

# M I S C E L L A N E O U S

---

## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CHILD WELFARE

On 18 June 1970, the commemoration of this anniversary, in which the ICRC joined wholeheartedly, took place at Geneva. It is well known that the ICRC was one of the three institutions that founded the Union. Moreover, several of its members and senior officials played an important role in drafting and proclaiming, in 1923, the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, commonly known as the Declaration of Geneva. It was replaced by a new Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which was adopted, in 1959, by the General Assembly of the United Nations<sup>1</sup>.

At the official ceremony, after the ten principles of the Declaration had been read out, several speakers took the floor. They included Mr. M. A. Naville, who spoke, in the following terms, on behalf of the ICRC, of which he is President:

*In 1919 a war—claimed to be a war to end wars—had hardly ceased. As always, those who bore the brunt of the bloodthirsty violence of men were the children, the wide-eyed innocent victims of conflicts that leave behind nothing but ruins.*

*With the advent of peace, people's consciences began to stir. At Geneva, Eglantyne Jebb, who, a few months before, had launched the "Save the Children Fund", a movement for providing aid to children, met Dr. Frédéric Ferrière, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He had witnessed in Vienna the physical and moral distress of children after the war, and had just completed a report which was an appeal to all countries to collaborate in child welfare.*

*His call was heeded: on 6 January 1920, at the Athénée Building, in the same hall where the Red Cross was born, the "Save the Children International Committee" of Berne joined the London "Save the Children Fund" to form the "Save the Children International*

---

<sup>1</sup> See *International Review*, October 1962 and May 1963.

*Union". In 1946, the Union merged with the "International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare", under the title "International Union for Child Welfare".*

*On that day of 6 January 1920, the International Committee of the Red Cross was closely linked to the foundation ceremony of the Union, whose fiftieth anniversary we celebrate today. The two founder members of the SCIU, anxious to strengthen their action, and recognizing the need for recourse to an entirely neutral institution, had placed the new society under the patronage of the ICRC, while Mr. Horace Micheli, a member of the International Committee, was elected one of the presidents of the foundation session.*

*Another member, Mr. Georges Werner, was chairman of the Union's first Executive Committee, while its Secretary General was Etienne Clouzot, Head of the ICRC Secretariat. Together with Eglantyne Jebb, they drafted the "Declaration of the Rights of the Child", known as the "Declaration of Geneva", which constitutes a veritable charter of the obligations to children, a charter which Gustave Ador, former President of the Swiss Confederation and President of the ICRC, proclaimed to the world from the Eiffel Tower radio transmitter, and which was adopted by the League of Nations on 26 September 1924.*

*In co-operating with the Union, through concrete action in the field, ICRC delegates have bound it to the ICRC with extremely close ties. The origin of these ties may be traced back to the common ideal which had united the two institutions from the very first, and which, through the diversity of their duties, led them to serve men, women and children, treating them with the respect and dignity which they deserve and which are theirs by right.*

*It is fifty years since the International Union for Child Welfare has been striving at the side of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other organizations, for this respect and this dignity. This shows that these fundamental rights of human beings are still too often insufficiently known, overlooked and even flouted. It also shows the significance of the struggle that has still to be carried on and the scope of the task that must be pursued.*

*It gives me particular pleasure on this anniversary to pay tribute, on behalf of the International Committee of the Red Cross, to the part which the International Union for Child Welfare plays in this struggle.*

## MISCELLANEOUS

Sir Colin Thornley, Director of the " Save the Children Fund " and founder member of the IUCW, recalled the principal milestones in the history of the Union, from the date when it was founded through the drive of that remarkable woman, Eglantyne Jebb (1876-1928), up to the time, in 1946, when the " Save the Children International Union " (SCIU) merged with the " International Association for the Promotion of Child Welfare ". A new institution, under the name of " International Union for Child Welfare ", had now arisen, and the speaker pointed out the constant progress in the activities which it undertakes on behalf of children, who are victims of poverty and of disasters of all sorts that continually descend upon the earth.

Congratulatory messages were read by Mr. G. Sicault on behalf of UNICEF, and by Mr. W. Dabney, Deputy Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, representing Mr. H. Beer, its Secretary General, on behalf of the League. He stated, on this occasion, that " many Red Cross National Societies work in close contact with national IUCW Committees, and that this collaboration has been most fruitful on the medico-social plane."

Finally, the President of the IUCW, Mr. L. W. Mayo, pointed out the institution's present and future tasks and stressed the significance of actions of co-operation carried out on a local, national or international scale by member organizations. These have been set up in 52 countries and employ professional or voluntary workers who are active in all spheres pertaining to child welfare: nutrition, health, physical and mental hygiene, emergency relief through reconstruction programmes set up in devastated areas and relief assistance to children and adolescents.

\*

To mark its fiftieth anniversary, the IUCW has issued a special number of its " International Child Welfare Review " (June 1970, No. 7). This issue, lavishly illustrated and attractively presented, describes the wide range of activities carried out in favour of children at different periods and in various places. It also evokes memories of several early helpers including such names, cherished by the Red Cross movement, as Suzanne Ferrière and Etienne Clouzot. The extensive part played by Gustave Ador and George

Werner, who were at that time, respectively, president and member of the ICRC, in the foundation and development of the IUCW, may also be seen. Various articles describe, in lively fashion, the tasks of the Secretariat General and of member organizations, and set out guidelines for the future.

As Mrs. Gordon M. Morier, Honorary President of the IUCW, wrote in the foreword: "to save lives is an imperious duty, but to help those children to become responsible adults is a yet more serious task. They must be taught self-denial, tolerance and love of their neighbour—three moral values essential in education."

---

### CENTENARY OF THE SOCIETY SOLFERINO SAN MARTINO

This Society was founded with the object of securing a fit burial-place for those who fell at the battles of Solferino and San Martino in June 1859, and is presided by Count Papafava dei Carraresi. At both Solferino and San Martino, it caused ossuaries and museums to be built, and at San Martino, a tower 74 metres high, regarded by Italians as a national monument<sup>1</sup>, was also erected. In addition, commemorative stones were placed by the Society at the spots where the bloodiest fighting took place, and it is on its property that a Memorial dedicated to the Red Cross idea was set up and inaugurated in 1959. These historic sites are placed under its custodianship.

On 24 and 25 June 1970, the Society Solferino San Martino celebrated its hundredth anniversary. A number of ceremonies were held at Solferino, San Martino and, also, at the Red Cross Memorial, where, to the left of the tree-lined alley leading to the monument, a stele bearing an inscription recalling the achievement of Henry Dunant was unveiled. Those present, including the President of the Italian Red Cross, Ambassador Quaroni, the Vice-President of the French Red Cross, Baron Cochin, and Mr. Pilloud, Director of

---

<sup>1</sup> See the article by Mr. Willy Heudtlass, which appeared in the *International Review* of June 1959.