

shortly be made available. This summary will contain a list of the principal points discussed and in particular of the wishes expressed with a view to improving the information work of the Red Cross, in other words, to increasing the extent and effectiveness of our movement.

In fact, it should be stressed that the participants' main pre-occupation was effectiveness, for it was not necessary to remind these professionals of information and public relations that the importance of this sphere of activity is continuously increasing in the world today. However, one should also mention the interest which this meeting and its work had for all members of the Red Cross, where it has not always been sufficiently understood that often, in order to give more effective aid, one should begin by giving better information.

R. D. P.

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## THE FUTURE OF THE RED CROSS

*In one of the latest issues of The Red Cross World<sup>1</sup> are to be found various illustrated articles on problems which the Red Cross will no doubt have to contend with in years to come and on new methods and techniques which it uses and will continue to use more and more to ensure the greater rapidity and effectiveness of its work. In his foreword, Mr. José Barroso, League Chairman, draws attention to the need for the Red Cross to adapt to a world which is visibly undergoing radical changes.*

*Other articles deal with such subjects as "The effect of the transistor evolution", "Automation and the Red Cross", "Satellites already important to Red Cross work", "Closed circuit television", "The population explosion—its meaning for Red Cross" and finally in the article which we quote below, Mr. Henry W. Dunning, former League*

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<sup>1</sup> No. 3, Geneva, 1966.

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

*Secretary-General and present Adviser to the League, describes how he views our movement's future.*

On other pages of this issue of "The Red Cross World" the future is prognosticated in vivid terms—the growth of population, automation, more rapid communication and transportation and their effect on social and economic life.

Some of these predictions may seem fantastic, but if we look back on the progress that has been made during the present century, they appear logical.

What does this new world into which we are emerging hold for the Red Cross? Will it be able to keep pace with these rapidly changing events, adapt itself to them?

In the past fifty years, the Red Cross has spread out into many fields that were foreign to its original conception; today there is scarcely any human endeavour in which it is not concerned. At the same time, governments have expanded the scope of their activities, other international organizations and foundations with enormous resources have come into being to undertake actions in many respects similar to these of the Red Cross. New nations have been—and continue being—born where the Red Cross is hardly known. In some older nations Red Cross Societies are well-known auxiliaries of their governments.

All of this requires profound thinking on the part of Red Cross leaders, both national and international.

To begin with, all nations are in various stages of development, both economically and socially—it will always be so. There are various forms of government—which also change.

Spiritually, Red Cross is based on seven fundamental principles—humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality—but materially, each nation has its particular problems to solve, in which the National Red Cross has its role to play. And it is these National Red Cross Societies which are the roots of the organisation as a whole.

The future of the Red Cross depends on how well each one of them fulfils its role, at the same time maintaining their spiritual values.

New nations should mean additional Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies. Increased population should mean more Red Cross mem-

bers, enrolment of which should be facilitated by the most modern promotional methods. More leisure time through automation should mean more volunteers, who should be trained in specialities—home nursing and care of the sick, first aid, the battle against illiteracy, more attention to the aging, disaster relief. More intensive and higher specialized training also will be required for salaried employees of the Red Cross who will have to guide this growing organisation, both nationally and internationally.

A closer co-ordination and co-operation will probably be established between the Red Cross and government, particularly in the fields of health, social service and education, or else with the expansion of government services in these fields the Red Cross will find itself with diminishing possibilities for its activities and the loss of interest of individuals in the movement. The Red Cross principle of independence however, must be guarded even more carefully than in the past.

The Red Cross will survive and prosper in this new world because of its continued usefulness to humanity, the speed and efficiency of its actions, its consecration to its basic principles.