

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE LEAGUE

Election of the new Chairman

The 28th session of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies opened in Vienna on September 28, 1965.

The delegations of 83 National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies met in the banqueting hall of the Hofburg Palace and were presided over by Mr. John A. MacAulay, Chairman of the Board of Governors and Vice-President of the Canadian Red Cross.

By unanimous vote the Board welcomed two new members into the federation, the National Societies of Uganda and Niger¹, and confirmed the admission of those of Jamaica and Nepal. There are now a total of 106 members of the League.

The Board then adopted the highest budget ever proposed throughout the League's 46 years of existence. It also approved a special budget of more than 2 million Swiss francs for the financing of the development programme for the new Societies. Finally, it made certain important modifications to the League by-laws and designated the Netherlands as the seat for the next Board of Governors in 1967.

At the meeting on October 1, Mr. José Barroso Chavez was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League in succession to Mr. MacAulay, who had held that office since 1959.

President of the Mexican Red Cross since 1964, Mr. Barroso has been a member of the Central Committee of the Mexican Red Cross

¹ The latter with the reservation of the ICRC's definite recognition.

since 1959. Born in Mexico in 1925 and a graduate of La Salle University (Contador privado C.P.), he is President of the Hispano-Mexican cultural institute and President of directing bodies of various Mexican industries. This is the first time that a Latin-American personality has been elected to the highest office of the League.

After nomination, the new Chairman of the Board of Governors delivered an address, whose conclusion we now give below :

We live in times of great commotion; disasters, wars, misery, sickness; but besides these scourges we find immense human reserves, in the forefront of which are our Red Cross Societies. We for our part do everything possible to ensure that these human reserves are each day more effective and become a marvellous instrument to give effect in all quarters of the globe to our founder's ideal.

Basically we work for peace and solidarity among the nations. May the countries to which our 106 Societies belong never be involved in armed conflicts; this should be our ideal and should constitute the aim of our full determination.

I feel extremely proud to belong to a National Society like ours which works indefatigably for the good of humanity. Through it I have learnt to love and serve my fellowmen. Whatever is done with love will prosper and bear fruit. This shall be my sentiment throughout the discharge of my office.

To my friends of Latin America I say that the honour extended to Mexico through my person may be considered as reflecting on them all. I invite all of them assembled here, in the most cordial way to unite in our work for the benefit of our fellowmen, for the good of the world in which we live, a world full of threats and anxiety, but one in which there waves a banner of peace and harmony.

I want to emphasize that from now on I don't feel any obligation to a special Society or to a group of Societies. I am the Chairman of the international movement and I am to care for all the National Societies of the world.

I thank all who have placed their confidence in me and I assure you that I desire to work with the same enthusiasm and devotion for Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and America.

To all the small National Societies and those with problems I offer my unconditional help; to all the large and well organized Societies I ask them to help us to help.

The International Committee is most pleased by this appointment and wishes every success to the chairmanship of Mr. José

IN GENEVA



Mr. Barroso Chavez, new Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, visiting the ICRC and signs the institution's Gold Book. (On left, Mr. Gonard, right, Mr. Beer, Secretary General of the League.)

IN VIENNA



Inauguration of the monument erected to the memory of Elsa Brandström. The President of the Austrian Red Cross, Mr. von Lauda delivering an address during the ceremony.

Barroso Chavez, whom Mr. Gonard had the opportunity of meeting in Mexico and also of welcoming to its headquarters when he visited Geneva in September.

It will retain good memories of Mr. MacAulay's chairmanship with him the institution's directorate always had the best of relations and he largely contributed to the League's constant development.

The new Chairman of the League's Board of Governors returned to Geneva after the Vienna Conference and honoured the ICRC with a further visit.¹

LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT

The League of Red Cross Societies has just issued its Annual Report for 1964. Clear and uncramped in layout, the 35 large size pages of this report are illustrated with fine photographs depicting the activities described in each chapter.

The contents include : Development Programme ; Relief ; Health and Social Service ; Nursing ; Junior Red Cross ; Information and Publications ; International Relations.

Mr. Henrik Beer, Secretary-General, gives in the preface a summary of the main tasks which confronted the League in 1964. The main passages are quoted below :

The first year of the Red Cross movement's second century of existence was very different from 1963, when it celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its foundation. In 1964, hard facts took the place of tributes to its glorious history, events illustrating a hundred years' activities in the service of mankind, the countless proofs of confidence in its future inspired by this commemoration.

¹ *Plate:* Mr. Barroso signing the ICRC's Gold Book.