

*IN GENEVA***Honorary Members of the ICRC**

At its plenary session of 3 December 1969 the International Committee appointed Mr. Jacques Chenevière, Mrs. Marguerite Gautier-van Berchem, Mr. Samuel A. Gonard and Mr. Frédéric Siordet Honorary Members.

At the plenary session of the ICRC in November last, Mr. M. A. Naville, President, evoked the magnificent career of Mr. Jacques Chenevière, Honorary Vice-President, in the service of the Red Cross, a half century of dedication and fidelity to our common ideal. Last month the *International Review* published the text of the President's speech and Mr. Chenevière's reply; we shall not revert thereto except to pay tribute in this publication, to the development of which he contributed so much by his valuable advice and long experience, to his personality which has left its mark on ICRC history and on the International Prisoners of War Agency.

During the two world wars, Mrs. Marguerite Gautier-van Berchem devoted herself to the Red Cross by directing important services of the International Prisoners of War Agency. She was assigned various missions and in 1951, aware of her wide experience in the humanitarian field, the International Committee called upon her to join it as a Member. Subsequently, and for many years, she was also a Member of the Presidential Council.

In the offices which she held, she rendered signal service to the ICRC, and her profound knowledge of the Arab world was particularly valuable at a time when the Middle East was suffering the

consequences of conflicts followed by extreme tension. Her advice has always evinced an awareness of realities and a broad culture.

The International Committee makes a point of expressing its warm gratitude to Mrs. Gautier-van Berchem and knows that it may still call upon her sound judgment and experience of Red Cross problems.

Mr. Samuel A. Gonard has been a Member of the ICRC since 1961. Later, as a Member of the Presidential Council, he was more closely associated in the institution's management until October 1964 when he was called upon to assume the Presidency of the ICRC. He held that office until January 1969.

As a Member, then as President, he discharged many important missions on several continents. With unflagging energy and rare trenchancy, he worked ceaselessly for the ever greater respect, in a divided world and in difficult circumstances, of the Red Cross, the symbol of humanity.

The International Committee expressed its profound gratitude for the dedication and fidelity he constantly displayed in assuming the heavy responsibilities confided to him.

Mr. Siordet, Counsellor of the ICRC since 1943, was appointed to membership of the Committee in 1951 and on several occasions assumed the vice-presidency.

His work was connected mainly with humanitarian law and he played a decisive part in the preparatory work which led to the conclusion of the four revised Geneva Conventions. He attended the 1949 Diplomatic Conference as an ICRC expert and subsequently contributed considerably to the *Commentary* on those Conventions.

He also undertook other missions. He represented the ICRC in various countries at many Conferences; he is the author of the book *Inter arma caritas*, which gives a conspectus of ICRC activities during the Second World War.

The International Committee is deeply grateful for so much service which he rendered with a keen understanding of the necessities of its humanitarian action and a noble concept which have been so valuable to the ICRC and will continue to be so whenever it has recourse to his always enlightened advice.