

No-Duplicating Pact Made by Red Cross And Salvation Army

The national leaders of the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, two of the largest volunteer organizations in disaster relief, signed an agreement yesterday to prevent overlapping services in emergency situations.

Commissioner William E. Chamberlain, national commander of the Salvation Army in the U.S.A., said he hoped the "statement of understanding" reached by the two groups "will refute what appears to be a public misunderstanding that the Salvation Army and the Red Cross are in competition with each other."

The statement was put into effect at a ceremonial news conference at 291 Broadway, the national Young Men's

Christian Association headquarters. The American National Red Cross was represented by its president, George Elsey.

"We've been bumping into each other, and we're trying to get away from it—it can become quite expensive," Donald Coble, a Red Cross spokesman, said in an interview. "We've had cases of people getting clothing from one organization and then getting the same thing from another."

One of the goals of the agreement is to initiate meetings between local units of the two groups to coordinate services. Spokesmen added that it was also intended to dispel a growing public view that "we do the same thing" and are redundant services. Such an image can hamper fund-raising efforts. Both organizations are aided by the United Way.

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