



# REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

## SUPPLEMENT

### CONTENTS

	Page
Sixteenth Award of the Florence Nightingale Medal (Circular letter No. 414) . . . . .	91
ICRC Relief action in Hungary . . . . .	95
A mission of the ICRC to Kenya . . . . .	100
A Journey across Pakistan (R.M.) . . . . .	102
Meeting of Representatives of National Societies. . . . .	107



# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

---

## SIXTEENTH AWARD OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

GENEVA, 12 May 1957.

*414th Circular letter  
to the Central Committees of National Red Cross  
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In its circular No. 412 of 29 September 1956, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to invite the Central Committees of National Societies to send in the names of nurses and voluntary aids whom they judged qualified to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This invitation, which quoted Article 6 of the Regulations, was accompanied by questionnaires bearing various necessary headings for the candidatures.

As limited by the Regulations, which provide for the award of a maximum of 36 medals each two years, the International Committee, after having examined with the greatest care the files submitted to it, was concerned to make a choice among the candidatures presented. It was moreover obliged to keep strictly to the regulations to the effect that no nominations reaching Geneva after the time limit prescribed will be taken into consideration. To make exceptions to this rule only delays the Committee's decisions and the award of the medal.

In this connection, the International Committee of the Red Cross would like to draw the attention of the Central Committees

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

of National Societies to the fact that the first aim of the Florence Nightingale Medal is to pay tribute to exceptional devotion shown by nurses and voluntary aids in their care of the wounded and sick in the difficult and dangerous situations often prevailing in times of war and public disasters.

The International Committee is happy to be able to announce that for this sixteenth distribution the medal has been awarded to the following nurses and voluntary aids :

AUSTRALIA

1. *Miss Joan Abbott*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

BOLIVIA

2. *Senorita Ana Maria Cermak*, Professional Nurse.

CANADA

3. *Miss Helen G. McArthur*, Professional Nurse.

CHILE

4. *Senorita Maria Luisa Torres de la Cruz*, Voluntary Aid.

DENMARK

5. *Sister Eva Lyngby*, Professional Nurse.
6. *Miss Zelna Mollerup*, Professional Nurse.

FINLAND

7. *Miss Sigrid Eleonora Larsson*, Professional Nurse and Health Visitor.

FRANCE

8. *Mademoiselle Anne Valette*, Professional Nurse.
9. *Mademoiselle Jeanne Le Camus*, Professional Nurse.

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

10. *Frau Oberin Regine Köhler*, Professional Nurse.
11. *Frau Oberin Cläre Port*, Professional Nurse.

ICELAND

12. *Miss Sigrídur Bachmann*, Professional Nurse.

## INDIA

13. *Miss Tehmina K. Adranvala*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.
14. *Miss Ellen Lund*, Professional Nurse.
15. *Miss Rosetta Sheridan*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

## ITALY

16. *Signorina Mimy Rigat Macchi*, Voluntary Aid.
17. *Signorina Bice Enriques*, Professional Nurse.

## JAPAN

18. *Miss Hisako Nagashima*, Professional Nurse.
19. *Miss Chiyo Mikami*, Professional Nurse.

## JORDAN

20. *Miss Nabiha Salameh Wirr*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

## KOREA (NORTH)

21. *Sister Ku Sin-bok*, Professional Nurse.
22. *Sister Li Myong-oo*, Professional Nurse.

## KOREA (SOUTH)

23. *Mrs Hyo Chung Lee*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

## LEBANON

24. *Mrs Marcelle Hochar*, Professional Nurse.
25. *Mrs. Eva H elou Serhal*, Professional Nurse.

## NEW ZEALAND

26. *Mrs. Catherine Lynette Wells*, Professional Nurse.

## NORWAY

27. *Sister Martha Palm*, Professional Nurse.

## PAKISTAN

28. *Miss Gladys Maure Hodgson*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

UNITED KINGDOM

29. *Dame Elizabeth Cockayne*, Professional Nurse and Midwife.

UNITED STATES

30. *Mrs. Elizabeth K. Porter*, Professional Nurse.  
31. *Miss Marion W. Sheahan*, Professional Nurse.

The medals and diplomas awarded to the nurses and voluntary aids mentioned above will be sent as quickly as possible to the Central Committees of the respective countries. We shall enclose a photogravure reproduction of the portrait of Florence Nightingale. The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to receive an acknowledgment of the receipt of the medals and diplomas.

Committees are requested to give a character of solemnity to the presentation of the medal, as its founders desired. The International Committee would be pleased to publish in the *Revue Internationale de la Croix-Rouge* an account—if possible with photographs—of the ceremonies organised in this connection.

Yours faithfully,

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE RED CROSS

LÉOPOLD BOISSIER  
*President*

---

## ICRC RELIEF ACTION IN HUNGARY

As we know, the relief action of the International Committee in Hungary consists of the distribution of relief supplies in Hungary and of the work of the Hungarian Section set up by the ICRC in Geneva on behalf of Hungarian refugees. We should like to quote a few figures in connection with this work; up to the present 18,019 letters and 26,620 messages have been received by the Hungarian Section which has sent out 10,572 items and transmitted 39,132 family messages.

At the beginning of May the Hungarian card-index contained 211,987 personal history cards, made out by the National Red Cross Societies of the countries of reception and sent to Geneva where comparison with enquiry cards has enabled 4,074 tallies to be made so far.

The distribution of relief supplies is due to come to a close at the end of June 1957. It was started in Budapest, where the events of October and November, 1956, had caused the greatest number of victims, and was extended to the principal provincial centres.

As in Budapest, the delegates of the ICRC (a doctor-delegate and two social workers) made a round of visits to distribution centres and hospitals in the provinces. They were thus able to see for themselves that all proper steps had been taken to ensure the fair distribution of relief supplies received through the ICRC. Distributions are carried out by the local branches

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

of the Hungarian Red Cross. In several centres the churches have associated themselves with this work.

At the request of the Hungarian Red Cross, the International Committee has increased its supplies of medicaments and medical equipment for the whole of the country.

Finally, we should like to quote figures and items of information on the relief action in Hungary published by the ICRC Delegation in Vienna.

TOTAL OF ICRC TRANSPORTS TO BUDAPEST  
UP TO MARCH 28, 1957

<i>by rail</i> . . . . .	14,784,642 kg	<i>Foodstuffs</i> . . . . .	10,957,450 kg
<i>by water</i> . . . . .	2,608,320 kg	<i>Textiles</i> . . . . .	1,732,875 kg
<i>by road</i> . . . . .	3,094,846 kg	<i>Medical supplies</i>	183,674 kg
		<i>Various</i> . . . . .	7,613,809 kg
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<u>20,487,808 kg</u>	<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<u>20,487,808 kg</u>

LIST OF ALL GOODS RECEIVED AT VIENNA UP TO MARCH 31, 1957  
(MEDICAMENTS NOT INCLUDED) SHOWING THE TOTAL AMOUNT  
FOR EACH COUNTRY

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total kg</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Total kg</i>
<i>Argentine Republic</i>	1,880	<i>Luxemburg</i> . . . . .	8,900
<i>Austria</i> . . . . .	120,194	<i>Mexico</i> . . . . .	3,080
<i>Belgium</i> . . . . .	630,707	<i>Netherlands</i> . . . . .	1,397,966
<i>Canada</i> . . . . .	17,018	<i>Norway</i> . . . . .	318,566
<i>Denmark</i> . . . . .	270,896	<i>Portugal</i> . . . . .	2,989
<i>Finland</i> . . . . .	119,848	<i>Spain</i> . . . . .	487,863
<i>France</i> . . . . .	1,454,195	<i>Sweden</i> . . . . .	763,758
<i>Germany</i> . . . . .	11,605,348	<i>Switzerland</i> . . . . .	1,354,390
<i>Greece</i> . . . . .	55,600	<i>United Kingdom</i> . . . . .	1,048,635
<i>Italy</i> . . . . .	297,495	<i>United States</i> . . . . .	3,192,565
<i>Liechtenstein</i> . . . . .	1,792	<i>Uruguay</i> . . . . .	2,290

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

## DESCRIPTION OF GOODS SENT TO BUDAPEST UP TO MARCH 31, 1957

Foodstuffs :		Kg			Kg
Bread . . . . .		2,947	Chocolate . . . . .		115,424
Butter . . . . .		143,585	Salt . . . . .		10,100
Margarine . . . . .		490,557	Sundry foodstuffs . . . . .		86,853
Fats . . . . .		443,455	Food-parcels . . . . .		1,755,032
Edible oil . . . . .		41,665			
Tinned fish . . . . .		110,336	Textiles and bedding :		
Tinned meat . . . . .		651,643	Clothing (various) . . . . .		1,767,583
Tinned fruit . . . . .		34,254	Mattresses . . . . .		44,695
Tinned vegetables . . . . .		19,936	Beds . . . . .		28,422
Tinned soup . . . . .		41,282	Sheets . . . . .		36,423
Sundry tinned goods . . . . .		130,371	Underclothing . . . . .		38,993
Jam . . . . .		13,454	161,000 blankets		
Fresh fruit . . . . .		53,925			
Dried fruit . . . . .		38,908	Various :		
Rice . . . . .		721,046	Footwear . . . . .		164,105
Flour . . . . .		3,195,133	Window-glass . . . . .		105,515
Oat flakes . . . . .		18,105	Candles . . . . .		22,948
Semolina . . . . .		14,400	Coal . . . . .		7,158,370
Pulse foods . . . . .		79,050	Kitchen utensils . . . . .		27,598
Potatoes . . . . .		30,050	Soap . . . . .		47,078
Pasta . . . . .		59,395	Games . . . . .		5,691
Cheese . . . . .		342,323	Cigarettes . . . . .		3,560
Condensed milk } . . . . .		2,760,707	News-print . . . . .		3,208
Powdered milk }					
Tonics for children . . . . .		91,745	Medical supplies :		
Bakers products . . . . .		72,092	Medicaments . . . . .		67,051
Confectionery . . . . .		1,172	Insulin (71,000 ampoules)		
Syrup . . . . .		11,855	Dressings . . . . .		50,510
Sugar . . . . .		541,126	Instruments . . . . .		1,750
Coffee . . . . .		11,297	Films for X-ray tests . . . . .		4,500
Tea . . . . .		15,109			
Cocoa . . . . .		11,222			

April 16, 1957. — In accordance with a general decision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the relief action in Hungary, in the course of which over 30,000 tons of gift supplies of all descriptions, including the FAO gift of seed, have so far been distributed to those in need, will come to a close at the end of June next. For the last stage of this action considerable further

consignments are anticipated which will amount altogether to over 8,000 tons.

The most recent plans for the coming weeks take into account the fact that the food situation is gradually improving, but that there is still an urgent need of textiles and medical supplies. Thus at the end of April, the distributions of milk to mothers and to infants can be discontinued, whereas the deliveries of medicaments, surgical instruments and hospital linen will be considerably increased.

In the foodstuffs programme, standard food-parcels (highly appreciated in Hungary) play a conspicuous part; from now until the end of June a further one million or so parcels will be distributed to needy persons in Budapest and the provinces. There still remains to be drawn from American surplus stocks 2,700 tons of powdered milk and 700 tons of cheese, which will be distributed in Hungary with the help of the Church authorities.

In view of the persistent scarcity of clothing and textiles, the delivery of clothing, footwear, blankets and clothing material is still an important item. Hungary will receive, in particular, 100,000 pairs of socks, 30,000 pairs of rubber boots and 10 to 20,000 pairs of boots and shoes, all drawn from the American stocks.

In addition, collective relief programmes are now being drawn up in conjunction with UNICEF, UNESCO and other international organisations.

The cessation last month, by order of the Hungarian Government, of the transport by road of relief supplies for Budapest, and the adoption of various economic measures, have led to a reduction in the staff of the ICRC Delegation in Vienna from 200, in December 1956, to the present 60. The considerable saving thus made, however, is counterbalanced by the increase of the cost of the relief action in Hungary caused by the fact that various European railway administrations have, during the past few weeks, discontinued the free transport privileges formerly granted to relief consignments for Hungary.

April 16, 1957. — Last Saturday at the frontier station of Hegyeshalom, a representative of the Netherlands Red Cross,

*Lieutenant Hendrick Haarlemmer, handed over five ambulances to representatives of the Hungarian Red Cross. Mr. Tibor Garay and Dr. Oravec, on behalf of the Hungarian Red Cross, expressed their gratitude for this gift, which is particularly useful in view of the shortage of vehicles.*

*Thanks to this gift, the number of vehicles given to the Hungarian Red Cross through the ICRC has now reached twenty, including the Netherlands ambulances and the vehicles from the Danish and Belgian Red Cross Societies. The value of these gifts is about 200,000 Swiss francs. Furthermore, the Hungarian Red Cross has been lent six American lorries.*

*According to figures given on April 10 by the Hungarian Red Cross, the number of persons in need assisted by that Society in Budapest is 615,600, i.e. 32 per cent of the total population of the city. It should be noted that this figure includes all the members of any family the head of which is assisted.*

*April 25, 1957. — During a short ceremony, the Secretary-General of the Swedish Red Cross, Mr. Henrik Beer, handed over to the representative of the General-Delegate of the ICRC in Vienna the 100,000th food parcel made up by the Swedish Red Cross for the relief action in Hungary. 50,000 of these parcels have already been distributed and the others are on their way to Budapest.*

*In addition to this aid from Sweden, food parcels for the Hungarian people have already been sent by the following countries: United States (600,000), Federal Republic of Germany (62,000), Switzerland (51,000), Denmark (36,000), Norway (12,000), Great Britain (7,000), Netherlands (5,000) and France (2,000). In addition, in Budapest itself, gifts of foodstuffs from numerous donors have enabled the International Committee to have 720,000 standard parcels made up.*

*Finally, during the last few days, the United States Government has announced that a further 200,000 food parcels for Hungary will soon be despatched.*

## A MISSION OF THE ICRC TO KENYA

For some years now the International Committee of the Red Cross, suiting its activities to modern conditions, has sought to give assistance to victims of civil disturbances and to persons detained for political reasons. In this connection, the *Revue internationale* has already reported on numerous visits to prisoners by ICRC delegates in all parts of the world. During their visits, the delegates are concerned only with investigating the material conditions of detention and suggesting improvements which they think necessary. The confidence which governments thus show bears witness to the ever-increasing influence of the ICRC and the spread of the Red Cross idea.

As part of these activities, the British authorities, who had already been approached some time before, recently authorised the sending of an ICRC mission to Kenya, composed of Dr. L. A. Gaillard and Mr. H. P. Junod, the International Committee's resident delegate in Pretoria. This mission went to Kenya in March and April this year, and was able to visit 52 camps and prisons and 18 rehabilitation villages.

Following the events in Kenya, the British authorities detained several thousand people accused of participation in, or sympathy for, the Mau-Mau movement. A policy of gradual release had reduced the number of detained to 35,000 when the ICRC delegates visited Kenya.

As is the custom, the ICRC delegates investigated all aspects of life in the camps. Dr. Gaillard and Mr. Junod thus noted with interest that several camps contained huts of a new type made of aluminium. Well insulated against both heat and cold, easy to erect and simple to maintain, they seem well suited to the climate. Elsewhere hutments are of stone or

brick, roofed with thatch, or of the local type, with plaited reed walls and roofs of woven palm leaves.

Special regulations have been promulgated by the British authorities in Kenya, dealing with conditions of life and work in the camps and with discipline. Work, except for ordinary camp maintenance, is voluntary and paid. The detained persons are employed particularly on the digging of irrigation canals, the building of roads and the terracing of land for crops near certain villages, as well as in the manufacture of various articles such as sisal string or cord, sleeping mats, etc.

Finally, in some camps, those men who so wish work on large construction schemes, such as the digging of a 43-mile-long canal to carry water from the river Thiba to irrigate the Yatta plain where the land is being made available to the local population, the construction of a new aerodrome for international traffic at Nairobi, etc.

Special camps have been built for women and juveniles. Many apprentice workshops have been opened, where the detained persons can learn a trade which will enable them to find employment on release.

In the new villages, specially built to rehabilitate the released persons and their families, nurses and welfare workers of the British Red Cross are carrying out remarkable work on health social problems. The *Revue internationale* reported on these most useful activities in its issue of November 1956.

During their visit to Kenya, the two ICRC delegates had interviews with the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. J. H. Lewis, the Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Walker, and the Minister for Internal Security and Defence, Mr. Cusack; at the beginning and the end of their mission, they had long conversations with Sir Evelyn Baring, the Governor of Kenya and were able to pass on to him their general comments on what they had seen during their visits to 52 camps. A detailed report on their findings and suggestions has just been sent to the British Government with copies for information to the Governor of Kenya and the British Red Cross.

---

On behalf of former prisoners of war...

### A JOURNEY ACROSS PAKISTAN

The *Revue internationale* has more than once in the past had occasion to refer to the duties assigned to the International Committee of the Red Cross under Article 16 of the Treaty of San Francisco. That article provides for the payment of compensation to persons who suffered undue hardship while held prisoner in Japan. The funds deposited by the Japanese Government to this end will first of all be divided up between the various beneficiary States, their shares being in direct proportion to the number of their nationals who were prisoners of war in Japanese hands. Hence the importance, as regards an equitable distribution, of the work done by the ICRC in checking the lists of former prisoners, submitted by the States concerned to enable the calculation of their respective shares. To clear up the at times quite large number of doubtful cases contained in these lists is not easy. A preliminary scrutiny, at Geneva, must in most cases be followed by detailed investigations, carried out on the spot in close co-operation with the appropriate authorities, in the countries where the lists were actually prepared.

Thus, in Pakistan where such a check appeared necessary, the work was carried out with exceptional conscientiousness by two members of the Swiss colony at Karachi, Mr. and Mrs. Liechti. Their recent visit to ICRC headquarters provided us with an opportunity to hear at first hand about their experiences,

and more especially about those of Mrs. Liechti to whom it fell to do the hardest part of this difficult work.

The first thing they had to say was that the Pakistani lists had been prepared with the greatest care and in entire good faith. The mistakes attributable to their compilers were very few. That many names had nevertheless been included in error was due to the fact that the records at the disposal of the Pakistani army authorities, responsible for preparing the lists, had not been sufficiently complete to enable them to establish with certainty that each of the persons mentioned had actually been a prisoner. No lists of Pakistani prisoners of war were ever transmitted by the Japanese authorities during the last world war. Furthermore, very many of the Moslem soldiers recruited in the days of British rule had come from areas that subsequently became part of the Republic of India. But, when, at the time of the country's partition, the military records had to be split up on the basis of nationality, a very large proportion of those of interest to the Pakistani army had remained in India, or been lost or destroyed. The absence of those records was the main cause of the errors found in the lists.

Mrs. Liechti took great care to familiarize herself with work of which she had had no previous experience. To begin with, at Geneva, she made a preliminary study of the lists and received her initial instructions ; but, in her own words, " the theoretical description given me of the work, and the situation as I found it in Pakistan, could obviously not coincide at all points. Only on the spot can an understanding of the special aspects of such work, and of the practical difficulties involved, be obtained... A thorough knowledge of local conditions is needed to make a success of it ". That this was so became clear as soon as, on her return to Karachi, Mrs. Liechti began to make a thorough study of the lists handed over to her. She had in the first place to make sure that they did not contain any Indian names, and that the addresses given were all in Pakistani territory. Other things also had to be done : to look for mistakes, which were always possible, in the reference numbers ; to see that the man's army or airforce number was shown against each name,

and also the dates of the beginning and end of captivity (the latter did not always coincide with the date of repatriation); to pick out all the cases of "presumed prisoners, death or presumed death", etc. In short, from a total of 20,000 names, all those had to be extracted as regards which adequate confirmatory particulars were not given, and further information was in consequence required.

Once a list of these doubtful cases had been drawn up, their investigation could begin with the help of the appropriate army authorities, whose duty it was to provide the necessary corroboration. Thus began, in circumstances in which distrust would have been so easy, a collaboration that was always sincere and imbued with the greatest goodwill.

It was immediately apparent that most of the cases in question could not be cleared up by means of the records at General Headquarters at Rawalpindi alone, and that the investigation would have to be extended to the record offices of fifteen regional military commands. The plans for the journey were most carefully prepared by the Adjutant General's office. After a preliminary side-trip across desert country in the direction of the Afghan frontier, the party was to proceed by stages to the country's northern frontier and Kashmir, via Bahawalpur and Lahore.

Shortly after the party left Karachi, a serious hitch occurred in that Mr. Liechti was called back to attend to urgent business affairs, and had to leave to his wife the sole responsibility for their mission. His unexpected return to Karachi placed Mrs. Liechti in a, to say the least, somewhat unusual position. During a journey which at times seemed likely to turn into a veritable "trek", a lone woman among soldiers, she was going for three months to share their life and experience both long trips by jeep and the relative comfort of cantonments. Furthermore, she had, in a Moslem country, to do work usually performed by men. Colonel Inayat Khan, who was responsible for the mission, was the first to appreciate with some alarm the dangers of a situation without precedent in Pakistan. Hence, he immediately gave very strict orders for the well-being and safety of the ICRC representative, and was always careful to

see that she was treated with the utmost consideration. "Do not try to influence Mrs. Liechti", he told his subordinates, "she knows her business from the ground up".

Actually, Mrs. Liechti had at first some difficulty in making those with whom she had to deal understand what she wanted of them, but she always met with a most courteous reception and a uniform eagerness to fulfil her wishes. As her journey progressed, she found her local collaborators better and better informed as to her requirements, and that more and more care was being taken to prepare the ground for her investigations; as was to be seen from the increasing number of explanatory notes inserted into the files. As the technical requirements of the work became better understood, fresh instructions preceded her arrival at the centres of investigation. As an instance of the zeal displayed, mention may be made of the fact that she received no less than fourteen pieces of documentary evidence in one single case.

To mention here all the difficulties encountered would not be possible. Where, for instance, the assertion that a man had, in fact, been taken prisoner on the Japanese front and not elsewhere—many Pakistani had fought in other theatres of war, Africa in particular—rested merely on an assumption, corroborative evidence had to be found. In many cases it was the movements of ships, taken in conjunction with the dates of embarkation, and of disembarkation behind the front, that provided this evidence. Again, the lists themselves often revealed the capture of complete units. The fact would be attested by its commander, and corroboration was usually forthcoming from other quarters. However, Mrs. Liechti could not very well rest content with indirect evidence of that description, and each case had to be examined on its merits.

In some cases the personal files themselves provided the necessary evidence; but where that was not so, recourse had to be had to other sources. Lastly, a large number of mistakes had their origin in the particularly fluid nature of the military situation in Burma. There, it often happened that Pakistani soldiers who had been reported as prisoners of war were able to rejoin their unit after a brief absence, either because they had

escaped or because they had been able to subsist for some days behind the enemy lines. For that reason all cases of men taken prisoner on that particular front had to be examined with special care.

These few examples will serve to show how arduous was the work, and how great the patience required, of one and all. For Mrs. Liechti, who was constantly "on parade", the day commenced at dawn and finished at 11 p.m., or even later when she had to make her own personal preparations for next day. Accepting as she did with good grace the conditions of a military life, she had to put up, throughout her mission, with the hurry and scurry of dawn departures and the fatigue caused by interminable journeys by car or truck over rough roads, turned at times into rivers by torrential rain. In addition, she had to carry with her, not only an outfit adapted to extreme changes in temperature—this varied between 5 and 45 degrees—but also her own mattress and bedding.

Nevertheless, in describing her most unusual experiences in Pakistan, Mrs. Liechti mentioned the difficult moments only in order to bring into relief the kindness and respect with which she was treated wherever she went. "I was", she said in conclusion, "the first woman to be lodged in a cantonment in Pakistan. I had my own guards and orderlies. Nowhere in Europe would I have encountered such correct behaviour".

*R. M.*

# INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

---

## MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The delegates of the National Red Cross Societies present in Geneva for the sessions of the League Executive Committee were received at the ICRC headquarters, the 13th April 1957.

The reports and discussions were mainly concerned with the important relief action undertaken by the International Committee in the Near East, during the Suez and Sinai conflict, on behalf of prisoners of war and civilians, and at present being pursued in favour of stateless persons. Discussions followed on the "Draft Rules for the Limitation of the Dangers incurred by the Civilian Population in Time of War" which will be the principal theme of the XIXth International Red Cross Conference to be held in New Delhi from October 24 to November 7, 1957.

---