

**A SLOVAK TRANSLATION OF
“ A MEMORY OF SOLFERINO ”**

At the recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies, Dr. A. Horak, Vice-President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, presented a Slovak version of Henry Dunant's book "A Memory of Solferino". An addendum by Dr. Horak explains the link between the present mission of the Red Cross and the original aims set forth by Dunant when he wrote the book which had such a resounding success.

With this first Slovak version, there are now, so far as we know, forty-seven editions of Dunant's book, in eighteen languages.

THE EMPRESS SHOKEN FUND

The Fund which the Empress Shōken decided to set up in 1912, designed to promote Red Cross relief work at international level, has in the past often enjoyed the generosity of the Japanese Government. To mark the visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan to the ICRC in October 1971, the Japanese Government announced that it would increase its contribution to the Fund under a further five-year programme.¹ Recently, it again showed its interest in the Fund by making an extraordinary grant of 125,000 Swiss francs for 1972.

The people of Japan, too, take interest in the Shōken Fund and the assistance which its income enables to be furnished; a private benefactor, Mr. Otaki, lately donated to it 150,000 Swiss francs. On 25 September last, at the ICRC in Geneva, the Chairman of the Joint Commission of the Shōken Fund and representatives of the League of Red Cross Societies and the ICRC presented to

¹ See *International Review*, October 1963 and November 1971.

the Ambassador of Japan and a delegation of the Japanese Red Cross a certificate of thanks to be remitted to the donor. Almost at that same time, some members of the Japanese Red Cross who were in a party visiting the ICRC collected among themselves, a sum of over one thousand Swiss francs which was donated to the Fund.

Spain

International First Aid Congress

From 26 October to 1 November 1972, the first International Congress on first aid and the transport of accident victims, organized by the Spanish Red Cross, was held in Barcelona. During the official inauguration, when Count de Toreno, President of the Supreme Assembly of the National Society, had welcomed the participants, an official ceremony took place to mark the centenary of the Barcelona section of the Spanish Red Cross. "If Henry Dunant were alive today, his concern for the distress in the world would be greater than it was for that on the battlefield at Solferino", said the President of the Barcelona section, Mr. J. L. de Salas Cardenal, who outlined in his address the main events in the history of the Red Cross.

In addition to representatives of the authorities, the Congress was attended by ICRC delegate Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, League delegate Mr. Vladimir I. Semoukha, and delegations from several National Societies from Latin America, Europe and the Middle East, as well as from the Red Cross sections in the provinces of Spain, the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands. Mr. Courvoisier, who was presented with the Spanish Red Cross gold medal, conveyed the congratulations and good wishes of the ICRC and he described the most important present-day tasks of that institution.

The main themes of the working sessions and round-table meetings were: first aid on the highway, in the mountains and at