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Dr. G. A. Miterev, President of the Executive Committee of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the U.S.S.R., spoke on June 22, 1961 on the Soviet Broadcasting service to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities between Germany and the U.S.S.R. He recalled how terrible the war had been for the Russian people. Millions of human beings had perished, towns had been destroyed, villages wiped out and the very memory of all these misfortunes drives men to love peace more than ever and to ensure that it is defended.

Mr. Miterev referred to new methods of destruction by nuclear weapons. These had become so powerful that no Convention nor any special agreement made between Parties could save the population from destruction. The only way in which millions of lives can be saved is therefore by prohibiting the use of atomic weapons. The task of the Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies was to struggle actively to prevent a nuclear war.

The Red Cross fights for peace. For it must not only relieve the suffering of individuals in the face of hostilities but above all it must struggle, and this is essential, to prevent such suffering and to ensure the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. Mr. Miterev, in the name of the Society of which he is President, then called on all the National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies as well as on International Red Cross institutions to add their efforts by contributing to prevent a new war which would bring immense suffering and evils to humanity.