

**SIXTH REGIONAL MEETING
OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES IN TEGUCIGALPA**

The Sixth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of the National Societies of North America, Mexico, Central America and Panama was held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, from 29 January to 11 February 1974. This year's meeting, which was organized by the Honduran Red Cross under the patronage of the League of Red Cross Societies, followed up the one held in Panama in 1972. Its purpose was to strengthen personal contacts between leaders of National Societies in that part of the globe and set up programmes common to all Societies. Delegates were sent by the following National Societies: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States.

The inaugural session was attended by the Head of State of Honduras, who welcomed the participants. Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, Mr. S. Nessi, Delegate-General of the ICRC for Latin America, and Mr. Ruben Villanuevo Doblado, President of the Honduran Red Cross, addressed the meeting on the various problems which the Red Cross is called upon to solve in the world of today. At the plenary sessions and the technical seminars which followed, the delegates examined several important questions on the agenda, including the following: action taken on the resolution adopted at the Fifth Meeting; sociological aspects of the migration of rural populations in so far as they affect National Society activities; setting up of training centres for Red Cross personnel; plans for action in the event of disaster.

At the first plenary session, Mr. Nessi outlined the ICRC's current activities, in particular in Latin America, and, at the meeting of Presidents, introduced the item on the agenda entitled "The Red Cross and internal conflicts and disturbances". This gave rise to a lively discussion which ended in the conclusion that National Societies, while they are able to co-operate extensively and fruitfully with the ICRC, cannot in general take action beyond certain

limits. It was recognized that the ICRC had to continue its work for the benefit of victims of these internal conflicts or disturbances, including political detainees.

The Sixth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar decided, at the close of their deliberations, that the venue of the Seventh Meeting would be Managua and adopted the following resolutions, some of which, of direct interest to the ICRC, are given below:¹

“ The Sixth Meeting of Presidents and Technical Seminar of the National Societies of the USA, Mexico, Central America and Panama decided :

Resolution 11—*To express its gratitude to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its interest in the development of the National Societies in the area and for the material aid it has given them, both in respect of their programmes of assistance and their preparation for cases of emergency.*

Resolution 12—*To recognize the humanitarian work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in favour of victims of international conflicts, internal conflicts and disturbances and internal tensions.*

To recommend the National Societies to support all the efforts and initiatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross in such situations.

Resolution 13—*To recommend the National Societies to intensify their approaches to their respective governments with a view to obtaining the compliance of these governments with the obligations incumbent upon them in virtue of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the widest possible dissemination of these Conventions in school curricula and military training syllabuses.*

To recommend the National Societies to inform the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding the results of their approaches.

Resolution 14—*To recommend that those National Societies which have not yet done so take steps to acquire radio communication equipment, through the intermediary of the International Committee of the Red*

¹ Original Spanish.

Cross, so that they can use the frequencies allotted to the ICRC by the International Telecommunication Union to establish contact between themselves and with the institutions of the Red Cross in Geneva.

Resolution 15—*To ask the ICRC to appoint a delegate to visit each country in the area for the purpose of training National Societies staff in the organization and handling of tracing services.*

SIXTH CONFERENCE OF ARAB RED CRESCENT AND RED CROSS SOCIETIES

This regional conference, organized by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, was held in Kuwait from 11 to 14 February 1974. It was attended by representatives of the Societies of the following thirteen countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The League was represented by its Secretary General Mr. Beer and by Mr. Kiamouch, the regional officer for North Africa and the Near East, while the ICRC was represented by Mr. P. Gaillard, Deputy Director, and Mr. J.-P. Hocké, Director of Operations.

The conference dealt with items such as the follow-up of the recommendations of the Conference held in Amman in 1973; an Arab institute for the training of volunteers; co-operation in providing first-aid and other humanitarian services during the pilgrim season, and consideration of increased financial aid for the ICRC. Discussions also focused on work in the field of international humanitarian law, in the context of the Diplomatic Conference to be held in Geneva, and ICRC activities in the Indian sub-continent and the Philippines.

The question of the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions was also studied by the participants, who welcomed the ICRC's