

Bolivia

The Bolivian Red Cross has started a publication of its own, and the first number, recently received in Geneva, is most attractively presented. Lavishly illustrated, it will no doubt help to make known the National Society's various, useful activities throughout the country as well as the principles enshrined by it.

This first issue opens with an editorial article describing the steady expansion of the Red Cross in Bolivia and the important place the National Society occupies at the movement's international meetings, and emphasizing the fact that its emblem signifies everywhere respect for humanity and service to our fellow men. Other articles give accounts of the Society's programmes in the medico-social field, of the action it took for the benefit of a group of guerrilleros, of relations between the Red Cross and the younger generation, and of the work accomplished at times of natural disasters, in particular when floods devastated large areas in parts of Bolivia.

We would single out, too, the articles appearing in this interesting number from the pen of the President of the National Society, Dr. Celso Rossell Santa Cruz, one on the Geneva Conventions and internal armed conflicts, and the other on present and future tasks of the Red Cross in Latin America.



Botswana

In the autumn of 1971, Mr. R. Weber, ICRC delegate, went on a mission to Botswana where he had the opportunity to meet several government officials as well as National Red Cross Society leaders. The Botswana National Society, which was recognized by the ICRC in 1970, carries out much active, useful and efficient work, and we give below an account of what it has been doing.

A person has recently been specially engaged by the Society to visit at regular intervals all its divisions and to take over first aid instruction and instructors' training. It is planned that six instructors will organize first-aid courses in each of the districts.

The recruitment of Junior Red Cross members is advancing satisfactorily. From 1967 to the summer of 1971, 1245 juniors have become members of the Society and today belong to 40 junior groups in 9 districts. The National Society, in agreement with the Ministry of Education, has decided to introduce into Botswana schools the textbook "The Red Cross and My Country" published by the ICRC, which will supply several thousand copies of the booklet together with the accompanying "Teacher's Manual", in order to encourage its dissemination.

The blood bank in the capital is under the management of the Ministry of Health, but it is the Red Cross that is responsible for publicizing it and for recording names of donors, whose number has now reached 1600 persons. One of the duties of the Red Cross is to recruit an increasing number of donors while another of its tasks is to assist the relevant health department in its anti-tuberculosis campaign.

The National Society is at present divided into 13 divisions, to which should be added 26 membership groups. During his stay in Botswana, the ICRC delegate visited several divisions. At Lobatse, for instance, he saw the Society's dispensary where a medical check is carried out on all children under five, who also receive any treatment that may be necessary and are provided with powdered milk and vitamin syrup. The Red Cross, in addition, carries out first aid, brings assistance to tuberculosis patients in hospital and gives instruction on general health problems and baby care. In Gaborone, the Society keeps up children's dispensaries¹ where 800 children are fed each day, and it provides transport for blind people who are undergoing treatment and, also, for certain categories of sick and injured.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is gratified to find how much Red Cross work has developed in Botswana.

¹ *Plate.*



A sitting of the Council of Delegates...

MEXICO: INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MEETINGS

...and of the League Board of Governors.





HAITI : Red Cross first aiders with first aid kits from the ICRC.

BOTSWANA : Mothers and children awaiting consultation at one of the Red Cross child welfare clinics.

