

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Organization, on 24 October, United Nations Day 1970, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter signed at San Francisco in 1945. The UN Secretary-General, U Thant, referred to that event in a message which concluded as follows:

“Squalid poverty lives side by side with over-abundance on our Earth. We have reached the Moon but we have not yet reached each other. Many species of our co-inhabitants on the globe from the bird and animal world have forever disappeared. Many beautiful rivers have become sewers endangering the oceans. We must heed the omens. It is time for Governments to make a fresh start and to lift themselves again to the same high level, if not a higher level, of vision and determination as that of the authors of the Charter. We must give the Charter a real chance at last. We must pass from words to deeds. We must pass from rights to obligations. We must pass from self-interest to mutual interest. We must pass from partial peace to total peace.”

The International Institutions of the Red Cross were associated with this celebration of the 25th anniversary. The ICRC sent the UN Secretary-General the following cable signed by its President:

Now that the UN is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its foundation, the International Committee of the Red Cross has directed me to convey its congratulations and good wishes for the untiring efforts exerted by your Organization in favour of world peace.

Thanks to dialogue possibilities it offers to countries concerned, UN for 25 years has warded off many devastating conflicts and its specialized agencies have provided rapid and effective aid to populations a prey to famine, disease and disaster.

International Committee gratified by excellent contacts it maintains with your Organization in field of humanitarian law and thanks you for the interest you have always displayed in its activities.

It pays tribute to the UN and wishes it full success for its efforts in decades to come.

The Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies, at its 88th session, voted a resolution (No. 3) conveying to the United Nations Organization "its congratulations on the work done in difficult and often dramatic circumstances and its best wishes for its future activities".

ASSISTANCE IN NATURAL DISASTER

During its 49th session, held in Geneva in July 1970, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations examined once again the problems relative to assistance in cases of natural disaster.

After having heard the Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies and having taken note of a letter from the International Committee of the Red Cross, in which the latter associated itself with the statements made by the League representative, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following resolution:

1546 (XLIX). Assistance in cases of natural disaster

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2034 (XX) of 7 December 1965 and 2435 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, on Assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Noting its resolution 1518 (XLIX) of 10 July 1970 concerning Measures to be taken following the earthquake in Peru,

Having in mind its resolution 1533 (XLIX) of 23 July 1970 in which it recommended that the States Members of the United Nations establish an emergency fund for disasters, to be made up of voluntary contributions from all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies,