

**Recognition
of the Mauritius Red Cross Society**

GENEVA, 16 September 1977

Circular N° 508

*To the Central Committees of the National Red Cross,
Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to inform you that the International Committee of the Red Cross, on 15 September 1977, officially recognized the Mauritius Red Cross Society.

This new Society, founded in 1939 as a branch of the British Red Cross, was recognized by Act of Parliament on 18 December 1973. It applied for recognition by the International Committee on 10 December 1976. Its application was supported by various documents, including several reports on its activities, its Statutes and a copy of the Mauritius Red Cross Society Act, 1973. The Society's Statutes, approved by the Government, and the Act of 1973 specify that the objects of the Society are to carry on and assist in the improvement of public health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world in time of peace or war. This provision may be considered to be equivalent to approval of the Society's function as an auxiliary to the public authorities.

The documents, which were examined jointly by the International Committee and the Secretariat of the League of Red Cross Societies,

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

show that the ten qualifying conditions for recognition of a new National Society have been fulfilled.

The recognition of the Mauritius Red Cross Society, which the International Committee is pleased to announce, means that the total number of member Societies of the International Red Cross is now 124.

The Mauritius Red Cross, which representatives of the International Committee and of the League of Red Cross Societies have visited on a number of occasions in 1975 and 1976, is active throughout the State, including Rodrigues Island. It works for the improvement of public health through the teaching of hygiene and nursing, nutrition and first-aid. It helps the victims of natural disasters, relieves hardship, and operates several dispensaries which provide free treatment.

On 12 August 1970 the Government confirmed that the State was a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, through a declaration of continuity effective as from 12 March 1968, when Mauritius achieved independence.

The Society's President is Mrs. Itala Ghermont Goupille, M.B.E. Its headquarters is at Curepipe.¹

The International Committee of the Red Cross has pleasure in welcoming the Mauritius Red Cross to membership of the International Red Cross, in accrediting it and commending it, by this circular, to all other National Societies, and in expressing sincere good wishes for its success in the discharge and development of its humanitarian activities.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Alexandre Hay
President

¹ The new Society's address is: Mauritius Red Cross, Ste. Thérèse Street, Curepipe, Mauritius.