

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

It should be added that the Institute is preparing a certain number of publications aimed at members of the Red Cross and the general public and also, of a technical character, for specialists.

The very diverse activities of the Henry Dunant Institute will be described in a report which will be presented to the International Conference at Istanbul. National Societies will thus have the opportunity of being widely informed on the subject.

KUWAIT SEMINAR

As is known, meetings are organized in various parts of the world by the League of Red Cross Societies. National Societies of different regions are thus able to examine together those problems facing them. Following the one which took place in Rabat in 1966, a second seminar of National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies of the Middle East and North Africa was held in Kuwait from 25 to 29 January 1969. Organized on the initiative of the Kuwait Red Crescent, the seminar assembled representatives of the National Societies of Algeria, Irak, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the UAR, as well as delegates of the League and the International Committee. Several observers of Societies being formed in this part of the world were also present.

The seminar was officially opened by Mr. Abdul-Aziz Ibrahim Al-Fulcij, Minister of Health, representing H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait. The seminar took place under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul-Aziz Hammad Al-Sager, President of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

The seminar's work bore chiefly on the problems facing a certain number of Middle East countries over several years. An entire day was thus devoted to the question of refugees and displaced persons and, in particular, the role which National Societies have to play in

this sphere. Various proposals were made with a view to giving more effective aid. On this occasion the President of the Jordanian Red Crescent asked the League to launch an appeal on behalf of thousands of refugees and displaced persons living in extremely difficult conditions on the outskirts of Amman and on the East bank of the Jordan.

Delegates exchanged their views at length and described recent information from their respective National Societies concerning first-aid, the prevention of accidents, finance and information.

The presence at the seminar of two ICRC representatives enabled participants to make wide discussion of the problem of the application of the Geneva Conventions and also of the question of revising the rules of war, a subject which is inscribed on the agenda of the next International Conference of the Red Cross at Istanbul.

Amongst the many recommendations adopted at the end of the seminar, we would specially mention the following: The one appealing to National Societies with a view to bringing medical aid to the People's Republic of South Yemen; the second concerning aid for Iran and Syria after the heavy floods in parts of both those countries; and the third which requests the ICRC to continue its humanitarian activity in the Middle East and to use every means to ensure the widest possible application of the Geneva Conventions.