

## WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The twenty-fifth Annual Assembly of the World Health Organization in Geneva last May was attended by delegates from 129 Member States, and representatives of the United Nations and many international organizations, including the ICRC, which was represented by Mr. A.-D. Micheli and Dr. R. Marti.

Some of the practical agenda items were: smallpox eradication; anti-malaria campaign; blindness prevention; the necessity of ensuring quality, safety and effectiveness of medicaments and of assisting governments to discharge their responsibilities in this field; and medicine in industry. Particularly worthy of note was the question of pollution and its effects on health. Stress was laid on the responsibility of the WHO in all international aspects of health problems arising from pollution, and on the need for the WHO and its Member States to have permanent appropriate means for the protection of human health against pollution.

Concerning the institution's twenty-fifth anniversary next year, Dr. Layton, presiding over the Assembly, said:

*The anniversary year should also serve to intensify our efforts in informing the public at large about existing health problems, new health hazards and the old but often forgotten truism that disease knows no boundaries. Today, more than ever before, the struggle for better health requires the understanding and support of all—the rich and the poor, the young and the old. To use the words of Sir George Godber in his memorable address of two days ago, “the further we go the more we find to be done”.*

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