

tion uniform. Finally, the Society gives each student a certain sum each month as pocket money and pays travelling costs for students in Junior classes when they go home on holiday.

On reading this report, it will be seen that the Nursing School enjoys considerable prestige, not only in Ethiopia but abroad. It is effectively administered by the National Society with the help of the Swedish Agency for Technical Assistance and the Swedish Red Cross ; other sister societies, among them the Canadian Red Cross, have given help in the form of teaching and health equipment. One can well see the usefulness of the effort undertaken by the Ethiopian Red Cross to solve, as far as possible, one of the serious problems of our time : the recruitment of nursing staff.

Guatemala

The *Revue internationale* has already drawn attention to the fine work undertaken by the Red Cross of Guatemala, which has intervened on a number of occasions in particularly difficult circumstances on behalf of political detainees interned in that country. A mission carried out in 1954 by a representative of the ICRC, Mr. Jequier, at a time of internal conflict, certainly laid solid foundations for an activity inspired by the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, since by invoking them the latter can speak to governments of the respect which is due to their political opponents.

Furthermore, it is known that article 3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 ensures humane treatment to the victims of repression and expressly lays down that an impartial humanitarian body such as the ICRC may offer its services. Thus Mr. Jequier accompanied by two representatives of the National Red Cross Society at that time visited various penal establishments and prisons where many persons were interned and he was subsequently

able, not only to communicate his impressions to the appropriate ministry, but also to support the efforts being made by the Guatemalan Red Cross¹.

Later on, other opportunities were given to that Society to take the initiative in that field. In 1959, after an incident involving air and naval forces, eighteen Mexican seamen were detained in the military hospital in the capital. The National Red Cross Society cared for them and gave them immediate aid in the shape of relief; it also handed over a list of the detained seamen to the Mexican Red Cross and on several occasions sent information to Mexico on the condition of persons in whom it was concerned.

Finally, in June 1960, it signed an important agreement with the Government dealing with its legal position as well as with the measures it could take in cases of emergency or public disaster. This agreement is a mile-stone in the evolution of humanitarian law, since it has the great merit of very clearly defining the rights and duties of a National Society, especially in the case of internal conflict.

The Guatemalan Red Cross draws its inspiration from high ideals and we recall with pleasure the remarks made in 1956 by Dr. Emilio Poitevin on his nomination to the Presidency of the Red Cross:

“ I regard it a matter of great importance that, in agreement with our council and in accordance with the rules and statutes of our Society, we shall be maintaining the privileged position and the independence of the Red Cross as energetically as possible, since we know that only they can enable us to defend the sacred interests of the people which has need of us and which we are in duty bound to serve.”²

The Guatemalan Red Cross has acquired sufficient prestige not to have to be subjected to the consequences of political upheavals. Its directing staff has remained the same throughout the events which have taken place and this has ensured a remarkable continuity in its humanitarian action, and consequently considerable effectiveness. One is moreover entitled to think that the Inter-

¹ *Revue internationale*, October 1954.

² See *Revue internationale*, October 1956.

national Committee made a useful contribution to this by demonstrating its confidence on several occasions in the impartiality of the National Society. A further example of this effectiveness and impartiality has just been given us by recent events which we have pleasure in mentioning to our readers :

Following on recent events, the National Red Cross Society considered that a useful purpose would be served if a Commission formed by three members of its directing council, Dr. Emilio Poitevin, Mr. Alfredo Mury Benz and Mr. David Melgar, were to visit prisons in the capital. It was in application of the agreement signed in 1960, which we have just quoted above and whose complete text¹ was published in the *Revue internationale*, that the visit took place following which the Commission concerned drew up a report which was submitted to the President of the Red Cross Society, Dr. Jorge von Ahn. This document dated June 8, 1962, and a copy of which was sent to Geneva, shows that the Commission accomplished its task most conscientiously and thoroughly, and it is noticeable for its outspokenness. It raises three problems : the condition of buildings, food and the treatment of prisoners. Concluding with the Commission's recommendations, the report is a testimony to the presence of the Red Cross in Guatemala and to the effectiveness of its action. It also demonstrates the understanding shown by the Guatemalan Government towards the National Society and the humanitarian task it is pursuing.

Hungary

The Hungarian Red Cross has published a report of its activities in English (*Hungarian Red Cross*). Attractively presented through the arrangement and the number of photographs it contains, this brochure gives a brief summary of the work accomplished during 1960 and 1961.

¹ See *Revue internationale*, January 1961.