

The number of patients is expected to rise; announcements are being broadcast on radio and television for all disabled to come forward. At the same time, various kinds of material, mainly surgical plastic and resin and other equipment, will soon be sent by the ICRC, and specialists to reinforce the Lebanese team.

ICRC aid will be extended to the paraplegics, who are in need of wheelchairs and medical care. There is also a demand for artificial eyes which, while they do not restore sight, at least give the patient a more natural appearance and help him to have more confidence in life.

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### APPEAL TO NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The International Review *wishes to give its readers every month, under the heading "In the Red Cross World", reports on the organization and principal activities of the National Red Cross Societies.*

*To do this, the editor uses the documents he has available, such as reports by delegates and brochures and periodicals published by the Societies.*

*The Review would like to go beyond this and publish texts written by the Societies themselves. It therefore asks Red Cross Societies to send texts, and if possible photos, dealing with their main activities, their problems and their plans for the future. The Review is convinced that its readers would be greatly interested in such material, which would certainly contribute to the exchange of ideas and enable each Society to benefit from experience elsewhere.*

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### TWENTY-THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS

In its January 1977 issue, the International Review of the Red Cross published the provisional programme and agenda of the twenty-third International Conference of the Red Cross, to be held at Bucharest from 15 to 21 October 1977. Previously, starting on 4 October, various other meetings will take place: the Board of Governors, the Council of Delegates and other bodies of the League of Red Cross Societies.

In January, the Red Cross of Romania sent notices of convocation to the States signatories to the Geneva Conventions, to recognized National Societies, and to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies, all of which are full members of the Conference. Invitations were also sent to a number of observers.

The Romanian National Society, at the end of its letter of convocation, expressed the earnest hope, which will be shared by all, that the Conference would achieve significant advances in the work of the Red Cross throughout the world and contribute to the reinforcement of fellowship and peace among all nations.

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### WORLD RED CROSS DAY

The world in which we live is a world of violence and aggression between States and between individuals. Every day the information media bring us further examples of violence.

The Red Cross, now more than a century old, was founded to assist war victims, but over the years its role grew to cover any activities aimed at easing human suffering. It is natural, therefore, that it should draw the attention of public opinion to the perpetual drama of collective and individual violence, and it has chosen the theme "Red Cross: Peace through people" for its 30th World Red Cross Day.

In this way, it wishes to make each individual fully aware of the practical and permanent role he can play in this universal action for the cessation of all aggressivity and all hostility, the prelude to that genuine and deeply anchored peace that every human being desires for the world and for himself.

Such awareness will certainly promote the development of a "spirit of peace". This will begin with the individual in his private life and at work, then will extend to the community to which he belongs, leading finally to a lasting peace not only between people, but also between governments and States throughout the world.

The cry "Tutti fratelli" that rang out after Solferino sums up admirably the worldwide struggle of the Red Cross against suffering, poverty, hunger and other evils.

The very fact that the Red Cross strives continually to gather and unite mankind under the flag of active universal solidarity serves the cause of peace, and it can truly put itself across to public opinion as a factor and symbol of peace.

On this World Red Cross Day, anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant in Geneva, an appeal is made to the conscience of each one of us to adopt as an intimate conviction the words of the Red Cross founder: ". . . To encourage the idea of solidarity between nations in doing good is to oppose war. By seeking the most appropriate means of overcoming obstacles to mankind's well-being we promote ideas of peace and humanity."