

Statutory meetings in Geneva

(30 April-4 May 1990)

● League Executive Council

The Executive Council of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held its XXVth session on 3 and 4 May 1990, under the chairmanship of Mr. Mario Villarroel Lander. In his opening speech, the League President reaffirmed his wish to work towards greater unity of action within the Movement by maintaining harmony between the League's statutory bodies and between the components of the Movement. He also emphasized the need to provide systematic training for National Society leaders and to continue closely co-operating with the Secretary General so as to improve the League Secretariat's ability to respond to the needs of National Societies.

ICRC President Mr. Cornelio Sommaruga was present at the opening session and briefly addressed the Council.

After hearing Secretary General Pär Stenbäck's report on the Secretariat's activities since October 1989, the Council adopted by consensus a plan of action, covering the years 1990-1991, for the implementation of the League's "Strategic Workplan for the 1990s", adopted by the General Assembly in 1989.

This plan includes some 50 projects classified according to three orders of priority, with a budget estimated at Sfrs. 4.295,000 for the first two years of implementation. A working group composed of the Chairmen of the League's various Commissions (Finance, Development, Disaster Relief, Youth and Health/Community Services) and four members elected in a personal capacity has been set up to monitor the plan's implementation and decide on the necessary working methods.

The delegates also adopted the report of the Finance Commission and were given information on activities carried out within the context of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and the plan of action on women in Red Cross/Red Crescent development, and on the work done by the bureaux of the League's four constitutional Commissions and by the Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace (including the World Campaign for the Protection of War Victims).

The Executive Council decided that its next session would be held on 23 and 24 October 1990 in Geneva.

- **Standing Commission for the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

The Standing Commission met on 1 May under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmed Abu-Goura. It discussed various points of interest to the Movement and in particular the hosting of the Twenty-sixth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The Commission took note of the Colombian Red Cross' decision to renounce hosting the Twenty-sixth International Conference and of its proposal to host the Twenty-seventh International Conference. The Commission decided to inform the National Societies of Colombia's position, inviting them to make offers to host the Twenty-sixth International Conference in 1991 and requesting those interested to reply to the Secretariat of the Standing Commission not later than 30 June 1990.

- **Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace**

The Commission on the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Peace held its XXVIIIth session on 30 April 1990, under the chairmanship of Mr. Alexandre Hay.

The Commission first of all took note of recent developments in connection with the World Campaign for the Protection of War Victims, which officially began in February 1990 with a colloquium on the protection of war victims (see *IRRC*, No. 275, March-April 1990, p. 144). The appeal launched by the colloquium will be widely distributed to the press in 1991 once thousands of signatures in support of the Campaign have been gathered from people from all walks of life, including members of the Movement.

The main objectives of the Campaign were confirmed (see also *IRRC*, No. 275, March-April 1990, p. 139). The Campaign's Steering Committee, chaired by Mr. Alexandre Hay, who recently succeeded Princess Christina of Sweden, will continue to supervise the smooth running of the Campaign, whilst an International Promotion Bureau set up by the ICRC and the League and headed jointly by Mr. George Reid from the League and Mr. Maurice Graber from the ICRC, assisted by a staff of about 10 people from both institutions, will ensure the co-ordination and promotion of Campaign activities.

The Steering Committee trusts that the National Societies will fulfil their commitment to support the Campaign by financing the running of this Promotion Bureau and by helping to secure the sponsors needed to organize the various events planned.

The Commission also heard a report on the initial activities of the *ad hoc* working group it appointed to reactivate the Movement's plan of action against racism and racial discrimination, pursuant to decision No. 3 reached by the Council of Delegates in 1985.
