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PRESS

XXI international conference of the red cross • istanbul 1969

RELEASE

ISTANBUL series No. 1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday 1 September 1969

LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES BOARD OF GOVERNORS OPENS XXXTH SESSION IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

ISTANBUL - 1 September 1969 - A call for new efforts to ease world tensions and fight the evils of war through application of Red Cross principles was made today by Mr José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies, as he opened the Board's XXXth Session at the Culture Palace in Istanbul, Turkey.

"It is time for men to prevent the disasters produced by men", Mr Barroso told more than 300 delegates representing the majority* of the world's National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies.

He challenged the National Society leaders to accept as a duty the dissemination "in all the circles of all countries" a concept of mutual respect and understanding which could lead to the appearance of "a new man more concerned than at present about his fellows, more willing to sacrifice himself for others".

The Board, founded in 1919, is the "parliament" of all the National Societies members of the League, their world Federation. Mr Barroso pointed out that the League was about to receive its 112th member, the Somali Red Crescent Society. A few moments later, the Board unanimously voted the Somali's admission to the League.

This fact, he said, underlined the continuing necessity for strengthening the Red Cross development programme, "for now that we have grown in area we must also grow in depth". Societies and the League must continue to adapt their programmes in the changing problems in the fields of health, social welfare, nursing.

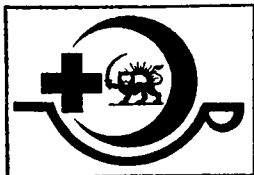
They must take into account "the clash between two generations which think and act in different ways" and act urgently to "channel the restlessness of present day youth towards the Red Cross by giving them the responsibility which they want", Mr Barroso said.

Mr Barroso reviewed the major issues to be studied by the Session, scheduled to last until 5 September. These include: international disaster relief co-ordination and the building of well-established relief plans in each country; collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in its efforts to bring relief to the civilian victims of armed conflicts; the contribution Red Cross can make to world peace; the financing of the League.

The Board will also study subjects to be presented by the League to the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross, which opens on 6 September, also at the Istanbul Culture Palace. The Conference brings together the National Societies, the ICRC and the League, and representatives of Governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions.

* COUNTRIES REPRESENTED: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany (Dem.Rep.), Germany (Fed. Rep.), Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Rep.), Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, . Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rumania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Rep., United Kingdom, Upper Volta, USA, USSR, Viet Nam (Rep.), Yugoslavia.

NOTE: A Press Conference introducing the International Conference and summing up the League meetings will be held at the Culture Palace on Friday 5 September at 3 p.m. Top officials of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, the ICRC and the League, will take part.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday 3 September 1969

Istanbul series no. 2

BARROSO RE-ELECTED LEAGUE CHAIRMAN

Mr José Barroso of Mexico was re-elected to the Chairmanship of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies Wednesday 3 September at the Istanbul Culture Palace.

Mr Barroso received an ovation from delegates representing more than 80 National Societies as his election to a second four-year term as the top elected official of the League was announced.

The 44-year-old Mexico City industrialist has personally championed for a more active contribution of Red Cross to world peace since his first election as League Chairman at Vienna on 1 October 1965.

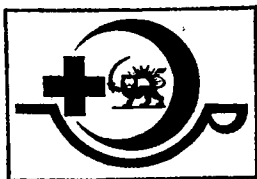
He is the first Latin American to head the League, world Federation of the 112 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion Societies. He has conducted a number of important League meetings, including the XXXth Session of the Board of Governors now being held in Istanbul. The Board meets every two years to fix League policy, mainly in the fields of disaster relief, development aid to National Societies, nursing, medico-social and youth activities.

Mr Barroso is a graduate of La Salle University. A widely travelled textile industrialist, he speaks English and French in addition to his mother tongue, Spanish. He is married and father of four children.

Mr Barroso, in addition to being Chairman of the League Board of Governors, is President of the Hispano Mexican Cultural Institute, Chancellor of the Mexican Section of the Order of Malta, Treasurer of the Textile Chamber of Commerce of Mexico and President of the Board of Directors of several Mexican Industries.

A member of the Board of Directors of the Mexican Red Cross since 1959, he was elected President of his National Society in 1964. He was responsible for the revision of the Statutes of this Society and its re-organisation at national, regional and local levels. His goal was to spread the action of the Mexican Red Cross throughout the entire nation, by creating local committees wherever these did not already exist.

NOTE: A biographical note and photographs of Mr Barroso are available on request to the Press and Information Service, first floor, Istanbul Culture Palace.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday 5 September 1969

Istanbul No. 3

ISTANBUL 5 September 1969 - New teeth were given to League of Red Cross Societies programmes for the extension and development of Red Cross work around the world, the training of volunteers and the education of young people for peace, in the XXXth Session of the League's Board of Governors ended in Istanbul Turkey today.

The Board, which meets every two years to set League policy, completed a five-day session at the Palace of Culture here with a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the League, world Federation of 112 National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies founded in 1919.

All member-Societies present received a special bronze medal at the ceremony. Addresses were made by Mr. José Barroso, League chairman re-elected for a second four-year-term during the Session; Mayor of Istanbul Dr. Fahri Atabey; Ambassador William E. Stevenson, Vice-Chairman of the League and of the American Red Cross (for the founder-Societies); HE Abdul Aziz El-Sager, President of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (for young Societies); Mr. Henrik Beer, League Secretary General; Mr. Marcel Naville, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; and Mr. Riza Cercel, President of the Turkish Red Crescent Society, host to the meetings.

Messages were read from the following Chiefs of States and Governments: President of the USA Richard Nixon; Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi; President of Italy Giuseppe Saragat; President of Lebanon Charles Helou; The Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Health for the Netherlands Government; Philippines Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo; President of Czechoslovakia Ludvik Svoboda; President of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Alexis Kosygin; as well as a message from UN Secretary General U Thant.

Main decisions during the Board sessions were:

- To step up training of volunteers in all aspects of Red Cross work (health education, nursing, youth) and to make this the key goal of the League's Red Cross Development Programme for Societies in the newer nations.

- To appeal to all older-established National Societies for strong support for the Development Programme, and to create an Advisory Committee for the Programme.

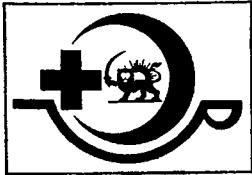
- To increase quotas for National Societies' fixed contributions to the League for a number of Societies; but at the same time to reduce minimum contributions for some small Societies so they can play their role in the Federation despite financial difficulties.

- To increase the League's ordinary budget by seven per cent to 3,858,000 Swiss francs for the year 1970; to adopt a system of two-yearly budgets for the future.

- To approve plans of activities for 1970, including those of Development Programme, disaster relief planning and co-ordination, nursing, medico-social and youth programmes.

- To ratify a new agreement between the League and the International Committee of the Red Cross redefining their respective roles and making relief activities in an area where a conflict is taking place.

Next meeting of the Board will be held at Mexico City in 1971.



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No. ICRC 1015/League-Istan' il 4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday 6 September 1969

OPENING OF THE ISTANBUL CONFERENCE

ISTANBUL - The President of the Turkish Republic Mr. Cevdet Sunay opened the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross at the Istanbul Culture Palace this afternoon (6 September 1969).

In the presence of more than 600 delegates and observers from almost all the nations of the world, Angela, Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross; Mr. Marcel A. Naville, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies; and Mr. Riza Cerçel, President of the Turkish Red Crescent Society addressed the gathering.

The Conference, which is the highest deliberative authority of the Red Cross, will continue until 13 September. It brings together the National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the governments having ratified the Geneva Conventions.

After having welcomed the delegates to his country, President Sunay recalled the memory of Henry Dunant and paid tribute to the achievements of the Red Cross. He expressed the wish that the Conference would bring about "further progress in the service of mankind."

Angela, Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross, noted the unique impartiality of the Red Cross in the wars and troubles which characterize our times "We have not only an opportunity but a responsibility, at this Conference, of proving to the world that humanitarian considerations can overcome political differences."

Recalling the changes and progress of our times, Lady Limerick asked all men "to relate the Computer with Compassion." "Only wisdom and high ideals can ensure that knowledge is used for the benefit and not the destruction of mankind."

Mr. Marcel A. Naville defined the situation in today's world of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which he presides. The ICRC "is only an instrument in the service of a cause," he underlined.

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