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International Review of the Red Cross



CENTENARY YEAR
OF THE RED CROSS

1963

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GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
FOUNDED IN 1863

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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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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SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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SPANISH

Léopold Boissier : El 17 de febrero hará cien años que fué fundado el Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja. — Jean S. Pictet : La fundación de la Cruz Roja. — Algunos documentos esenciales. — Centenario del Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja (440ª Circular).

GERMAN

Léopold Boissier : Vor hundert Jahren, am 17. Februar 1863, wurde das Internationale Komitee vom Roten Kreuz gegründet. — Jean S. Pictet : Die Gründung des Roten Kreuzes — Einige wichtige Dokumente. — Hundertjahrfeier des Internationalen Komitees vom Roten Kreuz (440. Rundschreiben).

THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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Editor : JEAN-G. LOSSIER

The International Committee of the Red Cross was founded on February 17, 1863

Some months after the heart-rending appeal of *A Memory of Solferino*, five Genevese citizens met to put into practice the proposals which Henry Dunant had made at the end of his book. With the exception of General Dufour, these were men of the middle class, without particular authority in their country and without contacts abroad. Nevertheless, they had faith in themselves and in the immense task which they were to undertake. Their discussions revealed uncommon good sense and a very clear perception of their action's possibilities. They were aware of what they could do in 1863, and they left it to future generations to achieve what would have been Utopian in their day. It was therefore with calm assurance that they addressed themselves to Heads of State and to public opinion.

Thus, right from the start, the two aspects of the Red Cross institution took shape : on the one hand, the ardent desire to help the victims of war, to devote oneself, to make the supreme sacrifice if necessary, and, on the other hand, the setting in motion of practical measures, born of wisdom and experience, so that the work can be achieved in concrete fashion and without delay.

Let us therefore give full recognition to these men who created the International Committee of the Red Cross, who helped in the foundation of National Societies and who prepared the First Geneva Convention. In their persons, they truly combined audacity and intelligence.

LÉOPOLD BOISSIER
President of the International
Committee of the Red Cross

THE FOUNDATION OF THE RED CROSS¹

SOME IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

This would seem to be a good moment, in this month of February 1963 when the International Committee is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its foundation, to publish once more² documents of the greatest interest, since they throw light of considerable historic importance on the birth of the Red Cross. The material consists of the first minutes of what was known as the "Comité des Cinq" (Committee of Five), the Committee which was in fact the founder body of the Red Cross. Originally written in French, these were rendered into English by the Translation Section of the ICRC.

It will be recalled that the "Société genevoise d'Utilité publique" (Public Welfare Society of Geneva) was convened by its President, Gustave Moynier, to study the humanitarian proposals set out by Henry Dunant in his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino* (A Memory of Solferino). At their meeting of February 9, 1863, the Society decided "to give serious consideration to the suggestion made in the conclusions to the "Souvenir", and again at Moynier's instance, appointed five persons, General G. H. Dufour, Doctors Theodore Maunoir and Louis Appia, MM. Gustave Moynier and Henry Dunant³ as members of a Sub-Committee set up for that purpose.⁴

This "Committee of Five" inaugurated the work of the Red Cross. In 1863 it styled itself the "International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants" and in 1880 officially took the

¹ *Plate.*

² They were unpublished until they appeared in the *Revue internationale*, December 1948, presented by Mr. Pictet (*Ed.*).

³ Henry Dunant had been a member of the Public Welfare Society of Geneva since December 8, 1862.—The *Souvenir de Solferino* appeared in November 1862.

⁴ See *Bulletin international*, XXXII, 1901, p. 79.

name "International Committee of the Red Cross", which it bears today.

Of the following eight Minutes, seven refer to the "International Committee" and one to the "Geneva Section"; they cover the period between February 17, 1863 and March 23, 1864. All of them, save the last, were written by Henry Dunant, on whom had fallen the duties of Secretary. They fill the first twenty-seven pages of a stout note-book of ordinary format, bound in green cloth.

This note-book was found amongst Henry Dunant's papers after his death, and was handed to the International Committee on April 27, 1911, by his nephew and executor, Maurice Dunant.

Gustave Moynier wrote in 1902 that the "Committee of Five" had kept no minutes of any kind¹. However, the authenticity of the Minutes which we are now publishing and which were found after Moynier's death² cannot be questioned. Professor Alexis François, the historiographer of the Red Cross, has already pointed to the fact that the last Minute is in Moynier's own hand³. The mistake the latter made in 1902 is easily explained by the circumstance that, when he denied the existence of these Minutes, thirty-eight years had elapsed since the initial meetings of the "Committee of Five", and that no minutes were apparently kept between 1864 and 1867.

Though concise and matter-of-fact, the eight Minutes which have survived are of very great interest. At its first meeting, the Committee which was "charged with the preparation of a memorandum . . . for submission to the Welfare Congress in Berlin in September 1863", unanimously declared itself to be constituted a "Permanent and International Committee"⁴. This body would thus continue to exist as an "International Committee for the Relief of Wounded in the Event of War", after its mandate from the "Société Genevoise d'utilité publique" had expired.

¹ See G. MOYNIER, *La Fondation de la Croix-Rouge*, 1903, p. 8.

² Gustave Moynier was born in Geneva on September 21, 1826 and died on August 20, 1910. Henry Dunant, born in Geneva on May 8, 1828, died at Heiden on October 30, 1910.

³ *Le Berceau de la Croix-Rouge*, 1918, p. 109, note 1.

⁴ This is the original style which appears at the head of the first two Minutes.

The plan of action is then outlined : “ We must first lay down general principles and then state what action could be undertaken immediately in all European countries, whilst leaving each country, district, and indeed town, free to organize itself according to its own wishes, and to pursue its work in the manner best suited to it ”. The International Committee itself should, in Theodore Maunoir’s own words, “ keep agitating, if the expression may be used, for the adoption of our ideas by all, both high and low, by the rulers of Europe, no less than by the peoples ”.

Further on, we find evidence of the first “ tokens of support and approval from several European countries, in particular from the reigning Houses ” and from “ many soldiers and physicians, who considered the enterprise difficult, though not impossible ”.

It is soon evident that Moynier and Dunant are the real moving spirits of the organization. They carry out the decisions of the council, draw up memoranda and convene meetings. Dunant himself travels and corresponds extensively with influential European personalities.

The convening of the celebrated International Conference which was to meet at Geneva from October 26 to 29, 1863, and from which the Red Cross was to emerge as a quasi-official organization, is not mooted until the meeting of August 25, at which an affirmative decision is immediately taken.

After the Conference and the adoption of the Resolutions that are still regarded today as the charter of the Red Cross, the following bald statement is recorded : “ The Committee had every reason for satisfaction with the good results of the Conference ”, and further, it is merely remarked that “ the work had gone on apace ”.

We then come to the setting up by the International Committee of the “ Geneva Section ”, a National Society in embryo, and to the Minutes of its first sitting. While these two organizations are at this stage distinct, their fields of action are as yet scarcely determined.

Finally, we read of the first dispatch by the Committee of delegates to belligerent countries during the war of Schleswig-Holstein. General Dufour “ stressed our duty, in the present circumstances, to send two delegates, one to Germany and the other to Denmark, if we were to preserve our character as an impartial and international body ”.

Reading all these papers, we are struck by the fact that the founders of the Red Cross had already laid down the principles that

have guided the organization throughout so many years and by virtue of which it has reached its present stature.

JEAN S. PICTET
Director for General Affairs

International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded

Sub-committee of the Society for the Relief of Combatants Wounded in Time of War ¹

Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on February 17, 1863

Present : General Dufour, Doctor Theodore Maunoir, M. Gustave Moynier, President of the " Société d'Utilité publique ", Doctor Louis Appia and M. J. Henry Dunant.

M. Moynier explained that the " Société genevoise d'utilité publique " having decided, at its meeting of February 9, 1863, to give serious consideration to the suggestion made in the conclusions to the book entitled Un Souvenir de Solferino, that Relief Societies for wounded soldiers should be set up in peace time, that a corps of voluntary orderlies should be attached to belligerent armies, and having appointed General Dufour and MM. Maunoir, Moynier, Appia and Dunant as members of a Sub-committee charged with the preparation of a Memorandum on these matters for submission to the Welfare Congress to be held in Berlin in September 1863, the Sub-committee was deemed to be duly constituted, all members being present.

He furthermore proposed, and M. Dunant seconded, that the Sub-committee should declare itself constituted a " Permanent International Committee ".

The proposal was adopted unanimously. On a show of hands General Dufour was elected President of the said Committee, which

¹ The heading of this first Minute is written over the original heading which is nevertheless perfectly legible and runs as follows :

Société genevoise d'Utilité publique.
Comité International et permanent de secours aux militaires blessés en temps de guerre—(Ed.).

would thus continue to exist as an International Committee for the Relief of Wounded in the event of War, after its mandate from the " Société genevoise d'Utilité publique " had expired.

The first task before us was to draw up the Memorandum to be presented at Berlin.

In its conclusions, the said report should express the desire of the " Société genevoise d'Utilité publique " that the Berlin Congress should :

1. Lend its authority to the creation of such Committees throughout Europe ;

2. Undertake to submit this project to Governments through the good offices of its members, and to request the support, opinions and advice of the said Governments.

Furthermore, the report should enlarge upon the concept of Relief Societies for wounded in time of war and present it to the public in such a way as to preclude all possible objections.

We should first lay down general principles and then state what action could be undertaken immediately in all European countries, whilst leaving each country, district, and indeed town, free to organize itself according to its own wishes and to pursue its work in the manner best suited to it.

General Dufour thought that the Memorandum should first state the need for the unanimous consent of the sovereigns and peoples of Europe, and should then determine the general line of action. Committees should be formed, rather than Societies, but such Committees should be organized throughout Europe, so that they might act simultaneously should war break out. Volunteer helpers were required who would place themselves at the disposal of the general staffs ; we did not want to take the place of the Quartermaster's Department or of the medical orderlies. Finally, a badge, uniform or armet might usefully be adopted, so that the bearers of such distinctive and universally adopted insignia would be given due recognition.

Dr. Maunoir wished the question of international relief societies to be kept in the public mind as much as possible, since it always took some time to bring an idea home to the masses. It would be useful if the Committee kept agitating, if the expression might be allowed, for the adoption of our ideas by all, both high and low, by the rulers of Europe, no less than by the peoples.

Comité International des Sociétés aux Blessés.
Commission Spéciale de la Société en faveur des Militaires Blessés
durant les guerres.

institué par la Commission du 1^{er} Congrès 1864.

Membres: M. de la Société Française, M. de la Société
Américaine, M. de la Société Britannique, M. de la Société
de la Société d'Utilité Publique, M. de la Société
de la Société, et J. Henry Dunant.

Le Comité International des Sociétés aux Blessés, qui a été
constitué par la Commission du 1^{er} Congrès 1864, a pour
but de réunir les Sociétés de Secours aux Blessés
militaires de tous les pays, et de leur offrir
un moyen de se réunir et de se concerter pour
le soulagement des blessés militaires, et l'assistance
aux armées combattantes d'un corps d'en
fants volontaires, et ayant nommé
M. de la Société Française, M. de la Société
Américaine et M. de la Société Britannique
comme membres de la Commission destinée à préparer un
Programme sur ces sujets pour être soumis
au prochain Congrès de Genève, qui
doit avoir lieu à Genève le 1^{er} septembre 1864.

la Commission se trouve constituée ce jour par la présence de tous ses membres.

Il propose, en outre, appuyé par M^r. Durant, que la Commission se déclare elle-même constituée en Comité international permanent.

Cette motion est adoptée à l'unanimité, et M^r. Le Général Pufour est nommé par acclamations Président de ce Comité, qui continuera donc à exister comme Comité international de secours aux blessés en cas de guerre, après que le mandat qui lui a été donné par la Société Genevoise d'utilité publique aura pris fin.

Mais la première chose dont nous devons nous occuper est la rédaction du Mémoire qui doit être présenté à Berlin.

Ce rapport doit exprimer dans ses conclusions, le désir de la Société Genevoise d'utilité publique de voir le Congrès de Berlin:

- 1^o Appuyer de son autorité la formation de semblables comités, dans toute l'Europe.
- 2^o Se charger par l'influence de ses membres de présenter cette idée aux Gouvernements, en sollicitant leur appui,

leurs bons avis et leurs conseils.

En plus, le capitaine doit développer l'idée elle-même des sociétés de secours aux blessés en temps de guerre, et la présenter au public sous une forme qui élougue toute objection.

Il faut d'abord fixer des bases générales, puis procéder ce que peut en à se faire dans tous les pays de l'Europe, en laissant toutefois à chaque pays et chaque contrée, à chaque ville même, la liberté de se constituer sous la forme qu'elle préférera, et d'exercer son action de telle ou telle manière qui lui conviendra.

M^r le Général Bugeot pense que le Comité doit établir d'abord la nécessité d'obtenir le consentement unanime des Princes et des nations de l'Europe; puis procéder à établir les bases générales d'action. Il faut qu'il se forme des Comités, & non des Sociétés, mais il faut que ces Comités soient organisés partout en Europe, afin de pouvoir agir simultanément au moment d'une guerre. Il faut des gens qui viennent en aide et qui se mettent à la disposition des

Etats-Majors, nous ne voulons pas nous mettre en lieu et place de l'Inséance, ou des infirmiers militaires. Enfin, il serait bon d'adopter un drapeau, un uniforme, ou un brassard, afin que ceux qui se présenteront avec cette marque distinctive, adoptée universellement, ne soient pas repoussés.

M^r le Docteur Maunier desire que le public soit préoccupé le plus possible de la question des sociétés internationales de secours, car il faut toujours un certain temps pour qu'une idée pénètre dans les masses. Il serait bon que le Comité entretînt une agitation, si l'on peut s'exprimer ainsi, pour faire écouter nos vues par tout le monde, en haut et en bas, chez les souverains de l'Europe comme dans les populations.

M^r le Docteur Cifra voudrait que l'on fit venir tous les documents qui peuvent nous être utiles, et que nous nous missions en rapport avec la haute autorité militaire en divers pays.

M^r Hodner a déjà fait venir de Paris des documents qui pourront nous être utiles

M. Dunant voudrait que le Rattachement fit bien comprendre au public, qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement, dans l'œuvre qui nous intéresse, d'envoyer ces infirmiers volontaires sur un champ de bataille; mais, il désire que l'on fasse bien comprendre au public que le champ dont nous nous occupons est beaucoup plus vaste. Il veut la sanction des moyens de transaction pour les blessés; le perfectionnement du service des hôpitaux militaires; l'adoption universelle des innovations utiles pour le traitement des militaires blessés ou malades; la création d'un véritable musée pour ces moyens de sauvetage (musée qui aurait aussi son avantage pour les éruditions civiles); etc. Finalement, les comités devront être permanents et toujours animés d'un véritable et vrai esprit international; ils devront faciliter l'envoi des secours et diversifier leurs secours, apaiser les difficultés de commerce, entretenir les relations de tous genres, etc. etc. Il sera à souhaiter que surtout, les gouvernements puissent leur donner

Enfin, M^r Dunant insiste tout spécialement sur le vœu émis, par lui, dans son volume "Un Souvenir de Solferino": l'avis l'adoption par les Puissances civilisées d'un principe international et sacré qui serait garanti et consacré par un traité de Concordat passé entre les Gouvernements. Les Soirées à sauvegarder toute personne, officielle ou non-officielle et consacrant aux victimes de la guerre.

Le Comité prie M^r Dunant de rédiger le Mémoire; et afin de donner à plusieurs des Membres de la Commission le vouloir bien lui fournir ses notes écrites.

Le Comité, sous la présidence de Monsieur le Général Dufour, réside - Monsieur Gustave Moynier comme vice-président et M^r Henry Dunant, comme secrétaire.

La séance est levée.

Approuvé le présent procès-verbal

Le Secrétaire,

J. Henry Dunant.

Dr. Appia thought that all documents likely to be of use should be procured, and that we should get into touch with the supreme military commands in the various countries.

M. Moynier had already obtained documents from Paris which could be of service to us.

M. Dunant thought the report should make it perfectly clear to the public that the present undertaking was not merely a matter of sending voluntary orderlies to a battle-field; he would like it to be carefully explained to the public that the question we had taken up was much wider in scope. It embraced the improvement of means of transport for the wounded; the amendment of the military hospital service; the general adoption of new methods of treating sick or wounded soldiers; the establishment of a veritable museum for these appliances (which would also be of benefit to civilian populations), and so on. In his opinion, the Committees should be permanent and should always be guided by a true spirit of international goodwill; they should facilitate the dispatch of relief supplies of various kinds, resolve customs difficulties, prevent any sort of waste and misappropriation, and so on. It was to be hoped that all European Sovereigns would take them under their patronage.

*Finally, M. Dunant particularly underlined the hope he expressed in his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino*: that the civilized Powers would subscribe to an inviolable, international principle that would be guaranteed and consecrated in a kind of concordat between Governments, serving thus as a safeguard for all official or unofficial persons devoting themselves to the relief of victims of war.*

The Committee requested M. Dunant to draw up the Memorandum, and the latter asked members to supply him with written notes.

The Committee, under the chairmanship of General Dufour, appointed M. Gustave Moynier vice-president and M. Henry Dunant secretary.

The meeting then adjourned.

The present Minutes approved
J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

**Sub-committee of the Société d'Utilité Publique,
for the Relief of Wounded Combatants ¹**

Meeting of the Sub-committee, held on March 17, 1863

*Present : General Dufour, President ; Doctor Theodore Maunoir ;
M. Gustave Moynier ; Doctor Appia ; M. Henry Dunant,
Secretary.*

The Secretary read the Minutes of the meeting of February 17, which were adopted. He then informed the Committee that he had received numerous tokens of support and approval of our aims from several European countries, in particular from the reigning Houses in the Netherlands, Prussia, Italy, Baden, Hessen, etc., from many soldiers and physicians, who considered the enterprise difficult, though not impossible, and finally from a number of members of the public, who stated that they were prepared to give practical aid, when the time came.

M. Moynier requested the insertion of these expressions of approval in the Minutes of our meetings.

General Dufour thought that our first task was to lay down the general policy of the work which the Committees or Societies would have to do ; we should point the direction, others would later clear the way.

M. Moynier asked whether we wished Committees or Societies to be set up.

General Dufour and M. Maunoir thought that at the moment it would be sufficient to set up Committees, varying in size according to the countries concerned. When it was apparent to these Committees that the idea was taking shape and gaining ground, they would then decide what to do. The Geneva Committee could only take action when Committees had been formed elsewhere.

M. Dunant assumed that the Memorandum to be submitted by the Committee in Berlin should at some point fully illustrate the good which might have been done by voluntary orderlies during the war in Italy in 1859, had such a service then been in existence ; it was advis-

¹ The heading of the second Minute was, as in the case of the first, written over the original, which read :

Comité International et permanent de secours aux militaires blessés (*Ed.*).

able to quote an example of that kind in order to confront the public with summary, concrete proofs of the utility and necessity of the philanthropic corps we wished to see formed, and in order to give an idea of the considerable expansion possible in the work of these International Societies.

The Committee agreed, first and foremost, that, in its opinion, no action should be contemplated during civil wars, and that the Committees should concern themselves only with European wars. After a few years' experience, the welfare scheme, once universally adopted and established, could of course be extended in various ways, but for the moment we should confine ourselves to the question of large-scale conflicts between European Powers.

Dr. Maunoir made the following suggestions which were unreservedly approved by the Committee :

1. The Committees and their delegates should be officially recognized and approved by the authorities ;

2. The voluntary corps of male nurses should be subject to the jurisdiction of the military authorities, to whose discipline they would rigidly conform, from the beginning of any campaign ;

3. The corps should consist of helpers who would remain in the rear of the armies. They would cause no embarrassment, create no hindrance, nor involve the least expense for the armies concerned.

In short, the voluntary workers would cost nothing, and would be engaged and dismissed whenever necessary. Such well-organized units would have a responsible leader and a cadre of officers ; they would have their own means of transport and food supplies, and stocks of medicaments and of relief material of all kinds ; the managing Committees would keep the male nurses at the disposal of the military commanders and would supply the latter with the personnel they required.

M. Dunant, quoting the example of the Italian campaign, remarked that had a similar organization existed in 1859 it would have rendered immeasurable service. The organization would have been very simple, as the Austrian Army commander would first have applied for help to the Committees, either in Vienna, the Austrian Empire, or in the whole of Germany, whilst the French Marshals commanding the army corps would have demanded this assistance from Paris, Turin, Milan and Brescia in turn. As an alternative, there might have been a central managing Committee to which the commanders of the belligerent

armies would have applied direct, and whose work might be summed up in the words : charity, discipline and voluntary service. This work would consist of giving aid on the battle-fields, in ambulances and in temporary hospitals. A very small staff of resourceful and well-trained male nurses attached to the medical corps of an army could amplify by five or six times the relief which the said corps could normally render. The army commands would be in no way hindered or distracted by the voluntary workers and would incur no expense for their upkeep or their transport.

One member of the Committee thought that voluntary orderlies should not have to travel long distances, for instance not over thirty leagues ¹.

M. Dunant pointed out that railways allowed long distances to be covered in a very short time, and that at the outbreak of war there would be no lack of funds to meet the cost of transporting auxiliaries.

The male nurses should be enrolled for temporary service and should receive pay for the duration of their employment.

The same principles should be observed everywhere, but they might be developed in each country in accordance with the views, customs and habits of the population. It would be advisable, however, to designate a Central Office, which might be changed each year.

Our enterprise was capable of wide development, and practical experience would show to what purposes it could extend.

The Central Committee would be required to keep Branch Committees regularly informed of any progress made in the matters under consideration.

M. Appia requested that the Committee should publish a short handbook for the use of the proposed voluntary orderlies.

M. Dunant remained responsible for the drafting of the Memorandum to be presented in Berlin, and in which the suggestion advanced in " *Un Souvenir de Solferino* " would be further developed.

This Memorandum was to be handed to the Committee before the following September.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Minutes were approved.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

¹ About 75 miles. (Ed.).

P. S.—After the meeting, M. H. Dunant submitted the various documents he had received in regard to the subject under discussion, in particular a copy of the Spectateur militaire, dated February 15, 1863, containing a highly appreciative review of the book Un Souvenir de Solferino and of the opinions it contained, as well as a notice by Monsieur Louis Joubert, First Private Attaché to H. M. the Emperor of the French, on the folding-stretcher invented by him.

M. Dunant also submitted the correspondence on which he had been engaged for several months in order to disseminate his ideas in Europe and America, including his correspondence with the Société vaudoise d'Utilité publique and the Société neuchâteloise pour l'Avancement des sciences sociales, which had given their warm support to the aims of Un Souvenir de Solferino.

J. H. D.
Secretary

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, August 25, 1863

Present : General Dufour, President, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir, Dr. Appia and M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

The Secretary read the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 1863, which were approved.

M. Moynier announced that the Welfare Congress would not be held in Berlin that year, owing to various circumstances. Other means of action had to be found and, in agreement with M. Dunant, he thought that the only means of speeding up matters was to convene an international conference at Geneva.

General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir and Dr. Appia fully supported the suggestion, and requested M. Moynier and M. Dunant to draft an invitation, to be sent to all persons we might think likely to be interested in the question.

The Conference would be held at the end of October ; choice of the opening date was left to MM. Moynier and Dunant.

M. Dunant stated that he intended to go on his own account to Berlin, to attend the important Statistical Congress which was to be held from September 6 to 12, and that he would try to interest the Congress in our scheme. Further, M. Dunant would do his utmost to obtain the support of the German public, as he intended to visit Vienna, Dresden, Munich and other towns.

A draft concordat comprising ten articles having been prepared by M. Dunant, the Committee carefully discussed each item and requested M. Moynier and M. Dunant to draw up the final text, in such a manner that it could be joined to the circular.

MM. Moynier and Dunant were also entrusted with the printing of the circular, with the addition of any details or information they might think suitable, such as, perhaps, the concluding pages of Un Souvenir de Solferino. They were also made responsible for its circulation throughout Europe.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved
J. HENRY DUNANT,
Secretary

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, October 20, 1863

Present : General Dufour, President ; M. Gustave Moynier ; Dr. Theodore Maunoir ; Dr. Appia ; M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

M. Dunant gave details of his travels in Germany. The rulers of that country, the Ministers of State, the Army and the public had shown warm approval of our enterprise.

The Statistical Congress was greatly interested and the Fourth Section, composed principally of army physicians, had expressed itself very favourably on the subject.

After the Statistical Congress, M. Dunant had thought it wise to print, at his own expense, a new circular dated September 15, in which neutral status was requested for the wounded, ambulances, hospitals, medical corps and officially recognized voluntary relief services.

Finally, M. Dunant had written direct to almost all the European rulers, as well as to the War Ministers of several States, respectfully requesting that a delegate should be sent by each European Government.

Various arrangements were made for the meetings of the International Conference which was to open on the 26th instant in the Athénée, kindly placed at our disposal by Madame Eynard.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved

J. Henry DUNANT

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, November 9, 1863

*Present : General Dufour, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir,
M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.*

Absent : Dr. Appia, who had sent apologies.

The Committee had every reason for satisfaction with the good results of the Conference.

On a proposal by M. Moynier, the Committee decided to send :

1. A letter to the Delegates, urging them to form Committees in their respective countries and requesting them to inform us to what extent their Governments were prepared to adhere to our recommendations and resolutions.

2. A letter to the Ministers of those States which were not represented at the Conference.

3. A letter possibly also to Governments of small States from whom nothing had been heard.

M. Dunant informed the Committee that he had received the following donations for our work : 1,000 francs from Madame Eynard-Lullin, 200 francs from Madame Odier-Beaulacre, 100 francs from Monsieur and Madame Dunant-Colladon, 100 francs from Monsieur J.-L. Micheli and 50 francs from the Grand Duke of Baden. Those amounts had been deposited with MM. Hentsch, Chauvet & Co, Bankers, at Geneva. M. Dunant had prevailed upon M. Charles Hentsch to act as Treasurer for the Committee.

M. Dunant informed the Committee of his impending departure for Paris.

The drafting of the minutes of the Conference was left to M. Moynier.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved

J. Henry DUNANT

Secretary

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, March 13, 1864

*Present : General Dufour, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir,
Dr. Appia and M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.*

M. Dunant informed the Committee of the official accession of Württemberg, Prussia, France, Denmark, Portugal and Hanover to the recommendations of the Conference.

It was hoped that the accession of other Governments would follow at an early date.

During the months of January, February and March, M. Dunant had written numerous letters which he had sent to all European countries, in order to stimulate progress, revive the Delegates' interest and urge countries which had not set up Committees to do so at the earliest possible moment.

The work had in fact gone on apace and our meeting had aroused widespread attention.

M. Dunant and M. Moynier had received a large number of documents, newspapers and publications in all languages.

It remained understood that General Dufour should be Honorary President of the International Committee, M. Moynier President and that M. Henry Dunant should continue to act as Secretary.

M. Dunant proposed that a Geneva Section should be set up and gave the names of the following persons who were willing to become members: MM. J.-L. Micheli, Charles Eynard, Viollier-Ador, Ernest Cramer, Kunckler-Pictet, Charles Hentsch, Maximilien Perrot, Alphonse Revilliod, Jules Faesch, Dr. Dunant and Ferdinand Forget.

The Committee requested M. Dunant to write to these gentlemen, informing them that the creation of a Geneva Section had been decided and that they were invited to become members.

M. Dunant informed the Committee that he had at one time intended to go to Schleswig, but that he considered it would be more in the interests of the work if he left without delay for Paris, since the French Emperor had informed him of his willingness to discuss the question of neutrality at a diplomatic level through his Foreign Minister with all the other European Courts. To this effect, the Emperor had ordered that, on his arrival in Paris, M. Dunant should be put in touch with the French Foreign Minister.

M. Dunant announced that M. van de Velde was ready to start for the theatre of war, if the Committee decided to send him there.

M. Appia stated that he was quite ready to go, if the Committee considered it desirable, but that he would prefer to be sent to Germany, rather than to Denmark.

General Dufour stressed our duty, in the present circumstances, to send two delegates, one to Germany, the other to Denmark, if we were to preserve our character as an impartial and international body.

M. Moynier, who was to proceed to Berne on the following day, would request the Federal Council to grant blank letters of recommendation for the two delegates whom the Committee would send.

The meeting was then adjourned.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

Meeting of the Geneva Section of March 17, 1864

Meeting held on March 17, 1864

Present : General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir, Dr. Appia, M. Ernest Cramer, Dr. Dunant, MM. Charles Eynard, Jules Faesch, Ferdinand Forget, Kunckler-Pictet, Alphonse Revilliod, van de Velde, Viollier-Ador and Henry Dunant, Secretary.

M. Charles Hentsch, who was absent, had informed M. Henry Dunant that he agreed to become a member of the Geneva Section.

In M. Moynier's absence, due to illness, General Dufour, Honorary President of the International Committee, took the chair.

After addressing the meeting the President declared the Geneva Section to be duly constituted.

Dr. Maunoir then read the resolutions of the October Congress, and in an eloquent address demonstrated the need for this work and the desirability of a Geneva Section.

M. Henry Dunant conveyed to the Committee M. Moynier's regrets on being unable to attend.

He informed the Geneva Section that Dr. Appia and Captain van de Velde, both present, were willing to leave, one for Schleswig via Germany, and the other for Denmark, to study the work done by voluntary ambulances and to take action if necessary.

M. van de Velde emphasized that the tour should be one of enquiry only, so that it should not appear too pretentious in the public eye.

M. Viollier-Ador supported the idea of sending delegates from Geneva.

General Dufour called for a vote on the question whether one delegate should be sent to Denmark and another to Germany.

A unanimous vote in favour was recorded.

M. Ernest Cramer asked whether publicity should be given to the creation of the Geneva Section, and whether the public should be informed that the Section was duly constituted.

General Dufour replied that it was preferable first to despatch the delegates ; the public might then be informed of our existence and would thus be under an obligation to help the organization by making donations.

The meeting then adjourned.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

International Committee

Meeting held on March 23, 1864

Present : General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir, M. Moynier.

The President reported that M. Appia had left the previous day for Schleswig and that M. van de Velde would leave on the 29th. Each gentleman held a letter of credit on Hamburg and on Copenhagen for 2,000 francs, issued by MM. Hentsch & Co.

M. Maunoir was requested to meet Madame Eynard in order to encourage her to set up an Auxiliary Committee for women.

The President would write to M. Appia asking him to keep a diary of his travels.

The Committee would convene the Geneva Section when news had been received of their delegates.

The meeting then adjourned.

G. MOYNIER,
Acting Secretary

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Centenary of the International Committee of the Red Cross

GENEVA, February 5, 1963.

440th Circular

*To the Central Committees of National Red Cross
(Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On February 17, 1963, the International Committee of the Red Cross will have had a hundred years of existence.

On February 9, 1863, the Public Welfare Society of Geneva met at the instigation of its President, Gustave Moynier, to study the proposals which Henry Dunant had formulated at the end of his book "A Memory of Solferino": first of all to create already in peace-time aid societies which in time of war would assist the army medical service; then to conclude an international Convention which would serve as a basis for their action. The Public Welfare Society then appointed from amongst its members a Committee of five, in order to prepare a memorandum on the subject which would be presented to a forthcoming relief congress.

This Committee, which consisted of General Guillaume-Henri Dufour, Gustave Moynier, Dr Louis Appia and Dr. Théodore Maunoir, and Henry Dunant himself, met in Geneva on February 17,

1863. From this first meeting, which courageously went far beyond the mission which had been assigned to it, it declared itself constituted as a "Permanent International Committee" and decided that this Committee "will continue to exist . . . after the mandate which had been given it by the Public Welfare Society of Geneva has been terminated".

We know how this Committee led to the meeting of delegates of various countries which, in October 1863, formed the basis of the Red Cross throughout the world and in the following year resulted in the conclusion of the First Geneva Convention for the protection of war wounded and establishing the intervention of voluntary nurses on the field of battle.

This Committee of Five, founder of the universal work of the Red Cross, was none other than the International Committee of the Red Cross, which took this name several years later. Since that time it has not ceased from recruiting members amongst Swiss nationals according to the principle of co-optation.

One would certainly not have imagined, in 1863, how wide would be the mission of this International Committee, whose action as neutral agent and intermediary in case of war, civil war and internal disturbances is today solidly based on international law and recognized by the community of nations. For a hundred years States have considered that its existence is necessary and have asked it to carry out functions which they expect from no-one else.

But tasks which remain to be accomplished are at present much larger than they were a century ago, since war and contempt for the individual have not ceased to increase during that period. The Red Cross is a work which is perpetually developing. Having to think unceasingly of new solutions to new problems, it must look forward with confidence into the future with the firm resolve to do better and to achieve more.

The International Committee will be marking its Centenary with a very simple ceremony which will take place on February 18, 1963. Since National Societies will be sending their delegates this summer to Geneva to take part in the Centenary Congress of the Red Cross and in the inaugural ceremony of the whole institution, the International Committee does not propose that they should be

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represented at the ceremony of February 18, which will therefore be of an intimate character. It goes without saying, however, that delegates of Societies who may find themselves in Geneva on that day, will be cordially invited to attend.

During the course of a hundred years of activity, the International Committee of the Red Cross has contracted an immense debt of gratitude towards the National Societies which have so often been of such a valuable support to it. On the occasion of its Centenary it has decided to award them with its silver-gilt medal as a slight token of its gratitude. This medal symbolizes the very origin of the whole of the Red Cross movement, depicting a voluntary male nurse bending over a wounded man during the campaign of 1859.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

Léopold BOISSIER

President

HUMANITARIAN AID TO THE VICTIMS OF INTERNAL CONFLICTS

MEETING OF A COMMISSION OF EXPERTS IN GENEVA

Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions constitutes a striking affirmation of humanitarian protection.

Out of respect which is due to the individual, the States parties to these Conventions have in fact accepted to limit, to a certain extent, their liberty of action as regards their own nationals in the case of internal conflicts. International law has thus managed to penetrate a field hitherto exclusively reserved to internal law and the International Committee of the Red Cross has been especially mentioned as being capable, under certain conditions, of acting as guarantor for such protection.

In fact, since the signing of article 3, the International Committee has had to intervene in connection with a large number of serious situations, during the course of internal conflicts of very diverse sorts, in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Kenya, Algeria, the Congo and elsewhere.

In order to give support to its action with Governments, the ICRC had recourse in 1953 and 1955 to two consultations with international experts who confirmed it in its determination to come to the aid of victims in the case of internal conflicts or disturbances.

*The Conference of experts of 1953 concluded its work by declaring :
“ The Commission ventures to hope for further developments of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross in the field it has just surveyed. It hopes that the conclusion of this report will be a step towards future*

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progress, and that the application of these principles for the alleviation of other suffering may some day be considered over a wider range”.

The deliberations of the 1955 Conference marked one of these stages with the question of internal disturbances in mind. Furthermore, since 1959, the ICRC considered convening a third Conference of experts to re-examine the whole of this question. This meeting¹ was to have taken place after the Board of Governors of the League (Athens, 1959). Now, when the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies was held in Prague in September 1961, the Yugoslav Red Cross suggested examining “the legal protection of the victims of internal armed conflicts and other similar events”. This suggestion was approved and the ICRC was requested to present a report on the subject, as well as any other useful proposals, to the next International Conference of the Red Cross.

In point of fact, the ICRC has never ceased studying that question : furthermore, its experiences described above have contributed to strengthening the doctrine of the Red Cross. However, in view of the report and the proposals to be submitted to the next deliberative session of the Red Cross, the International Committee decided to resort once more to a Commission of Experts. This it convened in Geneva where it sat from October 25 to 30 last.

Amongst the questions put to the experts was one on the respective rôle of the National Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross as regards aid to the victims of internal conflicts, a question to which a particularly important reply was given.

We have pleasure in publishing below the report of this Commission of Experts which once again was composed, as called upon by the ICRC, of leading international personalities. The list of these can be found at the beginning of the report itself. The Rapporteur of the Commission was Professor Roger Pinto, of the University of Paris, a worthy successor in this capacity of the late regretted Professor Gilbert Gidel, Rapporteur of the Commission of Experts of 1953 and 1955.

*

¹ Adjourned by reason of events.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) decided to convene a Commission of Experts limited in numbers and composed of leading personalities of different nationalities, to advise it on the question of aid to the victims of internal conflicts. The Commission met in Geneva at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross from October 25 to 30, 1962.

The present report drawn up by the Commission and which it unanimously approved, sets forth the ideas upon which it was based and the conclusions which it has submitted to the ICRC.

The Commission was composed as follows :

Professor Robert Ago	Rome
Professor Frede Castberg	Oslo
Mr. Paul Cornil	Brussels
Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper ¹	London
Professor Jean Graven	Geneva
Professor Nihat Erim	Ankara
Professor Roger Pinto	Paris
Professor Carlo Schmid ¹	Bonn
Professor Georges Tenekides	Athens
Professor Erik Husfeldt	Danish Red Cross
Mr. J. J. G. de Rueda	Mexican Red Cross
Dr. Bosko Jakovljević	Yugoslav Red Cross
Mr. Paul Ruegger	Member of the ICRC
Professor Jacques Freymond	Member of the ICRC
Colonel Samuel Gonard	Member of the ICRC

It elected Professor Nihat Erim and Professor Pinto President and Rapporteur respectively.

The ICRC placed the five following questions on the Commission's provisional agenda :

- 1) In which cases is article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 legally applicable ?
- 2) Field of application of article 3 ?

¹ Prevented from coming to Geneva, Colonel Draper and Professor Carlo Schmid duly received the report to which they gave their approval.

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- 3) Should humanitarian protection be exercised in cases in which the applicability of article 3 is in doubt ?
- 4) What are the rôles of the National Red Cross Society and of the International Committee of the Red Cross ?
- 5) Under what form could the Commission's conclusions on humanitarian action in the case of internal conflicts be put into effect ?

*

Item 1.— In which cases is article 3 legally applicable ?

As was previously observed by the Commission of Experts, charged with examining the question of the application of humanitarian principles in the case of internal disturbances (Geneva, 1955), the existence of internal conflicts seems "in the present state of the world, to tend to become more and more frequent". The seven years which have passed since the 1955 report have singularly confirmed this statement. At the same time, the practice observed enabled the Commission to define the types of situation entering the field of application of article 3.

Article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, tends to guarantee respect for the essential principles of these Conventions in the case of conflicts which, by reason of their internal character, do not entail the putting into effect of all the Conventions. It must be a question of an internal "armed" conflict which gives rise to "hostilities". The Commission considers that the decision of the existence of such internal conflicts should rest on objective conditions and not be the result of a discretionary appreciation by States parties to the Geneva Conventions.

In the Commission's opinion, the existence of an armed conflict, within the meaning of article 3, cannot be denied if the hostile action, directed against a legal government, is of a collective character and consists of a minimum amount of organization. In this respect and without these circumstances being necessarily cumulative, one should take into account such factors as the length

of the conflict, the number and framework of the rebel groups, their installation or action on a part of the territory, the degree of insecurity, the existence of victims, the methods employed by the legal government to re-establish order, etc.

The Commission also examined the extent of the application of article 3 in the past. The settling of an internal conflict, dependent on article 3, does not put an end, by itself and of full right, to the application of that article, whatever the form or the conditions of this settlement may be, whether the legal government re-establishes order itself, whether it disappears in favour of a government formed by its adversaries, or whether it concludes an agreement with the other party. The Commission pointed out that the obligations described in article 3 should be respected "in all circumstances... at all times and in all places". The Commission therefore considers that the provisions of article 3 remain applicable to situations arising from the conflict and to the participants in that conflict.

*

The existence of an internal conflict dependent on article 3 involves, for this reason alone, the application of the provisions of that article. Reciprocity is not a legal condition for respecting the rules of humanity described in article 3. This point has never been disputed. However, the Commission is inclined to hold the same opinion as its predecessor :

The Commission declares that it attaches the greatest importance to recalling here that the respect of humanitarian principles, not only imposes obligations on governments, but also on all those persons who are involved or engaged in "internal disturbances". This is, indeed, an essential element for the amelioration of the tragic situations examined by the Commission".¹

*

The first article of the four Geneva Conventions lays down that "The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect and to ensure respect for the present Convention in all circumstances". The Government directly concerned is the first to be obliged to note the

¹ Report, Commission of Experts, 1955, p. 6.

existence of an internal conflict dependent on article 3. The States parties to the Geneva Conventions have also, in this capacity, the right and the obligation to have the provisions respected—and especially article 3. Finally, the ICRC, entitled to offer its services to the parties to the conflict, is necessarily bound, in the exercising of its right of initiative, to appreciate without partiality the existence of the conditions required for the application of article 3.

Item 2.— Field of application of article 3

In reply to the question which had been put to it, the Commission examined some of the more important aspects concerning the range of the humanitarian principles described in article 3 and, on the other hand, the problem of applying them effectively.

It appeared to the Commission that the provisions of article 3 necessarily imply that the parties to the conflict recognize and respect the red cross sign and the conditions of its employment. In the Commission's opinion, the obligation to "treat humanely" persons taking no active part in the hostilities, to collect and care for the wounded, the prohibition of any discrimination, laid down in article 3 (1) and (2) assume that the principles of medical secrecy and the neutrality of medicine are respected. They prohibit all penal measures, administrative or others, against doctors, nurses or medical personnel, for having cared for the persons described in article 3. Restrictions imposed on the sale and the free circulation of medicaments, used exclusively for therapeutic ends, are contrary to the obligation, laid down in article 3, to dispense medical relief to the wounded and sick without discrimination. The Commission was thus led to the conclusion that Resolution XVII adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross at New Delhi (October-November 1957) is purely and simply declaratory of the law in force between the parties to the Geneva Conventions.

The Commission pointed out that the experts' report of 1955 had accepted these principles in the case of "internal disturbances" in the absence even of armed conflict, within the meaning of article 3:

...The wounded and sick should always be able to receive the medical care they require; and those persons who give them this

care, should be respected under all circumstances and may not be the object of sanctions for having done so.¹

In the Commission's view, article 3 certainly prohibits the putting into effect of "collective responsibility". Here again the 1955 report already condemns this notion, in all cases of internal conflict.

With regard to the clause often referred to as "collective responsibility", the Commission was unanimous in disapproving the conception of the possible responsibility of an individual, due uniquely to the fact that he or she was a member of a given group, independently of criminal acts committed by him or her. The incarceration and the punishment of members of families of persons implicated in "internal disturbances", and more especially of their children, should be strictly condemned.²

Article 3 does not only demand humane treatment, "without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth or any other similar criteria". By prohibiting the taking of hostages, it thus condemns any idea of collective responsibility. Furthermore, in the case of prosecution, article 3 requires "judgment...affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples". The fact of detaining, passing sentence or convicting a person for acts committed by others, or merely by reason of his belonging to a particular group, undeniably constitutes a violation of these provisions.

All the more, the Commission considers that the parties to the conflict described in article 3 have the obligation to permit and facilitate visits by delegates of the ICRC, the communication of the fact of their detention to the families of detained persons, correspondence between the detainees and their families or with relief bodies, and assistance under the form of relief of various kinds (legal, religious, intellectual, material).

The position of combatants taken in arms was examined by the Commission. It noted that the parties to an armed conflict of a

¹ p. 7.

² p. 7.

purely internal character have often accepted to accord to these combatants a status similar to that of prisoners of war. Such practice is in keeping with the spirit of article 3 and of the Geneva Conventions. The Commission is of the opinion that this should be approved and encouraged.

Article 3 invites the parties to an internal conflict to endeavour to bring into force, by means of special agreements, all or part of the other provisions of the four Geneva Conventions. The Commission notes that such agreements have been able to be made, through the intermediary of the ICRC, which has obtained parallel agreements by the parties to the conflict.

The report of the Commission of Experts for the examination of the question of assistance to political detainees (Geneva, June 9 to 11, 1953) already remarked :

It is important to note the wish expressed by this Article to the effect that Parties to the conflict "should further endeavour to bring into force, by means of special agreements, all or part of the other provisions of the present Convention" (last sentence but one of article 3). *The signatories to the Convention thus affirm their desire to consider these provisions as a minimum only, to be exceeded whenever circumstances may allow.*¹

The Commission fully subscribed to that conclusion. It consequently expressed the wish that, in accordance with such procedure, hospital and safety zones be established, protected from the effects of civil war (art. 23/I, 14/IV).

The Commission esteemed that it was not sufficient to recall the humanitarian principles and rules described in article 3. It examined the fundamental problem of their effective application. The first responsibility of their enforcement must lie with States themselves. But, article 3, for it to be put into effect, mentions the intervention of an impartial humanitarian institution such as the ICRC. Such intervention can be requested by the parties to the conflict. In so far as this concerns the ICRC, the Commission is of the opinion that it is obliged by the Statutes of the International Red Cross to offer its services (art. VI, 5) to the parties to the conflict. Should the latter refuse to accept this offer, the

¹ Report, Commission of Experts, 1953, p. 5.

Commission considers that this would have the most serious consequences for the integrity of the Conventions. Governments have the duty to accept humanitarian action.

Item 3.— Can humanitarian protection be put into effect in cases in which the applicability of article 3 is in doubt?

The Commission's attention was drawn to situations not involving the application of article 3 but which nevertheless have resulted in the ICRC intervening. It was a question, in all three cases, of internal disturbances during the course of which the presence and action by the ICRC have been essential for ensuring respect for the humanitarian principles defined by the Geneva Conventions.

The Commission considered that the nearly one hundred year-old practice accepted by States and endorsed by numerous provisions in the Conventions—and especially by article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions—confers the right of initiative on the ICRC in humanitarian matters. There is no ambiguity about the conclusions reached by the 1955 Commission :

...The Commission was of the opinion that the International Committee of the Red Cross has the right to found itself not only on its general mission to alleviate human suffering, but also on the texts whereby the signatory Powers of the Geneva Conventions expressly recognised its right of initiative in the humanitarian field. The Geneva Conventions of August 12th, 1949 (Articles 9/9/9/10 common to all four) in fact lay down that : The provisions of the Convention constitute no obstacle to the humanitarian activities which the International Committee of the Red Cross or any other impartial humanitarian organization may, subject to the consent of the Parties to the conflict concerned, undertake for the protection of civilian persons and for their relief.¹

The Commission thinks attention should also be drawn to the provisions of the Statutes of the International Red Cross, of which article VI, paragraph 5, states :

As a neutral institution whose humanitarian work is carried out particularly in time of war, civil war or internal strife, it (the ICRC)

¹ Report, Commission of Experts, 1955, pp. 5-6.

endeavours at all times to ensure the protection of and assistance to military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results.

The Commission in fact esteems that this right of initiative is attributable to the ICRC, in the name and in the interest of the universal international community and should be exercised whenever a combination of circumstances require. This right is of an objective character.

The Commission does not consider that it should seek to make a strict definition of "internal disturbances". It points out, however, that the existence of acts prohibited at all times and in all places by article 3, justifies the ICRC acting in a humanitarian manner to have them cease and prevent their recurrence.

In the case of internal disturbances, the 1955 Commission was of the opinion, with which the recent Commission concurred, that "it is desirable that the minimum laid down in Article 3 should in all cases be respected by all parties concerned" ¹.

In the same way, humanitarian protection can and should be accorded to political detainees. In this respect the Commission reached the same conclusions as the 1953 Commission of Experts charged with examining the question of assistance to political detainees. It noted that whenever this qualification was given, by whatever authority, to persons incarcerated, this could not provide a reason for preventing the according of this humanitarian protection which was essentially based on the sort of treatment reserved for detainees.

In all such cases this protection exercised within the framework of humanitarian law is also founded on the rights of the individual recognized by the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man.

Item 4.— Rôles of the National Red Cross Societies and of the ICRC

Amongst the conditions for recognition of National Red Cross Societies approved by the XVIIth International Conference of the Red Cross (Stockholm, 1948), the Commission drew attention to :

¹ p. 7.

par. 4:

Be an institution whose autonomous status allows it to operate in conformity with the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, as formulated by the International Red Cross Conference.

par. 6:

Be so organized as to enable it to deal effectively with the tasks incumbent upon it. Become prepared in time of peace for war-time activities.

par. 10:

Honour the fundamental principles of the Red Cross as defined by the International Red Cross Conferences : impartiality ; political, religious and economic independence ; the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of all National Societies ; and be guided in all its work by the spirit of the Geneva Convention and the Conventions which complete it.

The Commission recalls that, amongst the tasks incumbent on National Societies, there figures the humanitarian protection in the case of internal as well as international conflicts. The National Societies thus have the obligation to prepare themselves already in time of peace for the difficult and painful mission which they will have one day perhaps to fulfil. In order to be able to face up to this heavy responsibility, National Societies should be permeated with the doctrine and the principles of the Red Cross and assume the diffusion of this doctrine and these principles in their respective countries. They should adopt a structure capable of resisting as far as possible the upheavals caused by war or civil war. It is not for the Commission to express an opinion on purely administrative questions. It can however draw attention to the experiences of decentralization carried out by several Red Cross Societies and their efforts to ensure that national and regional committees are assured of being representative and popular in character. It was also suggested to organize, for times of crisis, the forming of ad hoc committees composed of persons who by reason of their very functions, would remain outside civil conflicts. National Societies, whatever their methods of organization may be, should remind governments that they have the obligation to

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respect and guarantee their independence and impartiality. It is in any case inadmissible that members of National Societies should be harassed and all the more be detained for their humanitarian action during a conflict.

The Commission is of the opinion that, as far as the questions which it examined are concerned, there is no division of responsibility between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the National Societies which would allot a reserved field of action for the latter. On the one hand, it would be for the ICRC to follow the development of the National Societies and to assure itself that they are organized and function in accordance with the rules of the Red Cross. In this respect, the Commission considers the moral support and technical assistance brought by the ICRC (or by the League, should the occasion arise, according to its attributions) to National Societies in countries, which have recently acceded to independence, as particularly desirable. On the other hand, the principles and the humanitarian protection can and should be called upon and put into effect by the ICRC. As the 1955 report states :

With regard to the action of the International Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross must decide in each case what practical forms this action should take, taking into consideration all circumstances in order to assure maximum rapidity and efficacy.¹

In the Commission's view, even if during a period of internal disturbances the National Societies assure effectively to all the protection required by international customary and conventional humanitarian law, the ICRC should no less be present. The action of the public authorities and of their services, that of the National Red Cross Societies in no way constitute a legally founded reason for refusing the ICRC's intervention. The latter cannot be considered as interfering in the internal affairs of a State.

When elements hostile to the legal government have, during the course of an internal conflict, established a Red Cross organization, the International Committee of the Red Cross cannot recognize such an organization as being a National Society within the mean-

¹ Report, Commission of Experts, 1955, p. 8.

ing of the Stockholm (1948) resolution. It is, however, entitled to have all the necessary relations with it on a strictly humanitarian level. Such relations, in the opinion of the Commission, have no effect on the legal status of the organization concerned.

Item 5.— Under what form should the conclusions of the Commission on the humanitarian action in the case of international conflicts be put into effect ?

When drawing up this report, the Commission voluntarily restricted itself to noting the state of international customary and conventional humanitarian law, as in force.

It seemed to it that these observations and conclusions relative to the rules of customary and conventional international law applicable to internal conflicts could one day be included in documents for a Diplomatic Conference called upon to revise the Geneva Conventions.

As from now, the International Committee of the Red Cross can, if it considers it advisable, communicate the Commission's conclusions to the States parties to the Geneva Conventions and to the different organizations comprising the International Red Cross. It is also entitled, in accordance with resolution No. 2 adopted at Prague on October 7, 1961, to examine whether the conclusions of the Commission should be submitted to the International Conference of the Red Cross, for it to take action on them and to follow them up.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Katanga

In view of the fighting which broke out again in Katanga, the International Committee undertook as a matter of urgency the necessary measures of protection and assistance.

As soon as he arrived on the spot on December 21, 1962, Mr. G. C. Senn, delegate of the ICRC, made arrangements with the armed forces of the United Nations to enable the Katanga Red Cross and ambulance men to carry out their action, especially by the issuing of passes to its personnel and by registering ambulances at road-blocks.

On December 27, the ICRC delegate organized, with UNO and the Katanga ambulance men, the partial evacuation of the Golf district in Elisabethville. On January 3, he intervened with the authorities so that they would maintain order and prevent disturbances breaking out between tribes. These measures should encourage refugees, who find themselves on roads leading to Rhodesia, to return to their homes. According to the ICRC delegate, the supplying of the civilian population seems assured and refugees on the Rhodesian frontier are receiving the necessary assistance, thanks to the help given by the Rhodesian Red Cross.

Finally, we would point out that Mr. G. C. Senn has in particular endeavoured to maintain contact, as far as possible, with the authorities in office, UNO forces, the Katanga Red Cross and with the Southern Rhodesian Branch of the British Red Cross. He visited the various places where refugees were concentrated, especially near the Rhodesian frontier and intervened for their assistance and supplying. He has organized convoys under the auspices of the ICRC for these refugees to return to their homes.

A general delegation in sub-equatorial Africa

The ICRC has recently appointed Mr. Georges Hoffmann to the post of Delegate General in Sub-Equatorial Africa, where he will reside permanently. His mandate will extend to the following countries: Congo (Leopoldville including Katanga), Ruanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Zanzibar, Tanganyika, Angola, Mozambique, Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Madagascar,

Republic of South Africa, with the territory of South West Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland, Reunion Island, Mauritius, the Comoro Islands and the Seychelles—these latter with the country whose dependencies they are.

In view of the general position of certain of these countries and their development, the ICRC considers that an important action could usefully be put into operation there for the future of the Red Cross.

Generally speaking, the aim of the mission entrusted to Mr. G. Hoffmann by the ICRC is to establish and maintain direct and close contact with the Authorities and the Red Cross Societies of these countries, to help in the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and to watch over their application, and to facilitate the creation and development of National Red Cross Societies in these States.

Mr. G. Hoffmann will also carry out, on behalf of the ICRC and with the co-operation of regional delegates, any humanitarian action in conformity with the traditional principles of the Red Cross and of the Geneva Conventions. In the event of conflicts, he will take any measures which he judges appropriate to help and protect military and civilian victims.

Mr. Hoffmann took up his new post at the beginning of the year and arrived in Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia) on January 11, where he has established his residence for reasons of a practical nature.

ICRC mission in the Yemen

Following on representations made by the previous mission of its delegate in the Near East and an appeal by the representative of the Imam of the Yemen in New York, the ICRC has sent a mission to the Command of the Royalist forces in the Yemen. Consisting of Dr. Rubli and Dr. Pidermann, its immediate task was to obtain all available information on the extent and the nature of medical requirements.

After talks with the delegates, the Imam El Badr declared that he was prepared to have the essential provisions of the Geneva Conventions relative to the treatment of the wounded and military prisoners in the case of conflict applied by his troops.

Passing through Riyadh, Dr. Rubli and Dr. Pidermann were received by Prince Feisal, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, with whom they examined various questions relative to the accession of that country to the Geneva Conventions and to the creation of a National Red Crescent Society.

On the other hand, in answer to an invitation by the Republican Government of the Yemen, a second ICRC mission is at present

on its way to Sanaa. Its task will also be to inform itself of the eventual need for the ICRC to assist the victims of the conflict.

The aftermath of the Sino-Indian conflict

At the end of last December, Mr. André Durand, ICRC Delegate General for Asia, visited camps for Indian refugees in Assam, in North-East India. He was able to talk with representatives of several groups and he estimated that there are about 15,000 victims to be resettled. There are numerous mountain people from the North-East Frontier Agency among them, and even Tibetans who have been displaced once again.

The donations which the Indian Red Cross has received from National Red Cross Societies, particularly following the appeal launched on December 4 by the League, in co-operation with the ICRC, will enable part of the refugees' needs to be met.

On December 31, 1962, a further 108 wounded and sick Indian prisoners of war were released and handed over to the Indian Red Cross in the North-East Frontier Agency; this brings the total of repatriations effected to date to 715. The Indian Red Cross has also received lists of names for 1,131 of the 2,000 or so Indian prisoners of war remaining in Chinese hands. On December 19, the Indian Red Cross handed over to the Chinese Red Cross 2,000 parcels of foodstuffs and 2,000 parcels of clothing intended for these prisoners.

The ICRC is continuing its attempts to obtain permission to visit these prisoners of war.

Laos

On December 27, the ICRC delegate, Mr. Jacques Ruff, made a further visit to the camp of Dong-Dam-Douane in the Savannakhet region where about 300 Laotian civilian and military prisoners are detained.

The ICRC delegate obtained permission for the prisoners to correspond with their families on forms drawn up by the Central Tracing Agency of the International Committee. The Laotian Red Cross is looking after the forwarding of these messages and the replies of the families concerned. At the end of his visit, Mr. Ruff passed on his observations to the Laotian Authorities and requested the improvements in the internment conditions which appeared to him to be necessary.

The International Committee's delegate was received on December 30 by Prince Souvanna Phouma, Prime Minister, to whom he explained that the ICRC had decided to terminate its relief action set up at the request of the Vientiane Government, in

favour of Laotian refugees. The ICRC will continue its other activities on behalf of the victims of the conflict in Laos by means of temporary missions.

On December 31 and January 1, Mr. Ruff went to Paksé and Saravane where he distributed some relief supplies to refugees and among them members of the Kha tribe.

Indonesia

Continuing the action which the Netherlands Government requested it to undertake from the end of 1961, the ICRC recently paid a sum of 525,000 Swiss francs to the Indonesian Red Cross. These Netherlands funds are destined to pay pensions and allowances to Dutch nationals resident in Indonesia.

The ICRC thus carries out, in the humanitarian field, the activity of neutral intermediary in the absence of diplomatic and consular relations between the Netherlands and Indonesia.

Philippines

The ICRC delegate in Manila, Mr. J. W. Mittner, visited the internment camp for political detainees in September and December last. Accompanied by Dr. T. Calasanz, he handed over relief to the detainees.

Geneva Conventions

By December 31, 1962, 91 States had expressly bound themselves (by ratification or accession) to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949. To this number should be added 18 States, recently independent, which, although not having deposited any instrument of ratification or accession, are nevertheless bound to the 1949 Conventions, by virtue of their ratification by the State which had held sovereignty over their territory. There is therefore now a total of 109 States bound by the Conventions of 1949.

Amongst the States not yet parties to these texts, six remain however bound by the 1929 version of these Conventions, three by their version of 1906 and one by the original Convention, the first, that of 1864.

Three States are still not bound by any treaty of international humanitarian law : Nepal, Saudi Arabia and the Yemen.

The Geneva Conventions in pictures

In continuation of one of its principal tasks, the development of humanitarian law and the dissemination of the Geneva Con-

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

ventions, the International Committee has just published its third edition of the Geneva Conventions in pictures.

It will be remembered that these booklets, already well known in Red Cross circles, include thirty illustrated pages, pocket size, each one giving commentaries in nine languages. The choice of these languages is made, in the four groups, according to geographical criteria and following an arrangement dictated by typographical considerations. In alphabetical order, these languages, divided into groups of nine in the four editions, are as follows: Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Kikongo, Lingala, Luba, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili and Urdu.

Out of 89,500 copies printed, 71,500 have already been ordered from the ICRC.

Guests of the ICRC

During the first fortnight in January, the ICRC had the honour of welcoming the following, amongst others, at its headquarters: Mrs. Regina Savi de Tové, President of the Togolese Red Cross; Dr. F. Janouch, President of the Czechoslovak Red Cross; Mrs. Lidia Costin, Brazilian Red Cross at Sao Paolo; Mr. B. de Loriot, head of the first-aid section of the departmental committee of the French Red Cross in the Gold Coast, and Mr. C. K. Peng, UNESCO scholar.

VISIT TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

President Léopold Boissier, together with his colleagues and staff, yesterday received the Head of the Military Department and Mrs Paul Chaudet, and the Head of the Political Department and Mrs F. T. Wahlen, at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva.¹

The two Swiss federal counsellors and their wives showed great interest in the talks which were given on the recent activities of the ICRC, and they also visited the Central Tracing Agency's card-index.

¹ *Plate.*



JORDAN

King Hussein receives representatives of the ICRC (from right to left, H. M. The King, Mr. Gaillard, ICRC delegate, Mr. Abou Qoura, Secretary-General of the Jordan Red Crescent, Mr. Zreikat, ICRC official).

GENEVA

On behalf of the ICRC, of which he is President, Mr. Boisster welcomes two members of the Swiss Federal Council and their wives (from right to left, Mrs. and Mr. Wahlen, Mr. and Mrs. Chaudet).





NEPAL

Handing over of a gift of milk from the Swedish Red Cross to tibetan refugees. In the presence of Mr. Stalder, Head of the ICRC delegation (left), the Swedish Ambassador (centre) hands over the gift to a nurse-delegate of the ICRC

INDIA

Mr. Durand, ICRC delegate (centre), visits Mangaldai evacuee camp in Assam.



ICRC MISSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Between November 14 and December 20 of last year, Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate, and Mr. Ibrahim Zreikat, who is in charge of ICRC Arabic broadcasts, visited Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Amman, where they had an audience of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, in company with Dr. Abou Qoura, Secretary-General of the Jordan Red Crescent.¹

Amongst other problems of humanitarian interest, this mission examined with the representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the countries visited, the possibility and the methods of operation of ICRC assistance to the wounded and prisoners on both sides in the conflict in the Yemen.

During a meeting in Baghdad with Mr. Hachim Jawad, Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Iraqi Government, the delegate confirmed the ICRC offers of service on behalf of Iraqi troops and civilians detained by the insurrectional Kurdish forces.

The question of the protection of the civilian population in time of war was also discussed during meetings with several Arab personalities concerned.

Finally, the delegate's proposals for broadcasts commemorating the Centenary of the Red Cross to be relayed by Arab radio and television stations, met with a very favourable response everywhere. It can therefore be anticipated that these broadcasts will begin shortly.

In each of the countries visited, Mr. Gaillard and Mr. Zreikat were given the most cordial reception by the representatives of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC is delighted to have been able to reinforce the effectiveness of its co-operation with these Societies by means of these direct contacts.

¹ *Plate.*

NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

Australia

The ICRC has received from the Australian Red Cross the following communication which it has pleasure to publish.

Civil defence training in Western Australia

The Western Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society is playing an important part in Civil Defence planning and training, with special emphasis on the Welfare role.

In this Australian State, Civil Defence is combined with the State Emergency Service and all training is done with special emphasis on natural disaster relief.

During last year, a series of one-day Civil Defence Indoctrination Courses were held, both in metropolitan and country areas and these are now being followed by specialised Welfare Courses. This series was commenced by a three-day residential school for potential Instructors in Perth, the capital city, where forty students received the necessary training to enable them to conduct practical field days in their own districts.

After one day of lectures and demonstrations, the students, who were mainly Red Cross members, but also included by invitation representatives of the Girl Guides, Junior Farmers' Movement, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Y.M.C.A. and Church groups, built a series of cookers and dustbin ovens from the available bricks and rubble and on the third day proved most definitely that a very satisfactory meal could be served from improvised facilities.

The theoretical portion of the course included lectures on evacuation and reception, welfare centres, billeting, staffing and

improvisation in emergency feeding. A scale model of an emergency kitchen, to cope with meals for 1000 people demonstrated the necessity for constructive planning but also clearly indicated the simplicity with which available materials could be used to the very best advantage.

Although the State-wide emergencies of 1961 were small, compared with fires and floods in other parts of the world, the Western Australian Division of the Australian Society gained invaluable experience in emergency relief and the lessons learned during this period proved of great value to the course instructors.

All major emergency relief in this State is controlled by the Civil Emergency Service and the Red Cross Society is responsible for the Blood Transfusion Service and the traditional Welfare role.

These courses are being conducted by Red Cross staff, who, in addition, have themselves attended a special three weeks Instructors' Course at the Australian School of Civil Defence at Mt. Macedon in Victoria.

Ireland

On the occasion of the commemoration in 1963 of the Centenary of the Red Cross, the President of the Irish Republic, Mr. Eamon de Valera, addressed a message at the end of 1962 to the members of the National Society, in which he called upon the energy of all to extend the work which they were serving and render it ever more effective.

We now have pleasure in giving the text of this message below :

In the coming year, the International Red Cross will commemorate the hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

The Irish Red Cross Society proposes to participate in the international commemoration of the centenary to be held in Switzerland. It also plans to organise certain events at home to mark the occasion. The projects planned are eminently suitable and their success demands the active support of all our members.

Members of the Society could, however, add to them an even more worthy and permanent commemoration of the centenary by organising the formation of new branches where there are none, by recruiting new members to existing branches and by extending and perfecting the local activities of the Society.

I suggest, accordingly, that a special effort be made in 1963 to ensure that no town or parish in our country will be without an active Branch of the Irish Red Cross Society. Let us not wait for the occurrence of some emergency, or the coming of some new and terrible war, to increase the membership and extend the work of the Society.

It is not in war-time alone that work is found to be done under the standard of the Red Cross. An emergency, or sudden disaster, may occur at any time. The sick, the orphan, the disabled, the homeless are always there, yearning for consolation and relief, while the great precept of charity recognises neither racial nor territorial boundary. Moreover, in every country, work with the Red Cross means valuable national service, work which can provide training in citizenship and health for both young and old.

Let us therefore commemorate this centenary year by adding to the strength of our Society and by extending its influence to every corner of our country. In this way, we can best promote the aims and ideals of the International Red Cross. Thus, too, we can best be prepared to answer the call of our fellowman, whether at home or abroad, should the need arise.

To the work therefore, and may God reward each of you a hundredfold for his share.

South Africa

The *International Review* has often stressed to its readers the importance which the ICRC attaches to the widespread dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, particularly amongst young people, since it will fall to them in the future to put into practice the ideals which these Conventions propound. It is interesting, therefore, to note an article published last year in *The Junior Magazine of the South African Red Cross* and entitled "The Geneva Conventions".

The author has dealt with this serious subject in a language both simple and direct, well within the grasp of his young readers. He first of all traces a general picture of the needs of humanity, both from the material and the moral point of view, and he then outlines the rules and regulations intended to satisfy these needs in an equitable manner. He recalls that in the past, when international law did not exist, there were no rules governing the conduct of nations one with another and he gives examples to show the unfortunate position of combatants, soldiers or sailors, whom the hazards of war delivered into the hands of the enemy, either wounded or as prisoners. : "How they were treated would depend entirely upon the humour of their captors and quite horrible things could happen. Nobody sent messages to their families to say where they were. It was a very terrible thing to be a prisoner of war."

Thus, the author of this article leads the young reader towards his meeting with Henry Dunant, whose fortuitous presence at Solferino is briefly but vividly described, as are the practical consequences which he drew from the dramatic lesson which the terrible battle was for him.

Finally, after recalling the importance of Dunant's book, *A Memory of Solferino*, and stressing Dunant's idea of creating international rules for the protection of the wounded on the battlefield, the author gives a short historical account of the Geneva Conventions. He shows what guarantees they now represent for the victims of war and the rôle which representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross can be called upon to play.

Uruguay

We have received a most interesting work from the Uruguayan Red Cross. This is an account of that National Society's history since its founding and we think the following summary will be of interest, since it shows how deeply rooted the Red Cross is in Latin America.

*The Crusaders of Uruguay*¹, is a short but moving account full of life and heroism covering a vast area, of the Uruguayan Red Cross since its founding to the present day. In this well documented little book, Colonel Alcides A. Martinez Montero, a leading personality who is the delegate of the National Ministry of Defence with the Uruguayan Red Cross, closely describes with objectivity the salient facts of the principal stages in the development of that Red Cross Society of Latin America.

It was in 1897, at a time when Uruguay, after its successful struggle for independence, was in the throes of civil war, that the first steps were taken to give assistance to the wounded on the battlefield, first of all in the form of private aid societies. The author writes in this connection . . . "We now find ourselves in 1897, a fateful year for the Uruguayan Red Cross, or the Red Cross of Christian Women as it was called when it made its first faltering appearance. The executive committee was especially composed of neutral personalities. At dawn, on March 18, 1897, the first medical train left Montevideo for the battle areas in various parts of the interior" . . .

We were soon to learn that in December 1898 the Uruguayan Red Cross attempted to be recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross. It struck a first obstacle since Uruguay was not a signatory to the Geneva Convention of 1864. Furthermore, its Charter did not conform legally with those of the other Red Cross Societies. It did not, however, allow itself to be discour-

¹ Los Cruzados del Uruguay, Historia de la Cruz Roja Uruguaya, Biblioteca General Antigua, No. 43, Centro Militar, Montevideo.

aged and in this connection we read... "The first step to be realized in this direction was to alter its organic charter in October 1899, by removing from women the exclusive right of belonging to the association. These steps were to bear fruit on April 6, 1900, when both sides of the Legislature ratified the document, and on the 9th of the same month the Executive sanctioned Law No. 2631 which reads as follows: "The Senate and the House of Representatives of the East Uruguayan Republic, meeting in general assembly decree: *Art. 1.* The East Uruguayan Republic accedes to the clauses recorded in the Geneva Convention of August 22, 1864 and to the additional articles of the said Convention of October 5, 1868. In conformity with our legislation, the recognition by the International Committee of the Uruguayan Red Cross dates from April 9, 1900, although the ICRC will not make this publicly known until June 15, 1900."

After this historic date other opportunities were offered the Uruguayan Red Cross to exercise its activities. In 1904 a series of riots and fratricidal fighting broke out throughout the country. "However great the task accomplished previously by the Red Cross, the year 1904 called forth immense efforts from our part since, we have already pointed out, the whole country had become a seething cauldron and the forces armed by the government and the revolutionaries were very numerous on both sides. Losses in deaths and wounded greatly surpassed those of the previous civil war. A simple circular from the Central Committee was sufficient for the authorities of the interior to form commissions to take direct action on the battlefields. Under a hail of bullets aid was brought to the unfortunate ones who were losing their blood for their country. Women volunteers and nuns organized and took part in setting up night watches in the hospitals or drove ambulances available to them. After a relatively short lapse of time, more than 52 sections of the Red Cross carried out their duties courageously and many hospitals were established..."

Colonel Martínez Montero also gives an attractive description of Señora Ramos de Segarra, founder and president of the Central Committee of the Uruguayan Red Cross from 1897 to 1927. She was soon to become the guiding spirit of the Red Cross through her prodigious capacity for work and her spirit of self-sacrifice.

The author devotes the second part of the book to the multiple activities of the Uruguayan Red Cross in peace-time and amongst these, since Uruguay is also a maritime nation, of Red Cross action in saving life at sea and on the perilous estuary of the Rio de la Plata. The great dangers to which navigation is exposed along the Atlantic coast and the Rio de la Plata are no secrets to the inhabitants of our country. In the almost continuous numbers of shipwrecks the Red Cross carries out constructive work, which, unfortunately was not always sufficiently supported by the official authorities or by private enterprise. In 1899 the Society outlined an ambitious project to establish a series of life-saving stations. This was put into effect in November of the same year."

Colonel Martinez Montero underlines the importance of Pan-american mutual aid as well as that of the Uruguayan Red Cross action on behalf of youth movements. "The new organization gradually accomplished its mission during the years of peace which followed the tragic and bloody internal conflicts. If it frequently had to struggle against a lack of understanding generally on the part of the public, it succeeded, however, in 1934 in putting its first Constitution into force, which was approved by the Council of Primary Education. Later it published an explanatory pamphlet entitled, *What the Junior Red Cross is*. In spite of all its efforts, it was not until 1949 that youth interested itself in this work by founding no less than 46 local committees in that year, for the distribution of clothing, food, books and reviews in the interior of the Republic, and also for a wide exchange of correspondence with other countries. Whilst continuing this campaign, the institution took root in the interior where it set up committees in nearly every school visited by the authorities of the Junior Red Cross, with remarkable success. This movement is at present expanding and developing."

The author describes the internal action, improvements to hospitals and hospital centres, children's nurseries, milk campaigns etc... He allots an important place to international actions, to visits made to Uruguay by foreign delegates from the International Committee and the League. He also mentions study scholarships allotted to Uruguayan women in order to enable them to undergo

courses in Geneva, and the better to know the objects and the action of the two international institutions of the Red Cross.

Before concluding he gives a copy of a true historical document, of a letter written by the initiator of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant, to the President of the Central Committee of the Uruguayan Red Cross, dated April 3, 1902, and which accompanied a copy of his book, *A Memory of Solferino*. He wrote: "It would have given me pleasure and done me a great honour to have been visited by Madame Marguerite Uriante de Weber Jackson, honorary Vice-President of your noble Institution, if my health had permitted. But I fear, in view of my condition, that it will be impossible for this to be done. I would therefore prefer that the honorary Vice-President should not make a needless journey here to the mountains overlooking Lake Constance."

The Crusaders of Uruguay is a short work, concise and packed with information, which describes the national as well as the international rôle of the Uruguayan Red Cross since its foundation in 1897 until the present day.

B O O K S

A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE¹

This Bio-Bibliography compiled by the late W. J. Bishop, F.L.A. and completed by Sue Goldie, B.A. (Oxon), for the International Council of Nurses, is the result of seven years intensive research. With a preface by Miss Ellen Broe, under the auspices of the International Council of Nurses in association with the Florence Nightingale International Foundation, it includes references, complete with notes and comments, to the 200 books, pamphlets and articles, published and unpublished, and to some 12,000 letters written by Florence Nightingale. If she had become a legend in her own lifetime, a legend which is still being perpetuated of her nursing fame as the "Lady with the lamp", this material should do much to emphasize her still greater achievements and ideas in the fields of public health and hygiene, hospital construction and management, medical statistics, Indian and Colonial health and welfare.

The greatness of her work can be seen in the vast range of her interests. In an age when there was opposition to women taking any part in public life, even in 1858 it was considered "shocking" for a woman to enter a hospital as a nurse, she tenaciously expressed her views on such subjects as the treatment of the sick, poor and airless housing conditions, the lack of skilled nursing staff and the incompetence of hospital administration. Of patients she asked, "Do we care for the patients in hospital? Hospitals are made for patients—not patients for hospitals." Her *Notes on the health of the British Army*, a voluminous work of 830 pages, founded on her experiences during the Crimean War, have been considered to be one of the most valuable contributions ever made to hospital organization and administration in time of war.

Florence Nightingale also exposed conditions in India, bad water and drainage, filthy bazaars, want of ventilation and gross overcrowding. She urged the means of water transit and irrigation

¹ Dawsons of Pall Mall, London, 1962.

for the relief of the victims of famines in Bengal and Behar. She emphasized the need for encouraging villagers to participate actively in plans for sanitary improvements and suggested that Indian health missionaries should be trained to encourage health and cleanliness in their own country. She denounced the "crying evil" of Kaffir women being sold for cattle in Natal. She realized that as soon as the native habits and customs of aborigines and primitive tribes began to undergo changes under European influences, the work of destruction had begun. For instance, very few sick aborigines of Australia recovered their health when sent to hospital.

On the subject of hospital construction, she advocated more space, ventilation and light; she also examined the high mortality rates in maternity institutions and the training of midwives. She proposed a uniform plan for compiling hospital statistics in a paper sent to the delegates of the International Statistical Congress in 1860. In the field of sociology she touched life at many points, land tenure in Bengal, prostitution, poor relief, prison reform.

Florence Nightingale was fortunate in her personal associations with men in positions of responsibility, who gave her support against obscurantism and the appalling *vis inertiae* prevailing at the time. Of Lord Sydney Herbert she wrote . . . "He will be remembered chiefly as the first war minister who ever seriously set himself the task of saving life". . . On the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, she was closely associated with the founding of the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded, before that Society became the British Red Cross.

"If peace has its victories as well as war, it has also its unnecessary losses from disease and death . . . To endeavour to prevent this destruction of life is by no means to encourage war, no more than to attend on the sick and wounded in a field hospital is to encourage war." A hundred years have passed since Florence Nightingale wrote these words. Since then there has been much progress in the saving of lives: there has also been more destruction.

M.C.S.P.

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 questions 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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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.—.*

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*.
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, *Rruga Barrikadavet, Tirana*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *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, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Phlaur Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Dharmapala 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 — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thuhovska 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 (8^e)*.
- 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-Alee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835 *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.^a Calle entre 8.^a y 9.^a Avenidas, *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, P.O. Box 9, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — 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*.

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- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johnson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG** — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4º piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, 26, Nairamdal Gudamg, P.O. 20/26 *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NIGERIA** — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 600 Isaac Peral Street, P.O.B. 280, *Manila*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretariat, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- 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*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic)** — South African Red Cross, 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, *Khartoum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- SYRIA** — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Abi-Almaari, *Damascus*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, 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*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- 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, Koznetskyy Most 18/7, *Moscow k. 31*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic)** — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, duong Hông-Tháp-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.