

was founded by the XXth International Conference, to *Mr. André François-Poncet*, former president of the French Red Cross and of the Standing Commission, *Mrs. Sachiko Hashimoto*, president of the Japanese Junior Red Cross, and *Miss Katalyn Durgo*, a nurse of the Hungarian Red Cross. Mrs. Hashimoto, who was present at the meeting, was presented with the medal by the Countess of Limerick. As the other two medalists were unable to come to Geneva, the distinction conferred on them will be presented at some other occasion.

FOR 8 MAY 1972

International Review has already defined the significance of World Red Cross Day and has announced the theme of the event for 1972, namely The Red Cross—Humanity's Bridge. The World Day will be celebrated in many countries and will later be described in our pages.

Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the League Board of Governors, delivered the following message for the occasion :

The choice of theme for the 1972 World Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Day was not haphazard.

The "bridge" represents a link between peoples, the gift of self for a common cause, the solidarity of mankind. In a world taking stock, that is said to be on the decline, in a world where any sentiment often remains impassive, where fine words are spoken but never translated into concrete action, it is really heartening to find that there still are people of goodwill, wishing to help not only their relations, their friends, their neighbours, but also human beings entirely unknown to them, brought close by misfortune and suffering.

Answering the call of the Red Cross, an ever growing number of volunteers are giving the best of themselves to mitigate the

misery of others. For the Red Cross has only one aim: to help the victims of any misfortune whatever the cause—conflicts, disturbances, natural disasters, epidemics, difficult social conditions, etc.

The League of Red Cross Societies co-ordinates the action to this end of its member Societies as well as those which will be becoming members, some 130, comprising tens of millions of members and volunteers spread across the world. All, young or adult, have a single objective: to help.

It is readily said these days that youth is apathetic, dissatisfied with everything and above all with the world shaped by the older generation. I contend that this is false and that the Red Cross in particular can offer them, anywhere and at any time, the opportunity to serve. To support this contention, I can give as an example—and there are countless others—the assistance now being abundantly provided in Viet Nam for the thousands of refugees. Who immediately came to their assistance, provided the essentials for their survival? The Vietnamese youth, the youth of the Red Cross helped by members of other organizations. What served as the bridge between all these young people? The Red Cross.

Let us no longer say that solidarity is an empty word. Let us be convinced that there are opportunities under the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun emblems to serve as a bridge between men and nations, regardless of race, ideologies, creed and also generations, between those who have and those who have not.

