

## **In Bulgaria**

### **Tenth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films**

The Tenth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films organized by the Bulgarian Red Cross in collaboration with the League of Red Cross Societies, under the auspices of the League, the ICRC, WHO and UNESCO, took place in Varna, Bulgaria, from 16 to 25 June.

The opening ceremony was attended by the ICRC President, Mr. Alexander Hay, the President of the League, Mr. Enrique de la Mata Gorostizaga and the Chairman of the Standing Commission, Dr. Ahmed Abu Qura. Mr. Hans Hoegh, Secretary General of the League, Dr. Kiril Ignatov, President of the Bulgarian Red Cross, the Vice-President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and M. A. Marinov, director of the Festival.

The Varna festival, held for the first time in 1965 and organized every other year by the Bulgarian Red Cross, has become, at this tenth celebration, a very popular world cinematographic event. This year, after a preliminary selection, 190 films from 52 countries were presented at the final competition.

The films taking part in the Varna international festival must fall within four categories: A) Red Cross films, produced or commissioned by the international Red Cross institutions or by National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies, for the education and training of their members, for public information, publicity or to further the interest in the Red Cross. B) Short and medium-length films dealing with health questions or problems relating to the prevention of and struggle against pollution of the environment; also, scientific and educational films. C) Full-length fiction films, dealing with humanitarian or health questions of topical interest. D) Television programmes.

This year among the Red Cross films (Category A), the Grand Prix "Caravelle d'Or" was awarded to a Bulgarian film "Equal to all" relating the story of a man with paralyzed arms who manages to reorganize his life by using only his feet. The League Grand Prix was awarded to the Danish Red Cross for its film "A gift of health", which deals with the Malawi Red Cross which the Danish National Society is assisting in its development. The film underlines the solidarity between National Societies in their efforts towards development. Within this category of Red Cross films, mention must also be made of the Soviet film "Caution, road!" which was awarded the gold medal among the educational films and the film from the United States "Ready for the worst" which

received the gold medal in the Red Cross publicity and promotion subsection.

The ICRC, League, Bulgarian and Hungarian Red Cross co-production "What's in a symbol", by the Hungarian producer, Georges Karpati, had its world premier at the opening of the festival with several thousand spectators. The film was very well received. Upon the decision of the President of the ICRC and the President of the League, it did not take part in the festival competition. It is available in the official languages of the International Red Cross at the League or at the ICRC.

As before, the Tenth International Festival in Varna was a great success. The International Review congratulates the Bulgarian Red Cross for this event and wishes it all the best in the future.

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## **In Costa Rica**

### **Twelfth Inter-American Red Cross Conference**

The Twelfth Inter-American Red Cross Conference was held from 3 to 8 July in San José, Costa Rica. Organized by the Costa Rican Red Cross and the League, the Conference was attended by delegations from 23 National Societies, most of which were headed by their President; furthermore, seven National Societies from other continents were invited to attend as observers. The President of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. E. de la Mata, and the Secretary General, Mr. Hans Hoegh, led a delegation from the League. The ICRC was represented by its President, Mr. Alexandre Hay, and a large delegation.

The main purpose of the Conference was to examine the progress made under the Five-Year Development Plan of the Red Cross in America, adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1979. The Conference would then decide whether to uphold the objectives of the plan and extend its duration, or whether to adopt new objectives and a new schedule.

To facilitate its work, the Conference was divided into six Commissions: general matters, assistance, health and social affairs, youth, dissemination and protection, social communication and public relations. The work was conducted in a very forthcoming atmosphere of constructive discussion.

The National Societies which had recently experienced and had to intervene in a situation of conflict expressed their viewpoints, explaining their roles and activities. They all stated how greatly they valued the