

Canada

The Canadian Red Cross devoted an issue of its review *Despatch* (No. 4, 1966) entirely to dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions in Canada.

In a well presented and illustrated number, it outlined the history of the Red Cross and humanitarian law, as well as the Convention principles and rules. The treatment of the subject was by no means superficial; the concise and clear presentation of humanitarian problems was of constant interest from beginning to end in this exposition of the rules common to the four 1949 humanitarian Conventions. The Canadian Red Cross is to be congratulated for this publication which appeared in both English and French. It is to be hoped that its initiative in devoting an issue to this subject will be taken as an example to be followed by other National Societies which publish a magazine.

Dominican Republic

In the spring of 1965, the Dominican Red Cross accomplished signal humanitarian service during the tragic events which occurred in Santo Domingo. The *International Review* referred to this several times and gave an account of the activities undertaken by the ICRC delegates in the Republic. After the war the National Society resumed its normal activities and moved back into its own building which it had had to evacuate at the time of the fighting as it was in the combat zone. The Government has donated the Society land on which will soon be built a new building to house all the social and first-aid services.

In a special issue of the Dominican Red Cross review, Dr. Manuel E. Saladin Velez, the Society's President, describes present activities. He recalls how "Inès" a 1966 hurricane, ravaged the Caribbean, causing distress which demanded an enormous effort from the Red Cross first-aid and ambulance services. For hours on end most of the Society's vehicles were operating without respite to bring assistance and relief to the villages in devastated areas and taking casualties to the hospitals in the capital. Later a fleet of vehicles was used to take food, clothing, blankets and medical supplies to the affected areas.

This large scale relief action by the Dominican Red Cross under the direction of its President had a sequel of lasting benefit: the local National Society sections in all the larger villages of the affected area were provided with an ambulance.

The National Society operates a blood bank in premises adequate in size for this useful service to the community; this blood centre provides a large part of the supplies required by hospitals in the capital and elsewhere. Noteworthy was its co-operation in 1965 with the second blood bank opened by the Red Cross in San Francisco de Macoris in the North of the country.

Clinics have been operated in the poor quarters of the capital and in the larger villages of the country by the Society for a long time. They are available for consultations and regular medical treatment for children and they provide medicaments free of charge.

Mention must also be made of a report recently received by the ICRC from the Director of the Dominican Red Cross first-aid and water safety services, whose development is in full swing as the following figures show: 176 life-guard certificates have been awarded and 219 first-aid certificates. Instructors give courses to the public in towns and villages. There are today more than six hundred first-aiders and further courses are being organized for training instructors. The Junior Red Cross also plays an important part in these actions.