

Grants from the Maurice de Madre French Fund in respect of Red Cross personnel wounded or killed during relief operations

Count Maurice de Madre, a Frenchman for many years resident in Switzerland, had the generous idea of bequeathing, on his death in 1970, a large sum to the International Committee of the Red Cross, in order to aid delegates, doctors and nurses of national and international Red Cross institutions who found themselves in a difficult situation or with health problems due to having taken part in relief operations.

A council was formed to administer the Fund. It is composed of representatives of the de Madre family, of the ICRC and of the League. As from 1979, revenue has been used to pay allowances to Red Cross collaborators wounded, sick or invalided in the accomplishment of their humanitarian mission. These have been, principally, an ICRC nurse, wounded in 1948 in Jerusalem; a seriously ill Ethiopian League collaborator; a Lebanese Red Cross voluntary first aid ambulance man, wounded in Beirut in 1978; a Central African Red Cross first aid worker, wounded during the events at Bangui in 1979; and a French Red Cross doctor, invalided following a mission in Thailand in 1980.

Following an amendment to the regulations governing the Maurice de Madre French Fund, allowances were also paid, as from 1981, to the families of Red Cross collaborators who had lost their lives on duty. These were the families of two Lebanese Red Cross voluntary relief workers killed in 1981 in Zahlé and that of a Salvadoran Red Cross store-keeper killed in 1981 in San Miguel.

The Council of the Maurice de Madre French Fund in addition contributed in 1982 and 1983 to the plan set up by the League and the ICRC, thanks to the donations of several National Societies, to aid the families of 12 voluntary relief workers of the Nicaraguan Red Cross killed during the events of 1978. These allocations supplement the allowances paid to surviving dependants.

The conditions under which requests may be made to the Maurice de Madre French Fund for grants are described in detail in the circulars addressed by the President of the ICRC to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on 20 November 1978 (circular number 512) and on 10 December 1981 (circular number 518). These circulars were reprinted in *International Review of the Red Cross* of January-February 1979 and July-August 1982.

The conditions may be summarized as follows:

- The person concerned must be a member or collaborator of a National Society;
- The person must be in a difficult situation or have health problems (wounded, sick or invalid) as a consequence of having taken part in a relief operation;
- If the person died on duty, his family is in financial straits.