

# Inter arma caritas

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simple majority. This leaves 192 seats which will be filled according to the system of proportional representation with flexible lists. And for these seats the parties have nominated 1,194 candidates. The largest Canton, Zurich, has thirty-five seats (three more than hitherto) and 335 candidates will contest them. Berne has again thirty-three with 313 citizens standing for election, Vaud sixteen seats and eighty-eight candidates. St. Gall has a right to thirteen seats and has put up fifty-two contestants, and Aargau, with an equal number of seats, eighty-seven. Geneva will have two more with ten seats in the new Council. Lucerne has nine M.P.s, Baselstadt eight, Solothurn, Valais and Ticino seven each, Fribourg one less than before with six, Baselland one more with five, Neuchâtel and Grisons five each, the latter having lost a seat in the new distribution. Schwyz has three seats and Glarus, Zug, Schaffhausen, Appenzell-Ausserrhoden have two seats each, and, as already mentioned, Uri, Obwalden, Nidwalden and Appenzell-Innerrhoden are entitled to one representative each.

Looking back over the last four years of legislature, quite a few changes amongst the M.P.s have taken place. On 25th October 1959 forty-seven new members entered

Parliament. Nine have since died, four resigned, five relinquished their post because of incompatibility of the duties with those of a cantonal post. One member, Monsieur Roger Bonvin, was elected into the Federal Council, Dr. Erich Dietschi (Basle) and Dr. E. Bachmann (Aargau) changed over into the Council of States, and Dr. H. Huber (St. Gall) was elected a Federal Judge.

In the Council of States the changes were even more marked. Already on 17th December 1959 four members were elected Federal Councillors, viz. Councillors Bourgnicht (Fribourg), Spuehler (Zurich), von Moos (Obwalden) and Tschudi (Baselstadt). A year later Dr. Kurt Schoch (Schaffhausen) was elected a Federal Judge. In addition, two Councillors of States died and three resigned.

The present session and with it the legislative period ended on 4th October. Much work has been done, and we intend giving a review of what has been achieved in the next issue as the results of the elections will not be to hand by the time we have to have "copy" ready for setting.

*(Based on news received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse and "Basler Nachrichten".)*

## INTER ARMA CARITAS RED CROSS CENTENARY

The activities of the Red Cross from its beginning were depicted in an article in the "Swiss Observer" of 14th June. The Centenary has been marked in various ways all over the world and in particular all over Switzerland. As keeper of the International Red Cross Convention the Federal Council sent a message to the governments of member states in the whole world last November. It explained why, after some regrettable political differences following the last International Red Cross Conference in New Delhi in 1958, the next Conference scheduled for 1963 in Geneva had to be postponed till 1965. The Federal Council appealed to the governments to do everything in their power to eliminate difficulties which would hinder the magnificent humanitarian work of the Red Cross Organisations throughout the universe.

The Centenary Celebrations in Geneva began on 18th February with a meeting at the auditorium of the University. The President of the International Red Cross Committee, Prof. L. Boissier, gave an address in which he reviewed its activities and thanked the Swiss people for its constant moral and material support.

At the end of February, a press conference took place at which the President of the Swiss Red Cross, Prof. Dr. Ambrosius von Albertini, announced the motto of the Centenary Campaign of the Swiss Red Cross "Don't just watch — help!" This was followed a few days later by an appeal to the Swiss people by the President of the Confederation Federal Councillor Spuehler. He asked men, women and youngsters to join as volunteers and as blood donors or subscribing members. He recalled that the Red Cross like few other works had contributed to raise our reputation in the opinion of the world.

Exhibitions and meetings have taken place all over the country. In Basle Federal Councillor Wahlen attended the double jubilee, the Centenary and the 75th Anniversary of the Basle Red Cross. He called the Red Cross the biggest present Switzerland had given to humanity.

On 8th May, the birthday of Henry Dunant, Federal Councillor Wahlen unveiled a monument in honour of the great man. It stands under the beautiful old trees on the Promenade des Bastions near Geneva University.

In June, incidentally, the Swiss First Aid Society (Samariterbund) celebrated its 75th Anniversary. 1,500 people attended the celebrations in Berne, amongst them Federal Councillor Tschudi. The Henry Dunant medal was presented to the Presidents of the three Red Cross Organisations, the Swiss Red Cross, the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies.

Many Cantons, towns and organisations have made special donations to the Red Cross. The Zurich students, for instance, donated 354 litres of blood which 884 students had given.

Special films were made and books published to mark the Centenary and a five-franc piece was minted in Switzerland.

The official commemoration was held early in September. Previous to it, a study group for leaders of young Red Cross Societies was organised in Geneva. Sixty-one participants from forty-four countries assembled thanks to a gift from the Federal authorities. Dr. Lindt, Delegate for Technical Co-operation, called it "an excellent investment by the Swiss Government in the field of Technical Assistance."

Demonstrations by Red Cross Groups from forty countries took place at the Federal Gymnastics and Sports School at Magglingen near Bienne, and a Red Cross world conference on education was held in Lausanne.

At the end of August, the Vice-President of the International Red Cross Committee, Monsieur Frédéric Siordet (until recently Vice-President of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad) gave an address at the University of Geneva "The Red Cross, a unique organisation, independent yet full of solidarity". This was only one of many conferences, lectures and technical exercises held on the eve of the Jubilee Congress which was under the motto of "One hundred years in the service of humanity". The President of the Swiss Red Cross opened it at the Palace of Nations in Geneva in the presence of 400 representatives of nearly all the 102 member societies of the Red Cross.

On 1st September the Official Commemoration Act took place in Geneva. It started with a service at the Cathedral of St. Peter. At the Palais Eynard the Procla-

mation of 1863 was read and the Centenary Flag was officially handed over. The highlight was the formal rededicating of the world-wide movement to the humanitarian task of its second century. The ceremony at the "Grand Théâtre" was opened with the premiere of "Inter Arma Caritas", a prelude for orchestra by the Swiss composer Frank Martin. It was played by the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande conducted by Ernest Ansermet. Prof. A. von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross and Chairman of the Commemorative Day, welcomed the assembly. The President of the Swiss Confederation, Bundesrat Spuehler and the President of the Geneva Council of State, Monsieur C. Duchemin, addressed the gathering.

The premiere of "Cantata misericordium" for solo, choir and orchestra, by the British composer, Benjamin Britten, was presented.

Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Mr. John A. MacAulay, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, followed in reading the messages on behalf of their respective organisations.

The Swiss historian and philosopher, Mr. Carl Burckhardt, a former President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, delivered the principal address. He stressed the importance of the movement role in the future of humanity.

The Ceremony came to a close with the premiere of "Per Humanitatem ad pacem", a postlude for orchestra, by the Polish composer, Witold Lutoslawski.

The Ceremony was transmitted by closed-circuit television to several halls in Geneva for the benefit of hundreds of Red Cross visitors from different countries.

An exhibition was held in Geneva from 27th August to 18th September during which 100,000 visitors saw the interesting display which included historic development, men and material in the service of humanity and problems of the Red Cross. "Serpentarium" was one of the greatest attractions; 300 dangerous snakes from Bangkok were used to demonstrate how experts extract poison for the production of vaccines.

On 7th and 8th September there was a stamp auction of rare specimens, and a philately exhibition took place for a month from mid-August. The special date stamp was issued on 8th May.

On 6th September the Federal President received heads of delegations at the "Nationalratssaal" in Berne (Houses of Parliament). The guests returned via Grindelwald where they witnessed practical demonstrations. On 9th September a plenary meeting of the Council and delegates took place in Geneva when messages from heads of states were read. The meeting also decided to create a Henry Dunant medal for special merit. The Jubilee Congress came to a close on 10th September. A resolution by Mrs. Limerick (Great Britain) was accepted unanimously in which thanks were expressed to the Swiss Federal Council, the authorities of Geneva and UNO for their collaboration in the excellent organisation of the Congress. The most important issues, however, were that the resolution sanctioning the intervention by the Red Cross in the Cuba Crisis was accepted, and that Hungary, India, Poland, Czechoslovakia and USSR, who had each wanted to make proposals in connection with the part of the Red Cross in maintaining peace, had combined and brought a single resolution without any political reference. After the People's Republic of China had withdrawn their own

resolution in order not to disturb the existing harmony, the communal resolution was unanimously accepted.

Many are the tasks which face the Red Cross in the future. Its role as mediator in the Cuban Crisis has shown that it may be called upon not only to relieve suffering, but also to prevent hostilities.

To end this report, it is fitting to tell of the Centenary gift which Switzerland is making to the Red Cross. With the help of many private donors the Federal Council and Parliament have made it possible to create a Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva. Part of the building is to house the central enquiry service. Its origins go back to the wars of 1866 and 1870 and its archives take up a vast area. New filing installations are urgently needed. In 1962 alone, 15,000 searches were made, 19,000 private messages were sent on, 500 imprisonments confirmed and thousands of letters received and dispatched. A staff of forty look after the work. The Institute shall be a study, research, teaching and documentation centre and thus realise a pressing requirement.

*(Based on reports received from A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".)*

### ASSEMBLY OF THE SWISS ABROAD ST. MORITZ, AUGUST 1963

The main theme of the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad this year was "Die Selbstbehauptung der Schweiz in der Welt von heute und morgen" (how Switzerland can hold her own in the world of today and tomorrow). After the main speakers on the subject had informed the assembly in three excellent addresses on the military, economic and spiritual aspect, it was the turn of the Swiss from outside Switzerland. The Colonies had been asked to delegate speakers who would put into short addresses of ten minutes each what there was to criticize and to praise and what the Swiss abroad could contribute.

Amongst the speakers were three from France, one of them a young lieutenant in the Swiss army. He was very eloquent on the difficulties the Swiss abroad of the second generation had to face. One speaker came from Austria, one from Italy and one from Sweden. The speech by a Swiss from Barcelona was read for him. As the representative from Great Britain was the only woman speaker the privilege of opening the round fell to her. Mrs. Mariann Meier, member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad, put into the ten minutes available all the criticism, praise and suggestions which she had received on the subject from various members of the Colony. It was no easy task to present it in a coherent and impressive way, but the applause and comments received afterwards proved that she succeeded. Her speech will be found later in this issue.

The speakers were unanimous that Switzerland still had a place in the world, but that integration into Europe could not be at the cost of her giving up her neutrality and her right of self-determination. Criticism and concern included such things as the pollution of lakes and rivers, a certain materialism and complacency, lack of interest in public polling and shortage of spiritual consciousness in the younger generation. But all the speakers showed unequivocally that any criticism arose from their concern and their love for their homeland and in no way impaired their loyalty. It was obvious that the majority of Swiss abroad tried to live up to the reputation of their homeland, did their best to further understanding in their country of adoption, and they endeavoured to be real Ambassadors of goodwill.