

to join the volunteer corps. A little later on, the Society would like to set up a blood bank.

The Bahamas Red Cross enjoys the understanding and support of the authorities, who show great interest and confidence in its activities.

NICARAGUA

In May 1976, the new building of the National Blood Transfusion Centre of the Nicaraguan Red Cross was inaugurated and started its activities, as mentioned in the League's news sheet Transfusion (No. 7).

Following the earthquake in 1972 which entirely destroyed the Red Cross blood bank after ten years of activity, the Nicaraguan Government requested the National Society to organize the blood programme throughout the country.

Thanks to the financial and technical support of the American National Red Cross and the Spanish Red Cross, and in co-operation with the League, this request became a reality.

In 1973, the American National Red Cross sent to Managua a team for a survey and agreed to finance the construction of a new building to house both the Nicaraguan Red Cross Headquarters and the new blood centre. In addition, the American National Red Cross provided the Centre with the necessary modern equipment for blood collection, storage and distribution for a total capacity of 35,000 blood units per year, and will cover the running expenses for the first year of activity. United States laboratory technicians were also sent to Managua to train the local technical personnel.

For its part, the Spanish Red Cross provided financial assistance to organize a blood donor recruitment service with its staff and publicity material, and offered the new centre a 4-bed mobile unit.