

NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

Ethiopia

In May 1961, on the twenty-sixth anniversary of its founding, the Ethiopian Red Cross organized its annual International Festival, a sort of great charity sale where the foreign colony's pavilions are ranged beside those of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society and at which competitions take place with humanitarian objects in view. The programme of events having reached the ICRC, we can appreciate the importance of the occasion.

The Emperor and the Empress, patrons of the National Society, take a particular interest in its work and in its development. They honoured the opening ceremony of the Festival with their presence, which was also rendered memorable by a speech by the Crown Prince who was able to announce that the Ethiopian Red Cross, of which he is the President, had spent a total amount of one hundred thousand dollars on relief actions during the past year, and he pointed out that such a result could not have been achieved without the help of the faithful volunteers of the National Society.

Under the heading "Do you know?" in the programme, the principal activities of the Ethiopian Red Cross are listed. As regards international aid, its solidarity was shown on two occasions during 1960: 5,000 Ethiopian dollars were granted to Morocco after the Agadir disaster and the same sum was allocated to the victims of the famine in the Kasai Province of the Congo.

In the interior of the country it carries out its activities in military prisons in which it has established emergency relief posts. In addition, 2,800 persons benefited from medical care. Distribution of relief, clothing, food and vitamins, was made to the prisoners' relatives as well as donations to families who were most in need.

At the present moment the Ethiopian Red Cross is co-operating with the Ministry of Public Health in the struggle against an epidemic of yellow fever and it has undertaken, amongst other things, an action of vaccination in the threatened areas. Furthermore, it has given a considerable amount of aid to the population in Tigre province after clouds of locusts had destroyed the entire harvest of that region some time ago. One can also add that a permanent ambulance service is in operation, with the result that immediate aid can be made available in cases of natural or other disasters. Finally, as regards the blood-transfusion service, the Society has on a number of occasions made free distributions, especially to hospitals, of large amounts of dried plasma.

One should, however, make special note of the development of the Ethiopian Red Cross School of Nursing, which is situated at the Haile Selassie I Hospital. This school, which was established in 1945, was the first of its kind in Ethiopia, to which the *Revue internationale* has often made reference. All the registered nurses, with the exception of those who have obtained scholarships to follow advanced refresher courses abroad, work full-time in the various hospitals throughout the country. Three of these nurses and one doctor are at present working in the Congo with the Ethiopian military element of the United Nations.

In conclusion, it should be noted that this Society will soon be in possession of a new headquarters, thanks to the Emperor's generosity in having made a gift to it of a plot of land. The architects have already drawn up their plans and it is to be hoped that the increased accommodation will greatly facilitate the task of the Red Cross personnel.

The Press, for its part, has already brought the annual festival to the notice of the public. The daily newspaper, *The Ethiopian Herald*, has devoted its editorial, entitled *Humanitarian ideals*, to the Red Cross movement in general and to its activities. It recalls that humanitarian ideas have already been defined for centuries past by the great thinkers and after making a brief historical summary of the origins of our movement, it goes on to describe its action in the world and that of the National Red Cross Society. In the same number of that publication, another article gives an account of the Emperor's opening of a large number of pavilions

and the interest which he took in the different specialities which each country had to offer. Mention should be made for example of the stand at which the Emperor was presented with collections of research work which had been compiled by the doctors of the hospital of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of U.S.S.R. in Addis Ababa; the Director of the hospital, Prof. Kazakov, also presented to the Emperor a book containing an account of general research work and information on the diagnosis and treatment of diseases found in Ethiopia.

Portugal

We have pleasure in publishing some information notes which the Portuguese Red Cross kindly communicated to the ICRC at the end of June concerning its activity in Angola and its aid to those who have been displaced as a result of the events.

From the very outset of the disturbances in Angola, the Portuguese Red Cross took steps, as is its duty, in order to come to the aid of the refugees in devastated areas, as well as of the sick and wounded.

Principally through the offices of the National Society's Delegation in Luanda, this action has been efficiently carried out, day and night, in order to meet the needs of the victims and bring them relief supplies. Coming from Portugal as well as from overseas, the latter have been in the form of gifts of money, linen, clothing, foodstuffs, medicaments, ambulances, cars, etc., which were given to the Portuguese Red Cross on behalf of the victims and which represent a value of several million Swiss francs.

The work of collecting, sorting, registering and transporting all these relief supplies, was taken over by the Lisbon headquarters, especially by its Auxiliary Women's Section, as well as all the other numerous Delegations, headed by that of Luanda. Up till now, we have therefore been able to come to the aid of those in need, and