

“Soviet Red Cross” contains a detailed account of the proceedings of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts. Notes on the teaching and dissemination of the Geneva Conventions are found in a special section edited by Professor I. Blishchenko, the Alliance expert on international humanitarian law.

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In February of this year, the official inauguration took place of the Blood Transfusion Centre at Jacmel, established by the Haitian Red Cross thanks to a gift from the ICRC. Among those taking part in the ceremony, under the honorary presidency of the Secretary of State for Public Health, were Dr. R. Germain, Under Secretary of State for Public Health, Dr. V. Laroche, President of the Haitian Red Cross, and Dr. A. Westerband, Director of Red Cross Blood Transfusion Centres. Others present included representatives of the civilian, military and religious institutions of the city of Jacmel.

Speakers drew attention to the significance of the Centre as a renewed effort to strengthen the public health infrastructure in the region and noted that the occasion marked the opening of a campaign leading to the celebration of the annual blood-transfusion day two months later. Dr. Westerband praised the Haitian Red Cross for its achievement in establishing in a very short period of time its first blood transfusion centre at Port-au-Prince, in November 1971, a second one at Cap-Haitien, in April 1972, a third at Les Cayes, in December 1972, and the fourth at Jacmel. He spoke of it as the fourth link in a network intended to cover all nine provinces of the country, with a refrigeration system and other equipment necessary for efficient operation.

Dr. Westerband emphasized that the new centre, like the others, would observe the principle of free blood from donors and to recipients. He called for a demonstration of human solidarity on the part of the population, by a mass turnout of blood donors at the centre, a symbol of the initiative and effectiveness of the Haitian Red Cross.