

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The Executive Committee requests the Chairman of the Board of Governors to bring this resolution to the notice of the governments and National Societies.

RESOLUTION No. 25

The Geneva Conventions

The Executive Committee,

Considering that the International Red Cross has repeatedly emphasized by resolutions its stand on world peace and the responsibility of nations to find means of avoiding war through negotiations,

Urge all of those involved in the present conflict in Vietnam to do everything in their power to bring hostilities to an end;

Meanwhile recalling that in the event of war it is the responsibility of the involved parties to mitigate the suffering and distress of the victims of the conflict,

Urge all the parties engaged in Vietnam to fully support the International Committee of the Red Cross and abide by the Geneva Conventions, and further,

As a gesture of good-will in the first instance, to take immediate action in implementing the section of the Geneva Conventions providing for the repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners of war,

Affirms that the services of the League are always at the disposal of the National Societies of the affected countries for any humanitarian service.

HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

The Henry Dunant Institute originates from a very simple establishment of fact. In order to satisfy the requirements of today, every large-scale enterprise has to concern itself with research, training and information. No progress can in fact be made without research, nor can there be efficiency without ever more advanced training nor can exchanges be made without good channels of information.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The Red Cross, which is a great international organization, cannot evade these imperatives of the modern world. The body, which could bring its various activities to a successful issue, was lacking. It therefore had to be created. This has indeed been done with the founding of the Henry Dunant Institute which by the terms of its own statutes is "an instrument of study and research, of training and instruction in all branches of Red Cross work".

The Henry Dunant Institute has just held its second General Assembly. This is therefore a good moment to render an account.

For a further year, the Chairmanship of the General Assembly and of the Council of the Institute will continue to devolve upon Professor A. von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross. Mr. Pierre Boissier has been appointed Director of the Institute.

It is known that the Swiss Federal Houses have voted substantial sums enabling a large building to be erected in the immediate proximity of the International Committee. The three lower floors will house the Central Tracing Agency and the two upper floors will be entirely reserved for the Institute. There will therefore be ample space. A large room, equipped for simultaneous translation and the showing of films, will be available for meetings and conferences, whilst a smaller room will be at the disposal of study groups. There will also be a library and a reading room. Students, persons under instruction and those carrying out research will be able to work in a series of small offices. In addition, it should be pointed out that, at the request of the League of Red Cross Societies, there will be seven small bedrooms on the Institute's premises for passing guests. This then is a fine working prospect for the future. For the moment, the Institute disposes of four offices at the International Committee's headquarters. More accommodation is not required for beginnings which are necessarily modest.

The Henry Dunant Institute is not unprovided with funds. The Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland has appointed it its legatee and as such it has received some 700,000 Swiss francs to which have been added most generous donations from Swiss industrial concerns, with the result that the Institute's assets now total a little over one million Swiss francs.

In order to furnish and equip itself and above all to ensure the services expected of it and which it aims to render, the Institute

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

will subsequently have to dispose of more considerable means. However, at the outset, it proposes to prove itself and demonstrate its usefulness.

The League of Red Cross Societies and the International Committee have already considered entrusting the Institute with important and long-term projects. This, however, will be for a later date. The year 1967 will still be one of preparation.

One of the objects of the Institute is to be a documentary centre in all working spheres of the Red Cross. Without waiting for the completion of its final building, it will call upon a library-documentary list which, with the help of qualified specialists, will set up a very large library card-index. This will be a most valuable working instrument for all those undertaking research in any aspect of the Red Cross or the Law of Geneva. The Institute also hopes to be in a position to produce by next year two publications, one of a legal and technical nature and the other to have the Red Cross better known.

Finally, the Institute proposes to organize a discussion on the theme of "the Red Cross and the World Today". The Red Cross has certainly made great progress over the past hundred years. It may, however, be asked whether at the same time the world has not experienced even deeper transformations. The State's rôle and ascendancy has won over many fields hitherto reserved for private enterprise and new ideologies have become known whose influence is immense. International institutions have sprung up on all sides. In this fresh context is the Red Cross sufficiently up-to-date? Are the methods it employs adequate? This is a matter for most serious study.

There is no doubt that, by committing itself to this path, the Institute will render to the entire Red Cross world services from which it will know how to benefit to a very great extent.