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## PREFACE

1963, the year of the Centenary of the Red Cross, opened immediately after the Cuban crisis (November-December 1962).

During the course of that crisis, the International Committee of the Red Cross was asked to play an important and new rôle by co-operating in the prevention of a nuclear war. Circumstances thus confirmed the institution's vitality at a time when it was preparing to celebrate traditions a hundred years old.

The interest of the Centenary was no doubt thereby much enhanced. Furthermore, the commemorative events, however varied they were, in no way slowed down in Algeria, the Congo, the Yemen, Viet Nam and other places, the humanitarian action of the International Committee, a neutral intermediary between the parties to the conflict and distributor of relief to the victims.

The present report gives an account of this day-to-day activity and also of the International Committee's participation in the Congress, Exhibition and various events of the Red Cross Centenary.

We have pleasure in including in this report a reproduction of the very attractive poster designed by the Swiss painter Hans Erni and presented by him to the Red Cross. This illustrates better than any text the continuity of the Red Cross attitude through "A hundred years in the service of mankind".

