

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.

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."
