

We would briefly recall that the brochure describes the action of the Red Cross on behalf of refugees in recent years, especially since 1939. It also, however, gives an account of the work accomplished by the ICRC on the eve of the First World War and which was at the origin of international aid to refugees. It was, moreover, on the initiative of the International Committee that a High Commissioner was appointed, charged with directing international aid for refugees. On February 20, 1921, Gustave Ador wrote to the President of the Council of the League of Nations :

... In begging you to be good enough to discuss at your present meeting the possible appointment of a League of Nations Commissioner for the Russian refugees, the International Committee is well aware that it is not so much a humanitarian duty which calls for the generous activities of the League of Nations as an obligation of international justice. The eight hundred thousand Russian refugees scattered throughout Europe are without legal protection or representation. All the organisations already at work would be glad to put forth fresh efforts under the general supervision of a Commissioner appointed by the League of Nations, which is the only supranational political authority capable of solving a problem which is beyond the power of exclusively humanitarian organisations . . .

This proposal was warmly received by a certain number of governments and since then the name of Nansen became a sort of symbol of international aid to refugees.

We congratulate the Danish Red Cross on the attractive presentation of the brochure and it is to be hoped that other National Societies follow suit.

Great Britain

Distinction

On December 9, 1964, at the British Red Cross Society's Council Meeting, Mr. Léopold Boissier, member of the ICRC and

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its former President, received the Society's highest award, the Certificate of Honour (Class I). The presentation was made in the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, President of the Council, and T.R.H. The Princess Royal and Princess Alexandra. The award, which is limited to twenty-five holders at any one time, is given in recognition of exceptional service to the Red Cross.
