

example of another sort, of the delegates from both North and South Korea, although these two states were fighting one another. There would have been no objection by the great majority of delegates to the simultaneous attendance of the Peking and the Formosan delegations, each claiming to represent the whole of China. In fact, the Formosan delegation withdrew about the fifth day of the Conference on the stated ground that the "puppet regime" of Peking had turned the Conference into a forum of political propaganda.

Canadian Delegation

The Delegations of the Governments of Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States and most of the "old" Commonwealth countries attended as observers rather than as voting members. For Canada, at least, the reason was the rather special status of government delegates in the Conference (as just explained); it seemed inappropriate either that a government which entered into the counsels of the Red Cross only once in four years should try to influence its decisions, or that a government should, by formally indicating in a vote its opinions of certain decisions, appear to bind itself to supporting those decisions. The Canadian Red Cross Society, as the host of the Conference, was, of course, represented by a large number of its ablest members — and very able they proved to be. The Canadian Government delegation, partly by way of compliment to a movement which Canadians agree to be of extreme value, was perhaps larger than its activity required. It was headed by Dr. G. D. W. Cameron, Deputy Minister of Health, and contained four other senior officers from the Departments of External Affairs, National Health and Welfare, and National Defence. Mr. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, and Mrs. Martin acted as host and hostess at a reception given by the Government. The Governor General of Canada formally opened the Conference, Mr. John A. MacAuley of Winnipeg, Past Chairman of the Central Council of the Canadian Red Cross Society was elected Chairman of the Conference. The presence of the delegates from the U.S.S.R., Communist China, North Korea, and other Communist countries gave the Conference its chief interest both to the general public and to those more immediately interested in the humanitarian and political aspects of Red Cross work. Two principal questions, one of which has already been suggested, were generally asked before the sessions opened. First: would the Communists, by reading themselves out of the International Red Cross, split the movement and thus seriously impair its usefulness? Secondly: how far and how successfully would the Communists use the Conference to carry their propaganda to America and elsewhere?

It turned out that the Communists did not read themselves out of the Red Cross. They made no attempt to split the movement countrywise — *horizontally* as it were. They did attempt to split it *vertically* and to destroy half of it. That is, while giving full support to the League of Red Cross Societies and its activities the Communist delegations waged constant war on the International Committee of the Red Cross, sought to discredit it as much as possible and announced that they would themselves have no truck with it. They claimed first (and accurately) that the Committee was not an international body; from this they argued that the Committee ought not to be entrusted with the international responsibilities it claimed — an illogical deduction, since the best kind of body to work across battle lines in a world war is one which is neutral and *not* international.

Next, the Communists charged (falsely) that the Committee was the creature directly of the Swiss Government and indirectly of "imperialist aggression". Again, they charged (falsely) that the Committee had been pro-fascist in the Second World War. Finally (and still falsely) they said that the Committee's attitude toward the Korean war was not impartial or energetic or well-intentioned. These were the ostensible reasons why the Communist delegations, representing the important Communist governments of the world, refused to agree to the International Committee perform-