

SECOND CONFERENCE OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES OF THE BALKAN COUNTRIES

The Second Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan Countries took place in Bucharest from 11 to 13 May, with the participation of delegations from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, Yugoslavia and the League of Red Cross Societies. Representatives of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, of the Hungarian Red Cross and of the International Committee of the Red Cross attended as observers.

Under the chairmanship of Colonel General Mikai Burcà, President of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Conference permitted a wide exchange of views and experience on a variety of questions, such as the role of the Red Cross in working for peace, the role of National Societies in health and social affairs, regional co-operation in the event of disasters and the matter of information and public relations on behalf of the Red Cross.

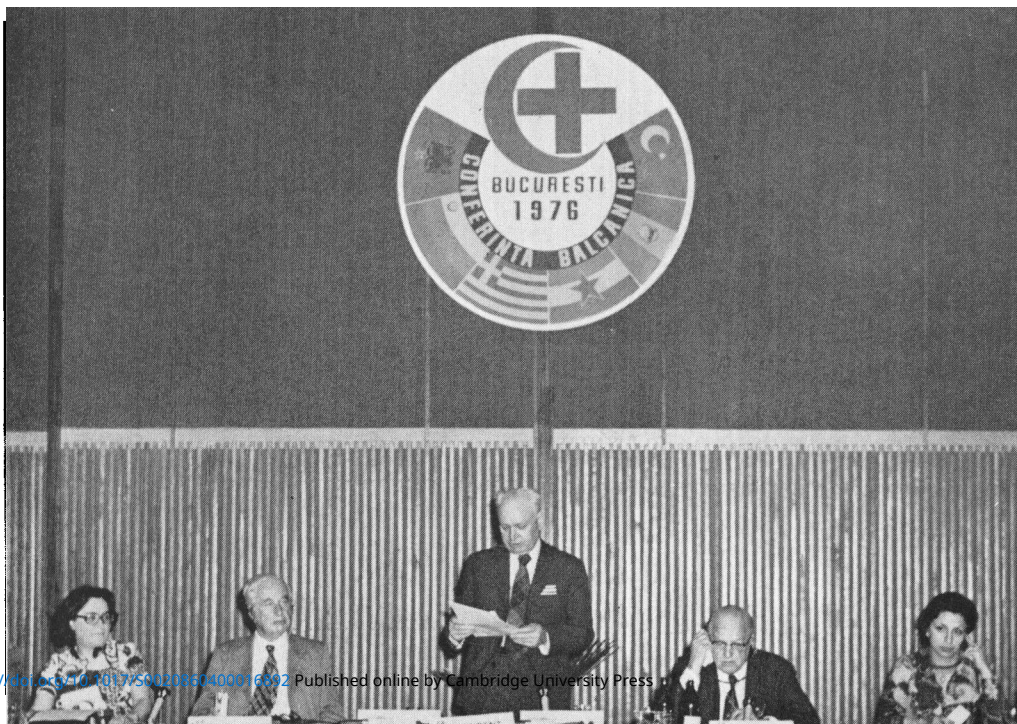
During the three-day meeting, the delegations expressed unanimous support for the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral co-operation between the Societies of the Balkan countries and agreed upon several practical means for putting this into effect:

1. The Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the Balkan Countries will henceforth meet every three years, in rotation among the various countries. Thus, the next meeting will be held in Greece in 1979, at the invitation of the Hellenic Red Cross.
2. To provide permanent contact between the Societies in the region, it was decided to establish an inter-Balkan Red Cross Committee, consisting of the Presidents of the respective Societies or their representatives.
3. Working groups were set up to study activities of mutual interest, such as: health education of the people, mutual assistance in the



Damascus: Professor A. C. Chatti, President of the Syrian Red Crescent and Chairman of the VIII Regional Meeting of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, addressing participants at the opening session.

Bucarest: Address by General M. Burca, President of the Red Cross of the Socialist Republic of Romania, at the closing meeting of the IInd Conference of Balkan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.





Copenhagen: The Queen Mother of Denmark speaking at the official session organized on the occasion of the Centenary of the Danish Red Cross...

DANISH RED CROSS CENTENARY

Photos by Danish Red Cross

... while events commemorating the Centenary are held throughout the country.



event of disasters (including the establishment of regional warehouses, for example), the training of young people in a spirit of international co-operation, protection of the environment, and exchanges in the fields of communications media and public relations. These decisions were based upon reports submitted by the Bulgarian, Hellenic and Romanian Red Cross Societies, the Turkish Red Crescent and the League.

4. The first concrete result of this determination to intensify regional co-operation will be a meeting in the near future of the information directors of the Balkan National Societies.
5. In order to encourage the spirit of peace and co-operation among young people, plans were made for the organization of international camp meetings by the Junior Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The first of such meetings will be in Turkey in 1977, at the invitation of the Turkish Red Crescent.
6. The Yugoslav Red Cross stated it would organize a meeting of members of the Junior Red Cross Societies of the Balkan countries attending the 23rd International Conference of the Red Cross at Bucharest in October 1977. The youth meeting will take place a few days before the opening of the Conference.

During their stay in Bucharest, the heads of the delegations from the National Societies, the President of the ICRC, Mr. Eric Martin, and the Secretary General of the League, Mr. Henrik Beer, were received by the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu. The Romanian President gave particular emphasis on this occasion to the importance of the Second Balkan Conference in the light of the present international situation.