

## USSR

The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR celebrated its jubilee with festivities in Moscow, from 25 to 29 May, to which it invited Angela, Countess of Limerick, President of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross; Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the ICRC; Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Miss Paulette Tombet, Director of the ICRC Central Tracing Agency. Invitations were also extended to representatives of the National Societies of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Yugoslavia.

At the official jubilee ceremony, a number of addresses were delivered, including one by Mrs. N.V. Troyan, President of the Alliance, who reviewed the achievements of fifty years' activity. The Presidents of thirteen Red Cross Societies and four Red Crescent Societies in Soviet Socialist Republics also spoke.

The President of the Standing Commission, the President of the ICRC and the Secretary General of the League congratulated the Alliance on the anniversary and wished it prosperity in a spirit of fraternity and unity.

Mr. Naville referred to the close co-operation of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the operations which the ICRC had conducted in conflict areas, in particular by making surgical teams available, and the participation of Alliance experts in the development of international humanitarian law. The President of the ICRC said: "To improve the international legal instruments whereby the horrors of war may be curbed, to disseminate in every country a better knowledge of the 1949 Geneva Conventions designed to protect the victims of conflicts and to lessen their sufferings, is a vital contribution to more peaceful relations between nations. In this task, the Alliance's activities within the International Red Cross have been, and may continue to be, decisive".

All guests were received by one of the Vice-Presidents of the Supreme Soviet.

Miss Tombet visited the Tracing Bureau of the Alliance, which works in close touch with the ICRC Central Tracing Agency.

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### RED CROSS AND NURSING

*Towards the end of last year, Miss Yvonne Hentsch, Under Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, in charge of the Services to National Societies Sector and former director of the Nursing Bureau, retired. She had served on the League Secretariat since 1939 and her broad knowledge of nursing problems and her exemplary competence in social work had earned her the esteem of various circles in both the nursing and the Red Cross worlds. As Miss M. Duveillard, a member of the ICRC wrote, "Yvonne Hentsch, it seems, has the secret of the really universal Red Cross language which dispenses with words and goes straight to the heart".*

*Miss Hentsch recently published, under the title Red Cross and Nursing,<sup>1</sup> a study from which we are pleased to quote, because it is of vital interest and examines problems which are very topical. We hope that she will see our doing so as a tribute. (Ed.)*

#### ... Adapting to change

The rapid evolution which is characteristic of today's world has affected, needless to say, both the Red Cross and nursing. The demands made on them are changing because the needs of society are different. In the field of nursing education, National Societies can afford less and less the expense of running schools of nursing offering a basic programme unless the Government entrusts them with this task and provides the necessary funds. More and more also, advanced studies in nursing are part of univer-

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<sup>1</sup> See *Panorama* (1973, No. 1), League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva.