

Donation to Henry Dunant Institute

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth on 8 May 1978, the Swiss Confederation issued a coin with an effigy of the Red Cross founder. Part of the revenue from this issue, a million Swiss francs, was donated to the Henry Dunant Institute to help it develop its activities.

This substantial gift was presented by Mr. Ch. A. Schussele, President of the Geneva committee for the commemoration of the anniversary, to Professor Hans Haug, Chairman of the Institute and President of the Swiss Red Cross, during a meeting of the Institute's Board of Management on 28 March 1980.

On behalf of the Board the Chairman expressed profound gratitude to the Federal authorities for this donation, a further testimony of the interest of the Swiss Confederation in the various activities of the Red Cross.

The Henry Dunant Institute, established in 1965 by the ICRC, the League and the Swiss Red Cross, is a centre for study and research in all matters of concern to the Red Cross, and for teaching, training and dissemination. Despite its slender financial resources, a large number of historical and juridical publications have been issued under the aegis of the Henry Dunant Institute, and it is the entire Red Cross which has reaped the benefit of its activities. In addition to its training courses for the personnel of National Societies, the Institute organizes information seminars for government officials, army doctors, journalists, university circles, etc.

In a resolution adopted on 3 October 1979, the Council of Delegates expressed "its appreciation of the work carried out by the Institute with modest resources", and asked it "to continue and intensify its efforts in its fundamental tasks". At the same time, it recommended "the National Societies to give support to the activities of the Institute and to provide it, to the extent they could afford, with the material means that would enable it to expand its action". It is, therefore, to be hoped that other donors will take the Swiss Confederation's generous gift as an example and will come forward with contributions of their own for the Henry Dunant Institute.