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persons and the safety zones had to be organized in accordance with this principle. Strict regulations were laid down for their reception and for the maintenance of order. Within the safety zones each belligerent had responsibility for its own inmates on all matters. The external relations of the zones, particularly with the higher civil and military authorities, proved the importance of a neutral intermediary in maintaining neutrality within the zones and close contact with the authorities. Its object was to ensure the safety of the refugees, and no local authority had power over the zones superior to those of the Committee delegate.

UNIVERSAL CHARACTER.

That "genius of charity," Henry Dunant, felt, from the outset, that the Red Cross ideal could only be realized if supported both by voluntary associations in every country as well as by the neutral intermediary at the Headquarters in Geneva. Thus the International Committee of the Red Cross, together with the 66 Red Cross and Red Cross Societies founded throughout the world since 1863 will endeavour to perform as hitherto their often burdensome duties. The Committee must be supra-national in outlook, international in its activity, though its members are exclusively Swiss.

This homogeneous composition has enabled it to act rapidly and efficiently in tragic circumstances. It must and will retain its entirely unpolitical character, its independence from every Government, from every group of States, from every State-sponsored organization, and this in the interest of the war victims, who must remain its only concern. Any form of association, even for instance with the United Nations, would therefore

be dangerous, as the latter organization may by collective sanctions become party to a conflict.

The International Committee of the Red Cross will continue to fulfil its task wherever the need arises and irrespective of views and trends of thoughts born of political considerations of the moment. It will never forget that its universal readiness to give assistance rapidly is the very basis of its existence.

"The Times," 20th August, 1948.

AT CAUX CONFERENCE.

500 Delegates From 16 Nations.

Among those attending the Caux Moral Re-Armament Conference in Switzerland is the Rev. Ian Miller, former curate of St. Nicholas, Strood, who afterwards went to Battersea, then became Vicar of All Saints', Hatcham Park, and is now holding a temporary chaplaincy near Caux.

Against the background of the Berlin dilemma and the fall of the French Government 500 delegates from 16 nations are at the Caux Conference. They are there to learn how to make democracy a workable and winning world force.

One hundred and fifty German leaders came to Caux last year with the backing of General Clay and Lord Pakenham. German delegates here this week reported on the action these leaders had taken during the year. They had been giving Germany: (1) Teamwork to see it through its present difficulties; (2) an ideology which is a positive answer to every totalitarian ideology; (3) the hope for the future which is the only permanent incentive for reconstruction.

A delegate from the Ruhr area told of a conference for Ruhr miners and managers. At the close of this conference a Communist chairman of a workers' council spoke. "This is a completely different side of the world," he said. "I have never seen it before. If you can carry out the ideas you have got here in the Ruhr area, Communism, in which I have believed for so long, will disappear overnight. And I would like to fight with you."

Stressing the importance that millions of Germans attach to Caux, Herr Guy von Hahn, secretary of Central Relief Organisations, Stuttgart, said: "There is a terrible vacuum in Germany to-day, but a spiritual vacuum of that kind does not stay empty for long. The question is whether that vacuum will be filled by totalitarian forces or by an inspired democracy. This decision faces us. And here at Caux is where it will be decided."

Thirty French labour delegates from the industrial region of Lille are taking part in the assembly. André Louillet, administrative secretary of the C.G.T. Force Ouvrière Trades Council at Roubaix, northern French textile centre, reported on the "tremendous change of atmosphere" which "The Forgotten Factor" drama produced in the industrial regions of North France, and with German delegates before him in the audience, he told how in his own heart he had got rid of an "exceedingly stubborn hatred of the Germans" which began when he came home crippled from reprisal camps in 1914 to find his family ruined. "Caux," he said, "is known in every section of French society and has become a magnet in Europe."

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