

Lebanon

Having decided to include the Geneva Conventions in the programme of study and written examinations at the Military College, the Lebanese Army has asked its country's Red Cross to assume responsibility for six courses on these Conventions.

Mrs. Selim Saab, member of the Central Committee of the National Society has been put in charge of this course. In addition, the book which she has written on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions and of which the *International Review* mentioned its publication in its issue of June 1966, has been presented to officer cadets attending the course. It serves them as a work of reference.

The Review of the Lebanese Red Cross (No. 24) points out in this connection with what interest the young men followed Mrs. Saab's talks, the appositeness of their questions and their determination to understand and follow the regulations of international humanitarian law. It rightly recalls that the bonds uniting the armed forces with the Red Cross in many countries, the latter being an auxiliary service to the former, originate from the events which took place more than a century ago at Solferino.

Santo Domingo

Mr. Pierre Jequier, delegate of the ICRC, visited Santo Domingo at the beginning of December 1966. He was received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs with whom he discussed an important problem, that of disseminating the Geneva Conventions. He then went to the Dominican Red Cross where he met Mr. Manuel E. Saladin Velez who informed him of the present main activities of the National Society over which he presides and in particular of the efforts being made to rehabilitate the disabled. We publish the following notes on the basis of information collected by Mr. Jequier, which give some

idea of the useful work undertaken on behalf of victims and which the dramatic events of 1965 have rendered more than ever necessary.

The Dominican Red Cross possesses ambulances which are distributed throughout the country, ready to transport the wounded and sick night and day. On beaches and in bathing establishments first-aiders have set up a permanent water rescue service and a blood bank functions in the capital. The Red Cross also organizes large-scale relief actions in cases of disaster. This it did recently when a cyclone devastated a part of the country and similarly in time of conflict as the *International Review* mentioned in 1965. These then are the National Society's principal activities.

Other humanitarian activities are being pursued in the country in which the Red Cross takes part. One of these is to aid handicapped children and the war disabled. Mr. Jequier visited the workshop manufacturing artificial limbs, built out of funds made available by the United Nations. This workshop is housed in a large building in Santo Domingo and work started at the beginning of the year. It disposes of an adequate amount of machinery and equipment offered in part by the Dominican Red Cross¹.

The most urgent problem, however, is the training of technicians capable of manufacturing prostheses of all kinds and of persons to ensure the rehabilitation of the disabled. Eleven young men are attending courses at the moment. In addition, three young girls are being given instruction with a view to their becoming physiotherapists. Attention is being given in the first place to the rehabilitation of sick children, numbering about 2,300, suffering from poliomyelitis and impairment of the cerebral nerves. Once this initiative begins to produce its first results, concentration will be made on the adult disabled with amputated limbs, without any sort of discrimination.

Priority lists will then be drawn up, taking the degree of disablement and social condition into account. Here again the Red Cross, as it has done for the workshop's machinery and equipment, will give aid by providing a considerable monthly subsidy and making its ambulances available.

¹ *Plate.* Santo Domingo: M. Jequier visiting the Rehabilitation Center.