

THE HENRY DUNANT INSTITUTE

The annual General Meeting of the Henry Dunant Institute opened on 19 February 1969 on a most sad note. Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, voiced the feelings of all over the loss of Leopold Boissier, who should have presided over the meeting.

To succeed him as President of the Institute's General Meeting and Council, votes were cast in favour of Professor Dietrich Schindler, member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who has already shown keen interest in the Institute's affairs. The International Committee has appointed Mr. Jean Pictet as second member of the Council.

For the first time, the meeting took place in the building occupied since October 1968 by the Institute, not far from the International Committee and the League.

The annual report presented by Mr. Pierre Boissier, Director of the Institute, gave an account of progress during the past year.

The Henry Dunant Institute has undertaken to draw up as complete a record as possible of research which could be useful to the Red Cross. Six students from Germany, Ethiopia, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland are now working with the Institute's help which has, moreover, made a list of other future research workers.

Intended not only as an instrument for research but also for training, the Institute has drawn up a fairly comprehensive course on the Red Cross, its history, organization, principles and action, on the rule of war and the Geneva Conventions, on protocol and even on tropical hygiene. These various matters have already been the subject of study for some sixty hours of courses given chiefly to the cadres and delegates of the two International Red Cross institutions. It is expected, however, that such instruction will be open to National Societies, which could also be given in their own countries.

It should be added that the Institute is preparing a certain number of publications aimed at members of the Red Cross and the general public and also, of a technical character, for specialists.

The very diverse activities of the Henry Dunant Institute will be described in a report which will be presented to the International Conference at Istanbul. National Societies will thus have the opportunity of being widely informed on the subject.

KUWAIT SEMINAR

As is known, meetings are organized in various parts of the world by the League of Red Cross Societies. National Societies of different regions are thus able to examine together those problems facing them. Following the one which took place in Rabat in 1966, a second seminar of National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies of the Middle East and North Africa was held in Kuwait from 25 to 29 January 1969. Organized on the initiative of the Kuwait Red Crescent, the seminar assembled representatives of the National Societies of Algeria, Irak, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the UAR, as well as delegates of the League and the International Committee. Several observers of Societies being formed in this part of the world were also present.

The seminar was officially opened by Mr. Abdul-Aziz Ibrahim Al-Fulcij, Minister of Health, representing H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait. The seminar took place under the chairmanship of Mr. Abdul-Aziz Hammad Al-Sager, President of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society.

The seminar's work bore chiefly on the problems facing a certain number of Middle East countries over several years. An entire day was thus devoted to the question of refugees and displaced persons and, in particular, the role which National Societies have to play in