

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEAGUE

The annual report of the League of Red Cross Societies for 1974 has been published. The well-illustrated, 56-page report provides information on the year's activities under the following headings: Executive Committee, General activities, Statutory affairs, International relations, Relief, Disaster relief preparedness, Relief supplies, Services to National Societies, Development programme, Training, Health, Blood programme, Social welfare, Nursing, Youth, Information, Administration and control and Financial situation. Several tables are devoted to the financial situation.

Secretary General Henrik Beer, in his introduction to the report, refers both to the work accomplished by the League and the problems confronting it—to which thought must be given:

“To sum up in one word what 1974 meant to the Red Cross, the word that comes to my mind is: reflection. Reflection on the past and preparation for the future, as the Study for the reappraisal of the role of the Red Cross shows. After preparing a profile of the National Societies, the Study in 1975 will consider future prospects for protection, assistance and a host of other activities, and notably the role of the Red Cross in the world of tomorrow.

1974 was a time for reflection for the League's Constitution Revision Commission and all National Societies taking part in its immense task, to provide the League with a Constitution more adapted to changing conditions of the modern world. It was also a period of assessment of the League's Development Programme, following a leadership training programme put into effect over the last few years by the organisation of regional Institutes in all continents. These should help National Societies to work out their own plans, that is, their own development. In this connection, 1974 was a year of growing awareness of the irreversible

tendency to decentralise League activities, and adapt them to groups of countries united by centuries of history, common customs and language; communities differing in some respects but which have to face the same problems, have the same needs, and aspire to similar progress. The Xth Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross in Paraguay made this very clear.

The League's experiment in decentralisation, namely its formation of a regional office in Latin America, has been successful enough to remove all doubt that this example will be followed in other areas of the world, as part of Red Cross organisation and in line with Red Cross resources."

CANADA

The ceremony for the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal and citation to Miss Jeannette Ouellet by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, Mr. H. Lapointe, took place in July 1975 in Quebec City.¹ The award, described as the highest distinction for nurses, was publicized in the newspapers and on radio and television.

Miss Ouellet has served the Red Cross for thirty-four years in its voluntary service and also as a worker in blood collection centres.

¹ *Plate.*