

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

---

## 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF HENRY DUNANT

On 8 May, a day traditionally devoted every year to celebration of the birth of Henry Dunant, the whole Red Cross movement throughout the world will observe the 150th anniversary of its principal founder. In Geneva, Dunant's native city, the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies, the Henry Dunant Institute, the Geneva section of the Swiss Red Cross, the Geneva Association of the Societies of Samaritans and the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (of which Henry Dunant was also one of the founders), have joined their efforts to organize a series of events, starting in May, to celebrate the anniversary.

An official ceremony will take place in Geneva on 8 May, in the morning, to be followed a few hours later by a similar event in Bern.

The Red Cross institutions in Geneva will open their doors to the public on Saturday and Sunday, the 6th and 7th of May. Exhibitions, commented and explained by Red Cross staff, will demonstrate the manifold activities of the Red Cross.

A multivision programme, the scenario, sound effects and production of which are now being worked on, will illustrate Henry Dunant's original idea, its present-day fulfilment and its future development. This will be given in May and will be repeated during the following months.

All the institutions which have received the Nobel Peace Prize will be invited to send representatives to Geneva to participate in a forum on "The Red Cross and Peace".

The Geneva Red Cross plans to offer a banquet and entertainment to a thousand isolated and handicapped persons, who will thus be "the guests of Henry Dunant".

From 26 May to 4 June, there will be, at Geneva Cointrin airport, an international exhibition of medical aviation and equipment, showing the most up-to-date models in these fields. Medical services of various armed forces and of civil defence forces, and specialised industries, will exhibit the latest technical progress.

In Geneva, the committee making arrangements for celebration of the 150th anniversary recently organized a competition for the design of posters to dramatize the significance of the Red Cross. The first prize

was awarded to a poster with a simple but vivid image, a white arrow pointing to a Red Cross emblem and the slogan "Join in", illustrating the year-long theme for 1978. Join in, or in other words, help the Red Cross, increase the number of its members, support its efforts.

### MARKS OF APPRECIATION

In a brief ceremony on 14 December 1977, Mr. A. Hay, President of the ICRC, expressed the appreciation of the International Committee to several staff members who had worked for many years in the service of the institution.

The ICRC presented its silver medal to Mr. Jean-Louis Patru in recognition of his thirty years of voluntary work as pharmacist consultant for the pharmaceutical division.

The following staff members, who had completed twenty years in the service of the ICRC, received a silver tray: Mrs. M. Berthet, Mrs. G. Bovy, Mrs. R. Nicati, Mr. Ch. de Heney, Mr. M. Martin and Mr. N. Vecsey.

The International Committee also bid farewell to Mr. André Durand and Mr. Albert de Cocatrix, who had already received the silver medal and were now due for retirement. Mr. Hay thanked them, on behalf of the ICRC, for the eminent services they had rendered.

#### **Delegate general and historian**

Mr. A. Durand joined the ICRC in 1942. He was first a delegate in France, then in Palestine where he was seriously wounded, and later in the Far East. He accomplished many missions: to Hong Kong (1951), Vietnam, the People's Republic of China (1956), Indonesia, Ceylon and other countries. In 1959 he chaired, with the title of moderator, the conference in Rangoon, at which the two Red Cross Societies of Thailand and of North Vietnam discussed the repatriation of Vietnamese from Thailand. That same year he was made head of the special mission for the repatriation of Koreans from Japan. In 1962, he became the ICRC's delegate general for Asia and in that capacity carried out missions to Indonesia, New Guinea, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Indo-China. Since his return to Geneva in 1970, Mr. Durand has devoted his time to writing a history of the ICRC. His book is expected to appear shortly.