

## AWARD OF THE NANSEN MEDAL TO A MEMBER OF THE RED CROSS

The person to whom Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, presented the 1968 Nansen medal on October 10 last, in Geneva, was an active member of the Red Cross movement, Mr. Bernard Arcens. He is President of the Senegal Red Cross Casamance regional committee.

Since 1963, Mr. Arcens has been exerting every effort to organize local emergency relief to the refugees coming into the Casamance region. It was in recognition of Mr. Arcens' work that the Nansen Medal Committee decided unanimously to pay tribute to this dedicated member of the Red Cross.

During his visit to the League of Red Cross Societies Mr. Arcens mentioned that in 1965 the Senegal Red Cross had appealed to the League for assistance in launching, in close co-operation with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, an emergency medical programme for the benefit of the refugees arriving in Casamance. He paid warm tribute to the nurse who took part in that action through the offices of the League and several National Societies

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### India

In spite of the heavy burden imposed on it by two difficult years, the Indian Red Cross in 1967 was able not only to continue, but to extend its many humanitarian and charitable activities. This is made clear in the Annual Report submitted by Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Chairman of the Society's Managing Body, to the 1968 Annual General Meeting at New Delhi in April under the chairmanship of Dr. Zakir Husain, President of India.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *Indian Red Cross Society, Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting, New Delhi, 1968.*

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The Indian Red Cross, Mr. Chandrasekhar stated, may be rightly proud of having helped more than a million and a half women and children, sick and disabled, in regions affected by natural disaster during the year under review. More than 10,000 Red Cross distribution centres were organized during the two years of drought and distributed to disaster victims 10,000 tons of powdered milk and other foodstuffs, 50 million vitamin tablets and 250,000 articles of clothing and blankets.

“ We are conscious of the fact ”, he said, “ that we would not have been able to carry through this vast relief operation—much bigger than any project undertaken so far by the Indian Red Cross, or perhaps any sister society—without the most generous support that we received from the League, the ICRC, the government of India and many others from different parts of the world and from within the country.”

The report reviews the work carried out by the Indian Red Cross both nationally and internationally, which included dispatch of relief consignments to victims of conflicts, medico-social services, blood banks, nurse training, organization of family planning centres and the recruiting of more than 375,000 new adherents to the Junior Red Cross. Such were the operations successfully carried out by the National Society in the course of a particularly fruitful year.

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## Switzerland

The first National Red Cross Societies, including the Swiss Red Cross, were created as a result of Henry Dunant's wish to see civilians taking a voluntary part in caring for wounded and sick soldiers.

This obligation of placing trained, professional nursing personnel at the disposal of the Army Medical Service led the Swiss Red Cross to found in 1899 its own nursing school and to concern itself generally with the *development of treatment of the wounded*. Since