

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

English and other languages. In this event, Mrs. Warburton's text and Mr. Leuzinger's drawings would be put at their disposal free of charge.

This publication is a further contribution to the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and it gives us great pleasure to bring it to the notice of readers of the Review.

AWARD

The International Committee has awarded its silver medal to one of its staff, Mr. André Durand, on his completion of twenty years service. The President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, handed him the medal at the plenary session on July 5, 1962. He recalled the institution's gratitude for the outstanding services that Mr. Durand had rendered, showing throughout all his missions a rare brand of competence and never failing courage :

You began working at the ICRC, first of all as a secretary in the reports section and were then attached to the General Directorate.

After a short mission in France in 1947, you left Geneva in 1948 to go to Palestine, where fighting had broken out. You thus began, on the continent of Asia, a career as an important delegate, assuming increasingly heavy responsibilities, meeting growing difficulties and suffering in the flesh and in the spirit, but you nevertheless succeeded in accomplishing the most delicate tasks, each time saving lives which one had thought lost.

In Palestine, you were seriously wounded going to the help of the wounded in no man's land. In 1951, the ICRC sent you to Hong Kong, then to Viet Nam where you visited prisoners in French hands, then to Hanoi. Such were your patience, your courage and the dignity of your bearing that everyone gave you their confidence . . . You are in every sense of the term, a neutral intermediary, not only because you are just and impartial, but also because you are animated by a desire to serve which your reserved and modest attitude hides.

In 1957, you helped in the repatriation of the Netherlands colony in Indonesia. The following year you were in Ceylon where the Cin-

galese and Tamil communities were at loggerheads. Later you were in Bangkok, Hanoi and Rangoon where your wise counsel and undisputed authority enabled the agreement to be signed ensuring the return home of North Vietnamese who had established themselves in Thailand. In 1959, you were appointed Head of the ICRC Delegation in Japan supervising the repatriation of Koreans. You were thenceforward based on Tokyo and the scope of your work broadened increasingly. Two years ago you initiated ICRC relief work in Laos which necessitated frequent travelling, never-ending negotiations and a number of trips into the interior of the country. Finally, last July, at the request of the United Nations, you organised, in New Guinea, the repatriation of the crews of Indonesian vessels sunk by the Netherlands forces . . .

It is a good thing that the ICRC should sometimes assess what it owes to its delegates who, abroad, put into practice the principles which it has proclaimed. Since, then, these principles come to life and affirm their permanency and durability, their suppleness also in strength, since at last they are understood and respected by adversaries who are separated by all things. Even more, when these principles become identified with a man, they take on a human character which enables the Red Cross to be not above but beside those whom it wishes to help.

Mr. Durand then said a few words and talked about those countries of eastern Asia where he had found, as he said, "a sort of vocation".

The reason why the basic principles of the Red Cross have found a favourable reception there, in spite of all the differences, is, I think, because one of the traits common to the traditional culture of these people is a natural respect for the individual : despite the cultural upheaval caused by the trends of modern thought, the individual there retains his personality and, even in the most humble conditions, his dignity. This is what Cambodian wisdom expresses in a highly philosophical saying : " Man, despise not your fellow men ".

In expressing my gratitude to you today, I would like to couple with it the memory of Dr. Junod, the pioneer of the missions in Asia, where his memory is everywhere honoured, and who has been an example and guide to me in my work.