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NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES IN THE
DEFENSE AND PROTECTION OF HEALTH, THE MAINTENANCE OF HOSPITALS, AND THE
TRAINING OF PROFESSIONAL NURSES OF HIGH STANDARDS.

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The raising of the standards of health of the people to a minimum satisfactory level is one of the most important conditions for attainment of the one big common objective of all political creeds and all regimes--the well-being of humanity.

There does not exist, nor can there ever exist, peace and social stability in the face of low standards of health and high degrees of ignorance and poverty.

The protection of health constitutes one of the great central problems, all interdependent, that challenge the administrative techniques of political and economic systems everywhere.

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The National Red Cross Societies throughout the world are governed by one general policy. Their programs always aim at the relief of all human sufferings. In addition to their other activities, they sponsor and carry out measures to give assistance and protection in the conservation of health and social well-being, in peace and in war.

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However, we believe that in planning their scope of action, the National Red Cross Societies should not necessarily use the same scale of priorities in all countries to combat the problems of health and social well being.

We will endeavor to further explain this viewpoint.

In nations with high educational and economic standards, where there is a true public health spirit and where solutions have been found for the basic problems of medical treatment as well as for the problems of control of many of the most important communicable diseases, it is natural and logical that the respective National Red Cross Societies should work together in their health activities, with plans for perfecting and improving the records achieved and with the cooperation of all responsible agencies and organizations, both public and private.

action. All this could naturally have to be done at the expense of greater development in certain activities which, in turn, would warrant more attention in nations of high economic level.

Hence, the construction and maintenance of hospitals and the training of nurses by the Red Cross Societies, although not advisable in certain countries, represent activities of high social and public value in other countries.

It is our opinion that the Red Cross Societies should adapt their programs to the circumstances of the respective countries, without disregard for the general principles of the work of the Red Cross.

This policy should not, in any manner, hinder the universal activities of the Red Cross Societies in preparing and training Samaritans and Emergency Aides. These can and should be trained by the Red Cross organizations as Volunteers for the work of cooperation and aid in normal times and on occasions of emergency.

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We therefore suggest that the XVII International Red Cross Conference determine the recognition of the organization and maintenance of Hospitals and Schools of Nursing of high standards, as part of its activities of great usefulness for the good of the community, whenever there is a lack of hospital assistance, an insufficient number of nurses, and a lack of other agencies and institutions devoted to these aspects of the problem of health.

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