FEBRUARY 1962

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

OF THE

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Geneva - Switzerland

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The International Red Cross

Translated by M. C. S. Phipps 1961, 16mo, 133 pp. Sw. Fr. 3.50

Contents: I The History of the Red Cross
II The Organization of the Red Cross
III The Action of the Red Cross

Bibliography—List of States having ratified or acceded to the Four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949

* This volume was originally published in French in the "Que sais-je?" series under the title "La Croix-Rouge Internationale" by the Presses Universitaires de France, Paris 1959.

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	Sw. Fr.
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*** The sign "+" after certain prices indicates a reduction according to the quantity required.

Postage costs are chargeable to the consignee. For payment made at time of ordering add 15% for amounts less than Sw. Fr. 20.— and 10% above this figure.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
Publications Section
7, Avenue de la Paix - GENEVA (Switzerland)
Postal Cheque Account No. I. 17 67 — Geneva

The International Review of the Red Cross

has appeared each month since April 1961 (No. 1) and is in principle identical with the French edition of the "Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge"

Publisher : International Committee of the Red Cross
7, Avenue de la Paix
Geneva (Switzerland)
Postal Cheque Account I. 17 67

Editor: JEAN-G. LOSSIER

Annual subscription Sw. Fr. 20.— Single copies Sw. Fr. 2.—
Specimen copy on request (French edition: same price)

Special subscription:

No. 1, April, 1961 to No. 20, December, 1962: Sw. Fr. 30.—

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

SECOND YEAR — No. 11

FEBRUARY 1962

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FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge.* It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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THE

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

is published each month by the
International Committee of the Red Cross

7, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland
Postal Cheque No. I. 1767

Annual subscription : Sw. fr. 20.— Single copies Sw. fr. 2.—

Editor : JEAN-G. LOSSIER

CAN CIVIL DEFENCE PERSONNEL BE ARMED ?

The International Committee of the Red Cross was asked some time ago to give its views on the problem relative to the arming of Civil Defence personnel. In view of the general interest which this question has aroused we consider it to be opportune to publish the ICRC's comments below, especially as they touch upon several points of international law and the Geneva Conventions.

These comments were originally made in view of one country's desire to organize mobile columns within the framework of Civil Defence and possibly to equip members of these columns with certain weapons. The country in question, however, wishing to retain the strictly non-military character of its Civil Defence organization, consequently asked whether the carrying of arms was compatible with this position in international law. Through the National Red Cross Society, the authorities of the Civil Defence organization of that country put this question to the ICRC which, after careful study, submitted the following comments.

It should be added that this advice was submitted to a group of experts from various countries, which the International Committee convened in June 1961 to examine the position of civil defence organizations in international law. The majority of experts estimated that it would be preferable for civil defence personnel not to be armed, but that if a State, however, judged it necessary to arm certain units, it should do this in as restricted a manner as possible, as shown precisely in the following proposal. The ICRC will shortly produce a report on the work of this group of experts.

*

Main problem of the consultation—Actual position

According to information which has been supplied, mobile columns of the Civil Defence organization concerned will have as their main function to help local Civil Defence teams in rescuing people trapped, in fire-fighting and clearing the wounded. They are made up of rescue and fire squads, clearing and medical staff.

These mobile columns are recruited from among young men who have been called up, whereas their cadres consist of regular Army personnel transferred from the Army to the Civil Defence. The columns are intended, as the rest of Civil Defence, to be civilian in character. However, the eventuality has been taken into account by the authorities concerned, that, in the course of their work, the columns may be involved with saboteurs and spies. For this reason, the authorities concerned wish to see the personnel of these columns armed for their own protection, against any action which saboteurs or spies might take.

The question which is put to the International Committee of the Red Cross [1] is therefore the following : According to International Law, what weapons may be carried by the personnel of these mobile columns which would be consistent with their civilian character ? The National Board of Civil Defence would like to receive an authoritative opinion on this point from the ICRC.

The following details are also given : certain circles recommended the following arms for the personnel of the mobile columns : 1) powerful portable fire-arms (machine pistols) for all personnel ; 2) supplementary arms such as light machine-guns and grenade-rifles, in limited quantities (bearing in mind that saboteurs and spies attempting to impede the movements of these units might be armed not only with portable fire-arms, but also with machine-guns).

Furthermore, as also applies to the local Civil Defence, these columns will not have to keep order or protect Civil Defence installations against espionage and sabotage.

* * *

[1] Hereafter referred to as " ICRC ".

I.—PRELIMINARY COMMENT

As is customary whenever it is asked for an advisory opinion, the ICRC wishes to stress that its opinion has no official character whatsoever. The States themselves must agree upon an " authentic " interpretation of certain legal points. In its opinion, the ICRC can only endeavour to comment on and interpret law in the light of its own experience, of present legal trends and above all of the humanitarian considerations which govern its work. These comments are submitted with these points in mind.

II.—PRESENT POSITION OF THE PROBLEM

The question facing the ICRC is in short this : What arms may be carried by the personnel of the mobile columns in question which would be consistent, in terms of International Law, with their civilian character ? But, in this form, the question appears to set a preliminary problem : May Civil Defence personnel be armed or not ? In order to find an answer to the first question, therefore, the general problem of the arming of Civil Defence personnel must be considered. This will provide the answer to the more particular question of the type of arms which this personnel may carry, should the occasion arise [1].

III.—ASSUMPTION OF THE CIVILIAN CHARACTER OF MOBILE COLUMNS

The authorities concerned work on the assumption that these mobile columns will be civilian in character, particularly on the grounds of their " strictly non-military " duty. It is therefore to be understood that, if their personnel should fall into enemy hands, they cannot be considered as prisoners of war, neither can they be

[1] In its " Information Note " No. 5 of November 1954 (page 12), the ICRC already briefly examined the problem of arming Civil Defence units in time of war. The present consultation completes and details the opinions then expressed by the ICRC.

prosecuted for illegal acts of war : their civilian character must still be recognised, so that, if need be, they can continue their work under Article 63, of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The following consultation is likewise based on this assumption. It must however be remembered that the enemy may dispute the civilian character of this personnel on other grounds than that of carrying arms. These grounds concern the general organization of the Civil Defence and have legal consequences for which no rules have yet been laid down ; it must suffice to enumerate them briefly here.

(a) According to the Memorandum sent by the National Red Cross concerned in September 1959, the organization of the Civil Defence includes watching units whose duty it is also to protect civilian installations from spying and sabotage ; these units are equipped with portable fire-arms (hand-grenades, mines, etc.). Sabotage may also be carried out by regular enemy soldiers (this point will be enlarged upon later). Therefore these watching units could be considered as taking part in the hostilities and thus having a military character. If one section of the Civil Defence has such a character, would the enemy not have a pretext to refuse the whole Civil Defence organization recognition of its strictly civilian character ?

(b) According to the afore-mentioned Memorandum, Civil Defence will also be called upon to defend certain " establishments " which it leaves without further definition. It must be remembered in this connection that if the protection work of Civil Defence is extended to include industrial or strategic installations of prime importance for conducting the war, this would challenge the strictly civilian character of Civil Defence. To what extent may a Civil Defence organization carry out rescue work directly or indirectly connected with installations considered as military objectives ? The problem is a difficult one which has not yet been solved [1], but it exists nonetheless and the true civilian character of the Civil Defence organization depends on it.

[1] See for example Maxime Roux : *La protection civile*, Paris 1959, pages 196 and following.

(c) The personnel of these mobile columns consists, on the one hand, of young men called up for service, and, on the other hand, of regular Army personnel, both assigned to Civil Defence. This staff would thus be equally suited to serve in the Army if necessary. Would this fact not cause the enemy to consider them in reality as members of the armed forces and to refuse to recognize their civilian character ? This problem, too, has not yet been definitely solved. Certain writers contend that a person who in principle could be mobilized, but has been permanently incorporated in the Civil Defence forces, is not a belligerent since he no longer belongs to the armed forces [1]. It is to be hoped that this point of view will come to be generally accepted.

The foregoing points should merely call to mind that, independently of the question of carrying arms, certain prior conditions must be fulfilled for the personnel of a Civil Defence organization to have a truly civilian character. These conditions give rise to problems which are being examined by the ICRC at present ; it is hoped that Governments will finally reach an agreement in solving them. In the meantime and for the rest of these comments, we assume that these conditions have been fulfilled.

IV.—CARRYING OF ARMS BY CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR

1. **General remarks.**—The question raised by the Civil Defence Board concerned relates to the general problem of arming civilian persons in time of war. In principle and according to International Law, only such persons as do not take part in belligerent acts against enemy troops shall be considered by the enemy as civilians and thus exempted from captivity and judicial proceedings in the case of occupation.

According to this principle, it is evident that in time of war the fact that a civilian carries or has regularly carried a weapon, even

[1] R. Crince le Roy : " Le statut du Garde de secours en droit international ", De Vierde Macht, (The Hague), March 1959, page 37.

if he relinquishes it at the enemy's approach, might imply for the latter, participation in belligerent acts, even if these are indirect as in the case of territorial service or watching duties. This truth is confirmed by experience, as by the fact that in the case of occupation one of the first steps taken by the occupying force is generally to declare that every person found in possession of a weapon after a certain time-limit will be liable to punishment.

To avoid such an assumption and its unfortunate consequences, civilian persons who regularly carry weapons should be able to prove, if need be, that these weapons were made necessary by their work, but that the latter excluded any participation in the hostilities. It would be easier to furnish this proof if all concerned could refer to a common practice or international rule allowing for certain kinds of civilians to carry arms in time of war.

Such a practice seems to exist for the police, as we shall see below. However, this practice has not yet been confirmed by a specific international regulation. Thus, as yet, International Law does not have any general stipulation authorizing certain classes of civilian persons to be armed and stating at the same time that this in no way prejudices their non-combatant character and the protection that this implies [1].

We must even go further and note that if the Geneva Conventions of 1949 authorize military medical personnel to be armed for its own protection and for that of the wounded in its care (First Convention, Article 22 ; Second Convention, Article 35), nothing similar is mentioned concerning the civilian medical personnel specified by the Fourth Convention, whether this be hospital staff (Article 20) or hospital transports (Article 21). Moreover, in the Draft Agreement relating to hospital and safety areas and localities annexed to the Fourth Convention (Article 5 par. *b)*, it is stipulated that these " shall in no case be defended by military means ".

2. **Carrying arms and police duties.**—We mentioned above the special case of the police. Keeping order and discipline in a national

[1] Civilians may take up arms to participate in a " mass rising " under the strict conditions of the Hague Regulations, but in this case they are no longer non-combatants and are thus liable to capture.

community is an essential State duty. It is a public service as much as others whose existence must be safeguarded even in time of war. Therefore an international practice has been set up, it seems, by which, although armed, members of the police force are not considered nor treated as prisoners of war in the case of occupation, if they have carried out purely police orders and duties, and particularly if these have in no case involved taking part in the hostilities against enemy armed forces [1].

It may be observed that this exception is possible because it concerns a limited number of people, who are known as such in advance, can be recognized generally at sight and who are themselves subject to strict discipline—conditions which provide a possible enemy with guarantees as to the use of weapons thus left in the hands of civilians.

We mentioned above the weapons which members of the military medical personnel are authorized under International Law to carry, mainly for the purpose of keeping order and discipline in hospital units, as well as for their own protection against attacks by irresponsible persons [2]. Can one not consider in the same way that Civil Defence personnel, whether medical staff or general personnel, should not also be entitled to carry arms for similar purposes ?

As a rule, the position is different and the real grounds for arming military medical personnel must be borne in mind. Apart from the fact that they are placed under Army discipline, itself responsible for observing the law of war, these members of the personnel have to carry out their work in areas of military operations, sometimes even very close to the front, where fighting and insecurity reign ; thus they are exposed to very great risks, especially of being mistakenly attacked. Hence they are entitled to be armed in their own interest and above all the interest of their duty or of

[1] A. Waltzog : *Recht der Landskriegsführung*, Berlin 1942, page 113, quotes for example the case of the French territorial police force.

[2] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, of August 12, 1949 (II). Commentary published under the direction of Jean S. Pictet, ICRC, Geneva 1959 (p. 194-195 of the English text).

those in their care [1]. However, this difference is less pronounced in modern warfare : bombing, Fifth Column activities and the speedy changes in military operations can result in troubled conditions and panic situations among the civilian population even behind the front—as far as this notion still exists. In such circumstances, the Civil Defence personnel must keep or restore order for the purpose of carrying out their duty and for those who benefit from it.

It is therefore normal to consider that the Civil Defence forces sometimes have to fulfil police duties or take drastic steps in order to carry out their rescue work. In this way, it can reasonably be accepted that members of Civil Defence be armed after the manner of the usual police forces or the military medical personnel. However, as Civil Defence armament is not based on any treaty stipulation (contrary to that of medical staff), nor corresponds to an established practice (as for the police), it appears preferable to consider it in a limited sense, in order to avoid disputes. This is all the more desirable since resorting to arms should be an exception for the Civil Defence personnel, who in serious circumstances should not have to take the place of the police or even the Army who alone have the necessary means to restore order.

Consequently, in view of the above-mentioned points, Civil Defence armament must take into account the following four factors :

(a) Should such armament be given to all members of Civil Defence, or at least, in a special case, to all members of mobile columns ? Considering that the number of Civil Defence members is sometimes very high, this would involve supplying arms, even for purely defensive purposes, to a considerable part of the civilian population. This could have dangerous consequences ; in particular, the enemy would more easily

[1] It should furthermore be remembered that the sick or wounded or property which the military medical staff may protect if necessary with armed force, are persons or property of which the respect is expresly required under the Geneva Convention ; however, as mentioned above, the activity of the Civil Defence force is in some countries connected with safeguarding property such as industrial installations which could be considered as military objectives and which are under no circumstances protected by the international law of war.

challenge the civilian character of persons thus armed. It therefore appears preferable that, as in the case of the normal police force, police duties under Civil Defence should only be carried out by a limited number of persons, whether as their main or secondary duty.

On these grounds, we are led to recommend that arms should not be given to all personnel of mobile columns.

(b) As a sign that the arms in question are intended for purposes of police work, weapons distributed to Civil Defence personnel should only be personal, light, portable arms and defensive in character (side-arms, pistols). The ICRC already advised against the use of rifles in its consultation of 1954 on the grounds that these " offer too great risks of confusion ". This concern of avoiding all possibility of confusion with the members of the armed forces demands precisely that Civil Defence personnel be even less armed than the ordinary police force has sometimes to be in peacetime.

(c) To avoid all possibility of mistake as to their identity, the Civil Defence members who carry arms should be distinguishable from the others at least by some definite sign (symbol, initials, part of uniform). In addition, the authorities concerned should make it clearly known that all personnel members wearing such a sign have been authorized to carry arms for purposes of police work without any participation in the hostilities. This personnel should also be provided with an identity card proving this authorization.

It could even be recommended that, in the case of armed conflict, the Government should in some way notify the belligerent parties concerned of these facts, in a similar manner to the notification provided for in other fields under the Geneva Conventions.

(d) Finally, even after due notification, members of Civil Defence who carry arms should take all necessary precautions to avoid the enemy mistaking their intentions. Therefore, as the ICRC has previously commented, it appears preferable that, when the enemy troops arrive, the Civil Defence personnel who

remain on the spot voluntarily should temporarily lay down their arms, if only to take them up again later with the consent of the occupying forces. (This point does naturally not apply to situations such as mentioned below in connection with acts of sabotage, that is, in situations where the Civil Defence personnel finds itself suddently confronted by the enemy.)

3. **Prevention of acts of sabotage.**—The armament considered by the Civil Defence organization concerned is not chiefly intended for keeping order ; it is meant in the first place to be used for the defence, or the self-defence, of Civil Defence units against acts of sabotage and spying.

These acts can be of two types, according to the Red Cross concerned. They may be directly aimed against the columns in order to hinder their movements. This would be an extreme consequence of total warfare, where the enemy tries to break down the morale of the civilian population by impeding the relief it should receive. On the other hand, they may be acts of sabotage directed against the means and lines of communication, bridges, etc., which would indirectly interfere with the mobile columns. The members of these units would then have to intervene by force to prevent the aggressors from perpetrating such acts.

In speaking of saboteurs [1], these may as a rule be divided into two classes. On the one hand, those who commit hostile and destructive acts without being regular belligerents and who, if caught, may be treated as snipers or spies (this would be the case, for example, with Fifth Column members, whether citizens of the State in question or not). Under International Law, the police force is entitled to intervene against such elements and use force to put an end to their activities.

On the other hand, however, it must be borne in mind that acts of sabotage can also be committeed by enemies as regular combatants (belonging to the armed forces, wearing a distinctive sign and openly carrying arms at the time of committing hostile acts)—that is, by " commandos " entering the territory by ruse or being

[1] This term includes spies who carry out destructive acts, although in general the true spy does not do so.

landed there by aircraft [1]. The ordinary police or that of the Civil Defence services, in the sense mentioned above, is not entitled under International Law to use force to oppose hostile acts of these " combatant " saboteurs (except here in the case of self-defence which will be dealt with below). If these saboteurs are caught in the act of destroying, for example, lines of communication, the personnel of a Civil Defence organization wishing to maintain its civilian character cannot attack them. These " saboteurs " would even be entitled to stop the Civil Defence mobile units to check their identity or to take such restrictive measures concerning their equipment (vehicles, petrol, radio set) as are authorized under International Law regarding enemy property [2].

This difference is important, since in the first case the armed members of Civil Defence may use their arms to combat these saboteurs, whereas they may not do so in the second case. However, it would be preferable not to be too strict on this point. In present day warfare, in fact, this distinction tends to become blurred, to the extent that acts committed by those who do not come under the category of regular combatants have been described as " unprivileged belligerency " [3]. Both types, in reality, intend to perpetrate belligerent acts and the enemy to whom they belong would be inclined to consider that they carry out their duty in the same capacity. In addition, due to the inconspicuousness of modern

[1] For example, par. 105 of the *British Manual of Military Law* (1958 edition) states (page 38) : " Troops on hostile missions, whether conveyed to enemy or enemy-occupied territory by air, land or water, and airborne troops whether landed there by parachute, glider or ordinary aircraft, although operating by highly skilled methods of surprise and violent combat, are entitled, as long as they are members of the organized armed forces of the opposing belligerent and wear uniform, to be treated as regular combatants, even if they operate singly ".

In the commentary on this ruling, we find the following : " . . . troops landed by air or by other means behind the lines of the belligerent—whether in his own territory or in territory occupied by him—with a view to committing hostilities against his armed forces or other hostile acts, such as sabotage of lines of communication or of buildings and other objects of military importance . . . ".

[2] The relief material of purely civilian Civil Defence organizations should actually be protected by Article 63 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. However, the application of this article to such material gives rise to various problems and it would be desirable to define it ; this question is also being studied by the ICRC at present.

[3] R. Baxter : " So called unprivileged belligerency : spies, guerillas and saboteurs ", *British Year Book of International Law*, 1951.

military uniforms and the possibility of camouflage [1] accepted by international law, it may sometimes be difficult to distinguish at first sight between saboteurs who are regular combatants and those who are not.

The main point to remember in speaking of saboteurs is that they are not only persons without discipline or who avail themselves of disturbances to commit forbidden acts or offences of ordinary law (looting, personal revenge), but also persons acting for one of the belligerent parties and who intend to do damage even at the cost of committing illegal acts, as in the case of attacking purely civilian persons or buildings.

The request of the Civil Defence Board concerned reflects its concern to provide the mobile columns' personnel with adequate arms to prevent any such belligerent acts, whether irregular or not. Although we well appreciate this concern, we consider that the desired solution (that is, increasing armament) would imply starting from a point of view which we do not share. As we have shown, this would come within the province of belligerency whereas such persons as wish to maintain their civilian character should not be involved in this field. To increase the armament of mobile columns adequately for them to prevent hostile acts would risk leading the enemy even more to believe that the Civil Defence organization in question is no longer non-belligerent.

We consider it preferable to combat acts of hostility and sabotage, even when committed by irregular combatants, with men authorised to use arms against the enemy, that is, members of the armed forces in the widest sense. Otherwise one risks casting doubts on the civilian character of those sent to intervene, and the enemy would be only too ready to dispute this character since sabotage agents would possibly not have hesitated to open fire on Civil Defence units.

Here the case of self-defence should also be mentioned. Indeed, it could be rightly said that civilians who are mistakenly attacked by saboteurs, even if these fulfil the conditions of regular combatants, as well as the personnel of mobile columns, would be entitled to strike back in self-defence. The question of self-defence, for

[1] See Skorzeny Trial, *Law Reports of Trial of War Criminals*, London 1949, Vol. IX, page 90.

non-combatants attacked illegally, was discussed at length at the Diplomatic Conference of 1949, in particular following a Danish proposal granting a minimum degree of protection to civilians obliged to resort to self-defence [1]. However, the Conference did not follow up this proposal, recognizing the difficulty of defining the question in International Law.

Nevertheless, customary international law grants that the right of self-defence exists for civilians wrongly attacked by the enemy [2]. Therefore Civil Defence personnel armed for police purposes may normally make use of their arms for their own defence and that of their colleagues in the case of an attack. It would be dangerous, however, to use this right as a basis for the afore-mentioned personnel members to offer resistance to acts of hostility directed against them. The use of this right would give rise to too many difficulties and might be too disputed by the enemy for it to be considered a priori as an effective solution to the problem of defending mobile columns against illegal attacks.

In this matter we must reach the same conclusion as those which the authors of the Commentary on the First and Second Geneva Conventions have drawn regarding hostile acts directed against a military hospital unit [3].

The armament of Army medical staff is not planned for the purpose of offering effective resistance in the event of a systematic and deliberate attack from the enemy.

V.—CONCLUSIONS

(1) In modern warfare, Civil Defence personnel may be called upon to lend a helping hand in the case of disturbances, panic or insecurity ; it is therefore understandable that certain Govern-

[1] *Final Record of the Diplomatic Conference of 1949*, Vol. II A, pages 432-434, 480-481, 562.

[2] F. Castren : *The present Law of War and Neutrality*, Helsinki 1954, page 67.

[3] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, of August 1949 (II), Commentary published under the direction of Jean S. Pictet, ICRC, Geneva 1959, (p. 194-195 of the English text).

ments consider it advisable to provide such personnel with arms, still wishing it however to retain its purely civilian character.

If such armament fulfils certain conditions, as defined below, in particular if it is intended solely for self-defence or police purposes, it may reasonably be accepted that carrying arms in this way cannot be considered as denying the personnel in question, especially in the eyes of the enemy, its civilian character.

(2) In order that such a consequence be more readily accepted and in view of the lack of any ruling in International Law on this matter, it should be recommended that the granting of arms to Civil Defence personnel wishing to retain their civilian character should fulfil strict conditions, such as the following :

The granting of arms to be limited to a relatively small section of the Civil Defence personnel ;
These arms to be purely defensive, portable and light (side-arms, pistols) ;
The authorities concerned to specify that those carrying arms are not entitled to take part in the hostilities against enemy armed forces ;
Those carrying arms to be distinguishable from the rest of the Civil Defence personnel at least by means of a definite sign (symbol, initials, part of uniform) and be in possession of an identity card proving their authorisation to carry arms. In the case of armed conflict, the belligerent Powers to be notified of these distinctive signs.

The foregoing remarks refer, consequently, to armament which would be granted to a section of the personnel of Civil Defence mobile columns.

(3) On the other hand, if the Civil Defence personnel in general—and thus the afore-mentioned mobile columns' staff—were to be entrusted with heavier arms for the purpose of combatting belligerent acts, whether regular or irregular, committed by enemy agents, this fact seems likely, in the opinion of the ICRC,

to make it more difficult to recognize at all times the purely civilian character of a Civil Defence organization.

In the interest of the general duties they have to perform, it should not be the task of the Civil Defence personnel to combat such acts ; this should be left to the armed forces.

(4) Finally, the anxiety of the Civil Defence organization concerned of seeing its mobile columns wrongly attacked, proves once more the necessity of bringing all States to recognize that purely civilian organizations coming to the relief of the non-combatant population in time of conflict, should enjoy immunity. It also shows that it would be expedient to consider all means of distinguishing these organisations in order to avoid the possibility of mistaken attack.

However, the consideration due to such organizations implies a prior condition : that the immunity of peaceful populations from all direct attack, and especially from terrorist attacks, remains recognized.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

EFFORTS OF THE ICRC ON BEHALF OF FRENCH PRISONERS OF THE ALN

While continuing its numerous efforts on behalf of Algerians detained by the French authorities in Algeria and France, the International Committee of the Red Cross has continued to intervene with the Algerian nationalists on behalf of Frenchmen who have fallen into their hands. These efforts are usually made through a representative of the " Algerian Red Crescent ", in Geneva, a body which is not officially recognized but with which the ICRC maintains working relations for the benefit of the victims of the conflict. On different occasions the ICRC has also intervened directly in Tunis with members of the GPRA and senior officers of the " Algerian Red Crescent ".

Thus, during 1961, the ICRC made representations on two occasions in Tunis, where a delegate, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, went in March and where Miss M. van Berchem, a member of the Committee, accompanied by Mr. Gaillard, undertook a mission at the end of November. The aim of these interventions was to remind the GPRA of the exact obligations resulting from its adherence to the Geneva Conventions, in particular the necessity to communicate the names of prisoners captured to the ICRC in Geneva and to send news to the families of the captives through the Central Tracing Agency. Since the end of 1959 the ICRC had obtained no news of missing French presumed to be prisoners of the ALN.

In February 1961 the French military authorities advised the ICRC of the disappearance of some soldiers probably captured during an engagement on the defence line near the Tunisian frontier. What the ICRC emissaries in Tunis had to do was to obtain confirmation of these captures. Up to the last days of 1961 no precise information had been given with the exception of some verbal assurances, but on December 30, the ICRC received the news that the GPRA had decided to make a gesture of clemency by releasing two French soldiers.

The Central Tracing Agency at the ICRC headquarters immediately communicated the names of the two men to their families and on the same evening of the 30th, Mr. Gaillard went to Tunis. On the next day he took charge of the two prisoners and handed them over to the French authorities.

The two men did not complain about the conditions of their capture or detention but they deplored the fact that, for almost a year, they had not been able to communicate either with their families or with the ICRC. The latter, which is delighted at this release, has nevertheless insisted that the three other prisoners, whose names were supplied by the two soldiers who had been released, be allowed by the GPRA to write to their families without delay, through the Central Tracing Agency.

THE ICRC IN KATANGA

The ICRC and the exchange of prisoners in Katanga

Whilst the Swedish Government and the United Nations were making their representations, the International Committee of the Red Cross actively contributed to the release of the fifteen members of the UNO forces (eleven Swedes, two Norwegians and two Irish) prisoners of the Katangans, who were exchanged for thirty-three

Katanga troops. From the beginning of their detention, the ICRC, in accordance with its specific attributions, attempted to ensure that these prisoners benefited from its protection.

During the course of the visits which Mr. G. C. Senn, delegate of the ICRC, made to the prisoners of both sides, he was able to speak with them freely and without witnesses, and then intervened with the detaining authorities to have improvements made in their conditions of internment. Whilst taking these steps, he also negotiated for their release. He had several meetings with the United Nations representatives in Elisabethville as well as with the Katanga authorities on this subject. One fact which greatly facilitated these negotiations was the return to Elisabethville of the thirty-three Katanga prisoners which UNO had transferred to Leopoldville, whose return Mr. Senn had repeatedly requested.

Previously, the delegate of the ICRC had already succeeded in negotiating an exchange on a smaller scale by obtaining the release of two Swedish officers and two other ranks, as well as of the deputy to the Inspector-General of the Katanga Police, of a policeman and of two members of the Katanga Gendarmerie. All these arrests had been made by mistake on both sides.

From December 24, the Katanga Minister of the Interior had requested Mr. Senn to intervene on behalf of the four policemen held by UNO. The four Swedish prisoners, who had been arrested on the 27th, were only detained for 24 hours, the exchange having taken place on the 28th. On the following day, the delegate of the ICRC was called to the centre of Luano, near Elisabethville, to take charge of a certain number of other Katanga gendarmes which a Swedish company had arrested, also in error.

Thanks from Scandinavia

Following on the exchange of prisoners in Katanga, the International Committee of the Red Cross received a telegram from Stockholm expressing the Government's gratitude and that of the families of the released Swedish prisoners. This message stated in particular : " The presence of mind and the efforts of the Red Cross, in maintaining contact with the prisoners and in negotiating for

their exchange in spite of every difficulty, have been greatly appreciated by all in Sweden. According to unanimous reports, Mr. Senn has worked with courage and with outstanding competence, and to him is largely due the credit for what has been done."

The Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs also expressed his Government's thanks to the ICRC " and especially to the representative of the Red Cross in Katanga for all aid and assistance given to UNOC personnel detained in Katanga, which comprised two Norwegian subjects, and for all the efforts made for their release."

The President of the Swedish Red Cross, for his part, also sent a telegram to the ICRC, expressing " most sincere appreciation for your effective and successful intervention on behalf of the Swedish UNO personnel held by the Katanga forces."

Relief action on behalf of the civilian population

The civilian population has frequently been subjected to extremely painful experiences as a result of the hostilities in Katanga, from which in many cases it has not been able to recover properly, particularly in Elisabethville. This has prompted the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mr. G. C. Senn, to undertake various relief actions, and particularly to organize the evacuation of civilians from areas threatened by fighting. However, for military reasons it has not always been possible to carry out the evacuations scheduled. Such was the case at Square Uvira, situated in the North-West of the European quarter of Elisabethville.

On December 15, the ICRC delegate was informed by the UNO Command that the evacuation of this area could not take place but that it would be possible to organize the supplying under Red Cross auspices, of some 200 people, European and Africans, who were in the area. This task was embarked upon by the Katanga Red Cross under the supervision of the ICRC delegate.

Electricity and water mains to Square Uvira had been cut off and a round-the-clock curfew had also been imposed on the

inhabitants. On December 16, the ICRC delegate informed them that relief supplies would shortly be arriving, but as there was continual firing in the area UNO troops launched a mopping up operation to allow the Red Cross vehicles to advance without undue risk. This delayed the arrival of supplies until the 17th, and even then snipers were still active.

On arrival in Square Uvira, Mr. Senn and members of the Katanga Red Cross found the Europeans in a state of great anxiety and some women in a state of hysteria. The sight of the Red Cross vehicles was a great comfort to them. A second relief convoy was organized on the afternoon of the same day, to bring urgently needed medicaments to the inhabitants of the square.

This operation had its counterpart in numerous other relief actions which the ICRC delegate organized on behalf of the civilian population during the events in Katanga.

Within the last few days, Mr. Senn has left via Stanleyville, for Kongolo, in Northern Katanga, where a number of missionaries were massacred during recent disorders. His intention is to carry out distributions of foodstuffs and medicaments to the civilian population.

Tracing missing persons

Following the events in Katanga, a fairly large number of people have lost track of certain of their close relatives and have approached the Central Tracing Agency at ICRC headquarters in order to find them. These requests, numbering more than 500, have been forwarded by the Katanga Red Cross, the effectiveness of whose co-operation can be judged from the fact that todate it has been possible to give positive replies in nearly 70 per cent of the cases.

Since the beginning of the trouble in the Congo in the summer of 1960, the Central Tracing Agency has opened 1,150 enquiries. Although the majority of the requests concerned Belgian nationals, they sometimes referred to settlers of other nationalities as well as Congolese without news of their relatives cut off in other regions of this vast country.

An important evacuation operation

The ICRC delegate has also played an active part in another operation which has made a notable contribution towards easing the situation in Katanga. This was the evacuation of a contingent of Katangan troops and their families who had been placed under the protection of United Nations forces in Albertville.

During the hostilities which broke out in this district of North Katanga between troops of the Congolese national army and Katanga police, a certain number of the latter found themselves cut off from their units. To avoid being captured by the Congolese troops they successfully sought the protection of the UNO forces who put quarters at their disposal. However, a rumour spread round Elisabethville that these Katanga policemen were being considered as prisoners of war, and General Muke, Chief of the Katanga forces saw the ICRC delegate Mr. Senn and asked him to intervene. The latter mediated between the Katanga General and UNO and the ensuing negotiations resulted in an arrangement under the terms of which a commission was to go to Albertville to offer the interned police the possibility of choosing freely between being transferred to Elisabethville or remaining in Albertville under UNO protection. This commission was composed of the ICRC delegate, a civilian representative of UNO, the President of the Katanga Red Cross and an interpreter.

The members of the commission consulted all the Katanga policemen interned in Albertville, everyone of whom expressed the desire to be repatriated to Elisabethville together with the members of their families. In all 317 persons were thus to be transferred, consisting of 123 men, their wives and children.

A four-engined DC 4 was used for the airlift operations, which took place in rainy weather and lasted a week. The distance between Albertville and Elisabethville is about 600 km.

Following the death of Georges Olivet

Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross

In its last issue, the *International Review* paid tribute to Georges Olivet as well as to Mrs. Vroonen and Mr. Smeding, of the Katanga Red Cross, all three of whom died in the service of the Red Cross on December 13, 1961. The news of their brutal end was received with dismay in Geneva and messages of sympathy are still pouring in to the headquarters of the ICRC, some of which we have already published. Still more messages have been sent to the International Committee from countries all over the world. The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League, Mr. MacAulay, sent Mr. Boissier, the President of the ICRC, a message expressing his deep sorrow and emphasizing the necessity of establishing the circumstances of this disaster, which represents a threat to the authority and effectiveness of the international actions of the Red Cross. The National Societies have also associated themselves with the ICRC's loss by telegrams and letters. Amongst them, the Red Cross Societies of the following countries should be quoted as we have not been able to mention them before: Germany (Federal Republic), Burma, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, United States, Greece, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, Venezuela. It should be added that the Congolese Red Cross, which is not yet officially recognized, has also expressed its sympathy.

The names of those who died with Georges Olivet have also been honoured in the messages received, and on January 12, 1962, the President of the ICRC expressed to the families of Mrs. Vroonen and Mr. Smeding the sympathy of the International Committee of the Red Cross on the death of these two members of the Katanga Red Cross who accompanied Georges Olivet on his last mission.

A religious ceremony in memory of Georges Olivet was held in the Reformed Church in Leopoldville, on January 13. Numerous personalities were present, representing the United Nations, WHO,

the League, the Swiss Medical Unit in the Congo, the Congolese Red Cross, the Swiss Consulate General, as well as the members of the ICRC Delegation in the Congo.

Georges Olivet died on a dangerous mission which he had been carrying out with his usual courage under the Red Cross emblem. He showed to the end what can be done to defend the wounded by calm assurance. When his fate was still uncertain and there were still grounds for hope, the ICRC received a letter on December 15, 1961 from an important personality in the Laotian Royal Government, Mr. Chao Sopsaisana, who is representing his country in Geneva at the moment. This letter describes so accurately just what the work of ICRC delegates represents, and it pays so moving a tribute to these men that we think it most opportune to reproduce the essential passages :

Knowing that everywhere the International Committee of the Red Cross deals with peoples' misfortune, each time disaster strikes somewhere in the world the International Committee of the Red Cross hurries to the aid of the disinherited. By force of habit, the courage, unselfishness, heroism and sacrifice of the men who are sent by the International Committee of the Red Cross to the most dangerous and difficult places are merely considered as their rightful duty...

The news which I have had today concerning the disappearance of Mr. Georges Olivet while carrying out his mission in Katanga in the service of humanity, has particularly affected me.

The work being carried out by these representatives of the Red Cross is more than an every-day duty, it is an exalted action which should serve as an example to humanity by service to one's neighbour, sacrifice and courage in the darkest hours.

* * *

But the circumstances of this tragic event were still shrouded in uncertainty when the ICRC received confirmation of the death of Georges Olivet and his companions. For this reason, as has previously been stated, Mr. Frédéric Siordet, Vice-President of the ICRC, left Geneva for the Congo on December 25, 1961, in order to be quite certain that a thorough enquiry was being undertaken.

He first of all stopped at Leopoldville, where Mr. Jean de Preux, ICRC delegate, was waiting for him. He was received by Mr. Adoula, President of the Congolese Central Government, and he also met the head of the United Nations mission in the Congo, Mr. Sture Linner.

Accompanied by Mr. P. E. Jaccaud, Swiss Vice-Consul, Mr. Siordet and Mr. de Preux took the plane to Elisabethville where they were given a courteous welcome both by the Katanga authorities and by the United Nations representatives. The Vice-President of the ICRC was received by Mr. Tshombe, head of the Katanga Government and he then had a talk with Mr. Falmagne, Katanga State Attorney. The latter brought him up-to-date with the results of the enquiry opened by the Katanga local authorities. Mr. Siordet also met Mr. B. Urquhart, United Nations representative, who informed him that UNO had not yet been able to set up an enquiry, because it did not have the legal facilities at its disposal on the spot to enable it to undertake such a task.

Mr. Siordet visited the place where Mr. Olivet and his two companions were killed and inspected the remains of the ambulance in which they had been travelling when the disaster occurred. He then left for Leopoldville where he had a further meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Adoula, and met Mr. Linner again.

Mr. Siordet was back in Geneva on January 4, 1962 and on the basis of the report which he immediately made to the International Committee, the latter decided to ask Mr. Thant, Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations, to set up an independent commission to enquire into the death of Georges Olivet, and which would be accepted by both parties, that is to say, the United Nations and the Katanga Government. In his message of January 10 to Mr. Thant, the President of the ICRC concluded with these words:

> Faced with this situation, the ICRC feels itself obliged to urge you most strongly to appoint a commission of enquiry immediately, as has already been suggested by Mr. Siordet and Mr. Urquhart. This commission should be composed of highly qualified personalities accepted by both parties and in addition to an examining magistrate, should certainly include a medical expert and an expert in ballistics. It must be able to carry out its mandate quite impartially and independently and to this effect receive every facility from both

sides. Mr. Tshombe has already written to the ICRC, assuring it that the Katanga authorities will accord the commission these facilities.

You will understand that in view of the gravity of the circumstances which led to the tragic death of Mr. Olivet and his companions in an ambulance marked with the red cross emblem and, moreover, flying the ICRC flag, the ICRC, the founder body of the Red Cross and guardian of the principles expressed by the Geneva Conventions, is morally bound to do everything in its power to ensure that the facts are established and the responsibilities determined. It could not ignore so grave an attack, not so much against the safety of its representatives who assume normal risks, but on the intrinsic value of the red cross emblem for which it is obliged to demand respect by virtue of the protection which this emblem must be able to ensure for the wounded, sick, prisoners and other victims of war alluded to in the Geneva Conventions.

I have no doubt whatsoever that you share the ICRC's anxiety in wishing to shed all possible light on this event by demonstrating on this occasion the solidarity of the international institutions which are endeavouring to bring peace and security to the Congolese people.

This solidarity, of which you, yourself, and your representatives have already given many examples, will no doubt lead you to comply with our request by appointing the commission of enquiry for which we are asking, with the least delay possible, and in whose work we hope that a representative of the ICRC can take part. We are willing to examine the operational methods with you or with your appointed representative.

On January 15, Mr. Thant replied that he accepted the ICRC's request and the principal passages of his letter are as follows:

As I am anxious both to shed all possible light on this tragedy and to have the Red Cross emblem respected as well as the essential humanitarian functions provided for in the Geneva Conventions, I willingly accept your proposal that an impartial commission of enquiry composed of highly qualified personalities be appointed and approved by the United Nations Organization and the ICRC, with a mandate to enquire into every aspect of this deplorable event. You inform me that Mr. Tshombe has given a formal assurance to the Committee that all the necessary facilities will be accorded it by the Katanga authorities. I, in turn, would like to assure you that the United Nations Organization in the Congo will also receive instructions to furnish every possible assistance to the proposed commission.

> In view of the time which has elapsed since this suggestion was made, I am writing to you immediately to confirm that the United Nations are willing for a commission composed of qualified technicians to be appointed by common consent of both parties. I also hope with you that the International Committee and the United Nations Organization will take part in the enquiry. They can do so either as members or as observers, whichever the Committee wishes. I should be grateful if you would let me have your suggestions regarding the technically qualified personalities to take part in the commission and I will inform you of the result of my own enquiries on this subject.

The Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations and the ICRC agreed without delay that the commission should be composed of the following : Mr. Bjoern Kjellin, President of the Malmoe Court of Appeal, Professor Leopold Breitenecker, Director of the Vienna Institute of Legal Medicine, and Colonel Hans Roost, Swiss expert in ballistics. These three persons have willingly accepted the work entrusted to them.

The commission will begin its task forthwith and will endeavour to throw light on the circumstances of the death of Georges Olivet and his companions. The Red Cross cannot allow such things to occur without doing everything in its power to see that they do not happen again. The protection which the red cross emblem represents must retain its value and those who endeavour to have the principles of humanity respected under difficult circumstances must be effectively protected.

The *International Review* will keep its readers informed of the development of the present enquiry.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

The ICRC and the Goa Conflict

As it made it known in a press release published on January 4, the International Committee of the Red Cross attempted, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, to go to the aid of the victims of the conflict which had just broken out between India and Portugal. In the company of Major-General Lakshmanan, Secretary-General of the Indian Red Cross, Mr. C. Pilloud, Deputy Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, went to Goa on December 24, where he made contact with General Candeth, Commander of the Indian forces. The latter authorized him to go at will to the places in which the prisoners were located, to visit them and to bring them any humanitarian aid which he considered necessary.

The delegate of the International Committee thus visited Panjim, Murmagao and Margao, three camps for military prisoners and Portuguese interned civilians to whom the local Red Cross branch had distributed Christmas parcels. These temporary camps have since been abandoned and the prisoners transferred to the camp of Ponda (territory of Goa).

During his stay at Panjim, Mr. Pilloud visited the wounded collected in the military and civilian hospitals, in which notably the Captain of the frigate " Alfonso de Albuquerque " was receiving treatment.

Mr. Pilloud intervened with the Indian authorities for them to communicate the official list of prisoners and internees to the Central Tracing Agency, at the ICRC headquarters.

At the same time, the ICRC concerned itself in the fate of Indian nationals interned or regrouped in Mozambique, at Macao and Timor ; it hopes to obtain authorization from the Portuguese Government to visit them.

Furthermore, it intervened with the Portuguese Red Cross on behalf of several passengers of Indian nationality, arrested on landing at the airport at Lisbon.

On the other hand, Mr. J. P. Maunoir, ICRC delegate, accompanied by Colonel José Victor Mateus Cabral, Secretary-General of the Portuguese Red Cross, visited on January 16 the interned

Indian civilians held by the Portuguese authorities at the Caxias prison, near Lisbon.

Mr. Maunoir had previously handed to the Portuguese Red Cross and Government the reports of visits made by a delegate of the ICRC on December 25 and 26 to Portuguese prisoners of war and interned civilians detained by the Indian armed forces.

Mission of the ICRC in Central Africa

The rapid political and social evolution which is taking place in most of the African countries sometimes causes serious trouble and there are often many victims in the armed forces as well as amongst the civilian population. This is a matter of concern to the ICRC, especially as the essential precepts of humanitarian law—and notably the Geneva Conventions of 1949—still appear to be but very imperfectly known in many of these countries. Furthermore, the action of the Red Cross on behalf of the victims of conflicts of every description often encounters many different obstacles.

In the light of this situation, the ICRC has entrusted its Vice-President, Mr. Samuel Gonard, a former Corps Commander in the Swiss Army, to undertake a study mission in certain countries and territories of Central Africa. Mr. Gonard will be accompanied by Mr. Georges Hoffmann, for a long time in the service of the ICRC, who has just completed one year in the Congo as a delegate.

The object of this mission is to examine the methods of ensuring, without any distinction especially of race, a certain protection to the victims, military and civilian, of international or internal conflicts which may break out in Africa, and to study the possibilities of Red Cross action on behalf of the victims of such conflicts. The observations and conclusions of this mission will be intended for the exclusive use of the ICRC, which will then decide upon the possible measures to be taken in future.

Mr. Gonard and Mr. Hoffmann will leave Geneva at the beginning of February 1962. They will stay in Africa for about two months. They will be visiting the following countries : Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Tanganyika, Kenya, Uganda, Ruanda-Urundi, Congo (Leopoldville) and Congo (Brazzaville).

Aid to the resettled populations in Algeria

The International Committee of the Red Cross has taken further measures to intensify its aid to the resettled populations in Algeria. Over a period from 1959 to the end of 1961, it has handed over relief valued in excess of 1,187,000.— Sw. Fr., mostly for the women and children in the resettlement centres.

The last of these consignments, made in December, comprised 20 tons of powdered milk. The ICRC hopes to succeed in sending 30 tons of powdered milk before the end of February, as well as various gifts from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Most of these relief supplies sent by the ICRC are distributed on the spot by the mobile teams of the French Red Cross.

In order to help the latter to cope with the heavy tasks devolving upon it in this sphere, the ICRC proposes to intensify the search for relief in the coming months. It has also decided that an assistant-delegate should go and second the ICRC representative detailed to carry out this relief action in co-operation with the French Red Cross.

Following on the ICRC's mission

The International Committee of the Red Cross has handed to the French Government the report drawn up as a result of the IXth mission carried out by its delegates in Algeria in November and December 1961. Shortly after this document was presented, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, who had been head of the mission, and Mr. Pierre Boissier, delegate of the ICRC in Paris, had discussions with senior officials of the French Government, and in particular of the penal administration, bearing on the steps to be taken in connection with the suggestions contained in the report.

During the course of their mission, the delegates of the ICRC visited 51 places of detention. In 16 of these, activists of European stock were detained.

Closing of the ICRC Delegation in Cairo

The delegation maintained by the ICRC in Cairo since the beginning of the Second World War in 1939, with an interruption of 4 years from 1952 to 1956, closed down on December 31, 1961. The ICRC delegate in Cairo will remain several weeks longer on the spot in order to liquidate the delegation's work.

During the twenty years or so of its existence, the delegation has accomplished humanitarian work on an extensive scale, carrying out in time of war, and after the hostilities, the tasks deriving from the Geneva Conventions. It had been subsequently induced to offer its services to stateless persons wishing to emigrate, and to contribute, in co-operation with the heads of the various communities in Egypt, towards the solution of their humanitarian problems requiring an international action.

The ICRC continues its action in Laos

On returning from his mission to Saravane (see Information Notes No. 7, p. 4) Dr. Jürg Baer, ICRC doctor-delegate, welcomed Mr. L. G. Stubbings to Vientiane. Mr. Stubbings, who is Secretary-General of the Australian Red Cross and a delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies, was in Laos from November 18 to 22. Dr. Baer explained the International Committee's programme of action and the aid received from National Red Cross Societies on behalf of the victims of the conflict and particularly refugees. The ICRC delegate in Saigon, Mr. Werner Muller, also made very effort to facilitate Mr. Stubbings' mission on behalf of the flood victims in the Republic of Viet Nam.

On December 1, Dr. Baer left for Savannakhet with Mrs. Nouphath Chounramany, President of the Women's Committee of the Laotian Red Cross, where both visited the military prisoners being nursed in the civilian hospital and handed over parcels to them.

They then went to the camp for military and civilian prisoners and distributed relief supplies. The ICRC delegate was able to talk to several detainees freely and without witnesses.

Dr. Baer handed over to the Womens' Committee of Savannakhet clothing for Laotian and Thai refugees lodged in a camp. He also handed over six cases of blood plasma (a gift from the Netherlands Red Cross) to the civilian hospital and the military hospital, as well as to the medical post at Doughen.

Having returned to Vientiane, Dr. Baer left again on December 9 to make a tour in Attopeu province. During his flight he made short stops at Pakse and Saravane, where he left relief supplies for the hospitals and refugees.

At Muong May (capital of Attopeu province) Dr. Baer had clothing, condensed milk, tins of sardines, pepper and salt distributed to 854 Kha refugees living on the outskirts of the town. On the following day he handed various gifts to the sick and wounded in the civilian hospital, the military hospital and the Philippine Hospital (Operation Brotherhood), where he also left eight cases of blood plasma, a gift from the Netherlands Red Cross.

On December 12, Dr. Baer took part in a meeting organized by the Chief of the province (the Chaokhoueng) with a view to setting up a provincial Committee of the Laotian Red Cross at Muong May.

Dr. Baer then returned to Vientiane and left again, on December 22, for Luang Prabang, the royal capital, accompanied by Mr. André Durand, ICRC general delegate in the Far East, and Mrs. Nouphath Chounramany, President of the Women's Committee of

the Laotian Red Cross, with a consignment of more than two tons of relief supplies.

These supplies were distributed to the Meo refugees who now number almost 2,000 and who are in the town and on the outskirts.

Blood plasma was also handed over to the civilian and military hospitals, while members of the Women's Committee distributed parcels to the sick and wounded being nursed in these establishments.

It should also be mentioned that on December 18 the ICRC sent a memorandum to various National Red Cross Societies on the relief action carried out in Laos since August. This document states what remains to be done if the work undertaken on behalf of the refugees, the sick and wounded, and other victims of the events, is to be successfully concluded. Following this preliminary report, several Societies have already sent fresh contributions to the International Committee.

Despatch of artificial eyes.—The International Committee of the Red Cross has just despatched a consignment of twelve artificial eyes to the military hospital at Vientiane. The hospital's chief medical officer has confirmed the arrival of this consignment for which he has expressed his deep gratitude.

The ICRC visits interned activists

A delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited the Centre of assigned residence at St-Maurice l'Ardoise in the Gard Department (France) on January 16. This camp, which had previously contained interned Algerians, now holds about fifty activists.

The delegate spoke without witnesses with ten internees who were thus able freely to express their views on the conditions of their detention.

Following on this visit, the ICRC, in accordance with its custom, will communicate its observations and suggestions to the competent French authorities.

Repatriation of Korean Residents in Japan

In November and December, 1961, ICRC delegates accompanied by representatives of the Japanese Red Cross and the Japanese authorities went to a number of prefectures in order to verify the conditions on which the Koreans residing in Japan can register for departure to North Korea. It had, in fact, been anticipated in September 1959 that the members of the Korean colony in Japan (about 600,000) would have the choice of three possibilities: remaining in Japan, returning to North Korea or going back to

South Korea. It is to guarantee the freedom of choice that a special ICRC mission has been operating in Japan for two years and that delegates of the International Committee have been present at registrations and at embarkation.

At each of these visits the ICRC delegates have been received by the Red Cross and the authorities responsible for the organization of those being repatriated. They have examined special cases submitted to them, have given their advice on the problems of family resettlement which departure for North Korea raises, and they have made the appropriate recommendations to the Japanese Red Cross and Japanese officials.

In all, 404 visits were made to 46 prefectures in 1961.

Nearly 75,000 people left Japan for North Korea between December 1959 and December 1961. The average number of departures in the first weekly convoys was about a thousand. That of the last 10 departures was about 250. From November 20, 1961, one boat instead of two has been making the crossing between Niigata and Chongjim.

The repatriation operations are due to be continued officially in this form until November, 1962.

Departures which were suspended on December 16, 1961, are due to restart on January 19, 1962.

Between Indonesia and the Netherlands

With the suspension of postal communications between Indonesia and the Netherlands, the ICRC offered its services to the National Red Cross Societies of these two countries for the purpose of transmitting family messages.

The International Committee's proposal having been accepted by both sides, the Central Tracing Agency has been entrusted to proceed with this exchange of news.

This consists of brief messages of a family character which those concerned write on forms of which the specimen has been drawn up by the ICRC, and which are made available to the public by the National Societies. Once the form has been completed, the National Red Cross forwards it to the Central Agency, which arranges for its transmission to the National Society of the country of destination. Replies use the same channel in the opposite direction.

Urgent communications are telegraphed by the Agency.

The Netherlands Red Cross has published notices in the press drawing the attention of those who have relatives in Indonesia to the ways in which this transmission of messages can be made.

Compensation to victims of pseudo-medical experiments

As we mentioned in our Information Notes Nos 1 and 5, the International Committee had accepted to act as intermediary for the handing over of financial assistance to Polish and Hungarian victims of pseudo-medical experiments carried out in concentration camps under the Nazi regime.

We would point out that payment was made on December 4, 1961, through the channel of the ICRC, of sums allocated to the victims in accordance with decisions taken by the neutral Commission which met last August to examine the substantiation of the claims and the amount of compensation.

Relief consignments

To Algeria : The ICRC presented 30,000 packets of cigarettes to a value of 15,000 Swiss francs to the General Delegation of the French Red Cross in Algeria. This gift was distributed amongst the hospital establishments on the occasion of the feast-days at the end of the year.

To Austria : Having received a consignment of clothing from a Swiss factory valued at 10,000 Swiss francs, the ICRC placed this gift at the disposal of the Austrian Red Cross on behalf of refugees and the needy.

To Hungary and Poland : The International Committee continues to despatch special pharmaceutical products to these two countries. As we have already stated[1], requests for medicaments from sick persons or their doctors are sent to our institution through the Hungarian or the Polish Red Cross.

Until December 31, 1961, these two National Societies received supplies of medicaments to a value of 32,700 (for the Hungarian Red Cross) and 102,900 Swiss francs (for the Polish Red Cross).

This action has been continuing over the past four years thanks to contributions from the British and the Swiss Red Cross, and also to the International Committee relief fund.

To Tunisia and Morocco : In December, the ICRC sent two consignments of medical samples, of a total weight of 1,000 kg., to the " Algerian Red Crescent " at Tunis and Rabat. This gift was earmarked for Algerian refugees.

[1] See English Supplement, June 1960, to the *Revue internationale.*

Artificial limb workshop at Sarajevo

Several years ago, the ICRC had supplied artificial limbs to the war disabled in various countries. Sometimes, these invalids had to be fitted up elsewhere than in their own countries and the different types of make have thus been distributed more or less everywhere. One of these models had been introduced into Yugoslavia where it was hoped it could be reproduced. Thanks to a scholarship offered by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic, two Yugoslav artificial limb workers were able to learn this manufacture which had started at Sarajevo and for which the ICRC had made a donation to the Yugoslav Red Cross of machinery and tools.

This National Society invited the Head of the War Disabled Section of the ICRC to visit the artificial limb workshop at Sarajevo. During the course of this visit in the autumn of 1961, Miss Pfirter met the two Yugoslav workers who now manufacture the most up-to-date artificial limbs and obtain excellent results, thanks to their newly-acquired knowledge and to the machinery supplied by the ICRC. This workshop is engaged in setting up the disabled of Bosnia and Herzegovena. It produces about 3,000 orthopaedic appliances each year. This high figure can be explained by the fact that each war disabled has the right to one new artificial limb free of charge, supplied by the Government, every two years, whilst the civilian disabled obtain one every four years at the expense of the Social Welfare Service.

The workshop works in close co-operation with the orthopaedic centre for functional rehabilitation and social reintegration. The amputated are transported by cars between the orthopaedic hospital, the rehabilitation centre and the artificial limb workshop, thus enabling the disabled to continue their exercise throughout the period of their being set up.

The work which was started at Sarajevo under the aegis of the Yugoslav Red Cross is at present developing and the ICRC is pleased to have made its contribution towards the success of this enterprise.

Red Cross Centenary

In order to associate the public with the Centenary of the foundation of the Red Cross, the Centenary Commission has published its first press release. It mentions in broad outline the various events which will be organized for this occasion. It also draws attention to the fact that the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Red Cross will be commemorated in the 87 countries in which National Red Cross Societies exist. The work of the Exhibition

continues to progress in a satisfactory manner. The philatelic group has drawn up its regulations for participation in the philatelic section, regulations which will be sent to interested stamp-collectors.

As regards the Day of Commemoration, the procession has been the subject of special study. The reception and accommodation subcommittee has convened a combined meeting with the representatives of the Society of Hotel Proprietors of Geneva, since the organizers are paying special attention to this question. Finally, in order to keep the personnel of the International Red Cross institutions and the Swiss Red Cross fully informed, a further meeting was held at the League's headquarters.

Guests of the ICRC

From mid-December to the beginning of January, the International Committee had the honour of successively welcoming the following : Dr. Tazar, Director of the Blood Transfusion Service of the Indonesian Red Cross and Miss S. Abdoerachman, Director of the Administrative services of that Society; Father Robert Moons, former chaplain to the welfare services in the Leopoldville diocese ; Mr. E. C. Graham, Director of Publicity of the British Red Cross ; Mr. Efisio Nonis, Director of the External Affairs Department of the Italian Red Cross ; Mr. C. Rouard-Watine, Head of Publicity of the French Red Cross ; Mr. E. P. Vanni d'Archirafi, Ambassador and newly appointed Permanent Delegate of Italy to the European Office of the United Nations, accompanied by Mr. Marcello del Drago, former Ambassador and Italian representative to the ICRC ; Mr. Chao Sopsaisana, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Royal Laotian Government, accompanied by Mr. Ratanavong, Counsellor ; Miss Kazan, social worker of the Lebanese Red Cross ; Mr. Robert M. Pierpont, Deputy-Director of relief services in cases of disaster of the American Red Cross ; Miss Olive Johnson, chief nurse, attached to the Ministry of Health, Sierra Leone.

The ICRC also had the pleasure of receiving a group of students (scholars of the Carnegie Foundation) from the Graduate Institute of International Studies of Geneva, as well as Congolese students enrolled at the University of Geneva.

RED CROSS "OBSERVERS"

Following on statements suggesting that "observers" of the International Committee of the Red Cross be placed on the frontier between Northern Rhodesia and Katanga, press correspondents have asked the International Committee of the Red Cross if it would be in a position to undertake tasks of this nature. The International Committee of the Red Cross wishes at once to stress that it has received no official requests on this subject.

Such a proposal having however been discussed at length in the press, the International Committee wishes to point out that its humanitarian action, within the terms of the Geneva Conventions implies the carrying out of certain functions of observation and control. Without being strictly defined by the letter of the Conventions, these functions encompass, in a general manner, all that is essential for the Committee to be able to fulfil its rôle, which is above all to aid the victims of conflits and to have human dignity respected.

Thus, the Delegates of the Red Cross and the National Societies can be called upon to ensure, in the case of prisoners of war and of detained persons, that the Conventions are strictly applied; in the despatch of relief supplies, the Red Cross sees to it that consignments reach those for whom they are intended and that these are equitably distributed amongst them. It can be called upon to carry out observations internally or on frontiers in order to guarantee the nature or the integrality of consignments. Such observation has, on several occasions, been a condition imposed by the belligerents or the authorities of a State for the crossing of frontiers or for the passage through a blockade.

The Red Cross could therefore not carry out any control " in abstracto " or one of a " customs " character, nor any sort of political arbitration between the parties in the form of observation. Control or observation by the Red Cross has always and above all a humanitarian purpose. When it does assume such functions, it invariably applies the principles of neutrality and impartiality which are its own.

Since the principles are strictly bound to the humanitarian aid given by the Red Cross, the International Committee is often asked to engage itself in other tasks in connection with certain conflicts. This was the case in particular with relation to Article 16 of the Peace Treaty between the Allies and Japan for the payment of compensation to former prisoners of war in Japanese hands and for indemnification to victims of pseudo-medical experiments. In all these cases, actions connected with the victims of war were involved.

Finally, if the statutes of the ICRC allow it " to take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution ", the representatives of the Red Cross could not be called upon to set up road blocks or inspect vehicles for arms.

PRINCESS GRACE OF MONACO VISITS THE ICRC

On January 31, 1962, H.S.H. The Princess Grace of Monaco, President of the Red Cross of Monaco, paid a visit to the International Committee in Geneva[1], She was accompanied by several personalities, notably by Mr. Henry Soum, Minister of Monaco in Berne.

At the entrance of the ICRC, the Princess was met by the President, Mr. Léopold Boissier and as she entered the building she was greeted by the applause of the institution's staff lining the hall.

After several members and directors of the ICRC had been presented to her, the Princess signed the institution's Golden Book, then went to the conference room, where she was welcomed by Mr. Boissier:

It is a great honour as well as a great pleasure for the International Committee of the Red Cross to welcome the President of the Red Cross of Monaco to its headquarters. This Society, which is still young, since it was created and then recognized by the ICRC in 1948, has not ceased to increase its activity under Your Highness' inspiring and generous impulsion... We greatly regret that His Highness, Prince Rainier, was not able to accompany you. We would have liked to have expressed our gratitude to him for all the interest which he takes in the Red Cross of Monaco, of which he was the founder and to which he has given his enthusiasm and the wish to be of service.

Madam, amongst the tasks imparted to the Red Cross, those devolving on the International Committee of Geneva are the heaviest and sometimes the most tragic.

Called upon to come to the aid of the victims of wars in its capacity as neutral intermediary amongst the belligerents, it intervenes wherever there is fighting, wherever men oppose each other with weapons in their hands, and in the same way as it gave its assistance to millions of

[1] *Plate.*

Speech of welcome by the President of the ICRC...

... and reply by H.S.H. The Princess Grace of Monaco.

Princess Grace signs the ICRC's Golden Book...

... and visits the Central Tracing Agency.

wounded, sick and prisoners during the two great wars of the century, today it attempts to bring aid to the victims of civil wars, revolutions and internal disturbances which still devastate so many countries. As you will shortly see, the Committee's delegates expend themselves without stint in relieving the suffering of those who fall in fratricidal strife in Algeria, in the Congo, in Laos, in Indonesia and elsewhere.

Thus, the Red Cross brings its message of hope to those who have been delivered over to suspicion and to their own fears, proving by its action that love and human fellowship can still win the finest victories.

The Princess, in reply, said that she was pleased to find herself once again in this city in which the Red Cross had been born, whose emblem of peace and human understanding she well knew the significance. She also realized in what an atmosphere of moral serenity the ICRC was carrying out its humanitarian task. That was why she expressed the wish that it would continue to accomplish its urgent work which today was so generally useful.

She then listened to two addresses, one given by Mr. J. Pictet, Director for General Affairs, who spoke of the history and the mission of the Red Cross and of the evolution of humanitarian law, followed by Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, who gave an outline of some of the important relief actions being carried out at present in the world by the ICRC. A showing of the documentary film " Blood is still being shed ", recalling some of the ICRC actions, was then given in the cinema hall.

Finally, the ICRC's guests visited the Central Tracing Agency building. Its head described to the President of the Monaco Red Cross the work which it had been carrying out for so many years.

This visit paid by H.S.H. the Princess Grace of Monaco will contribute to strengthen the bonds between the Principality and the Red Cross of Monaco and the institution founded nearly a hundred years ago through the inspiration of Henry Dunant. During her visit to the ICRC headquarters, the Princess, by her simplicity and her charm, aroused feelings of respectful and warm sympathy.

TWO APPOINTMENTS TO THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES' SECRETARIAT

Having to broaden the scope of its action in various fields, the League has just created two new posts on its Secretariat : thus Mr. Nedim Abut, who has been Deputy Director-General of the Turkish Red Crescent since 1957 has, since January 1962, taken over the duties of Under Secretary-General, and Mr. Nikolaï I. Tchikalenko, until now Head of the External Relations Department of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, has also assumed similar duties since the beginning of the year.

The International Committee congratulates these two personalities well known in the Red Cross world on their new appointments, and wishes them every success in the accomplishment of the important tasks to which they will be devoting themselves.

Japan

The Japanese Red Cross has just brought out a complete translation in Japanese of the illustrated Handbook of the Geneva Conventions, edited jointly by the League and the ICRC, and has published this book with exactly the same presentation and format as the French edition.

This work, the German and Spanish versions of which are being prepared, has also been translated into Finnish and has been published in English and French by the two International institutions of the Red Cross, so that it is becoming increasingly an instrument of work for the purpose of disseminating the Geneva Conventions.

We reproduce below, a photocopy of one of the illustrated pages of the Japanese edition [1], as we think, this will be of interest to the Red Cross world. These photographs were taken during the Korean war ; the top one shows a wounded North Korean being cared for by Americans, and the lower one shows a wounded American being cared for by North Koreans. This page could therefore be called a symbol of the Red Cross spirit : aid to anyone, friend or enemy, if he is suffering and needs help.

Lebanon

The National Red Cross Society is at present making a special effort to make its work better known in the Lebanon. It is availing itself of this opportunity of ensuring a wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and of reminding the general public of the

[1] *Plate.*

meaning of the Red Cross, its principles and structure. Thus, Mrs. Selim Saab, Secretary of the Central Committee, who is in charge of the Committee responsible for directing and organizing the work of the Lebanese Red Cross, gave various talks on these subjects during the summer of 1961. These included the following: 1) An outline of the life of Henry Dunant and the battle of Solferino ; the birth and development of the Red Cross idea ; 2) the International Red Cross ; the ICRC ; its structure ; 3) Red Cross principles ; international conferences ; 4) the League ; its structure ; 5) the National Societies.

The first talk was given by Mrs. Selim Saab in Arabic at the Officers' Club in Beirut and aroused great interest. Two hundred officers were present, many of whom attend the Military Academy [1], and copies of the review of the Lebanese Red Cross were distributed. This talk was repeated a few days later at the Officers' Club in Ablah. Mrs. Saab was accompanied by various members of the Central Committee and on this occasion again the officers showed great interest in the talk, which was followed by a lively discussion.

Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Saab gave the same talk once more at the Military Training Centre of Dahr-El-Baidar, some distance from the capital. In this centre, young men from 17 to 20 years of age receive military training for a period of two weeks and this seemed a suitable opportunity to outline the principles of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions to some of them. Accompanied by several ladies from the Central Committee, Mrs. Saab was received by the Camp Commander and the Medical Officer. Over nine hundred young men and soldiers attended this talk, sitting in the open air in front of a tent especially erected for the occasion, and Mrs. Saab's talk was followed with the closest attention.[2]

In connection with this publicity campaign, it should also be pointed out that the National Society now has its own official organ, so necessary for establishing contacts with the population of the country and with all those likely to be interested in the action of the Red Cross. Under the title *La Croix-Rouge libanaise*, several issues have already been published—and with particular care, as can be seen by their contents and numerous illustrations.

[1] *Plate.*
[2] *Plate.*

朝　鮮　戦　争（1950－1953）
アメリカ軍の手当を受ける北鮮兵

朝　鮮　戦　争（1950—1953）
北鮮軍の手当を受けるアメリカ兵

A page from the illustrated Handbook on the Geneva Conventions, translated and published by the Japanese Red Cross.

Mme Selim Saab speaking on the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions at the Officers' Club in Beirut.

LEBANON

... and at the military training centre of Dahr-El-Baidar.

Written in French and Arabic, this review contains articles on the various activities of the National Red Cross Society. In the first issue, after an introduction by the President, Mrs. A. de Freige, we can read an article on the action of the Lebanese Red Cross in the sphere of blood-transfusion and on numerous efforts which the Society has also made in social welfare. The third issue contains extremely lively articles on hygiene education in the Lebanon, on Civil Defence and, finally, on that very useful creation, the mobile clinics, concerning which the review writes as follows:

" The mobile clinic of the Lebanese Red Cross was started in 1948 at the request of a large number of villages deprived of any kind of medical care. After thorough consideration, a choice had to be made, since our means were unfortunately not such as to allow us to comply with all the requests. At present we visit about sixty centres, but the neighbouring villages also come for the consultations. The centres are notified at the beginning of the month of the date of each visit. The doctors accompanying the mobile clinic regularly follow the patients' progress, each one of whom has his own file. The doctors are assisted by two or three nurses. Medicaments are distributed free of charge ; the costs of laboratory analyses, X-rays, electrocardiographs and hospitalization are borne by the Red Cross or, whenever possible, by the State Social Welfare services. A social welfare worker has inspected nearly all the centres and submitted reports on the different villages visited.

In order to give an idea of the work which has thus been carried out, we reproduce below a few figures :

1948-49 :	1,500 patients ;
1950 :	2,731 patients ;
1960 :	5,893 patients.

It is hardly necessary to speak of the period of earthquakes, during which the number of patients examined and the centres visited naturally rose exceptionally. The Red Cross took charge of the villages affected in the Mount Lebanon region and in the South of the country. Two or three ambulances visited them every day and often the Red Cross doctors and nurses were obliged to walk

for hours in order to see patients in isolated districts, cut off through the lack of negotiable roads. We can be proud of having been able to prevent epidemics in such difficult times. As soon as a case of typhoid, dysentery or other illness was detected among the earthquake victims, living under tents, without water and deprived of the most elementary form of hygiene, the appropriate steps were taken by the Red Cross and the ministry concerned.

Next year we hope to extend and perfect our work. Social welfare workers will accompany the mobile ambulances and give simple, practical lessons in health education to the population, particularly to the mothers. Educational films will be shown in the villages."

The ICRC has recently received interesting information from the Lebanese Red Cross concerning a new activity which continued from October 4 until November 20, 1961, and which illustrates the humanitarian spirit of this National Society. As soon as a Centre had been set up for receiving Egyptian nationals arriving from Syria as a result of the events, it established an aid post which operated in co-operation with the military medical team sent by the Lebanese Government. A 24-hour service, maintained by members of the Women's Committee and Red Cross nurses assured medical attention to arrivals and dealt with urgent cases.

On the first day in fact these arrivals were numerous and most of the travellers were overcome with fatigue as a result of their journey. The Red Cross was thus able to bring them valued and continuous aid. Several days later, a new batch of travellers arrived which also called upon the services of the Red Cross ; it intervened not only in mild cases, but also in sending one case of serious sickness to hospital and supplying medicaments and clothing. Subsequently further convoys arrived : one on November 8 consisting of 570 persons, and another on November 20, in which several persons also required urgent treatment.

Finally, and in order to complete the picture, we would mention that on the National Day, November 22, 1961, the Lebanese Red Cross, as an auxiliary to the armed forces, participated in the military parade which took place in front of the President of the Republic and members of the Government. This event preceded the

4th Annual Congress of the National Society which was held in Beirut on November 25 at the headquarters of the Lebanese Red Cross. Its theme, which was dealt with by three doctors, was : " Mentally and physically backward children ". More than 200 people took part in this most successful event, which included many doctors, presidents of women's associations specializing in medico-social problems, the Central Committee of the Red Cross, the committees of provincial branches, instructresses of various schools and the directors of dispensaries.

Rumania

Medical assistance in the Delta of the Danube

During his visit to Geneva, as has already been pointed out in the International Review of the Red Cross [1], *Mr. A. Moisescu submitted an article to the ICRC on one of the activities of the National Society of which he is President. This article reads as follows :*

After a long journey of nearly 1,800 miles, and traversing seven countries on its course, the Danube falls into the Black Sea forming a delta of incomparable splendour. Migrating birds from Africa, Japan and the shores of South America flock there to make their nests. The river conceals many riches which assure the eating of fish in the interior and their export in large quantities. In its depths, fishermen often make catches supplying caviar weighing from 800 to 1100 lbs.

Twenty years ago there was great misery in the midst of all this beauty and wealth without compare. The Delta was then known as " the cursed land ". The fishermen were oppressed by three equally pitiless enemies : the " khekhanadjis ", sickness and poverty. The first of these, the owners of fishing gear and boats, had the monopoly

[1] December 1961.

of all installations and could dispose of the fishermen's lives and of the result of all their work.

Malaria was widespread amongst the inhabitants of the Delta. Between 1938 and 1940 there were no children in some of the villages. When women gave birth they were unable to spare their infants the sufferings caused by that disease. No medical assistance existed and it often happened that sick fishermen, forced by hunger to find food great distances away, slipped into the greedy depths of the Danube to be engulfed for ever. Others, whom sickness did not succeed in striking down, lived miserably in rough hovels dug into the ground, in which the only wealth was a primitive stove and a mattress which served as a bed for the whole family.

Statistics show how hard was the life of fishermen in the Delta of the Danube. Thus, in 1938 only one doctor is listed for nearly 40,000 inhabitants in the Tulcea district. In this region there were fifteen doctors in all who only lived, however, in the small towns of Tulcea and Sulina. The fishermen's hamlets, lost in the country, were abandoned since they were, as described in the statistics, " inaccessible places ".

There were scarcely a hundred hospital beds and the inhabitants of the Delta can remember that the only way of taking a sick person to the hospital at Tulcea was by boat, rowing upstream for two days and two nights. The sick person often died before ever reaching the end of the journey. In the archives of the Tulcea hospital more deaths than cures are recorded. As for pharmacies, statistics of that time only mention three for the entire district of Tulcea and these were also situated in the small residential towns. They also indicate a total lack of maternity facilities, dispensaries, day nurseries and other social and medical establishments.

The fishermen of these " inaccessible places " have now had houses built whose flowered windows catch the visitor's eye. In most villages, electricity has been introduced and the shops are as well stocked as in the towns.

Today there is no longer any malaria in the Danube Delta. Since 1947 the People's Democratic State has undertaken an active campaign. The best doctors were sent there in order to work on the eradication of malaria. Medical aircraft sprayed the whole

Delta with thousands of tons of insecticide powder in the fight against the anopheles mosquito. Disinterested, fraternal aid was lent us, during this campaign, by the USSR, which placed large numbers of medical aircraft at our disposal.

As and when the medical faculties trained new doctors, the best of these chose to work in the Delta. There are at present in the Tulcea district, 85 doctors, 16 chemists and 450 medical directors of average training. Two new hospitals have been built and at the same time twelve maternity wards, five dispensaries for adults and a dispensary for infants have been established. A pharmaceutical centre provided with all the necessary medicaments operates in each medical district.

Vital statistics show a continual increase in births with a corresponding decrease, unprecedented in the history of the Delta, in adult and infant mortality.

The Red Cross lends valuable support to the medical education of the population, which it trains to put the advice of the medical institutions into practice. It is present in the remotest places in the Delta. There are in the district more than a hundred Red Cross sections. Guided by the sections' committees, many people have attended teamworkers courses and subsequently formed 26 medical groups. More than seven thousand others have attended "Prepared for medical defence" courses. Thus a large voluntary medical entity exists which carries out its activity in each medical district and centre.

It was only after illiteracy had disappeared, as a result of the State's efforts, that the Red Cross was able to train such a large number of people. If there was much illiteracy amongst the men, this applied generally to the women. This is difficult to believe today, when one sees active female members of the Red Cross carrying out medical instruction, giving advice to mothers on the care and feeding of children, or even giving first aid!

Two medical vessels, the *Sanitarul* (The Medical) and the *Sănătatea* (Health) have, for the past three years, watched over the health of the inhabitants of the Delta, and two more will shortly sail on the Danube.

These vessels are equipped with an operating theatre, where urgent cases can be dealt with, a sterilizing room, a stomatologic

surgery, and a general consulting room for internal diseases and gynaecological complaints. There are Roentgen appliances on board as well as blood for eventual transfusions.

Answering urgent calls, these vessels transport specialist doctors who carry out treatment on the spot, or else ensure the hospitalization of the sick to Tulcea or to Sulina. But urgent cases apart, the ships—on which prophylactic consulting rooms have been established—sail along the villages and fishermen's centres.

More than six thousand consultations were given in 1960 by specialists in medical caravans. Expenses for consultations and medicaments are borne by the State Assistance Office. Furthermore, a cinema operator accompanies the doctors and assures the projection of films on medical subjects and education, as well as on art.

This vast undertaking of medical social assistance, as well as this action of free medical assistance, unique in the history of the Delta, are the results of new medical measures taken by the State. Today nearly eight hundred aged fishermen receive a pension. Furthermore, ever-increasing amounts are allocated each year by the Democratic People's State to meet the social and cultural needs of the Rumanian people. In 1960, for example, 15,199 thousand million lei were allotted for these purposes, of which 4,239 were for the protection of health and social assistance.

Remarkable success favouring the inhabitants of the Delta has not only been achieved in the field of medical assistance and material benefits. Schools have been built in all villages in which the fishermen's children attend the first seven classes of their education. From the 1960-1961 scholastic year they receive, as do all other pupils in the Rumanian People's Republic from the first to the seventh class, free school manuals and it is proposed soon to supply them also with free school materials. There are now six hundred teachers whilst they did not number eighty in 1939. Each fishing village possesses a cultural centre at which films are presented, conferences are held and local artistic talent displays a great activity. There are also well-stocked libraries open to all.

The Danube Delta constantly changes its aspect. Reeds, a natural source of wealth and which were formerly burned, have been developed for the past few years. Once harvested, these are transported to the large cellulose " Combine ", recently built at

Chiscani, Braila. Thanks to increased paper production, more and more books dealing with national and world literature as well as technical and scientific works are being produced. For the new way of life in the Rumanian People's Republic requires men to be instructed.

For many years now the Delta is no longer " the cursed land ". " Kherkhanadji ", malaria and poverty no longer exist. Today this region is known as the " land of man's happiness ".

Viet Nam

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has recently had the brief Summary of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, translated and published in the Vietnamese language.

This is the same booklet which the International Committee of the Red Cross has distributed since 1952 in French, German, English, Arabic and Spanish for the use of members of the armed forces and of the public.

The Red Cross world will have satisfaction in knowing that these basic notions relative to the Geneva Conventions have thus been placed within the reach of the general public in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Yugoslavia

The Yugoslav Red Cross has been good enough to send the ICRC an illustrated booklet which it has had published [1]. Entitled " The health worker and the Geneva Conventions ", and composed of 24 small-format pages, it is intended to popularize and make

[1] *Zdravstveni radnik i Zenevske Konvencije*, Beograd, 1962.

known the Conventions amongst medical and health personnel. With this end in view, it supplies all the explanations necessary for the correct application of these Conventions in general, as well as commentaries on the rights and duties of this personnel. It also contains a chapter referring to the International Red Cross, illustrated by photographs reproducing certain salient features marking its action during the course of various conflicts.

This booklet has been distributed to members of professional associations of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, as well as to members of the auxiliary personnel of the medical services and to persons who are intending to enter these professions through medical faculties and nursing schools.

The text is divided into fourteen chapters, the titles of which are as follows : What the Geneva Conventions are ; The struggle for peace and the Geneva Conventions ; The Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions ; The Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Geneva Conventions ; History (Henry Dunant) ; The New Conventions ; Who is entitled to Red Cross protection ? Protected medical equipment ; The duties of the samaritan ; The rights of the samaritan ; The Red Cross emblem ; Composition of the International Red Cross ; Inadequacy of the Geneva Conventions ; The health worker and the Geneva Conventions.

This last chapter points out the difficult situation in which the health worker finds himself as a result of the heavy responsibilities which are incumbent upon him ; consequently, he will be " the best agent for the dissemination of the Conventions, which he will defend and for the respect of which he will be ready to fight." We welcome the publication of this booklet which aims at instructing the health worker, so that he has an exact understanding of his practical action and of his humanitarian mission.

MISCELLANEOUS

AGREEMENT RELATING TO REFUGEE SEAMEN

The Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen, which entered into force on December 28, 1961, had been negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees and was ratified by all the signatory governments.

The Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen was concluded on 23 November 1957 at The Hague, after three sessions of a conference called by the Netherlands Government to remedy the distressing situation in which a number of refugee seamen found themselves. Many of these refugees, serving on board merchant ships, had no valid papers whatsoever and, therefore, no country in which they could land and stay legally, not even for short periods, such as for shore leave, or to change ships.

The Agreement sets out conditions according to which a refugee seaman, having a link with a country which is a party to the Agreement, shall receive a travel document from that country, giving him the right to take up his residence in its territory. This travel document will also greatly facilitate his life as a seaman, and will enable him to go ashore when his ship is in foreign ports, if he wishes to change ships, if he is sick, or for any other reason. The " links " specified are : a certain period of service on board ships flying the flag of the country concerned ; former residence in a country, and former issue by a country of a refugee travel document, even if that document is out of date.

In a message, the High Commissioner, Mr. Felix Schnyder, paid a tribute to the eight European governments (Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom), which drew up the refugee Seamen's Agreement and, by ratifying it, have taken their share in solving this particular humanitarian problem. " Indeed, they have

been applying the provisions of the Agreement even before it formally entered into force ", said the High Commissioner. He also expressed his gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands which, " for many years has shared the concern of my Office at the plight of refugee seamen, and has taken the initiative of calling the conferences which led to the Agreement ".

" There can be no doubt that the position of a great many refugee seafarers throughout the world will be regularized through the Agreement ", the High Commissioner's message continued. It was " certainly important, however, for further States to become parties to it, so that all outstanding cases may be solved."

" To arrive at a solution of this particular problem, it is also essential that the refugee seamen themselves become acquainted with the existence of the Agreement, and the possibilities it offers to them of finding a country of asylum." The High Commissioner very much hoped, therefore, " that the authorities, and the organizations of shipowners and seafarers in various countries will give their full attention to the provisions of the Agreement, and make known to refugees the full benefits they can derive from it." His Office was " always ready to advise refugee seamen concerning problems resulting from their special situation, and to help in every way possible."

H. C.

THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN IN TIME OF WAR

The *Revista española de Derecho Militar* (No. 9, 1960) has published, amongst other articles, a very comprehensive and important study under the joint-authorship of Mr. Sizeki Miyazaki, Professor of the University of Tokyo, and Mr. Hans Wiebringhaus, a member of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, entitled, " The protection of the rights of man in time of war ", in which the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 are examined and analysed in a detailed manner.

These commentaries could be of interest to the Red Cross world ; written as they are by authors with respectively Japanese and European backgrounds and published in a review for the Spanish speaking public, they possess to a very marked degree that universality which is a characteristic of humanitarian law. The rights of man as guaranteed by the Geneva Conventions are formulated in this study in the following terms :

The right to life and to respect of the person—The right to liberty and the prohibition of forced or obligatory work—The right to the protection of honour—The right to respect of private and family life—The right to the respect of the liberty of religion—The right of children to education—The right of respect for the freedom of expression and opinion—The right to a fair administration of justice—The right to the respect of the principle " nulla poena sine lege "—The right to professional liberty—The guarantee of social rights—The right to the respect of private property and the right to protection from discrimination—The special aspects of the protection of the rights of man in time of war are also mentioned as follows : (a) Prohibition of the taking of hostages ; (b) Prohibition of collective penalties and (c) the Prohibition of reprisals against the person.

This simple enumeration is sufficient to show the contribution which the Geneva Conventions have brought to the carrying into effect of the rights of man.

H. C.

A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

The XIIth International Congress of Hospitals. *International Hospital Federation, Information Bulletin, No. 55.*

This Congress, which was held in Venice between June 5 and 9, 1961, had as its central theme: " The development of the hospital's rôle in a changing world ". It thus emphasized the changes which are constantly taking place in the modern world.

In his opening address, Professor Querido referred to the central theme of the Congress, which might give the impression that the world had only just begun to change, when in point of fact it had always been developing since the beginning of time and this was one of the rare constant factors of existence. What is of importance today is the rhythm of this development which has been gathering ever-increasing speed over a number of years. Hospitals are transformed as rapidly as the world which surrounds them, and if solutions which we adopt are to remain valid for as long as possible, we must force ourselves to foresee future developments, not of characteristics which have already been acquired but of new trends which are now making themselves manifest.

The speaker brought out the four trends in hospital development, which he considered to be the most important. In the first place, more and more emphasis was being placed on the medico-technical services and correspondingly less on the hospitalisation services. The amount of accommodation is no longer a criterion in evaluating the importance of a hospital. In the same way, it is no longer an easy matter to determine the bed-population index on account of the various social factors involved. In order to estimate the requirements of the population in the matter of medical services, it would be much more prudent to base oneself on time which was spent, in the number of hours in X-ray examinations, laboratory tests and operating theatres, etc. for a thousand inhabitants. The medico-technical services are more important than the number of beds, since their activity should extend far beyond the confines of the hospital which would thus become a medical centre, or rather the pivot of the whole medical organization.

The second trend in hospital development emphasized by Professor Querido, was the differentiation between the activity of nurses and the medical personnel. One is only now beginning to realise that nurses

have a special rôle to play in the hospital and that it is not a question of it being merely accessory. The new categories of hospital personnel—dieteticians, physiotherapists, laboratory assistants, etc., are no longer regarded as being mere servants of the doctor : they now interpret his orders in the light of their own specialized qualifications. This is a contributory factor which brings out the nurse's special rôle.

Thirdly, the speaker stressed the fact that one was beginning to differentiate between categories of sick people, not according to the medical speciality to which they belong, but in accordance with their needs. With the exception of establishments for children's diseases and for psychiatry, the specialized hospitals are condemned to disappear. On the one hand, they do not answer the need for flexibility, since it is very difficult to adapt them to other purposes, and on the other hand, it is admitted that to isolate a problem from the general stream of medical research, is to hinder scientific progress. Furthermore, any sick person might require the services of a general hospital at any moment. The present tendency is to group the sick according to their needs, not only for medical treatment, but also for nursing care. This implies the idea of progressive treatment, as well as treatment in the home.

Finally, Professor Querido drew attention to a modern trend which seemed to him to be of capital importance for the future rôle of the hospital. There was no longer any social differentiation between the " users " of the hospital. The ill go to hospital, not to ask a favour, but to claim a right. They make use of a hospital, not because it can make a bed available for them, but in order to benefit from the medico-technical action which can be provided. This brings us back to the first trend in hospital development mentioned by the speaker.

According to Professor Querido, all these trends can be summarized as follows: " increased flexibility and efficiency and increased integration in the social scheme, in order to enable the hospital to play an adequate rôle now and in the future." These trends should show themselves in the planning and construction, the financing and administration, in the organization of the hospital services and in the treatment of the ill. The speaker emphasized the present importance of these problems : " The future arrives so rapidly that decisions which are made today are necessarily those for to-morrow."

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross [1].

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be " Inter arma caritas ".

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be :

(a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely : impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies

(b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition ;

[1] The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term " National Red Cross Societies " includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

(c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions ;

(d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties ;

(e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities ;

(f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;

(g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any question requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.

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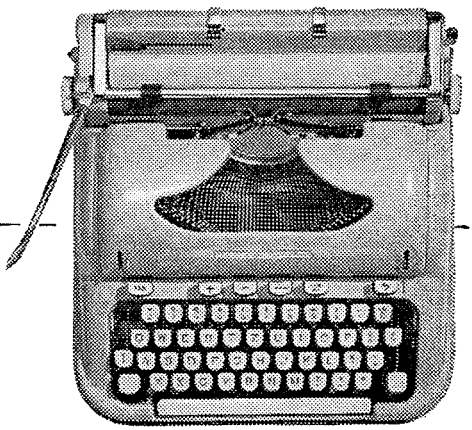

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Some publications of the ICRC

The International Committee publishes works on law and on humanitarian ideas. The following have been published or reprinted recently :

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. *Geneva, 1949. 249 p., Sw. fr. 8.—.*

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949. *Brief Summary for Members of the Armed Forces and the General Public. — Geneva, 1951. 13 p., Sw. fr. 1.—.*

Commentaries *published under the general editorship of Jean S. Pictet, Director for General Affairs of the International Committee of the Red Cross. (Translated from the original French) :*

I. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. — *Geneva, 1952. 466 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 12.—; bound Sw. fr. 15.—.*

II. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea. — *Geneva, 1960. 320 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 15.—; bound Sw. fr. 20.—.*

III. Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. — *Geneva, 1960. 764 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 30.—; bound Sw. fr. 35.—.*

IV. Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. — *Geneva, 1958. 660 p., paper-back Sw. fr. 25.—; bound Sw. fr. 30.—.*

Some publications of the ICRC

Reservations to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, *by Claude Pilloud. — Geneva, 1958. 29 p., Sw. fr. 2.—.*

The International Committee of the Red Cross *(ICRC). What it is—What it does. Geneva, 1960. Illus., Sw. fr. 0.50.*

Red Cross Principles, *by Jean S. Pictet. Preface by Max Huber. Geneva, 1956. 154 p., Sw. fr. 7.—.*

The Red Cross and Peace, *by Jean-G. Lossier.—Geneva, 1951. 31 p., Sw. fr. 2.—.*

The Red Cross and Peace, *by Jean S. Pictet. — Geneva, 1951. 11 p., Sw. fr. 1.—.*

The Doctor in the Geneva Conventions of 1949, *by J.-P. Schoenholzer. — Geneva, 1961. 59 p., Sw. fr. 3.—.*

Some Advice to Nurses and other Members of the Medical Services of the Armed Forces, *by Lucie Odier, Member of the ICRC. — Geneva, 1951. 9 p., Sw. fr. 0.25.*

Annual Report 1960. — *Geneva, 1961. 81 p., Sw. fr. 5.—.*

Can the Status of Prisoners of War be altered?, *by René-Jean Wilhelm. — Geneva, 1953. 37 p., Sw. fr. 2.—.*

The above publications can be obtained from the headquarters of the ICRC, 7, avenue de la Paix, Geneva (Switzerland).

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul.*

ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana.*

ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, Victoria 2068 (R.72), *Buenos Aires.*

AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1.*

AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3, Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV.*

BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels.*

BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz.*

BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro.*

BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia.*

BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, High Court Building, *Rangoon.*

CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Phlauv Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh.*

CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto* 5.

CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Dharmalapala Mawatte, *Colombo VII.*

CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile.*

CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E.*

COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota.*

COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José.*

CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana.*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovakian Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III.*

DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22 *Copenhagen V.*

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293, *San Domingo.*

ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito.*

ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa.*

FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu I A, *Helsinki.*

FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris* (8e).

GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1.*

GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71, *Bonn.*

GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835, *Accra.*

GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London,* S.W.1.

GREECE — Greek Red Cross, rue Lycavitou 1, *Athens.*

GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 4a Calle 11-42, Zona 1, *Guatemala.*

HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince.*

HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa.*

HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V.*

ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsensstraeti 6, *Reykjavik.*

INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1.*

INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, *Djakarta.*

IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran.*

IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad.*

IRISH REPUBLIC — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin.*

ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome.*

JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo.*

JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman.*

KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang.*

KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul.*

LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane.*

LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut.*

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

LIBERIA — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia.*

LIBYA — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, *Benghazi.*

LIECHTENSTEIN — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz.*

LUXEMBURG — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg.*

MEXICO — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4° piso, *Mexico* 7, D.F.

MONACO — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monaco.*

MONGOLIA — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, 26, Nairamdal Gudamg, P.O. 20/26 *Ulan-Bator.*

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NIGERIA — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos.*

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RUMANIA — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest.*

SALVADOR — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, 21, *San Salvador.*

SAN MARINO — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino.*

SOUTH AFRICA (Republic) — South African Red Cross, 304, Barclay's Bank Building, 14 Hollard Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg.*

SPAIN — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10.*

SUDAN — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartum.*

SWEDEN — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm* 14.

SWITZERLAND — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne.*

THAILAND — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok.*

TOGO — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés, P.O. Box 655, *Lome.*

TUNISIA — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis.*

TURKEY — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara.*

UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo.*

URUGUAY — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo.*

U.S.A. — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington* 6, D.C.

U.S.S.R. — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow.*

VENEZUELA — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas.*

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YUGOSLAVIA — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade.*