

Apart from the full text of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, summaries were sent in the second half of 1970 to several countries: the National Societies of Venezuela and Ecuador each received 2,000 copies for the armed forces; the Guatemalan Red Cross received 1,000 copies; the Jamaican Red Cross 2,000, also intended for the armed forces; the Colombian Ministry of Defence received 5,000 copies. In addition, a reprint of the summary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions in Spanish is now under way.

Visit to places of detention.—Continuing the mission which he began on 6 September 1970 in Latin America, Mr. E. Leemann, ICRC delegate, went to Peru. Having received from the authorities all the requisite facilities to carry out his mission, he visited, in November, seven places of detention where he saw 45 persons detained for political reasons.¹ In each he enquired into detention conditions and interviewed detainees of his own choice in private.

Whilst in Peru Mr. Leemann had talks with the leading members of the National Red Cross Society and with members of the government.

During his Latin America mission, the ICRC delegate visited more than 300 detainees in 38 places of detention in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

IN GENEVA

Honorary members of the ICRC

During a plenary session on 10 December 1970, the International Committee, after taking note of the resignations of Mr. Martin Bodmer, Mr. Hans Meuli and Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati, appointed them to honorary membership.

¹ *Plate.*

It was in 1940 that Mr. Martin Bodmer was co-opted to the ICRC of which he has been Vice-President on several occasions. In 1947-48, during Mr. Carl J. Burckhardt's absence, he assumed the Presidency *ad interim* jointly with Dr. Ernest Gloor.

During the Second World War he devoted his energies entirely to the "intellectual relief" of prisoners of war. He was the prime mover of that action and the service which he directed distributed almost a million and a half books which were sorted, classified and in many cases reconditioned before despatch to prisoner of war camps and internment camps where they provided moral sustenance to many victims throughout the world. In addition to these books the service sent widely varied objects of religious significance, university courses, teaching and laboratory material as well as games of all sorts.

He it was who initiated the ICRC's annual collection drive in Switzerland which he directed for many years. The importance today of that source of finance for the institution is well-known.

Mr. Bodmer also rendered signal service to the ICRC by discharging many missions in the field, in Germany, Greece, USA, India, Nepal, Australia and New Zealand, representing the institution at several ceremonies, delivering many conferences and writing a number of important articles on the Red Cross.

The International Committee is profoundly grateful to him for having accomplished these important and numerous duties with a dedication and noble outlook which were valuable in the past and will be so in the future when the ICRC has recourse to his broad experience in Red Cross problems.

Mr. Hans Meuli held the high office of head physician of the Swiss army from 1946 to 1960. During that time he represented his country at three International Conferences of the Red Cross and also at the Diplomatic Conference which took place in Geneva in 1949.

Mindful of his constant interest in Red Cross and the invaluable services which he rendered as a participant to several meetings of experts which it convened after the Second World War, the ICRC co-opted him to membership in 1961. Since that time, Mr. Meuli has actively participated in the work of the ICRC and he has several

times been a member of the Presidential Council. He represented the institution at international meetings, at Florence, for example, in 1962, and at the second international refresher course for junior medical officers. He was, moreover, for a long time the director of these refresher courses and has for a number of years been one of the Honorary Presidents of the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy.

In addition, he published in *International Review* a study entitled " *De la neutralité du personnel sanitaire au cours des hostilités* " as part of the discussion to which the *Review* opened its pages on the special position and protection of medical personnel of the armed forces in time of war.

The International Committee has conveyed to Mr. Meuli its sincere gratitude for his contribution to the work of the Red Cross and for his faithful service to the humanitarian ideal.

Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati was co-opted by the International Committee in 1949. He has sat on several of the Institution's commissions, such as the one responsible for relief and social questions. For a long time he represented the ICRC on the staff social fund management commission and took particular interest in problems affecting refugees and migrants.

In a general way he has always been concerned with making the Red Cross idea more universal and with the improvement of its dissemination throughout the world, aiming to make its image less " western " in order to permit its acceptance by all civilizations. This is confirmed in his writings for various reviews and particularly in a study which he published in *International Review* in January 1955 and which was entitled " The Diversity of Cultural Circles and Humanitarian Action ".

Mr. Olgiati carried out several missions for the ICRC. With Messrs. Ruegger, Gloor and Sordet he went to Moscow in 1950 and in the following year to Mexico to represent the ICRC at the Inter-American Red Cross Conference. In 1956 he went to the United States for the 75th anniversary of the American Red Cross and then, as he had done several times, he went to the Federal Republic of Germany and also visited the National Societies of Norway and Denmark.

The International Committee expressed its gratitude to Mr. Rodolfo Olgiati for the useful service he gave with unstinting generosity to the Red Cross cause.

A Tribute from the ICRC

Mr. Frédéric Siordet recently celebrated his seventieth birthday. On that occasion the International Committee, of which he is an honorary member, awarded him its Silver Medal as a testimony of profound gratitude. It was presented to him on 9 December 1970 at an informal ceremony attended by his colleagues.

The President, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, paid tribute to him in the following terms:

... It was in 1943 that you joined our ranks, at the height of the war which was devastating the world and setting us unprecedented tasks. The way was strewn with difficulties and pitfalls, so that your assistance was particularly welcome. You soon displayed the extent of your dedication, your talent, and your personality. The Committee conferred on you the title of counsellor, a title for which no one was better qualified, for in those troubled times your wisdom, your ideal and your charism for conciliation worked wonders.

After taking an active part in the diversified work of that period, you described it convincingly in "Inter arma caritas".

Then you were closely associated in the great work of translating experience acquired into legal codification, an enterprise in which you gave your legal science free rein. You took part daily, as an expert, in the Geneva Diplomatic Conference. The revision of the Geneva Conventions in 1949 and the conclusion of a new Convention relative to the protection of civilians culminated this huge joint effort. The articles concerning supervision and the famous article 3 which has rendered such signal service in internal conflicts bear your indelible stamp.

Then, when these laws had been adopted by the Powers, you applied yourself, together with your colleagues, to drawing up commentaries on them which are recognized as authoritative.

In 1951 the International Committee invited you to become a member. You soon became one of its Vice-Presidents and you retained