she became its Vice-President. In the years that followed she worked unstintingly, at home and abroad, to win national support for the ideals of the Red Cross and to raise the prestige of her Society internationally.

Duke of Hernani

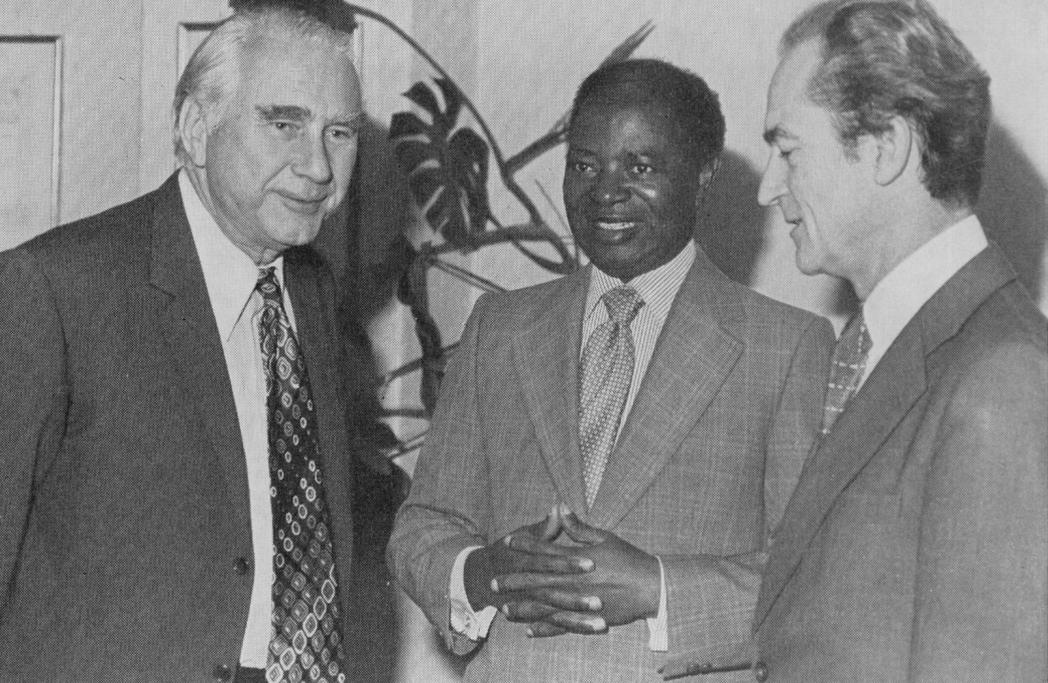
The Henry Dunant Medal was awarded to Manfred Borbon de Quiros Borbon Munoz y Braganza, Duke of Hernani, for his services to prisoners of war, refugees and war victims over the course of many years.

The Duke, now 80 years old, started his Red Cross career in 1938 when he was appointed Governor of the Spanish Red Cross to the League. In 1944 he became head of the Foreign Information Bureau of the National Society and in 1947 a member of the supreme Assembly of the Spanish Red Cross, retaining these posts until his retirement in 1976.

The Duke of Hernani had a long and fruitful Red Cross career. During the Spanish Civil War, he was instrumental in the repatriation



Opening ceremony of the International Conference of the Red Cross on 15 October 1977.



Mr. J. A. Adefarasin, President of the League of Red Cross Societies, at ICRC headquarters on 2 November 1977, with Mr. A. Hay, President of the ICRC and Mr. M. A. Naville, former President of the ICRC.

The four persons awarded the Henry Dunant Medal at the Twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross in Bucharest.



of children and reuniting them with their families. In the Second World War, his efforts made possible the despatch of hundreds of parcels to prisoners of war and, after the end of the war, the payment of pensions by Germany to the widows and orphans of Spanish nationals.

The President of the Spanish Red Cross accepted the medal on behalf of the Duke, who was unable to travel to Bucharest.

GRATITUDE EXPRESSED BY LEBANON

At a plenary session, Lebanese Ambassador Mahmoud Banna expressed the gratitude of his country for the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross as a whole and of the ICRC during the tragic events afflicting Lebanon in recent years, saying:

“On behalf of my people and my Government, I wish to thank all the nations, international institutions and voluntary agencies which have helped Lebanon, in particular the great family of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun. During the emergency phase, donors from many countries, through the ICRC, contributed to the assistance of the victims.

“The ICRC and the Lebanese Red Cross were confronted in our country by situations in which the carrying out of their mission was often impeded by the very nature of the events, and had to employ all their diplomacy and experience to induce the various armed groups to ensure respect by their combatants for the basic principles of humanity. Despite the atmosphere of insecurity, constant danger and many difficulties of all kinds, the ICRC was able to accomplish a great work in providing protection, medical assistance and food.

“The world community as a whole contributed to this action. More than 49 millions Swiss francs worth of material and 11 million francs in cash made possible the extension of this work for the civilian population. . . A field hospital cared for a great number of wounded, and carried out more than 4,000 surgical operations.

“No one will forget the impartial action of the ICRC and the Red Cross at Tell al-Zaatar.

“After the intensification of the conflict and in the face of the impossibility of crossing the demarcation lines, a great number of requests for news from different zones were addressed to the ICRC, and about

2,500 families thus had their fears relieved. An action like that of the ICRC cannot be judged by counting the kilograms of medicine and food distributed to our people, but rather through the dedication of every one of the sixty Swiss delegates in Lebanon and of the many Lebanese working with them, who worked without letup to help our people, often at the risk of their own lives. The principles of the Red Cross once again proved their value.

“The Government and people of Lebanon will forever remember that the Swiss Government, by its unceasing and generous support for the noble humanitarian cause represented by the International Red Cross, showed that it was no accident that enabled that institution, like a seed, to grow and develop in that country, and like a giant tree to spread across the world. There is something in common between the historic destiny of the Swiss people and the humanitarian and impartial spirit of the Red Cross to which I should like to render the greatest tribute that can be extended to a country, its government and its people. . .”

INFORMATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Television news

Every day during the course of the Conference, 10-minute closed circuit television news programmes were produced by a team composed of specialists from the ICRC and the League of Red Cross Societies.

In addition to Conference news, interviews and coverage of the various sessions, each programme provided a summary of world news, drawn from morning press despatches. The texts were read in French or English.

The programme was presented to delegates during coffee breaks.

A documentary film was also recorded on video cassettes. The 8-minute film, made in the streets of Bucharest and in the city's hospitals, depicted the earthquake of 4 March and showed the reconstruction of a damaged hospital. It was presented in the course of one of the daily news programmes. Only a French version was made.

It was the first time that such a televised journal was shown at an International Red Cross Conference. For many delegates, who showed keen interest in the technique, it opened up new vistas for the solution of many problems of information and personnel training.

Daily bulletin

Another joint team, with members from the ICRC, the League and the British Red Cross, compiled a daily information bulletin for Conference participants, with editions in English, French and Spanish. The bulletin had news on the progress of work in the commissions, working groups and plenary sessions, along with general information about Romania, host country for the Conference.

Sanatatea

The Romanian Red Cross, which publishes a monthly magazine entitled "Sanatata" (Health) produced a special October issue for the Conference. Ordinarily published only in Romanian, "Sanatatea" for October had a French version as well. It included, notably, texts by Major General C. Burada, President of the Romanian Red Cross, Mr. J. Barroso, retiring President of the League of Red Cross Societies and Mr. A. Hay, President of the ICRC. Several pages of the finely illustrated magazine were devoted to the various activities of the Romanian Red Cross, which celebrated its hundredth anniversary last year.
